



South Dublin  
County Partnership  
Páirtíocht Chontae  
Átha Cliath Theas

# South Dublin County Partnership Annual Report 2020





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## Chairperson's Report

Our 2019 annual report was written at a time when Covid 19 was tightening its grip on society, changing our norms of behaviour and expectations, and for many, resulting in the premature deaths of family members and close friends. Our thoughts are never far away from those who have suffered such losses.

SDCP responded to the pandemic by setting up a county helpline service which offered a one stop shop to those most in need during an unprecedented crisis that negatively impacted on all aspects of life. In partnership with South Dublin County Council, over 2,000 calls were received by the helpline, over 3,000 outgoing calls to people in isolation were made, 3,300 food deliveries were made, 750 hampers were packed and delivered, and 110 care packs were sent to the elderly. Other responses included emergency repairs to homes, provision of equipment such as microwaves and cookers for those most in need and laptops for students. It is testimony to all stakeholders involved that every case where a call for help was received, the issue, service or food supplies were provided within a 48-hour period. Serve the City, a Dublin based charity, together with our own Tús Care and Repair programme played a significant role in this achievement.

Through the generosity of Google, we were able to supply groceries to local food banks in Tallaght and Clondalkin and transport goods, services and IT equipment to those who were isolated from loved ones. SDCP worked with an array of local stakeholders and community organisations such as SDCC and GAA clubs who proved that by pulling together, communities can overcome serious challenges. A case study of the Community Call video was filmed and captures the real impact it had on the people involved – details of which can be found later in this report.



On behalf of the board of directors I want to acknowledge the many staff members who worked on the help line, delivered shopping, and prescriptions and provided services to those most in need from the beginning of this crisis to the present day. I welcome the success of the vaccine programme and the potential of returning to some sort of normality. If 2020 was about providing emergency support, 2021 will be about opening back up our services, providing health and well-being supports and helping our clients to overcome educational, economic and social deprivation. We look forward to developing new approaches when undertaking our business, including the dreaded blended approaches to meetings and training courses.

Despite the pandemic, the staff of SDCP once again stepped up to the plate and delivered all the targets agreed with our funders. This was achieved while adopting new approaches to

work, and while the majority of staff learned new skills quickly while they worked from home. Our Jobs Clubs were the first section to respond by developing an online set of interventions which many clients found extremely useful. These online services are now oversubscribed. Elders Online was yet another response to providing platforms for our older cohort to communicate with each other. Our Heads Up team provided phone supports, zoom sessions and walks in the park events (within current guidelines) in order to ensure that those in need of supports around mental wellbeing could easily access them.

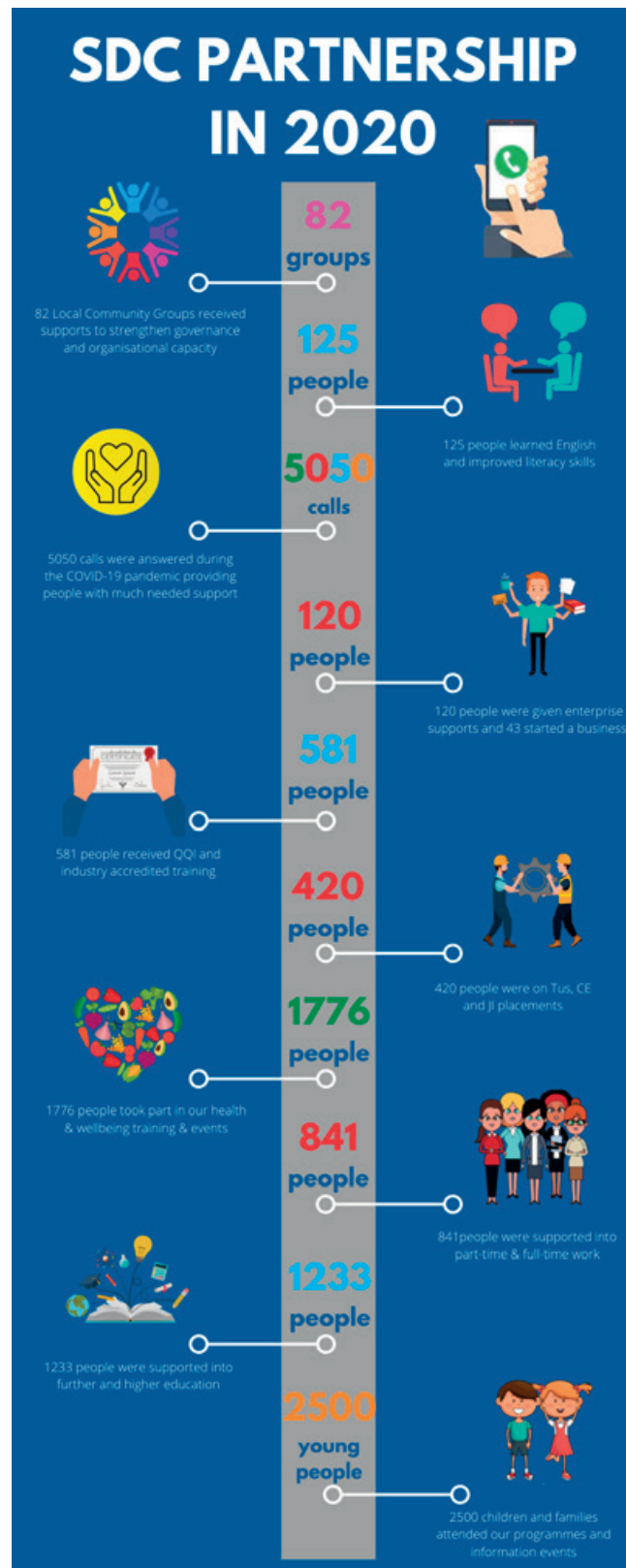
During this time all the work of SDCP was overseen by the voluntary board of directors who provide the governance framework that allows the work to be conducted in a professional manner and to an evidenced high standard. Despite the restrictions, SDCP board meetings continued to be held on schedule throughout the year. Attendance at these meetings and at

director's subgroup meetings was over 90% and the board introduced new innovations to maintain control over the company's commitments to its funders. New board subgroups were established to oversee and advise management in the areas of Health and Wellbeing, Children and Families, while existing groups such as Audit and Finance, Executive board, and Enterprise and Employment also met regularly. I want to thank my fellow directors for their dedication, diligence and innovation during this very trying time.

The year, 2020, was all about helping others survive the worst impacts of Covid 19, and I think in a large part SDCP was successful in answering the call. This achievement is an indication of the commitment of our staff to our company mission of "helping everyone to be the best they can be". Thank you one and all.

**Jim Fay**  
**Chairperson**

## Summary of 2020 Performance



## Overview of Our Board Members



**Roisin Bradley** represents IBEC on the SDCP board. She has over 20 years' experience in the public and private sector in HR management, with a B.SC. in HRM and a H. Dip in Organisational Change. She also represented Irish Business in the International Labour Organisation with the UN for a number of years.

**Lynn Broderick** represents the Community Sector particularly the Tallaght Intercultural Drop-In Centre. Having successfully and happily worked in various administrative roles in the public service, following retirement she became involved as a volunteer teaching English to migrants in the welcoming Drop -In Centre in Mountain Park.



**Paula Donovan** previously served a five-year term as a County Councillor in SDCC. Paula's expertise is in Strategy & Operations planning gained as a freelance consultant coupled with her time running a community facility as well as her previous career in Hewlett Packard. She is currently in her final year of a Research Masters profiling Community Development in South Dublin County.

**Jim Fay** is the chair of SDCP and is the nominated to the board of directors by ICTU. A lifelong trade union and community activist Jim has served his community in Tallaght in many ways over a lifetime of service. A founding member of Get Tallaght working and former Executive member of Tallaght Community Council and Tallaght Centre for the Unemployed, Jim has served on several school boards over the years. Jim's commitment to the local development is personified by action and dedication to organisations that bring benefit to the wider community.



**Emma Kennedy** started working as a senior advertising sales executive in the Echo, and became the MD there in 2012. Her primary role remains in sales and marketing, working directly with the Digital Marketing and Social Media team on strategies to build their brand and grow online traffic. Local news has never been more important, and communities are the backbone of business. Her goal is to give local news a voice and make it accessible to all.

**Elaine Leech** was nominated to the SDCP board from the Housing Department in South Dublin County Council.



**Sinead Mahon** is the Coordinator of NCCWN Women Together Tallaght Network. She has over 14 years' experience working with women in the community sector through drug education, addiction & prevention field. Her mantra: "When Women Support Each Other Incredible Things Happen."

**Emma Murphy** has over a decade of practical experience in international project management, business development and non-profit sector programme operations. In her current role Emma is the Communications Director for Barry Andrews MEP in the European Parliament. She, herself, was elected in 2016 to South Dublin County Council where she represents Firhouse-Bohernabreena.







**Patrick Nevin** has worked in the Traveller Rights Movement and Human rights for 25 years, managing the Tallaght Travellers Community Development Project for 7 years, with a particular focus on accommodation issues/education issues and human rights violations for Tinker/Traveller community in the Tallaght area of South County Dublin.

**Tricia Nolan** is the manager of the SDC Volunteer Centre and has been with the centre since its foundation in 1998. She has been instrumental in driving forward the development of a national volunteering infrastructure. She currently sits on the group that is developing a new National Volunteering Strategy. Tricia was instrumental in setting up I-VOL (National Volunteering Database) and continues to lead on its development nationally.



**Charlie O'Connor** is an elected Councillor for Tallaght Central and a former Dail Deputy for Dublin Southwest. He is a Member of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster and the Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force. He serves on several local school boards and voluntary Boards including Trustus and Tallaght Rehabilitation Project. He is a former Chairman of Tallaght Community Council and Get Tallaght Working.

**Guss O'Connell** has spent 10 years teaching and development work in West Africa, former teacher and school principal, project manager in Education, Training and Enterprise. He is a community activist, Councillor since 1991 and a member of SDCP since 2015.



**Baby Pereppadan** has lived in Tallaght for the last nineteen years. He was elected as a Councillor in 2019 representing Tallaght-South.

**Joe Rynn** is the South Dublin Children & Young Peoples Services Committee Co-Ordinator with Tusla. He has over 20 years' experience working across a range of community and voluntary organisations, including working on economic development and community development programmes in both rural and urban areas. He believes passionately in the power of communities to respond and address local needs to build thriving local communities.



**Betty Tyrrell Collard** is the representative from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and sits on the ICTU Executive Council. She is currently the President of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions and a member of Forsa.

**Mary Betty Whelan** has lived in Tallaght for 37 years and has been a member of many boards including Dominic's Community Centre and the SDCP for many years now. She represents the Community Development Advisory Group on the SDCP board. She has worked as a Job Initiative team leader since 2000.





## Overview of the Organisation

South Dublin County Partnership (SDCP) is a Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status. We work across South Dublin County, with a focus on communities experiencing disadvantage.

### Our Vision

Our vision is that South Dublin County is a place where people of all backgrounds and abilities can realise their full potential within thriving communities.

### Our Mission

Working with partner organisations to tackle poverty and social exclusion, focusing on the most vulnerable groups, we:

- Create neutral spaces and opportunities for parties to work together on solutions;
- Initiate, develop and deliver projects;
- Enable and empower communities;
- Influence policy and decision making.

### Our Values

Our values are embedded in the practice of community development, both as an area of work and a way to engage with people and groups. Our approaches to this work are underpinned and informed by a strong commitment to social justice and equality and an explicit value base of:

- Respect, integrity and professionalism towards all our stakeholders;
- Collaboration for effective delivery of actions;
- Being challenging and creative in our work;
- Transparency and accountability in all our actions and aspects of our endeavours.



## Objectives and Activities

Our work is organised into six thematic areas, each with its own set of objectives as follows:

Strategic Theme	Objectives
<b>Enterprise and Employment</b>	<p>To continue to meet the needs of our clients in accessing opportunities within the labour market through the evaluation of current and future needs of industry within the region and the provision of relevant, integrated employment supports, drawing on internal expertise and local knowledge.</p> <p>To encourage the expansion of social enterprise across the region through the provision of supports to new social enterprises and the expansion of the current social enterprise network.</p> <p>To expand the range of social enterprise supports available through collaboration with regional stakeholders.</p>
<b>Lifelong Learning</b>	<p>To increase the awareness and uptake of formal and informal educational opportunities for individuals in South Dublin County from pre-school to higher education.</p> <p>To provide the opportunity for everyone to acquire excellent basic skills, a qualifying education and a solid foundation for lifelong learning.</p> <p>To strengthen non-formal and formal education so that people at risk of social exclusion or educational underachievement can reach their full potential.</p>
<b>Community Development</b>	<p>To strengthen the capacities of individuals and community groups so that they can work together with others to bring about positive social and economic change as they define it – their lived reality.</p>
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>	<p>To work with people and communities experiencing disadvantage to strengthen their health and wellbeing through the development and delivery of services to improve their skills.</p> <p>To provide information, advice and advocacy.</p> <p>To strengthen people's ability to influence factors that impact on their own health and wellbeing.</p>
<b>Children and Families</b>	<p>To support positive parenting and offer necessary supports to raising children and being a parent.</p> <p>To improve the quality of living and future of children by providing nurturing and stimulating environments for children, with a focus on prevention and early intervention.</p>
<b>Effective Organisation</b>	<p>To strengthen our organisational ability to deliver our strategic objectives by developing core competencies, maintaining financial sustainability and developing our approaches and offering for people and groups who we work with.</p>

## Enterprise & Employment

We aim to assist people to access the labour market and to support people setting up in business.

During Covid-19 lock downs our team distributed important information about Covid-19 services and supports within local communities and to past clients, with ongoing checks by phone, email and Zoom taking place throughout 2020. Our **SICAP employment training supports** had to move entirely online and away from the core suite of classroom-based employment training such as safe pass, manual handling, HACCP and First Aid. We piloted a series of online employment training workshops in a number of industry sector areas including IT, warehousing, logistics, construction skills, office administration, and customer service. Our employment training workshops engaged over 200 people over the course of the year.

We adapted our jobs **Ezine** to become an information Ezine for people looking for support during the pandemic. We included weekly updates, distributed to over 1,800 subscribers, about government supports and grants, volunteering opportunities, looking after your mental health, as well as information on jobs.

Our **Enterprise Development Office** caters for Clondalkin, Newcastle, Lucan, Tallaght, Firhouse and Blessington. Our Start Your Own Business training programme, which includes modules on finance and taxation, business strategy, digital media, sales and marketing, had to move from classroom to virtual delivery. Advice, information and mentoring supports also moved online or to telephone support.

Prior to the introduction of Covid restrictions, we held an **Enterprise Networking** event on March 5th 2020 in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and South Dublin County Council as part of Local Enterprise Week. Small



*Taking care of yourself and your business Enterprise Networking Event March 2020*

and micro business owners from across South Dublin County had the opportunity to engage and network with their peers and gain valuable insights from guest speakers representing a range of industry sectors, as well as valuable tips on personal wellbeing and self-care.

The pandemic had a significant impact on the 400 plus employer partners we work with. **Employer Liaison** had to transform to a blended approach to support employers and identify suitable employment opportunities for our clients by providing a range of supports. These included virtual employment events, online employment workshops and tailored recruitment drives. By matching job seekers with employment opportunities we were able to assist over 100 clients into paid employment.

We launched our first **Social Enterprise Strategic Plan 2020 to 2024**, developed with funding support from SICAP and LEO, and following extensive engagement with local

social enterprise organisations and other key stakeholders including the Department of Rural and Community Development. This plan will inform the social enterprise work for the next four years and can be accessed via our website or the QR Code on Page 1. We had planned the launch of our new social enterprise training and mentoring programme but it was interrupted by the first Covid lockdown. We provided information about Covid related supports and funding opportunities and plan to recommence mentoring in 2021. We supported the implementation of small capital grants scheme and 6 social enterprises were awarded funding totalling in excess of €52,000 to purchase capital equipment or to make structural changes to their premises. We were also successful in our application for Kickstart 2 funding. This will provide us with seed funding to begin developing a new social enterprise to assist people who have come into contact with the criminal justice system transition to employment.

Our **Local Employment Service (LES)** managed to adapt quickly to the changes brought about from Covid-19 and respond to the needs of those being made unemployed by the pandemic. We provided services by telephone, Zoom and online career guidance. We continued to support the long term unemployed, who due to the pandemic were being pushed further into poverty and social exclusion. We listened to people's stories, helped them to apply for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP), assisted them to return to work or to explore re-skilling and training options. Some of the LES team volunteered in the Tallaght Covid Test Centre and Community Call Help line in response to the immediate crisis.

The **Job Club** also moved online using Zoom to provide an interactive space between participants and facilitators. Over 50 people took part in this Virtual Jobs Club. Another 96 participants completed formal training and approximately 140 clients received assistance with their CVs.

At the start of 2020 we had 323 **Tús** participants active in placement. When lock down began in mid-March all face to face meetings were suspended and new referrals into Tús stopped. The Tús team proactively reached out to participants throughout the lock down, doing regular checks by phone and linking them in with other services as necessary. We restructured our Tús Care and Repair service and this enabled it to continue to provide support to the elderly throughout the pandemic and to provide small scale works and renovations for community groups when feasible. Some staff from the Tús team were actively involved in supporting the Community Call Help line and others provided valuable supports to the food banks and other organisations across the community in South Dublin County.

**Community Employment (CE)** offers participants the opportunity to work in the community whilst receiving training and nationally recognised qualifications in valuable employment skills which are much sought after by employers. In 2020 we supported 83 participants to successfully complete CE. Some training was curtailed due to Covid restrictions and supports were provided to participants by phone, email or online. At the start of 2020 there were 18 people employed with the **Jobs Initiative (JI)** Programme. Supports were given to each programme participant on an ongoing basis.



### Case Story: Virtual Job Club

The Job Club had to temporarily suspend its services because of Covid-19. We were very conscious of the impact of the pandemic on people who were unemployed and felt that Job Club would be a vital support.

The Jobs Club team came together to look at how we were going to adapt to a new way of delivering the Job Club programme and it was agreed that we would move the programme online.

We did not want to run just another on-line course that consisted of lectures and lots of reading material and felt that interaction with the clients was important and kept with the ethos of the Partnership. We researched various online video conferencing apps and selected Zoom as it was the most user friendly. The team received training in the use of Zoom in Áras Chronain.

We redesigned all the Job Club material and it now included short video clips, PowerPoint slides for each module and a new Job Club Manual. The 3-week programme was shortened to 2 weeks as this worked better in the Zoom format. It was very important to us that Job Club participants received as close to the classroom version as possible. To ensure this, the programme was designed to be very interactive. Breakout rooms, brain teasers and group exercises were developed. The Team provided a demonstration of the Virtual Job Club to our Board, the wider teams in Intreo and the Partnership, and it was well received.

The Virtual Job Club was successfully launched in September 2020 and received very positive feedback from the participants. Some of the comments from participants included:

*"The Job Club highlighted a lot of things that I was unaware of. The course put me in a better place and helped me with my mental health."*

*"This course really got me back on track and motivated me again. I was pleasantly surprised at how each facilitator brought such enthusiasm to the course."*

*"The course covered everything needed for Job seeking. There was also a good amount of time for each module."*

We held eight Virtual Job Club's from September to December 2020 with over 50 participants, including those who required 1 to 1 supports. Many of the clients progressed into employment, further education and training.

The Job Club is now delivering Manual Handling online.

The transition to the Virtual Job Club has been a huge learning process for the team but has managed to retain the core objectives and aims of the traditional programme.

### Enterprise & Employment Summary 2020

<b>LES job placements</b>	<b>730</b>
<b>Employer liaison/employment training job placements</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>Placements in apprenticeships/work experience</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>CE/Tus/JI</b>	<b>420 participants</b>
<b>Job Club/Virtual Job Club</b>	<b>286 participants</b>
<b>Employment training</b>	<b>200 participants</b>
<b>LES referrals to education</b>	<b>434 referrals</b>
<b>Enterprise supports</b>	<b>120 enterprises</b>

## Lifelong Learning

Our aim is to get people onto a learning pathway that empowers them to participate more fully in the life of their community and wider society. We encourage people to avail of the pathways relevant to them. This can be to increase participation in school, to return to learning as an adult, to upskill for the workplace or for further educational opportunities.

In 2020, we started off the year with some new courses. [Reflect and Connect](#) helps adults affected by social exclusion to overcome adversity and realize their potential. It is based on the latest research in lifelong learning, psychology and neuroscience. [Coffee with Strangers](#) is an eight week course designed to help adults affected by social exclusion due to the colour of their skin, tone of voice and race to reflect on their changing identity as Irish citizens and how these changes are shaping a new Irish society.

In March, with the arrival of Covid-19, we had to temporarily close our programmes until we started to move them online. The first course to move online was [English for Speakers of Other Languages \(ESOL\)](#). Tutors and staff adapted quickly using Zoom. There were some challenges for learners with low levels of English and limited access to devices such as laptops, tablets or smart phones.

After several months of the pandemic, cocooning and social distancing, we realised that people needed to connect as much as to learn so we offered courses in [Water colours](#), [Creative Writing](#) and [Mindfulness](#). The water colours course was very popular with over 30 students enrolling. To quote one student:

*'The pace is flexible for everybody to adjust there is no pressure and no judgment and it is very therapeutic! I've found this helpful especially in these difficult times!'*



*Dr Tom O'Brien Senior Manager Lifelong Learning and Fiona Prendergast from TUD Tallaght Campus with students on the Preparation for College course*

Creative writing was also very popular as students were encouraged to find and express their voice in the form of poetry, screen writing, fiction and even rap. As one student said:

*'I really enjoyed the course and gaining an understanding of screenwriting even though it is not what I was expecting. It was great to be able to write some poetry and a short story. It's been so long since I engaged that part of my brain and very nice to touch base with creativity though'*

The mindfulness workshops were a gentle way to gather people to connect and to introduce them to mindfulness and how it could help them to cope with stress and anxiety that are prevalent in our Covid-19 world. To quote one student:

*'It came at the right time. I was having panic attacks during the night as I would wake up during the night and was unable to go back asleep. The breathing exercises takes the mind off it and relaxes me'*

In September we were unable to run our Preparation for College course with Technical University Dublin Tallaght, so we adapted and put on two new courses for learners thinking about college or already in college who needed support with their learning. The first, [Return to Learning](#), was designed to help people returning to learning who had been away from the books for some time to plan their study, improve their memory and writing skills. To quote one student:

*'It helped me understand what would be expected of me regarding essays, referencing, research, planning time management and relaxation techniques, very informative course'*

The second course was in [Study Skills](#). This was for anyone who was in college or on a course and needed help brushing up on their study skills, essay writing, exam preparation and critical thinking.

The pandemic has been particularly hard on older citizens who had to cocoon for months. Learning from this experience we wanted to reach out to this group to support them to get online so we created [Elders Online](#). It encourages and supports older people to keep learning and to learn from each other.

[Youth Development](#) work was challenging in 2020 as courses were cancelled or postponed in response to health guidelines. This included a number of practical craft trades, hospitality and beauty 'taster' programmes.

Our Youth Development Worker did manage to engage with 86 young people, many from disadvantaged communities.

[Preparation for work](#) was delivered in collaboration with a local youth diversion project working with 19 young men who had recently completed second level education and who were searching for employment. It supported them to access industry certified training, to develop their CVs and with online job searching skills. Some training successfully moved online, like Manual Handling and the Hospitality taster. [Tricks of the Trade](#) pre-apprenticeship maths training was provided online in collaboration with Dublin South City Partnership and JumpAgrade, an online tutoring provider. It demonstrated a need for this type of training and the team successfully applied to Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education Training Board to deliver functional maths in the future. The aim is to incorporate maths literacy into trade-based taster programmes to encourage practical learning and application of maths. Other training was postponed and resulted in very high demand when it recommenced. Unfortunately, a number of young people missed out on employment opportunities as a result of the pandemic.

Our [Clondalkin Access Network \(CAN\)](#) works with three DEIS schools (St. Kevin's, Deansrath and Collinstown), and two universities, University College Dublin (UCD) and Technical University Dublin Tallaght. The pandemic was very disruptive to schools and our response was to think creatively, to provide support through online programmes and to supply IT equipment when necessary. We were fortunate that in 2019 we had signed up with JumpAgrade online grinds to provide supports to students through one to one personalised teaching in

two of their chosen subjects from their home. This was a valuable platform to have in place and transferred easily to the home school environment. We offered this service to 45 more students in 2020. JumpAgrade included a professional health and wellbeing programme as part of their package which provided information and guidance around self-care for students. UCD and CAN worked together to move conversational language support online. This is essential support towards the Oral Exams and will be included as an ongoing part of the CAN programme.

The [Integration Project](#) continued to support migrants, asylum seekers and refugees with welfare issues, advocacy, education and health.

Podcasts have become a great communication tool and provide a great platform for learner voices to be heard and to engage listeners in conversation that matter, that inspire and tell stories of change and transformation. In 2020, we set up our own podcast called [Uncovered Voices](#) which you listen to via the QR Code on Page 1 or on Buzzsprout.com.

### Case Story: Elders Online

Elders Online is a new initiative from the Lifelong Learning team that aim is to give our older citizens greater freedom and connectivity online.

Covid 19 challenged all of us at different levels, but none were more vulnerable than our older citizens, especially those over 70 who had to cocoon for many months. Isolated physically and socially from their families, friends, communities and networks they carried the burden for all of us as they have many times before. New data from ALONE documents increased feelings of loneliness, anxiety and isolation in older adults compared to pre-Covid (TILDA 2020).

Challenged by this experience the South Dublin County Partnership played a leading role in the running of the community call to reach out to older people and provide practical help like shopping and prescription delivery. It was during this time that we realized how vulnerable our older people were and how helpless we felt as a service to help them connect and learn online. Covid has accelerated the move towards connecting and learning online through new technologies such as Zoom, Teams, WhatsApp and platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

Getting older people online can help bridge the social isolation they experience and while online we can engage them in learning, social experiences and help them to safely stay connected to their family and friends. Out of this challenge Elders Online was conceived. Still in its early stages of development, we are delighted with the level of interest and engagement. We started by running a Facebook campaign that attracted great interest with over 30 adults signing up for the first meeting. Then we ran a six-week introductory course facilitated by a tutor and supported by members of the Lifelong Learning team. This was followed by second course, 'Introduction to computers', with twelve learners attending weekly. So far, the course has proved a great success and spurred the participants on to greater prowess and further learning.



Here is one of the posters we used to promote Elders Online.



## Lifelong Learning Summary 2020

<b>Reflect and Connect</b>	<b>43 learners</b>
<b>Coffee with Strangers</b>	<b>25 learners</b>
<b>ESOL</b>	<b>125 learners</b>
<b>Watercolors</b>	<b>17 learners</b>
<b>Creative writing</b>	<b>41 learners</b>
<b>Mindfulness workshops</b>	<b>29 learners</b>
<b>Return to learning</b>	<b>11 learners</b>
<b>Study skills</b>	<b>22 learners</b>
<b>Elders Online</b>	<b>8 learners</b>
<b>Integration Project</b>	<b>120 migrants, asylum seekers, refugees</b>
<b>IT equipment for students</b>	<b>30 laptops</b>
<b>Supervised study</b>	<b>38 students</b>
<b>Online conversational classes for oral exam prep.</b>	<b>7 students</b>
<b>Online grinds</b>	<b>31 students</b>
<b>Revision classes</b>	<b>14 students</b>
<b>Progression to third level</b>	<b>40 students</b>

## Community Development

Our aim is to strengthen the capacity of communities. In 2020, our Community Development Team worked with 82 groups to identify issues affecting their lives and to bring about social and economic change in their communities.

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March had a significant impact on local community groups and local needs. During the lockdown period most places of work were closed entirely including Glenshane Resource Centre, Intercultural Centres in Tallaght and Clondalkin and Health House in Clondalkin. All face to face activities / events that were organized and scheduled by local groups did not take place. For some groups, sources of income collapsed.

The focus of our work shifted to how to manage under Covid-19 restrictions. For our Community Team this meant significantly altering the support offered to local community groups. Groups were anxious about family, the community or members of the group. Our team continued to provide advice about staffing, finance, sourcing funding and governance, mainly virtually. Local groups who were operating essential services or were working with particularly vulnerable communities such as migrants, asylum seekers, Travellers, older people and people with disabilities needed a higher level of intervention.

Groups were given **information and advice** about how to implement public health guidelines and to develop policies on remote working and return to work. Certain groups needed added support. For example, team members acted as liaison between residents and management of the direct provision centre in the Towers in Clondalkin to ease implementation and allay



*Canal Clean Up*

any worries or fears. Our team continued to highlight current issues and concerns of those living in direct provision through local media, local groups and politicians. Team members assisted Traveller projects with information and advice, worked with healthcare providers to manage Covid-19 outbreaks on halting sites, and coordinated food and medical supplies.

Our team helped the **McUlliam Community Development Group** to set up and in collaboration with Tallaght Community Arts we supported a community arts project in Tallaght to get started.

SDCP financial support helped the **WEB project** to host Halloween activities for people with disabilities. Our team worked with local groups around Halloween to reduce anti-social behaviour and divert material for bon fires by getting young people and residents involved

in planting bulbs. The team also worked with other **environmental projects** such as a mattress collection/WEEE drive by Recycle It, South Dublin County Council, the local Community Safety Forum and community groups and the garden project for school children returning to school initiated by St. Aidan's National School. Our team organized and coordinated a Canal clean up with Lealand Residents Association, Friends of the Camac, Clondalkin Tidy Towns and Waterways Ireland for World Clean Up Day on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

We used Zoom, WhatsApp and Messenger to maintain contact with groups and to help people to fill in forms and make applications. Zoom enabled groups to meet and our team provided two information workshops for parents and organised a virtual Christmas event with 15 families. The Women with Great Ambition group met via Zoom all summer and also met in Corkagh Park, socially distanced, to maintain contact and exercise.

A number of community centres such as Killinarden Community Centre, Bawnogue Community Centre and Quarryvale Family Resource Centre, as well as Clondalkin Traveller Development Group and Tallaght Travellers Community Development Project, were supported to provide **food banks** and the team helped with the distribution of food parcels

to people in need. We helped the Intercultural Family Support Network and Mmaa Pa with food collection and distribution to 40 undocumented immigrants who had lost their jobs and who did not qualify for any Covid-19 payment. Some undocumented women were referred to Ronanstown CDP for support. The team also collaborated with Ronanstown CDP to deliver sanitary items for 30 women in the Towers direct provision centre.

**Active citizenship** activities began early in 2020 as a General Election was announced. We worked with over 20 groups in preparation for engaging local communities in the election process, organising voter registration drives and 'meet the candidates' events. International Women's Day was celebrated in Rowlagh Women's Group and the team encouraged 38 migrant and older women to take part in the event held at the Louise Fitzgerald Hotel. Other active citizenship events had to be cancelled or rescheduled as the pandemic took hold, including anti-racism workshops originally planned for June.

There was reduced opportunity for groups to take part in representative structures during 2020. When representative structures such as the PPN, or forums like the National Traveller Partnership did meet, the team supported groups to engage with them.

### Case Study: Community Call

The arrival of Covid-19 in Ireland shut down normal SICAP operations. The working environment changed dramatically as a consequence and there was a fast moving, unpredictable and unprecedented set of challenges arising from the arrival of the pandemic. There was little relationship between the old ways of working and the new ways society began to develop coping mechanisms to deal with fear and distress. Social distancing, an absolute need to avoid spread of the virus, was an unnatural way for our community and people to undertake day to day living.

SDCP immediately set about establishing a county wide help line to provide supports to vulnerable people in need. The Government then announced a national Community Call Forum and asked each local authority to set up a Covid-19 Community Call Forum. SDCP was able to respond immediately and collaborated with South Dublin County Council to operationalise the emergency response including SDCP staff manning the helpline.

The helpline operated from March to July and received 1,885 incoming calls and made 3,165 calls. The most common call was about food and 3,458 individuals and families received food supports. Volunteers did shopping, delivered food parcels and collected bulk food for food banks. Volunteers also helped to collect and deliver medication and 220 students received education packs. Thirty-eight callers were referred to SDCP's Care and Repair service for help with small maintenance and repair jobs.

Staff found it a challenging, rewarding and inspirational experience that they would do again if called upon.

You can learn more about the Community Call initiative on the SDCP Youtube Channel or via the QR Code on Page 1.

### Community Development Summary 2020

<b>Total number of groups supported</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>New groups helped with formation</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Active citizenship events</b>	<b>20 groups</b>
<b>Capacity building workshops</b>	<b>17 groups</b>
<b>Self-harm workshops</b>	<b>6 groups</b>
<b>Virtual parent workshops</b>	<b>25 parents</b>
<b>Virtual Christmas event</b>	<b>15 families</b>
<b>Delivery to families in direct provision</b>	<b>30 families</b>



## Health & Wellbeing

We aim to give people the information, advice, and skills that will enable them to strengthen their health and wellbeing.

Covid-19 changed how we work. Some of the Health and Wellbeing staff signed up to volunteer in the Covid test centres. Others linked in with 11 elderly residential units in South County Dublin to identify what residents needed in **care packs** which we put together and delivered. These included small gym equipment, books, stationery, gardening products, and much more.

Our **social prescribing service**, Get Well Connected, received 88 client referrals for people experiencing psychological distress, anxiety and isolation. We moved to mainly interacting by phone, with some email, text and face to face meetings. The support worker set up Zoom training sessions for the elderly and those with poor digital skills and continues to provide wellbeing support online.

Our dedicated community health worker in the **Tallaght Roma Integration Project** provided full-time phone support to improve health and access to primary care services for 40 Roma families.

The mental wellbeing **Heads UP** education programme is usually delivered face to face but had to move to provide one to one support over the phone and daily wellness text messages to 40 individuals. We posted out care packages and helped individuals to become familiar with Zoom so they could engage online. We developed a mental health service booklet and provided online psychoeducation and yoga classes. We contacted 350 past participants and made them aware of supports including the Community Call helpline. We hosted a number of wellness events, for example in Fettercairn



*SDCP staff with medals for participating in 5K mental health walk*

equine project, with SOS, with Wimm Hoff and a Walk in the Park with Rory from Rory Stories. The first women's Heads UP programme was due to start on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 and had to be changed to remote working instead with weekly support calls to 26 women, including women living in homeless hubs. We continued to support the funding and development of the Heads UP programme in Kildare and Ballyfermot.

Our **Food and Health Project** continued to give people information and training about their own and their families' nutrition and preparing meals on a budget. However, in March 2020 the programme had to be halted in schools and community groups due to the first lockdown. The project Coordinator retired in June and the role was filled in 2021.

With the increase in mental health needs, we sourced funding through Google Tides to take on a **Counsellor** in November 2020. Interest in this service was high from the beginning. Because some of our more senior clients were unable to attend face-to-face sessions, either due to Covid concerns or medical limitations, we developed a remote counselling policy and offered telephone and Zoom counselling sessions for these clients.

The **Health House in Clondalkin** normally provides a range of physical and mental health activities in North Clondalkin. However, due to the size of the house, we could not deliver programmes and continue to be socially distant. We needed to source a larger site in the same area to deliver these much-needed Health Projects safely. By the end of 2020, we had an agreement in place with South Dublin County Council to move the Health House activities to the Rowlagh Community Centre. The coordinator of the Health House retired from her post in the second half of 2020.

The **Resilience Project** has 11 objectives that aim to enhance the resilience of individuals living in Tallaght West and North Clondalkin. In 2020 it was in the second year of its two-year cycle. It engaged with multiple organisations and 442 individuals and supported the development of a Mental Health Directory for South County Dublin. Due to Covid restrictions, the project quickly moved its services online.

Our work with the HSE and Dublin South City Partnership on the delivery of **Individual Placement Support** continued. The dedicated employment specialist supports people with mental health difficulties to find employment and received 45 referrals from the mental health services in 2020. With the arrival of the pandemic the work initially went online. However, a quick response from the HSE within mental health services allowed the project worker to continue to work with individuals face to face. The closure of businesses during lock-downs impacted the ability of the project worker to find suitable placements for clients.

#### Case Story: Tallaght Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

2020 was a challenging year for the work of Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (TDATF) and community addiction services more generally. The Covid-19 pandemic emphasised the importance of protecting the most vulnerable, and served as a reminder of just how valuable and “essential” our frontline community drug projects are. The findings of a survey we conducted at the end of 2020 showed the impact restrictions had on the mental health of clients and staff members and confirmed that clients struggled with their recovery and felt isolated.

The pandemic shone a light on the national and constant epidemic which is substance misuse. Just before the first lockdown, we were able to commence a pilot alcohol treatment programme in collaboration with Tallaght Addiction Support Project (TASP) in Fettercairn, a new project set up in 2020. The programme was cut short when restrictions were introduced but will be restarting and it has a waiting list. CARP Killinarden and JADD in Jobstown were able to maintain their support programmes through the pandemic. CARP helps women aged over 18 with harm reduction, intervention and / or brief respite, especially those with crack cocaine addiction. JADD runs an out of hours support programme for crack users, including a Saturday group for women, many of whom are involved in sex work.

SWAN Family Support Project came under the management of SDCP in October 2020, following a consultation process with the SWAN board of management. SWAN provides counselling and holistic therapies. Once restrictions were imposed it put the holistic therapies on hold and moved its counselling online and also provided one to one support on site when safe to do so.

The Tallaght and Ballyfermot Drug and Alcohol Task Forces were granted funding by the Department of Health in 2019, for a joint initiative, Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment Services (SWAAT). SWAAT planned to research and respond to the needs of women impacted by substance use in both communities, but its start was delayed by the pandemic. Eventually a coordinator was recruited mid-2020. Much work was done to engage relevant stakeholders and key informants to ensure that the research conducted by TCD and subsequent recommendations specifically respond to the needs of women in Tallaght and Ballyfermot.

2020 proved to be a year in which huge learning took place and versatility was demonstrated and the importance of interagency working was certainly reinforced.

You can view the work of TDATF via the QR Code on Page 1.

### **Health and Wellbeing Summary 2020**

<b>Resilience project</b>	<b>442 participants</b>
<b>Health House</b>	<b>360 attendees</b>
<b>Healthy food and cook-ins</b>	<b>307 attendees</b>
<b>Heads UP</b>	<b>472 men and women</b>
<b>Social Prescribing</b>	<b>88 referrals, 240 interactions</b>
<b>Health work with Roma community</b>	<b>40 families, 425 interactions</b>
<b>Individual Placement Support</b>	<b>45 referrals, 7 placed in jobs</b>
<b>Counselling</b>	<b>22 referrals</b>

## Children & Families

Our aim is to support positive parenting and improve the quality of life of children.

In 2020, the Children and Families team unleashed our creative skills and adapted many of the programmes to go online to continue to support the families we work with. Before long, the team was running one to one Zoom parenting courses, online kickboxing sessions, virtual family learning pizza parties and Hackathons. In addition to online technology, traditional forms of engagement such as phone contact, garden/door visits and even food/medication drops were also performed by our team. Unexpected benefits of the new ways of working have been that programmes are now even more flexible and meet the needs of each parent rather than the needs of a scheduled group. The scope for recruiting parents and families has widened through social media channels and there was high participation rates and positive feedback from all of our programmes.

Many of our **Parenting** programmes were halted halfway through in March 2020. Our *4 the Family* programme creators made videos with great tips for families during lockdown and shared these online. Within a couple of weeks, the videos were viewed over 500 times. You can view our four Health tips for families on our website or via the QR Code on Page 1.

The award-winning **KICK** (Kickboxing to Inspire & Challenge Kids) programme was challenged in 2020 when schools and community centres closed but the KICK coaches shared Kickboxing training videos online to encourage young people to stay active and healthy. The videos racked up an impressive 2,341 views across SDCP's social media platforms. You can view one of our training videos on our Youtube Channel or via the QR Code on Page 1.

**Inspiring the Future Ireland**, supported by Bank of America, Google, South Dublin Chamber and South Dublin County Council, aims to inspire and



motivate young people to realise and achieve their career potential by providing a free and easy way for schools to connect with volunteers from the world of work. In addition to the Career Speed Networking events, Inspiring the Future Ireland hosted SDCP's first *Social Innovation Hackathon* in 2020, exploring the impacts of Covid-19 on education in the local community. You can read about it on our website or via the QR Code on Page 1. Inspiring the Future Ireland has transformed over the past 12 months and is now offering a robust virtual programme to both primary and secondary schools, including online learning tools, workshops and a webinar series.

As the needs of families in the Balgaddy area have become increasingly more complex, the **Balgaddy Child and Family Centre** developed services to meet these evolving challenges. The Balgaddy Outreach team worked with 32 families in 2020 and had to make significant changes to how they provided services to families in the area during the pandemic. Services were maintained through phone support, garden/house visits, door visits, Zoom, advocacy work, and food drops during lockdown. Two family support



staff members delivered food each Tuesday to three families in Mile an Ri, Balgaddy for fourteen weeks. A new community counsellor is based

part time in the centre to provide much needed support to families who are struggling as a result of the pandemic.

### Case Study: STEAM Online

Due to Covid-19, children's routines and social outlets were disrupted. Virtual Clubs allow children to socialise in a safe environment, building their confidence and self-esteem. Our family learning worker ran an extremely successful series of STEAM online 5-week programmes for families in Clondalkin and Tallaght. The sessions were designed in collaboration with Microsoft and encouraged parents and children to work together on fun STEAM weekly projects. STEAM online is an activity that involves creativity by building different STEAM projects each week. Working together as a family on this project builds on young people's team work, communication, collaboration, constructive, problem solving, adventure and experimental skills. Family learning also creates positive attitudes to learning and improves young people's development while promoting effective relationships between children and a caring adult.

Over 70 families in the South-West Dublin area signed up to take part during the lockdown in 2020. The feedback received from parents has been overwhelmingly positive and has included comments such as:

*"I thought this programme was great for my children. I don't think they were aware at the time how much they were actually learning because they were having so much fun"*

*"They learned so much about STEAM from it. They enjoyed making their projects and problem solving on a weekly basis and seeing what creations the children in their group made"*

*"I found this programme amazing, the structure of each episode to explain S.T.E.A.M with daily activities and objects around us to reach an explanation of coding, is what I found fascinating! I even learned from it"*

*"The girls loved your weekly challenges and they all learned from each experience (I'm surprised how involved Maebh was, aged 5: she really loved being included). A couple of weeks the girls even managed to rope their dad in to help them - this was great craic!! Thanks for talking with them individually".*

You can view this programme in action on our Youtube Channel or via the QR Code on Page 1.

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**Children & Families Summary 2020**

<b>KICK</b>	<b>20 teenagers /7 adults /2,341 views with online videos</b>
<b>Parenting/Family Supports</b>	<b>81 families</b>
<b>Family Learning</b>	<b>48 parents and 50+ children</b>
<b>6-12 after-school</b>	<b>128 children</b>
<b>Balgaddy</b>	<b>1,926 attendees</b>
<b>Inspiring the Future</b>	<b>565 volunteers registered 34 schools / 80 interventions with students 1 Community Hackathon with 35 community and business representatives</b>

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## Effective Organisation

### Governance

Our board has 17 members representing the community and voluntary sector, social partners, statutory partners and elected representatives. We strive for gender balance and over half of our board are women. Appendix 1 provides a full list.

We continued to work towards full compliance with the Governance Code.

### Operations

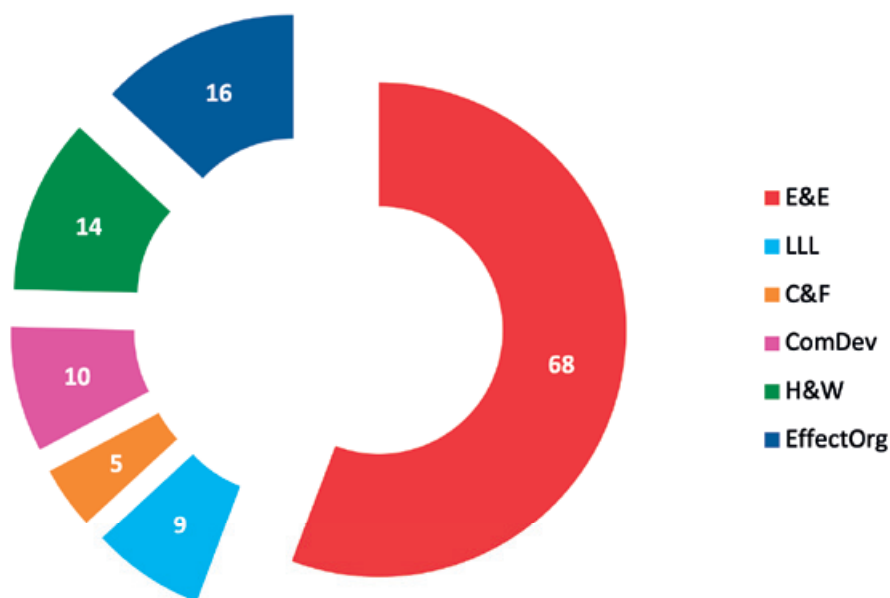
Key operational functions include facilities management, insurance management and IT and software management.

Quality is managed across the organisation through strategic planning, monitoring systems, programme evaluation and the PQASSO quality system.

We also have a Health & Safety Officer whose services are shared across the organisation.

### Human Resources

Our staff team was 122 in 2020, organised around nine staff teams. The diagram below shows where these staff are allocated<sup>1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> E+E = enterprise and employment, LLL = lifelong learning, C&F = children and families, ComDev = community development, H&W = health and wellbeing and EffectOrg = effective organisation.

## Management Team



## Partnerships

We work with a range of partners including over 100 community groups and community centres, South Dublin County Council, the HSE, Tusla, South Dublin County Volunteer Centre, Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board, Technical University Dublin-Tallaght, local primary and secondary schools and Citizens Information Services.

## Finance

Appendix 2 gives a summary of our financial statement. A full copy can be obtained on our website [www.sdcpartnership.ie](http://www.sdcpartnership.ie)

We received funding from a number of national programmes and state agencies. Important contributors were:

- Department of Justice & Equality.
- EU Asylum, Migration & Integration Fund.
- South Dublin County Council.
- Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB.
- Technical University Dublin – Tallaght.
- Tusla.
- HSE.
- Healthy Ireland.
- Irish Cancer Society.
- Community Foundation Ireland.
- Cross Care.
- Corporates.
- Social Inclusion Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022, funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development and the European Union.
- Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection.



## Appendix 1: Members of Board of Directors

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- Roisin Bradley, IBEC
- Lynn Broderick, Intercultural Centre – community representative
- Betty Tyrrell Collard, ICTU
- Paula Donovan, South Dublin County Council
- Jim Fay (chairperson), ICTU
- Emma Kennedy, Community and voluntary representative
- Elaine Leech, South Dublin County Council
- Guss O’Connell, Local Councillor
- Charlie O’Connor, Local Councillor
- Terry McCann, Adult Education Office - ETB
- Sinead Mahon, Tallaght Women’s Network
- Emma Murphy, Local Councillor
- Patrick Nevin, Tallaght Traveller Community Development – community representative
- Baby Pereppadan, Local Councillor
- Joe Rynn, South Dublin Children & Young Persons Services Committee
- Mary Betty Whelan, Tallaght Centre for the Unemployed – community representative

## Appendix 2: Summary Financial Statement

The following summary is taken from the draft audited accounts of June 4<sup>th</sup> 2021.

### SDC South Dublin County Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for financial year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	€	€
<b>Income</b>	<b>11,154,786</b>	11,656,023
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>(11,150,386)</b>	(11,615,390)
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before tax</b>	<b>4,400</b>	40,633
<b>Tax on surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>-</b>	-
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year</b>	<b>4,400</b>	40,633
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>4,400</b>	40,633

### SDC South Dublin County Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee BALANCE SHEET as a 31 December 2019

	2020	2019
	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible assets	<b>50,692</b>	44,389
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	<b>310,312</b>	288,987
Cash and cash equivalents	<b>2,011,098</b>	1,500,270
	<b>2,321,410</b>	1,789,257
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>(2,187,367)</b>	(1,653,312)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>134,043</b>	135,945
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>184,735</b>	180,334
<b>Reserves</b>		
Restricted Funds	<b>110,083</b>	128,019
Unrestricted Funds	<b>74,652</b>	52,315
<b>Members' Funds</b>	<b>184,735</b>	180,334



