

## Bulletin Number 3 – Interagency co-operation

Working in co-operation with relevant stakeholders is a cornerstone approach of the School Completion Programme. In 2011/2012, all projects worked in co-operation with other educational, statutory, community and voluntary agencies in their locale<sup>1</sup>. As Table 1 outlines, SCP projects cumulatively reported collaboration with a total of **1,237 local** agencies during the twelve-month period. This represents an average of ten agencies working in collaboration with each SCP project. As Table 1 indicates, SCP projects have been able to maintain consistent links with other agencies supporting young people over three reporting periods.

**Table 1: Number of agencies in collaboration with SCP projects**

Year	Number of agencies	Average per project
September 2011 to August 2012	1237	10
September 2010 to August 2011	1202	10
September 2009 to August 2010	1180	10

While projects work with agencies providing a local response to young people at risk of early school leaving and social exclusion, there is much commonality in the type of agencies that SCP projects collaborate with, including:

1. Youthreach
2. Local Youth Services
3. Juvenile Liaison Officers (Community Gardai)
4. HSE – various departments including social work, speech and language, mental health
5. Drugs Task Force
6. Local partnership companies (social inclusion remit)
7. St Vincent de Paul
8. Business in the Community Ireland
9. Sports Promotion Units / Sports Partnerships

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<sup>1</sup> 3 projects did not report.

10. National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)
11. Teen Parent Support Programmes
12. Springboard (Family Support) – HSE / Barnardos
13. HSCL / EWS
14. School Meals Programme in Department of Social Protection (administrative)
15. Family Resource Centres
16. GAA
17. Barnardos
18. Incredible Years Programme / Archways

There is evidence from the data collected over the last number of years that projects have developed and maintained sustainable links and interagency working with relevant agencies and stakeholders. This approach is particularly appropriate at a time of reduced budgets for all agencies and good working relationships should be developed or enhanced in this regard.