

a chair's perspective

If you had one key message to pass on to a new chairperson what would it be?



Prof Joyce O'Connor

"The vision underpinning the Partnership approach is one of empowerment — that is, providing the means for local communities to have a direct voice and influence on issues that affect their lives. Dublin Inner City Partnership plays a central role in co-ordinating the range of local development activity in the inner city, providing a framework for local development. The Partnership's strategic approach aims to address fundamental issues of equality for local people. The process used is facilitative of interagency work between the statutory, private and community sectors to achieve agreed targets, and recognises the essential value that local knowledge and skill bring to the development process."

Dublin Inner City Partnership



Tom O'Donnell

"The statistical evidence available and the reports of several independent studies and evaluations by Irish and European experts prove conclusively that the Area Based Partnerships have made an immense contribution to the reduction of long-term unemployment and the promotion of social inclusion."

PAUL Partnership Ltd.

"The real challenge is about working in a way that allows Board members to be challenged and to hear criticism of their organisation without it being an attack on the individual concerned. Try to make sure that working by consensus doesn't result in bland compromise but the best outcomes for excluded groups and communities."

Tallaght Partnership



Patricia Quinn

"Keep your fingers on the pulse of the Partnership, yet retain an overview. Preside over the efficient use of resources in a climate of budget cuts and the likely increase in demand for services with the current rise in unemployment. Explore ways of mainstreaming actions, in particular new and innovative ideas."

Finglas Cabra Partnership



Sam Nolan



Anne Watters

"To be mindful at all times while Chair that Partnership means exactly what it says – a full and equal partnership in the decision making process by all parties viz Community Sector, Elected Representatives, State and Social Partners."

Dundalk Employment Partnership



Brian Mooney

"To remember whom you're providing the service to: it's to the silent majority who are rarely heard."

Meitheal Maigheo Teo.

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Peter Davitt

"I see the Partnership as helping the Community certainly, but its main role in doing this is a vehicle for change"

Ballymun Partnership Ltd.



Paddy O'Callaghan

"My advice... choose well where you are going, choose well those you'll take with you... and you will be better prepared when you arrive."

South Kerry Development Partnership

"The Partnership model is a new concept of diverse interests working together to find solutions for old problems. While this process is often challenging, the achievements whether large or small are immensely rewarding for all involved."

County Wexford Partnership



Willie Gleeson

"Keep alive in the Boardroom a real and living sense of the people Partnerships are established to assist – the unemployed, the excluded, the outsiders. They can easily get lost in the middle of all the schemes and procedures."

Reach out to involve every sector and member of the Board in the co-operative exercise which the Partnership represents. Keep alive a spirit of enterprise, innovation and commitment among the staff while maintaining the necessary procedures for fairness and accountability.

And finally, genuine partnership is hard work. Go the extra mile to find a good resolution with all the many other organisations involved – and be generous in recognising their contribution.

These are my secrets – most of them at any rate – after a decade as Chairman of the Northside Partnership, Dublin."

Northside Partnership



Padraic A. White



John O'Callaghan

"Ensure the Community Sector is effectively represented - that their voice is heard and acted on."

Comhair Chathair Chorcai Teo.