

**Over 10,000 people supported by Northside Partnership in 2008  
Demand for services to increase dramatically in 2009 warns Northside Partnership Chairman**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009:** Almost 10,500 people participated in Northside Partnership supported initiatives last year according to new figures released by the Northside Partnership today. The Partnership also said that it expected this figure to increase threefold in 2009 due to the worsening economic conditions. Participants included the unemployed, early school leavers, members of the travelling community, older people, homeless, ex-prisoners and ex-offenders, disabled, recovering drug addicts, women and men parenting alone and children and their families.

Over 550 people were supported through the Partnership's Enterprise and Employment Programme. The type of support provided included one-to-one business start up advice and guidance for first time entrepreneurs, support and training to the long term unemployed as well as employment training programmes for the disabled.

In addition through the Partnership's Education Programme, 123 primary, secondary schools and third level colleges were assisted. This included providing scholarships for third level education to students in the Northside area and the provision of breakfast and lunch to 3,500 students in 12 primary and secondary school. In addition through the Northside Partnership's Challenger Programme which encourages the participation of students from the Dublin 17 area to participate in education to the highest level possible, 240 students and families were assisted and 76% of those students progressed to third level.

Other notable achievements in 2008 included the establishment of an early intervention parenting programme to improve school readiness for children and parents, the delivery of community based stress control programmes and the provision of one-to-one support and training to 106 recovering drug mis-users.

Commenting Willie Hamilton, Chairman of Northside Partnership, said that now more than ever the work of the Partnership is vital to ensure that people are receiving the supports they need during the economic downturn.

"This year will be a challenging year for the Partnership as the demand for our services increases. We are committed more than ever to the local area and working with the appropriate agencies and groups to identify the core needs of our community as well as further developing relevant services in the area."

**ENDS**

**FOR INFORMATION:**

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**About the Northside Partnership**

The Northside Partnership is a local development company operating under the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LDISP). The Partnership was established in 1991 to tackle the significant unemployment problem that existed in north Dublin. Since its establishment, it has taken on the roles in the areas of Community, Enterprise and Employment Development, as well as Education and has focussed its activities on specific target groups and communities who are marginalised in society.

The mission of the Northside Partnership is to be driving force in meeting the challenge of social inclusion in its designated area. It proposes to meet this challenge by using a partnership of the community, social partners, statutory and public representative sectors to provide services, influence structures and change policies so that all local people are included in a self-sustaining community that integrates work and economic activity with personal, social and economic needs.