

# 2018



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**Social Inclusion &  
Community Activation  
Programme**

# 2018 ANNUAL SICAP PLAN

Presentation to the SICAP Sub-committee of Meath LCDC

22nd January 2018



## 2018 Annual Plan

### Goal 1: Supporting Communities

**Strategic Objective:** Through a process of targeted predevelopment actions, build effective structures and processes to facilitate meaningful dialogue and collaboration between policy makers, providers and communities of interest in Meath.

**Action Name:** (G1.1) - Building Stronger Communities

**Description of Action:**

This action aims to develop the capacity, skills and core competencies of existing and new local community groups. Training and capacity building support will be in the thematic clusters of community development, community engagement, advocacy, governance & Charity Regulatory Authority compliance, action-planning, sustainability, and measuring social impact.

*Building Stronger Communities* will also support the emergence and sustainability of social inclusion focused networks within the county; in the areas of homelessness, disadvantaged women, disability, health, and suicide prevention, to increase capacity of its members and to work with the networks towards becoming strategic players at local and regional level, as appropriate.

We will develop a support plan for each LCG identifying resources available, resources required, action steps necessary and a pathway for linkages to local and regional decision making structures. It is estimated that approximately 30 LCGs will avail of this training and mentoring support in 2018. Where necessary, external training specialists will be contracted to assist the SICAP team in delivering this action.

**Action Target:** 30 LCGs will be supported. Where necessary, external training specialists will be contracted to assist the SICAP team in delivering this action.

**Strategic Objective:** Improve access to and uptake of social, community, health and family supports in order to build healthy caring communities; improving participation and inclusion in designated communities and housing estates in Navan.

**Action Name:** (G1.2) - Community Alliance Navan

**Description of Action:**

Community Alliance Navan (CAN) will engage LCGs and their local communities in 33 housing estates in Navan, many in the footprint of the former Navan RAPID Programme and in 2018, will focus on two distinct elements - the level of community capacity and the level of capacity building support required.

Therefore in 2018, we will assess, in partnership with the LCGs serving these 33 housing estates, the following aspects:

- Building organisation – the nature, relevance and availability of community development support available in the area i.e. the presence of community fora, residents associations, or similar ‘anchors’ for community development.
- Building skills – what is available in terms of training and development support and access to specialist

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expertise which should cover organisational, financial and management skills as well as skills for community change such as assessment, planning, organising, alliance building, negotiating and campaigning.

- Building equality – to what extent public bodies and others target their attention and resources on those with least capacity, whether caused by equality issues, poverty or poor community infrastructure.
- Building involvement – how public bodies and others create conditions in which communities are more able to be involved, and able to exert influence over decisions and priorities.

This assessment will be conducted using a number of consultation methodologies and will build on the results of the community need analyses conducted in the RAPID Area and Windtown Estates in 2012. We will use the Scottish Community Strengths Framework to guide our work in 2018.

It is our intention under this action to establish a permanent outreach community office, through a co-location arrangement with one of our strategic partners in September 2018.

**Action Target:** 10 Navan-based LCGs

**Strategic Objective:** Increase awareness, knowledge and response to homelessness in County Meath

**Action Name:** (G1.3) Meath Homeless Initiative

**Description of Action:**

Meath Homeless Initiative is concerned with developing a community response to ending homelessness in County Meath. In order to end homelessness, those experiencing homelessness and those who are at high risk of becoming homeless must be able to quickly access the help they need.

In Meath at present, the process for accessing help is not co-ordinated. There are a number of state and community and voluntary services that serve people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. However, there is no centralised or coordinated way in which an individual or family in need of help can find out which service is the best fit for their needs. In 2018, Meath Partnership will undertake an action based research initiative to identify access pathways to the range of housing and accommodation options available to this target group. This will provide an evidence base for the development of wrap-around supports for those that are currently homeless or those at risk of homelessness.

We also intend to develop a tenancy sustainment initiative to meet the needs of those currently homeless and those vulnerable to homelessness. It will focus on providing supports to maintain tenancies, support the development of life skills and facilitate access health and social services.

Finally we will work with LCGs, the voluntary sector and local public bodies to support the emergence of a Homeless Network within the county to drive the Meath Homeless Initiative.

**Action Target:** 5 LCGs working to address the issue of homelessness in County Meath and working on behalf of the target group



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**Strategic Objective:** Using a family-centered approach, increase the uptake and participation in both informal and formal educational opportunities for disadvantaged families and children, including those parenting alone, to break the cycle of disadvantage.

**Action:** (G1.4) Families First

**Description of Action:**

Meath Partnership is proposing to support the development of 3 new community-based family support LCGs in Meath using the principles and approaches of community engagement. These new LCGs will be supported using the Community Development Matrix. There is a much greater likelihood of obtaining a good understanding of the collective views of disadvantaged families if they meet regularly and have opportunities to share experiences and develop emerging opinions about what they need. Providing parents with these opportunities also has direct benefits for parents by building social networks. In addition, it also makes it easier for the community to engage with the services and vice versa.

These LCGs will also be used as channels to provide information, training supports and one-to-one mentoring for local families. The SICAP Team is trained in delivering early childhood development programmes centred on language development, behaviour and parental wellbeing and the Parents Plus programme; therefore this training will be available to local families through the LCG structure.

Under this action, Meath Partnership will continue to support the implementation of the Meath Tiny Talk Initiative - an interagency collaboration between the HSE Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Department, Meath County Childcare Committee and Meath Partnership providing early intervention supports centred on the development of speech, language and communication skills of children and child.

**Action Target:** 3 LCGs representing Disadvantaged Children and Families



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### Goal 2: Supporting Individuals

**Strategic Objective:** Support access to informal learning, social, civic and education opportunities amongst disadvantaged women and older people in county Meath.

**Action Name:** (G2.1) Welcome In

**Description of Action:**

In 2018, we are proposing to establish 2 new Men's Sheds in North Meath. This region of the county has been identified as a priority, as older people, particularly men in these more rural communities having few opportunities to engage in social, civic or learning activities. Given the dispersed nature of these rural communities, and the lack of social capital within them, there is a need to provide intensive supports to secure the establishment of these two new Men's Sheds.

Also, as a nod to the Men's Shed concept, Meath Partnership is proposing to establish a similar type initiative for disadvantaged women. The aim of this project will be to help women experiencing exclusion, a lack of confidence, low self-esteem and mental health issues to become active members of their communities. The participants will engage in activities that are designed by women for women and embedded with skills in relation to personal development, communication, confidence building, and positive mental health. As part of this activity, Meath Partnership will organise 'skills-swapping' workshops where women will share a skill they have developed over time with other women.

Additionally, in 2018, we are proposing to establish a county-wide befriending service which aims to provide a face-to-face befriending service for isolated and vulnerable people, where trained and Garda vetted volunteers, will be managed and supported to provide a service that may include activities such as visiting someone in their home, meeting for a conversation in a local café, accompanying them for a walk or shopping trip etc. The intention is each person supported will be assigned a befriender, who provides friendly conversation and companionship on a regular basis. This will be a joint collaboration between SICAP and Meath Volunteer Centre.

**Action Target:** 40 Individuals

**Strategic Objective:** Support the social, civic and economic integration of migrants, programme refugees and those with leave to remain status in county Meath through cooperation, collaboration and alignment of resources.

**Action Name:** (G2.2) Integrate Project

**Description of Action:**

In 2018, Meath Partnership will continue to support the Meath Intercultural Network to achieve its aim and deliver a number of interagency actions. In addition to this work and to address our SICAP Strategic Objective, we are proposing to pilot two new initiatives for migrants and continue to deliver our Migrant Self-Employment Support service in 2018.

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- **Beyond Retirement Integration Project**

Working with the Meath Laterlife Network and the Meath Intercultural Network, we are proposing to pilot a new project that matches senior volunteers with newly arrived migrants, programme refugees and those with leave to remain status in county Meath. Central to our approach is the provision of tailored training to develop the competences of senior volunteers who are currently engaged in the Laterlife Network but who would like to take on a new challenge and support the integration of migrant families locally. The programme which will be delivered under this action will ensure that senior volunteers will have the necessary skills to promote empowerment, participation and active citizenship of all migrant community members supporting enhanced social inclusion in county Meath. Through a matching process, senior volunteers will support the social integration of migrants through friendship, mentoring and advocacy. Building on the Fáilte Isteach model for community-based volunteer-led language learning, this initiative will support conversational language learning, companionship and mentoring between migrants, programme refugees and/or those with leave to remain status and local volunteers. In the first year of the pilot, we are aiming to achieve 10 successful matches.

- **Migrant Women Leaders Programme**

We have designed a new training programme (awaiting accreditation) to empower migrant women to be confident in their “new” roles as community leaders within county Meath promoting an integration agenda between migrant and host communities. The need for this training has been identified through the Meath Intercultural Network. In their new role as leaders of integration, migrant women who complete the training will be available to act as local contact points for other women in their communities who may lack the confidence to undertake training, or who may not know where to go to access information on their rights and entitlements, or to access basic services. In 2018 we intend to train 20 migrant women across five communities of place.

- **Migrant Self-Employment Support Service**

We will continue to facilitate a mentoring and training programme from migrants in county Meath wishing to set-up a business. We have developed a range of tailored start-up workshops with business language learning embedded throughout. We will support and train 25 nascent migrant entrepreneurs in the county and facilitate their access to a number of State schemes promoting self-employment as a route out of unemployment.

**Action Target:** 55 Individuals

**Strategic Objective:** Create tailored support and training activities for young people in vulnerable situations between the ages of 15 to 24 years in in County Meath

**Action Name:** (G2. 3) Meath Youth Guidance Service

**Description of Action**

Under this action, we are proposing to establish a One-Stop Guidance Service for young people in vulnerable situations in county Meath. The service will provide personal guidance and counselling, specifically focusing on learning and employment, and related transitions and pathways for young people in county Meath. We will focus on areas such as self-esteem, resilience and life-skills with this target group also. Our aim is to assist and support the young person until a more long-term or permanent solution has been found in terms of a job, study place or other type of activities.

For a discreet cohort of young people in county Meath identified as school refusers, early school leavers and NEETs, continuous counselling and support will be required and we are proposing to employ a part-time



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Education Support Youth Officer to join the SICAP team in 2018 to work alongside our Career Coaches to deliver a focused element of the Guidance Service, namely an out-of-school support programme for early school leavers and those at risk of early school leaving, utilising established youth work approaches. This aspect of the action will be a voluntary programme and open to young people who may have disengaged from the formal education system. The programme will involve up to 12 young people at any one time. The project will provide a tailored programme aimed at enabling young people to re-engage with education and/or training and employment, to develop life skills that foster good relations and build confidence and resilience. The project will offer intensive one-to-one interventions with young people and their families, providing pro-social activities in their local area. The project will work directly with young people, their referrers, families, schools and other agencies to support the individual needs of each young person. The support and programmes offered by the project will be grounded in evidence-based interventions and facilitated by an experienced youth worker with an educational focus. This aspect of the action has been designed in collaboration with Tusla, YWI, Education Welfare Officer, School Completion Programme, LMETB Youth Officer, JLOs, MCDAR, Springboard and Garda Diversion Project.

Finally, through a sub-contracting arrangement with Meath Community Drug & Alcohol Response (MCDAR) Team we will provide young people in vulnerable situations, especially those dealing with drug and/or alcohol misuse, with ring-fenced keyworker and counselling support.

**Action Target:** 60 Disadvantaged young people (aged 15 – 24)

**Strategic Objective:** Moving to active case management on an individual basis; ensuring better integration of referral, guidance and mentoring supports for people experiencing long-term unemployment so that their individual needs are met in the first instance.

**Action Name:** (G2.4) Catalyst

**Description of Action:**

Meath Partnership works predominately with two types of jobseeking customers and they are distinguished depending on their needs that is; “job mediation clients” i.e. those that are more easily employable and “case management clients” i.e. those who need intensive, tailored support as a result of multiple employment obstacles.

The Catalyst Initiative will work with LTU individuals referred, in the majority of cases by the Department of Social Protection, upon exiting services offered by Intreo and SEETEC without achieving a successful placement or an offer of employment. Unemployed persons with complex profiles will be offered a reinforced service called Catalyst: Employment-oriented Case Management. Support will be primarily delivered through one-to-one interventions and the Distance Travelled Tool will be extensively utilised.

We will work with 40 clients per annum and registration interviews will be used to assess clients’ individual needs and set up Personal Action Plans (PAP). This service will be delivered on a fully outreach basis addressing some of the access barriers for this target group.

**Action Target:** 40 Individuals



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**Strategic Objective:** Provide targeted activation measures, through access to training initiatives and government schemes, targeting specific priority groups among the unemployed, advancing them to employment 'readiness' and self-employment pathways.

**Action Name:** (G2.5) Meath Employment Service

**Description of Action:**

Meath Employment Service will work predominately with "job mediation clients" i.e. those that are more easily employable or have potential to access the BTWEA scheme as a route out of unemployment. Meath Partnership will continue its work with the unemployed in providing one-to-one career coaching or career guidance. We will also provide pathways for a client to become self-sufficient as a self-employed person. Both services will also operate on a flexible outreach basis across the county addressing access barriers in terms of transport costs and public transport availability.

**Action Target:** 70 Individuals