

Table of Contents

Mount Street Trust Employment Initiative	2
Dún Laoghaire VEC Step-UP Education Programme for Homeless Service Users	4
Healthy Food for All	6
Y Factor Project - NWCi.....	7
Our Geels- All Ireland Traveller Health Study: For, With and By Travellers.....	9
Mayo Children’s Initiative (MCI) Ireland.....	11
Irish Penal Reform Trust	13
Literacy and Basic English Learning	15
National Traveller MABS.....	17
The Prevention & Early Intervention Network (PEIN)	19
Galway Traveller Movement - First Class Insulation	20

Mount Street Trust Employment Initiative

An initiative of the Mount Street Club Trust, delivered by Ballymun Job Centre, INOU and OPEN

The Mount Street Trust Employment Initiative (MSTEI) is targeted at addressing poverty related to unemployment in the Greater Dublin Area. The aim of the MSTEI is to make a meaningful contribution to intervening in poverty by supporting organisations to develop and implement specially designed measures to support the labour market integration of specific vulnerable groups. The Initiative is also developing a generic model of inclusive labour market service delivery capable of being adapted for the benefit of other groups and localities.

The specific objectives of the Initiative are to:

- Generate positive and durable outcomes for vulnerable groups through an integrated approach to addressing the multiple barriers which such groups experience
- Develop innovation and good practice in relation to partnership approaches and integrated working
- Contribute to on-going knowledge and practice in relation to appropriate responses to unemployment at the local level.
- Generate meaningful learning for policy and appropriate linkage to the policy context

The Initiative will run for a three year period from 2010 to 2013 with a commitment of two million euro from the Mount Street Trust. In December 2009, the Trust formally contracted with three organisations to design and deliver labour market interventions. The organisations and the interventions they are delivering are:

- Ballymun Job Centre is piloting a system where access to labour market interventions is based on an individual's interests, aptitudes or needs as part of an identified short to medium term career plan. Following assessment, participants will be referred directly into existing education or employment programmes or into one of the specially designed Options courses which will provide preparatory training programmes in skill development, employment preparation, education or training preparation and work-based career development.
- The Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed is delivering a FETAC accredited training course and associated workplace internships which will draw on participants own life experiences to

enable them to become peer educators, trainers and mentors. The project is operating in three areas within Dublin and it is intended that the training course will enhance both the employment prospects of participants and also increase the expertise available to community and voluntary organisations at local level.

- OPEN is providing FETAC accredited training in horticulture, relevant work experience and the development of a community garden to enable lone parents enter employment or self employment in the horticulture and related sectors. As well as increasing the employment opportunities to participants, the project will seek to have an impact on public land use and ensure that lone parents, and ultimately other vulnerable groups, are not marginalised within the emerging green economy.

Through an integrated approach to delivering these measures, the three organisations are generating durable employment outcomes for their participants as well as benefits to the community at local level. They are also working collectively to develop a generic model of inclusive labour market service delivery capable of being adapted for the benefit of other groups and localities.

The Initiative is being fully documented and evaluated. The evaluation will capture the impact of the Initiative at the level of participants and their families (including in relation to the experience of poverty), at the level of service delivery and at the policy level. It will also identify the factors which contributed to or hindered the achievement of the objectives. An important aspect of the evaluation will be to identify and assess the capacity to replicate and mainstream the model developed by the Initiative within the prevailing economic, institutional and policy context.

For more information on the MSTEI or the individual projects contact:

Ballymun Job Centre: Mick Creedon - 01 866700 creedonm@bmunjob.ie

INOUE: John Stewart – 01 8560088 humanresources@inou.ie

OPEN: Freda Keeshan – 01 8148860, fkeeshan@oneparent.ie

Management Agency for MST-EI: Carmel Duggan, cduggan@wrc.ie

Dún Laoghaire VEC Step-UP Education Programme for Homeless Service Users

Step-UP is an adult education programme for homeless service users and those at risk of homelessness in the Dún Laoghaire area. It is a response to both local and national educational and homelessness policies. The White Paper on Adult Education, Learning for Life, 2000 refers to a continuum of lifelong learning, the role of second chance and further education in addressing intergenerational poverty and disadvantage and in promoting democracy and social cohesion with equality as a core principle. It advocates pro-active strategies to counteract barriers to inclusiveness by targeting investment towards those most at risk. On a local level Dún Laoghaire VEC is committed to the provision of accessible and socially inclusive programmes and to provide responses to those who are most marginalised. While the White Paper acknowledges that for people in homelessness fundamental needs such as food and shelter, emotional stability and help with addiction, health or welfare problems are the priorities, an integrated approach is needed where these needs are addressed and also supported by opportunities to access further learning. The Way Home, A Strategy to Address Adult Homelessness in Ireland 2008-2013, recognises the need to ensure that homeless service users have access to education, training and employment to reduce the risk of recurring homelessness. It is in these contexts and the development of the localisation of homeless services that the Step-Up programme was initiated by Dún Laoghaire VEC Community Education Service in 2007.

The Step-UP programme works with adults in homelessness. Many of the group experience alcohol and drug dependency, mental health issues, marital and family break up, parenting alone and recent prison release. The programme provides educational courses and supports to build motivation, structure and self-esteem within the target group as well as providing viable progression routes to other forms of education, training and employment. A dedicated coordinator/outreach person supports the programme and courses are developed and delivered in response to the needs of the people she meets. Referrals are also made to other educational strands within the Adult and Community Based Education Service such as the adult guidance and literacy services and to other programmes within the community. The programme works with a range of agencies and other stakeholders to facilitate an integrated approach in developing courses and supporting access to and participation in further learning for the target group.

The Programme

Low threshold courses are delivered to those who are most vulnerable in their homelessness and these are delivered in venues close to the participants' accommodation. Recent examples of these courses include cookery and arts and crafts delivered in the homeless facility in Dún Laoghaire, Bentley House. Here the residents can participate in activities which aim to develop creativity and life skills, enhance well-being and reduce isolation. A Health and Wellbeing course is currently being delivered in partnership with City Gate to a group of women who require support to live independently and others who

are at risk of homelessness. A Family Learning programme has been delivered to a group of women and their children living in accommodation supported by Focus Ireland. Basic computer and digital photography courses are delivered off site in a Dún Laoghaire VEC venue in central Dún Laoghaire and here participants are again highly supported by the outreach person and the tutors in their return to learning off site. This strand of the programme is highly flexible and develops continuously in response to emerging needs and interests of both service users and providers.

Progression to accredited learning has developed from the non-accredited courses and in the past three years a FETAC L3 programme has been delivered under the Back to Education Initiative. This is a part time modular programme where learners have completed FETAC L3 modules in Communications, Maths, Personal Effectiveness, Computer Literacy, Internet Skills and Digital Photography. The programme is more structured but still with flexibility allowing learners to participate when they are most ready. Participants on this programme are primarily those who are no longer in crisis homelessness and are living in more stable accommodation.

The Step-Up programme was awarded a highly commended AONTAS STAR award in 2008 and regularly exhibits works created on the programme including art and photography exhibitions which are organised by the participants. These have taken place in local libraries, at the dlr Fusion Festival, and in the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Hall. A calendar with photographs taken by participants was published in 2012. A photography exhibition, entitled **Look Again**, was featured at the closing event of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion held in Brussels in December 2010. The coordinator and participants on the programme are interested in show casing the Step-Up programme at the 2013 Social Inclusion Forum as a project which demonstrates the integration of services, high supports, flexibility, quality and inclusiveness of this programme in enhancing educational opportunities for people in homelessness in the Dún Laoghaire area. The participants will create a display which will feature work created on the programme, along with learners experiences, information on accreditation outcomes and progression and will be on hand to talk about their experience of participation on the programme.



Healthy Food for All

Healthy Food for ALL is an all-island initiative seeking to combat food poverty by promoting access, availability and affordability of healthy food for low-income groups. We work on three interconnected levels:

1. Community and School Food Initiatives: To support local initiatives which promote availability and access to healthy and affordable food for low-income groups;
2. Network: To develop an all-island learning network to identify best practice on promoting healthy food for low-income groups and to develop links with similar organisations in the UK and Europe
3. Policy: To promote awareness of food poverty across all aspects of public policy, with a focus on food affordability, access and availability.

Healthy Food for All aims to combat food poverty. Food poverty is defined as the lack of an adequate and nutritious diet due to issues of affordability and access to food and needs to be addressed by a range of measures at both community and policy level. It is inextricably linked to issues of finance, education, transport, literacy, culture, planning and retailing and as such its solution needs a multi-sectoral approach across all relevant government departments. Food poverty disproportionately affects those living on a low-income. This (population) group spend a greater percentage of their weekly budget on food but are more likely to have less choice from a restricted range of food. Recent research by the Department of Social Protection (2012) shows that 10% of the general population in Ireland experienced food poverty in 2010. This research also found that lone parent households and the unemployed were more vulnerable to food poverty. The Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children Study found that 1 in 5 children go to school or to bed hungry because there is not enough food in the home. Food poverty has significant health and social consequences.

Making the healthier choice the easier choice is vital for improving nutrition and the health outcomes of people living on a low-income. Healthy Food for All is working with schools and community groups across the island of Ireland to encourage them to set up a food initiative. Examples of Food Initiatives include community cafes, community growing projects, breakfast clubs and nutrition educational initiatives for example, supermarket tours, cooking classes and shopping on a budget. Many communities have limited access to shops and find it difficult to make choices in relation to foods that are of high quality and available at affordable prices. Consumers, especially those on low incomes, or those living in areas of economic and social deprivation, are often the worst affected. Community and School Food Initiatives help to overcome some of these problems, while also working as an education tool to members of the community about the importance of maintaining a well-balanced and nutritious diet.



Y Factor Project - NWCI

What is it?

The Y Factor project is an exciting new initiative of the National Women's Council of Ireland, aimed at empowering young women and men (in the 16-25 year age-group) to advocate for women's equality.

How will it do that?

The project has a number of core actions planned to achieve that aim:

- It will provide a space for young people to discuss, tease out, share experiences and inform one another and voice their views on women's equality and what that means in the lives of young people. This will mostly happen through on-line platforms such as our website (currently in development), Facebook, Twitter and hopefully YouTube too.
- It will involve young people in organising events that draw attention to the issues that most concern them and to profile and celebrate what is important and relevant about young women's contribution to society
- It will support learning and awareness raising among young people about gender equality and inequality by developing and delivering discussion/education programmes in school and youth projects- initially on a pilot basis, with a view to having a suite of tools and resources that can be used by any and all schools and youth projects as part of the curriculum or youth programme. Transition Year in school provides an ideal opportunity for this.
- It will support young people to take action on the issues that most concern them
- It will create space for young people's voices within the women's movement and particularly within the National Women's Council and ensure that the NWCI includes the voices and issues of young people in its lobbying and campaigning work

How is the project structured?

The project is a 3 year funded project within the NWCI. The team comprises a part-time Project Co-ordinator and part-time Development Worker, and is driven by a Steering Group that is currently made up of young women under the age of 25. The project is located within the National Women's Council and will integrate its work within the overall strategic direction of the NWCI.

How did this project come about?

The NWCI is a membership organisation concerned with achieving equality between women and men in Ireland. It has approximately 170 members of whom the vast majority are women's organisations. In recent years, the NWCI has noticed an increase in the number of younger feminist organisations, some of whom who have sought support from or to work with the NWCI. Schools and universities have also approached the NWCI to ask them to provide information to young women; and the NWCI has always provided internships which are availed of by talented young women who bring specific insights and experience to their work within the NWCI. In 2011 the organisation carried out some research and studies of young women about their interests in women's equality, in feminism and what support young feminists need. As a result, it sought funding to establish a project that specifically sets out to support young women and men in to become active and advocate for women's equality.

What should you do if you are interested in this project?

The project is at quite an early stage at the moment but has begun to work in schools and youth projects. If you are interested in the project, here are some things you can do:

- Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @the_y factor and help us get the word out.
- Use our FB page to comment, engage with us and tell us what you think is happening for young women and young men in relation to gender equality. Tell us about the positive things that you and young people you know are doing and who are role models for young women. Share the work and projects you are involved with that you make you proud to be or know young women
- Contact the Y Factor Team if you'd like to know more or get more involved. Telephone; 01-878724 or email elvaoc@nwci.ie or lauram@nwci.ie
- Tell your school, youth project or organisation about the Y Factor and ask them to connect with us to work together, share ideas or come and have a discussion with your group.
- Volunteer with us – the Y Factor will be as good as the young people who are involved with it – if you'd like to get involved in networking for the Y Factor, blogging, writing or talking about us...we'd love to hear from you.

The Y Factor seeks to empower young people and promote their voices. We also welcome contact from teachers, youth workers and others who work with young people based on the same principle.

Our Geels- All Ireland Traveller Health Study: For, With and By Travellers

Pavee Point supported the design, implementation and publication of Our Geels, an all island of Ireland ground breaking piece of research conducted over three years on the Health needs of Irish Travellers. The study was undertaken by the UCD School of Public Health and Population Science in partnership with Traveller organisations and it was funded by the Departments of Health and published in September 2010.

This research was grounded in the community development approach to address Traveller health inequalities adopted by Pavee Point using a primary health care model since 1994. This approach ensures that Travellers are involved at all stages of the development and delivery of the project. It facilitates the involvement of both literate and pre-literate participants and can therefore be inclusive of those most marginalised in the community. It addresses the causes (social determinants) of ill health rather than just dealing with the consequences (health inequalities). It reflects a community based response to health issues rather than a medical response and supports community groups collectively in resolving problems they identify.

The All Ireland Traveller Health Study, *Our Geels* (2010) indicates Travellers continue to have high mortality rates and low life expectancy. The study found that the life expectancies of the Traveller community today are comparable to life expectancies of the general population in the late 1940s for males and early 1960s for females. Some of the key findings in relation to mortality rates and life expectancy are as follows:

- Life Expectancy at birth for male Travellers has remained at the 1987 level of 61.7 years, which is 15.1 years less than men in the general population, representing a widening of the gap by 5.2 years. Life expectancy for females is now 70.1 which is 11.5 years less than women in the general population.
- Traveller men have 3.7 times the mortality of males in the general population and for Traveller females the mortality is 3.1 times higher.
- Traveller infant mortality is estimated at 3.6 times higher than in the general population.
- Traveller suicide rate is 7 times higher than in the general population.

There was an unprecedented 80% participation rate by Travellers in the Study.

Irish Travellers are a small indigenous minority group that has been part of Irish society for centuries. They have a value system, language, customs and traditions, which make them an identifiable group both to themselves and to others. Their distinctive lifestyle and culture, based on a nomadic tradition, sets them apart from the general population.

Pavee Point Travellers Centre was established in 1985 and is a national non-governmental organisation which is committed to the attainment of human

rights for Irish Travellers and Roma living in Ireland. The group comprises Travellers, Roma and members of the majority population, working together in partnership to address the needs of Travellers and Roma as minority ethnic groups who experience exclusion and marginalisation. The overall strategic aim of Pavee Point is to contribute to an improvement in the quality of life of Irish Travellers and Roma in Ireland and to address the inequalities and racism they face.

The work of Pavee Point is based on two key premises:

- Real improvement in Travellers and Roma living circumstances and social situation requires the active involvement of Travellers and Roma themselves.
- Non-Travellers have a responsibility to address the various processes which serve to exclude Travellers and Roma from participating as equals in society.

Pavee Point operates at local, regional, national and international levels.

Mayo Children's Initiative (MCI) Ireland

MCI Ireland is a ground-breaking initiative, set up in 2009 to address the needs of children/young people living with domestic abuse. The project is funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies and supported and governed by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Since 2009, MCI Ireland has worked tirelessly in the community to put the needs and rights of children living with domestic abuse, centre stage. We deliver a number of different programmes to children, young people and professionals in order to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the issues of domestic abuse and dating abuse.

Drawing on a public health model, MCI Ireland's prevention activities can be categorised as primary, secondary and tertiary. Our primary and secondary prevention work focuses on specialised education programmes which we deliver to all age groups in primary and post-primary schools and to childcare practitioners at pre-school level.

Primary prevention strategies can introduce new values, thinking processes, and relationship skills that are incompatible with violence and that promote healthy, non-violent relationships. Tertiary prevention involves those who have already experienced domestic violence. We provide art therapy on a 1:1 basis for children of all ages (when funding allows) and this incorporates elements of both secondary and tertiary prevention. Our advocacy work raises awareness around the issue of abuse and its impact on children and young people. We provide training to voluntary/community and statutory groups on the dynamics of abuse and its impact on children/young people. This is a link to a short awareness raising piece we have produced in conjunction with COSC,

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jSSo9QFKkw> >
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jSSo9QFKkw>.

We regard the work we do with children/young people as a key initiative for preventing domestic abuse. The focus is on redressing the impact of domestic abuse and providing children with alternative learning and skills for problem and conflict resolution.

We address the issue of teenage dating abuse and healthy and unhealthy relationships with young people in schools and in informal settings, such as youth clubs. We created a film to use with our peer education programme "**Something in the Way**".

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oylvVcN1lus> >
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oylvVcN1lus>.

Our work with teenagers reflects our belief that adolescence, as a developmental period of change and the point at which intimate relationships are being formed, represents a key transition point. This presents an opportunity for preventive intervention both within dating relationships,

and in later adult relationships. The importance of preventive interventions is emphasised by studies showing high rates of sexual and physical violence in adolescent dating relationships.

We have made contact with a number of people on your network and are in the process of forging these relationships. Our contact with the network is to expand on this work, as we have limited resources and can only reach a certain amount of schools. We are a small team comprising Project Manager, Helen Mortimer, one full time project worker, Rachel Browne, one part time project worker, Steph Troy and a part time administrator, Ann Sweeney.

We know that young people living with domestic abuse don't feel heard. (*"Listen to Me! Children's experiences of domestic violence"*, Trinity College, Dublin. 2006). We want to equip teachers with the skills to understand the complexity of living with abuse and to ensure that they watch out for the signs. If we can equip teachers or students with these skills at source, more schools and young people will benefit.

Irish Penal Reform Trust

“Respect for rights in the penal system with prison as a last resort.”

The **Irish Penal Reform Trust** (IPRT) is a small, independent non-governmental organisation campaigning for the rights of people in prison and the progressive reform of Irish penal policy. Everything we do is underscored by our strong commitment to combatting social injustice.

Social Exclusion and Prisons

It is well established that offenders are disproportionately affected by a range of issues. Poverty, unemployment, poor mental health, educational disadvantage, addictions, inadequate family support and experience of residential care and homelessness are all more prevalent among those in the prison system than the general population. For many, these problems are strongly linked and inter-dependent and they frequently relate, directly or indirectly, to their offending.

IPRT believes that crime cannot be viewed as a social problem in isolation from deeper social and economic issues. Traditional approaches in Ireland have failed to address the systemic nature of social exclusion, and believe that a shift in focus and resources away from penal expansion towards investing in communities will help prevent the marginalisation associated with offending behaviour.

Informing the Policy-makers

Among our activities in the area of social exclusion and crime, we have published the following:

- Position Paper: *Shifting Focus: From Criminal Justice to Social Justice* (IPRT, Barnardos, EPIC)
http://www.iprt.ie/files/IPRT_Barnardos_IAYPIC_Shifting_Focus_Position_Paper_EMBARGOED_TO_23_SEPT_2010.pdf
- Research: *From Justice to Welfare: The Case for Investment in Prevention and Early Intervention* (IPRT, Barnardos, EPIC)
<http://www.iprt.ie/contents/1831>
- Position Paper: *The Vicious Circle of Social Exclusion and Crime: Ireland's Disproportionate Punishment of the Poor* (IPRT)
<http://www.iprt.ie/contents/2276>
- Research: *"Picking Up the Pieces": The Rights and Needs of Children and Families Affected by Imprisonment* (IPRT)
<http://www.iprt.ie/contents/2450>

More about IPRT

Established in 1994, IPRT has a well-established role as an independent voice in public debate on the Irish penal system. (We are not in receipt of any public funds.)

IPRT is committed to:

- reducing the use of imprisonment;
- respecting the rights of everyone in the penal system;
- progressive reform of the penal system based on evidence-led policies; and
- combatting social injustice.

This means our focus is on: prevention and early intervention; the use of imprisonment, including sentencing; alternatives to custody and diversion; the treatment of those in detention; and rehabilitation services and supports. We publish a wide range of policy positions and research documents; we campaign vigorously across a wide range of penal policy issues; and we are committed to working with other agencies in the criminal justice system to achieve penal reform.

We believe that penal reform is necessary, urgent and achievable.

Find out more: www.iprt.ie | www.facebook.com/irishpenalreformtrust
www.twitter.com/iprt

Get involved: Contact Fíona Ní Chinnéide, IPRT Communications Officer at communications@iprt.ie

Literacy and Basic English Learning An Cosán and NALA's Blended Learning Approach

Literacy- an Essential Part of Individual and Community Development

The last international and national survey on adult literacy showed that 1 in 4 Irish adults experience significant literacy difficulties. People effected by poverty, social exclusion and inequality are more likely to experience literacy difficulties.

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) is committed to tackling this problem in partnership with others. It does this through the development of best practice, innovative approaches as well as through awareness raising, research, and policy development. An Cosán, a Community Education Centre in West Tallaght, aims to enable and support local people to transform their lives and the life of their community, through education.

Literacy is an integral part of their education provision. An Cosán and NALA believe that literacy learning is essential to individual development as well as to enabling individuals and communities to critically reflect on their experience, explore possibilities and initiate change.

The Blended Learning Model

In 2008, NALA launched an online learning programme www.writeon.ie. This is used by individuals working alone (with phone support from experienced tutors) or in a Centre, using a blended learning approach. 'Blended' here refers to the use of web based learning with other forms of learning. An Cosán and NALA piloted the approach in 2008 and based on its success, An Cosan continues to use the approach in its Basic English Programme.

It has proved particularly successful and facilitates students to access the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) at both Level 2 and 3. To date, students in An Cosán have received the following awards in General Learning.

Minor @ Level 2	Major @ Level 2	Minor @ L 3	Major @ L 3
66	4	15	2

The blended learning approach facilitates learners to become increasingly self-directed in their learning. Students can choose to work independently on a number of computer packages both in An Cosán and at home. Learners have also progressed onto basic computer classes within the Centre.

In addition to literacy, numeracy and ICT skills development and the achievement of national accreditation, there is evidence of other significant outcomes for learners. These include becoming: educators in their own right; learner advocates and taking on leadership roles.

Overall by the end of 2011, over 1250 learners around the country achieved 400 Major and 5000 Minor awards at level 2 and Level 3, using NALA's www.writeon.ie.

Learners have the Last Word - Journey in Cyberspace

I've lived in Jobstown for the last 20 years. I left school early with few skills, so when I heard about An Cosán, I decided to put my name down for Basic English. A couple of weeks into the course I was introduced to [writeon.ie](http://www.writeon.ie). This was so good that when I went home I got on to the site immediately and so my learning began. I learned spellings, reading, writing and computer skills. My learning came as a big surprise to me, and I've learned a lot.

It wasn't easy at first, however with support from the tutors and facilitators in An Cosán I worked my way through level 1, 2 and now I'm at level 3 and hope to finish Level 3 this year.

In our house homework was a battle between my son and me. But seeing me on the computer he became very interested in my learning and decided to use the site himself to help with his homework. My son and I were learning together, we were helping each other. Homework was no longer a pitched battle but a pleasure.

My computer skills have allowed me not only to work on my learning but also to book flights; concert tickets and I even booked a weekend away for my daughter all on my own! Everyone was surprised but me - I knew I could do it.

Although I can read write and spell better my goal now is to gain more confidence. I'm going to finish my Level 3 and to do so I must get support from NALA to complete my portfolio, after today I feel confident that I can do it. My son is now in college he's still helping me with my Level 3 work but I'm still helping him with his computer work. Isn't that great!

(This piece was presented by Antoinette O'Leary in September 2012 in An Cosán, at an event held as part of National Adult Literacy Week. It has been edited slightly for space purposes).

For more information:

An Cosán: Deirdre Bannon; 01 4628488; d.bannon@ancosan.com ;
www.ancosan.com

NALA: learners - log on to www.writeon.ie, or phone Freephone 180020206
Centres - Tom O'Mara; 021 4278669; tomara@nala.ie; www.nala.ie

National Traveller MABS

National Traveller MABS was established in 2005. As a Traveller dedicated organisation, it focuses on the issues of over indebtedness and exclusion from mainstream financial institutions. Adopting a national strategy, National Traveller MABS seeks to empower by supporting capacity building within the Traveller community and working to ensure equality of access to legal and affordable financial services for all.

As part of the Money Advice and Budgeting Structure (MABS), it has a unique role as it is not a MABS service and does not deal directly with clients. National Traveller MABS seeks to serve the Traveller community by focusing on 4 main areas of work-

- 1 Local area development
- 2 Financial inclusion initiatives
- 3 Education
- 4 Research and Policy

Local area development involves working locally with the Traveller community and service providers to identify issues and develop projects to address such issues. An example is the local Key worker project which builds a skills base within the community to promote MABS and raise awareness financial services.

Financial inclusion initiatives include partnering with other organisations to provide for example 1) access to loan guarantee funds which help Travellers access credit through their local credit union and 2) a credit union prison saving scheme to develop financial literacy and a savings culture for participants.

Through its community education work National Traveller MABS has developed, and supported the development of, Traveller focused money management modules. Additionally it supports MABS in facilitating such programmes to increase financial literacy and capability. Currently National Traveller MABS is developing a module which addresses the issue of illegal moneylending, a growing problem in both the Traveller community and the larger population.

At policy level National Traveller MABS highlights issues of financial exclusion in both policy submissions and in reports and publications. It is currently planning the publication of its most recent piece of work "Debt and Dying within the Traveller community" which highlights the difficulty many face in covering the cost of funerals.

To ensure that the work of National Traveller MABS remains focused in meeting the needs of the Traveller community, it established a consultative

forum in 2011, comprising over 30 Travellers nationally. The consultative forum advises the organisation on both current projects and possible future projects. National Traveller MABS is based in Finglas and has a staff cohort of 2 full time and 4 part time workers. It has a voluntary board of management which includes representatives of the Traveller community and financial support and development services

The Prevention & Early Intervention Network (PEIN)

The Prevention & Early Intervention Network (PEIN) is a network of 24 evidence-based practice, advocacy and research organisations across the Republic of Ireland that believe that Prevention and Early Intervention is essential to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and disadvantage, and that intervening early helps children become more resilient and to realise their full potential. Through funding from The Atlantic Philanthropies and others, our membership have created an unprecedented body of Irish research into what works in prevention and early intervention.

The PEIN has a threefold purpose - to share, develop and disseminate the learning created by its members; to support their work, and to influence policy and practice both nationally and locally. Through its work the network is striving to improve outcomes for children and young people (i.e. from pregnancy to early adulthood), families and communities, to increase the capacity and sustainability of quality evidence-based/informed practice in prevention and early intervention, and to strengthen the working relationships amongst its member organisations.

For more details see www.preventioninpractice.ie , or contact Winnie Donoghue @ winnie@pein.ie.

Galway Traveller Movement



First Class Insulation

Business and Social impacts

Following a rigorous application process, GTM was awarded the contract to deliver the Warmer Home Scheme to low income households in Galway City in July 2010. This allowed for the formation of a social enterprise - First Class Insulation which became the Community Based Organisation to deliver the scheme in Galway City.

Employment Outcomes

First Class Insulation's primary objective is to provide employment for Travellers living in Galway. An application to Pobal resulted in the allocation of 4 places (1 manager and 3 operatives) under the Community Services Programme. A manager was employed in January 2010 and the three operatives were recruited in March 2010.

In 2011 SEAI extended the FCI contract into Galway County (excluding Connemara and Gaeltacht areas) and Pobal responded favourably to a request for an additional 4 full time staff places in June 2011.

Four additional Traveller men were recruited under the CSP programme in June 2011. This employment reduces the likelihood of the employees' families being at risk of poverty. The employees have stated that working with FCI has given them a purpose and that they do not feel they have to hide their identity. They recognise that working with FCI is good for both their own health and the wellbeing of their families.

"I grew up in England and I was working there since I was 16, driving trucks doing deliveries. I came back to Ireland 6 years ago. I must have sent out hundreds of CVs. I went for interviews and even though I was well qualified for driving jobs I never got the job. The Galway Peoples Resource Centre helped me prepare for interviews.

The best thing about the job i(n First Class Insulation) is the co-workers. As we got to know each other we relied on each other for advice and support.

The job gives more stability to my family. If children come from a working household they are more likely to get work. My daughter is looking for a job now. Good for the children to see you getting up in the morning to go to work."

Operative, First Class Insulation

Skills development and training

The manager and workers visited CBO's in Dublin and Cork to learn from existing best practice in running an insulation company. They also participated in a range of training programmes including:

- manual handling,
- health and safety
- Customer care - a key facet of the preparatory work was to provide the workers with training in how to relate to customers in a professional manner. As part of the training, the workers learned effective approaches to dealing with prejudice and discrimination.
- FETAC accredited training in attic insulation
- surveying for installation measures
- cavity wall insulation

The training combined with the commitment of the workers has ensured that a top quality service is provided to all eligible households. Evidence of the excellent standard of service and customer satisfaction achieved is documented in the customer response and evaluation forms completed by households after the work is complete. To date FCI have recorded a 100% quality rating for the houses inspected in Galway city and county.

'we wanted to do a really good job because it was bigger than First Class Insulation and we wanted to be a trailblazer for other Traveller-led enterprises in Galway and around the country' FCI operative'

Achieving business targets

In addition to providing a quality service, FCI has consistently reached its targets. To date FCI has insulated over 700 homes

WIDER BENEFITS

Benefits to low income families in the wider community

FCI is reducing the incidence of fuel poverty in Galway by insulating the homes of families at risk of fuel poverty. Eligible households do not have to pay for the service.

Disseminating the learning from this social enterprise

FCI demonstrates the capacity of GTM and TEDU to establish and manage a social enterprise that delivers a service on behalf of the State. FCI and the TEDU model are potential blueprints for promoting economic development within Traveller communities across the country.

Establishing additional social enterprises

TEDU has received funding from the Department of Social Protection to establish a social enterprise to deliver home insulation in the private market

Wider environmental benefits

The Warmer Home scheme improves insulation/energy efficiency in the homes of low income families, thus reducing the carbon footprint