



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
an Chabháin
Cavan Local Community Development
Committee

Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Annual Report 2021

Cavan LCDC Annual Report 2021

Produced by:

Department of Community, Enterprise & Tourism

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Foreword

Welcome to the 2021 Annual Report of the Cavan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The LCDC has primary responsibility for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding and the preparation and review of elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The LCDC also provides oversight and coordination of a number of programmes and funds including the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Peace Programme, Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) and the Healthy Ireland initiative. Cavan LCDC delivers the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme and acts as the Local Action Group (LAG) working in partnership with Cavan County Council as Financial Partner and Cavan County Local Development Company as Implementing Partner. Oversight and co-ordination of the various programmes is supported and augmented by Cavan County Council, Pobal, and the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to have a huge effect on our society. The work of the LCDC continued during this difficult time when Covid19 impacted on the programmes under the remit of the Committee. The LCDC itself has adapted well to a new way of working with all meetings taking place remotely during 2021. I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary commitment and dedication of those involved in delivering essential services to individuals, communities and businesses in our communities. I also wish to acknowledge the commitment of all members of the LCDC and support staff during this period.

Despite the challenges faced, 2021 was a successful year for Cavan LCDC in terms of advancing the LEADER programme, administering Community Enhancement and Social Enterprise Funding and the significant adaptability shown through the SICAP programme in responding to Covid19.

While there were a number of changes in membership of the LCDC during 2021, there continues to be excellent engagement at LCDC meetings by both statutory and non-statutory members. 2021 was the last year of the current Local Economic and Community Plan, significant achievements were made during the lifetime of the plan, with lead agencies reporting on activity at six monthly intervals. A new Local Economic and Community Plan will

be prepared in collaboration with the members of the LCDC in 2022 and work has already commenced on this.

I would like to express my appreciation to LCDC members for their significant time commitment and the valuable role they play in co-ordinating activity and progressing important areas of work that are crucial to the social and economic development of our county. The diverse range of expertise on the committee helps it to act effectively in managing programmes and overseeing the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan.

Brendan Jennings
Chairperson
Cavan Local Community Development Committee

A Statement from the Chief Officer, Cavan LCDC

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) under Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2014 (S128B of the Local Government Act 2001) is required to prepare and submit a report to the Local Authority in respect of the various LCDC functions in the previous year. This report includes a review of progress generally, details of meetings held, implementation of the Local Economic & Community Plan and details of the oversight, management and collaboration in relation to public-funded programmes under the LCDC's remit including the LEADER Programme, Peace Programme, the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and Healthy Cavan.

Since the submission of the last report, Cavan LCDC and its subgroups have had a busy and productive year. The ongoing Covid19 pandemic continues to bring challenges for the people of our communities as well as impacting on how we do our work. It has led to numerous challenges in the way we deliver our programmes. Each member has embraced this challenge and the committee continue to deliver on the commitments for each of the programmes.

Cavan LCDC's focus for 2021 was primarily on the delivery of the Community Plan of the LECP as well as the delivery of LEADER and SICAP, in particular ensuring targets were met and spend was progressing. Progress reports have been presented to the LCDC on a regular basis on the delivery of actions in the LECP. The LCDC managed, implemented and collaborated in relation to a number of public funded programmes under its remit including the Community Enhancement Programme and the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme. The committee functioned in an effective and professional way throughout the year with members demonstrating an understanding of their role and a commitment to the tasks in hand.

The current Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is ongoing with Cavan County Local Development Company as the Programme Implementer. The Department of Rural and Community Development have decided to extend the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP 2018-2022) funding agreements for a period of 12 months, up to 31st December 2023.

The actions set out in the 2021 Annual Plan were completed and significant progress was made with the relevant groups. The sub-committee continue to work constructively in its review and monitoring of the SICAP programme. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of our colleagues in Cavan County Local Development Company who have continued to implement the SICAP programme in these difficult times.

2021 was the final year of our current Local, Economic and Community Plan and preparatory work has commenced on the important process of preparing a new Local, Economic and Community Plan. I look forward to working with all members of the LCDC and the wider community in Cavan in the preparation of a new Cavan Local, Economic and Community Plan.

John Donohoe
Chief Officer
Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Introduction

This annual report presents a description of the activity of Cavan Local Community Development Committee [LCDC] during the period January to December 2021. It incorporates a general overview of the LCDC and specific information including:

- An overview of progress generally including details of meetings held and attendance;
- An analysis of progress with the community elements of the LECP;
- A report on the implementation, management and oversight of public-funded programmes under the remit of the LCDC;
- A summary of activity under the programmes for which the LCDC provides oversight coordination; including the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Peace Programme and the Healthy Cavan Programme.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Purpose

The purpose of LCDCs is to bring together local authority members and officials, State agencies and people actively working with local development, community development, and economic, cultural and environmental organisations to implement a joined-up, cross-sectoral approach to local and community development programming.

Background

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 gives legislative effect to the commitments in 'Putting People First', including the establishment of LCDC's in each local authority administrative area, for the purposes of developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

National policy envisages a central role for local government in the planning and oversight of local and community development programmes while maintaining a key role for local development entities in front line delivery.

Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001 sets out the functions of LCDCs.

These functions include—

- in relation to the Local Economic and Community Plan, to:
 - prepare and implement the community elements of a 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan (the Plan),
 - review and monitor on an on-going basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan and, if appropriate, to revise the actions and strategies set to achieve the objectives of the Plan, and
 - consider a draft of the economic elements of the Plan and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in this regard,

- to coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes that—
 - may be agreed between Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and other Government Departments or State bodies,

- may be sourced through direct application by the LCDC or local authority on the LCDC's behalf (e.g. EU programmes), or
 - may be agreed by the local authority with relevant State agencies or Government Departments.
-
- to improve the coordination of public-funded local and community development programmes and reduce duplication, and to coordinate generally local and community development programmes within the LCDC's operational area, and

 - to prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions.

The LCDC, like the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC), is a committee of the local authority. Unlike the CPG and SPCs, however, the LCDC is independent from the local authority in the performance of its functions. While these functions will be determined by Government from time to time as provided for under Local Government Act, how those functions are carried out and any decisions to be made by the LCDC when carrying out those functions are solely a matter for the LCDC. This independence is provided for explicitly in sections 49A (2) and 128B (8) of the 2001 Act.

Structure and membership

The Cavan LCDC is a 17 member committee. Membership is drawn from different sectors, following guidelines issued by the Department of Housing, Community, Planning and Local Government. Membership (at 31st December 2021) as follows:

Name	Sector/Organisation Represented	
Mr Brendan Jennings	Cavan County Council	Statutory
Cllr T.P O'Reilly	Elected Representative	Statutory
Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick	Elected Representative	Statutory
Cllr Clifford Kelly	Elected Representative	Statutory
Mr John Kearney	Cavan Monaghan ETB	Statutory
Ms Marcella Rudden	Local Enterprise Office	Statutory
Ms Carmel Denning	Department of Social Protection	Statutory
Ms Mary Rose Smith	Health Service Executive	Statutory
Mr Jim Maguire	Breffni Integrated Ltd	Non Statutory
Mr Tírlach O'Brien	PPN Environmental Pillar	Non Statutory
Mr Charlie Smyth	PPN Social Inclusion Interests	Non Statutory
Ms Bridget Boyle	PPN Community & Voluntary	Non Statutory
Ms Ashling Tobin	PPN Youth Interests	Non Statutory
Ms Ada Vance	PPN Women's Interests	Non Statutory
Ms Marisa Goldstone ²	Older Persons Interests	Non Statutory
Ms Catherine McCollum	Agricultural & Farming Interests	Non Statutory
Ms Connie Whelan ¹	Cootehill Chamber	Non Statutory

1. Connie Whelan is representing Cootehill Chamber of Commerce replacing Mr Tom Brady, Cavan Chamber of Commerce for the next 2 years in the rotating seat vacated at the February LCDC meeting.
2. Ms Marisa Goldstone is representing Older People's Interests for the next 2 years in the rotating seat, replacing Mr Seamus McGrath who vacated the Disability Interests seat at the July LCDC meeting.

Roles on the Committee (at 31st December 2021):

Mr Brendan Jennings, Director of Services, Cavan County was Chair of the LCDC in 2021.

Mr Jim Maguire was Vice Chair of the LCDC during 2021.

Mr John Donohoe, SEO, Community, Enterprise & Tourism is Chief Officer to the LCDC.

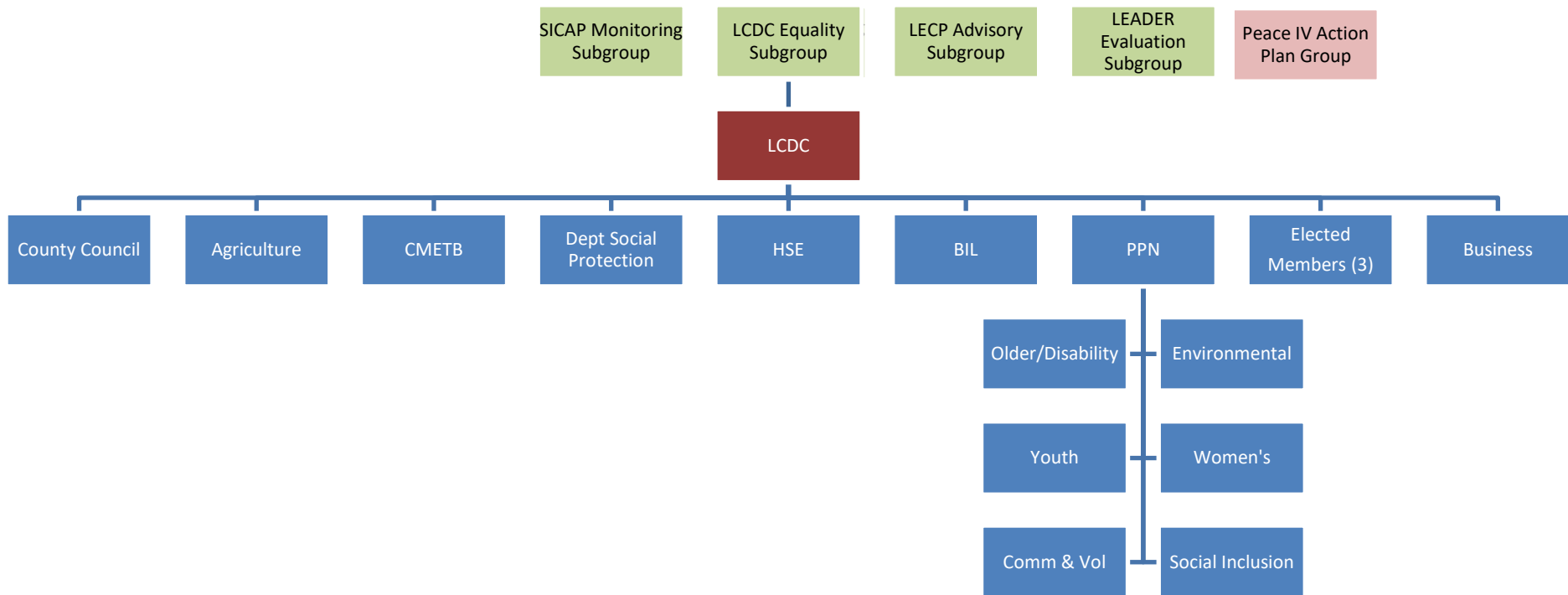


Figure 1 Structure and Composition of Cavan LCDC

Subgroups

The Cavan LCDC operates a number subgroups:

- SICAP Monitoring Subgroup
- LEADER Programme Subgroup
- LCDC Equality Group
- Peace IV Small Grants Evaluation Group
- Healthy Cavan Subcommittee

There is also a separate LEADER Independent Evaluation Committee that assesses grant applications.

Gender Balance

Guidelines for LCDCs state that every effort should be made to ensure an equitable gender balance among the local authority members on the LCDC, as well as across the broader LCDC membership. At 31st December 2021, there were 9 women and 8 men on the Cavan LCDC, giving a gender balance of 52% female and 48% male.

Male	Female
Cavan Monaghan ETB	Local Enterprise Office
Cavan County Council	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Cavan County Local Development Company	Health Service Executive
Cavan PPN/Environmental interests	Cavan PPN/Youth interests
Cavan PPN/Social Inclusion	Cavan PPN/Women's interests
Elected member	Cavan PPN/Community & Voluntary
Elected member	Agricultural & Farming Interests
Elected member	Cootehill Chamber
	Older Persons Interest

LCDC/LAG Support staff

Director of Service	Mr Brendan Jennings
Chief Officer	Mr John Donohoe
Administrative Officer	Ms Deirdre Donnelly ¹
Assistant Staff Officer	Ms Siobhan Morgan ³
Healthy Cavan Co-ordinator	Ms Sinead Tormey
LEADER Co-ordinator	Ms Deborah Leahy ²
PEACE Co-ordinator	Ms Jane Crudden
Clerical Officer	Vacant

The following staffing changes occurred in Cavan County Council in 2021

¹ Angela Fitzpatrick, Acting Administrative Officer replaced by Deirdre Donnelly, Administrative Officer in April 2021

² Theresa Tierney, LEADER Co-ordinator replaced by Deborah Leahy in June 2021.

³ Ann Flynn, Acting Assistant Staff Officer replaced by Siobhan Morgan, Assistant Staff Officer in October 2021.

Activity During 2021

The principal work of the committee in 2021 was to manage a number of funding programmes, while monitoring and implementation of the community elements of the Cavan LECP. In addition to this, the committee sought to enhance co-ordination by inviting parties to LCDC meetings to give presentations.

Number of meetings and meeting dates:

Cavan LCDC held 9 meetings in 2021. LCDC Meetings took place on the following dates:

1. 25th February 2021
2. 25th March 2021
3. 29th April 2021
4. 27th May 2021
5. 24th June 2021
6. 29th July 2021
7. 30th September 2021
8. 28th October 2021
9. 25th November 2021

Attendance at LCDC meetings

Records of attendance are monitored on a regular basis. Cavan LCDC recorded good attendance during the year.

The LCDC complies with the transparency code of the Public Lobbying Act 2015. This requires the publication of the agenda and minutes of committee meetings on the Cavan County Council website. The website also details membership and terms of reference of the committee.

Members were requested to sign Declarations of Interest/Code of Conduct forms, updated when necessary.

Presentations made to the LCDC

During 2021, presentations to the Cavan LCDC included:

March 2021	Decarbonisation Zone – Presentation by Colm O’Callaghan, Senior Engineer, Environment Section, Cavan County Council.
April 2021	Peace Plus Programme Update – Presentation by Jane Crudden, Peace Programme Manager, Cavan County Council
June 2021	Youth Work Education – Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board – Maureen McIntyre
July 2021	Local Authority PEACE Plus Action Plans, Presentation by Alison Monteith & John O’Neill Venture International.
September 2021	The Chief Officer, John Donohoe, gave an update on the preparation of the new Local Economic & Community Plan
October 2021	Ms Niamh McDaid, Development Officer from MaCYSS gave a presentation to members on the services provided by MaCYSS, which is bringing together workers and services in the Monaghan & Cavan area who engage with young people and families impacted by alcohol and other drug use
November 2021	A presentation was given by Ms. Catriona O’Reilly Arts Officer in relation to the Cavan Monaghan Arts and Health Forum. The forum is made up of members from Cavan & Monaghan County Council Arts Office, Mental Health Service, Cavan County Council’s Social Inclusion Unit, Healthy Ireland, Cavan & Monaghan CYPSC, CCLD, Local Arts in Education and Music Generation and Cavan Monaghan Education Training Board.

Local Economic and Community Plan (Community Elements)

A primary function of the LCDC under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 is the preparation and delivery of the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

The Cavan LECP Community Plan has four goals:

Goal 9: We will support the ongoing development of safe, active and empowered communities

Goal 10: We will focus on developing the health and wellbeing of our communities

Goal 11: We will promote social inclusion and address disadvantage

Goal 12 We will protect our natural resources/heritage and promote culturally rich communities

Implementation & Monitoring of the LECP

There was continued progress with actions in the community plan. Some of the notable achievements in 2021 included the following:

- SICAP targets were surpassed with 42 Local Community Groups (Target 40 LCG's) and 470 individuals (Target 420) receiving supports.
- An application for the development of a Community Hub for Cavan Town, Phase 1 has been successful with €14.5 million awarded to the project in March 2021. Cavan County Council are providing match funding of €4.8million for the project.
- Social Enterprise Development Strategy was prepared and launched in 2021.
- Bike sheds have been installed in Kingspan Breffni and at the Kilnaleck Sports Hub and the launch took place with Minister Stephen Donnelly in October 2021.
- The Healthy Ireland Cycle against Suicide Schools Programme which was open to EOI's has been rolled out to the following schools: Colaiste Dún a Rí, St Aidan's Comprehensive, St Clare's Ballyjamesduff and St. Patricks College Cavan.

- Local Community based transport “Local Link” services have now returned to 100% capacity.
- Right to Read programme, over 57 early learning bags have been delivered to Libraires. The Irish language has been interwoven into Library programming events throughout the year.
- As of 31st December 2021 all funding under the 2014-2022 LEADER Programme had commitments amounting to a total of € 8,324,022 for projects across the three themes of the programme. The Transitional Programme of an additional €20 million nationally extended the timeframe of the programme from 2020 to 2022.
- The Comhairle na nÓg Agm 2021 took place on 5th November virtually. 10 of the 11 post primary schools in Co Cavan participated.
- The 2021 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) provided small grants designed to assist in the re-opening of facilities such as community centres, men’s and women’s sheds, parish halls and youth centres. The 2021 Programme saw 40 Community Groups in Cavan share in €134,757 of small capital grant aid.
- Public Sector Innovation Award for Cavan Monaghan Creative Art Therapies work with young people through the Cavan Monaghan Arts and Health Forum with Arts and Health Co-ordinator Kim Doherty.
- Quarterly meetings of the Age Friendly Alliance took place and the Older People’s Council Executive met regularly during 2021 and hosted online information sessions throughout the year. 38 businesses in Cavan Town, Cootehill and Virginia took part in the Age Friendly Business Recognition Scheme – 60 business have now been recognised as Age Friendly in County Cavan as a whole.

- Quarterly meetings of the Drug and Alcohol Forum took place. The Drug & Alcohol Education subgroup organised a well attended Teacher Training Webinar for schools/youth organisations on Drugs & Alcohol with speakers from organisations including Merchants Quay Ireland (Cavan and Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Service), MaCYSS (Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support), An Garda Síochána District Drugs Unit, Pieta House and Barnados.
- 12 schools in Cavan received their green flag in 2021 demonstrating their commitment to environmental initiatives.

SICAP Programme

The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a key intervention for the harder to reach groups. Delivery is being overseen and managed by Cavan LCDC. SICAP aims to address poverty, long term unemployment and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.



SICAP Monitoring Sub-Committee

The SICAP Monitoring Sub-Committee continues to oversee the delivery of SICAP and to monitor implementation progress. Members of this Committee are as follows;

Mr Terry Hyland	Cavan County Local Development Company
Ms Carmel Denning	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms Ashling Tobin	PPN youth interests
Ms Deirdre Donnelly ¹	LCDC Administrative Officer & Social Inclusion Unit
Mr John Donohoe	Chief Officer, LCDC
Ms Marcella Rudden	Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Cavan
Cllr T.P O'Reilly	Elected member

¹Following changes to staffing in Cavan County Council, Angela Fitzpatrick left the group and was replaced by Deirdre Donnelly

²Following a change to LCDC membership in July 2021, Seamus McGrath left the group.

SICAP Plan and Achievements 2021

The total budget for SICAP in Cavan in 2021 was €779,319 for which a contribution comes from the European Social Fund (ESF) Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014–2020 and the Youth Employment Initiative. The Programme Implementer, Cavan County Local Development Company achieved both its two key performance indicators (KPI's) for 2021 and ensured that the programme and services were delivered within the financial parameters approved by the LCDC.

Actions were successfully implemented helping Local Community Groups with capacity building, promoting engagement, building stronger communities, and promoting participation and collaboration. They also supported individuals, in personal development and well-being, provided lifelong learning opportunities, supports for those seeking employment as well as and self-employment opportunities.

There are 2 goals under the Programme;

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.

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. Target groups to be supported under SICAP 2018 - 2022 are as follows;

- 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

*Cavan LCDC agreed on the inclusion of 'People experiencing Domestic Violence' under the Emerging needs group for 2021.

At an end of year, Cavan County Local Development Company had reached KPI targets for 2021 as detailed in the following table:

	Annual Target 2021	Actuals Target achieved	Percentage achievement
Number of local community groups assisted under SICAP (KPI 1)	40	42	105%
Total number of disadvantaged individuals (15 years old & upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis (KPI 2)	420	470	112%
Achievement of % KPI from Disadvantaged areas	18%		27.38%

SICAP Case Study 2021

The main theme of the 2021 case study was Engagement Strategies with the specific target group of New Communities.

The case study took the form of a video which describes supports provided to New Communities during the COVID pandemic focusing on two key issues:

- English language learning and
- domestic violence.

It describes delivery of online 'Failte Isteach' English language classes for new communities during the pandemic. The case study also outlines the setting up of the Violence against Women group which provided access opportunities for people from New Communities experiencing domestic abuse. It aims to raise awareness of the services available to people particularly from new communities who are experiencing domestic violence.

The video is very well produced with clear imagery and a strong focus on the voices of women experiencing domestic violence. The role of SICAP staff is evident and the positive impact of SICAP interventions is clearly outlined.

Overall, this case study has strong potential for sharing good practice across the SICAP Programme in terms of engagement strategies with New Communities.

The video can be viewed at the following link <https://youtu.be/fZelQ4cgGkc>

Delivery of SICAP during 2021

The LDC clearly documented the needs facing all beneficiary types in 2021 in their Annual Plan Report, the approach used by the LDC in addressing needs with the ongoing impact of COVID being very evident. There is a strong emphasis on collaboration throughout the report in terms of the delivery of the Annual Plan. A number of items of note are as follows:

- SICAP worked with St. Vincent de Paul and the 4 C's supporting families in food poverty and families affected by Domestic Abuse through provision of food, toiletries and advice, guidance and other supports.
- LCGs have delivered social and recreational activity programmes; computer classes for farmers; regular social groups like Men's Sheds, computer classes for disadvantaged men, gentle aerobics and healthy living classes.
- Belturbet Heritage Railway Museum group have a number of volunteer tour guides from SICAP target groups and have expanded their activities to use the railway platform area as an events space for other local groups due to its suitability in meeting COVID-19 regulations.

- Support for the Syrian Refugee LCG in their efforts to become sustainable and self-sufficient, the LDC supported them to organise a Food Tasting Event where they used produce from a local green box social enterprise called the Cottage Market to make 14 traditional Syrian dishes that could be supplied to the Cottage Market's Green Box initiative.
- Drumgoon Co-op/Gallonray House Social Enterprise have provided approx. 3,000 meals to vulnerable and over 70s in their area since the start of the pandemic in 2020.

Challenges identified in the Delivery of SICAP during 2021:

COVID continued to pose a challenge in 2021 in trying to deliver much needed supports to vulnerable people and groups without creating a health risk to SICAP staff. Supports varied over the course of the year. The continuation of COVID had a significant impact on the socio-economic wellbeing of the community. Individual supports ranged from food parcels to general information on welfare rights and entitlements and resources, to information on lifelong learning opportunities, help with getting back to work, guidance on moving to better quality employment, upskilling or availing of employment schemes, while also wanting to improve personal skills, wellbeing and capability.

COVID-19 meant that face to face activities and group based activities were limited by restrictions imposed, as a result the LDC had to be flexible and adaptive while dealing with target groups over the course of the year. They continued to offer a range of supports, activities and courses whilst following public health guidelines. One to one supports were more time consuming and intense during 2021 because of Covid 19.

Some LCG's were forced to suspend activities due to COVID, while others adapted to change in an effort to continue to meet client needs. Most Groups dealt with were existing groups worked with previously. Groups requested Health and safety guidance to ensure compliance with COVID-19 restrictions. They required support to access funding to continue their work, as well as IT support to help them transition to online activities. Groups also needed support to aid them in supporting their clients and volunteers who were socially isolated as a result of

COVID. A new aspect of work in SICAP is in the area of sustainable energy and climate justice. Fuel poverty, a lack of clean air and green spaces are issues faced by SICAP targets groups. Work has been done to establish and work with a number of community groups to become sustainable energy communities.

There were huge challenges faced when trying to deliver activities to children and families in 2021 due to COVID 19. Children still needed support which was previously provided through Children’s educational camps, these supports were now provided through educational packs, distributed with materials and instructions to families over the school holidays. Parents from new communities especially required support with homeschooling in times of isolation and lockdown and tutors were provided to help parents and children with school work.



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

PEACE Programmes

The Cavan PIV programme has been delivered and is now closed.

PEACE PLUS 2021 - 2027

- The consultants appointed by SEUPB have submitted the first draft of the feasibility study to SEUPB on the PEACE PLUS Local Authority Action Plan Model and are awaiting feedback.
- Following this, the consultants will be move to the second stage of the co-design process with all local authorities. This will involve the agreement of the Model and the development of guidance on and support for the establishment of the PEACE PLUS Partnership in each area.
- Alongside this, the consultants will also be working with SEUPB on the co-design and guidelines for the preparation of the action plans which will include guidance on consultation and engagement with community and other stakeholder buy-in.
- SEUPB is hopeful that calls for selected measures may start in the first half of 2022. (Subject to European Commission approval of the programme)
- Investment Area 1.1. (Local Authority Action Plans) will be one of the first Calls to open. This call will give local authorities 3 to 6 months to submit their Action Plans.
- Based on the above, the current indication is that the PEACE PLUS Programme will be open for application in Autumn 2022.

LEADER Programme

The Local Community Development Committee acts as the Local Action Group [LAG] for the LEADER Programme. The LAG met a total of 10 times over the course of the year with meetings held remotely due to COVID restrictions and all members embraced this technology and worked with the Implementing Partner Cavan County Local Development and Cavan County Council to ensure that the Leader Programme was kept on track.

As of 31st December 2021 all funding under the 2014-2022 Programme had commitments amounting to a total of € 8,324,022 for projects across the three themes of the programme. The Transitional Programme with an additional €20 million nationally extended the timeframe of the programme from 2020 to 2022. The key focus of the Transitional Programme is on building capacity within communities which have not received LEADER funding to date.

The Transitional Programme aims to support job creation, foster and encourage entrepreneurship, and support projects which address the climate agenda, digital transformation and encourage rural communities to build on their existing strengths and assets.

Four examples of projects which benefitted from funding across the programme are detailed below.

1. Mullahoran Area Community Centre

The community group applied for funding to refurbish their Community Centre. The overall aim was to provide a modern, safe and comfortable facility for their community. The proposed project consists of the replacement of asbestos roof, replacement of ceilings, insulation of all exterior walls, upgrade of heating/plumbing and electrical installations, upgrade of facilities to ensure ease of access for disabled users, upgrade of existing meeting rooms and upgrade of basement rooms.



Above : Mullahoran Community Centre funded under the Leader Programme 2014-2022

2. Ballyjamesduff Multi-use Games Area

The community group applied for funding to re-instate the existing disused and derelict tennis court facility into a Multi-use Games Area (MUGA). The works included the reconstruction of the boundary wall, reinstall fencing on existing boundary areas, installation of a new surface area to allow for a range of sports such as handball, basketball, tennis and a much needed community space for the town.



Above : Ballyjamesduff Multi-Use Games Area funded under the Leader Programme 2014-2022

3. Shercock Sports and Recreational Facilities Ltd.

The community group applied for funding to build a new Regional Indoor Centre to accommodate the needs of; Indoor athletics, Soccer, Basketball, Badminton, Bowls, other sports and community activities. The proposed new facility aimed to serve the needs of local GAA for training throughout the year. The centre is suitable for a wide range on non-sporting community activities and will be available to the local community. The centre can cater for exercise classes including the provision of changing or shower facilities.



Above : Shercock Community Centre funded under the Leader Programme 2014-2022

4. Butlersbridge Trout Anglers

The community group applied for funding to erect a new floating jetty / pontoon including gangway and all associated site works at the angling facility on Annagh Lake in Butlersbridge, Co. Cavan. The new jetty will allow for much safer access to boats by fishermen using the lake and will encourage and attract visiting anglers and locals to avail of the trout fishing in Annagh Lake.



Above : Disability friendly floating jetty on Annagh Lake, Butlersbridge, Co. Cavan funded under the Leader Programme 2014-2022

Healthy Ireland Fund



Healthy Cavan

2021 witnessed the roll out of further actions under phase three of the Healthy Ireland Programme. All programme activity was given an extension to 31st March 2022 to complete actions. The allocation available to Cavan LCDC for this round is €246,050.



Like previous rounds, this allocation aims to support the roll out of several initiatives and programmes by partner agencies of the LCDC. For the purposes of the Healthy Ireland Fund, these are defined as 'Actions' and those supported under this round are.

- Action 1 – Physical Activity Initiative
- Action 2 – Healthy Eating Programme
- Action 3 – Holistic Health Initiatives
- Action 4 - Digital Health Conference/School Workshops
- Action 5 – Community Engagement
- 'Community Mental Health Fund'
- Community Mental Health small grants scheme

Progress under Healthy Ireland in 2021

- Under the Physical activity element of the programme, the annual Healthy Cavan 5k took place in Killykeen Forest Park in November 2021 with 130 participants
- Youth Work Ireland are rolling out a healthy eating programme due to be completed by end of March 2022.
- Bike sheds have been installed in Kingspan Breffni and at the Kilnaleck Sports Hub and the launch took place with Minister Stephen Donnelly in October 2021.

- The Cycle against Suicide Schools Programme which was open to EOI's has been rolled out to the following schools: Colaiste Dún a Rí, St Aidan's Comprehensive, St Clare's Ballyjamesduff and St. Patricks College Cavan.
- The Sensory room in the Cavan Autism Education and Training Centre (CAETC) is complete and the staff training has taken place.
- The Keepwell Radio campaign in conjunction with Monaghan County Council continued into 2021.
- The Belturbet Youth Hub has secured €62,000 in funding from Standard Scheme of the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme this will be used to carry out works on the old fire station in Belturbet to increase the space for use within the centre.
- Digital Health Workshops took place in the following schools: St Patrick's NS Blacklion, Curravagh NS Glangevlin, St Mary's Boys NS Belturbet, Fairgreen NS Belturbet, St Mogue's College Bawnboy, St Patrick's NS Corlough.
- Under the Community Mental Health Fund, Youth Work Ireland continues to expand the hours of counselling service available to young people throughout the county.
- The Healthy Ireland Small Grants scheme roll out continues until end March 2022.
- Healthy Ireland sponsors the 2022 'Operation Transformation', filming started in Mullagh in December 2021 and the Healthy Cavan Coordinator is liaising with the production team to promote Healthy Ireland and Healthy Cavan throughout the series.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme

In 2021, Sláintecare Healthy Ireland in the Department of Health, working with the HSE and local authorities and community agencies, launched the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme to provide **increased health and wellbeing services in 19 community areas across Ireland**. Each of the respective local authorities will coordinate and support the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme with the Local Community Development Committees and their existing Healthy City and Healthy County plans as well as recruiting Healthy Community

Local Development Officers to coordinate activity from a local authority perspective. The aim is to deliver a universal health service that offers the right care, in the right place, at the right time, at low or no cost.



The Healthy Ireland Fund supported by the Department of Health, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Community Enhancement Programme

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) provides funding to community groups across Ireland to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas. The CEP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees in each Local Authority area. The LCDC administer this funding locally to ensure funding is targeted appropriately towards addressing disadvantage in the areas that need it most.

The funding covers capital projects only. The 2021 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) provided small grants designed to assist in the re-opening of facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres. The 2021 Programme saw 40 Community Groups in Cavan share in €134,757 of small capital grant aid.

Activity to Improve Co-ordination

Regular meetings are held between the Chief Officer and other organisations such as Cavan County Local Development Company and Cavan Public Participation Network. Local authority staff meet with SEUPB in relation to the Peace Programme(s) as and when required. Organisations are invited to present to the LCDC on activities to enhance input from other members and improve co-ordination.

Promotion of the LCDC

The support staff to the LCDC use social media and links with statutory and non statutory stakeholders to promote programmes, grant schemes and initiatives. The LCDC is given recognition where possible in purchasing promotional collateral for display at events, ensuring the presence of LCDC/LAG members at LEADER launches, site visits to projects, and using all opportunities afforded through the PPN and other Council networks to profile the work of the LCDC.

Conclusion

While the LCDC has many aspects of work to consider, the fundamental function it carries out is ensuring collaboration and planning of services and funding at local level. This is ensured by effective contribution to and oversight of the local economic and community planning process and constructive attendance and debate at its meetings and sub-committees. Despite ongoing challenges due to the impact of Covid19, the Cavan LCDC successfully continued with its work programme during 2021. The LCDC looks forward to future changes, challenges and successes for Cavan in the years ahead in building on its promise; 'that Cavan 2021 will be a place that we can be proud of; a place where people can have a good quality of life; a better place to live, to work and to enjoy'¹. The commitment and adaptability of LCDC members in relation to their attendance at meetings both in person and online must be acknowledged.

Priorities for 2022 are the preparation of a new Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan, continue meeting SICAP targets, input into the preparation of the new PEACE PLUS programme, continuing to deliver funding opportunities to local communities and successfully delivering the adapted Healthy Cavan and Healthy Communities programmes.

¹ Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan

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