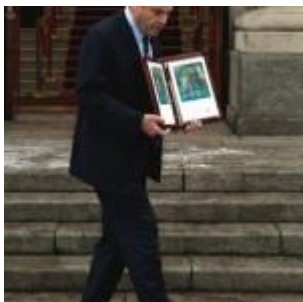


Budget 2011

December 7, 2010

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Budget 2011 a further attack on disadvantaged individuals and communities

Reacting to the Budget announced today by the Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan, the Community Workers' Co-operative stated that the budget was a further attack on disadvantaged individuals and communities.

Ann Irwin, CWC National Coordinator, stated that the further cuts in social welfare, the cut to the minimum wage and other cuts to incomes such as to the child benefit will further impoverish already disadvantaged individuals and communities.

She continued, 'Community organisations that are at the coalface of working in these disadvantaged communities will see further cuts, despite the fact that there is a huge increase in the demand for services and supports. The Supports for the Community and Voluntary Sector will see a reduction of 29% and the Local and Community Development Programme will see a further 6% cut to budgets that have already taken significant cuts over the past two years'. The spokesperson continued, 'It is difficult to imagine how services and supports can continue to be provided – demand is going up and resources are falling dramatically'.

It is difficult to see how the Government intends to achieve its targets for poverty reduction, especially given the newly published figures show an increase in the figures, the first in years. Ann Irwin went on, 'there is a new poverty target at EU level, it is impossible to see how this will be achieved without sustainable approaches to poverty through the community sector'.

Ms Irwin also stated that the CWC intends to write to the Minister for Social Protection asking him to clarify how he intends to implement the proposal for a Community Work Placement Scheme that is intended to provide up to 5,000 additional places in the community and voluntary sector.