

**Overview of
Blanchardstown Area Partnership's
Achievements for
2007**



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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
BTS	Blanchardstown Training Services
BTWEA	Back to Work Enterprise Allowance
CBYI	Community Youth Based Initiative
CDB	County Development Board
CDP	Community Development Project
CDT	Community Drugs Team
CE	Community Employment
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
NUI	National University of Ireland
NYP	Neighbourhood Youth Project
PIB	Planning Implementation Board
POBAL	Formerly Area Development Management Ltd.
ROOFS	Blanchardstown Homeless Group
SE	Social Economy
SFTU	Services for the Unemployed
CDVEC	County Dublin Vocational Education Committee

Section 1

Headline Achievements and Challenges

Services for the Unemployed (Reintegrating People into the Workforce)

- 718 individuals received one to one supports via the Partnership and other agencies ¹ across the services for the unemployed measure.
- 413 of these individuals attended training courses.
- 225 individuals received pre-start up enterprise supports.
- 55 new enterprises were set up with the support of Enterprise Officer in conjunction with the local Social Welfare Office resulting in the creation of 91 new net jobs.
- 601 adult received information and advice via the Adult and Education Forum and Enterprise Workshops.

Community Development

- 500 individuals attended the many musical and cultural activities organised via Celebrate during the month of October.
- 5 established community groups were supported by the community development team in 2007. These included a disability accessibility group and a community development education group now in operation for several years.
- 12 networks and collaborations were also supported by Partnership staff. These local and regional networks including Forum 15, Volunteer Bureau and the Fingal County Childcare Committee.

Community Youth Based Initiatives (Educational Supports to youth, parents and teachers)

- 559 children and 193 adults received support under the community based youth measure.
- Traveller children
- 5 actions aiming to prevent early school leaving received LDSIP funding.
- 2 actions promoting developmental youth work also received LDSIP funding.
- 3 training of trainers courses were organised with the support of the Education Co-ordinator.
- 1 action addressing the needs of early school leavers was supported via LDSIP funding.

Outside of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme

- 546 new clients registered with the Local Employment Services in 2007.
- Carer's Day organised by LES / Meitheal.
- 144 individuals received help with attending 3rd level education via the Millennium Programme.
- Involve Project– in which 60 women participated in Capacity building training across 3 strands came to a conclusion.

¹ BAPTEC Ltd, Mobile Information Unit / Blanchardstown Centre for the Unemployed , Full Time Job Initiative

Equality, Poverty and Gender Proofing Issues

- Continuing imbalance between females (62%) and males (38%) supported via the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme.
- 41% of the Partnership caseload reported to be long term unemployed in 2007. This was lower than projected.
- 34% of Partnership clients across Measure A were reported to be refugees or people with leave to remain.
- Very low numbers of Travellers (5) were supported under the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme across the Services for the Unemployed measure. Travellers are also accessing employment supports through the Local Employment Services in equally low numbers (5) it is probable that the same client is being supported by BAP and the LES. This means that a lower number of these target groups are being supported than appears to be case.
- 46 people with a disability were supported in 2007 which is a significant increase on recent years. The mobile information unit was primarily responsible for reaching person who have a disability.

Table 1

**Comparison of quantitative targets for all of 2007 across the LDSIP Measures,
Versus the actual results attained**

Services for the Unemployed Measure A

Indicators	Target Goal	Attained	Net Result
Number of individuals supported- Case Load	521	718	+197
Number of long term unemployed people supported	287	340	+53
Individuals receiving pre-start up enterprise supported	80	225	+145
New Enterprises >12 months Supported	15	71?	+56
Established Enterprises < 12 months Supported	8	11	+3
No of jobs created in Micro Enterprises	19	91	+72
Social Economy Enterprises > 12 months Supported	1	1	Attained
Individual receiving education supports	55	22	-33
Individuals receiving training supports	310	413	+103
Individuals receiving recognised certification	160	176	+16
No's engaged through information and dissemination	685	601	-84
Networks and Collaborations Supported	10	10	Attained

Community Development Measure B

Indicators	Target Goal	Attained	Net Result
New community groups supported	4	3	-1
Established community groups supported	13	5	-8
Pre-development community groups supported	2	2	Attained
Community groups receiving training supports	1		
No's engaged through information and promotion initiatives	500	580	+80
Environment and Infrastructure Initiatives receiving support	1	0	-1
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	980	657	-323
Number of adults supported (parents & teachers)	117	193	+76
Number of preventing early school leaving initiatives	3	5	+2
Number of promoting developmental youth work initiatives	3	2	-1
Number of initiatives addressing the needs of early school leavers	1	1	Attained
No of initiatives supporting access to further & 3 rd level education	2	1	-1
CBYI Networks and Collaborations supported	4	0	-4
CBY Initiative-Research and Promotion of Equality	1	0	-1
CBY Initiative- Training of trainers	1	3	+2

Section 2

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

1. Background

Since 2002 the level of unemployment across Blanchardstown rose from 9.8 per cent up to 11.13 per cent of the labour force². Unemployment remains a reality for large sections of the population and it is significantly higher than the national average of 8.5 per cent or Dublin's rate of 7 per cent. The *average unemployment rate* for Blanchardstown disguises the double-digit unemployment rate that still prevail in several neighbourhoods as can be ascertained from table 2.

Table 2
Unemployment Rates Across Blanchardstown's ED's

ED	Unemployed % 2006	Unemployed		Unemployed % 2002
		Looking for 1 st 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

Unemployment levels in Tyrrelstown and Coolmine are higher than four years ago and are akin to national unemployment levels experienced in the late 80's and early 90's before the 'Celtic Tiger' boom years. On a positive note the unemployment levels declined in Corduff and Mulhuddart EDs but more significantly in Abbotstown.

The Blanchardstown Office of the Department of Social and Family Affairs reported 3,736 persons, signing on the live register at the beginning of January 2008³. This represents an increase of 294 persons from twelve months beforehand.

According to (Eustace and Clarke, 2007 p.3) 'the partnerships play an important role in **activating** clients, i.e. getting them 'kick started' onto a progression path. This is achieved during the early stages of the process of engagement (i.e. first six months) and includes one to one sessions, mediation, needs analysis and supporting clients to access work, self-employment, training or education. This is often followed by a period of **maintenance** and in many cases, stability, during which clients are actively pursuing their progression path with support from the Partnership and/or other service providers, e.g. CE supervisors, training agencies, employers, etc. This period can last anything from 3 months to two years based on the results of this research'.

The results show that in the majority of cases (estimated 65%-75%) clients become self reliant and satisfied with their status and can in effect be classed as 'closed' cases unless they encounter some crisis in their lives, e.g. ill health, loss of employment, change in domestic circumstances, bereavement, etc. The

² 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.

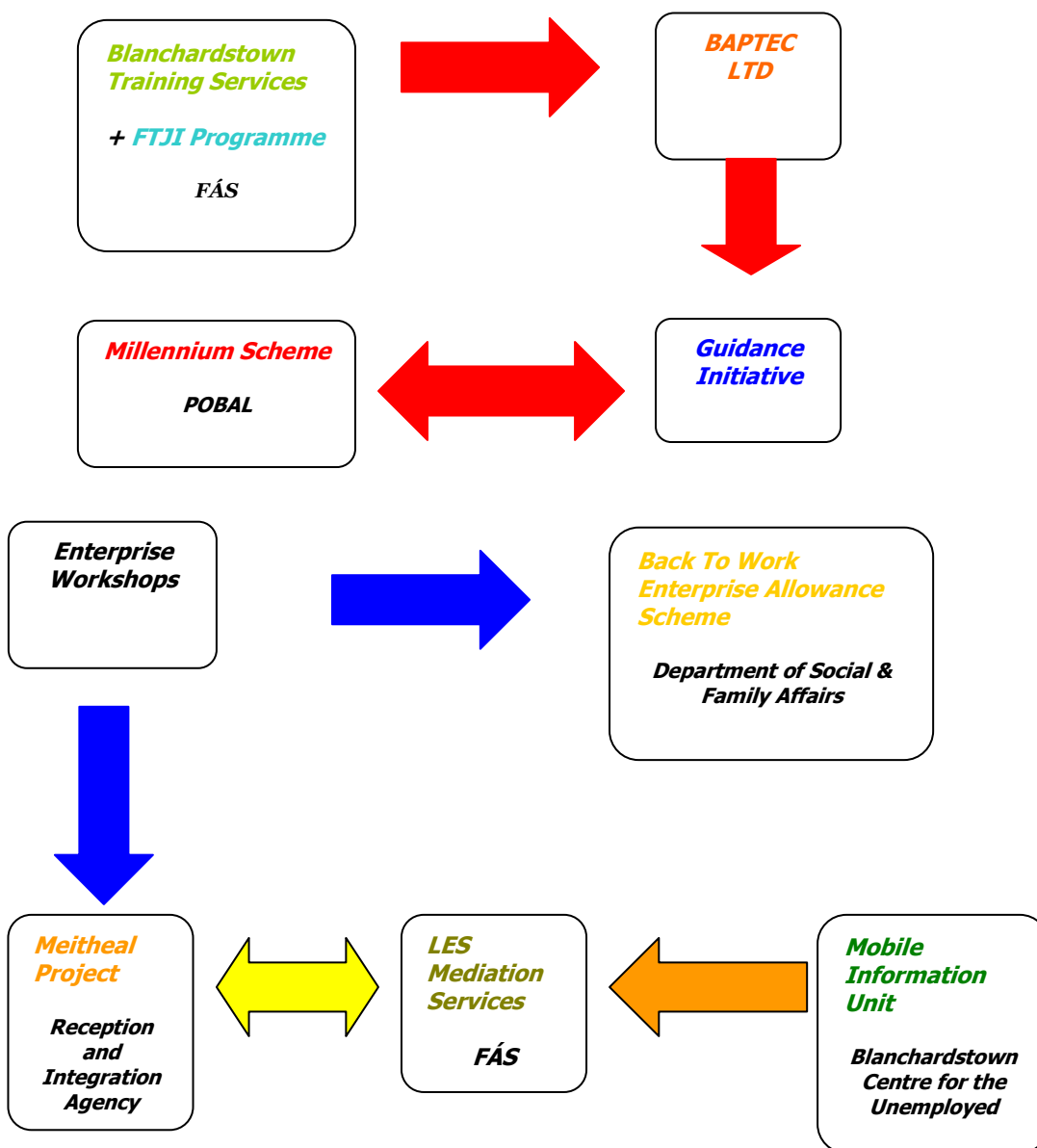
³ Central Statistics Office

results also point, perhaps more importantly, to a cohort of clients, (estimated at around 25%) who continue to face challenges in their search for employment or self employment or indeed a sense of good health and well being. This cohort is significant and their needs are complex in that they can include any combination of issues relating to health, housing, personal trauma, social welfare/financial difficulties, motivation, childcare, rehabilitation, etc. The research shows that this cohort require more specific, tailored and targeted aftercare support system, ideally one that is integrated across services, i.e. adopts a case management type model whereby agencies work together to address the range of needs of each case.

Diagram 1 depicts the manner in which clients are cross referred between different initiatives supported by the Partnership throughout Blanchardstown, in an effort to combat unemployment through education and training programmes. **Some of these are based upon contractual relationships have been in existence for several years such as BAPTEC, Blanchardstown Centre for the Unemployed and the Full Time Jobs Initiative.**

Diagram 1

Inter-referrals of BAP clients under Services for the Unemployed Measure A



Following on is an explanation of Partnership / LES activity across Measure A according to the support codes drawn up by POBAL and captured via Scope. A full explanation of *these codes* is contained in the appendix.

2. Introduction

Service Delivery Model

Advice and guidance supports (A01)

The **Partnerships recorded its largest case load across Measure A** since the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme began. **718 adults receiving advice and guidance supports (A01) in 2007**. This is almost 200 more adults than in previous years. All of these individuals received a combination of an education, training, or advice and guidance support from a designated contact person.

The Mobile Information Unit operated by the **Blanchardstown Centre for the Unemployed referred on 107 individuals to the Partnership / LES**. The unit provides long-term unemployed individuals in Blanchardstown 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. The BCU recently decided to change the locations and times at which the MIU operates. This is in response to the changing profile and geographical expansion of Blanchardstown.

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

225 individuals met with the Enterprise Officer for face-to-face pre-enterprise advice. This is an intensive support session lasting possibly several hours.

71 new enterprises were subsequently created, many of whom availed of the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance scheme in turn creating additional local employment. These outputs are significantly higher than anticipated and indicative of the changing profile of clients approaching the Partnership for supports. The majority of these clients were people with leave to remain or refugees.

Education Supports (A02)

22 individuals received educational supports which was less than anticipated. Through the Meitheal Project alone, 16 refugees attended a beginners English language course plus a separate English language and Jobs Club. LES staff supported the latter activity. Meitheal's Outreach Worker had a central role to play in identifying adults often isolated and detached from services in the new areas such as Mount Simon and Ongar.

Training Supports and Certification (A03)

413 Partnership clients attended training courses tailored made to support and to encourage them back into employment. This was well beyond target.

BAPTEC Ltd, the Full Time Jobs Initiative Programme Blanchardstown Training Services (BTS), all delivered training supports for Partnership clients. The FTJI specifically referred many of their clients to BAPTEC Ltd to attend an I.T. computer module.



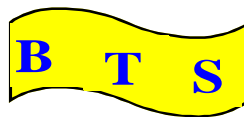
BAPTEC Ltd, which is now managed by Jenny Cruise, provided training for 270 Partnership clients in 2007 across 39 courses. 37% of the Partnership caseload across SFTU Measure therefore attended training delivered by BAPTEC alone. Full Time Jobs Initiative and Blanchardstown Training Services clients attended several of the courses delivered by BAPTEC Ltd from Tás Accounts, ECDL and Payroll, File Management, Mos Excel and Introduction to Computers. BAPTEC was originally set up as a Partnership Initiative in 1998. It became a Company limited by Guarantee in 1999. It is now a thriving community business and is grant aided under the Community Services Programme. The Partnership supports BAPTEC financially and also the Deputy Manager is part of the Management Group and Chair of the Board of Directors. BAPTEC also provided IT training to LES attending Future Options Courses.

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 twice a week over an 8 week period.

- Introduction to computers
- Telephone Skills and Customer Service
- Business English
- Future Options and Planning

Full Time Jobs Initiative (FTJI) co-ordinated by Deirdre Rossiter delivered or **organised 18 courses for 29 individuals on this labour market programme.** These courses included a carer's course, youth studies and TAS books. A number of participants completed training in a range of Holistic Therapies, which they offer to others on the project. 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.

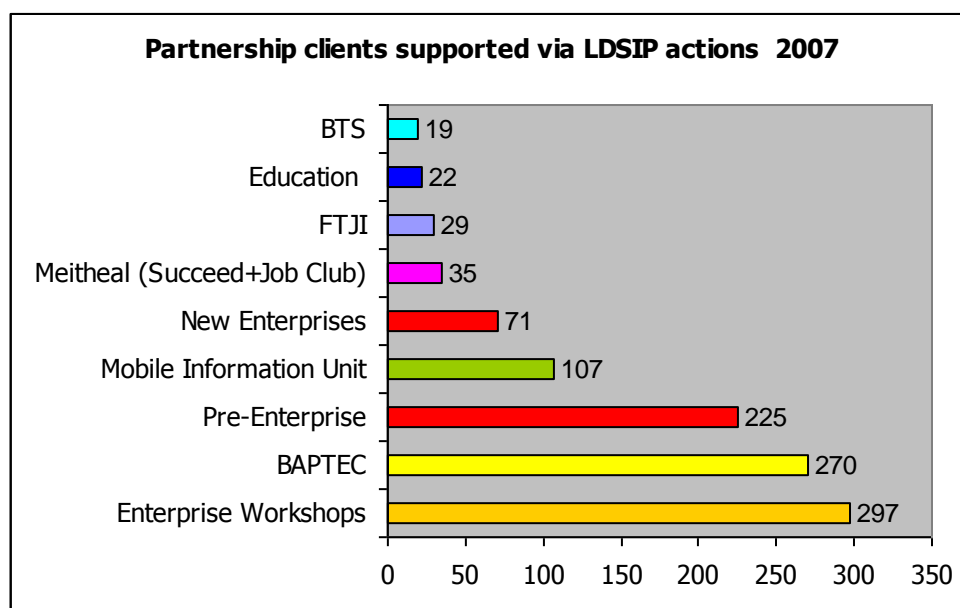


BLANCHARDSTOWN TRAINING SERVICES

Blanchardstown Training Services (BTS) delivered its final course in **Food and Cookery.** The Partnership worked with FÁS during 2006 to try and identify new opportunities, but these were not successful and **BTS formally closed on 6th March 2007.** During its height of operation, Blanchardstown Training Services was successful in reaching many isolated target groups such as single parents. However, in late 2005 FÁS indicated to the Partnership that it was reconsidering the funding of BTS, due to a number of internal changes in the delivery of training to CE participants.

176 clients that attended the various training courses were subsequently awarded a training certificate. In theory this should increase individuals' chances of gaining employment in the medium term to longer term. The majority of the certificates were awarded as a result of people completing BAPTEC training. The remainder were people on the FTJI Programme.

Bar Chart 1



Influencing Activity

Management and staff often act as Chairpersons of particular networks and collaborations⁴. This would generally require a greater time commitment and work load than if they were ordinary sitting members of a network. It should be borne in mind that capacity building work and the strengthening of local social partnership arrangements is often as a consequence of many different stakeholders coming together to arrive at joint solutions to issues. Board and PIB members are sometimes members of these local and regional networks.

Information and Dissemination (A14)

Enterprise Workshops



The Enterprise Officer delivered workshops for 297 individuals covering specific themes such as taxation, business planning and cash management. 14 are considered clients of the Meitheal Project. These particular individuals attended either taxation for ethnic minorities or participated in a separate initiative called SUCCEED.

Blanchardstown Area Partnership Website



The Enterprise Officer has co-ordinated the upkeep of the Partnership's new 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 2007 there were 9,539 unique visitors to the new website. Including revisits there were 15,476 visitors with a surprisingly high level of 'hits' from abroad.**

Adult Education Providers Forum

The Partnership allocated a small financial contribution towards this 3rd level promotional event held in December 2007. 20 colleges and 12 schools were represented **Approximately 400 students attended.** A series of workshops were organised and speed career guidance to promote the participation by disadvantaged students at 3rd level.

⁴ Can be defined as structure involving groups who have come together for some purpose or mutual benefit

Update on Research Activity

Removing the Boundaries Building on the Foundation for Social Inclusion in Fingal 80:20

Dr Helen Johnston, former Director of the Combat Poverty Agency, launched the above report in May 2007 on behalf of the **Fingal County Coverage Working Group**⁵. The overall objective of this research is to inform a strategic plan for extension of the LDSIP to ensure greater cohesion in service delivery throughout Fingal and within this, to identify geographical and target group needs in parts of the County⁶ that do not currently have access to the local LDSIP. The report's recommendations have been taken on board by the various agencies.

Position Paper

The Partnership established an internal working group consisting of staff and management to write up a Partnership Position Paper. It will primarily serve as a tool to attract additional funding to the Blanchardstown Area Partnership. This paper was discussed at PIB level and Board level and it was circulated to the Partnerships Board in October for comments and feedback. This paper sets out the vision of the Partnership its updated strategic objectives plus much detail relating to its past achievements and the challenges facing the Blanchardstown area.

Services for the Unemployed Impact Case Study

POBAL organised a final seminar around this case study in May. The learning from this two years longitudinal study was fed into the Department of Community, Gaeltacht and Rural Affairs. One of the report's recommendations centred on the need to develop new indicators to capture the soft supports of Partnership interventions e.g. psychological impacts.

Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Study 2001-2005

Almost 600 former and present clients were surveyed via postal questionnaires. These individuals approached the Partnership from 2001-2005 and sought enterprise supports. On the basis of the advice and guidance supports provided, they would either have set up their own business, or decided not to. In order to seek the views of people who registered a business under the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme, and those who only received pre-enterprise supports, two distinct questionnaires were compiled and distributed.

The objectives of this above exercise were as follows;

- To consult with all the clients who approached the Partnership from 2001-2005 who sought enterprise supports.
- To provide this caseload of clients with an opportunity to give feedback, regarding the quality of the supports they received.
- To try and establish the circumstances of pre-enterprise clients who never revisited the Partnership.
- To try and establish the circumstances of Back To Work Enterprise Allowance clients, who theoretically could have entered the second, third and fourth year of operation.
- To determine how the Enterprise function of the Partnership could change and adapt to meet the needs of a greater number of clients.
- To fulfil the obligations of the Blanchardstown Area Partnership to consult with its stakeholders periodically, which in turn will inform its new Area Action Plan 2007-2012.

Each of these reports are available to download from the Partnership's new website under reports and publications section.

Focus Groups

Two focus groups with Irish and foreign nationals who had set up a business who organised as a follow on to the above survey. This yielded valuable information for the Enterprise Officer such as the need to establish network for new enterprises as a support mechanism.

⁵ Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal, Fingal County Council, Fingal County Council, Fingal County Development Board, Regional Drugs Task Force, LEADER,

⁶ Castleknockmaroon, Castleknock Park, North Lucan and The Ward

Blanchardstown Local Employment Service (A15)



Strategy-Mediation, Information and Guidance

LES mediators engaged with 546 new clients in 2007. Blanchardstown Local Employment Services has strategic contact points located geographically across Blanchardstown in Dillon House Coolmine Industrial Park, Corduff, Blakestown, Mountview and Parslickstown House. In relation to the key issue of progression,

- 127 clients attended training courses,
- 58 availed of education supports and
- 152 progressed into employment.

For a full breakdown of the target groups supported by the LES please refer to page x in the appendix. As with the LDSIP it should be a cause of concern that Travellers and people with disabilities are engaging with the service in relatively low numbers. 38% of the LES caseload was composed of ethnic minorities. This is indicative of the large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers who face particular difficulties in finding employment.

Networks and Collaborations (A16)

Fingal County Development Board

Partnership staff actively participate in a number of actions within the FDB Strategy into Action 2006-2008, including the development of a multi-agency awareness training programme on cultural diversity, linked to improving translation services for minority ethnic groups (Actions 6 and 7); providing a baseline review of Disability and Access-related issues (Action 8); Employment inequalities among Travellers (Action 9); Joint Policing Countywide Committee (Action 13); together with the following:

Action 5: Devising a new range of responses for Minority Ethnic Groups

The Partnership Manager chairs this action group, which includes FÁS, County Dublin VEC, Department of Education, Co-operation Fingal, County Enterprise Board 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 a document has been commissioned for presentation to the D/ETE. The range of options will include the learning from Partnership action through the Meitheal project, including SUCCEED.

RAPID ⁷

The Partnership Manager Linda Curran is Chair of the RAPID Area Implementation Team (AIT). Along with the RAPID Co-ordinator Breffni O'Rourke, she has overseen the co-ordination of actions in RAPID areas. The RAPID programme currently covers five main themes:

- Youth, education and training
- Health and well-being
- Crime, drugs and anti social behaviour
- Physical environment and infrastructure
- Strengthening communities

⁷ 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

A new area action is presently being developed following a strategic review of the original RAPID Plan last year. The RAPID AIT has also been working hard to ensure the provision of additional training facilities in D15. The Partnership Manager chairs a sub-group of the AIT, which includes FÁS, Co Dublin VEC and Blanchardstown Youth Services, and in 2006 a Feasibility Study, Strategic Plan and Business Plan were all completed. In the first half of 2007, the Board of Blanchardstown Community Training Centre has been established, and application was made to Fingal County Council for planning permission and fire safety certificate for refurbishment of the ground floor of Dillon House. Once these documents were received, application will be made to FAS for a refurbishment and fit-out budget, followed by an operational budget for the Centre.

Local Drugs Task Force (LDTF)

Linda Curran was elected Vice-Chair of the LDTF in 2006. As well as attending all meetings of the Task Force, the Manager is also chair of the Planning and Evaluation sub-committee which is responsible for identifying models and standards of best practice on behalf of the Task Force. The Task Force is currently undertaking the development of a new Strategic Plan and for this is expected to be completed shortly. A new Co-ordinator, Brid Walsh was recently appointed.

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.

As part of an internal discussion within the Partnership it was agreed by the Programme Co-ordination Team that a request be sent out to the Managers of local projects such as the LDTF and RAPID to improve communications around all projects.

Dublin Employment Pact

The Education Co-ordinator Catherine Durkin represents the Partnership on the Board of the DEP, and is Chair of its Education Group. A considerable degree of planning work over the period in question across a range of innovative projects took place. It is envisaged that these projects will be at the implementation phase in the second half of the year. In the first quarter the outcomes of the SILL-Net Life Long Learning EURO project were accessed. The advance work in regard to the completion of a booklet for ex-prisoners in the Dublin region was completed. The research phase is now underway. A literacy project for primary schools

Blanchardstown Chamber of Commerce

The Partnership were founder members of the Chamber of Commerce and value the relationship built up over the intervening years. The Deputy Manager represents the Partnership on the Chamber Council. The Chamber representative on the Partnership Board, Colm Ó Maolmhuire, is currently Chairperson of the Partnership board. The Partnership use the Chamber as one of our networking channels to the private sector companies in the Dublin 15 area.

Co-ordination Activity

Millennium Programme

The Education Co-ordinator and the Millennium Fund Assistant Noelene Reid administer the Millennium programme on behalf of Pobal. **144 adults received financial supports in 2007, or 97 women and 47 men.** Recipients must be a resident of, or their family home must be located within, the Partnership or Community Group area. Applications from RAPID areas are prioritised within the application process. The Partnership received notification from POBAL that its allocation has been increased to € 98,000 for 2007.

Employment Unit

Although funded through the LES budget the Employers Unit is a strategic part of BAP's Economic Strand. This unit is currently staffed by Paula Murray and Sandra Dignam. This unit is BAP's link to employers in the Dublin 15 area and has built up a particular expertise. The unit is in fact a "Social Recruitment Agency" and as such deals with the job placement aspects of the majority of BAP and all of LES clients. In addition to its 'core work' of linking with employers, the unit linked with the Blanchardstown EQUAL Initiative and Blanchardstown Chamber to help deliver Equal's 3rd theme 'Working with Employers'. The unit is also central to the deliver of the Meitheal Employers Theme. In June a Carer's Day was organised for over 50 participants some who were clients of Meitheal

Employers Network

Blanchardstown Area Partnership places great value on its contact with employers and appreciates the support that it receive from them in its work for social inclusion. In the past the Partnership looked to employers for client placements only, but in recent years a different approach has been employed, in fact a community development approach. This involves looking at employers' needs and how their diverse workforces might be supported.

A former Partnership initiative, EQUAL, worked with employers and an employers focus group was developed. The membership of the group included IBM, Symantec, Xerox, as well as the Blanchardstown Chamber, and two small businesses from the area that are Chamber members. Although the EQUAL project finished its work in May 2005 and the Partnership retained the employers group in existence, to use as an expert focus group or reference group (Employers Network). The membership has expanded to include Xerox, Multiflex and some other SME's. The Network meets a several times per year and is chaired and supported by the Deputy Manager. This group is now at the heart of the Partnership's strategy for working with Employers and has been central to the Meitheal Employers actions.

The Employers Network in collaboration with the Meitheal Project and the Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown hosted the workshop entitled 'Managing for Diversity' in November 2006. The workshop was attended by a total of 29 managers from 21 different firms. Paula Murray from the Employment Unit was central to planning and driving this action alongside the Co-ordinator of the Meitheal Project.

New Work-

A Career Information Morning for the Caring Profession took place in June to give LES clients an insight into the reality of working in the caring profession. The morning focused on many aspects of the caring profession but principally on care of the elderly. 4 speakers⁸ gave input on the morning and an interactive questions and answer session followed whereby the audience asked the panel questions about the caring profession. Participants also had the chance to speak to recruiting employers from the Caring Sector including New Park Care Centre, Casa Carers and Home Instead Care Agency. There was also a representative from Social Welfare who was there to answer social welfare queries from client.

⁸ Peter Leonard, Carers Association, Shonagh Rusk Manager of the HSE Homehelp Service in North West Dublin, Deirdre Donohue, the Health Care Assistant Coordinator with Connolly Hospital, Joy Adindu LES/Joblink client

Outcomes

- 39 clients were provided with additional information and knowledge required to access pathways for employment in the field of healthcare.
- 6 employers gained additional information regarding the role of the Local Employment Services and the Meitheal Project and how these might be of benefit whilst recruitment into the sector is under consideration.
- Creative opportunities were provided for information exchange between the workshop participants and employers.
- A possible follow up training course is currently being negotiated with the Carers Association, Social Welfare and LES/Joblink. The course will specifically be designed to meet the needs of Employers and the client group in attendance.
- Links were created between major local employers in this sector and the LES/Joblink.
- A robust model for collaboration was developed and this may be applied by the LES for other professions/sectors of interest to LES clients.

Section 3

Community Development (Overseen by the Community PIB)

Background

An Understanding of Community Development

POBAL⁹ view Community Work as the term used to describe collective activity focused on elevating the position of people experiencing disadvantage, poverty and discrimination. It is a process concerned with enabling people to enhance their capacity to play a role in the society of which they are a part. As the ability to participate fully in society is less open to some groups, the priority of community work is to engage with the most marginalised and socially excluded groups and communities.

Community development involves itself with working with these target groups to help them identify and articulate their needs and viewpoints and to work collectively to influence the processes that structure their lives. It is a crucial element within local development as it builds the capacity of communities to tackle social exclusion and to plan and work towards the social and economic development of their communities.

Community development activity is concerned with meeting the needs of target groups and with enhancing the capacity of these groups to a position where they can participate as equals in local development planning and implementation.

Several Partnership staff members interact with community groups and organisations in Blanchardstown at a local level. However, increasingly staff members are also committed to supporting regional collaborations established through the Fingal County Development Board. This in part reflects the changing community development / political landscape, as a result of the Cohesion process. Due to the way in which community development operates staff members often sit on committees that involve numerous other agencies several of whom can be Directors of the Partnership itself or PIB members.

Influencing Model

3 groups at a pre-development stage¹⁰, 3 new groups, 5 established groups, and 14 networks¹¹ all received supports from Partnership staff. Some community groups' and networks' focus can effectively cut across all three measures of the LDSIP. Following on is a brief description of some of the outcomes to emerge via these structures.

Pre-Development Group (B01)

Older Persons

A strategic decision was taken by the organisation to start supporting older persons in Blanchardstown in 2007. As a result the Partnerships Community Links Worker Lilian Harris started to work with an older persons group in May of '07. It is anticipated that through this engagement older people will have access to educational, cultural and social activities of their choosing plus the opportunity to develop their potential.

To date three social events were organised for the Bhealtaine festival during May. A number of established groups including Rosaleen Kinane's over 55's C.E. participants were consulted with. The use of internet and email emerged as the most requested need from older persons. This has been organised here in BAP, and a tutor has been engaged for 10 weeks for the first group. They are now at week 4. There is a waiting list

⁹ Area Development Management (2002) Enhancing the Capacity of the Community Sector to Participate in Local Social Partnership Arrangements

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Network 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.

for the next course which will hopefully run later in the year. Plans are also in place to have time allocated for them to access computers on another afternoon since most of them do not have computers at home.

Three information/conferences are planned dealing with older persons issues for 2008.

Disability Interest Group. The Partnerships other Community Worker Pauline Mangan helped resource and support several meetings with this group in developing its strategic aims and objectives in the first half of 2007. It hopes to support its local members challenge issues of concern to people with disabilities.

Mothers Parents and Toddlers Group –

This group has received funding from a local charity and the **Partnership has also provided a small allocation of LDSIP funding under Measure B to support this group.** Amanda Riordan, a resident of Blanchardstown, has recently set up the Cando club which is a social club for children with disabilities and their parents. It operates out of the new Corduff Sports Centre.

Established and New Groups (B02/B03)

Blanchardstown Community Development Education Group (Established)

The Partnerships Community Links Worker Lilian Harris continued to directly and indirectly support the local Community Development Education Group¹² in 2007. 16 participants completed a community leadership course and 10 more attended and received certificates in advanced facilitation training. BAP allocated € from its LDSIP budget to help run out this course Three members of the group trained as trainers in anti-racism training. In May the Blakestown CDP launched an independent evaluation report of previous training co-ordinated by the group. Lilian had an input towards this process.

Centre for Independent Living (Established)

Pauline represents the Partnership on Fingal's 'Access for All' Implementation Group, which is examining the accessibility of public buildings throughout the county.

BOND (Established)

The Education Co-ordinator Catherine Durkin continues to sit on the Board of this project targeted at 16-25 year old former prisoners and funded by Probation and Welfare Services, County Dublin VEC and YPFAP. Padua is a new residential centre developed by Bond, in collaboration with Fingal County Council and HSE for homeless young ex-offenders.

Fingal Ethnic Minorities Group¹³ (New)

This is a Fingal county wide multi agency group that Lilian Harris is a member of which aims to map the activities of groups working with new communities in Fingal. It will formalise links with NGOs working in this area and develop direct communication with minority communities at local level. It is also hoped that it will influence policy to ensure full cultural, economic and social inclusion of people from minority communities who live in Fingal.

Health Service Executive North West Dublin Implementation Group (New)

In 2004 "Mulhuddart Primary Health Research Report" identified the health needs of people living in Mulhuddart. This piece of research was used to lobby and influence the development of a primary health care centre for the Mulhuddart area. In 2006 the HSE North West Dublin Implementation Group of Primary Care Teams in Development met to consider these needs.

¹² 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 .

¹³ Lead Agency: Fingal County Council; Partners: FDB, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Co-operation Fingal, Immigrant Council of Ireland, CIC, Cairdre, New Communities Partnership, Romanian Community Swords

BAP through Lilian Harris is a member of the HSE North West Dublin Implementation Group and also of the Blanchardstown Sub-group. The group's role is to identify and develop Primary Health Care Centres in the Blanchardstown area. BAP will support the group and continue to lobby for appropriate healthcare facility in the Blanchardstown area in accordance with the Health Strand of its six year Area Action Plan 2000-2006.

Data from the 2006 Census shows that the pre-school population (0-3 years) of Blanchardstown rose by forty nine per cent or 1,794 children in just four years. The percentage of the overall population therefore falling across these age cohorts in 2006 was 8.66 per cent. The majority of the net increase occurred across the Blakestown ED (+1170). This massive increase in the pre-school population will place additional pressures on the already overstretched local community and private childcare crèches, and Montessori's which have large waiting lists.

Since Pauline Mangan's appointment to the Community Development Team, she has met with the Managers of the following community crèches and community structures:

- Corduff Community Crèche
- Huntstown Community Crèche
- Mountview Community Crèche
- Blakestown Community Crèche
- Blakestown & Mountview NYP Crèche
- Barnardos
- Family Support and Childcare Providers Network ¹⁴
- Fingal County Childcare Committee
- Blakestown Community Development Project
- Greater Blanchardstown Development Project
- Mountview Family Resource Centre

This provided her with an opportunity to clarify with each of them her work brief. In turn it also allowed her to identify additional levels of support each crèche required. Following these meetings, Pauline, in consultation with the Deputy Manager agreed join the management committees of Little Learners Crèche in Parslickstown, Kidz Zone in Mulhuddart and Blakestown Crèche. These committees need support with specific issues and the work will be task focussed and for a short period of time

The information garnered from the quarterly meetings of the crèches and networks are in turn fed back into the Fingal County Childcare Committee¹⁵. Pauline is also an active member of a sub-group of FCCC that appraises funding proposals for capital projects. These are in turn approved or rejected by POBAL.

Estate Management Group (Established)

An estate management report was launched towards the end of 2007. Pauline Mangan continues to represent the Partnership on this group¹⁶. The report will act as a blueprint for estate management practice. A meeting to review a report that examined estate management practice and resolve how its recommendations can realistically be implemented has been held.

Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group (Established)

Pauline is continuing to support the management committee to develop its new 3 year strategic plan. The BTDG aims to promote the welfare and human rights of Travellers and also to combat the social exclusion experienced by them. At a regional level Pauline is also representing the Partnership on the Fingal Inter Agency Traveller Group. This is a new structure that in time will help draw up a multi-agency plan for Travellers in Fingal in collaboration with all service providers.

¹⁴ HSE, social workers, Homestart, NYP, Barnardos

¹⁵ Co-operation Fingal, FÁS, VEC, County Enterprise Board, Chamber of Commerce, Childminding Ireland

¹⁶ Representatives on this group include Blakestown, Corduff and Greater Blanchardstown CDP's, Co-operation Fingal, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, RAPID, plus staff from the Housing and Community Departments within Fingal County Council.

Networks (B04)

BARN

The Partnership's Community Links Worker was Chairperson of this network from 2005 up until the springtime of 2007. Its members took the decision in 2007 to discontinue the network as many of its activities had been mainstreamed. Throughout its existence the BARN network supported many initiatives such as anti-racism work within schools and multicultural mornings in Blakestown and Mulhuddart. BARN has also developed linkages at local level with Adult Education Centre in the planning and delivery of English classes to members of the new communities in Blanchardstown. BARN in liaison with the Partnership helped compile an information foldout in multiple languages and project manage a needs analysis of asylum seekers/refugees back in 2003.

Another positive impact of BARN was also that it helped raise the profile of the Partnership amongst individuals drawn from the 'new communities' and has had a spin off effect across Measure A in particular. Lillian Harris attended and spoke at a local Pentecostal Church. Separate meetings also took place with Cairde and Blakestown African Women's Group. Lillian was central to the planning and organisation of several multi-cultural lunches in the Partnership since the launch of the Meitheal Project.

Throughout 2007 Pauline Mangan continued to support several networks:

The **Fingal Disability Network** exists to raise awareness of disability related issues in the Fingal area and influence local policies in relation to planning, employment and service provision. Last year it ran an event in Blanchardstown targeting Community Groups in Dublin 15 to raise awareness of the Disability Act plus the responsibilities that fall upon them as a result of the Act's implementation. More recently it has 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 **Access for all Group** works in partnership with Fingal to improve access for people with disabilities to Fingal County Council buildings and services. An audit with the help of local disability activists has now been completed. The report's findings will be used to prioritise its actions. A DVD is also due for release outlining the access work being undertaken by Fingal County Council.

Support to Fingal Volunteer Centre Initiative

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. Due to change within the Council a reduced Volunteer Supports Unit now operates in Fingal.

In mid 2005 the Partnership via the Deputy Manager, Terry McCabe, began work with other agencies¹⁷ 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 a three year action plan was submitted to the Department of Community, Rural & Gaelteacht affairs. This was successful and The Fingal Volunteer Centre is currently recruiting a manager for the Centre.

¹⁷ FCC, Co-operation Fingal, VCI, Comhairle

Forum 15

Aisling Flynn the appointed FORUM 15¹⁸ Worker resigned her position in June. The original need for a Community Forum in Blanchardstown was identified by the Partnership Community Development Working Group. The 1996 - 2000 BAP Area Action Plan recommended '*the establishment and maintenance of a Community Forum to continue dialogue between the community sector and state agencies/partnership in a sustainable way*'. After broad consultation, the Blanchardstown Community Forum was established in 1998 with the overarching aim to promote the participation and inclusion of the community sector in the development of the Blanchardstown area.

The Goal of the Blanchardstown Community Forum was to provide a mechanism which enabled groups to:

- Network
- Raise Issues
- Consult with Agencies
- Form Common Policies
- Act as a Representative Mechanism for Local Social Partnership

Over 90 groups are now affiliated to the Forum. One of the main functions of the forum is to facilitate community elections to the Partnership PIB's, Local Drugs Task Force and Rapid.

Involve Project Promoting opportunity and influencing decision making

The **Involve**¹⁹ project aimed to increase the participation of women from the communities of Blakestown, Corduff, Mountview and Mulhuddart as gender imbalance continues to be a feature of Irish society, with under-representation of women being a feature of socio-economic life. It is an independent partnership project, with BAP as the lead partner. The Involve project was funded by the Equality for Women Measure of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, under the National Development Plan 2000-2006. Involve's 5 activity strands were:

- Leadership training using creative methodologies for women from RAPID areas.
- Mapping of women's participation in local development and statutory organisations in Blanchardstown.
- Establishment of mentoring relationships to encourage women from RAPID area to take up positions as influencers.
- Presentation of arts products from leadership training in awareness raising event.
- Training for key organisations.

A final report and evaluation was completed by an independent consultant. According to Cosgrove (2007, p. 7) the outcomes demonstrate that creative methodologies are a valid and powerful means to engage with disadvantaged women and facilitate their development and leadership potential. The women who were trained on the course are now participating in public presentations of their work and the Vocal Women's Group is beginning to evolve as a key driver in the development of a women's network in the Blanchardstown area.

¹⁸ The Forum 15 is an independent body. The community groups and networks affiliated to Forum 15, which the Forum 15 Worker supports directly and indirectly, are reflected on the SCOPE database. This is for technical reasons to reflect Local Development Social Inclusion Programme staff support costs. Similar arrangements have applied with regard to the former BAP Family Support Childcare Worker post, which was jointly shared between the Partnership and the Health Service Executive. Area based childcare committees etc were therefore also reflected on Scope.

¹⁹ 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.

Increased Information Provision in Blanchardstown (B05)

The Partnership's Research and Evaluation Officer has continued to provide timely and accurate statistical data for local community groups and CDPs upon request. In some instances this data is used to help bolster funding applications that are submitted to agencies. Very often these community groups are operating at maximum capacity and additional resources are needed. The Central Statistics Office began to release official Census data from April onwards on a thematic basis. This process was completed in November, and a new updated socio-economic report of Blanchardstown will be made publicly available on the Partnerships website for everyone to access in Spring 2008.²⁰

A Matrix of Supports for Families in Dublin 15

Blanchardstown Area Partnership Community Development Worker contracted Clarity Research, Development and Training Ltd to carry out an audit of supports for families available in Dublin 15. The aims of the audit were;

- To identify Family Support Services in Dublin 15
- How these services are accessed
- The target groups using these services
- Identify gaps in support

In order to attain these aims a matrix was created. This method apparently allows for the synthesis of detailed information into a series of themed matrices. Matrixing builds on existing information, moves beyond mapping and focuses in on analysis of the environment within which a particular service type is operating. This report has informed the work of the Community Development Plan Implementation Board.

Environment and Infrastructure Initiatives receiving support (B06)

Good Morning Blanchardstown is a community based alert call/friendly call service set-up in 2005 by the Health Service Executive and FCC for elderly and vulnerable people in the Dublin 15 area. Referrals are made from Public Health Nurses, Home help service, An Gardaí Siochana, other Community groups, family, friends and self-referrals to the service. Elderly and vulnerable clients are phoned every morning to check on their well being. Remind them of appointments and medication. A number of social events are organised each year to help reduce isolation and loneliness. The Partnership's Community Links worker Lilian Harris is a member of the local Management group. In 2007 the Partnership allocated LDSIP funding to help with the costs of equipping their new premises.

Co-ordination Model



The Meitheal project recognised the pivotal role of the Arts in breaking down barriers, fostering an appreciation of diverse cultures, and facilitating exploration of controversial issues. The Arts and Culture theme envisaged members of the new communities playing a more active role in the artistic life of the community in Dublin 15 as well as enabling members of the new ethnic communities to become more informed about social norms and expectations in the context of Irish life and culture. Following the very successful inaugural event in 2006 it was decided to run another intercultural even, and a working group²¹ was established to plan and organise "Celebrate 07".

The event commenced on Friday morning the 19th of October with an education seminar to address diversity in education. This seminar was managed by the Meitheal Project and hosted by the Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown. On Friday evening a fashion and music extravaganza took place in the foyer of Fingal County Council Blanchardstown office.

²⁰ CENSUS 2006 data is now available on the Partnerships website www.bap.ie

²¹ Sean Bracken and Heidi Holden-Meitheal, Lilian Harris and Pauline Mangan BAP, Rafe Costigan- FCC, Malika Iskander CIC, Susan Robinson Chaplain Riversdale Community College,

The following day's celebrations saw events taking place in Blanchardstown library including origami, African story telling, mask making and drumming workshops. At the Verona Sports Grounds an array of activities took place including music, art workshops, face painting, henna, clowns, comedy and hair braiding. A programme of movies from around the world were shown free of charge in the UCI cinema in the Blanchardstown Shopping Centre.

A sample foods from a diversity of cuisines from around the world such as China, Jamaica, Mexico were displayed. In the afternoon there was a dance festival with Hip Hop performances and national dance from many countries.

There was a range of exhibitors over the weekend such as Metro Eireann the Irish Countrywomen's Association, The Blanchardstown Travellers project and displays by local artists and artifact exhibitors from South Africa and Sudan. One of the most popular exhibits was a Bedouin tent hosted music, food and culture from North Africa and arts and crafts from the countries was on display there.

A multitude of musicians and dancers Irish dancers, Igbo dancers, Ugandan Dancers, a Polish band, the Halleuia Gospel Choir and The North Strand Klezmer Band. Saturday was a day for the whole family and all events were free.

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

Background

One of the most recognisable features about Blanchardstown this past decade has been its very young age profile. This is backed up by Census data which reveal that 24.36 per cent of Blanchardstown's population fall into the 0-14 age range.²² This very young age profile will continue to skew demands for facilities such as youth and sport clubs. It will also inevitably result in continuing lengthy waiting lists for local schools unless more primary and secondary schools are built.

Forkan²³ notes that the retention rate (to Leaving Certificate) for both the 1995 and 1996 cohorts, across 5 schools in Blanchardstown was 70%. The equivalent figure for the 1994 national data was 78%, with it being 73% for Dublin County for the same year. This shows that the number of early school leavers in the Greater Blanchardstown Area is higher than the national average. 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.

The Partnership's Education Co-ordinator helped deliver, co-ordinate or influence upwards of 11 initiatives across the Community Youth Based Measure in 2007. Several of these initiatives were run with the support of local primary and secondary schools. They involved offering protracted supports to children and adults.

As with her colleagues, the Education Co-ordinator supports many local and regional networks. A brief outline of these will be provided.

Finally as a reminder the Education Co-ordinator also supported several actions and various bodies that are reflected across Measures A and B that were previously discussed e.g. Millennium Programme and BOND.

Service Delivery Model

Preventing Early School Leaving (C02)

5 initiatives that aim to Prevent Early School Leaving in Blanchardstown were financially supported via LDSIP funding. These included:

Promoting Traveller Equality in Education

The **Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group is the lead agency** and **other partners** include **HSE, BYS and the Partnership. These agencies are supporting the youth/education worker of the BTDG which is funded from Dormant Account** This worker has helped run 3 **homework clubs, a 6th year transition and summer programmes.** The Partnership funded programme delivery elements from the LDSIP with Traveller children and young people as identified by the steering group and the youth/education worker, 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). **98 Traveller children benefited via this action in 2007.**

The age profile of the Traveller community in Blanchardstown differs markedly from that of the general population. Two out of every five Travellers were aged less than 15 years in 2006 compared with one in five for the population as a whole in Ireland. In 2006, 66 per cent 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 per cent of Travellers in Blanchardstown ceased their education before the prevailing statutory minimum age of 15 years.

²² Youth at Risk

²³ Forkan, C (2005) An Audit of Issues Relating to Early School Leavers in the Greater Blanchardstown Area, Dublin, Joint Education Development Initiative.

Promotion of Retention at Senior Cycle

This action entails **bringing together key providers** and developing a local response in order to **improve retention rates to Leaving Certificate in Dublin 15**. It aims to raise awareness in the community and among families regarding the importance of young people sitting the Leaving Certificate in order to improve life chances, career prospects, and economic potential. **25 young people attended a Safepass course to help upskill them and improve their prospects of staying on in first chance education at the senior cycle. 20 young people did taster courses at Colaiste Ide These young people also visited a FAS training Centre where the importance of school completion was emphasised**

Support to International Children

The Partnership began to fund this initiative back in 2004, when the local schools reported a large increase in the enrolment intake of foreign-national children with language difficulties. **59 foreign national children attended classes in 2007**. The set objectives are to upskill international students in language competency and thereby improve their chances of progressing within the educational system. The desired outcome is that improved language competency will lead to improved integration within the school system.



Support to Foreign National Children After School English (Meitheal 2007)

The Partnership also provided match funding to Meitheal across this particular action in 2007. The schools, which ran these separate classes, were Blakestown Community School, Ladyswell National School, Castaheaney Educate Together, Scoil Mhuire JNS, Huntstown NS, St Patrick's, Diswellstown, St Mochta's NS and Riversdale Community College. **59 children were supported throughout 2007**.

Co-ordination / Influencing Models

Addressing the needs of early school leavers x 1 (C03)

Learning @ Work

This 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. In 2007 it provided flexible accredited education and training opportunities for 16 young adults from Blanchardstown** who are in employment but whose highest level of educational attainment is a Junior Certificate. The action involves: a continuation of the education and training modules for existing clients in Computers and Leaving Certificate subjects; outreach and promotional activities to recruit new clients i.e. young adults in employment who left school after the Junior Certificate; promotional and other events designed to raise awareness of the issue; linkages with regional strategy as appropriate. The continued contacts with employers and local publicity through the Chamber, newspapers and local events helps raise awareness of the issue among employers, the community and local agencies. One employer Symantec has provided funding and a training room for one course. A joint application from 6 areas of Dublin to the DEP will if successful provided greatly increased resources to this programme

Promoting Developmental Youth Work X 4 (C05)

Support to Voluntary Youth Groups

16 small grants were allocated by the Partnership to local voluntary youth groups to increase their capacity to develop new ways of supporting young people with particular reference to the inclusion of disadvantaged children and young people and other young people from new communities. Hopefully this

initiative will increase opportunities for young people to participate in positive youth activities in the local community. This is especially important given the extraordinary high youth population in Blanchardstown.

Promoting Parent Involvement in Education

This action is promoting the positive involvement of parents in their children's education through the **provision of information on the school system and advice and support to promote good attendance, academic achievement and retention within education. This action is supported through the Blanchardstown Local Education Committee. 100 parents of first year children benefited in 2007.**

Training of Trainers – Development of Holistic Service to Young People

The Partnership is committed to helping identify appropriate responses to serious behaviour issues young people are presenting to service providers and schools caused in part by serious drug abuse. 25 youth workers attended a one week and were trained in the Richter Scale. This will be a common tool that youth workers can use to assess the social skills of young adults. These youth and project workers are able to provide preliminary response to the needs of young people engaging in anti-social behaviour

Improving behaviour problems of children and young people Network of Counselling/Assessment Services

This network arose from the Partnership and was established with support from the Health Service Executive and NEPS. Its aim is to improve services to 'at risk children' specifically with behavioural problems.

Actions have consisted of a one week summer course for primary teachers 15 of whom attended this diverse course with topics such as : art and drawing; wildlife in our neighbourhood and other topics related to the environment

Another strand of this actions was the training of teachers and project worker in a behaviour system 'Brief Solution Focused Therapy' which gives practical applications which can be used in the classroom to improve behaviour 30 teachers and project workers participated ...

Early Childhood Education x 1 (C01)

Mentoring Programme- Adult and Children (Meitheal)

The Partnership provided match funding in 2006 to Meitheal to help deliver a mentoring programme in the area of early childhood education for 50 adults / parents with links to Ladyswell National School and 18 children (Blakestown Community School)

Supporting Access to Further / 3rd Level x 1

Adult Education Providers Forum

The Partnership allocated a small financial contribution across Measure B towards a 3rd level promotional event held in December 2007. **600 school pupils attended a** series of workshops and received speed career guidance to promote the participation by disadvantaged students at 3rd level. This is a major access event where 20 colleges take stands and other services such as the Army also participate.

Influencing and Co-ordination

Networks and Collaborations (C07)

Meitheal education seminar²⁴

The Meitheal Project worked closely with schools and youth organisations to progress integration at all levels of society. In a collaborative arrangement, the Meitheal Project, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, The Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown, Boston College and St Patrick's College in Drumcondra came together to **provide a seminar for parents, educators and youth workers who are concerned with the integration of students from minority ethnic communities. In total 120 adults attended.**

The seminar was divided across two sessions. At the plenary morning session presentations were given by notable international speakers. After lunch participants attended a facilitated workshop which addressed the intercultural classroom and school, the classroom teacher: a key role in language support and creating intercultural community responses teacher education for diversity.

E cert ICT initiative

The education co-ordinator and the Training co-ordinator of the BAP participated in the ICT initiative which is funded by the Department of the Taoiseach and managed by the Dublin Employment Pact and supported by FIT. The aim of the programme is to bridge the Digital Divide among individuals in disadvantaged communities and provide a practical user friendly programme to groups. Courses commenced in November in different centres in the area. Target group included ex-prisoners; older persons, young people parent's traveller parents and individuals from the new areas of partnership.

Dormant Accounts/ HAAL /project Healthy and Active Lifestyle

The BAP made an application to the Sport and Recreational fund of the Dormant Accounts in 2007 and was allocated €27k. This allowed for a range of promoting activities and cookery programmes to be carried out in the Four RAPID areas with 11-12 year olds and other programmes implemented with traveller girls and boys and with young ex-prisoners. These programmes took place on an after school basis and during the summer and October breaks. They allowed for a great deal of innovation and the testing of new ideas with young people and collaboration between school and agencies. The education coordinator was chair of the steering group

Blakestown/Mountview Neighbourhood Youth Project

This project has been funded by the HSE since 1993 for 9-13 year olds at risk and their families. A significant €1.1 million extension was completed and opened by the Taoiseach officially last year. This will allow for greater capacity with programmes for children and families. A new 24 place crèche will provide 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. **The Education Co-ordinator continues to act as its Chairperson.**

Blakestown/Mountview Youth Initiative

Established in 1998 for 14-18 year olds at risk and their families. It is funded by the HSE and has been mainstreamed providing a holistic service to this age group. **The Education Co-ordinator acts as**

²⁴ Cultural diversity in schools – Challenges and opportunities for Irish education. Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, October 19th 2007.

Chairperson. There are currently joint plans by the school and the BMYI to build a football pitch which will be utilised by local youth groups and special projects as well as the school.

TOFE

The Education Co-ordinator is a member of the Board of TOFE, the steering committee for the Schools Completion Programme funded by the Department of Education and Science for Corduff and Mulhuddart.

Education Opportunities Programme

This network aims to retain children and young people in the education system. Catherine Durkin is a member of the Blakestown Mountview School Completion Programme, which is funded by the Department of Education and Science.

Dublin Employment Pact

The Education co-ordinator continued to serve as a member of the Board of the Pact and on the regional steering group of the Learning @ work which was initiated by the education group of the Dublin Employment Pact

Appendix

2007 LES OUTPUTS

Target Groups	New Clients	Training	Education	Other	Job
Long Term Unemployed 1 year and over	49	11	7	8	25
Long Term Unemployed 6 months plus	14	3	1	3	5
Lone Parents	44	18	3	15	18
Travellers	5	0	0	1	2
Special Needs	28	4	2	7	5
FAS EAP Referrals	107	16	13	5	29
EAP Clients	41	8	3	4	10
Drug Users	33	8	2	3	3
Early School Leavers	22	2	2	0	13
Ex-Offenders	5	0	0	0	0
Ethnic Minorities	190	55	25	24	39
Dependent Spouses	8	2	0	0	3
Totals	546	127	58	70	152

Equality and Gender Proofing Issues

Background

BAP came up with an approach to gender and equality proofing its

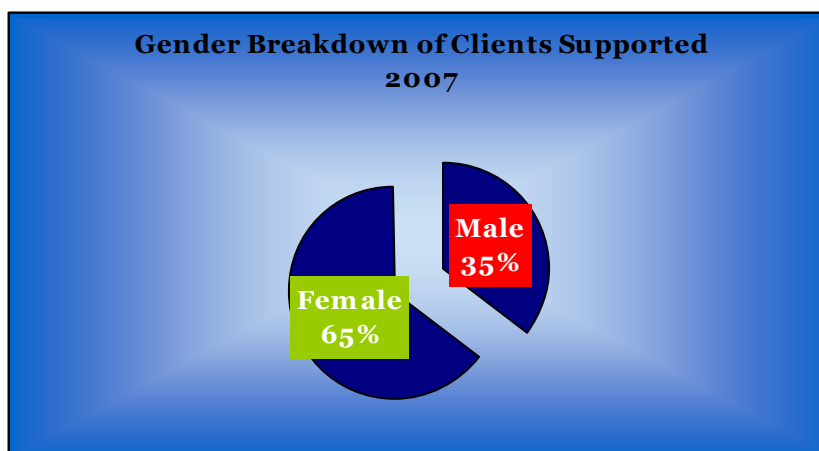
Sometimes the Partnership can support a target group across each of the 3 LDSIP measures or almost exclusively across 1 measure depending on many different factors resources,

Measure A

Blanchardstown has a high concentration of **single parents**²⁵, **Travellers**²⁶ and **foreign nationals**²⁷ living within its present set boundaries. **Bar Chart 2** indicates each of the main **target groups who received advice and guidance supports during 2007**. Whilst the overall numbers of people supported under the services to the unemployed measure increased over the past twelve months, it could be argued the Partnership could be doing more to reach certain LDSIP target groups such as people with disabilities, Travellers and long term unemployed men. **According to the Central Statistics Office, which releases detailed live register data each April and November, 73.5% of people in receipt of unemployment assistance in Blanchardstown are male**. Based on this evidence, all else being equal, the Partnership should be supporting more men than women across Measure A.

Pie chart 1 presents the Partnership's caseload disaggregated on a gender basis. There is still a large imbalance between the percentages of females (65%) and males (35%) receiving supports via the Partnership across Measure A. This caseload ratio of 2:1 has remained broadly static for several years and is in part due to a lack of actions and initiatives targeting longer term unemployed men specifically.

Pie Chart 1



On a positive note the Partnership and the LES is now supporting New Communities in large numbers the reverse situation from a couple of years ago. The Meitheal Project and the allocation of match funding from the Partnership has facilitated this to occur. The Meitheal Project which employed an Outreach Worker had responsibility for identifying and supporting vulnerable adults from with the New Communities who may be isolated due to language difficulties, cultural differences and or lack of family support networks. The Enterprise Officers caseload has also changed significantly in the past 18 months.

The challenge now for the Partnership is how to reach out to other disadvantaged target groups in such as strategic fashion.

²⁵ Single Parents head 16.6% of all households in Blanchardstown. Tyrrelstown 47% and Corduff 26.6% have very large concentrations of lone parents. The overall Blanchardstown figure exceeds the national average of 12.9% and Dublin's of 14.2%.

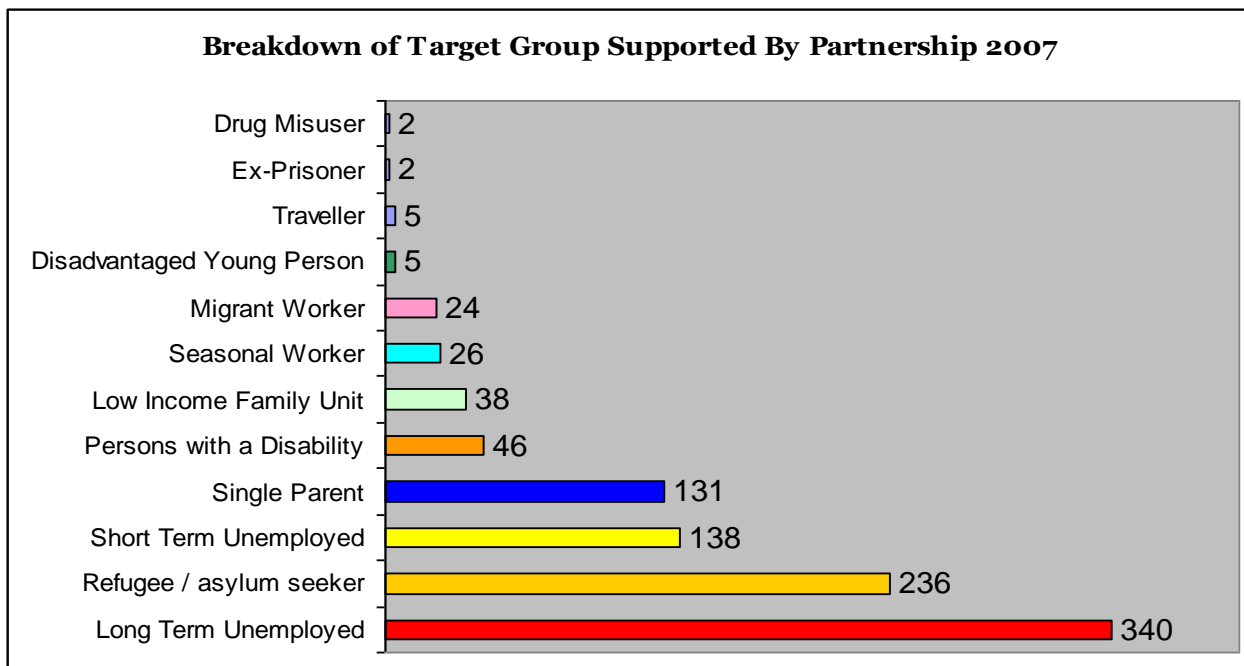
²⁶ 467 Irish Travellers were enumerated in the Partnership's catchment boundaries in April 2006.

²⁷ Foreign nationals now account for almost twenty two per cent ²⁷ (13620) of persons resident in Blanchardstown. This is more than double the State average of 10 per cent.

Previous ... such as the BTS were successful in reaching many single parents in Blanchardstown. Likewise the FTJI because of its own focus also attracted other designated target groups. The risk is that without new planned piloted initiatives the neediest of target groups under the LDSIP may not be supported by the Partnership in the medium term.

The reduction in the percentage of long term unemployed persons and people with disabilities approaching the Partnership in the past couple of years could be indicative of a trend which needs to be given greater attention when developing our Strategic Plan for the future.

Bar Chart 2



Source: SCOPE system

Measure B

Travellers

Refugees / People with leave to Remain

Older persons

Measure C

Travellers

Early school leavers

Children of foreign children- leave to remain, refugees, migrant workers

Summary

Overall approximately 200 more people than anticipated received advice and guidance supports in the first 2007, which is a very positive result.

The numbers of people that attended education / training courses and who received certificates was also well above forecast.

The Enterprise Officer's caseload was very substantial via workshops he delivered and face to face meetings organised. Other partnerships have shown an interest in the Succeed model, including Ballymun, Cork, Co-operation Fingal. Southside Partnership would like to 'buy in' Succeed.

The Partnership needs to be pro-active in supporting groups and delivery agents that are reaching the most marginalised in the community. BAPTEC Ltd is just one example of a delivery agent who could be requested to run specific I.T. training courses for specific target groups for instance.

Action Support Codes

Measure A – Services to the Unemployed

Code	Codename
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A01	Advice and Guidance to Support Participation in the Labour Market
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This code covers specifically targeted services to improve the options of the long-term unemployed and those most distanced from the labour market, including proactive targeting and outreach to marginalised groups. The focus will be on supports to individuals, groups and communities to access suitable gainful and sustained employment (e.g. advice, guidance and job placement). Initiatives will sometimes run parallel to other guidance measures within programmes.

A02	Education
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This code covers targeted education initiatives to increase the capacity of individuals to re-enter, participate in and progress within the labour market. It covers education initiatives for individuals of the target groups, groups and communities to support access to suitable gainful employment and sustained employment and self-employment.

Initiatives may range from basic education (e.g. literacy skills) to post-secondary and third level and where appropriated may lead to recognised education qualifications and accreditation (e.g. leaving certificate, FETAC awards, HETAC awards, university qualifications).

Financial supports to individuals so that they may avail of these education opportunities (e.g. grants, voucher schemes, contribution towards childcare costs, transport etc.) are also eligible.

A03	Training
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This code covers investment in specifically targeted training to improve the options within the labour market, of the long-term unemployed and those most distanced from the labour market. It covers training initiatives for individuals of the target groups, groups and communities to access suitable gainful employment, sustained employment and self-employment.

The focus will be on specific skills development and may lead to a recognised training qualification (e.g. apprenticeships, etc). Financial supports to individuals so that they may avail of these training opportunities (e.g. grants, voucher schemes, contribution towards childcare costs, transport etc.) and training of trainers' initiatives are also eligible.

A04 Support for Pre Start-Up Enterprises

A05 Support for Pre Start-Up Social Economy Enterprises

These codes cover financial assistance, advice and guidance to an individual(s) or groups to support the pre-development or foundation work required prior to setting up an enterprise

A06 Support for New Enterprise (<= 1 yr)

A07 Support for New Social Economy Enterprise (<= 1 yr)

These codes cover financial assistance, (excluding non repayable grants and revolving loans, see A08&A09) advice and guidance to support an individual(s) or group in the start-up phase of an enterprise and up to the end of their first year in existence.

A08 Non repayable grants and revolving loans for New Enterprise (<= 1 yr)

A09 Non repayable grants and revolving loans for New Social Economy Enterprise (<= 1 yr)

These codes are for actions requiring cash matching funding. It is essential that Partnerships/Community Groups obtain documentary evidence of 35% matching funding in respect of all grants and loans that are provided for profit making enterprises.

A10 Support for Established Enterprises (> 1 yr)

A11 Support for Established Social Economy Enterprises (> 1 yr)

These codes cover financial assistance, (excluding non-repayable grants and revolving loans, see A12& A13) advice and guidance to support an individual(s) or group running an enterprise that has been in existence for at least one year. They also cover initiatives to maximise household income and improve enterprise viability.

A12 Non repayable grants & revolving loans for Established Enterprises (>1yr)

A13 Non repayable grants and revolving loans for Social Economy Enterprises (> 1 yr)

These codes are for actions requiring cash matching funding. It is essential that Partnerships/Community Groups obtain documentary evidence of 35% matching funding in respect of all grants and loans that are provided for profit making enterprises. Not less than half of the 35% requirement must be in the form of cash or liquid assets

A14 Research, Information & Dissemination

This code covers research and compilation of data to identify and analyse local needs and priorities in relation to the target groups; review and evaluation reports to monitor progress, establish best practice and promote policy development; and measures to support dissemination of learning at local, regional and national levels, such as seminars, workshops and publications.

A15 Support for LES

This code covers contributions paid by your Partnership to the LES.

A16 Support for Networks & Collaborations

This code covers financial and non-financial investment in issue based networks; area based networks; and cross sectoral collaborations between the community sector and statutory agencies and traditional social partners to support the development of local strategies and local policy and to ensure a focus on those who are long-term unemployed and most distanced from the labour market.

Measure B – Community Development

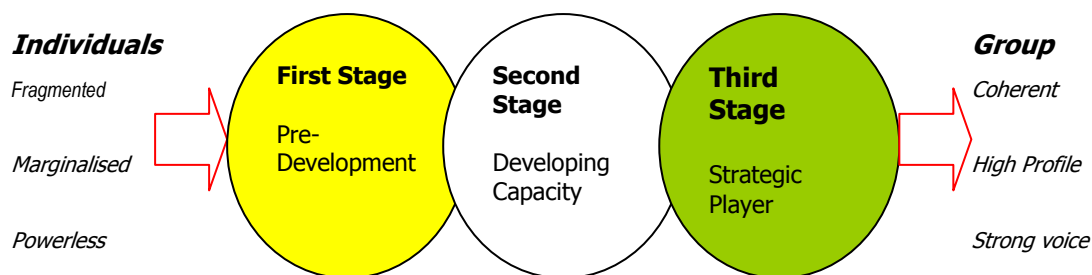
Code	Codename
B01	Pre-development/foundation work with the target groups This code covers investment in pre-development and formative work with the named target groups of this measure and the severely disadvantaged communities who experience further marginalisation due to poor social, economic and infrastructural supports to address the cumulative effects of deprivation and poverty.
B02	Developmental support for new groups formed/focussed on the target groups This code covers investment for the named target groups to support their collective identification of needs, their skills and knowledge development, the development of their organisational and operational capacity and to enable them to begin initial activity to advance their objectives and priorities.
B03	Developmental support for established groups This code covers investment in developmental work with established disadvantaged groups, and to ensure a social inclusion, anti-poverty and equality focus in the work of other local groups.
B04	Developmental Support for Networks and Collaborations This code covers investment in issue based networks; area based networks, autonomous independent community sector structures; and cross sectoral collaborations between the community sector and statutory agencies and traditional social partners.
B05	Research, Information and Dissemination This code covers initiatives to promote community development policy, approaches and best practice; and to ensure that local initiatives inform and strengthen policy development. e.g. research projects, reviews, evaluations, publications, seminars/workshops, study visits and exchanges
B06	Small scale environmental and community infrastructure projects and initiatives This code covers investment in participatory and strategic planning in relation to social, economic physical and community sector infrastructure required to sustain communities experiencing severe economic marginalisation and social exclusion and small scale improvements to the environmental and community infrastructure in the most severely disadvantaged communities.
B07	Community Development Training This code covers training which has a direct community development outcome such as: - enhancing community participation, improving community development capacity and skills, or promoting social inclusion and equality perspectives within local development practice. It does not cover education /training initiatives where the primary benefits are to the individual.

Measure C – Community Based Youth Initiatives

Code	Codename
C01	Early Childhood Education, Learning and Development Opportunities This code covers investment in initiatives to support the early education, learning and personal development of young children of the target groups. The creative and experiential learning and development opportunities will be supported in a range of environments and settings. The focus will generally be on interventions that span the 0-5 age group .
C02	Preventing Early School Leaving and Promoting the Educational and Personal Development of Young People This code covers investment in initiatives to reduce the risk of early school leaving and underachievement of children and young people of the target groups. It will include supports that address social, academic and personal development. The creative and experiential learning and development earning opportunities will be supported in a range of environments in formal and non-formal settings. The focus will generally be on interventions that span the 5-18 age group .
C03	Addressing the Needs of Early School Leavers This code covers investment in initiatives to support young people of the target groups who have dropped out or have withdrawn from the formal education system. It will include supports that address social, academic and personal development. It will include initiatives that are aimed at supporting participation in YOUTHREACH or Community Training Workshops, tailored guidance, education and training responses within the community and/or workplace or re-entry into school. . The creative and experiential learning and development opportunities will be supported in a range of learning environments in formal and non-formal settings. The focus will generally be on interventions that span the 12-18 age group .
C04	Supporting Access to Further and Third Level Education This code covers investment in initiatives to support young people in moving from second level education or Youthreach / Community Training Workshops Programmes to further and third level education or training e.g. apprenticeships, third level education.

- C05 Promoting Developmental Youth Work**
This code covers investment in initiatives to promote and support developmental youth work within local communities. Actions should enable local communities to become more strategic in designing and providing learning and development opportunities for young people of the target groups.
- Learning and developmental opportunities provided should support the targeted young people in exploring their life experiences and examining new ways of realising their potential. This should be done within the context of new and differing relationships with their local community, school, family and the broader social and economic environment.
- The creative and experiential learning and development opportunities will be supported in a range of environments in formal and non-formal settings.
- The focus will generally be on interventions that span the 5 to 18 age group.
- C06 Research, Information & Dissemination**
This code covers research and compilation of data to identify and analyse local needs and priorities in relation to the target groups; review and evaluation reports to monitor progress, establish best practice and promote policy development; and measures to support dissemination of learning at local, regional and national levels, such as seminars, workshops and publications.
- C07 Support for Networks and Collaborations**
This code covers investment in issue-based networks; area based networks; and cross-sectoral collaborations between the community sector and statutory agencies and traditional social partners to support the development of local strategies and local policy and to ensure a focus on young people most at risk.
- C08 Training of Trainers**
Initiatives that provide development and training support to the individuals and groups that provide education, training and youth services or supports to the target groups of the LDSIP Programme under this measure are also eligible e.g. parents and volunteers. Such development and training must be clearly associated with improving service provision to the target groups.

Community Development Continuum



Community Development Stages Matrix *			
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

* These stages can overlap