

Local Community Development Committee

Meeting – 31st July, 2020 at 10.35am

Held by phone conference as a result of Covid-19. Attendance was verified by roll call.

Presiding:

Mr John Higgins (JH)

Community Sector

Present:

Ms Fiona Lawless (FL) Deputy Chief Executive Meath County Council

Cllr Yemi Adenuga (YA)

Cllr Mike Bray (MB)

Councillor Meath County Council

Cllr Elaine McGinty (EMcG)

Councillor Meath County Council

Mr Joe English (JE) Local Enterprise Office

Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD) Louth Meath Education Training Board

Mr Michael Ludlow (ML)
Mr Garett O'Brien (GoB)
Ms Susuana Komolafe (SK)
Meath Partnership
Community Sector
Social Inclusion

Ms Suzanne Brady (SBr) Environmental Sector

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG) Farming Sector
Mr Noel Maguire (NM) Trade Union Sector

Ms Geraldine Hogarty (GH) Youth Work Ireland Meath

Officials:

Ms Fiona Fallon (FF)

Chief Officer, Senior Executive Officer, Community

Ms Áine Bird (AB)

Administrative Officer, Community Department MCC

Senior Staff Officer, Community Department MCC

Senior Staff Officer, Community Department MCC

Ms Karen Dalton (KD) Staff Officer, Community Department MCC

Apologies/Absent

Ms Ita McGuigan (IMcG) Údarás na Gaeltachta

Mr Paul Carroll (PC) Dept of Employment Affairs & Social Protection

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Ms Dorothy Kerrigan (DK) Health Service Executive

Ms Anna Melnik (AM) Social Inclusion

Ms Donna Farrell (DF) Chambers of Commerce



Item	Discussion / Action
1.	To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 26 th June, 2020
	The minutes of the meeting of the 26 th June, 2020 were proposed by Mr Seamus McGee and seconded by Mr Joe English.
2.	Matters arising
	No matters arising.
3,	Correspondence
	FF briefed the Committee on a number of items of correspondence which had circulated to the LCDC prior to the meeting and provided a brief outline of their contents. The correspondence items were as follows;
	I. Details of the Community Enhancement Programme 2020 circulated, closing date 28 th August 2020
	II. Coronavirus COVID-19 information from ALONE
	III. Email from the Department of Rural and Community Development with a link to some guidance and information for C&V organisations in the context of return to work
	IV. Email from Community Finance Ireland regarding the launch of the Social Economy Diaries by the Social Economy Unit at the European Commission
	V. National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) - Literacy Awareness webinar taking place on 27 August
	VI. Email from the Department of Health regarding Covid-19 supports available
	VII. Email from the Royal Irish Academy's Social Sciences Committee, who have launched a youth photography call for an online exhibition (18- to 25-year olds).
	GOB enquired if there was much uptake on the Community Wellbeing Initiative, FF advised that a good number of applications have already been submitted, with more expected today and over the weekend. She noted that if required the deadline date can be extended. FF also noted that there are some very good initiatives being submitted, which are of varying sizes but all worthwhile. GOB noted that it is a very nice initiative which is being well received.



4. To approve the recommendation of the SICAP sub-group for the mid-year review

FF advised the committee that the SICAP subgroup met on the 22nd July to review the SICAP Mid-Year Review and the progress of the programme to date. She noted that KPI1 is almost 100% achieved with 43 out of the 48 target met. KPI2 is lower with only 76 out of a target of 290 met, however FF noted that following additional information and clarification from Meath Partnership, there are a number of clients who have engaged with the programme but could not be included in the figures as the paperwork was not complete. FF advised that it is expected that the targets for 2020 will be achieved. FF acknowledged that there will be elements of rethinking needed on how some of the programme actions can be delivered and noted that some additional supports will be needed for some clients. She noted that while some work could continue on line that this didn't work for all the SICAP clients and that face to face meetings are preferred.

FF informed the committee that the SICAP sub group has recommended approval of the Mid-Year Review and that this year it is not linked to the Q3 payment. She also advised that the Department have indicated that some flexibility can be given with regards to the targets set and that this will be reviewed further in Q4.

JH noted that generally the Mid-Year Review was well received and that great work has taken place.

The approval of the Mid-Year Review was proposed by YA and seconded by SMcG.

5. To receive an update on the PPN

FF informed the committee of two webinars that took place;

- The PPN delivered a financial webinar for community groups on the 30th June. Hosted by RBK, the session was useful and positively received by participants.
- A climate action online workshop was delivered to PPN group on the 16th July. Facilitated by Gavin Harte, the session ranged from climate change science to community action, coordination, and practical goals.

GOB advised the committee that the PPN Secretariat have a number of training courses which were held up due to Covid19 and that they are working with providers to determine what training courses can be run online with some bespoke training to complement work already completed.



6. To receive an update on the mental health supports currently available to people during the Covid-19 pandemic

FF noted that following a Notice of Motion from Cllr Mike Bray at the full Council meeting a listing of the mental health supports available was circulated to the members prior to the meeting. She confirmed that some work needs to be carried out to check if all of the services are still operating and that an update will be available for the next Community Response Forum meeting scheduled to take place in early September. She asked the members present if they were aware of any service not listed to let her know.

SWMcD joined the meeting at 10.45am.

MB thanked FF for the list and noted that in light of the continuously evolving nature of the Covid19 health emergency it is important that mental health is on the agendas of the LCDC and the full Council.

ML noted that there is a strong requirement for this support and that there is some available under SICAP. He advised that 6 monthly online seminars have been scheduled; two have already taken place with 35 and 21 individuals attending. A third one is scheduled for August, which will be on mindfulness.

7. AOB

- i. <u>Innovate Together</u>: JH advised the committee that the Social Inclusion Fund has been rebranded to Innovate Together with an initiative called Rethink Ireland. He noted that the main theme of the initiative is for innovative ideas arising from Covid19, within work that is already being carried out. He informed the committee that there is a €5m fund with €2.5m still available for round 2 which will be announced shortly.
- FF gave a brief outline of the two additional applications under the Covid-19 Emergency Fund:

 Emergency Fund as detailed in the report circulated to the committee.

 The approval of the two grant allocations as presented was proposed by ML and seconded by YA.
- iii. Healthy Ireland Fund: FF informed the committee of the fund allocation for the Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator. She noted that under each year of the programme an amount of €37,500 was allocated for the role of Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator. She advised that the post had been advertised and the closing date had passed prior to the Covid19 health emergency but the recruitment process had then paused, it is hoped that this process will recommence in the next few months. As a result the funding originally allocated for year 1 and quarter of year 2 for the Co-Ordinator can now be reassigned to additional actions within the Healthy Ireland programme.



She advised the committee that it is proposed that the €30,000 of the funding is used to repair and reopen two playgrounds in disadvantaged areas in Navan and €15,000 to be used to purchase outdoor exercise equipment for placement in Trim which will be suitable for people of all abilities. FF confirmed that both actions compliment the Healthy Meath Strategy and LECP and are in line with the Healthy Ireland programme requirements.

YA enquired if the appointment of a Co-Ordinator will not proceed. FF advised that the recruitment process will recommence shortly and that the funding for the remainder of the Healthy Ireland programme still available. The approval of the proposal as presented for submission to Pobal was proposed by SWMcD and seconded by EMcG.

- iv. Approval of additional SICAP subcontractors and correction to previously approved SICAP subcontractor for 2020. FF briefed the committee members of the two additional SICAP subcontractors and the detail of the correction to a previously approved subcontractor as detailed in the report circulated to the committee prior to the meeting. The approval of the two additional subcontractors and correction to the already approved contractor was proposed by SWMcD and seconded by SK.
- v. 2018 SICAP Audit: FF advised the committee that during the 2018 SICAP audit €4,538.61 was identified as charged against SICAP but was deemed ineligible. She confirmed that the Local Government Audit Service agreed that rather than Meath Partnership repaying these monies it could be utilised against the SICAP programme and as such it is proposed to use this funding in 2021 SICAP programme. FF informed the committee that the details of the proposed action will be included in the 2021 Annual Plan which will be presented LCDC to the at the end year. The approval to include the ineligible 2018 SICAP funding, in the amount of €4,538.61, in the 2021 SICAP Annual Plan was proposed by SK and seconded by EMcG.
- vi. Community Wellbeing Initiative: MB noted that a short extension to the application deadline would be very welcome and enquired if it was mainly the same groups that would usually apply for the Pride of Place initiative. FF confirmed that it is a mixture of applicants.

GH joined the meeting at 10.57am. JH thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.

Meeting concluded at 10.58am

Signed:

Date:

