“ARC-ITEC’s of change”

Introduction

For the purposes of contextualising the case study it is important to outline the organic growth of community based activity with the Irvinestown Community, which now have expanded to serve a much wider rural catchment area. Given that the history is long and relationships complex the case study has been divided into sections. The case study provides a brief synopsis of the establishment and tenure of the founding organisation Irvinestown Fairs and Markets trustees and outlines the development of the associated economic and social focus companies; Irvinestown Trustee Enterprise Company (ITEC), Irvinestown Community Partnership (ICP) and the ARC Healthy Living Centre Ltd (ARC).

Synopsis of organisational development

The Irvinestown Fairs and Markets Trustees were founded by deed poll in 1908. The local landlords, the D’Arcy Irvine’s, had by this time liquidated their estate in accordance with the Wyndham Act 1903, which allowed people to acquire their tenancies. The town traders were also anxious to continue with the monthly fair and market of corn, potatoes and pork. Fourteen traders came together and negotiated the purchase of the market rights and to register themselves as a trust.

ICP (Irvinestown Community Partnership) was established in 1996. ICP acts as a community forum, ensuring ARC actively listens and responds to need in relation to social issues, to support groups and to work on joint projects.

ARC - was Northern Ireland’s first Healthy Living Centre, opened in 2001. The ARC Centre operates as a limited company ARC Healthy Living Centre Ltd, with charitable status. ARC Healthy Living Centre Ltd is managed by a, representative, voluntary board of Directors. The Company was formed in November 2000 to undertake the management of the ARC Healthy Living Centre capital build (completed in September 2001), and to oversee the ongoing operation of the centre and associated programmes. The project seeks to strategically engage with agencies to influence policy, whilst operating direct service delivery projects that address poverty and respond to the needs of rurally marginalized people.

Irvinestown Trustee Enterprise Company Ltd - ITEC - is a non-profit taking (profit making) company limited by guarantee, incorporated in 1992. ITEC delivers capital projects. ITEC aims to increase economic development and employment opportunities in the town of Irvinestown and surrounding hinterland by active community participation in job creation and the promotion and creation of further job opportunities; to work in partnership with other agencies to target and address social need and improve the conditions of community life. ITEC has a pool of “voluntary expertise” and this human resource capital is used to design, implement and evaluate economic development. Currently ITEC manages over 50,000 sq ft of fully occupied workspace, creating an annual operating surplus (profit) that is directly towards social purpose.

The interdependence of the relationship between ARC and ITEC is apparent
and measurable:

- Encourages collaboration and resource sharing, between the economic and social development agencies namely ITEC and ARC through a model of wealth creation and redistribution.

- Both projects share one Chief Executive

The existing arrangements actively promotes partnership and collaboration; actively tackles obstacles towards promoting good relations within and/or between communities and actively addresses issues of community concern through the provision of therapeutic interventions and focused programmes.

Core Programmes include

- **Cherish Sure Start** (operating in 10 wards) - is built around the wants and needs of local people. The aim is to improve the well-being and life opportunities of young children aged under the age of 4 through better health, childcare, play and educational programmes, from the moment they are born.

- **Seasonal Diversionary Activities** - life skills for young people (4-16)

- **SOLACE - Supportive Opportunities for Living with Addiction in a Community Environment** - Funded under Northern Ireland Drug and Alcohol Strategy, funding delivered via SLA through the Western Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Team, under the direction of the Public Health Agency

- **EDGE** - Youth and Family Support Supported through the Public Health Agency (SLA) recurrently

- **ACTIVE ALLSORTS Childcare Centre** - self financing and linking with SURESTART in preschool provision, registered by The Western Health and Social Care Trust

- **CHAP Community Pharmacy Project** - funded through, Building the Community Pharmacy Programme from DHPSS, 2008-2011

- **SSAVI, Shared Service Added Value Initiative** - sharing staff and services between 6 Fermanagh based not for profit childcare providers, funded By DARD

- **Room hire** - ARC currently provides space for the provision of local service delivery, in some cases no costs are recovered e.g. from Citizens Advice Bureau, as these services adds value to ARC’s core mission this situation is accepted. In other cases where the rooms are utilised by statutory agencies a charge is made and income is generated.