



**Wexford Area  
Partnership**

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# Building Communities

Making Social Investment Work

Social Inclusion Plan  
for the Wexford Area  
2008-2013



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## Foreword

The years of the Celtic Tiger and economic boom have come and gone. Throughout this period the Wexford area, in common with many areas of Ireland, experienced limited growth in material wealth. This growth has, however, barely masked persistent levels of social exclusion in this area, manifesting as extremely high levels of educational disadvantage, pockets of severe deprivation which have remained stubbornly resistant to improvement and a continuing paucity of employment opportunities locally. Ten years of extraordinary economic growth in Ireland have been quickly overtaken by times of unprecedented turbulence both globally and nationally.

Wexford remains one of the most disadvantaged counties in the State and Wexford Town and its hinterland contains some of the worst concentrations of disadvantage.

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The Wexford urban area and its hinterland is particularly vulnerable to economic downturn particularly since the Celtic Tiger era resulted neither in substantially improved educational levels nor in the creation of higher skilled sustainable job opportunities locally. As a consequence, levels of unemployment have risen at a much faster rate than in the rest of the country and those joining the Live Register in the Wexford Area are ill-equipped to secure worthwhile employment in the post construction boom era.

The National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 commits to addressing both the economic and social dimensions of social exclusion through Partnership companies and in particular sets as its objective to fully involve socially excluded groups and individuals in the development and implementation of policies and programmes that affect their lives.

In 'Building Communities – making Social Investment work' the Partnership places local communities at the heart of the Social Inclusion Plan for the Wexford Area 2008 – 2013. We believe that it is only by empowering and resourcing local communities that we can realistically tackle both the causes and the consequences of poverty and exclusion in our society.

Michael Wall  
Chairperson, Wexford Area Partnership

## Introduction

This document is a summary of the Strategic Plan for Social Inclusion in the Wexford area prepared by Wexford Area Partnership for the period 2008 - 2013. The plan is a statement of intent outlining changing patterns in social inclusion needs in the Wexford area as well as the strategic direction and programme of activities designed by Wexford Area Partnership to respond to those needs over the next six years.

The plan builds on the extensive experience and success of social inclusion work carried out by the Partnership under previous plans and carries forward key themes of community development, participation and empowerment, shared responsibility, interagency alliances and collaboration. It is important to read the full plan to get a detailed sense of the rationale, the priorities and the entire programme of activities proposed. This summary document provides an overview of the plan, an insight into the policy context, the socio-economic backdrop and the framework for the programme of work.

Three distinct but related exercises have shaped the focus and content of this plan.

Firstly, there was a comprehensive review and planning process coordinated by the Board and staff members of Wexford Area Partnership. This included reflecting on the learning arising from the previous plan period as documented in the mid term of review of Partnership Programmes and Actions<sup>1</sup>. There were a number of notable achievements under the previous plan that influence this new plan and it is expected that these will continue to be key success determinants into the future.

Chief amongst these achievements has been the success of Wexford Area Partnership in developing systematic and committed relationships with those geographic communities which have been worst affected by social exclusion. These relationships, supported by a constant staff presence and inputs by Wexford Area Partnership projects and programmes, have been a vehicle for reaching out to and addressing the needs of the most excluded groups in these areas. Mainstream service providers and stakeholders have recognised the Partnership's strength in reaching out to target groups within the areas where they live. They have availed of these "bridges" to work with the Wexford Area Partnership in providing local and accessible opportunities for participation, progression and pathways out of social exclusion for target groups. This has resulted in a commitment to new and even more creative alliances and co-operative ways of sharing responsibility and working together to achieve common goals. The principle of working for social inclusion with and through local communities is, therefore, a cornerstone of the plan for 2008 - 2013.

Secondly, the plan draws on the results of an intensive consultation process including all stakeholders with an interest in working for the good of the communities of Wexford. This included community representatives,

service providers, state agencies, social partners, elected representatives and members of the Wexford Area Partnership team. (A full list of stakeholders is in Appendix One). The purpose of the consultation was to gauge stakeholders' perception of Wexford Area Partnership, their assessment of the contribution of the Partnership to date and what they believe should be the emphasis for future activities and programmes. This was a positive process yielding a firm sense of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the Wexford Area Partnership. It resulted in a clear set of priorities for the future. Commitment to these priorities is fundamental to the plan for 2008 - 2013.

Thirdly, there was a review of the current operational environment. This included updating the profile of the Partnership catchment area using the most recently available statistics, e.g. census returns, official statistics and data from statutory service providers. The purpose of this exercise was to understand changing demographic and social-economic trends, with a particular emphasis on socially excluded groups and development challenges in areas of policy and service provision relevant to achieving social inclusion (including health, social welfare, housing, employment and education). The Partnership also considered the policy context for their planning decisions, including:

- The National Development Plan 2007 - 2013 Transforming Ireland – A Better Quality of Life for All, particularly the social inclusion priorities,
- The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPinclusion) – Building An Inclusive Society 2007 - 2016
- Towards 2016 Ten-Year Framework Social Partnership Agreement 2006 - 2015
- and the National Spatial Strategy for Ireland – People, Places & Potential 2002 - 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Wexford Area Partnership, Mid-Term Review of Progress re Strategic Plan: Achievements to date and priorities for the Future" Nexus Research, January 2004

## Socio-Economic Profile

In designing this Social Inclusion Plan for the Wexford Area for the next six years, Wexford Area Partnership have taken careful stock of current and emerging trends and developed a set of actions to rise to the challenges presenting whilst building in capacity for flexibility to respond to these changes as they unfold. The Partnership has also proposed a new mechanism to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of social inclusion investment across the board at local level, in line with national policy.

The socio-economic profile of the area currently served by Wexford Area Partnership points to the priority areas where intervention and support will be necessary for the coming years.

The key features of this profile are as follows:

### Population Growth

- The population of Wexford is growing. The population of County Wexford grew by 29% in the past fifteen years<sup>2</sup> and this is 9% more than the growth of the population of Ireland as a whole, which was 20% for the same period.
- Population figures reflect the growing importance of Wexford as a hub town and urban centre with a dramatic growth in housing and population in the town and its “commuter belt” during the past 10 years. 85% of the population in the area currently covered by Wexford Area Partnership live within an area classified in the current County Development Plan as being “under strong urban influence”. As a hub town, Wexford Borough is a primary growth area with the population expected to reach 40,000 by 2020.
- The Settlement Strategy outlined in the County Development Plan for Wexford (2002- 2013) designates Wexford town as a primary growth area with Enniscorthy, New Ross and Gorey designated as secondary growth areas. Within the Wexford district, Taghmon and Castlebridge have been designated as district growth areas with Rosslare Harbour forming part of a “corridor” of strategic growth centres.
- Wexford town has seen a large increase in the proportion of its population who are immigrants. 3,900 persons, or just under 10% of the current population within the Wexford Area Partnership area, are from outside Ireland.
- The age dependency rate of the population is 33.5% - this is above the national average of 31%.
- As a major and growing centre of population, with spatial concentrations of younger and older populations, Wexford faces the associated challenges of urbanisation. These include concentrations of welfare dependency (with well-known peer effects on educational disadvantage), substance and alcohol misuse, integration of migrant groups, residual long-term

unemployment, isolation and loneliness amongst older people living alone, increasing demand for social housing due to changing family structures and low incomes and the need to create new and sustainable employment opportunities. There is also much increased pressure on existing health, education and other key services.

### Employment

- Numbers on the live register in the Wexford area have risen by 58% to 3,773 persons since September 2007. Over one third (36%) of the total number on the live register in the County live in the Wexford area. Employment and Social Welfare services locally have been overwhelmed by these increasing numbers in recent months.
- The decline in manufacturing has affected levels of unemployment in Wexford town severely and the downturn in construction is intensifying this trend.
- Wexford Area Partnership’s Employment Guidance Network staff report a substantial increase in the number of new clients presenting to the service in recent months. Many of these new clients are males, previously employed in construction, who have become unemployed for the first time since the 1980s. The majority have no formal qualifications.

### Wealth Distribution & Disadvantage

- According to the latest report on Deprivation in the Republic of Ireland<sup>3</sup>, the South East Region is the second most disadvantaged region in the country and Wexford as a whole is the second most disadvantaged county within the region, making it the eleventh most disadvantaged county in Ireland overall.
- Wexford town and its hinterland have remained disadvantaged relative to the rest of the County and the State, despite a modest increase in actual wealth over the period 1991- 2006.
- Wexford urban areas and Taghmon are amongst the more disadvantaged in the County. The national average relative deprivation score in 2006 was 2.1 – County Wexford stood at -2.5 but Taghmon, by contrast, scored -18 and Wexford Urban No. 2 stood at -15.2. The increase in relative deprivation began to worsen in the period 2002 – 2006.
- Wexford town (at 35%) and parts of its hinterland (Taghmon/Rosslare/St. Helens’ averaging 28.6%) have an average proportion of one-parent families significantly above the national rate of 21.3%.

### Educational Profile

- Wexford continues to experience a severe educational and skills deficit which has hampered the ability of the local labour force to avail of higher-value employment. While the percentage of adults achieving a third level qualification has grown nationally from 13% in 1991 to 30.5% in 2006, Wexford’s improvement has been much slower and from a lower base – 9.1% to 21.5%. The County has the lowest percentage of adults with a third level qualification in the State.
- There remain significant pockets of population within the area served by Wexford Area Partnership with only primary level education. In Wexford Urban No. 2 electoral district the percentage in this category is 30.8% while in Taghmon it stands at 34.6%. This compares to a national figure of 18.9% and a County average of 22.7%.
- In 2006, 74.2% of unemployed males in Taghmon, more than two and half times the national average, had no formal education or primary education only. 74.7% of unemployed males in Wexford Urban No. 2 electoral district had achieved only lower secondary level education.

### Substance Misuse and Criminal Behaviour

- In 2006, 42% of new referrals to the Wexford Probation Service emanated from the area of the county currently served by Wexford Area Partnership. 68.4% of these came from Wexford Town itself.
- According to a recent report by the Health Research Board examining trends in treated problem drug use in Ireland between 2001 and 2006<sup>4</sup>, the average incidence in this period in Wexford was 104.3 cases per 100,000 of population aged between 15 and 64. Only four counties had an average incidence of more than 100 cases (in Dublin the figure was 72.6). Substance misuse, according to this report, is largely associated with young males with low levels of education who are, in most cases, unemployed.

The overall picture for Wexford is one of a growing population with specific pockets of urban density and deprivation and rapidly rising levels of unemployment. These communities tend to have lower than average educational attainment levels and an over-reliance for employment on the currently depleting manufacturing and construction industries.

As unemployment rises, the needs of these communities (e.g. social welfare, education, training, employment, etc.) are intensifying and will require a firm and practical response in terms of service provision, interventions and support into the next decade.

This sets the scene for the Wexford Area Social Inclusion Plan for 2008 - 2013. Wexford Area Partnership understands this landscape, the social inclusion needs and the challenges. The Partnership is primed to put this experience to work, in collaboration with other agencies, in order to respond effectively to the needs of the communities it serves over the next six years.

<sup>2</sup> Source: 2006 Census of population  
<sup>3</sup> Trutz Haase nd Jonathan Pratschke, 2008

<sup>4</sup> “Trends in treated drug problem use in Ireland, 2001 - 2006” Health Research Board, 2008

## The Policy Context

As resources for social inclusion work tighten and needs increase, Wexford Area Partnership understands the importance of dovetailing local efforts to combat social exclusion with national policy on this issue. In order to achieve a full return on social investment, it is vital that the work of local organisations such as Partnerships is fully in tune with national social inclusion priorities and policy initiatives.

The Government is committed to a coherent strategy for social inclusion based on the lifecycle approach reflected in several key policy documents. The principal policy document aimed at addressing poverty and achieving social inclusion is the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPInclusion) – Building An Inclusive Society 2007-2016. This National Action Plan, complemented by the social inclusion elements of the National Development Plan 2008-2013 – Transforming Ireland – A Better Quality of Life for All and Towards 2016 the Ten-Year Framework Social Partnership Agreement for 2006 - 2015, sets out how the social inclusion strategy will be achieved over the period to 2016.

Wexford Area Partnership's Strategic Plan for Social Inclusion in the Wexford area reflects these national policy initiatives in two respects. Firstly, the social investment strategy of the plan directly reflects the lifecycle approach of the key social inclusion policy documents at national level.

Wexford Area Partnership has also proposed to negotiate a new and distinct role for the Partnership, in tandem with the County Development Board, to measure and assess social inclusion progress at local level. It is increasingly evident that many of the original targets set under the preceding National Anti-Poverty Strategy, adopted in 1998, were not met in Wexford. There will also be difficulties in meeting the high level goals and targets set out in its successor, the NAPInclusion.

Wexford Area Partnership's Strategic Plan for 2008 – 2013 proposes to examine social inclusion progress locally against these national targets and devise new methods of co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of social inclusion investment across the board in Wexford. This proposal is described in more detail later in this summary document.

The other most relevant policy document is the National Spatial Strategy for Ireland – People, Places & Potential 2002 – 2020. The National Spatial Strategy is a twenty-year planning framework designed to achieve a better balance of social, economic, physical development and population growth between regions. Its focus is on people, on places and building communities.

The National Spatial Strategy aims to achieve a better balance of social, economic, physical development and population growth between regions. In the South East region, Wexford has been designated as a hub town, along with Kilkenny, which together with Waterford (the “Gateway”) are designed to form a nationally strategic “growth triangle”. The development of Wexford town as a hub will stimulate growth and opportunities in smaller towns and rural areas within its influence. As a hub town, Wexford is a primary growth area with the population expected to reach 40,000 by 2020.

Wexford is also included under the RAPID (Revitalisation of Areas by Planning Investment and Development) programme with three distinct areas designated in the town. Wexford Area Partnership has allocated Community Development Workers to cover each of these areas and has established community teams in each location.

## Priorities for the Future

### Background

Each plan period presents a new reality with specific contextual features and related challenges. In previous years, the work of the Partnership was driven by knowing that despite a booming national economy in the early years of this century the Wexford reality did not reflect the full extent of this progress. At that time, there were clear indications that particular communities within the Partnership area did not mirror the national picture in terms of economic achievement and were in need of intervention and support. This, coupled with the continued reliance on traditional sectors of economic activity and a declining agricultural sector, presented a very specific context for the work of the Partnership during the period 2000 - 2006.

Between 2000 and 2006, under the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme, Wexford Area Partnership invested significant resources in developing a Community Development approach to its work, ethos and activities. This approach focused on enabling people to enhance their capacity to play a role in the society of which they are part. It worked towards helping named target groups and communities to articulate their needs and viewpoints and to take part in collective action to influence the processes that structure their everyday lives.

The strategic objective was to build relationships with disadvantaged communities, with a focus on supporting organisations and projects to identify common areas of concern, to work together and to contribute to mainstream policy formulation and service delivery. There were significant achievements during that time which laid important groundwork for future work. These achievements include the building of *‘trust between target communities and Partnership personnel...and a safe and neutral space was created in which more excluded groups can find the confidence to name and address their needs.’*<sup>5</sup>

Community Development has, therefore, become the engine which drives Wexford Area Partnership and its work in the local community. This systematic approach has generated results in the form of clearly defined area-based community teams that have proven capable of securing and managing resources and contributing to policy debate and planning processes. It has also laid the foundations for the model of work that shapes the priorities and programme of actions of the Partnership into the next phase of LDSIP.

### Current Context

Wexford Area Partnership has reflected on the current, and rapidly changing, situation in the Wexford area and has identified a set of Strategic Objectives and linked Priorities which will direct the work to be undertaken over the plan period 2008-2013. In essence, the Partnership proposes to adopt a strategy of integrated Social Investment, building on the Community Development approach of previous plans. The emphasis will be on a Community Regeneration model, reaching and addressing the needs of the most excluded groups at local level (village/suburb/urban area) and linking them at a district level to promote common understanding and share learning and experience, whilst taking full account of the NAPInclusion Targets.

### Strategic Objectives

To *meaningfully and demonstrably contribute to a more equal and inclusive society in Wexford through:*

- Significant reductions in poverty
- Increased Equality of Opportunity and Access
- More Effective, Efficient and Informed Public Services

### Strategic Priorities

The five Strategic Priorities for Social Inclusion investment in the Wexford area for the next six years are:

- Building Communities (Civic Participation and Voluntary Involvement)
- Promoting Equality for named Target Groups
- Enabling Progression (People Development and Economic Participation)
- Developing Healthier Communities and Living Conditions
- Reviewing and Demonstrating the Impacts of our Work

These priorities have been agreed based on an analysis of issues arising from the updated socio-economic profile, the review and consultation process with communities, agencies and other stakeholders conducted in early 2008 and an assessment by Partnership staff. Key findings which have shaped these priorities include:

- low educational attainment throughout the Wexford area, escalating unemployment,
- the prevalence of lone parent families, older people, Travellers, new Communities in specific geographic communities,
- rising incidences of substance misuse and criminal activity leading to a deterioration in community safety,
- inadequate youth service provision,
- and persistent links between poor health and disadvantage.

## Strategic Initiatives

Wexford Area Partnership's social inclusion work over the next six years will be structured across three major Strategic Initiatives.:

- Building Communities**
- Delivering Social Investment and**
- Measuring Social Inclusion Progress in Wexford.**

Each of these initiatives will incorporate a range of linked actions, programmes and supports targeting specific geographic communities, target groups and issues. The Strategic Initiatives will be directly informed by the Strategic Priorities outlined above. They will also reflect the lifecycle approach adopted in the National Development Plan (including NAPInclusion) and *Towards 2016* Ten-Year Framework Social Partnership Agreement 2006 - 2015.



### Wexford Area Community Team

Taghmon	Clonard/Coolcotts	South End
Rosslare	West Wexford	Castlebridge
Piercestown/Murrintown	Wexford Town Centre	North End

### Building Communities



### Measuring Social Inclusion Progress

## Plan of Action

### Strategic Initiative A: Building Communities



### Background and Rationale

Local communities are at the heart of Wexford Area Partnership's social inclusion work. During the last planning cycle (2000 – 2006), the Partnership substantially increased its investment in Community Development. Partnership staff worked directly with people in disadvantaged areas, developing structured relationships based on sustained support for an agreed social inclusion agenda. These relationships with communities (taking the form of representative “teams” in each area) have built understanding between the Partnership and these communities and ensured that Partnership services and projects are responsive to the needs of the most excluded groups and individuals in each area.

The teams serve both as a vehicle for highlighting the needs of the most excluded in each community and as a platform for creating opportunities for participation for these target groups at a local and accessible level.

In Castlebridge for example, a local community development group identified disadvantaged young people as a key target group in their area. Wexford Area Partnership has engaged with the group on this issue, working directly with these young people and local volunteers to develop a programme of activities and demonstrating to the local community development group that they have the resources to respond to the needs and issues arising in their area. Local parents have come forward to volunteer for this project and have joined the committee of the community development group which now has a clear role to play in tackling social exclusion in the area. The group has seen success with the project and is continuing to work from this model.

### Aim of the Building Communities Strategic Initiative

The results of the last plan overwhelmingly support the need for communities to play an even more central role in the next phase of local development social inclusion work in Wexford. The Building Communities initiative will therefore aim to continue to work with disadvantaged groups to develop community infrastructure in areas where there are currently teams in existence and work towards this model in areas where work is at an early stage or has not yet commenced. The main components of this community development work will be:

- **Building Understanding:** Highlighting the presence and needs of socially excluded groups in local areas and building their capacity to engage with local development.
- **Developing Leadership:** Working with local people to strengthen participation in decision-making and community organisation.
- **Developing Competences:** Equipping communities with the skills to identify, analyse and respond to the needs of socially excluded groups in the local area.
- **Ongoing Support:** Ensuring that Communities have an ongoing relationship with Partnership staff and are aware of and fully utilise the range of services and supports available to them.
- **Building Links:** Facilitating Communities to link effectively both with Partnership services and projects and with statutory agencies and programmes as well as with other Communities via Wexford Area Community Team and other networks.
- **Accessing Resources:** Assisting Communities to assess their needs and identify and secure sources of funding and other supports necessary to achieve their vision for social inclusion at local level.

### Programmes

The “Building Communities” Strategic Initiative will be comprised of three main programme areas:

- A1. Supported Development in Areas of Existing Activity**
- A2. Supported Development in New Areas**
- A3. Linking and strengthening Communities through the Development of Wexford Area Community Team**

## Building Communities - Programme A.1 Supported Development in Areas of Existing Activity

Wexford Area Partnership currently provides community development support to six geographic communities. Teams with legal structures have been established in Taghmon, South End and West Wexford and Clonard/Coolcotts. The Partnership is also engaged in Community Development work in Rosslare and Castlebridge. Development work with target groups (including Older People, non-Irish nationals, Travellers and People with a Disability) is also taking place in a variety of geographic communities linked in most cases to the work of establishing locally-based community teams.

Development priorities for each area have been agreed based on three sources of data:

- Socio-economic information from the 2006 Census of Population, combined with local statistical information and reports,
- the outcome of the review process with community representatives and groups in each area and
- the outcome of consultations with relevant Partnership staff, in particular the Community Development Staff members who are directly involved in supporting specific geographic communities and target groups.

### Taghmon

#### Key Issues and Target Groups:

Highest score on the relative deprivation index of any electoral district in the County (-18), high levels of educational disadvantage (34.6% of the population have only primary level education, almost double the national figure), history of high unemployment, low skills base, significantly higher than average population of Travellers (8.5%), lone parents (31.5%) and non-Irish nationals (one in every 20 of the population in 2006 came from Poland/Lithuania/other EU25 accession states), need for a purpose-built community facility targeting socially excluded groups.

#### Development Priorities:

- Community facilities: Support Taghmon Action Group to develop and manage new Childcare Centre. Development of purpose built community centre focused on delivery of social inclusion interventions.
- Management and development of new Family Resource Centre.
- Renew focus on providing local and flexible opportunities for adult second chance education particularly for low-skilled men and women, lone parents and Travellers, building on the positive experience of the recent Dormant Accounts funded Educational Disadvantage Programme.

- Provision of clear and accessible information about employment, training and education choices at local level via Taghmon Action Group.
- Increase the degree and extent of participation of members of the local Travelling community and non-Irish nationals in community decision-making and activities.
- Develop a sustainable and effective youth work programme, working with Taghmon Action Group to identify needs and build on the successful work undertaken on a pilot basis to date.
- Work with Taghmon Action Group to develop alternative employment opportunities, focusing on enterprise development.

### Clonard/Coolcotts (Wexford Town)

#### Key Issues and Target Groups:

High deprivation score in the Wexford urban area (average -9.5), RAPID area, rising unemployment, high incidence of lone parents, disadvantaged young people, higher than average population of people with disabilities and non-Irish nationals, needs in early years support and childcare, urban sprawl – inadequate facilities, dependence on rent allowance in private rented housing sector, concentration of local authority estates, educational disadvantage, security and crime, drug misuse, mental health difficulties, importance of links with local agencies.

#### Development Priorities:

- Support the members of CADA to secure the financial and human resources necessary to develop Coolcotts Community Centre to its full potential as a centre for social inclusion and civic engagement in the local area.
- Engage with socially excluded groups in the area to ensure that they participate in and benefit fully from the development of the centre.
- Work towards the establishment of a Neighbourhood Community Health Project, utilising the multi-sensory room provided by the HSE in the Coolcotts Centre and reaching across the community and at-risk groups to develop a community response to mental health problems and substance misuse in particular.
- Address the issues of community safety, planning and facilities by engaging with State actors such as the Gardai and Local Authority in a structured and action-focused manner.
- Build links with local community and voluntary groups and facilities to ensure coherence and best use of resources to target social exclusion.
- Continue to engage with RAPID and other local agencies /programmes.
- Target and address the needs of disadvantaged young people in the area.

- Develop a programme to address the educational and progression needs of disadvantaged adults in the community, including those with a disability and Travellers. Provision of clear and accessible information on choices.
- Work with parents and children to provide an educational head start to disadvantaged families. Provision of affordable childcare to lone parents and other vulnerable parents trying to access education/training/employment.

### West Wexford (Wexford Town)

#### Key Issues and Target Groups:

High deprivation score in the Wexford urban area (average -9.5) – particularly high in inner urban area (-15.2), significant population of older people living alone (21.9% in Wexford Urban ED No.2 vs. 8.2% nationally), young people, RAPID area, severely disadvantaged local authority estates, uneven community organisation and development, inadequate affordable childcare, access to local facilities for excluded groups, crime and safety, drug misuse, educational disadvantage (30.8% in Urban ED No. 2 have only primary level education), higher than average population of people with a disability.

#### Development Priorities:

- Strengthen role and profile of local community team and build awareness of social exclusion priorities in the area, linking with local programmes such as RAPID and working with statutory agencies to respond to needs.
- Improve community organisation and leadership within and between disadvantaged estates.
- Develop opportunity presented by Community Services Programme funding to focus on improved access to community facilities for excluded groups and increase levels of community co-operation between local groups and centres.
- Address needs of disadvantaged and excluded young people.
- Provide continued support to older people to identify their needs and organise themselves to lobby for appropriate local services and facilities.
- Develop a co-ordinated and locally responsive approach to educational disadvantage and unemployment, comprising adult education, guidance services and counselling, provision of information etc.
- Strengthen links with Community Garda on the issue of community safety.
- Work with vulnerable parents, schools, education providers and community groups in the areas of early childhood care and development, affordable childcare and preventative supports in order to break the cycle of educational disadvantage.

- Build on links with neighbouring communities via Wexford Area Community Team to share experience and develop common policy positions.

### South End (Wexford Town)

#### Key Issues and Target Groups:

High deprivation score in the Wexford urban area (average -9.5), RAPID area, high proportion of local authority and private rented housing, disadvantaged young people, long-term unemployed and low-skilled men – closures of large manufacturing bases in the local area since 1996, concentrations of one parent and other vulnerable families, isolated older people, early school leavers, absence of a permanent and appropriate community facility (coupled with a shortage of development land), need for childcare, particularly in the affordable community sector.

#### Development Priorities:

- Develop an integrated community facility incorporating the Family Resource Centre, the local Youth Group, childcare and sporting facilities.
- Early years: Develop an affordable childcare facility in the local area; provide support to young, vulnerable parents, programmes for pre-school children linking with the local school.
- Strengthen links with the South End Family Resource Centre and other groups in the area in order to highlight and respond to social exclusion.
- South End Community Team are keen to build on the links and strategic alliances they have established with the Partnership, statutory agencies, elected representatives, the RAPID programme and other communities.
- Meet the challenge of engaging with disadvantaged men in the area, particularly with regard to education, training and employment and mental health and substance/alcohol misuse.
- Explore and respond to the needs of people with disabilities living in the South End area.
- Prevent early school leaving.
- Engage with disadvantaged young people – link with connecting.u

### Rosslare

#### Key Issues and Target Groups:

High proportion of older people living alone (13% vs. 8.2% nationally) and lone parent families (28.3%), concentrations of social housing and dependence on rent supplement in the private sector, lack of “ownership” of new community facility amongst residents of local authority estate at Cois Mara, educational disadvantage, disadvantaged young people,

excluded groups not engaged with local community groups and structures, higher than average proportion of non-Irish nationals.

#### Development Priorities:

- Engage with socially excluded groups and areas to establish a Community Team with a recognised legal structure and status.
- Through this team, conduct a comprehensive social inclusion needs analysis which will form the basis for the development of an action plan for 2008 -2013.
- Build on existing Community Development work in the area to work on immediate priorities of building local community leadership and organisation, developing activities and facilities for young people, supporting vulnerable parents and linking with local schools and programmes to prevent educational disadvantage.
- Work with Wexford County Council to encourage local residents to become involved in utilising and managing the new Community Centre in Cois Mara.
- Work with educationally disadvantaged adults, particularly groups such as lone parents and long-term unemployed persons, providing a community-based, relevant and accessible programme of training and education.
- Increase knowledge and skills of social inclusion work by providing training and information sessions to local people at local venues, including regular outreach by WAP services and projects.
- Continue to build links and support mechanisms with other communities and agencies via Wexford Area Community Team.

#### Castlebridge

##### Key Issues and Target Groups:

Significant growth in population since 1996, particularly since 2002 (60%) – Castlebridge has grown from a village of 783 to a town of 1,624 persons in this period, more than 37% of the population is aged under 25 years, several large local authority estates and high proportion of private rented accommodation, increasing levels of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity, need for greatly increased resources to work with disadvantaged young people, concerns over traffic management and failure of infrastructure to keep pace with population increase, no community childcare.

##### Development Priorities:

- Continue to work closely with Castlebridge Community Development Co-Op to promote understanding of and responses to social inclusion needs.
- To this end, work with local groups to conduct a thorough need analysis and develop a comprehensive programme of actions and resources required to

address identified needs. Build consensus around this plan and support the community to secure the necessary resources to achieve it.

- Ensure that socially excluded groups are supported to participate actively and effectively on local structures.
- Invest in work with young people to maintain and build on positive results achieved to date.
- Address issues of anti-social behaviour, criminal activity and community safety by facilitating links between local community groups and Gardai and other agencies concerned.
- A town development plan for Castlebridge is pending – support the local community to engage positively with Wexford County Council in the development of this plan by providing training and information and facilitating the agreement of priorities.
- Facilitate Castlebridge community groups to link effectively with other communities via Wexford Area Community Team and also to develop strategic alliances with local agencies and programmes.

#### Building Communities - Programme A.2: Supported Development in New Areas

#### Wexford Town Centre

##### Key issues and target groups:

Area excluded from the RAPID programme, concentrated pockets of extreme disadvantage both in local authority housing developments and in poor-quality private rented accommodation, dependence on rent-supplement, “hidden” disadvantage, drug misuse, criminal activity, dependence on rent supplement and social welfare payments, lack of community organisation or infrastructure therefore a failure to capitalise on State supports for communities to date.

##### Development Priorities:

- Address community infrastructure deficit through developing structures that encourage community participation.
- Build capacity to access state resources and supports.
- Tackle social exclusion issues associated with poor and sub standard housing in the private rented sector.
- Work with existing bodies e.g. Youth Homelessness Forum, Wexford Borough Council, Connecting.U, HSE, local Youth Services to address youth homelessness.
- Link with services provided by the Cornmarket Project to address substance misuse.
- Link people to Employment Progression supports and educational opportunities through Employment Guidance Network and the Adult Education Programme.
- Address the issues of social and economic exclusion experienced by lone parents.
- Develop links between community, Gardai and other relevant agencies in addressing issues of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity.

#### North End, Wexford Town

##### Key issues and target groups:

Area excluded from the RAPID programme but with a high proportion of local authority estates (Brendan Corish Gardens, Lee Heights, Walnut Grove, Inis Fail Court), “hidden” disadvantage, drug misuse, criminal activity, dependence on rent supplement and social welfare payments, lack of community organisation or infrastructure therefore a failure to capitalise on State supports for communities to date.

##### Development Priorities:

- Address community infrastructure deficit through developing structures that encourage community participation.
- Build capacity to access state resources, supports and link with other community groups through Wexford Area Community Team.
- Work through the Employment Guidance Network and the Adult Education Programme to address unemployment and progression.
- Work in conjunction with Gardai and Wexford Borough Council to develop a community-based response to crime and anti-social activity.
- Develop a youth programme targeting disadvantaged young people, including teenage parents in the local area.

#### Piercestown/Murrintown

##### Key issues and target groups:

Pockets of disadvantage in local authority estates (John Paul Park in Murrintown and Rathlannon and Esmond Drive in Piercestown), need to increase focus on socially excluded groups in existing local community activity, transport needs, lack of accessible opportunities locally (including second chance education, employment, training, youth work etc.)

##### Development Priorities:

- Develop community infrastructure and highlight social inclusion.
- Work with the Rural Transport Programme and Community Voluntary Car Scheme to address transport needs in the area.
- Develop a youth programme for the local area.
- Work through Employment Guidance Network and the Adult Education Programme to address unemployment and progression and outreach services and information provision as well as training and education initiatives.
- Integrate the group with the range of services and resources of the Partnership.

### Building Communities - Programme A.3 Linking and Strengthening Communities through the Development of Wexford Area Community Team (WACT)

Wexford Area Community Team (WACT) is a network of groups within the area currently serviced by Wexford Area Partnership which are engaged in social inclusion work locally. Many of these are supported directly by the Partnership, others are supported via local community teams to participate in local networking.

Wexford Area Community Team has provided an opportunity for communities and target groups to come together to formulate policy and community positions on issues such as health, planning and equality. The team also serves an important function in facilitating the sharing of experience and knowledge amongst communities and contributing to a sense of solidarity and mutual support.

#### Key Issues

- There is a need to address outstanding priorities identified in the Community Manifesto (2006), including Educational Disadvantage and Economic Participation.
- Increasing burden of administration and reporting requirements means that community groups are struggling to balance the tasks of managing resources from a variety of State agencies and continuing to engage meaningfully with target groups “at the coalface”.
- Initiatives such as the annual Wexford Area Community Conference and training events have proven to be very successful and popular with communities attempting to gain recognition and support for their social inclusion work – these initiatives should continue to be supported into the future.
- Wexford Area Community Team will elect Community Directors onto the Board of Wexford Local Development Ltd. into the future as well as continuing to interact with structures such as RAPID and the Co. Wexford Community Forum. The team is also keen to input to proposed new structures such as the teams to be developed as part of the creation of Primary Health Care Networks at local level. This representative role needs to be prioritised and supported into the future.

#### Development Priorities

The Partnership will work towards the aim of Wexford Area Community Team becoming established as the recognised community voice for the Wexford area and providing a model for socially inclusive community structures. Specifically, the Partnership will address the following priorities:

- A programme of joint learning and awareness addressing issues emerging from the work, particularly areas of the Community Manifesto which have not yet been the subject of intensive focus such as Education and Economic Participation.
- The Partnership will explore the possibility of a formal response to the oft-cited issue of administration burdens experienced by community groups. This would entail the creation of an Administration “Hub” to provide secretarial, technical and financial management support and back-up to communities in a unified and purpose-designed structure serviced by the Partnership, thereby freeing communities to concentrate on frontline social inclusion work in their local areas and within the Wexford Area Community Team network.
- Develop and expand the process of structured interactions with mainstream service providers and policy makers and elected representatives.
- Supported formal engagement of Wexford Area Community Team in the Social Investment and Measuring Social Inclusion Progress (Local Anti-Poverty Social Inclusion Strategy) Initiatives.
- Prioritise facilitated networking and exchange of ideas amongst community groups thereby maximising learning and mutual support and reducing duplication of effort and resources.
- Development of skills and competencies in social analysis and policy input (nationally as well as locally).
- Ongoing review of constitution and procedures to meet local needs and operational circumstances.

## Plan of Action

### Strategic Initiative B: Delivering Social Investment



#### Background and Rationale

Wexford Area Partnership has grown in strength and acknowledged reputation as an effective development and support structure to a wide range of excluded communities and individuals. This has meant that it is in a unique position to:

- **Gain an understanding of both the causes and consequences of social exclusion for these communities and individuals.**
- **Design and deliver responses to needs identified in this respect – in close co-operation with relevant mainstream service providers, agencies and programmes.**

A range of such responses have been developed during the life-span of the previous strategic plan and now continue to be effectively delivered. Key to success in this context to date has been:

- Continuous liaison between these partnership-led initiatives and the day-to-day work taking place in communities and with marginalised and more vulnerable groups. This ensures that ongoing service and programme development remains responsive to the evolving needs of target groups.
- Progress in building community-based ‘infrastructure’ – to the extent that the capacity for direct access to services in disadvantaged areas has been greatly increased by the development of community, resource and service centres through ongoing work in these communities. This has helped ensure that cross-community services, programmes and initiatives developed by the partnership have not remained centralised. Ensuring that these are localised has significantly increased access for those most excluded from mainstream service delivery. This is not just due to the convenience involved but, more importantly, it is because individuals and families accessing locally-based and locally-run services have been able to build up confidence and trust in securing an understanding and flexible response.
- Working arrangements and strategic alliances built up between the WAP and mainstream service providers over the years. In targeting service provision at those most in need, many agencies face difficulties in meeting requirements for delivering flexibility, responsiveness and outreach. Mutually beneficial agreements between agencies and the Partnership have effectively delivered on this – to the ultimate benefit of clients.

Services and programmes developed and currently operated by Wexford Area Partnership include:

**The Cornmarket Project** - a community-based service for people dealing with problems of anti-social and criminal behaviour and concurrent substance abuse. The project provides a resource, counselling, training and rehabilitation, drop-in and outreach services for people over 18 affected by drugs and alcohol, along with a support group for their families.

**The Employment Guidance Network (EGN)**, for Wexford Town, through which mediation, guidance and support for those who are long-term unemployed and seeking to return to work or to further education and training

Administration of the **Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA)** Scheme on behalf of the DSFA, through which advice and financial assistance was provided to individuals setting up their own businesses.

The **WARM Project**, which tackles fuel poverty by providing insulation services to older people living in privately owned homes, as well as providing employment and training opportunities for the long-term unemployed.

The **Rural Road Runner Project** under the Rural Transport Programme, designed to meet the transport needs of those most isolated in the area - with a particular focus on older persons.

**Community Car Scheme** provides transport to older persons to essential health care appointments in Wexford General Hospital and other regional hospitals by using a team of volunteer drivers.

**Training Initiatives**, delivered in partnership with FÁS, Co. Wexford VEC and FÁILTE Ireland, addressing skills needs in a number of areas including the construction, hospitality industry, retail and computer sectors.

**Educational Initiatives**, supported by LDSIP and the Back to Education Initiative in conjunction with Co. Wexford VEC; Support for students from disadvantaged areas accessing third level educational opportunities via the *Millennium Partnership Fund*.

**Wexford Education Network (WEN)**, established as umbrella body for statutory and non-statutory agencies, communities and parents prioritising early school leaving and its consequences in the Wexford area and centrally involved in developing a range of school retention and awareness-building initiatives.

Programmes aimed at addressing the needs of **members of the Traveller community**, including with Traveller youth, primary school pupils, men and women.

The **connecting.u Project** – developed as a response to the needs of young people, with a focus on purposeful social interaction, links into support services, advocacy, mediation, and the sharing or relaying of information.

## Aim of the Delivering Social Investment Initiative

Together these services and programmes have contributed significantly to the overall Social Inclusion impact of Wexford Area Partnership's work to date. Review of activities for the last strategic planning period has clearly demonstrated beneficial outcomes (from the perspective of mainstream service providers and statutory agencies, as well as from the perspective of target communities and individuals).

Particular attention and resources for this planning period will be focused on:

- Consolidating and improving existing services and programmes – informed especially by feedback from service users, beneficiaries and mainstream service providers.
- Formalising procedures governing:
  1. Ongoing assessment of needs as they become apparent through the WAP Building Communities Initiative.
  2. Negotiation with relevant agencies and service providers with a view to continuous development of responses to these needs – either through new partnership-led initiatives or through changes to existing mainstream service policy and practice.
- Continuous assessment of all partnership-led programmes - within the context of the evolving Wexford Local Anti-Poverty Social Inclusion Strategy; employing criteria and indicators to measure the social impact of investment made.

### Measure B1.1: Socially Inclusive Childcare Facilities

Action 1	Promoting Affordable Provision
<b>Aim</b>	To increase the availability of childcare places available to lower income and disadvantaged families
<b>Methods</b>	- Development of administrative hub to promote community involvement in provision - Support and Advice for Community Providers
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	- Higher numbers of children accessing childcare in disadvantaged areas - Increased proportion of non-private providers

Action 2	Developing Good Practice
<b>Aim</b>	To encourage the adoption of inclusive and progression-linked approaches to provision in both the private and community childcare sectors
<b>Methods</b>	- Development of a community-based childcare facility model - Provision of resources and ongoing support - Distribution of resources and communication of approach/outcomes - Facilitation of networking to share lessons - Evaluation of Outcomes, Lessons
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	- Child and family progression achieved and demonstrated - Evidence of uptake of learning from models of best practice - Lessons informing the broader policy debate

## Social Investment Programmes

The Social Investment Initiative will be delivered through six programmes:

- B1 Children and Youth**
- B2 People of Working Age**
- B3 Older People**
- B4 People with a Disability**
- B5 Health, Wellbeing and Security**
- B6 Equality of Participation and Access**

The first four of these are target-group based programmes corresponding with the 'life cycle' groupings as defined in the NAPInclusion Plan

### Programme B1: Children and Youth

The overall programme aim is to create the conditions necessary for full inclusion, participation and progression for disadvantaged children and young people in the area. This aim will be pursued through three measures:

- B1.1 Socially Inclusive Childcare Facilities**
- B1.2 Early Education**
- B1.3 Youth Development**

Actions and approaches associated with each of these measures are summarised on the following pages.

Action 3	Influencing Existing Childcare Committees
<b>Aim</b>	To ensure mainstream Childcare planning and provision makes adequate provision for disadvantaged children and families
<b>Methods</b>	- Monitoring of the effects of exclusion from childcare provision - Highlighting the benefits of inclusion - Engagement with committee planning and implementation informed by findings
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	- Guidelines to promote inclusion developed and disseminated - Higher numbers of children accessing childcare in disadvantaged areas

Action 4	Linking Childcare with other Issues and Challenges
<b>Aim</b>	To promote the development of childcare facilities as a complementary activity to programmes aimed at enhancing progression opportunities
<b>Methods</b>	- Focus on employment in childcare as part of BTEI - Linking support and mediation services for lone parents and long-term unemployed to inclusive local providers
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	- Childcare-linked barriers to progression removed

### Measure B1.2: Early Education

Action 1	Developing and Delivering Programmes Incredible Years Preparing for Life Early Childhood Education
<b>Aim</b>	To design and deliver early education programmes aimed at removing the barriers to progression for children from disadvantaged families
<b>Methods</b>	- Consultation with parents and educators - Delivery of specific programmes (including Headstart and Transfer Programmes) - Evaluation of process and outcomes
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	- Higher school retention rates - Enhanced educational achievement for children from disadvantage families - Increased resources for programmes

Action 2	Developing and Delivering Parent Education Programmes
<b>Aim</b>	To design and deliver parents education programmes aimed at increasing capacity of parents to support their children's balanced development and progression
<b>Methods</b>	- Consultation with parents and educators - Delivery of specific programmes Evaluation of process and outcomes
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	- Enhanced confidence and competences for parents - Enhanced progression for children from disadvantage families

Measure B1.3: Youth Development

<b>Action 1</b>	<b>Increased Numbers of Youth Development Workers</b>
<b>Aim</b>	To promote and support efforts to secure resources for the employment of youth workers in target communities
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with relevant organisations (including Co. Wexford VEC and local Youth Services) to profile and highlight need in particular areas</li> <li>- Support efforts of community organisations to secure funding</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth Workers employed in communities</li> <li>- Greater and more active involvement of marginalised young people in social activities and progressions</li> </ul>

<b>Action 2</b>	<b>Enhancing Youth Service Delivery</b>
<b>Aim</b>	To enhance the provision of youth services within local communities
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide or secure provision of Information, Employment, Training, Education and Accommodation-linked services for young people</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More drop-in and outreach centres in targeted local areas</li> <li>- Higher levels of service access by disadvantaged young people</li> </ul>

<b>Action 3</b>	<b>Specifically Targeted Youth Supports konnecting.u Young Offenders Intensive Support Restorative Justice Programme</b>
<b>Aim</b>	To provide supports for the most vulnerable and excluded young people in communities
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation with relevant agencies and communities to develop responses to the needs of young homelessness, drug users and early school leavers</li> <li>- Assistance to young lone parents, young Travellers and young immigrants in identifying needs, forming support groups and responding to needs</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elimination of youth homelessness</li> <li>- More accessible and effective drug treatment facilities</li> <li>- Reduction in early school leaving</li> <li>- More effective voice for young people</li> <li>- Youth issues/needs on mainstream policy/planning agenda</li> </ul>

<b>Action 3(a)</b>	<b>konnecting.u</b>
<b>Aim</b>	To continue to develop the programme of contact with young people at risk who do not attach to existing statutory or voluntary services through the konnecting.u project in order to address their social and economic exclusion
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connect with young people at risk through face to face work with young people in their own areas and at times when these young people meet, (especially in the evenings and at weekends)</li> <li>- Facilitate young people at risk to identify their own needs</li> <li>- Facilitate statutory and voluntary agencies to reach out to young people</li> <li>- Facilitate and mediate the connection between young people and agencies to meet needs and reduce risk</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further development of this multi-agency approach to combating youth disadvantage by employing further youth contact workers, appointing a co-ordinator to oversee the project and by developing the funding base of the project</li> <li>- Sustained contact with vulnerable young people, supporting them in the complex set of personal, educational, psychological and social issues which affect them and enabling many of them to change direction in their lives through accessing appropriate support services</li> </ul>

<b>Action 3(b)</b>	<b>Young Offenders Intensive Support Programme</b>
<b>Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide an effective support service to those offenders under the age of 18 who come before the courts</li> <li>- To provide for an increasing amount of young people coming into contact with the criminal justice system</li> <li>- To enable early supports to be put in place to ensure community sanctions can be used for young offenders</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	Development of an effective support service for young offenders
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	Support service for young offenders

<b>Action 3(c)</b>	<b>Restorative Justice Programme</b>
<b>Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To expand the existing Stabilisation Programme of the Cornmarket Project to include a "Restorative Justice" element based on allowing offenders to give back to the community in Wexford through graffiti removal and associated work</li> <li>- Development of a model of restorative justice as exhibited in the Pobal administered programme</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sourcing of funding for the programme</li> <li>- Employment of part time sessional workers to facilitate the work of the module</li> <li>- Development of a model of restorative justice in Wexford</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	Appropriate and relevant model of restorative justice that could be considered by the Courts and Probation Service as a possible sanction when dealing with lesser crimes

<b>Action 4</b>	<b>Developing Appropriate Spaces for Young People</b>
<b>Aim</b>	To work towards the provision of facilities and amenities for young people in disadvantaged communities
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support for youth groups and organisations in developing plans and seeking resources</li> <li>- Support for developing and managing activities and programmes in centres</li> <li>- Liaison with Building Communities Initiative to ensure youth focus and engagement of young people</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	Youth Centres and facilities developed in targeted areas Centres, facilities and programmes being accessed by the most marginalised youth

## Programme B2: People of Working Age

The overall programme aim is to create the conditions necessary for full inclusion, participation and progression for people of working age in the area.

This aim will be pursued through four measures:

### B2.1 Providing Support for Progression

### B2.2 Developing Social Capital and Enterprise

### B2.3 Promoting a Comprehensive Adult Education Strategy

### B2.4 Addressing the needs of People involved in Substance Misuse and Criminogenic behaviour

Actions and approaches associated with each of these measures are summarised on the following pages.

#### Measure B2.1: Providing Support for Progression

Action 1	Delivering and Expanding Employment Services
<b>Aim</b>	To continue to develop and expand services to the unemployed, with a focus on those most removed from labour market opportunities
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of support and mediation to individuals accessing the services</li> <li>- Ongoing liaison with employers and mainstream services to assist in progression paths</li> <li>- Review of outcome</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased numbers accessing services</li> <li>- Increased numbers progressing in education, training, and employment</li> </ul>

Action 2	Working to Ensure the Service is Recognised and Resourced as a Local Employment Service
<b>Aim</b>	To confirm the status of Employment Guidance Network as a full Local Employment Service
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstration of need and demand – via client and potential client numbers, live register trends and other data sources</li> <li>- Work with other stakeholders (especially via WACT) to promote the case</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	Employment Guidance Network becomes a full Local Employment Service

Action 3	Increase Awareness of Opportunities Available through Local Employment Service
<b>Aim</b>	To ensure increased uptake of and access to employment services and employment opportunities by the most excluded in Partnership target areas
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engagement in outreach and information sessions in all existing and new community development centres</li> <li>- Design and ongoing implementation of feedback from community-based target groups to inform service development</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased access to services for those most removed from employment opportunities</li> <li>- LES develops new approaches and procedures informed by community-based feedback</li> </ul>

#### Measure B2.2: Developing Social Capital and Enterprise

Action 1(a)	Support for the Continued Development of Existing Initiatives 1(a) Warm Project
<b>Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To support the ongoing development of social enterprise initiatives</li> <li>- To improve the living conditions and health and well being of older people</li> <li>- To address the issue of fuel poverty for older people</li> <li>- To provide training and employment opportunities for long term unemployed</li> <li>- To create awareness around energy efficiency and environmental issues</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working in partnership with SEI and FAS to provide a range of insulation services including attic insulation, draught proofing and cavity wall insulation</li> <li>- Working in partnership with FAS to manage a community employment scheme which provides employment and training opportunities for LTU</li> <li>- Working in partnership with SEI and the ESB to provide energy saving advice</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expansion of number of measures delivered through the Warmer Homes Scheme</li> <li>- Increased access to services for the most isolated and vulnerable</li> <li>- Heightened awareness of energy efficiency, reduced fuel bills and increased usage of sustainable energy devices</li> </ul>

Action 1(b)	Support for the Continued Development of Existing Initiatives 1(b) Rural Transport Programme
<b>Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To consolidate and to continue to provide a rural transport service to the most excluded and isolated living in our rural areas which is accessible and responds to local needs</li> <li>- To expand our current level of service to our new geographic areas</li> <li>- To expand and develop the RTP to include new users of the service and to provide transport to meet additional needs such as education and training, employment etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working in partnership with communities and community groups and other stakeholders to establish routes which respond to identified transport needs.</li> <li>- Continue to promote community ownership of the programme and the delivery of a door to door accessible transport service.</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustain our existing level of services in our existing area</li> <li>- Established new weekly routes in our new area of responsibility</li> <li>- Expanded our services to provide transport for other users including provision of transport for persons wanting to access training and education opportunities in particular lone parents</li> </ul>

Action 1(c)	Support for the Continued Development of Existing Initiatives 1(c) Community Car Scheme
<b>Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To expand the community car scheme and increase transfers from approx. 100 to 200 per month and to expand to providing transport to service the Dublin hospitals</li> <li>- To increase the number of volunteers from 15 to 40</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the number of volunteer drivers operating under the scheme.</li> <li>- Continue to provide training in health and safety and first aid to all drivers.</li> <li>- Continue to co-ordinate the scheme through our existing rural transport office.</li> <li>- Work in partnership with the HSE and Wexford General Hospital to secure ongoing funding for the scheme</li> <li>- Work to mainstream the programme through the RTP</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scheme mainstreamed through the Rural Transport Programme</li> <li>- Expanded to cover Dublin hospitals</li> <li>- Increased number of transfers from 100 to 20</li> </ul>

Action 2	Developing New Supported Employment Initiatives
<b>Aim</b>	To support the development of supported employment initiatives that have demonstrable benefits in terms of employment and community gain
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of a 'think tank; to generate ideas on energy and environment-linked employment initiatives</li> <li>- Negotiation with training and employment-support agencies to pursue the most viable ideas</li> <li>- Support for the establishment and development of initiatives Assessment of benefits to the individual, the community and the environment</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Significantly increased numbers from named target groups employed in supported employment initiatives</li> <li>- Environmental improvements</li> <li>- Enhanced mainstream supports for supported employment initiatives as a result of demonstrated benefits</li> </ul>

Action 3	Developing and Supporting a Social Enterprise Model
<b>Aim</b>	To initiate and develop a social enterprise model aimed at providing support for community-based social and economic facilities
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigation of relevant business models.</li> <li>- Completion of feasibility study</li> <li>- Consultation with community interests re structure and procedures</li> <li>- Completion of business plan</li> <li>- Provision of financial, management, legal and other supports</li> <li>- Dissemination and promotion of the model</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Administrative support facility established for community groups</li> <li>- Sustainable integrated economic and social model developed</li> </ul>

Action 4	Delivering and Expanding Enterprise Support Services
<b>Aim</b>	To continue to support the LTU to set up small scale enterprises with a focus on creating sustainable employment
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of a range of enterprise supports including business plan development, information and training in key areas such as taxation, financial planning, marketing, employment etc.</li> <li>- Administration of the BTWEA scheme on behalf of the DSFA</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased numbers setting up their own businesses</li> <li>- Increased numbers of businesses providing sustainable employment</li> </ul>

#### Measure B2.3: Promoting a Comprehensive Adult Education Strategy

Action 1	Delivering Innovative Education Programmes informed by the Needs and Circumstances of Target Groups
<b>Aim</b>	To respond to the education needs of those of working age who are excluded from accessing mainstream opportunities
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigation of educational needs and preferences of named target groups, LTU, immigrant communities, Traveller community, lone parents</li> <li>- Design and delivery of courses to facilitate needs and circumstances</li> <li>- Evaluation and review of outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accredited progression for participants to further education</li> <li>- Accredited progression for participants to employment</li> <li>- Recognition of prior learning</li> </ul>

Action 2	Negotiating a Responsive and Targeted approach to Adult Education
<b>Aim</b>	To positively influence the mainstream design and delivery of adult education courses for people of working age
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identifying and communicating the needs and of target groups</li> <li>- Reaching consensus with education providers on a holistic and integrated model of response and delivery</li> <li>- Negotiating recognised roles for community-based providers and statutory providers</li> <li>- Promoting flexibility – in terms of calendar, pedagogy and the physical learning environment</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of a holistic and integrated model of adult education delivery</li> <li>- Increased uptake of courses by target groups in appropriate learning environments</li> <li>- Accredited progression for participants to employment and further education.</li> </ul>

Action 3	Making Results Visible
<b>Aim</b>	To achieve an increased commitment to resourcing adult education by demonstrating the benefits
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation of course outcomes and tracking progression</li> <li>- Liaison with education providers re targeting of resources</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased resources committed to delivering community based courses</li> <li>- Increased participation by target groups</li> <li>- Accredited progression for participants to employment</li> </ul>

#### Measure B2.4: Training, Rehabilitation and Progression Supports for those involved in Substance Misuse and Criminogenic Behaviour via the Cornmarket Project

Action 1	Training and Rehabilitation Programme/FÁS CE Scheme
<b>Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide training, rehabilitation and employment opportunities for clients of the Cornmarket project</li> <li>- To support and deliver an accredited training programme for Cornmarket participants</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design and delivery of a number of FETAC accredited modules.</li> <li>- Submission and completion of FETAC assignments, work placement and participation in a rehabilitation programme</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	Structured and accredited training programme. Participants accredited in training modules

Action 2	Resettlement Programme
<b>Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To appoint a resettlement worker ensuring that those clients who have moved away from substance misuse and criminality can be effectively re-housed in Wexford</li> <li>- To support the borough and county councils in dealing with this client group to diminish the likelihood of anti social activity through relapse or recidivism</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initiation of appointment of Resettlement worker to work with clients.</li> <li>- Enlist the support of Borough and County Councils in dealing with the client group during the re-housing process.</li> <li>- Provide support and advocacy training to this group to enable clients to secure suitable accommodation</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Established Settlement Programme</li> <li>- Progression from this onto further training through the Training and Rehabilitation programme and onto the CE programme.</li> </ul>

## Programme B3: Older People

The overall programme aim is to create the conditions necessary for full inclusion, participation and progression for older people in the area.

This aim will be pursued through three measures:

### B3.1 Supporting Access to Employment and Work-Related Training

### B3.2 Supporting Involvement in Adult Education and Social Economy Initiatives

### B3.3 Strengthening Social Participation and Contribution to Policy

Actions and approaches associated with each of these measures are summarised on the following pages.

#### Measure B3.1: Supporting Access to Employment and Work-Related Training for Older People

Action 1	Delivering Employment Services
<b>Aim</b>	To develop and expand services to older people, with a focus on those most removed from labour market opportunities
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of support and mediation to individuals accessing the services</li> <li>- Ongoing liaison with employers and mainstream services to assist in progression paths</li> <li>- Review of outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased numbers of older people accessing services</li> <li>- Increased numbers progressing in education, training, and employment</li> </ul>

Action 2	Increasing awareness of opportunities for older people available through the Employment Guidance Network
<b>Aim</b>	To ensure increased uptake of and access to employment services and employment opportunities by the older people in WAP target areas
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engagement in outreach and information sessions in all existing and new community development centres</li> <li>- Design and ongoing implementation of feedback from older people to inform service development</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased access to services for older people most removed from employment opportunities</li> <li>- EGN develops new approaches and procedures informed by feedback from older people</li> </ul>

Action 3	Increasing Awareness amongst Employers and Mainstream Training Providers
<b>Aim</b>	To heighten awareness amongst employers and training providers re the benefits and challenges of recruiting older people
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compilation of case studies re successful training, re-training and employment</li> <li>- Liaison with employers and training providers</li> <li>- Offering support and mentoring where required</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Higher proportion of older people returning to employment</li> <li>- Increased success in retraining and placement for older people following redundancy</li> </ul>

#### Measure B3.2: Supporting the Involvement of Older People in Adult Education and Social Enterprise

Action 1	Supporting Involvement in Protected Employment and Social Economy Initiatives
<b>Aim</b>	To support the active participation of older people in protected employment initiatives and the social capital demonstration project
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outreach to ensure participation in social economy think tank</li> <li>- Promotion of projects to benefit older members of the community</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active involvement of older people in protected employment and social economy initiatives</li> <li>- Benefits to older people from economic activity and community facilities development</li> </ul>

Action 2	Supporting Involvement in Adult Education Initiatives
<b>Aim</b>	To support the active participation of older people in adult education courses
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigation of educational needs and preferences</li> <li>- Design and delivery of courses to suit needs and circumstances</li> <li>- Review of outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accredited progression for participants to further education</li> <li>- Accredited progression for participants to employment</li> </ul>

#### Measure B3.3: Strengthening Social Participation and Contribution to Policy by Older People

Action 1	Supporting Group-based Activities and Networking
<b>Aim</b>	To strengthen the capacity of older people to participate socially and to engage in joint support and networking
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued support for existing older peoples' groups and networks</li> <li>- Support for the establishment of new groups around particular development themes</li> <li>- Support for projects providing information on rights and entitlements</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decrease in isolation of older people – especially older people living alone</li> <li>- A stronger voice for older people in communities and development plans</li> </ul>

Action 2	Awareness Raising re Development Challenges and Policy Issues
<b>Aim</b>	To strengthen the capacity of older peoples' groups and networks to contribute to the development of mainstream policies, services and plans
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation of seminars, conferences and joint learning events</li> <li>- Support for policy-linked research and needs assessment</li> <li>- Support for the preparation and presentation of submissions to policy making processes</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	A more informed and responsive service delivery environment re the needs of older people – especially in area of transport, health and planning

## Programme B4: People with a Disability

The overall programme aim is to create the conditions necessary for full inclusion, participation and progression for people with a disability in the area.

This aim will be pursued through three measures:

- B4.1 Supporting Access to Employment and Work-Related Training**
- B4.2 Supporting Involvement in Adult Education and Social Economy Initiatives**
- B4.3 Strengthening Social Participation and Contribution to Policy**

Actions and approaches associated with each of these measures are summarised on the following pages.

### Measure B3.1: Supporting Access to Employment and Work-Related Training for People with a Disability

Action 1	Delivering Employment Services
<b>Aim</b>	To develop and expand services to people with a disability, with a focus on those most removed from labour market opportunities
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of support and mediation to individuals assessing the services</li> <li>- Ongoing liaison with employers and mainstream services to assist in progression paths</li> <li>- Review of outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased numbers of people with a disability accessing services</li> <li>- Increased numbers progressing in education, training, and employment</li> </ul>

Action 2	Increasing awareness of opportunities for People with a Disability available through the Employment Guidance Network
<b>Aim</b>	To ensure increased uptake of and access to employment services and employment opportunities by people with a disability in WAP target areas
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engagement in outreach and information sessions in all existing and new community development centres</li> <li>- Design and ongoing implementation of feedback from people with a disability to inform service development</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased access to services for people with a disability most removed from employment opportunities</li> <li>- Wexford LES develops new approaches and procedures informed by feedback from people with a disability</li> </ul>

Action 3	Increasing Awareness amongst Employers and Mainstream Training Providers
<b>Aim</b>	To heighten awareness amongst employers and training providers re the benefits and challenges of recruiting people with a disability
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compilation of case studies re successful training, re-training and employment</li> <li>- Liaison with employers and training providers</li> <li>- Offering support and mentoring where required</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Higher proportion of people with a disability returning to employment of their choice</li> <li>- More inclusive and supportive recruitment and employment practices adopted by employers</li> </ul>

### Measure B4.2: Supporting the Involvement of People with a Disability in Adult Education and Social Enterprise

Action 1	Supporting Involvement in Protected Employment and Social Economy Initiatives
<b>Aim</b>	To support the active participation of people with a disability in protected employment initiatives and the social capital demonstration project
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outreach to ensure participation in social economy think tank</li> <li>- Promotion of projects to benefit people with a disability in the community</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Active involvement of people with a disability in protected employment and social economy initiatives</li> <li>- Benefits to people with a disability from economic activity and community facilities development</li> </ul>

Action 2	Supporting Involvement in Adult Education Initiatives
<b>Aim</b>	To support the active participation of people with a disability in adult education courses
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigation of educational needs and preferences</li> <li>- Design and delivery of courses to suit needs and circumstances</li> <li>- Review of outcomes</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accredited progression for participants to further education</li> <li>- Accredited progression for participants to employment</li> </ul>

### Measure B4.3: Strengthening Social Participation and Contribution to Policy by People with a Disability

Action 1	Supporting Group-based Activities and Networking
<b>Aim</b>	To strengthen the capacity of older people to participate socially and to engage in joint support and networking
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued support for for existing groups and networks of people with a disability</li> <li>- Support for the establishment of new groups around particular development themes</li> <li>- Support for projects providing information on rights and entitlements</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased levels of social participation and involvement in community-based activities</li> <li>- A stronger voice for people with a disability in communities and development plans</li> </ul>

Action 2	Awareness Raising re Development Challenges and Policy Issues
<b>Aim</b>	To strengthen the capacity of of organisations and groups involving people with a disability, networks to contribute to the development of mainstream policies, services and plans
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation of seminars, conferences and joint learning events</li> <li>- Support for policy-linked research and needs assessment</li> <li>- Support for the preparation and presentation of submissions to policy making processes</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	A more informed and responsive service delivery environment re the needs of people with a disability – especially in the transport, health, transport and employment transportation fields

## Programme B5: Health, Wellbeing and Security

The overall programme aim is to create the conditions necessary for healthy, safe and sustainable communities. This aim will be pursued through two measures:

### B5.1 Building Healthier Communities

### B5.2 Building Safe and Sustainable Communities

Actions and approaches associated with each of these measures are summarised on the following pages.

#### Measure B5.1: Building Healthier Communities

Action 1	Building Awareness of the links between Health and Social Inclusion
<b>Aim</b>	To increase knowledge and informed debate about poor health as a cause of social exclusion
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation of conferences, seminars and joint learning sessions</li> <li>- Sponsorship of research targeting particular groups and themes</li> <li>- Provision of insulation services to older people in receipt of the fuel allowance</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved health and wellbeing for more excluded groups in communities</li> <li>- Greater focus on health as a challenge for community-based organisations in development plans</li> <li>- Improved living conditions for older people experiencing fuel poverty</li> </ul>

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Action 2	Strengthening the Capacity of Socially Excluded Groups to Participate in the Planning, Delivery and Review of Health Services
<b>Aim</b>	To ensure the effective involvement of socially excluded groups in identification of their health needs and in planning to address these needs
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support for groups to engage with service providers – with a particular focus on the immigrant community, Travellers, drug users, people with a disability and older people</li> <li>- Engagement with service providers to establish joint planning procedures – especially re primary care strategy</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Effective involvement of community interests in planning, implementing and reviewing primary care strategy</li> <li>- Increased and more effective provision re drug use – including detox, pharmacological substitution and respite services</li> <li>- Older people have an improved quality of life</li> <li>- Access/transport to health services at no cost for those experiencing social disadvantage</li> </ul>

Action 3	Meeting Health Needs through Social Investment The Cornmarket Project
<b>Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide an increased counselling and support service for individuals which will deal with substance misuse issues, both drugs and alcohol and address anti-social behaviour such as violence, offences against public order and deviant behaviour.</li> <li>- To provide support groups for those who need to address existing or potential anti-social and dysfunctional behaviour.</li> <li>- To provide a mediation and advocacy service promoting capacity building for individuals which in turn will lead to progression to education routes, further vocational training and an introduction to sustained employment as appropriate to individual needs.</li> <li>- To provide family support for those affected by another's dysfunctional conduct or where dysfunctional behaviour is caused by family circumstances.</li> <li>- To provide capacity building interventions, enabling families to cope more successfully with dysfunction brought on by substance misuse.</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of increased counselling capacity by engaging extra professional counselling resources to cope with a large demand for counselling from those with addiction and other behavioural issues.</li> <li>- Development of a "Half Way House" transitional style housing/accommodation for clients of the project who are often homeless but have made progress regarding substance abuse or criminality.</li> <li>- Development of detox services, both community based and residential, for clients with serious addiction problems who wish to become alcohol/drug free. The combination of residential and community based services could facilitate approximately 12 clients per year.</li> <li>- Provision of Pharmacological substitution therapy in the form of Methadone/Buprenorphine and other interventions in Wexford for clients to enable opiate users to move away from heroin addiction.</li> <li>- Development and provision of a systemic effective support service including close and intensive family support to those offenders under 18 who come before the courts.</li> <li>- Provision of further support and respite to parents and other family members of those with addiction related problems.</li> <li>- The appointment of a resettlement worker to ensure that those clients who have moved away from substance misuse and criminality can be effectively rehoused in Wexford.</li> <li>- Supporting the borough and county councils in dealing with the client group to diminish the likelihood of anti social behaviour through relapse and recidivism.</li> <li>- Expansion of the existing Stabilisation Programme to include a "Restorative Justice" element based on allowing offenders to give back to the community in Wexford through graffiti removal and associated work.</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expanded and further developed counselling and support service dealing with substance misuse issues and addressing anti social behaviour.</li> <li>- Support groups for those who need to address existing or potential anti-social and dysfunctional behaviour.</li> <li>- A comprehensive mediation and capacity building service for clients focusing on progression routes to education, training and employment.</li> <li>- Comprehensive family support unit enabling families to cope with dysfunction brought on by substance misuse.</li> <li>- Established "Half Way House" and Resettlement worker recruited and resettlement programme established.</li> </ul>

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Measure B5.2: Building Safe and Sustainable Communities

<b>Action 1</b>	<b>Developing awareness on causes, consequences and effective responses to drug use, crime, anti-social behaviour and discrimination: The Cornmarket Project</b>
<b>Aim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To increase knowledge and informed debate about effective and inclusive means to create secure living conditions in communities</li> <li>- Provision of a community-based service for people aged over 18 involved in substance misuse, anti-social and criminal behaviour</li> </ul>
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigation of best practice examples from elsewhere in encouraging social behaviour and combating anti-social behaviour</li> <li>- Organisation of conferences, seminars and joint learning sessions</li> <li>- Provision of counselling, training and rehabilitation to service users and their families</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safer and more secure living conditions for excluded groups in communities</li> <li>- Greater focus on social integration and community safety as challenges for community-based organisations in development plans</li> <li>- Effective response to drug use, crime and anti-social behaviour in Wexford town</li> </ul>

<b>Action 2</b>	<b>Strengthening the Capacity of Socially Excluded Groups to Participate in Planning and Delivery of responses to these issues</b>
<b>Aim</b>	To enhance the capacity for long-term community sustainability through partnership-based approaches
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support for community-based groups in developing responses</li> <li>- Development of effective working relationships with Gardai at community level</li> <li>- Establishment of Intensive Support Programme for Young Offenders</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safer and more secure living conditions for excluded groups in communities</li> <li>- Enhanced integration of offenders and potential offenders into community structures and activities</li> </ul>

<b>Action 3</b>	<b>Promoting Integration and Combating Segregation</b>
<b>Aim</b>	To ensure balanced and sustainable development through the planned integration of all members of the community in all aspects of community life
<b>Methods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisation of conferences, courses, seminars and joint learning sessions to highlight benefits of integration and dangers of segregation</li> <li>- Engagement with planning and housing authorities to promote residential integration – especially for lone parents, immigrant and Traveller communities; with a particular focus on the private rented sector</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased involvement of minority groupings in social and community-based activities</li> <li>- A greater social mix across residential areas and housing sectors</li> </ul>

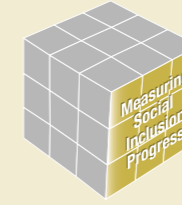
Programme B6:  
Equality of Participation and Access

The overall programme aim is to create the conditions necessary for self-determination and equality of opportunity for specific target groups. This aim will be pursued through the development of representative and support structures, and through actions to supporting capacity to participate, to integrate and to influence (as summarised below).

<b>Action 1</b>	<b>Strengthening the Capacity of named Target Groups to Participate, to Integrate and to Influence</b>
<b>Aim</b>	To ensure that lone parents, drug users and their families, members of the Traveller and immigrant communities develop the structures and procedures necessary to network, access services, identify issues of common concern, and contribute to planning
<b>Methods</b>	<p><b>For each named target group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued support for existing groups</li> <li>- Outreach and consultation to agree on need for new group formation</li> <li>- Provision of assistance in needs identification (including participative action research)</li> <li>- Initiation of programmes and projects in response to needs identified</li> <li>- Assistance in understanding policy issues and challenges</li> <li>- Assistance in developing working links with mainstream service providers and programmes</li> </ul>
<b>Anticipated Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Needs and circumstances of target groups are taken into account in the development and delivery of all Partnership Programmes and actions</li> <li>- Needs and circumstances of target groups are taken into account in the development and delivery of mainstream services and Programmes</li> <li>- Target groups are enabled to participate more actively in community-based activities</li> </ul>

## Plan of Action

### Strategic Initiative A: Measuring Social Inclusion Progress (Development of Local Anti-Poverty Social Inclusion Strategy or “LAPSIS”)



#### Background and Rationale

The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 – 2016 has set out one overall goal for the reduction of poverty and twelve high level goals for the achievement of greater social inclusion in Ireland.

The overall goal is

**“To reduce the number of those experiencing consistent poverty to between 2% and zero% by 2012 with the aim of eliminating consistent poverty by 2016”.**

The strategy adopts a lifecycle approach which is reflected in the following twelve “high Level goals”:

#### Children

##### Goal 1: Education

Ensure that targeted pre-school education is provided to children from urban primary school communities covered by the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) action plan

##### Goal 2: Education

Reduce the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties in primary schools serving disadvantaged communities. The target is to halve the proportion from the current 27%-30% to less than 15% by 2016.

##### Goal 3: Education

Work to ensure that the proportion of the population aged 20-24 completing upper second-level education or equivalent will exceed 90% by 2013.

##### Goal 4: Income Support

Maintain the combined value of child income support measures at 33%-35% of the minimum adult social welfare payment rate over the course of this Plan and review child income supports aimed at assisting children in families on low income.

#### People of Working Age

##### Goal 5: Employment and Participation

Introduce an active case management approach that will support those on long-term social welfare into education, training and employment. The target is to support 50,000 such people, including lone parents and the long-term

unemployed, with an overall aim of reducing by 20% the number of those whose total income is derived from long-term social welfare payments by 2016. This target will be reviewed in the light of experience.

##### Goal 6: Income Support

Maintain the relative value of the lowest social welfare rate at least at €185.80, in 2007 terms, over the course of this Plan, subject to available resources.

#### Older People

##### Goal 7: Community Care

Continue to increase investment in community care services for older people, including home care packages and enhanced day care services, to support them to live independently in the community for as long as possible.

##### Goal 8: Income Support

Maintain a minimum payment rate of €200 per week, in 2007 terms, for all social welfare pensions over the course of this plan.

#### People with Disabilities

##### Goal 9: Employment and Participation

Increase the employment of people with disabilities who do not have a difficulty in retaining a job with the immediate objective of having an additional 7,000 of that cohort in employment by 2010. The longer-term target is to raise the employment rate of people with disabilities from 37% to 45% and to increase the overall participation rate in education, training and employment to 50% by 2016.

#### Communities

##### Goal 10: Housing

Deliver high quality housing for those who cannot afford to meet their own housing needs and to underpin the development of sustainable communities. An important element will be the enhanced housing output reflected in Towards 2016, which will result in the accommodation needs of some 60,000 new households being addressed over the period 2007 to 2009, including meeting the special housing needs of the homeless, Travelling Community, older people and people with disabilities.

##### Goal 11: Health

Develop 500 Primary Care Teams by 2011 which will improve access to services in the community with particular emphasis on meeting the needs of holders of medical cards.

##### Goal 12: Integration of Migrants

Develop a strategy aimed at achieving the integration of newcomers in our society. As an initial action, resources for the provision of 550 teachers for language supports by 2009 and access to other public services through translation of information and supports will be improved.

The aim of the NAPInclusion is to facilitate greater co-ordination and integration of structures and procedures across Government at national and local levels as well as improved reporting and monitoring mechanisms. The emphasis is on services and activation as a means of achieving social inclusion. The key themes informing the strategy include:

- Collective responsibility
- Co-ordinated and integrated approaches
- Strengthened interagency collaboration & 'joined up' services
- Adopting a lifecycle approach
- Investing in communities
- Supporting & empowering communities
- Monitoring & evaluation against set social inclusion targets

Wexford Area Partnership proposes to introduce a *Measuring Social Inclusion Progress* Strategic Initiative in order to provide a mechanism to measure from the outset the effectiveness of social inclusion investment in Wexford and also to link with the wider spectrum of agencies and State interventions working for social inclusion locally. The rationale behind this initiative is as follows:

- NAPInclusion commits the Government to the establishment of structured and systematic approaches to promoting social inclusion at local level. These are likely to be developed via local authority and/or County Development Board structures and plans. To ensure coherence with national policy and targets, it is considered essential that the work of the Partnership is closely integrated with these developments.
- The experience of Wexford Area Partnership to date leaves it uniquely well-equipped to contribute to all levels of development of a local anti-poverty social inclusion strategy including planning, implementation and review. Especially important in this context are the strong working links that have been established with disadvantaged groups and communities, together with the effective partnership arrangements in place with a range of agencies in tackling social exclusion.
- The Partnership's plan to operate two Strategic Initiatives *Building Communities* and *Delivering Social Investment* provides an ideal framework within which:
  - Specific social inclusion initiatives can be effectively delivered – with the confidence that resources are channelled to those most in need.
  - Ongoing interaction with a range of groups, and around particular development challenges, guarantees a valuable insight into which approaches and measures may be more effective in specific cases, and the reasons for this.
- Core involvement by the Partnership in a Wexford anti-poverty social inclusion strategy would provide the opportunity to bring this learning and development

infrastructure into a formally recognised setting – within which initiatives can be more effectively negotiated, implemented and reviewed.

### Aims of Partnership Involvement in Measuring Social Inclusion Progress in Wexford

The aims of Partnership involvement in the development of a Local Anti-Poverty Social Inclusion Strategy for Wexford (LAPIS) are four-fold:

- To contribute to the development of structures and procedures governing the strategy – with a focus on maximising the potential for joint planning and learning.
- To develop and activate a monitoring system – capable of tracking trends in poverty and exclusion in the Wexford area, as they are expressed in terms of living conditions, access to services etc.
- To engage in ongoing evaluation to gain insight into which interventions more effectively impact on poverty and social exclusion trends and why.
- To engage in discussion with relevant stakeholders in relation to planning specific initiatives, and to facilitate delivery of these initiatives in communities.

Each of these aims corresponds to a programme of action, as summarised on the following pages



Success in developing this kind of approach will mean that the Partnership's ongoing contribution to the Measuring Social Inclusion Progress Initiative can extend to review, planning and implementation, as illustrated above.

### Measuring Social Inclusion Progress - Programme C1: Influencing the Development of Wexford LAPIS

The Partnership will strive to ensure that structures and procedures established under this Initiative are capable of:

Being both *flexible and responsive* as issues are identified and actions are developed, implemented and reviewed. The strategy should not be organised through a newly established and formally representative structure (in the sense that agencies 'appoint' individuals to 'represent' them for the duration). It should rather aim to be action-and-review based – involving different agencies, different levels and different individuals within these agencies at different stages in the strategy – depending on the need for involvement as actions are implemented and reviewed. Flexibility will also extend to timing and phasing of actions – based on practical considerations around which can be moved forward first – and to the scope of actions (in that the framework proposed is capable of incorporating other programmes, initiatives and stakeholders as it progresses).

Creating a forum for ongoing 'learning as much as doing'. Progress towards achieving outcomes should be the subject of ongoing monitoring and evaluation – so that results and lessons can inform continuous review, planning and refocusing within and between agencies.

Linking into the broader policy environment – in that many factors and processes maintaining poverty in Wexford are likely to have their roots in fundamental policy and procedural stances of particular agencies and programmes determined at national level.

At all times being cognisant of the fact that effective approaches to tackling poverty need to take into account the "demand" as well as the "supply" dimension in all programmes and actions. The strategy should place emphasis upon building the capacity of people and communities to access services and opportunities – as much as upon the need to provide appropriate services and opportunities – in the conviction that improvements in provision alone will not guarantee that those currently most distanced from services and opportunities will benefit.

Complementing existing initiatives and plans – in recognition of the fact that most agencies, organisations and services already have objectives and plans for actions in relation to social inclusion. Wexford LAPIS, as well as being a catalyst for new initiatives, should provide a framework to assist stakeholders in pursuing their own plans (many of which are already underway). Crucially, however, the strategy will provide structures and procedures through which these individual plans can be progressed in cooperation with other stakeholders; and in a way that allows for ongoing collective review and refocusing within an anti-poverty context.

Being organised and coordinated through two (equally important) core functions. The success of the strategy will depend upon there being independently funded positions – to facilitate progress in:

- a. Programme implementation, and
- b. Ongoing review and monitoring

**Measuring Social Inclusion Progress - Programme C2:**  
**Developing and Activating a Monitoring System to Record Trends in Poverty and Social Exclusion**

It is extremely important that an accurate picture of how poverty and social exclusion evolves – and how it affects particular groups and areas – is available to key stakeholders in the process.

With this in mind, the partnership will commit itself to the development of a monitoring system (based on GIS, where statistical data can be presented visually in geographic terms. The system, covering the Wexford area, will allow for periodic entry of a range of data from statutory agencies and official sources – enabling trends to be easily identified (both in terms of objective indicators of exclusion, but also in terms of service-based responses).

This will involve:

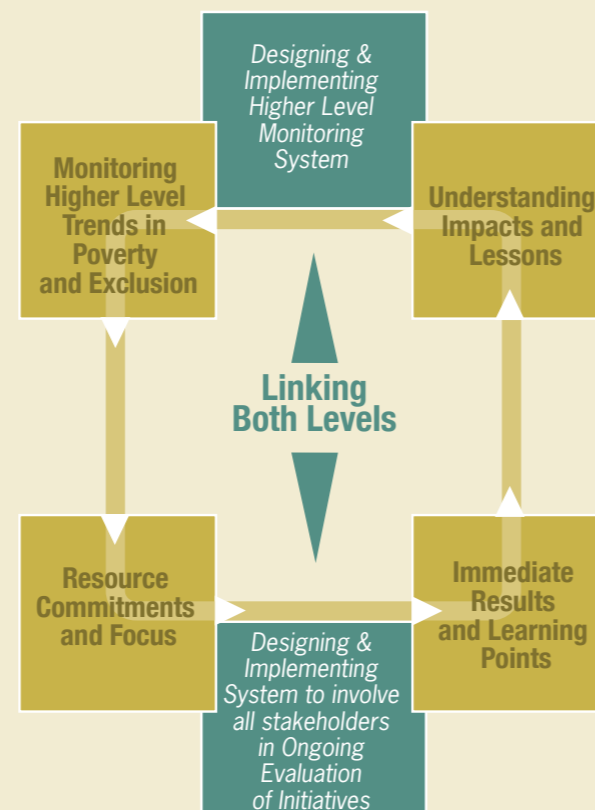
- A period of negotiation with statutory agencies (principally the DSFA, FAS, local authorities, HSE, and community-based services) in relation to establishing protocols for the collection and sharing of information. This negotiation will be informed by the experience of similar initiatives elsewhere (notably the data-sharing initiative established by Fingal County Development Board).
- Development of a GIS system – again informed by examples of good practice from elsewhere.
- Providing support to services supplying data on an ongoing basis.
- Collation of data, compilation and presentation of bi-annual reports to Wexford LAPSIS.

**Measuring Social Inclusion Progress - Programme C3:**  
**Developing and Implementing an Evaluation System**

The Partnership will commit time and resources to developing a comprehensive evaluation system that will:

- Facilitate the collection of information and perspectives from the range of stakeholders involved in and benefiting from Partnership involvement in Strategic Initiatives A and B (Building Communities and Delivering Social Investment).
- Provide reliable results on the impact of this work in all actions and programmes.
- Link these results to trends and changing conditions for groups and communities identified through the monitoring process.
- Offer an insight into factors facilitating and factors hindering progress in all aspects of the work aimed at building social inclusion.
- Provide periodic reports to inform both ongoing Partnership and Social Inclusion planning, as well as to inform debate at Wexford LAPSIS level on reviewing current initiatives and establishing new initiatives.

Key elements of the evaluation system (as well as how this links to the higher-level monitoring function) are summarised below:



**Measuring Social Inclusion Progress - Programme C4:**  
**Planning and Delivery of Specific Initiatives through the LAPSIS process**

The Partnership will also commit time and resources to planning and implementing joint initiatives through the LAPSIS process which are:

- Informed by needs emerging from the monitoring and evaluation process.
- Capable of being delivered through the Building Communities or Delivering Social Investment Initiative.

In all such cases, the emphasis will be on the involvement of community organisations and target group representatives in design and delivery, as well as on reporting back to Wexford LAPSIS in relation to impacts and lessons emerging insofar as these have a bearing on mainstream service delivery policy and practice.