

Overview of

Blanchardstown Area Partnership's

Achievements

2009



blanchardstown
area partnership

supporting communities across Dublin 15

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March 2010

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Glossary of Terms

BAP	Blanchardstown Area Partnership
BOND	Blanchardstown Offenders for New Directions
BCU	Blanchardstown Centre for the Unemployed
BTDG	Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group
BTWEA	Back to Work Enterprise Allowance
CBYI	Community Based Youth Initiatives
CDB	County Development Board
CDP	Community Development Project
CDT	Community Drugs Team
CE	Community Employment
CES	Centre for Effective Services
CSP	Community Services Programme
D/CRGA	Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
D/ES	Department of Education and Science
D/SFA	Department of Social and Family Affairs
FCCC	Fingal County Childcare Committee
FTJI	Full Time Jobs Initiative
HSE	Health Service Executive
LDSIP	Local Development Social Inclusion Programme
LES	Local Employment Service
NYP	Neighbourhood Youth Project
ODG	Ongar Development Group
PIB	Planning Implementation Board
POBAL	Formerly Area Development Management Ltd
ROOFS	Blanchardstown Homeless Group
SFTU	Services for the Unemployed
CDVEC	County Dublin Vocational Education Committee

SECTION 1

Headline Results and Achievements

Measure A Services for the Unemployed

Labour market interventions supporting people into the workforce

- **228 persons were supported back into the labour market or were helped to set up their own business** via the Blanchardstown Area Partnership and Local Employment Service in 2009. ¹ This is a significant achievement in the current economic climate.
- **821 individuals received advice and support across Measure A** of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme in 2009.²
- **428 individuals** who approached the Partnership **attended training courses** delivered via BAPTEC Ltd, Future Options (LES), and the Full Time Jobs Initiative.
- **25 individuals attended education courses** across Measure A of the LDSIP.
- **665 individuals attended enterprise workshops.**
- **260 individuals** received **one-to-one pre-start up business supports.**
- **89 individuals set up new enterprises** leading to the **creation of 107 net jobs in Dublin 15.**
- **A Community Services Programme funding application (Phoenix FM Radio) which Partnership staff and management supported was approved** by POBAL. 5 persons have secured employment via this CSP application.
- **Another funding proposal (WOW) submitted by the Partnership, under an 'Equality for Women Measure' was also approved** by POBAL. It is **helping lone parent access employment.**

¹ The outputs of the Blanchardstown Area Partnership and the Local Employment Service are captured through separate monitoring databases (Scope and FAS Client Services) Because the funding streams of BAP and the LES are sourced from two government departments (Gaeltacht, Community and Rural Affairs & Enterprise, Trade and Employment) it is generally not possible to combine the outputs of both organisations without double counting occurring.

² The Blanchardstown Area Partnership exceeded 18 of the 20 target indicators across Measure A of the LDSIP submitted under the 2009 Programme of Activities. Please refer to the appendix for a full oversight of Partnership and LES outputs.

Measure B Community Development Work

- ***3 pre-development community groups*** were supported by the Community Development Team e.g. **Ongar Development Group, Ongar Youth Group, and a Parent and Toddler Group.**
- ***7 established community groups*** were supported by the Community Development Team in 2009 e.g. **Community Development Education Group.**
- ***16 networks and collaborations*** were also supported directly and indirectly by the Partnership. These local and regional networks including the **Fingal County Childcare Committee and the Volunteer Bureau** (See page) .

Measure C Community Youth Based Initiatives

Educational supports targeting early school leavers, potential early school leavers, guardians of children, and training of trainers.

- **101 children and 194 adults** received support under the community based youth measure in 2009.³
- **2 actions designed to prevent early school leaving** received LDSIP funding.
- **1 action promoting developmental youth work** received LDSIP funding.
- **1 action addressing the needs of actual early school leavers** was supported via LDSIP funding.

³ The Education Officer post was made redundant during 2009. As a result it was not possible to achieve the annual target for the number of children to be supported. 5,500 school children were beneficiaries of BAP actions and initiatives across Measure C of the LDSIP from 2000-2008.

Outside of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme

- **105 individuals** received financial assistance with attending **3rd level education** via the Millennium Programme.

Local Employment Services / JOBLINK

Labour market interventions outside of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme

- **17,240 contacts** with the LES were made by the general public.
- **793 new clients registered** with the Local Employment Services / JOBLINK, which is more than in 2008.
- **116 LES clients** were supported back into the labour market with the support of mediators and the Employment Unit.
- **189 LES clients** attended training courses e.g. JOBCLUBS, Future Options, and WOW.
- **102 LES clients** attended education courses e.g. VTOS.

Equality, Poverty and Gender Proofing Issues

Measures A, B and C Challenges and Responses

Engagement by BAP with the Traveller community

- The Partnership deputy CEO undertook to chair, set up a new sponsor group and to complete new Community Employment plan to FÁS requirements during 2009.
- The Economic PIB funded the Traveller allotment Project in Rathbeggan Co Meath for the past two years. (See page 12) The Enterprise Officer also approached the Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group (BTDG) to provide information on start-up enterprise supports.
- Pauline Mangan, Community Development Officer, is also acting chair of the Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group and a member of the Fingal Traveller Inter-Agency Group. All of these interventions are improving the BTDG linkages with the education, training and medication supports offered by BAP/ LES.

People with Disabilities

- Gerry Rattigan an advocacy worker for people with *intellectual disabilities*. His post is funded via the Citizens Information Board until 2010. This new focus and direction is helping the Partnership meet its obligations under equality proofing ground. (See page 36)

Unemployed men

- 57.0% females and 43.0% males supported via the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme across Measure A. This represents an improvement in the percentage of male clients receiving education, training and enterprise supports over recent years. Towards the later half of 2009 BAP ran computer classes targeting unemployed males.

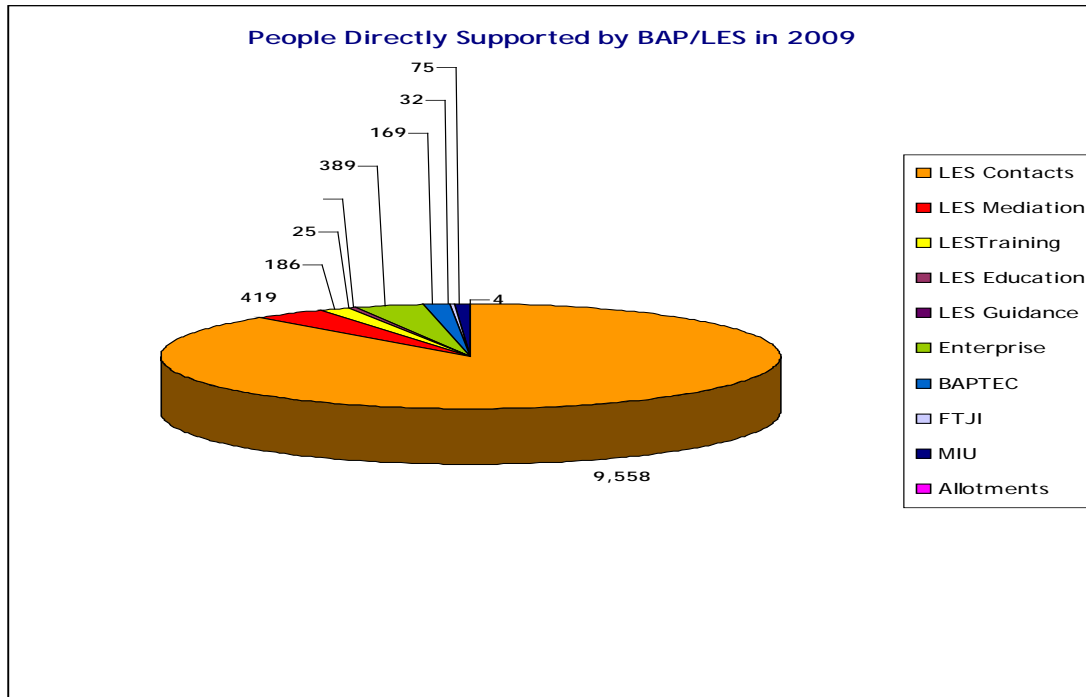
Lone Parents

- The 'Equality for Women Measure' is helping more lone parents (a named target group under the LDSIP guidelines) progress towards employment. 18.5% of BAP's caseload across Measure A receiving supports were lone parents in 2009.

Refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers

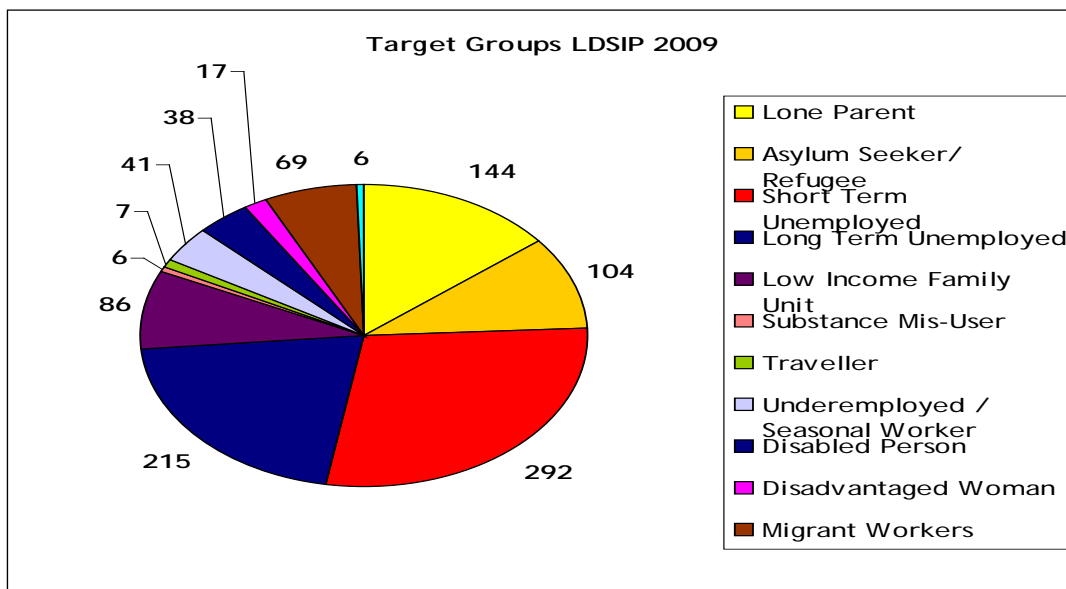
- 13.0% of Partnership clients were asylum seekers / refugees / migrant workers. This is considerably lower than back in 2006/2007 when the Meitheal Programme funded under the European Refugee Fund was in place.

Pie-Chart 1



Source: SCOPE

Pie-Chart 2



Source: SCOPE

SECTION 2

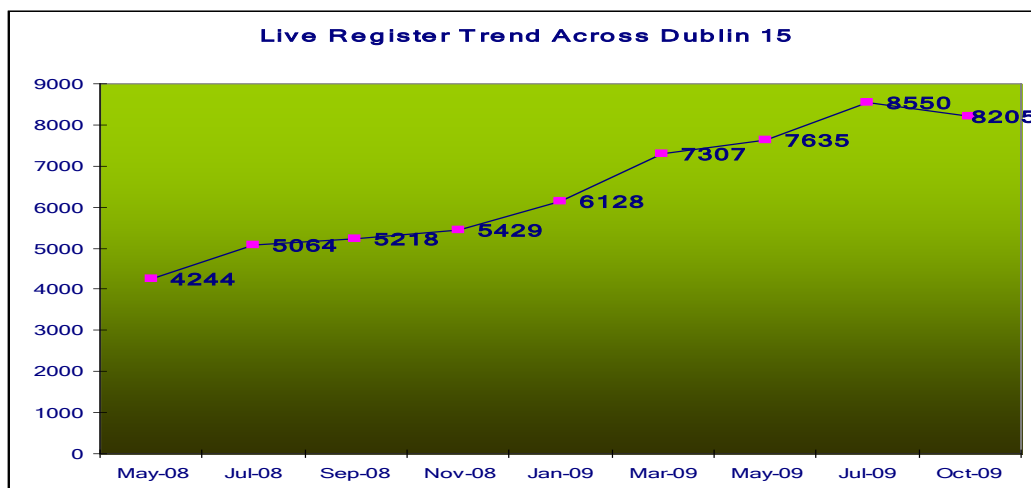
Services for the Unemployed Measure (SFTU) Overseen by the Economic Development Planning Implementation Board

2.0 Background

As of October 2009, 8,205 persons were recorded on the live register across Dublin 15. With the exception of Tallaght this is the highest of any urban centre in Dublin. The overall cohort of short term (79% 6,498) and long-term unemployed (21% 1,752) has increased rapidly over the past 18 months (See Chart 1). **Since May 2008 an additional 4,006 net persons have 'signed on' in Dublin translating to a 93.4% increase.**

There has been a slight decline in the numbers of persons receiving job seekers benefit or job seekers allowance in the past quarter. The slower rate of increase in unemployment nationally (12.7%) has been due to increased outward migration, lower labour force participation by younger people and also for administrative reasons such as people exhausting their stamp contributions.

Chart 1



Source: CSO

According to FAS latest quarterly release (November 2009) **young males have been particularly affected** by the downturn, with the **unemployment rate reaching 40% for 15-19 year-olds and 30% for 20-24 year-olds**. As a result many younger people are electing to remain in education. The number of new apprentices entering the workforce was down 60% in the first nine months of the year 2009, with construction-related apprentices down 72%. **Across Dublin 15 the age band with highest frequency of persons signing on is 25-34 years of age**. Critically, because there are fewer employment opportunities the **duration people are remaining unemployed for is increasing**. **75% of all persons signing on longer than 3 years in Blanchardstown are men**. The unemployment outlook is somewhat reliant on the extent employers decide to switch their employees from full-time to part-time employment in an effort

to avoid redundancies.⁴ While this was a popular response to the downturn in the first half of 2009, Quarter 3 figures for short-time work would suggest that this 'buffer' effect may be beginning to dissipate.

Introduction

Service Delivery Model

2.1 Advice and guidance supports (A01)

793 adults received advice and guidance supports (A01) in 2009. These individuals received a combination of an education, training, or advice and guidance support from a designated contact person within the Partnership.

The **Mobile Information Unit (MIU)** for instance operated by the **Blanchardstown Centre for the Unemployed** referred on **117 individuals to the Local Employment Service**. The MIU provides long-term unemployed individuals with confidential information on **welfare to work issues**. It operates on an outreach basis at LES Offices one day per week. By operating on an outreach basis the BCU is responding to a significant gap in public information provision. In response to the geographical expansion of Blanchardstown the BCU has changed the locations and times at which the MIU operates including the new Tyrrelstown Estate.



2.2 Education and Training Supports (AO2/ A03)

428 Partnership clients attended training courses tailored made to support and to encourage them back into employment. BAPTEC Ltd and the Full Time Jobs Initiative Programme both delivered the vast majority of training supports for Partnership clients. **261 clients received accredited training**, which was ahead of target for the year.

⁴ The overall proportion of live register claimants on job seekers benefit and who are working part-time was 17% nationally in comparison to 12% in D15.



The Partnership continues to directly support BAPTEC financially via the LDSIP and two employees (Enterprise Officer) and (LES Training Co-ordinator) currently represent the organisation on the BAPTEC Board. In 2009 **BAPTEC Ltd, provided training for over 300 Partnership clients.** Courses included **FAS Word Processing, FAS Clerical / Receptionist, ECDL, TAS and Basic Computers.** **BAPTEC also provided an IT workshop** offering computer assessment and information on email / internet, social networking and Twitter at an **Open Employment Day run from Dillon House** (see page 15). **Catherine Smyth the LES Training Co-ordinator also provided training to specific courses such as ECDL + Accounts and Basic Computers.** **The later is an IT course delivered to 10 women on the WOW project.** These participants are single parents...

Full Time Jobs Initiative (FTJI) organised courses for 35 individuals on this passive labour market programme. These courses included **Communication Skill Level 5, Time Management, Horticulture Level 3, Occupational First Aid** and many more. **The promotion of Health Awareness, Fitness and Well-being is an integral part of activities delivered by Blanchardstown 2001.** Much of this Training is promoted through FTJI active Men's and Women's Group. More recently the FTJI has also begun to deliver training to individuals on Community Employment Schemes.

Allotment training for male Travellers

The **Partnership allocated funding** from the LDSIP budget to the **Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group** in **2008/2009.** This enabled the BTDG; deliver practical hands on training such as sowing and transplanting to **4 Traveller men at an allotment horticultural site in Rathbeggan, Co Meath** as well as covering the costs of a poly tunnel and other equipment. **This action was considered particularly suited to Traveller men as it had an outdoor action focus on work/training.** An element of the time was spent on making up raised beds, cutting and putting the timber together. The men also succeeded in making and hanging a new door for the potting shed. The participants were reimbursed for small out of pocket travel expenses. **A more detailed report on the outcomes of this initiative was submitted to the Economic PIB.**

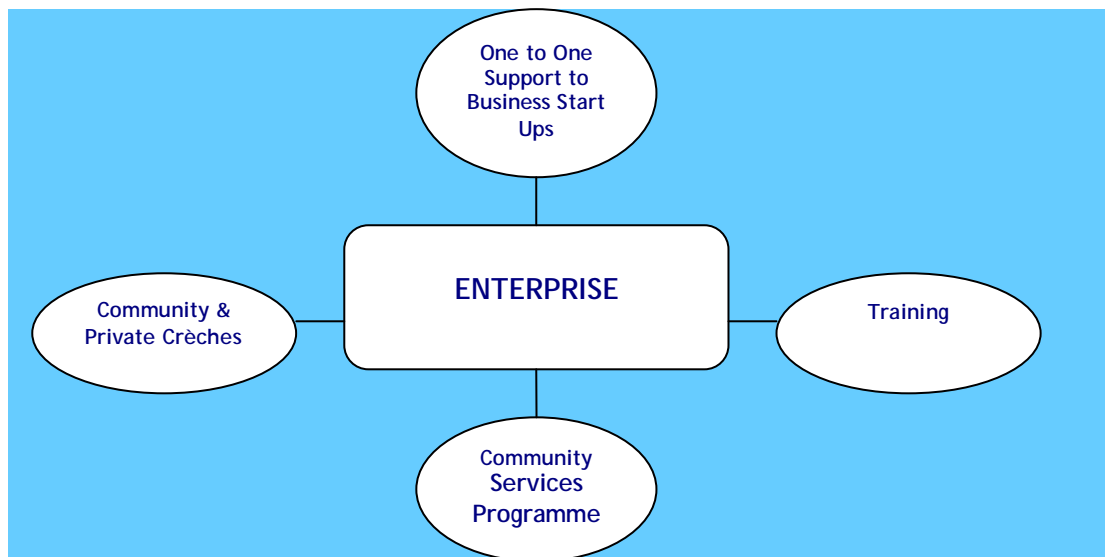




Future Options Future Options is targeted towards individuals whose confidence levels are generally low and who are undecided about the next step in their career path. This course facilitates them make the progression in a relaxed non pressurised environment. The course covers components such telephone skills and customer service introduction to computers, business English twice a week over an 8 week period. **One course has been held in 2009 to date with 12 participants progressing onto further training.**

25 adults attended education courses via Action 5 and the Millennium Programme. Please refer to pages 24 and 40 for more detail.

2.3 Pre-Enterprise (A04) and Business Start Up Supports (A06/A08)



During 2009 there was a large increase in individuals approaching the Enterprise Officer Niall Comber. This is probably influenced by the announced changes to the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme introduced in April's Supplementary Budget. The **Enterprise Officer met with 260 individuals** to discuss the intricacies of setting up their own business. Once again this exceeded annual output targets. Appointments can last several hours and are critical exchanges in helping a budding entrepreneur decide on whether it is feasible to run a business or not. These ***pre-enterprise clients*** originally attended seminar or business workshops delivered by the Enterprise Officer or external consultant brought in to deliver them. (See overleaf)



89 individuals who approached the Partnership set up new enterprises leading to the creation of 107 overall net jobs. The Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme was availed of by many of these individuals to help bridge the step from unemployment to self employment. The Enterprise Officer also met the Managers of several community and private crèches and helped them develop new business plans and establish how the service can break even due to subvention changes announced by the government.

2.4 Supports for Pre Start-Up and Established Social Economy Enterprises (A05)

A Community Service Sub-Group was established by the Partnership last year to help support and appraise several funding applications to POBAL for the Community Services Programme (CSP).⁵ The CSP represents an alternative labour market option for unemployed persons who are experiencing difficulties in securing mainstream employment. BAP received notification in early 2009, from POBAL that the Phoenix FM application (local radio station) had been accepted. As many as 5 new local jobs have been created at the radio station as a result.

2.5 Information and Dissemination (A14)



The Enterprise Officer delivered seminars, workshops and start up your own business courses for 665 individuals 2009. The schedule of business seminars covered specific themes such as business planning, market research, VAT, how to price your product, insurance and pensions, e-commerce and many more. The clients who attend these sessions often attended follow up one to one meeting with the Enterprise Officer to help progress them into self

employment.

Trends in Enterprise Department Supports 2007–2009

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Pre-Enterprise	225	224	260
New Enterprises	71	77	89
Jobs	88	97	116
Workshop attendees	297	486	665

⁵ Previously known as the social economy

Blanchardstown Area Partnership Website



The Enterprise Officer is also the liaison person for the Partnership's website www.bap.ie .

This is an excellent communications tool for informing the public about the role of the Partnership and the different activities in the community which individuals can attend or even get involved with. In 2009 there were **9,346 first time visitors** to the website. **Including revisits 14,761 persons accessed the website.**

Open Employment Day



A multi-agency event involving the Citizens Information Centre; Vocational Education Committee; Fastrack to Information Technology; Blanchardstown Centre for the Unemployed; Money Advice & Budgeting; BAPTEC and

the **Local Employment Service /Joblink** was held in the Blanchardstown Area Partnership offices. This gave **120 unemployed persons a sense of the services available to them** and also offered them some practical support in their search for employment. Workshops were provided focusing on improving interview skills updating CVs, guidance as well as one for those considering setting up in business. Guidebooks for Job seekers were distributed on the day. **BAPTEC also provided an IT workshop** offering computer assessment and information on email / internet, social networking and Twitter.

Research Updates

'Falling Through the Net' An Exploration of Barriers to Employment for Long Term Unemployed Irish Men in Blanchardstown.

Falling through the net:

An exploration of barriers to employment for long-term unemployed Irish men aged 35 and over



Denis Ryan MSc (2006) (2008)
Research and Evaluation Officer
Blanchardstown Area Partnership
April 2009

BAP's Research and Evaluation Officer undertook a study with **long-term unemployed Irish men in Blanchardstown. Local service providers** were consulted to gather information about what education and training strategies and/or labour market programmes are appropriate to help men re-enter the workforce. **The study describes the social and psychological consequences of unemployment** with reference to previous studies as well as reviewing national and international literature, which identify factors influencing the successful provision of services for the unemployed.

The fieldwork phase discovered that legacy issues from the informant's childhoods had long-term consequences for their subsequent engagement in the labour market. Evidence is presented demonstrating that poor information provision and inequities surrounding community employment payments may deter the head of traditional nuclear families from

registering for active labour market schemes. In terms of appropriate responses to tackling long-term unemployment, the **report suggests that a focus on life long learning, preventative early school leaving actions, mental health issues plus interventions** www.workingwithfathers.com **that support positive engagement with men in the wider community** and information accessibility **are critical.** BAP is planning to respond more proactively to some of the issues highlighted in this report in 2010. The **Healthy Food Made Easy Co-ordinator** recently engaged with two men's groups in Blanchardstown and the **Community Development Team** (Lilian Harris) also ran computer classes for older men. The **LES Training Co-ordinator** will also deliver a course *'Breaking The Mould'* targeting unemployed men. The course which will run from BAPTEC will cover Desk Top Publishing, Personal Development and Literacy.

Quantitative Surveys

Three on-line surveys were uploaded on BAP's website by BAP's Research and Evaluation Officer. Two focused specifically on providing **pre and post enterprise clients** who approached the organisation between 2006-2009 with an opportunity to **provide feedback on the service they received via the Partnership's Enterprise Department.** The **other survey also provided LES clients** with a chance to indicate their overall satisfaction levels with the specific supports they received from mediation and frontline services.

'Stepping Stones to Improving Labour Market Participation Rates for Travellers in the Greater Blanchardstown Area'



This report was presented to the Board of the Partnership and the Economic PIB in May 2009. Many of the report's recommendations have been responded to by the Partnership. The Deputy CEO of the Partnership recently became a member of the Traveller CE Sponsor Group a key support structure absent for many years. BAP also allocated LDSIP funding to encourage

Traveller men to attend training at horticultural allotments site in Rathbeggan Co Meath (see page 12). The report was also presented to the new Fingal Traveller Inter-Agency Group in April 2009 for discussion. Good practice models that support Travellers into employment were debated. Visits to these projects identified in the report will occur in the future by some members of the Inter-Agency Group.

Centre for Effective Services

The Centre for Effective Services was asked by the Department for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, to carry out a review project to inform thinking on the new LDSIP and CDP. Phase 1 examined international literature on what works in community and local development

programmes to isolate key principles of effective policy and practice. **The Partnership Research and Evaluation Network submitted a paper in response to the Centre for Effective Services draft report 'summary of key messages form a review of international evidence'**, which was positively received by the CES. **BAP's Research and Evaluation Officer was a key member of the sub-group, which compiled the paper.** Phase 2 which involves feeding the results from Phase 1 into future structure and design of the programmes, and implementation and evaluation challenges is now underway.

Report: Making A Home In Ireland



The Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) and Focus Ireland jointly **commissioned important research into the housing experiences of four migrant groups - Chinese, Indian, Lithuanian and Nigerian - in Blanchardstown** to examine the central role appropriate housing plays in a migrant's ability to feel at home in Ireland.⁶ Dr Jane Pillinger *Independent Researcher and Policy Advisor* wrote the report and Sinead McGinley (Research Officer, Focus Ireland) and Fidele Mutwarasibo (Research and Integration Officer, Immigrant Council of Ireland) oversaw the management of the project. **Conor Ryan (Research and Evaluation Officer, Blanchardstown Area Partnership) was a member of the Expert Advisory Group** alongside Lawrence Lee from the Chinese Professional Association, Evelina Saduityte from SIPTU and the Lithuanian community, Prashant Shukla from the Indian Association of Ireland. **Focus Ireland has a lobby plan for the key findings / recommendations from the study.** They have begun to organise meetings with relevant Oireachtas Joint Committees, the Office for Social Inclusion, and Local Authority SPCs to discuss the report and engage with them on the key issues for Focus Ireland.

⁶ This research project builds on the findings of a major research piece commissioned by the Immigrant Council of Ireland and undertaken by the Migration and Citizenship Research Initiative based at University College Dublin (UCD) entitled 'Getting On - From Migration to Integration' (2008). The UCD report highlighted the clear relationship between settlement patterns and migration pathways, and identified some key emerging issues around housing integration.

2.5 Blanchardstown Local Employment Service (A15)

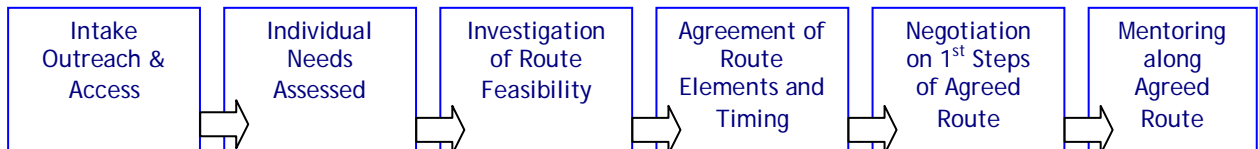


Strategy-Mediation, Information and Guidance

Blanchardstown Local Employment Services now has strategic contact points located in Mountview, Mulhuddart Village and Coolmine. Over the past 9 months LES Joblink increased its intake of clients through the NEAP process from 4 per week from FAS to 16 per week directly from DSFA. This increase has resulted in **LES Joblink receiving short term unemployed skilled people directly from the Live Register**. Given the current reduction in employment opportunities available to people the most prevalent grouping on the LES Joblink caseload is NEAP referrals. **This shift in target group has meant a realignment of some of the services available and LES Joblink is providing more group based client contact than previously.** The scope to develop innovative responses to particular target group needs is diminished somewhat with the concentration of resources into the NEAP client group. The capacity of the service to deliver qualitative interventions versus quantitative may come into question.

Mediation

The core function of the mediation process is to provide intensive guidance and support to an individual job seeker along an individually negotiated route towards employment.⁷ The principal tasks in this process are set out in the following diagram.



LES mediators engaged with 793 new clients in 2009, which is a significant increase over the previous year's caseload. This is a reflection of the changing economic circumstances and also on the basis of an agreement entered into by the LES in conjunction with FAS and the Department of Social and Family Affairs. The mediators are also supported by Contact Support Staff, a **Guidance Counsellor, the Employment Unit, the JOBCLUB** as well as many external organisations as depicted in the diagram on page 21.⁸

⁷ Blanchardstown LES/JOBLINK Plan 2001-2003, Nexus.

⁸ VEC (Post Leaving Certificate), Adult Education Centre (VTOS), FAS (Community Employment), ABLE, BAPTEC (IT training), Youthreach, Carers Association, BAP Enterprise Centre, HSE Drugs Task Force, HSE Rehab Integration Services, Citizens Information Board (Advocacy Services)

In relation to the **key core progression indicators for 2009**

- **116 progressed into employment.**
- **102 availed of education supports and**
- **189 LES clients attended training courses**

JOBCLUB



The **JOBCLUB** is a distinct service for people who are long-term unemployed, and aims to help this target group towards the labour market. **During the training period people are helped with improving their job seeking skills. Interview preparation and mock interviews is a central facet of the JOBCLUB**, which aim to increase the client's confidence levels. Participants have access to the internet, national newspapers, photocopying facilities plus fax and email while on the JOBCLUB. **12 Job Clubs were delivered in 2009 with 125 people attending. Recently the Health Food Made Easy project (See page 32) made strategic linkages with the LES JOBCLUB.** Participants are being offered the opportunity to enrol on a Health Food Made Easy course after completing their JOBCLUB.

Trend in Local Employment Service Outputs 2007-2009

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Information/Advice			17,240
New Registration	546	579	796
Training	127	92	189
Education	58	110	102
Job	152	110	109

Employment Unit

The **Employers Unit** is a key strategic part of the LES and overall Partnerships Economic Strand. It is currently staffed by **Paula Murray and Sandra Dignam**. The LES Joblink Service offers an innovative community recruitment service which links local employers to local jobseekers providing a free, fast and efficient service for local employers. The Employment Unit has a detailed database of job seeking candidates with various skills, qualifications and experience. They help draw up a short list of suitable candidates as well as providing employers short listed CVs arrange interviews and provide post recruitment support.

The **Employment Unit** was closely linked with other BAP / LES initiatives such as the **Learning at Work Programme** (see page 39), and the **Open Employment Day** (See page 15). The Employment Liaison Officer (ELO), Paula Murray, is also a member of the **Bridge to the Workplace team** as well as attending the Operational Management Group in the LES Managers place.



Bridge to Workplace is a multi-agency collaborative venture.⁹ It is an example of a unique and innovative 'work experience' initiative aimed at supporting and **facilitating the career progression of individuals with a history of drug use**. The HSE recently appointed a **Rehab Integration Service worker to Dublin 15** and so far **4 clients have engaged with the service**. The ELO was involved in organising an employers workshop entitled 'Drugs and Alcohol in the Workplace' at the Crowne Plaza Santry in November. 22 employers attended the event 3 of whom were from the Blanchardstown area.

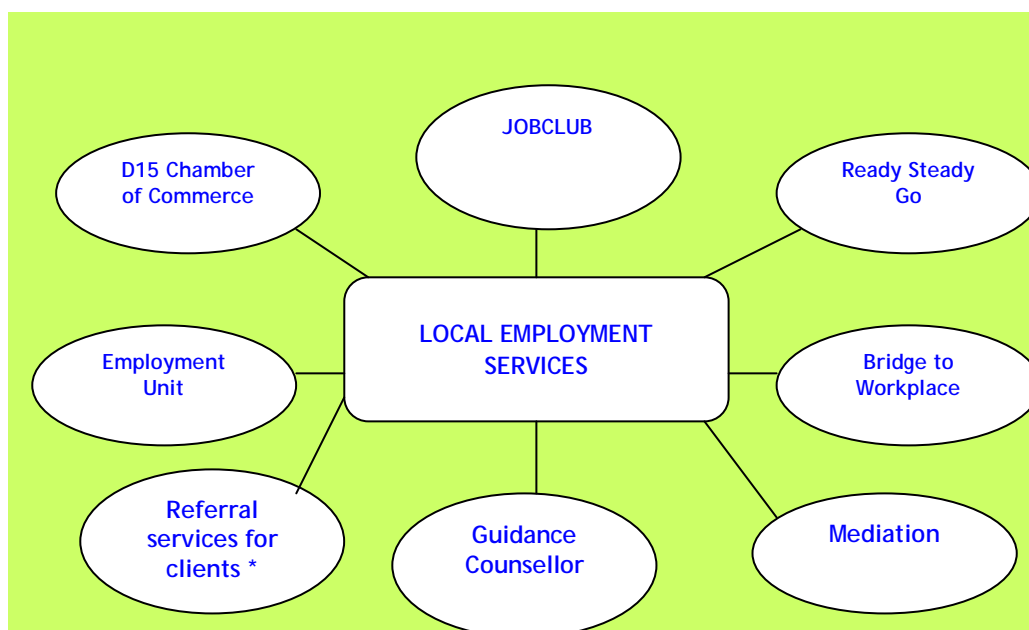
The **Blanchardstown Chamber** rebranded itself as D15 chamber in February and BAP/LES were a central part of this launch with the ELO being a Council member. **The Partnership/LES held a promotional stand at the launch of the Chamber and the ELO is present at many Chamber Networking events**. For the second year in a row the **Employment Unit was an integral part of the team that manned the promotional stand at the Blanchardstown Centre**.

In addition to its 'core work' of linking with employers, and the new D15 Chamber of Commerce the **Employment Unit registered 126 Incoming Job Vacancies in 2009, with clients progressed to employment and 48 assisted job placements. 42 interview preparation**

⁹ HSE Rehab Integration Services, FAS, Blanchardstown LES, Finglas Cabra Partnership, Northside LESN, Ballymun Job Centre, Dublin Inner City Partnership & Finglas Cabra Local Drug Task Force.

sessions (mock interviews) took place, 9 Interview Technique Workshops with 81 participants, and 7 CV Clinic workshops with 54 Participants.

LES Service Interventions and Referrals



Ready, Steady, Go

Graduation Day at IBM



The Ready, Steady, Go Programme was originally piloted in 2008, and is aimed at people from another country/culture who are interested in learning about the world of work in Ireland.

¹⁰ Catherine Smyth LES Training Officer was central to the deliverance of this programme.

The programme runs for six weeks, three mornings per week 9.30 - 1.00 and cover introduction to computers, jobs club, planning for your future, Business English in Ireland and the culture of work in Ireland. This is not necessarily for 'job ready' clients but for those who wish to learn the skills of job seeking. 12 participants attended and the JOBCLUB leader Maura Aspin delivered the IT training element.

The second part of the project involved the production of two recruitment booklets. The recruitment booklets were compiled with the advice and support of an advisory group which consisted on a representative form IBM, Symantec, and the National Property service as well

¹⁰ The Ready Steady Go Project, funded by Blanchardstown LES/Joblink, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, IBM, the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the VEC.

as Social Welfare, CIC and **Paula Murray LES Employment Liaison Officer**. The guide books are excellent resource tools which outline local services and recruitment/job seeking advice which can support jobseekers and employers alike in the current challenging job market. **Michael Daly, General Manager of IBM Ireland launched the Ready Steady Go Recruitment booklets for employers and jobseekers on May 14th at the IBM campus.**

Career Guidance

LES/JOBLINK clients going through the mediation service are often referred to the **Career Guidance Service Officer, Mary Tighe**. This involves examining a person's work interests, abilities and personality in order to achieve the best possible career match for that person and can often involve 2-5 sessions following profiling an individual's general abilities, specific skills testing, and occupational interest inventories. **LES /JOBLINK also provide group guidance sessions as a separate module within the WOW project, Ready Steady Go, and Future Options.**

In 2009 the career guidance service provided one to one guidance for 105 people and group guidance for 112people. In 2008, LES/JOBLINK developed a combined initiative with the **Guidance service of the Co Dublin VEC Blanchardstown**. As a result potential 3rd level students are brought on fieldtrip visits to colleges and universities, where they have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the college surroundings, sit in on some lectures and meet and converse with tutors. Many people have reportedly fed back that it was from such experiences they got the confidence to take up a third level course.

2.6 Networks and Collaborations (A16)

Influencing Activity

Management and staff often act as Chairpersons of particular networks and collaborations.¹¹

<p>RAPID¹²</p> <p>The Partnership Deputy CEO is the Partnership representative on the RAPID Area Implementation Team. The RAPID programme currently covers five main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth, education and training • Health and well-being • Crime, drugs and anti social behaviour • Physical environment and infrastructure • Strengthening communities <p>Blanchardstown RAPID has been invited to be one of four pilot sites in the development of Protocol for cooperation between Local Development & Social Inclusion Programme & RAPID.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RAPID AIT has been discussing sites for the Primary Health Care Centre's in Corduff & Mulhuddart/Tyrrelstown as reserved in the 2006-10 HSE Capital Works programme. • The Partnership is the lead agency in the development of a Community Training Centre in Dublin 15, and the Manager chairs the CTC Board. Despite some delays in 2008, this work is now well under way and it is envisaged that refurbishment of the premises will be completed in December 2009. <p>RAPID has also been working towards the development of three action plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety, Health and Family Support. • Completion of Whitestown Multi Use Sports & Games Areas, 	<p>Local Drugs Task Force¹³</p> <p>The Education Co-ordinator represented BAP on the Task Force until August. The Task Force developed a new Strategic Plan during 2009. The Partnership CEO has now taken over as the organisation's nominee to the Task Force, and she will be working with the other members to respond to the challenging situation where local drugs task forces are facing significant reductions in funding at the same time as increased demand for local responses.</p>
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¹¹ Can be defined as structure involving groups who have come together for some purpose or mutual benefit

¹² RAPID is a government -funded programme administered by FCC with a separate RAPID Board (AIT) comprised of statutory, community organisations and elected residents. The RAPID programmes core focus on a defined area comprises Mulhuddart, Corduff, Blakestown and Mountview.

¹³ The aim of the Drugs Task Force is to provide an integrated response to the problems posed by drug misuse. Key objectives include to reduce the number of people turning to drugs in the first instance via education and prevention programmes. To provide appropriate treatment and aftercare for those who are dependent on drugs. To ensure that an appropriate level of accurate and timely information is available to inform the response to the drug problem.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of Corduff Playground. <p>As part of the priorities identified in the RAPID Area Education plan an invitation were made by the RAPID AIT to submit projects to the board for consideration for endorsement to DCRGA for what was termed the <i>RAPID Dormant Accounts Additionally Fund</i>.</p> <p>The Partnership's Education Co-ordinator Catherine Durkin helped draw together applications which were successful and resulted in funding for:</p> <p>Traveller participation at secondary school level €6,060</p> <p>Literacy for all Programme €3,464</p> <p>Turnaround - school attendance project €16,250</p>	
<p>Fingal County Development Board</p> <p>The Fingal County Development Board established an Executive Committee in 2008. The Partnership CEO is a member of the committee and represents the local development sector on it. Partnership staff also actively participate in a number of actions within the FDB Strategy into Action 2006-2008, including</p> <p>(Action 5) Developing a new range of responses for ethnic minorities</p> <p>(Actions 6 & 7) Multi-agency awareness training programme on cultural diversity linked to improving translation services for minority ethnic groups</p> <p>(Action 8): Disability and Access-related issues providing a baseline review</p> <p>(Action 9): Employment inequalities among Travellers (See under research update page)</p> <p>(Action13) Joint Policing Countywide Committee</p> <p>(Action 16) Fingal Data Hub ¹⁴</p>	<p>Action 5: Devising a new range of responses for Minority Ethnic Groups</p> <p>The Partnership CEO chairs this action group, which includes FÁS, County Dublin VEC, Department of Education, Co-operation Fingal, and Department of Social and Family Affairs. The group is working to develop a range of options which can support New Communities to avoid long-term unemployment, re-skill and take up opportunities for self-employment. This action is progressing well, and two pilot projects (Blanchardstown and Balbriggan) were funded by D/SFA in early 2009, A further two pilots have also been funded by D/SFA, and the D/ES evaluation of the pilot projects has now been completed. The Blanchardstown LES training co-ordinator Catherine Smyth has played a key role in the recruitment of participants, and the delivery of the training modules.</p>

¹⁴ BAP's Research and Evaluation Officer is a committee member.

Community Training Centre

In July 2003 report was compiled by the Economic PIB "Training in Blanchardstown-A Strategic look to the future" This paper spelt out the short and long term recommendations for training in the area. This proposal recommended that FAS take immediate action to expand the training opportunities in Blanchardstown.

The Partnership is the lead agency for this RAPID action which has been working since 2005 to establish a training centre for young people (16-21 years) in the Blanchardstown area. The **Partnership CEO** chairs the Board, which includes County Dublin VEC, Blanchardstown Youth Service, ICTU, community reps, Crosscare, and the Probation Service. FÁS has a representative with observer status on the Board.

This will be a 40 place centre, funded by FÁS, with 6 full-time staff. A centre manager **Anna Peplinska** and administrator **Ciara Fahey** were appointed in December 2009, and the refurbishment of the centre is almost complete. It is anticipated that the first trainees will be recruited in 1st Quarter 2010.

Section 3

Community Development (Overseen by the Community PIB)

3.0 Background

The **Partnership's Community Development Team** continued to support local and regional community groups and networks during 2009. The **Deputy CEO of the Partnership**, also supported key networks as circled in red as did several other Partnership staff (see appendix page 43). The diagram depicts the stages in the community development continuum, where the community groups/networks are located at any on time.

3.1 Pre-Development Community Development Support¹⁵ (B01)

Monica Pelazza is presently engaged in *pre-development community development work throughout the extended areas in Ongar and Tyrrelstown Estate*. This was as a result of consultation work and a mapping exercise undertaken by BAP in 2008 following the successful submission of a document to POBAL. Innovative actions included the '*Get Connected*' and '*Catch Up with Technology*' courses aimed at residents who wanted to learn more about new technology and the internet.

Ongar Development Group

In early 2009, **Monica collaborated with Ciara O'Sullivan the Home School Liaison Officer at Castaheany Educate Together**, to help address some of the gaps in services to residents living in the area. Shortly afterwards **Monica and Sinead Wiley of Fingal County Council convened an initial meeting of local stakeholders** who have a presence in the new suburb of Ongar.¹⁶ Over the course of several meetings the Ongar Development Group helped to **identify key community needs** and also **developed a work strategy for the area**.¹⁷ As there is no specific youth work project a group discussion ensued around the prospect of setting up voluntary youth groups in Ongar. This was viewed by the community as a positive way forward given the growing number of young people in Ongar and to the lack of facilities for young people in the area.

¹⁵ The term *pre-development* is used to describe the first stage of development work where there are no strong community development organisations or where such organisations exist but they have not incorporated or addressed the particular needs of target groups or disadvantaged communities. Networks can be defined as formal or informal meetings between community activists/community groups with a common interest, the purpose of which is to share experiences, develop support mechanisms, identify good practice or develop policy positions and common strategies. Networks may or may not be formally structures.

¹⁶ Blanchardstown Youth Service, Ongar residents, public nurses, VEC, Community Garda, Fingal County Council, teachers from Castaheany Educate Together National School.

¹⁷ Aine Howard of Blanchardstown Youth Services was particularly helpful in identifying community needs.

Ongar Development Group (ODG) also submitted a proposal to the Partnership's Youth PIB.¹⁸ The successful proposal rotated around **3 planned Youth Groups** for Ongar, namely a **book club** for 8-10 year olds, a **feeder club** for children aged 10-12, and a **Foroige Youth Club** for 12-18 year olds. **20 young people are now attending the feeder group and a further 12 attend the Foroige Club based at Castaheaney School.** In some instances the same children are receiving support via both clubs. More recently the ODG has considered running an 'active citizenship' or 'coping on programme' around playgrounds, which although not yet open are proving an anti social point. There are also plans for youth leaders to be trained in by the Blanchardstown Youth Services to help identify children in children in need of support in Ongar estate.

Ongar Family Day

A Sub-Group was also created to **plan a Community Day in October 2009**, which **incorporated integration, 'planning for real' and general community activities.** Inside the hall organisations such as CIC and Blanchardstown Youth Services had stands to promote their services and a few people from the community also showcased activities that they were involved with e.g. dance groups. Clonee Football Club also conducted trials with children from the area who turned up. Parallel to this **residents from the area were also given an opportunity to raise issues and concerns and identify the needs of the area** through a community development approach. On the day people were asked to select cards that represented significant issues such as health, crime, community facilities, work, education, transport and environment. This was **facilitated by Sinead Wiley of FCC** and other local authority staff and **195 residents were surveyed.** A 3-D model of Ongar featuring houses and landmarks in the area was built by students from the local school to help visually depict the area.

From this 'planning for real' initiative FCC have allocated €10,000 towards addressing the needs identified by Ongar residents. There are also plans in place to hold a follow up public meeting with residents in January 2010, to devise sub-groups to try and follow the model devised in Tyrrelstown Estate previously where the local community took ownership of the process. Leaflets are to be circulated to 700 houses in Ongar by Monica Pelazza to encourage local residents to attend the follow up event. Finally a newsletter will also be circulated to residents in Ongar of the top 10 issues identified by them last October and a notice board will be put up in Ongar notifying residents about activities taking place in their community.

¹⁸ Blanchardstown Youth Service- Gavin Byrne, Aine Howard, Miriam Ryan.

Parent and Toddler Group

The **Home School Liaison Officer at Castaheany Educate Together, Ciara O'Sullivan and Monica** identified the **need for a parent and toddler group catering for 0-4 year olds**. As a result a new group was formed with some funding coming on stream from the Fingal County Childcare Committee and materials such as books and paints are provided by the school. The group meets every Monday and tries to re-inforce **positive learning through group play-reading, song and dance, face painting, arts and crafts**. The children's parents (who are all unemployed) are from a mix of different racial backgrounds are also actively encouraged to participate and are now taking more initiative such as introducing baking to the group. **Lack of English was identified as a major barrier to integration for many residents in Ongar and as a result Basic Computer Classes were also ran from Castaheany Educate Together School and delivered by BAPTEC** over three days for nine local residents.

Personal Development Course

Preparations for the organisation and delivery of a personal development course was finalised in December 2010, which Monica Pelazza was involved with. The Home School Liaison Officer from Castaheany Educate Together School helped to identify parents who she believes will benefit most by participating on this 8 week course. All the participants children are also attending the same school. Marian Gargan who is also the tutor on the WOW project is delivering the course. 14 participants many of who are single parents, unemployed and from 10 different nationalities are benefiting from this integration and confidence building work.

Tyrrelstown Development Group

A number of sub-groups have been established with a very strong representation of local residents in contrast to other areas in D15. **Catherine Durkin BAP's former Education Co-ordinator and Monica Pelazza, sit on the Social Integration Sub-Group**, which ran its own community festival day in October.

Fáilte Isteach Network

Faillte Isteach started in Summerhill, Co. Meath in October 2006. BAP was instrumental in introducing the Failte Isteach initiative to the Dublin 15 area.¹⁹ The Fáilte Isteach project involves older people volunteering their time to teach conversational English classes to migrant workers who have come to Ireland. The Community Development Team are also course tutors.²⁰ The National Development Officer for Fáilte Isteach, Mr Liam Carey, was invited to Blanchardstown to meet with local committee members and volunteers by Lilian. The project is now being run from the offices of BAP in Coolmine, Mulhuddart and Mountview Family Resource Centre to cater for residents of Tyrrelstown Estate and Ongar also.²¹ Several of the tutors have a TEFL qualification and programmes are now being delivered at beginners, intermediate and advanced level English including grammar tuition.



There have been several outcomes resulting from the roll out of this project in Blanchardstown. Firstly, it has reportedly improved the level of integration for the migrant workers and their families by providing them with a new network of contacts and friends while also improving their English language proficiency and confidence levels while raising their awareness and knowledge of services in the local community. Some participants are attending courses in Coolmine and Mulhuddart the same week such is their eagerness to succeed.

It has also helped break down prejudices and promote the value of the contribution of older persons to society after retirement in many instances. Indeed several of the more elderly volunteers for the project originally attended computer classes for seniors run from BAP. This is evidence of an unintended outcome arising from a separate project (see page 23). Further to this several of the other volunteers have registered with the Fingal Volunteer Bureau. The

¹⁹ Lilian Harris came to learn about a project called Fáilte Isteach while attending a meeting of the Third Age Foundation. Monica and Lilian visited pilot projects in Summerhill / Clane Co Meath, and Rialto, to assess whether something similar could be rolled out in Blanchardstown. The Rialto model was chosen and in the interim a local committee was established with many community and statutory bodies represented on it.

²⁰ Mulhuddart CDP, Mountview Family Resource Centre, Fingal County Council and NYP Shelern Road and two representatives from the volunteers. Several volunteers have been identified and referred on by these organisations.

²¹ Ann Osbourne Greater Blanchardstown CDP is leading project in Mulhuddart.

LES via the **Employment Unit** has also referred on several of its clients helping **improve their labour market opportunities**. More recently a **funding application** was submitted on behalf of the committee by Lilian Harris to **Fingal County Council**, which **helped secure €1,500** via the local authorities new Integration Fund to deliver the project in Mulhuddart and Ongar.²² **Fingal County Council is now rolling out similar courses across Fingal in Swords and Balbriggan.**

3.2 New Groups (B02)

Older Persons



Lilian Harris continues to work with local community organisations in developing a range of **responses to the needs of older persons, including access to computer classes and the internet**. The use of internet and email emerged as the most requested need from older persons. **This initiative has helped bridge the IT divide for the participants**. **Some of the seniors who attended the classes have subsequently gone onto become volunteers at the Fáilte Isteach**

Network as well as being linked into other projects and events happening in D15, which is evidence of 'social bonding'. **A course was recently ran for a mixer of older men from late 50 to early 80's!** Some of these men had recently lost their job or retired. Former course participants will be brought together to find out what their IT needs are now, which will help shape the action in the foreseeable future.

The Blanchardstown Safer Homes Project

BAP is the lead agency on the Blanchardstown Safer Homes Project. The project is chaired by Lilian Harris, that managed to attract **Dormant Account funding**, which **enabled 20 houses to be upgraded in RAPID areas** e.g. new stairs, door chains, alarms and lighting being fitted. An Garda Síochána conducted the safety audit on these houses.

Lilian is also a member of organisations such as **Integrate Ireland, Community Policy Group, NorDubCo (community workers), Friendly Call Service and the Blanchardstown Community Development Education Group** (see page 28).

²² Integration Fund is administered by the local authority.

Influencing Model

Healthy Food Made Easy (HFME)



The aim of the Healthy Food Made Easy is to help people learn about healthy eating and healthy cooking in a friendly, relaxed community based atmosphere.

The Partnership's Education Coordinator Catherine Durkin made the application to the HSE. **14 peer tutors were trained in 2008, and they began delivering training. 36 courses were delivered in 2009 alone with an average**

of 8 participants per course. **The participants who completed the course received their certificates from the Minister For Finance, Mr. Brian Lenihan and '101 square meals'**- a cookery book written in conjunction with MABS, the Money Advice Bureau. Recently this group have started delivering programmes to parent groups in Castaheany National School and St Philip's National School in Mountview.

Roisin McEvoy took over as Co-ordinator of the HFME Project from Deirdre in September. Over the past 6 months new contacts have been made with additional groups in the D15 area some of whom target disadvantaged groups of the LDSIP. **The HFME project co-ordinator has managed to successfully run courses in conjunction with men's groups such as ABLE and AISTIR BEO, the Blanchardstown Women's Traveller Group, Conai Clubhouse (mental health) and Evergreens (elderly women).** Parents whose children attend Castaheany Education Together, Ladyswell National Scholl, St Patricks N.S. Corduff, St Philipp's NS Mountview have also attended course. **The HFME project co-ordinator has also managed to make strategic linkages with the LES JOBCLUB and the WOW project. This initiative is now managed by Terry McCabe, Deputy CEO.**

3.3 Established Groups B03

Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group (Established)

The BTDG aims to promote the welfare and human rights of Travellers and also to combat the social exclusion experienced by many Travellers. **BAP supports the BTDG across the three measures of the LDSIP directly and indirectly. Pauline Mangan is acting Chair of the BTDG.** It is actively trying to attract new members onto its committee at present. At a regional level **Pauline also represents the Partnership on the Fingal Inter Agency Traveller Group.** This new structure drew up a multi-agency plan for Travellers in Fingal in collaboration with all service providers. More recently this group has been exploring accommodation, health and employment related matters among the Traveller community in Blanchardstown.

The Deputy CEO of BAP became a committee member of the Traveller Community Employment sponsor group. The Partnership allocated funding to an allotment in help support some Traveller men (See page 12) and also an action designed to prevent early school leaving among Traveller children was also funded. (See page37).

Pauline Mangan continues to support the Managers and committees of the following **community crèches** and community structures²³: These committees need different levels of support with specific issues throughout the year

- Corduff Community Crèche
- Huntstown Community Crèche
- Mountview Community Crèche
- Blakestown Community Crèche
- Blakestown & Mountview NYP Crèche
- Barnardos
- Family Support and Childcare Providers Network ²⁴
- Fingal County Childcare Committee
- Blakestown Community Development Project
- Greater Blanchardstown Development Project
- Mountview Family Resource Centre

²³ The Education Co-ordinator submitted 2 applications in connection with crèches for the new Tyrellstown estate and the Blakestown area. The amounts sought were €1.2m and 1m respectively. Unfortunately there were both unsuccessful.

²⁴ HSE, social workers, Homestart, NYP, Barnardos

Blanchardstown Youth Services

A Young Mothers Group in Blakestown exists to give its members an opportunity to participate in new activities and learn new skills such as crafts, cookery and workshops. Information is also disseminated at these gatherings on topics such as education and training opportunities. Over the summer programmes for the group also included day trips to allow the mothers bring along their children. In February **Blanchardstown Youth Services made a submission to the Youth PIB** to partially support the running costs of a programme run by the BYS.

In the week leading up to 31st **October the BYS organised Halloween events in Huntstown and Corduff**, which were **successful in engaging young people and their parents**. In **Corduff this was mainly arts and crafts and youth cafe fancy dress parties**; there was also a sports drop in evening whereas in **Huntstown a DJ and a local band were engaged as were face painters and balloon artists**. There were light refreshments organised for children. All the voluntary groups in the centre participated in facilitating the event. The **Huntstown event was structured to cater for two age categories-young teenagers (7 to 12 years): 152 participants and older teenagers (13 to 16 years): 40 participants**. The Corduff event had 40 young people attending - 20 11-14 yr olds and 20 14-18 yr olds. The last couple of "Safer Halloween" events marked in the areas may have reportedly accounted for the low number of incidents recorded in the area in 2008 and 2009.

Blanchardstown Community Development Education Group (Established)

Lilian Harris continued to represent the Partnership on the committee of the Blanchardstown Community Development Education Group.²⁵ BAP allocated LDSIP funding to the group in 2009 to help pay towards the cost of a course that aimed to increase the capacity of persons with committee, treasurer and secretarial skills.

²⁵ The Community Development Education Group is composed of representatives from Blakestown CDP, Greater Blanchardstown Development Project, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, NYP, Mountview Family Resource Centre, D15 Forum, Blakestown Mountview Youth Project, Fingal County Council and Corduff CDP.

3.4 Networks (B04)

Support to Fingal Volunteer Centre Initiative ²⁶



Fingal Volunteer Centre (FVC) continues to provide its services across its three main offices in Blanchardstown, Swords and Balbriggan. The Board of Fingal Volunteer Centre met in January 2009, to develop a strategic plan for the period 2009 - 2011. The Deputy CEO of the Partnership, Terry McCabe continues to act as a director of the Fingal Volunteer Centre and Pauline Mangan is a Board member also.

FVC has recently developed an initiative with Blanchardstown, Balbriggan and Baldoyle public libraries, where training was provided to staff on how individuals can access our service, register themselves online and search the database, thereby creating access to our service for potential volunteers who do not own a computer or have the internet. **Other services ongoing are Garda Vetting** and a second round of Volunteer Management Training was held north of the county. December 5th, **the International Day of Volunteering saw FVC launch new leaflets on volunteering and the Volunteer Centre in Polish, Russian, French, Arabic and Romanian. 'Give It a Swirl,' the national Day of Volunteering, included open evenings, workshops and promotion of activities at a local level.**

The total number of volunteers registered with FVC for 2009 is 933 partially because of the increase in persons signing on the live register. Policies were finalised and implemented outlining the how the FVC works with organisations and also volunteers. Along with a mini-launch of the service in Baldoyle, FVC has continued to meet with organisations and individuals regarding volunteering and participated in talks, events, outreach such as the Mountview Family Resource Centre Men's Group and the Blanchardstown Centre for Independent Living and numerous community days such as Blanchardstown Employment Fair and Ongar Family day. The Manager, Paul Harkin also sat on the development group for a new Failte Isteach service being developed by Blanchardstown Area Partnership (see page)

²⁶ In mid 2005, the Partnership via the Deputy CEO, Terry McCabe, began to work with other agencies to establish a steering group to drive a Fingal Volunteer Project. A new action plan for supporting volunteers and establishing a volunteer centre emerged. Ring fenced money from all these agencies including the Partnership, as well as Cohesion funding has facilitated the employment of a development worker to help develop the Fingal Volunteer Centre. In October 2007 an action plan was submitted to the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht affairs. This application has been approved by the D/CRAGA for three years. Volunteering in Blanchardstown has been supported in recent years through the Fingal Volunteer Centre established by Fingal County Council. This centre previously provided a volunteer matching service and technical assistance to community organisations in Fingal.

Including Me Advocacy Service for Persons with an Intellectual Disability



An independent advocacy service for individuals or groups of people with an intellectual disability using the Daughters of Charity Service in Dublin is now provided from BAP.

Including Me Advocacy Service for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (IMAS) was established in August 2008. An **Advocacy Officer, Gerry Rattigan**, was recruited and is now working to the direction of the steering group²⁷ and line managed by the Deputy CEO of the Partnership.²⁸ This post is funded by CIB as part of a pilot initiative until 2010, to support the development of advocacy services in the community and voluntary sector. The Independent Advocate is employed by BAP to ensure that professional advocacy services are offered independent of disability service providers.

Following his appointment, Gerry consulted widely with the stakeholders on the steering group on defining the exact nature of the service. The project name “Including Me Advocacy Service for Persons with an Intellectual Disability using the Daughters of Charity Service” was agreed upon by all parties. The new **advocacy worker continues to advertise the service across facilities used by the target group who number approximately 850 persons**. (these include facilities in D15, D7, D20, Blackrock & Portmarnock). In addition a **new strategy (aims/objectives) was drawn up** with a new set of policies and procedures to suit the nature of the work being undertaken. IMAS support individuals on a one-to-one basis and links with self advocacy groups to support and encourage members to advocate on their own behalf. The length of the advocacy activity differs from one case to the next. A new website <http://www.includingme.ie> was launched along with a new brochures and pocket-sized guide-book.

The IMAS project has become familiar with the many challenges involved in delivering a service to a vulnerable population. Clarifying necessity and scope for the role of Independent Advocate to those who support target group members from day to day (families and professional support services) has been one of the biggest challenges to date. **The main issues people have been supported with have involved difficulties in accessing appropriate supports, the provision adequate information on how to access services, the provision of**

²⁷ Tina Swales (Health Service Executive), Áine Ní Aileagáin (Inclusion Ireland), Bernadette Casey (Client Group Representative), Barbara Cullinan (Daughters of Charity Service), Caroline Mitchell (Citizens Information Board), Terry McCabe, Kathleen Smith (Blanchardstown Area Partnership)

²⁸ Co-Operation Fingal, National Council for the Blind of Ireland, Institute for Design & Disability, Dublin Centre for Independent Living, Access Action Malahide, Schizophrenia Ireland, Disability Federation of Ireland, St Michael's House

options to choose from, the use of restrictive practices, and the level of personal involvement in decision making related to legal issues, personal finances, health, employment, and activities at home and in the community. As a consequence of supporting individuals and groups the project has identified systemic issues that impact on the quality of supports people with intellectual disabilities receive. The IMAS steering group is currently working to identify the most appropriate means to highlight the systemic issues identified by the project.

Throughout 2009, **Pauline Mangan continued to support several networks:**

Fingal County Childcare Network

Fingal County Childcare Committee²⁹ is responsible for the organisation of training courses for childcare providers, childcare staff and parents in Blanchardstown. A new Manager was recently appointed. In the past the FCCC has carried out training analysis of childcare services to better meet the needs of those actually working in services. Recent publications that the FCCC has released include a funding for Community / Private Childcare Providers and a Childminders Support Pack.

Pauline Mangan not only supports the FCCC but is an active member of a sub-group of FCCC that appraises funding proposals for capital projects and childminding grants. These are in turn approved or rejected by POBAL. The information garnered from the quarterly meetings of the crèches and networks are in turn fed back into the FCCC. The revised Childcare Scheme announced by Minister Smith has reportedly caused hardship for crèches in Blanchardstown.

3.5 Increased Information Provision in Blanchardstown (B05) Socio-Economic Profile of Greater Blanchardstown / Dublin 15

A socio-economic profile of the Dublin 15 area is now available to download from the Partnerships website www.bap.ie under reports and publications heading. This report is representative of the broader geographical catchment area that the Partnership now covers under the Cohesion Process. This new publication serves as a companion document to a previous report released in July 2008.³⁰ Digital Ordnance Survey maps are also included in the report.

PLANET contracted NIRSA located in NUI Maynooth to provide local development companies with lower level geographic data known as enumerator areas. As a result the **Partnership is now in a position to map 2006 census data using instant atlas software.** This new planning tool improves the visual depiction of census thematic data sets and will further help the Partnership decide where to allocate resources across the Dublin 15 area.

²⁹ Co-operation Fingal, FÁS, VEC, County Enterprise Board, Chamber of Commerce, Childminding Ireland

³⁰ Ryan, C (2008) *Socio Economic Profile of Blanchardstown*, Blanchardstown Area Partnership.

Section 4

Community Youth Based Initiative (Overseen by the Education and Youth PIB)

4.0 Background

The Partnership's Education Co-ordinator with the support of the Education and Youth PIB and the former Education Working Group **helped deliver and co-ordinate many innovative initiatives** from November 1999 until August 2009.³¹ The majority of these initiatives were run with the support of local primary and secondary schools, which involved offering protracted supports to children and adults. A minority were one off events organised in co-operation with the Blanchardstown Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown Youth Services and with the Adult Education Service e.g. Science Fair and Adult Education and Training Providers Forum. As with her colleagues, the Education Co-ordinator also supported many local and regional networks and various bodies. According to extracts from the Scope system 5,500 children supported by BAP from 2001-2009 across Measure C of the LDSIP alone. Several programmes and initiatives that have had significant outputs and longer term impacts across the Dublin 15 are worth highlighting and are included in the appendix.

Service Delivery Model

4.1 Preventing Early School Leaving (C02)

Promoting Traveller Equality in Education

In 2006, 66% of the Traveller population in the GBA whose education had ceased comprised people aged 15 years and over with no formal or primary education. Excluding not stated 82% of Travellers in Blanchardstown ceased their education before the prevailing statutory minimum age of 15 years. In recognition of this challenge the Partnership continues to support the **Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group (lead agency)** via a steering group to help reduce early school leaving levels among the school population.³² **The Partnership funded programme delivery elements from the LDSIP with Traveller children and young people as identified by the steering group**, to include after school supports, which may be school, community or site-based supports to young Travellers at second level plus support to transition programmes for Traveller children (primary to second level). **26 Traveller children benefited via this action in 2009.**³³

³¹ The post of the Education Co-ordinator was made redundant in August 2009.

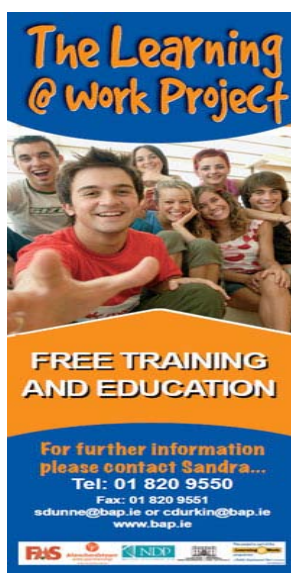
³² BAP, Visiting School Teacher.

³³ The BTDG previously supported a youth/education worker whose post was funded from Dormant Account. This worker helped run 3 homework clubs, a 6th year transition and summer programmes.

Retention at Senior Cycle youth

The Youth PIB allocated funding to the Schools Completion Programme in 2009. A Safe Pass and a Manual Handling Course was used as an incentive for senior cycle students in Riversdale and Blakestown to either re-engage or remain in senior cycle post primary education. Safe Pass course is a health and safety course, which a person is legally required to undertake before they can work on building sites or any place where construction work is being carried out. Many young people who are at risk of early school leave in senior cycle education would be eager to do this course in order to attain work in their chosen field. The day long course covers all aspects of safety at work and more specifically in construction it runs between 8.30 and 5 pm and culminates in a test. Manual handling course is very similar but there is more of an emphasis on jobs where lifting or moving stocks is carried out such as retail etc. **In total 28 males attended.** It has traditionally been directed toward males due to the fact that this cohort is the most at risk group in senior cycle.

4.2 Addressing the needs of early school leavers (C03)



Learning @ Work is a project that attempts to upskill workers who are in employment but who have minimum vocational or academic qualifications. Sandra Dunne is the Project Co-ordinator and Catherine Durkin was the manager of the project.³⁴ The scheme encourages employers to release their staff for accredited FETAC training and Level 3 Junior Cert or 4 and 5 Leaving Certificate equivalent. A wide variety of Dublin 15 employers support the projects including Superquinn, e-Trip, Tesco, and Paddy Powers. A successful joint application from 6 Partnership areas in Dublin including Blanchardstown was submitted to the Dublin Employment Pact, which the Education Co-ordinator was as central part of. The third round started in early 2008 and will continue until March 2010.

As a result €1.2 million FAS allocation to the 6 projects over 2 years was committed and the Department of Education and Science is also contributing. Learning@ Work went through an intense phase of recruitment and training in the first six months of 2009. There was a three day recruitment drive at Blanchardstown Centre which was managed by BAP staff. 50 participants were recruited for programmes in IT, Customer Service, Communications. The Partnership CEO is now managing this initiative, in conjunction with Brenda Byrne, Administration Manager.

³⁴ The project is funded by FAS and the Department of Education and Science under the umbrella of the Dublin Employment Pact with additional funding from the Partnerships Local Development Social Inclusion programme.

Co-ordination Activity



4.3 Supporting Access to Further and 3rd level Education (C04)

Millennium Programme

The **Education Co-ordinator** and the Millennium Fund **Assistant Noelene Reid** administer the Millennium programme on behalf of Pobal. **136 adults received financial supports in 2009, 88 women / 48 men.** Recipients must be a resident of Blanchardstown and applications from RAPID areas are prioritised within the application process. **In addition to direct financial support, career and course guidance is offered to clients of the MF and in August there will be a 2-day guidance event for students who have just received their Leaving Certificate results.** All of the schools in Dublin 15 are circulated about this service. €98,340 was received for the academic year 2008-2009 and the **Partnership was recently informed that the scheme would be extended for a further academic year (2009-2010).** The Partnership CEO is now managing this initiative, in conjunction with **Brenda Byrne, Administration Manager.**

Influencing

4.4 Promoting Developmental Youth Work (C05)

The ORB and the WEB Project involved **23 young people from Blanchardstown and London and 9 adults in a youth exchange programme.** This brought together two groups of ethnically diverse young people from disadvantaged areas. **The objectives of the project were to empower these young people to work together and to explore and challenge issues of racism, stereotyping and discrimination.** A wide range of activities including sports, cultural experiences and events as well as intercultural and anti-racism workshops and activities formed part of the exchange. A return visit by the London communities also took place.³⁵

Blakestown / Mountview Neighbourhood Youth Project

A new 24 place crèche is providing places for the children of disadvantaged adults who may wish to undertake short term education and training courses. Six funders supported this capital project; Fingal County Council, Health Service Executive, Clann Credo, Irish Famine Trust, Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform and Young Persons Facilities and Services Fund. This was an excellent example of co-operation between voluntary, community, private and state sector.

³⁵ Leargas and Fingal County Council also funded the exchange.

4.5 NETWORKS

RAPID

The Partnership's Education Co-ordinator Catherine Durkin helped draw together RAPID applications (See page 23) which went on to be successful and resulted in funding for

- Traveller participation at secondary school level €6,060
- Literacy for all Programme €3,464
- Turnaround - school attendance project €16,250

VIBE Group ³⁶

The VIBE Group is a forum for discussion of issues relevant to young people in the Dublin 15 area. The forum also provide a space where the group can get to know each other, develop listening and debating skills and also engage participants in group activities to increase their confidence and allow them to feel comfortable interacting among their peers. 2 young people between the ages of 14-17 years from each neighbourhood in Blanchardstown area represented on the forum. **This new group will help the Partnership when it needs to consult directly with younger people on a range of issues.** Given the enormous youth population across Dublin 15 this new group is a pivotal platform.

The group have been involved in discussion and consultation around the following areas in the past:

- Blanchardstown Youth Service Summer Programmes.
- Integrating young people of all nationalities and communities into youth programmes in the Blanchardstown area.
- Crime and safety project in conjunction with Swords Youth Service and the local Gardai in which they produced 2 DVD's on young peoples attitudes to the Gardai.
- Team building weekend in the Cavan Centre with Swords Youth Service
- Intercultural exchange trip with a group in Poland.

The Blanchardstown Area Partnership allocated funding to the VIBE Group in December 2009, which will be spent on the team building residential trip for March 2010: 3 leaders and 12 young people will attend the weekend from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th March 2010. ³⁷

³⁶ Operates from the BYS / Foroige

³⁷ Upcoming items on the agenda for the consultation group: ABC awards 2010, Residential trip for team building for new group members in March 2010 to the Cavan Centre, Representatives at the Albert Schwietzer Leadership for Life Programme in June 2010, Consultation with outside agencies as required.

Appendix

Table 1

Blanchardstown Area Partnership Target Versus Outputs

Services for the Unemployed Measure A

Indicators	Target Goal	Attained	Net Result
Number of individuals supported- Case Load	564	821	+257
Number of long term unemployed people supported	253	2	
Individuals receiving pre-start up enterprise supported	180	260	+80
New Enterprises >12 months Supported	60	89	+29
No of jobs created in Micro Enterprises	68	107	+39
Social Economy Enterprises > 12 months Supported	2	2	Achieved
Individuals receiving education supports	0	25	+25
Individuals receiving training supports	402	428	+26
Individuals receiving recognised certification	200	228	+28
No's engaged through information and dissemination	483	785	+302
Networks and Collaborations Supported	1	3	+2

Community Development Measure B

Indicators	Target Goal	Attained	Net Result
New community groups supported	3	1	-2
Established community groups supported	6	7	+1
Pre-development community groups supported	4	4	Achieved
No's engaged through information and promotion initiatives	0	18	+18
Environment and Infrastructure Initiatives receiving support	1	1	Achieved
CD Networks and collaborations receiving supports	8	12	+4

Community Based Youth Initiative Measure C

Indicators	Target Goal	Attained	Net Result
Number of school children supported	130	101	-29
Number of adults supported -parents & teachers	65	195	+130
Number of preventing early school leaving initiatives	2	1	+1
Number of promoting developmental youth work initiatives	0	1	+1
No of initiatives supporting access to further & 3 rd level education	1	1	Achieved

Table 2

2009 Local Employment Service Outputs

	Information / Advice	New Registration	Training	Job	Education
Total	17,240	793	189	109	102

3 Models of Area Based Partnership Companies

1. Delivery / Service Provider

This refers to where the Partnership takes on the actual delivery of a programme service. A gap in programme / service delivery is identified by the Partnership and a response is piloted with a view to having it mainstreamed at a later date e.g. European Refugee Fund.

2. Agency / Influencing

The approach of a Partnership adapting an agency approach is likely to be far more strategic and aimed at influencing policy and mainstream services. Where services are delivered by the Partnership it is usually on a contract basis to a group that is currently delivering services in the area. If such a group does not exist, then the Partnership will often play a key role in establishing such a group or, through mutual agreement, add to the remit of an existing group. This is likely to result in value being added to the service and the service being linked more directly with other activities with the agreed strategy of the Local Development Plan. e.g. Including Me Advocacy Services.

3. Co-ordination /Brokerage model

The Partnership does not deliver- but acts as a support structure, whose primary function is in needs assessment e.g. Millennium Fund. The Partnership, in conjunction with local communities, identifies needs and lobbies existing state agencies for changed and more focused delivery (POBAL)

Community Development Stages Matrix These stages can overlap			
Stage		Context	Actions or Focus
Stage 3 Established Groups	Policy Work	More developed sector Coherent Local Social Partnership structures Networked Nationally	Influencing local, regional and national development policy, strategies and initiatives
Stage 2 New Groups	Developing Capacity and Coherence	Strong community organisations Community Development Projects Some integrated initiatives Coherence	Build strong organisational capacity: Networks, participatory structures, joint working, developing area-wide programme proposals
Stage 1 Pre- development Groups	Pre- development	No strong community development structures Little primary activity Voluntary focus is on service provision	Building capacity on the ground by targeting key people and forming groups

NEW GROUPS

