RÁITEAS TIONÓIL - 16 Samhain 2009 An Tuarascáil "Le Chéile i dTreo na Teidlíochta"

Cuirim fáilte roimh an deis seo leis an ráiteas seo a thabhairt do mo chomhghleacaithe Tionóil inniu le cur in iúl daoibh go bhfuil an Tuarascáil "Le Chéile i dTreo na Teidlíochta" foilsithe. Is éard atá sa tuarascáil ná na fionnachtana agus na moltaí ón gCleachtas Iarbhunscoile Pleanála Ceantarbhunaithe a choimisiúnaigh mé anuraidh le coincheap na pleanála ceantarbhunaithe a thástáil san earnáil iarbhunscoile bunaithe ar sholáthar éifeachtúil agus éifeachtach an Chreata Teidlíochta faoi 2013.

Tá sé ríthábhachtach go mbímid ag pleanáil go straitéiseach ar bhonn ceantair le rogha curaclaim inbhuanaithe d'ardchaighdeán a sholáthar ar bhealach éifeachtach

ASSEMBLY STATEMENT - 16 November 2009 "Together Towards Entitlement" Report

I welcome the opportunity to make a statement to my Assembly colleagues today to inform them of the publication of the "Together Towards Entitlement" Report which is the findings and recommendations from the Post Primary Area-based Planning Exercise I commissioned last year to test the concept of area based planning in the post primary sector centred around the efficient and effective delivery of the Entitlement Framework by 2013.

It is vitally important that we plan strategically on an area basis for the delivery of a high quality, sustainable curricular offer in an effective manner to ensure that we meet the needs

lena chinntiú go bhfreastalaímid ar riachtanais agus ar ardmhianta na ndaoine óga tríd an leas is mó is féidir a bhaint as na hacmhainní atá ar fáil dúinn. Má táimid le bheith dairíre faoi chaighdeáin a ardú sa chóras oideachais, caithfidh go mbeidh fáil ag gach dalta ar chúrsaí a bhfuil fíorshuim acu iontu agus atá fiúntach dóibh agus iad ag ullmhú don saol fásta.

and aspirations of young people by maximising the impact of the resources available to us. If we are serious about raising standards in our education system, all pupils must be able to access courses that genuinely interest them and are of value to them as they prepare for adult life.

Cinnteoidh an Creat Teidlíochta go mbeidh níos mó solúbthachta agus go mbeidh rogha níos fearr ag gach duine óg atá 14 bliain d'aois nó níos sine trí rochtain a thabhairt dóibh ar réimse leathan deiseanna foghlama atá oiriúnach dá riachtanais, dá mbuanna agus dá suimeanna, beag beann ar a n-áit chónaithe nó ar an scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn siad.

The Entitlement Framework will guarantee, all young people, aged 14 and above, greater choice and flexibility by providing them with access to a wide range of learning opportunities suited to their needs, aptitudes and interests, irrespective of where they live or the school they attend.

Ní hamhlaidh an cás don iomarca daoine óga faoi láthair. Níl sé cothrom ná cóir nach bhfuil fáil ag roinnt daoine óga ach ar réimse

This is not currently the case for too many of our young people. It is not fair or equitable that a number of our young people have access to a very

an-teoranta cúrsaí ag Eochairchéim 4 agus Iar-16. Chomh maith leis sin cuirtear an iomarca béime ar chúrsaí ginearálta/acadúla agus tá ganntanas cúrsaí feidhmeacha/gairme ann.

limited range of courses at Key Stage 4 and Post-16. In addition there is an over emphasis on general/academic type courses and a shortage of applied/vocational type courses.

Chuir mé Lárghrúpa ar bun i mí Mhárta anuraidh le cathaoirleach neamhspleách agus le leaschathaoirleach neamhspleách agus 5 Ghrúpa Limistéir, a raibh cathaoirleach neamhspleách ar gach ceann acu.

In March last year I established a Central Group with an independent chairperson and vice chairperson and 5 Area Groups, each independently chaired.

Ba mhian liom buíochas a ghabháil le Adeline Dinsmore agus le Joe Martin, Cathaoirleach agus leaschathaoirleach an Lárghrúpa, agus le cathaoirligh na 5 Grúpa Limistéir, Tom Shaw, John Young, Maighréad Uí Mháirtín, Pat McAleavey agus an tUrramach Robert Herron as an gceannasaíocht agus an stiúradh láidir a thug siad le linn an chleachtais nua dúshlánaigh seo.

I wish to thank Adeline Dinsmore and Joe Martin, Chairperson and vice chairperson of the Central Group, and the chairpersons of the 5 Area Groups, Tom Shaw, John Young, Maighréad Uí Mháirtín, Pat McAleavey and Reverend Robert Herron for the strong leadership and direction they provided throughout this new and challenging exercise. I want to thank all the members of the Area Groups. They have

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis na comhaltaí de na Grúpaí Limistéir ar fad. Tá saothar casta oibre déanta acu le scil agus le cúram, agus chinntigh siad i gcónaí go raibh fócas soiléir ar riachtanais agus ar ardmhianta na ndaoine óga.

completed a complex piece of work with skill and care, ensuring at all times a clear and unequivocal focus on the needs and aspirations of young people.

Bhí na hearnálacha ar fad bainteach leis na grúpaí seo – na 5 Bhord Oideachais agus Leabharlainne, CCMS, NICIE, CnaG, Comhlachas na bhForas Rialaithe; Comhlachas na gColáistí; na Coláistí Breisoideachais, Foireann Feidhmithe an ESA; an Roinn Fostaíochta agus Foghlama, Iontaobhaithe na Scoileanna Caitliceacha, Comhairle na nIonadaithe Aistreora, Comhdháil na gCeardchumann agus an Fóram Idirchreidimh. Ba mhain liom buíochas a ghabháil leis na hionadaithe ón Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta sa deisceart. Tá sé tábhachtach go

All sectors were included in these groups – the 5 Education and Library Boards, CCMS, NICIE, CnaG, the Governing Bodies Association; Associaion of Northern Ireland Colleges; the FE Colleges, ESA Implementation Team; the Department of Employment and Learning, the Trustees of Catholic Schols, the Transferors Representatives' Council, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the Interfaith Forum. I wish to thank the representatives from the Department of Education and Science in the South. It is important that we share expertise and work together.

gcomhroinnimid saineolas agus go mbíonn comhoibriú ar siúl eadrainn.

Ó fuair mé an tuarascáil “Le Chéile i dTreo na Teidlíochta” i mí Iúil, tá breathnú cúramach déanta agam ar na fionnachtana agus ar na moltaí. Bainim de thátal astu go bhfuil sraith láidir moltaí againn a thugann cur chuige pragmatach i leith an Creat Teidlíochta a sholáthar agus trí thástáil dhian ar chur chuige ceantarbhunaithe i leith pleanála, soláthrófar roinnt léargas agus ceachtanna luachmhara a bheidh ESA ábalta a úsáid agus an próiseas reachtúil pleanála ceantarbhunaithe á fhorbairt.

Since receiving their “Together Towards Entitlement” report in July I have been carefully considering their findings and recommendations. I have concluded that these are a robust set of recommendations which provide a pragmatic approach to delivering the Entitlement Framework and the rigourous testing of an area-based approach to planning will provide some very valuable insights and lessons which ESA will be able to draw upon when developing the statutory area-based planning process.

Rinneadh an cleachtas ar bhealach oscailte agus trédhearcach agus dá thoradh sin, bhí leibhéil arda rannpháirteachais ann, ní amháin sna grúpaí féin agus idir na grúpaí ach ó scoileanna, colaistí

The exercise was open and transparent manner and, as a result, secured a very high level of engagement not just within the groups and between the groups but also by schools, FE colleges, Area Learning Communities, community

breisoideachais, Pobail Fhoghlama Ceantair, grúpaí pobail agus eagraíochtaí eile oideachais a chuir aighneachtaí isteach.

groups and other educational organisations who made submissions.

Cuimsíonn na moltaí 2 réimse – an Creat Teidlíochta agus cur chuige ceantarbhunaithe i leith pleanála agus creidim nuair a bhreathnaítear na moltaí seo le chéile, go dtairgeann siad plean oibre le córas iarbhunscolaíochta a sholáthar atá níos fearr agus atá bunaithe ar chomhionannas a dhéanann freastal ar riachtanais **gach** duine óg, lena n-áirítear na daoine óga sin a bhíonn ag foghlaim tríd an nGaeilge. Sonraítear sa tuarascáil nach mór dúinn an comhthéacs polasaithe a shainiú go soiléir agus nach mór dúinn a chinntiú go bhfuil tuiscint fhorleathan ar na naisc idir na comhchodanna. Aontaím leis seo, agus tá iarracht déanta agam lena chinntiú go léiríonn na leasuithe sraith polasaithe a dtacaíonn lena

The recommendations cover 2 areas – the Entitlement Framework and an area-based approach to planning and I believe that, taken together these recommendations provide a road map to delivering a better; equality based post-primary education system that serves the needs of **all** our young people, including those young people who chose to learn through the medium of Irish.

The report states that we must get the policy context clearly defined and ensure that the linkages between the component parts are widely understood. I agree with this, and, have sought to ensure that the reforms represent a suite of policies which are supportive of one another and designed to enable us to deliver

chéile agus a bhfuil sé mar aidhm acu ár bhfís a fhíorú.

our vision.

Tá níos mó oibre le déanamh againn, go háirithe i dtaca leis an Straitéis 14-19 agus beidh mé ag obair go dlúth leis an Roinn Fostaíochta agus Foghlama leis seo a chur i gcrích.

There is more work to be done, particularly around the 14-19 Strategy and I will be working closely with the Department of Employment and Learning to bring this forward.

Tá sé curtha in iúl agam cheana féin go bhfuil sé ar intinn agam a chinntiú go mbeidh an Creat Teidlíochta iomlán ina riachtanas reachtúil ón bhliain 2013 amach sa dóigh go mbeidh fáil ag gach duine óg ar chúrsaí a bhfuil suim acu iontu; atá ábhartha dóibh; agus a chuideoidh leo le gairm bheatha atá sásúil agus luachmhar dóibh.

I have already indicated that I intend to make the full Entitlement Framework a statutory requirement from 2013 so that all our young people must have access courses that interest them; that they see as relevant; and that will lead to fulfilling careers.

Agus tú ag léamh tríd an tuarascáil tuigfidh tú, mar a thuig mise, gur léir go gcaithfear an t-athrú a chur i bhfeidhm níos gasta. Caithfimid an próiseas a luathú má táimid chun ár bhfís a

As you read through the report you will realise, as I did, that they have also made clear that the pace of change needs to be quickened. We need to step up a gear if we are to achieve our vision which is that all

bhaint amach, arb í gur chóir go raibh rochtain ag gach duine óg ar sholáthar oideachais d'ardchaighdeán a fhreastalaíonn ar a riachtanais agus a ligeann dóibh a gcumas iomlán a bhaint amach.

young people should have access to high quality educational provision that meets their needs and allows them to reach their full potential.

Mar gheall air sin, scríobh mé chuig gach iarbhunscoil le cur in iúl go gcaithfear iarracht níos fearr a dhéanamh leis an athrú a chur i bhfeidhm níos gasta. Tá mé ag dúil leis go léireoidh scoileanna an dóigh a sholáthróidh siad an Creat Teidlíochta go héifeachtach agus an dóigh a uasmhéadóidh siad an rogha do pháistí san am atá romhainn. Ba mhaith liom a bpleananna a fheiceáil agus ba mhaith liom a bheith cinnte de go bhfuil siad láidir agus insoláthartha.

And so, I have written to all post-primary schools indicating that I want to see a change in pace, a stepping up of efforts. I will expect schools to demonstrate how they will effectively deliver the Entitlement Framework and maximise choice for children in the future. I want to see their plans and I want to be sure that they are robust and deliverable.

Tá roinnt scoileanna ann a bhí ag díriú ar 24 agus 27 a bhaint amach, agus bhí cuid mhór díospóireachta ann faoi sin. Tá

Some schools have focussed mainly on reaching the numbers 24 and 27, about which there has been much debate. It's not about simply adding

níos mó i gceist leis ná níos mó cúrsaí a chur ar fáil amháin, áfach. Caithfidh scoileanna an rogha curaclaim a chuireann siad ar fáil a bhreathnú arís lena chinntiú go bhfuil sé oiriúnach agus go n-ullmhaíonn sé daoine óga don saol agus don obair san aonú haois is fiche.

more courses. Schools need to revisit their curricular offer to see if it is fit for purpose and that it prepares young people for life and work in the 21st century.

Glacadh go forleathan leis an gcoincheap “pobal foghlama ceantair” thar gach ceantar agus tá comhobair á déanamh ag scoileanna cheana féin. Moltar sa tuarascáil gur chóir go spreagfadh DE agus ESA forbairt chomhfhreagrachta tríd an gcur chuige seo. Aontaím leis an tuairim seo agus ba mhian liom go bhforbrófar comhshocruithe an-éifeachtach. Tá súil agam go n-amharctar ar scoileanna mar áiteanna ina bhfuil comhionannas agus rogha iontu, seachas mar áiteanna nach bhfuil mórán rogha nó rogha srianta iontu.

The “area learning community” concept has been widely embraced across all areas and schools are already working together. The report suggests that DE and ESA should encourage further the development of a shared responsibility through this approach. I would concur with this view and want to see highly effective collaborative arrangements developed. I want schools to be seen as gateways to quality and choice and not as destinations where choice is poor or restricted.

Ba mhór an dúshlán do na grúpaí é cur chuige pleanála ceantarbhunaithe, siocair nach ndearnadh riamh é. De réir mar a fhorbraíonn ESA pleanáil cheantarbhunaithe, beidh siad ábalta tarraingt ar na ceachtanna a foghlaimíodh ón gcleachtas seo.

An area based planning approach was a real challenge for the groups, mainly because it had never been done before. As ESA develops area based planning they will be able to draw on the lessons learned from this exercise.

Tá athchóiriú forásach radacach de dhíth go géar ar an gcóras oideachais. Tá gach polasaí ceangailte le chéile mar chuid den bheart athchóirithe céanna- Gach Scoil ina Scoil Mhaith, an Curaclam Athbhreithnithe, an Creat Teidlíochta, Aistriú 2010, an tAthbhreithniú ar an nGaelscolaíocht, an tAthbhreithniú ar Riachtanais Speisialta Oideachais agus Chuimsiú, an tAthbhreithniú ar Riarachán Poiblí, Straitéis na Luathbhlianta- agus tá siad go léir á bhforbairt chun comhionannas a chur chun cinn sa chóras.

A progressive and radical reform of the education system is badly needed and long overdue. All policies are interconnected and part of the same jigsaw of reform – Every School a Good School, Revised curriculum, Entitlement Framework, Transfer 2010, Irish Medium Review, SE and Inclusion Review, Review of Public Administration, Early Years Strategy – all taken forward to promote equality within the system.

Is léir nach féidir linn leanúint de bheith ag pleanáil ar bhonn neamhchomhordaithe ón mbun aníos, ina bhfuil institiúidí aonair ag dul in iomaíocht lena chéile, a bheag nó a mhór. Caithfimid struchtúr soláthair a chur ar bun a sheachadann foghlaim d'ardchaighdeán, foghlaim a ráthaíonn rogha curaclaim atá níos leithne agus níos comhtháitĺ agus a sholáthraíonn comhionannas.

It is evident that we cannot continue to plan on an unco-ordinated bottom up basis, with individual institutions essentially competing with one another. We need to put in place a pattern of provision that delivers quality learning that guarantees wider more coherent curriculum choice and delivers equality.

Is riachtanach go bhfuil an t-infheistiú ollmhór seo san eastát oideachais i gcomhréir leis agus mar thacaíocht ag an gcreat beartais a bhfuil á chur i bhfeidhm agam. Caithfimid soláthar a bharrfheabhsú do gach duine, seachas a bheith sásta le rud ar bith níos lú.

It is essential that this enormous investment in the education estate is consistent with and supportive of the policy framework I am putting in place. We need to optimise provision for all, not settle for second best.

Moltar sa tuarascáil "Le Chéile i dTreo na Teidlíochta" go gcaithfimid feidhmiú an Pholasaí um Scoileanna Inbhuanaithe a luathú. Mar gheall air seo, tá

The "Together Towards Entitlement" report suggests that we accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Schools Policy. In response to this I have already

athbhreithniú ar thionscadail chaipitiúla reatha údaraithe agam lena chinntiú go bhfuil siad go léir i gcomhréir le creat beartais na Roinne Oideachais.

commissioned a review of current capital projects to validate that all are consistent with the DE policy framework

Chomh maith leis sin, d'iarr mé ar na Cigirí a chinntiú go gcuimseoidh gach cigireacht a dhéanfar as seo amach in iarbhunscoileanna, go gcuimseoidh siad fócas ar an rogha atá ar fáil do dhaltaí ag ceithre bliana déag d'aois agus iad ag ullmhú le dul isteach chuig an séú bliain – le fócas ar leith ar chomhleanúnachas na n-ábhar atá ar fáil agus ar an oideachas agus treoir faoi ghairmeacha atá ar fáil le cuidiú leis na daltaí roghanna eolasacha a dhéanamh.

I have also asked the Inspectorate to ensure, from now on, that all inspections in post-primary schools include a focus on the offer available to pupils at 14 and as they prepare to enter sixth form – and a particular focus on the coherence of what is available and the careers education and guidance that is available to help pupils make meaningful choices.

Beidh tacaíocht de dhíth ar scoileanna chun an t-athrú seo a chur i bhfeidhm. Is léir ón tuarascáil seo go bhfuil tacaíocht níos fearr á fáil i roinnt réimsí agus atá á fáil i réimsí eile. Níl sé sin inghlactha. Agus sin an fáth go

Schools will need support to deliver this change. Today's report makes clear that support is better in some areas than in others. That is not acceptable. And that is why I am also asking ESA to conduct an immediate assessment of the

bhfuil mé ag iarraidh ar an ESA measúnú láithreach a dhéanamh ar an tacaíocht atá ar fáil do scoileanna agus dá bpobail fhoghlama ceantair lena chinntiú go bhfuil an tacaíocht freagrúil, ar chaighdeán ard agus dírithe ar chuidiú a thabhairt dóibh chun an Creat Teidlíochta a sheachadadh dá ndaltaí.

support available to schools and to their area learning communities to ensure that it is responsive, high quality and focused on helping them deliver the Entitlement Framework for their pupils.

Tá ainm fóirsteanach ar an tuarascáil seo - Le Chéile i dTreo na Teidlíochta- agus léiríonn sé go bhfuil mórán páirtithe leasmhara éagsúla ag baint léi. Aithnítear sa tuarascáil “Príomhthosaíochtaí le haghaidh Gníomhaithe” do gach ceann de na páirtithe leasmhara a bhfuil seo á fhorbairt le chéile acu. Ní leor roinnt de na páirithe leasmhara a bheith á fhorbairt. Caithfidh gach páirtí leasmhar freagracht a ghlacadh as a ról féin agus caithfidh siad gníomhú láithreach chun feidhmiú rathúil a bhaint amach.

The report is very aptly named – Together Towards Entitlement – and it highlights that there are many different stakeholders,. The report identifies “Priorities for Action” for each of the partners taking this forward together. It is not enough for some of the partners to move forward. Successful implementation requires each stakeholder to take responsibility for their role and to act now.

Ba mhaith liom tírdhreach oideachais a fheiceáil a bhfuil réimse leathan roghanna scoile ann agus a bhfuil éagsúlacht agus rogha mar ghnásanna ann.

Tá scoileanna rílárnach chun oideachas agus rogha ar ardchaighdeán a sholáthar. Faoi chúram na scoileanna atá cuid mhór de na príomhthosaíochtaí le haghaidh gníomhaithe agus ba mhaith liom a chinntiú go dtugtar tacaíocht dóibh chun na tascanna seo a dhéanamh. Tá seirbhís tacaíochta de dhíth orthu a dhíríonn freastal orthu. Tá bunú an ESA rítábhachtach maidir le caighdeáin a ardú, roghanna a mhéadú agus comhionannas a fhorbairt. Chuir mé in iúl go soiléir don chathaoirleach Seán Hogan agus do Gavin Boyd go bhfuil mé ag súil leis go socróidh siad an luas agus go n-oibreoidh siad le scoileanna lena chinntiú go bhfuil fócas inmharthana ar thorthaí a

I wish to see an educational landscape that is characterised by a range of school options, where diversity and choice are the norm.

Schools are the key to delivering high quality education and choice. Many of the priorities for action fall to schools and I want to make sure they are supported to carry out these tasks. They need a responsive and targeted support service. The establishment of ESA is crucial to the raising standards, increasing choice and building equality. I have made it clear to the chair Sean Hogan and Gavin Boyd that I expect them to set the pace, working with schools to ensure that there is a sustained focus on improving outcomes for every child.

fheabhsú do gach páiste.
Ní amháin go léiríonn an tuarascáil go gcaithfear bearta a fhorchéimniú, ach is tábhachtach freisin go dtugtar réimse soiléir prionsabal inti chun an timpeallacht agus comhthéacs ceart le soláthar curaclaim inbhuanaithe a phleanáil agus chun an bonneagar tacaithe a chruthú leis an soláthar sin a sheachadadh.

Not only does the report highlight actions that need to be progressed it also importantly gives us a clear set of principles to create the right climate and context for planning sustainable curricular provision and the supporting infrastructure to deliver it.

Má dhéanaimid an obair seo faoi mheanma na bprionsabal seo, creidim gur féidir linn roinnt mhaith a dhéanamh a bheidh chun leas mórán daoine óga.

I believe that if we progress this work in the spirit of these principles we can achieve a great deal and can benefit many young people.

D'iarr mé ar Adeline agus a comhghleacaithe sraith seimineár a reáchtáil ar fud an tuaiscirt chun a gcuid torthaí a phoibliú. Cuirfear tús leo dé Céadaoin agus leanfar ar aghaidh leo go dtí deireadh na míosa. Tá páirt le glacadh ag gach duine agus tá súil agam go gcuirfear fáilte roimh na moltaí

I have asked Adeline and her colleagues to conduct a series of seminars to disseminate their findings across the North. These will begin on Wednesday of this week and continue to the end of the month. Everyone has a part to play and I would hope that the messages are well received and more importantly

agus, níos tábhachtaí fós, go nglacfar bearta lena gcur i bhfeidhm.

acted upon.

Ní féidir áibhéil a dhéanamh ar an riachtanas le soláthar curaclaim inbhuanaithe ar ardchaighdeán a phleanáil go héifeachtach. Tá sé ríthábhachtach. Ní amháin go gcaithfimid na hathruithe atá luaite sa tuarascáil a fheidhmiú, ach caithfimid gach athrú eile atá luaite i mo phacáiste athchóirithe a fheidhmiú. Ach caithfimid iad a fheidhmiú anois chun an caighdeán oideachais atá tuillte ag daoine óga a sholáthar dóibh.

The need to effectively plan for the delivery of high quality sustainable curricular provision cannot be over emphasised. It's vital. We need to implement not only the changes highlighted in the report but all the others within my package of reforms. And we need to implement them now if we are to provide our young people with the education they so rightly deserve.