

Minutes of the Waterford LCDC Meeting held on 13th Sept 2017, City Hall, Waterford

Present:

Non Public Sector:

Public Sector

Jenny Beresford	CEO Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber of Commerce	Chair Councillor Pat Nugent	Elected representative
Senan Cooke	PPN / Community & Voluntary	Councillor Eamon Quinlan	Elected representative
Gabriel Foley	PPN / Environment	Councillor Tom Cronin	Elected representative
Margaret Flanagan	PPN / Community & Voluntary	Liam Daly	Regional Manager DSP
Joe Stokes	CEO – Waterford Area Partnership	Vincent Daly	Interim Manager Tusla
Jimmy Taaffe	CEO – WLP CLG	Kevin Lewis	CEO WWETB
		Derval Howley	Head of Wellbeing HSE
Apologies:		Apologies:	
Niall O'Brien	PPN / Community & Voluntary	Michael Walsh	CEO WCCC
Gerald Hurley	CEO Waterford City Chamber	Richie Walsh	Head of LEO
Heather Kiely	PPN –/Social Inclusion		

Staff Present: Don Tuohy Chief Officer to the LCDC, Kevin Moynihan S.O., Elaine Hickey, S.O.

The Chief Officer stated that a quorum was in attendance and the meeting could commence.

1. Apologies as detailed above were noted by the Committee

2. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC Meeting held on 20th July 2017

Proposed: G. Foley **Seconded:** J. Stokes

Approved

3. Matters arising:

- a. The Chief Officer stated that Tom Ahearne had been nominated by the ICMSA to replace Willie O'Donoghue and the appointment was going before the Plenary Council meeting to be held on 14th September
- b. Due to pressure on time, the Chief Officer stated that Joe Stokes' presentation on SICAP interventions for individuals would now come before the October LCDC meeting

4. Healthy Ireland Fund Strand 1

LCDC Chief Officer, Don Tuohy, informed the Committee of the intention of the Health & Wellbeing LCDC Subcommittee to seek LCDC approval to apply to the Healthy Ireland Fund for a grant in the total sum of €107k, in accordance with the Healthy Ireland Fund guidance document.

Mr. Tuohy proceeded to outline that the application covered the period up to March 31st 2018 at which point all funds must be spent, that a three week application timeline was currently underway with the closing date for applications set for September 15th 2017 and that the final funding decision will be made by Pobal/Dept of Health during November 2017.

He then invited Ms. Derval Howley, HSE Head of Services for Health and Wellbeing, to outline in more detail, the specifics aspects of the application.

Ms. Howley informed the Committee that the funds were allocated by the Department of Health through Pobal, available for all LCDCs to apply for and that the funds relating to this application must be focused on the Health and Wellbeing of Waterford City and County. She further outlined that the funding must be focused on actions relating to a number of key national strategies including the Obesity Strategy, Healthy Eating and Active Living, and the Tobacco Strategy.

Ms. Howley also explained that the Healthy Ireland Fund application must also fit under current LECP goals and a key part of the application is identifying where the Healthy Waterford programme can fit under the Healthy Ireland programme.

A summary of the application was circulated to the members and Ms. Howley briefly outlined each of the key areas and the actions identified under each. The following table illustrates:

No	Name:	Lead:	€
1	Tobacco Free Ireland	Tipperary LCDC	10,000
2	Sports Inclusion Disability Officer	Waterford Sports Partnership	11,987
3	Social Prescribing Coordinator	HP&I Waterford	19,901
4	Healthy Waterford Coordinator	Waterford LCDC	20,701
5	Trishaw on the Greenway – Pilot Programme	Waterford Sports Partnership	7,728
6	Bikes for Older Adults	Waterford Sports Partnership	5,000
7	Healthy Ireland Community Cooking and Nutrition	HP&I Waterford	2,000
8	Waterford Social Farming Accelerator Project	Waterford Leader Partnership	10,000
9	Development of the Strategic Plan	Waterford LCDC	20,000
Total € Application			107,317

Mr. Tuohy sought approval from the LCDC to proceed with the application to Pobal for the amount outlined.

Proposed: Cllr. Thomas Cronin

Seconded: Maggie Flanagan

5. Presentation from Tracey Nugent, Suicide Prevention Resource Officer, HSE

Presentation was given to the Committee containing detail from the recently launched *Connecting for Life Waterford*, Waterford City and County Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2017-2020.

The Committee congratulated Ms. Nugent and her team for the diligent work they had carried out to produce such a comprehensive strategy dealing with a very sensitive subject.

Member comments/queries:

- K. Lewis noted that there was a significant variation between the City and County statistics and questioned why this was the case. Ms. Nugent stated that it was difficult to determine with certainty at this stage however it could relate to the availability of services for young people, access to services and rural isolation
- J. Taafe noted that there are significant cost implications to putting services into rural locations due to low population density and that the perception in west Waterford is that there is a particular problem with suicide amongst young males. Ms. Nugent cited the current and growing work of WSTYS in the county area as proof that services are improving

9. Discussion of Skills sub-committee report

Members of the skills sub-committee not already on the LCDC joined the meeting for this discussion (J. Cassidy, E. Connolly, M. O'Brien, J O'Donnell, N Quinlan, C Quinlan)

D. Tuohy introduced the members of the skill sub-committee E. Connolly introduced the body of work undertaken and highlighted the key sectors identified namely, Pharma /Medtech, Construction, I.T., Agri-business, Engineering and Manufacturing, Healthcare and Tourism. The following are the key points identified during the committee's work:

- Each sector is growing and that between December 2014 and December 2016 an extra 10k jobs were created in the South-east.
- There are barriers preventing individuals coming from disadvantaged areas participating in the labour force

- Huge scope for relevant agencies to work together to overcome these barriers
- Response to the skill shortages identified must be sector focused and steps must be taken to make these roles more attractive to candidates
- Shortage of skilled engineers / project managers/Management Professionals/IT Programmers
- Promotion of apprenticeships essential

Member comments/queries:

- G. Foley commented that employers need supports when taking on new hires
- P. Nugent commented that the apprenticeship model was very interesting and queried whether people in the WWETB system could be targeted as school does not suit all

J. Cassidy then gave an update on the trades situation within Waterford

- Numbers in the traditional 27 trades growing steadily
- Surge in uptake hasn't materialized as this is due to housing construction market weakness
- New apprenticeship models are being developed
- No agency can generate apprenticeships as it depends on employers engaging with the system
- The Irish apprenticeship model is among the strongest in the world and Irish apprentices are highly sought after
- There needs to be a cultural change in Ireland with a move away from favouring third level education and movement towards a more European model

Michael O'Brien commented that WWETB have tried to be proactive in this area by opening up the training centre to potential students and highlighting the possible opportunities that exist through the apprenticeship model

Neil Quinlan highlighted the success of evening courses in WIT and noted that 40% of these courses are employer funded. Additionally, WIT works extensively with the DSP in the Springboard programme.

D. Tuohy thanked the committee for their work and asked the LCDC to consider next steps given the pinch points identified in the report.

Member comments/queries:

- J. Taaffe queried if a South-East skills fairs would be a possibility akin to a similar event held in Kerry previously
- G. Foley asked if the viability of a pre-apprenticeship course could be investigated
- J. Taaffe highlighted the possible success a Facebook campaign might bring
- L. Daly stated that the issues exist on the supply side of skills availability and pointed to the need to make people want to relocate to the South-East whilst highlighting the connectivity of Waterford to the Dublin market

- D. Tuohy stated that bringing people back to the region has to be a priority and that an appropriate branding message needs to be developed
 - K. Lewis stated that the recommendations need to be reviewed but that the LCDC needs to lead the process. He requested an offline meeting to generate next steps and stated that it would not be a good idea to conclude the work of the subcommittee at this point, given the valuable work carried out
- D. Tuohy proposed that the sub-committee meet again, that this meeting be facilitated by WWETB and, that actions be generated and agency names be attached to same. The matter would then come back before the LCDC in October. This was agreed.

6. National Policy for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-2019

D. Tuohy, Chief Officer drew the attention of the Committee members to the information previously circulated regarding the National Policy for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2015-2019

(J. Stokes & J. Taaffe stepped out of the meeting)

7. SICAP Audit 2016 update

D. Tuohy updated the Committee on developments and stated that an email had been received from the Department of Rural and Community Affairs on 12th September which set out the Department's views on the matter. Mr Tuohy stated that with the LCDC's approval, he would be writing to the PI setting out the Department's response and seeking WAP's response at an early date.

Proposed: G. Foley

Seconded: J. Beresford

8. SICAP programme 2018-2022 update

D. Tuohy informed the members that the process was currently ongoing and that there was no further update following the previous meeting on July 20th 2017. Closing date for tenders was 29th September. He requested that the LCDC nominate one or two people to the LCDC SICAP Subcommittee which would be considering the tenders over coming months. Derval Howley stated that a HSE colleague with a skillset in the relevant area may be in a position to participate. She will check out and revert.

(J. Stokes & J. Taaffe returned to the meeting)

10. Correspondence

None

11. AOB

None

- 12.** Due to a conflict with another event which a number of LCDC members were committee to, it was agreed to change the date of the next meeting. Next meeting to be held in the Civic Offices, Dungarvan on **Monday October 9th at 11am** immediately after the LAG meeting

****The list of proposed meeting dates for the remainder of 2017 and 2018 was approved, subject to review after a number of months****

Meeting Closed

Signed:

Cllr. Pat Nugent, Chair

Date