Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee
Date – 23rd January 2026 @ 10.32 a.m.
Held at Meath Partnership Offices, Kells, Co Meath/Onine via Teams
Attendance was verified by roll call.

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG)	Farming Sector

Present:

Barry Lynch (BL)	Director of Services, Meath County Council
Cllr Maria Murphy (MM)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Padraig Coffey (PC)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Johann McKeever (JMcK)	Health Service Executive
Sean O Coisdealbha (SOC)	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Ger Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Nicky Bowman (NB)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Michael Gunn (MG)	Environmental Sector
Marie Brennan (MB)	Social Inclusion Sector

Guest:

Aisling O'Donnell (AO'D)	Healthy Meath Co-Ordinator, Meath County Council

Officials:

Brian Hora (BH)	Senior Executive Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Valerie McHugh (VMcH)	Administrative Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Cllr Edward Fennessy (EF)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Garret O'Brien (GO'B)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Vacant	Local Enterprise Office
Vacant	Department of Social Protection

LCDC
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Mí
Meath Local Community Development Committee

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	**To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th December 2025** The meeting commenced at 10.32 a.m. and SMcG welcomed all to the meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **CL** and seconded by **MG**.
2.	**Matters arising** There were no matters arising from the meeting.
3.	**Correspondence** **BH** confirmed that there were no items of correspondence for circulation in December. He advised that the DRCDG had issued guidance in relation to the revised timeline for the conducting of the SICAP Annual Performance Review 2025 and the submission of the SICAP Annual Plan for 2026, following confirmation this week of the 2026 Budget Allocations. He advised that both the Annual Performance Review for 2025 and the Annual Plan for 2026 must be approved by the LCDC by 27th February and will therefore be presented for approval at the February meeting on 27th February.
4.	**To receive an update on the PPN** BH advised that the PPN update for January had been circulated to the Committee prior to today's meeting as follows: Meath PPN will develop its multi-year strategic plan across 2026 which will include: • Creating a Community Resilience Toolkit for community groups to use as a micro measure in responding to an emergency at a local level, while fitting into the broader, coordinated response. • Liaising with community groups and promoting the Civic Dollars app. This app will enhance the health and wellbeing of communities and individuals visiting outdoor spaces in the county. Participants earn 'dollars' which they can then donate to their chosen community groups, who in turn can use these to purchase tech support, CSR volunteer hours, governance support. These dollars are non-monetary and can only be used as a benefit in kind. • Meath PPN will also work alongside Healthy Meath and Meath Local Community Safety Partnership in a joint application to Creative Ireland for a youth focussed, mental health campaign. **Membership** 824 groups are registered with Meath PPN: • 689 Community/Voluntary • 110 Social Inclusion • 25 Environment

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	CL suggested that the PPN staff liaise with Marjan from Meath Partnership in relation to the application mentioned above to Creative Ireland for a youth focused Meath Health Campaign as she has information in relation to the Youth Action and support actions for LEADER. **GH** Joined the meeting at 10.37 a.m.

5.	**To receive a presentation on and approve the Healthy Meath Workplan for 2026**
	
	AO'D Healthy Meath Co-Ordinator gave a detailed presentation on the Healthy Meath Workplan for 2026, Healthy Ireland Fund Updates and a 2025 Summary :
	
	- Budget for 2026 = €102,547
	- 1546 participants in 2025 (473 PMH,1073 NCD)
	- 49 initiatives took place in 2025
	- Pobal report due on the 20th February 2026
	
	She gave a summary on both Positive Mental Health and Non-Communicable Disease Outcome Areas including details of all the partners that will be involved and of the new initiatives and events to be carried out across the county in 2026 as follows.
	
	- **New initiatives:**
	  ○ Civic Dollars Initiative
	  ○ Website development and online training for CommUnity Connect
	  ○ Community Resilience Toolkit
	  ○ Building Resilience Through Sport
	  ○ Youth Fest – Meath Local Community Safety Partnership
	- **What's new:**
	- Output of TUS research highlighted a lack of H&W initiatives in Enfield, women only programmes, healthy eating initiatives and a lack of awareness on what's happening across Meath

- Working with NA Fianna GAA and Enfield Development Group to provide initiatives
- Kells FRC International Women's Day Event
- Meath LSP – targeted PA programme for disadvantaged women
- Health and Wellbeing Event for the general population (Support / ideas from subgroup on this)
- Redesign of Healthy Meath Newsletter, where possible more frequent publishing
- Playful Communities
- Redesign of health checks focused project & healthy eating initiatives

Workplan 2026 - Positive Mental Health & Reduction in NCD Mortality:

AOD provided an overview of the activities that will be carried out in 2026 under the Positive Mental Health and Reduction in NCD Mortality themes including details of who the partners are, the target groups, timelines and Budgets. The total budget for 2026 for Positive Mental Health is €48,825 and for NCD is €53,722.

She provided an update on project outcomes and outputs for 2026 for both Positive Mental Health and NCD including details of Outcome Indicators, Target Groups, Project Outputs and Targets for 2026.

NM joined the meeting at 10.51 a.m.

SMcG thanked AO'D for the detailed presentation and opened to the floor for questions.

SWMcD queried the Civic Dollars Initiative and asked if this would negatively impact sponsorship already existing from companies to respective initiatives locally.

AO'D confirmed that Civic Dollars are not monetary value, it is not a financial donation. A person earns 1 Civic Dollar for every 30 minutes spent outdoors. These dollars can then be exchanged for non-financial rewards from local businesses or donated to local charities, community groups, schools, or sports clubs who in turn use the dollars for non-financial rewards from local businesses who sign up to the app i.e. for example, a local yoga instructor might give a free yoga class to a community group who earn X amount of civic dollars or an I.T. company might provide assistance to a Community Group in setting up a website from dollars earned.

MG advised AO'D to link in with Leave no Trace Ireland in relation to the Civic Dollars Initiative.

SWMcD also had a question in relation to the Counselling Sessions being offered to young people who are on a waiting list for the Camhs Service. She asked for clarification on what happens to a young person after they attend those Counselling Sessions and if it affects their place on the Camhs waiting list. Who is that young person then linked to if they require further counselling sessions so that they don't fall off the radar. She stated that it is important that if a young person receives counselling sessions that they are then linked into another Services such as Camhs so that their intervention doesn't cease.

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	AO'D advised that the counselling sessions are provided by a qualified professional to young people who are on the waiting list for Camhs. It is an interim intervention. She will follow up on SWMcD's query in relation to what happens when these counselling sessions being offered cease and if that young person is linked up to another counselling services if further sessions are required. A lengthly discussion ensued and the Committee agreed that there must be a follow up link between a young person who avails of the Counselling Service being offered under this initiative and other counselling service providers such as Camhs, Jigsaw, Tusla etc. **SWMcD** requested that any work related to Youth in Meath go through the Youth Officers based with LMETB who will be able to advise on proposals alignment to the Youth Strategy to ensure maximisation of resources and avoid duplication. **GH** advised that Youth Work Ireland Meath provide emotional support for young people who are waiting to be seen by Camhs and other Counselling Service Providers. **JMcK** advised AO'D to get in touch with Rosaleen Dolan, Suicide Prevention Officer with the HSE and Jigsaw for advice on this matter. **AO'D** will get more clarity on this matter and will contact the above mentioned and revert to the LCDC at their next meeting. The Committee agreed that the principal behind this Counselling being offered is very worthwhile as there is a big gap in the provision to counselling services to young people and that any intervention being offered to any young person seeking counselling is fully welcome. They request clarification from AO'D in relation to follow up services being offered to those young people who avail of this Counselling, but who require further Counselling and if it affects their place on the waiting list for the Camhs Service. **BH** stated that the Healthy Meath Workplan for 2026 and funding allocations need be approved today, and issues raised by the LCDC membership can be considered when specific actions are being implemented. The Healthy Meath Workplan 2026 was approved on the proposal of **NM** and seconded by **PC**.
6.	**Agency Updates** **JMcK g**ave an update to the Committee following a question at the last meeting relating to the provision of blister packs to older and vulnerable people. She will also circulate this update via email to the Committee following today's meeting.

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7.	**A.O.B.** **BH** advised the Committee that Sharon Curran, Department of Social Protection, had resigned her position on Meath LCDC and details of her replacement will be presented to Full Council at their meeting on Monday next for approval. He thanked Sharon Curran for her participation on Meath LCDC. **SMcG** thanked all for their attendance today and noted that the next meeting will be held on Friday 27th February 2026. **The meeting concluded at 11.15 a.m.**

Signed: Seamus Mc Gee **Date:** 23rd January 2026

Chairperson

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