



Atlantic Social Lab

Cooperation for the promotion of Social Innovation

ATLANTIC SOCIAL LAB STUDY VISIT REPORT - STUDY VISITS HELD IN CORK CITY

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A. GENERAL INFORMATION	
Date	27 – 03 – 2019
Location:	Cork City
Name	Churchfield Community Trust
Legal Status	Company Limited by Guarantee
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B. SHORT DESCRIPTION	
Objectives <i>(identify the main goals of the project and target groups addressed)</i>	The Churchfield Community Trust ¹ is a Company Limited by Guarantee that was initially created because there was a need within the local area for an initiative to engage with young people. Nowadays its target audience is wider, namely individuals at the local level who are unemployed, people with alcohol and drug problems, offending behaviour, people with mental and physical problems among others. Taking into account the target audience, the main goals of the Churchfield Community Trust is to work collaboratively with the Dept of Justice through the probation service and work with an emphasis on education and training through adult education and also experiential learning helping the target groups mentioned above.
Methodology <i>(identify the methodological principles, mode of operation and level of intervention)</i>	<p>The methodology of action of Churchfield Community Trust (CCT) works effectively in conjunction with key statutory agencies, such as: The Probation Service, The Irish Prison Service, Cork ETB and Health Service Executive, to reduce recidivism and to provide key therapeutic services to participants requiring support (Addiction Education/Counselling and Awareness, Groupwork on Offending Behaviour, and Inreach Support to Cork Prison). The level of intervention of the project is local/regional, directly supporting the local communities of Cork City.</p> <p>The CCT target groups present with a wide range of complex needs such as challenges in relation to homelessness, addiction, offending behaviour, mental health, unemployment and education deficit. The mode of operation of this Company Limited by Guarantee is the employment and continuing adult education in their non-profit profit activities (Horticulture, Compass Crafts, The Garden Cafe). In this way, it is possible to provide to the users a platform for progression to sustainable education, employment and re-integration within communities, society and labour market. Thus, Churchfield Community Trust works collaboratively with people on community employment and through the provision of personal, vocational and educational supports.</p>

¹ Photograph 1 - ASL Partnership during the visit to the Churchfield Community Trust facilities

C. MAIN FINDINGS

<p>Social Needs <i>(identify the social needs the organisation intends to fill)</i></p>	<p>From its methodology, objectives and mission that guide the Churchfield Community Trust, this company intends to meet and fulfil the following social needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for increase vocational, training and employment opportunities for people that are unemployed, people with alcohol and drug problems, offending behaviour, people with mental and physical problems; • Need to promote social inclusion and integration for people that are unemployed, people with alcohol and drug problems, offending behaviour, people with mental and physical problems; • Need to support the lives of people that are unemployed, people with alcohol and drug problems, offending behaviour, people with mental and physical problems; • Need to shelter to the people who may be at risk of homelessness; • Need to create awareness and corporate social responsibility to employ people who had alcohol and drug problems, offending behaviour, and people with mental and physical problems. <p>It is observable that the main social needs that this project – Churchfield Community Trust- wants to achieve are the inclusion, socialisation and integration of individuals with social needs (unemployed people, people with alcohol and drug problems, offending behaviour, people with mental and physical problems among others) in the society and in the labour market. To achieve this goal, the CCT, encourages these individuals to participate in their Adult Education Programs and Therapeutic Services.</p>
<p>Social Innovative Practices <i>(identify the main social innovative practices developed and the extent to which the work developed responds to those needs)</i></p>	<p>The practice of social innovation that will be highlighted in this project is the Social Enterprise – Churchfield Community Trust, as a whole. The whole CCT project is embedded and rooted in a web of socialisation, inclusion, integration, training and formation of individuals with social needs (unemployed people, people with alcohol and drug problems, offending behaviour, people with mental and physical problems among others). There are several activities that promote learning, qualification, socialisation and inclusion of these individuals.</p> <p>The CCT as mentioned <i>a priori</i> has a methodology of action that is attached in Adult Education. In order to understand this innovative method of learning and engagement, the report will mention the activities that are behind this methodology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compass Craft - Pre School & Garden Furniture: This activity addresses barriers to the progress of the users, by offering a structured time managed program with practical and educational skills alongside therapeutic interventions and support. Compass Crafts focus on a small product range that will be within the skill set and capability of the target group. The range includes garden furniture, crèche furniture, play park, small garden and household items; • The Garden Café²: This activity provides training and mentoring in

² Photograph 2 - Garden Café Facilities

	<p>a live cafe environment for individuals who are interested in progressing to employment in the catering industry. The training also provides a formal certified in the areas of: food hygiene; customer service; and management of food hygiene;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horticulture³: Its main objective is to learn the art of agriculture.
Collaboration and Networks (<i>identify the main connections of the organisation</i>)	Its collaborative network has as agents, the Cork City Council, Social Enterprises, Private Companies; University College Cork; Cork Institute of Technology; The Probation Service; The Irish Prison Service; Cork ETB and Health Service Executive.

D. MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO SUCCESS	
Challenges and Barriers (<i>identify the main problems that the organisation faces: financial resources, human resources, networks, innovative environment...</i>)	There are two barriers and difficulties pointed out that limit the functioning and response given to the users. First, there is a dependence on national and regional funds and the lack of response because of the funding. Second, the workload and possibly burnout of the CCT staff.

E. CONCLUSIONS	
Key Concluding Lines	In conclusion, the Churchfield Community Trust provides a diverse range of services in areas such as Outreach, Therapeutic Supports, Education and Employment. Participants are trained and mentored daily by staff with experience in catering skills, horticulture and woodcraft. The CCT emphasis is on further developing and reintegration opportunities, by creating progression routes to their users taking into account their continuing Adult Education.
Other information considered relevant	Nothing relevant to add.

³ Photograph 3 - Horticulture

Study Visit Photos



Figure 1 - ASL Partnership during the visit to the Churchfield Community Trust facilities



Figure 2 - Garden Café Facilities



Figure 3 - Horticulture

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