KEYNOTE ADDRESS

GROWING LIFELONG LEARNING in CORK

Cork Learning City, multi-stakeholder partnerships in action

Cork Learning City Lead Partners:
Ms. Ann Doherty,
Chief Executive, Cork City Council

Mr. Ted Owens,
Chief Executive, Cork Education & Training Board

Dr. Barry O’Connor,
President, Cork Institute of Technology

Prof. Pat O’Shea,
President, University College Cork
Cities, the challenge and the potential

The Sustainable Development of Cities and Metropolitan areas requires multi stakeholder partnerships

No one organisation can do it alone
Cities as drivers, Lifelong learning as energy for sustainable change.

‘No-one left behind’

Figure 9.4 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (Source: UN)

Goals 11 and 17 Sustainable Cities and Partnerships
Global goals, local actions:

4 examples of partnership in action that are:

- Collaborative
- Sustainable
- Transferable
Addressing this theme

Lifelong Learning Festival

Cork Learning City:

Music Generation Cork City

Learning Neighbourhoods

Memorandum of Understanding
City Development plan 2002

The Vision:
to develop Cork as an inclusive learning city and tackle educational disadvantage

Where access to learning is available for all levels and to all ages in the city.

Where the city is recognised nationally and internationally as a centre of learning and research.

Involving all stakeholders in lifelong learning; formal, non formal & informal.
Lifelong Learning Festival

Vision

To develop a ‘culture of learning in Cork’

Involving all stakeholders in lifelong learning;
- formal,
- non formal
- & informal.

Mr. Ted Owens,
Chief Executive CETB
The Challenge

Convince people:
• that learning is for everyone, at all stages of life
• Learning is fun

Resources:
• to do something new, from the ground up
The Solution

A Festival

All Events free

All Events hosted voluntarily

Sustainable growth since 2004
Cork Lifelong Learning Festival

“This is the biggest event in Europe this week, its reputation is known far & wide.” Leona English, UIL, April 2016.

Supporting a culture of learning in Cork City.

500 events all free, engaging with 10,000+ citizens.

A week of activities that spin out into a year of possibilities.
Festival Partners

and more to follow..
Learning Neighbourhoods

The Vision

To work with communities and families to support and celebrate learning in all its forms

• To promote renewed engagement in lifelong and lifewide learning

• To tackle educational disadvantage

Professor Pat O’Shea, President UCC
The Challenge

Some areas with persistent socio-economic issues and deprivation

Some have a very young demographic, others a much older population

All have low levels of formal education beyond primary or lower secondary levels

City Profile (2014) highlights a “distinct spatial component to educational disadvantage in the city.”
The solution

Cork definition

‘A Learning Neighbourhood is an area that is constantly strengthening its practice in learning, providing a diversity of learning opportunities for the whole population through partnership and collaboration.’
Our Community of Learners and Learning surrounds us
Partners

ACE
Adult Continuing Education at UCC

UCC
University College Cork, Ireland

CIT
Cork Institute of Technology

Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

CETB
Cork Education and Training Board
Vision

Accessible Music Education for every child in Ireland

Music Generation Cork

Dr. Barry O’Connor, President CIT
The Challenges

Access: to music education is limited or denied to children is some areas and in some families

Resources:
Limited or none, in families

No Government funding for this type or scale of Music Education
The solution

Match funding, 50-50
Philanthropy-Public Funding, National-Local

Local Music Education
Partnerships make decisions on how best to implement plans

Community Music and Community Education, Local decision making
The results

We will be brilliant or ........
and many, many community, music education, school, youth and industry partners and friends.
Memorandum of understanding

The Challenge

Cities are complex
Organisations are Silos
How to fill in gaps between the silos?

Ann Doherty, Chief Executive
Cork City Council
The Solution

Lifelong learning is now integrated in all the following:

- City Development plan
- Local Community Development plan
- Healthy Cities plan
- Smart Gateway plan
- Age friendly City plan

Memorandum of Understanding

Binds organisations together in a shared willing commitment
The results

Cork2017

Beijing 2013, Mexico 2015, Cork 2017
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

To deliver on the SDG’s in Cork will require new thinking....
“Citizens must be empowered to anticipate and tackle constantly changing social, environmental and economic challenges” UN 2016.