Social Regeneration

3.0 Historical and Social Context

There are both historic and contemporary factors which help explain the extent of the social / socio-economic problems which now prevail in the most disadvantaged estates of Limerick. The Regeneration Project targets approximately 3,000 households in these areas. It covers the area of Moyross on the northside comprising 1,160 houses also on the northside, St. Mary's Park, comprises of 440 houses. Three separate areas are targeted 0n the Southside Regeneration comprising 1,360 households – O'Malley Park (600 houses) and Keyes Park (160 houses), Carew Park and Kincora Park (400 houses), in the parish of Southill, and Clarina, Crecora and Beechgrove in the parish of Ballinacurra Weston (200 houses). The Regeneration Areas have a combined population of some 10,000 people.

3.0.1. Social and Economic Disadvantage in Limerick City

There was extensive poverty in Limerick City (Kemmy Old Limerick Journal, 1988) and a pattern of social segregation of the poor already emerging from the mid-nineteenth century. Descriptions of the social conditions of the poor were documented by travel writers Henry D. Inglis and William Makepeace from the mid-nineteenth century and by local inspectors and health committee reports into the early part of the 20th Century (Kemmy, Old Limerick Journal 1988).   With the expansion of city of Limerick from the mid-eighteenth century, beyond the English and Irish towns (the walled medieval city) to Georges Street (O'Connell Street) and William Street and later Newtown Pery, the middle classes began to leave the older part of the city to take up residence in the Georgian houses, creating "slums in the English and Irish towns". There was a large loss of population from the city through emigration. From 1891 to 1926, the population of Limerick City showed a slow but steady increase in population, reaching a level of 39,448 in 1926. The 1915 medical officer's report stated that 1,669 houses in the city were unfit for hu-man habitation while the 1917 report placed that figure at 1,812 houses. In 1918, it was estimated that 2,000 new houses were needed in Limerick city but by 1932, Limerick Corporation had constructed only 297 units.

It is argued that in the last decades of the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth century, "*Limerick had one of the worst housing records in the country*" (Kemmy, The Old Limerick Journal 1988). At that time, much of Limerick City "*was without sewerage facilities and almost one-third of the city consisted of laneways and alleyways, 'half of which were a menace in themselves' because of lack of sewerage*". The historic descriptions are of insanitary conditions, ill-health, over-crowding and abject poverty. Barrington's hospital, on the decision of Matthew Barrington was located on the site at the Abbey River in the heart of the city (1829-1831) "in the midst of the people it was intended to serve".   Kemmy (1988) notes that some of those in the fine Georgian Terraces on Charlotte's Quay opposite Barrington's were "*complaining at the sight of 'too many coffins being brought from the hospital's mortuary on George's Quay right in front of their eyes'*".

The introduction of the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act in 1932 provided local authorities with a state subsidy for the provision of housing for the "*working classes*" for the first time. The Island Field, later known as St. Mary's Park, was constructed after the introduction of this legislation and was mostly completed by 1936. The St. Mary's Park development was created to tackle the problem of the "*festering slums that had so long pockmarked the city*" (Kemmy 1988). It was populated by people who, previously, lived in the slums of Irishtown, Boherbuoy and the Abbey. They were the poorest of the poor. In 1936, O'Dwyer's Villas in Thomondgate, Janesboro housing estates and the larger scale estates at Prospect/Ballinacurra Weston were commenced.   It is noted that while the poor were moved from the slums to "*new dwellings in airy spacious locations*", many tenants "*dearly longed for their battered but beloved hovels with all the attendant privations and squalor where they and their families had lived out their lives … while other new residents complained that they had been moved too far out from the centre of the city and inveighed against isolation from their old familiar haunts*" (Kemmy 1988).

Focusing specifically on St. Mary's Park (the Island), it is located at the centre of the old city, but is physically cut off onto an island. The vista across the Shannon is onto working class O'Dwyer's Villas, Thomondgate on one side and middle-class Corbally on the other with no connecting bridges from the Island. It has been characterised by very high male unemployment and poverty from the time it was constructed. There are no sources of employment on the Island Field.

Traditional sources of employment for people of the working class estates in the city including St. Mary's Park, Thomondgate, Killeely, Ballinacurra Weston were in low level trades, the clothing industry (Limerick Clothing Factory), the bacon industries (Shaws, Mattersons, O'Mara, Denny's), food related and food processing such as Cleeves, Ranks and Mattersons (the latter closing its canning operation in 1983), female jobs in Barrington's Hospital (which closed in 1988) and Cruises (also closed) and the Royal George Hotel, work in docks and later labouring jobs in construction and low level services such as cleaning (the last category being female employment). With the exception of service jobs and construction, these sources of employment are long gone.

Particularly, in St. Mary's Park, there has been a pattern of inter-generational male unemployment. This is linked to (i) the lack of replacement industries in or close to the core of the city as the traditional sources of male employment disappeared; (ii) the low educational level and skill base and (iii) lack of physical mobility of the population. Conditions of, and a culture of poverty, unemployment, welfare dependence and poor external image of the estate reinforced its physical isolation. A reputation for criminality developed in St. Mary's Park which has been exacerbated with socio-economic change linked to a growth in illegal drug use and the violent crime associated with

it. At the same time, the broader area of St. Mary's Parish – known in Limerick as "The Parish" – and King's Island including the historic area of the city around King John's Castle and St. Mary's Cathedral – has a proud tradition and strong cultural identity centred on music (e.g. St. Mary's Fife and Drum Band) and sport. There is a very strong sense of pride in the city and in "The Parish" (Humphreys 2005). Ballinacurra Weston, constructed a little later than St. Mary's Park, physically lacks a focal point. Community services, developed around Our Lady of Lourdes (the parish unit), is the closest to a "centre" for the area. Like St. Mary's Park, Ballinacurra Weston developed a reputation for criminality and as the location of individuals engaged in serious drug-related and violent crime with international linkages.

Southill, located in the south suburbs of the city, was constructed in the 1960' and early 1970's. It consists of the four housing estates of Carew Park, Keyes Park, Kincora Park and O'Malley Park, the last estate being the largest. The estate is physically-bounded on all sides by undeveloped land, industrial land and major regional roads. It was constructed to respond to the housing shortage in the city and at a time when there was an expansion in industrial employment in manufacturing industries (low level). This is linked to the successes of the Industrial Development Authority and Shannon Development in pursing foreign direct investment in manufacturing. The successful strategy of developing the Shannon Free Zone and industrial employment there and its early influence on Limerick is reflected in the numbers employed in Shannon by 1968 and the proportion of which related to commuter workers from Limerick (Callanan 2008).

At that time, Southill was the largest public housing development undertaken by the local authority (Limerick or-poration). The original tenants came from the existing working class areas of the city living in over-crowded accommodation and also from rural areas. The latter was linked to migration of workers and their families with no work opportunities or under-employed in rural areas to the city to pursue the employment opportunities that were developing there. These opportunities included, in particular, the German-owned Krups factory set up in 1964 adjacent to and within walking distance of Southill and Ferenka, the Dutch-subsidary, opened in Annacotty in 1972. Krups drews a substantial part of its workforce from the working class communities on the southside of the city. In the 1970's it employed some 1,500 workers and, over the years, generations and individuals from the same families worked in Krups. It was taken over by Moulinex in 1991 and closed in 1998 with the loss of 500 jobs. It was noted in the Dáil debate on the closure of Krups that the gender breakdown at the time of the closure was 70-30 in favour of women "many of whom came from the disadvantaged communities adjacent to the plant and are the sole wage earners in the family". Ferenka, at the time of its closure in 1977 due to losses and continuous industrial disputes, employed 1,400 workers.

Historical and Current Social Context

In recognition of the problems of the estates, Shannon Development made significant investments in the Regeneration Areas in the 1970's (Galvone Industrial Estate) and 1980's including Enterprise Centres in Moyross, Childers Road and Kilmallock Road, small-scale enterprise units in the core of the city (e.g. Michael Street and Tait Business Centre refurbished from a disused clothing factory). However, the social contexts dictated that the higher-value industrial tenants favoured the more advantageous locations of Raheen and Plassey Technological Park, the latter developed from 1984. Not only were these sub-urban locations less accessible to the most disadvantaged populations in areas like Southill and Moyross – particularly for people without own transport – but also the skill base of the employment in the developing locations was at a higher level and beyond the capacity of a population characterised by low level educational qualification and skill.

Specifically in relation to Southill, aspects of estate design combined with the social compositional factors of the estate (concentrations of young families and children, lone parenthood, very high unemployment particularly youth unemployment, very high rates of male and head of household unemployment, high proportions of people who were never in employment, low levels of educational attainment) are documented by McCafferty (1999) in a case study of Southill East (O'Malley Park and Keyes Park). Key points are that aspects of estate design were problematic in this context. The estate was based on the Radburn layout whereby houses face onto open greens and vehicular access is via "back courts"- i.e. cul-de-sacs at the rear of the houses. This design results in problems of access by visitors and key services (taxis, emergency services) and lack of security and privacy in the back courts which are not visible and cannot be supervised from the houses. Large scale of estates with uniform design of housing, too much open space which is poorly landscaped combined with very high concentrations of children living in conditions of relative poverty led to problems of environmental degradation (vandalism, graffiti), uncivic / anti-social behaviour and low level criminality. These aspects of estate design and growing problems of anti-social behaviour were not conducive to community development. However, community development progressed in Southill, centred on Southill House, providing a range of services to the community, small enterprise develop-ment including businesses based on co-operative / social economy projects. This took on a broader scale of development from 1999 focused on Limerick Southside estates, a more strategic direction, a partnership model (private sector, city council, agency, community / voluntary sector) and integrated action-based approach with the establishment of Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) housed in the old Krups factory. LEDP was developed in response to the closure of Krups and the extensive needs of people living in the disad-vantaged estates on the southside of the city. LEDP was an economic initiative driven by concern for the social circumstances of the poor and in the wider interest of the development of the city of Limerick.

Through the 1980's there was a strong pattern of out-migration from these estates, low level of take-up of tenant purchase (reflecting, in part, that people did not want to stay) and an opportunity to get out of the estate, for those with more capacity for upward mobility, via the surrender grant scheme (in operation from 1984 and 1987). The latter scheme offered the possibility for local authority tenants to purchase private sector housing and release the local authority rented housing for occupancy by those on the housing waiting list. This scheme is regarded now as having the unintended consequences of a serious deterioration of the local authority estates in the city – particularly Southill and Moyross – by enabling those with the most capacity for upward mobility to move on. They were replaced by people who were worse off in terms of income, thus depressing the profile of the estates further towards higher concentrations of relative poverty. As a reflection of the social problems developing on the estates in Southill, by 1991, the proportion of lone parent families was approximately twice the rate for the city of Limerick by 1991 – 36 per cent of families with children in Southill East were lone parents (compared with 20 per cent in the city of Limerick) while 45 per cent of all young families (families with children aged 15 years or younger) were lone parents (compared with 15 per cent in the city as a whole). Lone parent families were predominantly headed by a female.

Moyross on the northside of the city was constructed mostly over a period from 1973 to 1987. It consists of twelve parks and can be broken down into three sub-units – (i) the oldest part of Moyross comprising Cosgrove, Cliona, Dalgaish and College Park, (ii) the Glenagross area of Moyross comprising Castle Park, Whitecross Gardens, Hartigan Villas, Sarsfield Gardens, Castle Park and extending into the most recently constructed part, Ballygrennan Close (managed by the RESPOND housing association), (iii) the part of Moyross formerly within the county boundary, namely Pineview, Delmege and Craeval Park. Moyross was constructed as a cul-de-sac, adjacent to working class Ballynanty, and physically cut off from the middle class area of Caherdavin by a high barrier wall. College Park was originally intended to be sold as private housing but was let as local authority housing because there was no market for private housing within such as large-scale development of public housing. All parks were constructed to a high level of quality / design of housing units at the time but the overall estates design was flawed.

For several years, the estate had no base of community or social facilities. The setting up of houses on the initiative of two communities of sisters, the Little Sisters of the Assumption (in Pineview) and the Sisters of Mercy (in Cosgrave Park) provided a focal point for bringing people together. Community development initially started with adult education, youth clubs, sports and playgroups and subsequently, a Family Resource Centre was established. Training in community leadership

provided the first cadre of community leaders in Moyross (still in place). Community development structures were set up (1988) with support from the Combat Poverty Agency (1987). These structures took forward the community development process in Moyross. The community sector in Moyross, generally, is regarded as the most cohesive and effective amongst the disadvantaged areas of Limerick (Humphreys 2005, 2006). The efforts of the community sector were the key factor in building up a range of services for the population of Moyross on the estates, clustered around the community enterprise centre and also in the retention of key services into the estate – including bus services into the estate which at times were suspended because of problems on the estate.

At the time Moyross estate was constructed, just like Southill, there was no mixed use and too much open space poorly landscaped. In particular, there were no retail outlets created on the estate, no coffee shops and no public houses allowed. Subsequently, some small shops developed in parts of the estate, from adaptation of housing units, protected by steel grills. Only one of these now remains on the estate (Delmege / Pineview). It was not until 2005 that the retail development and library at Watch House Cross was developed. As outlined above, in the 1980's, there was also a development of enterprise units by Shannon Development (small-scale enterprise) on the estate. These together with Madden's Milk (now gone) and Ger Walters fuel yard (Killeely) were the only sources of mainstream employment close to the estate. As funding for community development increased over the years, directly in service provision, and through active labour market schemes just as Community Employment (and its antecedent schemes) and Job Initiative, there were opportunities for forms of local employment / engagement in community-based and service activities on the estate (estate clean-up, childcare, youth, security). Generally, these schemes were highly developed and utilised by the community sector to provide key services to the community on the estate.

In terms of the population which established itself in the housing in Moyross, there are generally strong linkages with older local authority estates, particularly from northside estates (i.e. children of residents of Ballynanty, Killeely, Lee Estate, Assumpta Park and St. Mary's Park) and also country people on the city council housing waiting list. Reflecting wider social trends, particularly changes in family structure over the period since the estate was first constructed, newer and less desirable residential areas of Moyross (parts of Glenagross and Pineview and Delmege Park) have stronger concentrations of female-headed households many of whom are lone parents dependent on welfare (McCafferty and Canny 2005). A further category of local authority tenant are lone males on low incomes – typically alone because of marital / relationship breakdown and isolated from their families. While this sub-group generally tends to be accommodated in the private rental sector (availing of the rent

supplement scheme and in hostel accommodation) because they are categorised at a lower level of need in the housing allocation policy (McCafferty and Canny 2005), some accept the vacant accommodation that others refuse. Parts of both Southill (O'Malley Park) and Moyross (Glenagross area) were the subject of a programme of housing refurbishment but within a short time, they had completed physically deteriorated reflected in images of vandalised, boarded up and burnt out houses.

3.0.2. Socio-Economic Deprivation in Limerick: The Current Situation

An overview of Limerick and of the regeneration estates is presented below.

Limerick City has a total population of 59,790 (CSO 2006) and some 90,000 including the suburbs. The population of the city has declined over the period from 2002-2006 (-1.9%). Population growth in the city has remained more or less static over the fifteen period, 1991-2006. This is in contrast to the trend in the County (population growth of 21.1%), the Mid-West region (+16.2) and the national trend (+20.3%). The areas of the city experiencing high levels of population growth in more recent years are the parts of the inner city undergoing redevelopment – particularly around the docks area – and the suburbs. This contrasts sharply with the areas of greatest population decline, which are the most deprived neighbourhoods. These are the estates which are now the focus of the Regeneration Initiative on the southside and northside of the city.

3.0.2.1 Socio-spatial deprivation / affluence: Limerick in the National Context

In terms of socio-spatial deprivation / affluence in Limerick, new measures of deprivation at a spatial level in the Republic of Ireland have been developed drawing on data from the 2006 census (Haase and Pratschke 2008). Using the same methodology to construct indices of deprivation, the new measures provide an analysis of changes in affluence and deprivation over a fifteen year period from 1991-2006 at five year intervals, at a highly disaggregated level (local area based on the unit of Electoral Districts).

The period from 1991-2006 was one of unprecedented economic growth in the Irish context and social transformation. Within this time frame, three distinctive periods can be identified as follows (Haase and Pratsche 2008): (i) the period from 1991to 1996, characterised by gradual initial growth; (ii) from 1996 to 2002, characterised by rapid economic growth and (iii) from 2002-2006 prevailing into the current climate of a slow-down in the rate of economic growth.

This is reflected in the Haas Index in that the Absolute Index Score shows that nationally, for the city of Limerick and the Mid-West region, the index rose gradually in the first period 1991-1996 indicating improved socio-economic conditions; more rapidly between 1996-2002 and more gradually again indicating a slow-down between 2002-2006. In relative terms, however, Limerick City is the second most disadvantaged local authority area in the country (after Donegal) and has been in this position consistently since 1991.

Limerick City is also one of sharp contrasts in terms of the spatial distribution of relative affluence / deprivation – as shown by McCafferty (2005) based on comprehensive analysis of 2002 census data at ED level for the city and suburbs. The analysis of 2006 census data at small area level shows the same overall pattern. Based on the index of relative deprivation 2006, over 50 per cent of the city's ED are classified as disadvantaged to extremely disadvantaged with over 18 per cent in the worst category of extremely disadvantaged compared with only one per cent in that category at national level. Just over 30 per cent of EDs are in the middle or average range of marginally above or marginally below average compared with almost 75 per cent of EDs at national level in the middle range. At the other end of the spectrum, 19 per cent of EDs are classified as affluent or very affluent which is above the national level of 13 per cent in those categories. As such, in the case of Limerick, the overall distribution of relative deprivation is "flatter" compared with the national context. This, in turn, is indicative of greater inequality in the spatial distribution of affluence / poverty in Limerick compared with the national context. Particularly striking is the extent of concentration of disadvantage at ED level based on the proportion of EDs in extremely and very disadvantaged categories – Figure 1.

While the detailed data on the index of change in relative deprivation scores between 2002-2006 for the city EDs are not presented here, the situation is that several of the city EDs have disimproved on that index, indicative of a trend towards widening disparities (i.e. growing inequality rather than any "catch up" process). EDs where deprivation has worsened include Ballynanty ED (incorporating Moyross) which have moved from very disadvantaged to extremely disadvantaged classifications between 2002-2006 (GAMMA 2008).

In relative terms, one of the key substantive findings of the analysis of the spatial distribution of disadvantage in Ireland over the last fifteen years is that:
"it is disturbing .. to observe that some of the most disadvantaged urban areas, particularly in Limerick, Cork and Waterford, have failed to participate in the generalised improvement in living standards and have, as a consequence, fallen even further behind in the more affluent areas of Ireland", Haase and Pratsche (2008).

Figure 1: Relative Deprivation Index 2006: Limerick City and Ireland Electoral Districts
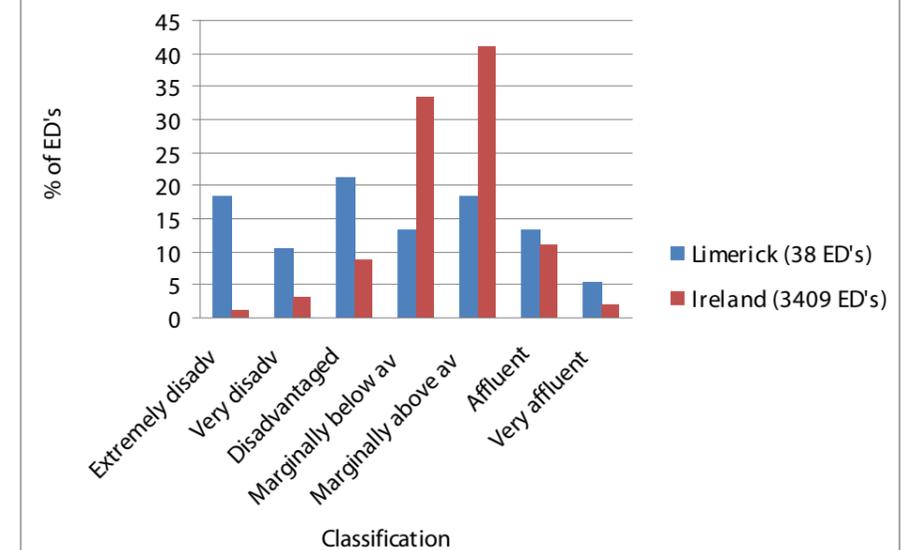
3.0.2.2 Description Of Needs: Analysis Of The Problem
The Fitzgerald Report (2007) provided a broad analysis of conditions on the estates based on analysis of secondary data, and including descriptive accounts and images from the estates. In describing the conditions, Fitzgerald states that "*the picture that emerged during visits to these estates and discussions with residents and community workers was, in many respects, quite shocking. The quality of life for many people is extremely poor*" (p. 5).

Social Regeneration

Historical and Current Social Context

Profiles of areas which highlight the scale of deprivation of the estates relative to the average for the city and suburbs can be constructed from analysis of various data sources including: Small Area Population Statistics at Electoral District level (CSO, 2006) for the five Electoral Districts broadly corresponding with the regeneration areas, profile of local authority tenants (McCafferty and Canny 2005) and other recent research.

Both male and female unemployment rates for Limerick city remain above the national rates (15.7% for males and 12.6% for females in Limerick city compared with national rates of 8.8% males and 8.1% females). Rates in the regeneration areas are well above the city average – highest in St. John's A (St. Mary's Park) for both males (49.8%) and females (32.2%) followed by Galvone B (O'Malley Park and Keyes Park), 39.6 per cent (males) and 28.6 per cent (females).

In terms of absolute affluence / deprivation, over the years from 1991-2006, all of the EDs in the regeneration areas fall into the extremely disadvantaged category (scores below -30) – i.e. the most disadvantaged urban areas in the state. St. John's A (St. Mary's Park) is ranked as the most disadvantaged ED in the state (-60.7) and has been in this position consistently since the index was developed in 1991.

As well as indicators of material deprivation, there are also problems with organisation / engagement of residents in community, and sharp contrasts between the different estates included in the regeneration (northside / southside and within northside and southside estates). While there are strong/capable community-based organisations, particularly in Moyross, the vast majority of residents, particularly the most vulnerable, are not engaged in these structures and, for various reasons (de-motivated, lacking confidence, time and other pressures), in the past have not be interested in being directly involved. Community / voluntary organisations are more fragmented in St. Mary's Park and on the southside. Distrust of public institutions identified in research in the northside communities, is a feature of negative social capital affecting relationships with state agencies / institutions and engagement with public services (Humphreys 2005, 2006). Rebuilding trust is a slow but essential part of the process. The Regeneration Agencies appear to have succeeded in rebuilding some trust since their arrival.

Some recent work on aspects of service delivery suggest relatively low uptake of services (e.g. relatively low uptake of health outside of GP and hospital out-patients, in a recent study of older people in north side parishes) generally because the services are not there (Humphreys 2008), and widespread unmet needs in key areas such as needs of children (behavioural and psychological problems) and mental health of mothers (McKeown and Haase 2007). Places on services such as diversion activities

for young people (Probation) could be filled many times over if demand for such services were to be addressed. Basic mapping of policy initiatives into disadvantaged estates (like Moyross) show numerous typically fragmented initiatives which are thinly spread. The de-personalisation of service delivery (i.e. not knowing who is responsible for what), turnover of staff in key public services, less and less delivery via visiting homes (public health nursing, GPs, rent collecting) not only makes the situation worse but increases the gap, and also reduces the understanding of the problems and empathy with estate residents.

ADDRESSING ISSUES OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN MOYROSS AND OTHER DISADVANTAGED AREAS OF LIMERICK CITY

report to the cabinet committee on social inclusion
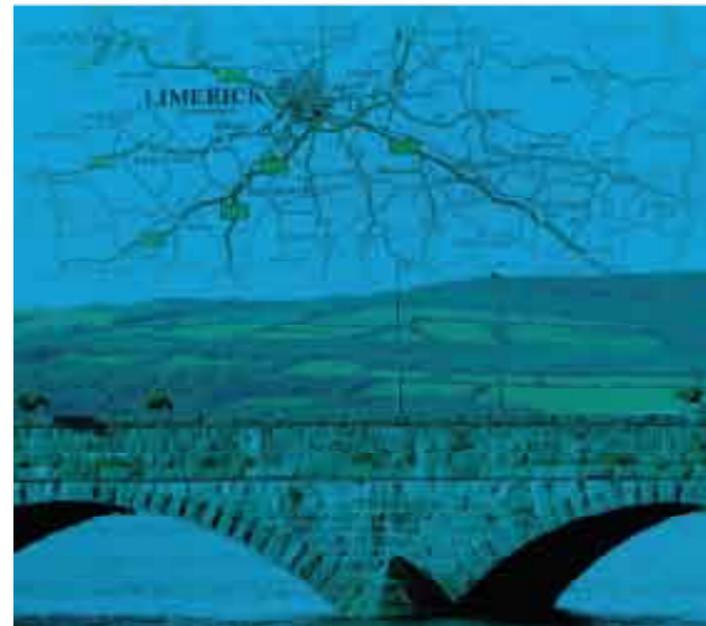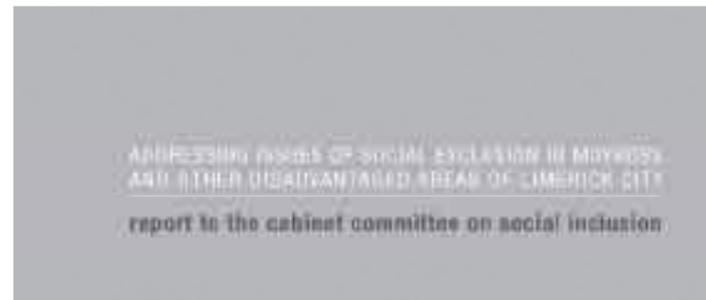
'There is a serious problem of educational disadvantage. Truancy is a problem, and it is not unusual to see young people, often of primary school age, wandering the streets during school hours. The numbers in the local schools are dropping because children are being sent to school outside the area.'

Fitzgerald Report
April 2007

Introduction

The historical and current social context is set out comprehensively in the previous pages. This acts as the background to the serious social issues that must be addressed in the implementation of this Regeneration Programme.

This implementation will require a more integrated and focussed delivery amongst the relevant state agencies, the application of new and innovative models of 'doing business' and in some instances new investment in infrastructure and services.

The Limerick Regeneration Agencies will monitor, influence and be the strategic coordinator during the course of the implementation in order to ensure delivery of all objectives set out in the Social Plan.

Many of the social regeneration proposals come under the remit and responsibility of other state departments and agencies and a major onus and challange is being placed on them to either deliver within their existing budgetary resources or to actively seek additional resources, that may be required to meet the essential objectives within this Social Plan.

Drawing on the analysis of the problems of the estates, the issues that need to be addressed by the strategy are categorised broadly as follows:

1. Structural economic deficienciess in the estates. The problem is not so much about the availability of jobs but the lack of capacity of the population to take advantage of economic opportunities, in a sustainable way, in terms of education and skills development, jobs and business opportunities as they arise. Part of the difficulty is attitudinal, related to confidence and also expectations to advance beyond a situation of welfare dependence. For some, welfare is no longer a safety net but a way of life.

2. Extensive social problems: These are generally reflected in educational deficits/ disadvantages, family dysfunction, deficits in parenting, high numbers of children and young people at risk, lack of capacity of some children and young people to engage in the normal opportunities associated with childhood (progression at school, play, social engagement), teenage years (transition to and positive outcomes in secondary education, stable family and peer networks) and progression to adulthood (via training, further education, work and stable family formation).

3. Physical problems arising from the overall planning and design of estates: manifested in physical isolation from the mainstream of the city and region, overall design (no mixed use), poor quality of the overall environment and in some cases, deteriorated quality of homes on the estates.

4. Institutional issues are manifested in the relationship with and services/activities undertaken by or in cooperation with state agencies. This includes but do not only concern policing and the criminal justice system, which receives most attention. In the current period, as outlined on page 7 of the Fitzgerald Report, public funding into these estates is not achieving "an acceptable, let alone optimum, level of direct benefits to the communities" and the activities of the agencies are not sufficiently coordinated. As well as lack of effectiveness and poor investment of public funds, this has resulted in poor relationships between residents in communities and key agencies of the state, and little trust in these institutions.

5. Furthermore, the attention given to the disadvantaged estates of Limerick particularly in relation to criminality has resulted in an intensely negative external image of the estates and of Limerick generally as well as under-mining the functioning of and service delivery, across the board, in the disadvantaged communities.

The strategies and actions, developed in this plan, are shaped to respond to extensive and complex problems of the estates. The strategy builds on the way forward outlined in the Fitzgerald (2007) and the Vision Statements prepared by the Regeneration Agencies (2008) in consultation with the communities.

Three strands of action to deal with the problems were identified by Fitzgerald (2007), namely:

1. Dealing with the issue of criminality, which is considered fundamental to creating conditions for other interventions to be successful and restoring the confidence of local communities
2. Economic and infrastructural regeneration, to create employment, unlock value, improve access and create a better commercial and housing mix
3. Developing co-ordinated responses to social and educational problems, in order to break the cycle of disadvantage.

3. Social Plan - Introduction

The implementation of the plan will:

1.   Build the capacity of the people who live in the estates to participate in mainstream economic opportunities of the city and region and to generate new economic opportunities through a comprehensive programme of social regeneration and physical improvements including the opening of physical access to and from the estates thereby enhancing the opportunity structure of the regenerated areas.

2.   Better mobilise the resources of the state and other partners to invest in the disadvantaged communities and build positive and productive relationships between the communities and these institutions/agencies.

3.   Deliver a stable civic minded environment with quality local services appropriate to the needs of the population of the estates, integrated with and adding to the productive capacity of the city (businesses, qualification and skill levels and jobs) and contributing positively to the social and cultural life of the city.

The Social Plan has a number of cross-cutting objectives. These are principles or process-related objectives that run through all sectoral priorities:

1.   Integrated action both within and across the social, economic and physical programmes. This means in effect that actions within different sectoral areas of activity are developed holistically so that the overall positive impact can be enhanced. For instance, actions to bring people into the labour force via training and work will be developed to take into account and ensure that they also have a positive impact on children and parenting; educational interventions for children are designed and delivered such that they develop as far as is possible in tandem with supportive parenting etc.

2.   Participation of communities and priority target groups to ensure that they are engaged in developing the solutions, in the economic opportunities that are opened up via regeneration (e.g. efforts to use local labour in training and construction) and other activities to give residents a stake in the communities.

3.   Mobilising the resources of the wider range of local institutions including the second and third level education sector, businesses and business networks and voluntary organisations to bring additional resources in terms of skills of people, knowledge, support programmes etc. to the regeneration initiative.

4.   "Bending" or adapting main programmes in key areas like education, labour market and health to better address the needs of disadvantaged people/communities and priority target groups (e.g. children, youth and families at risk).

5.   Developing opportunities for social integration into the mainstream life of the city and its institutions.

This approach provides a framework for assessing the quality and appropriateness of actions developed (e.g. the extent to which they meet multiple objectives). It also provides the structure to inform the development of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Plan.

The following key areas of impact are comprehensively addressed in the Social Regeneration Plan: -

•   Education
•   Children, Youth and Family Support;
•   Health
•   Neighbourhoods and People

Note:

The cost to the State of a prison place per annum is estimated at over €90,000 (and up to €200,000 in high security prisons).

The economic benefit to the State of each individual achieving graduate status in the educational system is estimated at €200,000. Therefore if crime levels are reduced and educational attainment enhanced in the Regeneration Areas then there will be a strong economic benefit to the State. This issue will have to be a constant focus of attention during the course of the implementation period of this Regeneration Plan

'As a result of policing efforts, and the overall process of regeneration of housing stock, the problem of concentration of criminal elements in these areas can be addressed. This will be critical to changing the reality that people in these estates have to deal with, and the negative perception created by serious criminal incidents. However, it will also be important to manage the impact of this process in a strategic and structured way to ensure that the problems are simply not displaced. This will require a longer-term policing strategy, supported by the strategies of other key agencies, including the local authorities.'

Fitzgerald Report
April 2007

'I am convinced that dedicated police resources to support sustained and intensive policing intervention need to be made available to fundamentally change the dynamics of the current situation. This will be in the context of a five-year programme to normalise and stabilise these areas.'

Fitzgerald Report
April 2007

Introduction

In recent years many initiatives at all levels of the formal and non-formal education sectors have sought to tackle social exclusion, educational disadvantage, early school leaving and poor educational attainment. Despite the fact that these problems have been the subject of strong policy focus and considerable investment for many years, their impact in terms of outcomes is less than satisfactory, and educational disadvantage in its various forms, remains a most difficult and deep-rooted problem in parts of Limerick City, most notably the Regeneration Areas.

Education in Regeneration

Regeneration is a comprehensive and integrated series of actions that proposes to lead to the resolution of social problems; as well as bringing about lasting and sustainable improvements in the economic, physical, environmental and social conditions of an area (BURA, 2006). While the future points to a new and better future for Limerick City, through regeneration, it must be emphasised that physical regeneration alone is not enough. Education makes a fundamental and important contribution to the quality and well-being of our society, by enabling a person to realise their full potential, to develop as a social being, living in co-operation with and in respect of others. Education also prepares one for life and further learning. Therefore, education and learning must sit at the core of the regeneration process; for it is critical to social inclusion, economic competitiveness and sustainability. However, if progress is to be made in moving beyond educational disadvantage in Limerick City, care and education must not be viewed in isolation, but will together be addressed in the implementation of the Regeneration Programme.

Furthermore, the importance of "lifelong learning" and "up-skilling" are fundamental to regeneration efforts for education and training. National policy speaks of the need to (1) "drive the lifelong learning agenda by enhancing access to training, the development of new skills, the acquisition of recognised qualifications and progression to higher-level qualification" (2) "target learning opportunities for adults and vulnerable groups; and those in disadvantaged communities with low levels of educational attainment". However, many people in regeneration areas have limited formal educational experience, with few educational qualifications, as a consequence, these individuals may find themselves excluded from the labour force, or in low-skilled employment, with little or no chance of promotion. Up-Skill Solutions recognises that these individuals are vulnerable to unemployment in times of economic down-turn. Up-skill Solutions places particular emphasis on the design and the provision of training and supports that are relevant to specific needs (1) when in employment, and (2) in the event of redundancy.

The Regeneration Agencies will also seek to progress the following, along with monitoring their success.

1. Appointment of a Manager for Education in Limerick City;

2. Roll-out of early childhood programmes;

3. Greater support for pupils with special education needs;

4. Enhanced counselling and therapeutic supports;

5. Enhancement of school infrastructure in Regeneration Areas;

6. The development of an early school leaving strategy;

7. Improving the capacity of the non-formal education sector;

8. Promote pathways and progression for adults in education/training;

9. Enhanced after-school education support;

10. Identifying key areas for research and the gathering of baseline data so as to inform Regeneration practices, as well as evaluating their effectiveness in terms of their impact on the quality of life for those living in Regeneration communities;

11. Promotion of technologies to address Social Exclusion.

Social Regeneration

3.1 Education

Expected Impact :	Strategic Planning, Co-ordination, Targeting and Management of Educational Resources in Limerick.				
Outcome 1:	A Manager for Education to drive change in educational service delivery.				
Strategic Partners: Department of Education & Science [DES], City of Limerick Vocational Educational Committee [CLVEC] and Agencies within Department of Education and Science [DES].					
Short Term Results	**Current Situation**	**Success Indicator**	**Activities to Achieve Results**	**Resources Required**	**Who is Responsible**
1.1: Greater responsibility devolved to Limerick for decision making and strategic coordination of education.	Deficits in structures to manage and direct education in Limerick City.	A manager for education appointed by the Department of Education and Science as soon as possible.	Agreement from DES to make the appointment	Person(s) appointed.	DES & CLVEC, agencies within the DES.

'Institutional and cultural changes needed in education'

'Enhanced senior management capacity for education in Limerick'

Expected Impact:	Enhanced Early Years Education Support for Regeneration Areas.				
Outcome 2:	All children in Regeneration Areas in receipt of quality early childhood education and development programmes.				
Strategic partners: Department of Education & Science [DES], City of Limerick VEC [CLVEC], Children's Services Committee [CSC], Limerick City Childcare Committee, PAUL Partnership, Health Service Executive [HSE], Home School Community Liaison Coordinator [HSCLC], National Council for Curriculum & Assessment[NCCA], Delivering Educational Opportunities in Schools [DEIS], Archway's.					
Short Term Results	**Current Situation**	**Success Indicator**	**Activities to Achieve Results**	**Resources Required**	**Who is Responsible**
2.1 : Promoting continuity of learning from pre-school to primary level education.	Serious deficits in early childhood education in regeneration areas. Framework for Early Learning NCCA (2004).	Roll-out of the Framework for Early Learning 0 – 6 yrs NCCA.	Universal provision of early childhood education for all. Implementation of Framework for Early Learning 0-6 yrs. NCCA.	Ring-fenced funding. Training. Leadership. Personnel to deliver on same.	DES CSC
2.2 : Establish further early childhood education programmes in Regeneration Areas.	Limited Incredible Years Programme – Limerick Northside only at present.	Early Start extended and enhanced. Full roll-out of the Incredible Years Programme in all Regeneration Areas.	Enhance and extend Early Start to all regeneration primary schools. Establishment of Incredible Years for all regeneration area schools and pre-schools.	Ring-fenced funding	DES. DES /HSE/PAUL Partnership
2.3: Greater parental involvement in early years education.	HSCL's remit broadened so as to facilitate greater parental support.	Greater support of parents vis-à-vis their children's education.	Home visits and parent training programmes Develop more support structures for parents.	A Coordinator for every Regeneration Area school. Parents room in schools.	DES - HSCL.

Expected Impact: Facilitate Greater Participation in Compulsory Education through Special Education Needs Provision.
Outcome 3: A more comprehensive system of support for pupils with Special Education Needs [SEN].
Strategic Partners: Department of Education & Science[DES], National Educational Psychological Service [NEPS], Health Service Executive [HSE], Clinical & Mental Health Service [CAMHS], Community Clinical Psychology, Speech & Language & Community Care, Occupational Therapy, Early Intervention Services, Group Counselling, Blue Box Creative Learning, National Council for Special Education Needs [NCSE], Mary Immaculate College [MIC], Archways, Barnardos, Social Service Centre, Family Resource Centre's [FRC's], Schools & National Centre for Guidance In Education [NCGE], Children's Services Committee (CSC Special Education Needs–officer, assistant & initiative - (SEN, SENO, SNA, SENI). National Council for Curriculum & Assessment (NCCA), EPSEN ACT (2004) = Education for People with Special Education Needs, ESL = Early School Leaver.

Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to Achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is Responsible
3.1: A more comprehensive system of assessment and psychological support services from a range of relevant professionals.	Current services not meeting the range of support and learning needs of children and adolescents in Regeneration Areas.	Number of relevant psychological professionals doubled. Children of school going age supported to achieve and participate in school. Reduced waiting lists and individual needs met.	Recognising that the educational development of children is a process, where a continuum of support is required to meet individual needs 'as required'.	Double existing educational psychologists (EP's) in Limerick as per recommendations of EPSEN Act, 2004.	DES - NEPS and strategic partners.
	Current services not meeting the social and emotional needs of children and adolescents in regeneration areas.	Children's mental health needs met. Sufficient professionals and resourced teams providing relevant services and supports.	Recognising that the social and emotional development of children is a process, where a continuum of support is required to meet individual needs 'as required'.	Additional clinical services /resources /Personnel.	HSE – CAMHS, HSE-Childcare Psychiatric Services, Strategic Partners & relevant therapeutic services.
3.2: Enhancing the range of NCSE support for young people in regeneration area schools & in 2nd Chance Education centres.	Barriers to services and resources encountered.	Continuity of service from primary to secondary levels. Barriers to services and resources removed so that services are delivered 'as required'.	Ensure continuity of service from primary to secondary school on statement of special need - where 'required'.	Additional SNA's. Fast tracking delivery of services on a needs basis. Full special needs sssistant Support.	DES/NCSE/SENO's/SNA's
	Many children and adolescents not receiving appropriate education resource support(s).	Greater number of children receiving additional educational resource and learning support in schools & in 2nd Chance Education.	Allocation of SNA's, resource and learning support measures put in place to meet SEN pupils' needs 'as required'.	NCSE support delivered 'as required' to children of school going age [6 -18 years of age].	DES/NCES/SENO's/SNA's/SENI's
3.3: Broaden the range and scope of NCSE services to include 'all children'.	Scope of NCSE service limited in its remit.	Greater range of services delivered. Statutory basis for SEN provision established.	Broaden the range and scope of NCSE services to include all children. Put SEN provision on a statutory basis – e.g. Code of Practice for SEN, UK.	Enhanced SEN services and training. Recruit and employ appropriately trained professionals to provide services by DES. Establish statutory basis for SEN provision.	DES. NCSE.

'The educational, social and emotional development of children is a
process where a continuum of support is required to meet individual needs'

3.1 Education

Expected Impact:	Enhanced Counseling & Therapeutic Supports for Children and Adolescents from Regeneration Areas, in Schools and/or Alternative Education Centres.

Outcome 4:	Enhanced counselling and therapeutic supports for children in schools and Second Chance or Alternative Education Centres

Strategic Partners:	DES, CLVEC, HSE, National Education Psychological Service (NEPS), Clinical & Mental Health Service (CAMHS0, National Council for Guidance in Education, Limerick Youth Services. (LYS), Youth Encounter Programme (YEP).

Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to Achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is Responsible
4.1: Schools in Regeneration Areas to have access to appropriate counselling and therapeutic supports 'as required'.	Limited capacity service in DEIS schools in Limerick, through Blue Box and other support structures. Lacks core Departmental funding support.	Funding/personel secured. Employed/services rolled out. Strategy developed.	Secure funding to develop service. Develop DES /HSE – joint approach to support the mental health of young people. A mental health strategy for children and adolescents in the Regeneration Areas.	Funding. Counsellors and Therapists. Training of same. Template for strategy. Research.	DES/HSE Group counselling services. Support groups. DES – NEPS & HSE -CAMHS.
4.2: Enhancement of Schools Guidance Counselling.	Schools guidance and counselling service - limited ability.	Increased level of guidanceand counseling in Regeneration Area schools	Remit of guidance service broadened to support more the social and emotional development of students.	Allocate additional guidance services in regeneration area schools.	DES, NCGE.
4.3: Appropriate support services for adolescents in-secondary schools, out-of-school & 2nd chance education 'as required'.	Deficits in counseling support for users in Youthreach, Limerick Youth Service, YEP, Chéim ar Chéim, Community Training Workshops.	Funding secured & service rolled out to: Youthreach, LYS, YEP, Ceim ar Ceim, CTW's 'as required'.	Youth counselling provision for schools and 2nd chance Education Centres. Establish counseliling support system e.g. Contact North.	Secure funding. Commitment to develop service. Recruit and appoint management personnel.	CLVEC/DES/HSE. Group counselling services. Support groups.

Expected Impact:	The Continuing Development of Sustainable Primary & Secondary School Infrastructure in Regeneration Areas.

Outcome 5:	Sustainable Primary and Secondary School Infrastructure in Regeneration area schools.

Strategic Partners:	School Accommodation Commission, DES Mid-West Regional Offices, Patrons, Trustees, Schools Boards of Management, parents and school staff in Regeneration Areas.

Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to Achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is Responsible
5.1: **Due to the inevitability of development under regeneration, an opportunity exists for more innovative and sustainable school infrastructure in the New Southill.**	Decline in pupil numbers in Regeneration Area schools. Number of schools in regeneration areas unsustainable.	A more innovative and sustainable infrastructure in the New Southill.	Need to take a long term view of school accommodation. Consultation process with DES School Accommodation Commission. Identify strategic location to accommodate a new primary and post primary campus in Southill.	Decision made on schools. Patron and Trustee agreement. Site(s) located. New facilities built.	DES. School Accommodation Commission. Patrons and Trustees. Subject to School Accommodation Commision Report, Nov 2009.
5.2: New School Accommodation for Gael Scoil Southill.	Primary Gael Scoil, Southill, in need of suitable accommodation.	Site located.	Appropriate location of Gael Scoil in Southill area and resourced accordingly.	Agreement from school trustees, patrons. consensus from s takeholders. Funding. Land.	DES School Planning Section. Diocese/patrons. Trustees. Management Boards, Staff and Parents.
5.3: A modern new school for Ballinacurra Weston.	Current school:- Our Lady of Lourdes NS requiring major extensions and refurbishment.	Modern, full co-educational primary school for Ballinacurra Weston built on current site.	School accommodation. Report agreeing to new school build encompassing full pre-school to 6th class.	Funding. Tendering. Completion.	DES School Accommodation Commission and DES Planning Section.
5.4: A modern new co-educational primary school for St. Mary's Park.	School buildings in St. Mary's Park GNS and BNS – a challenge for sustainability.	Modern, full co-educational primary school for St. Mary's Park.	Agreement to amalgamate St. Mary's Girls NS and Boys NS. into a single full scale co-ed school – pre-school to 6th class.	Funding/land/tendering. Completion.	DES School Accommodation Commission and DES. Patrons and Trustees. Planning Section.
5.5: Extension to Corpus Christi NS, Moyross.	Limited parking area, limited play areas, school requiring major extension and upgrading.	Purpose built hall installed, car park and playing fields extended, Support service room and Learning support rooms built, upgrade of reception, offices and general purpose areas together with adequate floor covering in hallways and classrooms.	Agreement by the DES to undertake extension and refurbishment.	Agreement/site located/funding. Tendering/completion.	DES School Accommodation Commission and DES Planning Section.
5.6: Queen of Peace NS, Janesboro established as a full co-educational school specialising in music provision.	Limited capacity to develop its proposed music project and the school as a full co-educational site.	Infrastructure to accommodate music development & the school as full co educational inclusive of pre-school to 6th class.	Agreement by DES to undertake extension and refurbishment. Provision of musicial instruments and music technology.	Agreement by DES. School. Funding and provision of musicial instruments and music technology.	Department of Education and Science. School patrons, principal & staff.

3.1 Education

Expected Impact:	The Development of an Early School Leaving Strategy for Limerick City.				
Outcomes 6:	Preventing truancy and early school drop-out by ensuring attendance, participation and retention.				
Strategic Partners:	National Education Welfare Board [NEWB], Education Welfare Officers [EWO's], School Completion Programme [SCP], Home School Community Liaison Coordinators, Youth Encounter Project [YEP], FAS, DES, HSE, City of Limerick Vocational Educational Committee [CLVEC], Limerick Youth Services [LYS], Northside Learning Hub [NLHUB], Family Resource Centre's [FRC's], School Support Programme [SSP], DEIS - Delivering Educational Opportunity in Schools.				

Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to Achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is Responsible
6.1: Improved school attendance, participation and retention in school.	Truancy and absenteeism from school is a problem in regeneration areas and other parts of Limerick City.	Better school attendance. Follow up on absenteeism. Schools policy on attendance developed.	Coordinated approach between NEWB/EWO's SCP/HSCL. Schools – more proactive in follow up on absenteeism.	Extra resources for NEWB/SCP – retention measures. School policy on attendance.	DES/NEWB/SCP/parents. Schools.
6.2: Preventing early school drop-out	Early school leaving is a problem for Limerick's Regeneration Areas.	Diminished drop-out rates from mainstream schools.	NEWB, SCP & HSCL supporting work of parents and schools in regeneration areas.	Increase EWO's personnel x 2 and drop-in/clinic-type EWO service in Regeneration Areas.	NEWB/SCP/HSCL/parents .
6.3: Resourcing Time-Out/Behaviour Support Units.	Lack of fully resourced Behaviour Support and Time-Out Units in Regeneration Area schools.	Resourced behaviour/time-out units in regeneration schools primary and secondary.	Allocation of facility and appropriately trained personnel for same to all regeneration area schools.	Targeting resources/to support Behaviour/time-out units. Training of personnel. Operational budget for activities.	DES – CLVEC. Schools.
6.4: Efforts of School Completion Programme targeted more strategically to address Early School Leaving.	The work of SCP often not understood or appreciated within schools. Lack of strategic planning regarding the role of SCP in regards to early school leaving.	SCP given more recognition within the sector. Greater recognition for and utilisation of SCP in terms of impacting on early school leaving.	Put SCP on a more sure footing within education and schools. SCP resources targeted at outreach, prevention and intervention work in partnership with NEWB and schools.	Recognition for the multi-faceted elements of SCP supports. Enhance funding for all regeneration area projects.	DES, SCP. Schools.
6.5: Ensure mainstream schooling is fully supported by the School Support Programme [SSP] under DEIS - to prevent Early School Leaving.	Mainstream supported by School Support Programme, under DEIS. School Completion Programme, HSCL, more resource measures needed. School and curriculum often seen as irrelevant.	NEWB/EWO's SCP/HSCL to support more the work of teachers and schools. Teachers making life at school and curriculum more meaningful and relevant for marginal young people..	Joined up approach and strategy between groups identified. Full roll-out of DEIS in all regeneration areas. Curriculum and school made more relevant	Increased resource allocations under DEIS for schools in Regeneration Areas. Professional accountability.	DES-DEIS, CLVEC/NEWB – EWO's/Local community/Parents. Teachers/Principals/Training Colleges.
6.6: Put in place appropriate education alternatives for Regeneration Area young people.	Some 2nd Chance and alternative education centres and programmes which require greater recognition, resourcing and accommodation.	Alternative/appropriate education centres for early school leavers established.	Joined up thinking between agencies and departments about quality delivery of services for early school leaver's and those 'at-risk' of early school leaving.	Centres in place. Strategy on accommodation for ESL's.	DES/FAS/CLVEC/LYS/Justice.
6.7: Adequate provision for those who drop-out or are forced out of school – in the age group 12 - 15 years.	Glaring gap in provision for those who dropout or are forced out of school in the 12-15 age group. YEP the only centre available for the 12-15 age group. Inadequate YEP accommodation. Additional Support measures for ESLs.	Adequate provision for the early school leavers in 12-15 age group. Upgraded current YEP. Pre-Youthreach Centre established	Secure suitable accommodation for the YEP. A 'pilot' Pre-Youth Reach Programme for Regeneration Areas.	Appropriate and permanent premises for YEP. Consultation. Agreement. Establish Centre. Operational budget for activities.	DES. YEP. Patrons. CLVEC / DES.
6.8: Expand and make more accessible the Home Tuition Service for those out-of-school.	Nine hours home tuition under NEWB – an inadequate resource for the target group.	More adequate accommodation & support for young people out of school.	More comprehensive measures to meet the learning of young people out of school.	Central pool of personnel. Neutral & suitable premises to locate this support.	DES – NEWB.
6.9: Supporting Transition from primary to secondary level/and/or 2nd Chance Education centre's.	Transition programmes under SCP and Northside Learning HUB, 2nd Chance Education Centres. Measure needs greater resourcing. Lack of sufficient out-of/after-school support for vulnerable or disengaged young people on transfer to secondary level or 2nd chance education.	Transfer made easier. Enhanced pupil uptake at secondary level. Diminished stress for vulnerable young people on entering schools and 2nd Chance Education Centres. Reducing drop-out. Out-of/after-school support provided.	Transition programmes developed. Process of transition from primary to secondary level more helpful to vulnerable/disengaged young people. Outreach worker to manage process and link with schools. Resettlement work in schools and 2nd Chance Education Centres After-school support for those who transfer to secondary and 2nd chance education.	Programme content. Outreach/Support workers. Personnel to deliver programme. Support work in schools and centres for students. After school support work – staff, time, premises. Operational budget for activities.	DES/NEWB. Schools. SCP. Northside Learning Hub [NLHUB]. Schools EWO's/CP. FRCs, DES and funded agencies.

Social Regeneration

3.1 Education

Expected Impact:	Improving the capacity of the Non-formal Education Sector(s) in Regeneration Areas.					
Outcomes 7:	Sector delivering a flexible and integrated approach to Education in Regeneration Areas.					
Strategic Partners:	DES, CLVEC, Youthreach, Chéim ar Chéim - Justice, Community Training Centre's – FAS, Back to Education Initiatives, Vocational Training Opportunity Scheme [VTOS], Post Leaving Certificate Courses [PLC']s.					
Short Term Results	**Current Situation**	**Success Indicator**	**Activities to Achieve Results**	**Resources Required**	**Who is Responsible**
7.1: A more effective and resourced non-formal education sector.	Number of Non-formal Education Centres and programmes requiring greater recognition and resourcing. Non-formal education sector(s) constrained by traditional 'school' organisational work practices.	Sector better coordinated and managed. Profile raised.	Recognition by DES of the pivotal role this sector will play in helping to regenerate communities. Providing an integrated and more flexible approach to education and learning in regeneration areas.	Terms of reference for management of this sector. Advertising. Highlighting achievements.	DES/CLVEC.
7.2: Promoting access, pathways and progression through Adult/Community Education for those living in Regeneration Communities.	Community and adult education disparate and ad hoc.	Management structure to coordinate provision. Profile of community based adult education raised.	Ensuring coordination and Management of this sector. Raising profile of community based adult education. Outreach work.	Funding to recruit and employ management Personnel. Advertisement. Highlighting achievements.	DES, CLVEC, LCEN/RAPID, Regeneration Agency, Paul Partnership. LCEN.
	Committed staff and volunteer base. National Qualifications Framework. Adult literacy and learning support services.	Greater uptake of adult learners at local level. Increased certification and educational attainment at varying FETAC levels.	More adult Education programmes and learners completing courses. More adult learners going on to higher education, or up-skilled to work.	Personnel to deliver programmes Advertising. Courses. Operational budget for activities. Tutors. Premises.	CLVEC/LCEN/RAPID/ALSS/NALA. Volunteers.

Adult, Community & Further Education central to Regeneration in Limerick City

'Recognising the Pivotal Role of the Non-Formal Education Sector for Regeneration Areas'

Establish a new College of Adult, Community & Further Education in Southill.

Expected Impact:	Promoting Access, Pathways & Progression in Education and Training for Adults from Regeneration Areas.					
Outcomes 8:	Promoting access, pathways & progression in education and training for adults from Regeneration Areas.					
Strategic Partners:	Department of Education & Science [DES], City of Limerick Vocational Education Committee [CLVEC], Mary Immaculate College [MIC], Limerick Institute of Technology [LIT] & University of Limerick [UL], Limerick City Education Network [LCEN], Adult Learning Support Service [ALSS], National Adult Literacy Association [NALA], Limerick Enterprise Development Park [LEDP], RAPID, PAUL Partnership, Shannon Consortium Strategic Innovation Fund [SIF], Higher Education Authority.					
Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to Achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is Responsible
8.1: Greater access to and support in further and higher education, for those from Regeneration Areas.	Further and higher level programmes having limited uptake from those living in Regeneration Areas.	More from Regeneration Areas partaking of further and higher level courses.	Institutions being creative and more proactive in terms of facilitating access to further and higher level programmes.	Resourced Access Programmes. Openness to facilitating greater access. Greater support measures for access.	DES, CLVEC, MIC, UL & LIT, SIF.
8.2: Locally based Adult and Community Education Centres established in Moyross, St. Mary's Park and Ballinacurra Weston.	Inadequate community based adult education centres in Regeneration Areas.	Establishment of local and easily accessible adult education centres. Promoting basic skills education.	Centres built in regeneration communities. Fostering progress in eduaction and training for Regeneration Area residents.	Land allocated. Buy-in. Agreement. Partnership. Funding to maintain and deliver services.	CLVEC, LCEN. Regeneration Agency.
8.3: Build an Adult, Community and Further Education College in the New Southill.	No landmark adult educational facility in Southill. Regeneration is an opportunity for the location of an adult and further education college in Southill.	Agreement and commitment to funding by DES and CLVEC. Site Identified. Project managed by CLVEC in partnership with DES, Regeneration Agency and local business interest.	Consensus achieved with all stakeholders. Funding source secured. Building to commence and be completed.	Agreement . Site located. Relocation of existing college and proceeds transferred	DES, CLVEC, Regeneration Agency. Local business interest.

3.1 Education

Expected Impact:	Enhanced After-School Education Support in Regeneration areas.				
Outcome 9:	Quality after-school provision in Regeneration Areas.				
Strategic Partners:	Mary Immaculate College (MIC), School Completion Programme (SCP), Barnardos, Family Resource Centre's (FRC's), Northside Learning Hub, UL Access Campus LEDP, SIF After School projects.				
Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to Achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is Responsible
9.1 Developing after-school provision in line with best practice and quality assurance measures.	No national after-school provision standards.	Quality assurance measures in after-school support provision.	Building on existing practice within after-school settings/lubs.	Funding to run service. Staff for coordination measures.	DES, strategic partners and funded agencies.
	Some school buildings under utilised in Regeneration Areas.	Schools used for after-school provision.	Making better use of schools as a resource for after-school provision.	Funding for service activities and premises.	DES, strategic partners and funded agencies.
	After school/homework clubs run by funded agencies–lack strategic direction/coordination	After-school support yielding more outcomes and results. Support workers trained.	Identify gaps and areas in need of support and development.	Funding for training and coordination measures	DES, strategic partners and funded agencies.
	Some local training programmes for after-school clubs. MIC, After SChools Support in Education and Training	Upskilled community involvement in after-school provision.	Capacity building. Support and training in delivery of after-school provisions	Recruiting. Training. Operational budget for activities.	DES, strategic partners and funded agencies.

Expected Impact:	To advance Research and Baseline Data on Regeneration Agency Efforts and Recommendations.				
Outcome 10:	Gathering quality baseline data, statistics and research				
Strategic Partners:	University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology, Mary Immaculate College, Department of Education and Science [DES], Health Services Executive [HSE], Justice and Local Authority.				
Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to Achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is Responsible
10.1: Gathering baseline data and statistics	Lack of coherent baseline data relevant to Regeneration Areas.	Solid baseline data available. Key indicators for success identified	Identify areas required for data collection. Scoping extent of brief.	Researchers. Procurement. Funding to undertake data gathering.	Regeneration Agency. Strategic partners.
10.2: Supporting specific research projects for Limerick's Regeneration Areas.	Lack of research on issues impacting on and affecting the quality of life for people living in Regeneration Areas.	Rigorous research undertaken on issues pertaining to regeneration recommendations and actions.	Scoping extent of brief. Identify thematic areas around the Quality of Life Framework, this will include 1. Baseline data. 2. Evaluation. 3. Research. 4. Longitudinal studies.	Researchers. Procurement. Funding to undertake research.	Regeneration Agency. Strategic partners.

Social Regeneration

3.1 Education

Social Regeneration

E-Inclusion

An E-Inclusion Strategy for the regeneration communities will recognise that to complement the roll-out of enhanced broadband networks in the Limerick region, a forward looking programme of broadband content initiatives and services must also be developed if the overall social and economic impact of regeneration is to be a success. This will consist of a number of defined ICT projects that will link directly with and support regeneration activities, towards the acquisition of new skills and competences in the area of ICT.

In going forward the Regeneration Agencies, together with its strategic partners will work to:

1. **Promote the relevance of technology to those considered most 'at-risk' of digital exclusion.** This will be achieved by focusing on the relevance and benefits of ICT and its usage in daily life.

2. **Enabling access to information technology resources.** This will involve promoting an increase in home computer ownership. Community groups will also work to establish a service to assist individuals in setting up new home computers, getting it working and providing support with basic applications. In addition, the use of technology to enable learners to self-access and self-manage information and learning resources should be developed at local community level, in partnership with public providers to increase the usage of on-line services.

3. **Developing and strengthening education and training.** Education and training providers will work to maximise the use of ICT in their work. The family learning ICT model 'surf to learn' and 'digital skills' programmes will be offered and promoted within community settings as will the integration of technology across community based learning. The 'Learning Management System' for community tutors is an emerging approach that could be promoted and resourced, as many people living in regeneration communities may want to learn the basics of computing and software packages, rather than receive ICT certification. To this end training will be need's focused and relevant. This requires the maximising of outreach training in each Regeneration Area.

Expected Impact:	E-inclusion – Promoting Technologies to Address Social exclusion.				
Outcome 11	World class technology resources in homes, enterprise centres and community settings.				
Strategic Partners:	City of Limerick Vocational Education Committee [CLVEC], Regeneration Agency, Shannon Broadband, ICT Steering Group, Credit Unions, Community Groups, Community Development Teams (CDT), Employment Agency (FAS), PAUL Partnership, Private Training Providers, Business & Enterprise Sector, Sport & Health Sectors & Higher Education.				
Short Term Results	**Current Situation**	**Success Indicator**	**Activities to Achieve Results**	**Resources Required**	**Who is Responsible**
11.1: Infrastructure World class broadband infrastructure in place to serve homes, business, enterprise, community and voluntary sector, education and universal service.	Mix of slow DSL broadband and dial-up connectivity	Number of broadband connections. Broadband speeds. CSO statistics.	Infrastructural build to include FTTH network as per feasibility study. Integrated hotspots developed with free wireless connectivity (MIFI Technology).	Determined by competitive tender.	Regeneration Agency. Builders.
11.2 Mobile technologies/PC ownership with increased home computer ownership and usage (up to 80%).	ICT Steering Group research - 44.7% home computer ownership (2006).	% of home computer ownership. % of Computer users. CSO Statistics.	Home computer initiative implemented in communities with support through Credit Unions. Technical assistance provided to set up new computers in homes and helpline provided to support users.	Free software. Training voucher and computer doctor. Technical assistance. Coordinated by the ICT Community Development Team (CDT).	ICT Steering Group. Credit Unions.
11.3 Upgrade technology resources in community organisations to 1st class technology in Regeneration Communities.	Basic resources in centres. Inadequate provision to meet current needs.	Broadband connected to PCs in community accessible locations.	Grant Aid community groups to develop 1st class networks. Process managed by ICT Steering Group – criteria by MWRA (2008) and Dell donation (2006)	Determined by connections needed and technical support required. Coodinated by the ICT CDT.	ICT Steering Group & Community Groups.
11.4 Technical support for community organisations and schools. Fully developed community owned and sustained.	Current ICT support very limited in 5 centres only 4 hours per month contact time.	Comprehensive service contract in place. Extended lifecycle for hardware resources.	Extensive frontline maintenance and support training programme given to identify community ICT champions. Develop fulltime ICT support solution (helpdesk-remote and on-site).	ICT technicians required from private sources and community trainers. Coordination by ICT CDT.	ICT Steering Group and Community Groups.

There is a strong ICT Steering Group currently operating in Limerick City and the Regeneration Agencies look forward to working with its key stakeholders in order to significantly develop a range of ICT Initiatives as part of the Regeneration Programme both in the designated areas and the city generally.

3.1 Education

Outcome 12. Knowledge and Independence to use Information & Communication Technology & be able to adapt to Technological Change.					
Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to Achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is Responsible
12.1 Technology innovation and research. Innovative use of technology promoted at community level. Collaboration and sharing of best practice t0 community level. Published Research.	Good examples. of small scale, stand alone innovative programme and capacity development models. 'Identifying ICT Needs in Disadvantaged Communities within Limerick City .	No. of innovative ICT initiatives. Collaboration between community groups. Research to conform to planning & action. Surveys.	Establish & manage community innovation & research fund To embark on sustained & rigorous baseline research providing decision-makers with the data analysis to make informed decisions about future ICT developments.	Innovation & research programme Coordinator. innovation & research fund annually.	Technology & Innovation research based & run in Limerick. Digital Learning & Innovation centre.
12.2 Limerick Digital Learning and Innovation Centre. Increase in adults from accessing Multimedia & general ICT training. Identified focal point for digital learning and Innovation centre for Limerick.	No Focal point for digital learning. No community based opportunities for Multi-media, digital skills.	Centre opened and operational. No. of learning progs. In digital arts & multimedia. No. of learners from regeneration areas receiving FETAC Level 5/6 certification.	New Technology Centre - (Digital Learning & Innovation Centre, Nicholas St.) to explore the creative application of digital technologies, primarily targeting adults from Regeneration areas. Focus on digital community arts & digital enterprise development.	Project Director. Multi-media Trainers. Resources for education & Training. Multi-media applications; production facilities for sound, music, video, photography, graphic design & animation.	Technology Centre Board. Digital Learning & Innovation Scheme. Links with NHL, 3rd level education providers & Dun laoghaire Ins. of Art & Design Technology. Overall Co-ordination by ICT CDT.
12.3 Self-access Centres. Increased access & usage of technology for self-directed learning & guidance.	Almost non-existent access in Limerick to community based Technology Resources.	Nos. accessing centre, progression to other training opportunities. No. of participants from most 'at-risk' groups of e-exclusion participating in ICT Training & Education.	Staff and resource self-access learning & information Centre's in the new Adult Learning Centre's as outlined in the Regeneration Agency Master Plan for Ballinacurra Weston, St. Mary's Park & Moyross.	Resource Centre's as part of Learning centre Build. 2 staff per centre on a 12 hour a day basis to meet user needs. Co-ordinated by ICT CDT.	Regeneration Agency Master Plan. Adult Learning Centre Management. ICT steering Group.
12.4 ICT Training & Education. Increased participation in the above by those most 'at-risk' g of e-exclusion. Significant increase in short informal ICT Training & learning opportunities focused on specific tasks.	Extensive range of Community Based Basic Computer Literacy Progs. (Formal / non-formal). Research indicates need for same. Take up of basic ICT progs. – low for Regeneration area groups.	No. of ICT Education & Training opportunities meeting identified and specific practical needs.	Develop & Deliver new ICT Training & Education Opportunities. Target those most 'at-risk' of digital exclusion:	Teaching Hours. Development & Support Resources. Technical support for Schools. School's Technology Development Worker.	VEC FAS ICT Steering Group. Private Training providers. 3rd Level Providers.
	Track links made with business; employment opportunities accessed / created / enhanced through participants engaging in the ICT training & learning.	No. of participants from target groups most 'at-risk' of e-exclusion participating in ICT Training & education.	Ageing – older people. Inclusion Socio-Cultural - minorities, migrants. Mentoring – disadvantaged & disengaged young people. Access – assistive technologies tailored to help those with special needs. Accredited ICT Training opportunities for Progression.		
12.5 Effective use of ICT to enhance Training for Enterprise & Employment.	E-learning is utilized in some existing progs. No strategic sector use of e-learning / blended learning or Web 2 applications.	Increased number of progs. Using of e-learning / blended learning and Web 2 applications in education & training. Increased number accessing e-learning & blended learning opportunities.	Deliver & develop new Training & Education opportunities using blended models and Web 2 applications. IT training forming part of all Local Employment Schemes.	Co-ordinated by ICT CDT.	VEC FAS LES Regeneration Forum.
Develop the ICT Capacity of Schools.	National Centre for Technology in Education & Local Advisor Roles have been made redundant.	No. of schools engaging in the project. No. of students using ICT with measured outcomes.	ICT Planning. ICT Grants for expenditure. ICT Classroom Integration. Software Purchase/use. Advice on School Internet & E-mail. Develop acceptable usage policy & internet safety Computer Virus Protection. ICT & Special Needs. Assistive Technologies. Local Innovative ICT Projects.	Schools in Regeneration areas. Co-ordintor x 2 Northside & Southside.	DES. VEC. Overall co-ordination by ICT CDT.
12.6 Community websites as a collaborative Forum & Active Information Portal for Regeneration Communities. ICT Community Development Team established to co-ordinate & implement the community ICT strategy & activities.	www.communitylink.ie in situ but not promptly or regularly updated. Currently one ICT Community Development Worker in situ, working on the basis of temporary contract.	Community groups trained. Site managed. by Central Information managed by each Regeneration Community. ICT Develoment team in Place. Activities co-ordinated by the ICT Development Team.	Redesign information portal for regeneration communities to have access to information on jobs, training, public services, sports, volunteering & local community information. Online services linked to this website – eg. SWAP SHOP, Community Blogs, Pod casting, Business Blogs, Buy Local , etc.	Co-ordinated by ICT CDT to implement all ICT Community Activities. Content Managers. Trainers. Community Groups. Community Portal Co-ordinators x 2.	ICT Steering Group. PAUL Partnership. CLVEC.

3.2 Children, Youth and Family Support

Social Regeneration

The Context

The agenda for children has grown in policy significance in Ireland in the last few years with the establishment of the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, with responsibility for ensuring that children are considered and catered for in government policies across all the departments and drawing these departments together to ensure high quality needs-based integrated services are provided for the children of Ireland. At a local level, this manifests itself in the form of the newly established city-wide Limerick Children's Services Committee (LCSC), one of four pilots in the country, made up of senior level representatives from health, education, justice and the local authority. The key role of the Limerick Children's Services Committee is the integration and coordination of services for children in Limerick. The Regeneration Agencies expect this Committee and its member agencies to take responsibility and be accountable for leading a programme of significant change in the areas. Whilst, it is believed that much can be achieved with strong local vision and goodwill, in turn, the national policies and practices will need to reflect and support best practice as it evolves in Limerick.

To give a sense of the current situation in the Regeneration Areas, the following are some of the more striking demographics with regards to children, youth and family:
• 43% of the population in the Regeneration Areas are under 24 years of age. 0-14 year olds in the Regeneration Areas make up 26% of the population in these areas, with 15-24 year olds making up17%
• There is an average of 46% of lone parent families of all households with childeren in the Regeneration Areas with the average in the State being 18%
• 55% of children in the Regeneration Areas came from lone parent families compared with 21% of children in the State
• 43% of mothers from the Regeneration Areas are between 20-24 years of age compared to 17% in the total Mid-West Region (Limerick City/County, Clare, North Tipperary)

Many children growing up in the Regeneration Communities experience neighbourhood violence, traumatic loss of relatives and friends and emotional and behavioural difficulties. Children as young as 10 years of age are involved in anti-social activities and the pattern of where this leads is well evidenced in local statistics. For example, the Regeneration Communities have one of the highest per capita juvenile crime rates in the country with the Garda Juvenile Liaison Team working with significantly high caseloads as young people referred by the Courts to Young Persons Probation are invariably assessed as high risk presenting with multiple and complex difficulties. Outside of Dublin, Limerick has the highest number of 16-18 year olds on remand or serving sentence in St Patrick's Institution, with a similar over-representation for 12-15 year olds in the national detention schools. The approximate annual cost to the judicial system of such detention is €300,000 per person.

Much of the current activity and resources are currently focused on children in need of protection. Comprehensive systems are in place in the HSE and An Garda Síochána for the very small minority requiring protection, costing the State as much as €250,000 per child annually for a high support placement in a residential unit. Many of these support systems are only triggered once a child gets to the highest level of need as opposed to issues being anticipated at a much earlier stage and support systems put in place to prevent issues from escalating. Of the 991 child protection reports in Limerick in 2007, 623 were for child welfare. A Limerick 'Assessment of Needs' System, as identified below, will allow early interventions across a range of difficulties.

While much planning work is afoot, much remains unchanged in childrens' lives in the Regeneration Areas in Limerick City. For example, there are over 23 agencies and a plethora for programmes operating in the Regeneration Areas supporting young people and their families and, in extreme cases, 17 agencies supporting one household. There is a question over how effective these interventions are, not so much singularly, but collectively. Whilst there are some good local examples of effective cross-agency working at ground level, measures must be adopted to ensure that cooperation, integration and accountability is optimised across all agencies and officially recognised as such.

A Way Towards Sustainable Communities

An integrated inter-agency system which ensures clarity in roles and clear accountability is critical to the success of social regeneration in the communities. One of the key recommendations in the Fitzgerald Report 2007 was 'Special dedicated teams need to be established within Limerick Northside Regeneration and Limerick Southside Regeneration to coordinate the efforts of the relevant bodies and groups to provide and intensive and focused intervention in the targeted areas and to provide full service integration'. The agencies involved in the regeneration of Limerick are now fully committed to the roll out of a Limerick 'Assessment of Needs System' (LANS), to be developed by the Limerick Children's Services Committee in close liaison with the Data Protection Commissioners (via a code of practice for information sharing and a common assessment framework). Children and their families will be fully supported to participate in the decision-making that affects their lives.

The Limerick Assessment of Needs System will give anyone with a concern over the welfare of a child or family a clear process by which to raise the concern and be feel assured that it is being dealt with appropriately. This will enable agencies to plan and effect coordinated interventions around educational difficulties, offending behaviour etc. at a much earlier stage. It is anticipated that as this system develops, it will pinpoint where current support services are breaking down and where additional resources are needed. This model could lead the way for best practice in Ireland but will ultimately ensure the delivery of a tailored package of services in a timely and responsive manner for a child/family in need, via a small core group of relevant agencies with a clear remit and lead agency. As opposed to interventions being seen as a cost to the State, it is imperative that the thinking changes to view interventions as investments i.e. investments in sustainable communities as opposed to the costs of dysfunctional communities. The Limerick Assessment of Needs System applies to all four outcomes in this section and to the section in education and health.

Over the period of consultation for this Plan, the evidence of residents' pride of place has been overwhelming. Proof of this is the fact that the majority want to stay living in the areas but express concern that the areas have deteriorated considerably in the last few years. Alongside the physical re-design of the areas, it is proposed that a responsive range of family support services are put in place tailored to the different types of need, including families suffering from anti-social behaviour/drug abuse, the criminalised families and the needs of those transient families who have relocated out of the Regeneration Areas. The HSE has developed a Child and Family Support Plan and the following areas are identified as priorities for core development under this programme: intensive parent support services including at the ante natal stage; intensive quality early years programmes operating in the proposed childrens centres in the Regeneration Areas and other settings; supports to high risk young people; out of hours support to families; drug and alcohol services; and mental health services. Much of this dovetails with and is complimentary to the Young Persons Probation Workplan for Limerick. Supports will seek to take account of the mental health of the mother in particular and encourage engagement with the father, where appropriate. Delivery of future services, for the most part, will be in the form of coordinated community based multi-disciplinary teams, recognising the educational, health and housing needs of the child and the family.

There is a need for an increase in out-of-school hours diversionary activities for all children and youth in the areas, with the proposed youth resource spaces acting as the hub. There will be a focus on increased integration of services in this sector and the development of evidence-based quality assured provision. All the relevant state and voluntary agencies will be actively involved. This is in addition to the provision of quality play, sport and arts spaces. It is fully realised that a significant amount of development work is required to build capacity in the communities to take responsibility for these activities.

In summary, the Regeneration Agencies believe that the following factors are critical to the success of the regeneration process with regards to children, youth and families.

Critical factors of success:
• **Child welfare and family support more clearly defined coordinated, resourced and sustained**
• **Coordination of services and supports through the Limerick Assessment of Needs System (LANS)**
• **Services operating to clear standards, partnership agreements with resources linked to performance Realignment of existing resources and, in some cases, an increase in same**
• **Range of intensive family support services to cater for different types of need**
• **Good quality early years education with intensive support where required e.g. childrens' centre**
• **Good quality and plentiful out-of-school hours diversionary activities, particularly for youth e.g. youth resource space as a focus for this**

In order to achieve this, this section has been framed on the basis of planning for the following results:

Expected Impact - Children, youth and families will be safe and will thrive in their communities
Outcomes: (which will be monitored and measured by the Regeneration Agencies)
1.1 Fully integrated health, justice and education services operating in Limerick to meet the needs of children, youth and their families
1.2 All families are safe and well in the regeneration areas and are supported to be active citizens
1.3 All children are safe, in good health and are supported to develop their full range of skills from an early age
1.4 All youth in the regeneration areas positively connected with, occupied and are supported to meet their full potential

With the above issues in mind, the Limerick Regeneration Agencies propose the actions detailed in the forthcoming sections.

3.2 Children, Youth and Family Support

Expected Impact:	Children, Youth and Families will be Safe and will Thrive in Their Communities				
Outcome 13:	Fully integrated health, justice and education services operating in Limerick to meet the needs of children, youth and their families				
Strategic Partners:	Limerick Children's Services Committee (LCSC) – made up of senior representatives from HSE as the lead agency, An Garda Síochána, Probation Services, Dept of Education and Science (DES), National Education Welfare Board (NEWB), City of Limerick Vocational Education College (CLVEC), Limerick City Council, Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA), Limerick Regeneration Agencies and Data Protection Commissioners Office				

Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is Responsible
13.1: Information on all services provided to children collated and reviewed.	Limerick Children's Services Committee (LCSC) only newly created. Funding secured for a part-time coordinator. Information exists on children's services in each agency but no central point for information across agencies.	Executive group operational. Funding secured for coordinator. Audit completed. Web-based directory operational. Research programme agreed and resourced.	LCSC to establish executive capacity to expand ability to implement work programme of committee. Secure funding for a full time LCSC Coordinator for 2 years. Undertake an audit and review of all services as a baseline. Produce a web based directory to communicate range of services and communicate work of LCSC. Select several existing relevant multi-agency programmes as case studies to highlight strengths and weaknesses of such partnership working. Undertake a sample baseline study of children in Regeneration Areas to clarify their status in respect of agreed indicators, which can be revisited periodically to assess impact of interventions. Models of good practice in children's services and programmes to be collated, analysed and good practice shared via local seminars for children services providers.	Staff time and funding. Funding from member agencies and OMC. Staff time. Coordinator time and access to the City Development Board website. Staff time. Funding for research and evaluation. Link with 3rd level education research programmes. Staff time.	Limerick Children's Services Committee (LCSC). LCSC. LCSC. LCSC. LCSC. Regeneration Agencies. LCSC.
13.2: A system for identifying and monitoring children and youth who come to the attention of services fully operational, with a view to putting in place supportive responses and measures.	No such system exists across the City. Some informal monitoring systems and care plans are in place. Sharing of information between care professionals perceived to be hindered by data protection and freedom of information legislation and concerns.	Limerick Assessment of Needs System operational. Training given to all stakeholders. Level of child, parent and agency engagement with system. Reduction in number of children being reported to HSE Social Work Service and/or being placed in care.	Develop and implement an interagency child welfare based Limerick Assessment of Needs System (LANS) across health, education and justice, which has an early warning system, a common assessment framework, resource panels and in-built monitoring. Appoint a full time LANS coordinator and administrator to oversee process and act as Data Controller. Develop a policy and procedures framework to be put in place. Develop an IT strategy for the LANS process. Identify a targeted trial group to initiate a common assessment process for children with additional needs with key stakeholders. Provide a training programme schedule on the LANS process for all staff across the range of service providers. Develop a resource plan, outlining gaps in provision. Undertake an external evaluation of LANS process.	Staff time and training. Salary costs. LANS coordinator time. Funding – cost unknown. Staff time. Staff time plus budget to deliver Plan. Funding unknown. Funding for Contract.	LCSC with HSE as lead in conjunction with Data Protection Commissioners. HSE as lead agency. HSE as lead agency. HSE as lead agency. HSE as lead agency. LCSC. LCSC. LCSC.
13.3: Strategy for childrens' services developed linking education, health and justice.	National Childrens' Strategy by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA) already in place. National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) Framework in place. City Childcare Strategy 2007-2012 in place. City Youth Work Strategy under development. HSE Child and Family Support Plan developed.	Local strategy in place and implemented. Level of involvement by strategic partners in process. Commitment of partners to actions required. Level of joint actions.	Outline the strategic areas of responsibility of LCSC. HSE to appoint a Manager of Children & Family Services for Regeneration Areas with full time capacity and the responsibility to deal with activities required. Develop the strategy, identify the key areas of joint working and resource implications. Implement action plan.	Member agencies staff time. Funding application to OMCYA as an interim measure . Staff time.	LCSC. HSE. LCSC.

3.2 Children, Youth and Family Support

Social Regeneration

Outcome 14:	All FAMILIES are safe and well in the Regeneration Communities and are supported to be active citizens.				
Strategic Partners: HSE, Barnardos, Limerick Social Services, Extern, Family Resource Centres, RAPID, City Development Board and Limerick City Council					
Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is responsible
14.1: Child & Family Support Plan based on an age banded and needs based format implemented.	Individual plans of a number of family support agencies. Child and Family Support Plan developed by HSE and funded partners for Regeneration Plan.	Package of supports agreed. Level of funding secured. Level of agency commitment to Plan.	Consult with all family support agencies. Prioritise the delivery of the following service areas: • Intensive parent support services including at the ante natal stage • Intensive quality early years programmes • Supports to high risk young people • Out of hours support to families • Drug and alcohol services • Mental health services • Agree delivery mechanisms for Plan For age band elements of HSE/Regeneration Child and Family Support Plan (0-4yrs; 5-9yrs; 10-14yrs; 15-18yrs) see sections on Children and Youth.	€12m approximately revenue costs.	HSE as lead agency. HSE funded groups. Family Resource Centres. Dept of Social and Family Affairs. CLVEC. RAPID.
14.2: Spaces/rooms for family support work as part of community facilities provided.	Current provision very limited.	Spaces provided and well used.	Ensure design of schools includes parents room to give them a sense of belonging. Ensure design of community centre includes flexible rooms available for outreach services to be delivered for parent & child work, therapies, treatments, counselling etc.	Part of capital funding for community facilities.	Regeneration Agencies. Dept of Education. Community Centre Management Companies.
14.3: Existing Family Resource Centres accommodated as part of Plan.	Current building in Ballynanty being extended. Southill Family Resource Centre based in a house in Avondale Court. Bedford Row Project although its administrative base is in the city centre, it services the Regeneration Areas	Increase number of users from Moyross and provide complementary services to others. Family Resource Centre services located and integrated with other relevant community services.	Ensure that the current St. Munchins Family Resource Centre (FRC) building is accessible to Moyross under physical Plan. Consult with FRC and residents on future location and to identify most appropriate services to be based with.	Cost of road infrastructure as part of Plan. Construction costs.	Regeneration Agencies. Regeneration Agencies.

'Strategy for childrens' services developed, linking education, health and justice.'

'Spaces/rooms for family support work as part of community facilities provided'

3.2 Children, Youth and Family Support

Outcome 15:	All CHILDREN are safe, in good health and are supported to develop their full range of skills from an early age					
Strategic Partners:	Limerick Children's Services Committee (LCSC), Limerick City Childcare Committee (LCCC), Health Services Executive (HSE), City of Limerick Vocational Education Committee (CLVEC); Limerick City Council (LCC); Dept of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA); Department of Education and Science (DES); Dept of Justice Equality Law & Reform (DJELR); Office of the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs (OMCYA), Síolta.					

Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is Responsible
15.1: Early Years Childcare Services (as defined through Childcare Pre-school services) Regulations 2006), committed to the implementation of the Síolta National Quality Framework (NQF).	Siolta quality guidelines in place. Towards a Framework for Early Learning (NCCA 2004) in place.	All services implementing NQF and Towards a Framework for Early Learning.	Identify gaps and areas for support and development in terms of curriculum/activity development. From this, develop terms of reference for ongoing support e.g. curriculum development/evaluation, mentoring, in-service training. Invite tenders and award contract Implementation and monitoring of contract	Funding for expertise Funding for support service contract	Limerick City Childcare Committee (LCCC)/HSE LCCC LCCC
15.2 Outreach ante-natal support provided to all expectant mothers and their partners.	Ante-natal classes, maternity hospital, public health nursing services, Community Mothers, Sonas (Sheltered accommodation for Pregnant mothers); Teen Parent Support Programme in place.	Increase in take up of ante-natal classes in targeted areas. Improvements in health practices among many pregnant mothers in the target areas with regards to smoking, alcohol and drug use and diet.	Pre-birth: Review and improve existing services in: • Community Mothers visits • Family Support Worker system in Limerick Social Services Council • Teen Parent Support Programme Establish new services, such as: • New access points for ante-natal service in local community • Nurse Parent Partnership scheme	Costed as part of Child &Family Support Plan	HSE as lead Other agencies
15.3: Early Years Child Care Support Services provided. A spectrum of support programmes for parents and children at all level of need provided with special individualised approaches for those most in need.	HSE/Regeneration Child and Family Support Plan 2008 in place.	Package of supports agreed. Level of funding secured. Level of agency commitment.	0-4 years: Review and improve existing services: • Expand existing proved programmes such as Community Mothers, parent support programmes and parent toddler groups • Increase number of qualified staff in crèches and preschools Establish new services: • High Scope in some preschools • Family Home Helps targeted for most vulnerable children and families • Incredible Years Programme or other appropriate services • Community based multi-disciplinary therapeutic services including speech and language, physiotherapy and occupational therapies and health promotion • Play opportunities (As per HSE/Regeneration Child and Family Support Plan).	Costed as part of Child and Family Support Plan.	HSE as lead. Other agencies .

3.2 Children, Youth and Family Support

Outcome 15:	All CHILDREN are safe, in good health and are supported to develop their full range of skills from an early age				
Strategic Partners: Limerick Children's Services Committee (LCSC), Limerick City Childcare Committee (LCCC), Health Services Executive (HSE), City of Limerick Vocational Education Committee (CLVEC); Limerick City Council (LCC); Dept of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA); Department of Education and Science (DES); Department of Justice Equality Law & Reform (DJELR); Office of the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs (OMCYA).					
Short Term Results	**Current Situation**	**Success Indicators**	**Activities to Achieve Results**	**Resources Required**	**Who is Responsible**
Outcome 15.4: Developmental capacity of children maximised to help them cope with life outside family and contribute positively to their community, in particular, in school.	HSE/Regeneration Child & Family Support Plan 2008 in place.	Package of supports agreed. Level of funding secured. Level of agency commitment. Measure the developmental capacity of children. Measure changes in performance at school.	5-9 years: Review and improve existing services: • Intensive children's programmes • Psychology services of HSE • Targeted counselling for children who have experienced sudden bereavement or are suffering from post traumatic stress Establish new services: • Child & Family Centre • Incredible Years Programme in all schools • Literacy & numeracy programmes • Play, sport and arts opportunities (As per HSE/Regeneration Child & Family Support Plan)	Costed as part of Child and Family Support Plan.	HSE as lead. Other agencies.
Outcome 15.5: Number of home based childminders committed to implementation of National Childminding Guidelines (NCG) 2007 increased.	National Childminding Guidelines 2007 in place.	Increase in number of home based childminders adhering to NCG.	Encourage and facilitate participation in Quality Awareness Programme (QAP). Encourage increase in voluntary notification to Childcare Committee/HSE. Increase uptake of childminding grant scheme.	Training costs.	LCCC/HSE.
Outcome 15.6: Sufficient and affordable childcare places provided.	National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP) 2006-2010 in place. Community Childcare Subvention Scheme 2008-2010 in place.	Adequacy of affordable childcare provision.	Identify childcare needs based on future population projections and support provision of additional services.	Capital and operational costs.	LCCC.
Outcome 15.7: Child & Family Centre provided, complementary to other community childcare provision in the three Regeneration Areas.	No such centre exists currently in Limerick.	Centre provided and fully operational. Level and type of usage.	Carry out detailed assessment of needs and develop project briefs for design and management. Targeted intervention services to include: individualised programme as part of pre-birth, creche, preschool (High Scope), transition to school, afterschool, literacy programmes, parent/family support provision.	Capital and operational costs.	Regeneration Agencies. HSE. Other funders.
Outcome 15.8: Children's spaces for leisure activities such as playgrounds, multi-use games areas, sports & arts spaces to be provided including use of schools out of hours.	Limited provisions of spaces currently.	Spaces provided and well used. Level and type of usage.	Develop project specifications and identify most appropriate locations and management arrangements.	Part of capital costs for Plan.	Regeneration Agencies and LCC.

3.2 Children, Youth and Family Support

Outcome 16:	All YOUTH in the Regeneration Areas positively connected with, occupied and supported to meet their full potential				
Strategic Partners:	City of Limerick Vocational Education Committee (CLVEC), Limerick Youth Service (LYS), Garda Youth Diversion Projects, Young Persons Probation, (YPP) , All Service Providers for Youth, Voluntary Youth Clubs, Limerick Childrens' Services Committee (LCSC)				

Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is responsible
16.1: A range of positive experiences and skills developed which help to maximise potential of young people (10-14 years) as students and as active citizens within their own community.	A range of services currently exist for young people but is quite fragmented in policy and funding terms.	Package of supports agreed. Level of funding secured. Level of agency commitment.	10-14 years: Review and improve existing services: • Psychology services of HSE • Targeted counselling for youth who have experienced sudden bereavement or are suffering from post-traumatic stress • Expand and improve quality of existing one to one and groups work programmes Establish new services: • New Extern crisis intervention team for Regeneration Areas • Mentoring programme • Sport and arts opportunities (As per HSE/Regeneration Child and Family Support Plan)	Costed as part of Child and Family Support Plan.	HSE/CLVEC with other agencies.
16.2: A range of positive experiences and skills developed which help to maximise potential of young people (15-18 years) as students and as active citizens within their own community. Also, a sense of responsibility developed toward self and community.	A range of services currently exist for young people but quite fragmented in policy and funding terms.	Package of supports agreed. Level of funding secured. Level of agency commitment.	15-18years: Review and improve existing services: • Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team (CAMH) • Drop in Centres e.g. Youth Café, Moyross Establish new services: • Drop in Centres e.g. Youth Cafés (Southside and St. Mary's) • Therapeutic services providing outreach capacity • Strengthening Families – whole family multi-agency support programme • Mentors (Step down from intensive support programmes e.g. Big Brother Big Sister • Mentoring support in relation to drugs and alcohol • Emergency accommodation i.e. supported lodgings and sheltered accommodation • Stronger mental health services both in residential and outreach • Supported employment • Sport and arts opportunities (As per HSE/Regeneration Child and Family Support Plan).	Costed as part of Child and Family Support Plan.	HSE/CLVEC with other agencies.
16.3 Strategy for Youth Work with 10-21 year olds developed with priority being given to socially disadvantaged youth.	Limerick City Youth Work Strategy in planning stage by CLVEC Youth Officer. Consultations undertaken with young people, parents and service providers as part of Health Impact Assessment on youth space. Registration of youth clubs and projects.	Strategy in place and being implemented. Number of young people engaging.	Undertake strategic planning activities: - Planning/direction group - Consultation - Desktop research - Draft plan - Launch plan Introduce new models of best practice in the provision of universal and targeted youth work. Develop programmes based on internationally validated models. Evaluate functions and posts within current out-of-school hours youth services with a view to identifying good practice, gaps in provision. Evaluate programmes on a periodic basis.	Resources to develop and deliver youth work and ensure age appropriate material and delivery.	CLVEC lead/DES. Regeneration Agencies.

'Network of relevant practitioners and managers convened on a regular basis to inform youth policy in Regeneration Areas'

Social Regeneration

3.2 Children, Youth and Family Support

Outcome 16:	All YOUTH in the Regeneration Areas positively connected with, occupied and supported to meet their full potential (continued)					
Strategic Partners:	City of Limerick Vocational Education Committee (CLVEC), Limerick Youth Service (LYS), Garda Youth Diversion Projects, Young Persons Probation, (YPP) , All Service Providers for Youth, Voluntary Youth Clubs, Limerick Childrens' Services Committee (LCSC)					
Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to Achieve Results	Resourses Required	Who is Reposnsible
16.4 Network of relevant practitioners and managers convened on a regular basis to inform youth policy in Regeneration Areas.	Local youth and education fora with professionals meeting to agree supports for identified youth.	Function of networks broadened to include youth policy and priorities. Number of agencies engaging. Joint initiatives developed.	Further develop existing networks.	Staff time.	Regeneration Agencies with partner agencies.
16.5 Capacity of community youth groups enhanced.	City of Limerick Volunteering Initiative 'Where Credit Due' in place .	Support strategies in place.	Develop a Volunteer Strategy on recruitment, retention, support and recognition of volunteers including management capacity. Promote and provide training to leaders, youthworkers etc. Support and develop local fora of young people to ensure they have an active participation in planning and design of services. Support the inclusion of underrepresented youth groups in strategies and networks.	Staff time.	CLVEC. Service providers for youth.
16.6 All youth provision works to Quality Standards Framework (QSF).	Services have their own systems but no universal ones.	System operational.	Develops systems for design, delivery and evaluation of quality programmes including foster the delivery of programmes in partnership.	Costs of development and training.	CLVEC.
16.7 An integrated state of the arts Youth Resource Space provided in the three Regeneration Areas.	Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Needs Assessment undertaken as part of regeneration consultation process.	Youth resource space built and operational Range of service providers based at space. Range of young people and service providers accessing it.	Youth spaces to be designed, constructed and managed in line with the 11 key recommendations of the HIA (see note 1) and subjected to feasibility study (to include integration of services). Establish a multi-agency steering group in each area to manage process above and coordinate services and programmes in line with the needs and expressed wishes of young people including those from other communities.	Capital costs. Operational costs.	Regeneration Agency lead in securing funding with service providers. Limerick City Council.
16.8 Youth spaces for leisure activities such as youth shelters, multi-use games areas, sports and arts spaces provided.	Limited current provision. Teenspace - National Recreation Policy for Young People (OMC 2007).	Spaces provided and well used and maintained.	• Design spaces with young people and communities.	Capital costs.	Regeneration Agency. Limerick City Council.

Note 1 - 11 Recommendations of Health Impact Assessment on Youth Space Provision include:
- Communications Strategy for stakeholder consultation and participation for duration of regeneration and beyond
- Funding the Youth Space
- The Physical Design and Aesthetics of Youth Space
- Management of Youth Space - Structure and systems to support community ownership and management of youth spaces including development of strategic partnerships
- Integration of young people in Limerick City
- Youth Space as a Sanctuary from Crime
- Voluntary and Paid Employment in Youth Space
- Facilities within Youth Space
- Services within Youth Space
- Horses and Youth

Social Regeneration

'Sufficient and affordable childcare places provided.'

'A range of positive experiences and skills developed which help to maximise potential of young people as students and as active citizens within their own community.'

3.3 Health

Introduction

Health is not just the absence of disease. It is a state of physical, mental and social wellbeing and is a resource for everyday life (World Health Organisation, 1986) Health is an important resource for individuals, but it also has an impact on the socio-economic and political development of whole communities and cities. Looking after health can therefore be seen as looking after society.

There are many factors or determinants that together or individually can impact the health of people living in Limerick.

The social conditions in which people live and work can help create or destroy their health. Lack of income, inappropriate housing, unsafe workplaces and lack of access to health care systems are some of the social determinants of health leading to inequalities. (WHO, 2004)

A community profile of each Regeneration area was conducted as part of the Regeneration Health Impact Assessment, carried out by the HSE. These community profiles highlight some of the health inequalities which exist in the Regeneration areas compared to other parts of Limerick City and the Mid West Region as a whole and present the challenges for Regeneration in supporting the development of healthy and well communities.

Health & Wellbeing in Regeneration Areas:

Disabilities
Limerick City exceeds the State average for percentage of population with disabilities. All Limerick regeneration areas exceed both the State and Limerick City averages for percentages of people with a disability. Ballinacurra Weston and St. Mary's Park are the areas with the highest proportion of people with disabilities**.**

Cancer Incidence
Approximately 16% of more invasive cancers occurred in Limerick City compared with the Mid West rate, but most of this excess occurred in a small number of areas, most notably, St. Marys Park, Moyross and Ballinacurra Weston.

Young mothers
All Limerick Regeneration Areas exceeded the Mid West and City average for young mothers. Southill, Moyross and St. Marys Park are all over three times more than the Mid West and Limerick City averages.

Birth weights
St. Marys Park, Ballinacurra Weston and Southill exceed the percentage of low birth weight babies when compared to the City and Mid West averages. St. Marys Park and Ballinacurra Weston have twice the Mid West average of low birth weight babies.

Self harm
The incidence of self harm in Limerick City exceeds the State annual rate of cases of self harm. Levels were higher in the Regeneration areas than both the State and Limerick City rates. Ballinacurra Weston has the highest rate of self harm.

Drug & alcohol misuse
59% of drug treatment cases in the Mid West region are people living in Limerick City. 70% of participants in the Mid West regional methadone maintenance programme are from Limerick City**.**

While the Health Services Executive is responsible for some of the determinants of health, it is clear that tackling the broader determinants of health requires the support of many other sectors, including the local authority, education, transport, employment services, business and community & voluntary groups. To effectively address health inequalities in Regeneration areas, a collaborative health agenda needs to be developed by all these stakeholders.

This section of the Plan presents the key Health actions which were identified, as fundamental in addressing the health inequalities which exist in Regeneration Areas and which require priority delivery.

Critical Success Indicators:

1. Completed Health Impact Assessment

2. Equality of access to and participation in health services

3. Equality of access to and participation in health services for those with sensory, mobility and cognitive impairments

4.Equality of access to and participation in helath services for the members of the Traveller Comunity

5. Reduce drug misuse and addictions

6. Increased positive mental health and wellbeing

7. Improve access to, awareness and availability of healthy food.

Fig 1 Broad Determinants of Health - Dahlgren (1995)

Social Regeneration

3.3 Health

Expected Impact:	Health & Wellbeing of the Regeneration Communities Improved				
Outcome 17: Development of a Regeneration Plan which is fully Health Impact Proofed					
Short Term Results	**Current Situation**	**Success Indicator**	**Activities to achieve Results**	**Resources required**	**Who Is Responsible**
17.1: Completed Health Impact Assessment (HIA) on strategic action areas of the regeneration Plan.	No tradition of Health Impact Assessment being conducted on this scale in the State. Management Group identified Phase 1, HIA of Physical Regeneration, completed July 2008.	HIA recommendations published. Relevant recommendations incorporated into the Plan.	Identify Action Areas in the Plan that will be examined by HIA. Establish Steering Group for each phase of HIA. Appoint HIA researchers to collate best practice evidence base. Conduct Community consultation.	Funding (some already in place). Coordination and integration.	HSE.
Outcome 18: Equality of access to and participation in Health Services for the General Population PCCC = Primary, Community and Continuing Care. HPS= Health Promoting Schools.					
Short Term Result	**Current Situation**	**Success Indictor**	**Activities to achieve result**	**Resources required**	**Who is responsible**
18.1: Expansion of existing PCCC Services in Moyross /Southill /Ballinacurra Weston/St Mary's Park with the development of Primary care teams for each of the respective areas.	The range of services delivered from each health centre within the Regeneration Areas is not uniform. Currently, no GP services are delivered from the health centres. Over reliance on hospitals for non-acute needs. Navigation of the health services can be fragmented and complicated.	The development of the Primary Care infrastructure to meet the needs of the various communities. (The replacement of the Southill and Moyross primary care facility, and development of centres in St Mary's Park and Ballinacurra Weston). Development of Primary Care team in: Ballynanty/Moyross Galvone/Southill Ballinacurra Weston Abbey Primary Care team in St Mary's Park	Agree the final locations and footprints for the centres. Agree the financial arrangements to put facilities in place. The reconfiguration of existing PCCC resources to primary care teams. Commencement of the team development process for the various primary care teams. Identification of expanded services in line with National PCCC Policy.	Time Input of HSE Property Department both locally and nationally. Time Input of HSE PCCC staff. The assignment of necessary human resources.	HSE .
18.2: The development and provision of therapy led intervention programmes that use play as a medium and would be based on a developmental model with the child and the parents at the core.	In regeneration areas many children are entering primary school without core developmental skills. Many have difficulties with:- speech, language, concentration, attention, perception, motor skills,Sensory-attachment, self-care and obesity.	Programme up and running. Reduction in numbers of children presenting with difficulties as outlined.	Development of the programme. Gaining access to utilise facilities in suitable infra-structure in the Regeneration Areas.	Inclusive indoor play and social centre facilities which can be part of proposed new infrastructure in the Regeneration Areas.	HSE.
18.3: An emergency out of hours social work service for families in crisis.	National negotiations in relation to 'out of hours' services are at an advanced stage. This is a key issue in the Regeneration Areas.	Social Work service available outside of existing times. Additional social work staff appointed. Better use of existing skill mix.	Local implementation of national agreement.	Funding for additional posts, where required.	HSE.
18.4: Greater integration of statutory and voluntary/ community sector health and social care providers.	HSE invests over €80M in health and social care services provided by community/voluntary sector agencies in Limerick LHO area.	Priorities agreed for services provided by community/voluntary agencies. Coordinated approach to provision of grant-aid. Effective governance arrangement in place.	Strategic review of service provision in consultation with community/voluntary sector agencies. Agree priorities for service delivery. Review existing allocation of grant-aid in relation to priority criteria.	Time input.	HSE.
18.5: Development of community and service user involvement strategy.	Opportunities exist for improved involvement of public and service users in health services. The National Strategy for Service User Involvement provides a framework for development of a local strategy for greater public engagement.	Community and service user involvement strategy and implementation plan completed.	Identify lead personnel within HSE. Develop outline local strategy in line with national strategy. Engage with local communities in partnership with RAPID to review outline strategy. Finalise strategy document and implementation plan.	Strategy Group. Community/Service User consultation.	HSE. RAPID.
18.6: To develop a strategy for Older People in the Regeneration Areas.	Strategy for Older People in the Mid-West launched in 2005 and covers the period 2005-2009.	A specific strategy for older people in Limerick Regeneration Areas.	Review existing strategies with reference to Limerick Regeneration Areas.	Interagency Cooperation.	HSE. Regeneration Agencies.

Outcome 18:	Equality of access to and participation in Health Services for the General Population				
	PCCC = Primary, Community and Continuing Care. HPS= Health Promoting Schools.				
Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Results	Resources required	Who Is Responsible
18.7 To Develop improved services for persons experiencing homelessness	Strategy being developed by the City's Forum on Homelessnes facilitated by Limerick City Council	Enhanced and more varied services for persons experienced homelessness	Review existing strategies with particular reference to Regeneration Areas in conjunction with the City's Forum on Homelessness	Inter-Agency Co-operation Additional Supply of specilised accommodation, facilities and services	HSE Limerick City Council Forum on Homelessness Regeneration AGencies Voluntary and Cooperative Housing Sector

Outcome 19:	Equality of access to and participation in health services for those with mobility, sensory and cognitive impairments				
Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Results	Resources required	Who is responsible
19.1: Comprehensive data on the incidence and type of disabilities in the Regeneration Areas.	Information available from the Disability Databases.	Development of specific strategy for services to persons with disabilities in Regeneration Areas.	Obtain number of people registered in each area with their degree of disability. Undertake comparative research from existing sources. Analyse data. Prepare community profile.	Inter-agency coorperation.	HSE. Regeneration Agencies
19.2: Disability services plans to develop and implement the intervention service for children (6-18 years).	Currently services are delivered by regional services with the development of children's services this will provide a more local service model of delivery.	Development and implementation of specific HSE teams in each of the Regeneration Areas.	Work in progress with non statutory agencies. Complete the recruitment process Initial posts have been advertised.	Multidisciplinary/clinical in nature i.e. speech and language therapist, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychology.	HSE and some Non-statutory agencies.

Outcome 20:	Equality of access to and participation in health services for the Traveller community				
Short Term Result	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve result	Resources required	Who is responsible
20.1: Development of new Inter-Agency strategy for Travellers in Limerick City.	The inter-agency strategy for the delivery of services to Travellers in Limerick City related to the period 2005 to 2007.	Inter-Agency Strategy and Implementation Plan developed. Specific reference to Traveller community in Regeneration Areas.	Progress of inter-agency group. Consultation with Travellers.	Time and people input.	HSE. Limerick City Council. Regeneration Agencies RAPID
20.2: Traveller Primary Health Care Training Initiative embedded.	Three participants completed the Primary Health Care Training Programme with Limerick Traveller Development Group.	Employment of the three participants who completed the Limerick City Primary Health Care Programme as Peer Community Health Workers.	Identify a suitable mechanism for employment and ongoing training and development.	Resources to employ community health workers.	HSE.
20.3 Greater understanding amongst Traveller population of Health issues relating to drug misuse, mental health and domestic violence.	Awaiting findings of the National Traveller Health Status Study.	Implementation of National Traveller Health Study.	Determine current understanding of issues. Support participation in community programmes. Roll out of the National Ethnic Identification Project.	Determined following the recommendations of the National Traveller Health Status Study.	HSE.

3.3 Health

While it is wrong to focus on one aspect of the health challanges facing communities in the Regeneration Areas of Limerick City, drugs mis-use warrants particular attention considering the distructive dynamic it visits on individuals, family and community.

The distructive dynamic can be witnessed in the:
*   Individual costs of dependancy in health, social and economic terms
*   The impact on families struggling to deal with the son, daughter or partner with dependancy issues
*   The criminality associated with street dealing; acquisitive crime and higher end organised crime which impact on both community cohesion and community safety and undermines social institutions
*   The impact on service providers both in relation to drug treatmnent and a much wider range of health and social services.

Outcome 21: A reduction in drug misuse and addiction in Limerick City
CBDI - Community based drug initiatives, LYS - Limerick Youth Service, MWRDTF - Mid-west Regional Drugs Task Force, NDS - National Drugs Strategy, NEX - Neddle exchange, GP - General Practicioner, PCT - Primary Care Team.

Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Results	Resources required	Who is Responsible
21.1: Establish community based (CBDI) low-threshold drop-in services.	Limerick Youth Service CBDI established.	Community based drug initiatives operational on the north and south side of the City.	Ongoing development by the relevant bodies.	Time, funding, support. Access suitable Premises in the target communities.	LYS and MWRDTF.
21.2: Establish a community based Crisis Intervention Nurse Team to work with drug/alcohol users who are suicidal.	No such development in the city.	Crisis Intervention Team setup.	Joint piece of work between HSE Drug Services/ Mental Health Services.	Establish & staff project. Access suitable premises for team.	HSE.
21.3: Expand network of level 1 GPs in the community in relation methadone maintenance programme.	5 GPs participating in Limerick City.	All PCTs in targeted community to participate in the methadone protocol.	Ongoing development	Negotiate and agree participation. GPs trained.	HSE.
21.4: Develop family therapy practice linked into counselling services and Under-18 Multi-Disciplinary team.	In terms of drug specific programmes – family therapy is not available.	Family therapy practice is established linked to family respite, parent support groups and treatment agencies.	Programme developed through inter-agency model.	Establish and staff project. Secure suitable premises for team.	HSE.
21.5: Establishment of HSE Under-18 Multi-Disciplinary Team Consultant Psychiatrist Lead.	Regional Drug Coordination Unit has received primary notification for these posts, but currently is not in a position to advance recruitment to the next stage.	An Under-18 Multi-Disciplinary Team Consultant Psychiatrist Lead working with adolescent drug misusers and their families.	Develop integrated treatment pathways/inter-agency models. Recruit team.	Regional Drug Coordination Unit. Access to suitable premises in the target communities.	HSE.
21.6: Needle Exchange.	Static NEX operating once a week is established in Limerick city centre .	Expanded provision of HSE static exchange in terms of opening hours and location (north/ south side of city).	Expand current service.	Regional Drug Coordination Unit access to suitable premises for delivery of NEX on a sessional basis in the target communities.	HSE.
21.7: Develop community based vocational rehab programme and aftercare programmes for clients coming back from residential treatment with a strong focus on integration.	LYS programme established FÁS/Aljeff Special CE scheme established. Recommendations in the 2007 NDS Report of the Working Group on Rehab not implemented.	Rehabilitation programmes delivered effectively.	Community based vocational rehab and after-care programs established.	Assignment of necessary staff.	HSE, FAS, VEC, voluntary and community providers

Outcome 22:	Increased positive mental health and well being in the target population				
Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Results	Resources required	Who is responsible
22.1: Development of a Community Mental Health Strategy for Limerick City in line with 'Vision for Change'.	Regeneration areas have significant levels of mental ill health. Mental health services currently focus on support to those with severe mental illness. Services to meet the needs of the broader population need to be developed.	A community mental health strategy and implementation plan with specific reference to the Regeneration Areas. Development of mental health services in line with 'Vision for Change'.	Establish multi-disciplinary, multi-agency strategy group. Identify local mental health needs. Draft Strategy and Implementation Plan.	Assignment of a Mental Health Promotion Officer – initial assignment to coordinate development of strategy, in consultation with the Regeneration Agencies. Funding for multi-disciplinary teams.	HSE/Multi-Agency Group. HSE.
Outcome 23:	Improve access to, awareness and availability of healthy food amongst the regeneration population				
Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Results	Resources required	Who is responsible
23.1: To improve quality, uptake and satisfaction of free nutritious meals to all DEIS schools in area.	16 primary schools getting varied cold meals provided by community and commercial suppliers .	Increased nutrition knowledge and intake. Nutrition standards and monitoring records available. Full uptake.	Support schools around providing healthy meals, policy development, nutrition education (SPHE). Develop and implement healthy eating policies. Record system in place for food providers.	Kitchen and eating area in each school. Funding for staff and operational costs.	Limerick Food Partnership (LFP), HSE (HP).
23.2: To provide access to affordable healthy eating options in a safe and con-vivial atmosphere.	'The Hill' Community Café - new premises with fully equipped kitchen in new Area Centre at Southill.	Café with affordable healthy options menu available. Provision of healthy meals for crèche in centre. Catering for local events and area centre users. Popular venue for locals and people from other communities.	Hiring of manager and staff. Training for staff. Promotion of profile and advertising of services. Premises and kitchen located and equipped.	Funding for staff Funding for staff training and roll-out of programmes. Funding to support marketing of café and healthy options plus general health promotion. Funding to establish cafes.	Southill Area Centre, Hill Café, LFP,VEC, FAS,HSE (HP).
23.3: To support the work of Limerick Food Partnership (LFP) and community food initiatives in the area.	Funding from dormant accounts finishing this year.	Enhancement of community food initatives.	Assignment of relevant staff.	Small funding to cover staff costs.	Limerick Food Partnership.
23.4 Health Promoting School Network for Limerick City.	A pilot project incorporating a clus-ter of 4 Health Promting Schools in Limerick City.	All schools in Limerick City incorporated into a network of Health Promoting Schools.	Recruit Health Promoting Schools coordinator for Limerick City. Hold Health Promoting Schools briefing sessions with principals, staff, pupils and parent. Eztablish Health Promoting Schools planning group in each school with representation from whole school community. A health promotion Action Plan for each school.	Funding for Coordinator	HSE, Limerick Education Centre, Mary Immaculate College, Department of Education

'To improve the nutritional quality of meals provided in DEIS schools in the Regeneration Areas.'

3.4 People and Neighbourhoods

3.4.1 Community Safety and Policing

The main issues that have repeatedly been raised by local people in the Regeneration Areas is the wish to feel safe in their own homes and for the safety of their children.

It is recognised that strong policing, local government and active communities contribute to the quality of life and well-being of residents living in any housing estate, including those estates in the Regeneration Areas.

A partnership of the Gardaí, the Local Authority and the communities themselves can play a crucial role in keeping the community safe.

The Regeneration Areas of Limerick, for too long have witnessed high levels of harassment and intimidation that has led to many families having to abandon their homes for their own safety. Many families have had to leave in the middle of the night in order to have safe passage out of the estate.

Issues of safety on housing estates determine whether or not residents will stay in an area or take the decision to leave at the first opportunity.

A following key strand for attention was set out in the John Fitzgerald Report

> *"Dealing with the issue of criminality. This will be fundamental to creating the conditions for other interventions to be successful and for restoring the confidence of local communities"*

Progress has been made on this issue over the last twelve months, the significant additional Gardaí (80) assigned to Limerick has made a difference and other interventions such as the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) have been welcomed and are making significant progress.

In addition we have developed a very strong working relationship with all levels of the Gardaí in Limerick and we have worked jointly with communities to install CCTV in certain areas, which has brought some reassurance of safety for residents who have suffered badly over a long period.

However, while progress has been made, there is still a lot to be done and new strategies are required to get to the stage where residents will routinely, and with confidence, inform Gardaí of criminal activity and testify, where necessary and where there can be a stronger and ongoing 'partnership' between community, the Gardaí and all relevant State agencies.

It is a key objective of the Plan for the Agencies to facilitate, drive and ultimately put together a comprehensive Community Safety Plan for the three Regeneration Areas with the aim of expanding such a plan throughout the whole city in conjunction with the City Council's Joint Policing Forum. Some work has begun on such a task by RAPID and we will link in with this over the coming months.

The key priorities of this strategy will be: -

- To develop strong mechanisms for local people to get action from key service providers for tackling acute and persistent problems of crime and anti-social behaviour and other risks to community safety
- To develop greater empowerment for local communities including neighbourhood management etc
- To strengthen community and voluntary sector organisations which can act as a focus for integrated and coordinated actions
- To develop Neighbourhood Watch Schemes
- To develop a specific Community Safety Forum in each of the three areas involving senior officials from the Gardaí, Local Authority, Health Service Executive etc. and including residents that would link in with a citywide strategy
- To develop strong communities because strong communities will be safer
- To seek examples of success from other parts of the country e.g. Ballymun, North East Inner City, Dublin and other countries e.g.United Kingdom (UK)
- To ensure that the physical elements that enhances safety such as well lit streets, passive supervision from overlooking street and parks are implemented in each phase of the Physical Plan

The Regeneration Agencies will continue to lobby for further changes and further powers for the Gardaí and Justice Authorities and while such issues are national in nature, we believe that the situation in Limerick continues to require special attention.

It is very clear that problems of disadvantage and bleak housing conditions can act as a serious catalyst for crime and anti-social behaviour. It follows that if we put a serious concentration on Social Regeneration (and we will) over a period of time then less people (and in particular young people) will be diverted down the road of crime and prison etc.

It is also important to recognise that crime and anti-social behaviour in housing estates does significantly affect adjacent communities and damages the reputation of the City in general.

It is also important to recognise that this type of activity emanate from a relatively small number of people and that the vast majority of residents in the Regeneration Areas are decent, peaceful and law-abiding. This means that the full power of the State and its many organs needs to come down heavy on this small number of people and not just leave the problem to the Gardai Síochana.

It was interesting to discover during the course of our intensive consultation that low level anti-social behaviour such as intimidation, harassment, vandalism etc. often by young children was a much bigger issue for residents that the more serious and higher profile crime.

It is vital that new and innovative programmes and interventions are implemented towards young people and that the great organisations, already operating in these areas be given greater support and greater strategic co-ordination.

Our proposals as already outlined in Chapter 3.2 Children, Youth and Family Support will deliver this.

The key success indicators in this part of the plan will include the following:

- **Level of Gardaí resources**

- **Continued operation of CAB in the city**

- **Development and ongoing implementation of Community Safety Strategies**

- **Level of Community Policing**

- **Reduction in crime levels**

- **Reduction in prisoner numbers from regeneration estates**

- **Integration of prisoners back into communities (when prison term is completed)**

- **Interventions for children at risk of getting involved in criminality activity**

3.4 People and Neighbourhoods

3.4.2 Local Employment

A key objective of the Plan is to ensure that the residents of the areas benefit to the greatest possible extent from the employment opportunities created through regeneration itself.

The whole issue of jobs is dealt with in the economic regeneration plan (Chapter 4) however a separate strand to this is the issue of jobs for local people in the Regeneration Areas in particular young people. This is an essential component of a vibrant and sustainable neighbourhood. The Regeneration Agencies will, in conjunction with the relevant agencies develop a comprehensive employment strategy for the Regeneration Areas and within the context of the job creation potential of the project itself over the coming years. A key part of this strategy will be to identify the current obstacles to people getting jobs including education, training, transport, bureaucracy etc. The employment issue is a major and challenging task particularly when you analyse that the unprecedented economic boom (including jobs) of recent years did not solve the problem and now we are entering a period of economic downturn,

While we will strive to integrate all existing employment initiatives it may be necessary to look are more radical approaches attempted outside Ireland. We are particularly interested in studying job-creating initiatives that are being implemented in Glasgow, a city that has also been undergoing significant regeneration. We will also learn from experience in the Docklands and Ballymun Regeneration Projects in Dublin.

Local Employment Charter
To assist in achieving the above objective a Local Employment Charter will be established. The Limerick Regeneration Agencies will put in place an action plan similar to that adopted by Dublin Docklands Development Authority for implementing its Local Employment Charter for the Docklands Area, in Dublin.

 A register of skills required or available in respect of the following will be established:
- Skills existing in the area
- School goers and leavers in the area
- Existing and new employers in the area
- Construction skills required for the delivery of targeted developments in the area
- Training skills needed for the local unemployed
- Training skills required for new jobs

 A condition requiring up to 15% of any new jobs being created in areas will be considered for local people in the area and this requirement should also be a condition linked to the granting of any fiscal incentives, and will be rigorously monitored.

Regeneration Employment Forum
A recently formed Regeneration Employment Forum, (chaired by Agency CEO) and consisting of representatives from FÁS, the Local Employment Service, Department of Education and Science and the Department of Social and Family Affairs, will further assist in developing and delivering training and employment programmes to tackle the high rates of unemployment in Regeneration Areas.

Schools
There is a provision in the Plan to relocate and increase the provision of schools in the area, most of which are operating at less than full capacity. Linkages between the Regeneration Agency and local schools will be developed to inform young people about the regeneration project and involve them in the consultion process. This will generate an interest at an early stage in the opportunities which will arise relating to employment, both short and long term, from implementation of the Plan.

It is proposed that the Regeneration Employment Forum will monitor the implementation of an Employment Strategy.

Mentoring and Developer Support

Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership (LEDP) is located and actively involved in the Southill /Ballinacurra Weston area. The company is a charitable trust with the objective of generating local employment through skills training, education and community development. LEDP also acts as a social finance organisation, which aims at providing low cost finance for projects undertaken by individuals and communities who may have difficulty in obtaining capital from lending institutions.

On the northside of the city capacities will continue to be developed with the Moyross Community Enterprise Centre and the Moyross Community Development Company in conjunction with FÁS and the Limerick Institute of Technology.

The Plan proposes to build on these essential local facilities through the provision of advice and support to new enterprises locating in the area.

Business Innovation
The Plan identifies the opportunity to establish a system of business innovation strategies, which would provide enterprise incubation accommodation, ranging from 10 sqm to 150 sqm to new and established small businesses. Small companies can contribute greatly to local economic development; and they can grow to become the significant employers of tomorrow. It is essential that they be afforded all necessary support services to assist in their development. These centres will offer a range of enterprise development related support services and facilities for such companies. They will assist fledgling businesses get started, established and then move on to larger space after a number of years with the vacated space then being freed up to assist others. These centres will play a key role as a facilitator to small business by providing appropriate, relevant and necessary information for their success through counselling and guidance from established experts in the business world. These centres can be procured within the Plan implementation period through partnerships with the private sector.

The Limerick City Enterprise Board is the Government appointed small business agency for Limerick City and is linked with Enterprise Ireland through the central coordinating unit which is based in Shannon. Limerick City Enterprise Board is the one stop shop for enterprise and entrepreneurship in Limerick. The LCEB therefore will be a key partner for the Regeneration Agencies over the term of this Plan because enterprise and employment (in particular local employment) are crucial issues for the long term sustainability of the social and economic aspects of this Regeneration Programme.

We have had positive discussions with the Chief Executive of the LCEB during the summer of this year (2008) and we are pleased that a partnership and understanding has been agreed which will see the Limerick City Enterprise Board involved during the course of this Plan implementation, as enterprise advisors to the Limerick Regeneration Project.

This decision was unanimously approved by the board of the LCEB on the 30th June 2008. We look forward to working in partnership with the LCEB on the very important issue of enterprise in the Regeneration Areas. It is intended that the regeneration project will be a key issue within the Strategic Plan 2009-2013 currently being drafted by the LCEB.

The critical success indicators which will be measured on an ongoing basis by the Agencies will include the following:
- **Numbers of new jobs created**
- **Retention of existing job numbers**
- **Decrease in unemployment levels in the various categories**
- **Numbers of jobs for local people**
- **Levels of training specific to Regeneration Areas**
- **Coordination of existing employment agencies (statutory and voluntary)**
- **Provision of new integrated employment centres**

3.4 People and Neighbourhoods

3.4.3 Future Management of Estates

The aim of Limerick Regeneration Agencies is to develop a pro-active approach to the management of the regeneration estates and neighbourhoods both during the course of implementation and subsequent to its completion.

It is therefore essential that a very strong and effective estate management policy is drawn up and implemented in order that families and their neighbours in the regeneration estates can enjoy their new homes in a safe and comfortable environment (but also while the process is ongoing).

Limerick Regeneration Agencies will draw up this policy in partnership with the Local Authority to ensure that tenants and homeowners can expect that the housing environment is well-maintained, safe and secure.

Estate management of the Regeneration Areas will therefore incorporate services such as the managing and maintenance of open spaces, regular inspections of estates, dealing with litter and addressing issues relating to community safety and crime.

There will also be a requirement on residents to be aware and uphold their own responsibilities in relation to the maintenance and upkeep of their own property and the surrounding area.

We will work with the Local Authority with the aim of developing a new **'Contract of Accommodation'** for Local Authority tenants.

There will have to be strong enforcement of this 'Contract of Accommodation' to cater for all breaches of its terms, which will include legal action up to and including eviction .

We will liaise with the appropriate care agencies and the local authorities to determine care plans for any tenant with a requirement for support needs and we will ensure coordination with the care authorities in order to ensure ongoing support is made available.

The allocation of new homes - transitional arrangements

All householders receiving new homes whether they are for rent or for purchase will be required to undergo a Comprehensive Transitional Support Programme facilitated by the Regeneration Agencies.

We have consulted the Ballymun Regeneration Project in relation to their successful Transition Training Programmes. This support programme will encompass the following:

- Housing Transition Module
- Children's Transition Module
- Post Transition Module
- Home and Self Management Module
- Parenting Courses
- Community Development and Leadership Module
- Community and Family Training
- Linkage to Employment Services
- Linkage to Schools
- Linkage to Third Level Institutions
- Issues around Anti-social Behaviour

This programme will be initiated well in advance of new homes being completed and households will be selected as the various housing phases are being planned e.g. if there is a phase of 50 houses then the householders will be selected around the time that the foundations are being constructed.

Unfortunately the areas designated for regeneration have suffered from serious anti-social behaviour from some householders and such behaviour cannot be tolerated in the newly regenerated situation.

Therefore each householder being considered for the above Transitional Support Programme will be required to obtain a 'Certificate of Eligibility' from the Local Authority and Gardaí before being selected to be included in the Programme.

The precise details, appeal mechanisms etc. for such an arrangement will be formulated over the coming months.

Householders not selected for the Support Programme will have to wait for consideration in later phases and therefore they will have an opportunity to overcome 'eligibility' problems.

Following these programmes and when the homes are ready for occupation then those householders that will be renting will become tenants of Limerick City Council and the balance will be home-owners. We will work with Limerick City Council on the development of new 'Contract of Accommodation' agreements.

The Agencies have already progressed an initiative with 'Sophia Housing Association' on the Southside where families that require intensive and ongoing support are given such support with the aim that they will be ready for full independent living in the newly regenerated communities.

We will strive to develop further initiatives similar to this in each of the Regeneration Areas e.g. the Parish Council and church authorities in Moyross have been promoting the idea of 'Community Companions' for the very vulerable householders that require support for them to engage with regeneration and to become strong independent residents in the 'New' Moyross. We will support this initiative.

Authorities and communities in England and Scotland have over recent years developed some pioneering approaches to the problems associated with nuisance neighbours and general anti-social behaviour.

There has been a particularly successful initiative in Dundee, Scotland which has gained significant attention. All of the families who work with this project have made a commitment to change and most of them see it as a last chance for them and their children. We will study this initiative and others in order to achieve long-term solutions to significantly reduce or eliminate the current very serious problems in the areas designated for regeneration.

In the new communities of Moyross, St. Mary's Park and Southill/Ballinacurra Weston the housing tenure will be significantly different from the existing situation and the general social and physical environment will be radically different i.e. private housing, affordable housing, tenant purchase and rented (which should be no more than 20% of the total housing stock in each area).

This new scenario will bring benefits and opportunities but also a new challenge of managing housing and we will work closely with Limerick City Council and other stakeholders to bring forward new and sustainable strategies around this very important issue.

The provision and management of social and affordable housing by the housing voluntary and cooperative sector has been at a very low level in Limerick City compared to other areas of the Country. The Respond Housing Association manage 34 dwellings in the Moyross estate and their approach to community, development, family support and housing management is very strong and commendable We will strive to provide much greater opportunities for such housing in the development of the new estates.

Managing public spaces and facilities

The ongoing management of public spaces in the new neighbourhoods will be critical to success. The benefits of the investment in new housing and high quality public realm and facilities should not be compromised by vandalism or poor maintenance. New facilities and spaces will be particularly vulnerable during the period of phased construction when complementary uses providing for example, passive supervision, may not be complete.

It will therefore be important that management arrangements are agreed and put in place early so that they can be implemented immediately at handover. Having arrangements in place early can also be beneficial at the design stage, so that practical management considerations can inform the physical design.

Facilities and spaces will be managed in such a way as to include stakeholders where possible. As an example, it is proposed that play spaces should be attached to adjacent appropriate facilities, such as the community centre, so that they can be supervised as part of their own management regime.

The Agencies will develop in partnership with the Local Authority a comprehensive and long-term strategy around the maintenance, management and funding of public realm facilities which will be provided as part of re-building these communities.

Critical success indicators that will be measured by the Agencies will include the following:-

- Strategy on housing management into the future
- Strategy on housing management, housing maintenance, tenant welfare, community development etc on the existing estates prior to regeneration
- Ongoing review of certificate of eligibility and 'contract of accommodation' concepts
- Levels of estate management enforcement e.g. notices to quit
- Evaluation of transition training/support programme

3.4 People and Neighbourhoods

3.4.4 Play, Sports, the Arts and Culture

The Context

Participation in play, sport, the arts and culture can help to define a person and define a community. The fun, sense of achievement, skill and personal development these activities can offer, are integral to a person's perception of their quality of life. Limerick has a very vibrant sport, arts and culture scene, with a vibrant voluntary sector at the heart of much of the activity. Whilst a number of local groups/clubs operate in the Regeneration Areas, opportunities can be limited for certain demographic groups such as children/young people, girls/women, older people etc. Facilities are frequently of a poor quality, committee structures weak and funding patchy.

When activities and events are organised and run in the regeneration communities, experience has shown that people turn out in their droves and much raw talent is on display. Where a young person is experiencing problems at home or at school, a leisure activity that interests them, can offer a chance for escapism, self-expression, an opportunity to engage with others and build self confidence and esteem. The 'significant other adult' in a young person's life can often be a volunteer coach,
artist or youth worker and the value of this cannot be underestimated when attempting to define support structures and systems, all be they informal, in communities. Equally, the contribution that young people and adults in the Regeneration Areas can make as leaders in these activities needs to be fully recognised and has its own social and health benefits for the volunteers themselves.

In addition to leisure activities being worthy in their own right, they can also be used as tools for engaging with people on other social and emotional issues. For example, there is scope to make more use of the arts as a vehicle for emotional expression, conflict resolution strategies and overcoming the fear of failure. Drama or sport, for example, could be innovatively integrated with literacy strategies in afterschool settings. Strategies for developing play, sport and the arts as a means of emotional expression for young people can be linked with the goals of identifying and developing future leaders in the community.

There is a strong sense amongst the communities that those who are involved in anti-social activities get rewarded by being offered opportunities on targeted activity-based programmes, which is further exaggerated by the lack of opportunities for the non-targeted young people. This results in resentment between residents and increased community division.

A Way Towards a Vibrant Active and Creative Community

Whilst, national structures involved in the arts, play and sport have in more recent times issued policy statements around social inclusion, for the most part, these have resulted in very little change in provision in the Regeneration Areas. The capacity for volunteering in the Regeneration Areas is currently low, resulting in the systems for the drawdown of funds and implementation of projects being prohibitive from the outset. With prevention and early intervention being key approaches of the Regeneration Agencies, disproportionate investment will be required by national bodies to address these inequalities and level the playing field. Development work needs to take place from the outset and into the medium to long term, to create opportunities for the communities, with the communities. Thus the appointment of officers to lead on these leisure areas in terms of planning and implementation with the communities, is important.

Play, sport, the arts and culture can contribute to and strengthen social capital and, as the growing body of international evidence shows, this in turn is associated with higher economic growth, greater social equality and increased levels of well-being and life satisfaction.

The analysis derived through the consultation process has emphasised the following points:

Expected Impact: **Full access to and participation in a range of leisure opportunities for all residents.**

Outcome 1: **Opportunities for participation in high quality play, sport and physical activity in the community will be increased.**

Outcome 2: **A vibrant arts community operating in the regeneration areas supporting the development of community-driven arts initiatives**

'Limerick is big on sport and one has only to experience the sheer enthusiasm, commitment and might of the Munster Rugby team and their Limerick stars. It is truly a massive experience to attend the fabulous new Thomond Park Stadium which is adjacent to Moyross. There is great pride currently in Moyross because one of the many new stars on the Munster and Ireland team is Keith Earls who was born, reared and resident in Moyross.'

Chapter 2 (Strategic Context) set out the necessity for national, regional and local strategies to be taken into account in planning any new significant developments.It also set out the importance of collaboration, coordination and joint strategic planning between all the relevant agencies and bodies who vary from having national, regional and local objectives.

Any developments proposed in this programme around sport and recreation (including arts and culture) will require to be proofed within the context of national, regional, greater Limerick City Area and Limerick City collaborative strategies.

Since it's inception in June 2007 the Regeneration Agencies have successfully secured funding to provide a total of ten new Sports Development Officers relating to the various sports disciplines including two generic sports officers.

Social Regeneration

3.4 People and Neighbourhoods

Social Regeneration

Expected Impact:	Full access to and participation in a range of leisure opportunities for all residents				
Outcome 24:	Opportunities for participation in high quality play, sport and physical activity in the community will be increased				
Strategic Partners:	Limerick City Sports Partnership (LCSP), National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Sport, Limerick City Council (LCC), Local Clubs/Groups, HSE Health Promotion, Irish Sports Council (ISC), Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism (DAST)				

Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is responsible
24.1: Strategy for Play for City and Regeneration Areas developed.	Requirement for Limerick City Council to develop a Strategy but none to date. National Children's Office Strategies in place.	Strategy developed and implemented.	Consult with stakeholders including children and parents on their needs. Develop a strategy. Secure resources for implementation.	Staff time.	Limerick City Council. Limerick City Childcare Committee.
24.2: Strategy for Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity for Regeneration Areas developed which as well as being cognisant of sport for sport's sake, also considers sport as a tool for health and education initiatives specifically including the needs of young and older residents, in a local and regional context.	Limerick City Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2007-2012 in place. Limerick City Council Sport & Recreation Facilities Framework Plan 2005 in place. Irish Sports Council Strategy Building Sport for Life 2006-2008 in place. National Governing Bodies of Sport Strategies in place. 'Fair Play, Sport and the Social Disadvantage in Ireland' ESRI 2006 research published.	Strategy and action Plans for Regeneration Areas. Level of participation in play, sport and physical activity.	Hold consultation meetings with local clubs and school sports coordinators to develop school-club links. Develop a Youth Sports Committee to oversee work programmes for Development Officers. Create and implement action plans for each Regeneration Area. Develop a proactive research strategy and methods for including data gathering as part of sports programmes. Develop a sports network, including all the development officers in the city, both generic and sports specific. Develop mechanisms for reporting, to allow for the coordination of sport in the city. Key worker to be appointed to work with older adults to identify their physical activity needs and increase opportunities for older people to lead an active lifestyle.	Staff time. Staff time. Staff time. Funding for programmes. Funding for research. Staff time. Funding for consultant. Funding for worker.	Limerick City Sports Partnership (LCSP). LCSP/Youth Sports Committee. LCSP/Youth Sports Committee. LCSP/3rd level colleges LCSP/National Governing Bodies of Sport. LCSP/NGBs. LCSP/Regeneration Agencies/HSEHSE
24.3: Sports Officers/Physical Activity Coordinators appointed.	One city-wide Community Youth Sports Officer and a number of city/county/regional sports specific Development Officers in place.	Officers appointed.	Seek sources of funding whilst ensuring sustainability of current sports development officer posts.	Funding for posts.	LCSP/NGBs/Limerick City Council.
24.4: Capacity in local volunteers and clubs increased.	Limited capacity currently.	Volunteer strategy developed and being implemented. Training programme being implemented.	Develop a volunteer policy for sport. Undertake a sports volunteer recruitment drive. Undertake an audit from community and voluntary sporting organisations to find out their training needs. Deliver training.	Staff time. Funding for training.	LCSP/NGBs.
24.5: Good quality municipal sports complex provided including swimming pool, sports hall, fitness suite, dance studio, all weather pitches etc.	St. Enda's Sports Complex 30yrs old and dilapidated. Limerick Institute of Technology sports facilities available to public but with limited access. Grove Island Leisure Centre opened in last few years so only small scale sports facilities required in St. Mary's Park.	Good quality sports complex within easy access.	Undertake a feasibility study . Establishment of a multi-agency steering group in each area to manage process above and coordinate programmes in line with the needs and expressed wishes of young people.	Capital costs of Plan.	Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism (DAST). Limerick City Council.
24.6: Natural turf pitches, all weather pitches and changing facilities for clubs and community use provided.	A minority of clubs have good quality facilities in the Regeneration Areas.	Good quality pitch and changing provision in place.	Undertake a detailed feasibility study on current Plan proposals. Seek technical advice when designing and building.	Capital costs of the Plan including club contributions	Local Sports Clubs/DAST/Limerick City Council.

3.4 People and Neighbourhoods

Outcome 24:	Opportunities for participation in high quality play, sports and physical in the community will be increased (continued)				
Strategic Partners:	Limerick City Sports Partnership (LCSP), National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Sport, Limerick City Council (LCC), Local Clubs/Groups, HSE Health Promotion, Irish Sports Council (ISC), Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism (DAST)				
Outcome 23.7: Minority Sports/Activities Facilities - boxing, martial arts, weightlifting,Gymnastics, dance, handball provided.	A minority of clubs have good quality facilities in the Regeneration Areas.	Good quality sports facilities in place.	Undertake a detailed feasibility study on current Plan proposals. Seek technical advice when designing and building.	Capital costs of Plan including club contributions.	Local Sports Clubs. DAST. Limerick City Council.
Outcome 23.8: Regional/County Training Facilities feasibility undertaken.	Regional/national level training facilities at University of Limerick.	Complementary viable facilities in place.	Undertake a detailed feasibility study on current Plan proposals.	Capital costs of Plan.	NGBs. Local Clubs. 3rd level colleges. DAST. Limerick City Council
Outcome 23.9: Network of walking routes and cycleways to encourage active living provided.	City Council Sport and Recreation Facilities Framework Plan 2005. City Council Cycle Strategy.	Routes built and well used.	Green routes to be designed into the areas to increase activity and sustainability. Walkways and cycleways to be sponsored by industry i.e. tracks lead to work.	Part of capital costs.	Regeneration Agencies with Limerick City Council

<div style="writing-mode: vertical">Social Regeneration</div>

Outcome 25: A vibrant community who participate and engage with high quality arts and cultural activities and the development of community led arts initiatives.					
Strategic Partners: Limerick City Council Arts Service, The Arts Council, Create, Community Arts Organisations, Local Arts Organisations and Institutions including The Hunt Museum, The Irish Chamber Orchestra, Limerick City Gallery of Art, Dagdha Dance, The Belltable Arts Centre, The Irish World Music Centre, Arts related departments in LIT and UL such as School of Art and Design and the Department of Architecture, Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism (DAST)					
Short Term Results	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Results	Resources Required	Who is responsible
25.1: A Vision developed for the potential of Arts & Culture to define, investigate and celebrate people and place. Underpinning this is philosophy of inclusion and excellence which, as well as being cognisant of arts for arts sake, also considers the arts as a tool for health and education initiatives specifically including the needs of young and older residents.	Limerick Integrated Arts Strategy, Limerick City Council, in place. Arts Council Strategy in place. In the Frame of Out of the Picture? A Statistical Analysis of Public Involvement in the Arts ESRI 2008, research completed.	Strategy in place and being implemented. Local arts steering groups operational. Commissioning process implemented. Level of participation in the arts.	Hold consultation meetings with community arts groups, arts and cultural organisations in Regeneration Areas initially, and invite national organisations to participate in the process. Set up arts steering groups in each of the areas, made up of residents, artists, arts organisations, national and international advisors. Apply to National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) to facilitate the development of a Youth Arts Strategy to include youth theatre, youth dance and youth arts groups including a focus group. Appoint a contracting mechanism for the commissioning process to provide a programme of quality arts activity, before and during the building work, as part of the Percent for Arts Scheme. Links with other funding streams with regards to sustainability of projects is a key consideration. Development of a mechanism to monitor and evaluate arts programmes to ensure best practice on par with national and international levels. As part of this, undertake action research on a range of programmes.	Staff time. Staff time. Funding. Staff time. Percent for Arts Scheme funding. Funding.	Regeneration Agencies/ Limerick City Council Arts Office Regeneration Agencies/ Limerick City Council Arts Office Regeneration Agencies with service providers for youth. Regeneration Agencies . Regeneration Agencies/3rd level institutions.

3.4 People and Neighbourhoods

Outcome 25: A vibrant community who participate and engage with high quality arts and cultural activities and the development of community led arts initiatives. (continued)					
Strategic Partners: Limerick City Council Arts Service, The Arts Council, Create, Community Arts Organisations, Local Arts Organisations and Institutions including The Hunt Museum, The Irish Chamber Orchestra, Limerick City Gallery of Art, Dagdha Dance, The Belltable Arts Centre, The Irish World Music Centre, Arts related departments in LIT and UL such as School of Art and Design and the Department of Architecture, Department of Arts, Sport & Tourism (DAST)					
Short Term Result	Current Situation	Success Indicator	Activities to achieve Result	Resources Required	Who is responsible
25.2: Arts Development Officers appointed.	One city-wide Arts Officer and a number of professional arts groups in place.	Officers appointed.	Seek sources of funding whilst ensuring sustainability of current arts posts.	Funding for posts.	Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism. Per Cent for Arts Scheme. Regeneration Agencies./ Limerick City Council
25.3: Capacity in local volunteers and arts groups increased.	Limited capacity currently in the areas.	Volunteer strategy developed and being implemented. Events organised in the communities.	Develop a volunteer policy for the arts. Undertake a volunteer recruitment drive for the arts. Undertake an audit of community and voluntary arts organisations to find out their needs and seek to match with professional arts groups where appropriate. Organise an Art Fair where Limerick Arts groups present their work to the communities allowing for two way engagement. Organise a Festival of Change, series of festival and events throughout regeneration process, to encourage residents and artists to be involved in design of their community and to allow for cross generational work and for all the areas to have the chance to interact with one another. Explore possibility of Regeneration Areas becoming a host for Bealtaine.	Staff time. Staff time. Staff time. Percent for Arts Scheme. Percent for Arts Scheme. Funding.	Arts Development Officers / Limerick City Council Area Arts Office/Regeneration Agencies. Arts Development Officers and area Art Steering Groups. Arts Development Officers and Art Steering Groups. Arts Development Officers and Art Steering Groups.
25.4: Suitable spaces for the arts incorporated into schools, municipal buildings and outdoor municipal areas.	Limited spaces currently available.	Suitable facilities in place and good quality programmes being implemented in them.	Complete audit of cultural infrastructure city wide in relation to the provision of new spaces in regeneration areas. Investigate partnerships models in relation to provision and management of new potential spaces. Design new community facilities to include suitable spaces for use by the arts: flexible space for exhibition; soundproofing for music; sprung floor for dance; wet space for visual arts. Undertake a feasibility study for a library in Southside linked to an adult education facility with the possibility of a 200 seater black box theatre space, the types of spaces outlined above and complementary to Southill Area Centre, Blue Box, a new youth resource space and others. Undertake a feasability study for arts spaces geared towards children and young people in the Northside. Such spaces could include an 80 seater black box theatre space and those listed above and would be complementary to Watch House Cross Library, LIT Millenium Theatre, Northside Learning Hub, a new Youth Resource Space and others.	Funding as part of Plan.	Regeneration Agencies.

3.4 People and Neighbourhoods

3.4.5 Community Participation and Empowerment

We have been very impressed with the great response from each of the three communities towards the whole Masterplanning Process.

There has been very strong involvement, participation and engagement and a great willingness to work in an integrated way towards the creation of new, vibrant and sustainable communities towards a better quality of life and a better future for their children and grandchildren.

The ability and willingness of these communities to consider long-term benefits and rewards rather than striving totally for instant solutions is commendable and augers well for future participation and empowerment.

For our part we needed to concentrate as much as possible on the long-term solutions but it was essential also for us to achieve a reasonable degree of stability in the housing estates in the short-term and we will continue to work on this balance of activity.

We will continue to build up the capacity of these communities through the local Regeneration Committees and Local Authority and through the several other good structures that are and have been working away quietly for many years in these areas.

We will work proactively with the Paul Partnership, R.A.P.I.D., City Development Board, Action Centres, Community Development Projects (CDP)etc. who operate in all these areas and we are keen to work with Pobal and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in order to achieve greater integration and to seek new and innovative Governance arrangements that will ensure real involvement and participation from residents in the management and governance of the areas that they live in.

Ultimately we would like to see communities having a much greater role, influence and day to day involvement in the management of their areas and we will assist Community Organisations to enhance their capacity to eventually become the 'Management Company' of the area and be responsible for basic decision-making and local budgets.

This is being held out for debate in the context that these areas will be transformed and will have far less dependence on the state in the future.

The Regeneration Agencies have been given a strong mandate by government to strategically coordinate all State services operating in the Regeneration Areas.

It is clear that as well as coordination and integration we need to concentrate also on bringing much greater accountability on the management of services from all Statutory Bodies (and Local Development Bodies also).

We will use the process of consultation on Regeneration and related structures and fora as a means of bringing key State services closer to the people and at the same time getting greater accountability (including change) from the Managers in the various organisations.

A Community Development Strategy for the Regeneration Areas will be premised on the core community development values of social, justice, participation, equality, learning and cooperation involving all local community/voluntary/residents groups.

We will ensure that the community in general is in a position to interact with the regeneration process in a manner which allows it to have a real input into decision making. We have already initiated such a process through the local regeneration committees and their various sub-committees. We will build on this.

The people of Limerick need to be involved in the development of their own visions and be fully involved in the process of regenerating their communities. We will continue a policy of wide consultation.

There is a need for a strategy to develop 'sustainable communities' in the Regeneration Areas that looks at the long-term needs, ensuring partnership with full involvement from existing partners, residents, business and other stakeholders.

This will guarantee and maximise the long-term success of Regeneration in Limerick City.
It is vital to achieve greater participation and involvement from residents and to empower them to ultimately and proactively manage their own estates with accountable assistance from the relevant State Agencies including all
Local Development Agencies.

A key structure currently existing in the Regeneration Areas is the RAPID (Revitalisation of Areas by Planning, Investment and Development) Programme which is overseen by POBAL and the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The objectives of the RAPID Programme is quite similar to the objectives set out in this Social Regeneration Programme and its approach is 'bottom up' and participative.

In our Vision Statements (January 2007) we recommended full integration between RAPID and the Regeneration Project.

This aspiration will be followed up again so that as this regeneration programme progresses, the community get full value from a more strategically coordinated approach.

In the meantime we will work closely with the three RAPID projects, CDPs etc. in Limerick City to further develop capacity, leadership and empowerment issues for residents.

'RAPID Limerick has brought a greater focus on people as against infrastructure. Buildings are important, but the residents are the most important'
(Rapid Coordinator (Southside) Feb '08)

This sentiment is very much in line with the thinking of the Regeneration Agencies.

We also consider the PAUL Partnership in Limerick City as a key strategic partner for the Regeneration Agencies in the whole area of community development and empowerment and we have worked well with them and their
various associated bodies over the last twelve months.

We look forward to working in partnership locally with the Moyross Community Enterprise Centre, the Southill House Campus and St. Mary's Aid as well as all existing groups and local development organisations in all three areas.