



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



Donegal Local Development Company

Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme



Connect Mental Health - Volunteers with guest speaker Oisín McConville at the Connect Mental Health Community Conference in Ballyshannon organised by Ciaran McLoone as part of Mental Health Awareness Week, October 2015.

www.connectmentalhealth.ie



Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020

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Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall
Environment, Community and Local Government



Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015-2017 is funded by the Irish Government and co-funded by the European Social Fund and includes a special allocation under the Youth Employment Initiative.

Welcome

Donegal Local Development Company Ltd (DLDC) is a Local Development Company that delivers a number of different Irish Government and EU funded support programmes that are designed to help individuals and community groups in Co. Donegal. The focus of this brochure is on one of these programmes which is referred to as the "SICAP programme". We deliver this programme in partnership with the Donegal Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Donegal County Council.

About the SICAP Programme

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) has been developed within Ireland's dynamic social and economic landscape as a successor programme to the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) and prior to this the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LDSIP). The design of the programme has been informed by the views of the community and voluntary sector, in conjunction with Government and statutory priorities.

The Aim of SICAP

The aim of SICAP is 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. The programme achieves this through community development approaches, targeted supports and interagency collaboration, where the values of equality and inclusion are promoted and human rights are respected.

SICAP Programme Goals

- 1. Empowering Disadvantaged Communities (Goal 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. Lifelong Learning (Goal 2)** - To support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage so they can participate fully, engage with an progress through life-long learning opportunities through the use of community development approaches;
- 3. Employment (Goal 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.

SICAP Target Groups

SICAP supports a broad range of target groups who are disadvantaged and marginalised in our society and unable or unlikely to access mainstream supports. SICAP adopts a holistic approach to promoting social inclusion and reducing poverty by targeting both communities of need (area-based) and individuals of need (issue-based). A number of target groups who are at higher risk of social exclusion have been prioritised, as well as individuals who are living in disadvantaged areas:

<i>Children and Families in Disadvantaged Areas</i>	<i>Lone Parents</i>
<i>Young unemployed people living in disadvantaged areas</i>	<i>NEETs – Young people aged 15-24 years who are not in employment, education or training.</i>
<i>People living in Disadvantaged Communities</i>	<i>People with Disabilities</i>
<i>Travellers</i>	<i>Roma</i>
<i>New Communities (including refugees/asylum seekers)</i>	<i>The Unemployed (including those not on the Live Register)</i>

Activities Supported

Donegal, as one of the largest Counties in Ireland, has a diverse and valuable mix of community and voluntary sector groups and organisations. During 2015 we have had the opportunity to partner with many of these groups to identify and address social exclusion and equality issues. Examples of the activities that we have undertaken in partnership with groups include:

1. **Social Inclusion and Participation:** activities that increase the social participation of people that experience exclusion, live alone or in isolation through social, cultural and civic activities.
2. **Community Engagement:** events and activities that enable community groups to engage with people living within their local community and get people involved in issues relating to social inclusion and equality.
3. **Supporting Children and Families:** workshops and events that support children and families within disadvantaged areas or provide specific supports for parents.
4. **Supporting Traveller and Roma Communities:** supports are provided through a strategic partnership with Donegal Travellers Project Ltd.
5. **Supporting People with Disabilities:** activities that promote equality of opportunity in society for people with disabilities.
6. **Supporting the Development and Progression of Groups:** this includes specific purpose groups that are set-up to respond to particular social exclusion issues i.e. bereavement support groups.
7. **Thematic Community Workshops:** workshops that improve access to information and services or address specific identified gaps in service.
8. **Community Networking:** activities and events that bring together people with common goals in tackling social exclusion and inequality.
9. **Sharing Best-practice and Learning:** the sharing of knowledge, ideas, information and solutions between groups and community leaders.
10. **Community Fora and Networks:** working with area-based community fora and networks to increase access to and uptake of SICAP supports and address issues impacting disadvantaged community areas.
11. **Themed Community Events:** activities that link into specific local, national and international social inclusion themes i.e. Social Inclusion Week, Mental Health Awareness Week.
12. **Equality Projects:** working with groups to highlight and raise awareness of specific inequality issues in society i.e. homelessness.
13. **Community Development Training:** workshops and training on issues that effect the functioning and development of community groups.
14. **Improving Access to Services:** supporting the extension of services into areas in which there are service gaps. Providing structured workshops or events that facilitate access to information and support in areas where services don't exist.

This list of examples provides a general insight into some of ideas, actions and development themes that we have supported in 2015 in partnership with local community groups. If you would like to discuss how we can link with and support your community group or organisation then please get in touch.





Services and Supports that we provide

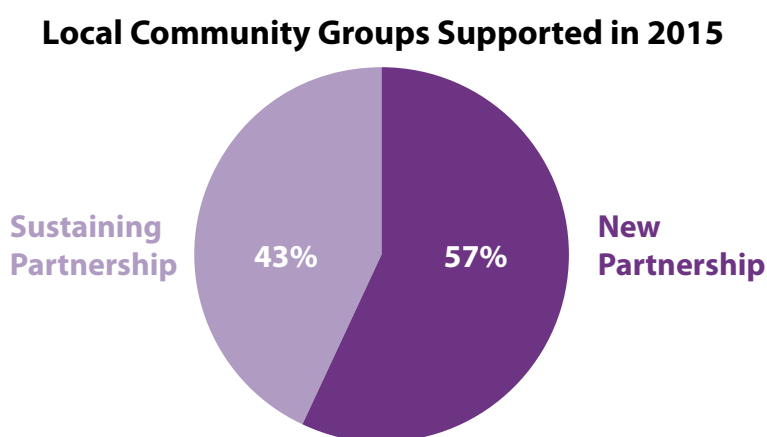
We provide a range of different services and supports for local community groups and organisations. These service are available for any group that is working towards the shared aim of reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion and equality in Donegal. Examples of supports include:

- Group development advice and guidance – committees, projects, plans, goals.
- Mentoring support – guiding volunteers on their roles and responsibilities.
- Sharing best-practice and learning – what ideas work in different areas and how.
- Support with submitting grant applications to funding agencies.
- Research assistance and information supports – on issues impacting your group or local area.
- Support in the management, delivery and coordination of workshops, activities and events.
- Supporting your group through different stages of development.

We can work with you based on the specific needs of your own group and community. If you would like to access these supports, please contact us in DLDC and we will be happy to meet with you to discuss how we can be of help.

Groups Supported in 2015

We are always seeking to make new partnerships with local communities and to reach out to different groups to provide support. This is reflected in the fact that 57% of all groups that we assisted in 2015 were new partnerships.



We also recognise the significant work and achievements of those groups with whom we have had an opportunity to work in partnership with for a number of years. We value the sustained partnership work undertaken with these groups and the added-value of these relationships in working together to address social exclusion and inequality issues.

Our 2015 Partners in the Delivery of SICAP

We would like to thank and acknowledge the partners that we have had an opportunity to work with during 2015 in the delivery of the SICAP programme. We are always on the look-out for new ideas, activities, groups, projects and partners across the County to work together in identifying and responding to community needs and social challenges in Donegal. If you would like to become a partner to DLDC in addressing the issues and challenges that exist within your own community area please feel free to get in touch.

Local Community Group / Organisation	Local Community Group / Organisation
1. Letterkenny Community Development Project	31. Donegal Travellers Project Ltd
2. Donegal Anti-human Trafficking Group (Donegal Womens Network)	32. The Breesy Centre Cashelard
3. We Care Food Bank	33. Donegal Network of Mens Sheds
4. Carers Association of Ireland (Donegal)	34. The Friday Club Lifford
5. Donegal Intercultural Platform	35. The Early Birds Womens Group
6. Ramelton Day Care Centre	36. The Forge FRC Rural Craft Womens Group
7. Letterkenny Mens Shed	37. Pettigo & Tullyhommon Rural Mens Group
8. The Cathedral Quarter – Save the Church Lane	38. The Irish Countrywomens Association (ICA)
9. Cara House Family Resource Centre	39. The Forge FRC New Carers Support Group
10. The Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA)	40. Letterkenny Community Health Forum
11. Donegal Womens Centre	41. Dunfanaghy Mens Shed
12. Solace Cancer Support Group	42. Letterkenny Mental Health Association
13. Lifford 50+ Group	43. South Donegal Community Forum
14. North West Simon Community	44. East Donegal Community Forum
15. Fanad Care of the Aged Committee	45. Ramelton Community Centre
16. Ros Goill Fanad Community Health Forum	46. Ballyshannon Active Age
17. Donegal Centre for Independent Living	47. Cairde LeCheile
18. DYS Breakout LGBT Group	48. Letterkenny Autism Support Group
19. Connect Mental Health	49. Moving Mevagh Forward
20. Donegal Family Resource Centre	50. Donegal Town Womens Group
21. Dunfanaghy Area Community Network	51. Ballybofey & Stranorlar Womens Group
22. Glenties Community Centre	52. The Family & Friends of Abbey Court
23. The G.R.A.S.P Life Foundation	53. Alzheimer's Society of Ireland (Support Group in Fanad / Mulroy Area)
24. Inver Community Centre	54. Letterkenny Youth & Family Service
25. Killygordon Amenity Team Enterprises	55. Rosnakill Community Resource Centre
26. North Donegal Community Network	56. Downstrands Family Resource Centre
27. South West Donegal Mens Shed	57. Little Rascals Community Playgroup
28. Ardara Mens Shed	58. Narin/Portnoo Active Seniors Group
29. Epilepsy Ireland (Donegal Branch)	59. Rathford Bereavement Support Group
30. Ozanam Centre Rathmullan - Home Visitation Service	60. Donegal Network of Family Resource Centres

[Please note table references groups supported under Goal 1. For a list of Gaeltacht groups please contact our Gaeltacht office]

We would like to acknowledge the support and dedication of the members of the Working Groups that support us in the delivery of the SICAP programme. These community and voluntary sector representatives give of their time voluntarily and provide us with ongoing advice, guidance and support in the delivery of our work.

We would also like to thank the members of the Community fora and Networks in Donegal that assist us on a day-to-day basis to engage with groups across the County: East Donegal Community Forum, South Donegal Community Forum and North Donegal Community Network.

Empowering Communities

Thank you for your interest in the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme. This is our first newsletter and we have compiled it to provide you with some basic information about the SICAP programme. In the newsletter we also want to acknowledge, recognise and showcase the many different activities and projects that community groups, organisations and their volunteers are involved in across the county. We are fortunate to have had an opportunity to link with and support these groups during 2015 and look forward to continuing our work with groups into the future.

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