

**Minutes of Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee Meeting
held on Friday 30th January 2026, held in the Council Chamber, County Hall
at 10.30a.m.**

In attendance: Aileen McGrath, Local Enterprise Office
Derval Howley, HSE
Kevin Mahon, KLP
David Murphy, DEASP
Michael A Fitzgerald, Teagasc
Mary Harding, PPN Social Inclusion
Martin Rochford, PPN - Environment

Present: Anne Marie Shortall, Chief Officer LCDC, Teresa Mahon, Kelley
Murphy and Cora Nolan Kilkenny County Council.

Online: Martha Bolger, KCETB
Paul O' Rahilly, PPN Social Inclusion
John Hurley, Chamber of Commerce
Cllr. Mick McCarthy, KCC
Cllr. Ger Frisby, KCC

1. Administrative

Apologies: Mary Mescal, PPN
Lar Power, Chief Executive
Angela Hayes, Teac Tom
Michael Walshe, PPN Community Pillar

Anne Marie Shortall, Chief Officer opened the meeting as chair in the absence of Mary Mescal, Chair and Lar Power, Vice Chair. Anne Marie welcomed Teresa Mahon, Administrative officer to the LCDC, Teresa has recently taken up her new role in the Community Department in place of Katherine Peacock.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes of LCDC meeting held on Friday 5th December, 2025.

Proposed by Aileen McGrath, Seconded by Cllr. Ger Frisby.

Matters Arising

None.

Any Conflicts of Interest

None.

Aileen McGrath informed the LCDC about the upcoming Kilkenny Business Supports Roadshow. The event provides an opportunity to engage with various agencies and learn about business funding and support programs throughout County Kilkenny. The events will be held at the following locations and dates: Paulstown on February 12th, Ferrybank on March 11th, Castlecomer on April 15th, and Graiguenamanagh on May 13th.

2. Oversight and implementation of the Local and Economic Community Plan
Derval Howley, HSE Head of Service, Health and Wellbeing, delivered a presentation.

Derval commenced with an overview of the Sláintecare Health Regions, Right care, in the right place at the right time, Drivers of change in the Irish Health Service, Health regions strategic objectives, New leadership team Dublin South East, New integrated Healthcare Managers, Community Health Networks, Integrated Care Teams, Chronic disease community specialist services and the next steps.

Update on the HSE's LECP Actions

Derval outlined the relative LECP Actions under Goal 7: Reducing Inequalities and Promoting Health and Well-being, and Goal 9: Enhancing Local Capacity and Improving the Targeting of Social Investment through Greater Engagement and Participation with Local Community Groups.

Derval provided an example regarding respiratory services and outlined the objectives of Community Connector, highlighting the outcomes achieved to date under Goal 7a.

Under Goal 7b, focusing on Traveller men's health and wellbeing in 2025, community mental health campaigns and events were organised throughout the year. Additionally, support initiatives for youth, Traveller women, and girls' wellbeing were implemented, with key learnings documented from these activities in 2025.

Creating awareness of the Inter-Agency Community Response Plan: the plan was circulated across all relevant networks. Interagency collaboration, signposting, and post-incident support services continued to be provided as notified.

Goal 9a: Travellers identified as a priority group. Connecting for Life will support initiatives within the Traveller community to promote positive well-being. The Traveller Men's Health and Traveller Wellbeing Promotion Worker actively participate in the Regional Connecting for Life Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Working Group.

Derval provided an update on health promotion initiatives within key action areas in Kilkenny, as well as details regarding the Winter Vaccination Programme.

Derval expressed an interest in presenting on the vaccination programme at the September LCDC Meeting. This was welcomed and acknowledged.

Anne Marie thanked Derval for her comprehensive presentation and requested if she could share additional information on the Living Well and Healthy Foods Made Easy programmes. The presentation to be circulated to all LCDC members.

3. Interim Review and Monitoring of LECP Implementation Plan 2025-2026.

Anne Marie informed the members that a new online platform is currently in development, with plans to commence stakeholder reviews of their respective actions next month. A further update will be provided at the March meeting.

4. Healthy Ireland Programme Activities 2026

Janette Boran provided an overview of the Healthy Ireland Activity Plan and Work Programme for 2026. The plan has limited flexibility, with the primary change being Older Adults as a specific target group.

Janette Boran, the Healthy Ireland Coordinator, is seeking approval from the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the plan and budget for 2026.

Healthy Ireland Programme 2026 was proposed by Derval Howley and seconded by Martin Rochford.

Derval thanked Janette and acknowledged all the excellent work being carried out through the Healthy Ireland Programme

Cora will forward both presentations to the LCDC Committee.

5. PPN Report

Martin Rochford presented the PPN Report.

6. Items for Information and Information Sharing

Anne Marie Shortall provided information on the Local Enhancement Programme grant which is currently open for applications, with a closing date of Friday 27th February, 2026. Kilkenny County Council has been allocated €170,519 in funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. All recommendations will be considered by the sub-group and presented at the March LCDC Meeting prior to submission to the Department for approval.

7. AOB

Anne Marie provided details of the Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme 2026 outlining guidelines are available on Kilkenny County Council's website and, closing date is Friday 6th of March, 2026.

Anne Marie updated the LCDC members that due to a delay in finalising allocations of SICAP and New Arrivals funding for 2026 by the DRCD, correspondence issued from the Department on the 15th of January, 2026 advising revised timelines for submission of both annual plan and end of year reports. The SICAP subgroup will meet on Wednesday 4th of February, 2026 in order to review. Formal approval of the 2026 Plan is due by the end of February. It may be necessary to hold a short LCDC meeting on teams to approve the annual plan before the 27th of February, 2026.

Date for formal approval of the 2026 Annual Performance Review by LCDC yet to be confirmed. Poba are due to carry out a high-level review and provide feedback to LCDC's before the 23rd of February, 2026.

8. Date for Next Meeting

Friday 27th March 2026.

Chair

Date