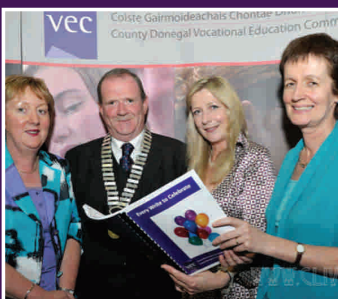
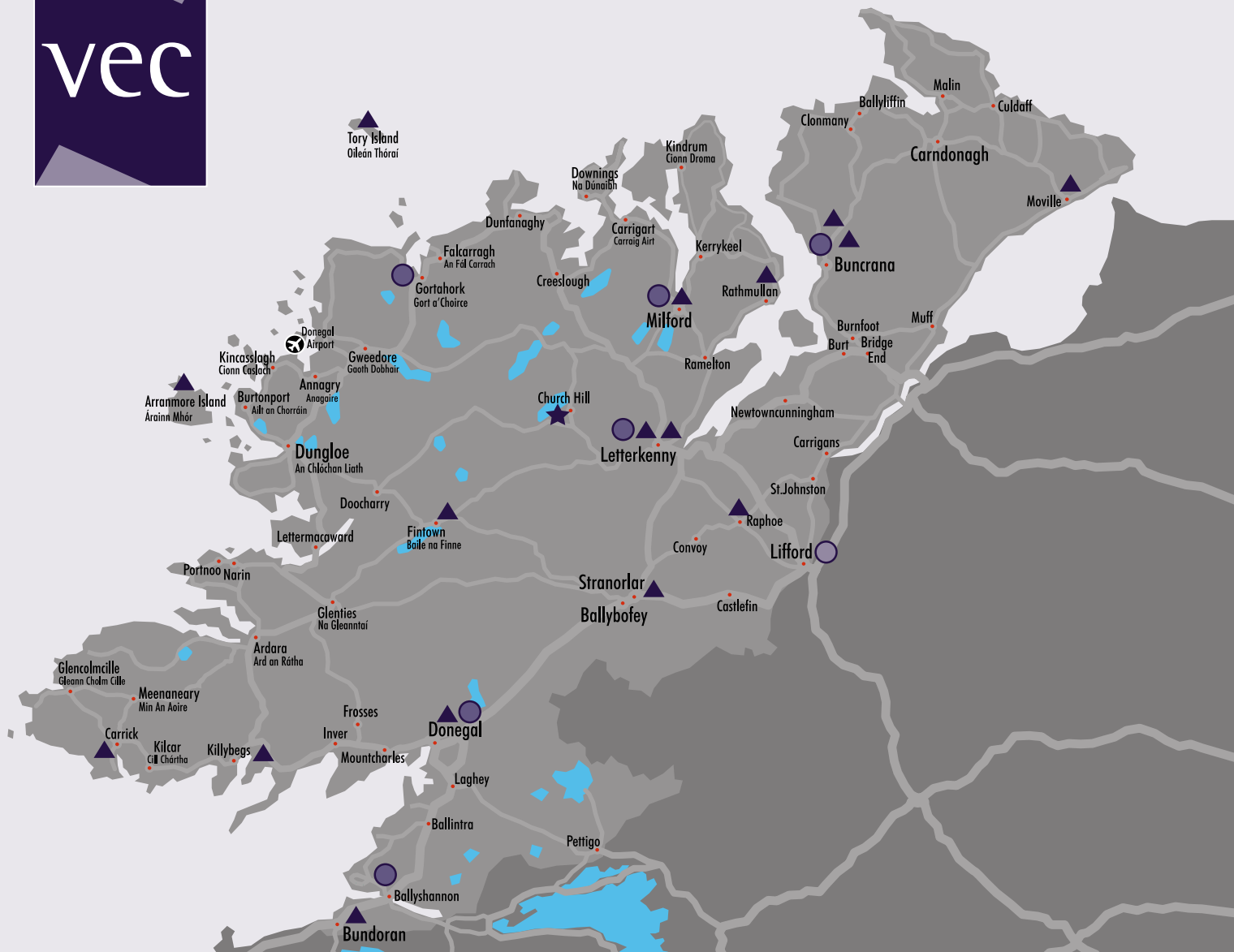


# Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae Dhún na nGall County Donegal Vocational Education Committee

## A N N U A L R E P O R T 2 0 1 0





△ **VEC Second Level Schools in County Donegal**

- Abbey Vocational School, Donegal Town
- Carrick Vocational School, Carrick
- Coláiste Ailigh, Leitir Ceanainn
- Coláiste Chineál Eoghain, Bunrana
- Coláiste Phobail Scoil Colmcille, Oileán Thóraí
- Crana College, Bunrana
- Deele College, Raphoe
- Errigal College, Letterkenny
- Finn Valley College, Stranorlar
- Gairmscoil Chu Uladh, Beál an Átha Móir
- Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada, Arranmore
- Magh Éne College, Bundoran
- Moville Community College, Moville
- Mulroy College, Milford
- St Catherine's Vocational School, Killybegs

○ **Adult Education & Training Centres**

- Ballyshannon
- Bunrana
- Donegal Town
- Glengad
- Lifford Youthreach
- Gort a' Choirc
- Letterkenny
- Milford

☆ **Outdoor Education**

- Gartan Outdoor Education Centre, Church Hill, Letterkenny



## MISSION STATEMENT

*To promote, offer and support accessible and inclusive learning which will enable students to empower themselves to reach their full potential.*

# Members of the Co Donegal Vocational Education Committee 2010

### **Clr Barry O'Neill Chairperson**

Clr David Alcorn  
Clr Liam Blaney  
Clr Michelle Bradley  
Clr Brendan Byrne  
Mr Peter Cutliffe  
Clr Joseph Doherty  
Dr Anne Flood  
Ms Sinead Gillespie  
Clr Cora Harvey  
Ms Marietta Herraghty  
Clr Jimmy Kavanagh  
Clr Dessie Larkin  
Clr Jim Lynch

### **Clr Martin Farren Vice-Chairperson**

Ms Bernie Mulhern  
Clr Pádraig MacLochlainn  
Clr Charlie McConalogue  
Mr Francis McDaid  
Clr Ian McGarvey  
Clr Philip McGlynn  
Ms Mary McGowan  
Clr Elizabeth McIntyre  
Clr Pádraig Ó'Dochartaigh  
Mr Joe O'Donnell  
Mary Ellen Orphen  
Mr Alan Thompson

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# 1. Introduction



## 1.1 Introduction from Co Donegal VEC Chairperson

I am delighted to present Co Donegal VEC's fifth Annual Report for 2010.

The 2010 Annual Report continues the planning and development process of Committee's services for the future, its accountability to the Minister for Education and Skills and to the public through Committee's Strategic Education Plan 2006-2010 and its Service Plan 2010.



I was privileged to be Chairperson of Co Donegal VEC which remains the fifth largest VEC in the Country in 2010 and is to the forefront of education service delivery in the County. I was honoured during my term of Office to see the energy and commitment evidenced by the organisation's achievements and awards showcased by its Schools, Colleges and Centres. There were many highlights in 2010 and too many to mention here. The achievements by adult learners is credited to our community and adult education programmes bringing people back into education and upskilling to meet the great change in our economic climate. The sporting achievements by our Schools and Colleges is outstanding at local, regional and national level and a striking performance by Carrick Vocational School secured the Championship Treble, believed to be the first time that a school has held all three titles in the one season.

Congratulations and well done to all students and staff across the organisation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ms MaryAnn Kane as Chief Executive Officer for her guidance and assistance to me as Chairperson, and to her dedicated team in the Administrative Offices, the Schools, Colleges and Centres, who have risen to and managed the challenges presented in 2010.

I convey appreciation to my colleagues as Members of the Committee and to my Vice Chairperson, Clr Martin Farren for his support to me in my role as Chairperson and to the various Sub-Committees and Board Members who have contributed to the continued success of the organisation.

**Clr Barry O'Neill**

Chairperson

## 1.2 Foreword from the Chief Executive Officer

Our fifth Annual Report 2010 presents our academic, sporting, extra-curricular and organisational achievements and work throughout 2010.

This work is showcased throughout all the organisation, inclusive of the 15 Second Level Schools and Colleges, including our two Island Schools, the 6 Adult and Further Education and Training Centres, the Gartan Outdoor Education Centre, Youth Services and the Music Education Service.

We have continued to focus on the provision of a quality education and training service through the five cross-cutting themes to meet the objectives of Committee's Strategic Education Plan 2006-2010 Plan.

The Committee's services were enhanced in 2010 with the commencement of the building process for our new College in Stranorlar, Finn Valley College. We look forward to completion in September 2011. Also under the Capital Development Programme and with enrolment increasing, Committee, following sanction by the Department of Education and Skills purchased a site for a new school for Coláiste Ailigh in Letterkenny. The Department has included the school in the next bundle of schools to be built under the Public Private Partnership Scheme.

2010 has continued to see a significant increase in the proportion of male clients wishing to access Adult Education Programmes due to the impact of the recession and a greater number of community participants interested in accredited courses. The significant accomplishment of the launch of our second Scéim under the provisions of Acht na d'Teanga Oifigiúla provides for the availability of services through the Irish language. The expansion of Music Education, Restorative Practices and Community Education Programmes this year adds to the enhancement of the overall service provision. As our Strategic Plan 2006-2010 nears completion, we now look forward to preparing for our next five Year Plan in 2011.

The organisation's continued success derives from the contribution from our school community, education partners and the partnership between our 23 VEC Committee Members, Sub-Committees, Boards, the various Working Groups and the dedicated members of staff throughout. Acknowledgment is also conveyed to the staff in the Department of Education and Skills for their assistance. I also pay tribute to Clr Barry O'Neill, Chairperson with whom I was privileged to serve as Chief Executive Officer during 2010.

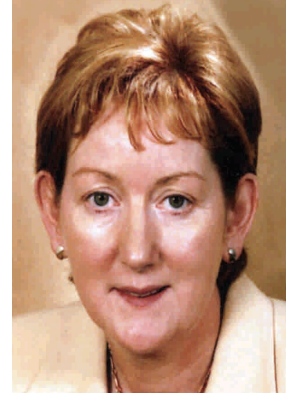
We hope to continue to successfully improve the provision of our educational services to the people of County Donegal with the same vigour and commitment, notwithstanding the challenging times ahead, particularly for the VECs as a sector. We look forward to further developing and creating new strategies and innovations together to meet those challenges.

Finally, I join with Chairperson, Clr O'Neill in congratulating Members, Students and Staff in all our Schools, Colleges, Centres and Administrative Offices for their hard work and contribution to the organisation in 2010.



**MaryAnn Kane**

Acting Chief Executive Officer



# 2. Education Plan 2006-2010 Key Priority Areas



The Education Plan arises from the provisions of Sections 9 and 30 of the VEC (Amendment) Act, 2001 whereby the CEO is charged with drafting a 5 Year Plan directed by the **Strategy Development Team**.

The Education Plan 2006-2010 sets out:-

- The **Objectives** of the VEC
- The **Priorities** of the VEC
- The **Measures to be adopted** to achieve the identified objectives

The Plan identified 5 key priority areas for consideration over the duration of the Plan:-

1. Education Service Provision
2. Learning Environment
3. Partnership and Networking
4. Organisational Development
5. Image/Identity of the Organisation



The Strategy Development Team who are represented by Senior Management across the services submit an annual Service Plan based on the objectives contained in the Education Plan 2006-2010, to the Minister for Education & Science.

## 2.1 Co Donegal VEC Service Provision

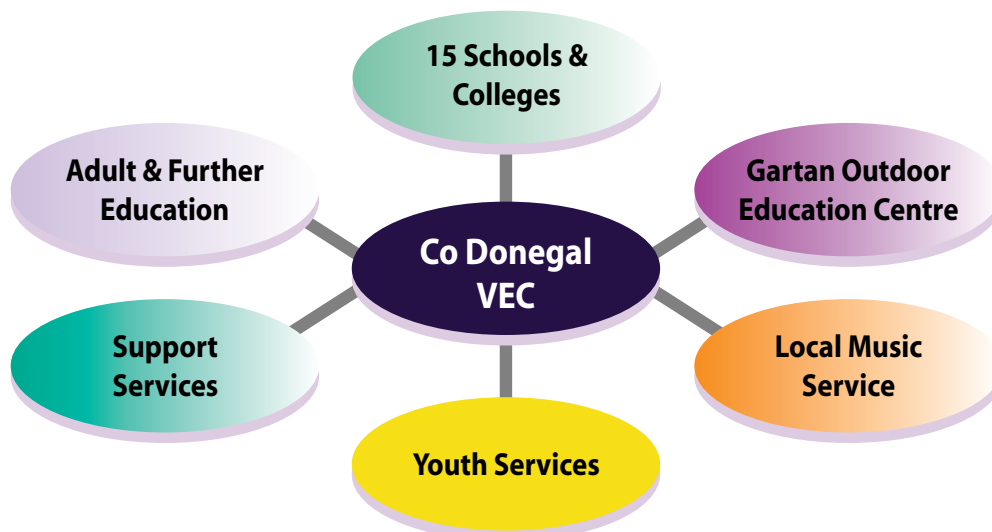


Figure 2.1 Service Provision



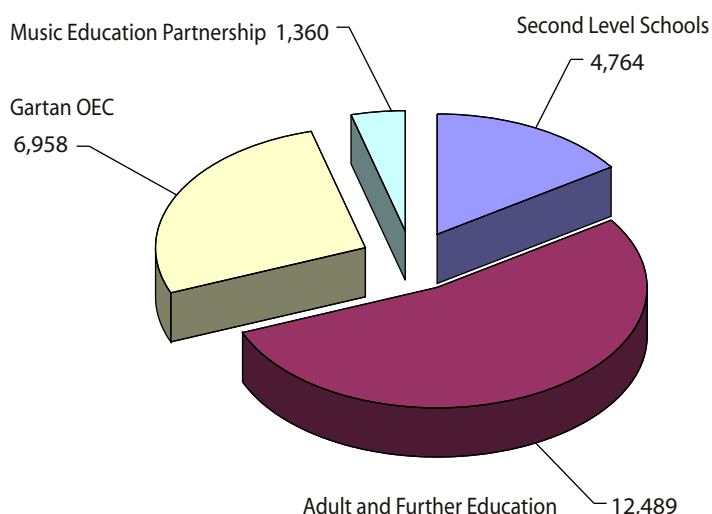
# 3. Key Priority Area - Education Service Provision



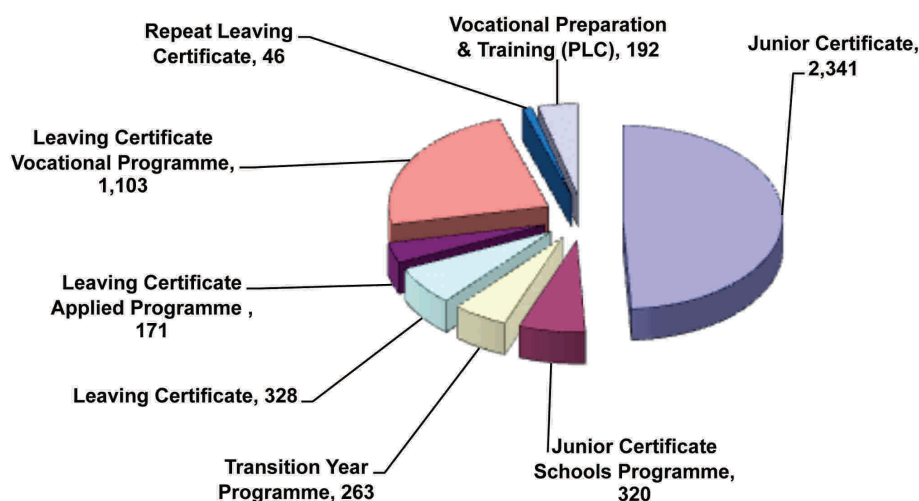
*To provide an educational and training service that meets current and emerging needs of communities and individuals in County Donegal.*

## 3.1 Overview

Co Donegal VEC provides a wide range of educational programmes and services to meet the needs of young people and adults across the county and its islands in a huge range of settings. In 2010, the Committee's educational service provision catered for almost 25,571 learners (see Figure 3.1). This included some 4,764 through its post-primary provision (see Figure), 12,489 through its adult and further education provision (see Figure 3.3), 6,958 through Gartan Outdoor Education Centre and 1,360 through the music education partnership.

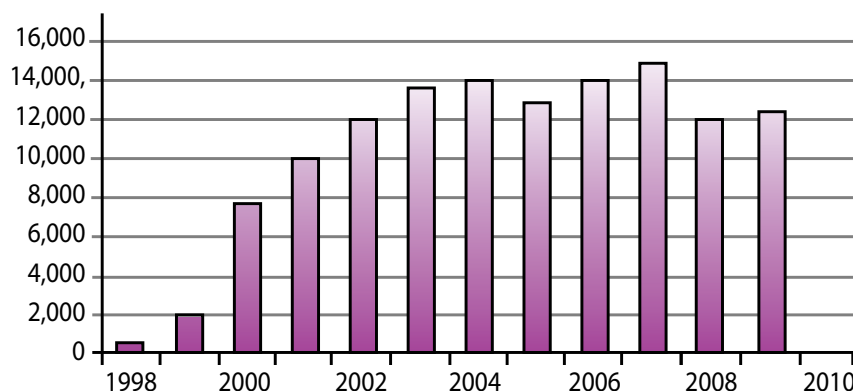


**Figure 3.1**  
Total number of Learners in 2010, by Sector



**Figure 3.2**  
Student Enrolment in Second Level Schools, 2010

**Figure 3.3**  
**Co Donegal VEC Adult**  
**Education Services -**  
**Participation Numbers**  
**1998 - 2010**



There was generally an increase in demand for some of the Committee's provision such as Adult Education Services reflecting the difficult economic climate continuing to face the country at large. The Committee continued to provide education services to a diverse range of learners, ranging in age from 1-4 years (through its crèche provision for the children of adult learners attending programmes in four of the Committee's six Adult Education and Training Centres (AETCs) in Buncrana, Gort a'Choirce, Letterkenny and Milford) and from 12 years upwards through the Committee's Post-Primary and Adult and Further Education provision. Additionally, the Committee also continued to cater for learners from across the continents of Africa, Asia, Europe and North and South America.

The Committee's education service provision continued to be delivered in a wide range of settings across the county, inclusive of a large Gaeltacht area, including the provision of services through the medium of Irish on Tory Island and Aranmore Island. This education service provision is provided either through the Committee's own Centres or premises rented on a full-time yearlong basis or on a more short-term outreach basis. The Committee's own centres include fifteen post-primary schools, six AETCs, Centre for Education Kilmacrennan Road, Letterkenny; Gartan Outdoor Education Centre and the Adult Learner Guidance Service/Community Education Support Service Office in Donegal Town, while the Committee's full-time rented Centres include Lifford Youthreach Centre and Adult Learner Guidance Service in Letterkenny.

However, a high percentage of the Committee's education service provision, if measured in learner participation numbers, takes place on an outreach basis through community and family resource centres, libraries, primary and other secondary schools across the county as part of the provision for community education services, some basic education and adult learner guidance service provision, the mobile IT Unit and music service provision. Programmes and services continue to be largely funded by the Department of Education and Skills and the European Social Fund (ESF), in the case of Youthreach.

## 3.2 Assessing Educational Needs

One of the continuing challenges faced by Co Donegal VEC is assessing the educational needs of the county's population (146,264), coupled with a need to design and deliver appropriate programmes and services to meet these needs. In 2010, education needs were assessed in its post-primary schools in a variety of ways, including:

- In Coláiste Ailigh four reports were issued to parents during the school year based on a combination of continuous assessment and examinations.
- The educational needs of Carrick Vocational School were assessed on an ongoing basis at all staff meetings and at the weekly management meetings; at the beginning of each year part of the initial staff meeting was set aside for this purpose. The school also sent regular reports to parents. These included additional individual reports where it was deemed necessary and where requested by parents, in addition to the regular reports.
- Coláiste Chineál Eoghain created a new Special Educational Needs Policy. The school received regular visits from the Educational Psychologist. One of the school's teachers who is currently completing a degree in Special Educational Needs, implemented new strategies and worked closely with students with Special Educational Needs.
- In Coláiste Phobail Colmcille, Tory various meetings are ongoing to assure that each individual student receives appropriate and effective assistance according to his or her needs. The SENO (Special Educational Needs Officer) visited the school to talk to all staff.
- Crana College reviewed and updated the school's DEIS Plan under the key headings of Student Retention and Attendance, Literacy, Numeracy, Examination Attainment and Educational Progression, Partnership with Parents and with Others in the Community.
- Deelee College continued working with The National Behaviour for Support Services (NBSS) in assisting staff deal with students with behavioural issues. Closer monitoring of pupils took place to ensure their needs were being addressed while links with psychological services were improved to identify students' needs.
- Errigal College provided a range of subject support programmes, parent support courses, academic monitoring, a comprehensive English as an Additional Language, Assessment for Learning Programme and the ongoing assessment of needs via a range of meetings held on a weekly basis.
- Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada began the re-assessment of student learning needs at the end of 2nd year and at year end provided evaluations of all programmes by students and teachers.
- In Magh Éne incoming students are assessed in March of each year prior to commencing first year; continual assessment through Assessment for Learning (EAL) is carried out throughout each year with house examinations taking place in December, Easter and Summer. Three reports are sent home during the course of each year. Additionally computer programmes are used to screen for reading difficulties and other problems that might require additional support.
- Moville Community College assessed progress three times per year formally and reports are posted to parents. Regular assessment is conducted by individual teachers in their subject area through class tests and written and oral comments.
- Mulroy College expanded its Induction Programme for 1st Year Students over two days, provided a Guidance Enhancement Programme for 5th Year Students and standardised testing for 1st Year Students along with re-testing at the end of 1st Year.
- St Catherine's Vocational School has been linking with Special Needs Teachers in Primary schools and with the National Education Psychological Services (NEPS) to ease the transition from primary school and to identify Students who require assistance through the use of Transfer Review Forms. The School also holds several meetings with parents prior to and post enrolment.

### Within its Adult Education Service, Assessment is carried out through a variety of methods including the following:

- Input from the Guidance Service into the BTEI programme increased again this year. In addition to designing an intensive programme of career planning group work for each programme and individual one-to-one sessions for students, the Guidance Service was involved in the recruitment stage of all programmes. The involvement of guidance at the recruitment stage has significantly increased the ability of the BTEI programme to place the right people on the right courses. As a result, there has been a corresponding drop in those leaving courses early.
- The Community Education Programme continued to take its lead from participants at grassroots level with provision determined by locally identified needs.
- The Donegal Adult Learner Guidance Service (DALGS) saw a significant increase in the proportion of male clients wishing to access adult education. The complexity of issues being presented also increased – most clients felt overwhelmed by the impact of the recession and therefore needed longer term career orientated interventions and interventions around positive mental health and dealing with depression. Guidance was involved in highlighting the educational needs of the newly unemployed.
- The Learning for Living Programme provided assessment for Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. dyslexia) and used Skills Checker to successfully assess for correct level at point of entry.
- Discussions were held on an inter-agency basis in relation to assessment of educational needs and the relevance of VTOS provision.
- The Youthreach and STTC programmes provided training for assessments by staff through the Educational Psychologist.
- 2010 was a particularly challenging year for Gartan. With severely tightening budgets, and uncertain times for Gartan students and customers, the centre's priority was to maintain usage levels and ensure quality of Outdoor Education course provision. Further courses were provided on an outreach basis, with staff travelling to schools and others in order to provide courses in their own locality where appropriate. This particularly suited National Governing Body Award courses, and Environmental Studies curriculum courses.

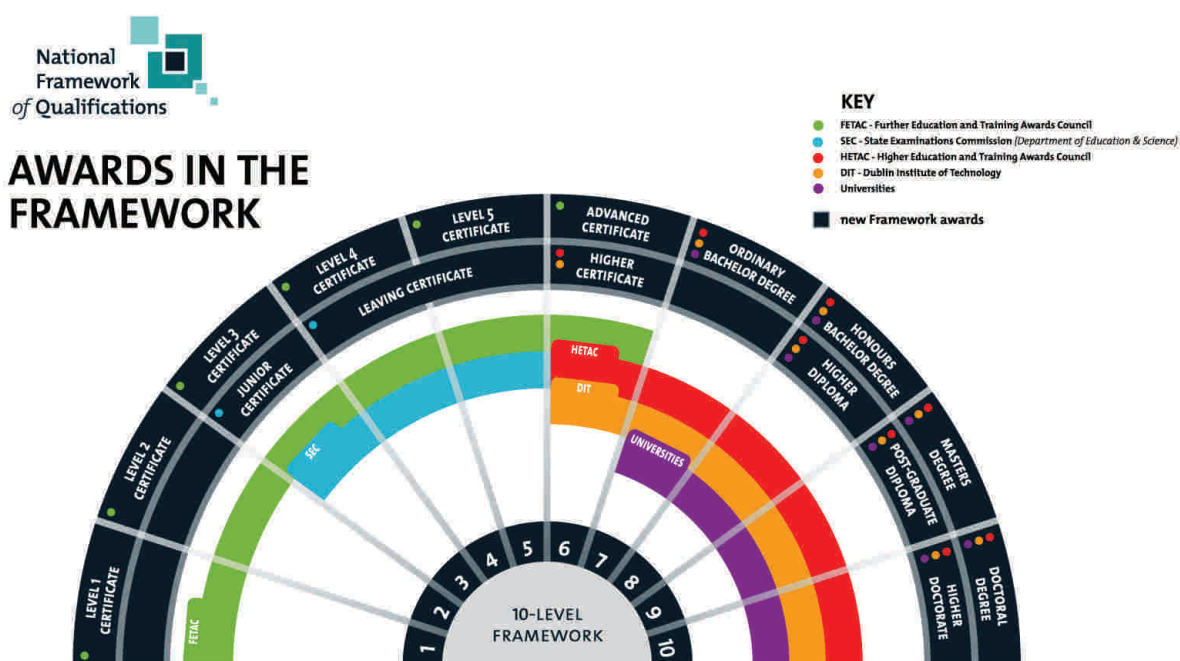


Figure 3.5 National Framework of Qualifications

### 3.3 Expansion of Provision

Further efforts were made in 2010 to expand the provision of programmes offered within these levels and to expand the Committee's service provision as a whole. The expansion of programme provision included for example:

- School enrolment for Coláiste Ailigh reached 167, the highest since its foundation in 2000, necessitating the expansion of accommodation through the provision of two new prefabricated classrooms. Co Donegal VEC has purchased a site for the new school, and the Department of Education and Skills has included the school in the next bundle of schools to be built via the Public Private Partnership scheme.
- Coláiste Chineál Eoghain saw its staff numbers expand with new teachers of Music, Business, History and Science and the appointment of a Deputy Principal; two extra classrooms were leased from the Tullyarvan Mill and a state of the art Metalwork suite was fitted in one of the new classrooms.
- In Coláiste Phobail Colmcille, Tory ISL (Irish Sign Language) was taught via Skype from Dublin; the traditional skills of knitting and crocheting were introduced and Master Classes in Sean-nós singing with Tony Mac Ruairí were provided to the Students.
- In Crana College, the role of the Class Tutor in supporting the pastoral needs of the students was developed. Key initiatives to improve standards of Literacy and Numeracy were also introduced. These included the establishment of a Working Group to promote these initiatives among the whole staff.
- Crana College also improved its application of Restorative Practices approaches among new staff, class tutors and student mentors.
- Deelee College provided additional classes after school in Maths and Physics. A Behaviour Support Classroom with two full time staff was also provided along with the development of a new Library and JCSP area, a new staffroom extension, all new doors and windows to meet fire regulations, a completely re-modernised Home Economics Kitchen and the provision of an Art Room Store.
- Errigal College introduced A level Polish.
- Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada introduced a Srúth Gaeilge for new 1st Years.
- Magh Éne College introduced Music and Spanish for incoming 1st Year Students; the Transition Year Programme is reviewed on an annual basis and updated accordingly.
- Merville Community College, through the IVEA programme of In-service of Instructional Methodologies is being conducted and the staff receiving this valuable in-service are passing on the expertise gained to other teaching staff at school development planning days.

#### **Within the Adult Education Service programme provision was expanded in a number of ways including:**

- BTEI Childcare and Healthcare programmes continued to attract a large degree of interest as Department Guidelines dictate that only those with the required level of accreditation were eligible for positions. Courses were timetabled in a flexible manner to suit participants and their family commitments. Completion levels were high with few dropouts.
- Some new programmes offered by BTEI in 2010 included Youth Work, Marine Engines, Horticulture and Renewable Energy. Demand for these courses came from men previously employed in the construction industry and gave the learners a flavour of what skills and knowledge are needed to progress further in this field.

- There was a consolidation of guidance provision for BTEI in line with current VTOS delivery with the Guidance Service involved in the BTEI recruitment and induction process. Feedback confirms the benefit of Guidance Staff involvement in the recruitment of Students.
- Family Learning provision expanded under both DEIS and PEACE III Reading Initiative/Form Filling for farmers through the Learning for Living Programme.
- The Buncrana, Gortahork and Lifford Youthreach Centres availed of the Health Services Executive Girls Active Programme for the first time which was previously only available to schools. It proved hugely successful in all three Centres.
- The Buncrana and Glengad Youthreach Centres participated in an Intercultural Studies project organised by Inishowen Development Partnership's Youth Officer which led to qualifications in FETAC Level 3 Intercultural Studies and a Level 3 equivalent Equality and Prejudice qualification; this has assisted in widening the curriculum base.
- All Youthreach Centres were involved in the Young Driver's Cross-Border Event organised by the Donegal Road Safety Working Group.
- For the first time in 2010, the SkillVEC programme was delivered throughout Co Donegal by the ITTC to HSE Home Help personnel, while the FÁS E-Learning at the Library programme expanded and now caters for every library within Co Donegal including Aranmore Island.
- Gartan OEC developed provision of our NGB training and assessment courses, an area which the Centre sees as a crucial area for development over coming years.

### **Co Donegal Music Education Service also continued to expand its provision in a number of areas including:-**

- The delivery of services expanded to include two new teaching centres – Adult Education and Training Centre Ballyshannon and Loughanure National School.
- The introduction of the Spring Festival concerts for parents and students providing performance opportunities for our students.
- Expanding the delivery of music tuition and appreciation through a series of Peace III funded programmes for primary and post primary schools.
- An In-service Teachers Summer Course (Boom, Sing, Kick) was designed and delivered in partnership with the Donegal Education Centre.
- Additional wind and brass tuition for our students through the commencement of the International Fund for Ireland funded North Wind Blows project.

## **3.4 Extra and Co-curricular Activities**

Extra and co-curricular activities continued to play a central role within the Committee's educational service provision in 2010, ensuring a holistic approach to education provision for learners. Not only were extra-curricular activities continued, but they were also expanded, covering a wide range of activities including art competitions, cross-border projects (KEY and LET programme and Civic Link), enterprise/banking initiatives, healthy schools schemes, exhibitions, Donegal Youth Council, Gaisce Awards, mentoring programmes, music (concerts and musicals) and drama, public speaking, creative writing, environmental projects/Tidy Towns involvement, multi-media and film programmes, Young Scientist Exhibition, foreign tours and student exchanges and school retreats and field trips. Of particular note was...

- Errigal College won two Awards for the Let's Do Business competition; they also won the Regional Build A Bank Competition and reached second place at the All-Ireland Final; Transition Year students reached a film competition All-Ireland Final with The Flipside about drug driving; received a Pope John Paul II Award and a Tidy Towns Endeavour Award and had success in the Doodle 4 Google competition.
- Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada participated in a project between the Transition Year class and the Island Day Centre whereby they created a Tapestry illustrating stories and memories from the island.
- Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada was awarded a Green Flag due to the successful implementation of its Green Schools Policy.
- A second year student from Coláiste Ailigh won 1st place in Ulster in the 'Barúil' public speaking competition, and accordingly was invited to take part in Rí Chéile, a festival on the Scottish Isle of Skye which celebrates the shared Celtic heritage of Ireland and Scotland.
- In the SciFest exhibition in the Letterkenny Institute of Technology Coláiste Ailigh won 7 prizes in both first and second place. For the second year in a row, a Coláiste Ailigh pupil was awarded Best Communicator at the Exhibition.
- Former pupils and parents of Coláiste Ailigh joined existing senior students, staff and invited guests at a dinner in the Mount Errigal Hotel in March to celebrate ten years since the founding of the school in 2000.
- BEO, an Irish Club founded by Coláiste Ailigh Transition Year students staged a series of rock concerts in the Regional Cultural Centre in Letterkenny during the year, assisted by Transition Year students from other secondary schools in Letterkenny. Students had the opportunity to attend workshops during the day of the concerts with members of the groups performing that evening.
- Crana College organised an after school project involving Senior students in creating a mosaic seat for the school grounds and organised a parents' talk on Living with Teens and on the dangers of inappropriate use of social networking sites.
- Finn Valley College's Special Education Provision for Students with ASD entered its 3rd year. Teaching specialists and specialist Special Needs Assistants are preparing two of their students for the Junior Certificate Examination 2011.
- Eight students from Gairmscoil Chú Uladh competed in the LYIT SciFest under the direction of Teachers Fionnuala Amrein and Noreen O'Donnell. One group was awarded second place in the competition.
- Gairmscoil Chú Uladh's Transition Year student Michael McDevitt was elected to the National Youth Council.
- Magh Éne added drama and hip hop dancing as extra-curricular activities.
- St Catherine's Vocational School timetabled study skills for all Junior Certificate classes

## Sports

In addition, a wide range of sports were offered and achievements gained. Of particular note was;

- On January 22nd 2010 Carrick's U16 Boys Football team won the Donegal County Final by defeating St Columba's College, Stranorlar. This completed the Championship Treble for the school and is believed to be the first time that a school has held all three titles in the one season. The U16 team went on to the Ulster Final but were defeated.
- Carrick Vocational School's Barry Quigg won Silver in the All-Ireland High Jump Schools competition and Derek O'Driscoll and Kieron Byrne were the joint winners of the Cecil King Cup in May 2010. This is the 7th out of 8 years that the school has won the cup.
- St Catherine's Vocational School added Athletics and Rugby to the school's sports curriculum.
- Rugby has been introduced in Magh Éne which has proved a huge success with both boys and girls taking County titles.

- A number of schools took part in Girls Active (Mulroy, Deelee College, Errigal College and Gairmscoil Chú Uladh).
- Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada developed a GAA partnership with the Rosses Community School.
- Coláiste Ailigh U19 Gaelic Football team won the county final and students obtained both Gold and Silver medals at the Vocational Schools' Athletics meeting.
- Gairmscoil Chú Uladh's Senior Boys won the Senior B Gaelic Football competition, while Students Séamus Ó hAilís and Jason Campbell played on the Vocational Schools Team who won the All-Ireland Championship.
- Gairmscoil Chú Uladh boys U14 and Seniors both reached the soccer County Finals.
- Gairmscoil Chú Uladh girls were the winners of a basketball blitz for first and second year girls organised with Pobalscoil Gaoth Dóhair and Crana College.

Extra-curricular activities were not just confined to the Committee's post-primary schools. Within Adult Education Services a range of activities took place including:

- Community Education was involved in a Cross Border Initiative through INTERREG IV funding of a women's project and a project targeted at the shortage of Sign Language tutors in the region.
- The Donegal Adult Learner Guidance Service focused their annual Adult Learner Fair on finding new opportunities in a time of uncertainty - responding to the needs of the general public.
- Learning for Living Students (supported by NALA Student Development Fund) visited Glenveagh, the Walls of Derry, Dáil Éireann and the Giant's Causeway. One-to-one students had the opportunity to contribute to the compilation of a book of student writings.
- VTOS students were involved in a range of fund raising activities throughout the year. A total of €8,746 was raised for charity. The programme was also involved in a number of team building days in Gartan Outdoor Education Centre.
- Gortahork Youthreach celebrated its 10th anniversary with a range of activities throughout the first half of the year.
- Aislin McEntee, a 19 year old learner at Letterkenny Youthreach, won an all-expenses paid trip to Strasbourg, to take part in the Euroscola day in the European Parliament with other young people from across Europe, a prize she won with 32 other young people from around the country after entering the Michael Sweetman Education Trust Competition. This competition is open to Year 2 LCA students and supported by the Irish Vocational Education Association (IVEA).
- The annual Youthreach county blitz took place (indoor football, bowling and pool competition) in April. Award Days were held in the Senior Traveller Training Centre and the Ballyshannon, Buncrana and Gortahork Youthreach centres honouring the Learners' achievements.
- Buncrana Youthreach held its Annual Open Day in June and Sale of Work in December.
- Ballyshannon Youthreach organised a health promotion week.
- Buncrana/Glengad and Gortahork Youthreach centres were involved in local town/beach tidy up initiatives.
- The Youthreach/STTC newsletter continued to be published four times a year.



### **For the Donegal VEC Music Service, extra and co-curricular activities included:**

- The Donegal Youth Orchestra performing on the stage of the National Concert Hall for the first time as part of the Irish Association of Youth Orchestra's National Festival of Youth Orchestras in February.
- Continuation of the Peace III funded Tuned In programme (February – April 2010).
- Participation in the National Love Live Music day offering free music performances to the general public in April.
- The Donegal Chamber Orchestra participated and performed for RTE Radio 1's Sunday Miscellany Programme October.
- Concerto Malaga (Spain) provided Masterclasses to members of the Donegal Chamber Orchestra followed by a number of joint performances in Donegal, Sligo and Strabane in October.
- The commencement of the IFI funded, Cross Border North Wind Blows project, working in partnership with a pipe band and brass band.
- Providing support for the annual visit of the Apple Hill Quartet (Boston) in the delivery of chamber music training and workshops to some of our students in December.
- Gartan once again provided innovative events for both National Trails Day and Heritage Week.

## **3.5 Innovation**

Innovation continued to be a key feature of the Committee's educational service provision in 2010. This was reflected in a variety of ways including for example:

- Coláiste Chineál Eoghain provided After School Exam Preparation classes; a compost bin; a lunchtime games and walking club and music club (during Seachtaine na Gaeilge).
- In Tory the Transition Year participated in a mini-business project and introduced soap making from seaweed into the school. Tory's website was also prepared for official launch.
- Crana College established a staff sub-committee to consider initiatives to encourage Raising Pupil Achievement in association with the LDS.
- Deelee College developed a student transfer programme for new entrants for two full days in May and a transfer programme for parents. It also introduced first year mentoring by fourth year students and provided parent courses in beginners Gaeilge and Living with Teens.
- Errigal College's Transition Year Mini Company was successful again this year. It's hosting of The Xtreme Talent Show for primary school pupils was a huge success. Exclusively healthy food was introduced to the Canteen; a reward system for attendance began; PE teacher Robert Fasiak was awarded the Intercultural Football Standards Grassroots Award from the FAI; Transition Year Student, Chris Cannon won a trip to Canada as a result of excellence in the KEY programme.
- In Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada, the Healthy Schools Committee was set up for the first time; Cumann Gaeilge was also set up and won the Ulster prize in the "Comórtas Náisiúnta Ghlór na nGael" 2010 competition; the Steer Clear Drive Safely Programme was introduced; an Anti-Bullying Awareness Week took place and a monthly school newsletter was initiated; a six week spelling improvement programme was introduced for all groups; the "Key Words" programme was introduced for 1st and 2nd Years; Club Comhrá was also set up to help students improve their spoken Irish and finally, French students communicated by email and letter with their equivalents in Paris in order to improve their reading and writing in French.
- In Magh Éne, Teachers are now using E-books in teaching and learning in the classrooms. Mulroy College developed a Homework Club, after school Maths and English support and improved the College's website with homework and study guide pages added.

A number of innovative programmes were also provided within Adult Education Services;

- The Guidance Service offered comprehensive training in job search and interview skills through the Winning New Opportunities Programme to BTEI students.
- Community Education provided horticulture courses as a means of encouraging participation by more men.
- The Donegal Adult Guidance Learner Service expanded its group guidance for general public clients which included information sessions relating to nursing, paramedic, aptitude testing and CAO/UCAS personal statements.
- The Learning for Living Programme developed and delivered an integrated sports programme in two locations and an integrated tourism programme in one location.
- Nearly forty Youthreach and the STTC staff undertook FETAC Level 6 Train the Trainer.
- STTC staff undertook Interculturalism Training with VTOS staff.
- Letterkenny Youthreach hosted their very first open day.
- The Youthreach Annual August Training week for all staff provided a great networking opportunity for staff from all centres.
- For the first time the IT Training Centre delivered a Renewable Technologies (FETAC Level 5 Minor Award) course in Letterkenny, funded by the Labour Market Activation Fund.
- Gartan Outdoor Education Centre designed and provided an intensive three week Adventure Education course for RTE's "Teens in the Wild". The programme was aired early in 2010. Working with Psychologist Mr David Coleman, the Centre brought this Course to several of Donegal's wild and beautiful areas, showcasing our County's landscape. The programme ran over four hour long weekly slots.
- Gartan also designed and provided a Cycle Weekend which consisted of biking activities and workshops on Road and Mountain Biking Skills, Cycling Safety for Children including Nutrition and Bike Maintenance.
- Innovative activities in the Music Service included the Donegal Youth Orchestra performing in concert with international traditional group Altan in July 2010 and in Mooney's Boatyard in Killybegs as part of the Donegal County Council's Public Art Programme Lovely Weather project performing newly composed experimental music in October.

## 3.6 Youth Service

### 3.6.1 National Quality Standards Framework Initiative (NQSFI)

The National Quality Standards Framework (NQSFI) is a support and development tool for the youth work sector providing a structured framework through which to assess, indicate and enhance youth work. The NQSFI aims to ensure that Youth Work Services and Organisations provide quality services for young people. It also provides an opportunity to articulate their practice through the development of a common language within a structured framework. The role of the Youth Officer was to provide a support and an external assessment function. The support function provides guidance in the implementation of the NQSFI and the external assessment function serves to validate the self-assessment process.

The VEC Youth Officer and those Co Donegal VEC funded Youth Projects, who participated in the NQSFI national pilot, i.e. Youth Information Centre and Youth Project in Donegal Town (Foroige) and Letterkenny Youth Information Centre and DayBreak Project (Donegal Youth Service Ltd) were invited by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Mr Barry Andrews, to join in the official launch of the National Quality Standards Framework for Youth Work in Dublin Castle on 27th July 2010; the first national standards framework to ensure and enhance quality youth services for young people.

Prior to this during 2010 the Youth Officer was required to attend NQSF information and appraisal meetings organised by the National Youth Assessor. A consultation process was organised to consult with individuals, services and organisations involved in youth work service or policy provision on the final draft of the Quality Standards Framework (QSF) for the youth work sector. This process was also complemented by review sessions and training events organised by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

A new development in November saw the commencement of initial consultations with Youth Officers towards the development of a Charter of Standards for Local Youth Clubs/Groups. The aims are to support clubs in creating and providing quality developmental programmes and activities for young people in safe and supportive environments and to ensure connection and continuity with standards for staff-led provision.

### **3.6.2 Local Youth Club Grant**

Co Donegal VEC administered €52,660 in small grants to 63 Youth Clubs/Groups across the county under the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme for recreational and educational activities; running costs, administration, leader training, purchasing equipment and special informal educational and training programmes. The Local Youth Club Grant is in recognition of the diverse range of voluntary youth clubs/groups in existence and is broken into two categories:-

- Youth Work Club Grant
- Youth Activity Club Grant

### **3.6.3 Special Projects For Youth**

Four Funding Applications were submitted to the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (OMCYA). Similar applications, made in 2009, were successful in obtaining funding for 2010. The revised reporting and application format introduced aims to streamline and standardise the reporting requirements and format and to ensure compatibility with the National Quality Standards Framework (NQSF) for Youth Work. It aims to minimise duplication in reporting and to ensure that necessary and accurate information is sought from projects and services in receipt of funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

### **3.6.4 Peace and Reconciliation Programme**

25 Youth Leaders completed Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Restorative Practices Course (FETAC Level 6). In addition, workshops in Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Restorative Practice were arranged for young people in Carndonagh and Donegal Town. The programme aimed to promote equality and embrace diversity with a major emphasis on conflict resolution, mediation and restorative practice. In conjunction with the HSE a Quality of Life Project, including Surveys and Workshops, was completed with 207 young people in 4 areas in Co Donegal. Those areas were Moville, Falcarragh, Bundoran and Killybegs. This Project was supported by the EU Peace III Programme managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Donegal County Council. The Youth Officer contributed to the Donegal VEC submission to the Peace & Reconciliation 2011-13 Action Plan Proposal.

### 3.6.5 Co Donegal Children's Services Committee (CSC)

The Children's Services Committee is here to work together to enrich and improve the lives of children, young people (and their families) in Donegal. Its purpose is to drive the implementation of improved services for children based on a set of agreed national outcomes shared by a range of local statutory providers. The Youth Officer is a member of the two working groups; Information and the Education and Learning for Children. The Youth Officer was involved in the Youth Cafes' evaluation process that resulted in South West Youth Project and Drop-In Centre being recommended for Strand 1 and Castlefin Youth Club recommended for Strand II.

### 3.6.6 Irish Youth Officers Association

The Irish Youth Officers Association was set up with a vision of being a professional representative body to influence policy, develop and share good practice and provide support to its members. Its first AGM took place in Athlone on October 7th 2010.

The Youth Officer is a member of the following Steering Groups:

**Local Drugs Task Force** - the primary focus of the LDTF is to address issues around illicit drug use through a partnership approach involving the statutory, voluntary and community sectors.

**Comhairle na nÓg/Donegal Youth Council** - is a democratically elected Youth Council for Donegal which represents young people in the decision making process on issues and policies that affect them locally, regionally and nationally. The Youth Officer is also involved in the Inclusion sub-group which is exploring ways of encouraging more young people to access the Youth Council.

**Inishowen Development Partnership** - a Community and Youth Development Sub-group to achieve positive outcomes in the lives of young people in Inishowen.

**BeLonG To Youth Group** - for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) young people which is committed to developing and progressing appropriate, accessible and safe supports with and for LGBT young people in Donegal.

**Donegal Children's Services Committee** - attending the Education and Learning for Children, the Information and the Safe and Secure sub-groups.

### 3.7 Human Resource Division

#### Introduction

The Human Resources Division of Co Donegal VEC provides support through four distinct work areas namely; Resource and Leave Administration, Recruitment and Selection, General HR Operations and Superannuation/Pensions.

Protective legislation namely Protection of Employees (Part-time Workers) 2001 and (Fixed Term Workers) 2003 Acts and the resultant collective agreements continued to have significant impact on the operations of Human Resources staff throughout 2010.

#### 3.7.1 Positions filled in 2010

Positions	Number of Posts
Principals	1
Deputy Principals	2
Teachers (PRPT)	43
Positive Behaviour Liaison Teacher	3
Special Needs Assistants	7
Youthreach Co-ordinator	1
Youthreach Resource Persons	2
Music Development Manager	1
School Completion Programme Co-ordinator	1
Peace III Project Co-ordinator	1
Peace III Project Facilitator	1

In addition to the foregoing, resources are also utilised for the filling of Casual and Non Casual posts that arise in the Committee's Schools/Colleges/Centres. Twenty nine such posts were filled through Recruitment and Selection procedures in 2010.

#### 3.7.2 Teaching Staff

Defining the number of teachers for second level schools involves a process which commences in October each year, when indicative teacher allocations based on the second level enrolment numbers for the previous school year are forwarded to each second level School/College. Additional teacher allocations are granted by the Department of Education as follows:

- The appeal process to the Department's Initial Allocation as a result of detailed submissions from each School/College in relation to critical curricular shortfalls, this process is ongoing from February - June.
- Application for resources relating to special needs, traveller pupils and non-national pupils.
- Additional applications relating to compensatory hours for Programme Co-ordinator Post and Directors of Adult Education, curricular concessions and PLC Programmes.
- Allocations arising from programmes such as SCP (School Completion Programmes) and DEIS.

Co Donegal VEC's final Teacher Allocation for September 2010 (the school year 10/11) was 397.91 wholetime equivalents.

### **3.7.3 Administrative Staff**

Administrative Staff are allocated by the Department of Education & Skills (DES) on the basis of:

- the agreed formulae contained in the Rochford Report and subsequent agreement on administrative staffing levels in VEC
- and
- on a programmatic basis.

Quarterly Reports are made to Department of Education and Skills on its approved level of operation in this regard.

72 Administrative Staff were employed at the Committee's Administrative Offices, Schools, Colleges and Centres during 2010. The level of administrative staff corresponds to 7.22% of the overall pay budget.

### **3.7.4 Support Staff**

Support Staff are allocated on the basis of number and size of Schools/Centres and the quality/capacity of accommodation utilised in each case. A total of 51 Support Staff were employed at Committee's Administrative Offices, Schools, Colleges and Centres during 2010. The level of support staff corresponds to 3.38% of overall pay budget.

### 3.8 Superannuation and Retirement Benefits



**Table 3.2 is a descriptor of the operational details of the Pensions Section for 2010  
Scheme Name: Local Government (Superannuation)(Consolidation) Scheme, 1998**

Item	Detail
No. of Retirees in 2010	16
Total No. of Retirees	186 (inclusive of above)
No. of new enquires in current year	242
No. of enquires processed	329
No. enquiries in progress up to 31/12/2010	361
Circular Letters / Collective Agreements which impacted on the Pension (Pen) Scheme in 2010.	CL's Pay            04/2010 10/2010 15/2010 Which relates to the Pensionable Remuneration at retirement  Implementation of Pro Rata Revised Integration Pension Scheme
Items impacting on workload	CL25/2008 – Continuous issues Arising IVEA Pension Working Group.

**Table 3.2 Pension Section for 2010**

### 3.9 Student Support Services

The Student Support Services Section of Co Donegal VEC provides educational support through Corporate Services in the form of grant aid to Donegal students attending School/College/University in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

#### 3.9.1 Funding is provided under the three Schemes as follows:-

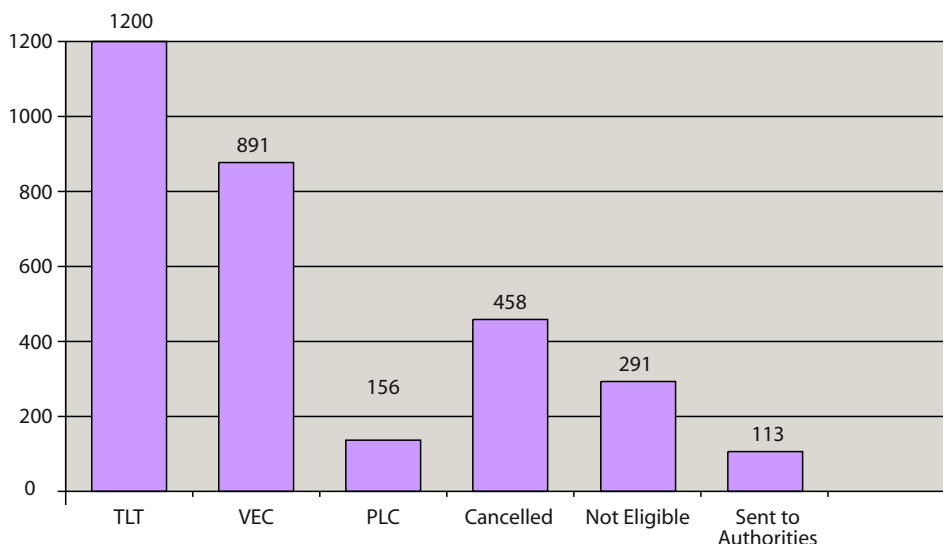
**(i) Vocational Education Committee Scholarship Third Level Maintenance Grant Scheme (VEC)** covers students attending approved honours degree courses in third level Institutions, including Universities. It also caters for students pursuing honours degree courses in Institutes of Technology, students pursuing Higher National Diploma courses in Northern Ireland, students progressing to approved degree courses in Northern Ireland, students progressing to approved degree courses in third-level Institutions in other EU member States and students pursuing post-graduate courses in Ireland.

**(ii) Third Level Trainee Maintenance Grant Scheme (TLT)** covers two year Higher Certificate and three-year Ordinary Degree courses, pursued in the Institutes of Technology.

**(iii) Post-Leaving Certificate Third Level Maintenance Grant Scheme (PLC)** covers approved Post-Leaving Certificate courses of at least one-year duration run in approved PLC Centres throughout the country. The Student Support Section provides support and guidance to the public by attending Fairs, Career Days and Open Days and providing Information Talks to Leaving Certificate students and their parents.

The total number of grant forms received for the 2010 academic year amounted to 3,302. These forms are categorised under various headings as shown in Figure 3.5.

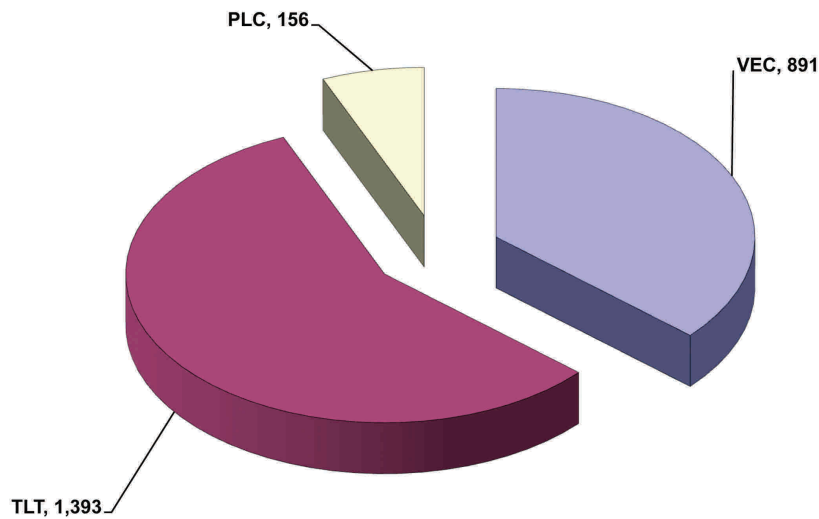
**Figure 3.5 Application Forms received in 2010/2011**





Out of the total 3,302 grant applications received, 2,440 applications were successful in being awarded a Maintenance Grant to attend Third Level Education. Figure 3.6 shows the number of grants awarded and the scheme under which each has been approved:-

**Figure 3.6 Third Level Grants Awarded 2010/2011**



**Fig 3.7 A breakdown of the Rates of Grants Awarded**

Type of Grant	No. of Grants Awarded
Adjacent 100%	192
Adjacent 75%	5
Adjacent 50%	15
Adjacent 25%	9
Adjacent Top Up	149
Non Adjacent 100%	906
Non Adjacent 75%	20
Non Adjacent 50%	35
Non Adjacent 25%	17
Non Adjacent Top Up	846
Fees Only	246

**NB**  
*Adjacent* – where distance from permanent address to Institute is less than or equal to 24 km  
*Non-Adjacent* – where distance from permanent address to Institute is greater than 24 km

### 3.8.2 The Student Support Services User Group

The Student Support Services User Group which comprises seven other VECs throughout the country have jointly introduced a new Student Support software package which will continue to review, upgrade and improve efficiency and effectiveness to meet requirements.

## 4. Key Priority Area *Learning Environment*



*To provide a quality environment which is conducive to learning and teaching.*

As set out in the Education Plan 2006-2010, the Learning Environment is defined as including (but not limited to) intellectual, sporting, spiritual, social and cultural activities.

In keeping with the objectives of the Plan as listed therein, the Committee continued in 2010 to improve the physical teaching and learning environment in all its schools, colleges and centres through a comprehensive Capital Development Programme.

### 4.1 Capital Development Programme

#### 4.1.1 Finn Valley College, Stranorlar (formerly Stranorlar Vocational School)

**New School of 3,452 m<sup>2</sup> – on Committee's 6.79 acre site at Drumboe Lower**



Following an EU procurement process, the Department of Education and Skills, in April 2010, authorised the Committee to accept the Tender of Midland Construction for the construction of the new Finn Valley College, School Building.

The turning of the first sod ceremony was carried out on Committee's green field site at Drumboe lower, Stranorlar on 14th May 2010. Afterwards, the subsequent Contract signing was undertaken at the existing Finn Valley College Building at Main Street, Stranorlar.

Construction works officially commenced on 24th May 2010. The anticipated Construction Programme will take 14 months. It is envisaged that the new School building will be completed in July 2011.

#### 4.1.2 Coláiste Ailigh, Leitir Ceanainn

**Provision of New School of 3,854m<sup>2</sup> for 350 pupil place school under the methodology of the Public Private Partnership Provision (PPP)**

Substantial pre-procurement work including the receipt of outline planning permission for the above development was completed by the Department of Education and Skills in 2010. This third bundle of PPP School Projects was then handed over to the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) for procurement on the 29th July 2010.

A Contract Notice was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 9th August 2010 by the NDFA. Expressions of interest were received and analysed with the top three ranked consortiums being invited to further negotiations in respect of their submitted tender. It is envisaged that the NDFA will announce the award of the successful consortium to provide the School accommodation under the Third PPP Bundle during 2011.

#### **4.1.3 Deele College, Raphoe**

In the light of increased enrolment figures, the Committee requested the Department of Education and Skills to review both the long term projected enrolment at the School together with the schedule of Additional Accommodation and suggested future use of existing accommodation, originally approved by the Department in 2002.

The Committee will continue to urge the Department to revise upwards, the long term projected enrolment for the school and to make the necessary amendments to the schedule of Additional Accommodation approved in 2002 to take cognisance of current demographic trends in the Raphoe area.

#### **4.1.4 Crana College Buncrana**

##### **Proposed Campus Development in Buncrana involving Crana College, Buncrana, Gaelscoil Bhun Cranncha and possibly Coláiste Chinneál Eoghain, Bhun Cranncha.**

The three sites identified by the Committee in 2008/2009 to cater for a proposed Campus development were inspected by Officials of the Department of Education and Skills in 2010. The Committee also engaged in pre-planning discussions with Donegal County Council in respect of the three identified sites.

The Committee has also been advised of a further site in Buncrana which is currently owned by Donegal County Council that may be suitable for a campus development. The Committee has invited officials of the Department of Education and Skills to Buncrana to inspect this particular site.

The Department of Education and Skills have continued to advise that the progression of the site acquisition for the proposed campus development would be considered in the context of the Department's Multi-Annual School Building and Modernisation Programme and that it may not be possible to give an indicative timeframe for the progression of the Site acquisition. The Committee will continue to engage with both, the Department of Education and Skills and Donegal County Council to progress this topic during the 2011 year.

#### **4.1.5 Coláiste Chineál Eoghain**

The Department of Education and Skills by letter dated 19th May 2010 approved of an extension of provision of recognition of Coláiste Chineál Eoghain for a further 3 year period for the School up to the 2012/2013 School Year.

The Department of Education and Skills also approved of the rental of additional accommodation at the Tullyarvan Mill Complex for the benefit of the school, namely:-

1. 1 x General Classroom
2. 1 x Room for the teaching of Metalwork
3. 1 x Storage Space

#### 4.1.6 Moville Community College

Phase II of Permanent Accommodation – Area of Accommodation 2,775m<sup>2</sup>

The outstanding balance of permanent accommodation namely 2,775m<sup>2</sup> from the 5009 m<sup>2</sup> approved in July 2001 continues to be the subject of ongoing correspondence and discussions with the Department of Education and Skills. A revised Form SLE (Application for Capital Funding for Major Capital Works for Second Level Schools) was issued to the Department of Education and Skills in September 2010.

On foot of receipt of the above application, the Department subsequently increased the Band Rating of the project from 2.5 to 2.2 in accordance with its Amended Criteria for Prioritising Large Scale Projects (Primary and Post Primary)

The Committee is committed to liaising with the Department of Education and Skills to ensure that the balance of Permanent Accommodation is provided at an early date.

#### 4.1.7 Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada

Replacement of dilapidated prefabricated classrooms with permanent accommodation. Following a formal application to the Department of Education and Skills and a subsequent visit to the School by a Senior Inspector of the Department, Capital Funding was approved for the replacement of the dilapidated prefabricated accommodation with permanent accommodation.

Following a procurement process, a Contractor was appointed in November 2010 for the construction of the new permanent accommodation. It is envisaged that these works will be complete in early 2011.

### 4.2 Summer Works Scheme 2010 (including Water Conservation Measures)

The Minister for Education and Skills, in a Press Release in April 2010, announced details of projects approved under the Summer Works Scheme 2010.

#### 4.2.1 Details of the Projects approved for Schools under the summer work scheme 2010:-

	School	Project	Budget Approved (including Fees & VAT)
1	Abbey Vocational School, Donegal Town	External Environment Works	125,236.00
2	Crana College, Buncrana	External Environment Works	81,950.50
3	Deele College, Raphoe	Structural Improvement Works	324,319.00
4	Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada	External Environment Works	66,156.00
5	Moville Community College	Mechanical Services Upgrade	35,297.55
6	St. Catherine's Vocational School Killybegs	External Environment Works	97,790.00

#### 4.2.2 Schools allocated funding for Water Conservation Measures:

	School	Budget Approved (including Fees & VAT)
1.	Mulroy College, Milford	13,495.00
2.	Erigal College, Letterkenny	15,630.00
3.	Carrick Vocational School, Carrick	3,305.00
4.	Crana College, Buncrana	10,050.00
5.	Magh Ene College, Bundoran	4,140.00
6.	Gaimscoil Mhic Diarmada (Arranmore Island)	3,785.00
7.	Gaimscoil Chú Uladh (Fintown)	2,325.00
8.	St Catherine's Vocational School, Killybegs	9,735.00
9.	Moville Community College	4,610.00

### 4.3 Emergency Works Grant

Applications approved under the Emergency Works Grant (EWG) during 2010:

	School	Project	Budget Approved (including Fees & VAT)
1.	Carrick Vocational School	Roof Replacement	544,272.00
2.	Carrick Vocational School	Dust Extraction Upgrade	26,473.25
3.	Crana College, Buncrana	H.E. Room Upgrade	104,703.00
4.	St. Catherine's Vocational School	Access for All Works	99,638.67
5.	Centre for Education, Letterkenny	Provision of Platform Lift & Fire Escape Stairs	89,500.00
6.	Adult Education Centre, Gortahork	Disabled Toilet Facilities	31,785.00
7.	Adult Education Centre, Milford	Electrical Services Upgrade	172,452.00
8.	Adult Education Centre, Milford	Subsidence Works	12,214.76

Further enhancement of the Learning Environment was achieved through various other initiatives on behalf of the Committee:-

## 4.4 New Initiatives

### **Coláiste Chineál Eoghain:**

- Two extra classrooms added to the campus along with a state of the art metalwork suite

### **Magh Éne College:**

- Academic Monitoring has been introduced whereby students' academic progress is monitored on an individual basis

### **Crana College:**

- Introduction of the Leaving Certificate Applied course for a limited number of senior students.
- Involvement of National Co-ordinator for LCA and establishment of in-school committee.
- Literacy and Numeracy week for all 1st Years.
- Study Skills for 3rd and 5th Year students introduced along with after-school Study on 1 evening per week

### **Colaiste Ailigh:**

- A study skills day was organized for third and sixth year students.
- The Deputy Principal provided classes in the Irish language for newly appointed teachers as part of the school's induction programme

### **Adult Education:**

- Training for Tutors

### **VTOS:**

- Study groups and a learner mentor system was piloted in a number of locations

### **Youthreach:**

- Provision of further classrooms and new toilets in Centre for Education, Letterkenny (Youthreach/STTC).
- Provision of new classrooms in Gortahork Youthreach

### **Deele College:**

- Behaviour support classroom
- New library
- New windows and doors everywhere. Refurbished H.E. room and Art room store

### **Donegal Music Partnership:**

- The delivery of a series of PEACE III funded programmes in both National and Secondary schools thus expanding the reach of the music service

### **Coláiste Phobail Cholmcille:**

- As part of the Healthy Schools project members of the public as well as parents, students and staff were invited to awareness days about suicide and depression and how to cope

### **Errigal College:**

- The College is hosting the Diploma in Drug & Alcohol Studies co-ordinated by Co Donegal VEC in conjunction with University of Limerick.
- Participation in LDS Forbairt Programme (Principal, Deputy Principal and 2 Assistant Principals)
- Family events organised by HSCL & SCP

### **Finn Valley College:**

- The Board of Management is busy ensuring that the new school building will be adapted to meet the new needs for Disability Access.
- It is also pressing ahead with its request that the Special Classroom for students with ASD be constructed as a special facility in the new building.
- ICT provision was updated.

**Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada:**

- Setting up the Irish Association and Srúth Gaeilge in the school

**Gairmscoil Chú Uladh:**

- Fisheries Course: Fourteen 2nd Year students participated in a fisheries course provided by the Foyle Fishery Commission. The course took place over three days and students learned fishing skills as well as about stock conservation and environmental protection

**Gartan:**

- A Walking Group Leader (WGL) and Tourism Business Development programme was provided and developed in conjunction with DLDC and Fáilte Ireland. The WGL is a hillwalking leader award course.
- Gartan commenced the process of seeking resources to develop Gartan Estate as a unique facility within Outdoor Education.
- Gartan also commenced the process of achieving Eco Centre status.

## 4.5 Resource Enhancement/ICT and Communication Systems

**Coláiste Chineál Eoghain:**

- A State of the Art metalwork suite was fitted in one of the new classrooms along with further development of staffing, with new Music, Business, History and Science teachers appointed.

**Crana College:**

- Installation of 24 new computers in the Computer Suite.
- New roof erected on the school

**Adult Education:**

- Expansion of PC access for clients wanting to access pathfinder and computer-based information in Letterkenny Guidance Centre.

**Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada:**

- Work commenced on the replacement of the existing dilapidated prefabs with a permanent structure consisting of four new classrooms, tuck-shop, toilets and office space.
- Funding has also been secured under the Summer Works Scheme for ground works around the school

**Magh Éne College:**

- Additional software was added to the college's educational software facility to enhance learning and teaching. This includes Mind Mapping software catering for the needs of both student and teacher

**Coláiste Ailigh:**

- The Parents' Association organised and supervised a Homework Club for third and sixth year students after school Monday to Thursday.
- A sports uniform was introduced for the first time for first year students

**Deele College:**

- School systems improvement through NBSS.
- Refurbishment of student toilets

**Errigal College:**

- Participation in SEI project to reduce energy consumption;
- Winners of €5,000 in the AIB Better Ireland Programme for the Music Department

**St Catherine's Vocational School:**

- Increased ICT for Design and Communication Graphics

## 4.6 Policy Implementation

Schools, Colleges and Centres continue to work, in consultation with Parents Associations, Teaching Staff, Student Councils and Learner Representatives, and the VEC Administrative Offices on a wide range of policies, inclusive of the introduction of new policies and the review of existing policies where appropriate. Development and review of policies and systems ensures excellence in all aspects of the learning environment.

### **Coláiste Chineál Eoghain:**

- The creation of a new Special Educational Needs Policy

### **Crana College:**

- Review of the school's Code of Behaviour, including the update of procedures in relation to Suspension and Expulsion in keeping with the NEWB Guidelines.
- Review of the school's approach to Homework in consultation with the Parents' Committee, the Student Council and the Staff.

### **Magh Éne College:**

- Code of Behaviour and Admissions, Participation and Enrolment Policies reviewed

### **St Catherine's Vocational School:**

Development of Debs Policy, Review of Mobile Phone Policy, Admission Policies and Code of Behaviour

### **VTOS:**

- Policies were reviewed and updated to reflect changes as a result of a staff review

### **Youthreach:**

- A new county-wide Admissions Policy and Code of Behaviour were developed.
- Development of Critical Incident Policy in all centres through support from Educational Psychologist.
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) Initiative continued in Ballyshannon Youthreach

### **Coláiste Phobail Colmcille:**

- Irish Policy and Code of Behaviour reviewed in line with NEWB guidelines.
- Preparation of production of safety statement.

### **Deele College:**

- Homework Policy reviewed and Guidance Plan developed.

### **Errigal College:**

- Up dated Literacy and Numeracy Policy; Up dated Intercultural Policy; DEIS Plan, Code of Behaviour and Admissions Policy.

### **Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada:**

- The new Gaelic Policy implemented; Health & Safety reviewed; Code of Behaviour reviewed and Admissions Policy Reviewed.



## 4.7 Programmes

The introduction of new programmes and expanded programmes has also added to the quality of the Learning Environment:-

### Coláiste Chineál Eoghain

- Introduction of After School Exam Preparation Classes, a lunchtime Games Club and a lunch time Walking Club. The College has also seen the ongoing implementation of Restorative Justice Practices along with the introduction of Solid Works Computer package for Technical Graphics.

### St. Catherine's Vocational School:

- Addition of Data Projector in all classrooms and greater use of ICT equipment following staff training.
- Improved Disability access

### Magh Éne College:

- Post Leaving Certificate Programme extended to include Childcare with Special Needs, Veterinary Assisting & Pre Nursing
- Students involved in cross border KEY and LET Programmes

### Adult Education:

- Annual Adult Learner Fair builds understanding and integration of programmes and staff
- The 'Making a Book Programme' supported building basic skills and in an environment where learners from different communities participated.
- Cross-community and cross-border cooperation was facilitated through the delivery of IT and historical studies under the IFI funded History Links Project

### Donegal Music Partnership:

- The In-service Primary School Teachers' course specifically focusing on the main aspects of the new music curriculum – composition, multi-media, performance.

### Coláiste Phobail Colmcille:

- Preparation is underway to provide a PLC course next year

### Coláiste Chineál Eoghain:

- Continuous Subject Planning, School Planning and the review of policies; Special Educational Needs, Code of Behaviour, Irish, Admissions, Health & Safety, Substance Misuse Policies

### Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada:

- Expansion of programmes; JCSP programme • Junior Certificate Programme • Transition Year Programme
- Leaving Certificate Programme • School Completion Programme • DEIS

### Gairmscoil Chú Uladh:

- Big Brother/ Big Sister Mentoring Programme for first year students was established.

### Gartan Outdoor Education Centre:

- With the benefit of new equipment during 2008/2009 which was supported by a Sports Capital Grant from The Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism, Gartan expanded provision of expedition style courses for young people in particular. These courses emphasise personal challenge and development, and promises to be a very positive programme inclusion over the coming years.



## 4.8 Restorative Practices



A Restorative Practice approach as part of a whole school approach to positive behaviour is being implemented in many of the schools and colleges with ongoing training being carried out.

Restorative Practices in Schools, is the name given to a range of processes which can be integrated into the school community when conflict or offending occurs including, creating a restorative vision, restorative language, restorative questioning, circle time, impromptu conference and group conference. These practices serve the school community in many ways beyond simply dealing with misbehaviour. When embedded into the school culture they are a means to building a restorative community in the school.

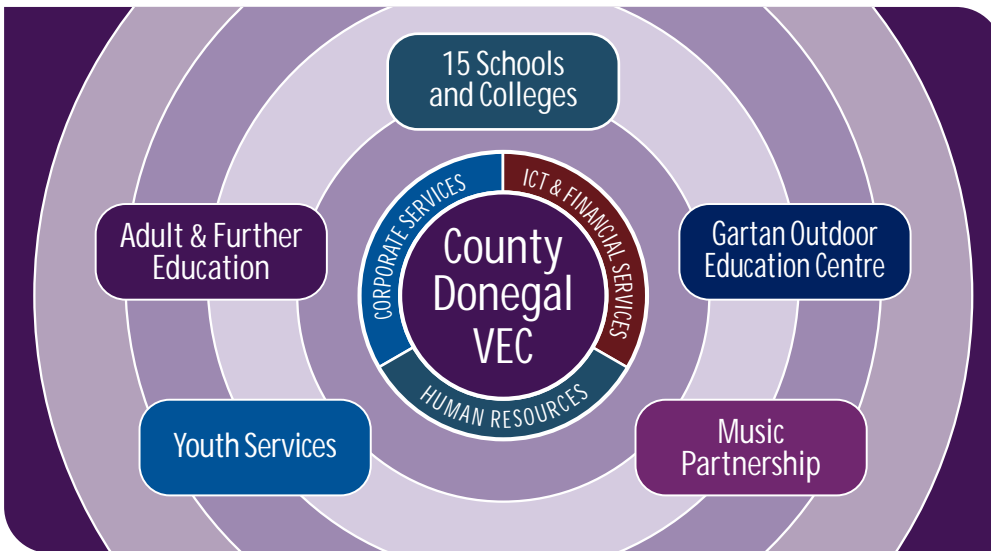
In 2010, Donegal VEC Schools availed of a Restorative Practices approach through:-

- Whole School information and training sessions
- Refresher Sessions
- Assistant Principals supervision and training sessions
- Mentor training from a restorative approach and follow up support.
- Planning and Support visits
- Parent Evenings
- Year Head and Class Tutor training
- Special Needs Assistant training

# 5. Key Priority Area Organisational Development



*To ensure that our service is supported by an appropriate organisational structure and the necessary human, technical and financial resources.*

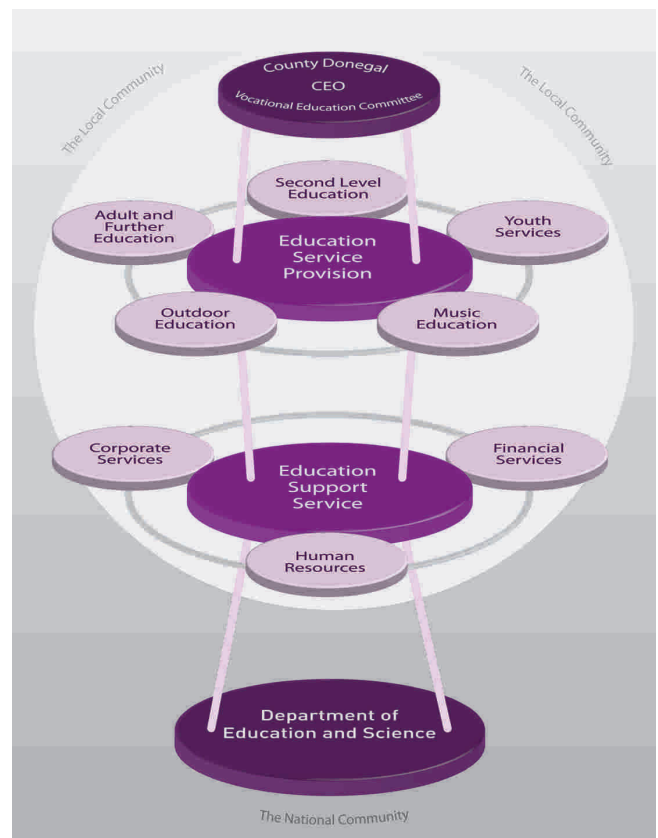


**Figure 5.1  
Co Donegal  
Service Provision**

The relationship between Co Donegal VEC and its Schools, Colleges and Centres is a strong and vibrant one as systems are devised, implemented and improved for the continued development in the area of organisational development.

All Schools, Colleges and Centres seek at all times to work at awareness building in relation to the Education Plan, the Service Plan and the Annual Report with all staff members.

The Strategy Development Team meets on a regular basis to review progress on the Service Plan and the overall progress of the aims and objectives of the Education Plan 2006-2010.



## 5.1 Maintaining And Developing Systems For Human, Technical And Financial Management

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Moville Community College was involved in a new initiative as the first of Co Donegal VEC Schools to pilot an On-line Payment System for part-time teachers. The system will replace the hard copy claim forms. It is envisaged to roll this out to other locations in 2011.

## 5.2 Training And Development

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In October 2010, several staff members participated in a Conflict Coaching Course as part of a PEACE III initiative in conjunction with the HSE. A follow-up Mediation Conference was held at which a large group of VEC staff members attended.

Newly appointed Teachers to Co Donegal VEC attended an Induction Day in November 2010. Topics covered included The Teaching Council, the role of the TUI, VEC operational procedures and general legislation and procedures.

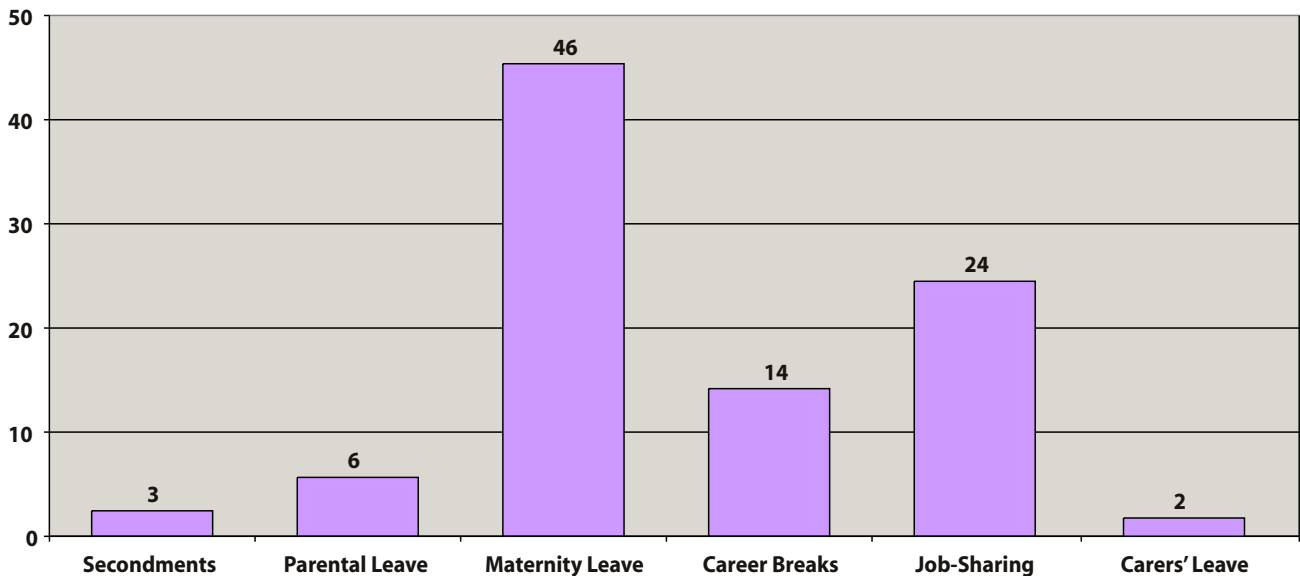
A new service was introduced in Co Donegal VEC in 2010 to enhance the education psychology provision in the schools, colleges and centres of the scheme. This service will enhance the current provision by the National Education Psychological Services (NEPS) to second level schools and colleges.

## 5.3 Supporting And Building The Capacity Of All Who Contribute To The Effectiveness Of Co Donegal VEC

### 5.3.1 Work Life Balance and Staff Leave Entitlements

Co Donegal VEC recognises the personal needs and obligations of staff and where possible, within relevant guidelines, facilitates various leave entitlements to meet such needs. Figure 5.3 highlights the applications for leave entitlements that were processed for staff during 2010.

**Figure 5.3 Applications for Leave Entitlements**



Maintenance of all other staff records includes staff absence due to illness, annual leave, compassionate leave, force majeure leave, unpaid leave and the update of personnel files in accordance with audit/organisational and legislation requirements.

## 5.4 Services Through The Irish Language

### 5.4.1 Forbairt na Gaeilge

Coiste Forbartha na Gaeilge continued to implement, monitor and review the commitments as outlined in the Committee's second Language Scheme under Section 11 of the Official Languages Act, 2003 in order to provide quality services through Irish and/or bilingually and inform customers of their right to choose to be dealt with through either of the official languages.

This objective is achieved through:-

- Active promotion of bilingual services available to the public
- Means of communication with the public and information provided to the public
- Committee's corporate website, which is fully bilingual
- Committee's Irish language capabilities through appropriate training and development

## 5.5 Applying Quality Assurance Systems in Delivery of all Programmes

In relation to BTEI, Quality Assurance continued to be at the heart of all provision offered throughout the county with continuous improvement year on year. The Adult Learner Guidance Service improved its referral and communication systems with the Adult Literacy Service to support client progression. New materials were developed by the Learning for Living Programme which were shared across all programmes. VTOS made considerable progress on new procedures to be introduced in 2010 in relation to FETAC assessment procedures.

The Youthreach and STTC Quality Framework Initiative (QFI) continued in 2010:-

- Gortahork Youthreach was inspected by DES inspectors as part of the External Evaluation process
- Ballyshannon, Buncrana/Glengad, Gortahork and Letterkenny Youthreach completed Centre Development Plans for 2010-2013
- Lifford and STTC completed the Internal Centre Evaluation (ICE) process resulting in the production of an annual report for each centre
- Lifford also began the Centre Development Planning (CDP) process towards the production of a new Centre Development Plan
- Gartan Outdoor Education Centre continues to enjoy approval for its various courses through relevant National Governing Bodies, and Fáilte Ireland.

- The ITTC reviewed all current Quality Assurance policies and updated them in line with new legislation.
- All Second Level Schools and Colleges who offer FETAC courses are bound by the Quality Assurance system.
- All Second Level Schools and Colleges carry out their own internal self-evaluation of programmes and policies. Results of State Examinations are analysed and compared to national averages.
- In the Second Level Education area, Errigal College had an Art Subject Inspection which was carried out by the Department of Education and Skills Inspectorate.



# 6. Key Priority Area Partnership



*In a spirit of partnership to strengthen, and maximise the potential of our relationships in all areas of our service.*

## 6.1 Overview

Co Donegal VEC recognises that it is neither desirable nor feasible for any one organisation to meet the education needs of the county and partnership is a crucial element of its work. In striving to meet the learning needs of local communities, Donegal VEC works formally and informally with a wide range of individuals and organisations (community, voluntary and statutory) across the county, enabling effective delivery of its education services. This partnership approach to service provision is carried out at a number of levels, namely local, regional, national and international.

## 6.2 Local

Partnership operates locally within the organisation, within immediate communities and within the county. Within Co Donegal VEC itself, a number of organisational partnerships exist to ensure the smooth running of the Committee's day to day business; in 2010 these included the Strategy Development Team, Principals, and the Senior Adult Education Staff Team.



One of the principal partners within our work are the **parents and guardians** of the young people attending the Committee's 15 Schools, Colleges and Centres, 6 Youthreach Centres for education, the Outdoor Education Centre at Gartan and the Music and Youth Services, who place their confidence in our education service. The parents and guardians assist in the running of our services through their involvement in Representation on our Boards of Management, Parents Associations and fundraising committees. In addition, many of the adults attending programmes in the Committee's six Adult Education & Training Centres are also parents themselves who place their young children in the care of our crèches while they progress their own learning.



Another important partner is **employers** across the county who provide valuable work experience for learners and students. This is particularly important within the Adult Education Service where work experience is an integral part of the programmes for learners particularly on the VTOS and BTEI Programmes, Youthreach and the Senior Traveller Training Centre. Increasingly employers are also becoming an important partner for schools as work experience is an important element of the Transition Year programmes, the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA), the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) and Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses.

In 2010, many of our partners were drawn from the community, voluntary and sporting sectors, while Co Donegal VEC continued working with a range of statutory partners throughout the year.

Co Donegal VEC staff participated in a large number of these local working and advisory groups and committees throughout the county such as:- the County Development Board subcommittees, County Childcare Committee, Home School Community Liaison Network, Youth Services, Family Resource Centres, Women's Centre, Family Action Letterkenny, Buncrana Community Combatting Suicide, Community Workers Co-operative, Health Services Executive, FÁS, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Peace III Partnership Committee, Partnership companies, Community Workers Co-operative, Donegal Local Development Company Board and Sub-Panels, North West Alcohol Forum; Donegal County Council's Donegal Road Safety Working Group; School Transport Working Group; Inishowen Development Partnership (Community & Youth Sub-group); Comhairle na nÓg/Donegal Youth Council; North West Regional Drugs Task Force and many others groups. There was also ongoing collaboration with the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs to provide guidance for unemployed people.

Schools maintained links with a range of organisations such as Donegal Youth Council, Letterkenny Women's Centre, Foróige, Donegal Youth Service, Gardaí, local primary schools, local businesses and family resource centres.

The Music Education Service maintained links locally with the Donegal Education Centre, the Regional Cultural Centre, Donegal County Council Public Art Programme and PEACE III Office.

## 6.3 Regional

Partnership arrangements on a regional basis are also an important part of Co Donegal VEC's working arrangements, which extended our work in 2010 beyond county boundaries, including a range of cross-border partnerships. This included for example, work by the Adult Learner Guidance Service as a partner in a cross border INTERREG bid to provide training for people with Hearing impaired to become Sign Language tutors. Adult Education Services were also involved in Skills for Work, SkillsVEC, Cross Border Cooperation (NWRC), FAS Regional Network and the ALOA Regional Network through the Learning for Living Programme, while the ITTC worked at a regional level with organisations such as Worklink and the National Learning Network. Schools co-operated with a range of regional organisations including sport, the GAA in Ulster, Letterkenny and Sligo Institutes of Technology and the Department of Education & Skills Support Services. A number of Schools and Colleges were involved with the Donegal Historical Society, Údaras na Gaeltachta, Gael Linn, Inishowen Traditional Music Project and the Health Services Executive's Health Promotion Department.

Co Donegal VEC staff also continued to participate in a number of regional working and advisory groups and committees in 2010.

In 2010 Gartan Outdoor Education Centre also maintained national partnerships with Donegal Sports Partnership and Donegal Mountain Biking.

## 6.4 National

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Co Donegal VEC works in partnership with a number of national organisations who are crucial to the smooth delivery of services in the county.

Schools maintained links with a range of national sporting bodies such as the GAA, the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU), Volleyball Ireland, Basketball Ireland, Football Association of Ireland (FAI), Irish Judo Association and the Irish Schools Swimming Association. Carrick Vocational School also had one member of staff actively involved in athletics on a national basis.

Schools also worked in partnership with a range of national educational bodies and support services during 2010 including the Department of Education and Skills; National Education and Welfare Board (NEWB); Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JCSP); Leadership Development for Schools (LDS) (Forbairt Programme); National Education Psychological Services (NEPS); Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE); Special Education Support Service (SESS); School Development Planning Initiative (SDPI); Second Level Support Service (SLSS); National Council for Special Education (NCSE); Professional Development for Secondary Teachers (PDST) and a range of universities. Moreover, the Music Service continued its national partnership with the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras and the National Music Network.

In addition, Co Donegal VEC staff participated in a number of national working and advisory groups and committees in 2010 including the following:

- Breacadh (Provision of basic education through Irish language)
- IASC
- FETAC
- AONTAS
- NALA
- MABS
- National Associations:
  - National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals;
  - Chief Executive Officers and Education Officers Association;
  - Adult Education Officers Association;
  - Adult Literacy Organisers Association;
  - Community Education Facilitators Association;
  - National Association of VTOS Co-ordinators
  - Adult Education Guidance Association;
  - Irish Vocational Education Association (IVEA)
  - National Association of Youthreach Co-ordinators (Co Donegal County Co-ordinator was a member of the Executive Committee as the Newsletter Editor);
  - BTEI National Association

The Youthreach County Co-ordinator also sat on an Editorial committee for the Road Safety Authority (RSA) as they developed a National Road Safety Programme for 17-24 year olds ([www.wrecked.ie](http://www.wrecked.ie)), while the ITTC delivered an IT Skills Course in association with RNID, Action on Hearing Loss, Northern Ireland.

In 2010 Gartan Outdoor Education Centre also maintained national partnerships with the following bodies:

- Outdoor Education Ireland
- Irish Sailing Association
- Mountaineering Ireland
- National Trails Office
- Heritage Service
- Canoe Association Northern Ireland

#### 6.4.1 Diploma in Drugs and Alcohol Studies

The University of Limerick Diploma in Drug and Alcohol Studies is taught in three Centres nationwide, ie, the University of Limerick campus, Cherry Orchard, Dublin and Letterkenny in Co Donegal for the whole of the North West. The Course which is co-ordinated by is Christina Murray McEleney based at Donegal VEC Offices, consists of a five partner Management Board of the following partners:-

- Co Donegal VEC
- Health Services Executive
- North West Alcohol Forum Ltd
- North West Regional Drugs Task Force
- University of Limerick



The Course which is a one year intensive course at Level 7 carries 60 European Credit Transfers. It is designed to provide personal and professional growth and development for a range of individuals who are actively engaged in responding to drug and alcohol issues across the spectrum from prevention to treatment and rehabilitation. It is suitable for health professionals, social care professionals, teachers, guidance counsellors, youth and child care workers, prison officers, Gardaí, probation officers and community workers, among others.

Launched initially in 2008, the second cohort of students (20) have now successfully graduated in August 2010 at the University of Limerick with a university qualification which is indicative of their outstanding achievement and a reflection of their hard work and commitment to study.

## 6.5 International

International partnership work continued to feature as part of Co Donegal VEC's work in 2010. This included for example, four Transition Year students from Coláiste Ailigh spending two weeks attending college in St Louis, United States of America; Coláiste Chineal Eoghain's Franco Irish Student Exchange Programme took place and Tory was involved with an E-twinning Project. Errigal College continued links with Poland as a result of having a teaching staff member from Poland, while Moville Community College created links in New Brunswick in Canada, Islay in Scotland and Kampala in Uganda. Mulroy College was also involved in the Cross Border Initiative 'Crossing Boundaries'.



The Music Education Service maintained international links with Concerto Malaga, Spain and Apple Hill Centre for Chamber Music, Boston, USA.

Gartan Outdoor Education Centre's work in 2010 extended far at international level with ongoing liaison with the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (UK), developments with the Irish Nepalese Education Trust (INET) and the World Wave Ski Association.

During 2010 the Director of Gartan chaired, at the request of Mountaineering Ireland and Sport NI, an independent working group which assessed the potential for merging the two Mountain Training Boards on the island of Ireland.

# 7. Key Priority Area Image & Identity



*To promote a dynamic and progressive image and identity of Co Donegal VEC and its service.*

The overall objectives regarding Image & Identity as set down in Co Donegal VEC's Education Plan include:

- Development of organisational website
- Improve information dissemination
- Develop a communication strategy
- Promotion of the VEC second level education

The Annual Report document was presented in both English and Irish as an online only document continuing the significant savings in publication costs and as an environmentally friendly production.

2010 brought many awards and innovations, good work and achievements across all of Committee's services. The work of all involved in enhancing the organisation's image and identity, by assisting in personal achievements for students, learners and staff and the work achieved by the organisation as a whole, are enjoyed by all partners of the organisation, inclusive of students, staff, parents and reaching the wider community, particularly through its Adult and Community Education sector.

As it is not possible to list all our achievements for the 2010 year, only a selection are highlighted and included in this section.

**Table 7.1 Highlights from each School, College and Centre**

CARRICK VOCATIONAL SCHOOL		
	<p>Donegal Vocational Schools Under 14 and Under 16 Senior Football Champions 2009-2010</p> <hr/> <p>Derek O'Driscoll and Kieron Byme winners of the Cecil King Cup 2010</p>	

COLÁISTE AILIGH • LEITIR CEANAINN



Aisling Ni Bhraoin, who won first place in Ulster in the Gael Linn 'Barúil' competition. Aisling was subsequently invited to participate in the Rí Chéile Festival in the Isle of Skye, Scotland, and she is photographed here with Sinéad Ni Cholmáin and Maighrhead Nic Suibhne, former member of the Board of Management of Coláiste Ailigh, who accompanied her to the Isle of Skye.

Science was once again to the fore in the successes of Coláiste Ailigh students this year. The school places great emphasis on the importance of science subjects. Two major prizes were awarded to Coláiste Ailigh students at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition, and seven prizes, including 'Best Communicator' for the second year in a row came to Coláiste Ailigh at the Ski Fest exhibition. Pictured are Caitriona Nic a t'Saoir and Freda Nic Oscar working on their projects in the school's science laboratory.



COLÁISTE PHOBAIL SCOIL COLMCILLE • OILEÁN THÓRAÍ



Transition Year students, Ciara Ni Dhubhgáin and Anne Marie Nic Ruairi, who won first prize in Co Donegal Historical Society's Schools' Competition.

Some of the participants and instructors who took part in music classes, funded by the VEC in Tory during the year.

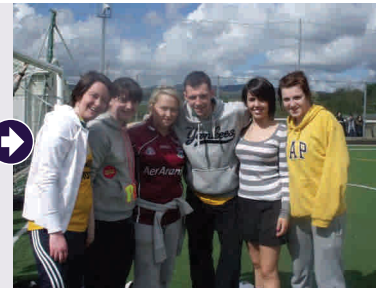


CRANA COLLEGE • BUNCRANA



Voting Day for Donegal Youth Council Pictured: Leah Michalides, Crana College Candidate Ellen Lavelle, Niamh Clerkin and Mary Jackson.

5th Year students enjoying at Sports Day at the College.



DEELE COLLEGE • RAPHOE



Junior Certificate student, Kealan Nesbitt who came first in Ireland in Materials Technology Metalwork Ordinary Level. Pictured with his subject Teacher Mr Foy and Principal Mr Mc Gowan

Leaving Cert student and Head Boy Oisín Grant who came second in Ireland in Leaving Certificate Design and Communication Graphics at Ordinary Level. Pictured: Mr Danny O'Brien Teacher; Oisín Grant and the Registrar GMI

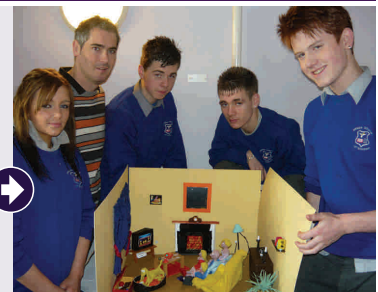


ERRIGAL COLLEGE • LETTERKENNY



Celtic Crunch Build A Bank Team who came 2nd at the All Ireland Final in May at Croke Park Pictured: Michelle O'Donnell, Andrews Opoku, Kerry Lee Coyle, Dylan Murphy, Zyanda Shologu, Chris Cannon, Martin Rodgers, Hannah O'Donnell.

Award winning Transition Year Mini Company, for their animated fire safety DVD called Sparky



**FINN VALLEY COLLEGE • STRANORLAR**



← **Signing of the Contract for the New Finn Valley College. David Alcom, Chairperson; Co. Donegal VEC Maryann Kane CEO Co. Donegal VEC and Mr. Kerigan, Managing Director Midland Construction.**

Meeting an Tánaiste; The Principal introduces the Student Council to an Tánaiste while the CEO, The Chairperson of the VEC and the Chairperson of the BOM look on.



**COLÁISTE CHINEÁL EOGHAIN • BUN CRANNCHA**



← **Shannon Carter 2nd Year Student Coláiste Chineál Eoghain who won the BT Best Communicator Award at the 2010 Scifest Competition**

Amanda Ni Neighill accepting her Award for winning a Public Speaking Competition hosted by Cumann Gaelach Chnoc na Ros.



**GAIRMSCOIL CHÚ ULADH • BEAL AN ÁTHA MÓIR**



← **Students who performed in the school musical Oklahoma under the direction of teachers Deirdre Bonner and Kelli McGrory**

Gairmscoil Chú Uladh Healthy Schools Committee who received a special Award for Student Participation at the recent Health Services Executive end of year Awards.

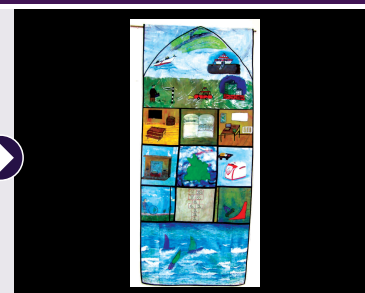


**GAIRMSCOIL MHC DIARMADA ARAINN MHÓR**



← **Green Flag Day 2010**

Arranmore Island Tapestry 2010 created by students from Transition Year and Elderly people from the Ionad Iae on the Island



**MAGH ÉNE COLLEGE • BUNDORAN**



← **Magh Éne College students with their partner school, CC English School, Guiyang in China. Students pictured in the 4,000 year old Miaow Village of the Guinjou Province**

Four of Magh Éne College's Leaving Certificate Higher level Maths students taking part in Co Donegal's Maths Association Olimpiad





MOVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



A snowy Moville Community College



Breaking ground in our new garden

MULROY COLLEGE



Mulroy College Junior Sports Day. Presentation to the Winning Team



Winners of the 'Transition Year' Bake Off' Competition

ST. CATHERINE'S VOCATIONAL SCHOOL • KILLYBEGS



Leo Boyle one of 120 students across the 26 counties awarded a JP McManus Scholarships this scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to the top performing students in each county who attend any recognised non fee-paying post-primary school.



Ulster Champions 2010 - Debating Science competition which invites young people to engage in debate on the cultural, societal and ethical implications of advances in biomedical science.

ADULT LEARNER GUIDANCE



Adult Guidance Fair 2010 held at the Mount Errigal Hotel and attended by over 1,000 visitors from the four corners of Donegal, and despite the wintry conditions, this was the busiest fair yet.



BTEI - BACK TO EDUCATION INITIATIVE



Getting the polytunnel for the start of the horticultural course in Rannafast. Rain or shine in Rannafast we'll be ready for the growing season.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICE



Inver First Aid Course

The Polytunnel gardening course is in Dungloe



YOUTHREACH CENTRES



Learners from the Buncrana and Glengad Youthreach Centres on a study visit to Derry as part of a cross-border intercultural studies project.

STTC - SENIOR TRAVELLING TRAINING CENTRE

STTC Learners, Staff and members of the Board of Management pictured at their annual presentation of awards.



LEARNING FOR LIVING PROGRAMME

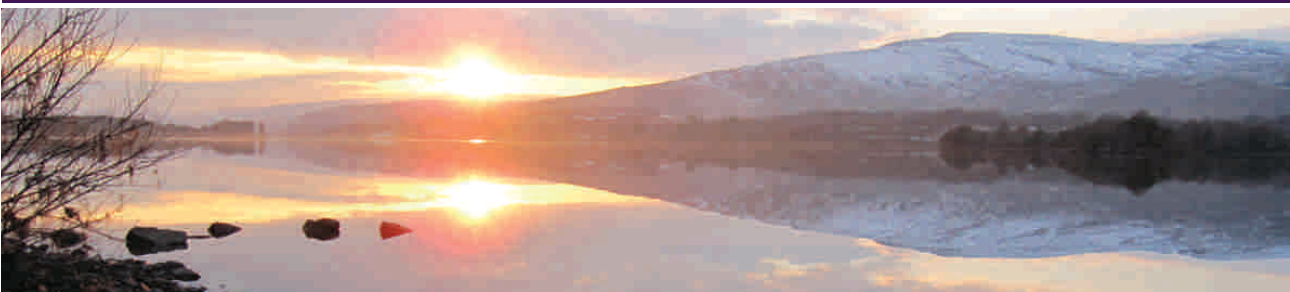


Launch of book of students' writings

Presentation of Junior Certificate and FETAC Certificates in Donegal Town in October



GARTAN OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE



### COUNTY DONEGAL VEC MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAMME



← The Donegal Youth Orchestra at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, prior to their performance at the National Festival of Youth Orchestras (Feb 2010)

Members of the Junior Choir performing at the Donegal Music Education Partnership's Annual Family Christmas Concert



### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TRAINING CENTRE



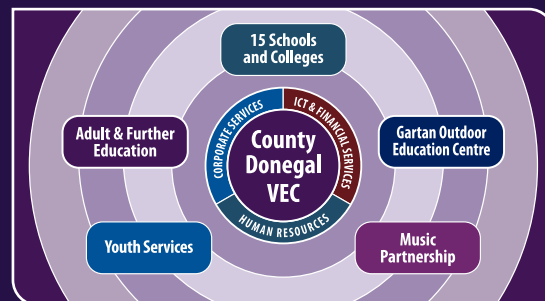
← Trainees that completed the Landscape Construction course (Fetac Level 4 Minor Award) with the IT Training Centre pictured on the decking they constructed as part of the course located in the Centre for Education.

Students and staff on a field trip to Glenveagh National Park.



# 8. Corporate Governance

## Financial Report



## 8.1 Overview

### 8.1.1 Finance Strategy

The objective of the Finance Function is to support the Committee in the achievement, within Budget, of objectives set out in the annual Service Plan. Finance Support includes decision making support, corporate control of public money, transaction processing and Statutory Accountability.

### 8.1.2 Statutory Accountability

Strict accountability requirements apply to VECs. These requirements include the preparation of Annual Accounts in a format prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills and the Audit of these Accounts by the Comptroller & Auditor General. Financial Control Systems based on detailed Policies and Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with these requirements and to ensure the effective achievement of objectives.

### 8.1.3 Comments On Performance

The Finance Division managed and administered 80 Programme Budgets of recurrent expenditure totaling €54.43 million and Capital Projects, in association with the Committee's Building Services and Estates Management Section, totaling €5.75 million, a total spend of €60.18 million. The continued pattern of decrease in approved budgets presented major challenges for Budget holders in the delivery of services.

Co Donegal VEC employed a total of 1,503 staff making it one of the largest Employers in the County.

A new Internet based Purchase to Pay System has been successfully implemented in the majority of the Schools, Colleges and Centres for the processing of Creditors' Payments with the majority of suppliers being paid by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT). Further steps were taken during 2010 to extend this system to include a Budget Reporting Module which was fully commissioned by end of 2010.

Payments totaling €5.353 million were processed in favour of 1,464 students who attended recognised Third Level Colleges in Ireland and the UK together with 185 students who attended Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) Courses in Second Level Schools throughout the County.

Payments totaling €3.59 million were processed in favour of Trainees attending the various Programmes under the Further and Adult Education Services such as Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS), Youthreach (YR) and Senior Traveller Training Centre (STTC) together with a wide range of courses provided on a Contract Training basis on behalf of FÁS.

## 8.2 Financial Information

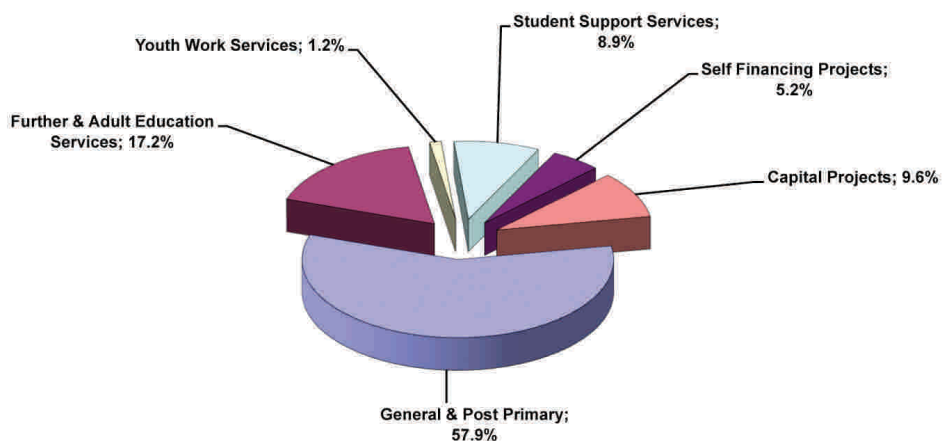
The Audit of Accounts for 2010 is pending and formal certification of the Accounts by the Comptroller and Auditor General is awaited.

The following Table sets out a Summary of Payments for the 2010 Year:

PROGRAMME	2009 EXPENDITURE	
	₹000	%
General and Post Primary (Running costs of 15 Second Level Schools and Colleges, Adult Education Night Class Programme and VEC Offices)	34,851	(57.9%)
Further and Adult Education Services (VTOS, Youthreach, STTC, Adult Literacy, Community Education, Adult Guidance, Childcare, LMESP etc.)	10,363	(17.2%)
Youth Work Services	733	(1.2%)
Student Support Services (VEC Scholarships/PLC Grants)	5,353	(8.9%)
Self Financing Projects	3,130	(5.2%)
Capital Projects	5,752	(9.6%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,182</b>	<b>100%</b>

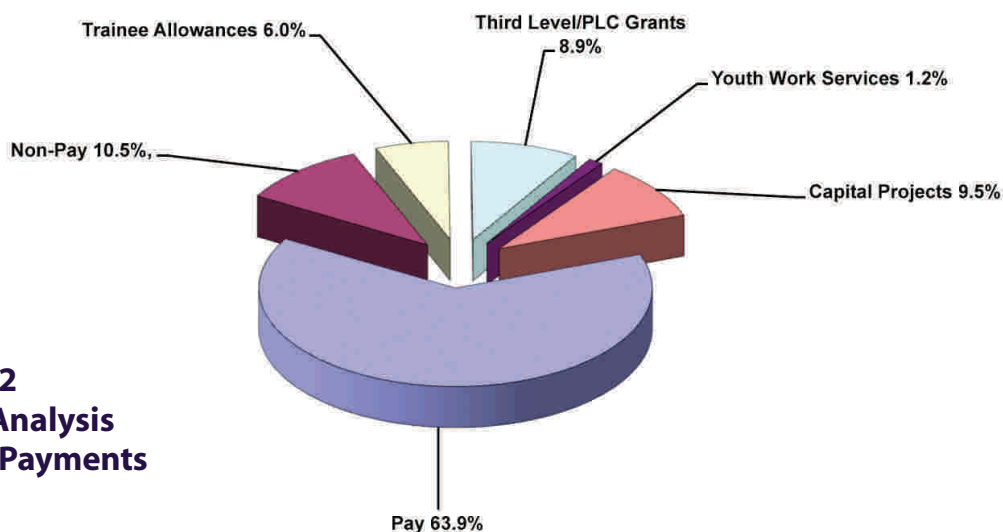
**Table 8.1 Summary of 2010 Payments**

**Figure 8.1  
Summary of  
Payments for 2010**

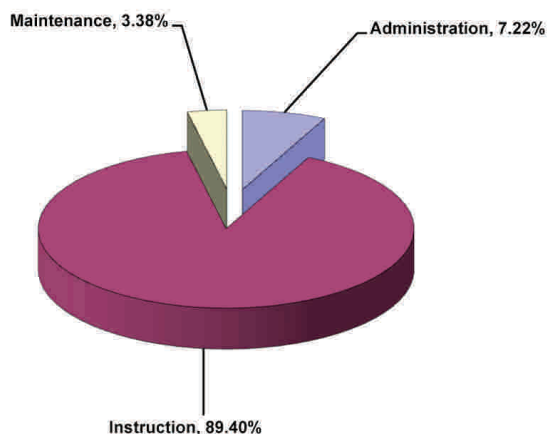


Further analysis of 2010 Payments indicates the following:

PROGRAMME	2010 EXPENDITURE	
	Amount	Percentage
Pay	€38.44million	(63.9%)
Non-Pay	€6.32million	(10.5%)
Trainee Allowances	€3.59million	(6%)
Third Level/PLC Grants	€5.35million	(8.9%)
Youth Work Services	€0.73million	(1.2%)
Capital Projects	€5.75million	(9.5%)
Total	€60.18million	(100%)



**Figure 8.2  
Further Analysis  
for 2010 Payments**



**Figure 8.3**  
**Pay Breakdown 2010**

## 8.3 Corporate Governance

The VEC has adopted a Code of Best Practice for Governance. The Code adopted is consistent with the Code set out by the Department of Education and Science in Circular Letter F11/05. The purpose of the Code is to ensure that the Principles of good Governance and Management are applied by the VEC.

In the Finance area, this process is assisted by the appointment of an Audit Committee, a Finance Sub-Committee and an effective System of Internal Financial Control.

## 8.4 Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is composed of seven Non-Executive Members of Co Donegal VEC, all of whom are independent of management under the Chairmanship of Clr Jimmy Kavanagh, who had been appointed to this position for the term of the Committee. The Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring the Executive in the carrying out of its functions and provides assurances to the Committee as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the Internal Control processes. It received reports from Management, External Audit provided by the Comptroller and Auditor General and Internal Audit provided by the Vocational Support Services Unit (VSSU) which includes a review of the Policies and Procedures governing the Finance and other functions. The Committee receives Minutes of Meetings of the Audit Committee and has regard to its Annual Report in adopting a Statement of Internal Financial Control (SIFC) and approving the Annual Accounts.

## 8.5 Finance Sub-committee

The Finance Sub-Committee is composed of eight members including the CEO in an Ex-Officio capacity. It has responsibility for reviewing the Income/Expenditure of the VEC, major Contracts awarded by the VEC and the financial aspects of the Education and Service Plans respectively. Minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee meetings are received by the Committee for consideration and to assist in providing assurance that the Education and Service Plans are being achieved.

## 8.6 Internal Control

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The Committee has overall responsibility for ensuring that an effective System of Internal Financial Control is maintained and operated. The Committee carries out an Annual Review of Internal Controls at which it receives and has regard to a Report from the Audit Committee. The System of Internal Financial Control is based on detailed Administrative Procedures which are in place, segregation of duties, specific authorisations and regular review by Management and the Committee of reports outlining Actual and Budgeted results for the various Programmes.



## 9. Appendices



# Appendices

## 9.1 Appendix 1

### 9.1.1. Members of Co Donegal VEC Audit Committee

Chairperson - Clr Jimmy Kavanagh  
 Mr Peter Cutliffe  
 Clr Martin Farren  
 Clr Dessie Larkin  
 Mr Francis McDaid,  
 Clr Philip McGlynn  
 Clr Elizabeth McIntyre

### 9.1.2. Members of Co Donegal VEC Finance Sub-Committee

Chairperson Clr Pádraig O'Dochartaigh  
 Clr David Alcorn  
 Clr Michelle Bradley  
 Clr Joe Doherty  
 Clr Ian McGarvey  
 Ms Bernie Mulhern  
 Mr Alan Thompson  
 Ms MaryAnn Kane, Chief Executive Officer (Acting) (Ex-officio)

### 9.1.3. Adult Education Board

Mr Gerry Bennett	Association of Principals of Secondary Schools
Ms Maureen Kerr	Donegal County Council (Library Service)
Ms Mary Crossan	St Johnston & Carrigans Resource Centre
Ms Aideen Doherty	County Development Board (Community and Enterprise Unit)
Mr Anthony Doogan	Association of Principals & Deputy Principals (PDA)
Mr Charlie Gallagher	Association of Community & Comprehensive Schools
Mr Colm Gallagher	VEC Representative
Mr Patrick Hannon	SIPTU
Ms Edith Marley	Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC)
Ms Lorraine Murray	FÁS Training Centre
Mr Tom McArdle	Department of Social & Family Affairs
Mr James Mc Brearty	VEC Representative
Mr Art Mc Grath	Teagasc
Ms Dolores Mhic Gheidigh	Co Donegal VEC Adult Literacy Service
Mr Alan O'Baoid	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Ms Anne Sheridan	Health Services Executive

#### *In attendance*

Ms Cróna Gallagher	Co Donegal VEC
Dr Martin Gormley	Co Donegal VEC
Ms MaryAnn Kane	Co Donegal VEC

## 9.2 APPENDIX II - Schools/Colleges/Centres

### Schools & Colleges

Abbey Vocational School, Donegal Town  
 Coláiste Ailigh, Leitir Ceannain (Gaelscoil)  
 Coláiste Chineál Eoghain (Gaelscoil)  
 Coláiste na Carraige (formerly Carrick Vocational School)  
 Coláiste Phobail Scoil Colmcille, Oileán Thóraí (Gaelscoil & Island School)  
 Crana College, Buncrana  
 Deelee College, Raphoe  
 Errigal College, Letterkenny  
 Finn Valley College, Stranorlar  
 Gairmscoil Chú Uladh, Béal an Átha Móir (Gaelscoil)  
 Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada, Arranmore Island (Island School)  
 Magh Éne College, Bundoran  
 Merville Community College  
 Mulroy College, Milford  
 St Catherine's Vocational School, Killybegs

### Adult Education & Training Centres/ Youthreach

Adult Education & Training Centre/Youthreach - Ballyshannon  
 Adult Education & Training Centre/Youthreach – Buncrana  
 Adult Education & Training Centre - Donegal Town (Drumcliff)  
 Adult Education & Training Centre - Donegal Town (Ard Scoil na gCeithre Máistir)  
 Adult Education & Training Centre/Youthreach - Gort a'Choirce  
 Centre for Education - Senior Traveller Training Centre/Youthreach - Letterkenny  
 Adult Education & Training Centre – Letterkenny  
 Youthreach Centre – Glengad  
 Youthreach Centre - Lifford  
 Adult Education & Training Centre -Milford

### 9.3 APPENDIX III – Abbreviations & Key Reference

Parent	- refers to Parent or Guardian
Student	- refers to Student/Trainee/Learner
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CDB	County Development Board
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
BTEI	Back To Education Initiative
DES	Department of Education & Science
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools
EO	Education Officer
FETAC	Further Education & Training Awards Council
GCCC	Government Construction Contracts Committee
HACAP	Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc
HSE	Health Service Executive
IVEA	Irish Vocational Education Association
JCSP	Junior Certificate Schools Programme
LCA	Leaving Certificate Applied
LCVP	Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
LET	Leárgas Programme
LDS	Leadership Development for Schools
LGBT	The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transge < <a href="http://www.gaycenter.org/">http://www.gaycenter.org/</a> > nder
LMESP	Local Music Education Service Partnership
LYIT	Letterkenny Institute of Technology
NBSS	National Behavioural Support Services
NCSE	National Council for Special Education
NEPS	National Education Psychological Service
NEWB	National Education Welfare Board
NUI	National University of Ireland
PLC	Post Leaving Certificate
SESS	Special Education Support Service
SDPI	School Development Planning Initiative
SLSS	Second Level Support Service
SNA	Special Needs Assistant
SPHE	Social, Personal and Health Education
STTC	Senior Traveller Training Centre
TLT	Third Level Trainee Third Level Maintenance Grant Scheme
TUI	Teachers Union of Ireland
VEC	Vocational Education Committee
VTOS	Voluntary Training Opportunity Scheme
WSE	Whole School Evaluation



Coiste Gairmoideachais  
Chontae Dhún na nGall

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County Donegal Vocational  
Education Committee

**Administrative Offices**

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Letterkenny  
Co. Donegal

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