



2013 End of Year Progress

Annual Report



Galway City Partnership
Comhpháirtíocht Chathair na Gaillimhe

Introduction to 2013 report

This has been another challenging year of core funding cut backs, reductions in match funding, and uncertainty in relation to the policy and practice of alignment with Local Authorities. And we have dealt with these issues while again attempting to maintain our strategic focus and delivery of front line services using a range of programmes.

We present this report as a demonstration of the considerable body of work Galway City Partnership undertakes as it strives to fulfill our local objectives in difficult times.

We wish to state again that we believe there are opportunities in this time of cutbacks. We are in line with the European Commission adopted legislative proposals for cohesion policy for 2014-2020 where the Commission proposes a single methodology regarding Community Led Local Development for the CSF Funds, which:

- focuses on specific sub-regional territories;
- is community-led, by local action groups composed of representatives of local public and private socio-economic interests;
- is carried out through integrated and multi-sectoral area-based local development strategies.
- designed taking into consideration local needs and potential;
- includes innovative features in the local context, networking and, where appropriate, co-operation.

We can be the single methodology outlined in the proposal which will allow for 'connected and integrated use of the Funds to deliver local development strategies' and we ask that our funders support this position.

GOAL 1: Promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services

General Information Provision

Promotional Material:

Flyers designed and used to target LTU in regard to a Barista Training Course

Flyers designed and used to target LTU in regard to a Wood Work Project

Flyers designed and used to target LTU in regard to a Roof Top Patio Project

Flyers designed and used to target LTU in regard to a Cookery Book Project

Flyers designed and used to target LTU in regard to a Writers Project

Presentations:

Presentation to SVP on Bohermore Artisans Group Project in January 2013

Presentation to GCP Services To The Unemployed Advisory Committee

Presentation to Ballybane Enterprise Centre SCCUL Social Enterprise Awards on Bohermore Artisans Group Project in December 2013

Presentation to Board of GCP on the Tus Initiative in December 2013

Launches:

Launch of Bowling Green Closed Gate Community restoration project in June 2013

Launch of Window Box Project with Sonas, Walter Macken Flats in July 2013

Launch of 'Corn on the Corrib' a roof top patio project in August 2013

GCP Website/Facebook:

Both the GCP website and Facebook was used to highlight key aspects of our work during 2013. The website was completely overhauled and revamped to increase usage – see www.gcp.ie

Tús Van

We have effectively used a van, purchased with Tús funds, to advertise our work and thereby increase our profile in the communities we serve.



Community newsletters

The Ballybane newsletter was produced by the local community worker in conjunction with the Ballybane Community Resource Centre and circulated throughout the community. The Westside Resource Centre newsletter also carried information on all our local services.

Promoting Universal Accessibility

This is an ongoing action that covers our work in the area of supporting Galway to become a more accessible and inclusive city for people with disabilities.

A focal point of the work is the local disability network Access For All which is co-ordinated by one of our community workers. The work also involves linking closely with Galway City Council around ongoing accessibility improvements to the local built environment.

2013 was a quieter year for this action due to work restructuring in our community development section arising from 2 community workers being on maternity leave in 2013. As such not as much work was delivered under this action as originally envisaged.

Work with Access For All did continue, though to a lesser extent, with the group only meeting twice during the year. Work has started around broadening the membership and overall focus of the group and this will be continued during 2014.

Several inputs were also given to Galway City Council in terms of specific accessibility improvements required locally.

Other achievements during the year included works carried out on Westside Community Garden making it an increasingly accessible facility to people with disabilities and also the purchase and promotion of an all terrain wheelchair that is now being regularly used by local watersports groups working to include children and adults with disabilities in their activities.



GOAL 2: Increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural development activities and resources

Identification of Local Need.

Three community education courses were completed in the Eastside of the city. The courses ran were Crochet for beginners and advanced, Social Media & Cookery for Men.

The Men's Shed in Ballybane opens 6 days each week and has on average 10 men there each day. The Men's Shed recently won second place in the National Pride of Place Awards and have received media coverage for both this and for their innovative course on Men's cookery and Nutrition. Much of the funding used to support the courses run in the Men's Shed has been provided by the Galway & Roscommon ETB. Other funding has been provided under this Goal 2.1 out of LCDP funds.

The Westside Christmas Market was also run again this year and proved to be another big success with a number of different local community groups getting involved and a great turn out on the day of the market itself.

Third level and Adult Education - Supporting Access and Participation

The focus of this action was to support individuals to access and participate in Third Level and Adult Education, particularly accredited courses. Through staff working in Ballybane, Westside and Ballinfoile over 150 individuals were supported. The types of supports provided included one to one and group support. In particular, 30 students from disadvantaged areas in the city, in conjunction with Galway Community College and Galway Technical Institute, were targeted for supports to attend and participate in Post Leaving Certificate Course.

Two FETAC III courses were successfully completed in Ballybane during the year. These were Computer Applications & Personal Effectiveness and Childcare and Child Development FETAC III.

School Aged Children-Promoting Social and Academic Skills

Over 3,000 young people in Galway City were supported through initiatives to promote social and academic skills.

The Ballybane & Mervue After School Programme ran throughout 2013 with an average of 62 children enrolled each week. The Programme introduced homework support as part of their programme during the year. This additional element to the programme was introduced as a result of identified need in the community particularly following the closure of the local Schools Completion Programme.

Galway City Youth Advocacy Service

The Galway City Youth Advocacy Service is a community-based career guidance service for early school leavers and young people with few or no qualifications between the ages of sixteen and twenty. The role of the service is to support the progression of early school leavers into education, training and/or employment through the delivery of 'tailor-made' career path planning and guidance.

Caseload & Gender	
Male	142
Female	70
Total	212

Ethnicity & Inclusion	
Settled	131
Traveller	77
Migrant	4
Total	212

Age Profile	
Age 15	8
Age 16	48
Age 17	54
Age 18	31
Age 19	36
Age 20	11
Age 20 + (inc. Tracking)	24

Area, geographical distribution	
Westside	38
Ballybane	58
Ballinfoyle	12
Knocknacarra	22
Doughiska	12
City-wide	47
County Galway	23

Education, qualifications	
Degree	1
FETAC 3	14
FETAC 4	4
FETAC 5	3
GCSE	1
Junior Certificate	111
Leaving Certificate	21
No Qualifications	57

Referral agencies	
Schools	36
Youth Projects	14
Youthreach	42
Community Training Centre	45
Dochas Don Oige	14
HSE	12
Self-referral	15
Parent/Family referral	34

Progressions & Current Status	
In Education (Total 41)	
Return to school	24
PLC	11
BTEI, Evening & P-time, online	6
In Training (Total 91)	
Youthreach	37
Community Training Centre	40
Dochas Don Oige	12
NLN	2
In employment (Total 10)	
Full-time	7
P-time	2
Self employed	1
Not in progression (Total 70)	
Actively seeking progress	23
Stuck; barriers to progression	47

Primary School Aged Children- Promoting Emotional Literacy

Four Primary Schools in Galway City were supported to deliver the Incredible Years Childrens Programmes. Six children in St Michaels School Mervue completed the Small Group Dina programme which is a targeted programme designed to improve children's Social, Emotional and Academic competencies.

All infant classes in Holy Trinity School Mervue, Castlegar School and all pupils in Merlin Woods School completed the Dina in the Classroom programme which is a whole class prevention programme.

Parent programme Supporting Children's Social, Emotional and Academic Literacy

25 Primary caregivers attended an Incredible Years Parent Programme of either eight or ten weeks duration, and a further 35 parents attended shorter parenting or parent support groups. These parents were identified as being in specific target groups or alternatively self referred based upon their own need.

Not only did these courses impact positively on the families of the caregivers, but they also developed confidence in parents who lacked formal education experience. Qualitative reports from these programmes were exceptionally positive.

Galway Migrant Service

The Galway Migrant Service (GMS) has continued to provide information, advocacy and support for a steadily increasing number of migrants living in Galway and the surrounding area throughout 2013. In 2013, GMS's resources were accessed by a total of 163 individual clients. Clients of GMS often use the service on more than one occasion and avail of more than one service, contributing to a total of 303 separate appointments. The clientbase can be divided between 73 males and 90 females, representing a total of 45 different nationalities. The top five nationalities represented, in order of commonality, were: Latvian, Nigerian, Brazilian, Lithuanian and Georgian.

Over the past 4 years of operation, the GMS has developed into a highly specialised service for migrants, often dealing with very complex issues. The top five query types dealt with by GMS in 2013 were:

1. Citizenship / Naturalisation
2. Residency under EU Treaty Rights
3. Residency with regard to the Zambrano Judgement (Non-EU parents of Irish citizens minor children)
4. Renewal of Permission to Remain in the State
5. Family Reunification / Family Visas

GMS also makes regular referrals to appropriate organizations for information and provides further support on issues such as accommodation, Refugee/Asylum issues, employment support, social welfare and health issues and has represented a significant number of clients on both local and national levels. In 2013, 41 clients were referred to other local services and 67 representations were made on clients' behalf at the national level.

As well as its direct support function, GMS also facilitates ongoing free English Language courses for non-native speakers of English residing in Galway. In 2013, these courses were accessed by over 50 students, who have attended classes at the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, taught by volunteer English teachers.

Galway Education Initiative

The qualitative outcomes in 2013 for this initiative includes increased educational opportunities within schools for students in Galway City, improved participation by students in Galway City and increased co-operation among primary and second level schools in Galway City. This was evidenced by 100% transfer of students from Primary Secondary schools in Galway City (over a 1000 per year - for the first time in at least 10 years), participation of

Principals and schools staff in GEI lead workshops (influencing school policy), increased usage of standard transfer form across city Schools. Furthermore, Galway City Partnership also worked with the local School Completion Programmes in relation to their work including support the Development of a Learning Mentor Project in Galway City.

School Readiness Programme

30 parents attended an Incredible Years School Readiness Programme. Two programmes were for parents from Merlin Woods School and took place in the ARD Family Resource Centre and a further programme was run in Tirellan School. The programme was targeted at parents who had children starting Primary school in September. It is designed to improve School Readiness and to prevent children from developing Conduct Problems and Academic Underachievement in later years.

The Incredible Years Preschool Network involving 10 pre-school staff from 7 preschools had two meetings during the year. This Network is funded by Galway City Partnership in conjunction with Galway City and County Childcare Committee and is essential to maintain local sustainability of the project.

Case Study

In 2010 Galway City Partnership worked in partnership with One Family, Dublin to deliver accredited New Future Programme. Through direct engagement with 15 women, who were unemployed, were recruited to participate in the course. New Futures is a 15 week programmes involving 45 hours over 3 mornings per week skills development, learning and support programme that includes FETAC level 4 accreditation. The topics covered in the programme are:

- Personal Development
- Career Exploration
- World of Work and Education
- Overcoming Barriers to Progression

The full group completed programme and received their accreditation.

Through supports from the internal services within Galway City Partnership - Community Development Workers and Local Employment Services Network the most appropriate progression route identified for this group was to complete a Level 5 FETAC qualification.

Through supports from the Equality for Women Measure, the Back to Education Initiative (in association with the City of Galway VEC) and the Local Community Development Programme these 15 women progressed to complete the Full Health Care Full Level 5 Accreditation in 2013. This particular qualification has allowed the participants to access employment in the vocational area of health and social care. Of the 15 who began in 2010, 13 have progressed to gaining employment in 2013 in the area of health and social care.

This case study identifies the need for interagency work and community based work in order to identify and support individuals to return to education. Furthermore, this case study identifies the need to support individuals over a three year period in order to facilitate their progression through education into employment.



GOAL 3: Increase in people's work readiness and employment prospects

Study of enterprise supports development

Our enterprise supports have been one of our principle and flagship LCDP activation processes for the LTU over the last programme. Initially the intervention was based on offering one to one support in exploring a person's business ideas and developing a business plan. Then the need for the development of foundation level pre-self employment training was responded to successfully and some DSP funding has been secured for this work. A further recent development has been the provision of mentoring and networking supports, including a website.

The strength of our supports is reflected in the 2013 figures below:

- 581 client had one to one support or were contacted re. tracking their progress

- 289 moved into self –employment through the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme.
- 208 people availed of our 13 start your own business courses
- 31 Existing clients received mentoring in 2013
- 58 people availed of the business networking.
- An additional Enterprise Officer was re. deployed due to the demand of the back to work enterprise allowance scheme and self-employment supports.

The challenge for 2014 and beyond is to convince the Dept of Social Protection that it's own programme is a worthwhile activation process and that they should strategically co-fund the work!



Supports to the Unemployed and Social Enterprise

The principle mechanism of GCP support to the unemployed is through the work of our LESN which is noted elsewhere in this report.

Our LCDP Project Officer has taken a number of approaches to meeting the needs of the unemployed and these include:

Supporting the Changing Minds Drop-in Service.

Mental health issues continue to be a major concern to those dealing with the unemployed. GCP were instrumental in establishing the Changing Minds Drop-in Service which has experienced a substantial increase in those seeking counselling support during 2013.

Based in the Galway Peoples' Resource Centre, the vast majority of clients using the service were unemployed.

The service is supported by a Steering Group which includes GCP staff.

Developing Innovative Responses

The project officer has accepted referrals of non Tús ready individuals from our Tús Team Leaders and, after assessment, combined them with unemployed people who were self referred and existing skilled Tús participants to develop a number of innovative projects. These projects include:

Roof Top Garden Patio Project:

Volunteers and LTU recruited to engage in project.

Surplus vegetables provided to COPE for their 'Meals on Wheels' Service.

Seeds have been harvested and dried for future use.

Project has potential to be replicated elsewhere.

Grow Box Project:

Two groups of six unemployed people have made a range of wooden based products.

Two fully trained and qualified carpenters support the work.

Products have been tested as part of social economy project.

The project has applied for a social enterprise award with SCCUL.

Funding to support the work has been applied for.

Stories Worth Telling:

Group of 4 LTU writers have designed a project to get other LTU to tell their stories of how they have coped during the current recession.

Stories are recorded and then edited.

Each story is expected to form the basis for a book.

A range of publishing options are being explored.

Training Courses:

Roof top garden design planning and what vegetables to grow training for people LTU

Barista training for people LTU FETAC Level 5 (supported by CG-VEC)

Funding:

GCP submitted a funding proposal to SVP under the Maureen O'Connell Fund in 2012 which was not successful. A revised proposal was submitted in 2013 to SVP.

Funding of €2,000.00 secured for 2014 to develop patio area.

Developing social economy groups being worked with include:

NAME OF GROUP	PROJECT	SERVICE/PRODUCT		
Changing Minds	Mental Health	Low-cost Counselling		
Bohermore Artisans Group	Wood Work	Wooden Products		
Keep The Beat Klub	Youth Club	Music Support		
Metal Work Project	Metal Frames	Supply to SVP		
Castlegar National School	Wooden Products	Supply to School		
COPE	Vegetables	Supply to COPE		
Furniture Project	Restoring Furniture	Finished Products to SVP		
Ballinfoile Crèche	Wooden Products	Supply to Crèche		
Stories Worth Telling	Writers	Publishing Stories		
Claddagh Boatmen	Surplus Wood	Exchange of wood materials		
Write Way Forward	Writing Skills	Job Seeking Supports		



Tús Initiative

Project officer continues to support the policy and procedural development within Tús.

5th Tús Team Leader recruited with each team leader supervising up to 20 work placement participants.

GCP target has increased from 80 to 100 placements.

A Tús Van /Van Driver Policy is in operation.

A new Issue Resolution policy has been developed.

A number of GCP projects are partially supported by Tús participants.



Capacity Building Grants:

Grants totalling €3,500.00 were made available via Galway City Partnership to the LESN for 24 unemployed people. The grants which average out at €146 per person are a contribution towards the provision of a range of training and educational supports which improve the employability of individuals.

Ballybane Men's Shed.

Project Worker supported the Men's Shed throughout the year. The Shed ran a number of courses during 2013: Upholstery, Wood turning, Wood working, Social Enterprise, Health & Safety, First Aid and Defibrillator Training. The Ballybane Men's Shed continued to attract on average 8 men on a daily basis over 6 days each week during 2013. The men carried out a range of initiatives during the year, as well as the courses mentioned above. They undertook refurbishment projects in Ballybane Community Garden. They repaired the roof of one of the local churches. They built a shed for a local man who suffers from Parkinson's disease to enable him to store his exercise machines and they repaired benches for residents of a nearby housing estate. The men organised a table quiz in the premises to raise funds for their projects and they also undertook bag packing in one of the local supermarkets. One of the key projects organised by the men this past year was their official launch day.

Equality For Women

The company secured Equality For Women funding again during 2013. A number of courses targeting unemployed women, and building on previous work delivered under this fund, were commenced in the last quarter of the year including courses Beauty Specialist, Customer Services, Computer Skills and Craft Enterprise with over 40 unemployed women participating on these courses.

Local Employment Service Network (LESN)



The Local Employment Service Network is a voluntary and confidential Employment Guidance and information service for people who are registered with Social Welfare and are currently job seeking; our job is to support the individual on their journey back to work. This support is given on a one to one basis and at a realistic speed.

So what happens when an individual comes in to see us? Most offices are staffed by an Information Officer and an Employment Guidance officer. At the first meeting the Information Officer explains what the LESN is all about and arranges a second meeting with the Employment Guidance Officer to begin planning their return to work. The length of time spent with the service depends on them and can range from a few weeks to a couple of years.

Initially time is spent finding out about the client's life and work experience, education & training, personal circumstances along with any ideas they may have about jobs they would like or concerns they would have about returning to work.

The next stage involves the client and the Employment Guidance Officer working together to research potential jobs and training courses and then deciding on a course of action. Whatever that course of action may be the client will be offered assistance and guidance along the way, this can include help with C.V s, covering letters interview skills, application forms etc.

LESN Targets since 2008

New Registrations targets	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Traditional Clients	234	255	576	743	776	429
NEAPs	744	1600	1600	1600	1600	2200
Total	978	1855	2176	2343	2376	2629
Year on year increase		89%	117%	108%	102%	110%
Increase since 2008						268%

31-12-13	New Registrations
NEAPS	1718
Traditional Clients	317
	2035

Progressions 2013

226 clients have been supported into work; 34 have started their own business, 54 have returned to education; 20 have started on CE; 266 have taken up FAS training, 146 have gone onto other training courses. – 746 people in total have progressed.

Capacity Building

Galway City Partnership offers financial support via the Capacity Building Fund. This small budget (€3,500) allowed us to help 24 people in 2013: 13 women and 11 men.

7 people gained employment; 1 moved on to CE; 9 are studying for FETAC level 5 courses; 6 re-activated their Safepass; 1 re-registered with Teaching Council of Ireland and 3 are currently learning how to drive to increase their ability to find work.

Tús Liaison and support

LES staff have met with potential Tús participants and have encouraged them to sign up with the Service. While they are still waiting to be placed with a community group they are still deemed to be Long Term unemployed and are therefore eligible for training. This can be useful in helping them to be fully prepared for their year on Tús and in having an exit strategy when leaving the programme.

Group Engagement

The LES is under contract to the DSP to inform Job Seekers of the range of supports available to them. These information sessions are called Group Engagement and the Partnership have hosted these meetings at no cost. All 1718 people who went on to have 1 to 1 meetings with Employment Guidance officers attended these meetings during 2013.

Goal 4 – Promote Active Engagement with Policy, Practice and Decision Making Processes on Matters Affecting Local Communities

Internal policy change

Ethnic Identifier:

Stemming from the Empowering Traveller Women Entrepreneurs Project, the Galway Traveller Movement worked with GCP to develop an Ethnic Identifier and this was piloted across three actions; Social Economy, the Tús

Initiative and Enterprise to determine the ethnicity of individuals seeking supports from GCP. This will be further rolled out in 2014.

Empowerment of Communities of Interest

This action along with Empowerment of Communities of Place forms the core of our community development work with local area-based and/ or issue-based community groups.

10 different groups were supported under this action in 2013 including disability groups, local development and policy for a, LGBT groups, older peoples groups and others.

In the main the support provided by GCP community development staff included assistance in identifying and applying for grants, group organisation and development, developing project ideas and activities, policy work and general advice and advocacy work.

2013 also saw GCP taking a lead role in developing a new Dementia Friendly Communities initiative. This is a new project that will be implemented over the next 2 and half years and is profiled in the Case Study presented below.

Empowerment of Communities of Place

14 different local groups were supported in 2013 from our main target areas – Ballybane, Ballinfoile, Westside, Bohermore, Mervue and Doughiska.

These were geographically based groups and included residents groups, a mens group, youth group, older persons group and more general community groups.

As with the action Empowerment of Communities of Interest the main supports provided by workers including help with funding, group organisation and development, developing project ideas and activities and general advice and advocacy work.

Community Gardens.

Ballybane Garden participants met 38 times during 2013. They engaged in a range of courses such as Potato Growing, Herb Growing and Herb Uses, Wicker working, Seed Saving and Propagation. The Community Worker in Ballybane & the Garden Group liaised with the National Organic Skills Training Net and supported the running of a FETAC IV course in Horticulture. This course is being run out of the Garden and the local Community Resource Centre.

Westside Community Garden also had a busy year with considerable drainage and pathworks work being undertaken early in the year. The main garden group continued to meet weekly throughout the year and from March to September ran one Beginners Gardening course and one Advanced Gardening course.

Other notable achievements during the year included the gardens participation in both the Westside Arts Festival and Westside Christmas Market and the garden's official launch in September.

Community Response to Domestic Violence Initiative

Staff in Ballybane ran an awareness campaign during the 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women. 38 groups were contacted via mail shot on the issue and each group received information about the issue as well as posters advertising both the local support services as well as Women's Aid. The local services advertised were Waterside House Women's & Children's Refuge and Galway Rape Crisis Centre. Staff in Ballybane also visited Health centres, GP surgeries, Post Offices, shops and pharmacies in the East of the city and hung posters raising awareness of the issue in these locations.

Partnership at a local level

We propose to use the case study below to highlight partnership at a local level in 2013.

Goal Four – Case Study Identifying Gaps in Service Provision

This short case study aims to highlight the role and value that Galway City Partnership continues to play in identifying and responding to gaps in local service provision. Two separate initiatives are used as examples of where the organisation was able to respond to identified gaps and lead out on new community initiatives.

The first example of this is the new Dementia Friendly Communities project that was launched in October 2013 and is now progressing well. GCP was approached by The Alzheimer Society of Ireland in mid 2013 with a view to accessing a small funding scheme that was open to support the development of Dementia Friendly Communities around Ireland. (A Dementia Friendly Community is essentially a community that demonstrates a high level of awareness around dementia and actively seeks to support people living with dementia and their families to remain active in their communities).

GCP was approached to get involved specifically because of its strong links to local communities across the city and its clear ethos of community development. Funding was successfully secured and the project set up to be

rolled out over the next 3 years. An inter-agency project steering group is in place that includes the HSE, Galway City Council, Galway Volunteer Centre and a number of other local organisations. Some of the key areas of work that the project will develop will include recruiting a large team of dementia volunteers who can support people living with dementia, awareness raising and capacity building work around dementia with local communities and voluntary groups and working with local businesses to enable them to become more dementia friendly.

The second example for this case study is in relation to asylum seekers and in particular those living in direct provision. Since Galway Refugee Support Group closed down in 2012 the level of engagement and support to asylum seekers has diminished considerably, despite there being 2 large direction provision centres in Galway City. In response to this GCP used the call for applications to the European Refugee Fund (ERF) as an opportunity to call together local agencies, groups and volunteers to examine the needs of local asylum seekers and explore how these needs can be responded to collectively.

From this a large and diverse group of committed people has come together and is being facilitated by GCP. While the company's application to the ERF was not successful, the group that has emerged from these efforts is working well and a number of different direct supports to asylum are starting to be developed by the group including legal advice supports and an after schools project.

The two initiatives presented in this case study highlight a number of key features of GCP in terms of its ability to identify and respond to gaps in service provision such as:

- its crucial links to local communities which enable it to identify where local gaps exist
- its continued focus on working with the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups in the city
- the recognition by local agencies and groups that GCP plays a key and often unique role in identifying and responding to local community needs
- its capacity to respond to identified needs by putting in place new community supports

Impact on the Rural hinterland

We are a city based company with little direct impact on the rural economy. We have been offering a service to clients from the neighbouring Partnership areas such as enterprise training and Migrant support where such a service does not exist and within dwindling resources.

Our work on cross city/county initiatives such as the Age Alliance programme; Childcare committee and the new Childrens Services Committee all impact on those living in the county.

Impact on Gender

Our activities are reviewed for their gender impact and some of our activities are sought or developed to ensure our work continues to benefit women.

Examples in 2013 are:

- Our securing continuing funding through Equality for Women to develop local community based courses targeting women.
- Through our Action 'Promotion of a Community Response to Domestic Violence' GCP continues to raise awareness about the issue at a community level with individuals, community groups and agencies. It promotes access to the frontline services that are available for women and children that experience violence. It promotes a change in attitude towards the issue by informing and educating service providers, statutory agencies and the wider community.
- We strive to maintain gender balance at Board level and currently 44.4% of members are women.

RAPID Focus

Galway City Partnership has always targeted RAPID areas. Our direct work in 2013 continued to concentrate in Ballybane/ Mervue, Westside and Ballinfoile through our community development workers and LESN and you will see from this report that activities are clearly benefiting these communities.

We liaised with the external staff of projects covering the Bohermore area and Doughiska (a locally recognised area of disadvantage).

We have been asked by City Council to employ a worker under EIF with part of their intercultural development brief targeting Doughiska.

The RAPID structure has not functioned throughout 2013.

Equality Focus

Our continuing focus on equality is reflected in;

- The development, as an outcome of Galway Traveller Movement led training, of an Ethnic identifier that was then piloted during 2013.
- The continued engagement with EWM and targeting women for education courses.
- Responding to community organisations and leading out on the Dementia Friendly Communities initiative.
- Striving to innovate, as in Goal 3 supports to the unemployed that target and respond to those difficult to engage.

Organisational development.

1. Late 2013 saw the Chairperson develop and deliver a successful staff development day focussing on how community development underlies all our work. Further development training is planned for 2014.
2. Designated staff took part in Time Management training during the year.
3. Two Tús Team leaders attended management training.
4. Ten Board meetings were held in 2013 and the AGM took place in May.
and
5. Ten Operational committee meetings also took place.

Company challenges and concerns:

The continuing focus on 'cutting back' on our financial allocation while insisting we maintain front line services has had an impact in 2013 on the services we provide to communities and this will be reflected in IRIS.

The state practice of accusing us of being expensive administratively while year on year burdening us with more guidelines and administrative procedures continues apace.

Funders, from across the state sector, are micro managing our budgets when they should be concentrating on pursuing delivery of agreed outcomes – as only these outcomes are of concern and benefit to the people of Galway.

Within this context our principle concern is how to maintain a focus on meeting the needs identified in our strategic plan which include include:

- the need for focussed and coordinated efforts locally on tackling unemployment.
- the need to focus on supporting self-employment and social economy opportunities in the current economic environment.
- the need to continue supporting community development work locally and in particular with the most disadvantaged communities.