

we are all born with the same needs and desires

AMBITION  
SECURITY  
PURPOSE  
A PLACE TO CALL HOME  
RESPECT  
DIGNITY  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY







## About Combat Poverty

Combat Poverty is a state agency which develops and promotes evidence-based proposals and measures to eliminate poverty in Ireland. It was established under the Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986 and its main statutory functions are to:

- » provide advice to the Minister on economic and social policies to tackle poverty in Ireland
- » undertake and promote research on the nature, causes and extent of poverty in Ireland
- » initiate measures to tackle poverty in Ireland and evaluate such measures
- » promote public understanding of the nature, causes and extent of poverty in Ireland and measures needed to overcome poverty

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The Annual report is available on request in a range of formats, including audio tape, Braille and computer disk. The Annual Report is also available in the Irish language.

**Combat Poverty Agency**  
**Annual Report 2007**  
**Contents**

Chairperson's Foreword	7
<b>Part 1 – Annual Overview</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Part 2 – Work of the Combat Poverty Agency</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	
Board, Sub-Committees and Staff	52
<b>Appendix 2</b>	
Projects Funded by the Combat Poverty Agency	56
<b>Appendix 3</b>	
EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation Grants paid in 2007	61
<b>Appendix 4</b>	
New Publications (as at 31 December 2007)	65
<b>Appendix 5</b>	
Research Seminars 2007	66
<b>Financial Statements</b>	
for the year ended 31 December 2007	68
Statement of Members' Responsibilities	70
Chairman's Statement on Internal Financial Control	71
Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General	73
Statement of Accounting Policies	75
Income and Expenditure Account	77
Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses	78
Balance Sheet	79
Cash Flow Statement	80
Notes to Financial Statements	81





PURPOSE



# The Board

31 December 2007



Tony Lane



John Loughran



Catherine Hazlett



Brian Duncan (chair)



Brian Mahon



Anthony Gavin



Maria Gorman



Kitty King



Peter McKevitt



John Monaghan



Tony O'Callaghan



Barbara Walshe



Eugene Russell



# DIGNITY





A photograph of a child in a red shirt with 'AIG' on it, kicking a ball in a grassy field. In the background, there is a large industrial facility with a tall smokestack, likely a power plant, under a cloudy sky. A paved path winds through the grass.

## Chairperson's foreword

It is with pleasure that I present the 21st annual report of Combat Poverty to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs.

This report sets out the progress made by Combat Poverty during 2007, the third and final year of our 2005-2007 Strategic Plan: *Working for a poverty free Ireland*. There was much change during the period of the plan, as the economic, social and policy context in which Combat Poverty works continued to develop and evolve. Most significantly, 2007 saw the consolidation of a ten year policy framework which seeks to eliminate consistent poverty by 2016. This is an ambitious and welcome target, which highlights the Government's commitment to the development of a more equitable and socially inclusive society.

Economically, Ireland has not escaped the global downturn with a slowdown in economic growth and tighter public finances. The budget package announced in December 2007 was smaller than the previous year but despite this, Combat Poverty's post-budget analysis showed that the resources allocated were focused towards the lowest income groups. This policy of targeting groups at risk of poverty has reaped dividends in recent years, particularly in respect of older people, where budgetary measures have resulted in a sharp fall in the proportion of people 'at risk of poverty' among this age group<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions 2006.

During the year, we marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Combat Poverty with an exhibition highlighting the progress that has been made in tackling poverty over the past two decades and raising awareness of the issues that still need to be addressed. It is striking to note the developments in the institutional landscape that have occurred over the period and the extent to which poverty objectives have been mainstreamed. In a study undertaken by Combat Poverty in partnership with nine European countries, which was launched in Brussels in March, Ireland was found to be one of the better performing countries in Europe when it comes to integrating social inclusion objectives into Government policy<sup>2</sup>.

Despite this, major challenges remain. At the launch of the exhibition Fr. Peter McVerry S.J. highlighted the lack of choice facing many people in Irish society. “In a wealthy society, poverty is about the choices and opportunities people have. If you are living on less than €209 per week, you have no option except to rely on public services, so the quality and accessibility of those services determines your dignity and quality of life, as well as the outcomes you can hope for in terms of health, education and future prosperity. Investment in these services and the supports people need to engage with them can make a significant difference to people’s immediate living standards and their potential to escape poverty in the future”<sup>3</sup>.

Our anniversary provided an opportunity to draw lessons from the past and promote dialogue and debate about future poverty challenges. A key initiative during the year was the commissioning and publication of *Welfare Policy and Poverty*, a forward looking perspective on social policy across a range of areas including health, education, immigration and income support. Although acknowledging the drop in poverty levels over the past two decades, the general message emerging from *Welfare Policy and Poverty* is that more work is needed to translate anti-poverty objectives into specific policies across all areas of Government.

This implementation challenge cannot be under-estimated and is an increasingly important focus of Combat Poverty’s work. In March, we launched a report and policy statement setting out recommendations to address the barriers preventing national policies being implemented effectively at local level. Many of these recommendations

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<sup>2</sup> O’Kelly, K.P., *The Evaluation of Mainstreaming Social Inclusion in Europe*, Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin 2007

<sup>3</sup> Speech by Fr Peter McVerry at the launch of Combat Poverty’s 20th Anniversary Photo Exhibition, May 2007, [www.combatpoverty.ie/press/index.htm](http://www.combatpoverty.ie/press/index.htm)



are now being considered and progressed under the auspices of the Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group. We are also working in partnership with other organisations to develop practical, tested solutions to address a range of poverty related issues, including tackling health inequalities, food and fuel poverty.

On the political front, the general election in May 2007 brought about the appointment of a new Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Martin Cullen, T.D., who launched our Annual Report in September. Since then, this brief has transferred to Mary Hanafin, T.D. following changes to the Cabinet introduced by the new Taoiseach. We look forward to supporting the Minister in her new role and building a strong relationship with her office over the year ahead.

The term of office of a number of Board members finished in 2007, including our Director for the past 6 years, Helen Johnston. Helen's dedication, leadership and her in-depth understanding of poverty will be missed by all in Combat Poverty. We wish her well in her new role with the National Economic and Social Council. Our best wishes also go to Barbara Walshe, Seamus McAleavey, Orlaigh Quinn and Callista Bennis who also left the Board during the year.

I am very pleased to welcome Peter McKevitt and Catherine Hazlett who joined the Board.

In making progress, I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the Board members and staff of Combat Poverty and the staff of Border Action for their professionalism and dedication during 2007. In particular I would like to thank Kevin O'Kelly who was appointed Acting Director in July.

Two reviews – one looking at our research programme and one examining Combat Poverty programmes to support anti-poverty groups were progressed during 2007. Meanwhile, in 2007, the Government announced its decision to undertake a review to assess the role of Combat Poverty within a changed social and economic environment. These reviews are timely and present an opportunity to develop and shape our role in response to the challenges that lie ahead. With the knowledge and expertise that we have built over the past two decades, we are very well placed to contribute to meeting poverty reduction targets over the next decade and we look forward to working with others to bring about a poverty free Ireland.





A PLACE TO CALL





HOME

Part 1 – Annual Overview Statement

A Lot Done ...

**Introduction**

As the Chairperson of the Board of Combat Poverty, Brian Duncan, indicates in his Foreword, 2007 was a year of great change for Ireland and for Combat Poverty. For the Agency, it saw the completion of a year of events to mark twenty years since it was established by statute in 1986, following the recommendation of the Commission on Social Welfare. Enormous strides have been made in the past twenty years to improve the quality of life in Ireland, in particular through increased employment. This has resulted in the end of emigration for the first time in 150 years and has brought about higher standards of living for the majority of the population.

It is a disturbing fact, however, that after twenty years of these momentous social and economic changes in Ireland, poverty still remains a reality for many in our society and that, while much progress has been made in tackling poverty, there is still much to do. Combat Poverty still has a central role in advising Government on ways of doing more.

With the adoption of *Towards 2016* and other key strategy documents which followed it, in particular the National Development Programme and the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion, the direction for economic and social development over the next ten years has been decided. This direction is confirmed, for the next five years at least, by the Programme for Government, 2007-2012. Central to this overall strategy is the commitment to reduce consistent poverty to between 2% and 4% by 2012 and to eliminate it completely by 2016.<sup>4</sup>

No EU Member State operates in isolation, so parallel to the development of this national strategy is the commitment of the EU Member States to place the eradication of poverty and social exclusion at the centre of the European Social Model, as set out in the Lisbon Strategy. This Strategy stressed that, 'with the current improved economic situation, the time is right to undertake both economic and social reforms as part of a positive strategy which combines competitiveness and social cohesion'.

The Member States and the European Commission were invited by the European Council to:

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<sup>4</sup> *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion, 2007-2016*, Office for Social Inclusion, DSFA, (2007) page 26



- » **promote a better understanding of social exclusion**
- » **mainstream the promotion of inclusion in the Member States' employment, education and training, health and housing policies**
- » **develop priority actions addressed to specific target groups – for example, minorities, children, elderly and people with disabilities.** <sup>5</sup>

The convergence of social policies at the EU-level over the past seven years and the adoption of minimum social standards is seen as necessary in the context of establishing a genuine internal market for people, capital and goods. Co-ordination of these policies is also necessary as a response to the wider challenges of, for example, global markets, demographic changes, technological developments and migration. Moving towards agreed common social and economic objectives at the EU-level has become essential for the Member States to achieve all the goals agreed at the Lisbon European Council.

There is little doubt that there is a political commitment at the EU-level and in Member States to make progress in tackling poverty and social exclusion. So with the development of strategies at the national and EU levels in the past few years, the challenge for governments, including the Irish Government, is to put in place the structures to achieve the various policy goals set out in these key documents and to ensure their successful implementation.

In its 2006 Annual Report, Combat Poverty highlighted the key role played by the public services in addressing poverty and social exclusion. Following on that theme, its work during 2007 focused on how these public services can be made more relevant and more effective. Combat Poverty contributed to the debate in a number of ways, but, in particular, through two projects which focused on policy-making structures – the Mainstreaming Social Inclusion study and the publication of *Welfare Policy and Poverty*. <sup>6</sup>

All public social policies, whether formulated at the EU or national levels, have to be delivered locally, where they impact on the communities and individuals they are designed to assist. Actions and programmes put in place to implement policies need to get to the target population at the local level. This is the only way public

<sup>5</sup> *Presidency Conclusions* Lisbon European Council meeting (March 2000)

<sup>6</sup> *Welfare Policy and Poverty* ed. Mel Cousins, Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin, 2007.

policies can be effective and achieve measurable results. The challenge, however, for the Government, to ensure their successful implementation, is based on the ability of the administrative and service delivery structures to respond to the challenges of change, to progress agreed strategies and to deliver on political policy commitments.

## Mainstreaming Social Inclusion in Ireland

Combat Poverty co-ordinated this nine-country survey, which was part funded by the European Commission, and published a report, *Evaluation of Mainstreaming Social Inclusion in Europe*, on the key findings.<sup>7</sup> Part of this study was an assessment of the administrative commitment to ‘policies against poverty and social exclusion’. It found, in Ireland, that 60% of respondents at all levels of administration were of the view that senior management in their organisations were highly committed. This was confirmed by those who participated in follow-up interviews. At the central, departmental, level respondents argued that senior management was committed to social inclusion issues. This manifests itself in the participation of senior departmental officials in the Government’s social inclusion committees, while at the local government level, senior officials of the county and city councils participate in the County/City Development Boards. Very often, however, the main focus is on economic and employment issues, rather on social inclusion:

***More generally it would seem to be the case that economic and employment policies are not yet integrated with social inclusion policy in a way that would make them mutually reinforcing (Government Agency interviewee).***

However, one of the NGO interviewees argued that social inclusion ‘is on the political agenda but down the list of priorities’, while :

***There needs to be a more co-ordinated and focused response at a regional level. The response at the national level needs to take more account of the needs for local action to match national initiatives. (County Council respondent).***

Another important finding of the MSI study was the judgement

<sup>7</sup> *Evaluation of Mainstreaming Social Inclusion in Europe* K.P. O’Kelly, Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin, 2007



of respondents of the low level of co-ordination across the different levels of administration, giving a poor assessment of 'joined-up' government. Related to this finding is the disconnect between national and local administrations. A clear trend across much of the survey results, in many of the nine participating countries, is the lack of understanding and communications between the different levels of administration. While respondents in the central departments were of the view that there was little commitment to social inclusion at the local authority level, they said that it got a 'high' priority at the central level. In contrast, when those at the local level were asked about priorities at the central level, social inclusion was not considered to be 'high' on the agenda of the national administration but was given a 'high' policy priority at the local authority level.

This finding also held true in Ireland. For example, when respondents were asked about poverty and social exclusion being a key political priority at the central government level and within local authorities, 70% of respondents in Government departments said that this was so to a 'high' extent, but only 35% of them were of the view that this was the case in local authorities. In contrast, when respondents in local authorities were asked the same question, 54% of them said that poverty and social exclusion were a priority at the local level but again 35% of them considered it a priority at the central level. Local level administrators, therefore, who are closest to the citizen and who are most involved in the delivery of social services and the implementation of government policies to combat poverty and social exclusion, were of the view that there was not a high degree of co-ordination between what they do and the national level.

This commitment is not consistent across all areas of public policy investigated by the study. Poverty and social inclusion was found to be important in such policy areas as social security and social protection (65%); equality (53%); and education and training (45%). On the other hand, they were not considered to be as integrated into policies on economic development (20%); information technology (14%); or transport (10%).

## **Welfare Policy and Poverty**

The second important contribution to this debate was the publication *Welfare Policy and Poverty* to mark both the 20th anniversary of the Report of the Commission on Social

Welfare and the establishment of Combat Poverty in 1986. The purpose of this book was to ‘review developments in welfare policy, given the dramatic changes over that period’.

In his overview of the chapters covering a range of key social policy areas, the editor, while noting the progress made in twenty years, highlights the main problem facing Ireland :

***... is that public policy has yet to adopt and implement a coherent anti-poverty approach. It is not the case that policy is clearly focused on delivering anti-poverty outcomes but that its implementation is faulty. Rather, as we can see in the chapters on health and education, the system is structured in such a way that unequal outcomes are the likely result.***<sup>8</sup>

This book also notes that it is important to place poverty and social exclusion in the broader context of the increased recognition through legislation of equality and other rights. While poverty does not affect all sections of society equally, there are some who suffer from greater discrimination and, consequently, poverty than others, for example on the basis of gender, disability, ethnicity or other grounds. Promoting equal opportunities for all is a key value of the EU and is central to the social inclusion agenda.

### Linking Local and National Structures <sup>9</sup>

Following on from the findings of the MSI study and based on the outcome from other work, Combat Poverty published a Policy Statement to address the need for stronger local to national linkages as a means of tackling poverty and social exclusion. This document considered the barriers preventing greater co-ordination between national and local administrations and between service delivery agencies at the local level. It also considered the challenge of translating policies into action. It observed that anti-poverty initiatives are emerging from central administration without local inputs and, therefore, there is no ownership of these policies at the local level.

Because central and local priorities are not aligned, national policies are not being mainstreamed locally and there is the

<sup>8</sup> Ibid page 295

<sup>9</sup> *Linking Local and National Structures: Tackling Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion*, Combat Poverty, Agency Policy Statement, Dublin, 2007



perception at the local level that there are too many ‘new’ programmes introduced, instead of building on existing structures. The Statement notes that the structural elements required for the implementation of the NAPinclusion targets, at both the national and local levels, are already in place but that there is a need for coherence in how these various elements interact and deliver on policy goals.

Having identified the problems, the Policy Statement makes a series of recommendations designed to assist in the improvement of policy implementation. For example, Government departments and national agencies should report annually to the Office for Social Inclusion (OSI) on the implementation of the NAPinclusion targets and an exchange of ‘good practice’ should be part of the annual Social Inclusion Report. The Statement also proposes a role for Combat Poverty, in consultation with OSI, first, as a support to local authorities to incorporate the NAPinclusion targets and policies through the adoption of anti-poverty and social inclusion strategies at the local level and, second, as a national technical assistance organisation to local authorities, working with them in the development and implementation of local anti-poverty and social inclusion strategies.

## Conclusion

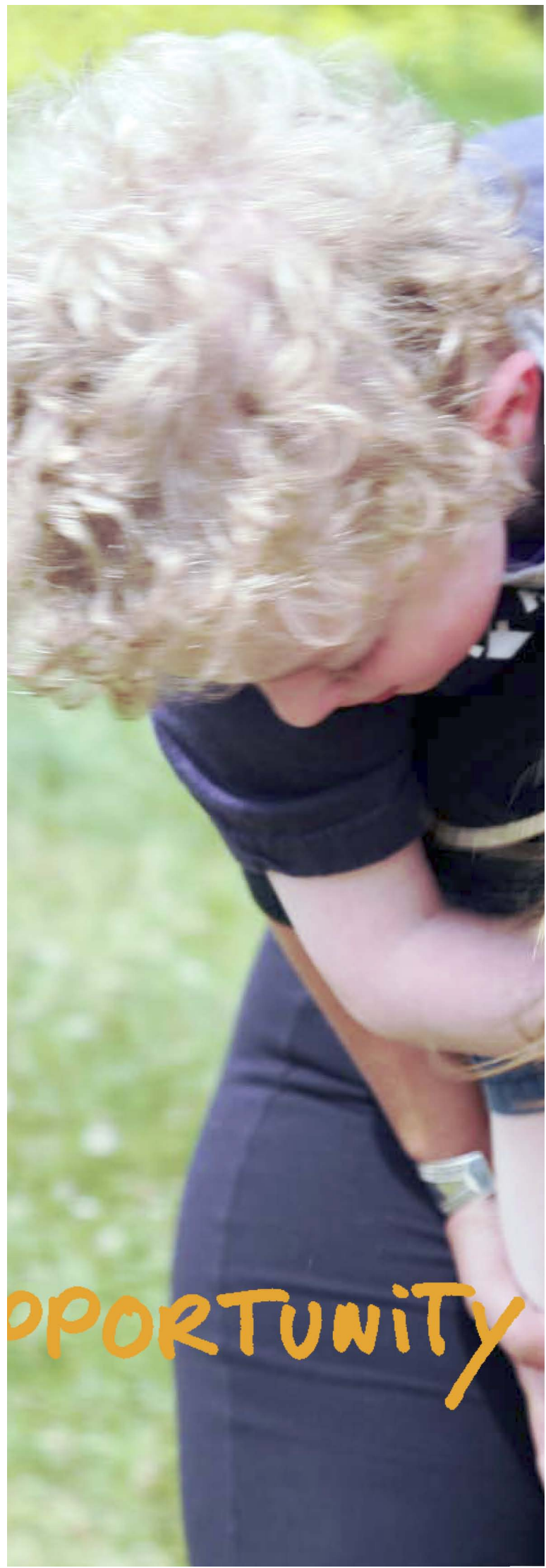
The strategies, policies and structures are all in place to reach the target of eliminating poverty from Irish society by 2016. What is needed is a ‘whole of government’ focus on achieving this societal goal, ranging from national policy-making to implementation at the local level. It is at the local level that national policies that impact on the lives of people at risk of or living in poverty are delivered, in terms of education, health, housing and building sustainable communities.

As stated by the National Economic and Social Forum:

**Good quality and accessible public services delivered in a cost-effective way ... promote fairness, civic responsibility and social cohesion.**

**They add ‘public value’ to a country in terms of its attractiveness as a place to live, work and invest.<sup>10</sup>**

<sup>10</sup> *Improving the Delivery of Quality Public Services*, NESF Report No.34, Dublin, 2007







**Part 2 – Progress in 2007**

AMBITION

SECURITY

PURPOSE

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

RESPECT

DIGNITY

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY



## Achievements

- » Highlighting welfare reform measures to address poverty through the publication of Welfare Policy and Poverty
- » Hosting a major national exhibition to raise public understanding of poverty in Ireland
- » Advancing understanding of practical measures to support community participation in primary care services among health officials
- » Building the evidence base on poverty and health inequalities through the Building Healthy Communities Programme and new research
- » Identifying and promoting solutions to overcome the barriers preventing national anti-poverty policies being implemented at local level
- » Preparing guidelines to assist local authorities to undertake poverty impact assessment at local level
- » Providing practical support to help groups experiencing poverty to contribute to the policy making process
- » Analysing and reporting on poverty trends among older people and low income working households using EU SILC
- » Highlighting progress and gaps in relation to the mainstreaming of social inclusion across nine European countries
- » Supporting understanding and shared learning on measures to tackle financial exclusion and indebtedness across Europe
- » Promoting independent policy relevant research on poverty through the Poverty Research Initiative
- » Supporting the Department of Community Rural and Gaelteacht Affairs to strengthen community development as an anti-poverty tool
- » Promoting understanding of poverty among second level students through training for teachers and new resources

## Context

2007 was the third and final year of Combat Poverty's 2005-2007 Strategic Plan – *Working for a Poverty Free Ireland*. This annual report outlines our progress during 2007 in implementing the strategic plan within the context of our four statutory functions: policy advice, project support and innovation, research and public education.

Overall, this was a significant year for Combat Poverty. Our 20th anniversary coincided with the publication of a number of important policy documents setting out the Government's strategic response to eliminate poverty by 2016. This target is accompanied by a detailed implementation framework setting out specific goals and supporting arrangements to tackle poverty at each stage of the lifecycle. Although ambitious, the overall target and specific goals are achievable with the continued commitment of key stakeholders and appropriate targeting of resources over the period ahead.

Last year also marked 10 years since the launch of the first National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS), when Ireland led the way in Europe in adopting a strategic approach to tackling poverty. Since then, the Lisbon Strategy and the Open Method of Co-ordination have paved the way for all EU Member States to develop national action plans for social inclusion and there is now a much stronger emphasis on social cohesion and poverty reduction at EU level. In Ireland, the NAPS and national action plans have driven the establishment of new structures to develop, implement and monitor anti-poverty initiatives and with these there has been significant progress towards mainstreaming social inclusion.

Over the past decade, the demographic and economic profile of Ireland has changed dramatically. Job opportunities and increased social expenditure have enabled many people to escape from poverty and, across the board, standards of living have improved. However, legacy and emerging issues have prevented further progress. Since 2004, the level of consistent poverty has remained almost unchanged, despite some changes in the profile of those experiencing poverty. For example, between 2005 and 2006, there were notable reductions in the number of older people and non-nationals living in poverty, but the rate of consistent poverty among lone parents increased<sup>11</sup>.

Key challenges remain to ensure that policies relating to education, health, housing, transport and welfare systems

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<sup>11</sup> EU Survey of Income and Living Conditions, Central Statistics Office, 2007



fully contribute to the Government's poverty reduction commitments and that emerging issues, such as financial exclusion, e-exclusion and integration challenges, do not undermine progress in other areas. This report sets out Combat Poverty's contributions to tackling these challenges and supporting poverty reduction targets during 2007.

## Developments

During the year, Combat Poverty continued to focus its activities on the strategic objectives set out in our 2005 – 2007 Strategic Plan, *Working for a Poverty Free Ireland*:

- » **to promote a fairer distribution of income and employment by providing evidence-based advice on tax, welfare and employment policies**
- » **to develop and promote proposals for people in poverty to have access to quality health and education services**
- » **to support local and regional responses to poverty, including border areas affected by the Northern Ireland crisis.**

We made progress across all of these objectives through a number of thematic and functional work programmes, including:

- » **Tax & Welfare**
- » **Health**
- » **Education**
- » **Local Poverty Responses**
- » **Capacity Building and Community Development**
- » **Monitoring Poverty Trends**
- » **Poverty Research Initiative**

Supporting actions underpinning these programmes included a communications and public affairs programme, policy submissions on a range of issues, an educational programme for second level schools and a number of initiatives to strengthen our organisational effectiveness and efficiency.

## Tax & Welfare

Tax and welfare policies can significantly influence poverty levels and, as such, constitute an important element of Combat Poverty's work programme.

### Welfare, Policy and Poverty

In October, we published and launched a book entitled : *Welfare Policy and Poverty* which examines policy trends over the past two decades and makes recommendations for future welfare reform. Edited by Mel Cousins, it examines developments in a range of policy areas including health, education, children, older people and migration.

This was launched by the Director of the Office for Social Inclusion on behalf of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Martin Cullen T.D. at a national conference in Croke Park attended by some 150 delegates drawn from Government departments, research institutions and anti-poverty organisations.

### Annual Budget

The annual Budget is a key mechanism for reducing poverty through tax and welfare changes. Budget 2007 combined a generous budget package with a strongly redistributive focus, with gains of up to three times the average for low-income groups. During the year, we presented the findings of our post-Budget analysis at a research seminar and to the Joint Oireachtas Committee (JOC) on Family and Social Affairs. Later in the year, we made a submission on Budget 2008 – *Mainstreaming Poverty and Social Exclusion: Pre-Budget Submission 2008* – which focused on several important public service areas, in particular education and health. Tighter public finances at the end of 2007 meant that the overall budget package for 2008 was significantly smaller than the previous year, although an analysis by Combat Poverty highlighted its redistributive effect and the continued focus on targeting resources towards lower income groups. This analysis was presented to the JOC after the Budget in December.

## Health

People on low incomes face inequalities both in maintaining good health and accessing quality health services when they need them. As a result, poor people get sick more often and die younger than those who are better off. Combat Poverty's health programme combines research with practical, tested solutions to tackle health inequalities. The health programme is guided by an advisory committee, comprising Combat Poverty Board members and a range of external experts including representatives from the Department of Health and Children, the Office for Social Inclusion, the Institute of Public Health, the Health Service Executive (HSE), community development and health projects, and public health academics.

### Health Policy Statement

During the year, we published a comprehensive policy statement on tackling health inequalities. The recommendations set out in this draw on a wide evidence base, including lessons emerging from Combat Poverty's Building Healthy Communities Programme, five specially commissioned background papers<sup>12</sup> and other outputs from Combat Poverty's research programme (see below).

### Health Research

#### » Poor Prescriptions

A key feature of our health research programme during 2007 was the publication of *Poor Prescriptions: Poverty and Access to Community Health Services*. The study, which was carried out by the ESRI, established a clear link between lower social class, lower educational qualifications, lower incomes and poor health. *Poor Prescriptions* was launched in conjunction with our Health Policy Statement at a conference in June.

#### » Scoping Study on Addiction

During the year, we conducted a literature review on the links between addiction, poverty and social exclusion. This focused on the social determinants and consequences of addiction with reference to problematic drug and alcohol use and gambling. It established a clear link between problematic drug use and poverty and found that, although

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<sup>12</sup> The five background papers were: The social determinants of health; Access to primary care services; Access to hospital services; Community development and community participation; Children's health; and mental health. See [www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie)



problematic alcohol use transcends all social classes, it is more prevalent among lower socio-economic groups, who may also face more difficulties in accessing treatment. There is no Irish research to date on problematic gambling.

However, international research shows that it is higher among lower-income groups and is related to unemployment, poor health and housing and low educational qualifications.

**Building Healthy Communities Programme**

Last year was the third and final year of the Building Healthy Communities (BHC) Programme, which was established by Combat Poverty to encourage groups experiencing health inequalities and at risk of poverty to work together to improve their own health outcomes.

Ten projects<sup>13</sup> received a total of €232,323 in 2007. The groups funded were: Schizophrenia Ireland, Community Action Network (CAN), Cairde, Galway Traveller Movement, Galway Refugee Support Group, One Parent Exchange Network (OPEN), Fatima Groups United, Irish Deaf Society, West Offaly Integrated Development Partnership, Special Project on Long Term Unemployed. Two of the projects working with ethnic minority groups were funded by the HSE. The Department of Health and Children funded a project in 2005, focusing on widening community participation in primary care, which the HSE continued to fund in 2007.

The BHC Programme has contributed enormously to our knowledge base on tackling health inequalities, with policy lessons emerging through networking meetings, programme evaluations, project reports and the health advisory committee.

Combat Poverty assisted the projects to undertake self evaluation and directly contribute to policy. Direct policy outputs by the projects included a joint paper exploring models of community development and health workers, several area profiles illustrating the links between poverty and ill health at local level and contributions to the HSE consultation on the development of the *National Intercultural Health Strategy* and to the *Strategy for Service User and Community Involvement with the HSE* co-chaired by the Department of Health and Children and the HSE.

Four profiles of area-based projects were prepared as part of the external evaluation of the BHC Programme in 2007. These provide an insight into

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<sup>13</sup> The ten projects were selected in 2005 out of a total of 34 applicants. See Appendix 2 for a breakdown of funding in 2007.

health inequalities at local level, in particular the social determinants that influence health outcomes.

The BHC Programme is recognised by the World Health Organisation as a model of good practice in tackling the social determinants of health.

### Health Conference

In June, in partnership with the HSE, Combat Poverty hosted a conference for over 200 delegates on Community Participation in Primary Care services. The keynote speaker, Dr Pat Neuwelt, from the University of Auckland spoke about community participation in primary care in New Zealand. Representatives from the Building Healthy Communities Programme also spoke at the conference.

Subsequent meetings with the Department of Health and Children and the HSE were held to consider further actions needed to support full participation of groups experiencing poverty in the roll out of primary care teams.

### Technical Support

Combat Poverty was invited by the HSE to support its work on mainstreaming social inclusion throughout the HSE. Following a number of presentations at regional level to health promotion staff, a number of actions have been agreed for implementation and further development in 2008.

### Health Resources and Publications

A number of resources and publications on tackling health inequalities were commissioned and published during the year including:

- » **A report on the *Social Determinants of Health*, which was commissioned in conjunction with the Institute of Public Health and will be published in 2008.**
- » ***Voices of Poverty* - an audio recording of the lived experience of health inequalities among low income groups. It will be published and launched in 2008.**
- » ***A Guide to Influencing the Health Services* by CAN (Community Action Network). This aims to help community and anti-poverty groups to find their way around the complex structures of the Health Service.**
- » ***Community Development and Health* - published as part of the *Having Your Say* programme. This provides**

**practical illustration and guidance on the application of community development to tackling health inequalities.**

- » ***Evolution of the Health Services* which helps anti-poverty groups to better understand the way that the health service in Ireland is structured, in the context of how it developed over time.**
- » **Area profiles of four Building Healthy Community Projects (forthcoming 2008)**

## **Education**

### **Early Childhood Care & Education**

Combat Poverty commissioned a paper looking at the issue of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) from an anti-poverty perspective. The findings of the paper were presented to a small audience of policy makers and academics at a round table discussion.

### **School Books Scheme**

Following discussions with the Department of Education and Science, Combat Poverty embarked on a study to determine the effectiveness of school book schemes in meeting the needs of low income families. Initial fieldwork focused on costs of the schemes, trends in demand and administrative procedures. The findings of the study, along with recommendations, will be published in 2008.

## **Local Poverty Responses**

### **Local Anti-Poverty Strategies**

Under the integrated national policy framework, local authorities have a clear role in delivering national priority goals for social inclusion at local level. Since 1999, Combat Poverty has been supporting local authorities to develop Local Anti-Poverty Social Inclusion Strategies (LAPSIS) within the framework of the City and County Development Boards.



## Local Poverty Research

### » Local to National Links

In February, we held a round table to launch the findings of a research report by ERM Consulting investigating the barriers preventing national anti-poverty policies being implemented at local level. This was attended by local Government officials and officials from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. A Combat Poverty policy statement, setting out proposed initiatives to improve integration between national and local government structures and bring about better outcomes for low income groups was also launched at this event.

### » Mapping Social Inclusion

In 2007, we commissioned ERM Consulting to undertake a further study to identify the extent to which Local Government has addressed social inclusion as part of its ongoing work. The report found that many local authorities were in the process of planning or implementing a LAPSIS and predicted that by 2008, almost 60 per cent of local authorities will have a LAPSIS in place. Moreover, the report found that the existence of a local strategy contributed significantly to the progress of the social inclusion agenda within local authorities.

Local strategies developed by Laois and Wicklow County Councils, with support from Combat Poverty in 2005/6, were presented at one of two Local Government Learning Network Meetings in 2007. The experiences of both counties confirmed the benefits of promoting local strategies and of building the capacity of anti-poverty interests to participate in their development.

## Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group

Combat Poverty continued to work with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government through the Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group (LGSISG)<sup>14</sup> to develop and progress strategies to strengthen social inclusion and the implementation of the NAPinclusion at local level. In this context, we participated in the assessment of applications for the establishment of nine new social inclusion units within local authorities and assisted in the planning of two Local Government Learning Network meetings.

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<sup>14</sup> Combat Poverty is a member of the Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group (LGSISG), along with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local government, the Office for Social Inclusion, Local Government Management Services Board (LGMSB), City and County Managers Association (CCMA) and the Institute of Public Relations.

**Poverty Impact Assessment**

In collaboration with the Office for Social Inclusion (OSI) and Dublin City Council, we developed and tested guidelines for applying poverty impact assessments at local level. These are designed to complement the national guidelines prepared by OSI and are available from the Combat Poverty website.

**Local Poverty Index**

Combat Poverty commissioned a study to assess the feasibility of developing a local poverty index. Such an index would bring together a number of administrative and census data sources to create a set of indirect indicators of poverty and deprivation at a small area level. In conjunction with the authors of the report, we have consulted extensively with a range of key stakeholders in developing the study and the initial findings were presented at a research seminar. A summary report on the findings and recommendations was published in 2008 and the full report is available on our website.

**National Development Plan**

In June, we met with the Department of Finance to discuss opportunities to strengthen social inclusion within the NDP (2007 – 2013) and the National Strategic Reference Framework. Meanwhile, the Regional Assemblies sought our assistance in relation to developing targets and indicators across a number of priority measures and on monitoring social inclusion across the new Regional Operational Programmes. We were also invited to participate on the Monitoring Committee of the Rural Development Strategy 2007 - 2013.

**Cross Border Peace & Reconciliation**

Combat Poverty and Pobal, through Border Action, jointly implement measures of the European Union Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation and measures of the INTERREG IIIA Programme in the border region of Ireland and on a cross border basis. During 2007, Border Action was actively involved in discussions and formal consultation for the shaping and drafting of the new Peace III programme and the INTERREG IVA Programme.

**EU Peace Programme**

Border Action continued to be involved in the implementation of nine measures of the Peace II Programme. A number of these measures are delivered on a cross-border basis, in a partnership arrangement.

The Cross-Border Consortium comprising Border Action, Co-operation Ireland and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland is involved in the implementation of Measures 5.3 and 5.4 of the Peace II Programme.

Financial targets set by the European Commission were reached. By the end of 2007, all activity had been completed on 263 projects directly managed by Border Action under the Peace II Programme. A further 115 projects are due to complete their project activities during 2008.

Following a detailed public consultation process for the Peace III Programme early in the year, a draft Operational Programme was agreed, which named Border Action in the implementation of two measures of Peace III. The new Peace Programme will have €333 million available for the 2007-2013 programme period through the EU European Territorial Cooperation objective.

To inform the future work of Border Action a number of research and evaluation reports were published in 2007:

- » **The research report *Respect, Protect and Fulfil: A Human Rights-Based Approach to Peacebuilding and Reconciliation*, undertaken by the Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland, Galway was launched on 26 March. This report highlights the importance of incorporating international human rights standards into policies and projects established to aid the peacebuilding and reconciliation process and the reconstruction of post-conflict societies.**
- » **A seminar to launch the independent evaluation *Peacebuilding and Reconciliation across the Border* commissioned by the Cross Border Consortium, took place in Dundalk on 6 June. The Cross Border Consortium welcomed Mr Colin Wolfe, Head of the EU Commission's Territorial Co-operation Unit as keynote speaker, along with Mr Emery Brusset, Director of Channel Research, who led the evaluation team.**
- » **Mr. Séan Haughey T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science launched the thematic evaluation on *Projects supporting Children and Young People* on 13 September.**
- » **Dr. Martin Mansergh, TD was the keynote speaker at the launch of the evaluation on *Projects supporting Politically-motivated Former Prisoners and their families* undertaken by the Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Queen's University Belfast.**



## INTERREG Programmes

The INTERREG IIIA Programme is an EU-wide initiative designed to support cross-border co-operation, social cohesion and economic development between the regions of the EU. Border Action continued to work in partnership with Co-operation Ireland in the implementation of the Civic and Community Networking measure and with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in Northern Ireland on the implementation of the Rural Development measure. A total of 12 projects funded by Border Action were completed by the end of 2007, with the further nine projects due for completion in 2008.

During 2007, Border Action was actively involved in high level discussions with Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), DARD and Co-operation Ireland regarding future proposals under the INTERREG IV Programme. The INTERREG IVA Programme is the Cross-Border Territorial Cooperation Programme for Northern Ireland, the Border Region and Western Scotland and the overall aim is to support strategic cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region. Border Action proposes to submit formal bids under the INTERREG IVA Programme during 2008.

## Community Development and Capacity Building

### *Having Your Say*

The period under review marked the final year of the *Having Your Say* (HYS) Programme. This three-year programme was set up by Combat Poverty to strengthen engagement between the State sector and people experiencing poverty on matters that affect them. An advisory group was set up in 2005 to oversee the programme, comprising a wide range of stakeholders working with disadvantaged groups, including government officials, state agencies, academics, local partnership, anti-poverty groups and cross border organisations.

A number of actions were progressed under the HYS programme during 2007 including a national conference focusing on practical techniques to enhance participation, policy skills workshops and the publication of new research and resources.

## National Conference

The HYS national conference *Participation in Policy: Making it Work* was opened by the Minister for State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Pat Carey T.D. on 11 December. The keynote speaker was Fiona Garven from the Scottish Community Development Centre who spoke about the development of national standards for community engagement in Scotland. A series of workshops promoted methodologies to support people's participation in policy work.

## Resources

Several resources to assist both the State sector and anti-poverty groups to engage more effectively in the development and implementation of policy were published, including:

- » ***Finding Your Way around Poverty, Welfare and Family Policy***
- » ***A directory of Community Development Education courses within third level institutions***
- » ***Integrating Policy into Work Planning - French and Russian language versions (in conjunction with Integrating Ireland)***
- » ***Understanding Economics and Poverty: an educational resource for community and voluntary groups (in partnership with the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI) and the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOUE))***
- » ***Finding Your Way around the Community and Voluntary Sector, a guide for public officials (in conjunction with The Wheel and the Citizens Information Board).***
- » ***Working for Change - A Guide to Influencing Policy (new edition)***

## Research

A study was undertaken investigating the nature and extent of in-service education and training on poverty and social inclusion within the civil / public service. In response to this, Combat Poverty is working with the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to develop a pilot training programme for staff in the Department. This will be rolled out in 2008.

A study on how to engage with 'hard to reach' groups on matters that affect them was also commissioned.

## Capacity Building Workshops

A number of policy skills training workshops were held as part of the HYS Programme. These focused on enhancing policy influencing skills at a general level and in relation to specific issues such as the Annual Budget and the links between economics and poverty. Combat Poverty also participated in an inter-agency steering committee with the Family Support Agency and CAN to roll out community development and leadership training to projects in the Family Support and Resource Centres Programme.

## Policy Lessons

A formative evaluation of the HYS Programme was ongoing throughout this year. This identified the following lessons and challenges of the programme:

- » **Ongoing need for clarity on the meaning of ‘participation’ – what it is, what it is not, what it may achieve and why it is important**
- » **The need to showcase examples of participation in practice**
- » **The challenge of including the voice of the most vulnerable and/or people who may be distant from community organisations or local services**
- » **The need to build competencies to support participation in policy making structures**
- » **The need to secure commitment to participation from policy making actors.**

The evaluation also found a demand for information, resource materials and training to enhance understanding of Irish public policy systems and support participation in these. The final evaluation report of the Programme will be available in 2008.

Combat Poverty continued to engage with other organisations to share learning relating to community development and participation during 2007, including an All-Ireland consortium developing occupation standards for professional community work and the Combined Bureau of Social Development (CEBSD).

## Review of SPEAK

Combat Poverty was invited by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to undertake



a review of SPEAK, an electronic strategic planning and self-evaluation framework used within the National Community Development Programme. The findings of the review will be available in 2008.

### **Participation and Practice of Rights**

During the year, we continued to participate in the Participation and Practice of Rights (PPR) Project, a cross border initiative that is applying a human rights-based approach to tackling poverty within marginalised communities in Dublin and Belfast.

Combat Poverty is funding an evaluation of the project which, it is envisaged, will result in the development of a transferable model of a rights-based approach, which marginalised communities in other areas and countries can use to achieve change in their lives.

### **Monitoring Poverty Trends**

Statistics published by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in 2007 show a small decrease in the 'at risk of poverty rate' in Ireland between 2005 and 2006 but only minimal change in the proportion of people in consistent poverty. Underlying these headline figures however, more significant changes were apparent. In particular, the number of older people at risk of poverty fell substantially as did the number of non-nationals living in consistent poverty. At the same time, the proportion of lone parents in consistent poverty increased. Understanding the factors that cause people to move in and out of poverty is critical to understanding the appropriate policy response that is needed.

Combat Poverty participated in or led a number of projects to monitor poverty trends and emerging issues during 2007 including:

### **Analysis of EU SILC**

A number of Combat Poverty staff were appointed Officers of Statistics by the Central Statistic Office in 2007. This gives Combat Poverty access to the disaggregated data from the EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC) and allows us to undertake detailed analyses of the data to inform policy debates on a range of issues, including tax and welfare issues. Combat Poverty is one of only two organisations outside of the CSO with this level of access to the EU SILC data.

In 2007, two major analyses using EU SILC were carried out:

### » Older People and Poverty

Combat Poverty research intern Martina Prunty used EU SILC data to compare levels of poverty among different groups of older people and also to compare older people with other age groups. The study was published as a Research Working Paper and formed the basis for an article in the *Irish Times* (8 May 2007). A summary of the study will be included as a chapter in a forthcoming book on Ageing and Social Policy by UCD Press.

### » Low income working families

An in-depth analysis of working households living in poverty was carried out by senior research intern, Paul Rocks. Access to the EU SILC micro data enabled the analysis to take place at a spatial level, e.g. the Dublin region or border counties, providing a much greater insight into the distribution of working poor across different geographic areas. The initial findings of the study were presented at a Combat Poverty research seminar in 2007. The final report will be published as a Research Working Paper in 2008.

### Fuel poverty action research study

Fuel poverty refers to the inability to provide adequate heat in the home due to a combination of low income and energy inefficient housing. Between 5 and 18 per cent of Irish households experience fuel poverty, a problem likely to worsen with rising fuel costs. One response to fuel poverty is to improve the energy-efficiency of homes occupied by low-income households. Combat Poverty and Sustainable Energy Ireland are undertaking a study to assess the effectiveness of one such intervention, the Warmer Homes scheme, which retrofits homes with insulation and other energy-saving measures. The study will provide a systematic assessment of the energy, environmental, thermal comfort and health benefits of the scheme. In 2007, a pre-intervention survey was completed with a sample of 600 households in Cork City and Donegal County. The households will be surveyed again in 2008 to measure the impact of the energy-efficiency measures.

### Healthy Food for All

Combat Poverty is a partner in the *Healthy Food for All Initiative* (HFFA), a multi-agency initiative which promotes access, availability and affordability of healthy food for low income groups. The programme has three main strands:

community support and innovation; networking and exchange of good practice; and influencing food-related policies at national and EU levels. Three regional, national and international events were hosted in 2007 on topics such as community food initiatives, corporate social responsibility in the food retail sector, and food access and affordability on a low-income. A good practice guide on school food initiatives was also completed and a new funding programme for community food initiatives was agreed with Safefood. An evaluation report on the 15 month development phase of the initiative was completed in 2007 and a three-year development plan was prepared for the period 2008-2010.

### **Mainstreaming Social Inclusion**

In March, an Evaluation of Mainstreaming Social Inclusion across Europe, led by Combat Poverty in partnership with nine other EU States, was launched in Brussels. The evaluation was based on a survey undertaken in nine European countries among policy makers and administrators at central, regional and local levels of Government; social partners; and representatives of anti-poverty NGOs. It found that Ireland is one of the better performing countries in Europe when it comes to integrating poverty and social inclusion objectives into Government policies, and that it is quite advanced in terms of the structures it has established to deliver social inclusion. However, it also established that there is a disconnect between local and national administrators in terms of understanding of each others' policies and of the need for better integration of policy-making across all levels of Government. The need to support people experiencing poverty to contribute to policy making was also highlighted.

### **Study on Ageing & Older People**

The Health Promotion Unit of NUI Galway carried out a study on behalf of Combat Poverty and the National Council for Ageing and Older People on *The Quality of Life of Older People reliant on the State Pension*. The study, which has not yet been published, aims to identify and explore non-monetary factors affecting the quality of life of older people living on a low income and to analyse the effectiveness of existing policy from the perspective of older people.

### **Financial Exclusion**

Following the publication of *Financial Exclusion in Ireland in 2006*, we continued to engage with a range of stakeholders in relation to the issue of financial exclusion. We joined the National Advisory Group of the National Payments



Implementation Programme and engaged extensively with key governmental and financial institutions to highlight the issues and advance solutions. Under Combat Poverty's Poverty Research Initiative, we also funded the first conference on financial exclusion in Ireland in University College Cork (UCC).

During the year, we were invited to participate in two European commission funded studies relating to this area of our work:

» **Financial Services Provision and Prevention of Financial Exclusion**

Combat Poverty was a partner on an EU funded project looking at best practice approaches to tackling financial exclusion across Europe. In this context, we completed two country reports on financial services provision and prevention of financial exclusion and a working paper on alternative financial providers.

» **Towards a Common Operational European Definition of Over-indebtedness**

Combat Poverty prepared a country report for a study on a common operational European definition of over-indebtedness.

**Poverty Research Initiative**

Combat Poverty's *Poverty Research Initiative* supports independent, policy-relevant research, with the twin aims of promoting public understanding of poverty and informing the development of policies to tackle poverty. There are three components to the initiative: research awards, research fellowships and research internships.

**Research Awards**

Final reports were received on eight funded studies in 2007, three of which have been published on our website. The rest are being processed for publication as research working papers. Eleven new awards were made in 2007.

**Research Fellowships**

» **Visiting Research Fellowship at the Policy Institute, TCD**

One award was made to Jürgen de Wispelaere in 2007. His fellowship commenced towards the end of 2007 for six months on *The Prospects for the Development of Asset-Based Welfare Reform in Ireland*.

### » PhD Fellowships

In 2007 award holder Delma Byrne, University of Edinburgh (now Postdoctoral Research Fellow, ESRI), completed her PhD on *Tackling Youth Unemployment and Marginalisation: The Case of Work Experience Acquired before Leaving School*. A research seminar on her thesis will take place in 2008 and a Combat Poverty research working paper will be prepared from her work. Three other fellows continue to make progress on their studies: Chris McNerney (UL) is currently completing his study: *Evolving Local Government and Social Partnership – Enhancing Social Inclusion?*; Philip Hayes (NUIG) is studying *A Comparative Study of Housing Benefits in Europe and the impact of Housing Benefit Policy Reform in Ireland* and Allison Dunne (European University Institute) is studying *The Role of Ability Grouping in Educational Disadvantage*. One new award for a one-year fellowship was made in 2007 to Fionnuala Ní Mhórdha, who is studying *Determinants of GP Utilisation Rates and Accessibility: The Role of Place* at National University of Ireland, Maynooth. Rory Hearne (TCD) was awarded a one-year fellowship in 2006 for his study: *Poverty Proofing Public Private Partnerships in Public Service Delivery*, which he deferred until 2007. Allison Dunne, Rory Hearne and Fionnuala Ní Mhórdha will present in-house seminars to Combat Poverty in 2008.

### » Civil Society Research Scholarship, UCD

Two awards were made in 2007: Peter Dorman, CAN, is undertaking *An Examination of CAN's Contribution to Community Development through its work on Health and Regeneration*. Margaret Crean, Kilbarrack CDP will start her scholarship in January 2008 on the topic of 'An examination of cultural learning circles as an alternative mechanism to address class inequality and poverty'.

### Research Internships

Two post-graduate internships were awarded in 2007: Patricia Keilthy (TCD), who worked on a scoping study on addiction and poverty, and Jo-hanna Ivers (St. Patrick's College, DCU), who worked on a study of school book schemes. Paul Rocks completed a research internship on low income working households – an analysis of EU-SILC data. Martina Prunty's work on older people in poverty in Ireland was published as a research working paper. Martina was the 2006 research intern.

## Research Promotion Events

Three research promotion events were funded in 2007. This was the first year of this award strand. Mary Immaculate College held a colloquium on educational disadvantage in Limerick on 19 June. UCC held a conference on financial inclusion and over-indebtedness in Cork on 16 October. OPEN and Threshold held a training event / conference on better housing solutions for one-parent families in Tullamore on 20 November. This event was organised in association with the RAS section of the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government.

## Communications & Public Education

The elimination of poverty will deliver economic and social benefits not only for those on the lowest incomes, but for all of society. However, while many people see the symptoms of poverty in society, such as early school leaving, long-term unemployment or health inequalities, many regard these issues as the result of individual failures rather than structural inequalities. Combat Poverty seeks to enhance public understanding of the structural factors that perpetuate poverty, and the social and economic benefits that accrue from eliminating poverty, through an integrated public communications programme. This incorporates media relations, policy liaison, conferences, seminars, library and information services, educational programmes, resources, materials, publications, web services, email bulletins and a quarterly magazine, *Action on Poverty Today*.

The Communications Advisory Team met twice during the year to oversee the implementation of the communications strategy and to monitor progress on a number of programmes, including:

### Schools Programme

#### » Combat Poverty Transition Unit

Transition Units are a new feature of the senior cycle school curriculum that seek to develop key skills across a range of study areas. In 2007, Combat Poverty commissioned two teachers, Fiona Richardson and Jeanne Barrett, to develop a new Transition Unit on Poverty in Ireland. Entitled: *A Level Playing Pitch?*, it aims to develop learners' understanding of the causes of poverty and encourage them to interact with organisations that have an anti-poverty focus. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment has validated *A Level Playing Pitch?* and it is now available on their website as a sample unit for schools to use or adapt.



### » Training for Trainers

In conjunction with the Civic Social and Political Education (CSPE) Support Service, Combat Poverty developed and delivered a comprehensive training programme for regional development officers providing in-service training to CSPE teachers. The course aimed to equip trainers and teachers to tackle controversial issues in the classroom, and in particular, the issue of poverty. During 2008, the trainers who took part in the course will be delivering training modules to CSPE teachers on this subject.

### » Young Social Innovators

Combat Poverty continued as a Gold Partner of the *Young Social Innovators* (YSI) programme in 2007. This is a national initiative which encourages students to identify social issues and make innovative suggestions for change. Combat Poverty sponsors an award for the YSI challenge *Making Our Country Poverty Free*. Since we became involved almost five years ago, the event has almost trebled in size with nearly 5,000 students taking part in 2007, drawn from 185 schools and Youthreach centres.

### » Networking

Combat Poverty is a member of the Citizens' Education Network which brings together organisations working in the field of citizenship education to exchange information and discuss developments.

## Public Awareness

### » UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Funding of €23,000 was allocated among six organisations to organise local or national activities to promote awareness of the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October. The groups funded were: Information & Support Unit for New Communities, Waterford; OPEN; Roscommon Women's Network CDP; Dundalk FM; ATD Fourth World; and South West Wexford Community Development Group. The initiatives organised by the groups included a radio play, a theatre production, a photographic exhibition, an information pack on lone parents and an inter-cultural quilt project.

### » Action on Poverty Today

In March 2007, we updated the format of our quarterly magazine *Action on Poverty Today* to include a stronger emphasis on highlighting policy lessons from Ireland and overseas. The magazine was circulated to over 6,000 readers and website downloads reached 400 per issue in 2007.

» **Combatting Poverty 20 Years On**

Combat Poverty’s 20th Anniversary year provided a platform to engage with the public and raise their understanding of poverty in Irish society today, and the progress that has been made in tackling poverty over the past decade.

A major exhibition illustrating the poverty challenges faced by Irish society over the past 20 years and the range of initiatives taken to address these challenges, was launched in Dublin Civic Offices by Fr. Peter McVerry S.J. in May. The exhibition sought to promote public understanding of the groups affected by poverty, the structural barriers preventing people from escaping poverty and the responses within communities and by Government to address poverty. Issues covered included income adequacy, educational disadvantage, health inequalities, financial exclusion and child poverty.

Following the launch in Dublin, the exhibition was offered on loan to local authorities, partnerships, universities and other interested bodies. It was displayed in a number of venues across Ireland including Monaghan, Wexford, Dun Laoghaire, Waterford, Maynooth and Roscommon.

» ***Silent People and Other Stories***

To engage the public on matters relating to poverty, a human perspective is often required. To this end, we commissioned journalist Susan McKay and photographer Derek Speirs to capture the stories and images of a range of people living in poverty in 21st Century Ireland. *Silent People and Other Stories* was launched in December at the *Having Your Say* conference and provides a rare insight into the day-to-day lives of people who have not shared in the prosperity generated by Ireland’s economic boom. It was widely circulated in hard copy and is also available to download from the Combat Poverty website. A second print run was undertaken to meet the high demand.

**Conferences & Seminars**

Conferences and seminars are an important platform for Combat Poverty in terms of facilitating policy discussions and engaging with policy makers. There were three national conferences held in 2007, all of which were over subscribed:

- » **Community Participation in Primary Care (210 registered delegates)**
- » **Having Your Say: Participation in Policy - Making it Work (174 registered delegates)**
- » **Welfare Policy and Poverty (146 registered delegates)**

We also hosted sixteen research seminars throughout

the year, targeting policy makers, researchers and anti-poverty interests. These seminars were consistently well attended, with attendance figures of 20 – 30 attendees per event. A full list of the research seminars held in 2007 is listed in Appendix 5.

### **Website**

Our website, [www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie), continued to act as a key communications channel and information source, attracting 42,231 unique visitors over the period May to December 2007<sup>15</sup>. In the first half of the year, we undertook a number of projects to improve the functionality of the site, most notably the introduction of a new Publications section where Combat Poverty research, resources and other publications can be downloaded or purchased on line.

In the last quarter of the year, we commissioned an evaluation of user experiences of the website to determine how we could better serve the needs of both existing and potential site visitors. Recommendations arising from the evaluation will be implemented in 2008.

### **Providing Evidence-Based Policy Advice**

The provision of evidence-based policy advice is at the core of our work. Our policy advice is underpinned by research and lessons drawn from innovative projects, and promoted through our communications programme. Our policy programme during 2007 comprised the following activities:

#### **Policy Liaison Programme**

A comprehensive policy liaison programme was undertaken in 2007 to communicate research findings, project lessons and policy advice to key stakeholders. This involved maintaining regular contact with Ministers, politicians, officials in Government departments, staff and elected representatives at local government level. The policy liaison programme included one to one meetings, presentations to Joint Oireachtas Committees, participation in working groups and the establishment of collaborative projects.

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<sup>15</sup> There were 64,719 visitors to the website over the period May to December 2007, 42,719 of which were unique visitors. Source: Google Analytics.

## Policy Statements and Submissions

Policy statements set out key findings and recommendations relating to specific topics covered in our work programme. During 2007, the following policy statements were published :

- » **Health Policy Statement**
- » **Linking Local and National Structures: Tackling Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion**
- » **Mainstreaming Poverty and Social Exclusion: pre-budget submission 2008 (Submission to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs on Budget 2008).**

In addition, the following submissions were made by Combat Poverty in response to external consultations:

- » **Submission to the HSE and the Department of Health and Children on A Strategy for Service User and Community Involvement with the HSE**
- » **Submission to the HSE on a National Intercultural Health Strategy.**
- » **Submission to the Commission for Energy Regulation on the consultation paper on Demand-side Management and Smart Metering**
- » **Submission to the OECD Review of the Irish Public Service**
- » **Submission to the Department of Education and Science and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government on a National Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development**
- » **Submission to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on Community Development and Disadvantage and on the Community Development Programme 2007-2013**
- » **Submission on behalf of Border Action to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on Community Development and Peace-Building and on the Community Development Programme 2007-2013**
- » **Submission to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the challenges for local government in relation to social inclusion.**



## Advisory Groups

Combat Poverty participated on the following advisory groups in 2007:

- » **Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group, convened by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government**
- » **National Payments Implementation Programme National Advisory Group, convened by the Department of An Taoiseach**
- » **Technical Advisory Group convened by the Office for Social Inclusion**
- » **Consultative Panel of Community Development Programme, convened by Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs**
- » **Selection panel for new Family Resource Centres, convened by Family Support Agency**
- » **Selection panel for the new Local Authority Social Inclusion Units convened by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government**
- » **National Development Plan (NDP) 2007 – 2013: Border Midlands and West (BMW) and South and East (S&E) Monitoring Committees**
- » **Monitoring Committee of the NDP Rural Development Strategy 2007 - 2013**

## Strengthening Organisational Effectiveness and Efficiency

During the year, we continued to optimise our financial, human and material resources through open, consultative work practices and the provision of effective support structures, including IT and communications structures.

### Human Resources and Staff Development

2007 was a very active year in terms of staff changes, including a number of internal changes driven by short term assignments and career breaks. The Review of Combat Poverty announced by the Government in June led to new constraints on filling vacancies as they arose in core permanent posts, including the post of Director which became vacant in July. Pending the outcome of the Review, Kevin O'Kelly was appointed Acting Director with effect from August.

The Review also delayed progress in relation to a number of

staffing proposals arising from the 2006 Resource Review.

A review of Work Share and Varied Attendance arrangements was completed and presented to the Resource Management Committee of the Board in August. The Committee adopted a number of procedures to ensure that organisational capacity is maintained in the facilitation of future work share and varied attendance arrangements.

### **Training & Development**

A comprehensive Development and Training Programme was completed during 2007. All new staff received induction and performance management and development training. Total expenditure on training in 2007 was just over 4.6 per cent of payroll.

### **IT Systems**

An online ordering service for publications was launched and the range of information material accessible for free downloading from our website was extended. Further developments to the IT systems were undertaken to improve organisational effectiveness and efficiency, with further enhancement to electronic and paper records management planned for the coming year.

### **Financial management**

The 2006 financial statements were prepared and then submitted, along with the Annual Report for 2006, to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in June. The Financial Statements were later audited by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Financial records were maintained in respect of all staff and consultants during the year and statutory tax records were supplied as part of ongoing financial and employment procedures.

The financial records included all transactions carried out for that section of the Peace II, Peace II Extension and Interreg IIIA Programmes for which Combat Poverty is liable as part of the joint management agreement with Pobal.

A new Management Information System was developed and introduced as a key output from the findings of the Resource Review completed by Deloitte in 2006. This strengthened the efficiency of budget management processes and has enhanced the timeliness of financial information flows across the organisation.

## Quality Customer Services

Combat Poverty's *Customer Service Action Plan* was reviewed and updated in 2007 with several new actions and targets introduced. Our *Customer Charter* was also updated. A new *Acceptable Use Policy* in respect of email and the internet was developed and agreed with staff. This was introduced in April 2007.

## Accessibility

Progress continued during 2007 in relation to Combat Poverty's participation in the *Excellence Through Accessibility* Scheme organised by the National Disability Authority. The main actions included a follow-up work programme relating to audits carried out on customer services, information technology and the physical environment. Initiatives undertaken included a range of consultations on accessibility with external organisations and service users.

## Governance

During the year, we continued to maintain high standards of compliance in respect of financial procedures and records for tax clearance, gathering and payments, as well as complying with tendering and procurement guidelines and procedures. Under the commitments and obligations laid out in the *Towards 2016* social partnership agreement, Combat Poverty's *Modernisation Action Plan* was updated and monitored by the Partnership Committee, which met four times during the year. Satisfactory progress on the agreed actions was subsequently verified by the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

We continued to comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Board members continued to provide strategic input to the operations of the Agency through a number of Board sub-committees (consisting only of Board members) and advisory committees (consisting of Board members, Combat Poverty staff, and, in certain cases, external experts). Board members were also represented on two Peace Programme committees along with staff from Combat Poverty, Pobal and Border Action and representatives from associated organisations involved in the Peace Programmes.

The Audit Committee undertook an active programme of work during 2007, meeting five times in all. The Committee met with the management of Border Action where it focused on its governance role, on behalf of Combat Poverty, in respect of the expenditure of Border Action. The Committee also actively reviewed the internal audit function and work

programme and convened a Risk Management workshop jointly with senior managers which took place in June. Under internal audit procedures, an updated review of internal financial controls and a value for money review of the use of external consultants commenced in December 2007.

In 2007, the following committees were in place:

**Board Sub-Committees**

- » **Resource Management Committee**
- » **Audit Committee**
- » **Tax and Welfare Committee**

**Advisory Committees**

- » **Research Advisory Committee**
- » **Health Advisory Committee**
- » **Having Your Say Advisory Committee**
- » **Communications Advisory Team**

**Border Action Management Committees  
(including Combat Poverty representation)**

- » **Joint Management Committee (Peace / Interreg Programmes)**
- » **Consortium Management Committee  
(Cross Border Peace Programme)**
- » **Interreg Community Partnership Committee**
- » **Research Committee**

**Health and Safety**

Under the guidance of the Healthy and Safety Committee, Combat Poverty management and staff continued to fulfill their obligations under health and safety at work legislation.

**Combat Poverty Board**

There were a number of changes in the composition of the Board in 2007. Brian Duncan, the outgoing Chairperson, was re-appointed in March for a further five-year term. Seamus McAleavey and Callista Bennis both stepped down from the Board following the completion of their terms in office. Helen Johnston left the Board following her resignation as Director of Combat Poverty, as did Barbara Walshe who stepped down as the staff Board representative following



her resignation from Combat Poverty. There were two new appointments to the Board; Peter McKevitt and Catherine Hazlett. Catherine replaced Orlaigh Quinn as the Board representative from the Department of Social and Family Affairs. Three vacancies remained to be filled at year end.

The Board met eight times in 2007. In September, the Board meeting was held in Roscommon, where Board Members visited a number of local anti-poverty projects and were briefed on their work.

## **Reviews**

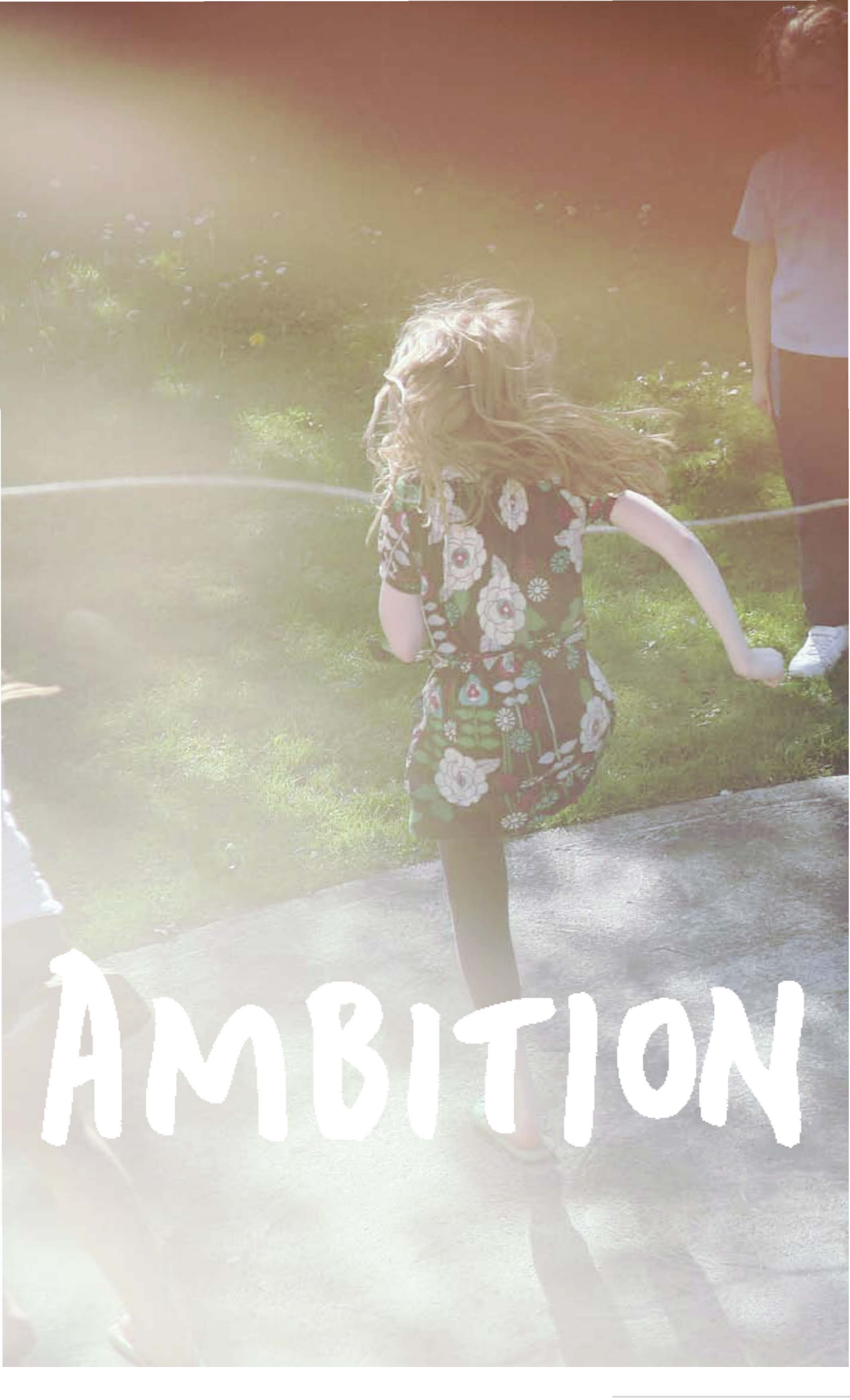
During the year, the Government announced its decision to undertake a review of the role of the Combat Poverty Agency. This is being undertaken as part of the Value for Money and Policy Review Initiative 2006 – 2008 of the Department of Social and Family Affairs. This review is timely, given the significant changes that have taken place since the last review of the Agency in 1996. The review is being conducted under the auspices of the Office for Social Inclusion, Department of Family and Social Affairs, and a Steering Committee comprising representatives from a range of Government departments has been established. Kevin O’Kelly, Acting Director of Combat Poverty was nominated by the Board to be a member of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee held its first meeting in December.

The Resource Management Committee of the Board met in special session in August to consider the implications of the Review on strategic planning and organisational capacity, including restrictions placed on filling core permanent posts which become vacant.

Preparatory work for the 3-year Strategic Plan for 2008 – 2010 was advanced considerably during the year. The new Plan will be submitted to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs by 30 June 2008.

In the meantime, a paper setting out the proposed strategic direction for Combat Poverty was prepared and approved by the Board. This draws on a number of reviews and meetings undertaken during the year, including a review of the 2005 – 7 Strategic Plan carried out by Eustace Patterson Limited.

Two other reviews undertaken in line with a commitment in *Towards 2016* were ongoing during the year.



AMBITION

## Appendices



**Appendix 1 –  
Board, Sub-Committees and Staff**



Participation on various Board Sub-Committees and related activity is outlined in this section of the report.

Member Attendance (meetings held)	Number of meetings attended	Number of meetings eligible to attend (8)
B Duncan	8	8
C Bennis <sup>17</sup>	0	4
A Gavin	6	8
M Gorman	8	8
H Johnston <sup>18</sup>	4	4
K King	8	8
T Lane	8	8
J Loughran	8	8
S McAleavey <sup>19</sup>	2	5
B Mahon	5	8
J Monaghan	8	8
T O’Callaghan	8	8
O Quinn <sup>20</sup>	3	4
E Russell	8	8
B Walshe	8	8
P McKevitt <sup>21</sup>	7	7
C Hazlett <sup>22</sup>	2	2

Fees and Expenses

Fees payable to Board members are set by the Department of Finance and are currently €10,500 for the Chairperson and €7,000 for individual members<sup>22</sup>. Expenses are paid in accordance with Civil Service regulations on Travel and Subsistence.

Board Sub-Committees (as at 31 December 2007)

In addition to attending Board meetings, members continued to play an active role on sub-committees and advisory committees.

16 Term of office ended 31 May 2007  
17 Resigned as Director 30 June 2007  
18 Term of office ended 1 September 2007  
19 Term of office ended 14 June 2007  
20 Appointed 26 February 2007  
21 Appointed 9 October 2007  
22 The Minister’s Appointee from the Department of Social & Family Affairs does not receive a fee.

**Resource Management Committee (incorporating  
Decentralisation Committee)**

Brian Duncan, Anthony Gavin, Peter McKeivitt, Callista Bennis, Kevin O’Kelly, Barbara Walshe, Catherine Hazlett

**Audit Committee**

Anthony Gavin, John Loughran, Eugene Russell

**Tax and Welfare Committee**

Tony Lane, Maria Gorman, John Monaghan

**Health Advisory Committee**

Maria Gorman, Peter McKeivitt

**Research Advisory Committee**

John Monaghan, Catherine Hazlett

**Communications Advisory Committee**

Tony O’Callaghan

***Having Your Say* Advisory Committee**

Kitty King, Barbara Walshe

**Border Action Joint Management Committee**

Brian Duncan, Kevin O’Kelly, Tony O’Callaghan

**Border Action Cross Border Management Committee**

Brian Duncan, Kevin O’Kelly, Tony O’Callaghan

**Combat Poverty Agency Staff  
(as at 31 December 2007)**

Acting Director	Kevin P O’Kelly
<b>Organisational Management &amp; Development</b>	
Seán Mistéil	Head of Organisational Management & Development
Eileen Scanlon <sup>1</sup>	HR Manager
Maria O’Neill <sup>1</sup>	Finance Manager
Ann Riordan <sup>2</sup>	Corporate Services Executive
Siobhan Commins	Finance Administrator
Nadine Cooney	Clerical Officer
Elaine Hynes	Receptionist / Customer Services Assistant
Anne Hallinan <sup>2</sup>	Temporary Administrative Assistant

**Projects**

Barbara Walshe	Head of Projects
Joan O’Flynn <sup>2</sup>	Programme Manager
Julie Smyth <sup>2</sup>	Programme Manager
Elaine Houlihan	Projects Officer
Michelle Griffin	Projects Officer
Louise Beirne	Projects Officer
Niamh Kelly	Executive Officer
Aideen Elliott	Clerical Officer
Barry Cullen	Temp Researcher / SPEAK Programme

**Research**

Kasey Treadwell Shine	Head of Research
Jim Walsh	Policy Analyst
Caroline Corr	Research Officer
Martina Prunty	Acting Research Officer
Joanne Mulholland	Research Administrator
Vacant	Temporary Research Officer

**Communications & Public Affairs**

Bevin Cody	Head of Communications and Public Affairs
Sharon Keane	Policy Liaison Officer
Margaret O’Gorman <sup>2</sup>	Communications Officer
Paula McGovern <sup>2</sup>	Communications Officer
Jean Cassidy	Library and Information Officer
Elaine Byrne	Executive Officer
Nadine Cooney <sup>3</sup>	Clerical Officer
Grace Kennedy	Clerical Officer

<sup>1</sup> Part time  
<sup>2</sup> Work share  
<sup>3</sup> Shared with OMD Section

## Appendix 2 – Projects Funded by the Combat Poverty Agency

### Anti-poverty initiatives

#### Public Awareness Funding for the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Information & Support Unit for New Communities, Waterford	€2,947.68
OPEN, Dublin	€4,000.00
Roscommon Women’s Network CDP	€5,000.00
Dundalk FM	€2,750.00
ATD Fourth World	€5,000.00
South West Wexford Community Development Group	€5,000.00
	<b>€24,697.68</b>

#### Building Healthy Communities

Schizophrenia Ireland <sup>†</sup>	€30,000
Community Action Network	€29,320
Cairde <sup>†</sup>	€33,500
Galway Traveller Movement	€29,580
Galway Refugee Support Group <sup>†</sup>	€29,523
One Parent Exchange and Network	€26,500
Fatima Groups United	€31,000
Irish Deaf Society	€31,370
West Offaly Integrated Development Partnership <sup>‡</sup>	€32,500
Special Project on Long Term Unemployed	€29,500

<sup>†</sup> Funded by the HSE

<sup>‡</sup> Funding of €25,000 provided by the Department of Health and Children



# Support for Research on Poverty and Policy

## Flagship Research Projects Awards (paid in 2007)

Awarded 2007		
<i>Child Poverty: New Measures, Comparisons and Policy Implications</i> The Geary Institute, University College Dublin		€26,617.00
<i>Progress and Problems in Social Housing Estates: A Ten-Year Follow-Up Study</i> School of Applied Social Science, University College Dublin		€13,400.00
<i>A Comparative Study of Policies to Tackle and Prevent Poverty and Social Exclusion among Children</i> Department of Applied Social Studies, National University of Ireland, Maynooth		€26,050.00
<i>Where Next? Mapping and Understanding the Post-First Degree Destinations of Mature Disadvantaged Students in Three Higher Education Institutions</i> Department of Adult & Community Education, National University of Ireland, Maynooth		€12,500.00
Awarded 2006		
<i>A Profile of One-Parent Families Dependent on Social Welfare</i> One Family		€13,300.00
Awarded 2005		
<i>From Difference to Disadvantage 'Talking Posh' Sociolinguistic Perspectives on the Context of Schooling in Ireland</i> Mary Immaculate College, Limerick		€11,000.00
<i>Poverty, Social Exclusion and Holidaying: Towards Developing Policy in Ireland</i> Department of Tourism, Dublin Institute of Technology		€10,000.00
Awarded 2002		
<i>Empowering Communities in Disadvantaged Urban Areas: Towards Greater Community Participation in Irish Urban Planning?</i> Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Trinity College Dublin		€4,996.00

Specialist Research Projects Awards (paid in 2007)

Awarded 2007	
Identifying the Needs of Lone Parents from Ethnic Minority Communities OPEN	€12,520.00
To Develop a Model of Pension Policy in Ireland that Advances the Elimination of Poverty of Older People and Advances Women's Equality Objectives National Women's Council of Ireland	€13,334.00
Poor and Alone: The Living Alone Allowance as a Policy Response to Tackling Poverty Age Action	€6,368.00
An Asset Based Approach to Skills Banking within Respond! Communities Respond! Housing Association	€6,667.00
Rethinking Child Poverty and Social Exclusion Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin	€0.00 <sup>24</sup>
Poverty amongst Migrants in the Private Rented Sector Threshold	€0.00 <sup>25</sup>

Awarded 2006	
Direct Provision and the Habitual Residence Condition in the Context of Government Policies and of National and International Law Free Legal Advice Centre	€6,667.00
Private Sector Involvement in Regenerating Social Housing Estates: Worthwhile and Workable? School of Applied Social Science, University College Dublin	€6,667.00

23 Children Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin awarded funding in 2007. Awaiting return of signed letter of offer.

24 Threshold awarded funding in 2007. Clarification on proposal sought. Letter of offer to issue January 2008.

Visiting Research Fellowship at the Policy Institute,  
Trinity College Dublin (paid in 2007)

Awarded 2006	
<i>Stakeholders in the Celtic Tiger: Examining the Prospects for Asset-based Welfare in Ireland</i> Trinity College Dublin. Fellowship awarded to: Jürgen de Wispelaere	€12,998.75

Phd Fellowships (paid in 2007)

Awarded 2007	
<i>Determinants of GP Utilisation Rates and Accessibility: The Role of Place</i> Fionnuala Ní Mhórdha, Department of Geography, National University of Ireland, Maynooth	€15,000.00 + €4,616.00 fees

Awarded 2006	
<i>Poverty Proofing Public Private Partnerships in Public Service Delivery</i> Rory Hearne, Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin	€15,000.00 + €2,724.00 fees <sup>26</sup>
<i>The Role of Ability Grouping in Educational Disadvantage</i> Allison Dunne, Department of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute	€15,000.00 <sup>27</sup>

Awarded 2005	
<i>A Comparative Study of Housing Benefits in Europe and the Impact of Housing Benefit Policy Reform in Ireland</i> Philip Hayes, Department of Economics, National University of Ireland Galway	€15,000.00 + €4,700.00 fees

Awarded 2004	
<i>Evolving Local Governance and Social Partnership – Enhancing Social Inclusion?</i> Chris McNerney, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Limerick	€1,971.00 fees <sup>28</sup>

25 PhD Fellowship awarded in 2006 but deferred until academic years 2007/'08  
26 50% PhD Fellowship awarded to Allison Dunne. Payment relates to academic years 2006/'07 and 2007/'08  
27 Payment relates to academic year 2006/'07

Civil Society Research Scholarship at University College Dublin (paid in 2007)

Awarded 2007

<i>An Examination of CAN's Contribution to Community Development through its work on Health and Regeneration</i>		
Community Action Network (CAN).		
Scholarship awarded to: Peter Dorman		€10,000.00
<i>An Examination of Cultural Learning Circles as an Alternative Mechanism to Address Class Inequality and Poverty</i>		
Kilbarrack Community Development Project.		
Scholarship awarded to: Margaret Crean		€0.00 <sup>29</sup>

Research Promotion Events (paid in 2007)

Awarded 2007

<i>Why Not Me? Keys to Success from 10 Years Learning</i>		
Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. Educational Disadvantage Colloquium in Limerick on 19 June, 2007.		€10,000.00
<i>Issues in Financial Exclusion and Over-indebtedness in Ireland: Current and Recent Research</i>		
Centre for Co-operative Studies, University College Cork. Held in Cork on 16 October, 2007.		€4,958.61 <sup>30</sup>
<i>OPEN Door? - Towards Better Housing Solutions for One Parent Families</i>		
OPEN and Threshold. Held in Tullamore on 20 November, 2007.		€10,000.00

28 €10,000 to be paid in 2008. Margaret begins her scholarship in January 2008.  
29 €3,123.41 paid to the Centre for Co-operative Studies, UCC. €1,835.20 paid to speakers.

## Appendix 3 – EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation Grants paid in 2007

Combat Poverty and Pobal, through Border Action, jointly implement measures of the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation and Measures of the Interreg IIIA Programme in the border region of Ireland and on a cross border basis.

Border Action reports to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), the Management Authority for the Peace II Programme and one of the North/South Implementation Bodies set up under the Good Friday Agreement.

The payments listed below were made by the Special EU Programme Body through its Central Payments Unit.

In 2007, grants were paid under the following measures:

- Measure 1.5                      Positive Action for Women**
- Measure 2.1                      Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace**
- Measure 2.4c/2.4              Pathways to Inclusion, Integration and Reconciliation of Victims**
- Measure 2.6                      Promoting Active Citizenship**
- Measure 2.7                      Developing Weak Community Infrastructure**
- Measure 5.3                      Developing Cross-Border Reconciliation and Understanding**

For details of projects funded under other measures, please refer to the Annual Reports of Pobal and Border Action.

### Measure 1.5 – Positive Action for Women

Promoter/Applicant Name	Total Paid	Total Paid	ROI Element	NI Element
	STG	€	€	€
Workers' Educational Association		€15,531.19	€15,531.19	
North Leitrim Women's Centre		€1,944.27	€1,944.27	
FÁS		-€40,362.50	-€40,362.50	
Sligo County Enterprise Board Ltd.		€45,998.68	€45,998.68	
Workers' Educational Association		€368,404.18	€368,404.18	
North Leitrim Women's Centre CDP		€19,599.05	€19,599.05	
South West College		€61,729.97	€61,729.97	
Donegal County Enterprise Board		€42,384.33	€42,384.33	
		€515,229.17	€515,229.17	€0.00



Measure 2.1 Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace

Promoter/Applicant Name	Total Paid	Total Paid	ROI Element	NI Element
	STG	€	€	€
CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit		€74,974.95	€74,974.95	
Sligo County Council/Sligo Connections		-€35,842.64	-€35,842.64	
Ireland (National University of Ireland, Galway)		€53,191.66	€53,191.66	
County Monaghan Community Network Ltd		€193,522.53	€193,522.53	
Donegal Travellers Project		€89,656.91	€89,656.91	
Curriculum Development Unit		€124,256.92	€124,256.92	
Manorcunningham Community Development Association		€65,784.12	€65,784.12	
Raphoe Economic Development Group Ltd		€99,918.48	€99,918.48	
Letterkenny Women's Centre		€121,907.30	€121,907.30	
Drogheda Community Forum Peace Initiatives		€102,027.25	€102,027.25	
White Oaks Housing Association Ltd		€98,724.15	€98,724.15	
National University Ireland Galway		€189,643.28	€189,643.28	
Organisation for Ex-servicemen and Women Teoranta (ONET)		€10,637.64	€10,637.64	
Donegal County Council		€4,268.13	€4,268.13	
Worker's Educational Association		€84,687.13	€84,687.13	
Inch Island Community Association		€61,018.70	€61,018.70	
Dundalk Institute of Technology		€91,159.10	€91,159.10	
		€1,429,535.61	€1,429,535.61	€0.00

Measure 2.4C / 2.4 Pathway to Inclusion, Integration & Reconciliation of Victims

Promoter/Applicant Name	Total Paid	Total Paid	ROI Element	NI Element
	STG	€	€	€
Drogheda Women's Refuge and Children's Centre Ltd		-€8,930.58	-€8,930.58	
Fáilte Chluain Eois		€716.06	€716.06	
Iar Cimi Liatroma Teo		€18,663.75	€18,663.75	
Triskele Community Training & Development		-€702.34	-€702.34	
Inch Island Community Assoc.		€627.54	€627.54	
Kilnaleck & District Community Co-op Society Ltd		€17,211.31	€17,211.31	
Oideas na mcBan Teoranta		€4,211.41	€4,211.41	
GROW		€83,318.99	€83,318.99	
Tus Nua Sligeach		€90,849.89	€90,849.89	
Cavan Family Resource Centre		€129,591.28	€129,591.28	
Expac		€113,756.97	€113,756.97	
Iar Cimi Liatroma Teo		€157,245.88	€157,245.88	
Fáilte Chluain Eois		€125,215.12	€125,215.12	
Abhaile Aris Teo		€244,710.74	€244,710.74	
Fáilte Abhaile		€227,073.33	€227,073.33	
Expac Ltd		€22,228.14	€22,228.14	
Mullaghmart Cortolvin Community Development		€48,400.32	€48,400.32	
Migrant Rights Centre Ireland		€71,510.18	€71,510.18	
		€1,345,697.99	€1,345,697.99	€0.00

Measure 2.6 Promoting Active Citizenship

Promoter/Applicant Name	Total Paid	Total Paid	ROI Element	NI Element
	STG	€	€	€
Louth Youth Federation		-€1,306.48	-€1,306.48	
Sligo County Council		-€3,336.41	-€3,336.41	
		-€4,642.89	-€4,642.89	€0.00

Measure 2.7 Developing Weak Community Infrastructure

Promoter/Applicant Name	Total Paid	Total Paid	ROI Element	NI Element
	STG	€	€	€
Killeshandra Community Council		-€10,484.85	-€10,484.85	
Cathedral Hall Management Committee		€12,843.67	€12,843.67	
Cashelard Community Development Association		€23,422.50	€23,422.50	
Moville Community Complex Dev Co Ltd		€48,000.00	€48,000.00	
Drumsna Development Association Ltd.		€12,501.98	€12,501.98	
Assoc. for the Development of Pettigo & Tullyhommon		€123,981.31	€123,981.31	
Community Workers Co-operative - Donegal Network		€76,962.46	€76,962.46	
Clones Community Forum Ltd		€141,447.38	€141,447.38	
County Monaghan Partnership		€49,764.54	€49,764.54	
Killeshandra Community Council		€91,772.91	€91,772.91	
Donegal Local Development		€57,574.46	€57,574.46	
Cooley Development Association		€20,000.00	€20,000.00	
One Parent Exchange and Network		€73,465.12	€73,465.12	
Dunfanaghy Community & Family Resource Ltd		€97,674.71	€97,674.71	
Border Minority Group		€73,135.18	€73,135.18	
County Leitrim Community Forum		€35,731.69	€35,731.69	
Monaghan and Cavan County Development Boards		€30,851.92	€30,851.92	
Tuath c/o Business Development Centre		€76,901.58	€76,901.58	
Quigley's Point Community Centre Ltd.		€42,527.80	€42,527.80	
Cranmore Community Platform		€92,657.77	€92,657.77	
Second Chance Education Project for Women		€72,765.32	€72,765.32	
Cavan County Council (Dept of Comm & Enterprise)		€108,288.72	€108,288.72	
Convoy and District Development Association Ltd		€49,146.93	€49,146.93	
		€1,400,933.10	€1,400,933.10	€0.00

Measure 5.3 Developing Cross-border Reconciliation & Understanding

Promoter/Applicant Name	Total Paid	Total Paid	ROI Element	NI Element
	STG	€	€	€
Lucan Youth Centre Development		-€244.60	-€111.29	-€133.31
Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project		€9,709.47	€4,417.81	€5,291.66
An Teach Bán: Centre for Peace Building		€216,310.41	€121,133.83	€95,176.58
Glencree Centre for Reconciliation		€131,389.59	€73,578.17	€57,811.42
Upstate Theatre Company		€161,691.48	€90,547.23	€71,144.25
Glencree Centre for Reconciliation		€137,987.09	€77,272.77	€60,714.32
Cumann Gaelach Chnoc na Ros Doire		€85,349.97	€47,795.98	€37,553.99
Kiltycashel Cross Border Development Company Ltd.		€131,756.34	€73,783.55	€57,972.79
Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project		€114,485.42	€64,111.84	€50,373.58
Riverstown Enterprise Development ( Sligo) Ltd.		€145,679.49	€81,580.51	€64,098.98
Larne Enterprise Development Company ( LEDCOM)		€28,227.15	€15,807.20	€12,419.95
Co. Monaghan Community Network		€180,793.05	€101,244.11	€79,548.94
Imeall Tra Teo		€48,611.73	€27,222.57	€21,389.16
The Organic Centre		€126,697.84	€70,950.79	€55,747.05
NIPPA - The Early Years Organisation		€116,674.88	€65,337.93	€51,336.95
Donegal YMCA		€89,250.87	€49,980.49	€39,270.38
Boomerang Theatre Company		€192,373.98	€107,729.43	€84,644.55
The Shaylyn Group Ltd		€77,741.74	€43,535.37	€34,206.37
Co-operation Ireland		€176,721.45	€98,964.01	€77,757.44
Inishowen Partnership Company		€123,300.09	€69,048.05	€54,252.04
Omagh College		€42,838.37	€23,989.49	€18,848.88
	£0.00	€2,337,345.81	€1,307,919.84	€1,029,425.97

1. The above payments made under the Cross-border Measure 5.3 comprise both the NI element and ROI element.
2. Payments under all of the above Measures were made by Special EU Programme Body through its Central Payment Unit.

## Appendix 4 – New Publications

### New Publications (as at 31 December 2007)

*2006 Annual Report*, Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin 2007

*A Guide to Influencing the Health Services*, CAN (Community Action Network), Dublin 2007

*Community Development and Health*, Siobhán Lynam, Dublin 2007

*Economics and Poverty - the links*, Mary Murphy and Deirdre Quinlan, Dublin 2007

*Evolution of Health Services and Health Policy in Ireland*, Brian Harvey, Dublin 2007

*Finding Your Way around Poverty, Welfare and Family Policy*, Hilary Curley, Dublin 2007

*Finding Your Way around the Community and Voluntary Sector*, Hilary Curley, Dublin 2007

*Health Policy Statement*, Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin 2007

*Linking Local and National Structures: Policy Statement*, Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin 2007

*Mainstreaming Poverty and Social Inclusion: Pre-Budget Submission 2008*, Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin 2007

*Managing Better 10: Integrating Policy into work planning: Russian*, Siobhán Lynam, Dublin 2007

*Managing Better 10: Intégration des politiques dans le planning de travail*, Siobhán Lynam, Dublin 2007

*Poor Prescriptions: poverty and access to community health services*, Richard Layte, Anne Nolan and Brian Nolan, ESRI, Dublin 2007

*Poor Prescriptions: poverty and access to community health services – summary*, Richard Layte, Anne Nolan and Brian Nolan, ESRI, Dublin 2007

*Silent People and Other Stories*, Susan McKay, photographs by Derek Speirs, Dublin 2007

*Welfare Policy and Poverty*, Mel Cousins (ed), Dublin 2007

*Directory of Community Development Courses*, Combat Poverty Agency, Dublin 2007 (online only)

Appendix 5 – Research Seminars 2007

Title	Date
<i>The Evaluation of Mainstreaming Social Inclusion in Europe</i>  Kevin O’Kelly, MSI Project coordinator and Izabela Litewska, Social Regeneration Senior Officer, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd (Formerly MSI Project Researcher, Combat Poverty Agency)  Study funded under the EU Transnational Exchange Programme	16 January
<i>Open Door? Issues for One Parent Families under the Rental Accommodation Scheme</i>  Bob Jordan, Threshold and Camille Loftus, OPEN  Study funded under the Poverty Research Initiative	23 January
<i>Enhancing the Quality of Life of Older People in Poverty with particular reference to those living alone</i>  Dr Margaret Hodgins and Ms Verna McKenna, Health Promotion Research Centre, National University of Ireland, Galway  Joint study commissioned by National Council on Ageing and Older People and Combat Poverty	30 January
<i>Developing an Emancipatory Model of Labour Market Activation of Social Welfare Claimants</i>  Mary Murphy, Visiting Research Fellow at The Policy Institute, Trinity College Dublin  Study funded under the Poverty Research Initiative	13 February
<i>Analysis of Budget 2007</i>  Jim Walsh, Head of Research and Policy, Combat Poverty Agency	27 February
<i>Feasibility Study on the Development of a Local Poverty Index</i>  Mr. Trutz Haase, Social & Economic Consultant and Dr Ronan Foley, Department of Geography, NUI Maynooth  Study commissioned by Combat Poverty Agency	13 March
<i>Hidden Young Carers in Cork City – An Exploratory Study of the Experiences of Current and Young Carers</i>  Dr Cathal O’Connell and Mr Joe Finnerty, Department of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork  Study funded under the Poverty Research Initiative	28 March
<i>Developing Social Tourism Policy and Practice in Ireland</i>  Dr Bernadette Quinn, Dr Kevin Griffin and Jane Stacey, Dublin Institute of Technology, Tourism Research Centre  Study funded under the Poverty Research Initiative	1 May
<i>From Difference to Disadvantage ‘Talking Posh’: Sociolinguistic Perspectives on the Context of Schooling in Ireland</i>  Dr Áine Cregan, Department of Education, Mary Immaculate College  Study funded under the Poverty Research Initiative	15 May



<div>Title</div>		Date
<div>The Experience of the Civil Debtor in the Legal Process and Experience of Imprisonment</div> <div>Paul Joyce, Free Legal Advice Centre</div> <div>Study funded under the Poverty Research Initiative</div>		23 May
<div>The Cost of a Child</div> <div>Eoghan Garvey, Eithne Murphy and Paul Osiyoka, Department of Economics, National University of Ireland, Galway</div> <div>Study funded under the Poverty Research Initiative</div>		5 June
<div>Setting Minimum Social Standards across Europe</div> <div>Janice Ransom, EU TEP Project &amp; Research Coordinator, EAPN Ireland</div> <div>Study funded under the EU Transnational Exchange Programme</div>		19 June
<div>Ensuring that the Built Environment Enhances Child Well-Being in Social Housing</div> <div>Prof Sheila Greene and Ms Liz Kerrins, Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin</div> <div>Study funded under the Poverty Research Initiative</div>		6 September
<div>Low-Income Working Households – Analysis of EU-SILC Data</div> <div>Paul Rocks, Combat Poverty Agency</div> <div>Quantitative study funded under the Poverty Research Initiative</div>		2 October
<div>NAPS Policy and Process – What Have we Learned?</div> <div>Dr Maura Adshead, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Limerick</div> <div>Study funded under the Poverty Research Initiative</div>		13 November
<div>If Budgeting is the Answer, What is the Question? – An Analysis of Household Over-Indebtedness and Poverty in Ireland and the Implications for Policy</div> <div>Stuart Stamp, Department of Applied Social Studies / NIRSA, National University of Ireland, Maynooth</div> <div>IRCHSS Government of Ireland Scholar</div>		4 December



SECURI



A photograph of a residential street. In the background, there is a two-story house with a brown roof and light-colored walls. A utility pole stands in front of the house. The foreground is a paved road. The text 'TV' is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

# TV

**Financial Statements  
for the year ended  
31 December 2007**

## Statement of Members' Responsibilities

The Combat Poverty Agency was established in 1986 by order of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs made under the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986.

Section 10(1) of the Combat Poverty Act, 1986 requires Combat Poverty to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Social and Family Affairs with the consent of the Minister for Finance, all proper and usual accounts of all monies received or expended by it.

In preparing those financial statements, the Members of the Agency are required to:

- » select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- » make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- » prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Combat Poverty will continue in operation;
- » state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Members of the Agency are responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of Combat Poverty and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 10(1) of the 1986 Act. The Members of the Agency are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of Combat Poverty and hence for taking reasonable steps in relation to the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## Basis of Financial Statements

Combat Poverty Agency in co-operation with Pobal (formerly Area Development Management Ltd. (ADM Ltd.)), have set up a Joint Management Committee to administer the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in the six border counties. The transaction, for which Combat Poverty is liable on the basis of the joint management agreement, on its 'core' operations, are consolidated in these financial statements.



**Brian Duncan: Chairperson**



**Kevin O'Kelly: Acting Director**

Dated: 26 June 2008

## Chairman's Statement on Internal Financial Control

On behalf of the members of the Board of Combat Poverty Agency, I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by Combat Poverty.

The system can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, that transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

### Key Control Procedures

The Board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment is in place by:

- » establishing formal procedures through various committee functions to monitor the activities and safeguard the assets of the organisation;
- » clearly defining and documenting management responsibilities and powers; and
- » developing a strong culture of accountability across all levels of the organisation.

The Board is continuing its practice of:

- » working closely with Government and various agencies and institutions to ensure that there is a clear understanding of Combat Poverty Agency's goals and support for Combat Poverty's strategies to achieve those goals;
- » carrying out regular reviews of strategic plans, both short and long term, and evaluating the risks to bringing those plans to fruition;
- » setting annual and longer term targets for each area of our operations, followed by the regular reporting on the results achieved;
- » establishing and enforcing extensive standard procedures and provisions under which financial assistance may be made available to projects, including compliance with tax, regulatory and reporting procedures; and
- » establishing provisions requiring repayment if the project does not fulfil commitments made by the promoter.

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures, including segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- » regular reviews by the Board of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts;
- » setting targets to measure financial and other performances; and
- » formal project management disciplines.

The Board's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the internal auditor and of the Audit Committee which oversees the work of the internal auditor, the Management Team who carry responsibility for the development and maintenance of the financial control framework, and comments made by the Comptroller and Auditor General in his management letter or other reports.

In 2007, PricewaterhouseCoopers continued as internal auditor and reported directly to the Audit Committee, which undertook an active programme of work and reported regularly to the Board. The Committee finalised with the internal auditor a work plan for the year and regularly monitored and reported on its progress.



Other key controls implemented in 2007 included:

- » participation by the Audit Committee and Senior Management in a Risk Management Workshop led by the internal auditor in June, at which a new Risk Register was agreed.
- » the Board in July receiving and considering an Evaluation of the 2005-2007 Strategic Plan of Combat Poverty, carried out by Eustace Patterson Ltd., then engaging in a number of discussions in preparation for a new Strategic Plan and in December approving in principle a Strategic Direction paper following a wide consultative process involving both Board and Staff;
- » the Board later in 2007 resolving to hold more formal meetings in 2008 to ensure it properly fulfilled its diverse role, following on an earlier review in May of its role in areas relating to governance, policy and strengthening its own knowledge base.

**Annual Review of Controls**

I confirm that the Board, through the Audit Committee, reviewed the effectiveness of the system of financial controls in 2007.



**Brian Duncan: Chairperson**

Dated: 26 June 2008

## Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

I have audited the financial statements of the Combat Poverty Agency for the year ended 31 December 2007 under the Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986.

The financial statements, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the Statement of Accounting Policies, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes.

### Respective Responsibilities of the Board of the Agency and the Comptroller and Auditor General

The Agency is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986, and for ensuring the regularity of transactions. The Agency prepares the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. The accounting responsibilities of the Members of the Agency are set out in the Statement of Members' Responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. I also report whether in my opinion proper books of account have been kept. In addition, I state whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

I report any material instance where moneys have not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions do not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report if I have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of my audit.

I review whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control reflects the Agency's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and report any material instance where it does not do so, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information of which I am aware from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control covers all financial risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the risk and control procedures.

I read other information contained in the Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

**Basis of Audit Opinion**

In the exercise of my function as Comptroller and Auditor General, I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board and by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures and regularity of the financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Agency's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations that I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

**Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the Agency's affairs at 31 December 2007 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Agency. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.



**Gerard Smyth**

For and on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General  
30 June 2008

## Statement of Accounting Policies

### Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared using the accruals method of accounting, except as indicated below, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the historical cost convention. Financial Reporting Standards recommended by the recognised accountancy bodies are adopted as they become operative.

### Going Concern

During the year, the Government decided that a review of the future of the Combat Poverty Agency should be undertaken by the Department of Social and Family Affairs in association with other relevant departments, with a view to making recommendations to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in relation to the future of the Agency and its functions. Having regard to its terms of reference, the review, which has not yet been completed, could have a significant impact on the future of the Agency. In the meantime and pending the completion of the review and its consideration by the Government, the Agency has continued to prepare its financial statements on a going concern basis.

### Oireachtas Grant-in-Aid

The income from this source represents actual cash receipts in the year.

### EU Funding

Funding for the EU Special Programme for Peace and Reconciliation plus Technical Assistance funding to meet the costs of administering the programme is taken to income to match expenditure incurred.

The balances of receipts in excess of expenditure and/or of expenditure in excess of receipts are disclosed as Deferred Income and/or Debtors as appropriate.

### Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty

Expenditure represents payments made by Combat Poverty during the year. Ownership of capital items, purchased by project organisers, is vested in the parties who funded the project on a proportionate basis. The interest of Combat Poverty in such assets is not included in these financial statements.

### Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed Assets are shown at original cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at the following annual rates:

Furniture	12.50%
Equipment	20.00%
Computer Equipment	33.33%

Capital Account

The Capital Account represents the unamortised amount of income allocated for the purchase of fixed assets.

Superannuation

Combat Poverty operates a defined benefit pension scheme which is funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis from monies available to it, including monies provided by the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are refunded to the Department in accordance with Agency financing arrangements. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and is offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains and losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department. Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pensions earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department.



Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2007

	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
<b>Income</b>			
Oireachtas Grant-In-Aid			
Department of Social and Family Affairs [DSFA]		<b>4,008,068</b>	3,688,775
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	1a	<b>911,832</b>	1,201,424
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	10c	<b>476,000</b>	449,000
Refundable Employee Contributions to DSFA	10d	<b>(35,286)</b>	(45,987)
Other Income	1b	<b>230,705</b>	449,025
		<b>5,591,319</b>	5,742,237
Transfer (to)/from Capital Account	6	<b>(9,133)</b>	32,729
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>5,582,186</b>	5,774,966
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty			
Innovative Programmes	2a	<b>865,120</b>	854,520
Communications and Public Affairs		<b>619,225</b>	508,622
Research Promotion, Studies and Policy Analysis		<b>493,317</b>	362,080
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	2b	<b>44,719</b>	41,938
EU Mainstreaming Social Inclusion	2c(i)	<b>28,971</b>	275,192
		<b>2,051,352</b>	2,042,352
Development, Support and Administration Costs			
Salary Costs and Expenses	3	<b>2,276,065</b>	2,343,075
Rent and Other Administration Costs	4	<b>889,499</b>	1,056,673
Pensions Costs	10d	<b>449,714</b>	404,013
Depreciation	5	<b>48,974</b>	55,891
		<b>3,664,252</b>	3,859,652
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>5,715,604</b>	5,902,004
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		<b>(133,418)</b>	(127,038)
Surplus at 1 January		<b>599,314</b>	726,352
Surplus at 31 December		<b>465,896</b>	599,314

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 12 form part of these Financial Statements.



Brian Duncan: Chairperson



Kevin O'Kelly: Acting Director

Dated: 26 June 2008

**Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses**

	2007 €	2006 €
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(133,418)	(127,038)
Experience (Gains)/Losses on Pension Scheme Liabilities	(226,000)	(49,000)
Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding	226,000	49,000
Total Recognised Gain/(Loss) for the Year	(133,418)	(127,038)

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 12 form part of these Financial Statements.



**Brian Duncan: Chairperson**



**Kevin O'Kelly: Acting Director**

Dated: 26 June 2008

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2007

	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Furniture and Equipment	5	82,544	73,411
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors and Prepayments		139,487	138,149
Cash at Bank and on Hand		893,131	1,718,000
		1,032,618	1,856,149
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors and Accruals		148,779	352,337
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation – Technical Assistance	1	417,943	442,961
Deferred Income – EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	1	-	401,537
Deferred Income – HSE		-	60,000
		566,722	1,256,835
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		465,896	599,314
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities Before Pension</b>		548,440	672,725
Deferred Pension Funding		3,250,000	3,000,000
Pension Liability		(3,250,000)	(3,000,000)
<b>Net Assets</b>		548,440	672,725
<b>Represented By:</b>			
Capital Account	6	82,544	73,411
Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account		465,896	599,314
		548,440	672,725

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 12 form part of these Financial Statements.



Brian Duncan: Chairperson



Kevin O'Kelly: Acting Director

Dated: 26 June 2008

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2007

	Notes	2007 €	2006 €
Net Cash (Outflow) from Operating Activities	7(a)	(800,836)	(110,302)
Returns On Investments And Servicing Of Finance			
Interest received		33,333	26,349
Net inflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance		33,333	26,349
Investing Activities			
Purchase of fixed assets		(67,703)	(23,428)
Disposal of fixed assets		10,337	-
Net Cash Outflow from Investing activities		(57,366)	(23,428)
(Decrease) in Cash		(824,869)	(107,381)

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 12 form part of these Financial Statements.



Brian Duncan: Chairperson



Kevin O'Kelly: Acting Director

Dated: 26 June 2008

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Income

	2007 €	2006 €
<b>a EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation</b>		
<b>Programme Funding</b>		
Deferred Income at 1 January	401,537	401,537
Funding via the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	(449,037)	-
(Deferred Income) at 31 December	-	(401,537)
Income recognised	(47,500)	-
<b>Technical Assistance</b>		
(Grants Receivable)/Deferred Income at 1 January	442,961	311,460
Funding via the Special EU Payments Body (SEUPB)	934,314	1,332,925
Grants Receivable/(Deferred Income) at 31 December	(417,943)	(442,961)
Income recognised	959,332	1,201,424
Overall Total	911,832	1,201,424

ESF/ERDF funding received from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs comprises 25% Exchequer and 75% EU funding.

To meet the administration costs of the various Measures of the Special EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, 75% of Technical Assistance funding is provided by the EU and 25% by the Irish and British Governments. The British Government contribution relates to Measure 5.3 and is 13.5%. Income is recognised to match expenditure of €44,719 for Support Costs and Administrative Costs of €914,613 (see Note 2b).

In 2005, 2006 and 2007 funding from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs was transferred directly to the Special EU Programmes Body which was responsible for making payments to projects through its central payments unit. Therefore this is not reflected in the financial statements.

€449,025 represented the balance of monies retained by Border Action as the Peace I Programme neared final closure. A reimbursement of this amount was made to the Department of Social and Family Affairs in November 2007.



b Other Income

	2007 €	2006 €
Health Service Executive – Building Healthy Communities	110,000	145,000
Sales of Publications	19,111	17,666
Fees received	1,842	-
Miscellaneous Income	1,696	1,351
Interest Earned on Deposit Accounts	33,333	26,349
Profit on Disposal of Fixed Asset	744	-
EU Social Exclusion Programme		
EU Commission	63,979	200,359
OFMDFM, Northern Ireland	-	10,000
Directorate for Health and Social Affairs, Norway	-	5,000
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Czech Rep.	-	5,000
Welsh Assembly	-	5,000
Scottish Executive	-	5,000
Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity, Portugal	-	2,500
CRID, Bulgaria	-	800
Sustainable Energy	-	25,000
	230,705	449,025

2. Projects And Programmes To Combat Poverty

a Innovative Programmes

One of the functions of Combat Poverty is to initiate and evaluate measures aimed at overcoming poverty. In line with this function Combat Poverty supports a limited number of projects and programmes in both urban and rural areas which seek to identify and develop strategies aimed at tackling the underlying causes of poverty. The programmes and innovative projects supported in 2007 have focused on access to health services, local and regional responses to poverty and supporting anti-poverty work through the 'Having Your Say Programme'. Combat Poverty also supports other projects and programmes by organising training and networking (in the form of seminars, conferences, meetings and publications).

Amounts spent under the main headings are as follows:

	2007 €	2006 €
Local and Regional Responses to Poverty	93,517	137,596
Health Programme	467,167	439,843
Project Support	72,544	33,546
Having Your Say Programme	231,892	243,535
	865,120	854,520

**b EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation**

Combat Poverty Agency along with its partner Pobal (Border Action) has responsibility for ten measures of the EU Peace II and Peace II Extension Programme concentrating on the six southern border counties.

The Partnership also has responsibility for two other cross-border measures along with its Northern partners, the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and Co-operation Ireland. In total Border Action has responsibility for €139,737,479 aimed at reconciliation and social inclusion.

Border Action, in partnership with Co-operation Ireland, has responsibility for implementing Measure 3.1 of the EU Interreg IIIA Programme. This Measure contains €10,336,667 aimed at projects that target social inclusion and are cross-border in structure.

The expenditure of Combat Poverty under the Peace II Programme for 2007 is summarised as follows:

**Expenditure**

	2007 €
<i>Support Costs*</i>	44,719
<i>Administration**</i>	914,613
	<u>959,332</u>

\*Support costs expenditure for the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation covers programme promotion, project support and development, external appraisals, research and strategic development.

\*\*Administration expenditure for the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, which covers administration staff salaries, travel, subsistence, training, printing, postage, rent, maintenance and legal fees etc., is included in the figures set out in notes 3, 4 and 5 below.

In 2005, 2006 and 2007 payments to Peace II and Interreg IIIA projects were made by the Special EU Programmes Body through its central payments unit on the recommendation of Border Action and therefore are not reflected in the financial statements.

In accordance with the scheduled ending of the Peace II Programme, Combat Poverty’s financial involvement with Border Action will formally cease with effect from 31 December 2008.

**c EU Social Exclusion Programme**

In 2003 Combat Poverty received funding under the EU Social Exclusion Programme to undertake two transnational exchange projects.

**Mainstreaming Social Inclusion**

Work on phase two of the Mainstreaming Social Inclusion project came to an end in 2006.

**Evaluation of Mainstreaming Social Inclusion**

Work on the Evaluation of Mainstreaming Social Inclusion project came to an end in early 2007. €28,971 represents payments made under the programme together with all the administration costs associated with the programme in 2007. The final funding instalment of €63,979 was received from the EU Commission.

3. Salary Costs And Expenses

	2007 €	2006 €
Staff Salary Costs*	1,869,549	2,023,857
Temporary Employment Agency Costs	41,721	42,614
Members' Fees	97,472	87,347
Staff Training and Other Expenses	64,763	72,824
Travel and Subsistence		
- Staff	73,791	76,044
- Members and Sub-Committees	29,571	21,759
Staff Recruitment	59,766	10,111
Board and Staff Initiatives	9,091	1,657
Combat Poverty Seminar	30,341	6,862
	<u>2,276,065</u>	<u>2,343,075</u>

\* The cost of core staff employed by Combat Poverty in 2007 was €1,319,537 (2006: €1,425,250).  
The average number of core staff (full-time equivalent) employed by Combat Poverty in 2007 was 26 (2006: 24). The figures given here include Combat Poverty's liability in respect of the remuneration of the 28 staff members in the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

4. Rent And Other Administration Costs

	2007 €	2006 €
Rent and Rates	295,610	296,233
Postage and Telephones	84,185	93,710
Insurance	28,384	43,235
IT and Office Equipment Maintenance	38,582	39,302
General Maintenance	82,087	59,087
Consultancy Costs	78,779	74,209
Records and Archive Management	4,855	15,908
Printing, Stationery and Office Supplies	31,862	39,477
Light and Heat	21,551	20,597
Consortium Partners Technical Assistance*	162,772	308,338
Outreach Offices Support	11,140	8,285
Internal Audit Fees	14,312	10,890
External Audit Fees	17,750	17,750
Sundry**	10,159	16,339
Legal/Professional Fees	7,471	13,313
	<u>889,499</u>	<u>1,056,673</u>

\* The Consortium Partners comprise Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and Co-operation Ireland.  
\*\* Includes loss on disposal of assets of €3. Total net profit on disposal was €741 including profit of €744 shown in Note 1b.

5. Fixed Assets

	Furniture €	Office Equipment €	Computer Equipment €	Total €
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>				
Balance at 1 January				
– at cost	184,760	185,037	122,292	492,089
Additions at cost	4,047	47,875	15,781	67,703
Disposals at cost	(3,292)	(29,430)	(2,852)	(35,574)
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>185,515</b>	<b>203,482</b>	<b>135,221</b>	<b>524,218</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>				
Balance at 1 January	166,615	154,847	97,216	418,678
Charged in the year	3,933	18,476	26,565	48,974
Disposals	(3,292)	(19,835)	(2,851)	(25,978)
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>167,256</b>	<b>153,488</b>	<b>120,930</b>	<b>441,674</b>
<b>Net Book Value – 31/12/07</b>	<b>18,259</b>	<b>49,994</b>	<b>14,291</b>	<b>82,544</b>
Net Book Value – 31/12/06	18,145	30,190	25,076	73,411

6. Capital Account

	2007 €	2006 €
Balance at 1 January	73,411	106,140
Income applied to purchase fixed assets	67,703	23,428
Amortised in the year in line with asset depreciation	(48,974)	(55,891)
Released on disposal of fixed assets	(9,596)	(266)
<b>Transfer (to)/from Income and Expenditure Account</b>	<b>9,133</b>	<b>(32,729)</b>
Balance at 31 December	82,544	73,411

7. Cash Flow Reconciliation

a Reconciliation of Surplus/(Deficit) for the year to Cash from Operating Activities

	2007 €	2006 €
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(133,418)	(127,038)
Adjustment for non-operating items		
Interest Receivable	(33,333)	(26,349)
Profit on Disposal	(744)	-
Loss on Disposal	3	266
Movement on Capital Account	9,133	(32,729)
Adjustment for non-cash items		
Depreciation	48,974	55,891
Decrease in Debtors	(1,338)	(14,281)
(Decrease) in Creditors	(690,113)	33,938
Cash (Outflow) from Operating Activities	(800,836)	(110,302)

b Analysis of Balances of Cash and Cash Equivalent

Movements During The Year

	2007 €	2006 €
Balance at 1 January	1,718,000	1,825,381
Net cash (outflow)	(824,869)	(107,381)
Balance at 31 December	893,131	1,718,000

8. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 December 2007.

9. Commitments

- a There were no capital commitments at 31 December 2007.
- b Funding commitments of €485,893 existed at 31 December 2007 (2006, €731,897) for Combat Poverty in respect of Commissioned Work and funding to Research Projects.
- c Combat Poverty Agency has commitments up to the year 2017 in respect of the lease of office accommodation at Bridgewater Business Centre, Islandbridge. The rent on foot of this lease is €228,000 per annum and is subject to review on a five-yearly basis.

10. Superannuation

- a The Combat Poverty Agency Main Superannuation Scheme 1997, and the Combat Poverty Agency Spouses' and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme 1997 were established, to take effect from 1 January 1987, in accordance with Section 14 of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986. These Schemes are defined benefit superannuation schemes for its employees and are operated on a pay-as-you-go basis.

The results set out below are based on an actuarial valuation of the pension liabilities in respect of serving and retired staff of the Agency as at 31 December 2007. This valuation was carried out by a qualified independent actuary for the purposes of the accounting standard, *Financial Reporting Standard No. 17 – Retirement Benefits (FRS 17)*.

b Valuation Method

	2007 %	2006 %	2005 %
Discount Rate	5.50	5.50	5.50
Rate of Increase in Salaries	4.00	4.00	4.00
Rate of Increase in Pensions	4.00	4.00	4.00
Inflation	2.00	2.00	2.00

c Net Deferred Funding for Pension in Year

	2007 €	2006 €
Funding Recoverable in Respect of Current Year Pension Costs	485,000	450,000
Less		
Benefits Paid in the Year	(9,000)	(1,000)
	476,000	449,000

d Analysis of Total Pension Costs Charged to Expenditure

	2007 €	2006 €
Service Charge	320,000	310,000
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	165,000	140,000
Employee Contribution	(35,286)	(45,987)
	449,714	404,013
<b>Analysis of the amount recognised in statement of total recognised gains and losses</b>		
Experience (Gain)/Loss on Liabilities	(226,000)	(49,000)
(Gain)/Loss on Change of Assumptions		
(Financial and Demographic)	-	-
	(226,000)	(49,000)



e Deferred Funding Asset for Pensions

Combat Poverty recognises as an asset an amount corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the superannuation scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. Combat Poverty has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice. The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31 December, 2007 amounted to €3.25 million (2006: €3 million).

f Movement in Net Pension Liability during the Financial Year

	2007 €	2006 €
Deficit at Beginning of the Year	3,000,000	2,600,000
Current Service Cost	320,000	310,000
Contributions		
Past Service Costs		
Benefits Paid	(9,000)	(1,000)
Interest Cost	165,000	140,000
Actuarial Gain	(226,000)	(49,000)
Deficit at End of the Year	3,250,000	3,000,000

g History of Experience Gains and Losses

	2007 €	2006 €	2005 €
Experience (Gain)/Loss on Scheme Liabilities	(226,000)	(49,000)	(159,000)
Percentage of Present Value of Scheme Liabilities	6.95%	1.63%	6.12%
Total Amount Recognised in STRGL	(226,000)	(49,000)	(159,000)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities Assets	6.95%	1.63%	6.12%

11. Board Members – Disclosure Of Interest

Combat Poverty has adopted procedures in accordance with the Code of Practice on the Governance of State Bodies in relation to the disclosure of interest of Board Members and these procedures have been adhered to. There were no transactions in the year in relation to Combat Poverty’s activities in which members had any beneficial interest.

12. Approval Of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board on 4 June 2008.





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



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