**Post Budget Analysis ~ Comparing our Pre-Budget submission.**

This was not the child poverty focused budget we had hoped for, and that we were led to believe would be delivered.

As stated after last year's budget, While the one-off payments are welcome, they do tackle the issues of poverty and deprivation in the long term. Children experiencing poverty need intervention and measures that are more than once off payments, they need supports that provide certainty for a dignified life, that gives them the best chance to thrive. Giving once off payments is just a sticking plaster, giving temporary relief, but not tackling poverty in an effective way.

Treoir laid out recommendations in our pre-budget submission

Treoir asked that social welfare payments be benchmarked to the cost of living as outlined in the MESL (Minimum Essential Standard of Living) report ~

*Budget 2024 gave a weekly increase of just €12 for social welfare payments.*

Treoir asked to index link QCI (Qualified Child Increase) to 50% of the qualified adult payment for under 12’s and 56% for over 12’s.

*A flat rate of €4 was given for QCI for over 12’s and under 12’s.*

Treoir asked that the fuel allowance be extended to those on Working family Payment.

*This did not happen.*

Treoir asked that the living alone allowance be extended to lone parents.

*This did not happen.*

Treoir asked that the guardian’s payment be increased to equate the Foster Care allowance to reflect the vital role they play.

*The guardian’s payment was only increased by €12 per week to just €215, whereas the foster care allowance will increase to €400 for under 12’s and €425 to over 12’s per week.*

Treoir welcomes the extension of the free schoolbooks scheme to junior cycle of secondary schools.

Treoir welcomes the increase in the minimum wage by €1.40 to €12.70 per hour.

Treoir welcomes the extension of child benefit to 18-year-olds in full time education until they turn 19.

Treoir is pleased to see an increase in the threshold for WFP by €54, we are however disappointed that thresholds and income disregards for other payments were not increased. Our concern is that any impacts made in the budget will impact secondary payments, either by pushing them beyond eligibility for things like medical cards, and back to school allowance. Or will the gains be lost in other ways such as increase in rent, HAP, or other supports.