



Kilkenny Local Community Development
Committee (LCDC)
Annual Report 2020

As Adopted by Kilkenny LCDC at its meeting held 26th March, 2021

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 was elected chairperson on the 25th September 2020 for the 3-year period to August 2023, with Colette Byrne, Chief Executive KCC to remain as Vice-Chair. New members welcomed during the year

as a result of expiry of tenures of existing members included Julieanne Power, Bill O’Keeffe, Margaret Clancy, Paul Clifford, Patricia Brennan and Guy Jones.

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 was assigned to the position of Chief Officer in January 2020 following the retirement of the previous Chief Officer, Mr. Michael Delahunty.

LCDC Meetings

The public health restrictions imposed with the onset of COVID-19 affected the LCDC programme as it did many other programmes. Meetings scheduled for March and May 2020 were postponed due to COVID-19. It was then decided to proceed with meetings remotely over Microsoft Teams. Subsequently, the LCDC met on four occasions in 2020 (3 remotely) with meetings continuing to be held remotely until public health restrictions allow gatherings again.

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 2020 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 2020.
- 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 for 2018-2019 was extended into 2020 and 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 2019 or in 2020. 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.

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 has been awarded €3,160,630 over 2018-2022.*

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.

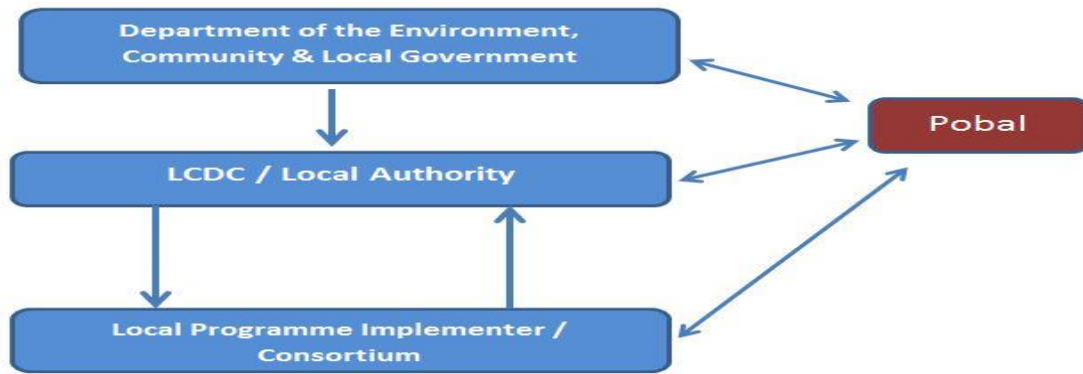
Target Groups

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 Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

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 4 times in 2020 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

SICAP has performed well over 2020 and has exceeded Targets KPI 1 Annual target of 26 is at 37 and is overachieved at 142% and KPI 2 Annual target of 468 is at 498 and is overachieved at 103%; the percentage of KPI 2 (people living in disadvantaged areas, engaged on a one to one) is underachieved at 20.51% with an end of year target of 26%

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 2020 to 377 new registrations in 2020= 45 and the groups registered within the Social Inclusion Pillar= 87

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.

Kilkenny LCDC received two allocations in 2020. Initially, €58,150 was awarded with a particular focus on supporting the reopening of community facilities under COVID 19 restrictions. 30% has to be ring fenced for small grants, but on examination of the demand it was agreed to allocate a larger amount. In total 64 grants were awarded to community groups of up to €500, totalling €30,700.

In August Kilkenny LCDC were awarded €127,249 under the CEP scheme. 30% of this was ringfenced for small grants to a maximum of €3,000. This amounted to €39,000 with the balance set aside for larger grants to a maximum of €20,000. The remaining 70% of €88,250 was combined with the balance of the June amount, €27,450, giving a total pot for larger grants of €115,276.

Following assessment by the CEP sub-group of the LCDC, 18 grants were awarded to applicants up to the value of €3,000. 8 grants up to the value of €20,000 were awarded under the larger grants.

Healthy Ireland Fund

The Department of Health has approved a third round of funding for the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) in 2019. 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*.

The grant period for Round 3 has been extended from **30th June 2021 to 31st December, 2021.**

Kilkenny LCDC has been approved a budget of €246, 050 (HI Fund €184,000 and Community Mental Health Fund €62,050) to implement 3 HI actions under Healthy Ireland, employ a HI County Coordinator and undertake Engagement work across the county, Under the Community Mental Health Fund Kilkenny LCDC agreed to pilot a social prescribing scheme and implement a target small funding scheme for mental health projects.

As mentioned in the heading under stakeholder engagement the Community Engagement aspect of the healthy Ireland Funding has enabled the LCDC to connect with those who experience health inequalities. Under the COVID19 restrictions the Community Engagement aspect of the Healthy Ireland Programme managed to reach out to Lone Parents, those with disabilities, Travellers and those living in geographically deprived areas, people experiencing domestic abuse.

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Appendix 1.

LCDC Membership at 31st December 2020.

| Name of Member | Nominating Body/Group |
|-----------------------|---|
| Fiona Deegan | Local Enterprise Office |
| Siobhán Kavanagh | 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 |
| Angela Hayes | PPN-Social Inclusion Pillar |
| Paul Clifford | PPN-Social Inclusion Pillar |
| Sheila Donnelly | Family Resource Centres |
| Niall McManus | 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 |
| Declan Gibbons | PPN-Community Pillar |
| Derval Howley | Associate Member – HSE |