

LCDC Meeting 8th December 2016
Council Chamber
Civic Offices, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

Present: Cllr Tom Cronin, Cllr Liam Brazil, Senan Cooke, Liam Daly, Gabriel Foley, Niall O'Brien, Joe Stokes, Jimmy Taaffe, Michael Walsh, Michael Quinn, Willie O'Donoghue

Apologies: Prof. Willie Donnelly, Nick Donnelly, Cathaoirleach Adam Wyse, Vincent Daly, Heather Kiely

Staff: Don Tuohy (Chief Officer), Kevin Moynihan, Elaine Hickey

Cllr. Tom Cronin (Chair) opened proceedings for the LCDC meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Prof. Willie Donnelly, Nick Donnelly, Cathaoirleach Adam Wyse, Vincent Daly, Heather Kiely were presented to the Committee

2. Confirmation of minutes of LCDC meeting held on 13th October 2016 (circulated)

Proposed by: Liam Brazil
Seconded by: Gabriel Foley

Approved

3. Matters arising

None

4. Resignation of Michael Quinn from LCDC and appointment of replacement

Michael Quinn informed the meeting of the change in his role going forward and that Ritchie Walsh, Head of LEO will be replacing him on both the LAG and the LCDC, subject to the approval of the Council Plenary meeting and the LCDC.

Proposed by: Senan Cooke
Seconded by: Liam Brazil

Approved

5. Proposal to increase numbers on the LCDC

Don Tuohy referred to the resignation of Garret Wyse from the committee and informed the meeting that the PPN are in the process of nominating his replacement. The PPN had also been asked to take into consideration the LCDC's intention to have a gender balanced Committee, if at all possible.

Reference was made to increasing the numbers on the LCDC from 17 to 19 and this is not an issue according to the Guidelines. Bringing one of either the HSE or the ETB onto the committee (both having expressed an interest in joining) must be balanced by having an extra member from the PPN or social partners. However, increasing numbers to 21 is not possible under current Department Guidelines.

New guidelines are being finalised but are not yet ready and signed off. Mr. Tuohy stated that the LCDC could request the Department to alter the guidelines which would allow the LCDC to increase in membership to 21.

Don Tuohy asked for approval for representations to be made to the Department regarding the increasing of numbers on the LCDC to 21.

Proposed by: Gabriel Foley

Seconded by: Joe Stokes

Approved

Don Tuohy asked that in early 2017 the committee give consideration to membership/ participation and attendance at meetings.

Jimmy Taaffe referred to the LAG and stated that if three meetings in a row were missed then that would be good reason to have an organisation stepped down as having quorums present is a vital issue. This was agreed to by Cllr. Liam Brazil who stated that as there are only five meetings planned for 2017, missing three without valid reasons should not be acceptable. It was agreed that LCDC/LAG members cannot be replaced at meetings by others from the same organisations.

Niall O'Brien stated that attending meetings commencing at 10am can be very difficult. Cllr. Cronin raised the issue with the committee if everyone was happy with 10am starts. Willie O'Donoghue stated that he had no problem with 10am when meetings were in Dungarvan but if the City was the venue it would be difficult.

It was agreed that future meetings would commence at 11.00am to facilitate as good an attendance as possible.

Proposed by: Willie O'Donoghue

Seconded by: Niall O'Brien

Approved

6. Approval to set up LCDC sub-committee on Skills Enhancement

Don Tuohy spoke on skills shortages and the need for skills enhancement in Waterford and referred to a recent meeting held in the WWETB to consider the issue. The general consensus was that it was a good idea for the LCDC to have a sub-committee dealing with this very important matter in place.

A meeting of representatives from various organisations with responsibilities in this area will be held on 15th December 2016 with the intention of agreeing the terms of reference for an LCDC sub-group which will report back to the LCDC with recommendations.

Mr. Tuohy also suggested that in early 2017 a second sub-committee covering the areas of Health/Wellbeing/Social Inclusion would be useful. Suggested membership would include HSE, Waterford Age Friendly Alliance and the Traveller Interagency Group.

Member comments:

- (a) Michael Walsh stated that it was the function of the LCDC to bring co-ordination to the provision of services and that sub-groups of the LCDC would make the LCDC much more effective.
- (b) Jimmy Taaffe and Joe Stokes agreed that this was a good idea and that considerable work could be carried out at sub-committee level.
- (c) Senan Cooke queried whether it would be a good idea to have the areas of skills and jobs together with health and well-being under one sub-group. *Communities Creating Jobs* is currently a success in Galway and focuses on the Long Term Unemployed, the Elderly and people made redundant. He also stated that 19.5 hours of work per week can be of huge benefit to mental health, communities and people in general. He indicated his willingness to be a member of the sub-group on skills. Don Tuohy asked that Senan Cooke e mail him his thoughts in detail with regards to terms of reference for the proposed sub-committee.
- (d) Cllr Liam Brazil stated that addressing Mental Health issues has been an area of concern for him since 2011 and asked that it form a key part of the sub-group's work. This was agreed to by Don Tuohy who stated that this sub-group will feed directly into the LCDC. Cllr. Brazil also queried where the suicide prevention plan was in terms of preparation. Don Tuohy informed the committee that this had to be driven by the HSE and they were aware of this. Derval Howley (HSE) was due to attend this meeting but this has been deferred now to a meeting in early 2017.
- (e) Niall O'Brien asked if comments re terms of reference are still open. Don Tuohy stated that all comments re Terms of reference would be greatly welcomed
- (f) Senan Cooke stated that solutions need to be found and that it's time to take action and have all relevant agencies around the table. Don Tuohy responded by stating that sub-groups will not work in silos and will engage across the board.

The setting up of Skills Enhancement and Health/Well-being sub-groups of LCDC

Proposed by: Gabriel Foley

Seconded by: Liam Daly

Approved

7. SICAP 2016 Review

Jimmy Taaffe stepped out of the meeting due to a potential conflict of interest

Joe Stokes gave a full presentation on SICAP actions covering 2016. A handout covering the presentation was given to the committee.

Key statistics for 2016 (to date):

K.P.I. 1: Total number of disadvantaged individuals (15 years and upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one to one basis

2016 Target: 1349

2016 YTD: 1342

K.P.I.2: Number of Local Community Groups assisted under SICAP

2016 Target: 80

2016 YTD: 79

Member comments:

- (a) Senan Cooke stated that he would like to see the reality of the results of SICAP as opposed to just the figures i.e. how are people benefitting?
- (b) Niall O'Brien queried whether certain targets for 2017 could be met given they were missed this year with the new targets having become more onerous. Joe Stokes replied that a new strategy was being worked out to achieve all targets set and pointed out that some targets had been changed by Pobal in September of 2016 making it difficult to achieve the 2016 requirements. He also reiterated the need for qualitative and well as quantitative outputs. Don Tuohy stated that the Department were looking for successful case studies and that Joe Stokes was looking into this.
- (c) Michael Walsh also stated that more qualitative analysis was required to complement the quantitative analysis undertaken.
- (d) Gabriel Foley stated that early school leavers were a big issue and they found it difficult to get work experience due to cost prohibitive issues e.g. Safepass and driving lessons. If the benefits of having a Safepass could be demonstrated, it may be easier to get them back to education.
- (e) Niall O'Brien queried SICAP targets 6 and 8 and asked what is changing in 2017. Joe Stokes stated it is difficult to meet these targets as it depends on the young people being engaged with as not all want to start their own business.
- (f) Liam Daly stated, as per above, that not all young people want to start their own business and reiterated the need for qualitative and well as quantitative data to analyze.
- (g) Senan Cooke referred to the increased level of construction which should lead – through appropriate training – to getting more sub-contractors into business. Joe Stokes stated that in 2016, 52 of the quoted number went into construction sub-contracting.

8. SICAP 2017 – Approval of Annual Plan in principle

Joe Stokes outlined the major features of the SICAP Programme 2017. He stated that the programme was in keeping with the 2016 Programme, with key target groups continuing to be people with disabilities, Irish Travellers and the Roma community. Disadvantaged areas would

be in keeping with the 2016 Programme. He outlined the challenges in achieving the targets as set out, particularly in the case of non-caseload registration of 15 to 18 year olds and the self employment target of 157.

Mr. Stokes then left the meeting to allow discussion.

A discussion took place on both the 2016 Review and 2017 draft Plan. Mr. Tuohy pointed out that in relation to the 2016 Review, the matter would be coming back before the LCDC again for consideration, once the year was over and the Sub-Committee review and external review had been carried out. In relation to the 2017 Plan, Mr. Tuohy stated that it is within the remit of the LCDC to reclassify areas as disadvantaged to allow WAP to work in them and consideration could be given to this.

Approval in principle to the SICAP Annual Plan 2017 was sought.

Proposed by: Cllr. Liam Brazil

Seconded by: Niall O'Brien

Approved

Mr. Taaffe rejoined the meeting.

9. Response to Waterford Area Partnership regarding the recording of work with young people and the timing of change in the Guidelines

Mr. Tuohy reminded members of the correspondence which had been received from WAP regarding non caseload work in schools and the impact this was having on WAP achieving targets. The matter had been referred to Pobal who had responded to say Pobal/the Department had concerns at a national level in relation to the quality of engagement offered to young people nationally and this gave rise to a change in how work with young people identified as being at risk of early school leaving was to be recorded.

Mr. Tuohy went on to state that Pobal's recent review of the 2016 Waterford SICAP would indicate that they were satisfied that many of the young people that were registered did not belong to a SICAP target group. This may well be an issue when it comes to the final review of Performance Indicators for 2016. WAP have indicated that they are satisfied that they are not in breach of SICAP Guidelines.

Mr. Stokes rejoined the meeting.

10. LECF

Don Tuohy commented that in early 2017, organisations that are meeting the public e.g. WAP/WLP and the Economic Development Dept. of WCCC will meet to discuss coordination.

11. A.O.B

It was agreed that members will be written to informing them of the item discussed regarding the missing of three or more meetings in a year and the consequence for that member's organisation being requested to step down from the LCDC

12. Proposed dates of meetings in 2017/venue and times of next meeting

As per correspondence with members and previous discussion at LAG meeting.

Meeting closed.

Signed
Cllr. Tom Cronin
Chair of Waterford LCDC
12th January 2017