

## CARLOW AREA NETWORK DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION (CANDO) IS A MEMBER OF GSTM.

CANDO is a voluntary organisation formed in 1995 as a local community development organisation in Carlow. Its aim is to prevent social exclusion. CANDO's three main areas of work are:

- Community development
- Community based youth initiatives
- Services to the unemployed / training and education.

Its youth Initiatives include working with:

- Young people who have (or at risk of) leaving school early
- Young people who are involved (or at risk of becoming involved) in substance abuse
- Young offenders who require support or training
- Parents/Guardians/Carers of young people at risk
- Young people from low-income households.

## VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Other groups also work to get rid of poverty. These include organisations set up, run and funded by voluntary groups. These groups have to raise money from various sources. Some voluntary groups also get some funding from the government.

Voluntary groups Include:

- Focus Ireland:** Work with people out of home
- The Irish Traveller Movement:** Working with Travellers
- Meals on Wheels:** Working with older people
- Simon Community:** Working with older homeless people and
- St. Vincent de Paul (SVP):** Working with those affected by poverty and social exclusion

St. Vincent de Paul is an example of a voluntary organisation working both nationally and locally. Its core activities are divided into different conferences (groups of volunteers.)

There are 8 conferences of SVP in Carlow.

- Hostel
- Hospital
- Youth
- School
- There are 4 conferences which are working with families.

## INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Information can be found in several places:

- Local social services centre
- Local Citizens Information Centre
- Local library
- Local authority
- Local telephone directory
- Local parish centre

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st. leo's college

### COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY in association with

Blackrock College  
Mount Temple  
St. Leo's College  
Tallaght Community School

 **Combat Poverty Agency**  
working for a poverty-free Ireland

This leaflet is one of four, written by students in Blackrock College Dublin, Mount Temple Comprehensive School Dublin, St. Leo's College Carlow and Tallaght Community School Dublin. The Combat Poverty Agency funded this initiative.

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responses  
to poverty

# responses to poverty

## INTRODUCTION

There are two main types of responses to poverty in Ireland: statutory (government-related), and community and voluntary. Government-related responses are very important, but everyone has a responsibility to help those who are affected by poverty.

## NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion is a plan to reduce poverty in Ireland over the period 2007 – 2016. It is a statutory response to poverty. The plan is co-ordinated by Department of Social and Family Affairs co-ordinates.

The overall goal of the plan is:

To reduce the number of those experiencing consistent poverty to between 2% and 4% by 2012, with the aim of eliminating consistent poverty by 2016

A number of goals were set out in the plan relating to different aspects of poverty in Ireland. These include:-

- Education: this is to make sure that everyone gets the same educational opportunities
- Income Support: this is to make sure that everyone has enough money to survive
- Employment and Participation: this is to make sure that everyone can work and is in a paid job
- Community Care: this is to support older people to live independently in the community for as long as possible
- Housing: this is to provide housing to those who cannot afford their own housing needs
- Health: this is to make sure that people can visit a doctor near where they live and can pay for visits to doctors,
- Integration of Migrants: this is to support migrants to live in Irish society

## SOCIAL WELFARE: SUPPORTING PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY

Social welfare is another state response to poverty. Social welfare is money the state gives to people who need it. Some of the reasons a person may need it is if they are unemployed, have a disability, are a lone parent or are an older person.

Other state responses include:

- Education: initiatives such as Book Grant Schemes etc.
- Housing: initiatives such as Local Authority Housing ("Council houses") etc.
- Employment: initiatives such as FÁS schemes, Community Employment Schemes etc.
- Health Initiatives: such as the provision of medical cards for people on low incomes. This means people don't have to pay to visit a doctor.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development is about people working together for change in society to improve the quality of their lives and their communities. People decide what they need and have a real say and influence in how these needs can be best met. This involves 'building up' the self-esteem of a community to have confidence in their own power to participate in working to change situations of social exclusion, disadvantage and poverty. The government, and other bodies, fund community development throughout the country.

## LOCAL RESPONSES TO POVERTY

More and more, local responses to poverty in Ireland involve a coming together of voluntary and community organisations working with the state in local government and local development to reduce poverty and social exclusion. Some of these are called local partnership companies, area based partnerships and County Development Boards. Two local responses to poverty are outlined below.

## CARLOW SOCIAL INCLUSION MOVEMENT – (CSIM)

CSIM is made up of representatives of different voluntary and community groups in Co. Carlow and Carlow County Council. It works with:-

- Lone parents
- Travellers
- Low income families
- Disabled
- Refugees/asylum seekers
- Unemployed
- Older people
- Youth

CSIM's vision is:

**"To support justice by collectively challenging the barriers to social inclusion. To combat poverty equally and empower the most vulnerable to participate equally as decision makers".**