



SUMMARY PAPER

THE WHITE PAPER ON: ***SUPPORTING VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY***

A Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity and for
Developing a Relationship between the State and the
Community and Voluntary Sector

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INTRODUCTION

In 1997 the Green Paper on the Community and Voluntary Sector and its Relationship with the State was published by the Department of Social Community & Family Affairs (DSCFA). The aim of this was to stimulate debate on the issues involved in the development of a framework for a relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS). A steering group was appointed to advise and assist on issues and directions for the White Paper. An extensive consultation process led by the Department took place, finishing with a National Consultative Seminar in March 2000.

In May 1998 AONTAS organised a series of three regional meetings around the country to bring locally based women's education groups and networks who are members together to examine the proposals of the Green Paper and to formulate a collective response to them. *Forty-two* groups participated in the consultation process, the findings of which were documented in "***Locally Based Women's Groups/Networks Response to the DSCFA Green Paper***".

The main issues highlighted were:

- Recognition that locally based women's groups and networks are a distinct and separate sub-sector within the community sector.
- The need for groups to have their own funding, support and representation mechanisms.
- The issue of representation within the community sector needs to be explored and debated within all relevant groups within the sector in order to arrive at mechanisms of consultation and representation, which are appropriate and satisfactory to all.
- Locally based women's groups and networks want representation on whatever monitoring committee arrangements are made in the White Paper.
- Locally based women's groups and networks need to hear from the DSCFA in relation to the review of funding to groups and why the recommendations within it have not been taken on board.

The White Paper on a Framework for Supporting Voluntary Activity was launched in September 2000. It sets out a rationale for developing the relationship between the State & the Community & Voluntary Sector.

AONTAS has facilitated and supported the needs of women's networks and groups through programmes such as the European Community Initiative, New Opportunities for Women (NOW), the Women's Education Networks Development Initiative (WENDI) and more recently the Strategies to Advance Networks Collective Empowerment (STANCE) programme.

This paper focuses specifically on the main issues and recommendations in the following areas:

- Structures Underpinning the Relationship
- Enabling the Sector
- Funding Issues
- Implementation

This summary aims to provide information on the issues and recommendations contained in the White Paper and to enable the women's groups and networks to consider how these will impact on their work at a local, regional and national level. It is also particularly relevant to other organisations/agencies working in the field of community and adult education and community development.

SECTION ONE

STRUCTURES UNDERPINNING THE RELATIONSHIP (Chapter 3 from White Paper)

The first part of this chapter looks at:

- The role of the Government and how it determines priorities in the allocation of resources
- The recognition within the Government of the important role, which the Community and Voluntary sector play in civil society.

The main areas, which the White Paper outlines as the relationship between the state and the sector, include:

- Communicating consumers' views and requirements.
- Developing new services to meet emerging needs.
- Advocacy, lobbying and campaigning.
- Inputs to policy development and the planning of economic and social policy or programmes.
- Contracting delivering of services.
- Establishing good practice.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the work of specific programmes.
- Negotiating and developing the sector's relationship with the State.

The developing and widening role of the Community and Voluntary Sector has already led to the establishment of a wide range of mechanisms for consultation with the state and involvement in the policy making process (e.g. consultation mechanisms set up by different Departments, Local Development Programme)

The White Paper identifies a range of mechanisms that either already facilitate consultation by the sector with the State or have potential to be important in that regard. These are as follows:

1. NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE STRUCTURES

There has been a debate within the sector in regard to the question of a formal national organisation to represent the Community and Voluntary sector as a whole – such an organisation exists in Northern Ireland (Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Activity). The White Paper proposes that given the diversity of the Community and Voluntary sector, it will may be appropriate for this Sector to be organised along sectoral lines. Conversely, it puts forward a case for an umbrella body, which could bring the different strands together. This, the Government believes, would be an issue for consideration and resolution by the sector itself. (DSCFA, White Paper 2000, p.63)

2. THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY PILLAR

The Community and Voluntary Pillar were created as a mechanism to participate in the negotiations leading to Partnership 2000 and its successor, the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness. Members of the Community and Voluntary Pillar currently include:

- Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOUE)
- The Congress Centres for the Unemployed
- Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI)
- The National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI)
- The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)
- ICTU Centres for the Unemployed
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Protestant Aid
- Community Platform – this consists of 22 participant organisations with a focus on social inclusion and social justice issues (see Appendix 1 for list)

The Community and Voluntary sector contains a broad range of organisations from large charitable organisations to small voluntary groups. While the Pillar has made huge advances in bringing social and economic issues to the table at a national level, there are issues that need to be addressed with regard to the method of selection/election of representatives given the diverse nature of the Community and Voluntary sector.

A particular concern to AONTAS is representation of the interests of community-based groups engaged in the provision of adult and community education (AONTAS, Community Education Policy Paper, 2000). This is emerging as an issue of concern as Government Departments are increasingly using the Pillar as a nomination route to policy-making bodies.

Another recent development, which the White Paper mentions, is the emergence of The Wheel. This is a movement for groups and individuals who wish to explore ways and means in which the Community and Voluntary sector might come together in a more cohesive and meaningful way. The Wheel is not a voice for the sector nor does it have the same recognition as the Community and Voluntary Pillar in the social partnership agreements.

The issue of representation at National Level must be addressed as a matter of urgency and transparent mechanisms put in place to ensure that all aspects of Community and Voluntary activity are represented.

3 . CONSULTATION MECHANISMS SET UP BY INDIVIDUAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WHICH INVOLVE THE SECTOR

Some advisory, co-ordinating and monitoring committees have been set up which enable the Community and Voluntary sector to provide an input in relation to policy development or management of particular programmes either at a national, regional/local level. The White Paper also provides some examples of co-ordinating committees:

- At Health Board Level – e.g. in relation to childcare, violence against women, services for people with disability.
- Pilot Integrated Services Process under the aegis of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation which aims to provide a more focussed and co-ordinated response by State agencies to the needs of disadvantaged urban areas, in conjunction with the local communities.
- Area Development Management (ADM Ltd) is the intermediary company established by the Irish Government in agreement with the European Commission to support local, social and economic development.
- National level advisory committees in youth work (Department of Education & Science), community development and money advice services (Department of Social Community and Family Affairs).

The White Paper notes that not all voluntary organisations wish to work closely with the State in consultative fora. Some regard it as a mark of their independence to have little or no contact with State agencies. The Government would value the independence of the Sector and will continue to encourage this for example through the promotion of development of additional sources of funding to support community and voluntary activity (e.g. by the Business Sector)

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY UNITS IN CERTAIN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

In order for dialogue to take place between the Community and Voluntary sector and State agencies, there is a need for transparency in the relationship between Government Departments and agencies and the Community and Voluntary Sector. The White Paper stresses the importance for Government Departments, which have significant contact with the Community and Voluntary Sector to adopt an enabling approach and that they adopt community development principles of participation and inclusion in their work.

In this context, the White Paper proposes that a Voluntary Activity Support Unit or Units will be designated in relevant Government Departments to support the relationship with the community and voluntary sector. Example of units that already exist include:

- DSCFA (Voluntary and Community Services section)
- DSCFA Family Affairs Unit
- Housing Division within the Department of the Environment and Local Government

Such units could be responsible for liaising with the Community and Voluntary Sector regarding policy development and service and programme delivery. The White Paper suggests that these units should be proactive in their approach to the sector and provide training to their staff as appropriate.

4. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

These include: Leader Companies, Local Drug Task Forces and the 38 Local Development Partnerships (LDPs) financed through Area Development Management (ADM).

The Local Development Partnerships, in particular, are characterised by:

- Structures that are area based.
- A partnership of local interests, including state agencies, social partners and community and voluntary interests.
- Specific attention is given to the inclusion of the target population. Partnerships must also reflect the Government's policy on gender balance, which requires that at least 40 per cent of either gender are members of the board.
- Strategic planning, which involves multi-dimensional integrated programmes of economic, social and cultural development.

The LDPs have begun to provide new opportunities for the community and voluntary sector in that it brought the sector into involvement in planning at a broad area level. However, this has not been without problems for the sector. The White Paper emphasises the need for greater integration of structures and services and the Government has now commenced a move towards an integrated local Government and local development system.

5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM - COUNTY/CITY DEVELOPMENT BOARDS

The process of reforming local government has been ongoing for a number of years. One aspect of this reform is that local authorities are to have an enhanced role in strategic economic and social planning, thereby promoting greater co-ordination in the delivery of public services in their areas. In June 1998, the Government established an interdepartmental Task Force on the Integration of Local Government and Local Development Systems. The Task Force was concerned to develop a vision and strategy, which would encompass in an integrated way, the many State and local development agencies operating at the local level, thus significantly strengthening local impact. The Task Force considered that this could best be achieved at the county/city level.

This includes the establishment of broadly representative Development Boards in each city and county local authority. A key part of the work of the County Development Board (CDB) will be to bring local government, local development, the state agencies active at local level and the social partners (including the community and voluntary sector) together.

The two main aims of the CDB are:

- (a) To increase co-operation between members, including enhanced information flow.
- (b) To work on an agreed county/city strategy on economic, social and cultural development which is to be in place by 2002.

New Directors of Community and Enterprise who have been recently appointed in the 34-county/city councils will support the CDBs. As part of the process of establishment of the CDBs, in each city and county area, Community and Voluntary Fora have been set up to select the sector's representatives on the Board and its supporting groups, as well as to more generally feed into the work of each Board. The fora encompass a broad range of groups and organisations, including those with a focus on social inclusion and also groups with a focus on sporting/cultural/recreation and heritage type work.

The White Paper proposes that a sum of £1m per annum will be made available through the Department of Environment and Local Government for the setting up of Community and Voluntary fora.

Agencies will, where appropriate, be encouraged to consult with the local fora when seeking feedback or input in relation to their policies or initiatives. Local authorities have also established Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), in order to find new ways of involving more people/groups to become involved in the work. New guidelines for the establishment and operation of SPCs have been issued to all local authorities.

The principle of gender balance in the selection of boards, for example the County/City Development Board, has to be seriously addressed.

In "*preparing the ground: guidelines for the progress from strategy groups to County/City development boards*" it is stated that "at least 40% of the CDB members should be Women in keeping with the Governments policy of achieving a 40% gender balance". This is further reiterated in the "Programme for Prosperity and Fairness" which states that the Government will "*undertake a review of the current structures for monitoring and implementing the commitments to achieve equality for women and will mainstream equality issues across all operational programmes of the National Development Plan*" (Programme for Prosperity & Fairness, 2000, p.99)

The challenge for the Women's Networks in order to bring about change in the thinking of decision makers and the importance of bringing a gender perspective to these levels of decision making is to seek representation in their own right at these decision making levels. A number of supports are required to participate at this level:

- (a) Capacity building of representatives in skills and analysis.***
- (b) Financial support such as childcare, transport, etc***
- (c) A clear perception of the needs of the women being represented.***

Unless these supports are put in place, Networks will find it difficult to bring about change in the decision-makers.

6. REGIONALLY-BASED BODIES

These include the Western Development Commission and the new Regional Assemblies for the Border, Midlands and Western Region (BMW) and the Eastern and Southern Region (E&S) set up in the context of the National Development Plan (NDP). Regional bodies such as these have potential to foster greater collaboration and consultation between statutory agencies and Community and Voluntary groups operating in their regions. The two regional assemblies are the managing authorities for their respective Operational Programme under the National Development Plan. Each Operational Programme will be supervised by a Monitoring Committee, which will include representation from the Community and Voluntary sector.

The Western Development Commission was established on a statutory basis in February 1999. It is responsible for promoting the economic and social development of the Western Region (the counties of Connacht, plus Clare and Donegal). It has an important co-ordinating role in relation to the activities of public and private bodies operating in the Region. The Western Development Commission will operate the Western Investment Fund for which the Government is providing £25m. The Fund will provide loans and take equity in a small number of strategically important investments in business start-up and growth oriented small and medium enterprises and in community based developments aimed at encouraging enterprise establishment.

National Consultative bodies - National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) and the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) in which the Community and Voluntary Sector participates as a social partner

The NESC was formed in 1973 to provide a forum for discussion of the principles relating to the efficient development of the National Economy and the achievement of social justice and to advise the government, of their application. Since the mid-1980s, the Council has published a series of strategy reports to identify in a holistic way a range of interrelated measures necessary to foster economic progress and social inclusion. (For further information about the Membership see Appendix 2).

The NESF was established in 1993 to contribute to the formation of a wider national consensus on social and economic policy initiatives particularly in relation to unemployment. Since its reconstitution in 1998, the Forum's terms of reference are focussed on evaluating the implementation of policies dealing with equality and social inclusion. It has recently been reconstituted and will focus on monitoring and analysing the implementation of specific measures and programmes especially those concerned with equality and social exclusion. (For further information about the membership see Appendix 3).

The Government has indicated the DSCFA intention to place both the NESF and the NESC on a statutory basis within a new office for National Economic and Social Development. The aim of this is to ensure closer co-ordination and links between the two bodies within an overall framework of support.

7. NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY (NAPS)

The National Anti-Poverty Strategy was launched in April 1997. A central feature of the development of NAPS was consultation with and involvement of the Community and Voluntary Sector. During this time, key themes of the strategy were identified:

- Income adequacy
- Long-term unemployment
- Disadvantaged urban areas
- Rural poverty
- Educational disadvantage

The global targets of the NAPS were updated in June 1999. While NAPS looks at poverty in a global context, it also examines specifics within key themes, each with its own subsidiary targets and timeframes. The Government has asked the Interdepartmental Policy Committee to draw up new targets to reflect the changed social and economic environment, for example in relation to education and adult literacy, and to consider action targets in relation to particular groups such as children in poverty

This new phase within NAPS has occurred in the context of negotiating the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness. It is agreed in the Programme that the NAPS be updated, the underlying methodology reviewed, and the existing targets reviewed where appropriate.

PROPOSED FUTURE NAPS DEVELOPMENTS

The Combat Poverty Agency produced its first assessment of progress, which highlights key issues for consideration in the further implementation of the NAPS. The NESF has also produced an opinion on the implementation of the NAPS and has an ongoing role in its monitoring. Other ways of extending NAPS to local authorities has been the introduction of local anti-poverty networks. The Combat Poverty Agency has established a Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network in collaboration with the Department of Sport and Local Government and the NAPS Unit in the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

The aim of the networks will be to:

- provide a forum in which local authorities can share experience and consider how to make the maximum contribution to policies to tackle poverty and social exclusion
- Support and assist local authorities to incorporate a strong anti-poverty focus within their work

FURTHER MECHANISMS FOR BROADENING THE CONSULTATION

The range of consultation mechanisms discussed above is being augmented by a Government decision that relevant Departments and agencies will undertake to hold regular policy fora in future to allow for wider consultation and participation in the policy making process.

It is proposed that such policy fora will be held on particular theme issues (e.g. childcare, the arts,). These could be organised on a local level, or nationally – annually or every two years. They could be linked in with consultation mechanisms under the Social Inclusion Strategy. The Government expects that relevant Departments and agencies would take the lead in organising such fora.

Government Departments and State Agencies will ensure that there are administrative arrangements in place to underpin the effective functioning of the working relationship. Each Department and agency will outline its role and future plans that relate to the sector and publish information on a regular basis.

A key issue for consideration for women's networks/groups is whether administrative arrangements include resources for supports e.g. childcare

PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD INFORM THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND THE STATE

The White Paper outlines a set of principles/commitments that emerged from the widespread consultation process leading up to the publication of the White Paper. The Government suggests that these should be seen as basic principles informing the relationship between the State and the Sector. (See appendix 4 for detailed information on joint principles applying to both the Statutory Sector and the Community and Voluntary Sector).

SECTION TWO

ENABLING THE SECTOR

Chapter 4 from White Paper

The White Paper acknowledges the diverse nature of the Community and Voluntary Sector, which makes up many separate groups and organisations of widely differing size, constitution, resources and focus, working at local, regional or national level. This diversity demands a flexible response (aside from funding). The White Paper outlines several distinct elements in the task of enabling the sector.

➤ ***Technical Supports***

- Provision of direct supports to the sector by Departments, specialised national agencies and local statutory agencies.
- Provision of dedicated support structures for local groups and projects. participating in certain funding programmes (e.g. the Community Development Programme Regional and Specialist Support Agencies) and the encouragement of the emergence of other voluntary sector-based training and support services for the wider sector.

➤ ***Volunteering***

- Support and fostering of volunteering

➤ ***Legal and regulatory issues***

- A supportive legal and regulatory framework

1. TECHNICAL SUPPORTS

The growth in the community and voluntary sector has created increased needs for training and other technical supports to enable groups to do their work more effectively, which have not always been matched by increased provision of resources.

The type of technical support needs of voluntary and community groups varies and this depends on the focus of the specific group and/or its stage of development. The White Paper outlines a range of supports needed within the sector and are categorised as follows:

- (a) Management and organisational development and personal/professional development of staff
- (b) Support for the relationships with statutory agencies
- (c) Support for networking
- (d) Support for the role of contributing to policy formation, including research.
- (e) Evaluation and review
- (f) Support for volunteers and volunteering
- (g) Training and support in community development skills and in the involvement and participation of the most marginalised
- (h) Support for information dissemination, to the public, opinion and policy-makers and to membership, as may be relevant
- (i) Production of resource materials and provision of technical advice

The White Paper points out that individual groups and organisations are primarily responsible for their training and support needs. Statutory support will be available to the sector for mutually agreed programmes of activities and where these programmes are consistent with Government policies and objectives, or where other public interest criteria apply.

TRAINING OF STATUTORY PERSONNEL

One of the issues identified in the consultation process leading to the White Paper was the need for suitable training for statutory personnel whose work involves them in contact with the Community and Voluntary Sector. The White Paper points out that such training could include, as necessary, short-term familiarisation placements in the Community and Voluntary sector. Furthermore, training courses/seminars could be organised jointly by the State and the Community and Voluntary sector on themes of mutual interest. The paper also stresses the need for statutory agencies and community and voluntary groups to adopt a proactive approach in ensuring that relevant staff have an understanding of the ways in which the sector works and the ethos and statutory framework that shape their roles. Gender training will also need to be included as part of this approach.

DIRECT SUPPORT

The White Paper highlights the supports, which agencies such as the Health Boards, Local Authorities, VECs etc play to support voluntary organisations working in their respective fields. In addition to the above, Comhairle (formerly the National Social Services Board), the Combat Poverty Agency and the Area Development Limited (ADM), provide support, including training, advice, resource materials and assistance in development of policy responses to the sector. The support provided through State agencies complement other provision and broadens the options available to the sector, by providing specialist inputs, including research and publications

The White Paper highlights the Governments commitments to strengthening the specialist technical supports that the State provides for the Community and Voluntary sector. This will include further supporting the services for the sector that have been developed by ADM, the CPA and Comhairle. In order for this to be done, the three organisations will be asked to come together to develop specific proposals for the further development of such supports in ways which will ensure clarity and definition in respect of the roles of each agency and which will maximise synergy between them. (more detailed information about these three organisations is provided in the White Paper).

PROGRAMME SUPPORT STRUCTURES

Examples given are the regional support structure for the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs' Community Development Support Programme and the overall support structure for the then Women's Education Initiative (WEI) funded by the Department of Education and Science and located in the Work Research Centre. The work carried out by AONTAS is given as an example of one of the WEI projects to network and support Women's Community Education groups.

The WEI has proved to be a very successful model of providing training, organisational development and employment practice support to the local projects participating in that programme.

Its features were:

- A local and accessible service in response to the expressed needs of the projects themselves and the Programmes' strategic objectives
- A commitment to high standards and to key community development principles and practices and to on-going evaluation and monitoring in that regard
- Support is an integral part of the funding programme provided by an external support agency contracted by the Women's Education Initiative.

The CDP support structure has been extended to the projects participating in the DSCFA's two other Community Development Support Programmes (Family and Community Services Resource Centre Programme and Core-funded Community and Family Support Groups Programme). It is also being extended to focus on support for policy work within the Programmes. Each Regional Support Agency needs to have access to a broad range of technical and analytical skills to assist groups and organisations with community profiling, needs identification, policy analysis, organisational analysis, group facilitation, community participation and strategic planning.

AONTAS particularly welcomes the White Papers recognition of Women's Education Networks Development Initiative (WENDI) as an example of a support structure to Women's Networks.

ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF OTHER FEDERATIONS AND NETWORKS

There are many national networks and umbrella bodies and local networks that provide support to their member groups – many of which are in receipt of statutory funding. A number of other, specialised training and support organisations have also emerged in recent years from within the sector. One of the main functions of these umbrella bodies is representation coupled with providing support systems and services for member organisations doing like work. The main kinds of support service offered include:

- Provision of information and guidance for member groups
- Provision of education and training programmes for volunteers and staff
- Assistance with organisational and management development, standards development
- Specialist assistance in areas such as recruitment and legal incorporation

An additional fund of £2million will be provided by the DSCFA to develop other support and training availability within the Community and Voluntary sector. This new allocation will foster availability of additional training and other support services to the community and voluntary sector groups from within the sector itself. Women's Networks and groups need to monitor and avail of this funding in developing resources within their work.

Umbrella organisations and specialist training and support agencies can be particularly important for the smaller organisations located around the country, which may lack the resources to deal with the more complex issues, which arise from time to time.

LINKS WITH THIRD LEVEL AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Several third level colleges have developed education and training courses or research initiatives directed at meeting the specific needs of the Community and Voluntary sector. Examples provided in this chapter include NUI Maynooth, TCD, NUI Galway, NUI Cork, UL, DCU and the National College of Ireland. There is a growing demand for further development by third level institutions, particularly in relation to non-degree courses of education and other supports for the Community and Voluntary Sector e.g. TCD and Limerick University distance learning programmes. One of the roles of the Implementation and Advisory Group will be to monitor developments in this area.

ACCREDITATION OF LEARNING IN THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The White Paper acknowledges the volume and growth in the range of education/training courses provided to, and through, the Community and Voluntary sector. Courses vary in their content and are wide-ranging in scope and format. Many courses run in the Community and Voluntary sector are delivered within local communities by organisations themselves and through consultation with VECs, FAS, external agencies and institutions. The Institutes of technology, second level schools, other third level colleges and universities can all contribute to the variety of courses available to learners in the Community and Voluntary sector. More Open and Distance Learning opportunities are developing to meet the needs of individuals in terms of time, pace and location.

A number of issues have been identified in the White Paper in relation to developing accreditation appropriate to the needs of the Community and Voluntary sector and within the broader educational context including:

- The ethos of the community and voluntary sector.
- The demand and type of accreditation.
- Accreditation models and options.
- Reference to National Standards/mainstream structure/s.
- Resources/support required.

The White Paper also points to the need for a review to be undertaken of the content and delivery of current training to those in the Community and Voluntary Sector. The value of this training should be verified and appropriately rewarded. A priority for the National Qualifications Authority will be to put in place appropriate accreditation arrangements for the Community and Voluntary sector.

AONTAS considers that the publication of the Qualifications (Education and Training) Act (1999) has the potential to progress the development of accreditation systems for community education (AONTAS Community Education Policy Paper, 2000). The Act recognises the centrality of the learner within the education process and those educational opportunities can be gained outside formal setting. Furthermore, it highlights the need to recognise multiple intelligence and guarantees the right of learners to access, transfer and progression routes within and between the formal and non-formal sectors. It makes the development of systems of Accreditation of Prior Learning (APEL) and Credit Transfer Accumulation (CATS), a priority for the new National Qualifications Authority (NQAI).

The Minister has appointed a representative of the Community and Voluntary sector for Education and Science to the Board of the NQAI. AONTAS proposes that mechanisms should be established for dialogue between mainstream providers and the Community and Voluntary Sector, under the auspices of the NQAI (Community Education Policy Document, 2000).

The role of the Community and Voluntary sector in life-long learning is affirmed in the White Paper on Adult Education – *Learning for Life*. The White Paper stresses the importance of the need for links to be developed between the National Adult Learning Council (NALC) and the NQAI as appropriate. The Implementation and Advisory Group will monitor progress in this area.

ACCESSING THE CAPACITY WITHIN THE SECTOR AND WITHIN OTHER SECTORS

The White Paper suggests ways in which members of groups and organisations can access the capacity within the Sector and within other sectors:

- A ‘skills exchange’ bureau, through which organisations could draw in personnel with the required skills on a mentoring or consulting basis, and, in return, provide their own skills back to the bureau.
- An ‘Investors in People’ programme through which business organisations could support or mentor individuals within organisations who want to develop new skills or share their skills with others.
- Mechanisms to facilitate networking within the sector and between sectors through which people and agencies can exchange experience and have access to peer support.
- Co-ordination of information on training needs in the Sector, and available resources/programmes including the development of resource manuals.

These will be encouraged by, in particular, the National Committee on Volunteering and the White Paper Implementation and Advisory Group, as appropriate.

2. SUPPORT AND FOSTERING OF VOLUNTEERING

The White Paper recognises the need to promote the active involvement of people in Community and Voluntary groups as an essential component of a democratic society. Volunteering can be defined as “*the commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society, local communities, individuals outside the immediate family, the environment or other causes. Voluntary activities are undertaken of a person’s own free will, without payment (except for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses)*”. (Volunteer Resource Centre in DSCFA White Paper, 2000, p.83)

The White Paper refers to a National College of Ireland study (NCI) - ***Uncovering the Non-profit sector in Ireland, its economic value and significance***. It showed that the imputed value of volunteering was worth £470 million to the ‘non-profit’ sector in 1995. In the same year, the same study shows that organised voluntary work was the equivalent of some 31,919 full time Employment (FTE) in the Community and Voluntary sector.

The focus of this White Paper is on voluntary activity within an organisational setting. The paper makes the point that informal volunteering (i.e. volunteering not within an organisational setting) is also a significant benefit to society and to the creation of a sense of active citizenship.

SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERING

The White Paper proposes that measures, which encourage active participation by people in the community, will be promoted. These will recognise the contribution of volunteers who are disadvantaged and the specific obstacles they face and support needs they have. Examples of volunteer centres are provided in this section (e.g. Tallaght Volunteer Bureau, NorthWest Community Volunteers, Fingal Voluntary Exchange Bureau). They can be a vital component of support for Community and Voluntary organisations at local level. They have the capacity to support organisations and volunteers through placement service, publicising the potential of volunteering to citizens and providing advice and information about local opportunities.

2001 is the UN International Year of Volunteers. As provided for in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness, a National Committee on Volunteering will be established, with participation from all the relevant interests and stakeholders. It will devise strategies and actions for supporting and developing volunteering throughout the International Year and for the longer term. The Committee will have a budget of £1million for initiatives to further support and develop volunteering. The Women’s Networks and groups will need to monitor the implementation of the National Committee on Volunteering and to avail of the budget that has been set aside for this.

The work of the committee will include examining and making recommendations on:

- The possibilities for recognition and accreditation for voluntary work and for training undertaken as a volunteer.
- Measures to widen pool of volunteers.
- The range of supports needed in order to promote, sustain and develop volunteering.

3. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The White Paper recommends that Community and Voluntary organisations should adopt an appropriate legal framework for the purposes of Government funding and support. These section outlines three main structures, which give a group separate legal status:

- (a) Limited Company
- (b) Industrial and Provident Society
- (c) Incorporation under the Charities Act

The Government accepts the need for a more modern legal framework of law governing the sector. These and related charitable recognition issues will be also priorities for examination by the Implementation and Advisory Group.

CHARITABLE RECOGNITION AND REGULATION OF CHARITIES

For tax purposes, under existing law, a charity is a body established for charitable purposes only. Charitable recognition does not confer any legal status on an organisation. The Revenue Commissioners are responsible for the administration of the applicable tax exemptions. Charitable purposes in this instance can be:

- (a) The advancement of education
- (b) The advancement of religion
- (c) The relief of poverty or
- (d) Other works of a charitable nature beneficial to the community.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Government has decided that responsibility for charity regulatory matters and the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests will transfer to the DSCFA. The Government is committed to ensuring that comprehensive legislation on regulation of charities and their fundraising is a priority. The sector will be consulted in the development of the legislation through the Implementation and Advisory Group.

SECTION THREE

FUNDING ISSUES

Chapter 5 from White Paper

This section of the White Paper sets out the key principles that is applicable to funding of the sector:

- Statutory funding will be available to the sector for mutually agreed programmes of activities and where these programmes are consistent with Government policies and objectives, or where other public interest criteria apply.
- The form the State's support will take varies across Departments/agencies and this will depend on the specific circumstances and needs involved, including where relevant, the different needs and circumstances in individual counties and regions. It includes:
 - Funding of services provided by the sector (services for the elderly, childcare facilities, respite care services, information service)
 - Support for grass-roots community development initiatives
 - Support for community led enterprise and job creation initiatives
 - Support for participation by the sector in local development and other social partnership initiatives; this would include support for umbrella bodies and representative structures for the sector at local, regional and national level coupled with advocacy work
 - Provision of dedicated support and development units for the sector, including ADM, the Combat Poverty Agency and Comhairle, and specialised support structures, such as the National Community Development Programme's support agency structure
- The priorities for statutory funding are activities undertaken by the Community and Voluntary Sector that enable individuals facing disadvantage or discrimination to access and realise their rights and potential as members of society, or that provide key services required by groups with special needs.
- The Government aims to mainstream the lessons from successful pilot initiatives, as resources allow, by:
 - Providing continuing support for the innovative work of the sector.
 - State agencies taking on direct provision of previously piloted services.
 - Incorporating the lessons of pilot projects into local and national policy development.
- Statutory agencies will not automatically provide 100% funding; 100% funding will only be provided for projects that have a specific focus on tackling poverty and disadvantage, where an element of self-financing could not reasonably be expected. In other cases, Community and Voluntary groups funded will be expected to raise a portion of the necessary monies from other sources, including local fund-raising and private sector contributions.

- Core-funding (i.e. funding towards the core staff and administrative costs of the organisation) will only be provided for services to meet agreed priority needs and for priority development work, especially work focussed on tackling poverty and disadvantage.
- There will be particular attention given to supporting volunteering; this will include clarifying the eligibility of volunteer expenses (out-of-pocket costs etc.) for funding under individual schemes where necessary.
- Funding organisations and groups will be expected to adhere to standards of good practice. These will include a commitment to openness, transparency and accountability in their work, having an effective management structure, a commitment to customer participation, where relevant, in planning, delivery and design of services and having appropriate monitoring and evaluation procedures.
- Each Department and agency providing funding will publish a statement of its objectives in providing such funding and a description of its specific schemes and programmes to include clear eligibility, selection criteria and funding procedures; Statutory agencies will adhere to proposed statement of good practice.
- Improved co-ordination and clarity in relation to the roles and responsibilities amongst Departments and agencies is a priority. This will primarily involve Departments and agencies working together more closely to ensure that policies and programmes merge at the point of delivery, but it may involve institutional change.

AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Government is committed to continued support for the community and voluntary sector in meeting social needs and to the development of that support as resources allow and in the context of social partnership. Support for the sector is set to rise very significantly under the National Development Plan.

The Government is bringing forward a package of measures, costing £7 million, to enhance the capacity of the sector to organise itself at national level, to foster the development of additional support and training within the sector and to further support volunteering.

ACCESS TO FUNDING/ELIGIBILITY/TRANSPARENCY

The Government has outlined its commitment to ensuring that there should be published schemes, with clear and objective eligibility criteria, clear application and assessment procedures for ALL statutory grant schemes (i.e. as distinct from once-off special grants). The Government also aims to have application forms and information leaflets to be simple and clearly written and consistent with the need to obtain sufficient information to make a proper assessment of any application. When groups apply for funding, they will be given a clear timescale for decisions.

AONTAS welcomes the White Paper's proposals on clear and transparent funding mechanisms, as this will enhance the work of the women's community-based groups and networks at a local level. However, the provision for gender specific funding needs to be included along with funding for childcare costs. Also the importance for Women's Groups and Networks to have access to information and support in relation to grant applications and feedback with regard to failed applications and financial procedures is extremely important.

CONTINUITY OF FUNDING

A distinction is made between:

- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that provide social services funded by and on behalf of a statutory agency that has a statutory responsibility in relation to those services e.g. health and social service providers. Service agreements between such organisations and the funding body will set out arrangements for allocation and review of annual budgets, service levels and standards, monitoring and inspection and review of the contract by both parties. The relationship between statutory agencies and organisations in this category has been reviewed and reformed insofar as the Health service and Social Service area is concerned in **Enhancing the Partnership**.
- Community and Voluntary organisations that provide other services and undertake development activities to meet social need, without being delivery agents on behalf of the statutory agency but which statutory agencies wish to fund and support as ancillary and complementary to their own services or aims and objectives.

This chapter places a greater emphasis on the second category. Much statutory funding of groups in this category has been provided on an ad hoc annual basis and it does not enable groups to plan ahead. Furthermore, it means that a lot of time and energy is spent on a constant pursuit of funding. This is detrimental to the service being delivered and it makes for additional administrative costs and militates against the ability of Departments and agencies to plan ahead

The White Paper points to the system of three year funding commitments that operates in the case of community development and money advice projects funded by the DSCFA and are a model that will be applied in other comparable areas. In addition, new statutory provisions are currently being introduced for the funding of community and voluntary agencies in the Health Services area, starting with the Eastern Health Board region with the establishment of the new regional health authority. It is intended to extend this provision to all health boards in due course.

The Government has decided that multi-annual funding commitments should, in appropriate cases, be made available by all funding agencies to organisations providing services or undertaking development activities that are agreed to be priorities. AONTAS welcomes this development, as the provision of multi-annual funding will enable women's groups and networks to develop short and long term plans on their work. This will also enable groups to employ a number of staff and develop a range of activities.

TYPES OF FUNDING

The White Paper recognises that core funding of an organisation, is appropriate only for priority services or development activities with disadvantaged groups, where an element of self-financing would not be possible, or appropriate. In other cases, more limited funding to assist with services or projects, or annual or once-off grants will be appropriate. In the interests of transparency, maximum clarity and understanding by applicants, funding Departments and agencies in their budget lines and schemes will henceforth state clearly the limited cases where 100% funding can be provided and where a lesser percentage is envisaged.

A distinction should be made between:

- Multi- annual 'core' funding for agreed priority services that are an ongoing requirement
- Project funding for time-limited services or activities and pilot projects (but not for funding of ongoing services)
- Once-off grants for equipment, premises and other items that require occasional funding
- Training (staff and management), evaluations, organisational reviews and other work to enhance the effectiveness of the group

The Government ultimately determines the priorities for allocation of resources and existing consultations mechanisms. New mechanisms put in place by this White Paper will provide policy fora at Department and Agency level. Mechanisms will be reviewed at national level by which the implementation of the overall framework announced in the White Paper can be discussed at Department, Agency or Programme level. The White Paper also states that the Community and Voluntary sector groups directly affected will be consulted and will have input into decisions as to which are to be regarded as 'priority' services or programmes.

PAYMENT MECHANISMS AND SYSTEMS

Problems and costs are created for Community and Voluntary groups when grants that have been committed do not come through in time. The following good customer service guideline will now apply in this regard:

Individual once-off grants – once approved – will in general be paid within one month of all the necessary supporting documentation being submitted by the group concerned – the exception will be larger grants, where staged payments may be appropriate. In the case of ongoing core (or ‘revenue’) funding, payments will ordinarily be made in advance (quarterly, or as appropriate to the particular grant or funding scheme) and not in arrears. All Departments and agencies will use the calendar year as their financial year (DSCFA, White Paper 2000, p.94)

The obligations imposed by statutory funders in relation to financial accountability can be too complex. There will now be an agreed protocol setting out standard requirements and good practice in relation to financial management. This will be developed under the aegis of the Implementation and Advisory Group.

MULTIPLICITY OF FUNDERS

There are a large number of individual funders and programmes (most Government Departments), regional and other statutory bodies (Health Board, Local authorities, FAS, VECs Comhairle, CPA), EU programmes (NOW, INTEGRA, Urban, LDP, Leader, Peace). This can lead to frustration and delays for community groups in applying to various sources for support for individual pieces of work. Furthermore, this leads to a lack of clarity amongst agencies themselves as to where responsibility lies for particular areas and as to where the boundary between agencies lie in particular cases.

At a local level, the County Development Boards will have a lead role in bringing about greater synergy and co-ordination between statutory agencies within the parameters of existing policies and programmes and in highlighting priority needs and gaps in provision for attention. The Directors of Community and Enterprise will have a key role in facilitating a planned and co-ordinated response and will include joint funding where appropriate, in respect of individual projects or the needs of particular target groups.

The establishment of the County Development Boards will aim to enhance the scope for structured co-operation and co-ordination of statutory agencies on the ground. Departments and agencies will need to bring about adequate delegation of decision making within agencies so that people assigned to County Development Boards will be able to deliver on behalf of their agency.

At a national level, the Implementation and Advisory Group will have responsibility for reviewing areas of overlap or gaps in statutory responsibility with regard to support for the sector at policy and programme level and making recommendations to resolve such situations. This group is a key institutional innovation that will involve the creation of a mechanism, which will allow Departments and agencies collectively, working with the Community and Voluntary Sector to review existing programmes and schemes so as to ensure the provision of support to the sector. This reform process will facilitate the allocation of additional resources, as provided for in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness and within the financial parameters laid down in the agreement, to meet new and emerging needs and to strengthen existing programmes and schemes where appropriate. The long-term aim is to change from the existing highly fragmented funding and support system to one based on the idea of single line funding and single line reporting mechanisms.

The question of a need for a designated information point in each local area/county to provide comprehensive information about the funds that are available across Departments and agencies and to provide advice and support to groups on how and where to apply for support, has been raised. Such a unit/person might also have a role in the initial reception of applications and referring applications on to the appropriate funder.

COMPREHENSIVENESS OF FUNDING LINES

The ‘package’ of funding supports under particular schemes is often incomplete. While funding can be made available for main activities, the need for staff, training management, training evaluation and organisational reviews often go unresourced. Where statutory agencies fund the delivery of particular services or activities, individual schemes should make provision to meet such training and development needs.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The White Paper makes reference to the Information Society Commission Report on *IT Access for All* which concludes that:

“To work effectively to empower disadvantaged groups to gain benefit from new technology it will be necessary to work with groups and organisations who understand their needs and already provide support and services to them. The community and voluntary sector is active across all areas of society, providing a wide range of services to many groups of people, including those disadvantaged or vulnerable in society. Given the large and disparate nature of this sector the use of information and communications technology, and in particular the Internet and E-mail, could have enormously positive effect by adding to the communications capability, cohesion and efficacy of community and voluntary groups” (DSCFA, White Paper 2000, p.96)

The Information Society Commission has recommended that a structured programme of support be put in place for the Community and Voluntary sector. This would require additional funding being made available from the Information Society for equipment, training and technical support.

As provided for in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness, there will be an increased investment to provide a phased rollout community based access to the Information Society. This will include additional funding so that the relevant funding Departments can ensure that the Community and Voluntary sector is enabled to realise the potential of IT in its work and in meeting the needs of the members, customers and local communities it serves.

TAXATION ISSUES

The Government is committed to keeping the existing tax reliefs on donations to charities under review in the light of experience of their operation. The VAT treatment of charitable organisations is a direct consequence of EU VAT law, with which Irish VAT law must comply.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT

Community Employment schemes have facilitated training and development opportunities and provision of important services in local communities. However, the White Paper points out that community employment is not an ideal mechanism for funding core staff to provide essential care services such as childcare, eldercare etc. The White Paper notes that tensions can arise between the interests of the Community Employment participant in getting skills and experience and progressing to a job in the open labour market and the interests of the sponsors and users of the services in building up expertise and continuity.

Consultations on funding of essential services currently provided through Community Employment will take place in a Special Working Group to be established in the context of the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF), comprising the social partners and representatives of Government partners. The aim of the Working Group will be to:

- Identify the key essential services currently provided through CE.
- Assess the implications of those services for CE in terms, inter alia, of a reduction in places and of the overall objectives of CE, (which include provision of community services).

The Government will then consider the findings of the Working Group. The White Paper proposes that alternative funding should be put in place (via the appropriate social Departments) to provide long-term funding of staff for such essential services. Furthermore, initiatives such as the Social Economy Programme should be able to provide an opportunity through which such services (where they fall within the 'framework' agreed for in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness) can be provided.

THE SOCIAL ECONOMY PROGRAMME

The Government decided to approve the introduction of a Social Economy Programme with effect from 1999 through the establishment of a National Implementation and Advisory Group representative of the social partners to oversee the development and implementation of the Social Economy Programme.

The Social Economy Programme will have a strong emphasis on the economic and social development and regeneration of disadvantaged communities by supporting innovative, locally based initiatives. The Social Economy will have a dual focus:

1. The provision of services to disadvantaged communities and employment opportunities and experience to individuals distanced from the labour market.
2. The main emphasis is on the community rather than the individual.

Three categories of projects will be funded under the Social Economy Programme:

1. Community businesses, ultimately financed from trading income alone
2. Deficient demand social enterprises, where the demand for particular goods and services within the community is not matched by resources to pay for these due to poverty or low density of population
3. Enterprises based on public service contracts, where public services in disadvantaged areas and communities are subcontracted to local social economy enterprises

The Working Group defined the social economy as having the following characteristics:

- Ownership within a community or community of interest (e.g. travellers) and responding to market demand regardless of source of income.
- Focus on the economic or social development of a community or community of interest.
- Operation benefiting the community and individual members.
- Providing for employment experience and employment opportunities which are sustainable, but which might be dependent on State support.

When it is in full operation, the dedicated social economy programme will provide for an annual investment of £41million. FAS will operationally manage the Programme at a national and local level, in partnership with relevant interest groups and FAS will also provide technical support.

NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING

A review group was established in November 1996 to examine the method of disbursing grants from the National Lottery surplus. The Group made a number of recommendations to:

- Ensure greater transparency in the use of Lottery money
- The Lottery surplus is used exclusively in future for support of community and voluntary activity in the eligible areas
- Involve the community and voluntary sector itself in the decision-making process in the allocation of grants.

NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY NETWORKS

Currently there are eight national networks of anti-poverty groups funded by the Combat Poverty Agency. These include:

- Community Workers Co-operative
- European Anti-Poverty Network
- Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
- Irish Rural Link
- Irish Traveller Movement
- Forum of People with Disabilities
- One Parent Exchange and Network

The Programme for Prosperity and Fairness provides that the level of funding for existing networks will be reviewed and arrangements for funding on new emerging needs will be considered.

The Government has decided that the option for future funding of these networks is a programme administered by the Combat Poverty Agency. Up to 10 networks will be funded as part of this Programme, which will have a budget of £1million. The Combat Poverty Agency will develop applications for funding by which new emerging needs will be assessed and criteria will be drawn up.

This may raise the possibility for a Women's Anti-Poverty Network to be developed in the future.

FUNDING OF OTHER NETWORKS AND REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

Funding is also provided to support representative bodies in other segments of the Community and Voluntary sector e.g. via the Health Service and Department of Education and Science.

The Government is now providing an additional £2million for such other representative's bodies and federations.

NON-STATUTORY SOURCES OF FUNDING

The White Paper highlights the important role, which Community Trusts and Foundations play in resourcing the Community and Voluntary Sector in other countries. The concept is of an independent foundation, which raises donations from the private sector, and also from Government.

A number of Trusts and Foundations are already in existence in Ireland. Examples include: the Ireland Fund, the People in Need Trust, the Stephen's Green Trust, the Katherine Howard Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable.

The Local Government Bill 2000 contains a provision to enable local authorities to establish a community initiative fund. Local authorities will be encouraged to accept donations into the fund from private sources towards the cost of initiatives in the community, including construction of community facilities and support of community development activities generally.

ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION ABOUT FUNDING

Access to up-to-date and accurate information about the range of national Government, EU and private sector funding that is available is an important issue for the Community and Voluntary Sector. The Government has decided that a comprehensive manual of funding available from all sectors will be published and regular updated reports on funding availability should also be published from time to time. This information will be available in a number of formats, including Braille. A key task for the Implementation and Advisory Group will be to set this in train.

SECTION FOUR

IMPLEMENTATION

(from Chapter 6)

The White Paper lays out the Terms of reference for the Implementation and Advisory Group. The Group will be co-chaired by the Departments of Health and Children and Social, Community and Family Affairs. It is envisaged that membership of the Group will be drawn from relevant Departments, statutory agencies and from a wide range of interest in the Community and Voluntary Sector. In keeping with the principles in the White Paper, it will be a matter for the sector itself to agree on mechanisms to ensure appropriate representation from the sector on the Group.

TERMS OF REFERNECE OF IMPLEMENATION AND ADVISORY GROUP

The overall aim of the Group will be to oversee the implementation of the decisions contained in the White Paper and identify unresolved issues arising in a national context and pursue a resolution of such issues as far as possible. It will also provide a forum for discussion of issues of general relevance to the relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary sector and help promote awareness in this area.

Its detailed terms of reference are to:

- Advise on a programme of research, which will include quantifying the full extent of community and voluntary activity in Ireland.
- Agree standard protocols for financial accountability in respect of State funding of the sector.
- Monitor administrative mechanisms to underpin the effective functioning of the Implementation and Advisory Group working relationship and discuss and agree proposals that promote integrated proposals at a national level.
- Monitor developments in accreditation of training for the sector.
- Formulate practical proposals to further enhance support and training capacity within the sector and within other sectors.
- Advise on the development of a regulatory framework for the sector.
- Examine areas of overlap or gaps in statutory responsibility with regard to support for the community and voluntary sector at policy and programme level and make recommendations to resolve such situations
- Advise on the distribution of the £2million proposed provision for other Federations and Networks
- Advise on issues relating to allocations from the National Lottery surplus.
- Oversee the publication of a comprehensive manual of funding and regular updated versions.
- Undertake a formal review of the workings of the Group after a three-year period.

The Group is charged with keeping the implementation of this White Paper under review and pursuing developments in a number of key areas as outlined above. The formal review of the workings of the Group itself after three years will provide an opportunity to revisit the main conclusions and decisions in the White Paper. As the overall social and economic context changes, so too must the framework for statutory support for volunteering and voluntary activity be developed and adapted from time-to-time.

POST IMPLEMENTATION – JUNE 2001

Proposal for Selection Process

An ad hoc group (See Appendix 5) was set up post the White Paper publication and it was charged with finding agreement on the selection process of the Community and Voluntary Sector persons for the Implementation and Advisory Group.

Nominations are invited for 6 representatives from the community and voluntary sector to participate on the Implementation and Advisory Group. National organisations within the community and voluntary sector, including national federations/platforms umbrella groups are entitled to nominate persons to the positions. A selection committee will select six candidates and six alternates based on the information supplied in the submitted Nomination Forms.

AONTAS will be able to provide information about further developments regarding this process as soon as it made available.

APPENDIX ONE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY PLATFORM

Community Action Network
Community Workers Co-operative
Conference of Religious of Ireland
European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland
Focus on Children
Forum of People with a Disability
Gay and Lesbian Equality Network
Irish Association of Older People
National Adult Literacy Agency **
Irish Commission for Prisoners Overseas
Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
Irish Rural Link
Irish Traveller Movement
National Traveller Women's Forum **
National Women's Council of Ireland
One Parent Exchange Network
Pavee Point
Threshold
Vincentian Partnership for Justice **
Women's Aid **
Voluntary Drug Treatment Network **

** Joined Platform after 1996 negotiations

Source: (CWC, News & Views, Feb 2000)

APPENDIX TWO

NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FORUM (NESF) Established in 1993

Members include:

1. Oireachtas
 - TD's
 - Senators

2. Employers/Trade Unions
 - IBEC
 - Small Firms Association (SFA)
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Tourist/Export Association
 - Trade Unions
 - Irish Farmers Association
 - Co-operative Society
 - Macra na Feirme
 - Irish Country Women's Association

3. Community and Voluntary
 - Disadvantaged Sector (3)
 - I Irish Rural Link
 - European Anti-Poverty Network
 - National Campaign for Homelessness
 - Irish Traveller Movement
 - C.D.P's
 - Women's Networks (originally funded by Combat Poverty)
 - National Women's Council x 3
 - Unemployed x 3
 - Disadvantaged x 3
 - Youth x 1
 - Elderly x 1
 - Disability x 1
 - Environmental Interests x 1
 - Academics x 2

4. Governments/Civil Servants
 - Secretary Generals
 - Government Departments
 - County of County Council's
 - Association of Municipal Authorities
 - County and City Managers
 - Independents

APPENDIX THREE

National Economic and Social Council (NESC)

Established in 1973

Members include:

1. Trade Union Pillar
 - Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) x 2
 - Impact
 - Services Industrial Professional Technical Union
 - 1 vacancy
2. Business and Employer Organisation Pillar
 - IBEC (2 vacancies)
 - Construction Industry Federation
 - Small Firms Association (SMA)
 - CCI
3. Agricultural and Farming Organisation Pillar
 - Irish Co-operative Organisation Society
 - Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
 - Macra na Feirne (vacant)
 - Irish Farmers Association (IFA) x 2
4. Community and Voluntary Pillar
 - Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI)
 - Community Workers Co-operative (CWC)
 - National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCII)
 - National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)
 - Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOUE)
5. Government Departments
 - Department of Finance
 - Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
 - Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs
 - Department of Public Enterprise
 - Dublin City Manager representing the Local Government System

APPENDIX FOUR

Joint Principles applying to both the Statutory and the Community and Voluntary Sector

1. Both sectors value openness, accountability and transparency in the relationship between the State and the Community and Voluntary Sector
2. Services and programmes will be informed by the principles of respect for the individual's dignity, privacy and confidentiality. They will also be informed by the rights of users to quality services that are accessible to them, e.g. people with disabilities. Service and programmes should have regard for commitments under the Constitution, EU and International Treaties and Conventions.
3. There is a shared commitment by both the State and the Sector to ensure the involvement of consumers and people who avail of services in the planning, delivery, management and evaluation of policy and programmes. This applies at all levels: national, regional and local.
4. There is a commitment by the State and the Sector to focus on the needs of the most disadvantaged.
5. The Sector and the State are committed to paying particular attention to the needs of groups experiencing discrimination, especially those named in Article 13 of the Amsterdam Treaty.
6. There is a commitment to achieving equality of opportunity, access, treatment by both the State and the Sector and to the development of mechanisms to do this. This includes the commitment to affirmative action for particular target groups.
7. There is a joint commitment relating to fostering co-operation and the co-ordination within and across each sector as well as between the State and the Community and Voluntary Sector.
8. There is a commitment on the part of both the State and the Sector to provide access to, and to share, information relevant to the pursuit of shared objectives.
9. The State and the Sector commit themselves to carrying out regular monitoring and evaluation of their individual actions and of the co-operation between them.
10. The State and the Sector recognise their mutual right to constructively critique each other's actions and policies.

11. There is a commitment on the part of both the State and the Sector to create and support the appropriate mechanisms, institution and conduits to enable the State to relate to the Sector and its component parts.
12. There is a commitment to developing mutual understanding of the culture and operating principles of each sector and to take practical steps to achieve this. Both Sectors commit themselves to using working methods that are flexible and efficient in the context of the growing demands and range of tasks posed by modern society.

APPENDIX 5

Ad Hoc Group

Members include:

Derek Bell – Barrett Cheshire House
John Dolan – Disability Federation of Ireland
Paddy Donegan – Irish Senior Citizen’s Parliament
Fintan Farrell – Community Platform
Deirdre Garvey – The Wheel
Donall Geoghegan – National Youth Council of Ireland
Donal McManus – Irish Council for Social Housing
Tony Monks – Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed
Frank Mulcahy – Council for People with Disabilities
Orla O’Connor – National Women’s Council
Siobhan O’Donoghue – Community Worker’s Co-operative
Liam O’ Dwyer - Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Fergus O’Ferrall – Adelaide Hospital Society
Michael O’ Halloran – ICTU
Kate O’ Sullivan – Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups
Brigid Reynolds – CORI
Bernard Thompson – National Association of Building Co-operatives