



SICAP Case Study 2022

Traveller Community Outreach Project

with Mincéirí Port Láirge

Theme: Engagement Strategies with SICAP Target Groups/Communities.

Background

Key aim of the outreach project:

- Strengthen engagement with the Traveller Community in SICAP programmes
- Actively respond to Mincéirí Port Láirge 'ask' of partners to address discrimination with meaningful pathways to employment and education
- Build on the collaborative approach with Waterford Traveller Interagency Group in progression of Strategic Plan and actions
- Explore community engagement pilot project in Carrickpherish area
- Inform SICAP actions and annual plans based on learning

Framework

Monthly meetings led to:

- Strengthening and sharing of knowledge for SICAP on the Traveller Community and for Mincéirí Port Láirge on SICAP requirements and actions
- Recognition of impact Covid-19 had on the community with strong concerns of mental health and low expectations within young men and women in progressing in education and employment
- Barriers including low education attainment, literacy and numeracy, IT skills and access to equipment, access to information and family traditions
- Recognition of limitations on resources for both organisations (staff and funding)
- Reviewing and adapting our approach
- Implementation of Service Level Agreement framework

Outreach Project

SICAP funding of €8,000 supported additional staff hours to Mincéirí Port Láirge with key outcomes included:

- Structured approach to achieving actions identified by Mincéirí Port Láirge and SICAP
- Traveller Community specific training and education courses delivered
- SICAP annual plans informed by outcomes in strengthening links with Traveller Community and meeting identified needs
- SICAP strengthens its links with Mincéirí Port Láirge and role on Traveller Interagency Group
- Final report to include overview of programmes delivered, additional needs identified, barriers to participation, testimonials and recommendations to inform SICAP planning and resources

Achievements:

- Overall, 24 members of the Traveller community registered for courses with WAP including the taster Beauty Therapy course
- Approx. 15 young Traveller adults have undertaken training across 5 courses (Safe Pass, Manual Handling, Driving Ambitions and Barista) with a number of men attending two courses
- There has been an overwhelming response and interest to the proposed training programmes. Traveller men, who are usually hard to attract to structured courses, have shown a keen interest. The short one-day certified courses on topics needed for employment on building sites are proving to be the way to go and a learning for future planning. How these are delivered need some more thought.
- Interest in the taster Beauty Therapy course was high with all places booked out (did not proceed due to funding restrictions)
- A small number of Travellers were helped with financial support towards additional costs of full-time WWETB courses e.g. Hairdressing and Sport & Fitness Level 5. Additional equipment costs for these courses are high and cost prohibitive.
- All who undertook courses enjoyed their experience and expressed great satisfaction with tutors and outcomes.

Challenges & Barriers

- ▶ Employment progression - lack of employers willing to provide work experience; perceived prejudice and racism
- ▶ Generational unemployment
- ▶ Access to information to support progression
- ▶ Financial supports for additional equipment costs
- ▶ Access to apprenticeships is difficult due to level of Maths required
- ▶ Childcare places are limited
- ▶ Community engagement pilot not progressed due to ongoing issues within the area

For SICAP the challenges included the

- 'Ask' for Safe Pass training over 2 days was not possible due to Solas training programme requirements
- Funding limitations within the programme in achieving KPIs
- Sustainability of approach

Case Study Guidelines

- ▶ Theme of Engagement Strategies with a SICAP Target Group was strengthened through positive collaboration and a cross goal approach
- ▶ Personal stories and insights from Mincéirí Port Láirge was key to the case study and highlighted the ongoing need for individuals and the organisation (data collection)
- ▶ Achieved outcomes and aligned with the horizontal themes of Collaboration, Equality and Community Development
- ▶ Development of project outlined from initial conversations to implementation of framework with challenges, learning, reflections and recommendations

Through annual reviews and monitoring the Traveller Community is one of the key target groups with limited or in some cases no engagement with SICAP programmes. This case study addresses the ongoing debates and discussions as to how barriers can be responded to. This requires wrap around services from all stakeholders to achieve results meaningful outcomes for those who experience racism and discrimination in their day-to-day lives

Outcomes & Next Steps

- Waterford Area Partnership acknowledges the active engagement of Mincéirí Port Láirge especially Úna Ryan and Karen Reilly in all stages of this project including the case study report
- Recognised as a ‘fresh start in the working relationship between the two organisations’ by Mincéirí Port Láirge
- Relationships are stronger with regular communication on various topics including governance, expansion of community development project to West Waterford, funding for individuals etc.
- WAP committed to exploring sustainable approaches and through Waterford Traveller Interagency Group to contribute and advocate for stronger collaboration and resources to achieve strategy outcomes

It is hoped that the case study will inform and create new conversations amongst partners especially at a local level. Waterford LCDC members play a key role through collaborative approaches in affecting change and the outcomes of the strategic plan