

CEF Training Input from NCCWN

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Outline of Session

- Presentation:
 - What is NCCWN
 - Summary Profile of member Women's Networks
- Discussion
 - Smaller group discussion
 - Feedback
- Summary and conclusions

NCCWN

- The National Collective of Community based Women's Networks was formally established in 2002. It has a national membership of 23 community-based women's networks from five regions in Ireland. Each of these networks has a membership that ranges from 6 to 70 local community groups who are engaged in the provision of community education programs for women and community development in their local areas.

- **Vision:**
- The NCCWN is committed to women empowering each other to move into leadership roles and powerfully create the necessary changes for a just and equal society.
- **Mission:**
- The mission of the NCCWN is to empower and support community-based women's networks to impact policy effectively through direct representation on relevant regional and national structures.

- **Core Values:**

- The following values are at the core of the work of the NCCWN:
- Women's empowerment – working in a way that supports women to take leadership and make decisions on issues affecting them;
- Community Education – working from the grassroots up, combining an adult education approach with community development principles;
- Social Inclusion – working in an inclusive way with an anti-poverty focus;
- Equality and recognition of diversity – supporting and promoting the equal rights of all and challenging discrimination, especially under the nine grounds underpinned in Irish equality legislation – race, religious belief, gender, age, family status, sexual orientation, membership of the Traveller community, disability, marital status.

Key priorities

The NCCWN has identified four priority areas which shape and direct the work it does. These are:

- Information dissemination;
- Networking & capacity-building;
- Policy & representation;
- Organisational development.

Community education actions

A key aspiration in the NCCWN Strategic Plan is “building strong links with Community Education Facilitators in VECs”.

We are pleased to have been invited to participate in the training today so that we might explore together ways that we might achieve this.

NCCWN members include:

- Banchara, Killorglin, Co. Kerry
- Clare Women's Network, Clare
- Clondalkin Women's Network, Dublin
- Donegal Women's Network, Co. Donegal
- Drogheda Area Women's Network, Co. Louth
- Forum Women's Working Group, Co. Galway
- Greater Kenmare Area Women's Network, Co. Kerry
- Killarney Women's Organisation for Training & Empowerment (KWOTE) Co. Kerry
- Leitrim Women's Network, Co. Leitrim
- Limerick Women's Network, Limerick
- Longford Women's Link, Longford
- Network Kildare, Co. Kildare
- North West Inner City Women's Network, Dublin
- South Kerry Women's Association, Co. Kerry
- Tallaght Women Together, Dublin
- Tipperary Women's Network, Co. Tipperary
- Tralee Women's Forum, Co. Kerry
- Waterford Community Women's Network, Waterford
- Waterford Women's Centre, Waterford
- West Cork & Beara Women's Network, Co. Cork
- Western Women's Link, Galway
- Women of the North West, Co. Mayo
- Women's Advisory Committee, Co. Sligo
- Wexford Women's Community Collective, Co. Wexford

About the networks

(Data taken from Profile exercise conducted by NCCWN with networks between Dec 05 April 06).

- ***No of groups they support: 396***
- ***Individual members:***
- ***Total no of women represented: 12 970***
- ***No of non-member women who benefit (e.g. drop in, phone): 5 460***

About the networks ... ctd.

- When the networks were founded
- Geographic spread
- Legal status
- Resources
- Funding
- Issues and concerns
- Work areas
- Representation

Work areas include:

- Provide information 16 networks
- Run Courses 15 networks
- Host workshops/seminars 15 networks
- Celebrate International Women's Day 15 networks
- Consult with women's groups 13 networks
- Undertake policy work 12 networks
- Lobbying activities 12 networks
- Undertake joint projects 12 networks
- Host support groups 9 networks
- Drop-in facilities 7 networks
- Carry out research 6 networks
- Reimburse childcare costs 5 networks
- Provide or refer women to counselling 4 networks
- Facilitate access to childcare 3 networks
- Provide childcare on site 2 networks

Networks and Community Education

- Courses run by Women's Networks
- Issues around women's community education
- Accredited Institutions
- BTEI

Progression to further education

The networks reported that women progressed in a variety of ways:

- To other community education courses
- To further education including formal 3rd level
- To employment, many of those progressed to employment within the community/voluntary sector to work as practitioners of what they'd studied – i.e. as facilitators or tutors;
- To business creation;
- To taking on a role within the network either voluntary or paid, e.g. management committee member or worker.

Obstacles to progression

- Obstacles to progression for women identified by 10 of the networks were (the first four points were reiterated by a number of networks:
- Lack of funding or limitation of short-term funding for networks blocks the continuing provision of courses to the women;
- Lack of individual finances to progress to further study;
- Lack of childcare provision when funding from the network for childcare was exhausted;
- Geographical distance from further education providers or employment opportunities.

Obstacles ... ctd.

- Individuals' lack of time;
- A lack of good quality tutors;
- Individuals' choice not to progress;
- Lack of technology (televideo/webcam facilities) to bring education to small rural areas;
- Poor self esteem of women
- Mainstream methods of delivering education can alienate women.

Discussion and feedback

Summary and Conclusions

Thank you!