

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Date: 31st October 2019

Time: 3.30pm

Location: Council Chamber

Present:

Statutory

Mr Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive, CCC), Ms Carmel Denning (Dept of EA&SP), Marcella Rudden (Local Enterprise Office), Cllr T.P. O'Reilly (Elected Member), Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick (Elected Member), John Kearney (CMETB), Mary Rose Smith (HSE)

Private Sector Interests

Mr Fintan Mc Cabe (Environmental Interests), Mr Jim Maguire (Breffni Integrated Ltd.), Ms Ada Vance (Women's Interests), Mr Seamus McGrath (Disability Interests), Mr Tom Brady (Cavan Chamber), Ms Catherine McCollum (Agricultural and Farming Interests), Doris Galligan (C&V Interests)

Apologies:

Statutory: Cllr Clifford Kelly (Elected Member),

Private Sector Interests: Ms Olive Hannigan (Social Inclusion Interests), Ms Aisling Tobin (Youth Issues).

In attendance:

Mr John Donohoe (Chief Officer), Ms Jane Crudden (Cavan County Council), Ms Angela Fitzpatrick (Cavan County Council), Mr Terry Hyland (CEO of Breffni Integrated), Ms Lorraine McTeigue (Breffni Integrated).

Apologies: Brendan Jennings (Director of Service)

The Chair (Mr Fintan McCabe) opened the meeting and read out the apologies.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Ms Carmel Denning pointed out an error in previous minutes where Ms Catherine McCollum was listed under present and under apologies (should have been under apologies only).

Ms Jane Crudden referred to the Peace IV update in the previous minutes – At the last meeting Swanlinbar Development Association had overspent by €193.94 on a small grant project. On finalisation, this overspend was €842.51. Jane informed the Committee that there is no issue as they over delivered on their outputs and the additional monies required are available.

Minutes were proposed by Cllr. T.P O'Reilly and seconded by Mr. Jim Maguire.

2. Matters arising

National LCDC Networking Event

The Chief Officer reminded those who have registered to attend the LCDC Networking Event that the event is on Saturday week, November 9th, in The Tullamore Court, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. The agenda for the day has been issued and circulated to all those who are registered to attend.

3. Conflict of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their conflict of interest's responsibilities.

4. Peace IV Update

Ms Jane Crudden, Peace Programme Manager, provided an update on the activity under Peace IV. She informed the Committee that the original letter of offer for the Peace Programme had an end date of end of December 2019. Cavan County Council has submitted a modification request to SEUPB requesting an extension of the end date to March 2020 to allow any actual underspend to be identified and allocated. The extension request was submitted at the beginning of October but no reply has been received from SEUPB to date. Jane informed the Committee that she has followed up with phone calls and emails but has not received a response. She also informed the Committee that there will be an under-spend but it is too early to identify the amount at this stage but estimated that it will possibly be around €30,000. Jane also noted that it will not be an actual underspend as the full underspend will be reallocated.

Cross border trip with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

This was a Peace funded project. 10 elected reps and Ms Ada Vance from the LCDC attended this very successful trip. The Lord Mayor invited the group to the Civic Centre where he made a presentation to the Vice Chair of Cavan County Council, Cllr Patricia Walsh. In return a gift was presented to the Mayor, by Cllr Patricia Walsh. The return leg of this event is to be hosted in Cavan in January.

Comhairle na nÓg

Jane Crudden provided an update on Comhairle na nÓg – she informed the Committee that the Comhairle na nÓg AGM took place on Tuesday 2nd October 2019 in the Virginia Show Centre. All 11 Post Primary Schools in Cavan were represented with over 170 young people in attendance. 34 new members were elected onto Comhairle na nÓg for 2019/2020 season.

5. SICAP Presentation

The Chair welcomed Lorraine McTeigue from Breffni Integrated who was in attendance to provide a presentation on the SICAP emerging needs category 'People experiencing domestic violence'.

Chief Officer provided a brief update on SICAP and some background on the topic of the presentation. John informed the Committee that the SICAP Pobal Annual Engagement Meeting took place on the 14th October 2019 where Orla McEntee, Pobal Development Co-Ordinator for Cavan met with the SICAP Monitoring Committee. The purpose of the Annual Engagement Meeting is to provide an opportunity for the LCDC to discuss any issues arising within the implementation of SICAP.

Orla provided updated social inclusion analysis data at the meeting, based on CSO, Pobal and IRIS data. SICAP staff from Breffni Integrated attend this part of the meeting. This information will assist in the preparation of the SICAP annual plan for 2020.

Following this, the group discussed the setting of KPI'S for Goal 1 and Goal 2 for 2020. Based on feedback from Breffni Integrated it was agreed to set targets the same as 2019:

Goal 1 = Local Community Groups: KPI = 42

Goal 2 = Individuals: KPI = 520

It was noted that ongoing negotiations around Brexit and the impact that Brexit could have in Cavan may affect the level of supports sought through SICAP. Given the county's location as a border county it is feared that Brexit may have serious negative impact on employment in some sectors. This may result in increased demand on supports provided under SICAP.

The Emerging needs target group was also discussed – it was agreed to continue with 'People Experiencing Domestic Violence' - It is felt that because work is ongoing in this area it is important to progress this work further, with a vision to providing ease of access to all available supports into the future.

The Chair said it is important to recognise the amount of valuable work done through SICAP with a relatively small budget. He noted that while the emerging need category is one that can change, at the Engagement Meeting it was decided to continue with the domestic violence category as there has been good work done in this area, on very sensitive issues. He commended the dedication of the SICAP staff. The Chair also noted that presentations like this help to bring the SICAP programme to life. He said Lorraine's presentation would provide information on the work done to date on the emerging needs category and would maybe open discussion on how work should progress going forward.

Lorraine McTeigue presented on the work Breffni Integrated have done with people experiencing domestic violence. The presentation included an overview of statistics on domestic violence in Ireland and the impacting issues, information on the Cavan Steering Group, Cavan Against Domestic Violence (CADV) and it's work on raising awareness and research into setting up a Women's and Children's Refuge in Cavan. Lorraine referred to the Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Unit which was

set up under TUSLA. The CADV met with this Unit in 2018. The role of this unit is to fund existing services and to determine the sustainability of existing services and identify gaps in service provision. Following various needs assessments, accommodation was identified as a major issue - Cavan/Monaghan was identified as lacking in accommodation. The National Accommodation Review is ongoing at the moment and progressing. Cavan/Monaghan are being included in the review. The Unit will be contacting the CADV regarding consultations in the coming weeks. The presentation also included information on awareness raising which has been conducted by Breffni Integrated – this included sole purpose productions, Every Move you Make and 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women. Tearmann Domestic Violence Support Service facilitated an interactive workshop – over 400 students attended performances to date. Breffni Integrated are staging two performances this November in the Ramor Theatre and are funding transport for schools. Other awareness raising activity included a coffee morning in Réaltóg Centre, Kilnaleck with lighting of a Christmas tree with lights representing women and children who died as a result of domestic violence.

Lorraine concluded the presentation by recapping, stating that one area of work is on advocating for resources and accommodation while the other area of work is on awareness raising.

Mr Seamus McGrath asked whether the focus going forward would also include older and disabled people – noting that currently the focus is on women and children. Lorraine said this work is primarily on women and children, however work was done in the past on elder abuse including financial and psychological abuse. She said the main approach used in this area is on awareness raising but this involves holding events which unfortunately is costly.

Ms Doris Galligan asked what is available for women in these situations, stating that housing women for 24 hours is not enough and in the longer term with the shortage of housing leaves women in a very vulnerable position. Lorraine agreed, saying the refuges are experiencing this – the accommodation they provide is only meant to be short term up to 6 weeks however it can be up to 5 months. Doris asked who provides funding? Lorraine said TUSLA provide funding for the 15 refuges in Ireland. If living in

Cavan the nearest refuges are in Drogheda or Navan - this can add to the strain on women as they are far away from their place of work and schools. As a result of this women may be forced to remain in the home. Doris also asked how difficult is it for women to get a barring order? Lorraine said that while she does not have exact details it is known to be difficult as the person will need to provide evidence of sustained abuse and will need photographs/GP records/records of A&E attendance(s). She also stated that convictions through the courts are very low. Doris stated that this should be made easier.

Fintan McCabe asked from Lorraine's experience in this area would she say we are failing women in Cavan/Monaghan? Lorraine said yes – she said the reality is going elsewhere with women having to go to Drogheda/Navan to seek refuge due to the lack of emergency accommodation in Cavan. She said that it will be interesting to see the recommendations from the results of the National survey.

Seamus McGrath asked whether women have an option to go refuges other than Drogheda or Navan? Lorraine responded saying, yes, women can present at any refuge. She said there are perpetrators who present at refuges therefore it is important that women are safe, so this may mean going to a refuge located in a different area. Seamus also asked what supports are available for women? Lorraine said Breffni Integrated key support workers work with women to get social welfare payments, they also work with the Local Authority re housing. She said that women know there is little available and that leaving their home is not a simple solution. Lorraine said that they always bring in qualified support workers from e.g. Tearmann who are equipped to help women in these situations. Breffni Integrated feel they have an important role in is in awareness raising and education – this should not be undervalued as it is vital in breaking the cycle of domestic violence and developing an understanding that it should not be the norm. Breffni Integrated look forward to the publication of the results of the national research and at that stage will have clarity of that they can do to support its recommendations.

The Chair thanked Lorraine for the presentation and information provided.

In conclusion to this section of the meeting, the Chief Officer informed the Committee about the timeline for the SICAP plan for 2020, stating that the KPI's and emerging

needs target group have been communicated to Pobal. Breffni Integrated is required to submit the Annual Plan via IRIS to Pobal by the 15th November 2019. The LCDC is required to review the Annual Plan and provide feedback to Pobal by 31st January 2020 – this will be on the agenda for the November LCDC meeting.

6. LECP Mid-Year Review

The LECP Mid-Year Review was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The Chief Officer presented some highlights from the broad range of actions in the Community Plan. (Points presented included: 9.1c, 9.1d, 9.2b, 9.2c, 9.3a, 9.4a, 9.4c, 9.4e, 10.1a, 10.1c, 10.2c, 10.2d, 10.2e, 10.3b, 11.1a, 11.1e, 11.1f, 11.2a, 12.1a, 12.3a, 12.4a, 12.4b)

Under 9.4a – CYPSC Plan, John Donohoe pointed out that the launch of the first ever Children and Young People’s Plan for Cavan together with appointment of a Co-Ordinator dedicated for Cavan is very positive. The CYPSC’s work is aimed at addressing gaps in service provision and areas of concern for children and young people. John suggested inviting the Cavan CYPSC Co-Ordinator to present on the work of the CYPSC at an LCDC meeting.

The Chair commended the large range of work being done.

The review was proposed by Mr Jim Maguire and seconded by Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick.

7. A.O.B

No items

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Next meeting is on Thursday 28th November 2019 at 3.30pm in the Council Chamber, The Courthouse, Farnham Street, Cavan.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairman