

**OFFICE FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION – NAP/INCLUSION
PROCESS – JUNE 2005 REPORT TO EU**

Report for Dept of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

OBJECTIVE: Drugs/Alcohol misuse is a special initiative under Sustaining Progress

Commitment	To significantly reduce the harm caused to individuals and the community by the misuse of illicit drugs through a concerted focus on supply reduction, prevention, treatment and research
Summary Assessment¹	In Progress
Will Target be met on time²	Unknown
Indicator (s)	The strategy contains over 20 Key Performance Indicators (KPI's), under each of the 4 pillars of the strategy, by which progress in implementing the strategy is measured.
Progress being made	<p>Drug misuse is being addressed through the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008. The Strategy contains 100 individual actions, under the four pillars of supply reduction, prevention, treatment and research, to be implemented by a range of Departments and Agencies. A progress report covering the first 3 years of the strategy was published in March 2005 and details the considerable progress that has been made in implementing the majority of the actions.</p> <p>A mid-term review of the strategy was published in June 2005. The review found that the current aims and objectives of the Strategy are fundamentally sound and that progress is being made across the pillars, though it varies from action to action. The review did not comment on the overall impact of the strategy, as it considered that this would more appropriately achieved when the strategy is completed.</p> <p>Regular meetings of the Inter-Departmental Group on Drugs help identify key components and possible obstacles in the Strategy. A Critical Implementation Path (CIP) has also been completed which sets out steps which each Department/Agency is taking to ensure that the actions set out for them in the Strategy, are implemented. The Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs complete a report for Government on a 6 monthly basis which monitors the actions taken</p>

¹ Summary assessment of progress (taken from Implementation Criteria used in EU Joint Employment Report, with addition of new 'unknown' category):

“Complete” where the reform process is (practically) complete and the desired results have (practically) been achieved;

“In progress” where the policy reform is well advanced and progress in implementation is being made;

“Limited” where the policy response to the recommendation is only partial and implementation is limited;

“Insufficient” where no substantial policy measures going in the right direction have been taken;

“Unknown” where there is insufficient information/data available to assess what progress has been made.

² Yes/No/Likely/Unlikely/Unknown/Not time bound

	<p>under the strategy.</p> <p>Some examples of the progress made in implementing the strategy, as outlined in the Progress report, include:.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Customs and Excise launched a coastal watch programme in January 2003 and have implemented a number of measures to enhance drugs detection capability at points of entry; • The Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Programme has been a compulsory subject on the curriculum of primary and post primary schools since September 2003; • Considerable progress is also being made as regards increasing the number of methadone treatment places. There are now 7,390 misusers on methadone (end march 2005). This compares with a figure of 5,000 receiving this treatment at the end of 2000; • The Department of Health and Children launched the first phase of a National Awareness Campaign in May 2003. The second phase was rolled out in October 2003 and was aimed at parents. A third phase concentrated on cocaine use and was rolled out in September 2004; • Guidelines for the treatment of under 18 year olds have been finalised by the D/Health & Children. This will set out a flexible and adaptable approach within which services can be delivered to children and adolescents with serious substance misuse problems. It is intended that these guidelines will be rolled out over the next 2 years. • There are approximately 1,120 contracted places for recovering drug misusers on the Special FÁS Community Employment Scheme; • The Irish Prison Service has made considerable progress in relation to appointments as recommended in the Report on Prison-Based Drug Treatment Services, produced in July 2000. A number of measures are also being implemented to curtail the supply of drugs into prisons, including video surveillance, improved visiting/searching facilities, netting over yards and increased vigilance by staff. The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform is considering drug policy proposals drawn up for the Irish Prison Service and intends to publish a settled policy document in the coming months. • In total, the Government has allocated or spent approximately €95 million to implement projects contained in plans of the Local Drugs Task Forces (LDTF) since 1997. An expenditure review of the money spent under this is due to be shortly finalised; • Approximately €12.8 million has been allocated to 60 capital projects under the Premises Initiative, which is designed to meet the accommodation needs of community based drugs projects, the
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	<p>majority of which are in Local Drugs Taskforce areas. 35 of these capital projects have been completed with the remainder due to be completed by the end of this year.; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Garda Síochána and the Customs and Excise Service are achieving considerable success in relation to the drug supply reduction targets set in the National Drugs Strategy. Data on the street value of drug seizures is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardaí seizures: 2000 - €20 million, 2001 - €45 million, 2002 - €49 million, 2003 - €100 million; and • Customs & Excise seizures: 2000 - €1 million, 2001 - €60 million, 2002 - €34 million, 2003 - €21 million.) <p>In addition, approximately €85 million has been allocated to support approximately 450 facility and services projects in LDTF areas and the four other urban centres under the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund. A second round of funding for this initiative was announced in March 2004.</p> <p>All ten Regional Drugs Task Forces, are now up and running and meeting regularly since late 2003. They have mapped out the patterns of drug misuse in their areas as well as services already available with a view to co-ordinating these existing services and addressing gaps in service provision. Six of the ten action plans have been assessed by the National Drugs Strategy Team and they will soon make recommendations in regard to funding</p>
<p>Areas where intended implementation not being achieved</p>	<p>The Mid-term review of the strategy concentrated on making adjustments and highlighting priorities for the remainder of the strategy, with overall impacts to be measured when the strategy is complete.</p> <p>The review found that some adjustments are required in order to re-focus priorities and accelerate the roll-out and implementation of the various key actions. In particular, the review recommends that Rehabilitation become a 5th pillar of the strategy, that 10 of the existing actions be replaced with 8 new ones and that a further 7 actions be amended. The review envisages that the implementation these recommendations will better deliver the aims and objectives of the strategy.</p>
<p>Data sources used to monitor progress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of cocaine use in Ireland (NACD) • Bulletin 1 & 2 of the population survey (NACD) • Capture/recapture report on the prevalence of opiate misuse in Ireland (NACD) • ESPAD (European School Survey Project on alcohol and other drugs) • Central Treatment List
<p>Areas where progress made/proposed</p>	<p>The Mid Term review of the strategy has proposed new Key Performance Indicators in relation to the various pillars which concentrate on available data and refer to the period up until the</p>

to address data or indicator issues	end of the strategy.
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	The development of an impact indicator that tracks the progress of drug misusers (in terms of successful completion of training/retention/progression within/to employment)

OBJECTIVE: To tackle social exclusion in urban areas in a comprehensive and sustained manner by building viable and sustainable communities, improving the lives of people living in disadvantaged urban areas, building social capital and community ownership of strategies and through other relevant policies under the Action Plan.

Commitment	Encouraging and facilitating communities to pursue social and economic progress in their areas
Summary Assessment	In Progress
Will Target be met on time	Not time bound
Indicator (s)	<p>Community Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No. of areas identified for inclusion, and number of projects funded, also broken down by RAPID and CLAR areas - Number of proposals from CDB's accepted for funding – broken down by RAPID and CLAR areas - Others as suggested in OSI/FCPA review of revised NDP Programme Complement <p>RAPID – number of projects etc approved for funding</p>
Progress being made	<p>Local Development Social Inclusion Programme</p> <p>The Local Development and Social Inclusion Programme aims to counter disadvantage and promote equality and social and economic inclusion through the provision of funding and support to Area and Community Partnerships and Territorial Employment Pacts. The Programme is administered by Area Development Management (ADM) Ltd on behalf of the Department.</p> <p>An allocation of €45.7million has being made available for the Programme in 2005, which represents a 6% increase when compared with the outturn for 2004.</p> <p>The Programme is delivered at local level by 38 Area Partnerships, 31 Community Partnerships and 2 Employment Pacts, which are not-for-profit private companies focusing on combating disadvantage and social exclusion in their areas. The Programme which operates across both the Border, Midlands and the West Region (BMW) and Southern and Eastern Region (S&E) focuses on three main action areas or sub-measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services to the Unemployed • Community Development

- Community Based Youth Initiatives

To date over 250,000 people have directly participated in these services. 165,000 of these are young people who have become involved in community youth activities in disadvantaged areas. In addition, over 20,000 adults have been assisted in finding employment, and more than 22,000 have completed certified education and training courses.

Community Development Programme

The Community Development Programme is designed to reduce poverty and social exclusion through targeting support at disadvantaged and socially excluded communities, but operates at a more local scale than the work of Partnerships. Whereas Local Development Groups might cover the population of an entire county or city, Community Development Projects will typically work in a single housing estate, targeting a population of around 3,000 to 5,000.

The CDP Programme is aimed at two core target groups:-

- groups and individuals who live in communities experiencing high levels of unemployment and poverty
- groups and individuals who experience poverty and social exclusion because of unequal treatment.

CDP projects provide facilities such as meeting rooms, crèches, office facilities and training or education projects to meet the needs of disadvantaged groups in their communities. The Programme also acts as a resource for community development work with particular interest groups, e.g. Travellers, lone parents and people with disabilities. Since its establishment in 1990, the Programme has expanded from 9 projects to a network of 180.

In line with the Partnership 2000 commitment to identify 30 priority areas for inclusion in the Community Development Programme, 15 new community development projects were funded with effect from September 2003 and 10 new projects, announced in late 2004, are being funded with effect from April 2005. In selecting projects for funding, priority was given to areas of greatest need, particularly with reference to RAPID and CLÁR areas.

Over €2.3 million has been allocated to the Programme in 2005.

In 2004 over 30,000 people used the services and resources of their local CDP. 15,000 of these participated in CDP based training and education courses. CDPs also provide a resource centre for over 700 local community organisations. These include groups

	<p>representing lone parents, people with disabilities, the elderly, youth groups, childcare groups and virtually any other group working with disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>RAPID The RAPID Programme is a focused Government initiative, which targets the 45 most disadvantaged urban areas in the country.</p> <p>In 2004, the Department introduced a new funding mechanism supported by funding of €4.5 million, to progress small-scale local actions in RAPID areas, through co-funding with other Departments/Local Agencies. Under this funding, RAPID areas benefited through the development of playgrounds, improvement works in local authority housing estates/flat complexes, the allocation of additional top-up funding to successful applicants under the Sports Capital Programme 2004 and the co-funding of a number of initiatives with the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.</p> <p>Funding to co-fund measures in RAPID areas has been significantly increased in 2005, with €7.5 million available this year.</p>
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	
Data sources used to monitor progress	
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	Proposal to undertake a survey of participants in Community Development Programme led education and training courses to look at progression and provide SI baseline data, as per revised NDP programme complement
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	

Target	To ensure that the basic needs of all families, especially young parents, lone parents, older people and ethnic minorities are met through enhanced and better coordinated State support services
Summary Assessment	In Progress
Will Target be	

met on time	Not time bound
Indicator (s)	Review of Community and Local Development Structures - Number of grants issued to CDBs for improved cohesion plans
Progress being made	<p>Review of Community and Local Development Structures</p> <p>A review of these structures has been taking place since the beginning of 2004 with the purpose of improving cohesion between all bodies engaged in social inclusion. Progress to date can be outlined as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arising from the review process the Government established a requirement on Departments and public bodies that they look at existing local or community development bodies and/or local authorities for delivery of any further initiatives in this area. ▪ County/City Development Boards now endorse the plans and programmes of bodies operating within their areas. ▪ €3,248,600 was allocated in 2004 to CDBs and Údarás na Gaeltachta in response to proposals for improved co-ordination and delivery of services. Where allocations were not made discussions have been held with those CDBs with a view to having revised proposals submitted this year. ▪ The provision of €4.022m for 2005 will be granted to CDBs for further proposals in this area and includes a sum of €500,000 which will be devoted specifically for measures relating to volunteering which will be co-ordinated by the CDBs.
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	
Data sources used to monitor progress	
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	

OBJECTIVE: Social exclusion will be tackled in rural areas in a comprehensive and sustained manner by ensuring the provision of an adequate income, through employment and income support, access to adequate services and infrastructure on a timely basis, and coordination of responses and empowerment of local people and communities.

Target	Improve access to employment, health, education and housing services for rural dwellers.
Summary Assessment	In Progress
Will Target be met on time	Not time bound
Indicator (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to create additional jobs through improved productivity and delivery of services, and actual jobs created • improved health services, • improved living conditions
Progress being made	<p>Employment</p> <p>In support of small food production, which has the potential to be a source of employment at local level, the Department is subventing, from the Rural Development Fund, the cost of a co-ordinator, employed by Comhar LEADER na hÉireann, for one year to work with that sector.</p> <p>In 2003, the Western Development Commission approved assistance, in the form of loans or equity, of €5.7m for 27 projects. Those projects approved in 2003 have the potential to create or sustain more than 700 jobs (it is not possible to predict the breakdown of this by gender but processes are being introduced to provide this information in future). It is hoped the maintain this level of activity in both 2004 and 2005</p> <p>Measures operating under the CLÁR Programme with emphasis on:</p> <p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESB single to three phase electricity conversion: <i>105 projects funded /approved for funding 2002 – March 2005. Value : €1.070m</i> • Broadband & Wireless Internet Supply <i>15 projects funded /approved for funding 2004 - March 2005 Value : €0.421m</i> • Funding some town fibre optic networks <i>2 projects funded /approved for funding 2002. Value : €0.129m</i> <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding provided with Department of Health and Children and Health Boards for major and minor health projects <i>111 projects funded /approved for funding 2002 – March 2006. Value : €4.922m</i> <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding provided with D Ed& Science for Primary Schools Outdoor

	<p>Play Facilities Enhancement <i>299 projects funded /approved for funding 2004 – March 2005. Value : €1.003m</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding provided with DOEHLG for Flashing Amber Safety Lights at Schools <i>71 projects funded /approved for funding 2003 – March 2005. Value : €0.292m</i> <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding provided with DOEHLG for improved water supply <i>206 projects funded /approved for funding 2002 – March 2005. Value : €10.812m</i> • Funding provided for improved road access to rural dwellings <i>1,634 projects funded /approved for funding 2002 – 2004. Value : €22.659m</i> <p><i>Further projects to be identified from €5.5m allocation for 2005</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding provided with DOEHLG for improved facilities on Local Authority Housing Estates <i>56 projects funded /approved for funding 2002 – 2004. Value : €0.290m</i> <p><i>Further projects to be identified from €0.6m allocation for 2005/2006</i></p> <p>While many of the measures are co-funded, the financial data refers to CLÁR funding only</p>
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	
Data sources used to monitor progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from Comhar LEADER na hEireann • Reports from Western Development Commission • Data provided through projects proposed and claims for expenditure from D/H&C • Data provided through applications approved and subsequent claims for expenditure from grantees
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	It is not possible to provide data on the number of jobs created under, or a gender desegregated breakdown of the projects approved by the Western development Commission .

OBJECTIVE: To prevent the risks of exclusion – Social Participation

Commitment	Continue to strengthen supports to volunteering and to encourage the self-expression and participation of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion in the formulation and implementation of policies and measures affecting them
Summary Assessment	In progress
Will Target be met on time	Not time bound
Indicator (s)	
Progress being made	<p>The White Paper on a Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity and for Developing the Relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary Sector was published on 13 September 2000. The White Paper is concerned with the nature of the relationship between the Community and the Voluntary sector and the State and with structures and other elements that underpin that relationship. Its aim is to provide a more cohesive framework of support and encouragement for the Community and Voluntary sector. It gives formal recognition to the partnership ethos that informs much of the working relationship between the two sectors, while recognising the differences between them.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made in relation to the White Paper. Below find some of the commitments stated in the White Paper along with an update on to what extent the commitments are being met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Funding Scheme to Support the Role of Federations, Networks and Umbrella bodies to 32 projects are currently being funded totalling €5.48 over three years. • Under the funding Scheme for Training and Supports 20 projects are currently being funded totalling €1.83m over three years. • The Anti- Poverty Networks are being funded to a total of some €5.1 m over the past 4 years. <p>The Government will continue to encourage the independence of the sector - including by promotion of additional, non-governmental sources of funding, e.g. from the business Sector.</p> <p>Update Business in the Community was awarded a grant of €35,000 per year over three years under the Training and Supports grants. A once off grant of €1m was also approved in December 2002 for The Community Foundation for Ireland to increase its endowment fund. One of the main functions of the Community Foundation for Ireland is to build up an endowment fund, through corporate and private donations and bequests, from which, over time, funds will</p>

	<p>be distributed to voluntary and community groups/projects.</p> <p>Assessing the capacity within the sector and within other sectors. A number of ways in which the members of groups and organisations can access the capacity within the sector and within other sectors were suggested in the consultation process, including a 'skills exchange' bureau, an 'Investors in People' programme and mechanisms to facilitate networking and co-ordination of information on training needs and resources in the sector. These will be encouraged by the National Committee on Volunteering and the White Paper Implementation and Advisory Group.</p> <p>The Wheel, which is funded by the Department totalling €87,000 per annum with a further grant in 2004 of €250,000, addresses learning and development issues common across the entire Community and Voluntary sector. The Wheel acts as an advocate for the Community and Voluntary sector and improves capacity building and information sharing in the sector by the provision of networks established to facilitate greater co-operation and co-ordination between key stakeholders in the Community and Voluntary Sector. These networks include Information Officers Network, Chief Officers Network, Fundraising Network and Volunteer Leadership Network.</p>
Areas where intended implementation not being achieved	
Data sources used to monitor progress	
Areas where progress made/proposed to address data or indicator issues	
Data/Indicator Deficiencies	