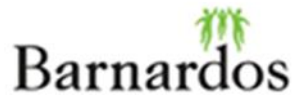


Investing in our children

Toby Wolfe, Start Strong

Scandinavian Childcare – Making it Happen

4 March 2013



Barnardos



National Women's Council



OPEN



Start Strong

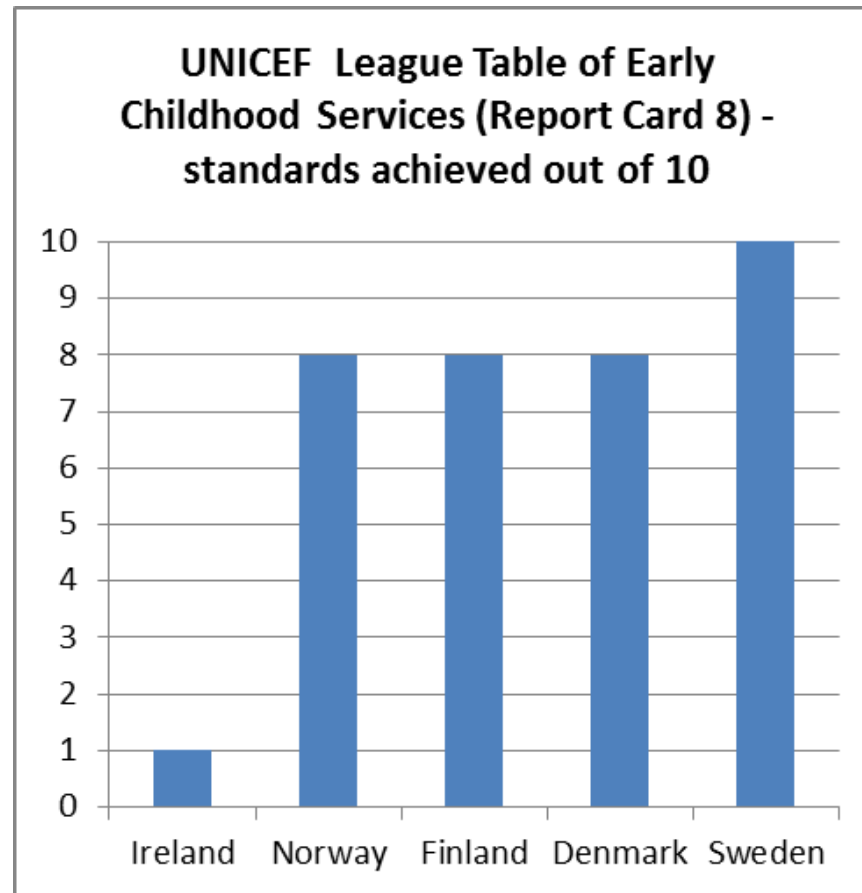
Calls for the 'Scandinavian' model

- National Women's Council of Ireland, *An Accessible Childcare Model*, 2005
- Minister for Social Protection, April 2012
- Barnardos and Start Strong, *Towards a Scandinavian Childcare System for 0-12 Year Olds in Ireland?* November 2012

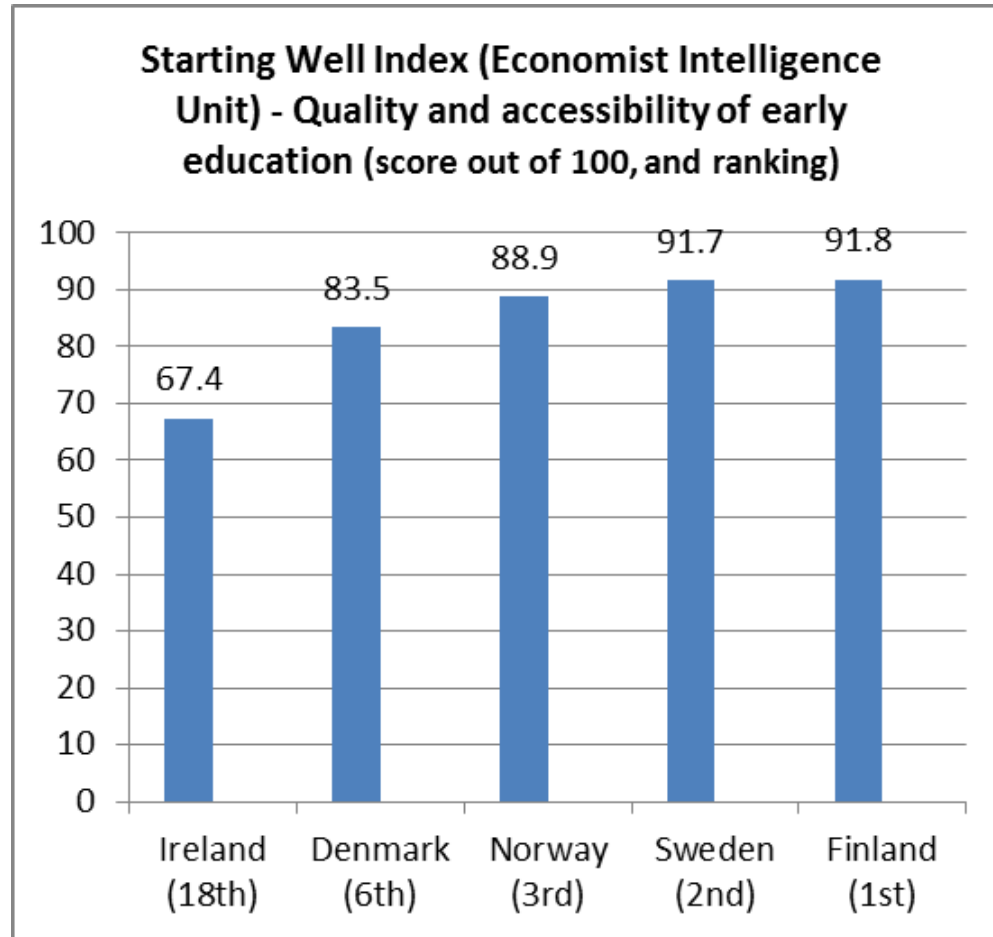
Policy objectives: different but converging

- Supporting children's well-being and development
- Reducing child poverty
- Supporting women's labour market participation and gender equality in caring roles
- Offering a comprehensive solution to reform of One Parent Family Payment

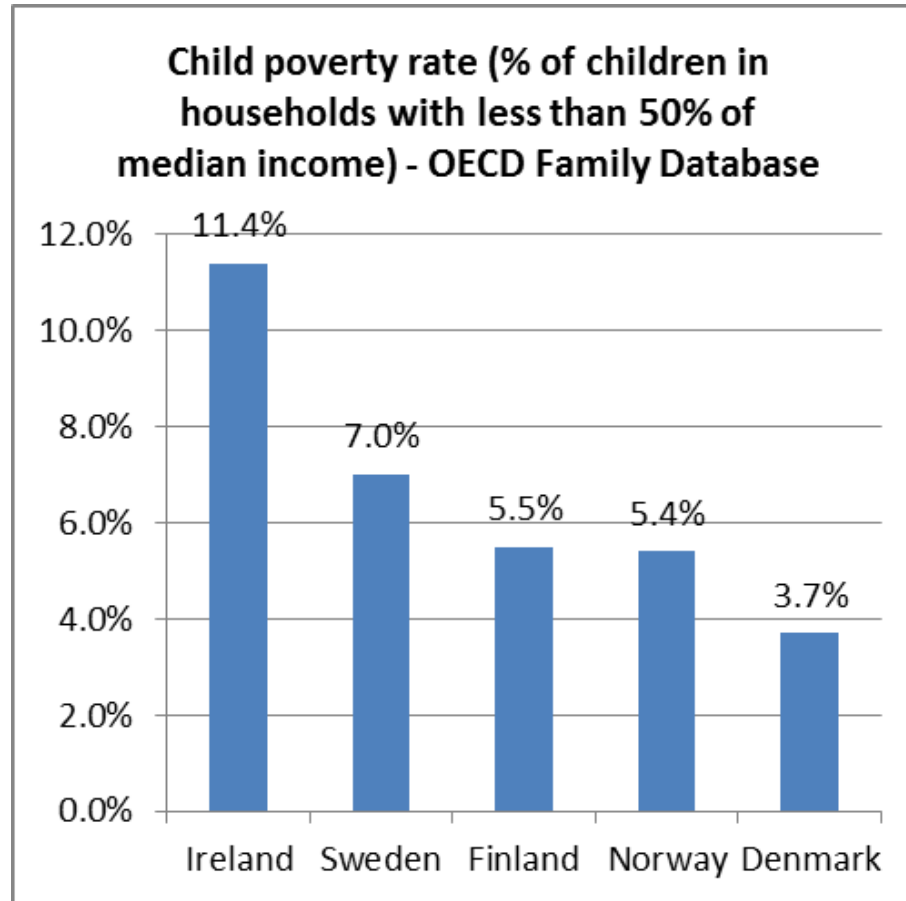
UNICEF Report Card 8 (2008)



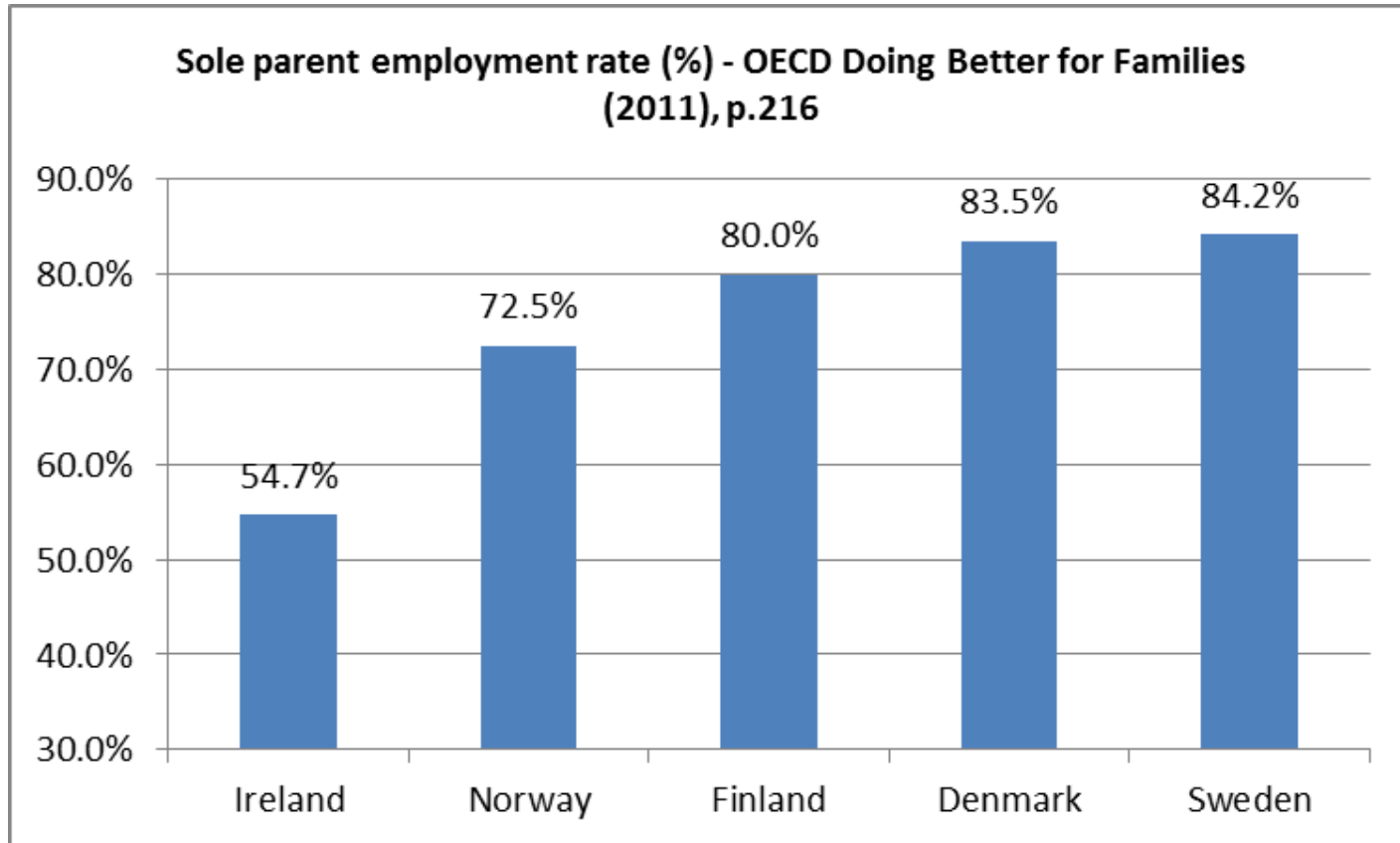
EIU – Starting Well Index (2012)



Child poverty



Lone parents' employment



Making it happen - Quality is key

- Parental leave and work-life balance

Pre-school *and* after-school services

- High quality
- Universally available
- Affordable
- Joined-up

Parental leave and work-life balance

2013 - 2014	2014 - 2019	By 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Right to request flexible leave• Introduce paternity leave	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incrementally introduce paid parental leave, to achieve 1 year in total of paid leave	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No gap between end of paid parental leave and entitlement to subsidy for care and education

Early care and education

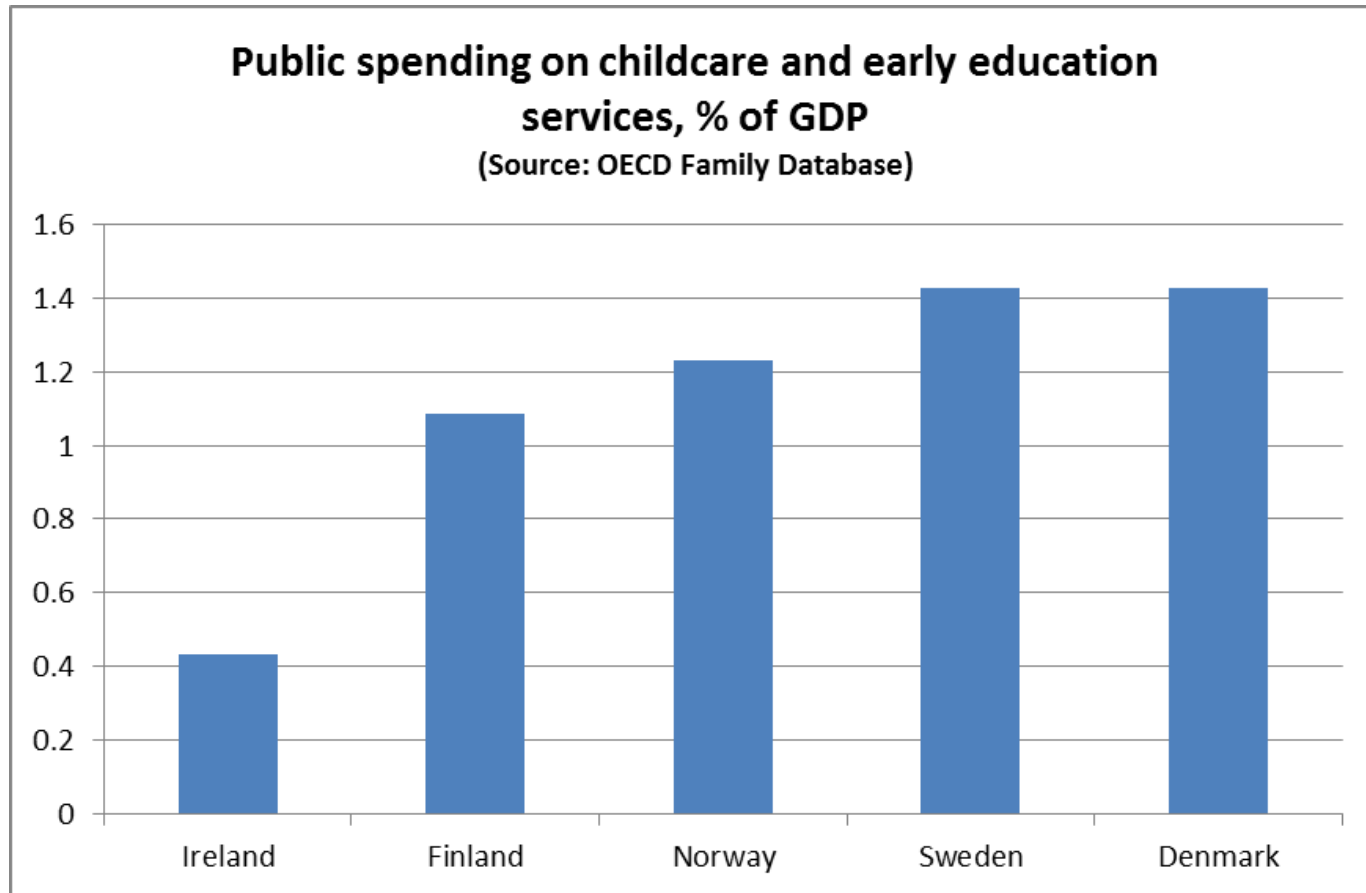
2013 - 2014	2014 - 2019	By 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Early Years Strategy• Apply minimum qualification requirements to all workers• Second free pre-school year• Reform inspection system• Regulate all paid childminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase minimum qualification requirements, supported by a training fund• Siolta and Aistear in all services, with paid CPD / non-contact time• Extend subsidies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professionalised workforce• No low quality early care and education provision• Income-related subsidies for all quality early care and education provision

After-school services

2013 - 2014	2014 - 2019	By 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="117 572 475 729">• National after-school services strategy<li data-bbox="117 801 475 893">• Regulate after-school services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="620 572 1180 665">• Develop infrastructure of after-school services<li data-bbox="620 736 1180 829">• Extend subsidies for after-school services<li data-bbox="620 908 1132 951">• Raise quality standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1244 572 1620 665">• Professionalised workforce<li data-bbox="1244 736 1688 951">• Income-related subsidies for all quality after-school provision

Investment in early care & education

(2009 data, source: OECD Family Database Oct 2012)



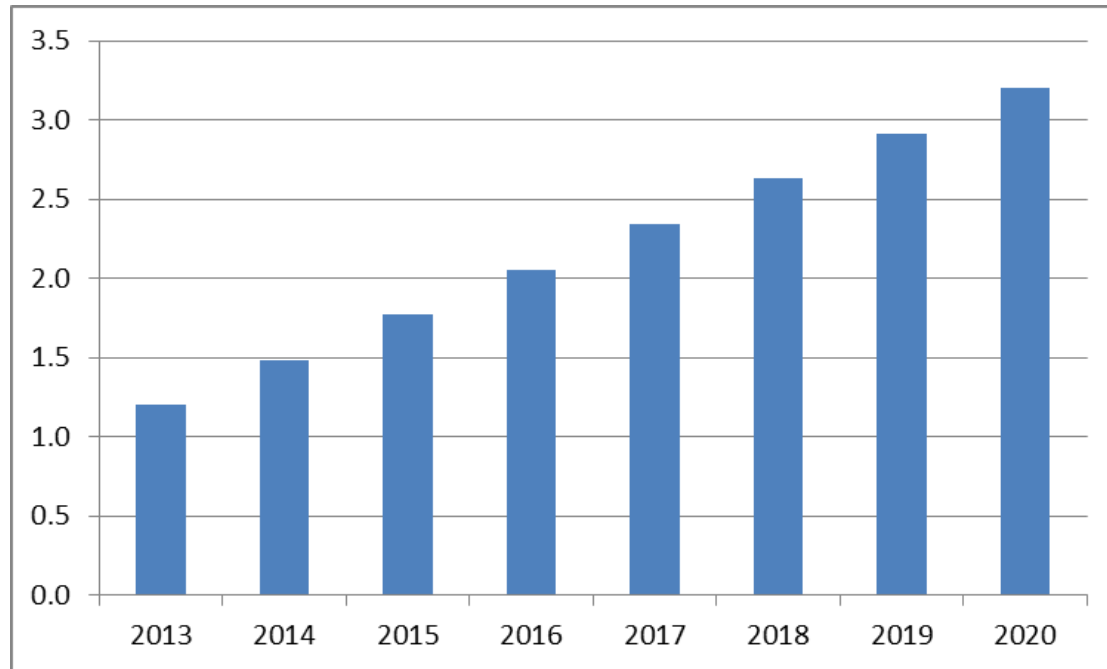
Prioritising children

Annual investment in % GDP

	Current	Target	Additional
Parental leave and work-life balance	0.2 %	0.4 %	0.2 %
Early care and education	0.5 % (0.2% pre-school)	1.0 %	0.5 %
After-school services	< 0.1 %	0.6 %	0.6 %
TOTAL	0.7 % GDP €1.2 bn	2.0 % GDP €3.2 bn	1.3 % GDP €2.0 bn

Progressive increase in investment

€ bill p.a. (parental leave, early care and education, after-school)



Yes, it's a lot of money

BUT

- It's an investment
 - that will yield large economic returns
- We don't have to do it all at once
 - 2020 target means €280m extra per year
- We owe it to our children
 - literally