

Local Development Partnerships Responding to the Unemployment Crisis

Submission to the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment

This framework document details how Local Development Partnerships will deliver specific actions across a number of identified themes, targetting key groupings within the Live register.

1. Executive Summary

The Local Development Partnerships, through their representative body, are committing to:

- Supporting 50,000 people whom are at risk of long term unemployment
- take on an additional 20,000 direct referrals, through the Local Employment Service Network, from the Department of Social & Family Affairs

This framework document sets out the above commitments.

2. The Context

Local Development Partnerships, (previously known as Area based and Community Partnerships) were formed out of a need to devise new, localised means of tackling long term unemployment. From their initial establishment in the early 1990's under the National Programme for Economic & Social Progress and further expanded under the Programme for Competitiveness & Work, Local Development Partnerships developed and implemented a local response to chronic long term unemployment for their geographical areas.

3. The Current Scope of Local Development Partnerships

There are 53 Local Development Partnerships across Ireland, providing full national coverage under the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LDSIP) and the Rural Development Programme (RDP) in rural areas. In addition, they deliver a range of other local and national programmes – For example, the Local Employment Service Network (LESN) is operated by 23 of the Local Development Partnerships and funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment through FAS.

All companies have board memberships that reflect the Social Partnership structure, making them the ideal platform for coordinating a local response to the rapid increase in unemployment.

The typical Board structure is as follows:

Statutory sector: Government departments and state agencies/organisations

Social Partners: trade unions, employers, and in rural areas, farming organisations

Community and voluntary sector

Elected public representatives: generally from local authorities

Local Development Partnerships have a significant focus and expertise in working with unemployed people, particularly those furthest from the labour market.

4. Identified Employment Barriers of Socially Excluded People:

A number of barriers to employment which impact on the employability prospects of socially excluded people have been identified through the Local Employment Services Network. In particular, the following barriers have been the most problematic:

- Duration of unemployment / negative work history
- Deficit of appropriate qualifications
- Early school leaving
- Literacy and numeracy issues

For the full range of identified employment barriers, please refer to Appendix 2

5. Local Development Response to Unemployment Crisis

The current Live Register Figures (May 2009) indicate that there are a total of 402,100 people unemployed. The unemployment rate is now standing at 11.8% of the total workforce and this number is rising.

From discussions with FAS, it is estimated that circa 100,00 of the total number currently on the Live Register would have a high level skills set (2nd & 3rd level). We believe that there needs to be a comprehensive profiling of the total Live register figure in order to identify those newly unemployed who would be at significant risk of becoming long term unemployed and those unemployed who with minimal assistance, can jobseek for themselves.

Local Development Partnerships are committed to take action to support the newly unemployed, who are at risk of long term unemployment, to get back into employment through appropriate interventions such as training, guidance and work placement.

5.1. Key Proposals:

– Proposal 1: Optimising the contribution from Local Development Partnerships:

Local Development Partnerships have committed to supporting 50,000 newly unemployed people who are at significant risk of becoming long term unemployed. In making this proposal, we are mindful of the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment's inputs at our last meeting that there will be no new resources available

and that there is a requirement for scale and progression when addressing the challenges of the current crisis.

The commitment to take on additional people from the Live Register and how they will be allocated across the 53 Local Development Partnerships needs to be worked out in detail between Partnerships, their representative body, FAS, DETE and the DSFA, depending on geographical need. This proposal is only viable if there is agreement by Government of a redirection of existing resources to Local Development Partnerships to work with this group.

This group, as will be the case for those currently committed to, would be supported across the range of key action points that we have identified in this document.

Verifiable tracking of their progression, through appropriate interventions such as education, work placement, counselling, CV preparation, over an agreed period, will be a key aspect for Partnerships to undertake in concert with relevant agencies such as FAS, the DSFA, the VECs, the City/County Enterprise Boards and IBEC and ICTU (whom are widely represented on the Boards of Local Development Partnership).

– **Proposal 2: Additional Capacity Contribution from the LESNs:**

The 23 Local Development Partnerships nationally operating LESNs, they will collectively commit to take on an additional **20,000** direct referrals from the DSFA. This is in addition to the 40,000 direct referrals already agreed, in January 2009 and while still focusing on our core constituency of the long term unemployed

The Local Development Partnerships will work, through their representative body, with the relevant Departments to progress these proposals.

6. What Local Development Partnerships are doing in 2009:

The actions outlined in the following section provide an overview of what the Local Development Partnerships are already doing and committed to delivering in 2009 in agreement with the relevant funding agencies. They have been developed with the following three considerations in mind:

- Maximising existing resources
- Building on opportunities from the April 2009 budget
- Overcoming barriers to employment

From contact with Local Development Partnerships, the following deliverables, on the following page, have been identified for 2009. Please note that the figures are based on responses from 36 of the 53 Local Development Partnerships.

Action area	Actions	Deliverables for 2009
Local employability strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDP Boards work collaboratively through their Board membership and their Enterprise/Employment Committees and work to a locally agreed employment strategy. Each LDP will review local trends and opportunities to match training and other relevant options with local labour market needs. They have and would continue to convene relevant fora to review their strategies and have a lead role on relevant actions pertaining to the LDP employment strategy. 	Local integrated response for unemployed people in catchment areas of all 54 local development partnerships
Mediation/ Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Partnership LESN Network provides intensive personalised guidance leading to the development of a career path plan for clients. It has expanded its capacity to 40,000 by realigning its resources. Related services are being provided by Partnership's who do not have LESN's, through their enterprise officers. 	2009 LESN Base Figure 27,000 +40,000 additional agreed +20,000 further LESN slots are being offered Ttl: 87,000
Information Provision	<p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide contact point with information on benefits, training, education, employment and support services. Conduct local information sessions for recently unemployed on rolling basis in partnership with local organisations. One to one information advice sessions 	180,523
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information about training that exists Identify and respond to local training needs with training that is local, accessible and cost effective Expand provision of training scheme for workers on short time (follow on from the Budget Measure) 	27,545
Enterprise creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Support for Business Creation and Development Measure of the Rural Development Programme Support through: pre-enterprise focus groups, core business training, Support onto the BTWEA 	6,149
Work experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cluster of partnerships to make a bid to DETE for the 1000 non graduate places in Work Experience Scheme Work placement places being offered by LDPs in 2009 are listed in the Deliverables column 	2,177
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link volunteer opportunities with future employment opportunities Provide accreditation for volunteering experiences and use as professional development Need to work with the volunteer centres, provide the convening and organising roles Focus within the not for profit sector/social economy 	5,093
Vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tailor information and training for 18-21s Support for unemployed migrants 	4,941 5,961

	Supports also provided to people with disabilities	
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7. Conclusion:

This paper seeks to chart out the specific headline supports that Local Development Partnerships can and will provide during the course of 2009. The planned deliverables set out under each of our action heads incorporate the additional capacity that companies will provide through a reorganisation of existing company resources as well as, where appropriate, the reallocation of existing resources from other state bodies to Local Development Partnerships. It is envisaged that the proposals set out and if agreed would be reviewed on a quarterly basis by Local Development Partnerships, working with their representative body and relevant state agencies/government departments.

June 2009

Appendix 1

Outline of Options Under the Training Action Area:

Below is a list of training provided by the Local Employment Service Network (LESN) to the end of June 2009. Similar training provision has and could be provided by Local Development Partnerships that do not have an LESN.

From evidence gathered by the LES Network from January 2009 to end of June 2009 in excess of **8,000 training places** will have been offered to LESN clients.

Pre-Employment/Personal Development

'Making Chang

Life Skills train

STEPS – cogn

Core Compete

Job-seeking sk

Personal Care

Presentations :

Ready, Steady

Future Options

C.V. clinics

Career Directio

'Opening New

Future Options

Kick Start Prog

IKEA pre-empl

Computer Aided Courses:

Education Courses:

Employment Aided Courses availed of by Clients:

Based on information supplied by 12 of 26 LESN

All of the listed training is strengthened by the strong and close links maintained with local employers. Through our networking in the community we have maintained a local data base of employers who are our primary source for employment when the above work has been completed. Additionally, FAS Training Centres play a key role in accessing training as required by our clients. Likewise, Jobs Clubs where they are attached to Local Development Partnerships, play a valuable role in job seeking and job skill preparation.

Appendix 2

Listed below the 14 key employment barriers of socially excluded people as identified by the Local Employment Services Network.

