

SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP

A RECORD
OF ACHIEVEMENT
THE FIRST TEN YEARS



1995-2005



Southside Partnership designated areas highlighted in blue

"When I think of partnership work, I think of a group of people collaborating together to produce something greater than the sum of its parts. I strongly believe that when we work together in this way, we achieve more. The Southside Partnership Company and its staff act as a broker between those of us involved in local development, the community / voluntary sector and the State Agencies.

The difficult part for all of us when we engage in partnership work is giving up our own personal creativity and organisational loyalty to a partnership way of working which contains a loss but is hopefully towards a greater gain.

This is complex work and in my view Southside Partnership does it well."

Mary Cullen

*Mounttown Neighbourhood Youth Project
Vice-Chair, Southside Partnership*

SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The First Ten Years

Mr Colm Kinsella **ICTU** (Chairperson)

Ms Mary Cullen **Community Representative** (Vice Chairperson)

Ms Marie Baker **Public Representative**

Ms Alice Binchy **Community Representative**

Ms Gray Cahill **Community Representative**

Ms Sandra Campbell **Community Representative**

Mr Donal Casey **Bank of Ireland**

Mr Sean Casey **Co Dublin VEC**

Ms Mary Collins **Community Representative**

Mr Richard Dolan **Department of Social and Family Affairs**

Ms Biddy Farrell **Community Representative**

Ms Aileen Gilchrist **ADM Ltd**

Mr Jimmy Jordan **ICTU**

Ms Cait Keane **Public Representative**

Mr Patrick Kivlehan **FÁS**

Ms Lettie McCarthy **Public Representative**

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Mr Tom Nolan **IBEC**

Mr Liam Pomphrett **Community Representative**

Mr John Ryan **Dun Laoghaire VEC**

Ms Anne Traynor **Community Representative**

Ms Marian White **Community Representative**

FOREWORD

The First Ten Years

The Southside Partnership has been at the heart of promoting inclusion, equality and addressing poverty over the past ten years. These years have been full of activity, dynamism and tangible progress for us. Since its inception in 1995 the Southside Partnership has undergone significant changes as it adapts to the changing needs in our communities as well as the changing political and policy context within which it functions.

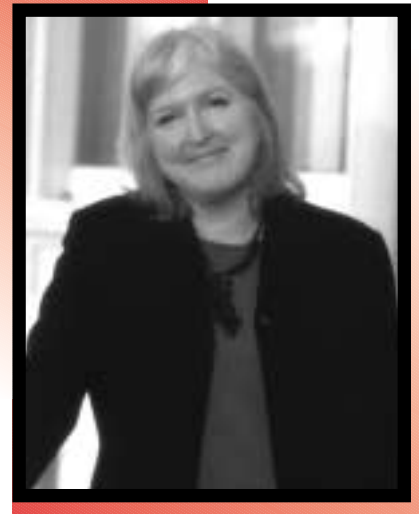
Significant progress has been made in identifying and implementing strategies to more effectively address inequality and there have been notable improvements in community capacity and community infrastructure. The Southside Partnership is more than just an organisation - rather it is a collaborative process that brings together the expertise, resources, knowledge and experience of community, statutory agencies, elected representatives and social partners to advance social inclusion and to ensure that the southside area and society as a whole becomes a more equitable place.

The role of the Southside Partnership is all embracing and includes promoting co-ordination and integration of the many groups, organisations and agencies that work to address social exclusion; piloting new initiatives and working to mainstream them; supporting key target groups so that they can become self-supporting; building community infrastructure with an emphasis on community ownership; leveraging money for social inclusion so that service gaps can be filled and barriers to inclusion can be addressed; influencing policies and priorities so that long term sustainable change is achieved.

While the Southside Partnership is the organisation behind the work, sometimes the facilitator; other times the leader; sometimes the catalyst; other times the funder; whatever the part we play, we celebrate the collaboration rather than claim the work.

This publication acknowledges the work and achievements of the Southside Partnership and the collaborative work it has supported since 1995 but more importantly it recognises that there are still high levels of disadvantage and social exclusion within particular communities and within certain target groups of the Southside Partnership area. It finds that the nature and extent of this disadvantage is often dwarfed by the relatively high levels of affluence within Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County. The author, Stephen Rourke, sets an important challenge for the Partnership and for the agencies and organisations involved in the Partnership - to continue to focus directly on those areas and groups which have not benefited in any significant way from the economic upsurge which has taken place in Ireland over the last 15 years.

On our assessment of outstanding and unmet needs within our catchment area, the Southside Partnership will build on our work of the last decade and work in a more intensive and integrated way with communities and key target groups including people with disabilities, Travellers, lone parents, early school leavers, immigrants and offenders. Southside Partnership intends to commit all of its resources and to continue to fully play its part in the County and Whitechurch in the coming years so that the quality of life of its citizens, target groups and communities will tangibly improve in a way that reflects the prosperity of the entire area.



Marie Carroll
Marie Carroll Manager



Colm Kinsella
Colm Kinsella Chairperson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The First Ten Years

We would like to acknowledge our main funders, including our parent department - the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs who via Area Development Management Ltd fund us through the LDSIP (Local Development Social Inclusion Programme); FÁS which funds the Local Employment Service and Labour Market Initiatives; the Health Service Executive which co-funds community development; the Local Drugs Task Force which co-funds training, research and development; the County Childcare Committee which funds a childcare development position; the Department of Social and Family Affairs and more recently the EU social and structural funds INTERREG 111 B and EQUAL which are providing funding for innovative programmes over the next three years.

Tribute must be paid to all who collaborate in the work, especially our voluntary partners from the 21 communities and members of target groups who give of their time and who share a vision for a more equitable society.

Thanks to our partners from local community projects, to Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the much strengthened collaboration with our elected representatives; to the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown and South Dublin County Development Boards; to Dun Laoghaire and South Dublin VECs, the Department of Social and Family Affairs, FÁS, the Health Service Executive, the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, to the business community and trade unions who are collectively playing a much valued role in our work. The commitment of our partners has been inspiring and a source of strength for the Southside Partnership.

Thanks to Stephen Rourke, the author of this report, who worked with us over a number of years, for his astute, discerning and sometimes challenging feedback that helped us shape and redirect our work for the coming years.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and give thanks to the Southside Partnership Board, a group of 23 Directors from the different communities, agencies and organisations who provide the Partnership with vision, direction and support. Our voluntary Board gives its time, support and expertise out of a commitment to the issues involved.

We would also like to acknowledge the dynamic staff team past and present that share the Board's vision of social justice and apply themselves with commitment and creativity to the delivery of the Partnership strategic plan within the NDP to 2006 and beyond.

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"Southside Partnership was the first organisation that I have dealt with that treated me like a human being and as an equal. Any topics or issues I raise on behalf of people with disabilities are listened to with openness and responsiveness. The links I have made with state agencies and other communities is making a real difference. I am very proud to be a Director of such an inclusive organisation."

Mary Collins

Chairperson, Disability Interest Group

INTRODUCTION

1

The First Ten Years

1.1 AREA PARTNERSHIP COMPANIES

The Southside Partnership is one of 38 Area Partnership Companies which have been set up to tackle socio-economic disadvantage and social exclusion. These Partnership Companies work within communities and with groups who are experiencing particularly high levels of disadvantage and exclusion. The work of Area Partnership Companies is clearly focused on people and on communities who require assistance, advice and/or support to enable them to play a fuller and more participative role in modern Irish society.

The outcomes from the work of Area Partnership Companies can be determined by the number of unemployed people who are assisted into employment, by the number of young people who remain within the education system for a longer period of time, by the number of community groups and issue based groups which are provided with advice and guidance. The work of Area Partnership Companies can also be assessed by the ways in which new initiatives aimed at tackling socio-economic disadvantage have been developed and the extent to which these initiatives have been mainstreamed by relevant statutory agencies.

SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP

1.2

The Southside Partnership operates in 20 geographical communities within the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council area and in the Whitechurch district of the South Dublin County Council area. In addition to these geographical focuses, the work of the Southside Partnership is also targeted on particular groups which are experiencing high levels of socio-economic disadvantage – these groups include people with disabilities, lone parents, early school leavers, refugees and asylum seekers, Travellers. Since its establishment in 1995, the Southside Partnership has developed a whole range of strategies and actions which are aimed at improving the quality of life and life opportunities for people living in designated geographical areas and for people who are members of designated target groups.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

1.3

This document aims to describe and analyse the main work and achievements of the Southside Partnership in the period from 1995 to 2005. As it approaches its tenth anniversary, it is considered an appropriate time for the Southside Partnership to produce a report which pulls together the various outcomes which have emerged from the work of the Southside Partnership over the last ten years. On the basis of this analysis of the Partnership between 1995 and 2005, the report will also highlight the main issues and challenges for the Partnership over the next period of time and the key priorities for the Partnership over the next 3 - 5 year period.

STRUCTURE OF DOCUMENT

This document detailing the main achievements of the Southside Partnership over the last ten years and the priority challenges for the Partnership for the next number of years has been structured around the following sections/themes:

1.4

- Profile of Southside Partnership area
- Main roles and activities of Southside Partnership
- Analysis of achievements of Southside Partnership, 1995 – 2005
- Key issues and challenges for Southside Partnership

PROFILE OF SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP AREA

2

The First Ten Years

2.1

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUSES OF SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP

Since its establishment in 1995, the Southside Partnership has had a clear focus on 21 districts/areas of socio-economic disadvantage within the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and South Dublin County Council areas. These 21 districts/areas, which were selected on the basis of levels of social and economic deprivation, are as follows:

Full Electoral Divisions (9)	Sub-districts within Electoral Divisions (12)
Churchtown - Nutgrove	Kilcross/Moreen/Sandyford
Clonskeagh - Farranboley	Ballybrack
Dun Laoghaire - Monkstown Farm	Hillview
Dun Laoghaire - Mounttown	Mountainview
Dun Laoghaire - Sallynoggin West	Blackrock pockets
Dun Laoghaire - West Central	Sallynoggin South pockets
Killiney South	Fintan's Villas
Shankill - Rathsallagh	Macintosh Park
Edmondstown - Whitechurch	Rosemount
	Rory O'Connor Park
	Glasthule Buildings
	Ballyogan

In relation to the combined population of these 21 districts/areas, it is difficult to calculate a precise figure since only 9 of these districts/areas constitute full Electoral Divisions (EDs) – the other 12 are smaller areas within larger EDs. However, on the basis of the population of the 9 complete EDs (28,806) together with the estimated population of the other 12 areas (i.e. 17,500) it is reckoned that the overall population of the geographical areas covered by the Southside Partnership is slightly over 46,000 people. This number of potential clients or participants of services being developed through the Southside Partnership rises to 76,000 when one includes members of target groups (e.g. people with disabilities, lone parents) who do not live within the 21 designated geographical areas/districts.

"Southside Partnership has been with us since the beginning, helping us organise as a community development group, seeing us through the action plan and lobbying for funding. Their training and supervision of CE workers has been excellent. They work with spirit, dedication and a light touch. Thank you Southside Partnership."
Gray Cahill Chairperson, Rosemount Family Resource Centre

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP AREA

The county of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown (which accounts for over 90% of the catchment area of the Southside Partnership) is one of the most affluent counties in Ireland. It has one of the lowest rates of unemployment, the largest percentage of people employed in managerial and professional occupations, one of the highest rates of participation in third level education.

These positive indicators do not, however, reflect the levels of socio-economic disadvantage which exist within certain parts of the county, levels of disadvantage which are considerably greater than comparable figures for the Greater Dublin region and for the Republic of Ireland.

The 2002 Census of Population provides clear evidence of the nature of disadvantage, poverty and social exclusion which exists within many parts of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown (and especially in the geographical areas covered by the Southside Partnership). The following represent indicators of the scale of the problems being experienced by communities and local residents within the Southside Partnership's catchment area:



- ❑ The unemployment rate of 9.9% in the 8 complete EDs within the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown catchment area is over two times higher than the countywide unemployment rate (i.e. 4.9%). Levels of unemployment are particularly high in the Dun Laoghaire – West Central ED (i.e. 11.3%) and Dun Laoghaire – Mounttown ED (i.e. 10.6%).
- ❑ The extent of educational disadvantage is disturbingly high in the 8 complete Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown EDs covered by the Southside Partnership. A total of 17% of people in these EDs left school at the age of 15 or under. This is over twice the countywide average (i.e. 7.8%) and well above the national average of 13.9%. Figures for early school leaving are particularly high in the Churchtown – Nutgrove ED (i.e. 21%) and the Clonskeagh – Farranboley ED (i.e. 20.7%).
- ❑ The number of people accessing third level education is considerably lower in the 8 complete Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown EDs covered by the Southside Partnership. In these EDs, 12.6% of people ceased education at 20 years and over (i.e. having progressed to third level education) – this compares unfavourably to the countywide average of 23.1% and the national average of 13.1%. The numbers still involved in full-time education at the age of 20 and over are particularly low in Dun Laoghaire – Mounttown ED (i.e. 11.0%) and Dun Laoghaire – Sallynoggin ED (i.e. 9.2%).
- ❑ The percentage of owner occupied house in the 8 complete Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown EDs covered by the Southside Partnership is 59.8% and this figure is considerably less than the comparative countywide average (i.e. 77.6%) and national average (i.e. 73.4%). The levels of house ownership are particularly low in the Dun Laoghaire-West Central ED (i.e. 48.4%) and Dun Laoghaire- Mounttown ED (i.e. 51.5%).
- ❑ The percentage of houses rented from the local authority in the 8 EDs is 19.3% - this is about three times the comparable figures for the county (i.e. 5.6%) and for the State (i.e. 6.8%). The levels of accommodation rented from the local authority are particularly high in Shankill – Rathallagh ED (i.e. 31.0%) and Dun Laoghaire – Mounttown ED (i.e. 26.7%).
- ❑ The number of households within the 8 EDs without central heating (i.e. 13.9%) is nearly twice as high as the comparable county figure (i.e. 7.2%). The absence of central heating is particularly high in the Dun Laoghaire – Mounttown ED (i.e. 22.1%) and the Clonskeagh – Farranboley ED (i.e. 17.6%).

- The rates of car ownership are significantly lower in the 8 EDs than in the rest of the county. A total of 28.2% of households in the 8 EDs do not have a car – this compares to a countywide figure of 15.6% and a national figure of 21.5%. The number of households without a car is particularly high in the Dun Laoghaire - West Central ED (i.e. 43.4%) and Dun Laoghaire – Mounttown ED (i.e. 40.8%).

AFFLUENCE AND DEPRIVATION INDEX

2.3

On the basis of the outcomes from the 2002 Census of Population, Haase and Pratschke developed an index for assessing the relative levels of affluence and deprivation in every ED in the Republic of Ireland. In relation to levels of deprivation this index took into account the underlying dimensions of deprivation and scored each ED against a number of socio-economic factors. The scores in the index ranged from -50 to +50, with -50 being extremely deprived and +50 being extremely affluent. In 2002, the national average was 17.4.

In relation to the index of affluence and deprivation, the following are the outcomes from the 2002 Census of Population for the 8 Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown EDs within the Southside Partnership's catchment area:

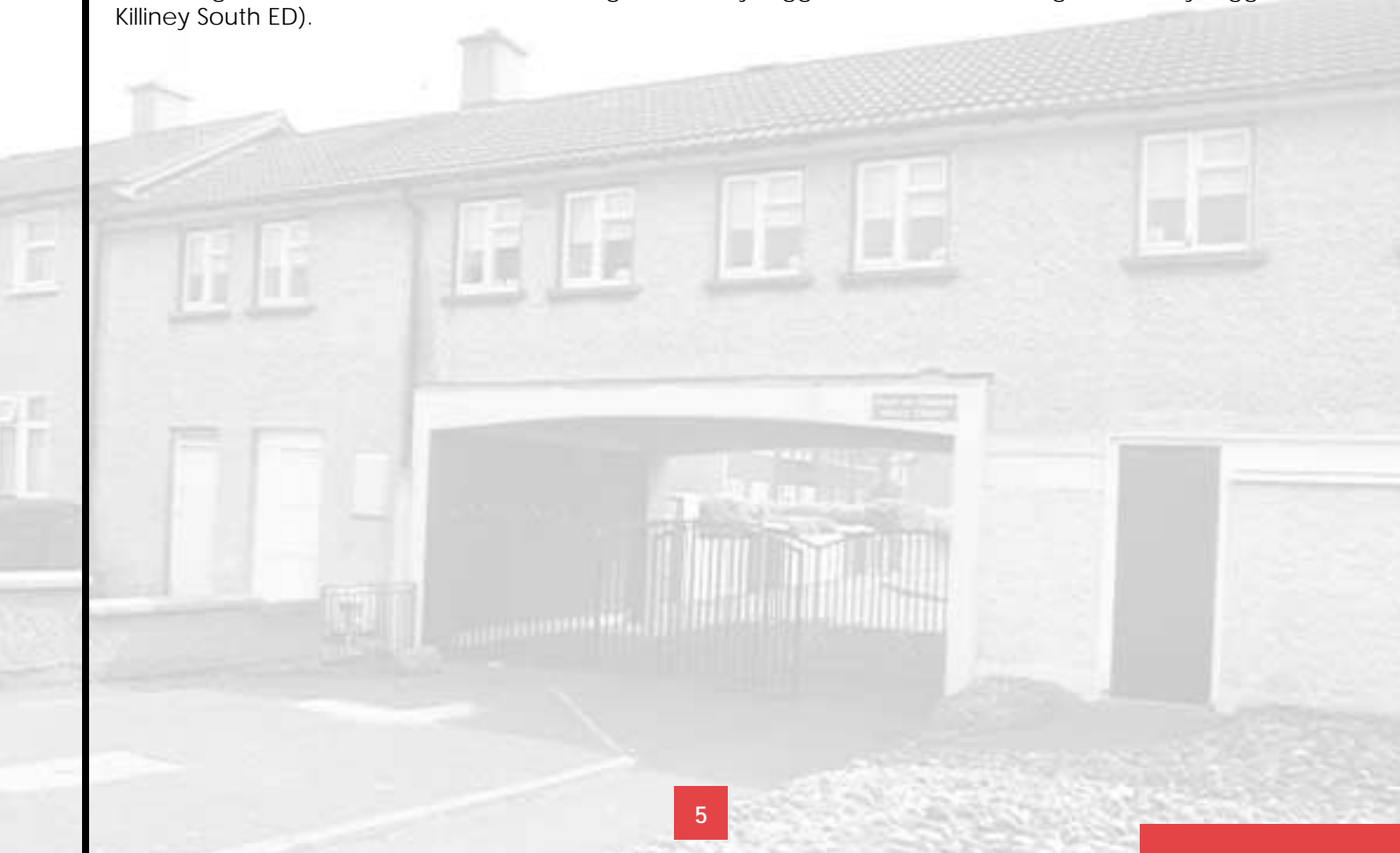
Electoral Divisions	Affluence/Deprivation Scores			Change in Deprivation Score
	2002	1996	1991	1991 - 2002
Churchtown - Nutgrove	9.3	-0.2	-7.1	16.4
Clonskeagh - Farranboley	14.5	0.3	-6.3	20.8
Dun Laoghaire - Monkstown Farm	10.4	2.9	-3.7	14.1
Dun Laoghaire - Mounttown	4.5	-6.1	-12.3	16.9
Dun Laoghaire - Sallynoggin West	8.0	-2.5	-7.5	15.5
Dun Laoghaire - West Central	16.6	9.2	2.3	14.3
Killiney South	14.1	6.2	-0.5	14.6
Shankill - Rathsallagh	15.8	4.4	-4.0	19.8
County of Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown	31.2	26.3	20.6	10.6
Dublin Region	21.0	12.2	4.7	16.3
National	17.4	9.1	1.9	15.5

These figures indicate that significant and positive progress has taken place within the eight Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown EDs covered by the Southside Partnership in the period from 1991 to 2002. In the scale from -50 (extreme deprivation) to +50 (extreme affluence), these EDs have improved by an average of 17.9 points. This compares to a comparative countywide increase of 10.6 points and a national increase of 15.4 points. These outcomes would suggest that the levels of improvement (in employment levels, in the type of employment secured, in educational attainment levels etc.) have been very impressive in the 8 DEDs covered by the Southside Partnership within the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council area.





It should also be noted, however, that these DEDs were starting from a far lower base in 1991 and that even with the encouraging and positive improvements between 1991 and 2002 all of these EDs are still below the countywide and national average for assessing affluence and the absence of deprivation. This is particularly the case in a number of EDs which, using the affluence/deprivation index, are either defined as 'Disadvantaged' (i.e. Dun Laoghaire - Mounttown ED) or 'Disadvantaged - marginally below average' (i.e. Churchtown - Nutgrove ED, Clonskeagh - Farranboley ED, Dun Laoghaire - Monkstown Farm ED, Dun Laoghaire - West Central ED, Dun Laoghaire - Sallynoggin South ED, Dun Laoghaire - Sallynoggin West ED, Killiney South ED).



ROLES AND ACTIVITIES OF SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP

3

The First Ten Years

3.1

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement of the Southside Partnership, which encompasses the main focuses and objectives of the Partnership's work, is as follows:

'Our mission is to counter disadvantage through inclusive, comprehensive, sustainable and integrated actions that directly reduce unemployment and social exclusion and improve the quality of life in specially designated areas and with identified target groups.'

Our Partnership actively seeks dynamic ways of linking existing services and resources and piloting new programmes that increase employment opportunities for the long-term unemployed and those in danger of joblessness.

Our Partnership works to strengthen the capacity of key target groups in order to influence and develop economic and social policy at the local and national level.'

ROLES OF SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP

3.2

ROLES OF PARTNERSHIP

- ▷ Supporting key target groups
- ▷ Improving community facilities
- ▷ Promoting co-ordination and integration
- ▷ Piloting new initiatives
- ▷ Influencing policies and priorities
- ▷ Leveraging money for social inclusion

The roles of the Southside Partnership, in tackling socio-economic disadvantage and social exclusion within the Partnership's catchment area, include the following:

- Supporting the development of key target groups which are experiencing particularly high levels of socio-economic disadvantage. These target groups include long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, lone parents, early school leavers, Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers, drug users, homeless people.
- Building up the capacity of these target groups to play a more active and participative role in local structures which have been set up in the Southside Partnership area. These local structures include the Southside Partnership itself, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Board, the RAPID Programme, Local Drugs Task Force.



- ❑ Supporting the development of the 21 geographical communities which have been designated as disadvantaged; and helping to provide opportunities for local residents within these communities to access employment, training, education and childcare.

- ❑ Building up the community infrastructure within these 21 geographical areas and working towards the establishment of Community Development Projects and other community based initiatives within these areas.

- ❑ Promoting a more co-ordinated and integrated approach towards the delivery of statutory and other services to the main target groups and target geographical communities of the Southside Partnership.

- ❑ Leveraging funds from relevant statutory agencies (Irish Government and European Union) to provide new opportunities and new projects/programmes which will alleviate the levels of socio-economic disadvantage within the Southside Partnership area.



- ❑ Piloting new initiatives with target groups and target geographical communities, evaluating the impact/outcomes of these initiatives and striving to have these initiatives mainstreamed by relevant statutory agencies.

- ❑ Providing administrative and secretarial support to local groups and projects within the Southside Partnership area.

- ❑ Creating opportunities for different interests (statutory, community, trade unions, business, elected representatives) to come together to work through issues of common concern in relation to tackling socio-economic disadvantage and social exclusion.

- ❑ Influencing the policies, priorities and budgets of agencies and organisations (at the national, regional and local levels) which have responsibility for delivering services to the main target groups/communities of the Southside Partnership.

- ❑ Initiating and carrying out research on issues relating to the improvement of the quality of life for people from the main target groups / communities of the Southside Partnership.



- ❑ Networking with other agencies and organisations at the national, regional and local levels, participating in various inter-agency groups and forums, and playing a leadership role within a number of these forums (e.g. Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Board, RAPID programme in Loughlinstown and Shanganagh).

The practical outcomes and achievements which have emerged from these various roles, between 1995 and 2005, will be detailed in Section 4 of this document.

STRUCTURE OF SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP

The Southside Partnership is one of 38 Area Partnership Companies which are participating in the 2000 - 2006 Local Development Social Inclusion Programme. In geographical terms the Southside Partnership is the largest urban Partnership within this Programme (covering an area of 15 kilometres x 13 kilometres). The Local Development Social Inclusion Programme is funded through the National Development Plan, is the governmental responsibility of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and is administered and managed by Area Development Management. In addition to its participation in the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme, the Southside Partnership also manages the Southside Local Employment Service and is the managing agent or sponsor of a Community Employment Programme and a Jobs Initiative Programme within the Partnership area.

The Board of the Southside Partnership is a multi-agency Board of 23 members.

These members represent the following interests/sectors:

- ❑ statutory agencies (7 representatives)
 - ❑ social partners of trade unions and business (4 representatives)
 - ❑ community interests (6 representatives of geographical communities, 3 representatives from target groups - disability, Travellers, lone parents)
 - ❑ and elected councillors (3 representatives).
- This Board has overall responsibility for determining the main policies and priorities for the Southside Partnership and for ensuring that the affairs of the company are conducted in a proper, professional and efficient manner.

In addition to the Board, there are also a number of sub-structures which have responsibility for operational and personnel/staff issues; for the progression and implementation of various programmes and projects which have been initiated by the Southside Partnership; and for the development of interest groups which are focused on particular target groups of the Partnership (e.g. people with disabilities, Travellers).

"Southside Partnership has played a very important role in supporting the development of the RAPID programme in Loughlinstown and Shanganagh through the effective facilitation of the Area Implementation Team and Task Groups. This "process work" is often invisible and overlooked, however without it the RAPID process wouldn't work."

Dave Lawless
RAPID Co-ordinator



ANALYSIS OF ACHIEVEMENTS OF SOUTHSIDE PARTNERSHIP 1995-2005

4

The First Ten Years

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the document will analyse the main outcomes and achievements from the work of the Southside Partnership between 1995 and 2005. It will consider these outcomes and achievements under the following headings:

- ❑ Community development outcomes
- ❑ Education, youth development and childcare outcomes
- ❑ Employment, enterprise and economic outcomes
- ❑ Networking and cross-programme outcomes

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

4.2

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES

- ▷ Provision of support, training and development to local communities
- ▷ Focus on key target groups – Travellers, people with disabilities, asylum seekers
- ▷ Supporting and developing community based Task Forces
- ▷ Provision of training through Community Development Toolkit
- ▷ Piloting and developing Accessible Community Transport Southside (ACTS)
- ▷ Strengthening local and community development sector – Community Platform, Integrated Local and Community Development body

Community development is a central, core tenet which permeates throughout all of the work of the Southside Partnership. The Partnership aims, at all times, to strengthen the capacity of key target groups and identify geographical areas of disadvantage to play a more active and participative role in discussions and decisions which will impact upon the future development of these groups/areas. In this context, the process of building up the capacity of local groups/areas and developing leadership skills is as important as the successful achievement of tasks relating to new and improved community services and community facilities.

It is considered that the Southside Partnership, through its community development work and its support for community based initiatives, has played a significant role in enhancing the community infrastructure within the Partnership area.

Strategy 1 Capacity Building with Target Groups

This capacity building strategy has involved the provision of support, advice and training to a wide range of area based organisations and target group organisations. It has facilitated their participation and involvement in local development and community development structures within the Southside Partnership area.

Key achievements have included the following:

- Support for the development of Traveller organisations and for Traveller training programmes. The Partnership has played an important role in the strengthening of the Southside Travellers Action Group and the Travellers Interest Network. It has also contributed to the organisation of training programmes (e.g. Travellers Primary Health Care Programme), to lobbying for additional resources (e.g. for a Travellers Youth Service) and to the provision of accommodation for Travellers (through on-site work by a dedicated development worker).
- In relation to people with disabilities, a disability equality training programme has been designed and delivered through the Southside Partnership; the Partnership played a direct role in a womens leadership programme for women with disabilities; and a Disability Interest Group has been set up in the Southside Partnership area (this Disability Interest Group is currently in the process of developing a resource space for people with disabilities).
- In relation to asylum seekers and refugees, the UNITE project (a network of service providers working with this target group) has received significant support from the Southside Partnership. Key outcomes have included the development of a befriending project; the production of an asylum seekers/refugees information pack; the creation of an Unaccompanied Minors group; the establishment of a steering committee for the UNITE project; and carrying out a needs analysis survey in relation to asylum seekers/refugees.



"Southside Partnership has brought real meaning and realisation to the concept of "partnership"; that is, about assisting groups in an empowering way. This has greatly enabled the advancement of Traveller human rights in the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area."

Goretti Mudzongo
Co-ordinator Southside Traveller
Action Network

Strategy 2 Neighbourhood Work

In addition to working with key target groups the Southside Partnership has also placed a particularly strong focus on building up the community infrastructure and community leadership skills within the designated geographical areas in which it is located. This process has helped to create better resourced, more resilient and more self-confident communities.

Key achievements have included the following:

- Provision of technical assistance and mentoring to potential community leaders, thereby enabling them to play a more effective role on behalf of the communities in which they live. In the period from 1995 to 2005 the Southside Partnership has provided developmental support to over 40 community leaders within its catchment area.
- The contributions which have been made to the development of community based groups within areas/estates which have had a weak community infrastructure. These contributions have often involved cross-programme approaches from the Southside Partnership i.e. involving staff from different programme teams; and have led to the creation of multi-agency Task Forces (e.g. Ballyogan Task Force).



- ❑ The Communities Organising for Development Education (CODE) project which has trained and upskilled over 50 local people to play a more prominent and effective role in community development activities within the areas in which they live (through the utilisation of Community Employment and community development training programmes). This process has served to increase and enhance the number of local people participating in local community activities.
- ❑ The production of a Community Development Toolkit which incorporates a range of training and resource materials aimed at enhancing the community development skills of local residents/groups. Staff from the Southside Partnership have utilised the Community Toolkit to deliver community development training to a number of local community groups.

Strategy 3 Community Facilities

This strategy has supported local communities to improve the infrastructure of local facilities and services within their own areas. There is a general recognition about the infrastructure deficit within many of the target communities in the Southside Partnership area and an awareness of the need to provide more facilities within which work can take place with key target groups. This strategy has helped local people to draw up plans / proposals and to lobby for additional resources and facilities for their areas.

Key achievements have included the following:

- ❑ The development of creative and participatory planning techniques (e.g. Building for Real) which have equipped local residents with skills and knowledge relating to the planning process and which have enabled local residents to contribute to the development of community facilities within their own areas.
- ❑ The support provided to local groups in places like Ballyogan, Hillview and Whitechurch in relation to the provision of community buildings and facilities has led to the development of a range of activities with key target groups.
- ❑ The significant contribution which has been made to the Accessible Community Transport Southside (ACTS) Project which provides an accessible and affordable local transport service to people with disabilities, to elderly people with mobility problems and to other target groups experiencing transport problems/difficulties.



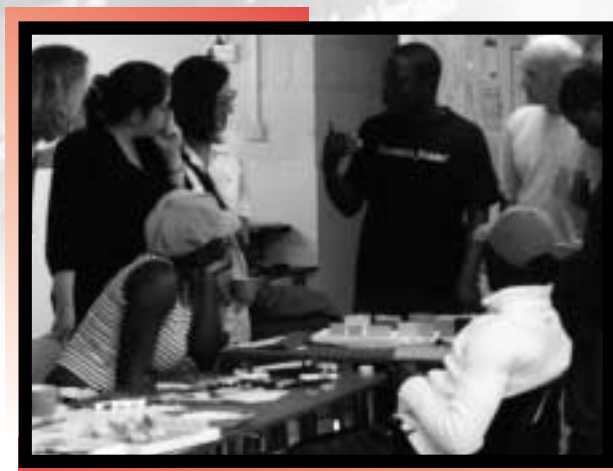
"Southside Partnership has been instrumental in helping support social economy projects such as Accessible Community Transport Southside (ACTS). Southside Partnership's approach to the issue of disability and the needs of people with disabilities has improved enormously over the last number of years."

**Mary Collins Community
Director**

ACTS

Strategy 4 Local and Community Sector Development

The Southside Partnership has played a lead role in actions aimed at developing the potential and effectiveness of the local and community development sector. It is generally acknowledged that the geographical configuration of the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area makes it difficult to establish a coherent and effective community sector – the target communities of the Southside Partnership are dispersed across the largest urban Partnership in Ireland. Notwithstanding these geographical complications, the Southside Partnership has played a lead role in bringing together targeted geographical communities and specific target groups (e.g. people with disabilities, Travellers) to discuss, work through and progress issues of common interest / concern.



Key achievements have included the following:

- ❑ The significant role played in the establishment and ongoing evolution of the Community Platform which is the regional network of community groups and organisations in the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area.

The Community Platform has evolved to the stage where it facilitates the nomination of community representatives onto a broad range of structures such as the Southside Partnership, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Community Forum and the Local Drugs Task Force.

- ❑ The contributions which have been made by staff members and Board members of the Southside Partnership to inter-agency initiatives such as the County Development Board, RAPID, County Childcare Committee and Local Drugs Task Force. These contributions have been significant (e.g. many of the committees within these structures are chaired and/or have representation from people involved in the Partnership) and have helped to ensure that the interests of the community sector are effectively represented.
- ❑ The establishment of the Integrated Local and Community Development (ILCD) body which is a network of 14 local development and community development organisations in the Southside Partnership area. The Southside Partnership has played a formative role in setting up this network, a network which will explore and examine opportunities for closer collaboration and co-ordination between the 14 members of the network.
- ❑ The SPAN (Strategic Planning Action Network) project which is being funded through the European Union Interreg Programme. This project is focused around issues concerning multilevel governance and spatial territorial planning and will explore new and more innovative ways for organisations and agencies to work together across institutional and administrative boundaries.

Strategy 5 Local Development Training Institute

The Local Development Training Institute (LDTI) is an organisation which provides training and other types of support to people involved in, or interested in, local development within Ireland. The LDTI is an innovative and unique initiative of the Southside Partnership - it is the only institute/centre in Ireland which has a very specific and exclusive focus on issues relating to local development.

Key achievements have included:

- ❑ The participation of over 2,500 participants in the training courses and summer programmes organised and delivered by the LDTI. Through these courses and programmes, participants from throughout Ireland were provided with opportunities to acquire new skills and knowledge in a whole range of issues / topics relating to local development and community development.
- ❑ The Southside Partnership played a significant role in setting up the LDTI as an independent company through identifying potential members of the new Board, through providing administrative and personnel support and through helping to source and secure funding for the LDTI.



EDUCATION OUTCOMES

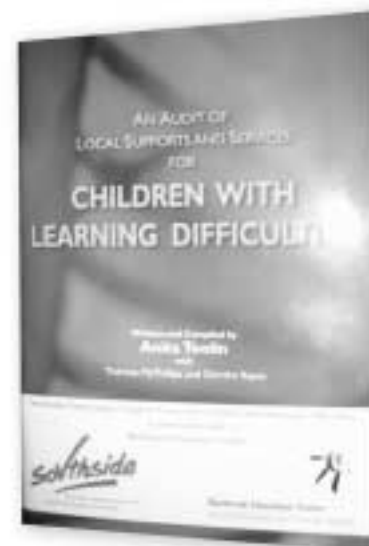
- ▷ After-school support programme
- ▷ Millennium Fund for third level access
- ▷ Futurama project
- ▷ Research report on early school leaving
- ▷ Adult education courses and programmes
- ▷ Childcare projects and initiatives

This Programme works through the following strands: Parent Support; In-school Supports; Youth Development; Access to Third Level; and Early Intervention and Community Childcare. The Programme works with local agencies, schools and community groups to identify needs and gaps in services, and to respond to these. Networks and Working Groups have been developed to facilitate and support this way of working. The emphasis and focus of the work has changed, and continues to change with time, as new programmes and policies are introduced and developed and become mainstreamed.

Strategy 1 In-school Support

In recent years, a number of significant developments have taken place in relation to measures to tackle educational disadvantage and early school leaving. These have included the establishment of the School Completion Programme in a number of locations throughout Ireland and the establishment of Local Education Committees through Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinators clusters. These developments have decreased the need for the Southside Partnership to provide financial support to in-school projects and programmes.

In this context the main role of the Partnership over the last number of years (in relation to in-school education) has been to provide developmental support and advice to the new structures which have emerged and to try and ensure that these structures have a clear and explicit focus on those children and young people who are most vulnerable and most likely to leave school early.



Key achievements have included:

- ❑ The participation of the Southside Partnership in four School Completion Programme Committees and four Local Education Networks which have been established across the Southside Partnership area. The Southside Partnership has played an important role in helping to shape the focuses and priorities of these committees and networks.
- ❑ The support which has been provided to a number of in-school actions which are focused on the main target groups of the Southside Partnership. These actions include an after-school support programme for Travellers; an in-service programme for teachers on the issue of Challenging Behaviour in the Classroom; and support to two Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator Clusters in relation to issues concerning parental involvement and after-school programmes.

"Southside Partnership has played a key role in identifying social and educational needs of individuals and communities that traditionally were not part of mainstream provision. It has been very effective in encouraging and co-ordinating agency responses to address these needs. There are now many new programmes and services in place as a direct result of the work of Southside Partnership."

John Ryan CEO Dun Laoghaire VEC

- ❑ The financial assistance provided by the Southside Partnership towards the costs involved in carrying out psychological assessments on students attending schools within the Partnership area. These psychological assessments helped to present a strong and compelling argument for additional resources for these schools and resulted in the employment of Resource Teachers in two schools within the Partnership area.

Strategy 2 Third Level Access

There is a disturbingly low level of access to third level education from the target groups of the Southside Partnership and from people living in disadvantaged communities within the Partnership area. In the period from 2001 to 2005 the Partnership has put in place a number of measures which aim to improve the opportunities for local residents (from target groups/communities) to participate in third level education.

Key achievements have included:

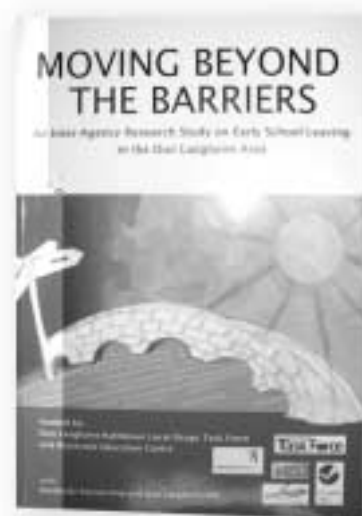
- ❑ The organisation and administration of the Millennium Fund which provides financial support and other forms of assistance to people from key target groups who wish to participate in third level education programmes. In the period from 2001 to 2005, the Southside Partnership has provided financial assistance to approximately 70-80 students per year through the Millennium Fund, for students from the key target groups of the Partnership who wish to participate in third level education.
- ❑ The Southside Partnership organised a conference on 'Planning for Achievement' and conducted research on the take up of third level places in conjunction with UCD and the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (with particular reference to the direct entry placement of young people from disadvantaged communities). These initiatives served to identify the main barriers and obstacles which are inhibiting the participation of people from disadvantaged communities/groups in third level education.
- ❑ Southside Partnership has assisted young people from key target groups to access support and funding through law scholarships and through the Bank of Ireland Millennium Programme. It is considered that the support and encouragement provided by the Southside Partnership have been instrumental in these young people accessing financial assistance from these funding sources.

Strategy 3 Youth Development

The Southside Partnership has had a particular focus on the development of vulnerable, 'at risk' young people who are experiencing difficulties in integrating into mainstream education and youth work provision. The Partnership has supported the development of innovative programmes and projects which present new options and new alternatives to young people from the main target groups / communities within the Southside Partnership area. These programmes and projects have been primarily directed at early school leavers within the Partnership area.

Key achievements have included:

- ❑ The Futurama project which is focused on the needs and circumstances of out-of-school young people between the ages of 12 and 15. The purpose of this project is to re-integrate early school leavers into the education system or to identify alternative ways in which these young people might fulfil their educational /personal potential. Through support provided by the Southside Partnership, this project is emerging into a significant alternative for young people who have left the formal education system at an early age.
- ❑ The production of a major research report on early school leaving ('Moving Beyond the Barriers') within the Southside Partnership area. The Southside Partnership, Dun Laoghaire Vocational Education Committee and the Local Drugs Task Force were involved in supporting this research project. The outcomes and recommendations from the research project have helped to inform future strategies, specifically the development of an integrated youth guidance and tracking service for the area.



- ❑ The support which the Southside Partnership has provided to individual communities within the Partnership area which are developing strategies focused on young people living within their communities. These actions have included the Youth Access Programmes in Ballyogan, Whitechurch and in Dun Laoghaire Community Training Centre; a Traveller Access Programme; and an Access Programme for Unaccompanied Minors/Asylum Seekers.
- ❑ The Southside Partnership is a partner in a European Union EQUAL Round 2 initiative for the provision of bridging supports for young asylum seekers moving from statutory childcare services into adult provision within the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

Strategy 4 Parent Support

In recognition of the critical role of parents within the overall education process (in relation to their own education and to the education of their children), the Southside Partnership has supported a number of programmes and initiatives which have provided opportunities for parents to return to education and to acquire new skills and knowledge. In tandem with this focus on the education of parents the Partnership has also supported actions which aim to enhance the capacity of parents to play a more effective role in issues relating to the education of their children.

Key achievements in relation to this strategy have included:

- ❑ The supports which have been provided to adults who wish to pursue and to access educational courses and programmes. The Southside Partnership has assisted a significant number of parents/adults to return to education through supporting the Leaving Certificate Applied for adults in local schools and through being involved in the Back to Education Initiative (BTEI) Programme.
- ❑ The contributions which the Southside Partnership have made to the development of innovative programmes which encourage and enable parents to play a more active and effective role in the education of their children. The Partnership has provided developmental and financial support to the Parents in Education Programme and to the Road to Succeed Family Literacy Programme. These programmes have involved the active participation of a large number of schools within the Southside Partnership area.
- ❑ The ways in which the Southside Partnership has tried to ensure that there is a clear focus on adult education within integrated development strategies which are taking place in local areas like Ballyogan, Whitechurch, Loughlinstown/Shanganagh (RAPID area). This is reflected in the establishment of adult learning initiatives (e.g. Whitechurch Adult Learning Project) and the preparation of adult education proposals (e.g. a number of adult education proposals contained within the RAPID plan for Loughlinstown and Shanganagh). These initiatives have been developed in conjunction with the Southside Local Employment Service.

Strategy 5 Childcare Action Network

The Southside Partnership has played a lead role in the development of the Southside Childcare Action Network. The Partnership has provided important administrative and developmental support to the network. The Southside Childcare Action Network has promoted and supported quality community based childcare services which offer care, education and socialisation opportunities for the benefit of children, parents, employers and the wider community within the Southside Partnership area.

Key achievements have included:

- ❑ The successful application to the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Childcare Committee to employ a Childcare Project Worker to progress the plans and proposals which have been formulated by the Southside Childcare Action Network.
- ❑ The support and technical assistance which has been provided by the Southside Partnership to a number of innovative programmes and projects which have been developed within the Partnership area. These programmes / projects have included Highscope, a developmental Arts and Crafts initiative, the 'In Touch with Children' programme and the Marte Meo Programmes.
- ❑ The Southside Partnership has played a significant role in the initiation and development of the Cottage Childcare Project which provides

"SCAN is the voice for local community childcare. Without SCAN, Ladybirds community playgroup would have no link into other agencies, training or information at a local level. SCAN is a great and very valuable asset to the local childcare community."

Sarah Byrne
Ladybirds Community
Playschool

a range of childcare services and supports to families and children living in the Dun Laoghaire area. The lead role in this project has been contracted out to Barnardos, with the active support of organisations like the Southside Partnership.

- ❑ The Childcare Action Network partnered the VEC to develop a crèche in the Community College in Sallynoggin which provides childcare for children of adults returning to education.

Strategy 6 Early Intervention Childcare

This strategy aims to promote successful models of early developmental childcare with a view to implementing these models within targeted communities, school based childcare and early education services within the Southside Partnership area. The Southside Partnership has conducted a number of research projects and other actions which have tried to identify good models of childcare practice and childcare provision which have transferable potential across the Southside Partnership area.

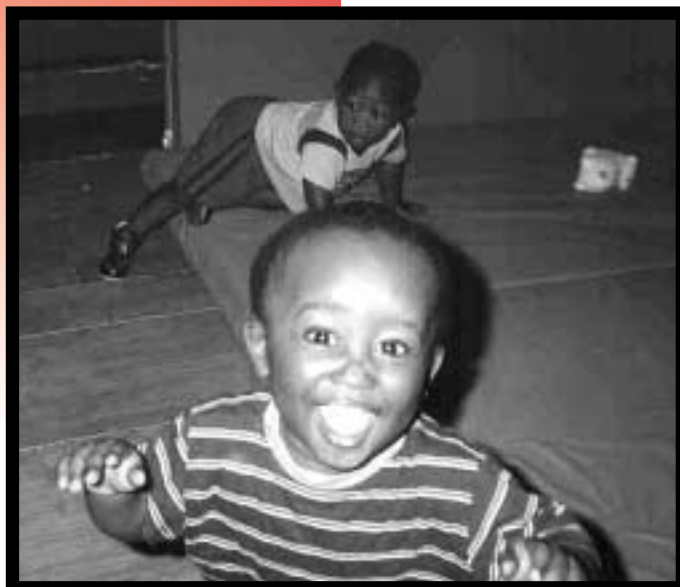
Key achievements have included:

- ❑ The audit on Early Childcare Services in the Southside Partnership area. This audit has identified the childcare services currently being provided, the gaps in childcare provision and the ways in which outstanding gaps/needs might be met by statutory and voluntary sector providers. This audit has provided an important source of information and guidance to the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Childcare Committee.
- ❑ The development of linkages with the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Childcare Committee. The emergence of County Childcare Committees throughout Ireland have provided a new focal point for childcare services and supports. The Southside Partnership has played an active and formative role in the evolution of the County Childcare Committee within the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area.

"The most important beneficiaries of SCAN are the children. They have gained through the information and training that we, the staff have received. It is fair to say that thanks to SCAN, we have much more to offer the children."

Sandra Lambert

Dominican Montessori Pre-School



EMPLOYMENT, ENTERPRISE AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OUTCOMES

- ▷ 3,676 clients registered with LES
- ▷ 761 progressed onto mainstream employment and 804 onto employment schemes/programmes
- ▷ 25 education and training courses
- ▷ 629 participants on Jobs Clubs
- ▷ 1,150 contacts made with employers

These outcomes come under the 'Services to the Unemployed' measure of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme and encompass the work of Southside Local Employment Services (LES) and the Economic Inclusion Programme. One of the most significant achievements of the Southside Partnership was to secure funding in 1999 for the Southside LES.

Some of the strategies below fit mainly under the Southside LES whilst others are strategies of the Economic Inclusion Programme - in a few cases, strategies straddle the Southside LES and the Economic Inclusion Programme, thereby illustrating the integrated and cross-programme nature of much of the Partnership's work.

The Economic Inclusion Programme works at a strategic level, and through direct action and service provision, to improve and enhance the economic well-being of individuals from key target groups and designated geographical communities.

Strategy 1 **Mediation, Information and Guidance**

The Southside LES has provided information, guidance and mediation support to 3,583 people in the period from 1999 (when the Southside LES was established) up until the end of 2004. The impact and effectiveness of the Southside LES is reflected in the number of clients who progress onto jobs and other labour market measures, in the levels of client satisfaction with the services provided by the Southside LES and in the positive attitude to the Southside LES from state agencies and employers which are operational within the Southside Partnership area.

Key achievements have included:

- ❑ The number of people with whom the Southside LES has worked in the period from 1999 to 2004. In this five year period, a total of 3,676 clients registered with the Southside LES, 2,281 clients received mediation/guidance and 1,302 people received information on queries which they had about various labour market measures and other employment issues. In relation to the Jobs Club aspect of its work, 629 clients of the Southside LES participated in Jobs Clubs between 1999 and 2004.

"I was made redundant in my mid 50's and although I got short spells of work after that there was nothing permanent. When I turned 60 I thought there was little chance of ever getting employment. I called into the Local Employment Service on the off chance to see if there was any part time work available. A part time driving job had just come in and it was just around the corner from where I live. A call was made to the employer and an interview was arranged. I'm happy to say I got the job and I'm also eligible for the 3 year Back To Work scheme from Social Welfare."

Christopher Fitzgerald Ballybrack



- ❑ In relation to the key issue of progression, 295 clients progressed onto Jobs Clubs and Adult Literacy schemes; 804 progressed onto employment schemes/programmes (Community Employment, Jobs Initiatives), training and education; and 761 progressed onto mainstream employment. These are impressive outputs from the work of the Southside LES and it is clear that the activities of the service have had significant and positive benefits for a large number of people from the main target communities and target groups of the Southside Partnership.

- ❑ The ways in which the Southside LES has succeeded in providing a cohesive and co-ordinated service across a very wide geographical area (the area covered by the Southside LES is the largest area of any urban LES in Ireland). The Southside LES has been able to maintain a clear focus on individual communities and individual target groups throughout its catchment area whilst also building a very strong team spirit amongst the staff of the LES who are working from a range of different Contact Points which are dispersed across the Southside Partnership area.

Strategy 2 Education and Training

The Southside LES has organised and helped to deliver a wide range of education and training programmes and initiatives which provide a relevant and practical response to the training needs and requirements of clients. The Southside LES has made a direct link between the progression needs of clients (i.e. what is required for clients to progress onto their preferred type of job or other labour market measures) and the organisation of training courses which increase the likelihood of clients achieving their particular labour market goals.

Key achievements have included:

- ❑ The Southside LES has been involved in the organisation of 25 education and training courses between 1999 and 2004. These courses and programmes have focused on subjects like information technology, office skills, youth studies, warehousing and forklift driving. They have served to equip participants with a range of skills which have increased their employability whilst also providing them with more confidence in their own skills and abilities.
- ❑ The organisation of training and education courses specifically directed at individual target groups. These target groups have included disadvantaged and vulnerable young people and women living within the target communities of the Southside LES area (e.g. Womens Development Programmes which have taken place in a number of different locations).
- ❑ The Southside LES has developed a range of collaborative arrangements for the organisation of training and education courses/programmes. Many of these courses and programmes have been delivered in conjunction with statutory agencies (Department of Social and Family Affairs, Dun Laoghaire Vocational Education Committee, FÁS) voluntary organisations (e.g. Dun Laoghaire Youth Services) and local development organisations (e.g. RAPID programme in Loughlinstown and Shangnanagh).



Strategy 3 Services to Employers

The Southside LES and the Economic Inclusion Programme have developed contacts and relationships with a wide range of employers within the Southside Partnership area. These contacts and relationships have increased the likelihood of these employers taking on unemployed people from the main target communities and target groups of the Southside Partnership for work experience, for job placement and for mainstream, ongoing employment. The interventions of the Southside LES have helped to counter negative stereotypes perceived ideas about our clients. More constructively, the work aims to encourage employers to examine their recruitment and employment policies and practices and to consider the adoption of more socially inclusive models.



Key achievements have included:

- ❑ In the period from 1999 to 2004, 1,758 contacts were made with employers and these contacts served to generate 328 job opportunities for clients of the Southside LES. In 2004, it was estimated that contact with one in six employers resulted in a job vacancy and that approximately one in eight job vacancies resulted in a job for people from the main target groups of the Southside LES.



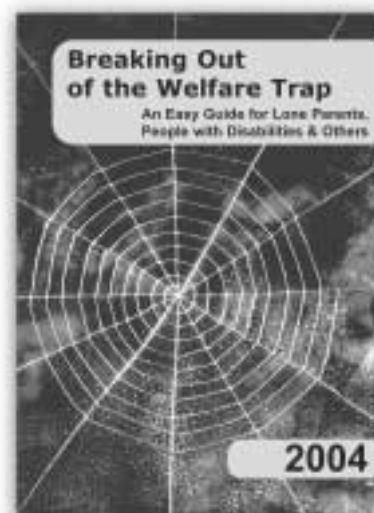
- ❑ The employment of an Employer/ Business Liaison Officer in August 2000 (jointly with the Economic Inclusion Programme) whose specific role is to target 400 employers per year to generate job vacancies. This person makes representations to employers through company visits, telephone calls and correspondence in order to secure positions for job ready clients.
- ❑ The establishment of the Southside Partnership/LES business website (www.doingbusinessindunlaoghairerathdown.ie) through which employers are provided with a range of information. This includes information on the employment of staff. The website has an interactive section where employers can advertise job vacancies through a direct link with Southside LES.

Strategy 4 Promotion, marketing, outreach

The Southside LES and the Enterprise Support Services under the Partnership's Economic Inclusion Programme are continually reviewing and assessing ways in which to promote and market their services in a more effective and targeted manner. In the period from 1999 to 2004, the Southside LES has significantly increased the information points at which information about the LES is available and has built up a range of new relationships with groups and organisations which are working with the key target groups of the Southside Partnership.

Key achievements have included:

- ❑ The ways in which the Southside LES is represented on the management committees and other structures of organisations involved in tackling social exclusion and providing services to key target groups. These organisations include RAPID, Dun Laoghaire Community Training Workshop, Advocacy for Disability, Travellers Interest Group, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Board and the Income Maintenance Working Group.
- ❑ The distribution of information on the services of the Southside LES to over 150 'Passive Information Points' in the Southside Partnership area. These information points are generally centres and facilities which are accessed by people from the target groups of the Southside Partnership (e.g. Health Centres, Community Centres, Family Resource Centres, Shopping Centres).
- ❑ The usage of promotion stands and formal presentations to increase awareness about the work and activities of the Southside LES. In the period from 1999 to 2004, the Southside LES participated in over 70 promotional events (involving promotion stands and/or formal presentations).
- ❑ Joint production of publications along with the Economic Inclusion Programme to provide information of relevance to unemployed people (e.g. 'Breaking out of the Welfare Trap - An Easy Guide For Lone Parents, People with Disabilities and others').



Strategy 5 Labour Market Interventions

The Southside Partnership has utilised labour market programmes (i.e. Community Employment, Jobs Initiative) as a means of providing progression options for the clients of the Southside LES; and as a mechanism for assisting community based groups and organisations to deliver services and activities within their areas. In the period from 1995 to 2004 the Southside

Partnership has achieved considerable levels of success both in the placement of scheme workers in appropriate community settings and in the progression of these workers onto open labour market or education measures.

Key achievements have included:

- The management and ongoing development of Community Employment programmes. The Partnership sponsors a Community Employment programme (PICES – Partnership Integrated Community Employment Scheme) which provides 26 places to people from the main target groups of the Southside Partnership. It also previously sponsored CODE (Communities Organising for Development and Education) – however, this project was discontinued in August 2002 on account of changes in eligibility criteria and changing focuses of Community Employment. Since its establishment the Southside Partnership has employed a total of over 80 people in Community Employment programmes.
- The Southside Partnership has also sponsored a Jobs Initiative programme which has employed 85 long-term unemployed people in the period from 1999 to 2005. As with PICES the participants on this programme have been a valuable resource to a large number of groups and organisations. There are also impressive progression outcomes from the Jobs Initiative programme - in the five year period up until the end of 2004, the programme succeeded in helping 83% of participants to progress into mainstream employment, self-employment or education.
- In 2004, the Southside Partnership initiated a new development partnership of 16 organisations which secured European Union funding for a project titled 'e-Quality through e-Work'. This project, with mainstreaming potential, will enable the Partnership to develop a new labour market model aimed at improving lone parents' and disabled persons' access to the labour market through using Information and Communications Technology in a more innovative way.



Strategy 6 Self-employment Support

EMPLOYMENT, SELF-EMPLOYMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE OUTCOMES - ECONOMIC INCLUSION PROGRAMME

- ▷ Secured Local Employment Service for area
- ▷ Sponsorship of Community Employment and Jobs Initiative schemes for over 165 people
- ▷ Assisted over 800 start-up businesses
- ▷ Supported Third Sector Enterprises and in turn creation of 75 new jobs
- ▷ Support for 9 Social Economy projects
- ▷ Involved in development of two local enterprise centres
- ▷ Establishment of 'e-Quality through e-Work' project

In the period from 1995 to 2005 the Southside Partnership has provided support and assistance to people from the main target groups who are interested in setting up their own business enterprise. The delivery of the various enterprise services and supports has largely been contracted out to local organisations. Currently the two service providers are Choices and Success Management. These two organisations have provided an effective and professional service to clients from the Partnership's target groups.

Key achievements for the Southside Partnership in relation to this strategy include:

- The Southside Partnership (through the sub-contracted enterprise support organisations) has assisted in the establishment of well over 800 start-up businesses in the period from 1995 to 2005. The contracted enterprise

support organisations have provided a range of services to enterprise clients and have assisted many of these clients to be approved for support through the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance. The start-up businesses supported by the Southside Partnership have created an estimated 200 jobs for local people.

- ❑ The Southside Partnership has also continued to provide ongoing support and assistance to clients after setting up their enterprises, recognising that enterprise clients require advice and guidance in the post start-up phase as well as the pre start-up phase. This advice is provided through regular reviews and support is also provided through the Business-to-Business (B2B) networking meetings.
- ❑ The organisation of enterprise training courses and activities to focus on issues relating to enterprise development, entrepreneurship and the acquisition of particular skills (e.g. credit control and bookkeeping, information technology); and the establishment of an insurance group facility to reduce the insurance burden for individual enterprises.

Strategy 7 Social Economy/Third Sector

This strategy has been part of Southside Partnership's Economic Inclusion Programme since its inception. It was anticipated that FÁS Social Economy programme would provide a major boost to the social economy sector and would lead to the establishment of a significant number of community businesses and social enterprises. In the period up to 2005, the Southside Partnership has supported and assisted the creation and sustaining of nine FÁS funded and a number of other community businesses.

Key achievements have included:

- ❑ Supports ranged from dealing with issues like legal incorporation, management structures and economic viability to grants, mentoring, opening up public procurement opportunities and networks.
- ❑ The organisation of specialised training modules for Social Enterprise Managers. These training modules, delivered through the Local Development Training Institute, focused on identifying ways in which social economy businesses might become economically viable following the cessation of funding from the Social Economy Programme.
- ❑ Other Third Sector developments supported include local enterprise centres, community facilities and services etc. and the development of pilot initiatives such as a project installing energy saving devices to 150 homes in Loughlinstown as a means of demonstrating to policy makers the value of these local actions and the need to adopt new policies and practices when dealing with disadvantaged individuals, families and communities.



NETWORKING AND CROSS-PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

NETWORKING OUTCOMES

- ▷ Development of new networks and inter-agency groups
- ▷ Development of RAPID programme in Loughlinstown-Shanganagh
- ▷ Contributions to County Development Board
- ▷ Working groups around Travellers, People with Disabilities, Asylum Seekers and Fuel Poverty
- ▷ Business-to-Business (B2B) networks

The Southside Partnership is clearly aware of the need to tackle issues relating to social exclusion and socio-economic disadvantage in an integrated and holistic manner. Therefore, in the period from 1995 to 2004, the Southside Partnership has placed a strong emphasis on creating opportunities and structures through which relevant statutory and voluntary agencies/organisations might work more closely together in the best interests of the key target groups and areas of disadvantage within the Partnership's overall catchment area.

Strategy 1 Forums, Networks and Working Groups

The Southside Partnership has played a formative and lead role in a wide range of inter-agency and inter-organisation forums and networks which have been set up in recent years. These forums / networks have provided opportunities for people from different sectors and different organisations to come together to work through issues of common interest / concern.

Key achievements have included:

- The role which the Southside Partnership has played in co-ordinating the work and activities of the following forums / networks:
 - Youth at Risk Network
 - Travellers Education Working Group
 - Support Project for Children with Learning Difficulties
 - Guidance/Access Network
 - Southside Education Initiative
 - Southside Childcare Action Network.



It will be noted that all of these forums/networks have an exclusive or very significant focus on key target groups of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme.

- The role which the Southside Partnership has played in the development of new networks and inter-agency groups. These networks and groups include the
 - Unaccompanied Minors Task Group of the Unite Network
 - the RAPID Education Task Group
 - the RAPID Childcare Task Group
 - Ballyogan Youth Needs Group
 - Early School Leaving Research Steering Group
 - Childcare Development Steering Group
 - Millennium Consortium
 - Millennium Steering Group.

All of these networks and groups have a clear and direct focus on the main target communities and main target groups of the Southside Partnership.

- The establishment of working groups and task groups around specific issues which are of concern to agencies and organisations involved in business development and in working with key target groups within the Southside Partnership area. These issues include insurance, fuel poverty and Information Technology. The outcomes from these working groups and task groups have been used to influence policy and priorities at both the local and national levels.
- The establishment of learning and information sharing networks which are forums for sharing information and developmental approaches between groups and organisations involved in similar types of economic activities. Networks established through the work of the Southside Partnership include the Social Economy Managers Network, the Business-to-Business (B2B) networks and Lone Parents focus groups.



Strategy 2 Participation in new inter-agency initiatives

There has been an increasing Government focus over the last number of years on the development and establishment of more co-ordinated and integrated strategies in relation to delivery of public services to disadvantaged areas and disadvantaged groups. This increased focus on co-ordination and integration of services has been manifested in initiatives and programmes such as the Integrated Services Process (which was piloted in four areas between 1999 and 2001), the RAPID programme and the establishment of City/County Development Boards. The Southside Partnership has played an active and participative role in the development of inter-agency initiatives within its catchment area.

Key achievements have included:

- ❑ The leadership role which the Southside Partnership has played in the work and activities of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Board. Members of the Southside Partnership (staff and Board members) chair County Development Board committees and the Partnership is the lead agency for a large number of actions within the County Development Board's 10 year strategy for social, economic and cultural development (2002-2012).
- ❑ The Southside Partnership is a key contributor to the RAPID programme which has been established in the Loughlinstown-Shanganagh area. The manager of the Partnership is the chairperson of the RAPID Area Implementation Team and staff from the Partnership have played an important role in facilitating and co-ordinating five out of the eight RAPID Task Groups. Through the Capacity Building Task Group, the Partnership plays a central role in the organisation of an annual Service Providers Workshop for 70 participants.



"In its ten years of existence Southside Partnership has contributed much to community development in our County of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown. The Partnership's aim of empowering local communities so that they have a strong voice in their dealings with officialdom and bureaucracy is being realised through its positive work in many neighbourhood projects. Women, the young, long term unemployed, early school leavers - often the most marginalised, are encouraged to return to education, acquire skills, participate in community development and graduate to become the leaders of their own communities. Working together, the Council and the Partnership are listening to each other, hearing what is being said and creating a more tolerant and inclusive society in our County."

Cathaoirleach Niamh Breathnach

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

In considering the learning and the outcomes which have emerged from the work of the Southside Partnership between 1995 and 2005, the following represent the principal achievements of the Southside Partnership within this ten year period:

- ❑ **All of the main strategies have been progressed.** In relation to the strategies within the Area Action Plans of the Southside Partnership it is evident that substantial progress has been made in the advancement of all of these strategies. There are no strategies which have been dropped or discontinued and the Southside Partnership has maintained the integrity of the strategies and actions contained within the 1995 - 2000 and 2001 – 2006 Action Plans.
- ❑ **There has been a clear focus on the main target groups of the Southside Partnership.** The Southside Partnership has maintained its focus on key target communities (i.e. areas/pockets of disadvantage) and key target groups (e.g. Travellers, people with disabilities, early school leavers). Positive outcomes have been achieved through the establishment of specialist interest/working groups, through the employment of specialist workers and through participation in projects focused on key target communities and groups.
- ❑ **A strong concentration on cross-programme work** within the staff and programme teams of the Southside Partnership. The Partnership has given an important emphasis to the development of integrated initiatives and projects which cut across the individual programmes of the Partnership. This process has resulted in a more holistic and co-ordinated approach towards the main target groups and target communities of the Southside Partnership; and a more effective utilisation of Partnership resources (in respect of these target communities/groups).
- ❑ **Concentration on geographical communities which have been under-developed or under-resourced in relation to community development and community action.** In the period from 1995 to 2005, the Southside Partnership has invested human and financial resources in enhancing the community infrastructure in Ballyogan (e.g. Ballyogan Task Force); Loughlinstown and Shanganagh (e.g. RAPID Area Implementation Team and RAPID sub-groups); Meadowlands Fitzgerald Park and Whitechurch (e.g. involvement in a number of different community based projects and actions). The interventions and supports from the Southside Partnership have played a key role in the development of community actions and multi-agency strategies within these areas.
- ❑ **The development of cross-agency networks, forums and working groups.** In all of the main programme areas of the Southside Partnership (i.e. community development, education and youth development, employment and economic development) the Southside Partnership has played a lead role in the establishment of multi-agency networks and groups which aim to provide a more co-ordinated and integrated response to the needs and requirements of the main target groups of the Southside Partnership. Through this type of process available resources have been maximised, new and stronger relationships have been created between relevant agencies/organisations and there is a more cohesive and collective focus on key target groups.
- ❑ **The involvement in innovative demonstration projects which aim to develop new responses to the needs of target groups.** In considering the activities and achievements of the Southside Partnership between 1995 and 2005 it is evident that the Southside Partnership (together with other agencies and organisations) has been continually striving to identify new ways of providing services and supports to the key target groups. The networks and task groups established through the Partnership have helped to identify and progress new concepts and new practices in relation to local development (e.g. Integrated Local and Community Development body, European Union SPAN project), community development (e.g. Community Development Toolkit) and economic development (e.g. the development of initiatives focused on key target groups, Social Economy Managers Network).
- ❑ **Lobbying and campaigning for additional resources to tackle socio-economic disadvantage and social exclusion.** The Southside Partnership has played a lead role in helping to ensure that government and statutory programmes to counter socio-economic disadvantage and social exclusion have been located in the Partnership area – this has often been a difficult and challenging task on account of the perception of Dun Laoghaire–Rathdown as an extremely affluent area. The Partnership has successfully lobbied for the establishment of a Local Drugs Task Force and for a local employment service within the Partnership area. In addition, it lobbied for the RAPID programme to include communities within the Partnership area and for the setting up of new Community Development Projects and Family Resource Centres in a number of strategic locations within the Partnership area.

- ❑ **Improvements in the quality of life and socio-economic position of local residents.** The outcomes from the 2002 Census of Population would indicate that there have been significant and noteworthy improvements in relation to a number of important indicators for local residents living within the Southside Partnership's catchment area. There are more people at work, there are more adults involved in education and training, there are more young people staying at school for a longer period of time, there are more people accessing third level education.

Whilst it is recognised that these positive developments have been significantly influenced by the upsurge in the national economy and by improvements in the ways in which services are being delivered by certain statutory agencies, it is also considered that the Southside Partnership has played an important role over the last ten year period. This role has related to the direct services provided by the Partnership (in areas such as employment advice and enterprise support), to the building up of the capacity and strength of target groups and target communities, and to the creation of new projects and initiatives which are directly targeted at people/communities experiencing particularly high levels of socio-economic disadvantage.

"Southside Partnership has had a clear focus on issues concerning social inclusion and tackling disadvantage - this work has been very positive and very necessary. Southside Partnership has given opportunities to people in local communities to become more involved in activities and issues within their areas."

Pat O'Callaghan FÁS

"I first saw the value of Southside Partnership when it supported the start up of the Wimminspace Project, which has responded to many women who have experienced domestic violence over the years.

For me myself, I have got so much training and development through the Partnership and then support from the Millennium fund as I did my degree. I am now working in a paid capacity for women in the community.

The way I see it is - I am a woman from the community working and supporting women in my community so they can get the chances I got."

**Biddy Farrell Community Director
Southside Partnership**

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

5

The First Ten Years

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

The Southside Partnership has achieved a range of significant and substantial outcomes in the period from 1995 to 2005. These outcomes, detailed in the previous section of the report, have been particularly focused on people living in the Southside Partnership area who are experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, social exclusion and poverty. The Partnership has helped to set up projects and programmes which provide new opportunities and new possibilities for local residents in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County and in the Whitechurch area.

It is considered that the Southside Partnership, together with the partner agencies and organisations represented on the Board of the Partnership, has played an important role in improving the quality of life for many hundreds of families in its catchment area – through, for example, enabling unemployed people to secure training and employment opportunities and through improving the services and facilities which are available to key target groups of the Partnership e.g. Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers, early school leavers.

Whilst acknowledging the work and achievements of the Southside Partnership since 1995, it is also important to recognise that there are still high levels of disadvantage and social exclusion within particular districts and within certain target groups of the Southside Partnership. The nature and extent of this disadvantage is often dwarfed by the relatively high levels of affluence within Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County. Therefore an important challenge for the Partnership and for the agencies and organisations involved in the Partnership is to continue to focus directly on those areas and groups which have not benefited in any significant way from the economic upsurge which has taken place in Ireland over the last 15 year period.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

5.2 On the basis of its work over the last ten years and its assessment of outstanding and unmet needs within its catchment area, the Southside Partnership intends to work in a more intensive and integrated way with key target groups. These target groups include people with disabilities, Travellers, lone parents, early school leavers, immigrants and offenders. Together with the agencies and organisations represented on its Board, the Southside Partnership will put together projects, initiatives and structures which will improve the services and supports available to these target groups with the aim of reducing levels of disadvantage, exclusion and marginalisation within these groups.

The Southside Partnership will also continue to focus on geographical areas which, on the basis of available statistical and research data, have high levels of socio-economic disadvantage. In these areas the Partnership will work with local groups and relevant agencies to increase the range of supports and facilities available to local residents and to improve the life opportunities of these residents (around issues such as education, employment, health and personal well-being). The Southside Partnership will aim to replicate the type



of integrated strategy taking place in the Loughlinstown – Shanganagh area (under the auspices of the RAPID programme) in other parts of its catchment area.

The Southside Partnership will continue to play a lead role in inter-agency initiatives and programmes which have been set up in recent years. These include the RAPID programme, the County Development Board and the Integrated Local and Community Development body. These provide clear opportunities for a wide range of agencies and organisations to identify ways in which they might work together in a more co-ordinated and effective manner.

This inter-agency work within the Southside Partnership area will be complemented by the European Union programmes in which the Southside Partnership is involved - these will provide opportunities for new learning to take place across the Member States of the European Union. They will enable the Southside Partnership to link into models of good practice being developed in other European Union countries, models which might have transferable potential to the needs and circumstances of people living in the Southside Partnership area.



It is the intention of the Southside Partnership, and of the various agencies / organisations and interests represented on the Partnership Board, that poverty and social exclusion should be tackled in an integrated, robust and meaningful manner. It is possible to make major inroads into the existing levels of disadvantage and social exclusion and the Southside Partnership believes that if the appropriate levels of investment and commitment are put in place by relevant agencies, significant and positive changes will take place in the lives of people currently experiencing poverty and exclusion.

Therefore, the Southside Partnership aims to build upon its work over the last ten years and, together with its partner agencies and organisations (statutory and community based), to develop more intensive, more co-ordinated and more integrated strategies and initiatives to significantly reduce the levels of disadvantage and poverty within its catchment area.



"As a relatively new member of the Board I am impressed with the volume of work carried out and various services supported through the partnership, be they services for the unemployed, community development, leadership or self-sufficiency programmes. As an ex-teacher I have a particular interest in the specific youth projects such as the Early School Leaving networks and the valuable reports from our education officer, also the Drug-Free Community Support Programme which is providing such a valuable service."

Cáit Keane Councillor, South Dublin County Council

"Southside Partnership has performed a useful function in identifying gaps in provision and setting up projects and programmes which aim to fill these gaps."

Charles McNamara Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

"Southside Partnership has succeeded in bringing people together from different communities and in developing new relationships and networks. There would not have been a Local Drugs Task Force in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown if it were not for the lobbying work carried out by the Southside Partnership."

Pauline Davy SWAN

"Southside Partnership has played an important role in helping to develop a more collective approach to tackling disadvantage and social inclusion. There are significant skills within the Southside Partnership staff team and these have been a tremendous asset to communities within Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County."

Wessel Badenhurst Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

"As members of UNITE, the Dun Laoghaire Refugee Project has found the support of the Southside Partnership invaluable during the past number of years. Working with refugees and asylum seekers, one has to react to ever-changing needs and circumstances. Southside Partnership has links to other groups which the Dun Laoghaire Refugee Project have been able to access and learn from. In addition, when situations have arisen which need an immediate and 'fire brigade' response, the willingness and expertise of the Partnership staff to assist and respond cannot be quantified and has contributed greatly to what otherwise might have led to insolvable situations. We cannot thank you enough on behalf of our volunteers and, more importantly, on behalf of our friends in the asylum seeker and refugee community."

Mary King Dun Laoghaire Refugee Project

"Southside Partnership embodies for me community building, positive support and empowerment for individuals."

Marie Baker Councillor, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council



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