

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee

Meeting – 25th March, 2022 at 10.30 am

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

Presiding:

Ms Suzanne Brady (SB) Environmental Sector

Present:

Ms Jackie Maguire (JM)	Chief Executive, Meath County Council
Cllr Noel French (NF)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Mike Bray (MB)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Elaine McGinty (EMcG)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Mr Michael Ludlow (ML)	Meath Partnership
Mr Garret O'Brien (GOB)	Community Sector
Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG)	Farming Sector
Ms Geraldine Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Ms Susuana Komolafe (SK)	Social Inclusion
Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Ms Sharon Curran (SC)	Department of Social Protection

Guests:

Ms Tinu Achioya (TA)	Cultúr Migrant Centre
Mr Angel Marroquin (AM)	Cultúr Migrant Centre

Officials:

Ms Fiona Fallon (FF)	Chief Officer, Senior Executive Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Áine Bird (AB)	Administrative Officer, Community Department, MCC
Ms Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Department, MCC
Ms Alison Lynch (AL)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Department, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Mr Joe English (JE)	Local Enterprise Office
Ms Donna Farrell (DF)	Chamber of Commerce
Mr Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Vacant	HSE
Vacant	Community Sector
Vacant	Social Inclusion Sector
Vacant	Udaras na Gaeltachta

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th January, 2022</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the 28th January 2022 were proposed by SMcG and seconded by ML.</p>
2.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>FF advised that there were no matters arising.</p>
3.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>FF briefed the Committee on two items of correspondence that had been circulated to the LCDC members in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Ukraine Crisis 2) LMETB English language classes for Ukrainian Nationals
4.	<p>To receive and approve the Annual LCDC Report 2021</p> <p>The approval of the Annual LCDC Report 2021 was proposed by SWMcD and seconded by JM.</p>
5.	<p>To receive and approve the SICAP End of Year Report 2021</p> <p>FF stated that all targets under the SICAP programme for 2021 had been exceeded and thanked Meath Partnership for the work carried out by them in 2021 during the pandemic. She noted that Goal 1 costs were 41.9% of total action costs which is >10% variance with what was initially approved at the start of the year. The reduction in Goal 1 costs was explained due to the programme manager reducing hours to part time. The underspend of €16,515 (4%) is to be carried into 2022 budget.</p> <p>The approval of the SICAP End of Year Report 2021 was proposed by JM and seconded by SWMcD.</p>

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6. To receive a presentation from Cultúr on their project being funded under the pilot Community Development Programme Fund

Tinu Achioya and Angel Marroquin from the Cultúr Migrant Centre gave an informative presentation to the committee on the Migrant Network Community Development Project Louth/Meath that is being funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. This project aims to challenge the social exclusion and inequality experienced by local migrant communities and vulnerable groups, and seeks to address the intersecting issues of poverty, racism and isolation. She detailed the work carried out under the project to date in identifying the issues and needs raised by migrants and the step taken to address those issues and needs and welcomed an interagency support effort to deliver mainstream services to migrants and identify any funding available to them. She also confirmed that they have set up a Ukrainian Response Support Team and highlighted the need for a multiagency support approach in aiding with the challenges they face in identifying central coordination, sourcing resources and funding more English classes and translators.

SB thanked Tinu and Angel for the informative presentation and praised the migrant centre for the immense work they have carried out to date under this project and opened up to the floor for discussion.

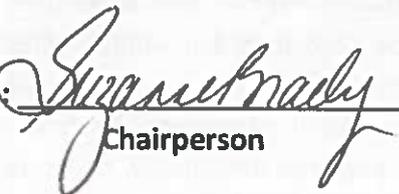
A lengthy discussion ensued in relation to the Ukrainian crisis facing the County with all committee members agreeing that an interagency approach is required and that they await direction from Government in relation to a National Steering Group being formed that will then filter down to each Local Authority. The Committee agreed the crisis will also require the involvement and support of community and voluntary groups to identify and provide for the needs of these migrants and their children for housing supports, employment supports, educational supports, financial supports, psychological supports etc. They discussed the works that have been carried out to date by each agency in response to the crisis and the obstacles they face in aiding the migrants such as the language barrier and the need for more language courses, more translators and information being translated into their mother tongue.

ML mentioned the SICAP Programme that is coordinated by Meath Partnership and suggested that perhaps he and Tinu Achioya could meet up together and discuss how they may be able to work together to aid migrants and Tina welcomed this offer.

JM stated that at present County Meath has only received about 10% of the total amount of migrants expected to come from the Ukraine. The next wave of migrants will have much greater needs than those who have already arrived and all agencies need to prepare for this. A meeting will take place in the coming week in relation to how Meath County Council could use the Community Forum that was set up during the pandemic to help with this crisis.

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7.	<p>To receive and approve the Community Activity Fund grant applications</p> <p>The approval of the Community Activity Fund grant applications 2022 as circulated was proposed by GH and seconded by SK.</p>
8.	<p>To receive an update on the PPN</p> <p>FF noted that a PPN plenary meeting is to be scheduled in the next few weeks.</p>
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>FF reminded the Committee that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday 29th April, 2022.</p> <p>SB thanked all for their attendance and participation.</p> <p>Meeting concluded at 11.30 .am</p>

Signed: 
 Chairperson

Date: 6th May, 2022