

## *Comhar Chathair Chorcaí Teo.*

Cork City Partnership Ltd.

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### **Tús on the Way**



Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Minister for Social Protection has announced the arrangements for the Government's new work placement initiative in the community sector. The initiative known as Tús, will provide 5,000 short term working opportunities nationally for people unemployed for over a year. The placements will be with community sector organisations to support the delivery of their services. The Minister said that €30 million is being committed in 2011 to allow for the introduction of Tús and that this would grow to a commitment of €100 million in 2012. Minister Ó Cuív said:

*"This new measure will add to the suite of measures already announced by the Government and Tús will be able to address the twin aims of providing opportunities for those who are unemployed and support for community and voluntary activity."* Administrative and employment obligations will be shared between the Department and Local Development Companies and not by community sector bodies according to the Minister's press statement.

Community organisations will benefit by harnessing the skills of people who are willing to work on the scheme. Tús will provide short-term, quality opportunities for unemployed people to work in community and voluntary bodies providing a broad range of services of benefit to communities. Participants will be paid the full jobseekers rate plus an additional €20 per week. Under 25 year olds will be paid the maximum Jobseekers Allowance plus €20 per week which makes Tús attractive to this group. The employment will be insured for all benefits under the social insurance system. Participants will work for 19 ½ hours per week for a duration of 12 months and there may be some degree of flexibility in terms of the schedule of hours. While responsibility for the operation of Tús rests with the Department of Social Protection, it will be managed at a local level, on the Department's behalf, by the 52 Local Development Companies in Ireland. Community & Voluntary Organisations will be able to register their interest with the Partnership Company. Those who are unemployed for more than 12 months and in receipt of Jobseekers Assistance will be offered the opportunity to consider a placement by the Department of Social Protection. A key feature of Tús will be to provide a new activation route that will support unemployed people in remaining job-ready for re-entry to employment as the economic environment improves. The first placements are expected once implementation arrangements have been agreed with the Local Development Companies.



## Meet the Staff

Catherine Sheehan is a Child Care Development Worker in Cork City Partnership. She has spent nearly all of her working life in this particular area of work. She is widely acknowledged as being highly dedicated and very experienced in childcare principles and practice. Her expertise is very much sought after and this is particularly manifested in her participation in expert groups charged with the ongoing development of childcare policy. She is

Chairperson of Regional and National Groups in this regard. Catherine was responsible for great pioneering childcare work when it had its origins in the community. She worked with Cork Community Development Institute (CCDI) and was one of the driving forces when it launched the first ever community crèches in Cork City. Catherine came to Cork City Partnership in 1999 to develop a new Child-care Programme and was instrumental in developing childcare courses to a very high professional standard. Her mantra has always been that children deserve the best level of care and education available and she has certainly set the bar very high in this regard down through the years. Catherine hails from the Turners Cross area in Cork and given its proximity to the Lough it is not unusual to see her regularly walking the pooch around the Lough in her leisure time. Catherine is also partial to the occasional sun holiday when she likes nothing better than lying by the pool with a good book and a glass of cool Sangria.

## City Partnership Drugs Project

The Community Outreach Drug Awareness Project continues to organise short term preventative courses for groups of parents in the community. This training is also available for minority community groups. If you are interested in availing of such training please contact Mella Magee or Jackie Daly at 021.4302310.

The Drugs Project also supports the Cork Family Support Network. This is a network made up of self-help locally based Family Support Groups. The Network was launched last October in Cork City Hall which drew a large attendance from the Local and National Family Support Network. Family Support groups all around the city provide support for families affected by drug / alcohol misuse. For group meeting times or more information about the Network, please contact Mella or Jackie. Pictured at the launch of the Cork Family Support Network in City Hall were Stephanie Jeffers (Cork FSN) Yvonne Quilligan (Cork City Partnership) Marie O'Connell (Cork FSN) Jackie Daly and Jacqui Sweeney (Cork City Partnership)



## Chinese Community in Cork will celebrate New Year

The Chinese New Year is the second New Moon after the winter solstice. It begins on February 3rd. 2011 is Year 4708 in the Chinese Calendar and is also the Year of the Rabbit. Chinese New Year is celebrated in countries with significant Chinese populations and in Chinatowns everywhere in the world. Chinese New Year is a major holiday for the large Chinese community in Cork who were the first of the Asian community to settle here. Many of them went on to become very success business people particularly in the Catering trade. We wish them all a happy Chinese New Year.

## The Social Cohesion Approach



The Local Community Development Programme (LCDP) has been developed by Government as a key strategic response to reducing the poverty and social exclusion faced by individuals and communities in Ireland. It is one of a range of measures implemented to target those who are at greatest risk of social exclusion and to meet Ireland's commitment to reduce the number of those experiencing consistent poverty. The new programme has four goals and aims. 1. Promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services; 2. Increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural development activities and resources; 3. Increase peoples' work readiness and employment prospects; and 4. Promote active engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities. Minister Pat Carey (pictured) said the combined Partnership company Local Development Programme and the Community Development Programme (CDP)



bring together upwards of twenty years experience of working with those who are at greatest risk of social exclusion. The LCDP builds upon the wealth of knowledge of expertise developed within these predecessor programmes and utilises new evidenced-based approaches in the design and implementation of the new programme. A document developed by Pobal on behalf of the Department is now providing clear guidance on how the National Programme will be implemented locally.

## Community Development Training

Respond and CAN are together offering a 2 day workshop on Community Development to be delivered on the 30th and 31st March 2011 in Respond, High Park Campus, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. This course will be of particular interest to people working or volunteering in Community Development, Housing, Regeneration and Community Education.



The purpose of the course is:

- To learn more about, become familiar with, and explore the thinking and principles of Community Development.
- To understand the tools of social analysis and to reflect on how to apply them within your practise.
- To experience exercises and processes you might use in your work and in the community.
- To enhance and strengthen your skills in working within local communities.

Course costs €200 to include lunch, tea/coffee, materials.

Please contact [caroline.nolan@respond.ie](mailto:caroline.nolan@respond.ie)

Phone: 0818 357 901 for enquiries and booking forms.

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*"If you want to leave your footprint in the sands of time .....you won't do it sitting down"*

## Meet a Director of Cork City Partnership

Margaret Kenneally is a Community Director on the board of Cork City Partnership. She hails from the historic Shandon / North Cathedral area of Cork and is proud to declare herself as being 100% "Norrie". Margaret first became involved with Partnership when North Lee Development was established in 1991. She was part of the initial community consultation group for the Cork Urban Project and credits her colleague Noel Joy R.I.P. as being the main driving force for the projects duration. Over the years she has immersed herself completely in voluntary community work while at the same time continuing her career as a staff nurse caring for older people. Multitasking is certainly a word to be associated with Margaret Kenneally as she works full time on nursing shifts while also caring for her family.



Between family time and work time she manages to find still more time to be Chairperson of the Community Development Sub Committee, Vice Chairperson of the Cork Local Drugs Task Force, Chairperson of Cathedral Family Centre and Chairperson of the Young Peoples Facilities and Services. When she does manage to squeeze a bit of quality time for herself, Margaret likes the Cork Music / Pub scene and is known to start a "sing song" at the drop of a hat. She rates her friends very highly and would not miss a "girlie night out" for anything. Her most recent significant achievement she says is becoming a grandmother to a little boy called Darragh and despite a hectic work schedule she still finds a few hours to occasionally babysit her grandchild. Recently, Margaret decided to get out in the fresh air more often and now also goes power walking.....when she finds time !!!!

## Partnership provides Diversity / Equality Training

Cork City Partnership initiated the Cork Early Years Anti-Bias Network and it has been operating in Cork since 2000. The project is facilitated and supported by Cork City Partnership on an ongoing basis. Funding for specialised training was provided by Cork City Partnership for participants to enrol on the Diversity and Equality in Childcare Programme. This is a FETAC Level 5 Training Module which was delivered by M/s Marian Quinn (Equality and Diversity Trainer). 18 people participated in the year long duration course. A cluster group was subsequently formed in September 2010 and they will continue to meet monthly over the next year. The group participants will then be invited to become full members of the Cork Early Years Anti-Bias Network and will then begin to disseminate their learning to other childcare workers throughout the city. As a result of this cascading type training, positive changes have already occurred which have helped the participants themselves and the quality of service provided. The children and families attending the services are also the significant beneficiaries of the project.



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