







Cornmarket Project Wexford Timeline

September 1999

Wexford Area Partnership sets up a part time 10 hour a week substance misuse service in response to community demands for supports for those with addiction related problems. The Cornmarket Project is established.

October 2001

The Probation Service agree to fund the project. A full time behavioural change counselling programme and a pre-training day stabilisation programme are established.

May 2003

The family support group for parents and siblings affected by addiction issues is established and eight parents attend the first group meeting.

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

January 2000

The project records show that 37 people had attended during the four months of the previous year.

Three clients had heroin issues and most were in trouble with the courts.

December 2002

The project records show that 73 people attended in the year with drug, alcohol and/or criminality issues.

October 2004

The project publishes an evaluation of the pilot phase of the Probation Service funding for the previous three years. It shows that 89% of probation clients had not re-offended one year after engaging with the project.







December 2005

148 individuals have used the support service of the project during the year. Males account for 75% and females for 25% of those attending the various programmes.

February 2007

The range of supports for clients is expanded after FAS agree to fund a Training and Rehabilitation programme for 16 recovering substance misusers.

December 2009

285 individuals have used the support services of the project during the year: 57 active heroin users are engaged with the service and 72% of referral have criminality issues.

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009

2010

March 2006

The project secures funding through the South East Regional Drugs Task Force to enable it to expand its services and include an Outreach service and a low-threshold Drop-In programme.

April

The first 16 people graduate from the Training & Rehabilitation FAS Special CE programme with a range of certifications having regained control of their lives from drugs, alcohol and anti-social behaviours.

April 2008

Under the umbrella of Wexford Local Development the Cornmarket Project extends its presence into New Ross, Gorey, Enniscorthy and other areas of Wexford county.









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Foreword by the Chairperson of Wexford Local Development

Mr. Pat Rath

The collaboration between Wexford Local Development and its various partners including the Probation Service, the Office of the Minister for Drugs, FAS and the VEC has seen the Cornmarket Project develop into a unique and effective measure dealing with substance misuse and criminality in Wexford.

The Project is distinctive in having a totally integrated approach to dealing with complex social issues through a range of programmes and supports for people in trouble as a consequence of drugs, alcohol or anti-social behaviours. The project refers to this way of working as having a continuum of services approach. In essence it means that people who need help can access it quickly without having to jump through hoops and I know that this can be a great comfort to those who need immediate help. In addition, a great strength is that the Project also offers support to the families of these people.

This initiative has seen the growth of an important network, further enhanced by the the synergies that the resources of Wexford Local Development have brought, in providing supports for individuals and their families throughout the county. In addition, the project has developed programmes supporting early and effective interventions thereby contributing to breaking negative cycles of addiction and anti-social behaviour. It is only through such integrated, innovative and forward looking strategies and actions that we can make headway in tackling the scourge of drugs, alcohol abuse and crime within our local communities.

From constant media coverage, we know only too well how other towns and cities in Ireland have been ravaged by the crime and despair that drugs have visited on their communities. In Wexford we can ensure that we don't go down a similar road. Entrenched drug abuse and anti-social behaviour has links to social exclusion and it is only through having an integrated approach to the whole life pattern of those affected, that we can bring about real change and so contribute to ensuring safer communities in Wexford.

Wexford Local Development is extremely pleased with the success of the Cornmarket Project in meeting its objectives over the past ten years and equally pleased to be associated with its on-going development. In particular, we express our appreciation to the management, staff and volunteers directly involved in the work of the project and to the members of the Steering Committee for their continued commitment, dedication and energy.

Pat Rath

Chairperson Wexford Local Development







Foreword by the Chairperson of the Cornmarket Project Steering Committee

Ms. Michéle Weir

Since 1999 the Cornmarket Project has played a significant role in addressing social inclusion issues in Wexford by dealing with the challenging problems of anti-social behaviour and substance abuse. The emphasis placed by the Project on having a partnership approach to dealing with these difficult and complex issues has ensured that its services remain accessible and responsive to those in our communities seeking guidance and support. In addition, the inter-agency model adopted by the Project has enabled it to utilise the resources of other state agencies to enhance the range of programmes available for those who are often most socially excluded and hardest to engage with in our communities.

Notwithstanding the challenges faced in recent times relating to resources, the Project has managed to continue to expand its range of services and programmes. These developments have allowed the Project, as part of the wider Wexford Local Development, to increase the options that can be made available to those who need support, throughout the county of Wexford.

Since its establishment ten years ago, the Project has had a strong relationship with the Probation Service and shares the common goal of fostering public safety and promoting the common good by positively influencing the behaviour of offenders and substance misusers. During the ten years of the Project's existence, the vast majority of those who have engaged with its programmes have moved away from criminality, dysfunctional behaviours and substance abuse. The success of the Project over the last decade, as reflected in this review, is in no small way due to the support and full involvement of those working with, or on behalf of, the client group.

The continued support of Wexford Local Development, the dedication of the management, staff and volunteers of the Cornmarket Project and the on-going commitment by members of the Steering Committee, ensure that the Project is well prepared to meet the challenges ahead and for the next decade of its work.

I commend and thank all those involved.

Michéle Weir - Senior Probation Officer Chairberson The Cornmarket Project





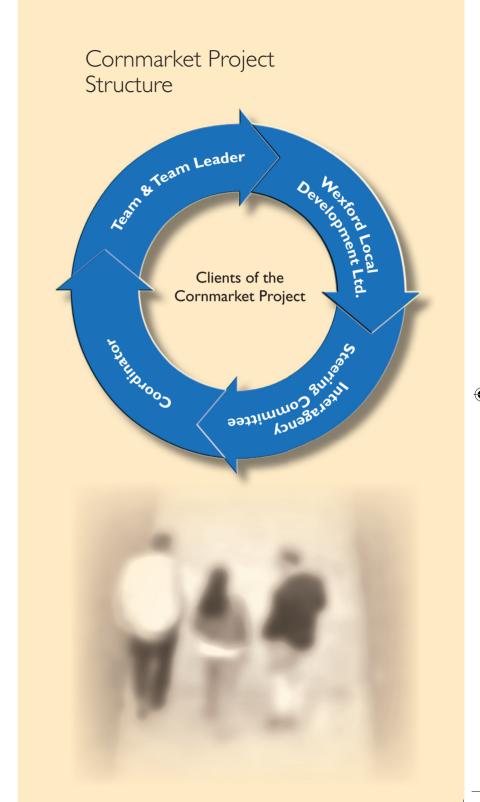
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Cornmarket Project Steering Committee Membership 2010

Milada Maria Chair	Deskert of Control
Michele Weir - Chair	Probation Service
Ray Lehane	Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs
Joan Etchingham	FAS
Peter Culleton	Garda
Davy Hynes	Wexford Borough Council
Theresa Walsh	Wexford Council of Trade Unions
Sister Maureen Freyne	Ais Eiri Treatment Centre
Olive Doyle	Community Representative
Chrissie Cleary	Community Representative
Paul Delaney	Coordinator – In attendance

Cornmarket Project Steering Committee Past Members

Kevin Cronin	Supported Education
Breda Murphy	Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs
John O'Shaughnessy	FAS
Sean O'Leary	Garda
Aine Crawley	ISPCC
Terri Carton	MABS
Phil Lyons	Probation Service
Tom O'Donoghue	School Principal







Cornmarket Project Continuum of Services

Outreach and Brief Intervention Programme

Drop-In and Low Threshold Programme Behaviour
Change
Counselling
Programme

Stabilisation and Pre-Training Structured Day Programme

Training and
Rehabilitation
Special Drugs
CE Programme

Family Support and Holistic Therapies Detox Support Programmes

To live a life free from substance misuse and criminality

Cornmarket Project Programmes

Outreach and Brief Intervention Programme This programme enables the project to reach drug users not in contact with existing services and motivate them towards further treatment and supports. The programme uses a range of brief intervention techniques to connect with drug users who are not already serviced by the Cornmarket Project or other agencies. It makes appropriate referrals to our own or other services.

Drop-In and Low Threshold Programme

Provides a drop-in facility for people in difficulty with drugs or alcohol. This low-threshold programme provides advocacy services for those seeking to move away from criminality and substance misuse. The programme also offers intensive support to those detoxing with the help of the project and local GP's.

Behaviour Change Counselling Programme

This is a behaviour change/modification programme based on an initial attendance of 8 to 12 sessions of Motivational Interviewing therapy by the client. Further attendance may be deemed necessary in individual cases. This programme is also used to assess the client's suitability for further structured training/rehabilitation programmes.

Stabilisation and Pre-Training Programme The Stabilisation and Pre-Training Programme combines a range of vocational skills building elements together with group and one-to-one work designed to ensure that clients address their substance misuse and anti social behaviours. In line with the recently developed national rehabilitation guidelines for working with substance misusers, this programme also prepares and stabilises those who wish to move on

to our Training and Rehabilitation Special Drugs CE Programme. The programme uses a combination of Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioural approaches to elicit behaviour change. Typically clients attend for up to 22 weeks but in certain circumstances this can be extended.

Training and Rehabilitation Special Drugs CE Programme The project is committed to working with those who cannot gain access to other mainstream training or education opportunities because of the severity of their addiction or other behavioural issues. The training and rehabilitation programme is a FAS Special Category Drugs CE scheme for 16 clients coming from a background of substance misuse and anti-social behaviours. Clients attend an intensive training and behaviour change programme for a minimum of 12 months and must be able to demonstrate an ability to remain drug free during programme participation. Clients who complete the programme typically move on to further mainstream training, education or the labour market.

Family Support Programme The Family Support Programme is for parents and siblings affected by those who have substance misuse issues and meets every two weeks. In addition, the programme offers training and education to family members in relation to drugs and addiction issues and how to cope with family dynamics.

Holistic Therapies and Detox Support Programme

The Holistic Therapies and Detoxification Support Programme is delivered by fully trained and accredited acupuncturists. It is made available as a support to those who are moving away from chaotic drug and alcohol misuse. It is also used by members of the family support group.





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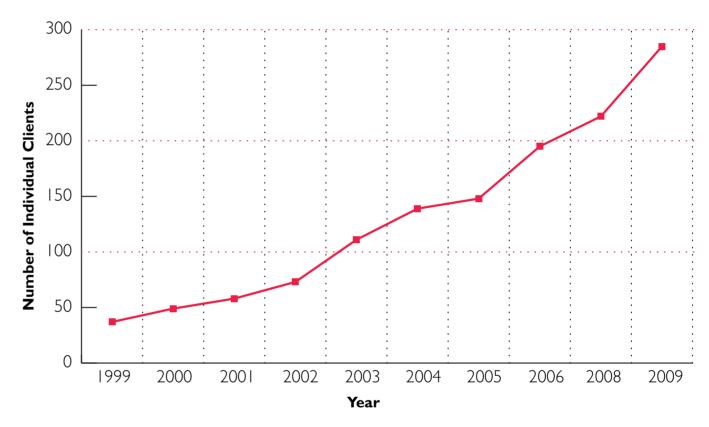
The Cornmarket Project 1999 – 2009 Paul Delaney, Coordinator

The Cornmarket Project was initially developed as a direct response to problems associated with the abuse of drugs and alcohol and concurrent antisocial behaviours in Wexford. The project began in 1999 as an initiative of the then Wexford Area Partnership (WAP).

The following year, in formulating their 2000-2006 Social Inclusion Plan, WAP's stated priority was to ensure that "the objectives of social and economic development and social inclusion do not by-pass those who have substance abuse issues in our area". The specific objectives set out by WAP to address this priority included the provision of the kind of behaviour change counselling and support services which would help people avoid total marginalisation and reduce the chances of them becoming involved in long-term or entrenched addiction and criminality. Since then, 1,317 people have benefitted from direct participation in structured programmes provided by the Cornmarket Project and a further 2,497 from broader support programmes provided to individuals, families and groups in our communities. Today, the project is part of the overall social inclusion remit of Wexford Local Development which helps to ensure that its range of services and programmes are community based and very accessible throughout the county of Wexford.

In setting out an operational strategy for the Cornmarket Project, one of the desired outcomes was that the project would embrace a multi-agency approach to dealing with the issues and generate improved co-operation and collaboration between communities and statutory service providers. In keeping with this founding principal of a partnership approach, the steering committee of the Cornmarket Project brings together representatives of statutory, voluntary and community based organisations and groups. Since the establishment of the project membership of the steering committee has included: the Garda; the ISPCC; the Department of Social and Family Affairs; the Probation Service; FAS; Youthreach VEC; Wexford Area Partnership; Wexford Borough Council; the Wexford Council of Trade Unions; the Ais Eiri Treatment Centre; Wexford Money Advice Budgeting Service; Wexford Local Development and Community Representatives.

Cornmarket Structured Programme Clients



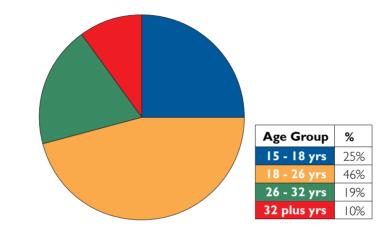
Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2008	2009
Clients Supported	37	49	58	73	111	139	148	195	222	285



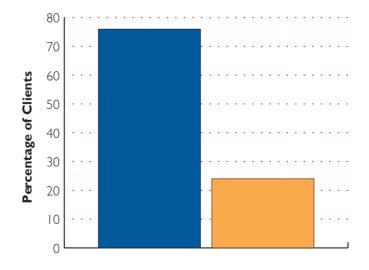


The project is delivering services to some of the most socially excluded and vulnerable people in Wexford County, including people who have problems accessing other services. The programmes of the Cornmarket Project are available to people, throughout the county, who need help with addiction related problems and for those who want to address their anti-social issues. Support programmes are also available to family members of these clients. The majority of those attending the project are already known to the criminal justice system because of issues related to substance misuse or related anti-social behaviours. Of the total number of clients who have attended the project since September 1999, seventy two percent have been referrals from the Probation Service, the Garda or solicitors. The project is designed for ease of access for those who need support and referrals also come from GPs, Community Groups, Schools, Youth Groups, Treatment Services, Families, Friends and Self Referral.

Age Profile of Clients



Gender of Clients Attending the Project



Male 76% Female 24%



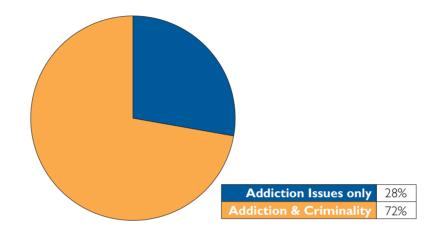




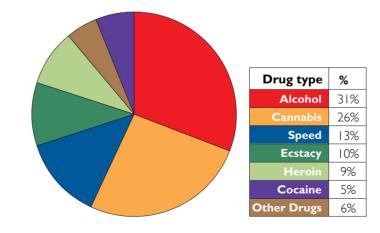
Since it was established, the Cornmarket Project has underpinned its work by using an approach known as Motivational Interviewing. Central to this approach is the belief that each person who presents for support is different and while their presenting issues may be very similar, their individual responses and needs are different. The person-centred directive aspect of the approach calls for what the Cornmarket Project describes as "differentiated treatment and rehabilitation matching"; in other words programmes designed to suit the specific needs of an individual client. In motivating clients for change, project staff accept that not all people who engage with the various programmes are equally ready to undertake personal change. The use of the Motivational Interviewing approach enables the staff of the project to motivate clients to make lasting positive behavioural change in their lives.

In Wexford, as in other parts of the country, it would appear that the areas with the highest levels of poverty and social deprivation are also the areas with the highest levels of substance misuse, crime and anti-social behaviour. Indeed, a report from the Comptroller and Auditor General entitled Report on Value for Money Examination - The Probation and Welfare Service, January 2004, also emphasised the high level of crime in the Wexford region by highlighting the fact that of 31 community-based Probation Service teams spread throughout the country, the Wexford team is ninth from the top in terms of numbers of client caseloads being dealt with. Of course drug misuse and related criminal activity are not new phenomenon in Wexford. However, recent trends in the county point to increased availability and use of drugs such as heroin and cocaine and this combined with the use of cannabis and ecstasy has resulted in a corresponding increase in anti-social and criminal activity.

Main Presenting Issues of Clients



Main Presenting Drugs











Many of those who seek support from the Cornmarket Project are early school leavers, long term unemployed, lack formal educational qualifications and are in trouble with the criminal justice system. In addition, many have been excluded from mainstream provisions because of significant behavioural problems. The table shows the range of education and training courses that the project delivers to clients seeking to move away from addiction and criminality. For clients with literacy problems, one-to-one additional support is available outside the main programme schedule. In addition to the resources we receive from our core funders i.e. the Probation Service and the Regional Drugs Task Force, our ability to provide such a comprehensive range of training and educational supports is made possible by the contribution of our partners in FAS, the VEC and the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Clients engage with the different elements of the programme according to their needs. When project staff are assessing clients for the various services, emphasis is placed on the principle of responsivity. This emphasis means that staff are aiming to ensure that the style or mode of treatment and rehabilitation matches the preferred learning style and ability of the client in order to maximise positive outcomes. Therefore, the assessment process includes establishing the following:

- The client's level of current substance misuse whether drugs or alcohol.
- The clients offending behaviours and the reasons why they were referred to the programme.
- The client's risk profile including their risk of re-offending and relapse.
- The link between the client's substance misuse and their offending behaviour.
- The client's cognitive ability including their literacy and numeracy skills.
- The client's perception of their own willingness and readiness to address their substance misuse or criminal behaviour.

In addition, all clients attend individual and group counselling sessions to address their addiction and behavioural problems and meet with their allocated key worker on a weekly basis to discuss and monitor their individual action plan. Regardless of which aspect of the programme is being delivered, the approach is supported by the use of Motivational Interviewing. In fact all project workers and practitioners engaged by the project to work with offenders or substance misusers are specifically trained in the use of Motivational Interviewing techniques.





(1)

How do we know that what we do is effective?

The COAIM System has been designed to promote positive behavioural change and to measure outcomes with substance misusers and offenders.

The acronym COAIM (pronounced co-aim) is short for Change Outcome and Indicator Mapping. The dictionary explains that CO is a prefix meaning with, together, in association, and AIM in this context means to achieve something. The COAIM System therefore reflects a strong emphasis on a collaborative approach between the staff of the Cornmarket Project and those who need to make positive behavioural change.

This approach is intended to create the circumstances whereby the client develops the self-efficacy necessary to take personal responsibility for the continuation of their own positive change process. This ensures that the risk of relapse and recidivism is minimised in the longer term.

This approach recognises that any of the areas listed in the table opposite can have a significant impact on whether the client achieves their overall goal of eventually remaining free from substance misuse and criminality. Using a method specific to the COAIM approach, each of these ten areas is scored separately during client participation on the programme. In addition, client scores are then aggregated and become part of an overall tally which maps the client's change relative to their overall goal of living a life free from drugs, crime and anti-social behaviour.

The COAIM System is underpinned by empirically validated, evidence based methodologies. In particular, the use of Motivational Interviewing, the Trans-Theoretical Model of Change and Structured Relapse and Recidivism Prevention techniques, are seen as vital to the successful implementation of this approach. Those who deliver programmes on the Cornmarket Project have been trained in these methodologies and undergo regular supervision to ensure consistency in programme provision, to maintain quality control in service delivery and to enable effective programme evaluation.

The COAIM System is based on a meta-analysis of successful approaches for engaging with substance misusers and offenders. It utilises effective strategies for promoting positive behavioural change, effective programming and the accurate measurement of client outcomes.

Funders and other stakeholders are increasingly demanding that creditable and validated outcome measuring systems are in place as a pre-requisite to funding. As a project charged with effecting change with substance misusers and offenders, we must be able to demonstrate programme efficacy, value for money and evidence in relation to client outcomes. The COAIM System allows the Cornmarket Project to meet these demands.







Change Outcome and Indicator Mapping (COAIM) System Used by the Cornmarket Project to measure client change and outcomes

The chart below is used to illustrate a three year sample period recording client outcomes. It indicates whether a client has made a positive progression, maintained their stability or had a negative change in each area. It is based on those clients who engaged in structured programmes of the Project.

Ist Jan 2007 to 31st December 2009: n289

Outcome Area	Positive Change	Maintained Stability	Negative Change or Relapse
Offending Behaviour	63%	30%	7%
Accommodation	30%	66%	4%
Pro-Social Activities	61%	36%	3%
Anger and Emotion Management	47%	44%	9%
Attitudes and Cognitive Style	51%	45%	4%
Drug and Alcohol Misuse	64%	32%	4%
Lifestyle and Associates	59%	33%	8%
Relationships and Family Issues	56%	39%	5%
Training and Employability	42%	54%	4%
Financial Issues and Debt	46%	49%	5%
Average overall client change at the end of the participation on the Cornmarket Project relatito their stated goal at commencement i.e.		43%	5%
"To live a life free from substance misuse	and criminality"		







An Interview with the Chief Executive Officer of Wexford Local Development

Bernard O'Brien

What does it mean for Wexford Local Development to be involved in the Cornmarket Project?

Wexford Local Development plays an important role in developing strategies and initiatives which enhance community safety by addressing the needs of those involved in criminal behaviour and/ or substance misuse. We are well positioned to play an effective, influential and strategic role in developing services and supports because of:

- (a) the inter-agency composition of our Board
- (b) the relationships we have with local communities
- (c) our experience in project management
- (d) our county wide presence
- (e) the technical and other supports we can provide

Without the services of the Cornmarket Project many offenders and substance misusers would receive little or no community based supports, advice or guidance. The Cornmarket Project provides the opportunity to reduce the social exclusion experienced by this target group and to minimise the risk of relapse and re-offending by providing positive and constructive personal and community based supports.

How does the Cornmarket Project fit into Wexford Local Development's overall development strategy?

The work of Wexford Local Development includes the provision of interventions targeted towards those who are most excluded from full participation in the social and economic life of Wexford.

Criminal behaviour and /or substance misuse are both caused by and a consequence of social exclusion. We recognise, therefore,

- (a) the multiple disadvantages being experienced by many offenders and substance misusers
- (b) the benefits of adopting an inter-agency approach towards tackling their needs
- (c) the need for a community based response to these needs and for a location which facilitates ease of access by clients in a culture of respect for their dignity
- (d) that a multi-agency response to needs allows for a more effective and co-ordinated flow of services to clients

Our relationship with the Probation Service, the Office of the Minister for Drugs, FAS and our other partners and their willingness to recognise and to fund these working methods has facilitated both Wexford Local Development and the Cornmarket Project to intervene strategically and effectively with other agencies in putting much needed services in place for this group.







Is the Cornmarket Project meeting the original expectations laid down for it ten years ago?

In many ways the Cornmarket Project has exceeded our expectations. The Project has supported almost 4,000 individuals since its inception ten years ago. From an initial part time addiction counselling service established in 1999, the range of supports now available include; a Behaviour Change Counselling programme, an Outreach and Brief Intervention programme, the Drop-In programme, a day Stabilisation programme, a CE Training and Rehabilitation programme, the Family Support programme and a Holistic Therapies Detox Support programme.

In addition, the methodology which underpins the Project, i.e. Motivational Interviewing, has proven to be extremely effective and this is borne out by the feedback received from clients and from the data gathered for the various evaluations and reviews of the Project carried out over the past ten years.

Locating the Cornmarket Project's services alongside those of Wexford Local Development has also proven to have been very effective. Clients have responded very well to the location of services principally, it seems, because they feel they are treated with respect, dignity and in a non-judgemental manner when accessing the various programmes of the project.

I would like to pay tribute to the Inter-agency Steering Committee which has guided the project with great commitment. Their work has ensured that services addressing the needs of this target group are more coherent, collaborative and effective.

The project staff have succeeded in creating a unique service which is informed always by the needs, circumstances and aspirations of the clients and appear from all evaluations carried out so far to be achieving very positive outcomes with the client group.

How does Wexford Local Development see the future development of the Cornmarket Project?

The future poses many challenges for the Cornmarket Project, Wexford Local Development and our various partners. However, what is absolutely clear from the perspective of Wexford Local Development is that the work of the Cornmarket Project remains a priority and that WLD is committed to its support and development in the coming years.

Indeed, since the advent of the cohesion process that brought together the Wexford Organisation for Rural Development, the County Wexford Partnership and the Wexford Area Partnership into the single organisation that is now Wexford Local Development, enhanced opportunities exist to continue to develop the services of the Cornmarket Project throughout County Wexford.

In planning for the future it is also vital to us that any such growth, change or development should continue to ensure the quality of service tailored to meet the individual needs of clients and their families which was laid down and decided upon at the establishment of the project in 1999.

What do you think will be some of the challenges facing the Cornmarket Project in the coming years?

The economic downturn has brought an increase in the number of young people throughout Wexford who are out of work and distant from training and further education opportunities. In these circumstances the project has already witnessed an increase in the numbers of young people in particular who are drawn into substance misuse and anti social behaviours. This inevitable pressure on the services of the project comes at a time when the overall economic climate remains challenging with a corresponding effect on resources available to the Cornmarket Project.

Moreover, even prior to the economic downturn the demand for the services of the project, as we can see from this review, show an average year on year increase of approximately twenty per cent since its foundation in 1999. In the present circumstances it will become increasingly challenging for the project to continue to take on the increased numbers that it has dealt with in the past and this situation will require careful management and discussion with our various stakeholders and partners as we plan for the future. Increasingly, funders and other stakeholders require that creditable and validated outcome measuring systems should be in place as a pre-condition of funding. In this regard, one of the great strengths of the project lies in the very professional way it delivers programmes and measures outcomes and progressions on behalf of a range of partners. As we move into the next phase of its development, the project must be able to continue to demonstrate programme efficacy, value for money and evidence in relation to client outcomes. The systems in place in the Cornmarket Project allow it to meet these demands and to plan confidently for the future. Wexford Local Development for its part will continue to support the project to enable its clients to live a life free from substance misuse and criminality.







Acknowledgements

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Don Sadler

TV and Satellite Distribution Systems Don: 086 2235879

Chamber of Commerce

Ballast Office Crescent Quay Wexford 053 912 2226

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Devereux

School St. Wexford 053 912 2409

Spectrum

13 Selskar St. Wexford 053 912 2019











The Cornmarket Project

Mallin Street, Commarket Wexford Tel. 053 915 5800 Email. info@wld.ie

















