Annual Plan Report

Year:	2022		
LCDC:	Meath		
Lot:	Meath County (11-1)		
Local Development Company:	Meath Community Rural and Social Development Partnership CLG		
Annual Targets			



Annual Targets	
KPI 1	45
KPI 2	275
%KPI 2 Living in Disadvantaged Areas	17.00%

Annual Budget	€650,660	
Indirect Salary Costs (Management/Administration)	€64,727	
Travel and Subsistence for Indirect Salary Costs	€2,000	
Office/Administration/Establishment Costs	€77,015	
Financial/Professional Fees/Staff Training/Other Costs	€4,500	
Total Administration Costs	€148,242	22.78%
Goal 1 Non-Salary Costs	€44,172	
Goal 1 Direct Salary Costs	€202,846	
Goal 1 Total Costs	€247,018	49.17%
Goal 2 Non-Salary Costs	€58,725	
Goal 2 Direct Salary Costs	€196,675	
Goal 2 Total Costs	€255,400	50.83%
Total Actions Cost	€502,419	
Overall Costs	€650,660	
Subcontractor costs do not exceed 30% of annual budget	V	
Total Grant costs do not exceed 7.5% of total action costs	V	

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(2022) G1.1 Building Stronger Communities			
	Non-Sala	ry Costs	Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
	€3,000		€3,000

1

Location

Navan, Trim, Duleek, Enfield, Ashbourne, East Meath, Athboy, Kells, etc.

Description

Communities, whether geographical or interest based, are complex and have a range of characteristics that define them. The SICAP Team recognises that often the very things that create disadvantage, poverty, lack of educational opportunity, poor health, and poor transport links, also create barriers to bringing about the empowerment that is one of the key ingredients for bringing about real change. When we propose to support 'empowered' communities, we mean a community that is organised to take action to bring about change that is of benefit to those that live there or supported by the community of interest.

In this context, community capacity building is a critical step in laying the foundations for community empowerment and progressing local community groups along the community development matrix. Essentially, community capacity building is the SICAP support that community groups access to help them address issues which are important to them. In 2021, we delivered training programmes to LCGs to enable them to enhance their digital and delivery skills in order to enable better communications to their members in pandemic times. In addition to this we identified a need for training in the following areas mediation, grant writing and support and governance. Training was successfully delivered via Zoom in these areas over the year. In2022, we aim to support groups in coming back together face to face. New committees need to be elected and supported and a number of organisations will aim to recruit new members to build capacity and energy. Our community development officer, will work alongside these LCGs to define specific projects and then mentor and support these LCGs to take the lead on locally defined and conceived actions. Many groups have suffered due to the pandemic in terms of finance, membership loss and low morale. To further build capacity, it is hoped that local community groups will be encouraged to network and collaborate together, to share experiences and skills. Our collaborative partners will be requested to continue to work alongside us to invest time, resources and skills to support these communities to achieve their goals.

Whilst much of the support provided to community groups and organisations through SICAP in 2022 will involve providing facilitated access to the resources they need to operate effectively, capacity building also involves working with local groups to help them understand decision making processes and structures within the county (such as the LCDC, PPN, Strategic Policy Committees, CYPSC, etc.) and to develop their ability to inform and influence decisions that affect them directly or indirectly.

In 2022 we will undertake the following activities:

- Continue to mentor and assist LCGs on both an individual and, where appropriate, a collective basis to address local social inclusion and equality issues outlined in the support plans building on their newly acquired leadership skills
- Capacity building of community groups by providing a range of training as identified through the implementation of the Building Stronger Communities Development tool and by telephone and face to face meetings (if restrictions allow)
- To assist groups to network and take effective joint action to address local issues

It is our intention to continue to facilitate a Building Stronger Communities Collaboration space in 2022, to showcase the range of community activities taking place in County Meath specifically activities with a strong social inclusion focus, to support the networking of these groups and provide this space for information exchange and learning. In 2022, our concentration will remain on working with LCGs which include people from the SICAP target groups whilst also building the capacity of local stakeholders, organisations and agencies to understand and address local communities' concerns and needs, particularly addressing the issues that the pandemic has brought to varying groups

We will continue to develop and support tailored support plans 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 22 LCGs will avail of this training and mentoring support. Where necessary, external training specialists will be contracted to assist the SICAP team in delivering this action.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2021, after any potential staffing costs; is to be distributed evenly over all actions in 2022 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

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Expected Outcomes

Enhanced leadership skills and capacity among LCGs in Co. Meath

Evidence of progression of local community groups through stage 1 to 3 of the community development process Improved networking between SICAP supported LCGs in County Meath

Supporting groups to build membership and capacity post Covid.

Target Groups

People living in Disadvantaged Communities,

Sicap Outcome

- G1 1:1 Needs of local communities and groups are identified, represented and integrated through local planning and service delivery.
- G1 1:2 Local social inclusion and equality issues are addressed by local community groups.
- G1 1:4 A strengthened sense of community.
- G1 4:1 Local community groups work with local service providers to develop and implement initiatives addressing social exclusion and inequality.
- G1 2:1 Local community groups progress along the community development matrix.
- G1 2:2 Local community groups have a greater capacity to address the social inclusion needs of the communities they serve or represent.

RAPID Area

Navan

Collaborative Partners	Role
City/County Council (Local Authority)	Participant
Community Work Ireland	Participant
Local Community Groups	Participant
PPN	Participant

LECP Objectives

3. Resilience - SCO 3.1 - To Expand and Strengthen the Community Infrastructure

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(2022) G1.2 Community Alliance Navan			
	Non-Sal	ary Costs	Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
	€8,500	ו	€8,500

1

Location

Navan Urban and Navan Rural

Description

In 2022 we will continue to operate a dedicated SICAP Outreach Office in Oaklawns, Navan facilitated by the Respond Housing Association. This will assist in bolstering local community infrastructure, will enable ongoing direct engagement with low income households, disadvantaged families and children, jobseekers, older people and negatively affected new communities. We will continue to offer a range of SICAP services and programmes from the office in Oaklawns throughout the year for these target groups.

Over the past 12 months we have witnessed a marked dis-improvement in community spirit and dialogue within and across these estates, this was due to the isolation and lack of interaction with each other due to the pandemic. Our full-time presence in Oaklawns is hoping to be a real support to local residents and local groups in designing and implementing projects and actions that address and promote community spirit. In Autumn 2021, we distributed flower bulbs to estate members to encourage biodiversity and pollination and to enhance the physical environment of the area. We are proposing to collaborate with other agencies such as Respond Housing and Meath County Council to organise a family fun day to promote community spirit and cohesiveness post pandemic.

In 2022, our priority is to work with our collaboration partners to begin to address the community's physical characteristics and social facility environment to enhance greater community engagement and community well-being. It is hoped that the Community Building in Oaklawns will get more usage from the residents and we hope to have a number of groups up and running and availing of this facility in 2022.

Some of these groups and activities will be supported through a targeted CAN grant scheme and will focus on the community achieving a better understanding of the nature of their community's' physical environment, this should contribute to a shared understanding of how to improve and use open spaces and should encourage pride in the local environment. Specifically, 2022 actions will include the following:

- Working with and supporting 10 local community groups
- Use the place standard tool to identify what is needed in the community and to get a sense of what residents need to bring about a stronger community. Host a community visioning event to involve as many stakeholders as possible.
- Encourage estate level clean-ups and the formation of tidy estate committees working with the tenancy liaison officers within Meath County Council
- Assist local groups with funding applications to create local estate management plans with our collaboration partners
- Design and deliver a community information campaign with practical workshops that promotes awareness of how the physical environment can impact (positively and negatively) on community health and well-being
- Deliver a short activities-based summer programme for disadvantaged young people to encourage and support their inclusion locally and get them involved in local actions at estate level. This action will be delivered in collaboration with local youth organisations. Allow the youth to transform a space that will allow them to collaborate and communicate.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2021, after any potential staffing costs; is to be distributed evenly over all actions in 2022 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

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Expected Outcomes

- Better local planning based on an improved understanding of each community and community consensus on short to medium term need
- Improved coordination and engagement with community and local services to enhance the physical environment
- Leadership potential identified and developed with an improved sense of community empowerment and control of the local environment
- Pride in the local community
- To promote the youth of the area to engage in the space in a positive manner by inviting them to be involved in space transformation.
- 20 non-caseload young people participating in the Summer Programme across Navan
- · Disadvantaged families and children engaged and supported to improve their immediate local environment

Target Groups

People living in Disadvantaged Communities, Disadvantaged Children and Families

Sicap Outcome

- G1 1:3 There is increased participation in social, cultural and civic activities among SICAP target groups due to the support of community groups.
- ${
 m G1}$ 4:1 Local community groups work with local service providers to develop and implement initiatives addressing social exclusion and inequality.
- G1 1:4 A strengthened sense of community.
- G1 1:2 Local social inclusion and equality issues are addressed by local community groups.
- G1 2:2 Local community groups have a greater capacity to address the social inclusion needs of the communities they serve or represent.

RAPID Area

Navan

Collaborative Partners	Role
City/County Council (Local Authority)	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
Local Community Groups	Participant
Youth organisations/services	Participant

LECP Objectives

- 3. Resilience SCO 3.1 To Expand and Strengthen the Community Infrastructure
- 3. Resilience SCO 3.2 To Enhance Environmental Protection, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, and Action for a Low Carbon Future, and to Increase the Range of Transition Activities

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(2022) G1.3 Integrate Community			
	Non-Sala	ry Costs	Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
	€2,000		€2,000

1

Location

Navan, Ashbourne and Mosney Reception Centre

Description

There is a need for grassroots development work with local communities, with agencies and with representatives of new communities to build a positive narrative in relation to the impact and contribution of new communities to the social and cultural fabric of Meath and we will begin to address this through the creation of local opportunities for migrants and new communities to get involved in local community activities. Working with migrant-led community groups throughout 2021, the evidence of a networking gap among LCGs especially those that involve migrant-led or migrant involving organisations is evident with few opportunities for these groups to come together either thematically or geographically.

In 2021, with additional funding secured through the Department of Justice and Equality, the SICAP team brought together 12 LCGs (8 migrant-led and 4 local LCGs) from across the cultural spectrum using the medium of food; a recommendation put forward by the LCGs in 2019. Food is viewed across all cultures as a medium for communication; it is about sharing, community and connectivity. Food is an international language, often the unspoken ambassador of integration. With access to the Lismullin Culinary School, we hosted the food making and cultural training workshop with these LCGs in order to enhance intercultural awareness and local community capacity; improve the understanding of the contribution that migrants make to social and civic life in county Meath and to recognise the diverse cultures that are present in the community. Although the event had to be held on Zoom with ingredients delivered to each participant, it was deemed a very positive experience by those who attended. Building on the success of this, in 2022 we hope to provide a space where migrants will have an opportunity to network and share resources with each other and to offer them an opportunity to educate others about their own home country. We hope it will culminate in a day of cultural showcasing for all groups at a central venue in Meath (yet to be decided) whereby participants will be invited to exhibit crafts, music, culture or food from their region. It will also give participants a chance to socialise and network with other migrant groups in the area.

County Meath is host to significant Eastern European, African, Asian and Syrian communities and through this action we hope to create opportunities for learning, exchange and sharing; creating a space to exhibit and experience both Irish and migrant cultures, promote intercultural awareness and begin to build relationships, contacts and informal networks between LCGs. This initiative intends to help build and solidify networks within LCGs in Meath recognising that integration is a two way process, building mutual acceptance and trust are key conditions to social cohesion and will be addressed under this action.

In 2022, we will continue to build the capacity and work with 5 migrant-led LCGs on a one-to-one basis also in order to promote and embed the concept of bridging social capital and carry out the following activities:
- ongoing support and training input in of good governance, access to local grants and supports, linkages to other LCGs

- link the LCGs with local decision making structures and encourage their involvement in the PPN and other representative networks at county level such as the Later life Network, Meath Intercultural Network, and others. -offer migrants the opportunity to network with each other and to showcase their country's culture in a showcasing event. If covid 19 restrictions have been lifted this will be a physical event, otherwise it will be held via a zoom platform.

Meath Partnership will support the implementation of the new Meath Louth Integration Strategy to achieve its aims and deliver a number of inter-agency actions where appropriate.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2021, after any potential staffing costs; is to be distributed evenly over all actions in 2022 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

Better utilisation of existing community assets and resources to mobilise initiatives that support the social integration of migrants through networking, mentoring and advocacy.

Target Groups

New Communities, People living in Disadvantaged Communities

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Sicap Outcome

- G1 1:2 Local social inclusion and equality issues are addressed by local community groups.
- G1 4:1 Local community groups work with local service providers to develop and implement initiatives addressing social exclusion and inequality.
- ${\sf G1}$ 2:2 Local community groups have a greater capacity to address the social inclusion needs of the communities they serve or represent.

RAPID Area

Navan

Collaborative Partners	Role
City/County Council (Local Authority)	Participant
Dept. of Justice and Equality	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
Local Community Groups	Participant
National migrant organisations	Participant
PPN	Participant

LECP Objectives

3. Resilience - SCO 3.3 - To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups

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(2022) G1.4 Teach Mná					
	Non-Salary Costs			Total Costs	
	Goal	1	Goa	l 2	
		€4,000			€4,000

1

Location

Navan, Athbov, East Meath and Ashbourne

Description

The aim of this project is to support the establishment and development of local community groups specifically focusing on the needs of disadvantaged women experiencing exclusion, lacking confidence, low self-esteem and mental health issues; in order to address and enhance their current quality of life. This intervention will encourage this target group to become more active members of their communities through the development of local Teach Mná LCGs. Through the LCGs, participants will engage in activities selected and designed by women for women with effective local control. These activities will be embedded with skills supportive of personal development, communication, confidence building and positive mental health. Group membership consists of high number of older women who are particularly vulnerable to isolation and SICAP endeavours to focus on this client group for the remainder of the programme.

The Teach Mná groups have continued to provide community-based spaces fostering encouragement, collaboration, and even more than ever, have promoted and developed connectivity and unity during the pandemic.

Throughout 2022 there will be a clear focus primarily on strengthening the current Teach Mná groups while rekindling past members who became increasingly isolated due to the duration and ongoing challenges influenced by the pandemic and the many restrictions, fears and health challenges associated with it. There will be a focus on creating more awareness of the Teach Mná groups already established within the county as well as an intention to offer guidance around how to get started and raise awareness around the benefits of such groups in areas of disadvantage.

Meath Partnership will provide the 4 current LCG's; Navan, Ashbourne, Athboy & North Meath (currently online) the following supports:

- A focus on capacity building and organisational development training
- · Leadership and confidence building skills
- Effective communication skills
- Personal development
- Build alliances and encourage community collaborations which can help challenge the marginalisation of individuals within this target group. To reduce isolation, loneliness, stress and anxiety, through information sessions/seminars/workshops and training.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2021, after any potential staffing costs; is to be distributed evenly over all actions in 2022 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

- Improved organisational capacity within the Teach Mna committees
- A growth in engagement with those who are currently economically inactive and disconnected from social supports and community services through membership of Teach Mná transitioning from no social interaction to collective social interaction in a general community context
- Enhanced SICAP access to and engagement with hard to reach disadvantaged women
- Explore the need to continue an online group for individuals unable for whatever reason to attend face-to-face meet-ups

Target Groups

Disadvantaged Women,

Sicap Outcome

- ${\sf G1}$ 2:2 Local community groups have a greater capacity to address the social inclusion needs of the communities they serve or represent.
- G1 1:1 Needs of local communities and groups are identified, represented and integrated through local planning and service delivery.
- G1 1:2 Local social inclusion and equality issues are addressed by local community groups.
- G1 1:3 There is increased participation in social, cultural and civic activities among SICAP target groups due to the support of community groups.

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G1 - 4:1 Local community groups work with local service providers to develop and implement initiatives addressing social exclusion and inequality.				
RAPID Area				
Navan				
Collaborative Partners Role				
Citizens Information Centre Participant				
Education & Training Board Participant				
Mental Health Organisations Participant				
LECP Objectives				
3. Resilience - SCO 3.1 - To Expand and Strengthen the Community Infrastructure				

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(2022) G1.5 Meath Befriending Service					
		Non-Sala	ry Costs		Total Costs
	Goal	1	Goa	I 2	
		€3,500			€3,500

1

Location

Navan, Kells, Trim, East Meath

Description

Social relationships are of fundamental importance as sources of support, reciprocity, and wellbeing. The absence of strong social supports manifesting in the form of loneliness and social isolation have been shown to be harmful to both physical and psychological wellbeing. Smaller social networks are also associated with early mortality, among older adults, with or without limited everyday activities. Conversely, strong social ties have been shown to protect individuals from emotional distress, cognitive decline, and physical disability. The issue of loneliness is not a new phenomenon; however, the global pandemic has exasperated the impact of isolation within our communities. A new study has found that "there has been an eclipsing of older people in the pandemic; their voices have been minimised and support systems impacted." Restrictions on older people introduced to limit the spread of Covid-19 and protect health led to increased social isolation, exclusion, loneliness and boredom, with negative impacts on their quality of life, as well as on physical and mental health.

Meath Befriending Service aims to assist the most vulnerable people in Meath, in particular older people and people with disabilities living alone, in poverty and often in isolation, by co-ordinating and addressing service provision across various service providers. Older people, and people with disabilities make crucial contributions to the communities in which they reside. To sustain these increasingly important contributions, indeed, to maintain and preserve the viability of their communities, considered attention and resources will be devoted to encouraging inclusion amongst these target groups through the work of the Meath Befriending Network.

The aim of this action is to create a place where the voices of older people and other isolated priority groups; such as people with disabilities are heard, and where their local needs are met. The Meath Befriending Network is available to anyone living in County Meath over the age of 18 years old and who is experiencing social isolation or exclusion. The service aims to alleviate the negative impact loneliness can have on people and to improve client's wellbeing through in person social interaction.

In 2022 Meath Befriending Service will support 4 groups across the county of Meath. These LCG's would be coordinated by the SICAP PI. All volunteers would be fully trained and vetted through the collaboration with Meath Volunteer Centre. The volunteers within each group will personally interact and support group members experiencing isolation and loneliness. SICAP will;

- provide mentoring and guidance to assist the LCGs on both an individual and, where appropriate, a collective basis to address social inclusion issues.
- Capacity building of community groups by providing a range of training as identified as the LCG's specific needs
- To assist groups to network and take effective joint action to address local issues
- Build alliances and encourage community collaborations which can help challenge the marginalisation of individuals within this target group. To reduce isolation, loneliness, stress and anxiety, through information sessions/seminars/workshops and events.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2021, after any potential staffing costs; is to be distributed evenly over all actions in 2022 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

- A growth in engagement with those who are currently economically inactive and disconnected from social supports and community services
- Enhanced SICAP access to and engagement with hard to reach isolated groups.

Target Groups

People living in Disadvantaged Communities, People with Disabilities

Sicap Outcome

- ${\sf G1}$ 1:3 There is increased participation in social, cultural and civic activities among SICAP target groups due to the support of community groups.
- ${\sf G1-1:1}$ Needs of local communities and groups are identified, represented and integrated through local planning and service delivery.

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- G1 1:2 Local social inclusion and equality issues are addressed by local community groups.
- G1 1:4 A strengthened sense of community.
- G1 4:1 Local community groups work with local service providers to develop and implement initiatives addressing social exclusion and inequality.

Collaborative Partners	Role
An Garda Siochana	Participant
City/County Council (Local Authority)	Participant
HSE	Participant
Volunteer Centre	Participant
Disability Organisations	Participant
Mental Health Organisations	Participant

LECP Objectives

- 1. Wellbeing SCO 1.4 To Prevent and Reduce Homelessness
- 1. Wellbeing SCO 1.5 To Increase Perceptions and Experience of Community Safety
- 1. Wellbeing SCO 1.1 To reduce the levels of poverty being experienced
- 3. Resilience SCO 3.3 To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups

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(2022) G1.6 Ukrainian Connect Groups			
	Non-Sala	Total Costs	
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
	€23,172		€23,172

1

Location

Navan, Kells, Oldcastle, Donore, Duleek, Ashbourne & other locations as required

Description

In the second quarter of 2022 we witnessed the immediate impact the war on Ukraine has had thus far on Irish Society due to the speed at which the refugee crisis has unfolded, and the number of individuals seeking support. Our SICAP team immediately recognised the enormity of the challenge ahead, but we accepted that challenge with instant effect carrying out immediate needs assessments across several accommodation centres thus far. Through our observations of these accommodation centres housing people that have come to Ireland from Ukraine, and through the people we have met, we realise this cohort of people have complex support needs. Many of them are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (both diagnosed and un-diagnosed) and therefore needing therapeutic interventions and continuous supports going forward. Research suggests that social support is an important strategy which helps people to cope with traumatic experiences. Having effective social support has been shown to be one of the most significant correlates of well-being and has long been believed to positively impact health and guard against distress.

In our opinion, the best way that we can offer this cohort of clients' assistance, is to help them to integrate into Irish society in an easy and supportive manner, focusing primarily on providing that crucial social support. In order to enable this, we are hoping to run some social and recreational camps in a number of locations across Meath. The purpose of these camps is to provide a fun space for the children to do various activities. We recognise that it is difficult for parents to leave their children as it may cause separation anxiety. Therefore, we hope to provide a space at these camps where the children will be able to see their parents while they undergo various activities, whilst offering adults the opportunity to engage in activities focusing on cultural expression through food, dance and storytelling, while incorporating a fun element through sport and visiting local amenities. This will give them an opportunity to create new friendships and to strengthen social bonds with other Ukrainian families who have been through a similar experience and who are accommodated in different centres across Meath. Other activities will focus on a holistic therapeutic element such as yoga, meditation and art therapy.

Additionally, we hope to form Ukrainian local community groups, with the first of these LCG's to operate from our Oaklawns community building in Navan and further groups to be facilitated in various locations across the county. This will offer the people who fled Ukraine the opportunity to come into a neutral space, away from their accommodation, and allow them to come together, to chat, socialise and to look forward, making use of kitchen facilities and other amenities on site. An informal training needs analysis will be carried out to respond to the needs of these groups when they have been established. Within this space, we aim to employ a Community Development Integration Officer in order to support these groups and provide them with any information or knowledge that will help them to integrate into Irish society. We will also provide transport from the various centres to these locations as required.

Expected Outcomes

Better utilisation of existing community assets and resources to mobilise initiatives that support the social integration of migrants through support work and advocacy.

Disadvantaged families and children engaged and supported to improve their social connections.

Supporting groups to build membership and capacity.

A growth in engagement with those who are currently economically inactive and disconnected from social supports and community services

Enhanced SICAP access to and engagement with hard to reach isolated groups.

Target Groups

New Communities, Disadvantaged Children and Families

Sicap Outcome

- G1 1:1 Needs of local communities and groups are identified, represented and integrated through local planning and service delivery.
- ${\sf G1}$ 1:2 Local social inclusion and equality issues are addressed by local community groups.
- G1 1:3 There is increased participation in social, cultural and civic activities among SICAP target groups due to the support of community groups.

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G1 - 1:4 A strengthened sense of community.

 ${\sf G1}$ - 4:2 Collaboration and co-operation between relevant stakeholders in addressing social exclusion and inequality is increased.

RAPID Area

Navan

Collaborative Partners	Role
City/County Council (Local Authority)	Participant
National migrant organisations	Participant
Volunteer Centre	Participant
Mental Health Organisations	Participant
Youth organisations/services	Participant
Local Community Groups	Participant

LECP Objectives

- 1. Wellbeing SCO 1.3 To improve health outcomes
- 3. Resilience SCO 3.3 To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups
- 4. Flourishing SCO 4.2 To Further Develop Community Cultural Action

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(2022) G2.1 Integrate Project					
		Non-Sala	ry Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1				
				€2,500	€2,500

2

Location

Navan, Mosney Reception Centre, Ashbourne, Kells

Description

The objective of this action is to enhance the integration of Third Country Nationals', refugees and migrants through their participation in the social and cultural life of the host communities of Co. Meath and to foster capacity-building of local communities on successful integration via volunteering and cross-community cultural actions. Migrant groups are highlighted as being one of the populations most severely affected by the covid-19 restrictions. Language barriers, overcrowded accommodation and lack of social engagement are just some of the difficulties facing these groups.

In 2021 we worked in collaboration with Meath Volunteer Centre to explore volunteer opportunities with the very successful roll out of Connecting Cultures Workshops as a multi-team approach to meet the specific needs arising. On foot of this success, we aim to collaborate with Meath Volunteer Centre to develop a volunteer matching program for individuals living within direct provision across County Meath and for migrants experiencing socio-economic hardship.

Another successful element of our 2021 service provision was a Job Club, specifically for individuals living in direct provision and in 2022 we intend to build on this success and continue to provide labour market supports, information supports to access the range of programmes and schemes that are available as a result of covid-19, to raise awareness of these schemes and support migrants to interface with the various departments and agencies. With extra funding secured through LMETB Community Education Service we will facilitate training in business and employment language skills to enhance employment options for individuals, which will support and influence social change and integration in the county. We will support the empowerment of these target groups to increase their participation in local community life and finally develop partnerships and cooperation among stakeholders and all actors involved in promoting integration at community level.

In 2022, we will support the economic integration of new communities, refugees and asylum seekers as follows:

- short work-based learning courses, career mentoring, guidance, and job skills preparation
- Pre-development and activation work
- Facilitate mentoring and training programmes for migrants in county Meath wishing to set-up a business or secure employment.

Meath Partnership will support the implementation of the new Meath Louth Integration Strategy to achieve its aims and deliver a number of inter-agency actions where appropriate.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2021, after any potential staffing costs; is to be distributed evenly over all actions in 2022 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

Creation of local opportunities for this target group to get involved in local community and cultural activities Reduce social isolation and eliminate barriers for participation

Create opportunities for this target group to contribute and integrate into their local communities

Target Groups

New Communities, People living in Disadvantaged Communities

Sicap Outcome

- G2 1:1 SICAP clients have improved personal skills, wellbeing and capabilities.
- G2 1:2 SICAP clients increase their participation in civic life, education and/or employment.
- G2 2:1 SICAP clients receive information about opportunities for lifelong learning.
- G2 4:1 SICAP clients are better prepared to enter the labour market.

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RAPID Area			
Navan			
Collaborative Partners Role			
City/County Council (Local Authority)	Participant		
Local Community Groups	Participant		
National migrant organisations	Participant		
Volunteer Centre	Participant		
Education & Training Board	Participant		
LECP Objectives			
3. Resilience - SCO 3.3 - To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups			

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(2022) G2.2 Engage					
Non-Salary Costs				Total Costs	
	Goal	1	Goa	l 2	
				€8,000	€8,000

2

Location

Navan, Kells, Laytown, Stamullen and Trim

Description

The Engage Project is an out-of-school support programme for school refusers, early school leavers and those at risk of early school leaving between the ages of 15 and 17 years old. Using established social care and therapeutic approaches this voluntary programme is open to young people living in County Meath who have disengaged from mainstream education on either a short- or longer-term basis. Engage, which is fully funded by SICAP, provides a tailored programme aimed at enabling up to 12 young people, at a time, from county Meath to re-engage with education and/or training and employment, to develop life skills that foster good relations and build self-confidence and resilience. The Education Youth Support Officer, as part of the SICAP team, works directly with young people, their referrers, families, schools and other agencies to support the individual needs of each young person based on an agreed personal action plan. 51% of young people we are working with seek help from the Education Youth Support Officer for anxiety caused by parental separation, traumatic experiences, peer pressure, exam stress, identity uncertainty and, due to the effects of the pandemic on this age group we expect to see general anxiety rise in this population. With this in mind SICAP will focus on youth mental health and sustaining educational opportunities for young people for the remaining two years of the programme.

The Engage project has developed workshops on issues around mental health and anxiety for schools. This is a therapeutic programme designed to help young people understand the topic, their triggers and the different types of anxiety they may encounter at different times. Facilitators aim to inform young people about services and information available to them in the local area, the workshop encourages discussion among students and is facilitated in the classroom setting. All workshops are developed to be child centred and are delivered by therapeutically informed professionals.

All support and activities offered by the project are grounded in evidence-based interventions and comprise of a mix of individual sessions and small group activities. Engage will always endeavour to work with the family and believes that this approach achieves more positive results for all.

Over the last two years Engage has worked within government guidelines in dealing with covid-19; seeing many clients online and working with platforms such as Zoom. Engage has facilitated both one to one work and small groups aimed at achieving positive outcomes on issues in education, mental health, wellbeing, drug and alcohol awareness and managing finance.

The SICAP team understand that the health and safety of participants is of paramount importance and will continue to follow all government guidelines in relation to working during Covid-19.

This is a collaboration project with the following agencies and stakeholders making client referrals to the programme: Navan School Completion Programme, CYPSE, Probation Services' JLO and Navan Young Peoples Development Project, Education Welfare Officers, SUST Counsellor and LMETB Youth Officer.

In 2022, 30 young people will be supported through this action.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2021, after any potential staffing costs; is to be distributed evenly over all actions in 2022 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

Improved co-ordination of local services targeting young people in county Meath, with enhanced access routes to existing supports.

SICAP is addressing a gap in mainstream youth and education services for young people of school-age that are currently classed as "school refusers" and outside mainstream provision through the provision of a high-support case worker funded by the Programme.

Target Groups

Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 - 24), Disadvantaged Children and Families

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Sicap Outcome

- G2 1:2 SICAP clients increase their participation in civic life, education and/or employment.
- G2 3:3 Young people at risk of early school leaving remain within the education system.
- G2 1:1 SICAP clients have improved personal skills, wellbeing and capabilities.
- G2 3:2 Children and their families are supported in education and personal development
- G2 4:1 SICAP clients are better prepared to enter the labour market.

RAPID Area

Navan

Collaborative Partners	Role
An Garda Siochana	Participant
Dept. of Education and Skills	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
HSE	Participant
Local Schools	Participant
National Education Welfare Board	Participant
Youth organisations/services	Participant

LECP Objectives

- 3. Resilience SCO 3.3 To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups
- 4. Flourishing SCO 4.1 To Reduce Educational Disadvantage

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(2022) G2.3 Meath Homeless Information Service					
	Non-Salary Costs			Total Costs	
	Goal	1	Goa	I 2	
				€3,000	€3,000

2

Location

Co. Meath

Description

In 2022, we will offer wrap-around supports for individuals who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness, vulnerable adults living alone and those experiencing mental health difficulties which may influence their tenancy agreements. Through this action we have seen a notable demographic trend in the increase of poverty and deprivation among single person households and older people within the community. With this in mind, SICAP will focus on the older person and isolation for the remaining two years of the programme.

We will continue to work in collaboration with local and state agencies to advance the needs of our clients. We believe that this multidisciplinary inter agency approach being taken by the SICAP team is making a positive contribution to service delivery in responding to our client group.

Meath Homeless Information Service aims to deliver the following activities and ongoing supports to 45 individuals in 2022:

- -Provision of information clinics through county Meath.
- -Assessment of needs in order to signpost and refer clients to appropriate services, while acting as a broker to facilitate access to mainstream supports and services, where applicable.
- -Building confidence and increasing support networks.
- -Identifying training and education goals.
- -Provision of tenancy sustainment supports for people at risk of homelessness and those struggling to manage their tenancy through one-to-one and small group activities, while working in conjunction with external trainers to support the SICAP team to deliver this programme.
- -Life coaching and mentoring via 1:1 and group sessions will be offered in order to enable and empower clients to develop life skills, learn about their rights and be more confident in promoting and advocating for themselves; which is paramount to their individualised support, capacity building and development.

All activities under this action will be developed and delivered based on the needs of the client group. Collaborative partners will act as both inward referral and outward referral agents to this action.

By offering this person-centered approach to client support it; "reduces opportunities for abuse, enhances respect, develops people's confidence and improves quality of life". Our aim is to combat poverty by targeting and working with the most vulnerable people in our society.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2021, after any potential staffing costs; is to be distributed evenly over all actions in 2022 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

Improved life-skills and housing outcomes for our clients Improve confidence and self-esteem

Target Groups

Homeless and those at risk of homelessness,

Sicap Outcome

- G2 1:1 SICAP clients have improved personal skills, wellbeing and capabilities.
- G2 7:2 More joined-up referral systems are developed to help individuals access the right services.
- G2 2:1 SICAP clients receive information about opportunities for lifelong learning.
- G2 2:2 SICAP clients participate in lifelong learning.
- G2 4:1 SICAP clients are better prepared to enter the labour market.

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RAPID Area	
Navan	
Collaborative Partners	Role
Disability Organisations	Participant
Citizens Information Centre	Participant
City/County Council (Local Authority)	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
HSE	Participant
Mental Health Organisations	Participant
TUSLA	Participant
LECP Objectives	

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(2022) G2.4 Meath Employment Service					
	Non-Salary Costs				Total Costs
	Goal	1	Goa	ıl 2	
				€15,000	€15,000

2

Location

Co. Meath

Description

In 2021 Meath Employment Service focused predominately on the immediate consequences the COVID-19 pandemic had on unemployment. Moving in to 2022, our focus will remain on the needs as they arise within the County of Meath, but with an intentional focus for the remainder of the programme on the long-term unemployed cohort and the most disadvantaged within the community. Ireland's unemployment rate is rising daily having a detrimental effect on poverty and inclusion while also widening the gap between the most underprivileged and other groups in society.

As such; Meath Employment Service will endeavour to provide job-mediation and case-management services while also providing one-to-one career coaching and career guidance. We will offer preparation services as well as targeted support to help jobseekers access appropriate bridging vocational training and short-term activation courses via a blended approach where necessary. This service is tailored to the specific needs of the unemployed, prioritising personalised supports, developing client capacity and assisting individuals to access mainstream services and employment opportunities. This development of employability skills is an important component of labour market supports and as such we will also focus on soft skills such as promoting positive mind-set, self-esteem, resilience and life-skills, as well as providing in work follow-up supports to help individuals retain their employment and secure on-going career progression for a better future and pathways out of poverty.

As part of a multi-faceted approach to working with unemployed clients, providing pathways for a client to become self-sufficient as a self-employed person plays a key role. Through this action, the SICAP team will continue to support jobseekers, referred by DEASP, into meaningful self-employment through the Business Options Service and facilitated access to the BTWEA and STEA schemes. On a monthly basis our service will collaborate with DEASP's Intreo Team responsible for BTWEA, in order to ensure that referred clients are supported in the best way possible for setting up their own business. This service operates on a flexible outreach approach across the county, addressing access barriers in terms of transport costs and public transport availability and also support and guidance on how to operate a business during the COVID-19 pandemic. Meath Partnership will engage the services of sub-contractors to offer tailored 1-2-1 business mentoring and accredited QQI Business Options training course. We will facilitate Social Media and Canva Training Workshops, to support clients in launching their business on Social Media platforms.

In 2022, we will support 140 individuals both with labour market integration and start up business supports to long term unemployed, economically inactive individuals and specific supports to marginalised groups such as members of the Traveller and Roma communities, lone parents and new communities.

Interagency collaboration and cooperation with local employers are imperative to support and activate long-term unemployed (LTU) individuals facing multiple employment barriers. Our experience in this field demonstrates that the approaches taken by the SICAP team to activate their clients' matter; personalised counselling and job-search monitoring are important pillars of effective activation, requiring ongoing and persistent contact with LTU clients.

It is expected that any underspend from 2021 would be used to address a possible staff shortfall for this action in 2022. Any remaining underspend is to be distributed evenly over all actions in 2022 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

Delivery of job coaching and self-employment supports to 140 jobseekers in County Meath.

Target Groups

The Unemployed, New Communities

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Sicap Outcome

- G2 4:1 SICAP clients are better prepared to enter the labour market.
- G2 6:2 SICAP clients who have progressed into self-employment (including social entrepreneurship) are supported to ensure the sustainability of their businesses.
- G2 5:2 Local employers are supported to create better quality and sustainable jobs
- G2 6:1 Individuals are supported into self-employment (including social entrepreneurship).
- G2 5:1 SICAP clients, particularly those on low incomes, move into more sustainable and better quality employment.
- G2 2:2 SICAP clients participate in lifelong learning.
- G2 1:1 SICAP clients have improved personal skills, wellbeing and capabilities.
- G2 2:1 SICAP clients receive information about opportunities for lifelong learning.

RAPID Area

Navan

Collaborative Partners	Role
Citizens Information Centre	Participant
City/County Council (Local Authority)	Participant
Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
Local Employers	Participant
Local Enterprise Office	Participant
National migrant organisations	Participant
Volunteer Centre	Participant

LECP Objectives

1. Wellbeing - SCO 1.2 - Increased levels of employment and employability

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(2022) G2.5 Youth Employment Initiative			
	Non-Sa	lary Costs	Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
		€4,000	€4,000

2

Location

Navan, Trim, Oldcastle, East Meath

Description

According to the CSO; the unemployment rate for 15-24-year olds in Ireland during September 2021 stood at 17.4%, this figure is down by 2.2% in comparison to September 2020 but still greatly higher then pre-pandemic unemployment rates with September 2019 rate at 11.7%. We know that the COVID-19 crisis has had a stark impact on youth employment influencing greater inequalities between young people and other groups and widening the gap to the most disadvantaged in our communities. Other reasons causing disadvantage within youth employment consist of lack of reliable employment, family poverty, mental health concerns and other disabilities, as well as minority groups experiencing discrimination. Long term unemployment puts young people at risk of life long poverty and prevents them from fully participating in society. This can take a toll on their health, wellbeing and professional future. With this in mind SICAP will focus on youth mental health and sustaining employment opportunities for young people for the remaining two years of the programme.

Taking all the above into consideration our Youth Employment Initiative will focus on tackling these issues within County Meath by providing wrap-around supports to young people and their families through collaboration of services. YEI service will primarily focus on providing supports in the following areas;

- ☐ Building wellbeing, life-skills, capacity and independence
- ☐ Provide workshops, training and other related courses to encourage participation and build routine and structure
- \square Provide bridging supports into work; both with open labour market opportunities and state supported employment initiatives
- ☐ Explore pathways to better pay and/or income supports
- ☐ Promote the positive long-term outcomes of employment
- ☐ Engage employers through employment facilitation
- ☐ Provide in-work follow up supports to aid job retention and sustainability

We will provide personal guidance and career coaching to 30 young people in county Meath between the ages of 15 to 24 years. The development of employability skills through coaching and workplace training opportunities is an important component of labour market supports for young people. However off-the-job supports are also incredibly important and they can take many forms such as referrals to various health, education and social services; access to financial support for obtaining stable housing; support in the form of public transport vouchers and meals; informal counselling about further education and training; and financial support for additional training programme fees.

The collaboration partners listed for this action will provide referrals to Meath Partnership and will also assist the SICAP Project Officer to create suitable progression plans for the young person supported.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2021, after any potential staffing costs; is to be distributed evenly over all actions in 2022 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

Enhanced self-confidence and self-esteem

Clear career planning goals established and a dedicated career coach to support attainment of same Enhanced employability skills and facilitated access to the labour market

Target Groups

Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 - 24), The Unemployed

Sicap Outcome

G2 - 1:1 SICAP clients have improved personal skills, wellbeing and capabilities.

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- G2 4:1 SICAP clients are better prepared to enter the labour market.
- G2 2:2 SICAP clients participate in lifelong learning.
- G2 7:1 Gaps in labour market and education provision are identified and addressed through joint planning and service delivery.

RAPID Area

Navan

Collaborative Partners	Role
An Garda Siochana	Participant
Citizens Information Centre	Participant
Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
HSE	Participant
Local Employers	Participant
Mental Health Organisations	Participant
Volunteer Centre	Participant
Youth organisations/services	Participant

LECP Objectives

- 1. Wellbeing SCO 1.2 Increased levels of employment and employability
- 3. Resilience SCO 3.3 To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups

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(2022) G2.6 Families First			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
		€3,053	€3,053

2

Location

Navan and Kells

Description

Meath Partnership is committed to offering support to families living in Meath. During the lockdowns and restrictions of 2020 and 2021 families and young people have been adversely affected and have faced many barriers in the changing landscape of family life. The necessity to combine remote working with home-schooling and childcare, especially in the absence of other sources of support (such as extended family), and the income loss resulting from permanent or temporary lay-offs caused family stress and made it difficult for families to maintain their mental health and equilibrium. The experience of remote working and home-schooling has brought the digital divide into sharp focus, with families differing in their access to an adequate number of devices and to high-speed broadband.

In 2022 we hope to expand on our youth actions under SICAP to include and incorporate the Families First action, which together will support the family as a whole. With this in mind the family first action will function as a channel to provide information, training supports and one-to-one mentoring to local parents/guardians who may need more individualised one to one interventions. In 2022 we are proposing to address a number of themes and issues arising from the pandemic.

An increase in the reports of anxiety in adults during the pandemic restrictions is likely to a have a very significant impact on the emotional well being of the family as a whole and it will be important for SICAP to address this via one to one support and workshops.

Other themes will plan to focus on

- -Parenting skills and strategies
- The importance of maintaining a healthy life style both physically and mentally.
- Looking after your own well-being and the importance of self-care for parents
- Building resilience in children and the family as a whole
- Engagement with local health services; knowing where to seek help
- Maintaining relationships and taking time out

It is hoped that all of these training topics will be delivered as workshops face to face from March 2022 until October 2022. Our collaborative partners, will be invited to participate in these workshops and share information with individuals in attendance.

In 2022 our Families First action will aim to work with 15 individuals, to equip parents/guardians in supporting their young people and improve home life and well-being for the whole family.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2021, after any potential staffing costs; is to be distributed evenly over all actions in 2022 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

Improved co-ordination of local services working with children, young people and families at local level. This will support deeper engagement with disadvantaged families across the county. SICAP aim through their youth and family actions to improve family life for both young people and their parents.

Target Groups

Disadvantaged Children and Families, Lone Parents

Sicap Outcome

G2 - 3:2 Children and their families are supported in education and personal development

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- G2 1:1 SICAP clients have improved personal skills, wellbeing and capabilities.
- G2 1:2 SICAP clients increase their participation in civic life, education and/or employment.
- G2 2:1 SICAP clients receive information about opportunities for lifelong learning.
- G2 3:3 Young people at risk of early school leaving remain within the education system.

RAPID Area

Navan

Collaborative Partners	Role
TUSLA	Participant
Mental Health Organisations	Participant
Youth organisations/services	Participant
MABS (Money Advice & Budgeting Service)	Participant
Citizens Information Centre	Participant
HSE	Participant

LECP Objectives

- 1. Wellbeing SCO 1.1 To reduce the levels of poverty being experienced
- 4. Flourishing SCO 4.1 To Reduce Educational Disadvantage

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(2022) G2.7 Ukrainian Response Initiative			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
		€23,172	€23,172

2

Location

Navan, Kells, Oldcastle, Donore, Duleek & as required

Description

In witnessing the impact the war on Ukraine has had thus far on Irish Society our SICAP team carried out indepth needs' analysis in direct conversation with individual refugees across several accommodation centres. This needs analysis allowed us to identify the primary support needs of this client cohort which has influenced our service provision planned going forward.

The most commonly reported needs were; support with language skills, help to find employment or to secure education, and to gain information on the rights of an individual granted temporary protection status in Ireland. Other needs reported were the provision of information on local organisations and amenities as well as transport needs due to many accommodation centres being in remote locations with minimal or no public transport.

With this in mind SICAP will focus on filling gaps in English language learning provision in Meath through the provision of basic conversational English language classes and through the exploration of opportunities to collaborate on new initiatives to lessen identified gaps in service provision. Language competency remains the key challenge encountered in the implementation of service provision for this client cohort as many clients struggle to fully understand and access available supports due to lack of English. SICAP will link with external translators when required. LMETB and Failte Isteach have been identified as a referral partners for English language classes, additionally we identified business language training as a gap in service provision for this cohort of clients, particularly those wishing to enter the professional labour market or set up their own business. In 2021 we successfully applied for funding for both business language and English language training provision to LMETB, these classes are due to commence in 2022 which will help address this need.

Further needs identified include providing assistance to refugees to navigate the education and training options open to them and to assist them to explore access to work placements. SICAP will provide direct coaching and mentoring services to this client cohort to assist in accessing the most beneficial education and training options based on their own circumstances and ambitions together with running a variety of workshops and events throughout the year such as;

- Countywide Fair Days in collaboration with external agencies, local community groups and organisations with a focus on economic welfare, education, wellbeing and information provision. These fair days will incorporate speakers addressing the influence of culture within the Irish Labour Market, career advice and guidance, wellbeing workshops and the opportunity to talk to representatives of these organisations and agencies.
- Collaborations with Meath Volunteer Centre to support these individuals in securing short term work experience placements through volunteering opportunities. We also plan on collaborating with our EU Transnational Projects to explore a range of topics including language and culture, active citizenship, storytelling, art and dance and music.
- Continued CV Clinics across the county.
- Integration workshops.

SICAP aims to employ a community development integration officer that can work with these individuals on a 1:1 basis offering a wrap-around holistic client centred service which will focus on making referrals where required or providing services through direct action. Such services include job search, CV preparation and training when necessary. From a humanitarian point of view assistance with provision of information in relation to an individual granted temporary protection status in Ireland, assistance in accessing medical appointments and other specific needs, access to schooling, assistance with urgent travel requirements and assistance in the application for state aid.

In order to address the growing transport needs, SICAP will collaborate with Flexibus and Meath Volunteer Centre. However if further gaps are identified SICAP will endeavour to provide transport on an ad hoc basis for special requirements to address the wider transport needs of individuals in remote locations across the county.

Expected Outcomes

Creation of local opportunities for this target group to get involved in local community and cultural activities Reduce social isolation and eliminate barriers for participation

Create opportunities for this target group to contribute and integrate into their local communities Delivery of job coaching and self-employment supports to Ukrainian refugees in County Meath.

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Target Groups

New Communities, The Unemployed

Sicap Outcome

- G2 1:1 SICAP clients have improved personal skills, wellbeing and capabilities.
- G2 1:2 SICAP clients increase their participation in civic life, education and/or employment.
- G2 2:1 SICAP clients receive information about opportunities for lifelong learning.
- G2 3:2 Children and their families are supported in education and personal development
- G2 4:1 SICAP clients are better prepared to enter the labour market.
- G2 6:1 Individuals are supported into self-employment (including social entrepreneurship).

RAPID Area

Navan

Collaborative Partners	Role
City/County Council (Local Authority)	Participant
Citizens Information Centre	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
HSE	Participant
Local Employers	Participant
Local Schools	Participant
National migrant organisations	Participant
TUSLA	Participant
Volunteer Centre	Participant

LECP Objectives

- 1. Wellbeing SCO 1.2 Increased levels of employment and employability
- 2. Dynamic Competitive Economy Stimulate and support a dynamic competitive economy to best meet the needs and aspirations of the people and communities in the County.
- 3. Resilience SCO 3.3 To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups
- 4. Flourishing SCO 4.1 To Reduce Educational Disadvantage
- 4. Flourishing SCO 4.5 To Increase IT Access for all Groups
- 5. Renewal SCO 5.1 To Stimulate and Support Interagency and Collaborative

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