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## Press Release

### **Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee and Kilkenny Leader Partnership tackling poverty and social exclusion.**

Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) recently awarded a contract for the provision of Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme of measures for the period 2018-2022 to County Kilkenny Leader Partnership, 8 Patricks Court Patrick Street Kilkenny. This is the second successive SICAP contract to be awarded to Kilkenny LEADER partnership which has recently completed its delivery of the previous contract for the period 2015-2017.

The Programme aims to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration. Its vision is to improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment through community development approaches, targeted supports and interagency collaboration, where the values of equality and inclusion are promoted and human rights are respected.

The contract is worth €632,000p.a. and is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. In 2018 it is expected that Kilkenny Leader Partnership will support 26 community groups and 468 individuals, on a one to one basis, in the most disadvantaged areas and communities in Kilkenny City and County.

Speaking at the awarding on the contract Mr Fergus Keane Chair of Kilkenny LCDC stated,

“the role of Kilkenny LCDC with regards to the co-ordination of services in addressing social inclusion and inequalities was never more evident in the signing of the SICAP contract today. As Chairperson of Kilkenny LCDC, I look forward in working in partnership with Kilkenny Leader Partnership in delivering the SICAP program. This is the second time that KLP will be delivering the SICAP program for Kilkenny LCDC and I’m looking forward to developing and enhancing the existing positive working relationship with all in KLP”.

Declan Rice CEO of Kilkenny Leader Partnership (KLP) stated that,

“KLP is delighted to have been successful in winning the open tender process to be the delivery partner of the new SICAP programme. Following on from the Company’s successful delivery of the inaugural SICAP which completed at the end of last December, the five year term of the new programme will allow us to plan for the existing and evolving needs of unemployed people, community groups and socially excluded sectors in the county. We look forward now to delivering our ambitious strategy- and the Company thanks Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the selection decision. We hope to retain and build on the excellent professional relationship between both bodies.”

Colette Byrne Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Council referred to the work of the LCDC being guided by a number of key principals including its clear focus on social inclusion and the promotion of enterprise, training and education to support and build capacity of marginalised individuals and communities. She stated that the Council is continuing to expand its supports to community groups in both urban and rural

areas. “The LCDC and the Council are responsible for the management and administration of SICAP programme CLÁR, RAPID and Community Facilities grants schemes”, she said, “and all of these funding schemes and the wide range of community group supports available through Kilkenny County Council will be maximised for the benefit of all communities”



Department of Rural and  
Community Development

*An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail*



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil  
Chill Chainnigh  
Kilkenny Local Community Development  
Committee

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**Background information Note for editors:**

### **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a programme response by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and is a key tool for government to reduce poverty and strengthen communities.

It aims to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration.

Its vision is to improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment through community development approaches, targeted supports and interagency collaboration, where the values of equality and inclusion are promoted and human rights are respected.

It has been informed by the views of the community and voluntary sector, in conjunction with Government and statutory priorities.

The programme is implemented by Programme Implementers, with the support of Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), and it targets those who are the most disadvantaged and excluded in our society.

Nationally, 31 Local Community Development Committee's (LCDCs) manage the programme at the local level and are the key decision makers in terms of annual planning, monitoring and oversight.

The current Programme is the second successive SICAP programme-the previous programme covered the period 2015-2017.

The programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community and there is an element of co-funding from the European Social Fund (ESF), including a special allocation under the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI).

The Programme has three goals:

1. To support and resource disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups to engage with relevant local and national stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues;
2. To support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage so they can participate fully, engage with and progress through life-long learning opportunities through the use of community development approaches;
3. To engage with marginalised target groups/individuals and residents of disadvantaged communities who are unemployed but who do not fall within mainstream employment service provision, or who are referred to SICAP, to move them closer to the labour market and improve work readiness, and support them in accessing employment and self-employment and creating social enterprise opportunities.

The current SICAP contract for County Kilkenny covers the period 2018-2022 and is worth €632,000 p.a.

**Michael Delahunty Chief Officer Kilkenny LCDC 056-7794988.**