

MEDIA RELEASE

Community Partnership Network & PLANET – The Partnerships Network

For release: 19 May, 2009

Local organisations play their part in tackling unemployment

Local Development Companies are coordinating information initiatives on a rolling basis, across Ireland for those recently unemployed. These initiatives are centred in local communities linking in with organisations such as FAS, Department of Social and Family Affairs, the Money Advice Bureau, VEC, other education providers and local employer associations. A number of Local Development Companies have already held successful information days, many others are planned for the week commencing 25 May.

Local Development Companies are making sure their resources are well targeted to meet community need, with a significant current focus on responding to unemployment. Local Development Companies support those most distant from the labour market and that will continue. However with the rapid rise in unemployment, new issues and needs are emerging. Many people are experiencing unemployment for the first time and therefore information provision is critical. There are a range of supports and services in local communities, but many people do not know about them or how to access them.

Local Development Companies supported 27,802 people into further training, education and employment in 2008. Funding for this work is provided by the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and additional programmes are funded by other state agencies such as FAS.

To find out more, contact the local development company in your area. A list of companies and contact details is available on the CPN and PLANET websites:

www.cpn.ie & www.planet.ie

Ends

Media representatives requiring further information may contact:

Carolyn Wallace
Tel: 087-6413280

Brian Carty
Tel: 086-3898461

Note to the Editor:

Local Development Companies: There are 54 local development companies across the country. Each local development company has a Board of Directors bringing together the following four sectors:

Statutory sector, i.e. Government departments and state agencies/organisations;

Social Partners, i.e. trade unions, employers, and, in rural areas, farming organisations;

Community and voluntary sector;

Elected public representatives (generally from local authorities).

Co-operation with the sectors and with other local organisations is also part of the everyday work of the local development companies. Chairpersons play a key role in bringing together the different sectors to develop a shared vision. Each Board elects a Chairperson from among its Directors or it may nominate an independent Chairperson.