



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



LCD C
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Aitiúil
Dhún na nGall
Donegal Local Community Development
Committee

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee Meeting
County House, Lifford & online via Teams at 2pm on 15th May 2024**

Members in attendance	Cllr. Niamh Kennedy – DCC, Joe Boland - PPN, Charlene Logue – PPN, and James O’Donnell - ICMSA
Members in attendance via Teams	Andrew Ward – IDP, Maria Ferguson – HSE, Brenda Hegarty – LEO, Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig – Údarás, Padraic Fingleton – DLDC, Maire Uí Mhaolain - Comhar na nOilean, Liam McElhinney – ICTU and Siobhan McLaughlin – PPN
Apologies	John McLaughlin – DCC, Anne McHugh – ETB, Paul Hannigan – ATU and Aengus Kennedy – PPN
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Liam Ward, Ciaran Martin, Charlene Gillespie, Margaret Fitzgerald and Kathleen Browne

Welcome

Cllr. Niamh Kennedy welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Draft minutes of the LCDDC meeting of 10th April 2024

The minutes of the previous LCDDC Meeting, as circulated with the agenda, were considered by the LCDDC.

On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Charlene Logue, the minutes of the LCDDC Meeting of 10th April 2024 were adopted.

2. Matters arising

James O’Donnell sought a response to query raised at the last meeting on whether accommodation centres were being paid by number of buildings or number of people housed there. Liam Ward advised that Donegal County Council did not have any role in this matter. Contracts for accommodation providers were awarded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. James raised his concerns at grants being awarded to accommodation centres with very few residents. Paddy Doherty confirmed that the Community Recognition Grants are awarded to Community and Voluntary Groups in Communities who had welcomed a large number of new community members. They are not awarded directly to new communities or those who house new communities.

3. Healthy Ireland Update

Margaret Fitzgerald, Healthy Donegal Coordinator, made a presentation to members on the background and programme overview of the Healthy Ireland Programme.

Members were also given an update on the various projects being delivered under the Healthy Ireland Programme in the County including:

- Civic Dollars
- Finn Harps Football and Social Responsibility programme
- Balor Arts Summer Academy
- Moments of happiness at Library
- Playground Passport

Margaret also set out details of forthcoming projects including projects to be delivered in conjunction with Foroige, the Alcohol Forum and Donegal Volunteer Centre.

Cllr Kennedy, on behalf of the LCDC, thanked Margaret for her presentation and acknowledged the success of the programmes delivered.

4. Community Funding Application Questionnaire

Kathleen Browne advised members that in response to concerns raised by the LCDC in relation to reported difficulties Community and Voluntary Groups experience in successfully submitting application forms a short, bi-lingual, questionnaire had been uploaded onto Donegal County Council's Public Consultation Website to help identify ways assistance and support can be provided to Community and Voluntary Groups to guide and support them through the various application processes. A copy of the questionnaire had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

Community and Voluntary Groups throughout the County are invited to complete the questionnaire on what supports they may require to complete and submit funding applications at <https://consult.donegal.ie/en/content/community-funding-application-process-questionnaire> before Friday, 21st June 2024.

Kathleen confirmed that a press release informing the public about the questionnaire had been released and that the questionnaire will also be promoted on all of the Council's social media platforms. A link to the questionnaire was also circulated through the PPN and to groups on Community Development Contact list.

Members were advised that the data collected from the response to the survey would be collated and a report brought to a future LCDC Meeting.

5. GIS LCDC Funding Report

Ciaran Martin presented the GIS LCDC Funding Report 2023 to members. The link to the mapping report had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting <https://donegal.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/e026973cfff346e284a9abe5b5a7c9db>

Ciaran confirmed that the link to the GIS map showed the location of funded projects under funds allocated through the Donegal LCDC in 2023. This map, developed by GIS Team, displays the geographic spread of the various funding programmes, including Community Recognition fund 2023 (51), the Community Support Fund (244) and then SlainteCare Healthy communities (6), Healthy Ireland, LEADER transitional, LEADER Food and LEADER EURI, through which the LCDC awarded an overall €3.7 m to 313 projects in 2023.

Ciaran outlined to members how they could navigate the GIS Map.

Members were reminded that the mapping did not include other funding managed through the Community Development Team e.g. DFI, Members Development Funds, T&V, Clar, ORIS etc.

Cllr. Kennedy, on behalf of the LCDC, thanked Ciaran and the GIS team for producing the mapping which will be very useful in identifying areas which have not received funding.

Liam Ward advised that in addition to the feedback from the questionnaire this information can inform how we approach future funding allocations.

6. CYPSC/LCDC Local Area Child Poverty Plan Pilot Application

Ciaran Martin advised members that the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) were jointly conducting a pilot programme that will establish at least four Local Area Child Poverty Action Plans.

He confirmed that these pilots are to be developed and implemented by Children and Young People's Service Committees (CYPSC) in collaboration with their corresponding Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

Members were informed that recognising existing responses to local service coordination and integration, the pilots were expected to offer an opportunity for the CYPSC and LCDC to analyse their local child poverty context, leverage established good practice, and design, trial and propose innovative actions to assist existing services.

Ciaran advised that the pilot projects should also facilitate the identification and definition of any specific service gaps in the area.

Ciaran informed members that the overall objective is to improve access to services that support disadvantaged families and children in their local areas.

- Identify and build on existing good practice, which seeks to support services coordination and integration.
- Maximise learning and assess the feasibility of embedding new or expanded approaches to service integration in coordination with existing local planning frameworks.
- Achieve better service integration, so that the needs of children and families are more effectively and efficiently responded to.

- Create and trial pathways to access available services (as opposed to direct income supports or direct provision of additional services) amongst service providers.
- Inform other local area plans and frameworks to enhance local data (where possible).

He further advised that the pilots will be of a two-year duration, with the first six months assigned for development of the pilot plans followed by 18 months of implementation.

Members were advised that an upper limit of €100,000 in funding will be provided to each of the areas selected for the first twelve-month period commencing in 2024. Additional funding for 2025 will be considered subject to confirmation of 2025 budgets later this year.

They were informed that it was envisaged that the pilots would offer the opportunity to select and test interventions that will leverage existing good practice and have an impact on alleviating child poverty. It is also anticipated that there will be variation across the pilot sites selected in terms of:

- **Geographical scope** – pilots may target very small areas within the CYPSC/LCDC area or take a wider geographical approach.
- **Thematic focus** – it is anticipated that the development of pilots will draw on existing needs analysis by CYPSC, LCDCs or others, and that they may focus on a particular need (e.g. housing, nutrition, family support) or that they may take a wider approach and address a range of needs of families and children who experience poverty.
- **Outputs** – the specific innovation, outputs or activities required to meet the objectives of enhancing access to available services (e.g. mapping services, referrals mechanism, interagency cooperation etc.) and the potential to learn from these approaches.

Ciaran confirmed that applications for this pilot scheme should only be made through the EUSurvey application platform by **5pm on June 7th, 2024**.

Ciaran provided members with details of the proposed CYPSC Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee and confirmed that the partnership would be managed by Tusla through the CPYPSC. He confirmed that the CYPSC Economic Wellbeing sub-Committee, was convened this week, on a consultative basis, to help identify an area in Donegal to establish a local area Poverty Pilot. Ciaran advised that he would attend the Sub Committee meetings on behalf of the LCDC and that Liam Ward was chair of the Sub Committee.

Siobhan McLaughlin welcomed the project and advised that it was an opportunity to examine child poverty in the County. Siobhan advised that Traveller, Roma and New Communities had seen an increase in poverty and felt that it was important that this group was included in this programme.

Liam Ward confirmed that this group had come up in discussions regarding who would form part of the key demographic group.

Members unanimously agreed to the set up of the CYPSC Economic Wellbeing Sub Committee.

7. Next Meeting

Clr Kennedy confirmed that the next LCDC Meeting was scheduled for 24th July.

Ciaran Martin advised that any member experiencing difficulty accessing the sharefile system should contact him directly.

This concluded the business of the meeting.