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# ***Pathways to Work 2016-2020***

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## **Review of Progress Against All PTW Actions**

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### **Status Report Quarter 2 2018**

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#### **Key/Summary**

<b>Actions on target for completion by due date</b>	<b>6 Actions (7%)</b>
<b>Actions underway and to be completed but off target for due date</b>	<b>11 Actions (13%)</b>
<b>Actions at risk of not being completed /or not updated</b>	<b>0 Actions (0%)</b>
<b>Actions completed*</b>	<b>69 Actions (80%)</b>

[Q] A Quality related action, planned for the first phase of the strategy

[E] An Expansion related action, planned for the second phase of the strategy

\*Includes actions that are completed and on-going.

Status report reflects 2018 Quarter 2 position as captured on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Action No.	Action	Due Date	Responsible Agency	Status	Status Comment	Q2 Update 2018
<b>1</b>	<b>Increase the frequency and quality of engagement with registered Jobseekers. [Q]</b>					
1.1.	Increase the frequency of 1-2-1 engagement between Case Officers and unemployed people to at least one engagement per month for people already long-term unemployed or assessed at being at high risk of becoming long-term unemployed and at least once every two months for other jobseekers.	Q.1 2016	DEASP	Completed		
1.2.	Set targets from 2016 for employment progression (e.g. number of clients placed into work each month) and publish performance at an Intreo centre level.	Q.4 2016	DEASP	Off Target	In Progress	Work continuing in relation to progression to employment data.
1.3	Implement outcome focussed, extended and intensive engagement processes in Local Employment Service providers.	Q.1 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Expand pro-active engagement to other people of working age who are unemployed but not in receipt of a jobseeker payment. [E]</b>					
2.1.	Review by 2017 the Jobseeker Transition Payment (JST) model and consider whether changes should be made to the structure and operation of the scheme both to improve its effectiveness in supporting lone parents to transition to employment and/or to extend it as an option for other categories of welfare recipient.	Q.3 2017	DEASP	Completed		

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2.2	Expand pro-active engagement to people who are working part-time but are in receipt of a welfare payment.	Q.1 2017	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
2.3.	Develop a pro-active engagement approach to support qualified adult dependants of job-seeker claimants secure employment. For example, promote the registration of qualified spouses/partners as jobseekers in their own right.	Q.2 2017	DEASP	Off Target	In Progress	Pilot Projects in Clondalkin and Dundalk initiated at end June under the Action Plan for Jobless Households. The approach will be rolled out to three other pilot areas over time, based on the learning from the initial two.
2.4.	Promote the availability of services to 'voluntary engagers'/'walk-in' clients, including immigrants, not on the Live Register, but wishing to avail of employment and activation services.	On-going	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
2.5.	Utilise inter-governmental public employment services such as EURES, and build relationships with public employment services in other countries to offer employment services to Irish emigrants working abroad.	On-going	DEASP	Completed	On-going	<p>EURES Ireland held 1 Bilingual Online European Job Days in May 2018 (Dublin). There were 120 jobs and 339 positions available in total. Number of applications received for jobs advertised for this event reached 897.</p> <p>In the last quarter 63 interview and relocation applications under YFEJ and Reactivate mobility schemes were received with 35 applications approved.</p> <p>EURES Ireland Nurses Recruitment Project: since the start of the project 76 nurses have started employment with Irish employers throughout the country, with 7 starting in the last quarter. Nurses have been recruited mainly from Italy and Spain.</p>

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2.6.	Offer Intreo clients access to the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme sponsored by the Department of Environment Community and Local government and the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning.	Q.1 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
2.7.	Incorporate, as appropriate, time spent as an adult recipient or beneficiary of other full-time welfare payments (e.g. OPFP or as a qualified adult dependent of a primary claimant) when assessing eligibility for access to employment supports.	Q.2 2016	DEASP	Completed		
3.	<b>Extend and intensify the proactive engagement approach for people with a disability. [E]</b>					
3.1	Review the range of income supports (including in-work supports) for people with disabilities to ensure payments are aligned between schemes and, if appropriate, amend the payment structure to ensure that it supports a return to work for people who wish to do so.	Q.2 2018	DEASP	On Target	In Progress	National consultation process for "early engagement" and for reconfiguration of qualifying age for Domiciliary Care Allowance and Disability Allowance payments was launched in February and the consultation process has now concluded. The Stakeholder Focus Group met twice in May and June to conclude Phase 3 of the consultation process (preparation of draft report and agreement on findings and recommendations). The report is currently being finalised and when complete will be submitted to the Minister of Employment Affairs and Social Protection/Minister of State.
3.2	Expand the use of Intreo Centres as a gateway to engage with people with disabilities and increase the number of Intreo staff trained in the provision of employment supports to people with disability.	Q.2 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	The Midlands Pilot met in May to review progress and NDA presented on the work of the 5.1 Group, (an interdepartmental group established to develop a policy approach and implementation plan on employment supports for people with disabilities, including those with high support needs). Other items are being progressed through internal working group focusing on the operational implications of early engagement.

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3.3	Complete a review of the Employability Service to increase utilisation of the service by people with disabilities and improve the level of employment placements.	Q.2 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
3.4	Conduct an analysis of existing databases of people in receipt of disability payments to identify people with disabilities who may have a capacity to and an interest in working and offer such people an opportunity to engage with the Intreo and/or the Employability service.	Q.1 2016	DEASP	Completed		Report published in 2016.
3.5.	Consider options to allow recipients of Carer's Allowance to access activation services as they cease their caring role.	Q.2 2017	DEASP	Completed	On-going	Option to engage at Intreo service in place. Communications letter finalised.
4.	<b>Continue to implement the actions set out in the Youth Guarantee Implementation plan and in addition: [Q]</b>					
4.1.	Increase the relative share of workplace-based interventions (Gateway, TÚS, Positive to Work etc.) for youth unemployed.	On-going	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
4.2.	Review and restructure the First Steps programme for young unemployed people to drive take-up by offering a higher level of support to jobseekers and employers.	Q.1 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
4.3.	Ensure the frequency of engagement with all young unemployed people is a minimum of one case-officer meeting per month.	On-going	DEASP	Completed	On-going	

Action No.	Action	Due Date	Responsible Agency	Status	Status Comment	Q2 Update 2018
4.4	Implement the Defence Forces Skills for Life employment support programme	Q.3 2016	D/Defence; DEASP	Completed	On-going	Work on the Defence Forces ESS continued during Q2, and another iteration of the programme commenced in Cork during this quarter. A review of the scheme was also undertaken during Q2, and the findings from same will be published shortly.
5.	<b>Review and revise the operation of the BTEA scheme to address the issues raised in the ESRI evaluation of the scheme and to improve employment progression outcomes. [Q]</b>					
5.1.	Implement the recommendations of the Labour Market Council with regard to the operation of the Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) scheme.	Q.2 2016	DEASP; DES	Completed	On-going	
5.2.	Require participants of multi-year programmes to meet on an ongoing basis with their case officer and demonstrate progress on their chosen programme.	Q.3 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
5.3.	Conduct a qualitative assessment of the BTEA scheme to determine reasons for comparatively low employment progression.	Q.2 2016	DEASP	Completed		
5.4.	Work with the education sector to increase the work experience/employment content of FET programmes and to develop approaches to reduce the lock-in effect of FET participation (e.g. increase share of short duration or part-time programmes).	On-going	DES	On Target	In Progress	PLC Programme Advisory Committee established by SOLAS to implement 40+ SOLAS recommendations including a recommendation that 'All students on PLC courses must be offered the opportunity to engage in structured work experience.' This applies to all current and future PLCs on offer from September 2017. In addition, learners on job-specific/sector specific PLCs must undertake a range of vocationally specific tasks and activities relevant to the course content as part of their work experience.

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6.	<b>Focus Intreo referrals to employment and training/education programmes on securing paid employment outcomes for people who are most in need of support. [Q]/[E]</b>					
6.1	Consider the extension of 'payment by outcomes' approaches as used or similar to those used, in Momentum and JobPath to other programmes (e.g. Local Employment Service/Job-Clubs). [Q]	On-going	DEASP; DES	Off Target		Indecon report submitted. Recommendations include consideration of link between payments and outcomes. DEASP is considering the report and recommendations and future partnership approaches.
6.2.	Review the possibility of adapting the JobsPlus scheme to incentivise for employers to recruit people unemployed more than three years. [Q]	Q.3 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
7.	<b>Ensure that 'work pays' when people who are unemployed transition from welfare to employment. [Q]/[E]</b>					
7.1	Consider the recommendations of the Low Pay commission and take action as appropriate to adjust the statutory minimum wage is adjusted incrementally and in a sustainable way, to assist as many low-paid workers as possible without creating significant adverse consequences for employment or competitiveness.[Q]	On-going	DBEI	Completed	On-going	
7.2	Consider and publish a response to the DBEI/University of Limerick study of the prevalence of low hour contracts in the Irish economy. [Q]	Q1 2016	DBEI	Completed		

Action No.	Action	Due Date	Responsible Agency	Status	Status Comment	Q2 Update 2018
7.3	Review and evaluate the range of in-work supports that are available to welfare recipients in terms of their effectiveness in supporting the move from welfare to work. The review will examine the Family Income Supplement, income disregards on jobseeker schemes, the Back to Work Family Dividend and other welfare supports which provide in-work support. [Q]/[E]	Q.4 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
7.4	Continue the roll-out of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), thereby removing the link between unemployment status and access to housing supports for those in receipt of rent assistance payments. [Q]	Q.4 2016	DEASP; D/Housing, Planning and Local Government	Completed		
7.5	Review and report on the impact of the reduced jobseeker payment rates for jobseekers aged 18 to 25. [Q]	Q.2 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	NUI Maynooth has provided additional findings at the end of 2017 which are currently being reviewed and will be reflected in the Department's report which is currently being finalised.
7.6	Develop a ready reckoner illustrating the financial benefits of employment for people with disabilities.	Q1 2018	DEASP	Completed		<u>Benefit of Work Estimator</u> completed and available through Welfare.ie and MyWelfare.ie
7.7	Review and report on the findings of the "make work pay" group established as part of the DEASP commitments in the CES	Q.4 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	Overall reporting on CES/MWP is responsibility of DJE. Working group chaired at ASG level monitors implementation at DEASP level. (see also update in relation to 3.1 above covering MWP recommendations 9 and 10).
7.8	Increase access to quality and affordable childcare for parents transitioning to employment.	Q.4 2017	DCYA	Off Target	In Progress	



Action No.	Action	Due Date	Responsible Agency	Status	Status Comment	Q2 Update 2018
<b>8.</b>	<b>Improve the application of the principle of rights and responsibilities in all engagements with jobseekers. [Q]</b>					
<b>8.1.</b>	Improve communication of rights and responsibilities in activation documents and Group Information sessions.	On-going	DEASP	Completed		
<b>8.2.</b>	Apply a requirement for Jobseekers to register with JobsIreland.ie when requested by their Case Officers.	Q.3 2017	DEASP	Off Target	In Progress	This issue is being further discussed with the Legal Advisor, who has expressed some doubt as to whether current legislation would permit disallowance of a claim for failure to register with JobsIreland.
<b>9.</b>	<b>Build jobseeker and other working age cohorts awareness of available supports through increasing marketing and communication activity. [Q]/[E]</b>					
<b>9.1.</b>	Increase use of on-line/social media channels as a means of communicating with jobseekers. [Q]/[E]	On-going	DEASP	On Target	In Progress	JobsIreland new branding nearing completion. Social media strategy for Intreo and JobsIreland presented to Customer Services Programme Board and circulated for observations.
<b>9.2.</b>	Partner with third-sector organisations (trade unions, INOU, CIB, IBEC, ISME, CPID etc.) to promote awareness of programmes and schemes. [Q]/[E]	On-going	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Facilitate and advance recruitment levels from the Live Register to Enterprise Agency assisted companies. [Q]</b>					
<b>10.1.</b>	Promote employer support services and schemes (e.g. JobsPlus, Job Matching) via EI and the IDA.	On-going	DEASP; DBEI	Completed	On-going	

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10.2.	Provide responsive job-matching services on request to EI and IDA sponsored employers.	On-going	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
10.3.	Participate in Regional Implementation Boards of the Action Plan for Jobs.	On-going	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
10.4.	Operate the joint governance structure overseeing the implementation of the protocol between DEASP and DBEI agencies.	On-going	DEASP/DBEI	Completed	On-going	
11.	<b>Complete the establishment of a professional account management capability with employers. [Q]/[E]</b>					
11.1.	Complete the recruitment and training programme for account managers. [Q]/[E]	Q.4 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
11.2.	Agree and establish account management standards and co-ordination mechanisms with JobPath and LES providers. [Q]/[E]	Q.1 2016	DEASP	Completed		
11.3.	Consider and, if appropriate, develop a plan to introduce an IT system to support employer engagement – using CRM (Customer Relationship Management) software interoperable with other DEASP IT systems and databases and standardise this across all those delivering activation services (LES, JobPath). [Q]/[E]	Q.4 2016	DEASP	Off Target	In Progress	Business Proposal in development taking into account the potential solutions available and subject to consultation with relevant units.
11.4.	Establish a channel management approach to working with recruitment agencies with a view to helping recruitment agencies place jobseekers and other cohorts prioritised under PTW into employment. [Q]/[E]	Q.2 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	

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11.5.	Develop performance metrics to set targets and monitor and report on employer engagement activities. [Q]/[E]	Q.1 2018	DEASP	Off Target	In Progress	In addition to CRM system, a review and analysis of approach adopted by other PES is being examined.
12	Continue to develop the national jobs week with a view to doubling employer participation over the course of the plan period and incorporating a national recruitment conference as part of the programme. [Q]/[E]	Q.4 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
13.	Implement the new JobsIreland online recruitment service during 2016 and increase vacancies posted from c 100, 000 per year to 200, 000 per year over the course of this programme period (to end 2020). [Q]/[E]	Q.2 2016	DEASP	Off Target	In Progress	
14.	Develop a methodology with the CSO for monitoring movements of new employees from the Live Register or other welfare status to IDA/enterprise supported agencies and other employers.	Q.2 2016	DEASP/DBEI	Completed		
15.	Develop and implement an engagement strategy for employer representative groups (e.g. IBEC, CIF, IHF) and other employer bodies (e.g. BITC, FIF). [Q]/[E]	On-going	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
16	Continue to work to engage employers in offering training related work-placements to unemployed jobseekers through Skillnets. [Q]/[E]	On-going	DEASP	Completed	On-going	

Action No.	Action	Due Date	Responsible Agency	Status	Status Comment	Q2 Update 2018
17	Participate together with employers in Regional Skills Fora being established by DES to improve labour market relevance of further education and training provision. [Q]	On-going	DEASP; DES	Completed	On-going	As part of the new architecture, outlined in the National Skills Strategy 2025, a network of 9 Regional Skills Fora each with a manager were established in 2016 to foster close co-operation at regional level between education and training providers and regional enterprise. The Fora and the Managers provide a local and regional link in the implementation of wider Government policy and initiatives on regional economic development, including the Regional Action Plans for Jobs and Pathways to Work.
18	Identify the skills needs of employers, including through the use of labour market data and studies, to inform the development and delivery of programmes that will upskill and re-skill unemployed people to meet the requirements of the enterprise sector. [Q]	On-going	DBEI ; DES	Completed	On-going	<p>As part of its 2017 work programme, which has carried over into 2018, the EGFSN has completed or has ongoing numerous studies identifying the skills needs of employers, with a range of recommendations aimed at informing the development and delivery of programmes that will upskill and reskill new entrants and existing members of the labour force - including unemployed people- to meet the requirements of the enterprise sector. These include projects focused on the future demand for ICT Skills, digital skills, the early childhood education and care sector, and the skills implications of Brexit.</p> <p>Launched in December 2017, the purpose of the <i>Skills for Growth</i> Initiative is to increase the quality and quantity of data available on skills needs in individual enterprises, to allow for enhanced engagement between enterprise, education and training providers, and other relevant members of Regional Skills Fora. Data will be collected at individual company level by the Regional Skills Fora Managers using a tool created by DES in conjunction with the Skills and Labour Market Research Unit in Solas and Regional Skills Fora managers. This tool will enable granular data on skills needs to be collected and processed. This is an innovative collaborative programme led by the Department of Education and Skills and Enterprise Ireland, working in partnership with Regional Skills Fora Managers, SOLAS, AIRO, MEND and the HEA.</p>

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19	Strengthen the mechanisms and metrics for ensuring delivery on the skills needs identified at sectoral and occupational level and develop further the dissemination of labour market and skills data to higher education and further education and training institutions to respond to identified shortages. [Q]/[E]	On-going	DBEI; DES	Completed	On-going	<p>Each project undertaken by the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs is overseen by a Steering Group, especially established for the purpose of the study, comprised of experts from relevant enterprise sectors, to ensure sectoral and occupational buy-in, and the education and training sector. The Expert Group also engages with DES, the HEA, SOLAS and other relevant bodies to produce an agreed action plan to address the skills needs identified, with responsible bodies clearly identified. This approach of sector and occupational level co-operation and agreement on follow up actions feeds into the successful delivery of skills needs identified in the course of each study. A communications plan is prepared for each piece of research work carried out by the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs (EGFSN) to support the successful dissemination of important messages to key stakeholders including educational and training providers, the regional skills fora and career guidance professionals. Work into developing a strategic communications policy for the EGFSN is ongoing in 2018.</p> <p>Since the establishment of the RSF there is now a greater focus on strengthening and establishing positive relationships between employers and the education and training system in the different regions. Some of the functions of each Fora include Identify and implement the most effective means for sharing and disseminating information to external stakeholders. Actively promote the activities and achievements of the Regional Skills Forum, become familiar with the full range of pertinent data sources relevant to the skills development needs of the region and manage the input of the Forum to the analysis and further development of such data.</p> <p>A key emerging strategy for industry both nationally and in the regions is the upskilling of the existing workforce at all levels. In June 2017 the EXPLORE programme, an innovative new initiative aimed at increasing participation rates in Lifelong Learning and offering an opportunity to upskill for those already in employment was launched. The key objective of the initiative is to create a potential</p>

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						new solution to help address the issue of Ireland's low level of participation in lifelong learning amongst the Irish workforce, particularly targeting persons over 35 years of age in manufacturing employment.
20	Maximise the application of a social clause subject to EU and national guidelines, in public procurement.	On-going	D/PER; DEASP	Completed	On-going	
21	<b>Improve the quality of service provision. [Q]</b>					
21.1.	Design, develop and implement an accredited professional development programme for Intreo Case Officers.	Q.4 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	Accredited learning programme for Case Officers is currently being developed as part of a suite of seven programmes and awaiting QQI validation.
21.2.	Design, develop and implement a quality management approach to improve the quality of the service offered to Intreo clients.	Q.4 2017	DEASP	On Target	In Progress	This is being considered in the context of the Department's high level strategy in its 2017 - 2020 Strategy Statement to introduce a quality management system in relation to the delivery of its services.
21.3.	Commission and publish regular customer satisfaction surveys.	Q.1 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	Tendering process for October wave of Customer satisfaction survey is currently in progress.  New OGP Framework published for drawdown in 2019.  Plan to commence wider customer satisfaction surveys in 2019.

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21.4.	Refine and expand the range of published performance statistics relating to Intreo centre performance.	On-going	DEASP	Off Target	In Progress	Available data is being examined.
21.5.	Maintain the physical Intreo Centre environment to best practice standards.	On-going	DEASP	Completed	On-going	Ongoing programme of maintenance is taking place.
22	<b>Complete the development and implementation of IT systems. [Q]/[E]</b>					
22.1.	Deliver an expanded range of online services to jobseekers and employers (MyWelfare.ie and Jobsireland.ie). [Q]/[E]	Q.3 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	Online Jobseeker application pilot on going and on line certification by jobseekers pilot commenced in Galway and Ballina. Work on building a Content Management System (CMS) to support and complement MyWelfare services, including those for jobseekers, is near completion. New 'Disability Estimator' tool, similar to the back to work calculator, delivered on MyWelfare in May. Work underway to transition the existing Jobseeker's back to work calculator from welfare.ie to MyWelfare.
22.2.	Complete the development and implementation of a new end to end case management system integrated with DEASP's core welfare systems. [Q]/[E]	Q.2 2016	DEASP	Completed		
22.3.	Develop and implement a new Programme Learner and Support System in the FET sector and build and operate interfaces between DEASP and FET systems to ensure that referrals are managed and tracked appropriately. [Q]/[E]	Q.4 2016	SOLAS; DES; DEASP	Completed		
23	<b>Use evidence to inform the development of service and policy initiatives. [Q]</b>					

Action No.	Action	Due Date	Responsible Agency	Status	Status Comment	Q2 Update 2018
23.1.	Deliver a rolling programme of impact evaluation studies with the support of the Labour Market Council.	On-going	DEASP	On Target	In Progress	DEASP is undertaking evaluations of JobPath and Jobsplus in 2018 to identify the impact of these services/programmes on the labour market outcomes of participants.
23.2.	Establish a cross-departmental working group DEASP, DES, SOLAS, DBEI, HEA, CSO and Revenue to expand the scope and application of the jobseeker longitudinal database (JLD).	Q.2 2016	DEASP/DBEI/ DES/SOLAS	Completed	On-going	
23.3.	Promote research activity on the JLD among academic institutions.	On-going	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
23.4.	Publish under the guidance of LMC an annual review of Pathways to Work progress and priorities.	Q.4 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	
24.	<b>Promote exchange of best practice between service providers. [Q]/[E]</b>					
24.1.	Organise and run an annual service providers conference for all service providers in the public employment services sector. [Q]/[E]	Q.3 2016	DEASP	Off Target	Not yet started.	The Department is committed to engaging with all stakeholders in the activation area and will, towards end 2018, be engaging in consultation in the area. A formal service providers conference will be considered as one of a range of potential tools as part of this consultation.
24.2	Publish, from Q3 2016, performance statistics relating to the cost and performance of contracted providers including JobPath, LES/Jobclubs and ETBs. [Q]	On-going	DEASP; DPER	Completed	On-going	Performance statistics published on a quarterly basis.
24.3	Refine the contract model with Local Employment Service to apply learnings from Intreo and JobPath roll-out. [Q]	Q.4 2016	DEASP	Completed	On-going	



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24.4	Undertake a review of the operation of Local Employment Service and JobClubs to assess performance and value for money. [Q]	Q.4 2016	DEASP	Completed		
25	<b>Review and evaluate the performance of existing FET provision [Q]</b>					
25.1	Complete evaluations of the current rounds of Springboard and Momentum.	On-going	SOLAS	Completed		
25.2	Complete the review of the Post Leaving Certificate Programme.	Q.2 2016	SOLAS	Completed		Evaluation published in January 2018
25.3	Undertake reviews of FET programmes in accordance with the schedule set out in the FET Strategy 2014-19.	On-going	SOLAS	On Target	In Progress	Youthreach on-going. VTOS and SST evaluations on-going.
25.4	Seek to incorporate the JLD into FET programme reviews and examine the potential to enhance the JLD through the inclusion of data on participation in education and training programmes and overall educational attainment.	Q.1 2017	DEASP; DES	Off Target	In Progress	Action will be achieved by Q3 or Q4 2018. SOLAS will sign an agreement with the DEASP soon.
25.5	Complete an examination of the barriers to participation in FET programmes	Q.3 2016	SOLAS	Completed		Evaluation published June 2017
26	<b>Target provision to meet needs of jobseekers and employers [Q]/[E]</b>					
26.1	Develop the new apprenticeship system on an on-going basis to cover the broad range of skills needed for the economy to ensure the system is resourced to adapt to the changing needs of the workplace and employers over the coming decade. [Q]	On-going	DES	Completed	On-going	New apprenticeship programmes are currently in development and development plans are progressing for all 26 apprenticeship programmes approved for further development at the end of 2017.

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26.2	Roll out further rounds of Springboard and Momentum taking account of evaluation outcomes and analysis of need.[Q]	Q.4 2016	DES	Completed		<p>Under Springboard+ 2017, the eligibility criteria was expanded to include homemakers and those in employment or self-employment who wish to upskill, reskill or cross skill in the Biopharma/Med Tech sector and those in employment, or self-employment in the ICT sector who wish to upskill from a level 7 to a level 8 qualification. For Springboard+ 2018 the eligibility has been expanded beyond ICT, Biopharma &amp; Medtech to those in employment wishing to upskill or reskill to meet national and regional urgent skill needs in relevant sectors of the economy.</p> <p>Over 8,000 places will be available this coming academic year on 245 courses across the country, including in new areas such as robotics and artificial intelligence. This is an increase of almost 25% on the previous year.</p>
26.3	Agree annual targets with Intreo for participation of priority cohorts (long term unemployed jobseekers, people with disabilities, young unemployed people etc.) in education and training programmes [Q/E]	On-going	DES; DEASP	Completed	On-going	
26.4	Review conditionality of income support for Springboard participants to facilitate flexibility and innovation in the programme. [Q]	Q.2 2016	DES	Completed		
26.5	Examine supports required to facilitate greater participation by people with disabilities, single parents and qualified adults in education and training [E]	Q.4 2016	DEASP; DES	Completed	On-going	<p>ETBs have been requested as part of the 2018 - 2020 ETB Strategic Performance Agreements and Planning Framework to set out their responses to the SOLAS commissioned research 'Barriers to Further Education and Training with particular reference to Long Term Unemployed Persons and other Vulnerable individuals' [SOLAS 2017] to ensure improved access to FET more generally and access by persons with a disability and lone parents, carers etc. more specifically.</p>

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<b>27</b>	<b>Ensure that FET sector and Intreo employment services deliver and operate services in an aligned manner. [Q]</b>					
<b>27.1</b>	Produce annual FET Service Plans, with engagement from the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection and Intreo offices.	On-going	DES;SOLAS; DEASP	Completed	On-going	Publication currently being finalised.
<b>27.2</b>	Complete the development and rollout of the Programme Learner and support System (PLSS) including application interfaces with Intreo systems.	Q.4 2016	DES; SOLAS	Completed	On-going	The PLSS system has been rolled out to the ETBs; enhancements to the application are ongoing. The Data sharing agreement between DEASP and SOLAS needs to be updated to comply with GDPR. Legislation / intervention may be required to realize objective in relation to outcomes.
<b>27.3</b>	Complete the review of inter-agency protocols between INTREO offices and DES/ETBs and disseminate the results.	Q.2 2016	DEASP;DES	Completed		Completed as per Q.2 2016.
<b>27.4</b>	Establish standing local arrangements to monitor the operation of the inter-agency protocols.	Q.2 2016	DEASP; DES	Completed		Completed as per Q.2 2016. Protocols in place.
<b>27.5</b>	Ensure DEASP participation in the Regional Skills Fora.	On-going	DES; DEASP	Completed	On-going	DEASP are members of the Regional Skills For a.