

A GUIDE TO  
EDUCATION SUPPORTS  
AVAILABLE IN  
BLANCHARDSTOWN

D.15



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COISTE GAIRMOIDEACHAIS CHONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH  
COUNTY DUBLIN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## COISTE GAIRMOIDEACHAIS CHONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH COUNTY DUBLIN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*The Adult Education Centre, Main Street, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15*  
*Tel: 01 821 2829 Fax: 01 821 2702 Email: baes@codubvec.ie*  
*www.countydubvec.ie*  
*Adult Education Officer: Terry McCann*

### THE ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE (BLANCHARDSTOWN AREA)

Based in two adult education centres – on Main Street, Blanchardstown and on the grounds of Riversdale Community College – and over 30 other locations across the greater Blanchardstown (Dublin 15) area, the County Dublin VEC Adult Education Service provides a variety of flexible learning opportunities to over 2,000 adults through the operation of a number of specialist educational programmes.

Course subject areas include: Adult Literacy, Job Seeking Skills, ESOL, Computer Training, Leaving Certificate Subjects, Junior Certificate Subjects, Art Classes, Childcare Training, Pre-Nursing Training, are Assistant Training and many more.

The majority of courses are accredited by the Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) at Levels 3, 4 and 5. Most courses are free and therefore some eligibility criteria may apply.

### ADULT KEY SKILLS EDUCATION SERVICE (AKSES)

- Tuition is available FREE to adults with reading, writing and spelling difficulties.
- Classes are available daytime or evening.
- English and Maths courses are available, some of which are certificate courses.
- Courses are available in a variety of locations across the Dublin 15 area.

*Contact Sharon Hennessy at 821 2600*

### COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- Courses are available in 31 locations across the Dublin 15 area.
- Most are in partnership with local schools, community and other organisations.
- Hobby and leisure courses are available.
- FETAC certified courses in a variety of subjects are also on offer.

*Contact Seamus Hughes at 086 3424888*

### ENGLISH AS A SECOND OR OTHER LANGUAGE (ESOL) COURSES

- Free to refugees and asylum seekers.
- Classes are available daytime or evenings in a number of venues.
- Beginner to pre-intermediate level.
- Intensive courses are also available.
- Council of Europe international assessment is available to students.

*Contact Howard Rose at 821 2829*

### CHILDCARE TRAINING COURSES

- Professional training provided in Riversdale Adult Education Centre and in a number of community settings.
- Part-time courses.
- FETAC Single Module and Full Certificate.
- FETAC Levels 3, 4 and 5 available.

*Contact Louisa Healy at 810 3777*

### PRE-NURSING AND CARE ASSISTANT COURSE

- 1 or 2 year course.
- FETAC Level 5 accreditation in a variety of health related subjects.
- Work Experience Module.
- Progress to nursing or employment in care services.

*Contact Janet Fortune at 821 2829*

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITY SCHEME (VTOS)

- A full-time, free course for over 21's who are in receipt of Social Welfare Payment for more than 6 months.
- 6 Leaving Certificate subjects to choose from.
- FETAC Levels 4 and 5 options available.

*Contact Anne MacCoille at 821 2829*

## WORKPLACE EDUCATION

- Free workplace courses in a variety of subjects.
- FETAC Certification available at Levels 3, 4 and 5.
- Delivered in partnership with employers.
- Available in a number of locations across Dublin 15.

*Contact Nuala Nedjati at 810 3777*

## ADULT EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE SERVICE

(Available to students attending adult education service courses)

- Vocational Guidance – addresses choices about paid employment (practical skills, caring and voluntary roles).
- Educational Guidance – addresses the learning needs and interests of the students and ways of meeting these.
- Individual Consultations – the student is helped to explore his or her future educational and training opportunities with a view to making clear and informed decisions about a particular course of action.
- Group Guidance – students share ideas and experiences through teamwork and brainstorming which results in them having a clearer understanding of their future educational needs.



## BAPTEC

*Celebrating 10 Years Providing High Quality Training In Dublin 15*

*Tel: 01 829 3551*

*Email: [info@baptec.ie](mailto:info@baptec.ie)*

*[www.baptec.ie](http://www.baptec.ie)*

## BAPTEC LTD IS A COMMUNITY ICT TRAINING CENTRE

Originally set up as an individual project by the Blanchardstown Area Partnership to provide ICT training to the most marginalised and disadvantaged living in Dublin 15, the huge success of the project has seen Baptec set up as a limited company in 1999. Baptec was initially funded under the FÁS social economy scheme which helps projects to provide services to those living in disadvantaged areas but since 2006 has been funded under POBAL, through the Community Services Programme.

The company has grown from strength to strength and has seen many changes over the last 10 years. From a tiny office in Deanstown House in Blanchardstown village initially, Baptec moved alongside the Blanchardstown Area Partnership to Dillon House in Coolmine. It was here that Baptec began rapidly expanding, with the use of two offices and two large training rooms. The computer equipment and office furniture was donated mainly by the Blanchardstown Area Partnership and IBM. With a staff of only three to begin with, it wasn't long before the workforce in Baptec expanded. By the end of the first year in Dillon House, Baptec had employed five people. Baptec became an accredited training centre for FETAC, ECDL and Microsoft Office Specialist and JEB. The huge success of the company and the enormous demand for training has seen Baptec move again to another even bigger, state-of-the-art, purpose built training centre in the BASE Enterprise Centre in Mulhuddart, boasting four fully-equipped training rooms with a capacity for 70 people.

Baptec has trained almost 3,000 people in the last ten years and issued over 2,868 certificates with a success rate of over 96%. It works with a wide range of target groups such as long term unemployed, lone parents, asylum seekers, Travellers, those with a disability, ex substance abusers, ex offenders and the elderly.

No other training centre in Dublin 15 has had the same impact or success as Baptec. Baptec work closely with other agencies and organisations to help alleviate disadvantage in the area.

Baptec currently employs 8 permanent staff and 3 additional staff on a casual basis. Just as the number of employees and clients have expanded over the years, so too has the number of courses on offer. Baptec currently offers 12 different courses to the public, which range from basic computers for beginners to advanced computerised accounts and payroll courses. They also provide training on behalf of FÁS, The Blanchardstown Area Partnership and other local organisations. Customized one-to-one training is also on offer. Training is offered at reduced rates to various target groups and special projects are often put together to meet the needs of specific groups.

Baptec is a not-for-profit organisation and is run by a voluntary board of directors.



## BLANCHARDSTOWN AREA PARTNERSHIP

*Dillon House, 106 Coolmine Business Park, Clonsilla, Dublin 15*

*Tel: 01 820 9550 Fax: 01 820 9551*

*[www.bap.ie](http://www.bap.ie)*

### WHAT IS THE PARTNERSHIP?

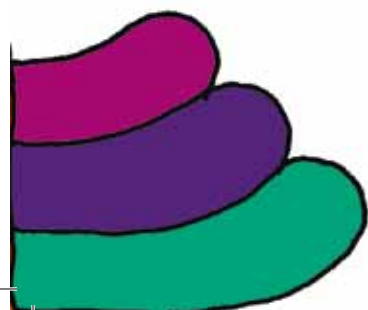
Blanchardstown Area Partnership is the local development agency for the whole of Dublin 15. Funding is received from the Government under the National Development Plan 2007-2013. The Partnership is responsible for a range of programmes to meet the needs of individuals, families and community groups in the area. These include the Local Employment Service (LES/JOBLINK), Local Development Social Inclusion Programme and the Millennium Education Fund.

### WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP?

The key task of Blanchardstown Area Partnership is to develop initiatives which create positive change in the area. This leads to social and economic improvements for communities and the people who live in them. Key objectives include:

- Delivering innovative and effective responses to needs in the area.
- Co-ordinating social inclusion programmes.
- Supporting communities to bring about positive change themselves.
- Influencing key policy makers and programme funders.

The Partnership brings together the community, statutory and social partners; draws up local development plans aimed at reducing disadvantage; and supports and monitors the implementation of the agreed plan.



## WHAT AREAS OF WORK ARE IMPORTANT?

The work of the Partnership is concentrated in three key areas:

- Economic Development.
- Community Development.
- Youth and Education.

## WHO IS THE PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO SUPPORT?

The Partnership works with a wide range of individuals and groups, and provides supports which include access to education, training and employment. Some examples of this are:

- The Local Employment Service provides a mediation service for long term unemployed men and women who wish to re-enter the workforce.
- The Jobs Club provides focused job preparation workshops, including CV preparation and interview skills.
- Through the Community Development team – part of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme – support is provided to groups in the area working in specific areas such as lone parents, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities including Travellers, and newcomers to the area.
- The Millennium Education Fund provides financial support to those wishing to access third level education.
- Under the Youth measure, there is close co-operation with primary and secondary schools in the area, and a number of initiatives have been piloted and successfully mainstreamed in the Blanchardstown area.

## HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP?

You can find out more about the Partnership by logging on to [www.bap.ie](http://www.bap.ie). From the home page, use the links to access specific information about each of our areas of work. You can contact any member of staff directly by clicking on the Staff section for phone numbers and email addresses.



## BLANCHARDSTOWN TRAVELLER DEVELOPMENT GROUP (Formally known as the BTSG)

*COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME*

*Unit 1A Base Business Park, Damastown, Dublin 15*

*Tel: 01 820 7812 / 01 812 8644*

*Email: [btdg@eircom.net](mailto:btdg@eircom.net)*

The Blanchardstown Traveller Support Group limited trading as Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group (BTDG) is a community development organisation which is a joint initiative between members of the Traveller and settled communities. The project aims to promote the welfare and human rights of the Travellers, to combat social exclusion faced by Travellers living in the Dublin 15 and surrounding area. We also aim to provide opportunities for Travellers to improve their education and employment opportunities while supporting Travellers to live as equal citizens of this state.

## THE PROJECT TO DATE HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING TRAINING AND SUPPORT PROGRAMMES:

### **Travellers Trained in Local Training Initiative**

- 8 Primary Health Care (in Training 4 completed 2009).
- 320 women from 2001 – 2009.
- 60 qualified in Childcare FETAC Level 4 and 5.
- 30 completed Junior Cert English.
- 20 Junior Cert Maths.
- 15 Leaving Cert English.
- 30 Hairdressing First Level.

### Travellers Community Employment Trained

- Over 50 participants.

### Placements set up for participants

- VDP shop in Blanchardstown village.
- Mulhuddart crèche.
- Mulhuddart community centre.
- Allotments.

### Traveller Men

- 14 completed Driver Theory Test.
- 8 passed full Driving Test.
- 1 passed Dublin Bus Test.
- 1 completed fork lift course.
- 1 supported to do scaffolding test.
- 4 completed allotment management training.

### Traveller Participants Progression

- 1 person went on to Crumlin Collage in the second year of a three year Hairdressing course.
- 1 moved on to ITB course.
- 2 people from the area were facilitated to do the civil service interviews – 1 went on to do a placement in the civil service.
- 2 Assistant LTI coordinators.
- 4 Gaisce bronze medals up to 2008.
- 8 Gaisce participants in 2009.

Many others have progressed on through programmes and some have gone into employment, while others have moved on to other training. There is a wide range of other courses and programmes completed in the BTDG programmes and a wide range of placements organised in mainstream services.

### NETWORKING

The BTDG has always acknowledged the important of network locally and national to ensure that Blanchardstown Traveller issues are on the mainstream agenda.

The BTDG is involved in a number of networks locally and nationally as set out below:

- National Traveller CDP.
- Irish Traveller Movement.
- Blanchardstown Area Partnership Plan Implementation Boards (PIB's).
- Local Traveller interagency group.
- Local Traveller CDP and FRC.
- Accommodation consultative group.
- ERTHN.
- ITM Youth subgroup.

### Health

- Attend PHC Steering group meetings.
- Participate in Traveller Health Unit meetings and events.
- Attend Eastern Region Traveller Health Network meetings.
- Participate in Corduff Health Action Planning Group to ensure Traveller inclusion in development of services.

### Drugs

- BTDG is represented on Blanchardstown Drugs Task Force.
- Attend DTF community representatives meetings.
- National Drug network.

### Education and Training

- FAS in relation to funding and support for the programmes.
- Participate in Blanchardstown Partnership Economic PIB.
- VEC and VEC Tutors.

### Youth and Education

- Participate in Blanchardstown Partnership Youth PIB.
- Attend Youth programme steering committee meetings.
- Participate in Local Education Committee.
- The visiting teacher service.

### INFORMATION PROVISION

In 2009 the project has provided information to individuals within the community and given information to the community itself.

Information to individuals is divided between people who were given advice on social welfare rights and entitlements, accommodation, health or other services, and people who were referred on to other agencies or services. Information on methods used to communicate with the community is also outlined.

- Newsletter
- Leaflet
- DVD
- Poster exhibition
- Interviews
- Meetings



### BLANCHARDSTOWN YOUTHREACH

*The Brace Centre, Main Street, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15*  
*Tel: 01 821 7007 Fax: 01 820 7628 Email: [info.byr@edu.codubvec.ie](mailto:info.byr@edu.codubvec.ie)*  
*[www.youthreach.ie](http://www.youthreach.ie)*

We aspire to provide quality education for young people in a supportive environment, which will develop their skills for life and enhance their future prospects.

### WHO IS THIS CENTRE FOR?

Youthreach provides second chance education for those who, for whatever reason, may not have stayed in mainstream school.

### HOW DO YOU GET A PLACE?

Youthreach Blanchardstown offers places to young people aged 16 to 21 years old. Over 21's may be accepted depending on circumstances. All enquiries can be made by calling into the centre.

### TRAINING ALLOWANCE

Students are paid a weekly training allowance. This varies depending on the student's age. The allowances are paid into the student's bank account every Friday.

### FACILITIES

Youthreach Blanchardstown has a range of facilities to enhance the student's experience. The centre has two fully equipped ICT rooms, art room, classrooms, sports hall, kitchen and a workshop comprising of the latest equipment for woodwork studies. There is also an on-site canteen providing breakfast and lunch daily to both staff and students.

## SPORT

Sport is viewed as extremely important for our students' personal development. Many activities take place throughout the year. Youthreach has an active football team, on-site sports facilities and use of other facilities in the local community.

## CHILDCARE

There are childcare facilities available. Please enquire when applying.

## FUND RAISING

Over the past number of years students at the centre have taken part in many fund raising events.

## GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

These services are available to all students.

## COURSES PROVIDED

Depending on demand, courses include the following:

- Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate.
- Various Further Education and Training Award Council courses (FETAC) from Level 2 to 5.



## INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BLANCHARDSTOWN

*Marketing and Development Unit, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown,  
Blanchardstown Road North, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15  
Tel: 01 885 1000 Fax: 01 885 1001 Email: [info@itb.ie](mailto:info@itb.ie)  
[www.itb.ie](http://www.itb.ie)*

The Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB) opened in 1999 and has now firmly established itself as an important third level educational Institute not only in Dublin north west and in the counties of Meath and Kildare, but also at national and international level.

ITB's mission is to serve its students and the community by meeting the skills needs in the economy and increasing the level of participation in third-level education and training in Dublin north west and its environs.

## THIS MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED BY

Achieving consistently high standards of relevance and quality in teaching, research, development and consultancy, and offering a welcoming and supportive environment to students from all educational and social backgrounds, and to adults wishing to increase or update their level of technical skills.

## **A wide range of full-time Higher Certificate, Ordinary Bachelor Degree and Honours Degree courses in the areas of:**

- Engineering (Computer Engineering and Mechatronics)
- Computing
- Creative Digital Media
- Business Studies
- International Business
- Horticulture



- Sports Management and Coaching
- Applied Social Studies
- Social and Community Development
- Early Childhood Care and Education

To apply for any full-time course at the Institute, a prospective student must apply through the Central Applications Office ([www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)) by 1st May each year.

The Institute actively encourages applications from mature students for entry on to any of the courses offered, as well as applicants who have spent at least one year on a recognised PLC course validated by FETAC.

Progression from Higher Certificate to Ordinary Bachelor Degree to Honours Bachelor Degree level is possible.

ITB also has a very comprehensive range of part-time courses on offer including: Business, Computing, Horticulture, Applied Social Studies, Languages for Primary School Teachers, ECDL and much more. Application can be made on-line and full details of all courses are available at [www.itb.ie](http://www.itb.ie)

ITB supports all adult learners, irrespective of age, educational and social background and offers programmes to suit mature full-time students as well as part-time learners; and graduates wanting to upgrade their skill sets as well as those looking for a second chance at third level education.

Programmes are designed and delivered keeping the varying learning needs of adult students in mind. Support is not offered just in terms of the educational opportunities available, but also in terms of careers advice, study groups, on-line support and state of the art facilities. ITB co-operates with other education and training providers to make programmes as accessible as possible to as many people as possible.

The information given in this publication is intended as a guide to prospective students. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material printed in this guide, the contents cannot be construed as implying a contract between any of the Organisations and any applicant or third party.

