



Kilkenny Local Community Development
Committee (LCDC)
Annual Report 2021

As Adopted by Kilkenny LCDC at its meeting held

Background

Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) are required, under the provisions of Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001, to prepare, adopt and submit an annual report to the local authority, no later than the 31st March each year, in respect of the performance of its functions in the previous calendar year. The annual report should be co-ordinated with the preparation of the local authority's annual report and include an outline of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) activities in the relevant period.

Functions of the LCDC

The LCDC functions set out in the Act are as follows:

- the preparation and adoption of an LECP,
- implementing the community elements of the LECP,
- reviewing the LECP and amending it or amending any element of it,
- monitoring, and reviewing the implementation of the plan on an ongoing basis,
- co-ordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of community development programmes that have been approved by the Council, agreed between the Committee and a public authority and to ensure that any plans or strategies are implemented in accordance with the community elements of the LECP,
- seeking to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoid duplication between local and community development programmes,
- pursuing the co-ordination of all local community and coordination of programmes so as to optimise resources for the benefit of local communities and improve efficiency with which public funded local and community development resources are used,
- to consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of a draft plan and
- not later than 31st March each year adopt and submit to the Local Authority a report relating to the performance of its functions in the preceding calendar year.

Membership

The membership of the Kilkenny LCDC is 19. In addition, Kilkenny LCDC has 1 Associate Member. The composition of the LCDC is such that it brings together the expertise and skills of people actively working with local development, community development and economic, cultural and environmental organisations and local authority members, officials and state agencies to implement a joined up, cross sectional approach to local and community development programmes.

Declan Gibbons, Community Pillar from the Public Participation Network continued in his role as Chairperson. The 3-year tenure period is not due to expire until August 2023. Colette

Byrne, Chief Executive KCC remains as Vice-Chair. One new member, Margaret Clancy, was welcomed during the year as a result of expiry of tenure.

A full listing of members and their nominating bodies is included in *appendix No 1*.

Role of Chief Officer

The Chief Executive of the Local Authority has a legal obligation to assign staff to assist the LCDC in performing its functions including the assignment of a staff member to the position of Chief Officer.

The Chief Officer has responsibility for carrying out, managing and controlling generally the administration and business of the Committee and for providing ongoing support. In particular, the role envisages the facilitation and promotion of partnership and interagency working, managing membership, being a link and conduit between the LCDC and the Local Enterprise Office and SPC 1 and the Department, providing capacity building interventions, pursuing funding streams and broadening the work of the Committee, providing advice and guidance and bringing local authority experience to the Committee.

Ms. Annette Fitzpatrick continued in her role as Chief Officer during 2021.

LCDC Meetings

Due to continued public health restrictions imposed with the onset of COVID-19 all meetings were held remotely over Microsoft Teams. The LCDC met on six occasions in 2021.

Engagement with Stakeholders.

It is the policy of the LCDC to meet Local Economic and Community Plan implementing partners in connection with their LECP actions and to consider issues of mutual concern. During 2021 the LCDC heard presentations from:

Healthy Ireland Implementing partners with regards progress and outcomes of their actions

- Community Engagement Programme – One Parent Families, Domestic Abuse, Disability Sector, Care Box Initiatives. The One-Parent Research Plan was launched on 26th November 2021.
- Mental Health Small Grants Scheme - €11,000 allocated
- Healthy Inclusive Communities – Healthy Streets Programme, Community Mental Health – Social Prescribing

Local Economic and Community Plan. (LECP)

The LCDC monitors and reviews the implementation of the Local Economic Community Plan on an ongoing basis and in doing so it considers the reports and advice from the LECP Advisory Group.

The Community Implementation Plan (CIP) for 2018-2019 was extended into 2020 and 2021. The CIP is being implemented by 23 stakeholders and includes 88 actions. Some of the actions identified by stakeholders are a continuation of the actions identified as part of the consultation process undertaken in 2015 when the LCDC were developing the plan, others are new actions.

The LCDC did not undertake any reviews of the LECP in 2021. An LECP Stakeholder review workshop was organised for early 2020 to review actions and identify key gaps and issues, but with COVID19 restrictions this was cancelled and has not been rescheduled for the time being. All LECP actions will be reviewed as part of the review process for the development of the new LECP in 2022.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. (SICAP)



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is the successor programme to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015-2017. SICAP's aim is to reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration. It has two high level goals:

1. **Goal 1: Supporting Communities**

To support communities and target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues, developing the capacity of Local Community Groups, and creating more sustainable communities.

2. **Goal 2: Supporting Individuals**

To support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports.

Funding

SICAP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development with co-funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020. *Kilkenny SICAP will have been awarded approximately €2,566,432 between 2018 and 2021.*

Delivery Structure

SICAP is managed locally by Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) with support from Kilkenny County Council. It is delivered on the ground by County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership (CKLP). Pobal acts as the agent of the Department of Rural and Community Development with respect to national management and oversight of the programme.

Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDCs) is the Contracting Authority for

SICAP in County Kilkenny. Kilkenny LCDC is the key decision-maker in terms of annual planning, monitoring and oversight of SICAP services in County Kilkenny.

Kilkenny County Council

Kilkenny County Council supports the LCDC in managing the programme and provides administrative supports. It also has a role in relation to reviewing and enforcing the obligations of the Programme Implementer.

County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership

Programme Implementer (PIs) deliver SICAP at a local level as per their annual plan. They report to the LCDC on their progress in carrying out these actions. They engage with the programme target groups. County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership is the current PI for SICAP services across Co. Kilkenny.

Target Groups

SICAP supports a range of groups in society which are disadvantaged and marginalised and unable or unlikely to access mainstream supports. Pre-defined target groups have been set for SICAP and these have been selected based on the current socioeconomic context, the level of need in society and government priorities. See below for a list of the 13 identified target groups:

All beneficiaries of programme supports must belong to one of the 13 SICAP target groups which are:

Disadvantaged Children and Families	People living in Disadvantaged Communities
Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 – 24)	People with Disabilities
Disadvantaged Women	Roma
Emerging Needs Group	Travellers
Lone Parents	The Disengaged from the Labour Market (Economically Inactive)
Low Income Workers/ Households	The Unemployed
New Communities	

Nationally SICAP is delivered through the framework for local development.



The Department of Rural and Community Development

The Department is the lead and funding department for SICAP, including in respect of ESF co-funding and the YEI special allocation. The Department channels funding directly to LCDCs

Pobal

Pobal provides a national oversight role in respect of the SICAP programmatic and operational requirements and provides the Department with regular county, regional and national programme progress reports. Pobal undertakes a technical review of the financial reports, monitoring reports and annual plans, submitted by Programme Implementers (via the IRIS on-line system), to ensure compliance with the SICAP framework, financial rules and the monitoring of all performance targets. Pobal can recommend any necessary actions to the Department and/or the LCDC/Local Authority where issues and concerns relating to the management and delivery of SICAP are identified. Pobal provides capacity building supports to LCDCs to assist in the strategic planning process and in delivering and evidencing quality standards in the programme. This involves providing some ongoing technical support to Programme Implementers locally, as well as thematic working, dissemination and sharing of best practice to support the delivery of the SICAP goals and objectives.

SICAP Sub-Group

Kilkenny LCDC has appointed a SICAP sub-group to undertake the role of annual planning, monitoring and oversight of SICAP services in County Kilkenny. This group makes recommendations with regards SICAP to the LCDC.

The SICAP subgroup is made up of the Chairperson and Chief Officer of the LCDC, the PPN Social Inclusion representatives, a Representative from the Family Resource Centre Programme locally, the Department of Employment and Social Protection and the Kilkenny Carlow Education and Training Board. Kilkenny County Council Community section staff support the subgroup.

The Subgroup met 6 times in 2021 to undertake and agree the SICAP annual Plan, the Mid-Year Review, the SICAP- Annual engagement meeting with Pobal and the End of Year Review. Two meetings were also convened to discuss and agree the new priorities as outlined by Mr. Joe O'Brien T.D., Minister of State for Community Development and Charities, in his 19th July 2021 letter to the Chief Officer of Kilkenny LCDC.

SICAP has performed well over 2021 and has exceeded Targets outlined below:

- KPI 1 Annual target of 26 is at 32 and is overachieved at 123%
- KPI 2 Annual target of 468 is at 481 and is overachieved at 103%

Sicap has underachieved in the percentage of KPI 2 (people living in disadvantaged areas, engaged on a one to one) is underachieved at 24.79 % with an end of year target of 26%. This is an improvement of 2020 KPI at 20%.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

Kilkenny LCDC has 3 Social Inclusion Representatives, 1 environmental and 2 community representatives from the PPN. The PPN have held the chair of the LCDC since its inception.

The PPN has increased its membership in 2021 to 403 with 36 new registrations in 2021 and the groups registered within the Social Inclusion Pillar= 91

Community Enhancement Programme Funding (CEP)

The Scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area provided funding to communities across Ireland to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. The programme provides funding to address disadvantage as identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and is targeted towards enhancing community facilities for individuals and communities that are impacted by disadvantage as identified in the LECP.

A second round of funding under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund was advertised in January 2021 with a focus on supporting communities to adapt their facilities to fit the new COVID-19 reality and also to become more involved in the Government's "Keep Well" campaign. Kilkenny LCDC received an allocation of €46,621. Kilkenny LCDC awarded 30 grants under this round. In May, €136,319 was awarded under the CEP. The focus on this round was to provide grants towards projects or equipment enhancing facilities (similar to previous years) and one-off grants towards costs associated with reopening of a facility or the sustainability of a facility. Under this round, small grants were available for up to €3,000 or medium grants up to €10,000. In total 43 grants were awarded to community groups.

In November 2021, the Department of Rural and Community Development announced the Community Activities Fund under the Community enhancement Programme. Kilkenny LCDC received an allocation of €272,638. This fund is to support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with non-pay running costs/operating costs and also to carry out

necessary repairs/improvements to their facilities. This Scheme to be advertised and processed in early 2022.

Social Enterprise Grant

New scheme in 2021. Kilkenny LCDC was allocated €26,544 by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Scheme was limited to Social Enterprises and aimed at providing funding for the purchase of equipment or the carrying out of repairs or refurbishments to enable social enterprises to improve service delivery. Applications under the scheme were assessed by the LCDC and a recommendation was forwarded to the Department for approval. Eight grants were approved by the Department.

Healthy Ireland Fund

The Department of Health and Pobal have continued to support the third round of funding for the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) which is currently extended to March 2022. The aim of this funding is to support local and national organisations to deliver actions that will improve health and wellbeing in line with *Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025* and the local [Healthy Kilkenny Community Plan](#). The final Healthy Ireland (July 2019-March 2022) approved budget for the Kilkenny LCDC is €291,311 (HI Fund €229,761 and Community Mental Health Fund €61,550). The Healthy Ireland Round 3 actions progressed in 2021 and the LCDC received updates and presentations on the progress of actions from the Healthy Kilkenny Coordinator and the implementing partners

Healthy Kilkenny Actions 2021:

The Healthy Kilkenny **Community Engagement Programme** supported engagement with one-parent families, individuals living with disabilities, Victims of Domestic Abuse, and young & older adults who are isolated as a consequence of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Community Engagement programme has enabled the LCDC and the Healthy Kilkenny committee to support and engage with those who experience health inequalities. As part of the **Healthy Inclusive Communities** Action, Kilkenny Recreational Sports Partnership continued to deliver Physical Activity programmes, targeting the hard to reach communities of Castlecomer, Urlingford, Callan and Kilkenny City. Workhouse Union worked in collaboration with Kilkenny LCDC to inform the Kilkenny Transport Plan and the Kilkenny Development Plan, on understanding needs, experiences and barriers to mobility (walking, cycling, public transport) and public space in Kilkenny City with under-represented groups including people living with disabilities. This action also included collaboration with Kilkenny County Council and the HSE to consult with young people on creating a vision for the Lackan Masterplan. **Kilkenny One-Parent Families:** The Community Engagement Facilitator implemented actions from the LCDC Lone Parents Needs Analysis 'Voice and Visibility'. These actions included; Advocacy and capacity building amongst one-parent families who were interested in volunteering to be part of the Peer Network. This process focused on developing relationships within the group and

explored a peer support model. The work also involved awareness-raising activities, developing signposting resources and social & information hubs. The **Regional Action** progressed with the delivery of two Healthy Food Made Easy programmes in Kilkenny and Five online Adult Resilience Training was delivered across the region. The **Social Prescribing Pilot** has progressed in Kilkenny City & County in 2021. This Service has proved to be an essential support for individuals seeking to improve their health and wellbeing, reduce loneliness and isolation and empower individuals to engage in their community and link in with local supports. The **Community Mental Health Small Grants** projects progressed throughout the year with the completion of mental health projects from five of the 8 community groups/agencies. The remaining three will be completed by March 2022.

In Quarter 1 and 2 of 2022, The Healthy Kilkenny Committee and Kilkenny LCDC will agree a new programme of work to Pobal and the Department of Health. The new Healthy Ireland Programme will respond to local needs and stakeholder engagement and align with the Local Economic Community Plan, Healthy Kilkenny Community Plan and the National Healthy Ireland Framework. The actions will focus on reducing health inequalities and emphasise the need to empower individuals and communities to look after their health and wellbeing.

Kilkenny One-Parent Families

The LCDC Lone Parents Task Group was established in 2019 to identify the key needs, map the key issues and service gaps for one-parent families in Kilkenny. The Needs Analysis 'Voice and Visibility' highlighted the key issues that needed to be addressed and recommended actions for implementation. The Healthy Ireland fund has supported the engagement with one-parent families in Kilkenny and the development of a Peer Network and information hubs, awareness campaigns, informal events and signposting resources. In September 2021, Kilkenny County Council, Kilkenny LCDC and Kilkenny Leader Partnership allocated funding for a Development Support Worker in Fr. McGrath FRC to continue the support of Kilkenny One-Parent Community Peer Network, 2 days per week until March 2022. The role offers the Peer Network; capacity building, supervision and support, training and skills development, monitoring and evaluation. In 2022, the Steering Group Stakeholders will agree an action plan for the year and advocate for the continued employment of the Development Worker, to support the Peer Network and build their capacity to advocate and support one-parent families in Kilkenny.



Appendix 1.

LCDC Membership at 31st December 2021.

Name of Member	Nominating Body/Group
Fiona Deegan	Local Enterprise Office
Vacant	Teagasc
Eileen Curtis	Education Training Board
Julieanne Power	Dept of Social Protection
Martin Brett	Elected Representative
Michal McCarthy	Elected Representative
Gerard Frisby	Elected Representative
Joe Lyons	Elected Representative
Patricia Brennan	PPN-Community Pillar
Declan Gibbons - Chair	PPN-Community Pillar
Angela Hayes	PPN-Social Inclusion Pillar
Vacant	PPN-Social Inclusion Pillar
Vacant	PPN-Social Inclusion Pillar
Sheila Donnelly	Family Resource Centres
Vacant	PPN-Environmental Pillar
Bill O'Keeffe	Irish Farmers Association
Margaret Clancy	Chamber of Commerce
Denis Drennan	County Kilkenny Leader Partnership
Colette Byrne	Chief Executive Kilkenny County Council
Derval Howley	Associate Member – HSE