



Cork Equal & Sustainable Communities Alliance

Bringing Communities Together in Cork

CESCA

Area Profile - Cork City

May 2015



Cesca Area Profile - Cork City

Introduction

Cork City is the second largest city in the Republic of Ireland with a population of 119,230 and the third largest urban setting on the island of Ireland (Census, 2011). The city is built on the River Lee which divides into two channels at the western end of the city with the city centre located on the island created by these channels. The growth and development of Cork has been significantly influenced by its status as a port city on Europe's largest natural harbours, and conversely its decline into deprivation in the 1980s was also linked to its status as a port city. The demise of traditional "heavy" manufacturing industries and their export through the Port of Cork in the 1980s led to deep economic recession and unemployment. It was one of the major reasons for Cork's inclusion in the then government's national local development plan: the pilot Area based Partnership Scheme in 1992.

The River Lee divides the city geographically but also acts as a socio-economic marker; the overwhelming concentration of disadvantage is north of the river, with communities of disadvantage occurring in the South East & South West of the city also. Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment & Development (RAPID) - initiated in 2001- was a focussed programme to target government expenditure and to integrate services in the most concentrated areas of urban disadvantage. Three of the four Cork RAPID areas are in Northside communities:

- 1) Fairhill / Gurranaברה / Farranree;
 - 2) Knocknaheeny / Hollyhill / Churchfield;
 - 3) Blackpool / The Glen / Mayfield;
- with a Southside RAPID spanning from the South West to South East:
- 4) Togher / Ballyphehane / Mahon.

Recession has impacted negatively across the country and the "strong improvements throughout the 1991 to 2006 period" are likely to have been undone (Haase Pratschke, Deprivation Index 2011 Census). With deepened levels of deprivation in the city, a number of communities (primarily in the South West or Centre) have been designated disadvantaged for the first time. The impact of recession is reflected in a dispersed and nuanced map of deprivation in the city, as new communities have been ranked disadvantaged for the first time, and pockets of severe disadvantage exist or have emerged in the small area population statistics of socially mixed communities but are masked in overall ED rankings.

The economic crisis has had a threefold impact on disadvantaged communities, individuals and families

- I) a doubling of unemployment and consequent dependence on social welfare payments and an accompanying and serious reduction of state welfare remittances
- II) a reduction in public services to those in disadvantaged communities, families and individuals most dependant on such services.
- III) a reduction in community services which have provided safety net supports, advocacy and low cost services to communities, families and individuals most affected by austerity.

Brian Harvey, social researcher, has detailed the radical disengagement of the state from community development from 2008 to 2014 (*Scoping of need in Social Justice Sphere, p11, 2014 Research report commissioned by Philanthropy Ireland*) and a scaling up via processes of "Endorsement, Integration, Cohesion and Alignment", (Harvey, B *Community Participation in South Dublin* : the experience of the South Dublin Community Platform –

paper presented to National Seminar Implementing the Public participation network November 24th 2014, p7.)

Many of the same issues have arisen for the community and voluntary sector in the UK: as seen in the electronic source civilsociety.co.uk/governance and its recent publication *Making Good: the future of the voluntary sector*, where Caroline Slocock argues in her introduction that the future of the sector lies in the following direction:

- strong leadership around an ambitious agenda for change in society
- Collaborating within and beyond the sector to make change happen for the common good
- Promoting the distinctive social value and social capital generated through people coming together in voluntary and community activity
- Celebrating the ability of activities located *within* communities to generate this value – with ‘local first’ as a new default switch, rather than ‘big is best’

Cork Equal and Sustainable Communities Alliance, (CESCA) emerged in response to the need to provide a sustainable, effective, and holistic mechanism to tackle social exclusion and poverty in Cork city.

The Area Profile of Cork tells “a tale of two cities”: one is a confident, cultured, diverse city, well-educated and employed mainly in the public and civil service and in high end, high tech firms with global recognition and reach. This city felt the impact of the recession but had economic reserves to withstand the worst of its impact. The other city has a population dependant on diminished public and civil services, who left school early, is unemployed or under-employed and confined by a longstanding geography of poverty. This second city had strong reserves of community and social capital. It is this resilience which has enabled it to endure recession.

In the context of massive and disproportionate reductions of funding to community interventions (Harvey, B. *Scoping of need in Social Justice Sphere*, Table 2.1 p 11 - 2014 Research report commissioned by Philanthropy Ireland) during the recession and significant public sector funding cuts, utilisation of such funding needs to be carefully utilised to maximise impact and benefit disadvantaged communities.

Co-ordination and collaboration within and between public service agencies, community and voluntary sector is critical both to advocate for increased funding and to administer effectively the limited funding available, with local community groups recognised as the key vehicles to engage with those most disadvantaged in our city.

Demography

At 119,230 Cork City has recorded a minute population decline of 0.16% since the 2006 census, but a consistent pattern of decline since 1999; this is in contrast with population growth nationally. However when city and suburbs of the city are measured together, then a population increase of 4.3% is evident from the 2011 census (Kelly, T and Hayes, P (2014) *Cork City Profile 2014*, p10).

Most of the more populous Electoral Divisions (EDs) in the City are located in areas experiencing disadvantage while many of the EDs with very low populations are more socially diverse communities.

The population distribution of Cork City shows disproportionate numbers in the 20-30 age cohort and again in the over 65 category. It has smaller than average youth (under 16) population.

The high numbers in the 20 – 30 age group is linked to Cork’s status as a hub for third level institution learning, while the significant older population and Age Dependency rate marks Cork out as third of all administrative counties at the pace with which it is ageing. The lower youth population may be accounted for by a lack of population growth since 1999 (Cahill, D Cork –Towards a Healthier City: A Health Profile of Cork City, Executive Summary, 2012 p2), although there are substantial youth populations in city communities.

Infant mortality rates are on a par with national averages while the overall death rate of 9.7% is significantly higher than the national rate of 6.3%. In 2010 the life expectancy rate for persons living in the city was 73.9 years for men and 79.8 years for females, “comparing unfavourably to the situation State-wide”. (City Profile, p. v)

Educational trends

“Where Finbarr taught let Munster learn” is the motto of University College Cork and attests that the status of Cork being a city of learning is an ancient and venerable one. Cork City is a University City with 4 Higher Education facilities: University College Cork, Cork Institute of Higher Technology, Crawford College of Art & Design and Cork School of Music. Cork is also host to three Further Education colleges and some leading edge research institutes which has positioned the city well in terms of “the knowledge economy”.

Educational attainment in the city is improving: 15.3% had a third level qualification in 2006 and this had increased to 24.3% by 2011 (City Profile, p. vii). However this improvement is spatially specific, confined mainly to areas proximate to UCC, CIT and City Centre.

Across disadvantaged communities, the percentage of those whose highest level of education is primary level or less ranges from 24% to 56 % while the city average is 16.6% (Figure 35, City Profile p54). In these same communities the percentage of those whose highest level of education is Lower Secondary level ranges from 23% to 42% (City Profile, Map 19, p366) in contrast with the city average which is 18.6% (City Profile p. vii).

Increases in unemployment and significant competition for the employment available, has increased the educational qualifications demand in many cases to Upper Secondary at a minimum. Educational attainment is a significant factor in improving life-chances, gaining and progressing in employment: and such concentration of educational disadvantage points to deep-seated challenges for the formal education system and community education providers.

Economic Profile & Labour market

Employment brings economic, civic, social and health benefits. There are 83,783 persons of Working Age in Cork City with a Labour Force Participation rate of 54.4%, the lowest in the State. (This is Ireland - Highlights from Census 2011, p12). Cork’s principal employers, as detailed in Cork City Council’s 2012 *Cork City: Employment and Land Use Survey 2011* are hospitals (CUH, Mercy, Victoria and Bon Secours); Education (UCC & CIT); Public Service (City Council, Collin’s Barracks, An Garda Siochana); and multi- nationals (Apple, Boston Scientific, Blizzard). Access to such employment is limited both by the educational qualifications required (minimum leaving certificate or third level technical / professional qualification) and secondly because many of the public sector employers have recruitment embargoes in place, either fully or partially. Two sectors particularly hardest hit in the recession, the Building / Construction and Hospitality sectors, are now beginning to show some signs of recovery.

There were just over 16,000 people on the Live register in April 2014, two thirds of whom were male, one third female and 14.6% of whom were under the age of 25. Cork City had the second highest concentration of “unemployment blackspots” (EDs where the proportion of unemployment is greater than 35%) in the state. These are concentrated in the Northside

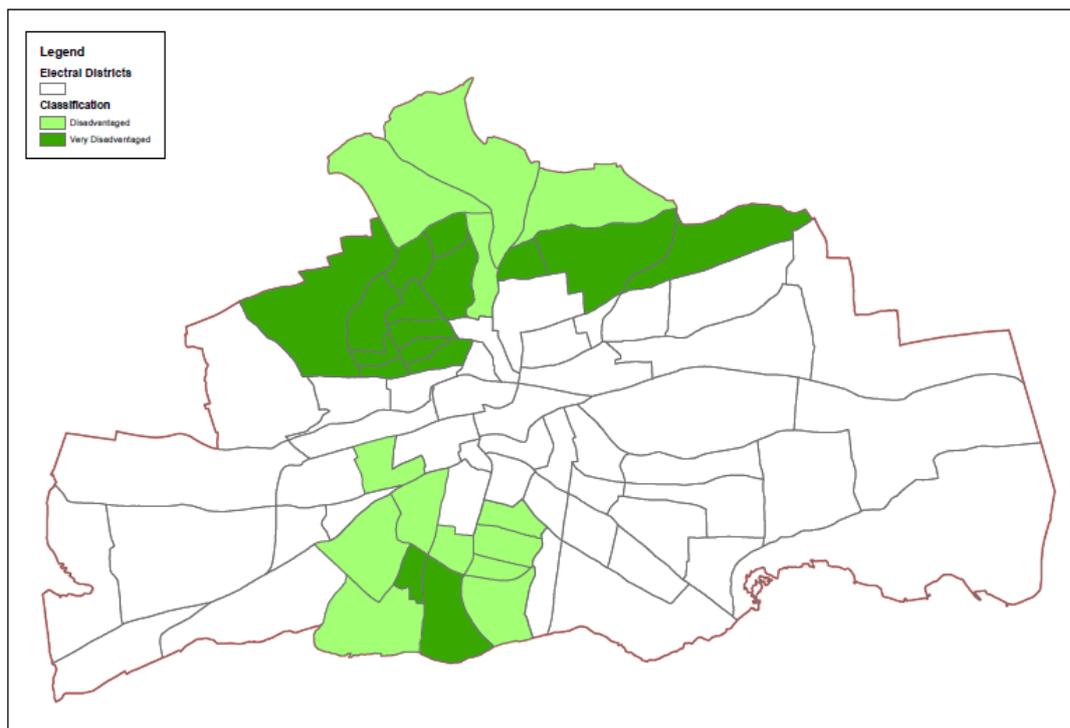
RAPID areas. Low levels of educational attainment and those who are lone parents, people with a disability and members of the Traveller or Roma communities are at even greater disadvantage in securing good, stable and satisfying employment.

People living in disadvantaged communities

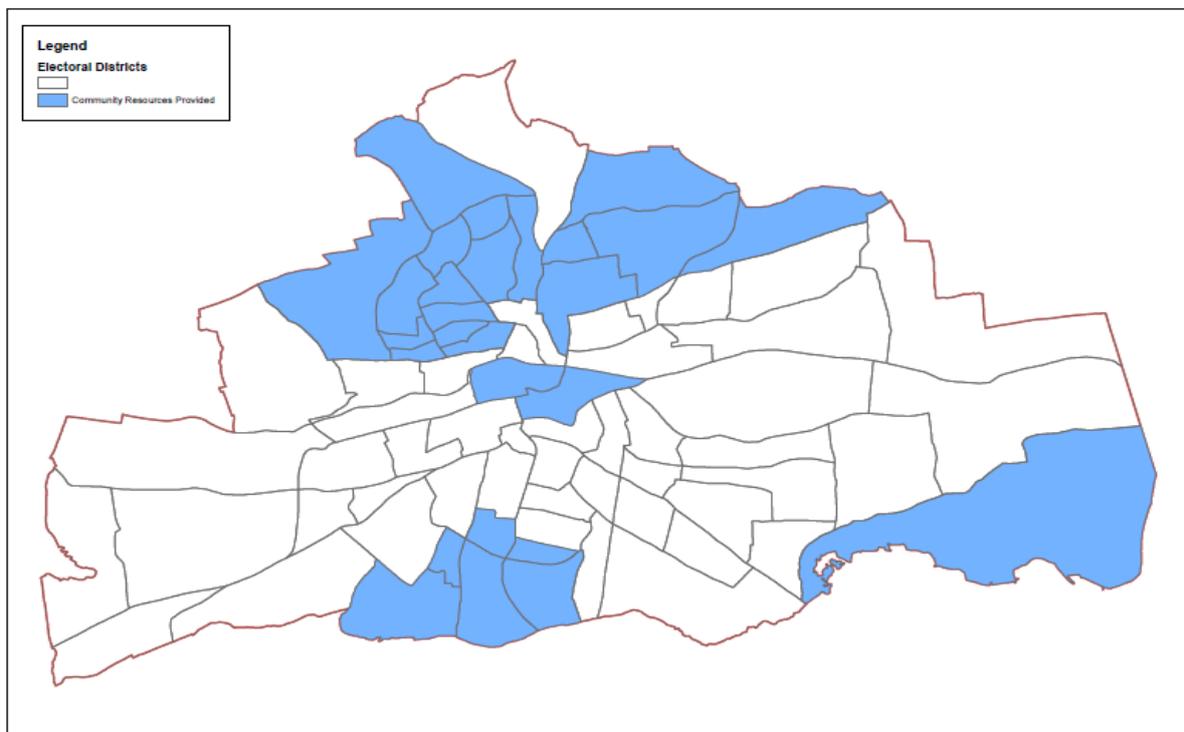
Of the 74 Electoral districts in Cork City, 16 are ranked Very Disadvantaged and 12 as Disadvantaged (Pobal HP Deprivation Index Census 2011). Almost forty percent of Cork City communities have a disadvantage designation and over one third (36%) of the population of Cork City (42,752) live in these communities:

- **Very Disadvantaged:** Blackpool A, Churchfield, Fair Hill A & B, Farranferris B & C, Gurrabraher A, B, C, D & E, Knocknaheeny, Mayfield, Pouladuff B, The Glen A, and Togher B
- **Disadvantaged Areas in the City:** Ballyphehane A & B, Commons, Fairhill C, Farranferris A, Gillabbey B, Glasheen C, Pouladuff A, The Glen B, The Lough, Togher A, Turners Cross B & C

Of the 28 Cork City communities designated as disadvantaged, 18 are Northside and 10 are in the South West side of the city. The Pobal HP rankings, read together with the recent research in the Cork City Profile, give a more nuanced idea of the geographical spread of disadvantage in Cork City. There are whole communities deemed disadvantaged across the north east and north west of city while on the south side, a large pocket of the south west in the city is deemed disadvantaged. There are also significant pockets of disadvantage within more socially mixed areas, e.g. Mahon.



CESCA's membership includes geographically based groups or HSE South Initiatives in or proximate to all of the areas deemed disadvantage (see map 2 below) and the issue based groups in CESCA have personnel working within all these communities.



Children & families living in disadvantaged areas

Children living in poverty are more likely to become impoverished adults, have families which also struggle with poverty thus creating intergenerational cycles of disadvantage. Conversely, all expenditure targeted at early interventions in children's lives has multiple and significant effects in reducing poverty and disadvantage, increasing educational attainment, employment opportunities, life chances and health outcomes.

The Youth Dependency Rate (proportion under 15 dependent on those of working age) for Cork is 20.9%; significantly lower than the national average of 31.9%. However, in the north and south east of the city, this rate is much higher (35% - 50%) than either overall city or national rates. While the most common family size is a family of one child, larger families of 2 to 4 children are more visible in all of the RAPID areas. 3.1% of births recorded in Cork in 2012 were to mothers under the age of twenty; these families headed by a teen parent, predominantly Lone Parents, face significant challenges (City Profile 2014, p13).

Ireland ranks 37th of 41 OECD countries, ahead of Croatia, Latvia, Greece and Iceland in a league table measuring relative changes in child poverty (UNICEF Innocenti Report Card 12, 2014). The report details the impact of the recession on children, young people and their families. Increases in child poverty are particularly relevant for those living in disadvantaged areas, where the effects of the recession have impacted more severely. "The data further shows that people do not believe children in Ireland have the opportunity to learn and grow every day" according to Peter Power (Executive Director, UNICEF Ireland) with Irish families experiencing additional stress and having a lower overall satisfaction with life.

Lone Parents

There were 6,764 Lone Parent family units in Cork City; 24% of all family units recorded (Census 2011). This significantly exceeds the national average of Lone parent families which is 18.3% (Cork City Profile, p97). Taking account of communities designated disadvantaged in the city, the proportion of lone parent families is higher again, by a factor of 5-25%.

The RAPID areas have the highest proportion (30 – 62%) of lone parent family units, who are most susceptible to poverty and often experiencing multiple disadvantage in education, employment, housing, income and health (Pobal HP Index, Census 2011). Lone parenthood in Cork City not only has a geographical dimension but also a gendered one as 87% are Lone Parent mothers with children (Cork City Profile, p97).

New Communities (including Refugees and Asylum Seekers)

Non Irish nationals comprise 12.5% of the population of Cork City which ranks Cork as seventh of all administrative counties in its percentage of Irish Non Nationals (Cork City Profile, p viii). NASC's study of racism in Cork, *Stop the Silence*, provides clear evidence that one third of non nationals experienced racism - with significantly higher proportions in African populations and for those of Roma community. It is also clear from this study that legislation to prohibit racism was either not availed of nor of such strength to give confidence to those considering reporting such incidents (Cork City Profile cited research, p68).

On seeking asylum in Ireland, people are accommodated in Direct Accommodation Centres while their case is adjudicated. One such centre, the Glenvera Hostel, is located within the city boundaries and accounts for 15.4% of the Asylum seeking population in Cork City and County. The largest reception centre on Kinsale Road, is located just outside the city boundaries and its residents gravitate to the city for support services. Projects such as NASC provide advocacy, legal advice and a range of support services while community services such as the nearby Ballyphehane Togher CDP and Wallaroo Childcare have also engaged to improve living conditions for the residents, including a substantial number of children. All of the research indicates that common experiences within these centres is of congested living arrangements, poor dietary choices, very little family friendly policies and posing significant effects to physical, social and particularly mental health.

People with Disabilities

Census 2011 reported 21,098 people living with a disability in Cork City, representing 17.7% of the city's population and a 40.7% increase since 2006 (Cork City profile, p. xiv). Cork City's rates of disability are significantly higher than either the national average of 13% or the county rate of 11.8%. Disability is linked very strongly to poverty and disadvantage and the disability rates are especially high in the RAPID areas of the city. Disability rates are also very high in communities with large numbers of older people. Disability rates increase with age so Cork's status as "third of all administrative counties in relation to the pace at which it is ageing" (City Profile Conclusions, p 197) means that disability figures in the city are likely to continue to increase.

Roma

The Roma are one of the largest minorities in Europe and experience severe discrimination based on their ethnic status. NASC (2012) *Hidden Cork: The Perspectives of Asylum Seekers on Direct provision and the Asylum Legal System*, p. 46) estimates that there are 30-40 Roma families in Cork City representing between 300-400 people, mostly from

Romania. While many of the Roma community live in Blackpool, there is also a cohort of Roma families in the South Central / South West area of the City. Challenges faced by Roma adults include low levels of educational attainment, often in both first and second language, which is a barrier to employment or training and to accessing services and supports. These factors also undoubtedly influence the life-chances of Roma children. As is common to marginalised groupings, Roma also have much poorer health outcomes including reduced life expectancy and greater experience of illness and disease within that shorter lifespan.

NASC's study indicates that 90% of Roma, disproportionately women, "*reported discrimination when dealing with organisations and public bodies*" and equally that among Irish people a significant proportion (38%) were hostile to the idea of Roma integration. Challenges to Roma inclusion therefore need to be addressed within the community but a focus is also needed on public bodies and agencies as well as addressing the attitudes of the wider population to greater Roma participation.

Travellers

The Traveller Community comprise of just under 1% of the population nationally who live predominantly in congregated urban settings and Cork City "contains the third highest population of Travellers of all administrative counties" (City Profile, p. 80). Travellers believe that their traditions, culture, history and language are distinct and should be accorded ethnic status. This would both recognise the barriers they face in terms of discrimination and deprivation and also provide a mechanism for addressing these issues at both societal and institutional level. The Traveller community face significant challenges in education, housing, employment and health and often also hostility from the wider population and from service providers. The impact of this deprivation and discrimination is evident in the lower life expectancy, poor health outcomes and high rates of suicide among this population as reported in the All Ireland Traveller Health Study (2010). The report outlines high infant mortality rates, hugely reduced life expectancy, suicide rates which are multiples of that of the settled community, significant educational disadvantage and unemployment rates and sustained illness / disability rates across the life cycle of travellers.

The EDs containing the highest proportion of Travellers in the City are Bishopstown A, Mahon B, Farranferris B, Blackpool A and Shanakiel. Three of these ED's contain City Council authorised halting sites. There are also pockets of Traveller families settled within local authority housing.

The Unemployed (including those not on the Live Register)

Unemployment in Cork City has doubled during the recession, increasing from 6.3% to 12.1%, with a particularly sharp decline in those employed in Building and Construction. Unemployment rates in disadvantaged areas are twice this again, at 25% in some communities. The analysis in the Cork City profile states that "the overall distribution of unemployment in the city remains similar even though there have been increases in the unemployment levels" (p43). In 2011, Cork City had the third lowest rates of labour force participation of all administrative counties (p42).

Young unemployed people living in disadvantaged areas

Youth unemployment in Cork City in spring 2014 was higher than the city average, at rates of 14.6% and these figures increase substantially in disadvantaged communities, exceeding 20% in many communities (City Profile, p. 44).

The UNICEF Report referenced earlier notes that Young People (those under 25) have fared particularly badly during the recession. “The recession has hit 15-24 year olds especially hard. Ireland ranks 14th out of 41 countries in a league table measuring the change in NEET. The NEET league table refers to young people who are “Not in Education, Employment or Training” showing an increase by one point to 16.1%.”

Social Conditions – other groups experiencing exclusion and disadvantage:

Census 2011 captures the level of disadvantage experienced in Cork city. It charts the multi-layered and complex disadvantage experienced by communities and by groups such as people with disabilities, lone parents, youth, Travellers and new communities.

Analysis of Census 2011 demonstrates that Cork City is ageing particularly rapidly, with many of these individuals living on their own. Older populations experience both disadvantage and exclusion and the city needs to engage actively in addressing the needs of this demographic. The Age Friendly Cities initiative is currently being actioned in Cork, led by an inter-agency steering group which has seen the development of an Age Friendly Council. Older people have been consulted throughout the last year and have highlighted issues of particular concern to them.

Another group experiencing exclusion the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities. LGBT individuals are also a significant population in Cork City and whose presence in disadvantaged communities (such as early school leavers, Travellers and new communities, people with a disability) is ignored - as if all of these groups are uniformly heterosexual. CECSA has committed to work across all the nine named grounds in the Equality legislation and to a tenth, namely socio-economic disadvantage. Cork City has been to the fore in adding LGBT Inclusion to its City Development Plan over a decade ago and advancing this through an LGBT Inter-Agency Steering group and we strongly recommend that this be maintained.

Cork City’s Homeless population: The Cork City Profile (2014) calls homelessness “the extreme manifestation of social exclusion” because people are without one of the most basic human needs i.e. shelter and secondly because their lack of a home or “Habitual Residence” can make it impossible for them to access even the most basic of state services. Results of the latest Rough Sleeping count in Cork City, published in the Irish Examiner on 3/12/12, show a 500% rise in numbers over the last three years. In Cork City emergency accommodation for people who are homeless is provided by the Cork Simon Community, St Vincent de Paul, Cuanlee, Edel House and Threshold, all of whom are supported by HSE South Social Inclusion Service. O’ Connell Court provides supported housing for older people who have been homeless, while Cork Foyer provide supports for young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless (City Profile, p. 114). Many factors contribute to homelessness - drug or alcohol addiction, domestic violence, experience of state care, imprisonment, mental health issues and more recently, increasing rents and house repossessions leading to family homelessness.

Section 3. Key Co-ordinating & Decision Making Structures in Cork:

Local co-ordinating structures began to be developed in the early 1990s as a response to severe recession and became a mechanism for targeting resources and funding in an integrated way to communities experiencing disadvantage. A strong focus of these early initiatives was to address unemployment. Cork City Partnership had a brief to support the long-term unemployed while Cork City Childcare provided development support to childcare facilities offering the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme, an initiative to enable parents to access employment, education or training. Social issues also began to be addressed using this co-ordinated collaborative approach. In 1997, eleven Local Drugs Task

Forces were established, including one in Cork City, to provide an integrated response to drug issues in disadvantaged urban communities.

The reforms under Better Local Government (1996) ushered in a series of co-ordinating structures which charged local authorities to engage with communities in a consultative manner to enhance participatory democracy and promote social inclusion. The Community and Enterprise Directorate and Cork City Development Board were established on foot of this and also Strategic Policy committees. In 2002 the Cork City Development Board published a 10 year strategy for economic, social and cultural development of the city called “*Imagine our Future*”. All public service agencies, local development companies and community development projects were required to state how their individual work-plans could contribute to achieving the goals of “*Imagine our Future*” and to seek endorsement from the City Development Board. Under the strategy, renewed commitment was given to tackling social exclusion and a number of the inter-agency initiatives groups date from this period including the Traveller Inter-Agency Group and the LGBT Steering group which allowed a city wide focus on the needs of particular identity communities. RAPID (Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development) also dates from this period and focussed in specifically on four designated disadvantaged areas of the city where poverty and exclusion were persistent. RAPID Area Implementation Teams (AITs) link local community representatives with representatives of all the public service agencies and development organisations. This has allowed local consultative mechanisms to emerge such as Community Safety Fora and specific initiatives such as Project Refocus and Health Action Zones.

Local government reform has continued in the policy *Putting People First* (2012) which has been given legislative force this year and means that the City Development Board has been replaced by the Local Community Development Committee LCDC. One of the key task of the LCDC is the management of the SICAP contract for Cork City which is being delivered by Cork City Partnership.

Each LCDC is charged with creating a Public Participation Network (PPN). This is a new structure for participation which presents important opportunities for engagement by marginalised communities and individuals who continue to be inadequately involved in the decision-making which affects their lives. The Public Participation Network has three colleges; Voluntary and Community, Social Inclusion and Environment and community groups can choose to affiliate to one. The PPN will be important as it is the mechanism through which community representatives are elected onto the Local Community Development Committee and also to Strategic Policy Committees of Cork City Council.

Cork City Profile concludes as follows: “Considering the current economic climate, co-ordination of services at local level to tackle deprivation, poverty, social inclusion and negative health outcomes is vital” (p196). However it must be acknowledged that such co-ordinating structures require both appropriate human resources and funding to be effective (Building co-ordination around communities and local needs – Cork City Council 2012 Report p8).

Table 2 – Grid showing key co-ordinating and decision making structures in Cork city

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) | Public participation Network (PPN) | Local Drugs Task Force |
| Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment & Development - RAPID | Cork City Childcare | Cork City Partnership |
| Cork Age Friendly City | Joint Policing Committee | Cork Enterprise board |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Cork Healthy City | Cork City Learning Forum | EcCoWell |
| Traveller Interagency Group | Cork City Integration Grp | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Inter-agency Steering Group |
| Project Refocus * | Lifelong Learning Festival | Cork Music Education Project |
| Comhairle na nOg | | |

Section 4. Mainstream Statutory Services and Specialist programmes:

Cork City Council is a public service organisation that operates within a local democratic mandate. Cork City Council is responsible for providing a diverse range of services to the citizens of our City which impact directly or indirectly on their daily lives. Some of the core services provided by the council are Housing and Community Services, Roads and Transportation, Planning and Development, Recreation, Amenity and Culture services, Environment services. These are managed through Directorates. Since the abolition in 2012 of the Community and Enterprise Directorate, much of the work has transferred to Corporate Affairs and it is this directorate who will oversee the implementation of the Local Community Development Committee.

The Social Inclusion Unit was one of eight established in a pilot project, The main objective of the Social Inclusion Unit is to promote social inclusion in the day to day activities of Cork City Council. This is being achieved in three main ways: Policy, Research and valuation and Awareness and Information provision

Cork Education & Training Board: Vocational Education Committees were formally abolished in December 2013 and replaced by County Education and Training Boards (ETB). They are responsible for Vocational Schools and Community Colleges which provide mainstream junior and senior cycle courses, as well as more specialised vocationally orientated options. Cork ETB is also a major provider of Further Education which is a range of post-compulsory education and training options such as Post-Leaving Certificate courses (PLCs). Youthreach, BTEI and Youth Services also come under the remit of the ETB and following the disbanding of FAS, Solas the training agency is now also housed in ETB structures. Cork ETB is centrally involved in adult and community education, in partnership with a vibrant community education sector in the city.

The Department of Social Protection advise the Government and formulates appropriate social protection and social inclusion policies. In the context of a city experiencing much disadvantage this is the Department responsible for the payment of income supports to a wide range of recipients entitled to welfare payments. Employment services and community employment services of FÁS also transferred to the Department on 1 January 2012, so community employment, Jobs Bridge and Tus are all delivered by the Department of Social Protection.

The Health Service Executive provides all of Ireland's public health services and a range of social services in hospitals and communities nationally. HSE South is the single biggest funder of Social Inclusion and Community services in Cork City and has preferred to work through existing community anchor projects to increase community and social inclusion architecture in the city, rather than centralising supports and services within the HSE. The HSE South has a strong commitment to the community & voluntary sector. The HSE is a partner in the CESCA Alliance.

Tusla: The Child and Family Agency was established on the 1st January 2014 and is now the dedicated State agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children. It

represents the most comprehensive reform of child protection, early intervention and family support services ever undertaken in Ireland. Tusla hopes to work in partnership with local childcare providers / family support services as first step interventions in supporting child development. The well established network of Family Centres in the city will in future be funded through Tusla

An Garda Síochána is the national police service of Ireland, whose mission is “*Working with Communities to Protect and Serve*”. Today, An Garda Síochána is a community based organisation with over 14,500 Garda and Civilian employees, who serve all sections of the community. Some of An Garda Síochána’s core functions include:

- the detection and prevention of crime;
- ensuring our nation’s security;
- reducing the incidence of fatal and serious injuries on our roads and improving road safety;
- working with communities to prevent anti-social behaviour;
- promoting an inter-agency approach to problem solving and improving the overall quality of life.

The Joint Policing Committee is one inter-agency approach applied by the Garda Síochána and at local level this is mirrored by the Community Safety Fora.

Table 3: Statutory Services in Cork City – how they focus on social inclusion

| Organisation | Example of how they focus on social inclusion |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Cork City Council | Social Inclusion Unit |
| Cork Education and Training Board | Solas – Training |
| Department of Social Protection | Community Employment, Tus |
| HSE South | Community Work, Health Action Zones, Social inclusion |
| Tusla | Childcare and Young people Services Committee |
| An Garda Síochána | Joint Policing Committee |

Section 5. Outline of Community and Voluntary services

The voluntary and community sector is extremely active and vibrant and diverse in Cork city. There are many groups providing a very wide range of services and supports, ranging from premises and facilities for local activities to meals on wheels, sport and cultural activities, health services, community development, youth cafes, services for the elderly, community education, childcare and many others.

Many Community groups have grown organically from life cycle concerns and address specific age-related issues including childcare, youth issues, and older age groups: they have evolved from wholly voluntary groups to part-voluntary with some employees and / or labour support projects such as community employment or community social programme schemes to organisations with a staff overseen and managed by voluntary management boards.

Childcare Organisations are definitely reflective of the organic development process outlined above: small, local pre-school facilities run by volunteers which developed into Southern Health Board Family Centres. These have now further evolved as early years education and family support projects, supporting families experiencing a variety of challenges including income poverty, lone parenthood, integration of traveller children / children with a disability / children from new communities, families where mental health concerns arise or family law / child protection issues. These early years centres are key

projects for Tusla, providing stage 1 and 2 family supports and acting as key links to more intensive supports where needed. Six of the partner organisations in CESCO have significant involvement in Early Years Provision: five provide onsite childcare, early education and family support and two are supporting wider developments in childcare – Mahon CDP via Southside CE Childcare Training Scheme and NICHE as lead project in Young Knocknaheeny.

Youth Organisations: As with childcare, many youth organisations have developed from local voluntary efforts supported by some paid staff and gradually becoming a professionalised youth service provision in the city. Ogra Chorcaí perhaps typifies this model of development: local voluntary youth clubs with volunteer leaders and supported by a central organisation with paid professional youth workers. For every youth organisation, child protection and safe-guarding concerns have placed an increasingly high duty of care on them, meaning that the process of volunteering has become both more complex but also more administrative, i.e. processing Garda Clearance applications.

Ogra Chorcaí merged with Foroige in 2012 to become the single largest youth provider in the city. YMCA (CESCA member) and Youth Work Ireland also have significant youth engagement. All of the above organisations are involved in delivering a variety of state funded initiatives to youth, including Drug Task force funded initiatives, Juvenile Liaison projects, Youth Cafes and Young Persons Services and Facilities funds.

Older Peoples Organisations: Many of the groups in this category began simply as community organisations but their demographic now dictates that the organisations they helped create perhaps two or three decades ago are now older peoples groups. This points to an urgent and sensitive community development need for “succession planning; ensuring the sustainability of groups past the “founding fathers / mothers”. As the age profile of the city increases, there is more, rather than less need for these peer-led groups. The Retired Peoples’ Network, the Seniors Parliament and Age Action provide network opportunities for older people, as well as significant targeted work done by projects in areas of the city where there are substantial older populations (including Ballyphehane, Gurrabraher / Churchfield and Mayfield). Isolated older people also have avenues to connect via the Friendly Call Service (funded by HSE Social Inclusion), Mahon Visitation scheme and BTCDP’s engagement with older people in supported housing and telephone befriending support.

However, it is the emerging structures within the Age Friendly initiative which will probably provide the most significant opportunities for older people to engage with and impact both on the development of the city and public services response to older age. There is also a necessity to highlight the equity challenges around ageing e.g. the minute proportions of the traveller community who reach older age; the proportions of the LGBT community population who lived “out” adult lives now ageing and needing services that acknowledge their identity.

Organisations based on identity communities or communities of Interest:

Travellers: There are two traveller led organisations in the city; the Traveller Visibility Group, (CESCA partner), and the Traveller Women’s Network. They work together on many issues key to traveller equality and inclusion, including cultural identity, accommodation, education, health and employment. Additionally, St Vincent DePaul has funded a number of traveller support initiatives in local communities including in Mahon and Knocknaheeny.

Disability organisations: There are many large service providers in relation to Disability including the COPE Foundation, Rehab Care, L’Arche Community, Headway Ireland. There are also a number of support groups organised around a particular disability (i.e. Downs Syndrome Ireland), led often by parents and carers who fundraise for specific services. The Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) acts as an umbrella body for many disability interests in the city. In tandem with the above organisations, it is working to improve community

integration for people with disability and away from congregated settings and segregated education and training. The Centre for Independent Living is a peer-led disability organisation, and along with Inclusion Ireland, is advocating for a rights-not-charity based approach to disability by the state and public service agencies.

LGBT Organisations: There are two well established LGBT organisations in the city, Cork Gay Project and LINC, both of which are partner members of CESCA. They each have drop in resource centres which house core staff, information and support helplines, and from where a variety of programmes are run including youth groups, social, health awareness and education programmes and community employment training schemes. Transgender Equality Network of Ireland (TENI), has a developing organisation in Cork.

New Communities/ Refugee – Asylum Seekers: NASC, a CESCA partner, is a Cork based non-governmental organisation which seeks to respond to the needs of immigrants in the Munster area. It leads the Cork City Integration Strategy and is represented on the newly formed national Direct Accommodation Working Group. It advocates strongly for a human rights and social justice response to the needs of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers and provides legal and other support services. NASC supports groups of distinct nationalities to self-organise, including peoples from Roma, Polish and diverse African countries.

Two other community based responses to the needs of new communities are Cois Tine, a drop in service which supports people to self-advocate and Welcome English which provides a range of education supports including language classes. KRAC – the Kinsale Road Accommodation Centre group has formed recently to advocate for an end to direct accommodation and changes to the ways in which reception centres operate.

Generic Community Based Organisations: Community Development Projects, Family Centres, and Community Associations.

Community Associations date from the 1960s and are found in almost all the older established communities in the city, running multi-purpose community centres. They operate from core principles of neighbourliness, self-help and self-reliance, and “whole of community” approach.

Community Development Projects have existed in the city for two decades and operated as anchor organisations who provide a crucial focus and support for community development and change in their neighbourhood or community. Another key feature of ‘community anchor organisations’ is the solid foundation they give to a wide variety of self-help and capacity building activities in local communities, and because of their roots within their communities the range and depth of their relationships, networks and experience distinguish them from the many other groups and organisations operating at community level. Community development projects are involved in early years provision, community education, community development and networking of local groups and additionally community arts and community health initiatives.

Family Centres grew organically from the first voluntary childcare organised in the city to provide a range of services to support the whole family, beginning from childcare (both pre-school and after school) to community education for adults. Their services include parenting courses, information and access to childcare professionals such as social work, public health nursing and speech and language therapy.

Cork City has a substantial community based infrastructure and much of the best practise of City Interagency groups is replicated at local level by local community collaborations. CESCA Alliance members are a strong driving force in such collaborations.

Community level co-ordinating structures

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rapid AIT Implementation Teams | Area Childcare networks |
| Area Youth Networks | Community Education networks |
| Cork Community Health network | Community Safety Fora |
| Anchor Community Development projects | Family Resource Centres |

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