

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee

Meeting –23rd February 2024 at 14.44 p.m.

Held by phone conference/in person. Attendance was verified by roll call.

Presiding:

Ms Suzanne Brady (SB) Environmental Sector

Present:

Mr Kieran Kehoe (KK)	Chief Executive, Meath County Council
Cllr Mike Bray (MB)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Mr Joe English (JE)	Local Enterprise Office
Ms Johann McKeever (JMCK)	Health Service Executive
Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Mr Sean O’Coisdealbha (SO’C)	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Mr Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG)	Farming Sector
Mr Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Ms Geraldine Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Ms Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Ms Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Mr Garret O’Brien (GO’B)	Community & Voluntary Sector

Guest:

Monica Nelson (MN) Meath Partnership

Officials:

Ms Fiona Fallon (FF)	Chief Officer, Senior Executive Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Mr Brian Hora (BH)	Senior Executive Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Alison Lynch (AL)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Cllr Elaine McGinty (EMcG)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Yemi Adenuga (YA)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Ms Sharon Curran (SC)	Department of Social Protection
Ms Susuana Komolafe (SK)	Social Inclusion Sector
Vacant	Community Sector

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th December 2023</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 14.44 p.m. and SB welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of CL and seconded by JE.</p>
2.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>FF advised that there were no matters arising.</p>
3.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>FF confirmed that there were no items of correspondence received.</p>
4.	<p>To receive and approve the LCDC Annual Report 2023</p> <p>FF advised that the Annual Report 2023 had been circulated in advance of this meeting and stated this under legislation an LCDC Annual Report is required to be completed and approved by the LCDC and Full Council. She noted that if approved by the LCDC today, it would be brought to Full Council at their March meeting. FF provided a brief outline of the contents of the LCDC Annual Report which includes details of changes in Membership throughout the year, a list of current members and a list of meetings that took place during 2023. She added that 2023 was a successful year with the adoption of the Meath Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2029, and she stated that the SICAP Programme 2018-2023 is in its final year and ongoing with continued engagement with and assistance provided to Ukrainians. Additional funding was received for the Meath Wellness Hub which is linked to the SICAP Programme. FF further added that in 2023, the LCDC also approved funding allocations for the Community Support Fund and Health Ireland Round 4 Funding and work continued on the Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Strategy with meetings held quarterly in 2023. FF thanked the LCDC for their work during 2023.</p> <p>SB thanked FF for preparing the report and opened to the committee for comments or questions:</p> <p>GO'B congratulated all involved in the successful launch event of the Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2029 in January. He noted that he had received great feedback about the launch and in relation the document itself which he stated was easy to read and follow.</p> <p>The approval of the Annual LCDC Report 2023 was proposed by GO'B and seconded by SMcG.</p>

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5.	<p>To receive and approve the SICAP End of Year Report 2023</p> <p>FF advised that the SICAP subgroup Committee had met on 22nd February to discuss the above and noted that all targets had been exceeded. There was small unspent funding and the sub-group had recommended the request for this funding carryover to be approved. She welcomed MN to the meeting and invited her to make a presentation.</p> <p>MN gave a report and overview on the 2023 SICAP EOY programme as follows .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KPI1 had been overachieved for 2023 at 116%. 52 Community Groups were supported with 13 grants provided to Local Community Groups in Meath. The total grant amount was €14,626.47 and the total interventions figure was 365. - G1.1. Building Stronger Communities – Target 17 – Actual 25 Local Community Groups - G1.2 Community Alliance Navan - Target 10 - Actual 10 Local Community Groups - G1.3 Integrate Community - Target 4 - Actual 4 Local Community Groups - G1.4 Teach Mná - Target 4 - Actual 4 Local Community Groups - G1.5 Meath Befriending Service - Target 4 - Actual 4 Local Community Groups - G1.6 Ukrainian Connect Groups - Target 6 – Actual 6 Local Community Groups. - KPI2 had also been overachieved for 2023 at 190%. 522 individuals had been supported despite the high-level complexity of needs of those clients and therefore far more in-depth support was provided to those clients. 32 Individual grants were awarded totalling €9,734.16 and the total number of individual interventions was 2,051. - G2.1 Integrate Project – Target 15 – Actual 29 Individuals - G2.2 Engage Service – Target 30 – Actual 34 Individuals - G2.3 Meath Homeless Information Service – Target 35 – Actual 53 Individuals - G2.4 Meath Employment Service – Target 65 – Actual 112 Individuals - G2.5 Youth Employment Initiative – Target 30 – Actual 35 Individuals - G2.6 Families First – Target 15 – Actual 17 Individuals - G2.7 Ukrainian Response Initiative – Target 70 – Actual 229 Individuals - <p>MN stated that the percentage of individuals with social inclusion barriers under KPI2 in Meath was far above the national average with some individuals having 5-6 barriers. The top 2 barriers were (397 individuals) in jobless households and (345 individuals) with transport as a barrier. She noted that the biggest overachievements for KPI2 were for Meath Employment Service and Ukrainian Responsive Initiative with 42 people on long term employment going back to work in 2023. The 5 service provision pillars in response to the Ukrainian Crisis were, 1) Initial Assessment 2) Humanitarian Assistance 3) Language Needs 4) Employment & Economic Welfare and 5) Community Integration.</p>
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MN also gave a brief outline of the various additional highlights of 2023 under the SICAP Programme that were extra and did not link in with KPI's.

SB thanked **MN** for the detailed presentation and commended the SICAP Team for their work in 2023 and in creating excellent linkages with various agencies and opened to the floor for questions:

GO'B recommended that **MN** advise any newly formed groups to register with Meath PPN.

MN advised **CB** to contact Meath Partnership directly with any job vacancies that she is aware of and Meath Partnership will advertise them.

SWMcD advised that the Department of Social Protection have a list of job applicants with various skillsets and should be matching them with any job vacancies that arise in the Region.

KK queried if interventions are mapped for Meath. **MN** advised that yes interventions for Meath are mapped on the IRIS system and link in with the LECP.

MN advised that Pobal devise detailed deprivation lists County by County which can be viewed on their website. The SICAP Lot Summary Report shows where the interventions are taking place but this cant be shared, however she noted that the SICAP team link in with the Meath Homeless Service and the Housing Officers and various other agencies.

CL advised that the deprivation index on Pobal Maps shows that there has been a very large increase in very disadvantaged areas within the Meath Area from Census 2016 – Census 2022, from 7 very disadvantaged areas to 17 very disadvantaged areas within County Meath, and those people required the services of SICAP. He noted that factors such as the cost of living and the influx of refugees have contributed to this increase.

A discussion ensued and all Committee members agreed that the large increase of very disadvantaged areas within County Meath is a cause for concern and should be analysed to find out the reasons for this and whether this increase just applies to County Meath or whether it's a nationwide issue.

KK stated that in relation to the barrier of transport, this issue could be prevented if the Local Authority had an input into the locations of the placement of immigrants which is currently not the case.

CL commended the LCD C for their collaboration with the SICAP Team and added that the SICAP Programme plays a key role in preventing deprivation.

The approval of the SICAP End of Year Report for 2023 and funding carryover was proposed by **CB** and seconded by **SWMcD**.

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6.	<p>To receive an update on the Public Participation Network (PPN)</p> <p>FF gavie an update in relation to Meath PPN as follows:</p> <p>Groups were invited to the launch of the Meath LECP 2023-2309 plan, with 34 people representing their communities. There was positive feedback from the Groups on working towards the action points in the plan.</p> <p>Meath PPN hosted an online workshop on 24th January with Gavin Harte of Environment and Sustainable Development Training (ESD Training) and a member of the MCC Climate Action team on hand to support local community groups in exploring their options under the Community Climate Action Fund programme. 48 groups took part in the process with the use of breakout rooms for peer discussion and the main room being used for specific questions around the grant.</p> <p>22 people attended an in-person Community Climate Action Fund workshop in Buvinda House on 31st January. This led to groups receiving one to one advice from the MCC Climate Action team and the PPN will provide further workshops on financing options for community groups and grant writing skills.</p> <p>The first two Linkage Group meetings were held on 21st & 22nd February around the themes of Climate Action & Environment and Housing, Planning & Transport. The next sessions are scheduled for 12th & 13th March, where Community, Culture & Sport and Social Inclusion, Rural Development & Youth will be the themes discussed.</p> <p>Following recent nomination calls to fill PPN allocated seats on the LCD C, Meath PPN received 3 nominations for Community & Voluntary seats and 2 nominations for a Social Inclusion seat. An election process is underway, the outcome of which will be forwarded onto the LCD C in due course.</p> <p>Meath will be the host county for the national PPN staff retreat at the end of April to be held in Trim's Knightsbrook Hotel. Meath, Cavan, Dublin City and Kerry PPNs are the working group for this year's event, which will be a great opportunity to show off the vibrancy and heritage of the medieval town of Trim along with the strong community input which resulted in their Tidy Towns win in 2022.</p> <p>645 groups are now registered with Meath PPN.</p>
7.	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>FF advised that in relation to SICAP, salary approval for a Community Development Wellness Project Officer had been approved for €43,000 annually and must be noted in the minutes of this meeting. She also noted that a list of Subcontractors for use in 2024 had been submitted by Meath Partnership and circulated prior to this meeting for approval by the LCD C.</p> <p>The approval of the SICAP subcontractors for 2024 was proposed by SWMcD and seconded by NM.</p>

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	<p>FF advised that the next LCDC Meeting will be held on Friday 22nd March 2024.</p> <p>SB thanked all for their attendance.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 15.27 p.m.</p>
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Signed: Seamus Mc Gee
Chairperson

Date: 22nd March 2024