



**Action for Positive Change:
From Challenges to Opportunities**

A Position Paper by Blanchardstown Area Partnership

September 2008

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Glossary of Terms

AIT	Area Implementation Team
CDP	Community Development Project
D/CRGA	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
D/SFA	Department of Social and Family Affairs
HSE	Health Service Executive
LDSIP	Local Development Social Inclusion Programme
LDTF	Local Drugs Task Force
LES	Local Employment Service
NESC	National Economic and Social Council
NESF	National Economic and Social Forum
NPAR	National Action Plan Against Racism
RAPID	Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development
RAS	Rental Accommodation Scheme
SME	Small Medium Enterprises

1. Executive Summary

A Position Paper for Blanchardstown Area Partnership

Blanchardstown Area Partnership is the local development agency for the Dublin 15 area. Funded by the Government under the National Development Plan 2007-2013, we are responsible for programmes which provide the community with a wide range of supports including the Local Employment Service (LES/JOBLINK), the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme, the European Refugee Fund and the Millennium Education Fund.

MISSION STATEMENT

To bring people together to create a better place to live, work and grow

Based on the values of inclusion, equality, empowerment, respect and collaboration

Since 1996 the population of Blanchardstown Area Partnership's existing catchment area has grown 65.3% from 38,612 persons to 63,820 persons¹. The Board of the Partnership has recently agreed to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht and Affairs' proposal to extend the boundaries of Area-based Partnerships under the Cohesion Process. As a result the Partnership's client base will increase by a further 27,132 persons to 90,952, an increase of 136% in ten years.

Mirroring the most recent national partnership agreement² Blanchardstown Area Partnership proposes that a longer-term perspective may be necessary to planning and achieving social change in Dublin 15 given the complexity and scale of the challenges. Focusing on its effective use of resources and ability to leverage funding, the Partnership plans to influence and lobby relevant agencies for additional financial resources to ensure that it can meet the challenges identified in this paper and employ the crucial approaches needed to address identified needs.

Vision for 2016

Blanchardstown in 2016 will be a place where every member of the community is valued; lives in a safe and secure environment; where education provision meets the needs of each individual; where there is a job for everyone who wants to work, and employment supports are available to those who require them; and where the diversity of population is accepted and appreciated.

Role of the Partnership in Achieving Vision 2016

The Partnership's pivotal role in bringing together stakeholders, identifying appropriate responses and piloting new ideas and programmes will be to the fore in achieving the Vision set out in this document. The ability to work in collaboration with all stakeholders is particularly

¹ Census 2006, Volume 1, Population Classified By Area.

² Government of Ireland. (2006). Towards 2016 Ten Year Framework Social Partnership Agreement 2006-2015. Stationery Office: Dublin.

important in the new environment which exists in 2008, particularly in the area of developing swift responses to changing needs. The Partnership will also utilise its key competencies and specialist expertise in achieving the organisation's social inclusion aims and strategic objectives.

Challenges to be Addressed

The Partnership has identified the following challenges that will need to be addressed in order to realise **Vision 2016**.

- **Social exclusion is still a reality of modern Ireland** despite over a decade of unprecedented economic growth. Many groups 'at risk of poverty' are disproportionately represented in the Partnership's catchment area such as single parents, Travellers, young offenders, ex-prisoners, 'youth at risk'³, and long term unemployed men and women.
- **High pockets of unemployment still persist** in several of Blanchardstown's Electoral Divisions (EDs). Supply side interventions, such as education, training, and work experience programmes, need to be properly tailored for those who may be displaced from the labour market.
- **Poverty traps continue to exist** due to the loss of secondary benefits such as private rent supplement or medical card.
- **Improving access to the labour market** for long term unemployed men, single parents, people with disabilities, Travellers and refugees will require piloting of new and innovative activation strategies on an inter-agency basis.
- **Promotion of first chance education** is a critical investment considering the area's extraordinarily high youth population. The importance of school completion, of further and/or third level participation as a means to improve career prospects and economic potential are evidence-based in recent education and economic reports.
- **Life Long Learning**, including opportunities for further education and training and access to higher education is essential. This can provide tailored flexible education and training approaches for a wide range of people - those in work, who are unemployed or under-employed, so that they may be ready to take up employment opportunities as they become available.
- **The Integration of New Communities** is vital to Blanchardstown's and indeed Ireland's future social and economic cohesion. With in excess of 140 nationalities now living in the Partnership's catchment area, the challenge is greater than ever.
- **The need to build sustainable communities** which are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and managed, and which offer equality of opportunity and good services for all⁴.
- **Infrastructural deficits** being met through the existing RAPID⁵ programme equally need to be met in the many new neighbourhoods of Blanchardstown, such as Ongar, Tyrrelstown and Castaheany.
- **Provisions of services and facilities for the youth population** is an essential strategy for promoting social inclusion for young people in the area.
- **Protecting the spirit of volunteerism and promoting the active involvement of citizens in the community sector** is a significant challenge.
- **Supporting and cherishing the older citizens** of Blanchardstown, and enabling them to lead healthy and active lives in their retirement years.

³ 'Youth at risk' refers to children aged 0-14 years.

⁴ "Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities". Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2007, p.7). Government Stationery Office: Dublin.

⁵ Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development.

Lead Agency for Vision 2016

Blanchardstown Area Partnership is committed to keeping the issues of social inclusion on the agenda, and also to its role as the lead agency for social inclusion in Blanchardstown. In collaboration with key stakeholders, the Partnership is well placed to achieve Vision 2016 because of its existing strong record of achievement in relation to the following areas:

- **Delivering innovative and effective responses to labour market exclusion.** The Partnership has in the past brought together the statutory, community and voluntary sectors to pilot new innovative inter agency actions, many of which have been mainstreamed and have delivered Value For Money.
- **Co-ordinating social inclusion measures.** The Partnership has a capacity and track record of facilitating local community groups access and leverage additional resources into the area across funding lines such as Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF), Equality for Women Measure (EWM) and the Young People's Facilities and Services Fund (YPFSF).
- **Influencing key policy makers and programme providers.** The Partnership has completed several policy papers about research on key issues that identify appropriate responses to new needs and different forms of social exclusion. These have helped the Partnership attract additional resources to the area enabling projects such as Meitheal (ERF) to be realised.
- **The Partnership is a trusted vehicle for giving local communities a voice.** For example, the Partnership assisted in the formation of Forum 15, an independent body which had its own Board and administration structure.
- **Protecting existing social capital** is a vital element in building on past achievements.
- **Positive engagement with cohesion process**-the Partnership has fully engaged with the cohesion process and is poised to take on the expansion of the Partnership's boundaries.

Please refer to page 26 of the appendix for a more in depth presentation of significant Partnership's achievements between 2000 and 2006.

Conclusion

This paper argues the case for additional funding based on the changing profile of the area. The agreement of the Cohesion process brings further challenges to the Partnership. The considerable expansion of the existing catchment area, and the significant increase in both population and population diversity, has major implications for the organisation's ability to effectively target its services to those most in need.

Substantial additional funding will be required to enable the Partnership to deliver social inclusion programmes across the whole of the Dublin 15 area. The expansion of Ongar, the creation of large estates in the Ward, e.g. Tyrrelstown, and other estates planned for Abbotstown and Hansfield, among others, will need the support of the Partnership and LDSIP and LES personnel on the ground.

Blanchardstown Area Partnership is the lead agency for the promotion of social inclusion in Dublin 15. This role has been characterised by the development of innovative activities and influential publications, which have been informed by comprehensive analysis and the voice of the local community. However, our ability to continue to lead is currently threatened by the significant reduction of funding in real terms, compared to the growth in population and population diversity in recent years. Dublin 15 is also likely to experience further substantial population increases into the future, and there must now be the investment of significant

additional resources in Dublin 15, if the Partnership is to respond effectively to the complexity of social issues presented by clients.

2. Introduction

A General Description of Dublin 15

Dublin 15 (encompassing Blanchardstown, Castleknock and their environs) is located approximately 10 kilometres north-west of Dublin City Centre. Over the past decade the area has served as a main hub for Dublin's enlarged population. It currently consists of twelve EDs, four of which - Tyrrelstown, Mulhuddart, Corduff and Coolmine - are designated as disadvantaged⁶. According to the 2006 National Census there are 90,974 persons living in the area. Dublin 15 has now expanded into townlands such as Parslickstown, Porter's Gate, Castaheany, Littlepace, Ongar and Waterville.

Throughout this past decade employment has grown rapidly especially in the services sector via the attraction of high tech companies and Small/Medium Enterprises to the area. The opening of the Town Centre in 1996, and its subsequent growth and development also had a positive impact.

In relation to new public and civic amenities, the area can now offer:

- The FAI (Football Association of Ireland) Centre of Excellence and National Aquatic Centre, both in Abbotstown, which played host to the summer 2003 Special Olympics.
- The Civic Centre opened in 2001 consisting of the Draocht theatre and a new library.
- The Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown
- Connolly Memorial Hospital

Amongst the natural amenities the area has to offer are the

- Millennium Park
- Phoenix Park
- Tolka Valley Park
- Royal Canal

A distinguishing factor in relation to Dublin 15 is its particularly young age profile. The area also has a unique mix of people from across the world, plus distinct ethnic groups. Many Eastern Europeans and Africans have moved into the area due to the large number of estates and apartments built in response to the demand for housing. Newcomers now account for almost 22% of persons resident in Dublin 15, which is double the State average. Nigerians (2,407), Polish nationals (1,814), British nationals (1,456), Lithuanians (1,425) and Romanians (1,248) represent the five largest national groups.

Since 1996 the population of Blanchardstown Area Partnership's existing catchment area has grown **65.3%** from **38,612** persons to **63,820** persons. The Board of the Partnership has recently agreed to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs' proposal to extend the boundaries of Area-based Partnerships under the Cohesion Process. As a result the Partnership's client base has increased by a further **27,132** persons to **90,952**, an increase of **136%** in ten years.

Why this Paper?

⁶ CODAN, (1994) County Dublin Areas of Need Report.

During the period of the last Strategic Plan 2000-2006, Dublin 15 experienced dramatic transformation on a far greater scale than most other parts of the country. This rapid transformation created a number of significant challenges including:

- Rapid population growth
- Unprecedented levels of immigration of diverse ethnic groups
- High youth population
- Persistently higher levels of unemployment
- Drug misuse
- Crime

Blanchardstown Area Partnership is the lead agency for the promotion of social inclusion in Dublin 15. This role has been characterised by the development of innovative activities and influential publications, which have been informed by comprehensive analysis and the voice of the local community. It is acknowledged that the Partnership's catchment area will continue to experience substantial population increases, due to the abundance of development land available for building. Significant additional resources will be needed if the organisation is to respond effectively to the complexity of social issues which are presented by clients.

Mirroring the most recent National Partnership Agreement, Towards 2016, Blanchardstown Area Partnership proposes that a longer-term perspective is necessary to planning and achieving social change in Dublin 15 given the complexity and scale of the challenges⁷. Blanchardstown Area Partnership is ideally positioned to lead the local response.

The Board agreed that a position paper was the best vehicle for the Partnership to demonstrate its ability to lead this local response to achieve the community's vision for the area in 2016. This paper calls for relevant agencies to support the Partnership with the resources needed to co-ordinate the achievement of that vision, and aims to:

- Promote the development of innovative responses to match the needs of our diverse, complex and changing communities.
- Identify the issues which need to be addressed in order to eliminate social exclusion
- Detail the approaches that must be employed to address the priority needs.
- Demonstrate the Partnership's ability, based on its existing record of achievement, to co-ordinate local responses to social exclusion issues.
- Identify the resource implications for the Partnership between now and 2016.
- Highlight the achievements of the Partnership to date.

Vision for Blanchardstown 2016

Blanchardstown in 2016 will be a place where every member of the community is valued; lives in a safe and secure environment; where education provision meets the needs of each individual; where there is a job for everyone who wants to work, and employment supports are available to those who require them; and where the diversity of population is accepted and appreciated.

⁷ See Government of Ireland. (2006). Towards 2016 Ten Year Framework Social Partnership Agreement 2006-2015. Government Stationery Office.

The Partnership's Role in Achieving Vision 2016

The Partnership will continue to:

- Identify new community needs by working closely with the community and local organisations, leading to appropriate responses to new needs and different forms of social exclusion.
- Access appropriate resources to address identified and emerging needs.
- Build the capacity of local organisations and people to influence local development and integrate new communities.
- Co-ordinate best practice inter-agency work and engage in the development of pilot initiatives to support progression of key marginalised target groups.
- Actively lobby local and central government to remove the barriers to ensure equal access, opportunity and outcome to education, training and employment programmes.
- Undertake policy analysis and research, to inform the strategy of the Board and internal structures of the Partnership
- Evaluate Partnership programmes to determine their effectiveness and achieve value for money.

3. Challenges to be Addressed

Introduction

Inequality and disadvantage regrettably remain factors in Ireland today, but especially so in parts of Blanchardstown. Haase and Pratschke developed an index⁸ that provides a single measurement of the relative affluence and deprivation for an area. As named in the last section, there are several EDs within Blanchardstown Area Partnership's boundaries which show substantial evidence of continuing social exclusion.

A deprivation score is a single figure that indicates the level of deprivation or affluence in a specific electoral district during a census year. It is calculated by combining data, obtained from the Census, under a number of categories for each area. This data, aggregated into a single figure, represents 'Overall Affluence and Disadvantage', and can range on a scale from -50 (Most Disadvantaged) to +50 (Most Affluent)⁹.

Based on this index, the deprivation score for Tyrrellstown is within the classification of "Disadvantaged" while Coolmine, Corduff and Mulhuddart are classified as "Marginally Below Average". Abbotstown, Blakestown and Delwood are now categorised as "Marginally Above Average", and Roselawn is categorised as "Affluent". Acknowledging the levels of relative deprivation and affluence, the Government funds a locally based RAPID Programme¹⁰ that targets certain areas of Blanchardstown¹¹.

Table 1 : Areas of Relative Affluence and Deprivation 1991-2006

ED	Absolute Index Scores			Change in Absolute Index Score 1991-2006
	2006	2002	1996	
Abbotstown	10.0	3.0	4.3	9.4
Blakestown	14.4	17.6	11.0	6.5
Coolmine	4.5	6.5	-9.0	18.7
Corduff	2.2	1.2	-7.5	15.4
Delwood	15.6	19.6	18.5	-2.8
Mulhuddart	6.1	6.7	-17.8	38.4
Roselawn	16.1	19.8	17.4	1.9
Tyrrelstown	-5.4	-9.9	-18.0	20.9
BLANCHARDSTOWN	10.8	12.4	3.5	7.3
Fingal	16.7	18.3	15.6	4.2
Dublin	12.0	13.7	8.1	7.3
State	10.4	10.8	5.2	8.1

Source: GAMMA 2008

⁸ Based on Census data, the index takes into consideration the underlying dimensions of deprivation i.e. social class, demographic and labour market deprivation.

⁹ See Appendix C for details of the three categories used to determine deprivation scores.

¹⁰ RAPID area is all of the Corduff DED, Wellview and Parslickstown Estates in Tyrrellstown, Dromheath Estate in Mulhuddart and finally Whitestown/Sheepmoor /Fortlawn/Whitechapel estates in Coolmine DED

¹¹ The RAPID Programme is aimed at improving the quality of life and the opportunities available to residents of the most disadvantaged communities in Irish cities and towns.

Continuing Social Exclusion

Social exclusion is defined as:

*“cumulative marginalisation from production (employment), from consumption (income poverty), from social networks (community, family and neighbours), from decision-making and adequate quality of life”.*¹²

Social exclusion is a process whereby certain groups are pushed to the edge of society and prevented from participating fully by virtue of their poverty, inadequate education or life skills. This process distances them from the structures named in the definition above and individuals have little access to power and decision-making bodies.

Despite the national relative risk of poverty falling from 21.9% in 2001 to 16.5% in 2007¹³, social exclusion is still a reality for many individuals and communities in Ireland today. This deprivation is manifested in a diversity of ways, including unemployment and/or low income, poor housing, ill health, inadequate education and few recreational opportunities.

Groups at risk of social exclusion in Ireland today include young people, single parents, Travellers and members of other ethnic minorities. There are high populations of each of these groups in the Partnership's catchment area. Meeting these groups' needs demands better service delivery, targeted activities and lobbying of local and central government on their behalf, all of which the Partnership is ideally placed to co-ordinate. The Partnership is also well placed to ensure that the voices of individuals from these groups inform services planning, lobbying and community development.

High Levels of Localised Unemployment

Unemployment since 2002

In the period 2002 to 2006, the level of unemployment across Blanchardstown rose from **9.8%** to **11.1%** of the labour force¹⁴. Unemployment levels remain significantly higher in Blanchardstown than the national average of 8.5%, or Dublin's overall rate of 7%. The average unemployment rate for Blanchardstown disguises the double-digit unemployment rate that still prevail in several neighbourhoods. Unemployment levels in Tyrrelstown (26%) and Coolmine (17%) are higher than four years ago and are akin to national unemployment levels experienced in the late 1980s and early 1990s, before the 'Celtic Tiger' boom years. Tyrrelstown is now listed as one of the country's unemployment 'black spots' as its unemployment rate exceeds 20%. On a positive note unemployment levels have declined in Corduff (14.5%) and Mulhuddart (17%) EDs and more significantly in Abbotstown (13.1%).

¹² Partnership 2000

¹³ Survey on Income and Living Condition (SILC) in Ireland 2007. Central Statistics Office (2008)

¹⁴ The unemployment percentages presented at a local ED level are calculated using the Principal Economic Status (PES) of individuals and are extracted from the 2006 Census Volume. National official statistics in Ireland now rely upon the International Labour Office (ILO) criteria for measuring unemployment. This method is not applied at a local level.

Table 2 : Unemployment Rates Across Blanchardstown's EDs

ED	Unemployed % April 2006	Unemployed		Unemployed % April 2002
		Looking for 1st Regular Job	Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	
Abbotstown	13.08%	148	172	17.5%
Blakestown	8.76%	373	1243	6.4%
Coolmine	16.86%	151	828	15.3%
Corduff	14.48%	58	311	16%
Delwood	6.37%	36	147	5.7%
Mulhuddart	16.94%	66	186	17.5%
Roselawn	5.07%	7	42	4.5%
Tyrrelstown	25.89%	21	125	23.1%
BLANCHARDSTOWN	11.13%	860	3054	9.8%

Source: BAP analysis of CSO Small Area Population Statistics 2006

According to the latest detailed CSO live register data¹⁵, 70% of all long term unemployed people in Blanchardstown claiming unemployment assistance for one year or over are men. Age is a significant contributory factor in an individual's chances of experiencing unemployment.

People with disabilities¹⁶ are also much more likely to experience sustained unemployment. 1,320 persons aged 15 years and over living in Dublin 15 are currently unable to work due to permanent sickness or illness.

Very High Youth Population and Early School Leaving Issues

A distinguishing factor in relation to Blanchardstown is its extraordinary young age profile and 'youth at risk' rates. In the past four years Blanchardstown experienced a large net increase in the recorded 'youth at risk population' (+3291)¹⁷. As a result Blanchardstown now has a much higher youth age profile in the 0-14 range of 24.4% of population. Tyrrelstown (39.0%) and (Mulhuddart 29.3%) continue to experience the largest percentage presence of disadvantaged youth within each ED. Once again this trend is in keeping with data from previous Census.

These statistics signify the necessity to increase targeted services and facilities for young people in the Dublin 15 areas to encourage their social development and educational progression. In particular, initiatives should be aimed at increasing access to recreation and sport, education, health services and preventative and treatment interventions for drugs and alcohol misuse.

¹⁵ Blanchardstown Local Office Live Register by Duration for April 2007

¹⁶ Blanchardstown Area Partnership (BAP), the Citizens Information Board (CIB) and Daughters of Charity Service (DOCS) have been working together towards the establishment of an advocacy project to provide an independent advocacy service to people with an intellectual disability. A steering group has been established to oversee the direction of the project. The steering group has representatives from DOC, CIB, HSE, Inclusion Ireland, BAP and also representation from the service users. The 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.

¹⁷ 0-14 age cohorts

A well thought-out capital infrastructural programme will be required in Blanchardstown in order to address this trend. The programme will also need to be complemented by a range of diverse, age appropriate youth activities in a community-based setting, all framed by a preventative strategy to meet emerging needs. Targeted services for youth at risk, linked to family support projects, will help to reduce deprivation and increase access to mainstream recreational, sports, education and employment opportunities for young people.

Promoting First Chance and Further Education

The advantages of first chance education are well documented, with career options and future earnings greatly enhanced by participation in standard pathways to education. In Blanchardstown, the primary focus will be on improving participation rates in education, in particular to Leaving Certificate which is well below the national average. A third level qualification further enhances life chances. Continued support and innovative action co-ordinated by the Partnership will seek to increase participation rates at third level by young people from Dublin 15. Options for younger adults will continue to be expanded through Youthreach and the newly established Community Training Centre.

High Proportion of Single Parents

Single parent households headed predominantly by women “face a particularly high risk of consistent poverty”¹⁸. Single parents¹⁹ for all children now head 28.63% of all households in Blanchardstown. The overall Blanchardstown figure exceeds the national average of 25.2%, but is lower than the Dublin equivalent of 29.9%. Tyrrelstown with 59.6% and Mulhuddart with 42.2% respectively have the highest concentrations of single parents in Blanchardstown.

Single parents require intensive support to gain access to the labour market, and to protect themselves and their children from the negative outcomes of social exclusion. While positive and targeted actions by the Government have been introduced, high numbers of children still live in poverty. Aspects of the present approaches can effectively lock single parents into a system which pays them a ‘social exclusionary’ wage which can lead to a number of poverty traps.

The perceived lack of engagement with this group of (predominantly) women has been the source of comment by voluntary, national and international organisations. The experience of Blanchardstown Area Partnership and the Local Employment Service (LES) is that single parents are largely represented in education and training which is positive, but that their progression into employment is limited due to a small number of obstacles. The Partnership will seek to actively address these issues for single parents in Blanchardstown in the years ahead.

One of the central elements of policies aimed at reducing child poverty is to improve quality employment opportunities for single parents. The aim for policy-makers and the Partnership is to continue to maintain high levels of employment and to remove obstacles to lone parents taking up employment, especially as they and their children are in one of the most vulnerable categories.

¹⁸ Combat Poverty Agency. (2006). Lone Parent Families and Poverty: Fact Sheet. CPA: Dublin.

¹⁹ The 2006 census question on household structure allows for more accurate family nucleus coding and as result the CSO are able to identify more family units which would have been missed in 2002.

Double the National Average of Ethnic Minorities

Foreign nationals now account for almost 22%²⁰ of persons resident in Blanchardstown. This is more than double the State average of 10.5%. Indeed 65% of the increase in Blanchardstown's population since 2002 has been composed of residents who indicated that they have a nationality other than Irish. Nigerian nationals (1,822) followed by Polish nationals (1,261) and Lithuanians (1,045) represent the largest numbers of foreign nationals in Blanchardstown.

Blanchardstown is also composed of large numbers of people from severely disadvantaged minority ethnic groups such as refugees, parents of Irish born children and Travellers. The highest numbers (7,239) of foreign nationals were counted in Blakestown ED. 2,496 Black or Black Irish and 1,157 Asian or Asian Irish were recorded as residents of Blakestown, which is a reflection of its unique ethnic mix and makeup.

Families and individuals from more than 140 different nationalities now reside in Blanchardstown from a variety of backgrounds and circumstances. These families and individuals require assistance to integrate into the community including structured opportunities to enable them to have their voices heard in community development and services planning fora.

According to a new question on ethnic or cultural background, introduced for the 2006 Census, 467 Irish Travellers were enumerated in the Partnership's present catchment boundaries. This is 203 fewer than four years ago and the reduction were most pronounced in Abbotstown and Mulhuddart EDs. Despite this decrease in actual numbers, Travellers still constitute 0.74 % of Blanchardstown's overall population and are a large ethnic group in their own right. Nationally there were 1,246 less Travellers recorded in 2006 than in 2002. The reasons for this are as yet unclear.

Need for Integration

Perhaps the greatest challenge confronting Ireland today, and indeed Blanchardstown Area Partnership as the local development agency, is employing an integration approach to ensure that families and individuals who are members of New Communities can participate successfully in the wider community.

With the increase in New Communities arriving in Ireland because of the booming economy, there has been a rise in reports of racism among sections of Irish society, mostly directed at asylum seekers and refugees. Antagonism towards ethnic minorities is not an entirely new phenomenon in Irish society, however, as the experience of Travellers over time predates recent perceptions of an upsurge of racism in Ireland (Guerin, P 2002).

Integration is vital for social cohesion and economic development in the modern Ireland. This process should be two-way. There is an onus of responsibility on the host society's citizens and organisations to treat members of the New Communities equitably and with respect. Likewise, there are responsibilities that rest with members of the New Communities around social participation and active citizenship.

Integration can be defined as:

'the ability to participate to the extent that a person needs and wishes in all of the major components of society, without having to relinquish his or her own cultural identity.'

The National Action Plan Against Racism (NPAR) was launched by the Government in 2005, and provides an inter-cultural framework to accommodate an increasingly ethnically diverse population. In a very short space of time there has been a broadening of cultural identity in

²⁰ The corresponding figure for Blanchardstown in 2002 was eleven per cent (5509)

Ireland. The NPAR targets five action oriented strategies for addressing diversity, including protection, inclusion, provision, recognition and participation.

Blanchardstown Area Partnership accepts the role it has to play in the integration process and co-ordinating actions to address racism using the NPAR framework. The Partnership also has a significant responsibility to facilitate direct contact between local residents and members of New Communities, and in recent years staff have been active in developing and implementing new initiatives, such as the Meitheal project (ERF).

Need to Build Safe and Sustainable Communities

The Partnership is well aware of the infrastructure required to build safe and sustainable communities and the challenges facing the Dublin 15 area in that regard. For example, the very high youth population in Blanchardstown will place additional pressures on the already over-burdened local childcare sector. The accessibility and affordability of childcare in Blanchardstown remains a serious problem for many, and parents are finding it increasingly difficult to strike a happy medium in work-life balance. The longer-term possibility is that the move of more women into the local workforce will be reduced if adequate childcare provision is not available.

Data from the 2006 Census data highlights that the pre-school population (0-3 years) of Blanchardstown rose by 49% or 1,794 children. Due to the large increase in Blanchardstown's pre-school population, there are immediate challenges for the delivery and location of crèches, and also for the provision of new schools, youth clubs, and recreation and play amenities in the medium term. Given that New Communities comprise 65% of the increase in Blanchardstown's population over the past four years, this inevitably means that parents will be seeking to enrol children from many different ethnic backgrounds in local schools. Unless proper co-ordinated planning procedures are put in place, parents will continue to experience lengthy waiting lists in schools.

Extensive door-to-door needs analyses have been conducted in each of the RAPID areas throughout Blanchardstown on several occasions in the past. Residents identified community safety, anti-social behaviour and a lack of adequate activities and outlets for young children and teenagers as the top priority issues which need to be comprehensively addressed by services in Blanchardstown.

RAPID can help deliver upon the infrastructural deficiencies such as playgrounds and community centres, but outside of the RAPID boundaries these shortages remains problematic. According to the 2006 Census, there are 20,408 permanent households in the Blanchardstown Area Partnership area, including the additional 5,134 houses built between 2002 and 2006. This figure puts into stark reality the demand and strain that could be placed on existing infrastructural projects in the absence of new facilities being built.

Integrating Responses to Drug Misuse

Drug misuse is an enormous issue in parts of Blanchardstown. In recognition of this, the Local Drugs Task Force (LDTF) was established in 1997, and has been fully supported by the Partnership since its inception. Blanchardstown Task Force aims 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 through comprehensive education and prevention programmes;
- To provide appropriate treatment, rehabilitation 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;
- To support families and communities affected by drug use.

The Partnership is committed to continuing to support the work of the Task Force, and in the past this has included the involvement of key staff in both the Task Force and sub-groups. The Manager of the Partnership was Chairperson for a period of four years to 2004, and the current Manager is Vice Chair of the Task Force and also Chair of the Procedures and Evaluation sub-group. Staff also currently participate in sub-groups, and work with Task Force staff in actions such as the BOND programme for ex-offenders, and the Bridge to the Workplace, a joint FÁS/Health Services Executive (HSE)/LES initiative. The Task Force Co-ordinator also participates in the regular meetings of programme co-ordinators within the Partnership, a network established to share learning and work collaboratively to meet local needs.

People with disabilities

Several large scale surveys²¹ clearly demonstrate that there is a large gap in employment levels between persons with a disability and the rest of the population. The interaction between disability-related welfare and PRSI-based payments can also limit the number of hours a person can work without forfeiting secondary benefits, such as a medical card or mobility allowance. This in effect can limit a person to certain categories of employment. This makes assistance to work and job placement services, via the Local Employment Service all the more important.

The Daughters of Charity (DOC), Citizens Information Board (CIB) and Blanchardstown Area Partnership have recently worked together towards the establishment of an independent advocacy service for people with an intellectual disability. A new post has been funded by the CIB as part of a pilot initiative to support the development of advocacy services in the community and voluntary sector. A steering group with representatives from DOC, CIB, HSE, Inclusion Ireland, BAP and also service users has been established to oversee the direction of the project. The person appointed is now employed by the Partnership, to ensure that the advocacy service provided is independent of the service provider.

The Partnership also recognises that inadequate access and transport issues impact upon the overall well-being of people of persons with a disability. The **Access for All Group** (AAG) works in partnership with Fingal County Council to improve access for people with disabilities to council buildings and services. An audit supported by local disability activists has now been completed, and the findings will be used to prioritise AAG actions. A DVD is also due for release shortly, outlining the access work being undertaken by Fingal County Council. The Partnerships Comm

The **Fingal Disability Network** (FDN) exists to raise awareness of disability related issues in the Fingal area, and to influence local policies in relation to planning, employment and service provision. Last year FDN held an event in Blanchardstown to target community groups in Dublin 15 and raise awareness of the Disability Act and the responsibilities that arise as a result of the Act's implementation. More recently the group produced an awareness leaflet with a checklist of questions that people with disabilities' can ask in public buildings to ensure that evacuation procedures are adequate.

The Community Development Team will continue to work with community groups, local and regional networks to raise awareness and provide supports to people with disabilities living in Dublin 15.

²¹ Living in Ireland and Quarterly National Household Survey

Increasing Population of Older Persons

There are 707 more adults aged 65 and over in Blanchardstown than there were four years ago. Subtle changes in age distribution have occurred across some of Blanchardstown's neighbourhoods. For instance Roselawn ED has the highest percentage of residents aged 65 and over (14.3%).

In recognition of the changing age profile one local parish, Mountview has recently instigated a door to door needs analysis of older persons. The Partnership is a participant in this research project, and the report's findings and recommendations will help inform the Partnership's future response to meeting the needs of older persons.

In addition, the Community Development team is working with local community organisations in developing a range of responses to the needs of older persons, including access to computer classes and the Internet, information seminars on safety in the home and participation in local safety events in conjunction with the Safer Blanchardstown initiative.

4. Achieving Vision 2016

Blanchardstown Area Partnership is acknowledged in Dublin 15 for its work in identifying key needs within the community and gaps in service provision. This has been achieved through conducting research and engaging in extensive consultation with its clients and stakeholders. The organisation has been pivotal in bringing together organisations, identifying appropriate responses and working collaboratively to pilot new ideas and programmes in keeping with its strategic objectives. (Appendix A contains a description of the objectives and achievements of the organisation). The Partnership will continue to lead and replicate this process in relation to each of the challenges and approaches facing the organisation at present.

Identifying and Responding to new Needs

As Blanchardstown grows and Ireland changes, new needs within communities will arise. Blanchardstown Area Partnership has a significant track record of identifying and responding to issues which arise in the community. In addition, the clear value of the Partnership's work over the years has been through the co-ordination of activities on the ground in Blanchardstown, particularly in working through other community and statutory organisations to achieve results and avoid duplication.

For instance, supported by European Refugee funding the Partnership established Meitheal, an innovative project with the aim of integrating refugees and people with leave to remain in the Dublin 15 area. The project commenced in July 2006, and was completed in December 2007. There were six themes within the Meitheal project, including language training and communication skills; access to employment; awareness-raising among employers; culture and the arts; support to isolated adults, and international learning. Meitheal received support from a wide range of statutory agencies and community organisations, and the Partnership will continue to work with each of these agencies and organisations to ensure that the needs of refugees are met in a planned and focused manner.

Effective Use of Resources

The Cohesion process, charity legislation and a tight budget require the Partnership to use its resources effectively and remain transparent in how those resources are used. A continuing requirement of core funders is that the Partnership leverages additional funding where appropriate and this approach must be used in whatever actions the Partnership initiates to realise **Vision 2016**. Leveraging of funding also supports interagency work and is core to the Partnership's financial planning processes.

Due to the tight financial budget the Partnership operates under, Value For Money is a concept that the Partnership actively pursues. Wherever possible, the organisation aims to leverage funding between strategic partners with whom they are engaging in interagency initiatives.

Interagency Work

The Partnership can bring communities and people together to successfully pursue an issue of importance to all stakeholders. Blanchardstown Area Partnership prioritises interagency working at every opportunity. The community, voluntary and statutory organisations in Blanchardstown have a long history of working together within and between sectors with the Partnership regularly leading the actions.

The commitment to and support of the Partnership to interagency processes is illustrated by the Equal Interagency action which brought together eight independent agencies from Dublin 15 along with Blanchardstown Area Partnership and Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force. This group developed a process for developing interagency protocols for use with Drug Users/Ex-users and successfully piloted the resulting protocols. The protocols were developed and tested and tracked over a period in each agency.

The processes and protocols developed are still in use by the participating agencies and the process is now being used to develop protocols between the clinical team of the HSE and the community and voluntary sector services. The model is also being adapted by the NDST for use in other areas. The processes and protocols developed can certainly be transferred to a wide range of target groups.

Giving Local Communities a Voice

Along with co-ordinating integrated responses to social exclusion and long-term unemployment the Partnership will continue to provide individuals, local communities and interest groups with an opportunity for a more direct say in the way decisions are made by various bodies, and in how capital infrastructural projects are rolled out.

Protecting Existing Social Capital

Over the coming years the Partnership will continue to support local structures that build upon past achievements. The need to encourage greater involvement by volunteers and people involved in community development activities led to the Partnership's involvement in the establishment of the new Fingal Volunteer Centre. The Volunteer Centre will have a central role in protecting the social capital created within communities over the past decade. Securing the active involvement and participation of the rainbow of nationalities living in Blanchardstown in community development activities is something that the Partnership will further attempt to foster, in order to help break down racial prejudices.

5. Financial Challenges

The main challenge affecting the Partnership's capacity to work with local stakeholders and clients to realise a shared vision for Blanchardstown in 2016 is insufficient funding to offset increased operational costs, based in the dramatic transformation of the local environment. The current economic climate will obviously impact further on the availability of resources. However it is imperative that the Partnership and the communities living in its new and extended catchment area must receive the investment of substantial resources in the coming years.

The current situation has developed despite the Partnership's achievements in promoting social inclusion and responding to community needs as set out on page 23-26 of Appendix A. Initial funding provided under the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme 2000-2006 was insufficient for the size of population and the level of need in 2000, and this situation is even more critical today.

The case for extra resources, based on the changing profile of the area, is clearly laid out in this document. Substantial additional funding will be required for the delivery of social inclusion programmes across the breadth of the Dublin 15 area. The expansion of Ongar, the creation of large estates in the Ward, eg Tyrrelstown, and other estates planned for Abbotstown and Hansfield, among others, will particularly need the support of the Partnership and LDSIP personnel on the ground to promote capacity building and encourage the establishment of community networks.

The agreement of the Cohesion process brings further challenges to the Partnership. The addition of four new EDs in the Partnership's catchment area increases the difficulty of already stretched resources. Residents in recently built estates in the area, such as Tyrrelstown in the Ward, and other estates planned for Hansfield/Barnwall and Abbotstown, will particularly need the support of the Partnership / LES personnel on the ground.

The considerable expansion of the existing catchment area, and the significant increase in population and population diversity, have major implications for the organisation's ability to effectively target its services to those most in need. The continued serious under-funding of the key programmes for the area causes particular difficulty to the organisation.

Set out on page 27 of Appendix B is a comparative list of the funding five Partnership Companies received between January 2003 and December 2006, and their catchment populations. This table captures the relative underfunding of the Blanchardstown Area Partnership at a time of great demographic and social change.

Supported by this document and focusing on our track record of effective use of resources and ability to leverage funding, the Partnership intends to influence and lobby relevant agencies for additional financial resources to meet the challenges identified in this paper and employ the crucial approaches needed to address them.

6. Conclusion

The demographic changes that have occurred in Blanchardstown in recent times pose significant challenges for all agencies working in the area. With over 140 nationalities, Dublin 15 reflects the dramatic and rapid change in Irish society, and this is creating a unique impact on service providers and the community. The increase in unemployment rates in 2008 presents challenges to training, education and other community services. The significant increase in the local pre-school population necessitates the provision of significant numbers of additional pre-school places. In addition, increasing ethnic diversity within the population presents challenges to all sectors, including education with regard to the learning requirements of students, and the resource implications for schools. Finally, the very high youth-at-risk population suggests that the development of appropriate youth, sporting and cultural facilities is a high priority.

In meeting these challenges, Blanchardstown Area Partnership is committed to its role as the lead agency for local development in the Dublin 15 area, with responsibility for strategic planning and co-ordination of activities. The Partnership will continue to work with statutory agencies and Government departments to ensure that maximum resources are made available in the Dublin 15 area to reduce social exclusion. The Staff and Board will also continue to provide access to opportunities in education, in employment and training, so that individuals, families and communities can have access to an improved quality of life.

The Partnership has a track record of successful action on the ground, of timely responses to emerging needs, of a focus on developing strategies which reduce barriers to participation for those most disadvantaged in society. This is exemplified through a practical, problem-solving approach to all its actions. Staff work on the basis of clearly identified local needs, and members of the community are involved in decision making, through participation in the Board and sub-committees. The Partnership also creates and maintains links locally, regionally and nationally, through its membership of bodies such as RAPID, the Local Drugs Task Force, Fingal Development Board, and the PLANET Network of Partnerships.

By virtue of its record of achievement the Partnership is ideally placed to co-ordinate and deliver new pilot actions that help tackle these issues. The structural unemployment experienced by Travellers, refugees and people with disabilities is a priority issue. From 2007 the Partnership has run innovative courses to facilitate the transfer of people from supported employment into the open labour market with the support of FÁS and D/SFA. In the coming years, the Partnership will also be focusing on piloting and introducing new ways of thinking and alternative approaches to working with groups at the greatest risk of social exclusion.

Blanchardstown has experienced a very dramatic transformation this century, and many new areas of housing are being created which have the potential to be the new and vibrant communities of the future. Both these communities and the many individuals within them need appropriate support now to help them build the Blanchardstown of the future. Realistic funding of key programmes for the area is essential if we are to avoid the difficulties experienced by many other areas, both in Ireland and abroad.

We have set out in this document an overview of the work of the Partnership, and the recent difficulties created by the lack of sufficient funding to meet the real and emerging needs of a very diverse population.

Blanchardstown Area Partnership is ideally placed to respond effectively to the needs of what is now virtually a large city on the outskirts of Dublin, rather than a suburb of the city as in the past. We will continue to abide by our logo **Action For Positive Change**, supported by our values of inclusion, equality, empowerment, respect and collaboration.

Appendix A

Blanchardstown Area Partnership's Strategic Objectives and Achievements 2000-2006

In the period since 2000, Blanchardstown Area Partnership pursued a six year strategy "Action for Positive Change" which was developed in consultation with the local community and other relevant stakeholders in the Blanchardstown area. Both this strategy and the mid-term review in 2003 were informed by a consultation process through established structures²².

Blanchardstown Area Partnership has been very successful in the past in identifying key needs within the community, and gaps in service provision. The organisation has also been pivotal in bringing together appropriate organisations, and in working collaboratively to pilot new ideas and programmes in keeping with its four key strategic objectives;

- Delivering effective responses that combat disadvantage and implement actions to promote social inclusion
- Co-ordinating social inclusion measures being implemented in our area, and ensuring maximum allocation of resources to local communities
- Influencing key policy makers and programme providers to ensure that the issues that contribute to poverty are addressed
- Supporting communities to develop their own skills to engage with relevant structures and bring about positive change in their area.

These core strategic objectives were influenced by the three models of partnership developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (1996)²³.

- Service delivery model
- Influencing/Agency model
- Co-ordination /Brokerage model

The paragraphs overleaf provide a brief outline of several key actions and demonstrate how the Partnership has fulfilled its role under the National Development Plan 2000-2006.

²² Consultation involved the Board's Plan Implementation Boards (PIBs), Forum 15, community consultation through door to door surveys in the four RAPID areas, and the input of Board members and Partnership staff.

²³ OECD (1996) Ireland, Local Partnerships and Social Innovation, Paris: OECD

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Delivering effective responses to combat disadvantage



BapTEC is a sustainable IT community enterprise whose establishment was facilitated by the Partnership. Through BapTEC, clients of the Local Employment Service, BOND (Blanchardstown Offenders for New Directions), B2001 and Blanchardstown Training Services have all completed advanced ECDL IT training. Clients of the latter two services are on labour market programmes such as the Full Time Jobs Initiative and Community Employment.

LEARNING @ WORK Programme

Learning@Work is a project set up in Blanchardstown to cater for 17-25 year olds in employment who possess only the Junior Certificate. In 2006 the programme provided support for 18 young people in the area. This project is part of a Dublin wide initiative under the umbrella of the Dublin Employment Pact (DEP) to up-skill individuals who may potentially be unemployed in the future. Strategic partners include FÁS, Dublin Employment Pact, Blanchardstown Chamber, Blanchardstown Youth Service, participating local employers and the Department of Education and Science.



Meitheal was a pilot project funded via the Reception and Integration Agency under the European Refugee Fund to integrate refugees and people with leave to remain in the Dublin 15 area. The project commenced in July 2006, and was completed in December 2007. There were six themes within the Meitheal project, including language training and communication skills; access to employment; awareness raising among employers; culture and the arts; support to isolated adults; and international learning. Meitheal has received support from a wide range of statutory agencies and community organisations, and the Partnership is working with each of these agencies and organisations to ensure that the needs of refugees are met in a planned and focused manner.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Co-ordinating social inclusion measures



Celebrate is the title of an annual inter-cultural event which takes place in October each year. In previous years more than 500 people attended the many different activities and events, which included storytelling and music involving schools, teachers and people from many different nationalities. Music workshops have successfully increased the awareness of musical traditions in other cultures. Each year there is a major concert with music from many countries. Dance is especially used to bring young people together to interact with their peers from other countries.

Blanchardstown Travellers Development Group²⁴ is a joint initiative between the Traveller and settled communities that aims to promote the welfare and human rights of Travellers and to combat social exclusion experienced by Travellers. This is being achieved by building the confidence and skills of Travellers through training courses, enterprise and employment opportunities and by promoting greater gender equality and awareness among Travellers living in the Blanchardstown area. The Partnership has supported Travellers in Blanchardstown in the development of the CDP and by influencing funders to maximise the resources they make available for the CDP to effectively respond to Travellers needs.

The provision of **capital services for youth at risk** in the Blanchardstown area has been a key priority of the Partnership in recent years. The Neighbourhood Youth Project (NYP) is a significant local achievement, and this €1.1 million capital project was completed in 2004. This was a large extension to the building, which allows for greater capacity with the youth project. WEB (Garda Special Projects) will also utilise the facilities. A large new crèche funded by the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform complements this wider service.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Influencing key policy makers and programme providers

The Partnership hosts regular **meetings with local politicians** to discuss issues of mutual concern. These meetings were initiated as part of the process of building better links with local elected representatives. They are also important in responding to elected representatives' need for information on the Partnership's activities. This face to face contact with local politicians is an important means of keeping them informed of the issues impacting upon the Partnership and more importantly its clients. These meetings are occasionally informed by internal policy research completed by the Partnership.

The Partnership has a history of commissioning policy and position papers on key issues. In 2005 the Partnership completed a **specific policy paper**²⁵ that drew attention to several interlinked barriers that people in receipt of private rent supplement experience in accessing employment. The threshold for the retention of secondary benefits has remained unchanged since 1994. This can result in a real loss of income if the wages offered to a person when they take up employment is above the threshold. This poverty trap has enormous repercussions, not only for many Irish single parents who wish to access employment, but also for New Communities living in Blanchardstown.

Also in 2005 the Partnership re-examined its support to asylum seekers and refugees who were living in Blanchardstown. A **policy paper on New Communities** was completed that examined the needs and issues affecting this target groups across areas such as training, education and community development. This paper concurrently informed a funding application submitted to the Reception and Integration Agency, and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform for its work with refugees (Meitheal project).

The Partnership has consistently highlighted the lack of **appropriate education and training facilities** in the area. Work has been ongoing since 2003 with the RAPID Area Implementation Team (AIT) to establish a dedicated education and training centre in the area. The lack of such a centre has made the work of supporting people back into employment more difficult, particularly when residents are required to travel to the city centre to attend training courses.

Following the development of a position paper in 2003, efforts were intensified in late 2005, and in February 2006 a feasibility study was commissioned by the AIT and part-funded by the Partnership. In November 2006 the development of a Strategic Plan and Business Plan were

²⁴ The Traveller Support Group is one of five Community Development Projects in Blanchardstown.

²⁵ Ryan, C. (2005). 'The barriers people who are in receipt of rent supplement and living in private rented accommodation encounter in accessing employment'. Blanchardstown Area Partnership: Dublin.

completed, and FÁS has recently given a decision in principle to establish a Community Training Centre in the area.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Supporting communities to develop their own skills

Since the late 1990s one of the goals of the Blanchardstown Area Partnership has been to develop a well-resourced, accessible, effective Community Forum in Blanchardstown that enables community groups to network, raise issues, consult with statutory agencies, develop common policies, and act as a representation mechanism for a range of local bodies. Subsequently, the Partnership assisted in the formation of **Forum 15**, an independent body with its own Board and administration structure.

A key component of the work of Forum 15 was to facilitate community representation on various local planning bodies such as RAPID and the Local Drugs Task Force, as well as community representatives onto the Partnership's Board and Plan Implementation Boards. A significant benefit for members of the Forum was access to specially designed training programmes, plus the provision of technical assistance facilitation and strategic planning services to member organisations.

The **Involve**²⁶ project aimed to increase the participation of women in decision making in Blanchardstown. The Involve project was funded by the Equality Department of Justice, Equality and Development Plan 2000-2006. An independent evaluation of the Involve Project began in March 2006 and a mid term review was completed in September 2006. The success of the Involve project has been the development of an infrastructure for women's groups that will eventually be transformed into a women's network and increase women's representation on local and regional structures.



The **Community Development Education Group** was established in Dublin 15 because members of local CDPs realised that there was a need to implement a co-ordinated strategy for the provision of community education and training. The Partnership supports this group through staff committee representation and by allocating funding from its LDSIP budget to help run training courses. Many participants who attended courses have since become involved with local Community Drugs Teams, local Area Implementation Teams (AIT) in RAPID areas, CDPs and most recently with the Involve Project.

²⁶ Involve is match funded by Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Blakestown Community Development Project, Corduff Community Development Project, County Dublin VEC Adult Education Service Dublin 15, Greater Blanchardstown Development Project, Fingal County Council, and Mountview Family Resource Centre.

Appendix B

Schedule of Grant Payments Local Development Social Inclusion Programme

Period of January 2003 - December 2006

Partnership	Population 2002	Funding				Population 2006
		2003	2004	2005	2006	
Ballymun	30,318	850,217	773,697	854,869	919,175	30,876
Ballyfermot	23,050	738,113	680,567	756,218	815,572	23,870
Blanchardstown	50,607	735,001	729,179	805,036	862,894	90,974
Clondalkin	89,012	1,121,814	1,043,287	1,151,046	1,221,886	93,836
KWCD	50,091	944,685	869,110	961,672	1,023,355	48,966

LDSIP Target Groups Comparison

2002 v 2006

Target Group	2002	2006 ²⁷	Existing Catchment Area + / -
Unemployed	2,608	4,786	+2,178
Unemployed ²⁸	2,863	5,064	+2,201
People With Disabilities	3,119	5,485	+2,366
Ethnic Minorities	5,509	18,864	+13,355
Homeless ²⁹	51	104	+53
Youth At Risk	12,082	21,564	+9,482
Pre-School Population	3,670	7,316	+3,646
Older Persons	1,683	3,317	+1,634
Lone Parents,	2,187	10,249	+8,062

²⁷ New Catchment Area 12 Electoral Divisions

²⁸ Live Register for Blanchardstown

²⁹ Homeless Persons Unit, HSE

All Children			
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Appendix C

Deprivation Scores – Categories for each Area³⁰

A deprivation score is a single figure that indicates the level of deprivation or affluence in a specific electoral district during a census year. It is calculated by combining data obtained from the Census under the following three categories for each area:

Demographic Decline

- Percentage of population aged under 16 or over 65
- Percentage of population with primary school education only
- Percentage of population with a third level education
- Percentage of households with children aged 15 and under headed by a single parent
- Percentage change in population over the previous five years

Social Class Disadvantage

- Percentage of population with primary school education only
- Percentage of population with a third level education
- Percentage of households headed by professionals, or managerial and technical employees, including farmers with 100 acres or more
- Mean number of persons per room
- Percentage of households headed by semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers, including farmers with less than 30 acres

Labour Market Deprivation

- Percentage of households headed by semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers, including farmers with less than 30 acres
- Percentage of households with children aged 15 and under headed by a single parent
- Male employment rate
- Female employment rate.

This data, aggregated into a single figure, represents 'Overall Affluence and Disadvantage', and can range on a scale from -50 (most disadvantaged) to +50 (most affluent).

³⁰ "Meeting the Needs of One Parent Families in Limerick City", POBAL, 2008