

Annual Plan Report



Year:	2023
LCDC:	Meath
Lot:	Meath County (11-1)
Local Development Company:	Meath Community Rural and Social Development Partnership CLG

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

Annual Budget		€755,991
Indirect Salary Costs (Management/Administration)		€36,450
Travel and Subsistence for Indirect Salary Costs		€2,000
Office/Administration/Establishment Costs		€90,842
Financial/Professional Fees/Staff Training/Other Costs		€5,500
Total Administration Costs		€134,792 17.83%
Goal 1 Non-Salary Costs		€49,252
Goal 1 Direct Salary Costs		€250,756
Goal 1 Total Costs		€300,008 48.29%
Goal 2 Non-Salary Costs		€63,648
Goal 2 Direct Salary Costs		€257,543
Goal 2 Total Costs		€321,191 51.71%
Total Actions Cost		€621,199
Overall Costs		€755,991
Subcontractor costs do not exceed 30% of annual budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Total Grant costs do not exceed 7.5% of total action costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

(2023) G1.1 Building Stronger Communities			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
	€7,500		€7,500
Goal			
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 act to bring about change that is of benefit to those that live there or supported by the community of interest.

In 2022 we noticed that there was still a negative impact from Covid-19. Many of our older citizens still retained a certain amount of nervousness about returning to face-to-face meetings or events, Whilst many people preferred to get back to social interaction, it was difficult to strike a balance of arrangements that pleased all. When organising events or meetings, we favoured larger or outdoor spaces to encourage members to participate without feeling anxious. We also continued to use the online platform Zoom for online training. In 2023, we hope to continue to use this hybrid approach to build confidence and capacity in our groups and encourage greater in person social interaction.

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 dedicated SICAP support that community groups access most to help them address issues which are important to them. In 2023 we are seeking to continue to build on group empowerment and capacity building and we hope to identify several projects and local initiatives that can be trialled to advantage our local communities. Our community development officer will continue to organise training to help to further grow these skills, these will include strengthening governance, digital skills and general leadership capacity in the context of productive activity. 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. Other training areas identified in line with growing capacity and seen as important in the current climate are grant writing skills and fundraising capacity.

Whilst much of the support provided to community groups and organisations through SICAP in 2023 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 2023 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 as outlined in their support plans. This activity will be ongoing throughout the year.
- We aim to further build the capacity of community groups by providing a range of training as identified through direct target group communication and the use of online surveys.
- To assist groups to network and plan and take effective joint action to address local issues
- Enhanced awareness of and planning for, the inclusion of disadvantaged youth in community activities.

It is our intention to organise and showcase LCG's through a case study brochure in 2023. Our community worker will visit all LCG SICAP grant recipients from 2022 and will meet with the volunteers and recipients that the SICAP grants have supported. A short case study of each group will be compiled, and this will then be showcased through both our social media channels and in a hard copy promotional brochure. Each grant recipient, having been consulted, will receive a copy of the brochure in which they are featured. Through community circulation it is hoped that this will promote greater awareness of the services that the local groups provide and therefore facilitate the recruitment of more volunteers for their organisation as a means to building greater capacity.

SICAP will continue to develop and deliver tailored support plans for each LCG, identifying available resources, determining additional resources required, the action steps necessary for progression and an engagement pathway for active participation in local and regional decision-making structures. It is estimated that 17 LCGs will avail of this training, capacity building and mentoring support. Where necessary and to add value external training specialists will be contracted to assist the SICAP team in delivering this action.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit and support the attainment of all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

Enhanced leadership skills and capacity to represent and act across LCGs in Co. Meath.
Evidence of progression of local community groups through stage 1 to 3 of the community development continuum.
Improved networking and collective development between SICAP supported LCGs in County Meath.
Groups encouraged and supported in building membership and capacity in the post Covid environment.

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.

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

RAPID Area

Navan

Collaborative Partners

Role

Community Work Ireland

Participant

City/County Council (Local Authority)

Participant

PPN

Participant

LECP Objectives

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

(2023) G1.2 Community Alliance Navan			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
	€12,000		€12,000

<p>Goal</p> <p>1</p> <p>Location</p> <p>Navan Urban and Navan Rural</p> <p>Description</p> <p>In 2023 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 for these target groups throughout the year, from the Oaklawns facility.</p> <p>Over the past year we have witnessed a marked improvement in community spirit and dialogue within and across these residential estates, however there is still a significant amount of progress to be achieved under this action. In 2022 we placed a part-time caretaker from our Tus programme in the Oaklawns facility to try and foster a feeling of welcome and warmth in our community building. This proved to be quite successful, and we also collaborated with Respond Housing and the residents adjacent to our building to have a community clean-up day. Crucially, we recruited the children in the area in this effort and in the painting of local communal benches. Research suggests that early intervention can be critical in developing healthy habits. By empowering the youth to take "ownership" of their space it is hoped that this will bring lasting interest and engagement in transforming this environment. The simple actions of painting and clean up of the area demonstrates increased levels of community spirit and unification. In 2023 we hope to recruit another caretaker and to continue to foster growing community spirit through collaborative activity between the residents and other interested stakeholders. In 2023, we are confident that these actions, combined with our full-time presence in Oaklawns will support collective participation through inclusion, empowerment, efficacy and a sense of collective responsibility within and between these communities.</p> <p>In 2023, our priority is to work effectively with our collaboration partners in addressing the negative aspects of the community's physical characteristics and social engagement environment to bring about greater community interaction and community well-being. This also provides SICAP with an opportunity to begin a conversation in terms of climate action, sustainability, environmental care and upkeep, biodiversity protection and the promotion of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Sustainable Communities (SDG 11); responsible consumption (SDG 12) and Climate Action (SDG 13). This action will be delivered in a practical and targeted way that encourages communities, families, young people and children to get involved and take pride in their local estates.</p> <p>Some of these 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 upon and utilise open spaces and is intended to encourage pride in the local environment. Specifically, 2023 actions will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with and supporting 10 local community groups; this activity will be ongoing throughout the year. • Engage with the groups on a one-to-one basis to establish what the most pressing local needs are and through a process of community planning to seek to address these. • Support the creation of a community garden in Oaklawns as an exemplar of how to achieve through community action. • Encourage estate level clean-ups and the formation of tidy estate committees working with the tenancy liaison officers within Meath County Council and Respond Housing Agency. • 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 inclusive action will be delivered in collaboration with local youth organisations and community leaders. This will assist the local youth in transforming a space that will allow them to collaborate and communicate in a safe manner whilst giving them ownership of the project and a sense of achievement. <p>It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit and support the attainment of all annual plan goals.</p> <p>Expected Outcomes</p>
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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 between the community and local service providers in the enhancement of 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 built on capacity to advocate and the attraction of external resources.
- The positive engagement of the youth of the area in visualising the utilisation of space and by their involvement 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.

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 3.2 - To Enhance Environmental Protection, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, and Action for a Low Carbon Future, and to Increase the Range of Transition Activities

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

(2023) G1.3 Integrate Community			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
	€2,500		€2,500
Goal			
1			
Location			
Navan, Ashbourne and Mosney Reception Centre			
Description			

Migrant groups are highlighted as being one of the populations most severely affected by the covid-19 restrictions since 2020. Language barriers, overcrowded accommodation and lack of social engagement are just some of the difficulties facing these groups. Our work in 2022 has been to support migrant led groups and their members to access the range of programmes, schemes and supports that are available as a result of covid-19, to raise awareness of these schemes and support groups in interfacing with the various departments and agencies involved. We intend to build on this work in 2023 and support groups in dealing with current and emerging issues through up to date information on the nature of the supports available.

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 contribution of new communities to the social and cultural fabric of Meath. We will commence to address this requirement through the creation of local opportunities for migrants and new communities to get involved in community activities at the local level. Working with migrant-led community groups throughout 2022, the evidence of a networking gap amongst LCGs has become more apparent, especially those organisations that are migrant involving or are migrant-led, it is evident that there are insufficient opportunities for these groups to come together either thematically or on a geographical basis.

In 2023, we intend to provide a space where migrants will have an opportunity to network and share resources with each other, we will offer them an opportunity to educate others about their own home country through the medium of a showcasing event. We have had previous success with an intercultural culinary event that allowed migrants to showcase and educate others about their culture through the medium of food, we hope to run a similar event that will actively encourage integration in a fun and positive manner. There is a need to do this in a way that seeks to value and protect the established culture of each migrant grouping and as in our own case to recognise and respect the sense of community, solidarity and pride that attachment to ones own culture provides.

This initiative is intended to help build and solidify networks across LCGs in Meath in recognition that integration is a two way process, building mutual acceptance and trust are key conditions to improved social cohesion and they will be comprehensively addressed under this action.

In recognising the negative impacts that migrants have faced in terms of isolation and mental wellbeing due to Covid-19, it is our intention to provide a series of mental health workshops over 2023 that will be designed to offer support and guidance in counteracting the negative outcomes experienced by these target groups because of the pandemic. This approach combined with planned networking and showcasing events will assist in alleviating these negative impacts and overcoming the sense of isolation that many communities have felt in the emergency response driven social environment.

In 2023, we will continue to build capacity to support the needs driven agenda of 4 migrant-led LCGs, this will be carried out on a one-to-one and collective basis also in order to establish and embed the concept of bridging social and human capital as a resource in carrying out the following activities:

- Ongoing support and training in building good governance capacity, assisted access to local grants and supports leading to internal skill development in this regard, fostering knowledge sharing through linkages with other LCGs
- The linking of LCGs with local decision making structures, the facilitation of their involvement in the PPN and other representative networks at county level such as the Meath Intercultural Network, the Laterlife and other relevant networks.
- Offer migrants the opportunity to network with each other and to showcase their country's culture in a multi-national showcasing event.

Through SICAP Meath Partnership will support the implementation of the new Meath Louth Integration Strategy, assist in the achievement of its aims and objectives and will deliver a number of inter-agency actions as appropriate.

In order to achieve this plan we will need to employ a part-time community development integration officers. It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, after any potential staffing costs; will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 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

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.

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
National migrant organisations	Participant
PPN	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
Local Community Groups	Participant

LECP Objectives

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

(2023) G1.4 Teach Mná			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
	€4,000		€4,000

<p>Goal</p> <p>1</p> <p>Location</p> <p>Navan, Athboy, East Meath and Ashbourne</p> <p>Description</p> <p>The aim of this project is to support the establishment and development of 4 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 socialise, to participate and to become more active members of their communities through the opportunities resulting from the development of local Teach Mná LCGs. Through these LCGs, participants will engage in activities selected and designed by women for women with effective local direction and control. These activities will be embedded with learning opportunities supportive of personal development, communication skills, confidence building and positive mental health approaches.</p> <p>As part of this action, Meath Partnership will support the established Teach Mná in Athboy, Ashbourne and Navan to maintain their progression and to address emerging needs. Progression will focus on strengthening their organisational structures through committee skills training, governance support systems and action planning. Specific supports will be provided to the Athboy and Ashbourne groups to cement the establishment, growth and development of their Teach Mna' through further recruitment, facilitated meetings, capacity building and actions designed to enhance the confidence of the members.</p> <p>Teach Mná has proven to be a greatly valued community-based space for women to meet, learn, network and socialise with each other.</p> <p>In 2023 Meath Partnership will offer the following supports to these LCGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide capacity building and organisational development training through the networking of the four Teach Mná; this activity will take place throughout the year. • The provision of small grants to each Teach Mná to provide for activities which demonstrate the benefits of teamwork and how close friendships can relieve stress, achieve better outcomes and result in greater collaboration within the community. • Build alliances with other organisations to challenge the marginalisation of the hard to reach within this target group and support the establishment of other Teach Mná across the county through informative seminars. It is envisaged that our collaboration partners and established Teach Mna will play a role in supporting the delivery of these information and training seminars. •Improved independence and organisational capacity within the groups. <p>It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit and support the attainment of all annual plan goals.</p> <p>Expected Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved organisational capacity within the Teach Mna committees. • Through membership of Teach Mna bring about a growth in engagement with those who are currently economically inactive and disconnected from social supports and community services, transitioning individuals from no social interaction to collective social interaction and service awareness in a community wellbeing context • Enhanced SICAP access to and engagement with hard to reach disadvantaged women • Explore the need to continue with an online group service for individuals unable for whatever reason to attend face-to-face meet-up sessions <p>Target Groups</p> <p>Disadvantaged Women, People living in Disadvantaged Communities</p> <p>Sicap Outcome</p> <p>G1 - 2:2 Local community groups have a greater capacity to address the social inclusion needs of the communities they serve or represent.</p> <p>G1 - 1:1 Needs of local communities and groups are identified, represented and integrated through local planning and service delivery.</p> <p>G1 - 1:2 Local social inclusion and equality issues are addressed by local community groups.</p>

G1 - 1:3 There is increased participation in social, cultural and civic activities among SICAP target groups due to the support of community groups.

G1 - 4:1 Local community groups work with local service providers to develop and implement initiatives addressing social exclusion and inequality.

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

(2023) G1.5 Meath Befriending Volunteers			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
	€3,104		€3,104
Goal			
1			
Location			
Navan, Kells, Trim, East Meath			
Description			
<p>We know from our work with the Meath Befriending Service to date that regular social interactions are of fundamental importance as sources of support, mental wellbeing, reciprocity and self-esteem across all age groups. The absence of strong social supports manifesting in the form of loneliness, social isolation and reduced self-care have been shown to be harmful to both the psychological and physical wellbeing amongst older people. Smaller social networks are also associated with early mortality among older adults, with or without limited everyday activities. Meath Befriending Volunteers play a pivotal role in the prevention of such risks arising and the avoidance of detrimental outcomes.</p> <p>Meath Befriending Volunteers will continue to provide weekly social visits to assist the most vulnerable people in Co Meath including those over the age of 18 years and who are experiencing social isolation or exclusion. As part of the befriending service, our volunteers, through their training, will inform SICAP's Befriending Coordinator of any further supports that the clients could benefit from, thereby widening the network of support for the client.</p> <p>In 2023 Meath Befriending Service plans to continue to increase the capacity of four local volunteering groups located across county of Meath. These LCGs will continue to be coordinated by the SICAP PI. All volunteers concerned are fully trained and Garda vetted in collaboration with Meath Volunteer Centre. The volunteers within each of the four groups will personally interact with and support Meath Befriending Service clients presenting as experiencing isolation and loneliness, this will be carried out on a weekly basis through the face-to-face home visits.</p> <p>SICAP will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to provide mentoring and guidance to assist the LCGs on both an individual and where appropriate, on a collective basis in addressing social inclusion issues at the community level. - Deliver capacity building for these specific Community Groups by providing a range of training as identified as identified through an LCG needs analysis process. - Continue to assist groups to network effectively and develop the capacity take effective joint action to address local long standing or more recent issues such as those related to the Covid 19 epidemic. - Continue to build alliances and encourage community collaboration to generate and support interventions which can help challenge the marginalisation of individuals within this target group, and effectively reduce loneliness, isolation, stress and anxiety through such as information sessions, focused workshops and events and collaborate interagency interventions. <p>It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit and support the attainment of all annual plan goals.</p>			
Expected Outcomes			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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			
G1 - 1:3 There is increased participation in social, cultural and civic activities among SICAP target groups due to the support of community groups.			
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.

RAPID Area

Navan

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

LECP Objectives

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

(2023) G1.6 Ukrainian Connect Groups			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
	€20,148		€20,148
Goal			
1			
Location			
Navan, Kells, Oldcastle, Donore, Duleek, Ashbourne & other locations as required			
Description			

As of October 2022, more than 42,000 Ukrainians have been housed in serviced accommodation throughout Ireland with the county of Meath providing assistance to close to 1500 Ukrainian families and individuals fleeing the war. County Meath, according to the Department of Integration, has the 8th largest intake of these refugees in the country with more than 20 different locations providing housing to both families and individuals. These Ukrainian people are located in various towns and townlands throughout the county of Meath with over 200 primary school aged students and close to 100 secondary school students among this cohort facilitated in taking places in local schools and colleges. Our SICAP team having been heavily involved throughout 2022 recognises the enormity of the challenges that face our Ukrainian refugees going forward into 2023. There are many significant obstacles to be overcome in respect of integration; personal progression and economic independence, there are also the challenges that towns, villages and rural communities in Meath face as they seek to respond to this crisis in terms of infrastructure support in addition to the needs addressed above.

Through our observations of the accommodation centres housing people that have come to Ireland from Ukraine, and through the people we have met, we realise this cohort of Ukrainian people have complex support needs and the groups involved are very diverse. Many of them are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (both diagnosed and un-diagnosed) and are therefore in need of therapeutic interventions and continuous supports going forward. Research suggests that social support is an important element in this strategy and in helping people to cope with and overcome traumas they have experienced. Having effective and ongoing social support has been shown to be one of the most significant determinants of well-being and has long been believed to positively impact health and guard against distress and its negative outcomes.

The SICAP team together with local community leaders aim to form six local area community groups to engage and address these diverse bodies of Ukrainian people and their specific requirements assisted by dedicated Community Development and Integration Officers attached to the SICAP programme. Our aim is to form special women's groups for economically inactive retirement stage women who have fled the Ukraine with their daughters and grandchildren, or on their own. These women in many cases carry a heavy burden of responsibility for which assistance is being provided; however, they have personal interests such as sewing, cooking, music and learning, together with a strong interest in gaining an understanding of Irish culture and history. Engagement in these activities and associated outings will help to build conversational English language skills, inter-cultural understanding and the capacity to integrate effectively while protecting and sharing their own culture and heritage. This action will help to build confidence amongst these senior women and therefore amongst the kin who have travelled with them.

Many older men who are retired and inactive in the labour market are also present in our accommodation centres having fled together with their wives and grandchildren, many are also alone. This grouping of men are possessive of a great many skills, life experience stories and cultural knowledge to contribute to not only the Ukrainian people but also to Irish society as a whole. SICAP can encourage and facilitate their engagement with local Men's Sheds and other like organisations, assistance with the provision of transport to and from these various centres of community activity would be beneficial.

Meath Partnership will seek to collaborate with communities and organisations to support the formation of after school groups for children aged 6 – 13yrs, such after school support will not only be of assistance to working mums but we intend to add play and stay elements to help Ukrainian parents interact with Irish families in a fun and activity filled setting. Help with homework will enable the development of language skills and themed creativity projects will assist in bringing some form of normality to the lives of Ukrainian children and their parents and guardians, as will a deepening inclusion in the life of our local communities.

In collaboration with the Meath Wellness Hub, we also plan to set up an Early Intervention Group for second level students through which to offer wellness supports and guidance. This will give students an opportunity to create new friendships and to strengthen social bonds with other Ukrainian families who have been through a similar experience and who may be accommodated in different centres across Meath.

We will carry out continuous needs analysis exercises to underpin the relevance and sustainability of our planned community integration groups. In order to achieve on this plan in conjunction with our Goal 2 Ukrainian Response Initiative we will need to increase our staffing to ensure we have a team of community development integration officers supported by one administration support worker. It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, after any potential staffing costs; will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 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 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, 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 - 1:3 There is increased participation in social, cultural and civic activities among SICAP target groups due to the support of community groups.	
G1 - 1:4 A strengthened sense of community.	
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 Childcare Committee	Participant
City/County Council (Local Authority)	Participant
Volunteer Centre	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
Youth organisations/services	Participant
Mental Health Organisations	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	

(2023) G2.1 Integrate Project			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
		€2,000	€2,000
Goal			
2			
Location			
Navan, Mosney Reception Centre, Ashbourne, Kells			
Description			
<p>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 address the capacity-building requirements of local communities on successful approaches to integration via volunteering and cross-community cultural activity. Migrant groups are highlighted as being one of the population subset 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.</p> <p>In 2023 we aim to collaborate closely 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. We also intend to provide labour market supports, information supports on accessing the range of programmes and schemes that are available to assist and through this action, to support migrants in interfacing with the various departments and agencies concerned. With extra funding secured through the LMETB Community Education Service we will facilitate training in business and employment language skills to enhance employment options for individuals, this action will influence social change and support 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 to enhance cooperation among stakeholders and all other actors involved in promoting integration at community level.</p> <p>In 2023, we will support the economic integration of new communities, refugees and asylum seekers as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of short work-based learning courses, career mentoring, guidance, and job skills preparation • Delivery of pre-development services and labour market activation as a means to gaining employment. • Facilitate mentoring and training programmes for migrants in county Meath wishing to set-up a business as a means to self employment. <p>Meath Partnership will continue to support the implementation of the Louth Meath Integration Strategy to support its aims and objectives and assist in the delivery of inter-agency actions where appropriate.</p> <p>It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit and support the attainment of all annual plan goals.</p>			
Expected Outcomes			
<p>Creation of new opportunities for this target group to get involved in local community and cultural activities. Reduction of social isolation and elimination of barriers preventing participation and integration. Create opportunities for this target group to contribute to community and cultural development within their locality. Provision of an assisted pathway to employment, business establishment and self-employment.</p>			
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 - 4:1 SICAP clients are better prepared to enter the labour market.			
RAPID Area			
Navan			

Collaborative Partners	Role
City/County Council (Local Authority)	Participant
Citizens Information Centre	Participant
Volunteer Centre	Participant
LECP Objectives	
3. Resilience - SCO 3.3 - To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups	

(2023) G2.2 Engage			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
		€8,000	€8,000
Goal			
2			
Location			
Navan, Kells, Laytown and Trim			
Description			
<p>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. SICAP's Engage action, provides 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 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 and identity uncertainty, also due to the impact of the pandemic on this age group we are noticing a general increase in anxiety symptoms in this population.</p> <p>SICAP's Education Youth Support Officer runs workshops on issues around mental health and anxiety in schools. It is a therapeutic programme that is designed to help young people understand the topic and the different kinds of anxiety that can present. The aim is to inform young people of services and information available to them in the local area. The workshop encourages discussion among the students and is facilitated by Engage in the classroom setting. All workshops are developed to be child centred in nature and are delivered by Youth Support Officer. The supports and activities offered by the project are grounded in evidence-based interventions and comprise a mix of individual sessions and small group work and activities.</p> <p>Engage has facilitated both one to one work and small group sessions aimed at achieving positive outcomes on issues in education, mental health, general wellbeing, drug and alcohol awareness and managing finance. This activity is carried out in collaboration with the following agencies and stakeholders which make 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.</p> <p>In 2023, 30 young people will be supported through this action.</p> <p>It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit and support the attainment of all annual plan goals.</p>			
Expected Outcomes			
<p>Improved co-ordination of local services targeting young people in county Meath, with enhanced access routes to existing supports.</p> <p>SICAP is bridging a gap in mainstream youth and education services targeting young people of school-age that are currently classed as "school refusers" and who fall outside mainstream provision, this is achieved through the engagement of a high-support case worker funded by the Programme.</p>			
Target Groups			
Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 – 24), Disadvantaged Children and Families			
Sicap Outcome			
G2 - 1:2 SICAP clients increase their participation in civic life, education and/or employment.			
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 - 3:3 Young people at risk of early school leaving remain within the education system.			
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
HSE	Participant
National Education Welfare Board	Participant
Youth organisations/services	Participant
Local Schools	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
LECP Objectives	
4. Flourishing - SCO 4.1 - To Reduce Educational Disadvantage	
3. Resilience - SCO 3.3 - To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups	

(2023) G2.3 Meath Homeless Information Service			
Non-Salary Costs			Total Costs
Goal 1	Goal 2		
		€7,000	€7,000
Goal			
2			
Location			
Co. Meath			
Description			
<p>In 2023, we will continue to offer wrap-around supports for single adults who are homeless (living in emergency accommodation)/at risk of homelessness (notice to quit), those recently housed (moving out of homelessness) and vulnerable adults living alone and those experiencing mental health problems which threaten their tenancies. We will also continue to work with local and state agencies to advance the needs of our clients. We believe that the approach taken by the SICAP team under this action is making a positive contribution to how some of the key services working in the housing, homelessness and mental health services are responding to our client group.</p> <p>The role of the Meath Homeless Information Service will be to deliver the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The provision of information clinics through county Meath in support of a caseload of 35 individuals. - Conduct an assessment of needs in order to effectively signpost and refer clients to appropriate services and while acting as a broker to facilitate client access to mainstream supports and services. Where required services do not exist to advocate for their provision and where necessary seek emergency assistance. -Build client confidence through the enhancement of support networks and by helping individuals in ways that increase their contact with family, friends and the community thus reducing their vulnerability as well as their level of isolation -Identifying client training and education goals and addressing these in collaboration with concerned agencies. -Provision of tenancy sustainment supports to people at risk of homelessness and those struggling to manage their tenancy, clients will be offered support on a one-to-one and small group basis and external trainers will be engaged to support the SICAP Team in the delivery of this programme. All activities under this action will take place throughout the year based on the identified needs of the client group. Collaborative partners will act as both inward referral and outward referral agents in support of this action. -Life coaching and mentoring via 1:1 sessions and in group settings will be offered in order to enable clients to develop essential life skills and learn about their rights, learning to be more confident in advocating for their rights will be central to this individualised support initiative. <p>Offering person-centred support which "reduces opportunities for abuse and enhances respect, develops people's confidence in addressing issues and ultimately improves quality of life", in this context the SICAP team are targeting and working with the most vulnerable people in our society.</p> <p>It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit and support the attainment of all annual plan goals.</p>			
Expected Outcomes			
<p>Improved life-skills and housing outcomes for our clients Improve confidence and self-esteem Greater understanding of the needs of this vulnerable target group Enhanced collaboration between relevant agencies and improved client services.</p>			
Target Groups			
(2018-2022) Homeless and those at risk of homelessness,			
Sicap Outcome			
G2 - 1:1 SICAP clients have improved personal skills, wellbeing and capabilities.			
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.			
G2 - 5:1 SICAP clients, particularly those on low incomes, move into more sustainable and better quality employment.			

G2 - 7:2 More joined-up referral systems are developed to help individuals access the right services.

RAPID Area

Navan

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

LECP Objectives

1. Wellbeing - SCO 1.1 - To reduce the levels of poverty being experienced

(2023) G2.4 Meath Employment Service			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
		€13,000	€13,000
Goal			
2			
Location			
Co. Meath			
Description			

While the monthly unemployment rate in Ireland for October 2022 was as low as 4.4% for all persons aged 15-74 years, we are still facing significant challenges in terms of long-term unemployment. Long-term jobseekers can often face many challenges including, but not limited to, lack of experience, lack of qualifications, mental ill-health, language barriers, substance abuse behaviours, relationship problems, poor self-esteem and debt problems. Being out of employment for longer periods can significantly multiply these challenges and may have a devastating impact on the individual's life, and the lives of their close relatives. Consequently, this difficult position is having a negative impact on the economy as we often see intergenerational unemployment amongst the most disadvantaged within our community. Based on these facts and previous experience gained by our team, Meath Employment Service has identified the long-term unemployed as one of the primary target groups it will continue to focus on in 2023.

However, we are still dealing with the effects of the isolation suffered by many through the COVID-19 pandemic to which we can add the immediate impact of the war in Ukraine, the challenge this presents for Irish Society due to the speed at which the refugee crisis unfolded. Meath Employment Service will continue in 2023 to focus on the needs of the long term unemployed as they arise in the County and will continue to offer this service to priority target groups including such as: jobseekers over the age of 24 years from disadvantaged backgrounds, new communities, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, lone parents, disadvantaged women and the underemployed.

Based on our in-field knowledge and experience gained from our continuous presence and active involvement in supporting unemployed individuals living in county Meath and applying all the good practices and lessons learned so far, 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 in accessing mainstream services and employment opportunities. The development of employability skills is an important component of labour market supports and additionally we will also focus on soft skills such as promoting a positive mind-set, building self-esteem, acquiring resilience and life-skills, as well as providing in work follow-up supports to assist individuals in retaining their employment. From this vantage point support targeting on-going career progression will be provided to secure a better future and a clear pathway 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, as 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 which is responsible for BTWEA, in order to ensure that referred clients are supported in the best way possible in seeking to set up their own business. This service operates on a flexible outreach basis across the county, addressing access barriers in terms of transport costs, public transport availability and general access issues. Support and guidance on how to operate a business in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic is provided and Meath Partnership will engage the services of sub-contractors to offer tailored 1-2-1 business mentoring and accredited QQI Business Options training courses. We will also facilitate social media and Canva Training Workshops, to support clients in launching their business on Social Media platforms.

In 2023, we will support 65 individuals both with labour market integration and start up business supports to the long term unemployed, economically inactive individuals marginalised groups, specific tailored supports will be offered to such as members of the Traveller and Roma communities, lone parents, new communities and the severely marginalised. 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 activation approaches taken by the SICAP team to support their clients really matter. These include personalised counselling and job-search monitoring, as important pillars of effective activation these require ongoing and persistent contact with LTU clients. Networking events with employers and recruitment agencies are also critical as these agencies support employers, these actions will be implemented in order to ensure the elimination of barriers such as transport or language barriers in order to support the employability of our clients. Inter-agency networking events and information meetings will also be implemented in order to raise awareness about the services available and the different processes relating to each specific support service.

It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit and support the attainment of all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

Delivery of job coaching, and self-employment supports to 65 jobseekers in County Meath.

Target Groups

The Unemployed, The Disengaged from the Labour Market (Economically Inactive)

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
Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	Participant
Citizens Information Centre	Participant
Volunteer Centre	Participant
LECP Objectives	
1. Wellbeing - SCO 1.2 - Increased levels of employment and employability	

(2023) G2.5 Youth Employment Initiative			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
		€9,000	€9,000
Goal			
2			
Location			
Navan, Trim, Oldcastle, East Meath			
Description			
<p>In October of 2022 the youth unemployment rate for people age 15-24 currently stands at 12% nationally, according to the Central Statistics Office. This rate remains stubbornly high and for those affected can have negative consequences that carry forward into adulthood unless arrested.</p> <p>Reasons giving rise to disadvantage in respect of youth employment opportunities can include a shortage of suitable and reliable employment particularly in rural areas, family circumstances, lack of positive role models and intergenerational poverty, educational disadvantage, mental health concerns and disabilities and discrimination. Long term youth 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 physical health, emotional wellbeing and professional future. With this in mind and for the remaining year of the programme SICAP in 2023 will focus on assisting young people build their capacity to equip them in finding and entering suitable employment. Taking the above objective into consideration our Youth Employment Initiative will focus on providing wrap-around supports to young people and their families through a collaborative service delivery model. The YEI service will primarily focus on providing individual and group supports in the following areas of activity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building emotional wellbeing, life-skills, capacity and independence sufficient to support personal growth. • Provision of workshops, training and other related interventions to encourage participation in the labour market and to simultaneously help to build routine and structure in the lives of the young people engaging with our service • Identify barriers to employment specific to young people and provide assistance and measures to overcome these, e.g. sponsored introduction to potential employers, provision of driving lessons to young people or the supported attainment of other essential skills. • Explore pathways to better pay and more progressive opportunities and/or income supports for young people • Promote the positive long-term outcomes of employment through individual supports and group work • Engage with employers to establish SICAP supported employment facilitation measures • Provide in-work follow up supports to assist the employee in meeting employer expectations as an aid to job retention and sustainability of employment. On the job supports are very important and will continue to be provided for. <p>We will provide individual mentoring and career coaching to 30 young people in Co. Meath between the ages of 15 to 24 years. The development of employability skills through coaching and training opportunities is an important component of labour market supports for young people. Off the job supports are incredibly important and can take many forms including such as referrals and sign-posting to various health, education and social services; mentoring with regard to further education and training and provision of financial support for relevant training programme fees. These will continue to be provided.</p> <p>In 2023 we intend to work together with Jump A Grade and local schools in Co. Meath to collaborate in providing increased educational opportunities to disadvantaged young people.</p> <p>The collaboration partners listed for this action will provide referrals to Meath Partnership and will also assist the SICAP Project Officer in creating suitable progression routes for the young people supported by this action.</p> <p>It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit and support the attainment of all annual plan goals.</p>			
Expected Outcomes			
<p>Enhanced self-confidence, self-esteem and capacity to act independently for a better future. 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 Enhanced relationship with employers and young people progressed into employment or further education and training.</p>			
Target Groups			
Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 – 24), The Unemployed			

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
HSE	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
Youth organisations/services	Participant
Local Schools	Participant
An Garda Siochana	Participant
National Traveller organisations	Participant
LECP Objectives	
4. Flourishing - SCO 4.1 - To Reduce Educational Disadvantage	
3. Resilience - SCO 3.3 - To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups	

(2023) G2.6 Families First			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
		€3,500	€3,500
Goal			
2			
Location			
Navan and Kells			
Description			
<p>Meath Partnership is committed to offering wraparound supports to disadvantaged families living in Co. Meath. Families and young people were adversely affected by the Covid-19 lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, particularly with regard to their mental health. The lockdowns exasperated mental health difficulties for many families, and they continue to currently navigate these issues. Matters such as increased waiting lists for mental health services, increased anxiety and lack of daily routines and structures have caused great difficulties for adults and children alike, for many these have yet to be overcome.</p> <p>For the final year of the programme, we will continue to expand on our youth actions under SICAP through our Families First action, the associated support measures will work to holistically support the family as a whole. With this objective 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 benefit from more intense and individualised one to one interventions. In 2023 therefore, SICAP are proposing to address a number of themes and areas of concern that are impacting on disadvantaged families in Co. Meath through both individual support and group workshops. These themes will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parenting skills and strategies - Maintaining a healthy lifestyle 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 positive relationships and the importance of taking time out <p>It is intended that all of these topics will either be delivered as workshops or where required during individual face to face sessions in 2023. Our collaborative partners will be invited to participate in these workshops and share information on available services with participating families and individuals.</p> <p>In 2023, our Families First action will aim to work with 15 families/individuals in order to equip parents/guardians with the necessary skills to support their young dependents and improve home life and well-being for the whole of the family.</p> <p>It is expected that any underspend will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.</p>			
Expected Outcomes			
<p>Improved co-ordination of local services working with children, young people and families in Co Meath. This action will support deeper interagency engagement with disadvantaged families across the county. SICAP through the programmes youth and family interventions will improve family life for both young people and their parents. The mental and physical wellbeing of children, parents and guardians will be improved, and family relationships strengthened.</p>			
Target Groups			
Disadvantaged Children and Families, Lone Parents			
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
HSE	Participant
Citizens Information Centre	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
TUSLA	Participant
Youth organisations/services	Participant
LECP Objectives	
4. Flourishing - SCO 4.1 - To Reduce Educational Disadvantage	
3. Resilience - SCO 3.3 - To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups	

(2023) G2.7 Ukrainian Response Initiative			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
		€20,148	€20,148
Goal			
2			
Location			
Navan, Kells, Oldcastle, Donore, Duleek & as required			
Description			

We have seen from the refugee support initiatives organised and delivered since the 2nd quarter of 2022 together with the individualised supports provided, that the Ukrainian people living in Meath demonstrate a growing confidence in Meath Partnership, including the Wellness Hub and in similar cross-programme collaborators. However, the challenges for Meath Partnership and communities across the county are growing every day due not only to the most welcome 1500+ Ukrainian population now living in Co Meath but also the ever-increasing population, (12.95% CSO 2016). The gravity of this situation is now becoming apparent and the need for enhanced measures to support social integration is paramount.

The needs of Ukrainian families and individuals located in various towns and villages across Meath varies considerably. The most commonly reported needs are, support with language skills, help with access to services including school and college places, transport, trauma and social support, gainful employment and the need to gain information on the rights of an individual granted temporary protection status in Ireland. Other needs being voiced are the provision of information on local organisations and amenities as well as transport arrangements that can be relied on due to many accommodation centres being situated in remote locations not adequately serviced by public transport.

With these requirements in mind SICAP will focus on filling gaps in English language learning opportunities through the provision of basic conversational and work-related English language classes. Language competency remains the key challenge encountered in the implementation of service provision for this client cohort, many refugees struggle to fully understand and access available supports due to lack of English. SICAP fortunately is equipped with in-house personnel with appropriate language skills and will continue to work with external translators as required. Both LMETB and Failte Isteach have been identified as excellent referral partners for English language classes. The focus in this context will be on networking with local employers to match clients to available local jobs and after our clients have been in Ireland for 1-year or more to secure placements for them on such as the Tus programme.

Further needs identified includes personal development planning to assist individuals in navigating the education and training options open to them and to assist them to explore access to work and work placements aligned with their current skill range and longer term objectives. SICAP will provide direct coaching and mentoring services to this client cohort to assist in determining and accessing the most beneficial education and training options based on their own circumstances and life ambitions. SICAP will address this programme objective through the delivery of a suite of measures which will include a variety of workshops, special events and interaction opportunities throughout the year, these will include: Countywide Employment and Education Fair Days delivered 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. SICAP will Collaborate with the Meath Volunteer Centre to support these individuals in securing short term work experience placements through volunteering opportunities and we also plan on collaborating with our EU Transnational Erasmus+ and other national and EU funded Projects to explore a range of relevant, topics including language and culture, active citizenship, community integration, storytelling, art dance and music. SICAP will continue to deliver CV preparation clinics across the county together with integration workshops. Additional support activities such as manual handling training and other relevant training opportunities as emerging from our needs analysis process will also be provided.

Our community development and integration officers will 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 provided will include the provision of information in relation to an individual granted temporary protection status in Ireland, assistance in accessing medical appointments and other specific needs, assistance with urgent travel requirements and assistance in the application for state aid.

In order to address growing transport needs, SICAP will collaborate with Flexibus and Meath Volunteer Centre and it is hoped that DRCD will introduce additional measures in 2023 to address this critical need. However, if further gaps are identified SICAP will endeavour to provide transport on an ad hoc basis for special requirements to address the priority transport needs of individuals in remote locations across the county.

To achieve on the objectives of this plan in conjunction with our Goal 1 Ukrainian Connect Groups, we will need to increase our staffing to ensure we have a full team of community development and integration officers in place together with 1 administration support worker and a job coach/mentor committed to a 1 day per week service to assist with active employment opportunities. SICAP will continue to support the implementation of the Community Response Forum. It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, after any potential staffing costs; will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit all annual plan goals.

Expected Outcomes

Creation of local opportunities for this target group to become involved in local community and cultural activities as a pathway to integration
 Reduce social isolation and eliminate barriers to participation in community affairs, employment and education.
 Create active opportunities for this target group to contribute to and integrate into the life of local communities.
 Delivery of job coaching, job activation and self-employment supports to Ukrainian refugees in County Meath.
 Enhanced connectivity and travel possibilities for our Ukrainian population.
 Greater opportunities to collaborative on new initiatives to address identified gaps in service provision.
 Advance the independence and economic sustainability of the Ukrainian population.

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
City/County Childcare Committee	Participant
Volunteer Centre	Participant
Education & Training Board	Participant
Citizens Information Centre	Participant
HSE	Participant
Local Employers	Participant
National migrant organisations	Participant
Local Schools	Participant
TUSLA	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

(2023) G2.8 Meath Befriending Service			
	Non-Salary Costs		Total Costs
	Goal 1	Goal 2	
		€1,000	€1,000
Goal			
2			
Location			
Kells, Navan, Trim & East Meath			
Description			
<p>Strong social ties have been shown to protect individuals from emotional distress, cognitive decline and even physical disabilities. The global Covid 19 pandemic brought about a new and exasperated 'loneliness epidemic'. Fear of Covid 19 still exists, in particular amongst older people and people with disabilities. This has led to continued social isolation, exclusion, loneliness and lack of stimulation, with negative impacts on quality of life as well as older peoples physical and mental health. Our older and more vulnerable communities have been slow to regain confidence and re-engage with their social networks and organisations of interest outside of their homes. As a result, increased engagement and awareness of the barriers to be addressed is required for 2023, SICAP will seek to encourage these communities of interest to avail of our services through animation and the expansion of one-to-one home visits by our trained Befriending Volunteers, improved mental and physical wellbeing will result from this intervention.</p> <p>Meath Befriending Service will continue to assist the most vulnerable people in Co Meath including those over the age of 18 years and who are experiencing social isolation or exclusion by providing weekly social visits from our Befriending Volunteers, in doing so, we aim to increase the client's social interaction, stimulation of self-progression and confidence building. This will continue to improve both their mental and physical wellbeing and willingness to re-engage in a supportive environment.</p> <p>In 2023 Meath Befriending Service will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - carry out individual needs assessments in order to signpost and refer clients to appropriate services and act as a broker to facilitate access to mainstream supports and services, - build client confidence through the enhancement of support networks and by helping individuals in ways that increase their contact with family, friends and the community thus reducing their vulnerability as well as their level of isolation, - advocate for our older and vulnerable communities to ensure they feel valued and supported within the wider community. <p>It is expected that any remaining underspend from 2022, will be distributed evenly over all actions in 2023 in order to benefit and support the attainment of all annual plan goals.</p>			
Expected Outcomes			
Client has a better quality of life, a greater understanding of relevant services and have secured a support network			
Target Groups			
The Disengaged from the Labour Market (Economically Inactive), People with Disabilities			
Sicap Outcome			
G2 - 7:2 More joined-up referral systems are developed to help individuals access the right services.			
G2 - 1:1 SICAP clients have improved personal skills, wellbeing and capabilities.			
RAPID Area			
Navan			
Collaborative Partners		Role	
An Garda Siochana		Participant	
City/County Council (Local Authority)		Participant	
Active Retirement Ireland		Participant	
HSE		Participant	
Disability Organisations		Participant	

Volunteer Centre	Participant
LECP Objectives	
1. Wellbeing - SCO 1.1 - To reduce the levels of poverty being experienced	
1. Wellbeing - SCO 1.3 - To improve health outcomes	
1. Wellbeing - SCO 1.4 - To Prevent and Reduce Homelessness	
1. Wellbeing - SCO 1.5 - To Increase Perceptions and Experience of Community Safety	
3. Resilience - SCO 3.3 - To Address the Specific Needs of Particular Groups	