

TOGHER
MAHON
THE GLEN
FARRANREE
HOLLYHILL
BLACKPOOL
FAIRHILL
MAYFIELD
CHURCHFIELD
KNOCKNAHEENY
GURRANABRAHER

Communities in Focus

A Reflection on the Achievements of Communities and Agencies
Working Together in Cork's RAPID Communities

*Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success.*

Henry Ford

RAPID in Cork

RAPID stands for Rejuvenating Areas through Planning, Investment and Development. It is a Government programme which aims to bring agencies together with residents in a local area to create a shared plan for the regeneration of the area.

RAPID is not a body in itself, it is made up of a range of agencies and representatives of the local community. Therefore, the work that has taken place since the programme began is not the work of RAPID but of a range of agencies, individuals, communities and groups who are committed to the improvement of the City's most disadvantaged areas.

In each area, there is a RAPID Area Implementation Team, various sub-groups or theme groups and numerous community liaison structures. A vital element of the programme are Community

Representatives who represent the views of that area to represent the views of that area within the AIT. The AIT reports directly to Ministers through the National Monitoring Committee and also reports to the City Monitoring Group at a local level.

This booklet is intended to highlight and celebrate all of the work that has been achieved over the life of the RAPID programme. Whilst there is still a lot of work to do it is important to recognise the progress that has already been made. It is, however with just a snapshot and no doubt some important projects and actions have been missed out.

So, this is also an opportunity to say thank you to all of those individuals, agencies and communities who have participated in the programme.

3 Youth Cafés

21 Local Clubs

8 Sports Camps

4 Youth Networks

Youth Support



3 youth cafés have been set up in the RAPID areas and work continues to develop additional cafés in areas of need.

4 youth networks have been set up

Sports Capital Top-Up funding has been allocated to 21 local clubs or groups to develop services or

facilities for sport, funding everything from flood lights, to all weather pitches, to club houses and basic equipment.

In the last year RAPID worked with various sports bodies to set up summer camps across the RAPID areas allowing local groups and agencies to nominate young people to participate. 8 camps were held.

Employment & Training



Support *focus* training *personal development*

Project Re-focus has been set up in each of the 4 RAPID areas, enabling 68 long-term unemployed young people to participate in a 3-year programme to support them moving into long-term education, training or employment.

42 young people have this year participated in 'Exploring your Work Options', a course which is supporting young people to look at their future work options and to help them re-train.

A music course 'Tune-in' is being run by Cork Academy of Music for 25 young people aged 20-25 to learn music notation and practical instrumentation through certified qualifications and by supporting the personal development and skill needs of each pupil. It will allow the young people access to third level education.

Community Safety



Community Safety has been an important theme for RAPID since 2006 when a framework for Community Safety was agreed. As a result, various projects and initiatives were put in place and a structure was agreed to respond to safety and environmental issues.

In each RAPID area, a Community Safety Forum meets 3-4 times per year. This is an open meeting which can be attended by as many as 150 local residents. The forum allows local people to talk directly to senior Gardai and City Council staff about any issue of concern.

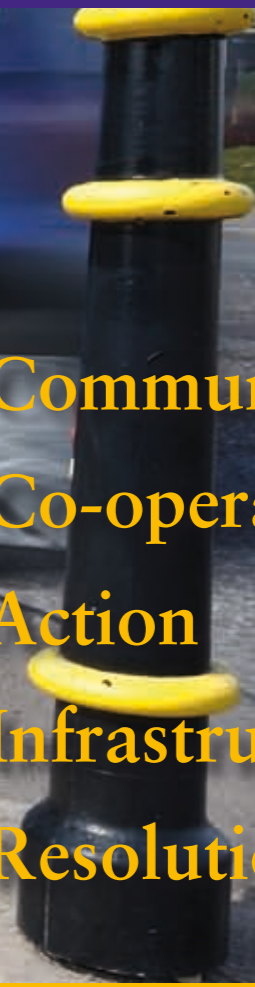


An inter-agency safety unit then meets in each area on a monthly basis and attempts to resolve the issues through practical solutions.

As a result of these forums, many small works have been completed for example, walls erected, laneways closed off, speed checks carried out etc... However, information about serious crime, including drug dealing and anti-social behaviour has also been passed to the Gardai and action taken.

RAPID has secured funding for CCTV in RAPID areas; one system has already been installed and a feasibility study is currently underway for a second system.

Communication
Co-operation
Action
Infrastructure
Resolution



Education

Supporting education & lifelong learning

Whiteboards have been installed in 4 schools, allowing teachers to use the latest technology to support learning.

100 children have participated in a special programme through Junior Achievement which aims to encourage young people to stay in school longer.

Over the last few years, RAPID has supported various programmes to enhance education and lifelong learning, including courses aimed at women returning to the labour market, IT courses, taster courses and schools-based programmes.

3 new parent / community rooms have been created in RAPID schools to enable parents to enrol in education and training as well as support their children's learning.

Home-work clubs have been funded through the RAPID process to enable young people to receive study support that will enhance their learning.





Modernising services through local innovation

- 5** Designated Health Action Zones
- 7** Facilities for Older People Improved
- 5** Community Buses

Health



5 RAPID communities have been designated as Health Action Zone areas. This means that dedicated resources have been secured to develop a range of health services tailored to the needs of those communities. The aim is to tackle health inequalities in disadvantaged communities and to modernise services through local innovation. For example, walking groups have been set up, health checks have

been carried out, mental health awards and health promotions events held. Funding was secured in 2009 to purchase 5 Community buses in RAPID areas.

7 projects supporting older people, including meals on wheels have received funding through the RAPID process to enable facilities or services to be improved.

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Family Support



The number of childcare places in the RAPID areas has been increased significantly over the life of the programme through the National Childcare Investment Programme, which means that children in RAPID areas have access to quality childcare and early education which sets the foundation to prepare children for their future lives.

Staff from 8 pre-schools in Mayfield and the Glen areas have been coming together to participate in a quality training programme for childcare.

Family centres, Springboard and neighbourhood youth projects are all key partners in the RAPID process.

The strengthening families programme has been delivered 3 times in the RAPID areas allowing families to participate in family skills programme which is proven to significantly reduce problem behaviours, reduce drug and alcohol problems in children and to improve social competence and school performance.

Other family support projects, such as the Parents and Kids Together programme in Farranree have also been supported.

Fun days are supported in a number of RAPID areas each Summer.

Acknowledgements

RAPID is a partnership of agencies and communities including Cork City Council • the HSE South • An Garda Síochána • Department of Social Protection • FÁS • Cork Local Drugs Task Force • City of Cork VEC • Cork City Partnership • Local Employment Service • Community Development Projects • RAPID Community Liaison Groups • Cork City Childcare Company • Cork Sports Partnership • RAPID Community

Representatives • Community Associations • Ógra Chorcaí • Youth Work Ireland • Justice Projects • Barnardos • Springboard Schools • School Completion Programmes • Young Enterprise • Foróige • Cork Prison • Cork County Council • Local Networks • Residents Groups • Local Sports Groups and Clubs • Voluntary Groups and many • many more

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