**DCU in the Community piloting new Community Football/Sports Development Programme**

The FAI, Ballymun Regeneration Ltd., DCU in the Community and Whitehall College of Further Education are partnering to establish Ballymun as one of three pilot FUTSAL (**F**ootball **U**sed **T**owards **S**ocial **A**dvancement and **L**earning) hubs. PROJECT FUTSAL is a joint initiative between the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Welsh Football Trust (WFT) The goal of FUTSAL is to provide education and work opportunities for people in disadvantaged areas and influence and assist community regeneration via employment and volunteerism in the field of sport.

The innovative programme, consisting of an academic year of adult education, football coaching education, volunteering opportunities and work placements, will be offered to thirty participants from Ballymun from September 2011. For DCU in the Community - a community based learning centre, located in Shangan Road in Ballymun – this programme provides an opportunity to reach a new student group – people passionate about sport and their local community.

Participants will study for a range of FETAC accredited modules in the area of General Education, Health, Fitness and Sport in the Community, as well as selected FAI modules, such as Coaching, Referee Education, and Strength and Conditioning. Additionally, the programme will have a strong disability coaching and disability studies component. The Ballymun programme also hopes to draw on DCU’s expertise in Sport, Health and Human Performance through the development of a series of masterclasses to introduce participants to state of the art sports education.

As a major stakeholder in the local community, Dublin City University can support and contribute to the FUTSAL project in Ballymun in a very tangible way by showcasing its academic expertise and specialist skills and resources, and promoting excellence in community sports education.

Applications are now open to female and male applicants over 18 years of age from the local area The course starts mid-September 2011:

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