



Learning the Lessons
to Inform the Future

The Social Inclusion
Programme

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Overview

- General Context
- Social, Economic and Policy Context
- Learning from the LDSIP 2000-2006
- The NDP – Indicative Directions for a New Programme?
- Next Steps

General Context

- New Minister
- Value for Money Review
- Cohesion and new structures
- Role of Partnerships
- Transition
- Sharing the learning and thinking

Social, Economic & Policy Context

Social and Economic

- Features: consistent poverty and sustained growth
- New challenges

Social, Economic & Policy Context cont.

Policy Context

- The National Development Plan 2007-13: states that the Local Inclusion Programme 'will have a particular focus on supporting people and communities suffering disadvantage and exclusion through a wide spectrum of locally promoted actions'

Social, Economic & Policy Context cont.

- National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007–16 (NAP inclusion). The contribution of local Partnership companies is explicitly recognised (p.79)
- The National Economic and Social Council (NESC) '*The Developmental Welfare State*' - overarching framework for social inclusion using a life-cycle approach. Subsequently adopted by the National Partnership Agreement: Towards 2016. References 'activist measures'

Social, Economic & Policy Context cont.

- The National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) report '*Creating a More Inclusive Labour Market*'
- The National Action Plan Against Racism 2005–08: strategic direction to combat racism and develop an inclusive intercultural society
- The National Women's Strategy 2007–16

Social, Economic & Policy Context cont.

- The report of the Task Force on Active Citizenship: vision for a full realisation of democratic values and community participation.
- NESF 'Improving the Quality of Public Services': customer at the centre, centrality of needs, focus on early intervention, integration of service provision and quality standards_

Role of Partnerships in the Policy Context

Coordination, cooperation and added value

The NDP 2007–13: Programme as ‘adding value to the effectiveness of social inclusion programmes and interventions delivered by statutory and non-statutory agencies through partnership, collaboration and coordination’. The NAP inclusion states that ‘the unified partnership companies will be well placed to support inter-agency co-ordination and to support and promote social inclusion at local level in conjunction with the County and City Development Boards’

Learning from the LDSIP and predecessors

Key Strengths

- Support for disadvantaged individuals to progress towards and within the labour market
- Community development measures to build organisational capacity for target groups and disadvantaged communities, and measures to promote community sector participation
- Community-based supports and youth development opportunities to complement mainstream education provision

Learning from the LDSIP and predecessors contd.

- Partnership approaches and inter-agency cooperation
- Innovation, shared learning and mainstreaming strategies.

Considerations

- Flexibility and responsiveness to local need
- Achieving more integrated responses
- Giving incentives for innovation and creating new mechanisms for learning
- Higher emphasis on strategic contributions that have not been so visible i.e. co-ordination and collaboration

Considerations contd.

- Greater emphasis on measuring impact
- Emphasis on linkage with wider policy objectives
- Recognising the wider contributions of Partnerships in a clearer iteration of position
- Advancing more strongly the principles and approach

NDP – Indicative Directions for a New Programme

Aim

NDP 2007–13 states that the overall aim of the programme will be to help achieve social inclusion through local, partnership-based initiatives that target the most disadvantaged areas, groups and individuals, particularly those experiencing multiple disadvantage

NDP – Indicative Directions for a New Programme contd.

NDP Action Areas

- To support progression towards and within the labour market for people who experience social exclusion, whether seeking to return to the labour market, unemployed, under-employed, or at risk of unemployment
- To support socially excluded groups and individuals to be fully involved in the development and implementation of policies and programmes that affect their lives

NDP – Indicative Directions for a New Programme contd.

- To help break the inter-generational cycle of social exclusion through education and training supports at different stages of the life-cycle
- To add value to the effectiveness of social inclusion programmes and interventions delivered by statutory and non-statutory agencies through working in partnership to coordinate responses

NDP – Indicative Directions for a New Programme contd.

- To foster innovation and learning in order to inform the development of practice and policies that meets the needs of individuals and groups experiencing social exclusion

The Advancing Dialogue

1. Considerations

- Congruence with NDP and the overall policy
- Concerns regarding continuity with what works while strengthening other elements
- Pursuing an integrated themed approach
- Conceptualising linkage of work with other activities of Partnerships and other stakeholders

The Advancing Dialogue contd.

2. *Suggested thinking*

Five themes

Three corresponding with the three measures under the LDSIP and two cross cutting themes

- Inclusion in the labour market: through supporting progression into sustainable economic activity through pathways towards work, into work and supporting people at work

The Advancing Dialogue contd.

- Increasing participation and active citizenship in excluded areas and among excluded groups: to enable them act as prime movers in their own development through supports at predevelopment level, with existing groups and networks and to enable participation in regeneration, integration and equality work
- Lifelong learning for the most disadvantaged: strategies that enhance outreach, access, participation, retention, progression and achievement at the different stages of the life cycle

The Advancing Dialogue contd.

- Partnership and co-ordination: recognition for and identification of, the distinctive role played by partnerships as appropriate as initiator, lead agency and/ or contributor to coordination and change

The Advancing Dialogue contd.

- Innovation and learning: to encourage innovation that will inform the development of practices and policies to meet the needs of excluded individuals and communities. Strengthening the programmes role within the activist sphere of the welfare state.

Two *approaches have been discussed* (a) *Local strand*: Building on existing work at local level, innovation and learning would be integrated into all areas of work under the programme, as a crosscutting theme (b) *National strand*,

The Advancing Dialogue contd.

(b) National strand, A coordinated effort to draw together learning from across the programme on key themes of concern to policy makers. Agreement could be reached on a number of key strategic priorities within the programme and a proportion of the programme budget would be ring-fenced to support this strand of the programme. The ring-fenced budget would support monitoring, evaluations and the dissemination of learning (through conferences, publications, etc

The Advancing Dialogue contd.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

- Monitoring and evaluation framework developed on the basis of related indicators
- Participation of Partnerships as ‘research partners’ a key component

Next Steps

- Current Position
- Extension of SI coverage
- Pobal links with PLANET
- Meeting with other Pobal Programmes
- In due course detailed consultation
- Practical approach
- GAMMA
- Tools: Review and Consultants: Liaison support
- Value of close collaboration