

12th November 2008

PRESS RELEASE

The Area Partnerships around the country are changing. CPLN Area Partnership (previously Clondalkin Partnership), is one of the Partnerships that have gone through a re-branding process in order to align its name with its geographic expansion. On the 14th of November we are formally launching our new name. The launch of our expanded organisation will be performed by Mr. John Curran T.D. Minister of State, who is also the local T.D for Dublin Mid-West. CPLN Area Partnership is from now on incorporating the areas of Palmerstown, Lucan and Newcastle, as well as Clondalkin.

Aileen O'Donoghue, CEO, CPLN Area Partnership (one of 38 Area Partnerships in Ireland): *"As part of this expansion under what is known as the 'Cohesion process' we are starting to build links with the new areas and have already supported groups in the new catchment areas during 2008. We will also be changing the structures of the organisation to include representatives from the new areas. This process has already begun and will be completed by the end of 2008. The policy of national coverage coming from the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, under the cohesion process, is a good one, and has generally been welcomed. We now have the opportunity to connect with people in areas such as Lucan, Palmerstown and Newcastle, areas traditionally not covered by Partnerships."*

Minister of State John Curran – *"I am pleased to welcome the launch of the new CPLN Area Partnership which will enable local development services to be improved and extended to all areas of the county which were not previously covered and which will facilitate expansion of access to social inclusion measures for all citizens, no matter where they live."*

As one of the 38 Area Partnerships in the country, CPLN Area Partnership is doing vital work in its catchment area. The 'partnership approach' is all about empowering communities themselves to improve their quality of life, locally. The Partnership supports local projects in delivering courses such as computer skills, forklift training, presentation skills and communications skills that aim at increasing the chances of employment for the participants. The Partnership also does a lot of work in other vital areas such as Health, Equality Promotion, improving the environment, supporting social enterprises and Community Childcare.

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Editor's note

In 2005 the Minister for Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, who has responsibility for Partnerships, began a process that goes under the name of 'Cohesion' to ensure that Partnerships would cover the whole country as opposed to providing a service only in the most disadvantaged areas. This was because it was clear that there were disadvantaged people living in areas that weren't considered disadvantaged, and that did not have access to the services or programmes that were managed by Partnerships. The expansion of boundaries has primarily concerned Partnerships in the greater Dublin area.

Cohesion Process Summary

- An extensive consultation phase took place, where the Government decided on distinct local development operational areas, which provide full coverage of the State.
- The whole process goes under the name of 'Cohesion'.
- Many Partnerships have expanded their geographical coverage to ensure that they operate over the whole territory of the State.
- In most cases, the new operational areas correspond to city and county boundaries.
- There are cohesion processes happening alongside each other, with different type of developments happening in urban areas compared to rural areas.

The core objectives of the cohesion process are:

- to simplify and improve the delivery of services at local and community level;
- to improve "on the ground" services;
- to avoid overlaps and duplication in the delivery of services;
- to increase transparency, co-ordination and improved control of funds;
- to strengthen democratic accountability of agencies.