



# Bray Partnership LINKS

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Welcome to the December edition of *LINKS*. In this edition you'll find information on the results of research conducted earlier in the year on homelessness in Bray, a summary of Bray Partnership's Mid-Term Review, news about our programme and activities locally, and our Noticeboard, with information about upcoming events, training, grants schemes and publications. Until the next edition, enjoy what I am sure is a well-deserved Christmas break and a happy New Year from all at the Partnership.

**Michelle Rogers**  
Editor

## Homelessness Research Published

A report has recently been published on the homelessness research carried out earlier this year. The research was commissioned after the problem of homelessness in Bray was raised by Bray Partnership's Cluster Groups.

The report found that at least 119 people from Bray, including 24 children, were homeless during the week of the 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March 2003. The count shows that Bray has a large-scale homeless problem for a town of its size.

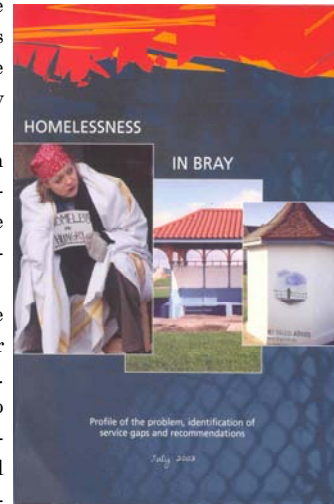
The report drew on the experiences of a wide range of key stakeholders and provides a clear strategy for tackling homelessness in the area. The priority recommendations show the need to develop a range of accommodation options including emergency accommodation, transitional housing and permanent accommodation. Support services for people at particular risk of homelessness are also identified including people with mental illness, ex offenders and drug users.

The research was co-ordinated by Bray Partnership in conjunction with the East Coast Area Health Board, Bray Town Council, Bray Homelessness Forum, Wicklow County Development Board and the Combat Poverty Agency.

Local agencies and the Bray Homelessness Forum are working to progress a number of issues identified in the report. Bray Town Council, for example, has increased the number of one-bed units in its next planned housing development to cater for older single men. The East Coast Area Health Board is co-ordinating

more flexible rent allowance support for homeless people in liaison with Bray Town Council.

**A full copy of the report appears on our website: [www.braypartnership.ie](http://www.braypartnership.ie). or contact Davin Roche at the Partnership on 01 2868266, email: [davin@braypartnership.ie](mailto:davin@braypartnership.ie)**



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## Summary of the Bray Partnership Mid-term Review

<p><b>Bray Partnership, which is now mid-way through its six-year strategic plan 2000-2006, has just completed a comprehensive mid-term review of its work to date.</b></p> <p>The review took place over a two-month period, consulting widely with key stakeholders, including statutory agencies and local groups and individuals connected with the Partnership's programme. In all, some 11 facilitated consultative sessions were held with members of the Partnership Board, Working Groups, Cluster Groups, the staff team, and programme-connected groups. Interviews were also conducted with individual beneficiaries of the programme.</p> <p>The review found that the first three-year period of the Partnership's area action plan was generally viewed as productive and successful, given the ever more challenging environment in which we operate.</p> <p>Based on a number of common themes arising from the review process, the following <b>key priorities</b> were identified for action during the follow-on implementation phase of the programme post-December 2003:</p> <p><b>Enhancing information systems</b>  <b>Key priorities:</b>          Enhance information flow between the Partnership's various local structures, such as Working Groups, Cluster Groups and the Board.          Further develop mutually-beneficial information-sharing mechanisms with statutory agencies.</p> <p><b>Developing the Partnership's structures</b>  <b>Key priorities:</b>  <i>Participation and input</i>          Develop flexible and creative tech-</p>	<p>niques that facilitate, encourage and support a wider degree of participation in the Partnership's structures by the key programme target groups.</p> <p><i>Statutory sector involvement</i>          Enhance representation from the key statutory agencies on the Partnership's Board and Working Groups.</p> <p><i>Linking Partnership structures</i>          Develop mechanisms to enhance information flow between the Partnership's structures such as Cluster Groups, Working Groups and the Board.</p> <p><i>Function and remit</i>          Examine the function and remit of all Partnership structures to ensure that they continue to operate in the most efficient and effective manner with clear relevance of purpose.</p> <p><b>Prioritising the use of Partnership resources</b>  <b>Key priorities:</b>  <i>Assessing the broad base of Partnership resources</i>          Assess what is the most appropriate form of support for each project supported by Bray Partnership, whether this be financial or human resources  <i>Prioritising within the local programme</i>          Assess whether resources should continue to be spread widely or concentrated on more defined initiatives, particularly in light of decreasing resources.</p> <p><i>Funding pilots</i>          Maintain a strategic approach based on the use of resources to promote and support new and innovative local development inclusion-focused activity.</p> <p><i>Taking a lead role in developing local initiatives</i>          Continue to deploy resources towards supporting local initiatives in a lead role capacity.</p> <p><i>Targeted nature of Partnership support</i>          Ensure that targeted actions take cognisance of a wider community context for the development of more integrated and linked activity.</p>	<p><b>Developing a Mainstreaming strategy</b>  <b>Key priority</b>          Develop a strategy to move local successful community-based projects from pilot phase funding to longer-term sustainability, which will involve identifying suitable projects for mainstreaming during their development phase and engaging with relevant statutory agencies to enhance mainstreaming opportunities.</p> <p><b>Monitoring, evaluation and assessment</b>  <b>Key priority:</b>          Develop enhanced mechanisms to document more comprehensively the demonstrable impact and beneficial outcome of programme-based activity for key programme target groups.</p> <p><b>Focusing on research and policy development</b>  <b>Key priority:</b>          Develop a strategy to advance policy-related work including identifying and researching issues to be addressed, developing appropriate responses, evaluating the effectiveness of actions undertaken, and disseminating the findings to inform and influence policy development processes.</p> <p><b>This is a brief summary of some of the key priorities identified during the Mid-Term Review process. A full report of the process and outcomes will be distributed to local groups and organisations early in the new year.</b></p>
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## Bray Partnership Programmes and Activities

### Childcare Needs Analysis

A needs analysis carried out by Bray Partnership to find out the childcare needs of families in the Bray area has now been completed and the results will be published in a report due out in early 2004. The research, which consulted widely with parents and caregivers in the area, was conducted by Bray Partnership for the Wicklow County Childcare Committee. The results will provide a picture of the current availability and affordability of childcare in Bray as well as what types of childcare services are needed, where they are needed and how much caregivers are able to pay. *For more information, contact Lorna Lafferty at the Partnership on 2868266.*

### New Adult Education

#### Handbook for Bray

A new handbook, the *Adult Education Handbook*, has just been published by the Bray Adult Education Network. The handbook, which was funded by Bray Partnership, is specifically geared to meet the needs of Bray students and contains a wealth of useful information, such as details of adult education opportunities in Bray, where to get financial support and information (including for specific groups such as people with disabilities and Travellers), with comprehensive information on further and higher education, access programmes, study skills techniques and childcare options.

#### Survey of local estates issues

The Partnership's Local and Community Development Cluster Group has identified a number of environmental issues, such as grass-cutting, provision of skips in estates, encouraging recycling and composting, that it would like to see addressed locally. The cluster group has sent a questionnaire to residents associations and estate management groups in Bray to identify the key issues facing local residents. They will be organising a meeting with groups and Bray Town Council early next year to discuss the findings.

### Safety booklet for older people

Bray Partnership's Older People Cluster Group is compiling a Safety Booklet for Older People, which will be published early in the New Year, with funding from the Health Promotions Unit. If you are an older person living in Bray and would like to give some input into what should be included in the booklet, *contact Eileen Byrnes at the Partnership on 2868266.*

### New service for older people

The Partnership's Older People Cluster Group will be starting a new service in Bray for older people from February 2004. The service, which is supported by the East Coast Area Health Board, will be run one day a week in St. Vincent de Paul's St. Clare's Centre on the Killarney Road, providing social contact, information-provision, a light lunch and activities for all older people living in the Bray area. *For further information contact Eileen Byrnes at the Partnership on 2868266.*

### Services for young people with learning disabilities

The Partnership's Disability Cluster Group is embarking on a new research project which will involve a profiling/mapping exercise of people with learning disabilities in the Bray area who have completed or are about to complete school and turn 18 years of age. The profiling exercise will examine the demographics, social care and lifelong learning needs of this group. Funding has been secured from a number of sources including Comhairle, the National Disability Authority and the East Coast Area Health Board. The findings of the research will provide baseline information on the service needs of people with learning disabilities in the Bray area. It is anticipated that the research findings will ensure effective planning of services locally, avoiding the crisis situation that occurred this year.

### Look before you leave...

A new handbook, *Look before you leave*, a guide for young people living in County Wicklow who are thinking about leaving home or are currently homeless, has recently been launched. The handbook is full of practical information on renting, finding emergency accommodation, getting support, budgeting, finding work, getting help with a drug or alcohol addiction and much more.

A number of groups came together through the Wicklow Homelessness Forum to produce the handbook, including Bray Partnership, Bray Youth Services, East Coast Area Health Board, Wicklow County Council and Co. Wicklow Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The report will be disseminated to young people through schools county-wide.

*You can read the handbook on our website at [www.braypartnership.ie](http://www.braypartnership.ie) in the publications section.*

### Community Development Training Programme

An important part of Bray Partnership's support for local community groups is our Community Development Training Programme.

Courses provided have included Management Committee Training, Health and Safety, Making Fundraising Applications, Running Successful Fundraising Events, Community Arts, and the Active Citizenship Training Programme, which facilitates participants to become active citizens, particularly through thoughtful use of their power as voters. In preparation for the local elections we plan to run the Active Citizenship Programme Facilitators Training course early in the new year for local people who would like to deliver this training in their own local community.

Looking forward to 2004, we're currently putting together a new programme offering training that community groups have asked us to provide. *If you would like to input into this by completing our training needs questionnaire, contact Eileen Byrnes at the Partnership on 2868266, or see our website.*

**NOTICEBOARD**  
**BRAY PARTNERSHIP**

**Community Training**

We will be running a two-day *Active Citizenship Facilitator Training* course on Saturday 21st February and Saturday 28th for anyone interested in being trained as a facilitator to provide the Active Citizenship programme in the community in the lead up to the local elections. To find out more *contact Eileen Byrnes at the Partnership*. We plan to offer a two-day training course in *Facilitation Skills* for beginners early in the New Year, subject to availability of resources. *Please contact Eileen Byrnes at the Partnership on 2868266 if you are interested in attending.*

**Grants**

The **Artists in the Community Scheme**, administered by CREATE, aims to support more public participation in the arts. Guidelines and applications are available from CREATE or at the Partnership. The application deadlines are 30th January and 25th June 2004. The Partnership will be organising an information session around April for the June deadline.

The closing date for the **Ireland Funds** grant round 2004 is 30th January 2004. The fund supports projects promoting peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, community development and education. *You can contact them at [www.irfunds.org](http://www.irfunds.org).*

**2004 Sports Capital Programme:** applications are now being invited from sports organisations, clubs and community groups for the round of grants for the year 2004. Proposals for the development of sport and recreational sport facilities will be considered with special priority being given to the development of facilities in disadvantaged areas in line with Government policy aimed at increased participation in sport and recreation in those areas. Application forms and guidelines are available from the Departments website at [www.arts-sport-tourism.gov.ie](http://www.arts-sport-tourism.gov.ie), by email at [sportsunit1@dast.gov.ie](mailto:sportsunit1@dast.gov.ie) or tel. 01-631 3824. Closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2004.

**Dormant Accounts Fund**

Guidelines and application forms available from [www.dormantaccounts.ie](http://www.dormantaccounts.ie), or from the Partnership— *contact Jenny Jones on 2868266*. There is no deadline and we hope to organise an information session for the New Year; *please contact Eileen Byrnes at the Partnership on 2868266 if you would be interested in attending.*

**Community Calendar 2004**

The Community Calendar is a new resource for local community groups planning meetings, functions or social events. The idea is that groups who are planning an event can check the Community Calendar to find out if there is another event scheduled for the same day. *To access the Community Calendar, contact the Community Administrative Support Centre on 2116808, or by email at [casc@eircom.net](mailto:casc@eircom.net).*

**Disability Bill**

The *Rights Make the Difference Campaign*, which is lobbying for the introduction of a rights-based Disability Bill in the lead up to the publication of the new Disability Bill, are asking people to write to their TDs and the Taoiseach. *You can download information and sample letters at <http://activelink.ie/ce/active.php?id=786>.*

**Traveller Focus Week 2003**

*Irish Travellers – Challenging the Myths* has been published as part of the recent Traveller Focus Week 2003 by the Irish Traveller Movement, Pavee Point Travellers Centre, National Travellers Women’s Forum and NCCRI and is available from the Irish Traveller Movement at Tel. 01-679 6577.

**Community Development Grants Scheme**

The Partnership awarded 10 grants in the latest round of our Community Development Grants Scheme, making a total of 41 grants awarded to 24 groups in the two years since the grants started. The grants were awarded to groups working with a range of groups that the Partnership has targeted in our Local Development Plan. While the monies are fairly modest, they can make the difference for many groups in being able to continue or expand their work. We plan to run the scheme again in 2004. Keep an eye out in Links.

<i>Grant recipient</i>	<i>Target Group</i>	<i>€</i>
<i>Bray Lakers</i>	Disabled people	500
<i>Giltspur Heights</i>	Young people	610
<i>Carers Association</i>	Carers	647
<i>Bray Youth Services</i>	Young people	560

<i>Young at Heart</i>	Older people	600
<i>Festina Lente</i>	Disabled people	600
<i>Enable Ireland</i>	Parents of children with disabilities	350
<i>Share a Dream</i>	Families with disabled children	600
<i>Bray Mental Health Ass.</i>	People with mental health difficulties	600
<i>Youth Fellowship</i>	Young people	600

**Bray Partnership Website**

Our website, [www.braypartnership.ie](http://www.braypartnership.ie), has a ‘Latest News’ section as well as a ‘Noticeboard’ on the site. If you would like to include information or photos about your group’s activities, or publicise a forthcoming event, contact Michelle at the Partnership, email: [michelle@braypartnership.ie](mailto:michelle@braypartnership.ie).

Comments, contributions and feedback on the newsletter are welcome. Contact Michelle Rogers, Bray Partnership, 4 Prince of Wales Tce., Bray, Co. Wicklow. TEL: 286 8266 email: [michelle@braypartnership.ie](mailto:michelle@braypartnership.ie) **This document is available in Braille, large font, on audio cassette or disk on request. It is also available to read and download from our website in the ‘our publications’ section.**