

CORK CITY LEARNING FORUM

Report Of Plenary Meeting, 5 May 2005



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Proceedings

Welcome and Opening Remarks: **Mr. Richard Langford,**
CEO City of Cork VEC.

Report on 2004 Learning Forum activities & priorities for 2005:

Elmarie McCarthy, Community & Enterprise Dept., Cork City Council

A report on the activities of the forum was made available at registration. To begin the session, Elmarie McCarthy reviewed the contents of the report for forum members.

The report outlines the level of work engaged in by the forum in this second year of the forum's existence, showing that the Forum has served to spread awareness of the work of the forum and its member organisations. Two plenary sessions were held in the year, and key operational structures were consolidated, namely the Forum Steering Group and three working groups: Lifelong Learning, Economic and Access and Participation. The activities report details membership and activities of the committees and groups, but some main points were outlined.

One achievement of the Steering Group, in liaison with the City Development Board, was the securing of funding from the Dept. of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for funding a full time development worker to progress the actions of the Forum. Marcela Whelan has been appointed, and was introduced. She will be contacting forum members in due course. The Steering Group also selects topics for discussion and workshops at plenary sessions.

The key tasks undertaken by the Lifelong Learning Working Group was the 2004 Lifelong Learning Festival. February, March and April were very busy for this group, and after the festival in May, recommendations were made for the 2005 festival planning process.

The Economic Working Group also had a busy year, wrapping up information gathered at the conference held in late 2003 and, following recommendations received, organising the Science Exhibition in 2005.

Due to other pressures, the Access and Participation working group has still to refine the research finished in 2004, and review additional data, (e.g. recent OECD report). The newly appointed development worker will be assisting in the completion and progression of this research.

Following this impressive level of activity, the plan for 2005 was outlined:

Follow-ups to be completed on Learning Festival and Science exhibition,
Access and Participation survey to be completed,

Linking with the 'Integrated Target Group Plan for Children 0-5 in Disadvantaged Urban Areas' developed by the City Development Board,
Contribute to the Cork City Development Board 10 year strategy review and 3 year plan currently under development,

Ms. McCarthy finished by mentioning that one of the first tasks for the new development worker will be to make contact with Forum members with a view to revitalising membership.

Mr. Langford concluded by thanking all those who had given of their time to attend meetings and organise events. Overall there were 27 meetings of forum members across the various groups involved, resulting in substantial outputs in the shape of the Learning Festival and the Science Exhibition. He pointed out that these events, while fragile at the moment, should hopefully become self-sustaining in the future, and that feedback is an important part of their development.

Reports From Working Groups:

Lifelong Learning Festival – report on 2005 festival

Elmarie McCarthy obo Tina Neylon, Festival Co-ordinator.

Ms. McCarthy began by passing on Ms. Neylon's apologies. The Lifelong Learning Festival took place over four days this year, in April rather than May as was in 2004. This change was decided upon as the feedback last year suggested that First Holy Communion celebrations clashed somewhat with the later date. The co-ordinator also started work earlier, part time from six months before the festival, moving to full time three months before. The considerably larger brochure showed the expansion in diversity and number of events that had occurred between the first and second festival. The first festival proved such a success that all previous groups were interested in being involved again.

There was some collaboration with the 2005 celebrations, e.g. the barrel top wagon funded by the 2005 organisation was part of three Learning Festival events. Additionally, the Festival was chosen for the launch of a national DVD by the Higher Education Authority, which held a public debate on issues raised.

Ms. McCarthy credited the funding agencies, VEC, FETAC, Cork City Council and others, and also the considerable support the Festival received from the Evening Echo, both in terms of funding and publicity. Credit Unions were mentioned as a source of funding in future, but this year their 2005 commitments precluded them from contributing as much as might have been hoped.

Ms. McCarthy concluded by thanking the organisers and volunteers.

Discovery 2005 – report on Science & Technology Exhibition

Liam Hogan, Chair, Economic Working Group

Mr. Hogan informed the forum that 20,000 people are employed in the pharmaceutical, IT and other science-based industries in Cork.

Galway was cited as a city that has had a science exhibition for seven years, with a current budget of €130,000. The Cork exhibition had a budget of €50,000, half of which came from Discover Science and Engineering, and was matched with local support from UCC, CIT, Cork City Council, Cork Electronics Industry Assoc., Cork City Enterprise Board and FAS.

The exhibition was a huge success, attracting 4,500 children in the week. The event was hugely oversubscribed. As it was targeted at children in higher primary and lower secondary classes the focus was on activities and workshops, which were enormously popular and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The next priority for the working group is to find a permanent home for the exhibition.

Keynote Presentations:

Update on Information & Communication Technology Action Plan

Patrick Ledwidge, Director of Services –
Community & Enterprise Dept., Cork City Council

Mr. Ledwidge described how the Community and Enterprise section of the City Council had been working since October 2004 on bridging the 'Digital Divide'. He described this as the gap between those who have communications technology available to them and are able to use it, and those who have not the resources and/or skills to access computers, the internet, etc. The slogan 'Connect Cork' had been developed for this initiative.

Key agencies had been invited to discussion sessions, and five events have taken place to encourage participation by small and medium enterprises. A range of activities was described including a process of negotiation between stakeholders, including IT tutors.

Integrated Action Plan for Children Aged 0-5 in Disadvantaged Areas

Michael O'Brien, Community & Enterprise Dept., Cork City Council

In 2004 the Dept of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht (CRAGA) affairs requested that each City and County Development Board prepare an integrated target group plan which would focus on one of the 33 groups identified in the National Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Cork CDB decided to focus on Children Aged 0-5 in Disadvantaged Areas. The age range for focus has become flexible to include children up to six, as some initiatives use 0-6 to define their work.

Service Providers were requested to outline their current range of services and to identify gaps in provision. A planning day was held for these providers, in order to formulate detailed actions, and set objectives. Based on the outcome of this exercise a working group was established to further refine the plan. The plan was forwarded to CRAGA at the end 2004 and a reply is awaited.

Some of the key areas which the plan will seek to influence include;

- The transition from pre-school to primary school
- The integration of children with specific needs into mainstream services
- Quality standards in childcare
- Play
- Supports for parent and families

Each action has a lead agency involved, and will be the subject of ongoing review. The plan is six months into a three-year timescale.

A full copy of the plan can be obtained by contacting Michael O'Brien at 021 – 4924076 or e-mail michael_tobrien@corkcity.ie

Workshop:

Integrated Action Plan for Children Aged 0-5 in Disadvantaged Areas

Facilitated by: Michael O'Brien, Community & Enterprise Dept., Cork City Council
and Paul McGuirk, RAPID Co-ordinator

The purpose of this workshop was to explore the plan and its actions in more depth. Mr. O'Brien began by circulating a summary of actions proposed and the lead agencies involved. Information on the vision and objectives included in the plan was also supplied. The approach taken in this project may be used as a template for future target group plans.

It was suggested that the steering group consider involving a representative from the UCC degree programme in Early Childhood Studies.

Work on implementing the strategy has begun. However there are some actions that it will not be possible to implement unless resources are made available.

It was pointed out that if integration is the purpose, the first task is to ensure no duplication of services exists. The inclusion of representatives from agencies and groups involved in providing services to the target group ensures cohesion.

The need to formalise the sector was discussed, as although the OECD report highlights areas of importance, there is no plan for an international strategy. It was agreed that there is also a need to develop policy in certain areas: there is no national strategy for childcare. Strategy is important, but it must be remembered to keep the child at the centre. A practical focus must be maintained.

The example of Scandinavian countries was cited, as was the successful early learning initiative in Greenmount, which was described in detail by Joan Roberts. This project used outdoor learning to support the transition from preschool to junior infants.

The regulation of childcare was mentioned, as was staff training, particularly the issues around CE workers. It was agreed that FÁS should be approached on the issue of enabling Community Employment participants involved in childcare training to continue their training beyond a 12 month period in order to get professional qualifications.

Parental involvement was stressed, so the inclusion of parent representative organisations was seen to be vital to any initiative.

The issue of readiness for school was also discussed (particularly in light of the tightness of the 8 year primary cycle and difficulties in allowing children to repeat a year). It was agreed that is a key area for the forum to focus on.

Closing comments:

Elmarie McCarthy thanked members for their participation, and reiterated the invitation for new members to join the forum and it's groups.

Appendices:

1. List of Delegates Attending
2. Report on 2004 Learning Forum activities
3. Presentation on 2005 Lifelong Learning Festival
4. Presentation on Discovery 2005 – Science & Technology Exhibition
5. Presentation on Update on Information & Communication Technology Action Plan
6. Presentation on Integrated Action Plan for Children Aged 0-5 in Disadvantaged Areas
7. Workshop Handout

Appendix 1: List of Delegates Attending*

Name		Company
John	Young	Churchfield/Gurranabraher Education Network
Dick	Langford	City of Cork VEC
Bob	Burns	Community Forum
Gerry	Dunne	Cork Adult Education Council
Catherine	Sheehan	Cork City Childcare Committee
Pat	Ledwidge	Cork City Council
Elmarie	McCarthy	Cork City Council
Michael	O'Brien	Cork City Council
Joan	Roberts	Cork City Partnership
Hannah	Weste-Fitzpatrick	Cork County Education Forum
Brenda	Cooper	Cork Electronics Industry Association
Malachy	McElroy	Cork Electronics Industry Association
Tom	Rigney	Cork Institute of Technology
Liam	McDonnell	Cork Institute of Technology
Gemma	Cadogan	Cork Local Youth Voluntary Committee
John	Corcoran	Dept of Education & Science – Regional Office
Caroline	Rinn	Dept of Education & Science –Regional Office
Geraldine	O'Shea	Dept of Social & Family Affairs
Edward	Meade	Failte Ireland
Eileen	Geaney	Farranree Education Network
Ben	Flahive	Garda Siochana
Ann	Dullea	Home School Liaison Cluster
Michael	Moynihan	Home School Liaison Cluster – Northside
Maeve	Griffin	HSCL
Donal	O'Sullivan	IPPN
Fiodhna	Ní Bhaoill	IPPN
Liam	Hogan	Irish Institute of Training & Development – Cork Chapter
Paddy	Ford	Knocknaheeny Education Network
Claire	Lovett	Knocknaheeny Education Network
Marcela	Whelan	Learning Forum
Liz	Buttimer	Mayfield CALP
Jennifer	Lynch	National Adult Literacy Agency
Margaret	Murray	National Adult Literacy Agency
Willie	McAuliffe	National Assoc. of Principals & Deputy Principals
Margaret	Wallace	National Learning Network
Paul	McGurk	RAPID
Con	Lehane	Retired Peoples Network
Carole	Goulding	Shandon/Cathedral/Blackpool Education Network
Vivienne	Fitzgerald-Smith	St Angela's College
Helen	Ryan	Terence McSwiney College
Bernard	Twomey	The Glen Education Network
Anne	Mills	University College Cork

* Apologies to anyone omitted from this list. Please notify Marcela Whelan to amend records.

Appendix 2: Report on 2004 Learning Forum Activities

CORK CITY LEARNING FORUM

REPORT ON 2004 ACTIVITIES



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1. **BACKGROUND**

Established in January 2003 under the auspices of the Cork City Development Board (CDB), the Cork City Learning Forum brings together all those involved in education and training in Cork City, from early childhood learning to higher education, community education to work-based learning initiatives. It directly addresses Theme 7 of the CDB's Strategy – ie "Cork as a City of Learning". Learning is a key strategic theme within the strategy (entitled "Imagine our Future"), which sees Cork as a place where:

"access to learning is available to all levels and ages, where there is a provision to address the diversity of learning needs within the City, where there is an ethos of quality underpinning the provision of continuous learning opportunities for all, where the City will become recognised as a centre of learning nationally and internationally, and where information and knowledge are available to act as catalysts for creativity and learning" (Cork City Development Board, 2001).

The Learning Forum is a key mechanism in achieving this vision. By bringing together all the stakeholders – policy makers, education providers and learners – it facilitates an integrated and citywide view of issues affecting learning in the city.

In particular the aim of the Forum is to:

- facilitate better communication and networking between the diverse interests involved
- provide a mechanism for the collection and analysis of relevant data at local level
- assist in strategy and project development
- enable learners to map progression routes and plan learning pathways through the development of a Cork city learning framework.

2004 was the Forum's second year of existence and saw it consolidate its operational structures - with the creation of a new Forum Steering Group, two well attended plenary meetings and ongoing working group activities. Other key achievements (described below) include the first Cork Lifelong Learning Festival, securing funding for a major interactive science and technology exhibition and a study on mature students participation in further and higher education.

2. LEARNING FORUM – STEERING COMMITTEE

January 2004 saw the first meeting of the new Forum Steering Committee, to guide and oversee the work of the Forum. As laid down in the Forum constitution, the Steering Committee is broadly representative of all the sectors involved in the Forum with members drawn from a number of constituencies. The Chair of the Steering Committee is Richard Langford, City of Cork VEC.

The Steering Committee met on 5 occasions during 2004. Its focus in 2004 was on overseeing and progressing the activities of the working groups, selecting discussion topics for each plenary meeting and liaising with the City Development Board.

Funding Secured for Full Time Forum Worker

The application by the Cork City Development Board to the Dept of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for funding for a Learning Forum Development Worker, in the context of improved local cohesion, was successful. The allocation of additional resources will enable the Forum to employ a Development Worker for a 12 month period. This application was approved in late 2004, and the development worker will be recruited in 2005.

Steering Committee Members

Liz Buttimer	Community education networks – providers (Mayfield network)
Martina Cusack	Community education networks – learners (Mayfield network)
Mary Corkery	Community education networks – learners (Ballyphehane/Togher network)
Constance Fitzgerald	Community education networks – providers (Ballyphehane/Togher network)
Tim Glavin	Department of Education & Science
Liam Hogan	Chair – Economic working group)
Prof Aine Hyland	Higher Education (UCC)
Richard Langford	City of Cork VEC (and Forum Chair)
Jerry Linehan	Training Institutes (FÁS)
Tom McCarthy	Employers (Port of Cork)

3. PLENARY MEETINGS IN 2004

The Forum held two plenary meetings in 2004 – on March 30 and October 12. Plenary meetings provide an opportunity for all Forum members, who are nominated by representative bodies and networks, and from relevant service providers, to meet. Each meeting included a report back on activities from the three Forum Working Groups, updating members on what was planned, and inviting other interested parties

to join the groups. In addition each meeting includes a number of keynote presentations, and workshop discussions.

During 2004 plenary meetings featured presentations and workshop discussions on:

“Recent Developments in Access to Higher Education” -

Presentation by Dr Mary Liz Trant, Head of the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education, Higher Education Authority

“The National Qualifications Framework – Facilitating Access, Transfer and Progression” -Presentation by Edwin Mernagh, Development Officer, National Qualifications Authority of Ireland

“Community Education – a Vision for Cork”

Presentation by Liz Buttimer, Mary Kelly & Martina Cusack, Mayfield Community Adult Learning Project

“Information & Communication Technology (ICT) For All” -

Presentation by Patrick Ledwidge, Director of Service – Community & Enterprise, Cork City Council

Workshops discussions provided an opportunity for members to input to the plan.

All members participate in a representative capacity and are requested to report back on the activities of the Forum to their nominating network/association/organisation. To facilitate this process a report on each plenary meeting was circulated to all Forum members.

4. LIFELONG LEARNING WORKING GROUP

Number of meetings in 2004: Ten

Key Activities Lifelong Learning Festival.

The first half of the year was focused on planning for Cork’s first Lifelong Learning Festival, which took place on 7- 8 May 2004. The aim of the festival was to promote and celebrate learning in all its forms, and to raise awareness of the wide range of learning opportunities available for all age groups in Cork city. In particular it sought to target people who may not normally participate in learning, and help bring learning out into the open with many free and accessible events in city centre and local venues.

Initially the working group focussed on securing funding for a festival worker. This funding was confirmed by the City of Cork VEC in January 2004, after which meetings were held with a number of potential event organisers (particularly community education networks) to promote the concept of the festival and encourage people to think about whether and how they might participate. The position was advertised in February 2004 and the Development worker (Tina Neylon) started work on a full time basis in March.

Additional funding to support other festival costs was secured from Cork City Council, UCC, CIT and Ballyphehane Credit Union. Despite the tight timeframe the response to the festival was impressive, and the concept was greeted with enthusiasm by a variety of learning providers and networks. This was reflected in the festival programme, which included 65 events covering a variety of disciplines and locations. There was a great response to the festival, which also generated substantial coverage in the print media.

Lessons for future festivals.

Following interviews with those involved, including individual event organisers, the Working Group concluded that the festival was worthwhile, and should be repeated. In its report to the Steering Committee the group made a number of recommendations about future festivals, including:

- Festival Development worker should start work earlier on a part time basis
- Need for a longer lead in time, with early agreement on festival timing
- Financial support needed for community education network participation
- Festival should be extended to 4 days and take place in April.

Its recommendations were endorsed by the Steering Committee, and in particular the VEC undertook to make increased funding available for the worker position. The group reconvened in autumn 2004 and started work on the 2005 festival, which would take place on 7 – 10 April 2005. Early on the group concentrated on identifying sources of funding to support an increased publicity and print budget for 2005, and a number of applications for funding were developed.

Lifelong Learning Working Group Members:

Denis Barrett	City of Cork VEC
Evelyn Grant	Cork School of Music
Patricia Harrington	Irish Primary Principals Network (School of the Divine Child)
Eamon Kirwan	Cork City Council & community education network
Ciaran Lynch	Ables Literacy Scheme (Co-Chair)
Willie McAuliffe	National Association of Principals and Deputies Colaiste Stiofain Naofa) Co-Chair
Elmarie McCarthy	Cork City Council/Development Board
Rosalie Moloney	Joint Managerial Body (St Angela's College)
Tina Neylon	Festival Development Worker

6. PARTICIPATION WORKING GROUP

Number of meetings in 2004: One

Key Activities: Finalise survey on mature students.

This working group held just one meeting in 2004 to finalise its survey on mature students in further and higher education in Cork. The survey sought to establish baseline information on:

- The level of participation of mature students
- How they apply for places and what alternative entry routes exist
- What links exist between further and higher education
- What policies exist towards the recruitment of mature students and how do institutions seek to promote participation among mature students
- What fees are payable and what financial supports exist

The survey also made suggestions as to how participation rates could be improved. Further work on updating, refining and advancing the issues raised in this report will be undertaken in 2005 following recruitment of the Forum Development Worker.

Working Group Members:

Marese Bermingham	Cork Institute of Technology
Sandra Brett	Traveller Adult Literacy Scheme
Walter Fleming	TUI
Mary Kelly	Mayfield Community Adult Learning Project
Elmarie McCarthy	Cork City Council/Development Board
Geraldine O'Shea	Dept of Social and Family Affairs
Carmel Quinlan	University College Cork City Council
Tom Rigney	Cork Institute of Technology
Mary Scriven	Colaiste Stiofain Naofa

Appendix 3: Presentation on 2005 Lifelong Learning Festival

2005 Lifelong Learning Festival

Thursday 7 – Sunday 10 April

Building on 2004 Lessons Learned

- Longer lead in
- Duration
- Timing
- Festival organiser to start earlier
- Increase resources
- More focus on marketing and promotion
- Increase spread and diversity of events

Longer Lead In

- Working Group reconvened in Oct 2004
- 2005 festival dates agreed in Oct
- Worker started part time in Oct – initial focus on meeting community education networks & other potential event organisers

Resources


- VEC paid salary cost for Festival Organiser
- Numerous sponsorship applications - other key sponsors include FETAC and Cork City Council
- Other financial support from Evening Echo and Ballyphehane Credit Union
- Huge voluntary contribution – hours, facilities, materials from organisers

2005 Festival Programme

- More than 140 individual events
- More groups involved
- Greater geographical spread
- Developed categories underrepresented in 2004 (eg sports)
- New element – forums where general public can debate educational issues
- National event – HEA DVD launch

2005 Festival Programme

- Higher education
- Further education
- 9 Community education networks
- Schools
- Training institutes
- Sports & physical activities
- Arts & heritage
- Languages & others
- Celebration Concert



Marketing & Promotion

- 20,000 16 page A5 programmes
- 1,000 A3 colour posters & 100 dayglo posters
- 50 Signs from FAS signwriting course students
- Stands in shopping centres weekend before festival
- Information kiosk on St Patrick St
- Evening Echo media sponsor
- Examiner office window
- Marketing by individual event organisers



Working Group Members

- Denis Barrett – City of Cork VEC
- Evelyn Grant – Cork School of Music
- Patricia Harrington – IPPN
- Eamonn Kirwan – Cork City Council
- Ciaran Lynch – ABLES & Community education networks
- Willie McAuliffe – NAPD (Colaiste Stiofain Naofa)
- Rosalie Moloney – JMB (St Angela's College)
- Elmarie McCarthy – CDB
- Tina Neylon – Festival Organiser

Appendix 4: Presentation on Discovery 2005 – Science & Technology Exhibition

DISCOVERY 2005

Interactive Science &
Technology Exhibition
7 – 9 March 2005

Objectives

- ◆ Provide a stimulating environment in which children can discover science, engineering and technology
- ◆ Build public awareness in Cork of the importance of science, engineering and technology to the economy

Objectives Cont'd

- ◆ Stimulate increased interest in science, engineering & technology amongst 1st & 2nd level students, and their parents
- ◆ Present science, technology and engineering as bona fide cultural activities

Content

- ◆ 25 interactive exhibits – Techniquet, Wales
- ◆ CIT
- ◆ UCC Science Faculty
- ◆ Tyndell Institute
- ◆ Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre
- ◆ The Ark – Leonardo Marriage of Art & Science

Content cont'd

- ◆ Madlab workshops
- ◆ Drawbots workshops
- ◆ Cork 2005 Young Scientist entires
- ◆ Environmental Protection Agency
- ◆ Lego Mindstorm Robots
- ◆ Science Foundation Ireland
- ◆ DCU Science bus
- + others

Participation

- ◆ Target audience – primary & post primary
- ◆ City and county schools
- ◆ HUGE RESPONSE!
- ◆ Launch by Minister Batt O'Keefe
- ◆ Over 4,500 children attended over 3 days
- ◆ Feedback to date overwhelmingly positive

Resources

- ◆ Grant of approx €25,000 from Discover Science & Engineering
- ◆ Matched locally with support from:
 - CIT
 - UCC
 - Cork City Council
 - Cork Electronics Industry Association
 - Cork City Enterprise Board
 - FAS

Next Steps

- ◆ Project Co-ordinator finalising report on event
- ◆ Feedback questionnaires sent to all participating schools
- ◆ Working group to agree final report and recommendations

Working Group Members

- ◆ Brenda Cooper – Cork Electronics Industry
- ◆ Anne Cronin & Paul Giller – UCC
- ◆ Chris Dorgan – Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Liam Hogan - IITD
- ◆ Liam McDonnell – CIT
- ◆ Dearbhail McCarthy – IBEC
- ◆ Elmarie McCarthy – CDB
- ◆ Fiodhna Ni Bhaoill - IPPN
- ◆ Geraldine White - FAS

Appendix 5:

Presentation on: Update on Information & Communication
Technology Action Plan



Information Communications Technology (ICT) Plan

Theme - "Connect Cork"

Events:

Plan Launch	June 20th 2005
Technology and Business	September 2005
Back to Study	September 2005
Wireless Communications	October 2005
Christmas Consumers	December 2005



ICT Plan

Activities:

- Connect Cork Website and logo
- Promote online services
- PC "Paula's" Online progress
- iPlus Terminals
- Children's Internet Treasure Hunt
- Internet Demonstrations
- Plasma Screens



ICT Plan

Sponsor ICT equipment to Internet
Cafes

Appendix 6: Presentation on: Integrated Action Plan for Children Aged 0-5 in Disadvantaged Areas

Background

- Circular Letter LG 04/04

“each CDB should now take preliminary steps to prepare an Integrated Target Group Action Plan for one priority target group identified under the National Anti Poverty Strategy”

- Improved Local Cohesion

TARGET GROUP

- The City Monitoring Group decided to recommend “Children 0-5 in disadvantaged urban areas” as the priority Target Group
- Intervention at an early stage a powerful instrument in breaking the cycle of poverty and social exclusion

POLICY CONTEXT

- National Development Plan
- “On Target” Centre for Early Childhood and Education
- National Children’s Strategy
- Annual Competitiveness Report
- OECD

STRUCTURE

- Background
- Priority Needs
- Objectives
- Measurement

PROCESS

1. Identify Current Range of Services and Gaps

- Childcare
- Health
- Education/Information
- Family Support

PROCESS Contd.

2. Planning Day
3. Framework Plan
 - Vision
 - Objectives
4. Working Group to Refine Plan
5. Plan Approved by CDB on November 10th 2004.

Objectives /Actions

Objective 1 Quality Standards

- Quality Provision in early Years
- Developing Quality Provision for Children Under 3

Objective 2 Children with Specific Needs

- Early Intervention Pilot Programme

Objective 3 Family Support Services

- Excellent Voluntary Management
- Parenting Courses

Objective 4 Education

- Mahon Initiative
- Play

NEXT STEPS

- Plan sent to Dept. C.R.A.G.A for Consideration
- Series of Meetings with Lead Agencies
- Begin Implementation of Some Actions
- Ongoing Review