

## **Department of Social Protection's submission to Department of Education and Skills Statement of Strategy 2016 - 2018**

### **Further Education and Training (FET)**

The Department of Social Protection asks that your Department's Statement of Strategy 2016 – 2018 would give due regard to:

- continue to give recognition of the importance of the FET system, in particular in relation to its role as the main provider of human resources investment for the unemployed;
- continue to give due regard to the need for the FET system at local level to liaise with DSP in relation to the needs of the unemployed for FET;
- should give priority to ensuring adequate provision of English language training, which continues as an important barrier to employment for a significant minority of DSP's jobseeker clients;
- look to increase the utilisation of education and training infrastructure and resources throughout the full calendar year and outside of normal working hours in order to, among other things and as part of a lifelong learning approach, support the upskilling and continuous professional development of people in employment and
- prioritise the exchange and shared use of student and learner data with other state agencies both to streamline the provision of service and to inform the analysis and evaluation of service quality and policy effectiveness.

### **Data Sharing**

A strategic and cross-Departmental issue that, perhaps, should be addressed in your Strategy Statement is that of data sharing with other bodies. DSP recognises that there is an increasing need to use existing data holdings, particularly in other public bodies, to support better decision making and the effective provision of a range of services, including new digital services. We expect to use data held in other agencies and to provide agreed DSP data to those agencies. The Department of Social Protection is working towards providing a standard set of data exchange services that is secure, auditable and based on industry standard approaches (e.g. web services).

The Department of Social Protection will work closely and collaboratively with your Department and ensure appropriate channels of communication and contacts points are systematically in place for the sharing of data for control purposes and to enable administrative efficiency in compliance with Data Protection Acts 1998/2003.

### **Build to Share - SAFE**

A further strategic and cross-Departmental issue that might be addressed in your Strategy Statement is that of utilising the Department of Social Protection's robust client registration and identity management services. The Department has issued some 2 million Public Service Cards and has developed a new online identity and access management facility (MyGovID) that utilises the *Standard Authentication Framework Environment* (SAFE). Any new digital/online customer services being developed should use the MyGovID for identity and access management, and your Department should seek to leverage efficiencies in technological development and investment

undertaken by this Department and, in particular, should consider opportunities for extending use of the Public Service Card for the authentication and validation of identity.

### **Control and Compliance Measures**

One particular area where ongoing liaison and mutual assistance occurs, relates to the prevention and deterrence of Social Welfare Fraud. In this regard, the Department would seek the ongoing support of your Department and its agencies so:

- That existing and effective channel(s) for the systematic sharing of data with DSP in relation to educational registration and payment of grants are continued by Department of Education & Science.
- That effective channel(s) of communication and contact points are systematically in place for policy co-ordination and regulation.
- That you would work closely with DSP and the Revenue Commissioners having regard to the Education capital investment programme and new school building projects. The objective would be to collectively ensure that tax compliance and social welfare fraud are mitigated having regard to all publically funded construction projects.

I hope that this will be of assistance in formulating your Department's new Statement of Strategy.

  
Corporate Services  
Department of Social Protection

8 July 2016

**ENDS**