



**Disbursement of Moneys from the Investment and
Disbursements Accounts
Annual Report 2015**



**Department of Rural and
Community Development**

*An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail*

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1. Introduction

In July 2017 the statutory functions relating to Dormant Accounts funding transferred from the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaelteacht Affairs to the Minister for Rural and Community Development.

It is now the responsibility of the Minister for Rural and Community Development to prepare a report on the operation of the disbursement of moneys from the Investment and Disbursements Accounts of the Dormant Accounts Fund during the preceding year, together with any findings, conclusions or recommendations concerning such operation as the Minister considers appropriate.

2. Background

The Dormant Accounts Act 2001, together with the Unclaimed Life Assurance Policies Act 2003 and the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Acts 2005-2012, provide a framework for the administration of unclaimed accounts in credit institutions (i.e. banks, building societies and An Post) and unclaimed life assurance policies in insurance undertakings.

The main purpose of the legislation is to reunite account or policy holders with their funds in credit institutions or insurance undertakings and in this regard, these bodies are required to take steps to identify and contact the owners of dormant accounts and unclaimed life assurance policies.

The legislation also introduced a scheme for the disbursement of funds that are unlikely to be reclaimed but only for the purposes of programmes or projects to assist:

1. the personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged;
2. the educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged or
3. persons with a disability.

Dormant funds or unclaimed life assurance policies which have not been reclaimed by the original accounts/policy holder or their beneficiaries are transferred each year by the holding institution to the Dormant Accounts Fund (the Fund) which is managed by the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA). The transfer of moneys takes place on the basis that the beneficial owner will have a guaranteed right of reclaim to their property at any time in the future.

As of July 2017, the Minister for Rural and Community Development now possesses statutory responsibility for decisions relating to the disbursement of moneys from the Fund. This report provides details of disbursements from the Fund in the period 1 January – 31 December 2015. These disbursements were primarily in respect of measures in the Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan 2014 (see section 4 below).

3. Disbursements Scheme 2013-2016

In 2015, disbursements from the fund were guided by the Disbursements Scheme 2013-2016, approved by the Government in December 2013.

The Disbursement Scheme outlines the types of programmes for which moneys may be disbursed from the fund. The overall objective of the Scheme is to ensure that dormant accounts funds are disbursed in a manner that optimises their effectiveness and assists the personal, educational and social development of persons who are economically, educationally or socially disadvantaged or persons with a disability, as prescribed in the 2012 Act.

Guiding Principles

The 2013-2016 Disbursement Scheme was drawn up in accordance with the following guiding principles:

Additionality

As far as possible, disbursements from the Fund will be for purposes that are additional to and not a substitute for mainstream government spending, in particular for projects that might not have been undertaken but for this funding.

Compatibility with Government Policy

The allocation of dormant accounts funding will take account of government policies and priorities in the area of economic, social and educational disadvantage.

Impact

The allocation of dormant accounts funding will support programmes or projects that can make a demonstrable difference and can achieve discernible impacts.

Sustainability

Funds should be disbursed to programmes or projects that are broadly sustainable. Cognisance will be taken of projects that demonstrate an element of local support.

Philanthropy Related

Projects and programmes which attract or previously attracted philanthropic funding will be considered under each of the three themes – social and economic disadvantage, educational disadvantage and disability.

Value for Money

Projects and programmes should ensure that good value for money is obtained.

Evidence of Need

Applicants should display a clear and identified need for the funding.

Evidence of Capacity of the Group or Organisation

It will be necessary for the promoting group or organisation to demonstrate that it is capable of undertaking and managing the project to ensure its successful implementation.

Administrative Process

While the administrative process should be rigorous, it should not place an undue burden on the applicant.

4. Action Plan

Each year, following consultation with appropriate Ministers and others, the Minister with responsibility for the Fund prepares an Action Plan to implement the Disbursement Scheme as approved by Government.

The Action Plan contains the programmes or types of projects that may apply for disbursements from the Fund and the maximum fund available under each programme. Different amounts may be specified by the Minister in the Action Plan in relation to a particular class or classes of programme or project.

Following a detailed consultation process, the Action Plan 2014 was adopted on 1 July 2014 by the then Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government. The Plan outlined measures under a number of Government Departments totalling over €19 million, to be disbursed from the Fund.

The 2014 Action Plan included programmes and projects for supporting children, disadvantaged youth, older people, carers, prisoners, the unemployed and persons with a disability.

5. Expenditure from the Dormant Accounts Fund in 2015

Expenditure on Dormant Accounts measures during 2015, undertaken on foot of the 2014 Action Plan, amounted to some €9.04 million across a number of Government Departments for a range of measures as listed below:

	Government Department/Agency	Measure	Expenditure Disbursed from DAF during 2015
1	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government	Social Innovation Fund Ireland	€50,000
2	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government	Social Enterprise development initiatives	€750,000
3	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government	Supports for vulnerable groups of young people, young people in disadvantaged areas and for youth work to promote youth employment, employability and entrepreneurship	€300,000
4	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government	To facilitate the implementation of the new Public Participation Networks structures across the Local Government sector	€12,000
5	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government	Community Partnership media Campaign	€75,000
6	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government	Gateway Initiative	€829,635
7	Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government	Galway City Council - Neighbourhood' Centre at Ballinfoile	€578,999
8	Department of Justice and Equality	Establishment of new Garda Youth Diversion Projects and the provision of additional supports for existing projects	€330,451
9	Department of Justice and Equality	Additional Intervention Training for Youth Justice Workers	€16,731
10	Department of Justice and Equality	Emergency Support Services Training towards	€1,430

		pathways to employment for disadvantaged young people	
11	Department of Justice and Equality	Provision of additional services in the Limerick City and the Mid-West area to disadvantaged youths	€135,000
12	Department of Justice and Equality	Measure to address the social, economic and educational disadvantages of victims of trafficking and persons/groups at risk of human trafficking	€99,225
13	Department of Justice and Equality	Specialist services to victims attending court	€50,000
14	Irish Prison Service	Community Based Health and First Aid in Irish Prisons	€189,000
15	Department of Justice and Equality	Equality Division (Traveller Mediation)	€100,000
16	Department of Social Protection	Training and support services for home carers	€906,578
17	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	Big Brothers Big Sisters Programme	€746,000
18	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	Development of a phone app for young people in care	€4,274
19	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	Aftercare information packs for young persons	€8,530
20	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs and National Sport Education and Training Hub	€1,316,674
21	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	National Sports Education and Training Hub	€625,820
22	Department of Health	Substance misuse/prevention – development of drug and alcohol awareness campaigns	€817,162
23	Department of Health	Local Area Co-ordination (Disability Services)	€1,098,000
		Advanced best practice in meeting HIQA Disability Standards	
		Health-related supports to assist young people with disabilities and autism to make the transition from	

		second level education to further education, training and employment	
		Person-centre innovations in the delivery of non-centre based respite services	
Total			€9,040,509¹

Further details in respect of each expenditure item are set out in Appendix 1.

Administration Costs

The 2012 Act provides that the cost of engaging service providers (such as Pobal) to administer the application process will be met from the Fund, while normal administration costs incurred by relevant Departments will be made from existing budgets.

Pobal managed Dormant Accounts Fund measures on behalf of a number of Government Departments during 2015 (along with other administration carrying over from 2014) and an administration fee of €750,000 was paid to Pobal by the then Department of the Environment, Planning, Community and Local Government.

¹ The overall net disbursement from the Dormant Accounts Fund was €8.939 million as refunds to the fund totalling €101,000 were received in 2015 from Pobal and the Department of Education and Skills

Appendix I

Further Information on Projects and Programmes Funded in 2015

Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government

1. Social Innovation Fund Ireland

The Forum on Philanthropy and Fundraising is a joint initiative between Government and the Philanthropic sector to develop philanthropy and charitable giving in Ireland. In its 2012 report the Forum set out ambitious plans to increase philanthropic giving from its current estimated level of approximately €500 million per annum to €800 million by 2016.

The drivers for the increase in giving fall under four overarching themes: a national giving campaign, fiscal and infrastructure recommendations, fundraising capacity improvements and a social innovation fund.

In order to implement the proposals recommended in the Forum's Report, Social Innovation Fund Ireland was incorporated in July 2013. The Social Innovation Fund Ireland will provide growth capital to Ireland's best social innovations, investing in solutions to social problems in this country. Funding is already available at start-up and early stage for social innovations, and so there is a pipeline of social innovations that need capital to scale and grow. It is anticipated that this Fund will assist in addressing the growth capital gaps as well as gaps in technical and network supports and will assist with economic recovery and job creation.

In December 2015, Social Innovation Fund Ireland opened the inaugural *Animate* Programme, Ireland's first 'non-profit accelerator'. The *Animate* Programme supports early stage innovations, projects and organisations to get to the next stage of their development. The award consists of a package of financial and non-financial supports that target growth.

A total of €50,000 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to the Social Innovation Fund Ireland during 2015.

2. Social Enterprise Development Initiatives

The aim of Social Enterprise Measure is to increase the impact of social enterprises by enhancing their capacity to deliver services and generate traded income through the provision of small capital grants.

Capital funding was provided where social enterprises clearly demonstrated that the capital grant will have a direct impact on one or more of the following:-

- the creation of new sustainable jobs, particularly for marginalised and disadvantaged individuals

- the future sustainability of existing jobs and the social enterprise
- improving the quality and delivery of services for disadvantaged communities
- increasing the capacity of the organisation to generate traded income

Funding was provided for items such as specialised equipment, building/refurbishment cost and specialised machinery.

A total €750,000 was disbursed to 25 projects from the Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

3. Supports for vulnerable groups of young people, young people in disadvantaged areas and for youth work to promote youth employment, employability and entrepreneurship

This measure targets the most disadvantaged young people who tend not to avail of mainstream supports and are most distant from the labour market or the education system.

The opportunity under this measure is to focus on vulnerable youth by providing more intensive engagement and supports to those “most marginalised and disadvantaged” or within “NEET” (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) youth. The purpose of this measure is to:

- a) engage and support young people:
 - Who are 15-24 year old NEETs from specific target groups and or disadvantaged areas;
 - Early School Leavers and young people who have attained low levels of education from DEIS secondary schools: and
 - Young people from families/households which have experienced long term unemployment ;
- b) Promote entrepreneurship among the most disadvantaged young people, particularly the target groups above.

A total of €300,000 was disbursed to 8 projects from the Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

4. To facilitate the implementation of the new Public Participation Networks structures across the Local Government sector

The Working Group on Citizen Engagement with Local Government was set up in September 2013. The Group made recommendations on more extensive and diverse input by citizens into the decision-making processes at local government level. The Report of the Working Group was published in February 2014.

Section 46 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which provides the legislative basis which gives effect to the Framework for Public Participation and the Public Participation Networks (PPN's), was commenced on 1 June 2014. From this date, where community representation is provided on appropriate committees of a Local Authority, such as SPCs/LCDCs etc., Local Authorities must source members through the PPN.

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government set aside an allocation from the Dormant Accounts Fund of €12,000 per Local Authority payable in the second half of 2014 to facilitate initial set-up of the new structures.

A total of €12,000 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

5. Community Partnership Media Campaign

The purpose of ConnectIreland is to create jobs, through foreign direct investment, by identifying companies outside of Ireland who are considering expanding internationally, from leads generated by their connections to the 70m Irish Diaspora.

ConnectIreland developed the Community Partnership Media Plan. The overall objective of the Plan was to create visibility and awareness jointly with the 31 City and County Councils of the key role that communities can play in job creation using the ConnectIreland job creation model. Its purpose was also to embed this model into local and regional policy and to create partnerships at local level with the various communities, through their councils and parent voluntary organisations.

ConnectIreland ran an intensive focussed high profile media awareness programme at local and national level during 2014 and 2015.

The main aims of the programme were to highlight the job creation efforts of the Local Authority and ConnectIreland community partnership programme, to inform local communities how they can get involved in the programme and to encourage them to do so, to inform local communities of the financial rewards available through this Government-backed programme and to highlight local success stories.

The campaign was backed up by continuous advertising and promotion through points of access to Ireland, Hotels, GAA and the FAI. It was also promoted throughout the communities through all national representative organisations. The campaign resulted in major coverage online, in print and through broadcast channels.

A total of €75,000 was disbursed to ConnectIreland in 2015.

6. Gateway Initiative – Local Authorities

This element of the Gateway initiative provided short-term quality working opportunities in local authorities for unemployed people on the live register for a minimum of two years.

The scheme is supporting local authorities in fulfilling their commitments in respect of the labour market activation agenda and to undertake tasks complementary to their core activities. Funding supported the training and equipment needs of the Gateway participants employed within participating local authorities and contributed to material costs in respect of works undertaken.

A total of €829,635 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to the Gateway Initiative in 2015.

7. Galway City Council – Neighbourhood Centre at Ballinfoile

Galway City Council was approved €1,100,000 by Government in 2005 to construct a community facility in Ballinfoile, County Galway. The centre was built by the Galway City Council in partnership with the St Columba's Credit Union Ltd. The works to the neighbourhood centre consisted of a two-storey sports complex which incorporated a state of the art sports hall, changing rooms, meeting/conference/community rooms, staff rooms and store rooms, with a large external car park and hard and soft landscaping.

A total of €578,999 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to this project in 2015.

Department of Justice and Equality Measures and the Irish Prison Service Measures

8. Establishment of new Garda Youth Diversion Projects and the provision of additional supports for existing projects

The Dormant Accounts Fund supported new Garda Youth Diversion Projects and the employment of additional youth justice workers in existing Garda Youth Development Projects (GYDPs) in areas with high levels of youth crime.

Three of these additional GYDPs fully commenced operations in 2015 and 14 additional workers were recruited in 2015 to give support to existing projects.

A total of €330,451 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

9. Additional Intervention Training for Youth Justice Workers

The Dormant Accounts Fund supported the work of the Best Practice Development Team (BPDT) in 2015. The BPDT is made up of youth justice practice experts from Community Based Organisations who are contributing to the development of best practice in GYDP projects. They also roll out a suite of evidence based intervention supports for youth justice workers to address each of the risk categories presented by GYDP participants. The Team works under the direction of a "Best Practice" committee comprising membership from the Irish Youth Justice Service, An Garda Síochána and representatives from some Community Based Organisations managing the GYDPs. Significant progress was made in 2015 towards the development of evidence based supports for youth justice workers.

A total of €16,731 was disbursed from Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

10. Emergency Support Services Training towards pathways to employment for disadvantaged young people

Funding was provided under this measure to the An Garda Síochána Emergency Support Training Fund, Gurrabraher, Cork to fund a First Aid Training Course to local young people from GYDPs.

A total of €1,430 was disbursed from Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

11. Provision of additional services in the Limerick City and the Mid-West area to disadvantaged youths

The Janus Service has been operational in the Mid-West since 2003/4. This Project provides intensive supports to young people living in the community or in the care system who are engaged in offending or anti-social behaviour living, posing a risk to themselves or others.

The Limerick Regeneration Agency provided funding for a specific Limerick City youth work team to work with young people referred from their contacts with the National Education Welfare Board, the Young Persons Probation and the HSE. This cross Agency initiative has enabled Extern (the service provider) to reconfigure and expand from their existing one team of 7 project workers covering Limerick City and County, County Clare and North Tipperary, to two teams of 6 project workers: one covering Limerick City, the other team covering the rest of the HSE Mid-West area. The evidence demonstrates that the service has been very successful.

The support provided by Dormant Accounts has allowed for the expansion of the service delivered by Extern Ireland within the existing infrastructure and to reach more young people. This has enabled the Project to include supports to young people and their families who are known to Juvenile Liaison Officers (JLO's) and may have been attending or known to the local Garda Youth Diversion Projects (GYDPS). The Project focuses on those young people who have been assessed as high risk of continued and escalating offending, who may have disengaged or failed to engage with the GYDP and require an intensive individualised approach to address presenting risk factors.

Significant progress was made between September and December 2015 including the recruitment and training of Project Workers. A number of young people were referred and engaged in the Janus Justice Project between October and December 2015.

A total of €135,000 was disbursed from Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

12. Measure to address the social, economic and educational disadvantages of victims of trafficking and persons/groups at risk of human trafficking

Dormant Accounts Funding was distributed to three organisations working with victims of human trafficking to enable them to undertake projects to address the personal and social development needs of this group. The projects include the recruitment of an Anti-Trafficking support project worker; a project to strengthen prevention and protection measures for trafficking for forced labour; and two training courses specifically designed to support women at different life stages towards social inclusion and a brighter future for themselves and their children.

Dormant Accounts Funding enabled a project to be piloted that will provide an innovative approach for the prevention of trafficking for labour exploitation and a safe housing initiative. The project also addressed the knowledge gap that currently exists in relation to trafficking for forced begging through engagement with child and family organisations to examine potential cases of trafficking.

Finally, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland provided a number of specialised training events on trafficking for labour exploitation, including criminal exploitation, to target key stakeholders.

Doras Luimní is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation working to support and promote the rights of all migrants living in Limerick and the wider Mid-West region. Dormant Accounts funding enabled Doras Luimní to provide assistance to people affected by human trafficking in Limerick for sexual exploitation, forced marriage, forced labour, criminal activity (drugs, begging) etc.

A total of €99,225 was disbursed from Dormant Accounts Fund to this measure in 2015.

13. Specialist services to Victims attending court

Specialist services to provide court accompaniment for victims of crime and/or their families or witnesses, regardless of the type of offence, are currently funded by the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime. The service involves the provision of information on the court setting, including an opportunity to visit the court beforehand and learn about court procedures. Victims and their families are assisted during their time at court by trained volunteers who provide support during the trial process. They are given access to a secure private area away from the general public where they can feel safe.

In order to provide permanently based volunteers in all regions, recruitment and training of volunteers commenced in late-2014. Two locations, Kilkenny and Dundalk had fully operational court accompaniment services at the time of the previous report.

Preparatory work with the Courts Service and training for volunteers took place in a number of other locations across the country since then and there were court accompaniment services operational in thirteen counties by the end of 2015.

A total of €50,000 disbursed from Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

14. Community Based Health and First Aid in Irish Prisons

Ireland was the first country in the world to introduce Community Based Health & First Aid in Action through groups of special status Irish Red Cross inmate volunteers in a prison setting. The programme was initially piloted in Wheatfield prison in June 2009 and following its success was extended to 10 prisons by 2013 and to all fourteen prisons in Ireland in 2014. The programme which has recruited almost 800 Irish Red Cross volunteer inmates in seven years, works on a peer to peer basis; inmates take on training and develop projects that lead to an improvement in hygiene, health and wellbeing in their prison community.

The programme was awarded the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) 2015 Volunteering Development Award.

A total of €189,000 disbursed from Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

15. Equality Division (Traveller Mediation)

The Equality Division drew down €100,000 from Dormant Accounts in 2015 to support the Midlands Traveller Conflict Mediation Initiative (MTCMI).

The MTCMI seeks to reduce feuding within the Traveller community and to provide support to travellers and other relevant stakeholders to establish a peace-building infrastructure, develop and consolidate respectful and peaceful engagements/relationships, and to prevent and transform destructive conflicts with and between Travellers, other stakeholders, and the wider society.

During 2015 the MTCMI progressed the development of the initiative begun in 2014 with the Kennedy Institute (NUI Maynooth) to develop an accredited Traveller Mediation & Conflict training programme in collaboration with Kildare/Wicklow Education & Training Board (ETB) and Laois/Offaly ETB.

A total of €100,000 was disbursed from Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

Department of Social Protection Measure

16. Training and support services for home carers

Under this measure funding was provided for projects which provided training, information and related support services for Home Carers. The purpose of this measure is to up-skill carers to provide the best care possible, to reduce the risk of injury to the carer and to help them cope with the emotional and psychological aspects of their role. This measure also provides funding for the dissemination of resource information for Home Carers and to provide supports to reduce social isolation experienced by Home Carers.

A total of €906,578 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to 16 projects under this initiative during 2015.

Department of Children and Youth Affairs Measures

17. Big Brothers Big Sisters Programme (BBBS)

BBBS is an internationally recognised youth mentoring programme that matches an adult volunteer to a young person (10-18 years). The basic idea is that a friendship will form between the young person and adult volunteer that will promote the positive development of the young person.

The programme is operated in Ireland by Foróige. BBBS Ireland is affiliated to the Big Brothers Big Sisters International Organisation, which has now developed programmes in 37 countries around the world.

Overall 3,000 school and community based matches were achieved in 2015. There were 440 adult volunteer leaders recruited and engaged to support 440 young people in one to one mentoring in the community programme by December 2015.

A total of €746,000 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

18. Development of a phone app for young people in care

This project sought to develop a phone app for older children in care providing clear information regarding (i) the role and function and contact details of the different organisations providing services in the area (ii) their rights and (iii) details of how to make a complaint. Information will be provided on the Child and Family Agency (which has the statutory responsibility for their care), EPIC (Empowering People in Care) an advocacy agency for children in care, the Ombudsman for Children (OCO) who may investigate a complaint not satisfactorily resolved by a school or Child and Family Agency, and the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), the organisation that inspects child protection services, foster care services and residential care homes.

A total of €4,274 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

19. Aftercare information Packs for young persons

Approximately 450 children leave the care of the State on reaching 18 years of age. Many of these young adults continue to be supported by the Child and Family Agency. Such support is called aftercare. Research has shown that where a young care leaver has access to adequate information, outcomes in the future are improved.

This initiative proposes to develop and produce leaving and aftercare packs for children leaving care. These packs will provide information to young people on the aftercare services by the Child and Family Agency and how to navigate services such as education social welfare and health. The packs will be part of an overall communications strategy to improve the quantity and

quality of information provide to young people preparing to leave care and aftercare.

A total of €8,530 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Measures

20. Community Sports Physical Activity Hubs

Sport Ireland was allocated Dormant Accounts Funding to establish and develop the concept of Community Sports and Physical Activity Hubs (CSHs) in disadvantaged areas. The CSHs provide information, support and advice on a wide range of sports and physical activities to make it easier for people in disadvantaged areas to get involved and engage in a more active and healthier lifestyle.

A total of €1,316,674 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

21. National Sports Education and Training Hub

Dormant Accounts Funding was provided to Sport Ireland to support a range of projects under the National Sport Education and Training Hub. Sport Ireland developed programmes to provide a clear education pathway for those interested in working in sport development, in particular an activation of jobseekers to promote greater levels of physical activity in disadvantaged areas and identified target groups e.g. people with a disability.

Programmes supported under the National Sport Education and Training Hub in 2015 included the development of an Educational and Career Framework, Youth Coaching, Volunteer Support Programmes, E-learning Programmes (Anti-Doping, Child Protection), Training for Jobseekers (Community Coaching), Youth Leadership and strengthening the Sports Disability Training Framework.

A total of €625,820 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

Department of Health Measures

22. Substance Misuse/Prevention – development of drug and alcohol awareness campaigns

The aim of the Substance Misuse and Prevention measure is to provide funding to Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces (LDATFs) and Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces (RDATFs). This measure supports a core objective of the National Drugs Strategy (NDS) to develop a greater understanding of the dangers of problem drug/alcohol use among the general population. A key aim of the National Substance Misuse Strategy (NSMS) is the promotion of healthier lifestyle choices throughout society in relation to alcohol, by influencing and raising awareness among the general population and specific risk groups. This measure funded a range of substance misuse prevention initiatives which empower local communities, organisations and groups to create and implement a common strategy aimed at tackling or preventing the problem of drug and alcohol misuse.

A total of €817,162 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to this initiative in 2015.

23. Various Projects

A total of €1,098,000 was disbursed from the Dormant Accounts Fund to Local Area Co-ordination (Disability Services), Achieving HIQA Standards for Residential Centres for People with Disabilities and Support for Young People with Disabilities, including Autism and Non-Centre based respite in 2015.

Local Area Co-Ordination (Disability Services)

The Local Area Co-ordination measure provide funding for

- Non-Statutory Bodies or organisations funded under Sections 38 and 39 of the Health Act 2004
- Community Organisations with a legal structure
- Statutory Bodies

The measure promotes a partnership approach to local area co-ordination of disability services which are complementary to those already provided. Activities such as provision of information and advice, advocacy (both at individual and community level), supports to individuals/families/communities and access to services for people with disabilities, etc. are funded through this measure.

Advanced best practice in meeting HIQA Disability Standards

Funding under this measure allowed people with disabilities (adults and children) to have safe, person centred, high quality services and supports. This measure supports putting National Standards for Residential Services for People with Disabilities on a statutory footing and to ensure that these services could be inspected by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA). Providers of residential and respite services for children and adults with disabilities must now register with HIQA and must comply with its standards.

This measure makes funding available under two sub-measures:

- a) For designated centres for Children with Disabilities to apply for urgent minor capital works and/or equipment. Minor capital works include items such as replacement or upgrade of equipment; priority building adaption and disability modifications; urgent repairs which have been highlighted by a HIQA inspection, items which will assist them in meeting the objectives of providing Safe and Suitable premises and Safeguarding and ensuring the Safety of its residents.
- b) National Training Initiatives targeted at supporting designated centres in raising awareness and upskilling their staff and management in relation to their responsibilities and standards in the area of 'safeguarding and safety of residents' and the implementation of the 'HSE's policy and procedures on safeguarding vulnerable persons at risk from abuse'.

Health-related supports to assist young people with disabilities and autism to make the transition from second level education to further education, training and employment

This measure supports the implementation of key health-related measures in the cross-sectoral Comprehensive Employment Strategy for people with disabilities which is currently being finalised. Evidence from other jurisdictions (based on research by the National Disability Authority) shows that employment prospects for young people with disabilities and autism are significantly improved if targeted action is taken during the school-going years to introduce children to the world of work, and to set the achievement of employment as a legitimate and viable goal for each child. The transition from school to further education and training is a key transition point which must be managed carefully so as to support young people to attend further training and to gain employment. A range of activities targeted at young people aged

between 15-24 years of age, with disabilities (incl. autism) will be supported with some examples as follows:

- Support for making transitions and progression
- Support for accessing formal education and learning
- Support for health and well-being, etc.

Person-centre innovations in the delivery of non-centre based respite services

Funding under this measure supports innovations in the delivery of non-centre based respite services for people with disabilities in the community through solutions such as:

- short stays with host families;
- development of a circle of friends culture to encourage visiting in homes in the community;
- development of a caring circle whereby respite caring duties are swapped between families or bartered/exchanged for credits to the mutual benefit of the circle members;
- development of a volunteer buddy system to foster participation in the community to pursue personal interests or sport or community activities;
- attendance at evening classes whether for sport, hobbies or continuous learning; and
- development of specific initiatives for people with autism to encourage social participation in community, sport or leisure.