

# Blanchardstown Area Partnership Overview of Achievements 2012



4/9/2013  
Blanchardstown Area Partnership  
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**blanchardstown**  
*area partnership*

*supporting communities across Dublin 15*

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## List of Abbreviations

BAP	Blanchardstown Area Partnership
BTWEA	Back to Work Enterprise Allowance
CDP	Community Development Project
CDT	Community Drugs Team
CE	Community Employment
CES	Centre for Effective Services
CG	Community Group
CSC	Children Services Committee
D/ECLG	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
D/ES	Department of Education and Skills
D/SP	Department of Social Protection
FCCC	Fingal County Childcare Committee
FDB	Fingal Development Board
HSE	Health Service Executive
IBs	Individual Beneficiaries
LCDP	Local and Community Development Programme
LDC	Local Development Company
LES	Local Employment Service
NTS	No Target Set
NYP	Neighbourhood Youth Project
OBs	Other Beneficiaries
ODG	Ongar Development Group
PIB	Planning Implementation Board
POBAL	Formerly Area Development Management Ltd
SEE	Social Economy Enterprises

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## Background

Blanchardstown Area Partnership offers its services to all residents in Dublin 15 who have become unemployed as a consequence of the on-going recession, and also to local community groups working with disadvantaged communities.

**Our Vision** for Dublin 15 is that it will be a place where *“every member of the community is valued; where education and training are provided to meet the needs of each individual; where there is a job for everyone who seeks employment and employment supports are available to those who require them; people live in a safe and secure environment, and the diversity of the population is accepted by all”*.

Our pivotal role in bringing together stakeholders, identifying appropriate responses and piloting new ideas and programmes will be to the fore in achieving the vision set out above. Our ability to work in collaboration with all stakeholders is particularly important in the changing environment and especially in the area of developing swift responses to changing needs.

**Our Mission** is *“to bring people together to create a better place to live, work and grow”*

This mission was originally created at the joint session of Board and staff in June 2007, and reflects the aim that Dublin 15 will be a place in which everyone can progress at the most appropriate pace for them. The inclusion of the words “to grow” reflects the strong emphasis on providing progression routes into education and training for the most marginalised in society, for whom that first step is vital.

We are fully committed to our role as the lead agency promoting social inclusion in Dublin 15. In collaboration with key stakeholders, we are well placed to achieve this because of our existing strong record of achievement in relation to the following areas:

- Delivering innovative and effective responses to labour market exclusion
- Co-ordinating social inclusion measures
- Building sustainable communities
- Positive engagement with community change

In November 2012 Blanchardstown Area Partnership won the Not for Profit Organisation Business Excellence Award<sup>i</sup> for 2012. This award was for the organisation that was able to meet the ever changing needs of the local community, and one which demonstrated strong and accountable governance. The judges said that Blanchardstown Area Partnership provided *‘excellent evidence of their ability to provide well planned and executed programmes that have had a measurable and beneficial effect on the local community’*.

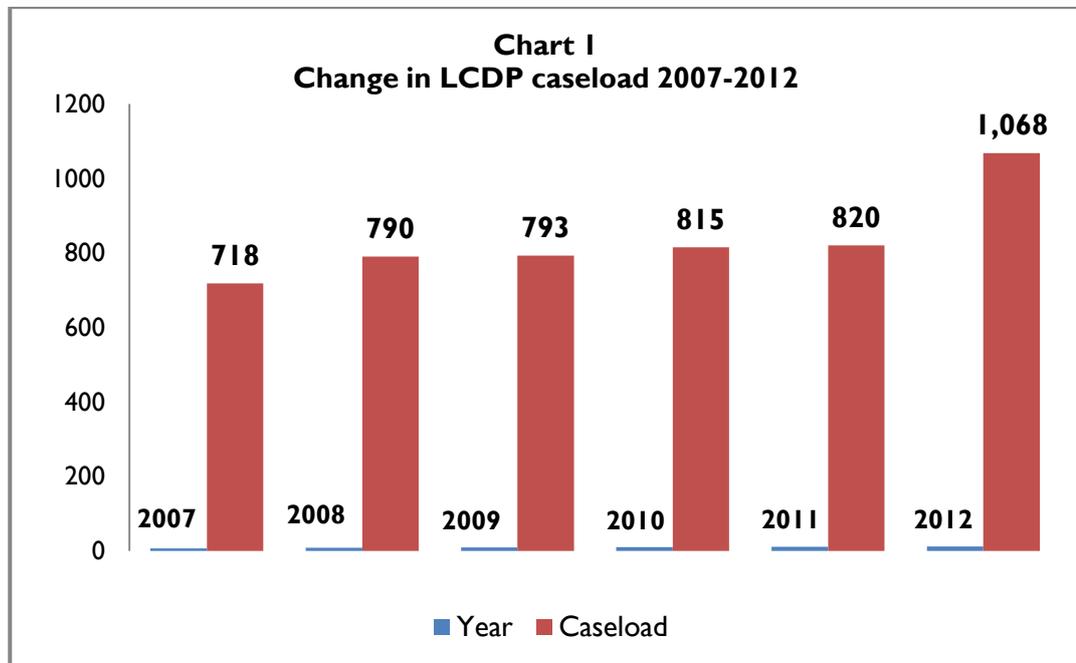
The Chairman of Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Councillor Kieran Dennison, said he was delighted for the management and the staff of the Partnership. He believed that the award was recognition of the way the Partnership has managed to adapt and deliver for the local community on ever tighter budgets. These are challenging times for all organisations and particularly those dependent on government funding.

The Board of Blanchardstown Area Partnership manages three programmes namely the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) funded by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, the Local Employment Services/ JOBLINK and also the TÚS programme both funded by the Department of Social Protection. These programmes have supported increasing numbers of unemployed persons through education and training activities into open and self employment (See charts) 1, 2 and 3.

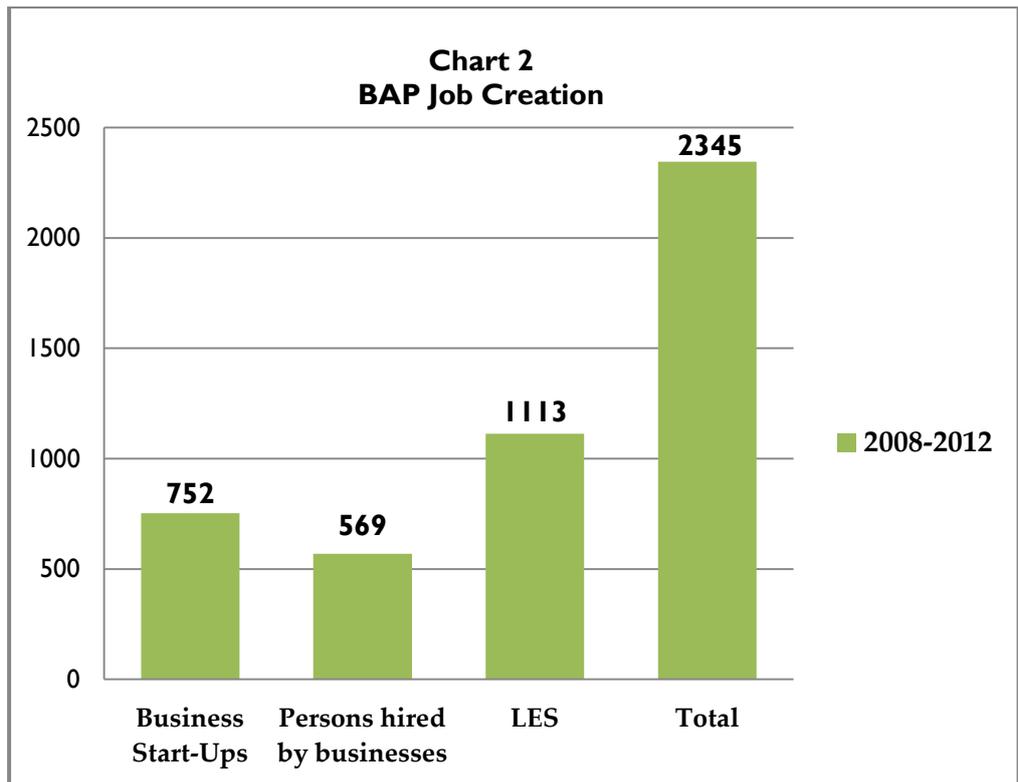
Although the primary focus of BAP’s strategy is to meet the needs of unemployed persons particularly those who are low or semi-skilled the Partnership also believes that people based in local communities are paramount to identifying and resolving problems through community development principles such as equality, social inclusion, and participation. The majority of the Partnership’s Community Development Team is located in Blakestown, Corduff and Mulhuddart Community Centres geographically situated in designated RAPID<sup>ii</sup> areas (See chart 3).

In 2012 Blanchardstown Area Partnership leveraged in €1,257,888 funding from statutory and philanthropic bodies and another €971,000 in indirect funding, which in some instances BAP staff were central to helping secure through supporting funding applications and relevant committees. This surpasses the LCDP core funding of 1,019,725 by 2.2 %. This activity is in keeping with the guidelines of the LCDP which recognise not just a service delivery provider<sup>iii</sup> role for LDCs but also a co-ordination /brokerage<sup>iv</sup> role and an agency/ influencing one (OECD 2001).<sup>v</sup> The LCDP is reported across four Goals devised by the Centre for Effective Services (CES).<sup>vi</sup> The following report will report primarily on activities under each of these four Goals.

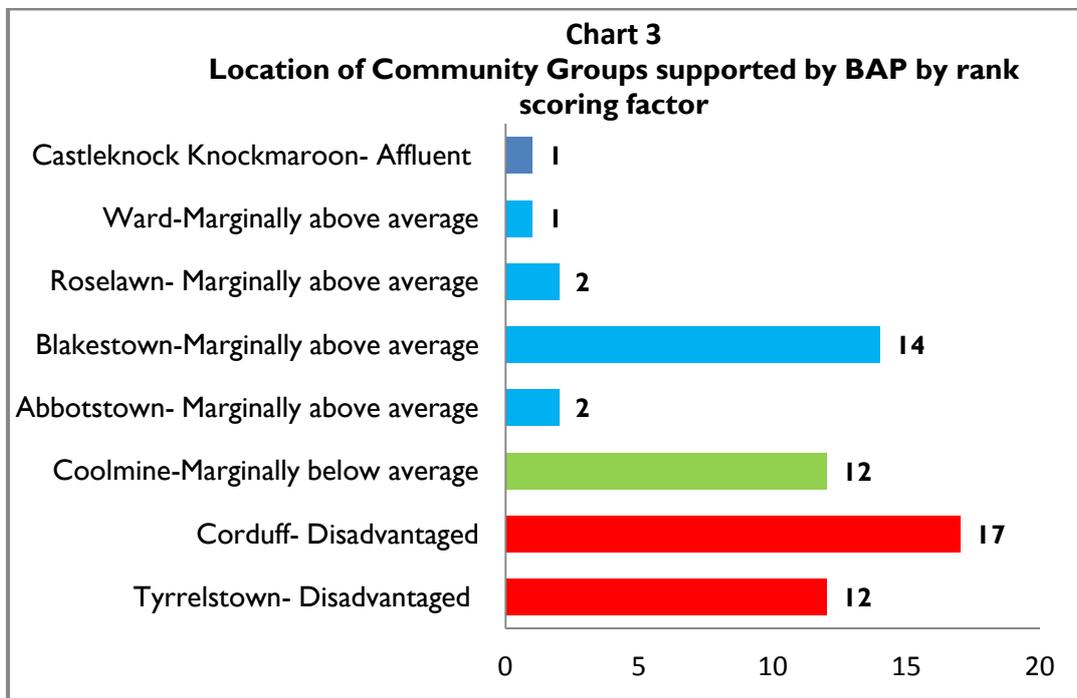
The LCDP makes a distinction between the intensity of supports a person receives such as a one to one meeting, phone call, e-mail, attending a training course supports/ interventions that persons may benefit from. The duration of the support has implications for how outputs are recorded on the LCDP IRIS monitoring system. Persons reflected as 'individual beneficiaries' are those who attend a one-to-one meeting with a staff member lasting several hours or a training/ education course delivered over several days, weeks or months. In contrast 'other beneficiaries' reflect outputs for adults and children who attend once-off group sessions such as health days and workshops. The adults and children who attend such events do have not their personal details registered on IRIS and as a result are not tracked.



Source: SCOPE and IRIS Performance Monitoring Systems



Source: IRIS & LES



Source: IRIS

## SECTION I

### Headline Results and Achievements

#### Goal 1 of the LCDP: Promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services

##### 1.1 Information Provision

27,018 individuals received information from BAP staff members in 2012, which is 132.5% above the baseline target figure of 11,621 set out in our *2011-2013 Strategic Plan*.

##### 1.2 Website

13,500 unique visitors visited the Partnership's website in 2012, and including re-visits there were 21,384 hits registered. The overall numbers of visitors to the website was 42.6% higher than the targets envisaged under the 2012 Annual Plan.

##### 1.3 Networks & Policy Structures

8 networks and policy structures received advice and supports from Partnership staff and management during 2012.

#### Goals 2 of the LCDP: Increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural activities and resources

323 individual beneficiaries, 1,982 youth at risk and 2,022 other beneficiaries attended recreational, cultural or educational activities delivered or indirectly supported by the Partnership under Goal 2.

##### 2.1 Lifelong Learning

145 individual beneficiaries attended IT 4 Jobseekers courses and 44 adults attended Positive Tools for Life workshops.

76 teenagers and young adults received one-to-one career guidance advice and supports.

37 adults attended conversational Irish language, dream workshops and Art classes at our Corduff LCDP Outreach Centre.

216 persons attended an Adult learning festival held in Dillon House during March.

350 adults completed a Healthy Food Made Easy initiative funded by the Health Service Executive.

##### 2.2 Child and Family Wellbeing

36 adults attended Parenting Plus courses delivered by a Community Development Team member in 2012. BAP also continued to support the management committees of community childcare facilities and to work with providers such as Barnardos to ensure children in Dublin 15 have equal access to the early learning supports in Dublin 15.

##### 2.3 Youth at Risk

39 school children attended Homework Clubs supported by Corduff Outreach Centre.

6 teenagers and young adults attended Get Connected Workshops to improve their confidence and communication skills and to refer them to access other more relevant services.

A staff member supported the Dublin 15 Suicide Awareness Group in a sponsored walk and cycle as Chair and distributed information to hundreds of children in POBAL Setanta School as an information.

##### 2.4 Integration

60 non-Irish nationals attended English language classes last year and 30 volunteers from across Blanchardstown helped deliver the tuition element of Failte Isteach.

24 persons attended ESOL accredited English language courses that were delivered by the VEC in Mulhuddart and Blakestown LCDP outreach centres.

### **Goal 3: Increase in people's work readiness and employment prospects**

801 individual beneficiaries and 1,885 other beneficiaries attended training and workshops under Goal 3.

#### **3.1 Training Programmes**

330 individual beneficiaries completed training courses such as Career Bootcamp, Social Media, Future Options, accredited Jobs Club and a Healthcare Course.

#### **3.2 Enterprise Creation**

200 individuals set up new businesses in 2012, and they recruited an additional 136 employees, which highlights the wider impacts of the back to work enterprise allowance scheme.

5 local social economy enterprise businesses such as Corduff Sports Centre, and the Dublin 15 Community Interpreting and Translation Service were supported by BAP staff to help achieve their sustainability in 2012.

#### **3.3 Links with Employers**

Several hundred 'other beneficiaries' received supports from the LES Employment Unit supported by the LCDP.

### **Labour market interventions outside of the Local Community Development Programme**

#### **Local Employment Services / JOBLINK**

1,775 new clients registered with the Local Employment Services / JOBLINK during 2012.

421 clients were supported back into supported and open employment with the support of the LES Employment Unit, mediators and guidance support.

670 LES clients attended training courses and 118 attended education courses.

#### **TÚS**

Tús is a Community Work Placement Initiative implemented by Blanchardstown Area Partnership in conjunction with the Department of Social Protection. The aims of Tús are to provide a 12

months work opportunity for persons in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance and to provide certain services of benefit to communities. Blanchardstown Area Partnership has four team leaders managing 80 Tús participants. In September 2012 Minister Joan Burton officially launched the Care & Repair project, set up in collaboration with Age Action Ireland, to provide minor repairs to older people living in the community.

### **Goal 4 of the LCDP: Promote engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities**

#### **4.1 Capacity Building**

69 Community Development Structures were supported by BAP staff during 2012. These included pre-development community groups such as the Men's Shed project, a Suicide Awareness Group and established structures including Blanchardstown Community Training Centre. A complete list of the community structures staff supported during 2012 is included in the appendices.

#### **4.2 The Fingal Volunteer Centre**

BAP continued to allocate ring fenced LCDP funding to the Fingal Volunteer Centre in 2012 and provide technical assistance to the Board under Goal 4.

#### **4.3 Performance and Monitoring / Research and Evaluation**

Several reports were relayed to the Board, PIBs and POBAL during 2012 including the

- *2012 Socio-Economic Profile of Dublin 15*
- *2012 Client Satisfaction Survey of the Local Employment Services*
- *2011 Overview of Blanchardstown Area Partnership Achievements Report*

#### **4.4 Leveraged Funding**

In 2012 Blanchardstown Area Partnership leveraged in €1,257,888 funding from statutory and philanthropic bodies and another €971,000 in indirect funding, which in some instances BAP staff were central to helping secure through supporting relevant committees and funding applications.

## Section 2. Goal 1: Promote awareness, knowledge and update of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services

**Local Strategic Objective 1** To reduce the social exclusion of residents in the RAPID areas of Blakestown, Corduff, Mountview and Mulhuddart, together with the emerging areas of disadvantage of Ongar and Tyrrelstown, by increasing access to local services by 2013 in accordance with the revised framework and the numbers of people using our local offices over the period of the Strategic Plan by 20% (or 2,325) over the baseline figure of 11,621 reported in 2010.

### 2. Information Provision

Blanchardstown Area Partnership has endeavoured to reduce the social exclusion of residents through a combination of different approaches. Staff in our Blakestown, Corduff and Mulhuddart LDCP offices along with our receptionist and the information centre on the ground floor in Dillon House assisted 27,018 persons obtain information on key services in their communities across Dublin 15. A Partnership Community Newsletter was also delivered to 10,000 households throughout the RAPID estates and new emerging areas in Ongar and Tyrrelestown Estate twice during 2012.

The Blakestown and Corduff LCDP outreach offices held Health Fairs that attracted 200 visitors where vital information on all aspects of a person's health was disseminated. It should also be pointed out that Partnership staff provided information to various target groups<sup>vii</sup> of the LCDP including disadvantaged communities across the other three Goals. For example hundreds of younger persons were provided with information as part of many campaigns by the Dublin 15 Suicide Awareness Group, which a staff member chairs.

### 2.1 Website [www.bap.ie](http://www.bap.ie)

Blanchardstown Area Partnership's website and FACEBOOK social media pages are proving to be excellent communication instruments for informing jobseekers and our stakeholders about the role of the organisation. The home page is continually updated, which helps direct internet surfers to access various departments of the Partnership in a speedy fashion e.g. education. The Local Employment Services / JOBLINK section of the website (see page 20) has also expanded to assist jobseekers become more acquainted with the services they offer, and how the LES may support persons back into the labour market. Each member of staff now updates their relevant sections on an ongoing basis rather than relying on an external IT consultant to do so.

The popularity of the Partnership's website is clearly detectable as evidenced by Google analytics in terms of the numbers of hits generated. We can demonstrate that 13,500 unique visitors visited the Partnership's website in 2012, and including re-visits there were 21,384 hits registered. BAP can therefore state that overall numbers of visitors to the website was 42.6% higher than the targets envisaged under the 2012 Annual Plan.



## Networks <sup>viii</sup>

Management and staff represent the Partnership on several networks and key policy structures at a local, regional and national level to lobby for change on behalf of the target groups of the LCDP. A brief synopsis of the contribution of the Partnership to them is set out below and under the more appropriate thematic headings such as youth at risk.

- RAPID
- Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force
- Fingal County Childcare Committee (Pg)
- Fingal Children's Services Committee
- Fingal County Development Board
- Blanchardstown Community Training Centre



The RAPID programmes core focus on a defined area comprises Mulhuddart, Corduff, Blakestown and Mountview. 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 and strengthening communities. The Partnership Deputy CEO represents the Partnership on the RAPID Area Implementation Team. Several other members of staff also support AITs in local communities such as Blakestown, Mulhuddart and Corduff. Unemployment and training have been ongoing issues for concern on the RAPID AITs. A sub-group – RAPID Employment and Community Training Review Group (REACT) - was formed to further investigate these issues with relevant stakeholders, including Blanchardstown Area Partnership. This group collaborated on several actions in the area, including up-skilling of frontline workers on welfare right issues, establishment of an ITB-RAPID Area Learning Exchange and Research Hub, and the provision of training workshops for Youth at Risk. The latter was provided and funded by this LDC through the 'Get Connected' programme. The 'Get Connected' programme ran twice during 2012, and targeted marginalised young people who were not connecting with mainstream services. This is reported on through the IRIS system. Other collaborations have been the establishment of new

community structures in the RAPID areas of Blakestown/Mountview, Corduff and Mulhuddart as reported elsewhere in this report under Local Objective 4.

The Fingal County Development Board <http://www.fdb.ie/> established an Executive Committee in 2008. The Partnership CEO is a member of the committee representing the local development sector. Other Partnership staff and management including LES Training Co-ordinator, Deputy CEO, and Research and Evaluation Officer also actively participate in actions 5, 9 and 16 within the FDB Strategy 2009-2012, "Building a Better Fingal" including

- Action 5 Developing a new range of responses for ethnic minorities
- Actions 6 and 7; Multi-agency awareness training programme on cultural diversity linked to improving translation services for minority ethnic groups
- Action 8: Disability and Access-related issues providing a baseline review
- Action 9: Employment inequalities among Travellers
- Action 13: Joint Policing Countywide Committee
- Action 16: Fingal Data Hub [www.fdh.ie](http://www.fdh.ie)

The Blanchardstown Community Training Centre<sup>ix</sup> provides vocational and life skills training to young unemployed people and early school leavers aged 16-21. The centre responds to learner need through the provision of a variety of flexible training options that support their progression into the workforce or further learning environment. This 40 place DSP funded Centre commenced operations in 2010 and employs 6 full-time staff including a centre manager and an administrator. The LES/JOBLINK Training Co-ordinator represents the Partnership on its Board.

## Fingal Children Services Committee



Blanchardstown Area Partnership has been a member of the Fingal Children's Services Committee (FCSC) since its inception in 2009. The LCDP Manager represents the LDC on the FCSC and also on the Childcare and Early Education sub-group. The Research and Evaluation Officer is Chair of the Information sub-group. Each CSC is responsible for improving the lives of children and families at local and community level through integrated planning, working and service delivery based on the Seven National Outcomes<sup>x</sup> for Children in Ireland.

Both of these sub-groups have secured state funding for specific actions under the FCSC action plan that benefit young people and children in the Dublin 15 area and across Fingal. The Childcare and Early Education Group secured €330,000 under the National Early Years Access Initiative (NEYAI), to (a) up skill childcare workers in Community Childcare facilities and (b) to provide parenting courses to parents across the Fingal area.

Several training workshops have taken place in Dublin 15 to train community and childcare workers

in the area and a number of parenting courses rolled out during the year. This funding was crucial in enabling the roll-out of these actions which are part of our Strategic Plan 2011-2013. (See page 14).

Further to the above the Fingal Children's Services Committee Children launched its three year strategic for County Fingal in 2012 setting out an agreed path for the delivery of services to children and young people in Fingal under 18 years of age. The Information Sub-Group has also overseen the creation of agreed inter-agency sharing protocols for organisations catering to the needs of children following consultations with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioners. In 2013 a successful application was submitted by the Information Sub-Group to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs seeking exchequer funding to cover the costs of paying a consultant to audit and map all children's services in Fingal.

The purpose of the overall exercise is to enable the FCSC visually examine service provision in Ireland's youngest county, identify gaps in services and to ascertain where there is duplication and ultimately improve outcomes for children. An on-line questionnaire has recently been circulated to over a thousand organisations in Fingal, which will be followed up by focus groups. It is expected that the final report will be completed in early Summer 2013.

## SECTION 3. Goals 2: Increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural activities and resources

**Local Objective 1** To promote life long learning and address educational inequality by providing access to formal/informal education and training opportunities for at least 200 men and women each year. The target groups will include older men from the RAPID areas of Blakestown, Corduff, Mountview and Mulhuddart; lone parents particularly from Tyrrelstown and Mulhuddart; foreign nationals living in Blakestown, Ongar and Tyrrelstown; and disadvantaged youth from the RAPID and emerging areas of disadvantage. Currently 20% of all training is accredited, and we plan to increase to at least 38% (or 76 men and women) by 2013.

### 2.1 Lifelong Learning

In keeping with the *2011-2013 Adult Education Strategy*<sup>xi</sup> of the Partnership, the organisation reached 259 individuals, 566 other beneficiaries and 48 other youth beneficiaries under Goal 2 during 2012 thereby surpassing targets set out in the Annual Plan.

76 teenagers and young adults received one-to-one career advice mainly in late August after the release of CAO offers for those considering attending 3<sup>rd</sup> level, a PLC course, or a job. The support for this intervention was provided by career guidance counsellors from the Institute of Guidance Counsellors and LES/JOBLINK funded by the LCDP.

37 adults attended conversational Irish language (Cupla Focail Gaeilge Classes agus Coiste Mhaighe Life), dream workshops and art classes at our Corduff LCDP Outreach Centre. 4 persons received their Fainne in recognition of the level of proficiency in the language they have attained.

A larger than national average proportion of the caseload under Goal 2 of the LCDP reported that they were early school leavers (see chart 8 in appendix 2). Improving upon the core skills set of individuals under Goal 2 is essential before progressing them onto further training under Goal 3 of the LCDP to increase their opportunities of obtaining employment.. In response Blanchardstown Area Partnership delivered fourteen IT 4 Jobseekers course for 145 individual beneficiaries and 4 Positive Tools for Life workshops for 44 adults. All of these individuals were referred onto the Local Employment Service and some progressed to receive supports under Goal 3 of the LCDP and some onto eventual employment.



2012 was the second year occasion for Blanchardstown Area Partnership to co-host the Aontas Annual Adult Learning Festival. 216 persons attended this four day festival held in Dillon House during March. Each day focused on a different theme including community education, job seeking with the LES, volunteering and a health day. The specially invited guest speaker who presented certificates was Professor Maria Slowey, Vice-President for Learning Innovation at Dublin City University (See photo).



350 adults completed a *Healthy Food Made Easy* initiative funded by the Health Service Executive. HFME is a 6 week peer led course that aims to improve people's knowledge of nutrition, devised by the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Health and Children, in conjunction with the Community Nutrition Service of the HSE.

## 2.2 Integration



In order to integrate and gain employment non-Irish nationals needs to improve their English language skills. Analysis of 2011 census data for Dublin 15 illustrates that 824 persons indicated that they either spoke English 'not at all well' and an additional 3,573 stated they spoke English 'not well'. Unemployment levels are higher among foreign nationals than Irish persons e.g. Romanian 38.8%, Lithuanian 25.8%, Polish 19.8%, Nigerian 38.7%, Other African 48.9%, Asian 48.3% and Irish 15.8%. Both these data sets provide evidence of the challenge in integrating non-Irish nationals.

Our key initiative for Integration is the delivery of the Fáilte Isteach programme, which is delivered in Dillon House, the RAPID area of Mountview and the emerging area of Tyrellstown in partnership with Summerhill Third Age Foundation. Fáilte Isteach grew out of the Foundation's desire to provide volunteering opportunities to older people active in the community. Volunteers are trained to work with both individuals and groups to initiate conversation on topics of interest to both. The aim of the initiative is to build conversation skills in the English language in non-Irish nationals now living in Ireland. This initiative has a two fold advantage – on the one hand it gives non-English speakers a first chance at conversational English and on the other it aids integration between the host Irish community and non-Irish nationals who do not have a knowledge of the English language.<sup>xii</sup> 55 foreign nationals attended Fáilte Isteach English language classes in 2012. 30 volunteers from across

Blanchardstown helped deliver the tuition element of the course. During 2012 the Partnership began to provide additional English courses to non-Irish nationals which Fáilte Isteach participants attended.

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 non-Irish nationals 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.

Some participants are attending courses in Coolmine and Mulhuddart the same week such is their eagerness to succeed. It has also helped break down prejudices and promote the value of the contribution of older persons to society after retirement in many instances. Indeed several of the more elderly volunteers for the project originally attended computer classes for seniors run by BAP. This is evidence of an unintended outcome arising from a separate project. Further to this several of the other volunteers have registered with the Fingal Volunteer Centre. The LES via the Employment Unit has also referred on several of its clients helping improve their labour market opportunities.

Blanchardstown Area Partnership's Blakestown and Mulhuddart LCDP Outreach Offices were also involved in the delivery of VEC accredited VTOS English Language Courses. Staff actively recruited course participants for the 8 month long courses, which are being run from the local community centres. 25 persons are still receiving tuition each week.



## 2.3 Child and Family Wellbeing

A staff member of the Community Development Team is assigned to the area of Family and Child Well Being. As part of this function she supports several Community Childcare Services in Dublin 15 including *Blakestown, Corduff, Huntstown and Mountview Community Crèches* and the *Blakestown & Mountview NYP Crèche*. She is also a member of the *D15 Community Childcare Service Steering Group*, whose role is to work with the community childcare services to ensure they remain viable and get the support they need in this challenging sector. The Partnership also provides additional child and family wellbeing supports through its representation on the Fingal County Childcare Committee.

The *Fingal County Childcare Committee* [www.fccc.ie](http://www.fccc.ie) is responsible for the organisation of training courses for childcare providers, childcare staff and parents in Blanchardstown. In the past it has carried out training analysis of childcare services to better meet the needs of those actually working in services. Recent publications that the FCCC has released include a funding for Community / Private Childcare Providers and a Childminders Support Pack.

The Partnership is part of a consortium under the auspices of the Fingal Children Services Committee which received funding under the *National Early Years Access Initiative* (NEYAI) to deliver Parenting Plus courses on a county wide basis over three years - 2010-2013. BAP is now responsible for developing a hub for delivery of Parenting Plus courses in the Dublin 15 area. As members of the NEYAI consortium, we are working with Fingal County Childcare Committee, Barnardos and other service providers to identify the need for and support the provision and promotion of parenting skills courses.

BAP continued its active participation in the consortium in 2012. A total of six childcare workers have been trained to deliver the Parenting Plus programme and a total of eight training programmes have been delivered in the Dublin 15 area - Little Learners, Neighbourhood Youth Project, Barnardos,

Aisteor Beo, and Mountview FRC and Scoil Gráinne in Tyrrelstown. This is a cross Fingal action and there has been a total of 26 programmes delivered impacting on 240 families across the county. This action will continue to roll-out in 2013.

## 2.4 Youth at Risk

The Blakestown LCDP Co-ordinator is a director of the Board of Management for the *Blakestown Mountview Youth Initiative* <http://www.bmyi.ie/>. The BMYI is a locally community based project that supports young people between ages 13-18 in their physical and emotional transition to adulthood and their families. The project was awarded the Quality Mark in Health Promotion in 2010.

The *Suicide Awareness Dublin 15* was established a bereavement support group in May 2010, and for parents who have lost a child to suicide. The support group is facilitated by a fully-qualified bereavement counsellor from Parents of Suicides Ireland. The support group meets in the Crosscare Centre, Main Street in Blanchardstown on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm. The group developed a bereavements support booklet detailing emotional implications associated with suicide and reference to a range of professional suicide support services.

The Co-ordinator of the Partnership's Corduff's Outreach Centre acts as Chair of the Group and is involved in marketing and fund raising activities. On 8<sup>th</sup> September, an event was held to raise awareness about suicide at St Peregrine's CLG. This event includes the shirt sponsorship of the Minor Hurling team. 80 young people and 48 adults attended. On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, Suicide Awareness Dublin 15 held a sponsored walk, sponsored cycle and family fun day at the Grasshopper, Clonee. Approximately 650 people took part – 400 children, 250 adults. €16,500 was raised at this event. BAP also co-sponsored the David Lynch Memorial Tournament. 768 young people took part, a further 1,500 spectators were there – roughly a quarter of whom were young people.

## SECTION 3. Goal 3: Increase in people's work readiness and employment prospects

**Local Objective 1** *To support LCDP target groups preparing for the labour market by providing targeted training for 300 people each year. The provision of training will focus on men and women living in Blakestown, Corduff, Mulhuddart and Tyrrelstown – areas of Dublin 15 that have experienced significant increases in unemployment in the last few years.*

### 3.1 Training Programmes

19% of respondents to BAP's community consultation for our Strategic Plan in 2011 identified employment related training as the most pressing issue in Dublin 15. This is not surprising given the level of unemployment has effectively doubled from 9.7% of the labour force in 2006 to of 18.4% by 2011 (Ryan, C. 2012). As a response the Partnership made provision for greater synergies between the LCDP and the Local Employment Service/ JOBLINK in our 2012 Annual Plan.

330 individual beneficiaries completed training courses under Goal 3 of the LCDP during 2012. Some of these individuals also received interventions under Goal 2, which is an indicator that these persons have progressed along a progression path identified by LES mediators and/ or through a guidance support intervention they may have received. All of the individuals were referred to the Local Employment Services on completion of their course.

One FETAC level 5 accredited Healthcare Course lasting seven months was delivered to 16 participants. Social care is a sector of the economy that has the potential to expand in the future. Given that Ireland has the highest birth rate in the European Union and the percentage of persons aged 65 is also increasing the individuals who complete Healthcare Course have a greater likelihood of securing employment than in construction.

The acquirement of social media skills via the use of LinkedIn, FACEBOOK and Twitter is now recognised as vital in aiding a jobseeker identify and apply for job openings in the labour market. In response 3 Social Media courses were delivered by BAPtec Ltd that was partially funded by the Partnership and Skillnet, which 24 participants completed in 2012. Elsewhere 4 Future Options courses lasting 6 weeks that attracted 46 participants were delivered along with 14 one week long Career Bootcamp courses which 169 persons attended.

The Co-ordinator of the Corduff LCDP office started to deliver courses from the Corduff Community Centre in order to reach more persons living in RAPID areas. For instance an accredited training initiative that was paid for via the LCDP was a FETAC level 3 Career MOT course lasting 3 months that aimed to improve the IT skills of the participants. This course specifically targeted 'disadvantaged men' a target group of the LCDP all of whom were long term unemployed and early schools leavers.

Finally 43 persons also completed 4 accredited Job Clubs that were delivered in Dillon House (See page 20 for more information). An action Links to Employers, which recorded LCDP outputs is reported under the Employment Unit on page 2.

**Local Objective 2** To increase self employment by providing one-to-one enterprise supports to 200 people, leading to 100 new businesses and 500 places on enterprise seminars, workshops and courses each year.



### 3.2 Enterprise

The Enterprise Officers met face to face with 472 individuals in 2012, to discuss the intricacies of setting up their own business. Before the Enterprise Officers meet with individuals they provide advice over the telephone, by e-mail

and through links on the Enterprise Section of the Blanchardstown Area Partnership's website and social media FACEBOOK page. The initial telephone conversations help determine the options the Enterprise Officer deems best suited to the needs of the individual. As a result they could be advised to carry out market research about the business they are potentially looking to establish. Alternatively they could be encouraged to attend enterprise workshops, referred onto other Partnership actions such as Failte Isteach to improve their English language skills or even a government labour market schemes such as JOBBRIDGE that a Local Employment Service mediator can best advise on.

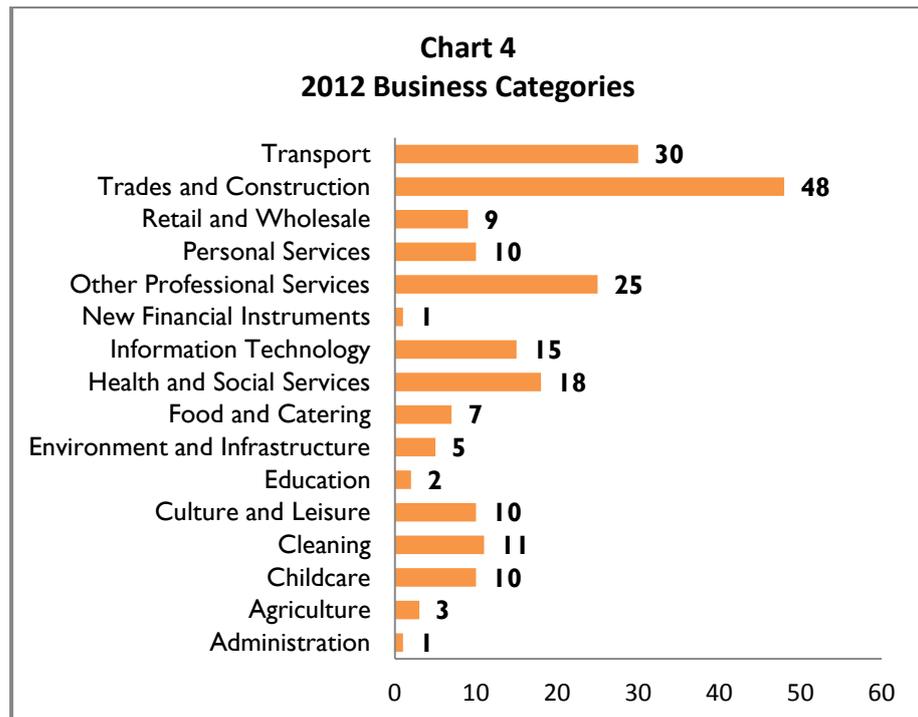
200 individuals set up new businesses in 2012, and they indicated to Enterprise Officers that they would recruit an additional 136 employees, which highlights the wider impacts of the BTWEA scheme. The most prevalent sectors of the economy where new businesses were created were in trades and construction (48), transport (30) and other professional services (25) see chart. The Enterprise Department also delivered a wide range of

workshops and seminars for 736 places for persons interested in starting a business, as well as those who have already set-up in business to help sustain them. The schedule of seminars covered topics such as Market Research, Bookkeeping, How to Come Up With New Ideas, How to Get Money For Your Business, How to Sell Better, Ebay for Sellers, Franchising and VAT. These individuals frequently follow up with further one-to-one meetings with the Enterprise Officer to help progress them into self-employment or expand their existing business.

The Enterprise Officer and two staff members of the Community Development Team also provided interventions to local social economy businesses in 2012 that support the target groups of the LCDP who have helped create local employment opportunities.

- BAPTEC Ltd [www.baptec.ie](http://www.baptec.ie) (Chair)
- Corduff Sports Centre (Secretary)
- Dublin 15 Community Interpreting and Translation Service (Committee member)
- BASE <http://base-centre.com/> (Enterprise selection committee)
- PhoenixFM <http://www.phoenixfm.ie/en/index.php?id=1>

The Partnership has already achieved its targets over the life time of its 2011-2013 Strategic Plan in relation to Strategic Objective 2-Increase in people's work readiness and employment prospects.



Source: IRIS

**Table I**  
**Trends in Enterprise Department Supports 2007—2012**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Pre-Enterprise	225	224	260	435	466	472
New Enterprises	71	77	89	129	222	200
Additional Jobs Created	88	97	116	139	90	136
Workshop Places*	297	486	665	903	969	736

Source: IRIS & SCOPE

Since 2007 the Enterprise Department <http://www.bap.ie/enterprise> of the Blanchardstown Area Partnership has witnessed a 110 % increase in persons interested in setting up a business. The sheer increase in the population of the catchment area of BAP from 63,120 (2006) to 101,032 (2011) has been a contributory factor. This phenomenon has undoubtedly been influenced by the additional 4,861 persons who have become unemployed over the past five years in Dublin 15. The unemployment rate now stands at 18.4% or almost double from the equivalent rate of 9.7% in 2006. Changes made in April's 2009 Supplementary Budget have reportedly quickened up the time for unemployed persons to set-up a business under the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme.

The Enterprise Department regularly requests information from individuals about the quality of courses delivered and wider supports offered to them. Client satisfaction surveys are circulated to them and also evaluation sheets are provided to individuals after each course. The feedback is closely examined and lessons are taken on board to shape the delivery of future courses.

Following on is a testimonial of one of the Enterprise Officer's clients and a separate case study of an individual who set up in business with the support of BAP's Enterprise Department.

### Testimonial

*"I have been self-employed for two years and find that reaching customers is the biggest hurdle I face every day. I have attended two Marketing advice courses offered by the Blanchardstown Area Partnership in the last two years. The courses focused in on the practical things I could do to make sure customers could find me as well as making me look at my business from the customers point of view - this was vital information at the beginning. The most recent course was able to offer advice to everyone in the room - from those with an idea for a business to those with existing business. I have been able to take that advice and apply it to my own business, and it's working - I am successfully reaching customers and selling my product. Thanks for all your help, especially the helpful phone calls and follow-ups in the weeks after the course".*

**Aileen Foley [www.flowersbyaileen.ie](http://www.flowersbyaileen.ie)**

### A Case Study of Karl Swan

Karl Swan had previously run very successful businesses throughout the 1990s and 2000s, at the cutting edge of the fashion retail sector. During 2007/08, he was looking to further expand his business. Bank loans had been agreed upon but not signed off. Karl, in the interim, had committed his business to new contracts and leases.

In 2009, his lenders declared they were not willing to support his previously agreed loan arrangements. Karl was now left to personally finance contracts to six figure sums. Shortly afterwards, he was forced to leave his business and apply for assistance from Social Welfare.

It took Karl a long time to overcome the shock of this. By early 2011, Karl had decided that he wanted to create a new business utilising his business acumen to help other businesses that were in difficulty. Karl specialised in spotting trends long before they hit the mainstream. He would support small businesses through change.

On 18 August 2011, Karl was approved onto the Back To Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme and commenced trading as ICH Consulting. Without the support of the scheme, starting this business would have proved extremely difficult; particularly surviving the first year until a client base and regular income was established.

Throughout 2011 Karl and his wife had 1-2-1 meetings with the Blanchardstown Area Partnership Enterprise Department to discuss and develop his business. Both attended numerous enterprise workshops delivered during 2011/12.

Over the preceding years, Karl looking at his teenage sons was becoming concerned about the pervading air of doom and gloom in Ireland and how this atmosphere was affecting the youth of Ireland. Inspired by a documentary about Jim Stynes, the GAA-turned Aussie Rules All Star, in 2010, he contacted Stynes's Australian youth foundation, Reach, with the aim of setting up a similar organisation in Ireland.

The seeds of his next enterprise had been sown. *'My wife had heard that Tony Griffin (former Clare All Ireland winning hurler) would be speaking at a sports injury clinic and suggested I go. After hearing the end of a radio interview with him, she felt he might be receptive to helping me with something I was trying to do. I'd felt a call when I saw the documentary about Jim Stynes to create something similar to his youth foundation here. I've always been interested in*

*young people and was concerned about the effect of the downturn on them. Tony had also seen the documentary and been inspired but hadn't figured out what to do.'*

By late 2011, the Soar Foundation was created. In its first year of trading, in December 2012, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland awarded Karl and Tony the Social Impact Award for 2012 and support of €200,000 for the Foundation.

<http://socialentrepreneurs.ie/winners/tony-griffin-and-karl-swan/>

## **The Soar Foundation**

### **The Challenge**

Recent challenges in Ireland have left many young people with a lack of hope and inspiration to take action and achieve their full potential. With parents facing increased pressures and rising social isolation the focus in Ireland has shifted to simply 'surviving' through the difficult times. However, teenagers are not immune to the challenges of our economy and the failure of our major institutions in recent years.

Worryingly, recent research has shown that 75% of serious mental health difficulties first emerge between the ages of 15 and 25. There is currently only limited life skills and emotional awareness education in the national education curriculum.

### **The Idea**

Inspired by the work of 'Reach' in Australia, which has been running youth outreach programmes for the last 17 years, Soar was founded by former Clare hurler Tony Griffin and Karl Swan. Soar equips young people with inspiration and critical life skills, with a focus on prevention, that empower and ignite action.

Soar creates and delivers innovative programmes for young people within a safe and supportive environment. It works inside and outside the education system with young people aged 10-18 delivering workshops that focus on developing confidence, self-esteem and resilience. Soar invests in young people by equipping them with positive life skills to fulfil their potential. Soar is for all young people regardless of their background and acts as an early intervention initiative.

### **The Impact**

Since being formed less than a year ago, Soar has already worked with 700 students all over Ireland. In addition to their schools programmes, they have brought the first four Irish teenagers to a youth self-development camp in Nova Scotia, Canada called 'Camp Catapult' and will run their first out of school programme known as 'Heroes Days' in January 2013. Following very positive responses from Irish schools so far, Soar aims to reach over 16,000 Irish teenagers by the end of 2014, and build a model of early intervention youth mental health support that can be expanded and adopted internationally.

**More details can be found here;**

<http://www.soar.ie/>

<http://socialentrepreneurs.ie/winners/tony-griffin-and-karl-swan/>

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/magazine/2012/0908/1224323668436.html>

## 4.2 Blanchardstown Local Employment Service



### Strategy-Mediation, Information and Guidance

Blanchardstown Local Employment Services has contact points located in Mountview, Mulhuddart Village and Coolmine. Over the past 3 years LES Joblink increased its intake of clients through the NEAP process as a result of increased referrals of clients from Department of Social Protection from 16 persons to 64 each week. 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 now NEAP referrals.

This shift in unemployment duration has meant a realignment of some of the services available and LES Joblink is providing more group based client contact than previously. The scope to develop innovative responses to particular needy target groups needs is diminished with the concentration of resources into the NEAP client group. The capacity of the service to deliver qualitative interventions versus quantitative is increasingly coming into question.

### Mediation

The core function of the mediation process is to provide intensive guidance and support to an individual job seeker along an individually negotiated route towards employment. The principal tasks in this process are set out in the following diagram that can occur over many months and sometime several years depending on the needs of the person. In 2012, LES mediators engaged with 1,775 new clients. The mediators are also supported by Contact Support Staff, a Guidance Counsellor, the Employment Unit, the JOBCLUB as well as many external organisations.<sup>xiii</sup>

In relation to the key core LES progression indicators for 2012:

- 1,775 new clients registered with the Local Employment Services / JOBLINK during 2012
- 421 clients were supported back into supported and open employment
- 670 LES clients attended training courses and
- 118 attended education courses

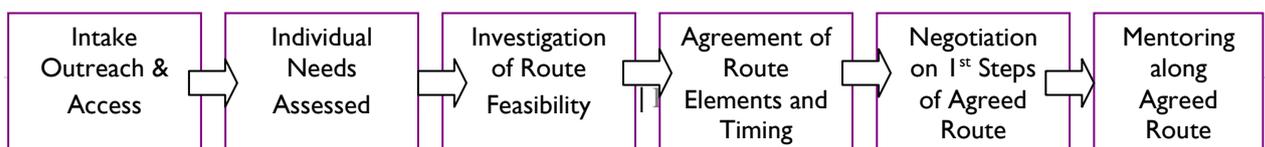
### JOBCLUB



The Job Club brings together unemployed people of all ages and backgrounds who have a genuine interest in finding work. During the 3 week training period people are helped with improving their job seeking skills. Interview preparation and mock interviews is a central facet of the Job Club 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 JOB CLUB. 11 Job Clubs as well as a further 3 CE Job Clubs were delivered in 2012, and 154 persons attended the clubs and received one to one support.

*JOBCLUB Testimonial "Participating in the Job Club is the best way to prepare for future employment. When you join the Jobclub you learn a wide range of skills from CV preparation to Interview skills. I am happy that I engaged in the Job Club and would highly recommend it."*



## Links with Employers

### Employment Unit

The Employment Unit of the LES is a key strategic part of the Partnership's Economic Strand, which has developed good linkages with the Dublin Fingal Chamber and local employers. 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 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 with short-listed CVs, arranging interviews and provide post recruitment support.



The **Joblink Network** is a weekly drop in support group for jobseekers living in the

Dublin 15 area and working with the Local Employment Service. It is a forum for jobseekers to access job and training opportunities, advice, job application and interview support, share contacts for companies and access services which can support people who are unemployed. Job vacancy opportunities are also shared through daily email alerts. During 2012 several hundred 'other beneficiaries' attended the weekly drop in support sessions. The Employment Unit was also involved in a:

- "Security Connect" event
- Recruitment morning for Bancotec
- Creative thinking workshops
- Hosted a stand at a Jobs Recruitment Fair

### LES Service Interventions and Referrals

The **Employment Liaison Officer (ELO)** is a member of the *Fingal Dublin North Skillsnet*. This has opened up training opportunities to unemployed LES clients.



### Tús

Tús is a Community Work Placement Initiative implemented by Blanchardstown Area Partnership on behalf of the Department of Social Protection. The aims of Tús are to provide a 12 months work opportunity for persons in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance and to provide certain services of benefit to communities. Blanchardstown Area Partnership has four team leaders managing 80 Tús participants.

In September 2012 Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton officially launched the **Care & Repair project**, set up in collaboration with Age Action Ireland, to provide minor repairs to older people living in the community. The CEO manages the Tús initiative on behalf of the Board. Tús currently supports participants in 35 host organisations across Dublin 15 including Blanchardstown Care and Repair (see photo).



## Section 5 Goal 4: Promote engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities

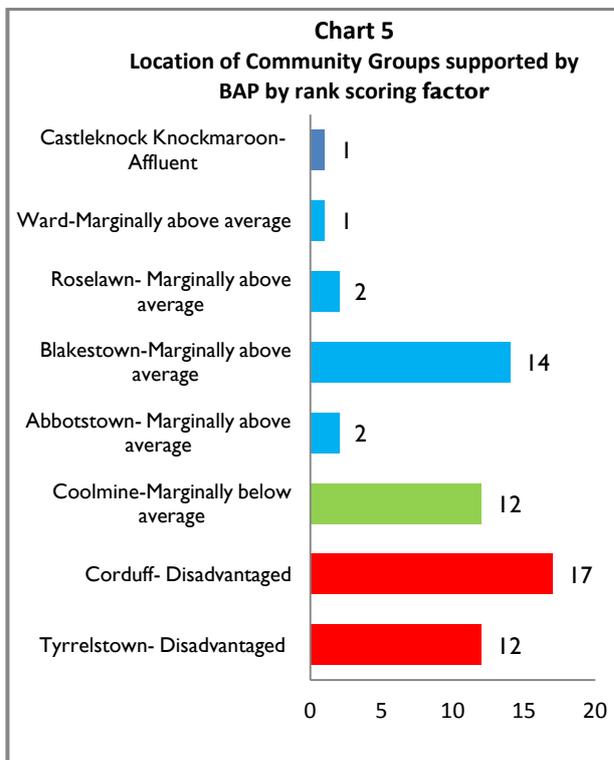
**Objective 4** – To support and develop community engagement with decision making bodies, through streamlining of existing structures to ensure a strong community voice at local level. We will achieve this objective by working to build a strong community structure in Blakestown, Corduff and Mulhuddart to replace the former CDP management groups; and by working with the community in the Emerging Areas of Disadvantage in Ongar and Tyrrelstown to support the development of a representative community structure.

**5.1** The Partnership believes that people based in local communities are paramount to identifying and resolving problems through community development principles such as equality, social inclusion, and participation. The majority of the Partnership’s Community Development Team is now located in Blakestown, Corduff and Mulhuddart Community Centres geographically situated in designated RAPID areas.

they have not incorporated or addressed the particular needs of target groups or disadvantaged communities. Pre-development community work outcomes are focused on building capacity on the ground by targeting key individuals and forming groups. This allows groups to articulate their needs and plan for appropriate responses to these needs.

The most recent pre-development group that BAP has been supporting in 2012 is a *Men’s Shed Project*. Men’s Sheds are non-profit organisations that originated in Australia, to advise and improve the overall health of all males. They normally operate on a local level in the community, promote social interaction and aim to increase the quality of life.<sup>xiv</sup> The Blanchardstown project started when a group of disadvantaged men from the Dublin 15 area were brought together by LCDP outreach staff in Blakestown.

Over the past year the staff member has supported the group’s development via information meetings that 52 men attended, linked in with other projects across Ireland and been involved in fundraising activities. The *Men’s Shed Project* in Blanchardstown (see photo) secured premises for a workshop and horticulture activity during 2012 in Mulhuddart. Efforts are currently ongoing to secure VEC tutor hours for training in 2013. The national website is <http://www.menssheds.ie/>



69 community development groups and structures were supported by Blanchardstown Area Partnership during 2012 across the four goals of the LDCP. These included pre-development, new and established community development groups. (Please see community development matrix in appendix 5).

The term pre-community 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



## New Community Groups

The vast majority of Community Groups that the Partnership supports have now progressed onto stages 2 and 3 of the of the community cycle matrix. These groups are all listed alphabetically in appendix 4.

The *Tyrrelstown Development Group* was set up in 2006 by agencies that had a remit to work in this new estate. Blanchardstown Area Partnership and Fingal County Council contributed to a piece of research on this emerging area and the Tyrrelstown residents association have acted on this research and developed sub-groups to drive the actions. A number of sub-groups of Tyrrelstown Development Group have been established with a very strong representation of local residents in contrast to other areas of Dublin 15. BAP still support this group via the LCDP Mulhuddart Co-ordinator.

### Ongar Development Group

In 2009, a group of key stakeholders including Blanchardstown Area Partnership convened several meetings to share information on issues and develop joint initiatives area due to the large population of youth at risk in Ongar. The group which became known as the Ongar Development Group and over the past few years has.

- Established a youth club, a feeder club for children aged 10-12 and a Foroige Club based at Castaheany School
- Sourced small grants from the Partnership's Youth PIB
- Lobbied for the Ongar community centre to open and met with politicians around the train station/ community centre opening.
- Carried out a 'planning for real' exercise in 2009 and are currently in the process of collating information from a new consultation exercise carried out September 2012 which will form the basis of a new action plan
- Deputation meeting with Fingal County Council - around an all weather pitch, taking in charge of the Ongar estate and other local authority issues
- Continuing to support the Ongar community centre and feeding information to the Shared Executive Facility. The manager of the centre

sits on the committee and gives an update as to the groups/ activities taking place.

- Helping to start up the Ongar Community Council again (now named the Ongar Enhancement Group). It will have one or two focuses instead of many. One focus is the Tidy Towns.

## Established Community Groups

The community groups and policy structures at stage 3 of the community development cycle were supported by the Community Development Team in 2012 included the likes of:

- Community Development Education Group
- Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group
- Local Drugs Task Force
- Phoenix FM (page 24)

The *Community Development Education Group* is composed of representatives from BAP, Blakestown and Mulhuddart Outreach offices, NYP, Mountview Family Resource Centre, VEC, FCC, Crosscare and HSL. The Co-ordinator of the Blakestown outreach office has worked with this group for many years to secure programme costs, acted as treasurer and managed committee meetings. The Community Development Education Group has close links with BAP's Life Long Learning Group. Work is on-going around planning and responding to community development education needs at a local level.

## 5.2 Promoting Community Participation

Work is continuing in the three RAPID areas of Blakestown, Corduff and Mulhuddart to develop community structures incorporating the former CDP management groups. Blanchardstown Area Partnership is collaborating closely with RAPID on this action in order to combine the local AITs into the new structures. In Mulhuddart a group has been brought together called 'Prioritise Mulhuddart', this brings together all service deliverers and community representatives from the area. The aim of the group is to prioritise appropriate actions for this disadvantaged area. This group met several times during 2012.

The staff in the LCDP office in Mulhuddart is supporting the community representatives on this

structure. Blakestown LCDP office is also collaborating with RAPID to replicate this structure in their area. The Mountview and Blakestown local AITs have merged into one structure to prioritise actions for the areas. The Blakestown LCDP staff are also supporting the community representatives for this group. We are also continuing to support the *Ongar Development Group* and the *Tyrrelestown Development Group* by LCDP staff on each group (LCDP Annual Report, 2012).

### Case Study of Established Group



In 2008 a group of stakeholders<sup>1</sup> including the Blanchardstown Area Partnership began to look at the possibility of setting up a Community based Translation and Interpreting service in Dublin 15. Affordable and reliable translation and interpreting was identified as a distinct need in a feasibility study commissioned by the group. This was not surprising given that that 23% of Dublin 15's population are non- Irish nationals.

This group has moved through the various stages in the Community Development matrix as set out under the guidelines of the LCDP over the past 5 years. In 2011, a Limited Company called the '*D15 Community Interpreting and Translation Service*' based at the Blakestown Community Resource Centre was established with the active support and backing of the group members. Since then a part-time Coordinator has been recruited to develop the service and 11 individuals completed accredited training in Community Interpreting through the Open Learning Network in 2011.

Languages offered include French, Russian, Polish, Romanian and Lithuanian. All income generated is by the service is invested back into the project, to ensure its sustainability. For further information contact Una Roddick at their email at [d15cits@gmail.com](mailto:d15cits@gmail.com) or please access their website <http://d15cits.com/>

<sup>1</sup> Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Fingal County Council, Blanchardstown CIC, Mountview Family Resource Centre, Castaheany Educate Together School and the New Communities Partnership

Throughout 2012 Blanchardstown Area Partnership continued to provide interventions to this much needed service. BAP's Enterprise Officer delivered a workshop in taxation (Goal 2) to freelancer interpreting agents who carry out work for the Dublin 15 Community Interpreting and Translation Service advice. In the earliest stages of the group's formation (Stage 1) he also advised the group members on how to write up a business plan.

A member of our Community Development Team has also supported this structure since 2008 (Goal 4). She was central to the recruitment drive of translators, the hiring of a Co-ordinator and has attended meetings as a committee member. The LDC also relayed specific Census data relating to non-Irish nationals ability to speak English and a breakdown of ethnicity in Dublin 15 along with colour maps in 2012

### 5.3 Fingal Volunteer Centre Initiative <sup>xv</sup>



BAP is committed to supporting and developing the spirit of volunteerism, and promoting the active participation of citizens in their community. BAP allocated ring fenced money to the FVC in 2012 and the Deputy CEO of the Partnership acts as a director of the FVC, and a Community Development Officer is a Board member.

Fingal Volunteer Centre (FVC) continues to provide its services across Fingal from its office in Blanchardstown. In 2012 along with six other Volunteer Centres the FVC designed, and piloted new training for potential volunteers who have either additional support needs or have not volunteered before and have not used FVCs database to give them an insight into what volunteering is about and how they can get involved in easy steps. The training is interactive in format and two pilots ran one in rural Fingal and one in BAP's Catchment area. During 2012 the FVC promoted, facilitated and advertised for new members for BAP's Planning Implementation Boards.

The FVC continues to meet with organisations and individuals regarding volunteering and participated in talks, events across the county. For more information on their services please visit the web site [www.volunteerfingal.ie](http://www.volunteerfingal.ie)

### 5.4 Performance and Monitoring, Research and Evaluation

Several reports<sup>2</sup> were relayed to the Board, PIBs and POBAL during 2012. These include the

- *2012 Socio-Economic Profile of Dublin 15*
- *2012 Client Satisfaction Survey of the Local Employment Services*
- *2011 Overview of Blanchardstown Area Partnership Achievements Report*
- *2011 Local and Community Development Programme Annual Report*

Blanchardstown Area Partnership liaised with the All Island Research Observatory (AIRO) in NUI Maynooth the official mapping agent of the Central Statistics Office for Census 2011. As a result the 2011 census data is embedded on the organisation's website [www.bap.ie/airo](http://www.bap.ie/airo) for the public to freely access and create their individual maps. 24 Community Groups (such as Blanchardstown Youth Services and Huntstown Community Centre) received specific census data sets from BAPs Research and Evaluation Officer to help inform strategic plans and funding applications to government departments and statutory bodies.

The Partnership is also presently writing up two new policy papers. The first is looking at BAP supports to Lone Parents and the second is focusing on the Local Employment Services.

BAP's in-house researcher is also a member of several policy structures including the *ILDN Research and Evaluation Network* the *Fingal Data Hub* and the *Fingal Children Services Committee Information Sub-Group*.

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<sup>2</sup> These reports are available to view from the reports and publications section of BAPs website <http://www.bap.ie/reports-publications>.

**Appendix I**  
**LCDP Targets V Outputs 2012**

	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>+ / -</b>
<b>Goal 1 Promote awareness, knowledge and update of a wide range of statutory services</b>			
1.Information Provision	12,750	27,019	+14,269 (OBs)
2.Website	15,000	21,384	+6,384 (OBs)
3.Networks	8	8	Achieved
<b>Goal 2 Increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural activities and resources</b>			
4.Life Long Learning	164	259	+95 (IBs)
	441	614	+173 (OB's)
5.Child and Family Well Being	48	36	-12 (OBs)
6.Services for Youth At Risk	30 90	4 2,409 1,414 (adults)	-26 (IBs) +2,319 (OBs) +1,414 (OBs)
7.Integration	45	60	+20 (IBs)
	20	30	+10 (OBs)
<b>Goal 3 Increase peoples work readiness and job prospects</b>			
8.Training Programmes for Work	259	330	+71 (IBs)
9.Pre/New/Post Enterprise	200	472	+272 (IBs)
9.I.Enterprise Workshop Places	400	736	+336 (OBs)
10.Collaboration With Employers	150	1,255	+1,105 (OBs)

<b>Goal 4 Promote engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matter affecting local communities</b>			
11.Promote Community Participation	3	3	Achieved
12.Support to Volunteers	1	1	Achieved
13. Pre, New & Established Groups	60	69	+9
14.Socio-Economic Profile	1	1	Achieved

The LCDP makes a distinction between the intensity of s person receives such as a one to one meeting, phone call, e-mail, attending a training course supports/ interventions that persons may benefit from. The duration of the support has implications for how outputs are recorded on the IRIS monitoring system.

Persons reflected as '*individual beneficiaries*' are those who attend a one-to-one meeting with a staff member lasting several hours or a training/ education course delivered over several days, weeks or months.

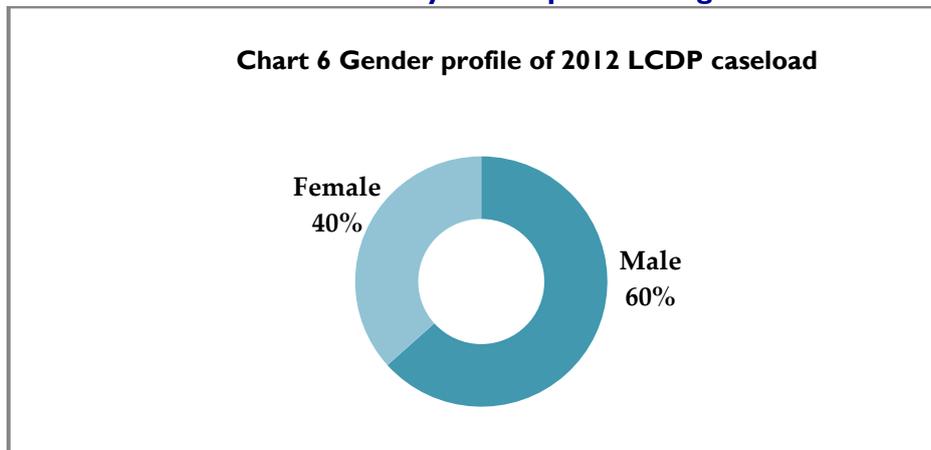
In contrast '*other beneficiaries*' reflect outputs for adults and children who attend once-off group sessions such as health days and short workshops. The adults and children who attend these types of events do have not their personal details registered on IRIS and are therefore not tracked.

### Abbreviations

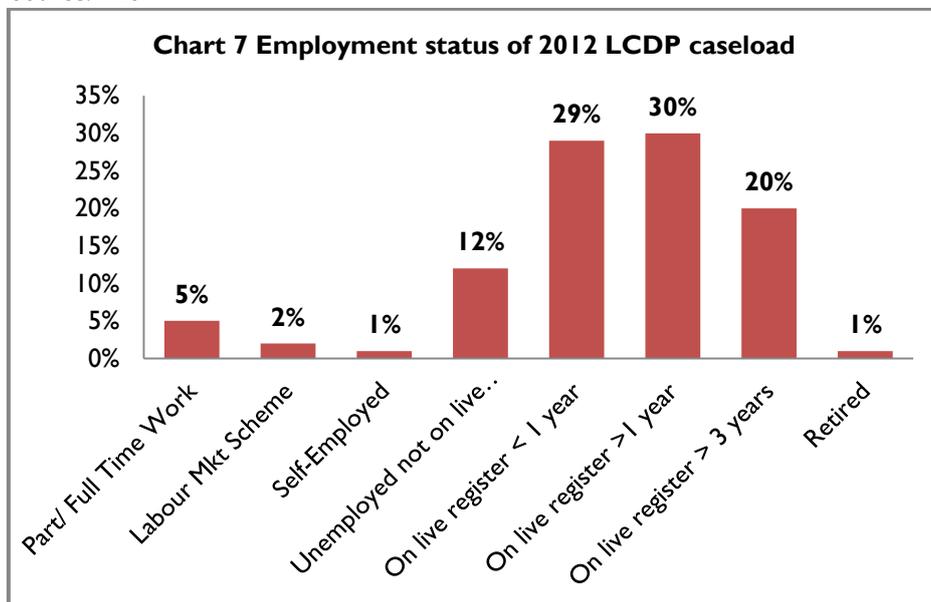
CG	Community Groups
IBs	Individual Beneficiaries
OBs	Other Beneficiaries
NTS	No Target Set
SE	Social Economy Enterprises

## Appendix 2

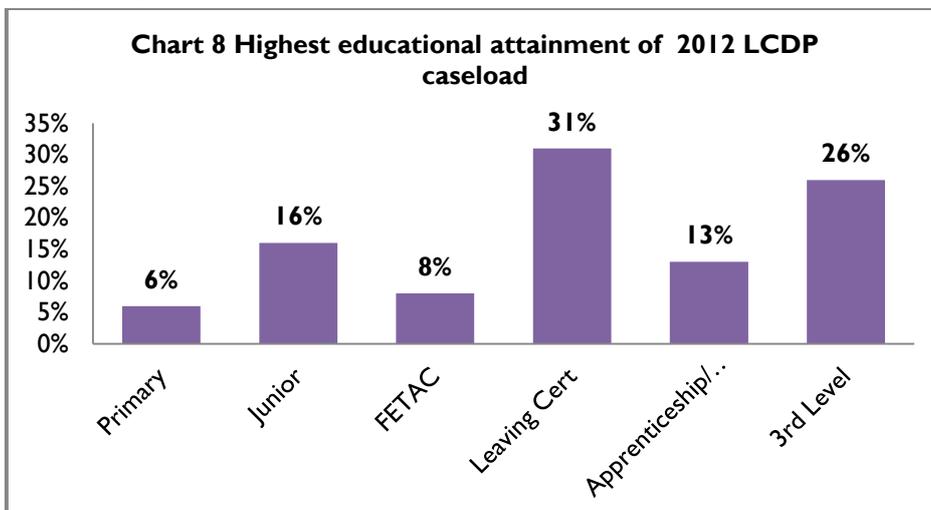
### Profile of caseload across Goals 2 & 3 of the Local and Community Development Programme



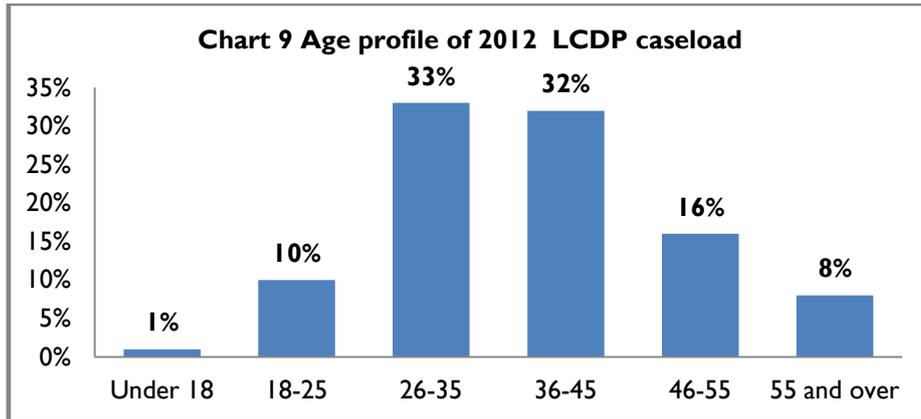
Source: IRIS



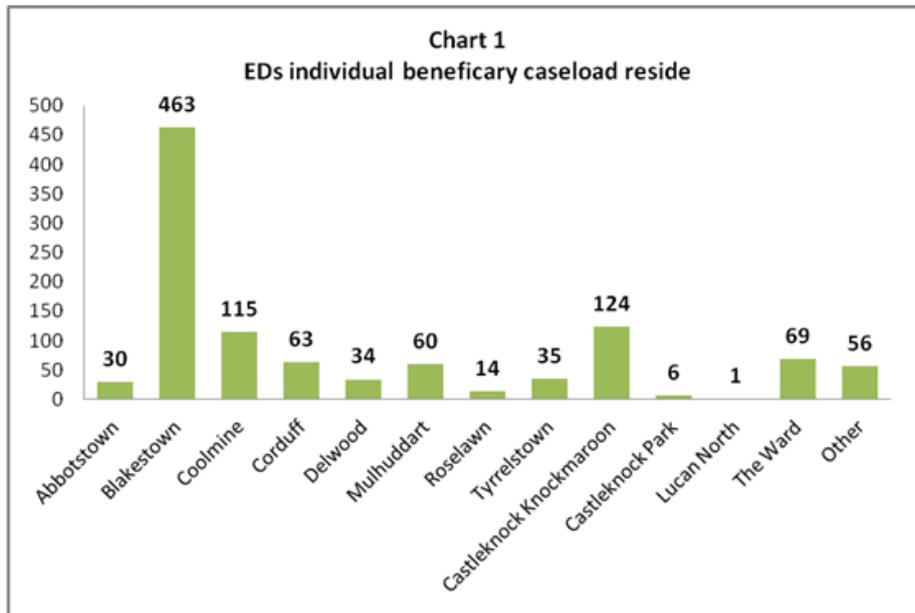
Source: IRIS



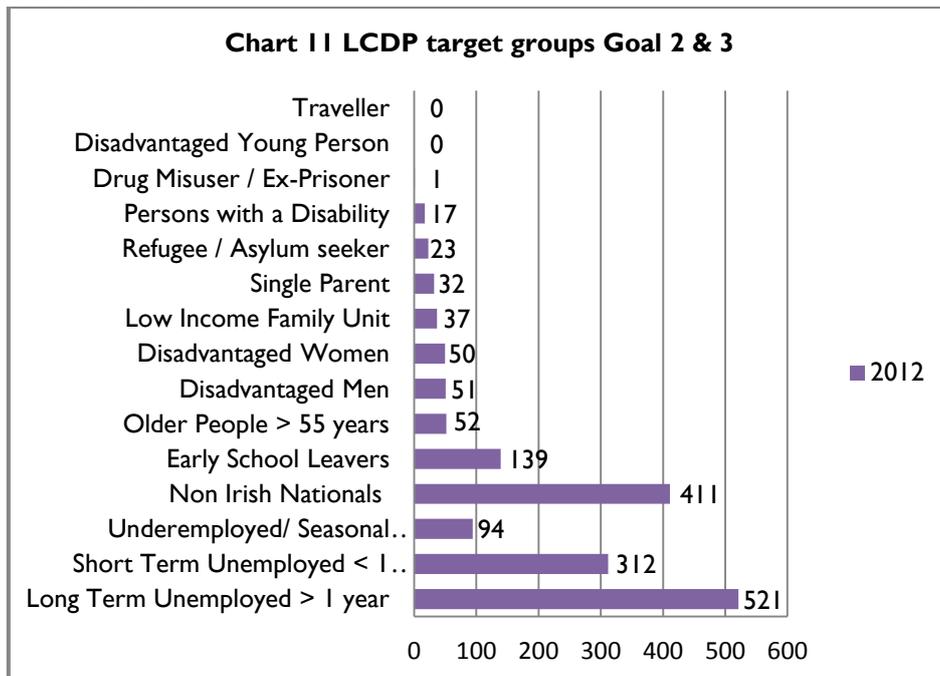
Source: IRIS



Source: IRIS



Source: IRIS



Source: IRIS

**Appendix 3**  
**Lists of course delivered under Goals 2 and 3 of the LCDP**

Conversational Irish Language	Career Bootcamp run on 19 occasions	Enterprise Workshops
Dream interpretation	Healthcare Course	Parenting Plus Courses 3 occasions- Mulhuddart
2 ESOL English Language courses from LCDP outreach offices	JOBCLUB delivered on 4 occasions	Future Options on 3 occasions
Faite Isteach	Positive Tools For Life	Career MOT
IT for Jobseekers run on 14 occasions	Social Media Course on 4 occasions	Westbrook Art Group
Coping with Unemployment		

**Appendix 4**  
**Community Groups and Policy Structures supported in 2012 by Blanchardstown Area Partnership**

BAPTEC Ltd	Corduff- Evergreens	Mulhuddart Art Group
Barnardos D15 Advisory Group	Corduff Health Action Group	Mulhuddart Community Drugs Team
BASE Enterprise Centre	Corduff Park Residents Association	Mulhuddart Kidz Zone Childcare Service
Blakestown AIT	Corduff RAPID AIT	New Structures Group
Blakestown Community Crèche	Corduff Sports Centre	NEYAI-Fingal Parenting Programme
Blakestown Mountview Youth Initiative	D15 Childcare Steering Group	Over 55s
Blakestown Parent and Toddler Group	D15 Domestic Violence Working Group	Over 55s Senior Citizens Group
Blakestown/ Mountview/ Huntstown and Hartstown Community Drugs Teams	D15 Translation Group	Parent and Infant Support Group
Blanchardstown Alcohol Strategy Awareness Development	Daughters of Charity	Parslickstown Community Crèche Committee (Little Learners)
Blanchardstown Centre for the Unemployed	Drumheath Residents Committee	Phoenix FM
Blanchardstown Citizens Information Centre	Fingal Children Services Committee	RAPID
Blanchardstown Community Training Centre	Fingal County Childcare Network	Safer Blanchardstown Project
Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force	Fingal Disability Network	Sheephill Residents Association
Blanchardstown Men's Shed Project	Fingal Volunteer Bureau	Sheepmoor Residents Group Sub-Group of Blakestown AIT
Blanchardstown Travellers Community Development Project	Greater Blanchardstown Response to Drugs	Suicide Awareness D15 Group
Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force	Housing Forum	Tyrrelstown Development Group

Blanchardstown Youth Service	HSE Primary Care Community Participation	Wellview / Parslickstown Residents Committee
Blanchardstown-2001	Huntstown Community Centre	Westbrook Art Group
CAP 15	Intercultural Women's Group	Working to Enhance Blanchardstown (WEB)
Community CCTV	Justice and Supply Sub-Group of the Blanchardstown Local Drugs Task Force	
Community Development Education Group	Ladyswell Park	
Corduff and Mulhuddart Community Drugs Teams	Life Long Learning Group	
Corduff Community Campus	Lifestart	
Corduff Community Engagement Strategy Group	Mother and Toddler Group	
	Mulhuddart / Tyrrelstown Community Participation Group	

Source: IRIS

### Appendix 5 Community Development Stages Matrix

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

Source: Insights (1999) No 11 *Community development strategies and actions within the Local Development Programme*, Area Development Management Ltd

## ENDNOTES

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<sup>i</sup> Fingal Dublin Chamber has held its Business Awards since 2006. This year the finalists in the category of Not For Profit Organisation Business Excellence Award included Blanchardstown Centre for Independent Living, the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Dogs Trust and Fingal Citizens' Information Centre, Swords.

<sup>ii</sup> The RAPID Programme aims to ensure priority attention is given to tackling the spatial concentration of poverty and social exclusion within the 51 designated RAPID areas.

<sup>iii</sup> This refers to where the Partnership takes on the actual delivery of a programme service. A gap in programme / service delivery is identified by the Partnership and a response is piloted with a view to having it mainstreamed at a later date.

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

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

<sup>vi</sup> The Centre for Effective Services is an independent, not-for-profit organisation funded jointly by philanthropy and government in Ireland. We are part of a new generation of intermediary organisations across the world working to apply learning from the emerging science of implementation to real world policy and practice concerns that affect children, families and communities. [Website August 20<sup>th</sup>,2010]

<sup>vii</sup> Individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, low income families, lone parents, people with disabilities, Travellers, non-Irish nationals, older people, family carers, refugees/asylum seekers, homeless people, drug mis-users, disadvantaged young people/men/women, early school leavers, offenders/ ex-offenders, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

<sup>viii</sup> Networks can be defined as formal or informal meetings between community activists/community groups with a common interest, the purpose of which is to share experiences, develop support mechanisms, identify good practice or develop policy positions and common strategies. Networks may or may not be formally structures.

<sup>ix</sup> BAP was the lead agency in the establishment of the Blanchardstown Community Training Centre over many years. In July 2003 the PIB compiled a report "*Training in Blanchardstown-A Strategic look to the future*" This paper spelt out the recommendations for a training centre in the areas. This objective was realised in 2009, when a new FAS training centre was opened in Coolmine Industrial Estate. The Economic PIB in conjunction with the RAPID AIT successfully negotiated with FAS for the provision of this new training resource for young people in Blanchardstown.

<sup>x</sup> Children Services Committees are an initiative of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Fingal was one of six newly established CSCs in 2009 following a six month consultation process with Statutory, Community and Voluntary organisations across County Fingal. Each county-based CSC is responsible for improving the lives of children and families at local and community level through integrated planning, working and service delivery based on the 'Seven National Outcomes for Children in Ireland' which envision that all children should be: Healthy, both physically and mentally, Supported in active learning, Safe from accidental and intentional harm, Economically secure, Secure in the immediate and wider physical environment, Part of positive networks of family, friends, neighbours and the community, Included and participating in society.

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<sup>xi</sup> The *2011-2013 Adult Education Strategy* of the Partnership aims to provide a range of responses to the changing needs of the LCDP target groups. In doing so the development of a local strategy to meet the needs of residents in Dublin 15 is informed by several government reports including *Adult Education White Paper (2000)*, *Creating a More Inclusive Labour Market (NESC 2006)* the *Learning@Work* (May 2010) and the *Labour Market Report* (Forfas 2010). These reports confirm the necessity to support workers to improve their wider skill base in order to avoid extended periods of unemployment and ensure progression in the workforce while in employment. Although the strategy focuses primarily on meeting the needs of unemployed people with a low skill base, it also provides access to lifelong learning through adult education classes for older people in areas such as arts and crafts and non-Irish nationals through integration initiatives reflecting the unique demographic profile of Dublin 15.

<sup>xii</sup> 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. D15 Fáilte Isteach Steering Group with: Linda Curran, Monica Pelazza, Ann Osbourne, Irish President McAleese, Rafe Costigan, Breda Jennings, Terry McCabe, Moira Hyland Doyle and Lilian Harris.

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

<sup>xiv</sup> [Wikipedia, 22/2/2013]

<sup>xv</sup> In 2005, the Partnership began to work with other agencies to establish a steering group to drive a Fingal Volunteer Project. A new action plan for supporting volunteers and establishing a volunteer centre emerged. Ring fenced money from all these agencies including the Partnership, as well as Cohesion funding has facilitated the employment of a development worker to help develop the Fingal Volunteer Centre. In October 2007 an action plan was submitted to the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht affairs. This application has been approved by the D/CRAGA for 3 years. Volunteering in Blanchardstown has been supported in recent years through the Fingal Volunteer Centre established by Fingal County Council. This centre previously provided a volunteer matching service and technical assistance to community organisations in Fingal.