

Blanchardstown Area Partnership

Annual Report 2009



blanchardstown
area partnership

action for positive change

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April 2010

PART A: ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON LDSIP 2009

GENERAL OVERVIEW

2009 was another challenging year for the Partnership Board and staff, as we were faced with the need to develop services in a much expanded area at a time of reducing budgets. The completion of the Cohesion process had meant the doubling of the geographic area covered by the Partnership and an increase in population to 90,952 (Census 2006). As Fingal is the fastest growing county in Ireland, it is estimated that the population of Dublin 15 is increasing by 2,000 per annum, so the figure as we enter 2010 is more likely to be close to 100,000.

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

Not surprisingly this had meant that the client profile changed considerably, and demand on the employment and enterprise service increased dramatically. At the same time, the Partnership agreed to the proposal to directly refer NEAP clients in May 2009. These new clients have very different information and support needs to the 'traditional' long term unemployed clients, and a number of new initiatives was piloted which were successful and have now been mainstreamed within the LES.

The Board experienced a considerable period of renewal, with many organisations nominating new members and the election resulting in two of the three local representatives being replaced. Significant attention was given by the Directors in 2009 to the funding situation, and difficult decisions were made in mid-year to enable the organisation to deal with the two reductions in the annual funding, and also prepare for the anticipated reduction in 2010 funding.

Members of the Board and the three PIB's participated in a number of externally facilitated training sessions which were designed to enhance their ability to participate in the effective management of the organisation and the LDSIP programme. These were positively received by Directors and members.

Good progress was made in a number of areas, in particular in the Partnership's role as lead agency in the establishment of a community training centre in Dublin 15. Refurbishment of this premises was close to completion at the end of 2009, and it is anticipated that the first trainees will be in the centre during the first quarter of 2010.

Looking forward to 2010, the decision by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to integrate the CDP and LDSIP programmes in a new programme, the Local and Community Development Programme, will require a significant input from Board and management to ensure that the good working relationships locally are harnessed in the development of an integrated strategy for Dublin 15 by the end of the year.

A1. STRATEGIES 2009

Measure A: Services for the Unemployed

	Objectives	Implementation / selected key actions	Progress / outcomes	Issues
1	<p>To help potential entrepreneurs during their first steps into self-employment.</p> <p>To continue to provide a local centre of information, guidance and support to those wishing to explore self-employment options.</p>	<p><i>Supports for Pre Start-Up New Enterprises and Social Economy Enterprises</i></p>	<p>During 2009 there was a large increase in the caseload of individuals approaching the Enterprise Officer probably influenced by the announced changes to the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme introduced in April's Supplementary Budget and on-going recession.</p> <p>The Enterprise Officer met with 260 individuals to discuss the intricacies of setting up their own business exceeding annual output targets. These <i>pre-enterprise clients</i> originally attended seminar or business workshops delivered by the Enterprise Officer or external consultant brought in to deliver them.</p> <p>89 individuals who approached the Partnership set up new enterprises leading to the creation of 107 overall net jobs.</p> <p>The Enterprise Officer also met the Managers of several community and private crèches and helped them develop new business plans and establish how the service can break even due to subvention changes announced by the government.</p> <p>A Community Service Sub-Group was established by the Partnership to help support and appraise several funding applications to POBAL for the Community Services Programme (CSP). BAP received notification in early 2009, from POBAL that the Phoenix FM application had been accepted. 5 jobs have been created at the radio station as a result.</p>	<p>Enormous increase in the population covered by the Partnership as a result of Cohesion Process. 60,652 to circa 100,000.</p> <p>As of October 2009, 8,205 persons were recorded on the live register across Dublin 15. With the exception of Tallaght and Clondalkin this is the highest of any urban centre in Dublin.</p> <p>The overall cohort of short term (79% 6,498) and long-term unemployed (21% 1,752) has increased rapidly over the past 18 months (See Chart 1). Since May 2008 an additional 4,006 net persons have 'signed on' in Dublin translating to a 93.4% increase.</p> <p>Large increase in clients approaching Enterprise Officer</p>

1	<p>To provide a range of accredited I.T training to the long-term unemployed and other BAP target groups through a local social enterprise.</p>	<p><i>BAPTEC Ltd</i></p>	<p>BAPTEC Ltd 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.</p> <p>The Partnership continues to directly support BAPTEC financially via the LDSIP and two employees (Enterprise Officer) and (LES Training Co-ordinator) currently represent the organisation on the BAPTEC Board.</p> <p>In 2009 BAPTEC Ltd, provided training for over 300 Partnership clients. Courses included FAS Word Processing, FAS Clerical / Receptionist, ECDL, TAS and Basic Computers. BAPTEC also provided an IT workshop offering computer assessment and information on email / internet, social networking and Twitter at an Open Employment Day run from Dillon House (see page). The LES Training Co-ordinator also provided training to specific courses such as ECDL + Accounts and Basic Computers. The later is an IT course delivered to 10 women on the WOW project.</p>	
1	<p>This action provides unemployed people with information on welfare to work issues in a free, confidential and accessible manner.</p> <p>To operate as a referral conduit to the LES.</p>	<p><i>The Mobile Information Unit</i></p>	<p>The Mobile Information Unit (MIU) operated by the Blanchardstown Centre for the Unemployed (BCU) provides long-term unemployed individuals with confidential information on welfare to work issues.</p> <p>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. MIU referred 117 individuals to the Local Employment Service in 2009.</p>	<p>In response to the geographical expansion of Blanchardstown the BCU has changed the locations and times at which the MIU operates including the new Tyrrelstown Estate.</p>

2	To provide an enterprise exploration that would aid Target Groups explore self-employment as a viable opportunity.	<i>Enterprise Opportunity Workshops</i>	<p>The Enterprise Officer delivered seminars, workshops and start up your own business courses for 665 individuals 2009.</p> <p>The schedule of business seminars covered specific themes such as business planning, market research, VAT, how to price your product, insurance and pensions, e-commerce and many more.</p> <p>The clients who attend these sessions often attended follow up one to one meeting with the Enterprise Officer to help progress them into self employment.</p>	
2	To provide accredited training programmes to Full Time Jobs Initiative participants and support to B2001 (Vassin Ltd) with costs ineligible from FÁS (the initiative's core funding mechanism).	<i>Full Time Jobs Initiative</i>	(FTJI) delivered distinct courses for 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.	
2	To increase labour market participation rates of male Travellers	<i>Allotment training for male Travellers</i>	<p>The Partnership allocated funding from the LDSIP budget to the Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group in 2008/2009. This enabled the BTDG; deliver practical hands on training such as sowing and transplanting to 4 Traveller men at an allotment horticultural site in Rathbeggan, Co Meath as well as covering the costs of a poly tunnel and other equipment. This action was considered particularly suited to Traveller men as it had an outdoor action focus on work/training. An element of the time was spent on making up raised beds, cutting and putting the timber together. The men also succeeded in making and hanging a new door for the potting shed. The participants were reimbursed for small out of pocket travel expenses.</p>	<p>Ongoing difficulty trying to encourage Traveller men and women to engage with BAP and LES initiatives outside of CE Traveller Programme.</p> <p>Very high levels of unemployment among Travellers.</p>

		<p><i>Open Employment Day</i></p>	<p>A multi-agency event involving the Citizens Information Centre; Vocational Education Committee; Fastrack to Information Technology; Blanchardstown Centre for the Unemployed; Money Advice & Budgeting; BAPTEC and the Local Employment Service /Joblink was held in the Blanchardstown Area Partnership offices.</p> <p>This gave 120 unemployed persons a sense of the services available to them and also offered them some practical support in their search for employment. Workshops were provided focusing on improving interview skills updating CVs, guidance as well as one for those considering setting up in business. Guidebooks for Job seekers were distributed on the day. BAPTEC also provided an IT workshop offering computer assessment and information on email / internet, social networking and Twitter.</p>	
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Measure B: Community Development				
Str ate gy	Objectives	Implementation / selected key actions	Progress / outcomes	Issues

1		<p><i>Extended Areas Work</i></p>	<p>BAP engaged in pre-development community development work throughout the extended areas in Ongar and Tyrrelstown Estate. This was as a result of consultation work and a mapping exercise undertaken by BAP in 2008 following the successful submission of a document to POBAL. Innovative actions included the <i>'Get Connected'</i> and <i>'Catch Up with Technology'</i> courses aimed at residents who wanted to learn more about new technology and the internet.</p> <p>Ongar Development Group</p> <p>In early 2009, BAP collaborated with the Home School Liaison Officer at Castaheany Educate Together, to help address some of the gaps in services to residents living in the area. Shortly afterwards the Partnership and Fingal County Council convened an initial meeting of local stakeholders who have a presence in the new suburb of Ongar.¹ Over the course of several meetings the Ongar Development Group helped to identify key community needs and also developed a work strategy for the area. As there is no specific youth work project a group discussion ensued around the prospect of setting up voluntary youth groups in Ongar. This was viewed by the community as a positive way forward given the growing number of young people in Ongar and to the lack of facilities for young people in the area.</p> <p>Ongar Development Group (ODG) also submitted a proposal to the Partnership's Youth PIB. The successful proposal rotated around 3 planned Youth Groups for Ongar, namely a book club for 8-10 year olds, a feeder club for children aged 10-12, and a Foroige Youth Club for 12-18 year olds. 20 young people are now attending the feeder group and a further 12 attend the Foroige Club based at Castaheaney School. In some instances the same children are receiving support via both clubs.</p>	<p>Enormous increase in population covered by the Partnership as a result of Cohesion Process.</p> <p>Lack of awareness within the community of services.</p> <p>Inability of these services to respond to the increase in local demand.</p>
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			<p>Parent and Toddler Group</p> <p>The Home School Liaison Officer at Castaheany Educate Together, Ciara O'Sullivan and Monica Pelazza (BAP) identified the need for a parent and toddler group catering for 0-4 year olds. As a result a new group was formed with some funding coming on stream from the Fingal County Childcare Committee and materials such as books and paints are provided by the school. The group meets every Monday and tries to re-inforce positive learning through group play-reading, song and dance, face painting, arts and crafts. The children's parents (who are all unemployed) are from a mix of different racial backgrounds are also actively encouraged to participate and are now taking more initiative such as introducing baking to the group. Lack of English was identified as a major barrier to integration for many residents in Ongar and as a result Basic Computer Classes were also ran from Castaheany Educate Together School and delivered by BAPTEC over three days for nine local residents.</p>	
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	To support persons with an intellectual disability	<i>Including Me Advocacy Service</i>	<p>An independent advocacy service for individuals or groups of people with an intellectual disability using the Daughters of Charity Service in Dublin established in 2008 is now provided from BAP. An Advocacy Officer was recruited and is now working to the direction of the steering group² and line managed by the Deputy CEO of the Partnership.³ This post is funded by CIB as part of a pilot initiative until 2010, to support the development of advocacy services in the community and voluntary sector. The Independent Advocate is employed by BAP to ensure that professional advocacy services are offered independent of disability service providers. Following his appointment, Gerry consulted widely with the stakeholders on the steering group on defining the exact nature of the service. The project name “Including Me Advocacy Service for Persons with an Intellectual Disability using the Daughters of Charity Service” was agreed upon by all parties.</p> <p>The new advocacy worker continues to advertise the service across facilities used by the target group who number approximately 850 persons. (these include facilities in D15, D7, D20. In addition a new strategy (aims/objectives) was drawn up with a new set of policies and procedures to suit the nature of the work being undertaken. IMAS support individuals on a one-to-one basis and links with self advocacy groups to support and encourage members to advocate on their own behalf. The length of the advocacy activity differs from one case to the next. A new website www.includingme.ie was launched along with a new brochures and pocket-sized guide-book. The IMAS project has become familiar with the many challenges involved in delivering a service to a vulnerable population.</p>	
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³ Co-Operation Fingal, National Council for the Blind of Ireland, Institute for Design & Disability, Dublin Centre for Independent Living, Access Action Malahide, Schizophrenia Ireland, Disability Federation of Ireland, St Michael's House

		<i>Older Persons</i>	<p>Lilian Harris continues to work with local community organisations in developing a range of responses to the needs of older persons, including access to computer classes and the internet. The use of internet and email emerged as the most requested need from older persons. This initiative has helped bridge the IT divide for the participants. Some of the seniors who attended the classes have subsequently gone onto become volunteers at the Fáilte Isteach Network as well as being linked into other projects and events happening in D15, which is evidence of 'social bonding'. A course was recently run for a mixture of older men from late 50 to early 80's! Some of these men had recently lost their job or retired. Former course participants will be brought together to find out what their IT needs are now, which will help shape the action in the foreseeable future.</p>
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Measure: C Community Youth Based Initiatives

Strategy		Objectives	Implementation / selected key actions	Progress / outcomes	Issues
		Promoting Traveller Equality in Education	<i>Preventing Traveller Early School Leaving</i>	The Partnership funded programme delivery elements from the LDSIP with Traveller children and young people as identified by the steering group, to include after school supports, which may be school, community or site-based supports to young Travellers at second level plus support to transition programmes for Traveller children (primary to second level). 26 Traveller children benefited via this action in 2009. ⁴	In 2006, 66% of the Traveller population in the Dublin 15 area whose education had ceased comprised people aged 15 years and over with no formal or primary education. In recognition of this challenge the Partnership continues to support the Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group (lead agency) via a steering group to help reduce early school leaving levels among the school population ⁵

⁴ The BTDG previously supported a youth/education worker whose post was funded from Dormant Account. This worker helped run 3 homework clubs, a 6th year transition and summer programmes

⁵ BAP, Visiting School Teacher

		<p><i>Addressing the needs of early school leavers</i></p>	<p>Learning at Work</p>	<p>Learning @ Work is a project that aims to upskill workers who are in employment but who have minimum vocational or academic qualifications. The scheme encourages employers to release their staff for accredited FETAC training and Level 3 Junior Cert or 4 and 5 Leaving Certificate equivalent. A wide variety of Dublin 15 employers support the projects including Superquinn, e-Trip, Tesco, and Paddy Powers. A successful joint application from 6 Partnership areas in Dublin including Blanchardstown was submitted to the Dublin Employment Pact. The third round started in early 2008 and will continue until March 2010. As a result €1.2 million FAS allocation to the 6 projects over 2 years was committed and the Department of Education and Science is also contributing. <u>Learning@ Work</u> went through an intense phase of recruitment and training in the first six months of 2009. There was a three day recruitment drive at Blanchardstown Centre which was managed by BAP staff. 50 participants were recruited for programmes in IT, Customer Service, Communications. The Partnership CEO is now managing this initiative, in conjunction with Brenda Byrne, Administration Manager.</p>	
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		<i>Supporting Access to Further and 3rd level Education</i>	<i>Millennium Programme</i>	<p>The Education Co-ordinator and the Millennium Fund Assistant Noelene Reid administered the Millennium programme on behalf of Pobal. 136 adults received financial supports in 2009, 88 women / 48 men. Recipients must be a resident of Blanchardstown and applications from RAPID areas are prioritised within the application process. In addition to direct financial support, career and course guidance is offered to clients of the MF and in August there will be a 2-day guidance event for students who have just received their Leaving Certificate results. All of the schools in Dublin 15 are circulated about this service. €98,340 was received for the academic year 2008-2009 and the Partnership was recently informed that the scheme would be extended for a further academic year (2009-2010). The Partnership CEO is now managing this initiative, in conjunction with Brenda Byrne, Administration Manager.</p>	<p>Concerns around how individuals transferring onto the 2nd / 3rd or final year of their studies financially support themselves if the Millennium Fund is discontinued.</p>
		<i>Promoting Developmental Youth Work</i>	<i>ORB Project</i>	<p>The ORB and the WEB Project involved 23 young people from Blanchardstown and London and 9 adults in a youth exchange programme. This brought together two groups of ethnically diverse young people from disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>The objectives of the project were to empower these young people to work together and to explore and challenge issues of racism, stereotyping and discrimination. A wide range of activities including sports, cultural experiences and events as well as intercultural and anti-racism workshops and activities formed part of the exchange. A return visit by the London communities also took place.⁶</p>	

⁶ Leargas and Fingal County Council also funded the exchange.

A2. CASE STUDY

Fáilte Isteach Network (Integration Work)

The Fáilte Isteach project involves older people volunteering their time to teach conversational English classes to migrant workers who have come to Ireland. The Community Development Team are also course tutors.⁷ Fáilte Isteach started in Summerhill, Co. Meath in October 2006. BAP was instrumental in introducing the Fáilte Isteach initiative to the Dublin 15 area.⁸

The National Development Officer for Fáilte Isteach, Mr Liam Carey, was invited to Blanchardstown to meet with local committee members and volunteers by BAP's Community Development Team. The project is now being run from the offices of BAP in Coolmine, Mulhuddart and Mountview Family Resource Centre to cater for residents of Tyrrelstown Estate and Ongar also.⁹ Several of the tutors have a TEFL qualification and programmes are now being delivered at beginners, intermediate and advanced level English including grammar tuition.



There have been several *outcomes* resulting from the roll out of this project in Blanchardstown. Firstly, it has reportedly improved the level of integration for the migrant workers and their families by providing them with a new network of contacts and friends while also improving their English language proficiency and confidence levels and raising their awareness and knowledge of services in the local community.

It has also helped break down prejudices and promote the value of the contribution of older persons to society after retirement in many instances. Indeed several of the more elderly volunteers for the project originally attended computer classes for seniors run by BAP the previous term.

Further to this several of the other Fáilte Isteach volunteers were registered with the Fingal Volunteer Bureau (FVB) and referred by the FVB to BAP. The LES via the Employment Unit has also referred on several of its clients helping improve their labour market opportunities.

More recently a funding application was submitted on behalf of the Fáilte Isteach Committee to Fingal County Council helped secure €1,500 via the local authorities new Integration Fund to deliver the project in Mulhuddart and Ongar.¹⁰ Fingal County Council is now rolling out similar courses across Fingal in Swords and Balbriggan.

In May 2010, the "Fáilte Isteach" initiative will be formally launched by the Irish President Mary McAleese, in Mountview Youth and Community Centre.

⁷ Mulhuddart CDP, Mountview Family Resource Centre, Fingal County Council and NYP Shelerin Road and two representatives from the volunteers. Several volunteers have been identified and referred on by these organisations.

⁸ Lillian Harris came to learn about a project called Fáilte Isteach while attending a meeting of the Third Age Foundation. Monica and Lillian visited pilot projects in Summerhill / Clane Co Meath, and Rialto, to assess whether something similar could be rolled out in Blanchardstown. The Rialto model was chosen and in the interim a local committee was established with many community and statutory bodies represented on it.

⁹ Greater Blanchardstown CDP is leading project in Mulhuddart.

¹⁰ Integration Fund is administered by the local authority.

A3. FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS (Not Applicable)

A4. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE NETWORK

Blanchardstown Local Employment Services now has strategic contact points located in Mountview, Mulhuddart Village and Coolmine. Over the past 9 months LES Joblink increased its intake of clients through the NEAP process from 4 per week from FAS to 16 per week directly from DSFA. This increase has resulted in LES Joblink receiving short term unemployed skilled people directly from the Live Register. Given the current reduction in employment opportunities available to people the most prevalent grouping on the LES Joblink caseload is NEAP referrals. This shift in target group has meant a realignment of some of the services available and LES Joblink is providing more group based client contact than previously. Services specifically developed in 2009 have included CV clinics, interview skills workshops with motivational inputs, and group guidance sessions. These have greatly increased the capacity of staff to respond to the emerging needs of recently unemployed clients referred through the NEAP process. The scope to develop innovative responses to particular target group needs is diminished somewhat with the concentration of resources into the NEAP client group. The capacity of the service to deliver qualitative interventions versus quantitative may come into question.

The **Mobile Information Unit (MIU)** operated by the Blanchardstown Centre for the Unemployed (BCU) provides long-term unemployed individuals with confidential information on welfare to work issues. It operates on an outreach basis at LES Offices one day per week. By operating on an outreach basis the BCU is responding to a significant gap in public information provision. MIU referred 117 individuals to the Local Employment Service in 2009. In response to the geographical expansion of Blanchardstown the BCU has changed the locations and times at which the MIU operates including the new Tyrrelstown Estate.

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

The **Partnership CEO** chairs this action group, which includes FÁS, County Dublin VEC, Department of Education, Co-operation Fingal, and Department of Social and Family Affairs. The group is working to develop a range of options which can support New Communities to avoid long-term unemployment, re-skill and take up opportunities for self-employment. This action is progressing well, and two pilot projects (Blanchardstown and Balbriggan) were funded by D/SFA in early 2009. A further two pilots have also been funded by D/SFA, and the D/ES evaluation of the pilot projects has now been completed. The Blanchardstown LES training co-ordinator has played a key role in the recruitment of participants, and the delivery of the training modules. Further courses are being planned, in co-operation with Fingal Leader Partnership, to provide these participants who have not yet reached the level of English required to enter the labour market.

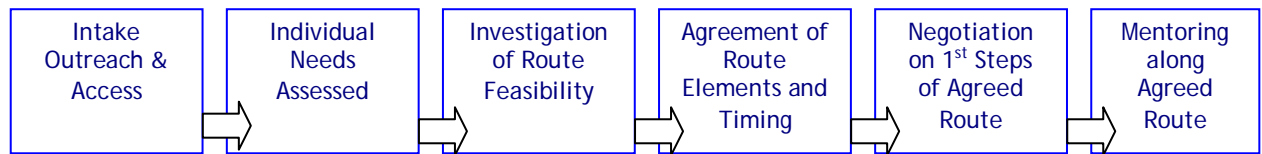
Indirect Support- Quantitative Surveys

LES Joblink welcomes Customer Feedback. LES/JOBLINK completed a client feedback survey. We believe it is important to provide our customers with the opportunity to comment on their experiences of LES Joblink. In order to continue to address our customer's employment needs, this feedback helps us to identify aspects of the service that are working well and also assists to identify areas for improvements.

The results from the survey are very positive based on the completed and returned questionnaires. The main findings of the survey are presented thematically in a report accessible from BAP's website www.bap.ie. A series of bar charts is included giving a more detailed breakdown of respondents feedback to each question.

Mediation

The core function of the mediation process is to provide intensive guidance and support to an individual job seeker along an individually negotiated route towards employment.¹¹ The principal tasks in this process are set out in the following diagram.



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

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

JOBCLUB

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

Employment Unit

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

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

Career Guidance

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

In 2009 the career guidance service provided one to one guidance for 105 people and group guidance for 112 people. In 2008, LES/JOBLINK developed a combined initiative with the

Guidance service of the Co Dublin VEC Blanchardstown. As a result potential 3rd level students are brought on fieldtrip visits to colleges and universities, where they have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the college surroundings, sit in on some lectures and meet and converse with tutors. Many people have reportedly fed back that it was from such experiences they got the confidence to take up a third level course.

A5. VOLUNTEERING RINGFENCED BUDGET 2009: REPORT ON ACTIVITY

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

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

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

In 2009 BAP contracted the Fingal Volunteer Bureau to recruit and support new members onto the three PIB's. The Bureau were also used to recruit Community Directors onto the Board of the Blanchardstown Area Partnership.

A6. ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

(a) The Board went through a significant period of renewal in 2009. Agreement was reached to increase the frequency of meetings to 6 weekly, instead of bi-monthly. Nine meetings were held in 2009, 3 new councillors were appointed to the Board, Councillors Peggy Hammill, Mathew Waine, and Kieran Dennison.

Two training sessions were provided by external facilitators and the Board agreed a revisited Roles and Responsibilities document. The final amendments to the Memo and Arts were agreed in 2009, as required by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

A7. ALL-ISLAND CONTRIBUTION (Not Applicable)

A8. IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

BAP has a recycling policy. Paper and plastic produce are routinely brought to Coolmine Recycling Plant, which is owned by Fingal County Council.

A9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Partnership CEO is Chair of the Board of Blanchardstown Community Training Centre. This is a 40 FAS funded centre, which has been in development for four years. The Centre will provide much needed resources for young people aged 16-21 years. A Manager and Administrator were appointed in December 2009, and the first trainees are expected in the Centre in 1st quarter 2010.

RESEARCH / PUBLICATIONS

Ryan. C. (2009) *Falling Through the Net' An Exploration of Barriers to Employment for Long Term Unemployed Irish Men in Blanchardstown, Blanchardstown Area Partnership.*



BAP undertook a study with long-term unemployed Irish men in Blanchardstown. Local service providers were consulted with to gather information about what education and training strategies and/or labour market programmes are appropriate to help men re-enter the workforce. The study describes the social and psychological consequences of unemployment with reference to previous studies as well as reviewing national and international literature, which identify factors influencing the successful provision of services for the unemployed. The fieldwork phase discovered that legacy issues from the informant's childhoods had long-term consequences for their subsequent engagement in the labour market. Evidence is presented demonstrating that poor information provision and inequities surrounding Community Employment

payments may deter the head of traditional nuclear families from registering for active labour market schemes. In terms of appropriate responses to tackling long-term unemployment, the report suggests that a focus on life long learning, preventative early school leaving actions, mental health issues plus interventions www.workingwithfathers.com that support positive engagement with men in the wider community and information accessibility are critical. BAP has responded proactively to some of the issues highlighted in this report in 2010.

Outcomes

- The Healthy Food Made Easy Co-ordinator recently engaged with two men's groups in Blanchardstown.
- The Community Development Team ran computer classes for older men.
- The LES Training Co-ordinator is delivering a course '*Breaking The Mould*' targeting unemployed men. The course which will run from BAPTEC will cover Desk Top Publishing, Personal Development and Literacy.

Ryan. C. (2009) '*Stepping Stones to Improving Labour Market Participation Rates for Travellers in the Greater Blanchardstown Area*', Blanchardstown Area Partnership.



This report was presented to the Board of the Partnership and the Economic PIB in May 2009. Many of the report's findings and recommendations have been responded to by the Partnership.

Outcomes

- The Deputy CEO of the Partnership recently became a member of the Traveller CE Sponsor Group a key support structure absent for many years. This has improved linkages between the BTDG and the LES/JOBLINK.
- BAP also allocated LDSIP funding to encourage Traveller men to attend training at horticultural allotments site in Rathbeggan Co Meath. (see page)

-The report was also presented to the new Fingal Traveller Inter-Agency Group in April 2009 for discussion. Good practice models highlighted in the above report that support Travellers

into employment were debated. Visits by some of these projects identified in the report will occur at future Inter-Agency meeting.

Ryan, C. (2009) *Socio Economic Profile of Dublin 15, Blanchardstown Area Partnership*

A socio-economic profile of the Dublin 15 area is available to download from the Partnerships website www.bap.ie under reports and publications heading. This report which is provided to all Board members and sub-structures is representative of the broader geographical catchment area that the Partnership now covers under the Cohesion Process. This new publication serves as a companion document to a previous report released in July 2008.¹² Digital Ordnance Survey maps are also included in the report.

Outcomes

The visual depiction of census thematic data sets helps the Partnership and community groups, and statutory organisations decide where to allocate resources across the Dublin 15 area.

Ryan, C. (2009) *Overview of Blanchardstown Area Partnership Achievements 2008, Blanchardstown*

-Ryan, C. (2009b) *Overview of Blanchardstown Area Partnership Achievements January-June 2009, Blanchardstown*

The two reports were circulated and presented to the Board of the Partnership and the three PIB's. They are reflective of the wider impact of the Partnership outside of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme including the LES/JOBLINK. They examine the achievements of the organisation from a service delivery, co-ordination and brokerage angle. BAP Management and Staff support national and regional structures not captured by the SCOPE system, which these reports highlight to the Board and sub-structures. The gender and equality proofing aspect of the report lead to the identification of the need for the Partnership to undertake research into why more long-term unemployed men were not engaging with the Partnership.

Ryan, C. (2009) *Local Development Social Inclusion Programme Annual Report 2008, Blanchardstown Area Partnership.*

Quantitative Surveys

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

BAP's Performance and Monitoring Officer acts as a project manager for research that may be commissioned by the Partnership or lends technical support to community groups and statutory organisations who commission their own research in Dublin 15. In 2009 two large pieces of independent research were undertaken in Dublin 15, which Blanchardstown Area Partnership supported.

Report: Making A Home In Ireland



The Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) and Focus Ireland jointly commissioned important research into the housing experiences of four migrant groups - Chinese, Indian, Lithuanian and Nigerian - in Blanchardstown to examine the central role appropriate housing

¹² Ryan, C (2008) *Socio Economic Profile of Blanchardstown, Blanchardstown Area Partnership.*

plays in a migrant's ability to feel at home in Ireland.¹³ Dr Jane Pillinger *Independent Researcher and Policy Advisor* wrote the report and Sinead McGinley (Research Officer, Focus Ireland) and Fidele Mutwarasibo (Research and Integration Officer, Immigrant Council of Ireland) oversaw the management of the project. **BAP's Research and Evaluation Officer, Blanchardstown Area Partnership) was a member of the Expert Advisory Group** alongside Lawrence Lee from the Chinese Professional Association, Evelina Saduityte from SIPTU and the Lithuanian community, Prashant Shukla from the Indian Association of Ireland. Focus Ireland has a lobby plan for the key findings / recommendations from the study.

Outcomes

-Focus Ireland have begun to organise meetings with relevant Oireachtas Joint Committees, the Office for Social Inclusion, and Local Authority SPC's to discuss the report and engage with them on the key issues for Focus Ireland.

Bogue, P (2009) *Older Persons Research*, Mountview Family Resource Centre.

In recognition of the changing age profile in Mountview Parish, **a door to door needs analysis of older persons age 60 and over was conducted** by an *independent research consultant* for the **Mountview Family Resource Centre**. 5 local persons were trained in and 115 individuals shared their views in their homes with the interviewees. The Partnership was requested to support this initiative. As a result **BAP's Research and Evaluation Officer engaged with the tendering process and providing critical commentary on draft versions of the report.**

Outcomes

Dr Pat Bogue's findings and recommendations have helped inform the Partnership's Community Development Team future response in meeting the needs of older persons across Dublin 15.

Centre for Effective Services

The Centre for Effective Services was asked by the Department for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, to carry out a review project to inform thinking on the new LDSIP and CDP. Phase 1 examined international literature on what works in community and local development programmes to isolate key principles of effective policy and practice. **The Partnership Research and Evaluation Network submitted a paper in response to the Centre for Effective Services draft report 'summary of key messages from a review of international evidence'**, which was positively received by the CES. **BAP's Research and Evaluation Officer was the primary member of the sub-group, which compiled the paper.** Phase 2 which involves feeding the results from Phase 1 into future structure and design of the programmes, and implementation and evaluation challenges is now underway.

Outcomes

-A good working relationship between the CES and the Partnership Research and Evaluation Network has been created.

-BAP's Research and Evaluation Officer provided many research journals to help inform Phase 2 of the CES work.

-BAP's Research and Evaluation Officer also compiled a list of consultants who evaluated previous elements/actions of the LDSIP at different levels for the CES. This will help the CES contact independent evaluators when it plans to hold a seminar in 2010.

¹³ This research project builds on the findings of a major research piece commissioned by the Immigrant Council of Ireland and undertaken by the Migration and Citizenship Research Initiative based at University College Dublin (UCD) entitled '*Getting On – From Migration to Integration*' (2008). The UCD report highlighted the clear relationship between settlement patterns and migration pathways, and identified some key emerging issues around housing integration.

PART B: REPORT FOR 2009 ON LEVERAGE OF FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES

See excel sheet attachment