



Session 1.3 The Irish case – the contribution of local partnerships to policy in Ireland
Session 2.4 Study visit to the Ballymun partnership in Dublin (boroughs 9 and 11)

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The contribution will revolve around the following themes:

- Ballymun is one of the largest Urban Regeneration Projects in Europe
- If the sole result of the Regeneration process was to be ***the same people with the same problems in better housing*** the Regeneration process would have failed in achieving fundamental social regeneration objectives
- Poverty, very poor health outcomes, high unemployment, low literacy levels, poor educational attainment and low skilled/low pay vulnerable employment characterise Ballymun
- Second chance education and after the fact employability interventions alone do not address the recurring intergenerational cycle of poverty
- For these reasons a new approach that seeks to “turn off the tap” at the source was identified
- Early intervention and prevention, childhood development, readiness for school, family support and prenatal services, literacy, behaviour, and mental well being interventions were identified as being needed
- The Partnership joined with Government Health and Education Departments, the Local Authority, Local Development agencies and academia in developing a response that recognised that not one agency or department alone could respond to the needs of local children and their families
- A Ten Year Strategy was developed over a three year period to pilot a new approach to integrated services that addresses the multi-systemic nature of disadvantage through the delivery of six new services using a life cycle approach
- This approach involved an evidence based, out come focused, planning process rooted in proven services, which where possible have already been evaluated over more than ten years. It was facilitated by Prof Michael Little from the Dartington Institute in the UK
- Rigorous new research data on the Mental Health of 187 families by Dr Kieran McKeon and Trutz Haase was commissioned
- Research over multiple domains into the well being of a quarter of all 4, 11 and 16 year olds and their parents and teachers in Ballymun was conducted by the CSER
- A five year funding proposal was developed



- An 18 month public affairs strategy was conducted to build support among Government Policy Officers, Secretary Generals and Ministers as well as opposition politicians operating at a local and national level
- Funding of €15m for the first 5years was secured this year from the Office of the Minister for Children and the Atlantic Philanthropies, €2m of which will be spent on rigorous evaluation
- Capturing the learning to promote implementation Nationally and Internationally is a condition of the funding and International Expert Evaluation Panel and National Learning Forum has been established
- A subsidiary of the Partnership has been established and a new Chair and CEO recruited to deliver the new programme
- Board members have been recruited that include the most senior local managers of the Departments of Health and Education and the local Authority among other community Directors
- Focus on the role the Partnership played in facilitating this process:
 - In supporting the policy development process locally and with Government
 - In building a local constituency for change among parents, children, school teachers and principals and childcare providers
 - Feeding into the logic model service design process
 - Building capacity to engage in the process through the development of the School Principals Network, the Childcare Providers Network, the Parents Network, the Education, Childcare Working Groups, the anti poverty Network etc.

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