



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2019



ciste na
gcuntas díomhaoin
the dormant
accounts fund

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Section 1: Background and context

1.1 Background

The Dormant Accounts Act 2001 together with the Unclaimed Life Assurance Policies Act 2003 and the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Acts 2005-2012 provide a framework for the administration of unclaimed accounts in credit institutions (i.e. banks, building societies and An Post) and unclaimed life assurance policies in insurance undertakings. The main purpose of the legislation is to reunite account holders/policy holders with their funds in credit institutions/insurance undertakings and in this regard, institutions/undertakings are required to take steps to identify and contact the owners of dormant accounts and unclaimed life assurance policies.

Dormant funds/unclaimed life assurance policies, which have not been reclaimed by the original account/policy holder or their beneficiaries, are transferred each year by the financial institution/insurance undertaking to the Dormant Accounts Fund which is managed by the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA). The transfer of monies takes place on the basis that the beneficial owner will have a guaranteed right of reclaim to their property in the future.

The legislation also provides for a scheme for the disbursement of funds that are unlikely to be reclaimed. In each year monies may be disbursed in accordance with Part 6 of the 2012 Act, from the Account, but only for the purposes of programmes or projects to assist:

- the personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged;
- the educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged or
- persons with a disability (within the meaning of the Equal Status Act 2000).

The legislation dictates that Government may only use Dormant Accounts funding for the above purposes.

To administer this funding process the legislation governing Dormant Accounts also established an administrative framework, overseen by a single Minister, within which Departments could apply for funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund to fund measures which would assist the above target groups. Since July 2017 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring T.D. has responsibility for this function, with the function delegated to Minister of State Seán Canney, T.D.

1.2 Disbursement Scheme/Action Plan

The current Disbursement Scheme 2017-2019 was approved by Government on 26 April 2017 in accordance with the Dormant Accounts (Amendment) Act 2012. The 2012 Act also provides that, following consultation with the Minister for Education and Skills, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Social Protection, and such other persons (including Ministers of the Government) the Minister may adopt an action plan, or decide not to adopt an action plan.

The Act further provides that as soon as practicable after an action plan has been adopted the Minister shall cause a copy of the plan to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas and, if a resolution annulling the plan is passed by either such House within the next 21 days on which that House sits after the plan is laid before it, the plan shall be annulled accordingly, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under the plan, and arrange for the plan to be published in a form and manner that will enable members of the public to have access to it.

1.3 Preparation of the Action Plan for 2019

The Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2018 was published in July 2018 and, in general, identified measures to be funded from the Dormant Accounts Fund in 2019. However, in a small number of instances the measures approved progressed in 2018 and, funding approval is now required for such measures to either continue in 2019 or for available resources in 2019 to be assigned to new measures.

A further Dormant Accounts Action Plan will be developed towards the end of 2019. That plan will identify measures to be funded in 2020 and beyond. It will be published following Budget 2020, so that there is certainty around the availability of voted expenditure for the measures approved.

In preparing this Action Plan for 2019 the Department of Rural and Community Development has consulted with the following Departments to ensure that any measures which need funding approval to continue in 2019 are included in this plan:

- Department of Justice and Equality and the Irish Prison Service
- Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- Department of Health
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

- Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
- Department of Education and Skills
- Department of Defence
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

1.4 Accounting Procedures

Under the 2012 Act, disbursements will continue to be made from the Dormant Accounts Fund through the Votes of relevant Departments and will be Exchequer neutral. The Act provides that the cost of engaging service providers (such as Pobal) to administer/deliver the Action Plan (which will include monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment) will be met from the Fund, while normal administration costs incurred by relevant Departments will be met from within existing budgets.

Section 2: Measures approved for funding in the 2019 Action Plan

2.1 Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

2.1.1 Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs (CSPAHS)

A CSPAH is a collective of progressive sports clubs and other local organisations that work together to improve the sport and physical activity offering in their local community. Each hub has unique characteristics but all work in accordance with certain principles - namely the need to grow participation, to engage with local communities, to promote community leadership, to offer a range of sporting opportunities and to bring all appropriate (key) partners/groups/people together. The hubs provide information, support and advice on a wide range of sports and physical activities to make it easier for people in the disadvantaged areas concerned to get involved and be engaged in a more active and healthier lifestyle. Accordingly, the core objective of this CSPAH measure is to focus on disadvantaged areas, bring local people together and provide a home for local clubs and sports organisations in order to generate a positive local impact on sustainable sports participation and community integration. It responds in particular to Action 41 of the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP) which commits to 'continue to support the Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs in disadvantaged areas'.

Based on the success of the programme since its inception in the 2014 Action Plan, it is proposed to further develop the work of the CSPAHs throughout Ireland in 2019. This will be achieved by, firstly, the provision of continued support to 31 existing hubs, which are coordinated with Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) in Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Louth, Longford, Kilkenny, Mayo, Meath, Offaly, Sligo, South Dublin, Tipperary and Waterford. Secondly, support will be provided for five new hubs. The new CSPAHs will be selected as a result of an open competitive bid process, where the importance of a continued geographic spread will be an important consideration.

The allocation from the Dormant Accounts Fund for Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs is €1,473,333, with an indicative expenditure profile of €1,473,333 in 2019.

2.1.2 National Sport Education and Training Hub

In line with the Government's 'Pathways to Work' Policy, this measure seeks to empower individuals at local and national level by providing a clear education pathway for those interested in working in sports development. In 2019, Sport Ireland plans to deliver a range of innovative programmes and projects. Activities planned in this area include: a Volunteer Training & Supports Programme, including a community coaching project

which focuses on assisting unemployed people gain employment and supports for building capacity for community clubs to grow volunteer numbers; Youth Leadership programmes addressing the drop off of young people from physical activity; the ASPIRE programme (phase two), under which 16 graduates from disadvantaged backgrounds will get an opportunity to work in a number of National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Irish sport and develop their skills to progress to full employment. These projects are designed and aligned to the requirements of the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP), specifically Actions 41, 44, 46, 47, 48 and 49. Projects are to be delivered countrywide. To date, educational projects have been co-ordinated by LSPs in Carlow, Cavan, Cork, Donegal, Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Fingal, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, South Dublin, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow. This countrywide focus will continue in 2019, again driven by a competitive bid process.

The allocation from the Dormant Accounts Fund for National Sport Education and Training Hubs is €963,333, with an indicative expenditure profile of €963,333 in 2019.

2.1.3 Sports measures for disadvantaged communities to support the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP)

The NPAP, launched in January 2016, includes 60 actions across a range of sectors, including sport, to promote increased levels of physical activity. The overarching target of the NPAP is to increase the proportion of the population, across each life stage, undertaking regular physical activity by 1% per annum in the period up to 2020 and thereby generating health, economic and social benefits. There is a particular requirement to pursue this target amongst disadvantaged communities on the basis of lower levels of sports participation amongst those who are unemployed, those on lower incomes and those with no third level education. Dormant Accounts funding under this measure enables Sport Ireland to deliver a range of targeted programmes for persons who are economically, educationally or socially disadvantaged, or persons with a disability. Funding in 2019 will respond to various NPAP Actions, including in particular Action 2, which relates to a national physical activity promotion campaign and a promotional campaign for the Community Physical Activity Hubs, and also to Action 45 concerning the Get Ireland campaigns (running, cycling, swimming and walking). There will also be behavioural science research conducted into increasing participation in sport and physical activity for individuals in disadvantaged areas.

It is also planned to deliver a range of projects related to Action 49 for Sports Inclusion Disability Projects, NGBs will be supported for Disability Sports projects and CARA (an organisation which helps enhance sport and physical activity opportunities for people with disabilities) will continue to receive support for its initiatives. The importance of the outdoor for promoting greater physical activity amongst the disadvantaged is also

recognised through the Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative, which is aimed at creating new opportunities for people living in disadvantaged communities to participate in outdoor adventure sports in urban settings and create new opportunities for at risk youth in disadvantaged communities and people with a disability. It is planned to allocate funding to LSPs under the Urban Outdoor Adventure Initiative in Counties Carlow, Donegal, Kilkenny, Leitrim, Laois, Longford, Meath, Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. Support will also be provided for a UCC led project in Cork called FLAME, which researches the impact of improving the physical functional movement of people in disadvantaged communities. It is hoped to establish the key reasons contributing to the greater drop-off rate amongst disadvantaged communities in sport and physical activity, which can help the design of future tailored interventions. NGBs will also be supported for projects which support young people in areas of disadvantage.

The allocation from the Dormant Accounts Fund for sports measures for disadvantaged communities to support the National Physical Activity Plan is €2,563,333, with an indicative expenditure profile of €2,563,333 in 2019.

Summary of DTTAS measures in 2019 Action Plan		
Measure	Allocated Funding	Indicative Expenditure Profile
Community Sport and Physical Activity Hubs (CSPAHS)	€1,473,333	€1,473,333 to be expended in 2019
National Sport Education and Training Hub	€963,333	€963,333 to be expended in 2019
Sports measures for disadvantaged communities to support the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP)	€2,563,333	€2,563,333 to be expended in 2019
Total	€4,999,999	

2.2 Department of Children and Youth Affairs

2.2.1 Big Brother Big Sister

The BBBS programme is an internationally recognised youth mentoring programme that forms supportive friendships for young people inspiring them to brighter futures. BBBS targets disadvantaged young people in need of one-to-one support i.e. those experiencing economic difficulty, poor social skills, underachiever in school etc. BBBS is a mentoring programme that matches an adult volunteer to a young person (10-18 years). The basic idea is that a friendship will form between the young person and adult volunteer that will promote the positive development of the young person. BBBS consists of two types of programmes - a community based programme and a school based programme:

- The community-based programme matches an adult volunteer with a young person in need of support and friendship. The young person and adult volunteer meet once a week for a minimum of one year, during which time their friendship is supported and supervised by a professional case-worker.
- The school-based programme aims to ease the transition of primary school students to secondary school by facilitating a friendship to develop between a first year secondary school student and an older student in their schools.

The programme will operate in 15 counties in 2018 and Foróige has targeted 500 community based matches and 2,430 school based matches under the programme.

The allocation from the Dormant Accounts Fund for the Big Brother Big Sister programme is €808,790, with an indicative expenditure profile of €808,790 in 2019.

Summary of DCYA measure in 2019 Action Plan		
Measure	Allocated Funding	Indicative Expenditure Profile
Big Brother Big Sister	€808,790	€808,790 to be expended in 2019

2.3 Department of Rural and Community Development

2.3.1 Support for Men’s Shed Organisations

Men’s Shed is a community-based, non-commercial organisation which is open to all men where the primary activity is the provision of a safe, friendly and inclusive environment where the men are able to gather and/or work on meaningful projects at their own pace, in their own time and in the company of other men and where the primary objective is to advance the health and well-being of the participating men. €500,000 is being provided for approximately 400 Men’s Sheds that are registered with the Irish Men’s Sheds Association. It is aimed at the purchase of equipment, or minor improvements to facilities. The measure will be administrated by LCDCs.

2.3.2 Support for LGBTI Community Organisations

Under this measure, €200,000 will be provided to help provide services in 8 locations nationwide targeting marginalised people experiencing exclusion on account of their LGBTI identities. The funding will be administered by LCDCs, and will be made available to 8 LGBTI Community Organisations (€25,000 per organisation).

Services will include-

- extending drop-in hours, developing information and guidance tools, holding additional community events.
- Delivering LGBTI awareness/sensitivity training in healthcare settings, businesses, schools etc.
- Providing outreach support.
- Providing sporting/physical activity programmes to promote inclusion, community participation, health and wellbeing.
- Developing frameworks and tool-kits to assist local employers in improving workplace inclusion.

Summary of DRCD measures in 2019 Action Plan		
Measure	Allocated Funding	Indicative Expenditure Profile
Support for Men’s Sheds Organisations	€500,000	€500,000 to be expended in 2019
Support for 8 LGBTI community organisations	€200,000	€200,000 to be expended in 2019
Total	€700,000	