



DONEGAL LOCAL  
DEVELOPMENT CLG.

FORBAIRT ÁITIÚIL  
DHÚN NA nGALL

Supporting  
Our Communities

2022  
ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT

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"Through this strategic plan, DLDC has ambitious goals to build more inclusive and sustainable communities across Co. Donegal and unlock the potential of individuals, families, and communities most at risk of poverty and social exclusion."

– Minister Joe O'Brien, speaking at the launch of DLDC's Strategic Plan 2023- 2025







**Patsy McGonagle**  
Chairman

# Welcome from Our Chairman

After two intense years of working through the pandemic, 2022 was a year of reconnection. As the restrictions came to an end, community groups took the opportunity to reengage in-person and to reenergise the strong partnerships that exists across our county.

The outbreak of war in Ukraine brought unimaginable loss and saw almost 4,000 refugees seeking safety in our county. The war, like the pandemic before it, shaped the work of the community and voluntary sector in a way that we could not have imagined. It provided another huge challenge but one that was met with resolve, creativity, and immeasurable empathy from the team in DLDC and the community and voluntary groups, social enterprises, and volunteers it supports.

In addition to responding to the war, the community and voluntary sector remained focused on supporting communities in Donegal, despite the challenge of the cost of living crisis. They faced the headwinds of financial constraints, making it difficult to sustain their services with the same level of support as before. Nonetheless, their resilience and commitment shone through as they persevered in their efforts to assist those in need.

As our county continues to evolve, it is crucial that we embrace inclusivity as, by doing so, we strengthen our collective identity and create a more vibrant community. It is important to recognise that not long ago, we ourselves sought refuge on distant shores. As a county we understand the significance of providing support and opportunities to those in need. We have the power to make a difference and uplift others, just as others have done for us.

Within the various contexts in which DLDC operates, whether it be supporting people into work or building the capacity of community groups, its primary focus is supporting social inclusion. The unwavering ambition to create sustainable supports that uplift communities, empower individuals, and foster an environment where everyone feels valued has underpinned the organisation's achievements of the past year and guides us as we look to the future.

The key to DLDC's success is its collaborative and dedicated team. I am grateful for the combined efforts of CEO Padraic Fingleton, the senior managers, and the team for ensuring all that we do is driven by a commitment to delivering the highest standards for the communities. I would also like to thank my fellow Directors for the important role they play in overseeing the governance of the organisation and delivery of its strategic objectives. I look forward to seeing DLDC continue to achieve significant impact for communities and individuals in Donegal.

*Patsy McGonagle,*  
*Chairman*

# CEO Report



**Padraic Fingleton**  
Chief Executive

In 2022, Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC) experienced another eventful year as we launched our Strategic Plan 2023- 25, moved locations for our Donegal Town and Letterkenny offices, and reconnected with communities across Donegal as we moved on from the pandemic.

The two previous years were challenging and the departure of Covid does not signify the end of its impact. The pandemic exposed deep inequalities in our society and left many communities even more marginalised than before. As we navigate the aftermath, the disparities in recovery are undeniable. Recognising the ongoing need for support, a combined effort is needed to uplift those who have not experienced equal recovery. From highly targeted supports, social inclusion, and employment programmes, the importance of extending a helping hand to the most affected has become a shared commitment across our team. As we collectively move on, we must continue to support community and voluntary groups to ensure the resilience of our communities.

We were deeply saddened by the tragic event in the tight- knit community of Creeslough on October 7th and shared in the shock felt by people across the country. We would like to once again extend our deepest sympathy for all those affected, those who have lost loved ones, and those who were injured. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the local community members and emergency services who worked tirelessly through an incredibly difficult time. At DLDC, we are committed to supporting the community of Creeslough in the aftermath of the tragedy, ensuring the community is not forgotten and support it to continue to deliver a level of sustained support in the coming years to all those affected by the tragedy.

In November, we had the pleasure of welcoming Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Joe O'Brien TD, to Donegal. Minister O'Brien stated his ongoing support of our work as he launched our new Strategic Plan 2023-2025. DLDC's new strategic plan represents the very best of our organisation. It set out exciting goals for the delivery of many important support services including social inclusion, community and rural development, education and training, employment supports, and addressing climate change. The development of the plan, the ideas it contains, and its ongoing implementation are a testament to the collaborative culture and ambitious vision we have for the organisation.

Our move to open plan settings in both our Donegal Town and Letterkenny offices was a strategic move and reflects DLDC's commitment to collaborating across programmes, strengthening community partnerships and offering wraparound supports to the individuals and communities its supports.

At DLDC we are proud of our responsiveness as an organisation and we demonstrated our ability to do just that when Ukrainian refugees arrived in our county seeking safety. Our SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) and Schemes team quickly adapted to support those in need, helping refugees navigate unfamiliar systems, language barriers, while meeting their basic needs in terms of clothing, etc. With the allocation of additional funding to assist the community response to support people arriving from Ukraine and those seeking international protection, we have been able to strengthen our capacity, build a New Communities team to further support people arriving from Ukraine and other countries.

As new communities arrive in Donegal, it's vital to acknowledge their diverse backgrounds and the journeys they have undertaken to be here. There is a need to acknowledge and address the specific needs of these communities, providing support systems that empower them to overcome obstacles and thrive. However, it is essential to recognise that their inclusion into Irish society is not always seamless. The rise of far-right ideologies and sentiments threaten the inclusivity and harmony that we strive to foster within our county. It is crucial to create space for understanding - fostering a sense of belonging for all residents.

2022 saw a significant expansion in the team at DLDC, closing out the year with 87 employees. This growth was driven by our New Communities team and the growth in our Employment Support team, primarily through the Local Area Employment Services (LAES) programme. As the labour market thrives, our focus is to assist and support those most distanced from the workforce, delivering the right support at the appropriate time in their journey back to work.

Moving forward, the LEADER and SICAP programmes are integral to delivering locally led projects that have brought major benefits to communities across Donegal. We will be tendering to retain both programmes in 2023 and hope to continue successfully delivering these to the benefit of communities and individuals in our catchment area.

DLDC has also added a Defective Concrete Blocks Community Facilitator to our team to support and guide affected homeowners through the application process, prioritising those who are vulnerable and/or experiencing disadvantage.

The work that is outlined throughout this report would not be possible without the support of our key stakeholders. I would like to thank the statutory sector for the funding that we receive to deliver programmes in partnership with, and on behalf of, the State and the Local Authority.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Minister of Rural and Community Development and Social Protection, Heather Humphreys TD, for her support across her departments. Minister Humphreys' commitment to fostering the growth of resilient, thriving, and innovative communities has underpinned our shared impact.

I would like to thank all our team at DLDC for their hard work during a difficult year, their dedication and commitment has been an inspiration. I would also like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of our Board Members who generously share their time and expertise to guide our organisation forward, particularly our Chairperson, Patsy McGonagle, who brings a wealth of experience to the role.

We look forward to continuing to work together, for greater opportunities and stronger communities across Donegal.

*Padraic Fingleton,*  
*Chief Executive*



“Having identified the development of the battery structure as a vital project for the local community, Rathmullan The Way Forward was delighted to receive LEADER funding to undertake essential conservation and restoration works to this historic building and bring it back to a place where it can be enjoyed by the public once again”

- John Gallagher, Rathmullan The Way Forward Group





# About Our Organisation

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# Our Impact



## 220

people placed in various part-time, full-time and self-employment roles.



## 566

new volunteers placed in community organisations.



## €743,177

of transitional LEADER funding was approved for 13 projects.



## 451

participated in job activation and social inclusion schemes.



## €2.5m

investment in Donegal in the form of programme staff time and programme initiatives.



## 154

community groups supported to tackle social exclusion.



## 59

social enterprises benefitted from intensive one-to-one support, including strategic and business planning, governance, and fundraising.



## 668

people who improved their employability skills.



## €1,196,000

external funding secured by social enterprises with DLDC support.



## 673

people attended outreach clinic appointments with the Lifelong Learning team.



*"The local community groups organised many entertainments for us when we got here. We were frightened when we got here, we did not want to leave our accommodation, it was safe inside, but we did not know the world around us. They organised trips for our kids, and we went with them. We had the chance to go to the Lighthouse and to the ocean. We are so grateful to them for that. Those events made us feel welcome and very safe here in Donegal and we are so grateful to the community groups for that."*

- Uliana, Ukrainian refugee



*"For me, volunteering in Ireland is a small part of what I can give to this country in gratitude. Ireland helped the Ukrainian people in a difficult moment. I wanted to say thank you with my skills. That's why I knit toys that will delight children in different countries".*

- Oksana, Milford



*"Working in the community garden through Tús has been an incredible experience that has allowed me to do what I love while giving back to my community. I am so grateful for this opportunity and for the support and guidance provided by the Tús Supervisors. Thank you for helping me grow both personally and professionally."*

- Úna Harte, Tús participant



*"Having identified the development of the battery structure as a vital project for the local community, Rathmullan The Way Forward was delighted to receive LEADER funding to undertake essential conservation and restoration works to this historic building and bring it back to a place where it can be enjoyed by the public once again."*

- John Gallagher, Rathmullan The Way Forward Group



*"I had been struggling to find a job for a long time as well as having the added pressure of not having a place to live. When I was introduced to the LAES team things started to look up. The team was incredibly supportive. They gave me advice on job searching, CV development, how to present myself in job interviews, and how to build my confidence. "*

- John, LAES participant

# Our Board



**Patsy McGonagle**  
Chairman  
East Donegal Forum



**Paul McCusker**  
Treasurer



**Cllr. Noel Andrew Jordan**  
Company Director  
Donegal County Council



**Cllr. Patrick McGowan**  
Company Director  
Donegal County Council



**Noel Foley**  
Company Director  
An Taisce



**Noirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh**  
Company Director  
Gaeltacht and na hOileáin



**Benny Trearty**  
Company Director  
North Donegal  
Community Forum



**Michael Chance**  
Company Director  
IFA



**Isobel McGlinchey**  
Company Director  
ICTU





**Charles Gorney**  
Company Director  
Donegal ETB



**Gary Fisher**  
Company Director  
Teagasc



**Máire Uí Chomhaill**  
Company Director  
Gaeltacht



**Mary Harte**  
Company Director  
Donegal East



**Tony Brogan**  
Company Director  
Donegal County Council



**Cllr. John O'Donnell**  
Company Director  
Donegal County Council



**Declan Meehan**  
Company Director  
North Donegal Community  
Forum



**Michael Mullen**  
Company Director  
South Donegal Community  
Forum



**Natalie Lough**  
Company Director  
South Donegal Community  
Forum

# Our Organisation

Donegal Local Development CLG (DLDC) is a community-led local development organisation that has been providing various local development services since its establishment in 1995. The organisation is responsible for offering training, work placements, grants, and other services to support the local community. DLDC operates under the guidance of a voluntary Board of Directors, which includes representatives from community and voluntary groups, social partners, local government, and state bodies.

DLDC's operational area covers County Donegal, excluding the Inishowen area, which is served by the Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP). In 2002, DLDC significantly grew its team and the organisation now has a dedicated staff of over 100 individuals who work across fourteen programmes funded by the European Union and the Irish Government. These programmes are managed and implemented throughout the county, providing support to numerous participants involved in various projects and schemes.

Currently, DLDC supports over almost 400 individuals who are participating in initiatives such as the Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Tús Programme, and the Community Childcare Scheme. These schemes play a vital role in resource allocation and community development, particularly in rural areas.

DLDC relocated its Letterkenny and Donegal town offices in 2022 to open plan spaces with the aim of fostering greater collaboration among programmes and to provide a wraparound service for clients. In addition to its main offices located in Letterkenny, Gweedore, and Donegal Town, DLDC has established outreach centres in Kilcar, and Killybegs, reflecting its commitment to rural outreach and accessibility for communities across the county.

## VALUES AND PURPOSE

DLDC has a clear purpose; to support community organisations and individuals by empowering them through enabling their own ideas and actions, to make Donegal a better place to live and work for everyone. DLDC reaffirms its core values of partnership, inclusion, and innovation, guided by the principles of equality, diversity, trust, and integrity. We recognise that every individual has the right to contribute to their community and the right to equal opportunity of access to resources within that community. Partnership, innovation, and inclusion are embedded as core values and principles and inform all aspects

of the planning, development, and delivery of progressive and innovative supports to benefit individuals, communities, and enterprises in the region. Our team and Board of Directors operate with empathy, professionalism, and a caring attitude when approaching their work.



# Our Strategic and Operational Framework



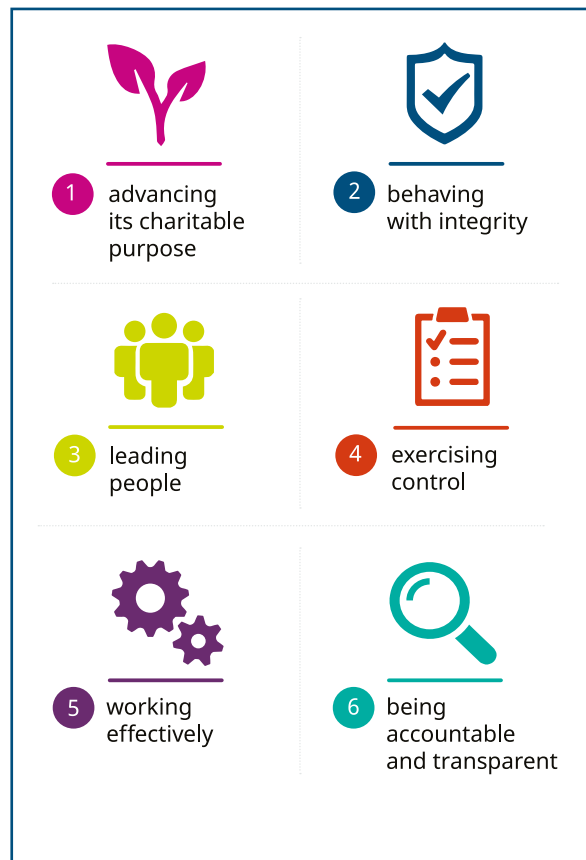
# Governance and Compliance

Donegal Local Development CLG (DLDC) strives to meet the best governance standards driven by the principles of transparency, openness, and accountability. DLDC is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. The Board of Directors is the ultimate decision-making body within the organisation. It includes representatives from the community and voluntary sector, social partners, statutory agencies, and public representatives to devise and implement solutions to the disadvantage experienced in Donegal, in keeping with the Irish “social partnership” model.

In addition to an annual independent financial audit, DLDC is subject to internal audits by each funder. We are committed to adopting the Principles of The Charities Governance Code as set out below and worked towards compliance in 2022.

Before the Charity Regulator’s Governance Code was in place, DLDC complied with the voluntary code of governance for the community, and voluntary and charitable organisations.

The six principles of the Charities Governance Code are:



An Rialálaí  
Carthanais  
Charities  
Regulator

## Risk Management

We define risk as anything that can adversely affect our ability to achieve our objectives to support both individuals and communities in Donegal, sustain our operations, maintain our reputation, or meet regulatory requirements. At DLDC, we look to minimise potential risk through our tight management process and controls. We capture potential risks in our Risk Register, which identify the principal risks, their likelihood and impact, and the actions necessary to manage them effectively.

We have categorised risk factors within the following seven categories:

1. Physical risk
2. Operational risk
3. Human resources
4. Technology risk
5. Financial risk
6. Reputational risk
7. Governance



# Community Development Support

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# Community Recognition Awards

Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC) was delighted to hold its Community Recognition Awards in November 2022. DLDC held the awards to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding community efforts by individuals, groups, and volunteers in County Donegal.

The awards ceremony took place in the Finn Valley Athlete Centre, Stranorlar with 130 representatives from the community and voluntary sector in attendance for an evening of celebration, food, music, and dance.

The high number of nominations received under the five categories were an acknowledgement of the outstanding community efforts that individuals and groups have delivered in County Donegal over the last year.

Category sponsors included ATU Donegal, Magee, Highland Radio, Tata Consultancy Services and The Cope. A representative from each organisation attended and presented a bespoke Donegal sandstone award to each winner, handmade by the renowned Donegal local artist, Redmond Herry.

Patsy McGonagle, Chairman of DLDC, presented a surprise 'DLDC Hall of Fame' award to Mary McGowan for her outstanding contribution to community groups over many decades and thanked her for her tireless dedication to the community and voluntary sector.



## Community Recognition Awards Winners 2022

◀ **Best Social Inclusion/Peer Support Campaign – Sponsored by ATU**  
Pictured L-R: John-Andy Bonnar with the winners of Best Social Inclusion/Peer Support Campaign Sponsored by ATU, Una McGarrigle, Rose Clancy, Patricia Bryne from Rosses VIPs.

▶ **Best Collaborative Community Project – Sponsored by Magee**  
**Winner: Surfing Project – Bundoran Community Centre, Liquid Therapy and Irish Gap Year.** Pictured L – R: Rosy Temple from Magee with the winners of Best Collaborative Community Project Sponsored by Magee, Fran Duffy, Teresa O'Neill, Brian McNulty, Yulia Melnyk, and Ryan Allen from Surfing Project with Padraic Fingleton, CEO of DLDC.







### Most Innovative Community Initiative – ▲ Sponsored by Highland Radio

#### Winner: Grass Routes

Pictured L – R: John Breslin, Highland Radio with winners of Most Innovative Community Initiative Sponsored by Highland Radio, Majella Orr, Eugene Trearty and Noreen Trearty from Grass Routes at Craobhinn Community Centre with Patsy McGonagle, Chairman of DLDC.



### Best Community Organisation / Social Enterprise – Small – Sponsored by Tata Consultancy Services ▲

**Winner: Donegal Animals in Need.** Pictured L – R: Lee-Anne Burke from Tata Consultancy Services with the winners of Best Community Organisation / Social Enterprise (Small)– Sponsored by Tata Consultancy Services – Margaret Plunkett, Margaret Murphy, Gitte McMullin and Mary McGowan from Animals in Need and Padraic Fingleton, CEO of DLDC.



### Best Community Organisation / Social Enterprise – Large – Sponsored by The Cope

#### Winner: Cairde Le Cheile

Pictured L – R: Emma McGarvey from The Cope with the winners of Best Community Organisation / Social Enterprise (Large), Sponsored by The Cope, Mick Quinlivan, Paul McCusker; Rosaleen Gallagher, Shane Grant from Cairde Le Cheile; and Patsy McGonagle, Chairman of DLDC.

### DLDC – Hall of Fame – ► Mary McGowan

Pictured L – R: Patsy McGowan, Chairman of DLDC, Mary McGowan, DLDC Hall of Fame Recipient; and Padraic Fingleton, CEO of DLDC.



Pictured left: The DLDC team at the Community Recognition Awards

# The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2022 provides resources and funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations, and public sector agencies.

SICAP works with marginalised communities and service providers using a community development approach to improve people's lives, providing guidance to groups by sharing good practices and helping them grow in confidence. The supports provided include social, civic, and cultural opportunities that help combat social isolation, loneliness, and exclusion across the county.

The needs identified in 2022 encompassed several key areas. There was a strong demand for integration and inclusion of new communities, particularly Ukrainian refugees who started arriving in rural areas of Donegal in March 2022. Capacity building emerged as another prominent need among community and voluntary groups. Retaining and recruiting volunteers remained a significant challenge for community and voluntary groups throughout Donegal. Food poverty emerged as a critical issue, with an increasing number of families and individuals experiencing challenges related to food security and seeking support from food banks and voluntary organisations. Successful collaboration with development companies, agencies, stakeholders, and service providers is critical in achieving successful outcomes for our local communities.

## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

52

local community and voluntary groups received intensive one-on-one capacity building support on various essential topics.

45

local community and voluntary groups received support through the Summer Reconnection Programme - Transport Costs 2022.

154

local community and voluntary groups across Central Donegal and the Gaeltacht were supported by the SICAP team in 2022.

17

community and voluntary groups were supported by the Donegal Food Response Network.



Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme



# Success Stories

## Capacity Building

In 2022, the SICAP programme successfully delivered intensive one-on-one capacity building support to 52 Local Community Groups (LCGs). This support covered a wide range of essential topics, including charity regulation, CRO obligations, group formation, constitutions, accounts, strategic planning, annual planning, recruitment and selection, and funding applications. Workshops and group sessions were also conducted on HR roles, governance refresher sessions for Day Care Centres, information on changes affecting the community and voluntary sector, and successful fundraising opportunities. These capacity building efforts continue to progress and are ongoing.

## Food Poverty

The SICAP team has been actively involved in addressing food poverty through its facilitation of the Donegal Food Response Network. In 2022, the team provided valuable assistance in terms of administration, PR support, and the provision of necessary materials. Moreover, the team played a crucial role in helping network members establish their individual iDonate profiles, enhancing their online presence and fundraising capabilities. To promote collaboration and information sharing, the team facilitated monthly meetings and administered a dedicated WhatsApp group where



members regularly exchange information on supplies and related matters. To further alleviate food poverty, two countywide fundraising campaigns were successfully launched during the year, coinciding with important occasions like 'back to school' and Christmas. By supporting the most vulnerable members of our community, this network remains committed to combating food insecurity and promoting a more inclusive society.

The **DonegalFoodResponse.ie** website was also created to address the growing need for food assistance and provide a central location for information and donations to local food banks. The website was funded by Donegal County Council through its Healthy Ireland programme.



# Success Stories

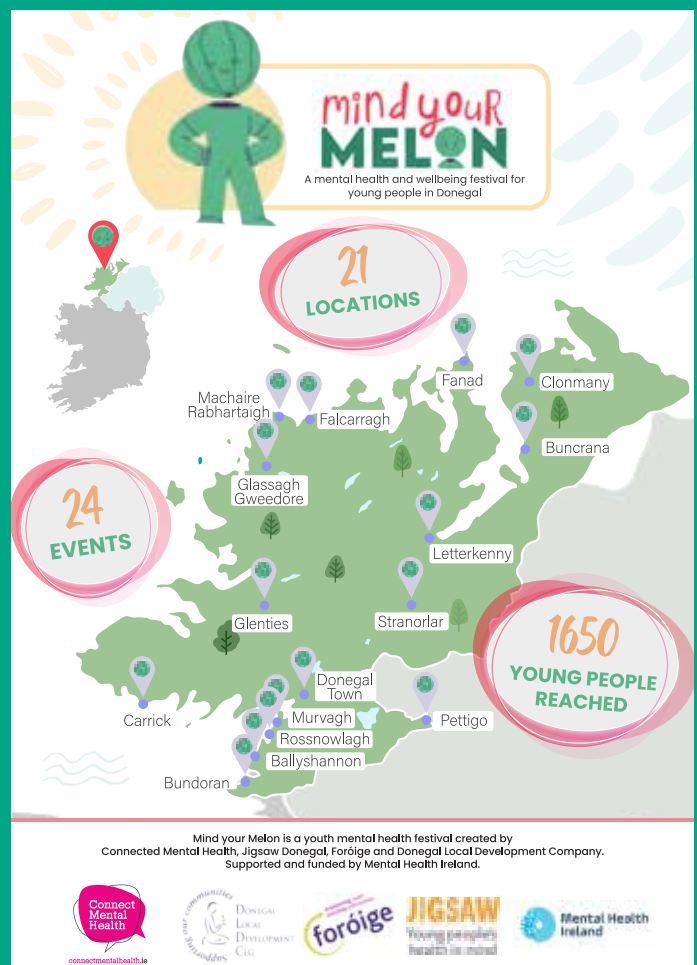
## Summer Reconnection Programme

The SICAP team successfully implemented the 'Summer Reconnection Programme - Transport Costs 2022' to reengage and reconnect communities. This programme invited applications from groups actively involved in projects aligned with SICAP's objectives of promoting social inclusion, networking, and collaborative activities.

As a result, 45 groups received support through this initiative, facilitating their participation in socially inclusive events and activities. Furthermore, SICAP extended its assistance to groups dedicated to engaging older individuals, disadvantaged women and men, and those facing rural isolation. Through this funding, SICAP enabled these groups to organise and deliver events that fostered inclusivity and strengthened community bonds.

## Mind Your Melon

Mind Your Melon, a collaborative initiative by Connect Mental Health, Jigsaw Donegal, Foróige, and Donegal Local Development CLG, organised a free mental health and wellbeing festival for young people in Donegal. The festival featured 24 events, including mindful origami workshops, nutrition myth busting workshops, talks with 'The Shona Project,' film screenings, hikes, surf classes, a tug of war competition, and community orchard planting. These events took place across 21 locations and reached 1650 young people.



# Success Stories

## DLDC's Networks

DLDC has successfully established a number of important networks to support community initiatives in Donegal. In addition to the Donegal Food Response Network, the Donegal Network of Men's Sheds was created in collaboration with the Irish Men's Sheds Association to address the challenges of identifying and retaining a Northwest Representative on a voluntary basis. Through monthly network meetings and various events, such as welding and horticulture demonstrations, a countywide summer engagement event, and a regional Irish Men Sheds

Network gathering, DLDC has provided valuable support and opportunities for shed members. Additionally, DLDC has recognised the need for intensive support in Day Care Centres and established the Donegal Day Care Centre Network. Resources in terms of staff and funding have been allocated to address the needs of volunteer committee members in these centres. These networks have played a crucial role in strengthening connections, shared learning and mutual support amongst community and voluntary groups across Donegal.



# SICAP - Social Enterprise

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) provides supports to the community and voluntary sector to tackle poverty, social exclusion, and inequality.

In this context, we support social enterprises to: Community Development Support Deliver services to SICAP target groups in their local communities.

1

Create jobs in social enterprises and sustain existing jobs and operations

2

Provide training, employment, or volunteering opportunities for SICAP target groups

3

Throughout the year, DLDC provided supports to 59 social enterprises across Donegal

## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

29

social enterprises received support with funding applications, governance and compliance, annual and strategic planning, financial management and reporting, etc.

59

active members of the SEND (Social Enterprise Network Donegal)

100+

100+ attendees engaged in 'P.A.S.T.A. Parties' throughout the county



# Success Stories

## Social Enterprise Network Donegal (SEND)

The Social Enterprise team actively facilitates the Social Enterprise Network Donegal (SEND) as part of their commitment to fostering networking opportunities. Monthly meetings are organised, where social enterprise managers and board members convene via Zoom to exchange ideas, seek advice, and build relationships. With a current membership of 59 social enterprises, the network serves as a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration. Additionally, quarterly in-person meetings are organised, with network members hosting and selecting themed workshops for the benefit of all attendees. Workshops on topics such as "Good HR Practice for Social Enterprises," fundraising, PR, and social enterprise awareness were successfully delivered, enriching the knowledge and skills of SEND members.

## P.A.S.T.A. Test

The Social Enterprise team achieved success in securing funding from the dormant accounts fund to implement an awareness-raising initiative. This



Above: P.A.S.T.A. Party in Luca's Restaurant

project, titled 'The P.A.S.T.A. Test,' aimed to increase awareness of social enterprises and their potential impact. As part of the project's implementation in 2022, a dedicated website [www.pastatest.ie](http://www.pastatest.ie) was launched, featuring promotional videos to showcase local social enterprises. Additionally, five engaging 'P.A.S.T.A. Parties' were organised, attracting a total of over 100 attendees. These events served as opportunities for community members to learn about and connect with social enterprises, furthering the project's objective of raising awareness and generating interest in this sector.



Above: website [www.pastatest.ie](http://www.pastatest.ie)

# Success Stories

## Panel of Practitioners

The Panel of Practitioners was established in 2022, comprising four experienced mentors from the social enterprise sector. This initiative aimed to provide valuable support and guidance to social enterprises through a pilot mentoring programme. Currently, five social enterprises have participated, benefiting from the expertise and insights shared by their peers within the panel, enhancing the development and growth of these social enterprises, fostering a culture of collaboration within the sector.

## Social Enterprise Regional Stakeholder Consultation Northwest Event

The team, on behalf of ILDN and the Dept of Rural and Community Development, hosted the Social Enterprise Regional Stakeholder Consultation event for the Northwest region in November 2022. At the roundtable discussions, participants were asked to discuss challenges facing social enterprise over the next five years and opportunities available to social enterprises in Donegal. The key findings will feed into the new Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland.

## The Round-Up

DLDC's monthly social enterprise newsletter, known as 'The Round-Up', is sent to 69 social enterprises, providing them with valuable information on upcoming funding and training opportunities, along with news from the local and national social enterprise sector.



# Ukraine Response

DLDC developed a range of supports for Ukrainian refugees who came to Donegal to seek safety from the war in Ukraine. These included supports across both the Central and Gaeltacht regions with support across various teams within the organisation, in particular the Schemes Department.

Initially led out on by the SICAP team, the team developed into its own sub-department and included Community Links Officers, Support Workers, Employment Supports Officer, and a Coordinator. The team was funded by SICAP. Additional funding was secured from HSE Social Inclusion which allowed the employment of a Health Support Worker.

The team worked across the DLDC catchment area to support refugees directly and supported local community organisations to welcome and include the new communities in the area, as well as linking with the wide range of other agencies and organisations supporting the Ukrainian refugees across the county.

DLDC has been the introduction to Donegal for so many Ukrainian refugees, and the introduction to this new community for many locals. The team has been able to link people to the services and supports they need in their local areas – supporting them to be able to feel a little bit safer and more at home here.

*“The local community groups organised many entertainments for us when we got here. We were frightened when we got here, we did not want to leave our accommodation, it was safe inside, but we did not know the world around us. They organised trips for our kids, and we went with them. We had the chance to go to the Lighthouse and to the ocean. We are so grateful to them for that. Those events made us feel welcome and very safe here in Donegal and we are so grateful to the community groups for that.”* - Uliana, Ukrainian refugee

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2022

Interdenominational reflection events supported by community groups and local parishes and church groups in various parts of the county to mark Ukrainian Independence Day in August.

During the summer holidays, collaborative summer programmes were organised in partnership with local community groups in areas including Donegal town, Bundoran, Gweedore, Dungloe, Milford, and Killybegs. These programmes aimed to support Ukrainian children by providing them with opportunities to engage in enjoyable activities and take a break from the difficulties they were facing, while also encouraging regular use of the English language throughout the summer.

The Ukrainian Response team's case study video has been widely shared across various social media platforms as part of a campaign by the Department of Community and Rural Development to support inclusion and integration of Ukrainian refugees, highlighting the work done in the county.

Community groups the length and breadth of the county have been supported in their efforts to welcome and include Ukrainian refugees, through welcome events, coffee mornings, activities for children such as art groups, and information sessions.

## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

# 4000

Ukrainian refugees, approximately, were supported by the DLDC team in 2022 in various ways such as accessing school places for children, accessing health services, and connecting with local community groups.

The Community Links team were usually the first contact between new refugee groups and services. They delivered and distributed various essential supports including vouchers for local charity shops, and immediate needs such as nappies, baby food, and calpol. Ukrainian-speaking Community Links Officers explained how things work in Ireland and what the Ukrainian refugees could expect, and helped ease the stress for the new arrivals and aid their settling in. The team collected information about the age breakdown and specific needs of the group, and relayed that back into the interagency spaces in real time to facilitate other agencies to link with the groups.

DLDC coordinated the weekly operational meetings, a sub-group of the Community Response Forum, which provided a space for issues impacting on the refugees and the relevant support services to be addressed in real time. Participating services included the Local Authority, HSE, Local Link, Community Groups, Youth Services, ETB Adult Education, REALT, Donegal County Childcare Committee, Donegal Intercultural Platform and others.

# 120+

people in six hotel accommodation centres participated in first aid sessions, meaning they can perform basic first aid in case of an emergency in the centre, building their skills and capacity within and beyond their community.

## Success Stories

### Psychological Supports

Upon recognising the serious issues of trauma and poor mental health experienced by many of the Ukrainian refugees due to the war and displacement, DLDC contracted Ukrainians qualified in providing psychological supports to deliver workshops to groups of Ukrainian refugees on topics such as "Minding your Mental Health" and "Stress Management", in the Ukrainian language.

These programmes were offered in Killybegs, Bundoran, Donegal Town, Carrick, Milford, Kilmacrenan and Stranorlar with almost 100 participants in total.

Those who took part described improved coping skills. They developed the resilience needed to move forward with their lives here.

*Right: Niall Mor centre manager Martina welcoming Liam Neeson and Ciarán Hinds >*





## Health and Wellbeing Days

Health and wellbeing days provided some respite to the daily challenges experienced by the refugees. Health and wellbeing days were held in Ballintra, Kincasslagh, Milford and Gaoth Dobhair. At the event in Gaoth Dobhair, participants were able to avail of taster sessions in yoga, tai chi, reflexology and nail painting and were provided with a healthy lunch of homemade soup and sandwiches. The children were given the chance to visit Santa in the Winter Wonderland. One young boy was overheard asking "Please Santa – I just want the war to end" – an indication of the stress and trauma the refugees are living with.



## Employment Support Workshops

Participants across the county joined employment support workshops and one-to-one sessions with DLDC's Employment Supports team, which supported many Ukrainians to gain work and benefitted their level of English and integration in the local community.



## Health and Disability Support

Families and individuals with disabilities have been supported to access the necessary supports such as Irish Sign Language lessons for a deaf family of three (mother, grandmother and son).

# Donegal Volunteer Centre

Donegal Volunteer Centre (DVC) works with individual volunteers and community groups across Donegal to help provide meaningful volunteer roles and community engagement. DVC is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and is managed by DLDC.

Throughout 2022, DVC helped record numbers of volunteers engage their communities in a time of global change. It was a year of new friends, new colleagues, new communities and new approaches. With projects focused on integration, governance, awareness, crafting, photography, self-care, events, first aid, welcome and befriending.



Volunteers at Letterkenny Marathon 2022



## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

**566** new volunteers supported to start volunteering.

**192** new volunteer opportunities developed across the county.

**750+** individuals trained in Event First Aid.



Community Volunteer Project developed.



'Volunteering in Action' photography competition and exhibition delivered in partnership with Donegal County Museum.



Targeted supports for the Ukrainian Community hosted across Donegal, including befriending, clothing collections, English support sessions, orientation supports, and the provision of volunteers and volunteering opportunities to individual Ukrainian refugees.



Supported the Donegal County Council led 'Community Call' in response to Ukraine.



# Success Stories

## Ukrainian Supports

In March 2022 the first Ukrainians arrived in Donegal, following a settling in period many individuals within the community expressed an interest in volunteering as a social outlet, a means of integration and as a way to acknowledge the support of local communities.

Initially Donegal Volunteer Centre, as a part of the Donegal County Council led response forum, worked with key partners such as its parent body Donegal Local Development CLG, Inishowen Development Partnership and the Donegal Intercultural Platform to help local communities host welcome events and to establish Fáilte Isteach based conversational English classes to further support the work of Donegal ETB. Some 200 volunteers came forward across the county to support the classes. These are ongoing in the 10 key regional hubs which have a considerable volume of Ukrainian refugees. DVC also had a significant role in supporting the pop-up charity shops which supported new arrivals in various locations across Donegal.

DVC, through our new colleague, Roksana Oliinky, has created several groups across Donegal with an arts and craft type focus to support integration and social interaction. These arts and craft works were donated to Team Hope, volunteers and agencies staff and Day Centre / Meals on Wheels

recipients across Donegal. The groups benefited from the interaction, upskilling and social networking while the wider community benefited from the donations of products.

*"Beading was a hobby in Ukraine that inspired me, I rested while doing beadwork. Being in Ireland, I wanted to have at least something from my past life and to be able to distract myself from sad thoughts and problems. Thank you to the volunteer organisation for creating the opportunities to do what you love."*

- Kateryna, Letterkenny.

*"For me, volunteering in Ireland is a small part of what I can give to this country in gratitude. Ireland helped the Ukrainian people in a difficult moment. I wanted to say thank you with my skills. That's why I knit toys that will delight children in different countries".*

- Oksana, Milford

*"My volunteering is my respect for the Irish people who helped me to feel that I am at home".*

- Yulia, Ballyliffin



# Success Stories



## First Aid Training

With the aid of a local First Aid Trainer, DVC developed a practical half day First Aid Course, which was delivered to 750+ members of the community as a means of providing practical support to community groups across Donegal and those hosted within accommodation centres. These courses proved a meaningful route to engaging with the New Communities and a very practical support that the DVC can offer to groups that deliver festivals and community events across Donegal.

*"It helps me to be more confident in any possible emergency in Ireland, also I met a lot of friends during the training and learnt about Donegal Volunteer Centre. Thank you for such an experience!"*

- Iryna, Rosstownlagh

*"As a local festival committee, we always worry about health emergencies and accidents at our events. As a result of the Event First Aid Training we are more confident in our knowledge should an issue arise"*

- Mary, Carndonagh

## New Land Choir

One interesting project which evolved out of the New Communities Integration and Community Volunteers Supports Project was the creation of the Migrant Choir in Letterkenny. The 'New

Lands Choir' led by Future Moyo and Rita Harmon formed in August 2022 has a mix of 17 different nationalities. The choir had its stage debut at the turning on of the Christmas Lights in Letterkenny in November 2022. The group appeared in various Christmas concerts with An Grianáin Theatre and the Highland Radio Christmas show being two of note.

*"The New Land Choir enabled me to bring my love of music performing and Choir Leadership to a new audience in Donegal. It has given me access to an arts and performance scene that has filled my heart with song"*

- Future Moyo, Letterkenny

## Community Volunteers

Community Volunteers is a national pilot project delivered by the DVC in conjunction with Department of Community and Rural Development and Donegal County Council. The project had its initial outing on St. Patrick's Day 2022 with 44 community volunteers stewarding the Letterkenny parade. Over the year, the group supported 15 events including, Darkness into Light, North West 10K, Ukraine Day, Africa Day, the Donegal Half Marathon, Bród Na Gaeltachta, the Christmas Lights in Letterkenny and, very poignantly, various Creeslough vigils held in the wake of the tragedy. Over the events the group developed connections and friendships that have helped with the integration of the members into Donegal.



# Innovating Communities



Innovating Communities is a LEADER Cooperation project delivered by DLDC in Donegal which aims to strengthen resilience, local development, and community-led action by training community groups, businesses and individuals in Design Thinking, a creative problem-solving process. It focused on six border counties, including Donegal, and completed in 2022.

## Success Stories



### Glenties Comprehensive

Forty-seven TY students from Glenties Comprehensive completed an Innovating Communities course in Design Thinking. The students worked in two groups to make an online students' magazine and a mobile phone sports app. The content of the online applications was written entirely by the students themselves and covered items such as sport, sports training and competing, dealing with injuries and teamwork. The magazine covered social justice issues, local businesses and lifestyle fashion and foods.

### KEY OUTCOMES 2022

# 16

training courses delivered.

# 276

active participants took part in the programme.

# 531

group training hours.

# 1020

individual training hours completed the programme.

## Dunfanaghy Community – A Shared Vision

The Dunfanaghy Community – A Shared Vision programme invited residents to actively shape the future of Dunfanaghy, fostering a shared vision by generating homegrown solutions to local issues. A comprehensive survey was conducted to identify priority areas that demanded further attention in to benefit the Dunfanaghy Community. The Dunfanaghy Community Survey and Road Map represents a collaborative effort aimed at fostering sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.



# Rural Development Programme (LEADER)

**LEADER (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Economie Rurale)**

The LEADER programme has been operating in Ireland and across EU Member States for over 30 years. Commencing as an experimental rural development programme in 1991, LEADER has evolved through five successive programming periods to become a key intervention within EU rural development policy. Over the three decades of its existence, the programme has supported the development of a wide range of innovative and sustainable projects that have brought increased jobs and vibrancy to rural communities across the EU.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2022

### KEY OUTCOMES 2022

€743,177

of Transitional LEADER funding was approved for 13 projects.

€466,868

of EURI funding was allocated to 4 projects.

€1.4m

A total of 34 grant claims to the value of €1.4m were processed in 2022.

The full budget of €7,181,403 for the LEADER programme 2014-2022 was allocated by 31st December 2022. Cumulative grant payments to the value of €5,246,385 were made from this allocation by the end of 2022.

The Water Tourism Development Project saw capital infrastructure improvements right across the Finn Valley and into Inishowen as part of the LEADER funded co-operation project. The project aimed to improve access to and attractiveness of sites that were under-utilised and/or have access issues and sought to increase water related recreational activities. Working in partnership with Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP), DLDC acting as the lead in Donegal for the project, delivered River Finn access works, which included access steps, benches, rod rests, drainage improvements/piped culverts and river level gauges, as well as the purchase and the installation of 40x stiles, 16x angler bridges, 12x solar powered compacting bins. The project also upgraded 2x car parks and undertook a range of best practice visits with its international project partners.

# Success Stories



## Purchase of Seagoing Passenger Vessel for Atlantic Coastal Cruises

Promoter: Atlantic Luxury Cruises Ltd T/A Atlantic Coastal Cruises

Atlantic Coastal Cruises is a locally owned family-run business set up in 2019. They offer unique cruise tours of Killybegs Harbour and the Sliabh Liag Cliffs, Europe's highest accessible sea cliffs standing at 600 metres. Based in Killybegs harbour, the company started out by leasing a vessel to operate its tours. As this was not viable for the business on a long-term basis, the company approached DLDC for LEADER funding to purchase its own vessel.

With the assistance of LEADER, the company purchased the MV Sliabh Liag Allure. This is a class 2A marine vessel licensed to carry 96 passengers and crew. The vessel is constructed to the highest specifications in order to meet Irish Maritime law standards. It is equipped with all modern navigation and communication systems, along with life jackets, life rafts, rescue boat and the full range of safety equipment. With Donegal's changeable damp climate, the vessel is fit to accommodate its passengers in a comfortable, warm and dry interior where beverages and snacks can be enjoyed while cruising to the cliffs. The vessel has large windows for interior viewing and also boasts an outdoor viewing platform on a higher level. Wheelchair access is possible with



the marina and the vessel is a prominent feature along the main Wild Atlantic way route.

Atlantic Coastal Cruises offers a unique cruise experience that is something new to the west coast of Ireland and the Wild Atlantic Way, providing visitors to the area with a memorable holiday experience. It has added value to the tourism product on offer in the area and has benefitted the local economy by creating employment and attracting visitors to Killybegs, which is viewed by many as predominately an industry location.



# Success Stories

## Napoleonic Gun Battery Rathmullan – Conservation and Restoration Works

Promoter: Rathmullan The Way Forward CLG

Rathmullan is a picturesque maritime settlement with a rich history and is strategically located along the Wild Atlantic Way. Built circa 1813, the Napoleonic Gun Battery is a landmark building located within the historic core of Rathmullan adjacent to the coast with significant tourism and educational potential.

Having identified the development of the battery structure, courtyard and associated external spaces as a vital project for the local community, Rathmullan The Way Forward applied for LEADER funding to undertake essential conservation and restoration works to this historic building. The works focused on building fabric repair and would see it brought back into use with the ultimate objective of enabling public access to the grounds and environs.

The overall development of the Battery will consist of a number of separate phases which aim to make the site a major attraction on the Wild Atlantic Way. The Battery is a key component in a wider network of Rathmullan attractions



stretching from Portnamurray in the south to Kinnegar Strand in the north. The overall project aims to connect the Battery into this network and to complement and support these other attractions, whilst also respecting the Battery's historic significance.



# Rural Recreation Programme

The Rural Recreation Programme works with landowners, communities, individuals, businesses, and local and national agencies to support mainly trail-based outdoor recreation development, maintenance, and promotion in County Donegal for residents and tourists alike. The programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

This programme involves advising and assisting on management, maintenance, and promotion of some of our most valuable recreational facilities, including long-distance trails and looped walks.

The Rural Recreation Officer (RRO) implements the two Walks Schemes in the county – the Bluestack Way and the Sliabh Liag Pilgrims Path. The scheme provides a small income to the participating landholders, gives local and visiting walkers a quality trail, and showcases the natural environment.



**An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail**  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

*The programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development*

## KEY OUTCOMES 2022



The Arranmore to Burtonport Blueway project received assistance in addressing trail-related matters, including signage design. This ongoing initiative has established the first accredited coastal Blueway in Ireland, while ensuring the implementation of best practices.



60km, approximately, of the Bluestack Way were maintained through the Walks Scheme, ensuring their accessibility to outdoor enthusiasts. This accomplishment was made possible through the active engagement of landowners and stakeholders, who play a crucial role in the success of the trail maintenance efforts.

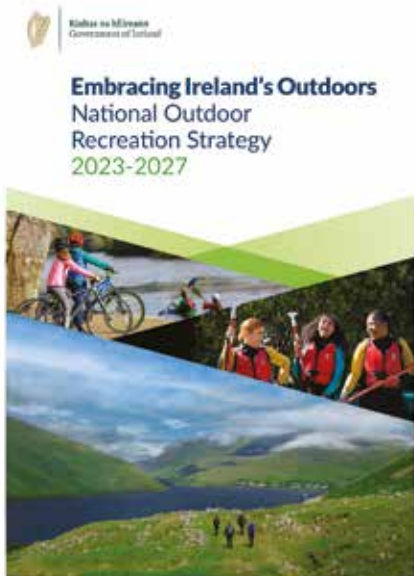


An Amber Survey and stakeholder engagement process were conducted to gather insights and perspectives for the future management of the Sliabh Liag Pilgrims Path, and the wider area.



The Rural Recreation Officer played a key role in the team that contributed to the Donegal Outdoor Recreation Strategy. This strategy aims to guide the sustainable development and management of outdoor recreation in County Donegal over the next five years. The strategy's development consisted of two phases: a comprehensive data audit of existing and potential recreational amenities, followed by the creation of an actionable strategy for 2022-2028. The RRO's involvement helped inform a cohesive plan that preserves Donegal's unique ecological and cultural landscape.

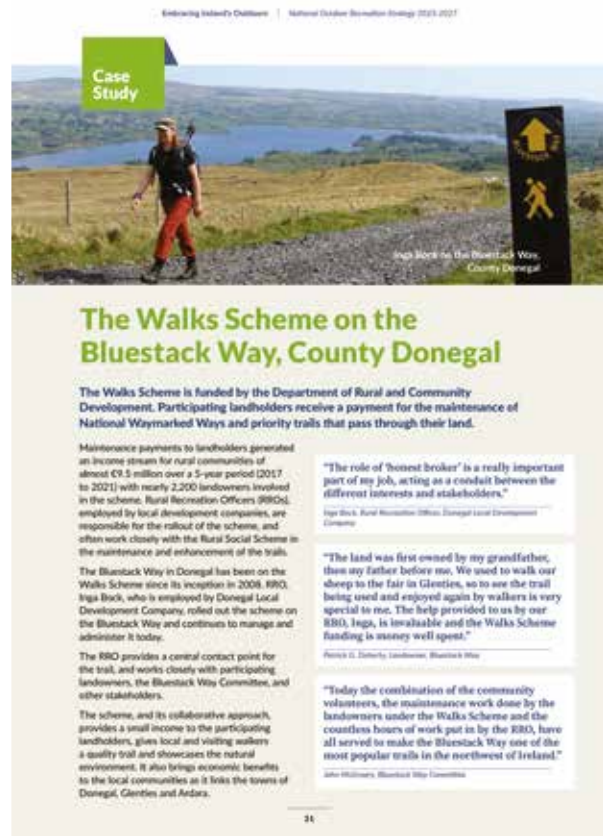
# Success Stories



## Embracing Ireland's Outdoors - National Outdoor Recreation Strategy

The Rural Recreation Officer participated in the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy working group to develop a long-term vision for outdoor recreation in Ireland, increase opportunities, foster collaboration, and enhance the development, maintenance, and management of outdoor recreation across the country.

Embracing Ireland's Outdoors - National Outdoor Recreation Strategy was published by the Department of Rural and Community



Development in November 2022. DLDC was immensely proud when it included a case study featuring the Bluestack Way Walks Scheme administered and overseen by Donegal's RRO. The Bluestack Way is one of the most sought-after trails in the region and contributes to the local economy by attracting visitors and linking nearby towns.

*"Today the combination of the community volunteers, the maintenance work done by the landowners under the Walks Scheme and the countless hours of work put in by the RRO, have all served to make the Bluestack Way one of the most popular trails in the northwest of Ireland."*

- John McGroary,  
Bluestack Way Committee

# Individual Supports

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# Lifelong Learning

Lifelong Learning is the ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge. The programme operates under the premise that people of all ages and abilities should be able to participate in education at a level appropriate to their needs and abilities. Lifelong Learning can also enhance our understanding of the world around us and provide us with opportunities to improve our quality of life. The Lifelong Learning team provides free and confidential one-to-one support to individuals interested in returning to learning and supports them on every step of their Lifelong Learning journey.

The Lifelong Learning team delivered more than 90 workshops in the DLDC central catchment area in 2022 in response to client needs identified through one-to-one meetings and developing their Personal Action Plans.

A wide variety of workshops were delivered under the following categories:

- Personal development
- Mindfulness and wellness
- Workshops for adults with disabilities
- Workshop for farmers
- Art and creativity
- Workshops for New Communities



## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

**177** new clients registered with Lifelong Learning for support in 2022.

**673** clients attended outreach clinic appointments with the Lifelong Learning team.

**90** Lifelong Learning workshops were delivered throughout the year.

**207** individuals participated in at least one Lifelong Learning workshop.

**30** different locations in the catchment area were targeted with workshops, endeavouring to reach the most isolated and disadvantaged in the community.







*Left: Gardening workshop delivered by Joanne Butler to clients in Letterkenny*

**30** clients with disabilities took part in Lifelong Learning workshops and training.

**200** young people were supported via Learning Support Groups in Raphoe, Dunfanaghy and Portnoo



A programme of Gender Equality and Human Trafficking workshops was delivered to secondary school students.



The Saturday Storytime, a programme to improve children's literacy skills and develop a culture of reading, was delivered in the Niall Mor Centre, Killybegs.

**9** Traveller men were supported to avail of First Aid Training.



The team worked collaboratively with 25 community-based and voluntary organisations to ensure that supports were widely publicised across our catchment area.

*Left: Flower arranging workshop delivered to Lifelong Learning clients in Pettigo*

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2022

In order to engage women who are the hardest to reach, the team worked with Women's Collective Ireland – Donegal. Collaboratively, they ran seven programmes in response to the needs identified by grassroots women, including three Women in the Home programmes which were delivered over eight weeks.

The Lifelong Learning team partnered with disability organisations in Donegal e.g., Irish Wheelchair and Association and Advocates For Personal Potential (APP) Training Service. Together they designed programmes on topics such as self-care, wellness, Pilates, gardening, communications, and chair aerobics to help ensure the equal participation of people with disabilities in our society.

The Lifelong Learning team led out on a very successful Art Exhibition in Inver in May 2022 which showcased the fabulous artwork completed by their clients during Covid. Twenty-nine clients exhibited their work and met each other in person for the very first time. The team were delighted to have 'Changing Ireland' write a feature on this exhibition in their July 2022 issue.

Health and wellbeing workshops were delivered to farming families in conjunction with Mental Health Ireland, addressing the unique stresses that farmers face.

# Success Stories

## Donna

Donna, a lone parent, attended the Women in the Home (WITH) programme. Donna was long-term unemployed and struggling with parenting alone. She found the WITH programme excellent as it was an opportunity to meet people again, some of whom were in the same situation. Donna attended several other workshops and completed a HACCP course. With the support of SICAP, she got a place on a CE scheme locally.

*"I got great support from the workshops at a time when I was struggling. These workshops gave me great confidence."*

- Donna, WITH participant

## Anne

The DARE (Dissolving Anxiety Restoring Ease) was delivered in Bundoran to meet the needs of clients in this area who were suffering from post-covid anxiety. Eleven participants who experienced anxiety and stress reported increased levels of confidence and well-being upon finishing the programme.

*"Thank you to DLDC for giving me the opportunity to attend this course. I found it difficult to attend on week one but by week four I was so proud of myself. It gave me confidence and I was able to attend a menopause workshop and Flower Arranging Class later in the year"*

- Anne, DARE participant



## Jane

Jane, a female client who was referred to Lifelong Learning for Personal Development supports, attended multiple Personal Development workshops over the course of two years. She has come on a long personal journey with the assistance of these Personal Development supports provided under SICAP Lifelong Learning. She has gained confidence, found a new sense of purpose in life, and found herself again, after rearing her family. Last year she went on to secure paid employment in the retail sector after having been a stay-at-home mother for more than two decades. She has since completed an SNA course and changed employment to fit better with family life whilst also securing substitute work as an SNA in local schools.

*"I believe that SICAP Lifelong Learning supports gave me an invaluable opportunity to consider an improved life for me and my family".*

- Jane, Lifelong Learning participant

# Employment Supports Programme

DLDC's Employment Support Programme aims to assist individuals to progress into employment or better-quality employment. The programme focuses on those most distant from the labour market, such as the long term unemployed, the unemployed not on the live register, disadvantaged women in the home, young people, and people with disabilities, the under-employed, and the Traveller community.

Supports offered to clients in 2022 included one-to-one meetings where the Employment Support team developed personal action plans, compiled CVs, and cover letters, assist with job searching and applications, and interview skills and mock interviews. Employment support is available through an outreach programme in more rural areas.



## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

**210** individuals engaged with Employment Support to better prepare themselves to enter employment.

**49** obtained employments in various sectors, mainly in hospitality and manufacturing.

**25** individuals in low-paid, part-time employment, where there is little or no long-term job security, received ongoing support.

**60** asylum seekers residing in the IPASS Centre in Letterkenny received employment support, with 10 finding employment in various sectors - mainly hospitality and manufacturing.

**18** clients offered online training Fit2Work training which focused on upskilling in practical areas such as health and safety training, making clients more attractive to potential employers. Five of these clients were people with disabilities who were engaged with the Progression Pathways Programme.



# Success Stories

## Nancy

Nancy, a 44-year-old qualified math and science teacher from India, has been living in the IPAS centre with her two teenage children for over two years. Despite her years of experience, she has been unable to find suitable work in her field in Ireland. With the Employment Support team's help, Nancy re-edited her CV to highlight her transferable skills and identified aspects of her previous roles that she enjoyed the most. She secured part-time work facilitating creative craft workshops for adults and completed a Barista Training course to explore opportunities in the hospitality sector. Nancy continues to engage with the team, accessing the weekly job list and upskilling opportunities. She was referred to the Lifelong Learning team for a Basic Food Hygiene course to further enhance her skills. Nancy is delighted with her progress and grateful for the support she received from the Employment Support team.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2022

The team provided ongoing support to older people (+55 years) through a new program called "Voice of Older People" (VOOP) which is aimed at the older people in our society. This programme offered supports and information for older people who may not know where or how to access information online. The programme was delivered with collaboration of organisations such as Age Action, the HSE, and the Donegal Volunteer Centre.

Key beneficiaries of Employment Support team services were asylum seekers, Ukrainian refugees, and other new communities. Support included CV and job application support, and mock interviews.

DLDC continued to build on its weekly job list for clients throughout the year. The job list was an excellent resource for clients to search for jobs and provided support to employers who utilise the free resource to advertise their jobs.





An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection

## Bluestack Special Needs Foundation

The SICAP Employment Support team focused on providing in-depth supports for people with disabilities. The team approached the Bluestack Special Needs Foundation in Donegal Town to offer a range of employment supports to young people with a disability engaged with the foundation. The foundation had already commenced delivering a Progression Pathways Project for ten young people. The aim of the programme being to help the young people aged 18 - 24 develop skills and explore opportunities for employment in the future.

*"Thank you so much to DLDC's Employment Supports team for providing invaluable support to the people in our foundation. The one-to-one support provided by the team has been exceptional, and the work experience opportunities arranged in the retail sector have been of great value for their confidence".*

- Wendy McCarry,  
Bluestack Special Needs Foundation



*"Providing opportunities for our community is very important to the team at our shop. We are delighted to have worked with the Bluestack Special Needs Foundation. We were impressed by the skills of the individuals who completed their work experience with us and we hope that the experience has prepared them well for future employment opportunities."*

- McNulty's XL Store

# Local Area Employment Service (LAES)

The Local Area Employment Service (LAES) programme is a newly established programme, commencing in March 2022. The programme is funded by the Department of Social Protection and forms part of the additional Public Employment Service capacity required to deliver on Pathways to Work 2021 – 2025 strategy.

LAES primarily focuses on long-term unemployed clients, those farthest from the labour market, and those with significant barriers to labour market participation. Under the guidance of the LAES team, clients benefit from practical training and support in developing their job-seeking skills, as well as availing of resources available to help build confidence.

LAES training includes:

- Developing a dynamic CV and cover letter
- Effective job search
- Applications and information on current recruitment methods
- Key skills analysis
- Interview preparation and techniques

The LAES team regularly collaborated with other teams within DLDC, offering the client a wrap-around service, examples of inter-company referrals include Donegal Volunteer Centre, Tús and RSS Schemes Department, Enterprise Team - for Start Your Own Business support, Traveller Job Coach, SICAP – Lifelong Learning, and the CE Childcare Scheme.

## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

# 340

clients in total supported by LAES from March to December.

# 2000+

one-to-one sessions with participants.

# 20

participants were placed into various full-time and part-time employment, including retail, hospitality, construction, childcare, accounts, driving, cleaning, and warehouse operator.

# 270

Personal Progression Plans were created for clients. These were based on the client's experience, goals, and identified needs.



Outreach clinics for one-to-one sessions took place in locations throughout the county, such as Letterkenny, Stranorlar, Donegal Town, Ballyshannon, Dunfanaghy, Dungloe and Killybegs.

# Success Stories



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection

*"I had been struggling to find a job for a long time as well as having the added pressure of not having a place to live. I badly wanted to turn my life around but it sometimes felt like it was never going to happen for me. When I was introduced to the LAES team things started to look up. The team was incredibly supportive. They gave me advice on job searching, CV development, how to present myself in job interviews, and how to build my confidence.*

*It wasn't easy, but, with the LAES team's encouragement and direction, I landed a job that I love. With my new income, I have recently applied to get a place to live and am able to start building a life for myself. The LAES team continued to support me, checking in to see how I was doing and offering advice about starting the job. Today, I am proud to say that I am working as a paint sprayer with a great company with the prospect of home of my own. I am grateful to the LAES team for helping me and I hope that my story can inspire others who may be struggling with similar challenges."*

- John, LAES participant



# Traveller Job Coach

The Traveller Job Coach programme has been in operation since 2011 with Donegal Local Development Company. The programme aims to support the Traveller community re-enter the workforce and source training/education courses that will enhance employment opportunities.

The scheme operates countywide and is based in Donegal Travellers Project premises in Letterkenny. The programme also operates outreach clinics in community centre venues in Inishowen and South Donegal. Traveller Job Coach works in collaboration with Donegal Travellers Project on organised employment information days, women/men's training courses, a Traveller bi-monthly magazine, bus/lorry driving theory, and Traveller specific events.

The TJC worker operates;

- A safe confidential open-door policy where clients can engage with the worker at any stage. Based in Donegal Travellers Project offices in Letterkenny and Ballyshannon.
- Some clients engage with the worker after securing a job. Issues may arise while in a job and the TJC will liaise with the employer if needed and link with other service providers to support the client.
- Some clients link in for a specific training/course and leave, however these clients normally re-engage back into the programme for employment supports.
- Referral of clients to the programme from external service providers, Donegal Travellers Project, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Affairs, Prison Probation Service, etc.

## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

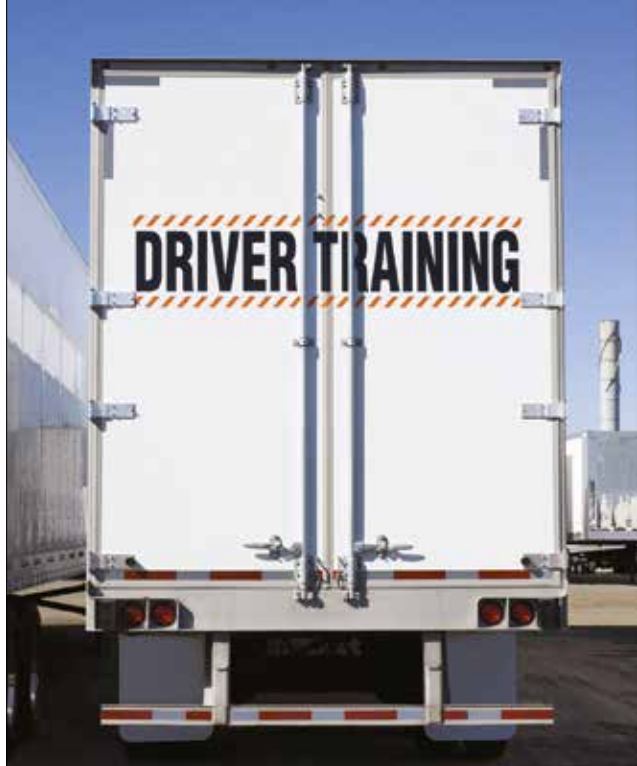
**118** clients supported by the Traveller Job Coach programme in 2022.

**27** clients took up part time or full-time employment.

**77** clients engaged in accredited and non-accredited training, a combination of online training and in-house training in manual handling including Safe Pass; abrasive wheel; forklifting training; barista training.







### HGV AND CPC TRAINING

The Traveller Job Coach programme organised training in driver certificate of professional competency. Completion of this training required sitting two exams and submitting a case study. Following the course, participants can take HGV truck or bus driving lessons.

The training was very successful, with a 100% pass rate in the CPC part 1 and 2 training with all participants progressing on to lorry/bus licences, which led to private employment and self-employment.

### INDIVIDUAL ONE-TO-ONE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

The Traveller Job Coach programme provided one-on-one support that catered to the individual needs of participants, offering training programmes aligned with the clients' interests while adopting a community development approach. The Traveller Job Coach successfully assisted clients in securing both full-time and part-time positions in various sectors, including community and childcare, food industry, transportation, and customer service.



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth

## Success Stories

*"I went through the CPC training, I got the provisional licence which got me the lorry licence. This helped me set up my courier business. I am now self-employed and contracted with a large courier company in Donegal"*

- Ownie, self-employed

*"I was supported with work experience training in Harvey's Point Hotel that has led to full-time employment as a waitress. I intend to go back to college and combine the skills I have learned from the hotel industry so I can progress into other areas of the tourism and hospitality sector."*

- Philomena, TJC participant



# Self-employment supports

## Providing pathways to self-employment and social enterprise.

Enterprise supports are aimed at people who may consider self-employment to improve their current financial situation and personal progression. The Enterprise Team works with a range of people across Donegal who may have disengaged from the labour market due to various reasons, including illness, disability, time spent in education, and engagement in family duties. Clients include the long-term unemployed, the short-term unemployed on a social welfare payment, the underemployed person with irregular income, as well as individuals in the home not in receipt of a social

welfare payment.

Participation in the programme enables individuals to explore potential business opportunities. Through one-on-one guidance, comprehensive training and expert mentoring, participants are empowered to develop their ideas and turn their ambitions into reality. Many business owners who have been through the process have reported increased confidence and empowerment. Not only has this provided them with the necessary means to earn an income that can support themselves and their families, but in some cases, they have even been able to generate job opportunities for others also.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2022

DLDC held the Celebrating Donegal Business showcase to profile the business acumen, resilience and hard work undertaken by entrepreneurs in the county. Over 50 business owners took part in event which provided the opportunity to meet clients and network with fellow start-ups.

Many of the businesses were established during the pandemic, under the most challenging of circumstances, and DLDC continues to support them through various training opportunities and networking events and assistance to help them diversify and adapt to continue trading.



## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

**219** individuals engaged in enterprise support.

**70** participants established new businesses following receipt of Enterprise Supports.

**180** clients received a range of follow-up supports.

**80** clients availed of one-to-one mentoring including bookkeeping and marketing supports.

**96** business owners attended training workshops including marketing, business brand development, costing and pricing, tax return workshops, VAT workshops, online selling and social media management.

**5** networking events featuring guest speakers were organised providing business owners the opportunity to share their own challenges and successes.

**133** individuals attended the Start Your Own Business course which provided support with a business plan, cashflow projections, business viability, marketing methods, financial legal requirement, and training and funding.



The team continued to engage with business owners on a private Facebook group which currently has 218 members.

## Success Stories



Shane, a former retail worker, identified an opportunity to provide wood floor refurbishment services to residential and commercial premises in Donegal. With prior experience in laying and upgrading floors, Shane decided to start his own floor sanding business, Woodcraft Floor Sanding, in 2022. He invested in equipment and completed courses to enhance his skills and knowledge in the field.

To ensure the success of his business, Shane sought support from an Enterprise Officer in DLDC who guided him through the process of setting up his business. He attended DLDC's Start Your Own Business training, created a comprehensive business plan, and cash flow projection. With these in place, he was able to launch his business confidently.

After launching Woodcraft Floor Sanding, Shane continued to work with DLDC to access mentoring and marketing support. He also attended networking events and training courses to improve his business skills and expand his service offerings. As a result of his hard work and dedication, his business flourished and he was able to extend his services to include laying and restoring flooring.

*"Starting my own business was a daunting experience, but with the help of the Enterprise Officer, I felt like I was able to do it. The training, mentoring, and marketing support I received were invaluable in helping me grow my business. I couldn't have done it without the support of the team in DLDC and for that, I am very grateful."*

- Shane, Enterprise participant

# Sláintecare Healthy Communities

A new cross-government initiative, Sláintecare Healthy Communities aims to deliver increased health and well-being services to communities across Ireland.

The programme is delivered in partnership with the HSE, local authorities, local communities, and statutory, voluntary, and community groups. DLDC works with Sláintecare Healthy Ireland to deliver the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme, working together to provide dedicated services to build lasting improvements in health and wellbeing.

Initiatives delivered under the programme include:

## WE CAN QUIT

We Can Quit is a peer-led smoking cessation programme for people aged 18 and over. It includes group and one-to-one support to quit smoking by trained Community Facilitators.

## HEALTHY FOOD MADE EASY

The Healthy Food Made Easy (HFME) programme is a basic nutrition and cookery course that helps people to change to a healthy diet, plan meals on a budget and make easy to cook meals. The course content is based on the most up-to-date healthy eating guidelines from the Department of Health.



## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

**124** participants completed Healthy Food Made Easy programme.

**10** participants took part in We Can Quit.



Food mapping was carried out in the region to assess the food environment.



Sláintecare.  
**Healthy  
Communities**

# Success Stories

On the first day of the Healthy Food Made Easy programme, participants think about the food they consumed on the previous day. Dee was shocked to realise she had eaten nine treat foods over the day, without realising it. By the final day of the programme, when participants repeat the exercise to measure if anything has changed, Dee realised she had only eaten two treat foods. She felt that this was a huge change, and one she was very happy to have made for her health.

*Left: Healthy Food Made Easy participants, Burtonport 2022*



# An Ghaeltacht and the islands

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# Lifelong Learning – An Ghaeltacht

Lifelong Learning is the ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge. The programme operates under the premise that people of all ages and abilities should be able to participate in education at a level appropriate to their needs and abilities across the Gaeltacht.

Despite challenges in 2022, the SICAP team remained flexible and responsive to the evolving needs of 20 clients and 94 non-caseload clients. The team focused on personal development, building resilience, and well-being to alleviate social exclusion and promote positive mental health. The Lifelong Learning programme offered 11 workshops in 9 local centres across Gaeltacht, prioritising areas with high early school leaving and disadvantage, including Cnocfola, Downings, Meenamara, Machaire Rabhartaigh, Carrigart and Gaoth Dobhair.

## SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The team offered various workshops to elderly clients to enhance their personal growth and well-being and prevent isolation and exclusion. These workshops encompassed a range of activities such as willow work, gardening, arts and crafts, capacity building, personal development and well-being, cookery classes, jewellery and soap making, and menopause awareness.



**etb**

Bord Oideachais agus  
Oiliúna Dhún na nGall  
Donegal Education and  
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## KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2022

**42** caseload individuals and 138 non caseload individuals were supported on their Lifelong Learning journey.

**180** clients attended accredited and industry certified courses this year including 55 clients who received a QQI L3-L5 qualification, and 125 clients received an industry accredited certification.



The team provided a mix of supports to develop participants skills and capabilities and continued to focus on those most distant from the labour market and specifically those residing furthest from the central areas where a significant amount of training opportunities is available.

**3** HACCP and Food Hygiene courses were delivered, resulting in over 40 clients from across the Gaeltacht receiving EHAI qualifications. Due to the online delivery of these course, 21 clients from the islands of Arranmore and Tory were able to attend.

**290** children and young people in the Gaeltacht area, as well as 47 parent/guardians attended information sessions on child development and behaviour.



SICAP sourced and delivered a range of credited and non-accredited tailored supports based on identified needs of clients in marginalised areas of the Gaeltacht which included barista training, ATV safety, CPR and defibrillator training, HACCP and Food Hygiene, Manual Handling, Safe Pass, PHECC First Aid, safe use of pesticide, and chainsaw safety.



### SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The SICAP focused on supporting children with ASD and dyslexia, as well as promoting youth mental health through art and craft workshops. The programme provided parent support workshops, dyslexia support workshops, and additional needs support workshops, among others. The programme also supported art and craft workshops on Arranmore Island and an art workshop in Cnoc Fola, promoting inclusion and personal development.

# Foghlaim Fad Saoil – An Ghaeltacht

Tóraíocht an léinn atá leanúnach, deonach agus féinspreagtha is ea Foghlaim Fad Saoil. Oibríonn an clár ar an tuigbheáil gur cheart go mbeadh daoine d'achan aois agus ábaltachtaí páirteach in oideachas ag leibhéal atá fóirsteanach dá riachtanais agus dá gcuid ábaltachtaí, ar fud na Gaeltachta.

D'ainneoin na dúshláin in 2022, d'fhan foireann SICAP solúbtha agus freagrúil do na riachtanais a bhí ag teacht chun cinn ag 20 cliant agus 94 cliant nach bhfuil sa líon cásanna. Dhírigh an fhoireann ar fhorbairt phearsanta, ag tógáil ar an teacht aniar agus ar shláinte chun eisiámh sóisialta a laghdú agus meabhairshláinte dearfach a chur chun cinn. Thairg clár Foghlaim Fad Saoil aon cheardlann déag i naoi ionad áitiúil ar fud na Gaeltachta, ag cur in ord tosaíochta na ceantacha ina bhfuil líon ard de luathfhágálaithe scoile agus míbhuntáiste, lena n-áirítear Cnoc Fola, Na Dúnaibh, Machaire Rabhartaigh, Carraig Airt agus Gaoth Dobhair.

## TACAÍOCHT DE SHEANDAOINE

Thairg an fhoireann ceardlanna éagsúla do chliant níos sine le cur lena bhforás pearsanta agus a sláinte agus cosc a chur le heisiámh agus le huaigheas. Bhí réimse de ghníomhaíochtaí sna ceardlanna seo mar- obair shaileoige, garraíodóireacht, ealaíon agus ceird, forbairt acmhainne, forbairt phearsanta agus sláinte, ranganna cócaireachta, déanamh seodra agus sópa, agus tuigbheáil ar an mheanapás.



**etb**

Bord Oideachais agus  
Oiliúna Dhúin na nGall  
Donegal Education and  
Training Board





42

Tugadh tacaíocht do 42 duine i líon na gcás agus 138 duine nach raibh i líon na gcás ar a dturas Foghlama Fad Saoil.

180

Rinne 180 cliant freastal ar chúrsaí creidiúnaithe agus tionsclaíocht dheimhnithe i mbliana agus san áireamh bhí 55 cliant a fuair cáilíocht QQI L3-L5, agus 125 cliant a fuair deimhniú creidiúnaithe tionsclaíochta.



Chuir an fhoireann meascán de thacaíochtaí ar fáil le scileanna agus ábaltachtaí na rannpháirtithe a fhorbairt agus lean siad ag díriú orthusan ab fhaide ar shiúl ón mhargadh fostaíochta agus go háirithe iadsan is faide ar shiúl ó na lárlimistéir, áit a bhfuil méid suntasach deiseanna traenála ar fáil.

3

Tugadh 3 chúrsa AGPRC agus Sláinteas Bidh agus mar thoradh ar seo fuair breis agus 40 cliant ar fud na Gaeltachta cáilíochtaí EHA. De thairbhe gur tugadh na cúrsaí seo ar líne bhí 21 cliant as Árann Mhór agus as Toraigh ábalta freastal orthu.

290

D'fhreastail 290 páiste agus daoine óga ón cheantar Gaeltachta, comh maith le 47 tuismitheoir/ caomhnóir ar sheisiúin eolais faoi fhorbairt agus iompar páistí.



Rinne SICAP réimse tacaíochtaí, creidiúnaithe agus neamh-creidiúnaithe, a cuireadh in oiriúint, a fhoinsiú agus a chur ar fáil, bunaithe ar riachtanais aitheanta na gcliant i gceantair imeallaithe Ghaeltachta ina raibh san áireamh -- traenáil barista, sábháilteacht ATV, traenáil ACS agus an dífhibrileora, AGPRC agus Sláinteas Bidh, Láimhsiú Sábháilte, Pas Sábháilte, Garchabhair PHECC, úsáid shábháilte lotnaidicíd, agus sábháilteacht le sábh slabhrach.



### TACAÍOCHTAÍ DO PHÁISTÍ AGUS DO THEAGHLAIGH

Dhírigh SICAP ar thacaíocht a thabhairt do pháistí le ASD agus disléicse comh maith le meabhairshláinte don óige a chur chun cinn fríd cheardlanna ealaíon agus ceird. Chuir an clár ceardlanna tacaíochta tuismitheora, ceardlanna tacaíochta disléicse, ceardlanna tacaíochta ar riachtanais bhreise, comh maith le cinn eile, ar fáil. Thug an clár tacaíocht fosta do cheardlanna ealaíne agus ceirde ar Oileán Árann Mhór agus ceardlann ealaíne i gCnoc Fola, ag cur cuimsiú agus forbairt phearsanta chun cinn.

# Community Development – An Ghaeltacht

**Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Community Development programme aims to support local communities in addressing poverty, social exclusion, and inequality issues.**

The Community Development team provided direct supports to local committees and volunteers using a community-led bottom-up approach to develop the capacity of members and volunteers who represent or work with disadvantaged communities and target groups of the SICAP Programme.

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

### Older People and Rural Isolation

The team hosted an interactive information and social event for older and retired people as part of Social Inclusion week 2022. The event was held in Ionad Naomh Fionnán Fál Carrach and consisted of information, nutrition and fitness demonstrations, music, lunch. The event had guest speakers from Mental Health Ireland, Slaintecare, Donegal Sports Partnership, Muintir na Tíre and An Garda Síochána. Information stands were provided by MABS, ETB, HSE Falls Prevention Team and Integrated Care Team, Donegal Volunteer Centre and Cancer Flights Ionad Naomh Padraig. All attendees received a resource gift bag containing a mix of items including an emergency detail fridge magnet, Be Winter Ready booklet, a high viz vest, daffodil bulbs and information leaflets.

### Capacity building workshops

Community groups took part in capacity building online workshops, focusing on improving Committee and Community Communications, Fundraising and the Charities Act Amendment Bill.

### Summer Reconnection Programme

To encourage re-engagement of team delivered the 'Summer Reconnection Programme – Transport Costs 2022'. Applications were accepted from groups who engaged in projects who aimed to deliver social inclusion, networking, and collaborative activities. Twenty-three groups in the Gaeltacht were supported through this initiative.

### Summer and Autumn inclusion and integration activities

The team collaborated with local groups to deliver summer and autumn camps for children and teenagers to include New Communities, Ukrainian refugees and disadvantaged children and families in rural areas where access to such activities is not currently available. Partners included Rosses CDP, Ionad Naomh Padraig Gaoith Dobhair.

*"Thank you to the team in DLDC for all their support, particularly on governance and compliance. As volunteers, it is great to have the back-up and reassurance that you are on the right track! The support is invaluable and very much appreciated!"*

- Sally Boyce,  
Cloughnaneely Food Bank



LIVE MUSIC  
INFORMATION  
STANDS



**SAOL**  
SABHÁILTE - ÁBALTA - OIDEACHAS - LUACH

## Active Retirement Social Inclusion Event

Speakers:

- Mental Health Ireland
- Donegal Sports Partnership
- Muintir Na Tíre
- An Garda Síochána
- Donegal Local Development CLG

**Where: Ionad Naomh Fionnán, Falcarragh**  
**When: 14th October at 10:30am**

### LUNCH SERVED

For questions and more details, please call  
our office at 086-1720610  
Email: mmhicphaidin@dldc.org



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



LCDC



Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council



EUROPEAN UNION  
Investing in your future  
European Social Fund

"The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programmes for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020"

# Forbairt Pobail – An Ghaeltacht

Tá sé mar chuspóir ag clár Forbartha Pobail SICAP, (An Clár um Chuimsiú Sóisialta & Gníomhachtú Pobail) tacaíocht a thabhairt do phobail áitiúla a dhul i ngleic le bochtaineacht, eisiamh sóisialta agus ceisteanna éagothroime.

Cuireann foireann Forbartha Pobail tacaíochtaí díreacha ar fáil do choistí áitiúla agus d'oibrithe deonacha ag baint úsáid as cur chuige atá faoi threoir an phobail ón bhun aníos chun inniúlacht na mball agus na n-oibrithe deonacha, a dhéanann ionadaíocht nó a oibríonn le pobail atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste, a fhorbairt, agus díriú ar ghrúpaí ó Chlár SICAP.

## BUAICPHOINTÍ 2022

### Daoine Aosta agus Iargúlacht Tuaithe

D'óstáil an fhoireann ócáid shóisialta agus eolais idirghníomhach do dhaoine aosta agus do dhaoine ar scor mar chuid de sheachtain Eisiamh Sóisialta 2022. Bhí an ócáid seo ar siúl in Ionad Naomh Fionnán ar an Fhál Carrach agus san áireamh bhí eolas, beathú agus taispeántais aclaíochta, ceol agus lón. Bhí aoichainteoirí ansin ó Meabhairshláinte Éireann, Sláintecare, Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Dhún na nGall, Muintir na Tíre agus an Garda Síochána. Bhí seastáin eolais curtha ar fáil ag: SBCA, BOO, FSS, Foireann Falls Prevention, Foireann Imeachadh Cúraim, Ionad d'Oibrithe Deonacha Dhún na nGall, Eitiltí Ailse Ionad Naomh Pádraig. Fuair an lucht freastail mála de bhronntanais acmhainne ina raibh meascán d'earraí lena raibh maighnéid cuisneora le sonraí éigeandála, leabhrán 'Be Winter Ready', veist le ard léargas, bleibíní Lus an Chrom Cinn agus bileoga eolais.

### Clár Athcheangail Samhraidh

Le athcheangal a spreagadh reáchtáil an fhoireann 'Clár Athcheangail Samhraidh – Costais Iompair 2022' Glacadh le hiarratais ó

ghrúpaí a bhí rannpháirteach i dtionscadail a bhí dírithe ar eisiamh sóisialta, líonrú agus ar ghníomhaíochtaí comhoibríoch a chur ar fáil. Fuair fiche trí grúpa sa Ghaeltacht tacaíocht fríd an tionscnamh seo.

### Gníomhaíochtaí ionchuimsithe agus imeasctha Samhraidh agus Fómhair

Chomhoibrigh an fhoireann le grúpaí áitiúla chun campaí Samhraidh agus Fómhair do pháistí agus do dhéagóirí a chur ar fáil ag a mbeadh rannpháirtíocht ag Pobail Úra, teifigh na hÚcráine agus páistí faoi mhíbhuntáiste agus teaghlaigh i gceantracha iargúlta, áit nach bhfuil fáil ar ghníomhaíochtaí den tsaghas seo faoi láthair. San áireamh mar chomhpháirtithe bhí CDP Na Rossa agus Ionad Naomh Pádraig Gaoth Dobhair.

### Ceardlanna ar fhorbairt acmhainne

Ghlac grúpaí pobail páirt i gceardlanna ar fhorbairt acmhainne ar líne, ag díriú ar Chumarsáid Pobail agus Coiste, ar Thiomsú Airgid agus ar Bhille Leasaithe Acht na gCarthanachtaí.



*"Buíochas don fhoireann in DLDC as a gcuid tacaíochta ar fad, go háirithe maidir le rialú agus comhlíonadh. Mar oibríthe deonacha is mór é cúltaca agus athdhearbhú le cur in iúl go bhfuil tú ar an bhealach ceart! Tá an tacaíocht thar a bheith tábhachtach agus muidinne thar a bheith buíoch as!"*

- Sally Boyce,  
Banc Bia Chloich Cheann Fhaola



CEOL BEO  
SEASTÁIN  
EOLAIS

## Ócáid Ionchuimsithe Sóisialta don Lucht Scoir Gníomhach



**SAOL**  
SABHÁILTE - ÁBALTA - OIDEACHAS - LUACH

- Cainteoirí:
- Meabhair Shláinte na hÉireann
  - Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Dhún na nGall
  - Muintir Na Tíre
  - An Garda Síochána
  - Forbairt Áitiúil Dhún na nGall CTR

**Láthair: Ionad Naomh Fionnán, Fálcarra**

**Dáta: 14ú Deire Fómhair**

**Am: 10:30r.n.**

### LÓN SAN ÁIREAMH

Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil, téigh i dteagmháil leis an oifig ar 086-1720610  
R-Phost: mmhicphaidin@dlcd.org



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



LCDC  
Lough Corrib Development Council



Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council



Tá an Clár Gníomhachtaí Pobail agus Cuimsiú Sóisialta (SICAP) 2018 - 2022 maoinithe ag rialtas na hÉireann trí an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus ama chomhaoiniú ag Ciste Sóisialta na hEorpa faoi an Clár um Infheistíocht, Cuimsiú agus Foghlaim (PEIL) 2014-2020.

# SICAP - Social Enterprise – An Ghaeltacht

**Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Community Development programme aims to support local communities in addressing poverty, social exclusion, and inequality issues.**

The Community Development team provide direct supports to local committees and volunteers using a community-led bottom-up approach to develop the capacity of members and volunteers who represent or work with disadvantaged communities and target groups of the SICAP Programme. for SICAP target groups.



## Success Stories

### Ionad Naomh Pádraig/ Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair

Ionad Naomh Pádraig is a social enterprise situated in Gweedore Gaeltacht, north west Donegal. The organisation run a Meals and Wheels service, breakfast club, after schools club, charity shop, operate the Cancer North West flights charity, as well as run educational and recreational activities in the centre.

DLDC has supported Ionad Naomh Pádraig with a number of initiatives throughout 2022. Whilst being active members of the Social Enterprise Network and active on the Donegal Food Response Network (DFRN), the centre caters for all aspects

of community life. As part of the DFRN supports from DLDC, the centre was supported with the set-up of an iDonate link which helped donations to the network's back-to-school and Christmas fundraisers.

With the arrival of Ukrainian refugees to the area in late Spring 2022, initiatives supporting positive integration and inclusion were supported by DLDC. The team supervised transport for children to attend summer camps, with children from both the Gweedore area and the Rosses area attending. DLDC also supported the centre with the planning and organising of cultural awareness initiatives aimed at promoting positive integration.

# SICAP - Fiontar Sóisialta – An Ghaeltacht

Tá sé mar chuspóir ag clár Forbartha Pobail SICAP, (An Clár um Chuimsiú Sóisialta & Gníomhachtú Pobail) tacaíocht a thabhairt do phobail áitiúla a dhul i ngleic le bochtaineacht, eisiamh sóisialta agus ceisteanna éagthroime.

Cuireann foireann Forbartha Pobail tacaíochtaí díreacha ar fáil do choistí áitiúla agus d'oibrithe deonacha ag baint úsáid as cur chuige atá faoi threoir an phobail ón bhun aníos chun inniúlacht na mball agus na n-oibrithe deonacha, a dhéanann ionadaíocht nó a oibríonn le pobail atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste, a fhorbairt agus díriú ar ghrúpaí ó Chlár SICAP.



## Scéal a raibh rath air

### Ionad Naomh Pádraig/ Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair

Is fiontar sóisialta é Ionad Naomh Pádraig atá suite i nGaeltacht Ghaath Dobhair in Iarthuaisceart Dhún na nGall. Reáchtáileann an eagraíocht seirbhís 'béilí-ar-rothaí', club bricfeasta, club i ndiaidh am scoile, siopa carthanachta agus is iad a eagraíonn eitiltí carthanachta Cancer North West, comh maith le gníomhaíochtaí oideachais agus caithimh aimsire a reáchtáil san ionad.

Tá tacaíocht tugtha ag DLDC d'Ionad Naomh Pádraig le roinnt tionscnaimh le linn 2022. Comh maith le bheith ina mbaill ghníomhacha den Ghréasán Fiontar Sóisialta agus gníomhach ar Ghréasán Freagartha Bia Dhún na nGall

(DFRN), freastalaíonn an tIonad d'achan ghné de shaol an phobail. Mar pháirt de thacaíochtaí an DFRN ón DLDC tugadh tacaíocht don Ionad le nasc don iDonate a chur ar bun a chuidigh le tabhartais chuig feachtais bhailiúchán airgid na Nollag agus ar ais -na-scoile an ghréasáin.

Le teacht theifigh na hÚcráine go dtí an cheantar ag deireadh an Earraigh 2022, thug an DLDC tacaíocht do thionscnaimh ina raibh tacaíocht a thabhairt d'imeascadh agus d'ionchuimsiú deimhneach. Rinne an fhoireann maoirseacht ar chóras iompair do pháistí le freastal a dhéanamh ar champaí Samhraidh, ar a raibh páistí ó cheantar Ghaath Dobhair agus na Rossa ag freastal. Thug an DLDC tacaíocht don Ionad fosta le pleanáil agus eagrú ar thionscnaimh feasachta chultúrtha dírithe ar imeascadh deimhneach a chur chun cinn.

# Donegal Volunteer Centre – An Ghaeltacht

Donegal Volunteer Centre (DVC) works with individual volunteers and community groups across the Gaeltacht region to help provide meaningful volunteer roles and community engagement. DVC's role is to promote volunteering while enhancing the volunteering capacity of groups coupled with supporting new and existing volunteer roles.

## BRÓD NA GAELTACHTA

BRÓD na Gaeltachta was established in Falcarragh in 2022 with the aim of bringing two marginalised communities together - An Pobal Gaelach and the LGBTQI+ community in rural Donegal.

Donegal Volunteer Centre provided volunteer stewards at Bród na Gaeltachta, Cloich Cheann Fhaola at the Pride Parade the culmination of the week-long bilingual LGBTQI+ community arts festival that gave priority to the Irish language. It was the first of its kind in any Gaeltacht area in Ireland.

## VOLUNTEER AWARD FOR PATRICK SWEENEY

The Donegal Volunteer Centre attended an event at the Fanad Day Centre to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contribution of Patrick Sweeney to volunteering in the local community and beyond. Mr. Sweeney has been involved in supporting the delivery of vital community infrastructure since the rural electrification in the 1950s and played a key role in establishing the Donegal Volunteer Centre. His unwavering commitment and dedication to supporting others is truly admirable, and we are proud to honour him as a deserving recipient of the ME4U volunteer award.





# Ionad d'Oibrithe Deonacha Dhún na nGall (DVC) – An Gaeltacht

Oibríonn Ionad Deonach Dhún na nGall (DVC) le hoibrithe deonacha aonair agus le grúpaí pobail ar fud na Gaeltachta le tacaíocht a thabhairt dóibh chun ról thábhachtacha dheonacha agus rannpháirtíocht sa phobal a chur ar fáil.

'Sé ról na DVC'nna ná oibriú go deonach a chur chun cinn agus ag an am chéanna a bheith ag leasú inniúlacht dheonach na ngrúpaí comh maith le tacaíocht a thabhairt do ról úra dheonacha agus na cinn atá ansin faoi láthair.

## BRÓD na Gaeltachta

Cuireadh BRÓD na Gaeltachta ar bun ar an Fhál Carrach in 2022 agus é mar chuspóir aige dhá phobal imeallach a thabhairt le chéile – An Pobal Gaelach agus LGBTQI+ pobal i gceantracha tuaithe i nDún na nGall.

Chuir Ionad d'Oibrithe Deonacha Dhún na nGall maoir dheonacha ar fáil ag Paráid Bhróid, Bród na Gaeltachta, Cloich Cheann Fhaola, ba seo buaic féile ealaíne seachtaine dátheangach an LGBTQI + pobal a thug tosaíocht don Ghaeilge. Ba é an chéad cheann dá shórt i gceantar Gaeltachta ar bith in Éirinn.



## Gradam Oibrí Deonach do Pádraig Mac Suibhne.

D'fhreastail Ionad d'Oibrithe Deonacha Dhún na nGall ar ócáid ag Ionad Lae Fhánada le haitheantas a thabhairt agus ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar an chuidiú iontach atá tugtha ag Pádraig Mac Suibhne d'oibriú deonach sa phobal áitiúil agus níos faide ó bhaile. Bhí Pádraig rannpháirteach sa tacaíocht a cuireadh ar fáil le bonneagar tábhachtach pobail a fhorbairt ó am leictiú na tuaithe sna naoi déag caogaidí agus bhí páirt lárnach aige Ionad d'Oibrithe Deonacha Dhún na nGall a chur ar bun. Caitheann é a mholadh go hard as an tiomantas daingean agus an díograis a thaispeánann sé agus é ag tabhairt tacaíocht do dhaoine eile agus tá bród orainn onóir a thabhairt dó leis an ghradam seo d'oibrí deonach ME4U mar dhuine a bhfuil sé tuillte go mór aige.



**Donegal  
Volunteer Centre**

Ionad d'Obair Saorálai Chondae Dhún na nGall

# Self-employment Supports – An Ghaeltacht

## Providing pathways to self-employment and social enterprise

The Enterprise Team assists a diverse range of people in Donegal Gaeltacht, including those who are unemployed or have disengaged from the workforce due to illness, disability, education, or family duties. Through the programme, participants receive personalised guidance, training, and mentorship to explore business opportunities and transform their ideas into reality. The programme has boosted confidence and empowerment, resulting in income generation for participants and their families and, in some cases, creating employment opportunities for others.

## SUPPORTS FOR BUSINESSES - PRE-START-UP

The Enterprise Team provided support for businesses at the pre-startup stage. Each client was supported with a Personal Action Plans and invited to attend the Start Your Own Business Course. The team assisted clients in preparing a business plan, cashflow projections, identifying potential customers to assess the potential viability of the business, and understanding marketing methods to position their proposed business. Participants received guidance on any relevant financial legal requirements and were supported in accessing self-employment training and funding.

## SUPPORTS FOR BUSINESSES - POST-START-UP

The team provided one-to-one mentoring on bookkeeping and marketing, networking events, and continued engagement through a private Facebook group. Workshops on marketing, brand development, pricing, tax returns, VAT, online selling, and social media management were

## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

**62** clients received one-to-one self-employment supports.

**19** clients were supported into business.

**40** clients have received a range of follow up supports.

also provided. Clients received daily support and guidance as needed.

## THE SEA COLLECTIVE

Catherine and David set up The Sea Collective in October 2022 as a Partnership, moving home to the Donegal Gaeltacht during the Covid Pandemic after many years working abroad. They are both qualified and experienced Marine Biologists, and wanted to set up their own business in marine biology and biodiversity outreach and engagement. They saw an opportunity for people to learn more about their local marine biodiversity and activities related to ocean protection, and now offer workshops to schools, community groups and tourism providers.

They had a meeting with the Enterprise Officer to avail of the supports to support them in setting up their business, they attended the Start Your Own Business training and following on met with the enterprise officer to complete their business plan and cashflow. They also received marketing and mentoring supports and their business has been thriving since they set up.

# Tacaíochtaí Féin-fhostaíochta – An Gaeltacht

Bealaí a chur ar fáil i dtreo na féinfhostaíochta agus fiontar sóisialta.

Cuidíonn an Fhoireann Fiontair le réimse éagsúil daoine i nGaeltacht Dhún na nGall, iadsan atá dífhostaithe nó a d'éirigh as a gcuid oibre de thairbhe iad a bheith tinn, faoi mhíchumas, oideachas, nó dualgas teaghlaigh. Ar feadh an chlár gheobhann na rannpháirtithe treoir phearsanta, oiliúint agus meantóireacht le iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar dheiseanna gnó agus a gcuid tuairimí a chur i gcrích. Rinne an clár muinín agus cumasú a spreagadh, lena ndéantar ioncam a ghiniúint do rannpháirtithe agus dá dteaghlaigh dá bharr, agus i roinnt cásanna ag cruthú deiseanna fostaíochta do dhaoine eile.

## TACAÍOCHTAÍ DO GHNÓTHAÍ - RÉAMH-BHUNÚ.

Thug an Fhoireann Fiontair tacaíocht do ghnóthaí ag an chéim réamh-bhunaithe. Tugadh Plean Gníomhaíochta Pearsanta d'achan chliant mar thacaíocht agus tugadh cuireadh dó freastal ar chúrsa – Cuir Tús le do Ghnó Fhéin. Chuidigh an fhoireann le cliant plean gnó a ullmhú, le réamh-mheastacháin sreabhadh airgid, le custaiméirí a aithint a d'fhéadfadh a bheith acu chun acmhainneacht inmharthanachta an ghnó a mheas, agus le modhanna margaíochta a thuigbheáil leis an ghnó atá beartaithe a shocrú. Tugadh treoir do na rannpháirtithe faoi aon riachtanas dleathach airgid a bhí ábhartha agus tugadh tacaíocht dóibh chun teacht ar thraenáil féinfhostaíochta agus maoiniú.

## TACAÍOCHTAÍ DO GHNÓTHAÍ – IAR-BHUNÚ.

Chuir an fhoireann meantóireacht duine le duine, ar fáil, faoi leabhar choimeád agus margaíocht, imeachtaí gréasáin, agus le teagmháil leanúnach a bheith acu fríd grúpa Facebook príomhaideach. Cuireadh ar fáil fosta ceardlanna ar mhargaíocht, forbairt branda, praghsáil, tuairisceán cánach,

## NA PRÍOMH THORTHAÍ 2022

**62** Fuair 62 client tacaíochtaí féinfhostaíochta duine le duine.

**19** Tugadh tacaíocht isteach i ngnóthaí do 19 client.

**40** Fuair 40 client réimse de thacaíochtaí iarchúraim.

CBL, díol ar líne, agus bainistiú na meáin shóisialta. Fuair na cliant tacaíocht laethúil agus treoir de réir mar a bhí sé a dhith.

## AN 'SEA COLLECTIVE'

Bhunaigh Catherine agus David an 'Sea Collective' i nDeireadh Fómhair 2022 mar chomhpháirtíocht, ag aistriú 'na bhaile go Gaeltacht Dhún na nGall le linn na Paindéime Covid, i ndiaidh dófa blianta fada a chaitheamh ag obair thar lear. Tá an bheirt acu cáilithe agus neart taithí acu mar bhitheolaithe mara, agus bhí siad ag iarraidh a ngnó fhéin i mbitheolaíocht mara agus i mbithéagsúlacht for-rochtana agus teagmhála a bhunú. Chonaic siad deis ansin do dhaoine níos mó a fhoghlaim faoina mbithéagsúlacht mara áitiúil agus fá ghníomhaíochtaí atá bainteach le cosaint na farraige, agus tá siad anois ag tairiscint ceardlanna do scoltacha, grúpaí pobail agus d'earnáil na turasóireachta.

Bhí cruinniú acu leis an Oifigeach Fiontair le tairbhe a bhaint as na tacaíochtaí atá ansin le cuidiú leofa a ngnó fhéin a bhunú. D'fhreastail siad ar an traenáil in 'Cuir Tús Le Do Ghnó Fhéin' agus ag leanstan ar aghaidh uaidh sin chas siad leis an oifigeach fiontair lena bplean gnó agus sreabhadh airgid a chur i gcrích. Fuair siad tacaíochtaí margaíochta agus meantóireachta fosta agus tá a ngó faoi bhláth ó bhunaigh siad é.

# Employment supports programme - An Ghaeltacht

DLDC's Employment Support Programme aims to assist individuals to progress into employment or better-quality employment. The programme focuses on those most distant from the labour market, such as the long term unemployed, the unemployed not on the live register, disadvantaged women in the home, young people, and people with disabilities, the under-employed, and the Traveller community.

Supports offered to clients in 2022 included one-to-one meetings where the Employment Support team developed personal action plans, compiled CVs, and cover letters, assist with job searching and applications, and interview skills and mock interviews.

## NEXT STEP CAREERS INITIATIVE

This programme as offered over a one-week period in the Gaeltacht region. The team targeted young people who were unsure of their next step and provide them with skills that increased their employment skills.



**Outreach Clinic**  
**Tacaíochtaí Fostaíochta/ Employment Supports**

- Information on CV building, Job Searching, Cover Letters, Interview Skills
- Eolas ar CV, Cuardach Poist, Litreacha Clúdaigh, Scileanna Agallaimh

Mevagh FRC - Downings  
 Tuesday/Máirt 31st May/Bealtaine  
 11:00am - 1:00pm

MEET DLDC STAFF TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS AVAILABLE

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Logos: Donegal Local Development CLG, European Union, LDCDC, Donegal County Council, Donegal Education and Training Board, Donegal Health Board, Donegal Chamber of Commerce, Donegal Chamber of Agriculture, Donegal Chamber of Industry, Donegal Chamber of Tourism, Donegal Chamber of Transport, Donegal Chamber of Retail, Donegal Chamber of Services, Donegal Chamber of Trade, Donegal Chamber of Transport, Donegal Chamber of Retail, Donegal Chamber of Services, Donegal Chamber of Trade.

## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

# 76

clients are better prepared to enter the labour market.



The team helped those most distant from the labour market with employment supports.



Individuals who had expressed an interest in self-employment were supported in trying to establish if this was an option that they wanted to progress forward.



**ARE YOU AGED BETWEEN 17-24 YEARS?**

**DON'T KNOW WHAT JOB YOU WANT TO DO?**

We can guide you in the right direction with a **FREE** Careers Guidance Programme

Programme includes:

- Fun team building activities
- Career Guidance
- Exploring possible careers
- CV Preparation and lots more

Speech bubbles: RETAIL, APPRENTICESHIP, HOSPITALITY

**CONTACT US NOW**

PAULA ON 087 3120139  
 EMAIL [PMCGARVEY@DLDC.ORG](mailto:PMCGARVEY@DLDC.ORG)

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE

Logos: Donegal Local Development CLG, European Union, LDCDC, Donegal County Council, Donegal Education and Training Board, Donegal Health Board, Donegal Chamber of Commerce, Donegal Chamber of Agriculture, Donegal Chamber of Industry, Donegal Chamber of Tourism, Donegal Chamber of Transport, Donegal Chamber of Retail, Donegal Chamber of Services, Donegal Chamber of Trade.



# Employment supports programme - An Ghaeltacht

Tá sé mar chuspóir ag Clár Tacaíochta Fostaíochta an DLDC cuidiú le daoine aonair dul chun cinn a dhéanamh i gcúrsaí fostaíochta nó dul chun cinn i gcaighdeán fostaíochta níos fearr. Díríonn an clár orthu sin is faide ar shiúl ón mhargadh fostaíochta, macasamhail iadsan atá dífhostaithe go fadtéarmach, daoine atá dífhostaithe nach bhfuil ar an bheochlár, mná sa bhaile atá faoi mhíbhuntáiste, daoine óga agus daoine le míchumas, daoine nach bhfuil mórán fostaíochta faighte acu agus an pobal Taistealaithe.

San áireamh mar thacaíochtaí a rinneadh a thairiscint do chliant in 2022 bhí cruinnithe duine le duine, áit a ndearna an fhoireann Tacaíochta Fostaíochta pleananna gníomhaíochta pearsanta a fhorbairt; CV anna a chur le chéile; litreacha mhínithe; cuidiú le fostaíocht a chuartú agus le hiarratais, agus le scileanna agallaimh agus agallaimh bhréige.

## AN CHÉAD CHÉIM EILE SA TIONSCNAMH GAIRM BEATHA

Déantar an clár seo a thairiscint thar thréimhse seachtaine i réigiún na Gaeltachta. Dhírigh an fhoireann ar dhaoine óga nach raibh an mhuinín acu as a gcéad chéim eile agus chuir siad scileanna ar fáil dófa a fheabhsaigh a gcuid scileanna fostaíochta.

## NA PRÍOMH THORTHAÍ 2022

# 76

cliant níos ullmhaithe don mhargadh fostaíochta.



Chuidigh an fhoireann leo sin ab fhaide ar shiúl ón mhargadh fostaíochta le tacaíochtaí fostaíochta.



Tugadh tacaíocht do dhaoine a thaispeáin suime san fhéinhostaíocht chun fáil amach arbh rogha a bhí anseo gur mhaith leo a chur chun cinn.

**AN BHFUIL TÚ IDIR 17-24 BLIAIN D'AOIS?**

**NÍL A FHIOS AGAT CAIDE'N POST A BA MHAITH LEAT?**

Thig linn tú a threorú sa treo cheart le Clár Gairmthreorach SAOR IN AISCE

Ar an Chlár:

- Gníomhaíochtaí Spraoi Foirne
- Gairmthreoir
- Rogha slíte beatha a fhiosrú
- Ullmhúchán ar CV agus go leor eile

**DÉAN TEAGMHÁIL LINN ANOIS**

**PAULA ON 087 3120139**  
**RÍOMHPHOST: PMCGARVEY@DLDC.ORG**

**CÚRSA AR SIÚL SA GHAELTACHT SPÁSANNA TEORANTA AR FÁIL**

**MIONDÍOL** **PRINTSEACHT** **FÁILTEACHAS**

Is é an Clár Gairmthreorach sa hAonair Páirtíocht a bhaineann le daoine óga a chuidiú le bainteachaíocht a bhaint leis an mhargadh fostaíochta. Tá an Clár Gairmthreorach sa hAonair Páirtíocht a bhaineann le daoine óga a chuidiú le bainteachaíocht a bhaint leis an mhargadh fostaíochta. Tá an Clár Gairmthreorach sa hAonair Páirtíocht a bhaineann le daoine óga a chuidiú le bainteachaíocht a bhaint leis an mhargadh fostaíochta.

## Success Stories

### Tony\*

Tony sought help with DLDC's Employment Supports team due to his minimal work experience and difficulties in finding employment in the retail sector. His Employment Supports Officer recommended attending a Customer Service Excellence Course and updated his CV. However, Tony still struggled to secure a job, leading his officer to explore alternative approaches.

The Employment Support team registered Tony with the Donegal Volunteer Centre and arranged a volunteer position as a Sales Assistant/Customer Assistant in a local charity shop. Through this opportunity, Tony gained valuable retail experience. He is now happily employed in the retail sector and has completed a Safe Pass Course. Tony has also expressed interest in taking a Manual Handling Course for further professional development.

## Scéal a Raibh Rath air

### Tony\*

Lorg Tony cuidiú ó fhoireann Tacaíochtaí Fostaíochta DLDC de thairbhe a laghad taithí oibre a bhí aige agus na deacrachtaí a bhí aige fostaíocht a fháil san earnáil mhiondíola. Mhol a Oifigeach Tacaíochtaí Fostaíochta dó freastal ar Chúrsa Barr Feabhais i Seirbhís Chustaiméara agus rinne sé a CV a uasdátú. Sin agus eile, bhí Tony i gcónaí ag streachailt post a fháil, rud a thug ar an oifigeach triail a bhaint as a mhalairt de chur chuige.

Rinne an fhoireann Tacaíochtaí Fostaíochta Tony a chlárú le hionad d'Oibrithe Deonacha Dhún na nGall agus shocraigh siad post deonach dó mar Chúntóir Díolacháin/ Chúntóir Custaiméara i siopa carthanachta áitiúil.

D'éirigh le Tony, leis an deis seo, taithí mhiondíola tábhachtach a fháil. Tá sé anois fostaithe go sona sásta san earnáil mhiondíola agus críoch curtha aige le Cúrsa Pas Sábháilte. Tá suim curtha in iúl aige fosta Cúrsa ar Láimhsiú Sábháilte a dhéanamh lena fhorbairt ghairmiúil a chur chun cinn.



Clár Gníomhachtúcháin Pobail agus Cuimsiú Sóisialta

# Schemes Department

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# Tús and Rural Social Scheme (RSS)

DLDC's Schemes Department employs 6 RSS Supervisors who support 142 Participants on the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) and 10 Tús Supervisors who support 250 Tús participants under the Tús Programme.

RSS is an income support programme for farmers and fishermen/women who are currently in receipt of a means assessed long-term social welfare payment while providing services of benefit to rural communities by harnessing the skills and talents available among low-income farmers and fishermen.

Tús is a participant-led programme which provides short term quality working opportunities for those who have been long-term unemployed. Participants gain valuable work experience while building on existing skills and acquiring new skills.

The Tús team was a critical component of DLDC comprehensive approach to supporting Ukrainian refugees in Donegal, particularly in the initial few months of the war. The team quickly mobilised to support the arrival of refugees in Donegal to make their basis needs were met. The team collaborated with the Community Development team, Donegal Volunteer Centre, and local community groups to provide practical support, providing regular deliveries of essential supplies, including clothes, food, hygiene products, and baby supplies.

Both RSS/Tús offer a wide variety of placements with community, voluntary, and not-for-profit organisations, such as:

- Maintenance and Caretaking
- Environmental Work
- Administrative/Clerical work/Receptionist
- Childcare Assistant
- Youth Work
- Retail Assistant
- Social Care/Bus Escort
- Community Development

## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

**391** was the overall total of participants on the RSS/Tús programmes in 2022.

**134** RSS participants were on the ground supporting community and voluntary groups.

**257** participants took part in quality work placements through the Tús job activation programme.

**172** community groups were supported by the team and their participants.

**208** participants received Manual Handling Training/Health and Safety Training.

**27** participants progressed into employment.





# Success Stories

## CPI Castlefinn

The community garden in CPI Castlefinn is a great example of how a community can come together to create a beautiful and functional space for everyone to enjoy. The gardens provide a space for people of all ages and backgrounds to come together to grow their own fruits and vegetables, socialise and learn new skills. The gardens are meticulously maintained by Úna Harte, a Tús participant. Úna works alongside other participants to ensure the gardens are always looking their best. The team recently played an integral role in organising the design of a designated area for engaging schools and young people, providing a unique opportunity for hands-on learning about the benefits of gardening and sustainable agriculture.

*"Working in the community garden through Tús has been an incredible experience that has allowed me to do what I love while giving back to my community. I am so grateful for this opportunity and for the support and guidance provided by the Tús Supervisors. Thank you for helping me grow both personally and professionally."*

- Úna Harte  
Tús participant (pictured below)



# Success Stories

## Saint Vincent de Paul

The Saint Vincent de Paul shop in Letterkenny is a vital community group that plays an instrumental role in supporting those in need. Tús participants play a crucial role in the day-to-day running of the shop, gaining valuable experience and learning essential skills such as merchandising, working with tills, and marketing. In 2022, DLDC had 10 participants working in the letterkenny shop. When Ukrainian refugees arrived in Ireland seeking asylum, these participants worked tirelessly to ensure that basic needs of refugees were met, while continuing to provide support to low-income households in Donegal who rely on their support. The shop provided clothing, food, and other necessities to Ukrainian refugees, recognising that these individuals had fled their homes with few possessions.

*"Our shops couldn't run without our amazing tus workers! They're always consistent, dependable and flexible. We rely on them to keep things running smoothly! "*

- Olga Hossack, St Vincent De Paul

*Pictured below: Charlene Duddy, Tús participant, Noreen O' Kane, DLCC, OlgaHossack, Saint Vincent DePaul and Jana Slezako, Tús participant*



## Retirements

Cecil Smith and Kathrine Gallagher, RSS participants, have completed 18 and 5 years of commendable service respectively and reached retirement age in 2022. The impact of their contributions to RSS has been immeasurable, and their colleagues and community will miss them greatly. Throughout their tenure, they have dedicated themselves to improving their local communities, working on a diverse range of projects from in Lough Swilly Angling, Rathmullan and Care of the Aged, Ardara. Their unwavering commitment to their work has been an inspiration to all those around them, and their influence will be felt long after their retirement. As they embark on a new chapter, we extend our best wishes to them and express our gratitude for their years of devoted service to RSS and their local community.

*Pictured above: Angela Wren, DLDC, Cecil Smith, RSS participant, Dessie McLaughlin, CE Scheme Supervisor, Lough Swilly Angling*

# CE and JI Programme

The CE Childcare Scheme is an employment programme that helps long-term unemployed people, generally aged 21 years and over, re-enter the workforce. It operates in 22 different towns and villages around Donegal. Participants are placed in community-based childcare facilities around the county and are given the opportunity to complete a QQI Level 5/6 Major Award in Early Childhood Care and Education and other associated training while at the same time, gaining work experience in a childcare setting.

The Job Initiative scheme is a programme providing full-time employment for people who are 35 years of age or over, unemployed for five years or more, and in receipt of social welfare payments over that period. Following changes introduced to the Job Initiative scheme by the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment in late 2004, there is currently "no recruitment" onto the scheme while existing participants will continue to have their contracts renewed. There are presently 9 JI participants with DLDC. of social welfare payments over that period. Following changes introduced to the Job Initiative scheme by the Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment in late 2004, there is currently "no recruitment" onto the scheme while existing participants will continue to have their contracts renewed. There are presently nine JI participants with DLDC.



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection

## KEY OUTCOMES 2022

**60** individuals were supported on CE Childcare, working in 25 community-based childcare facilities.

**62** level 5 minor awards and 54 level 6 minor awards were attained by participants during the year.

**3** level 5 major awards and 3 level 6 major awards were achieved by participants.

**40** participants completed training in areas such as health and safety, manual handling, paediatric first aid, child protection, and Aistear curriculum.

**8** participants progressed into employment.



# Success Stories

## The Forge Family Resource Centre

The Forge Family Resource Centre in Pettigo has partnered with DLDC for over 15 years, specifically within the RSS and Tus programs for 11 years. Many participants have gone on to further training and careers in childcare, youth work, and trades. The RSS and Tus programs have been crucial to community development and aiding The Forge FRC's service delivery. A holistic approach to participant progression ensures program completion and success. This partnership with DLDC is invaluable and continues to improve the lives of individuals and families in the surrounding areas.



## Manorcunningham Resource Centre

*"The shed that has been provided by DLDC through the Rural Social Scheme is a valuable asset to the centre. Before we got the shed, we had nowhere to store the outdoor tools that is needed to maintain the property and it was becoming a Health and Safety issue with indoor storage. The centre provides a valuable service to the local community and the committee is very clear on their duty to maintain the centre to a high standard. DLDC has always been a strong source of support to our centre and the RSS/ Tús workers that DLDC provide are vital to the day-to-day running. Without the participants we simply would not be able to open the doors to the local community."*

- Carmel Doherty, Chairperson,  
Manorcunningham Resource Centre



# Community Hands

The Community Hands team offers support for local community groups to undertake small projects/ work which otherwise would be out of their reach.

The work is carried out by RSS participants who can meet the needs of groups who require either a one-off task or extra support for existing RSS projects. Any voluntary or charitable group are eligible to apply for assistance/van support.



*Above: DLDC Community Hands South Donegal*



*Above: DLDC Community Hands North Donegal*

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2022

The number of vans in the Community Hands fleet expanded in 2022, bringing the total number of vans supporting community groups across Donegal to five.

Throughout the year, the teams in the north and south of the county have supported groups with the maintenance/upkeep of their community buildings and grounds, including:

- Birdwatch Ireland, handmade and delivered bird boxes to community groups and nursing homes across Donegal
- Creeslough Community Association, repair paving stones along walkways and stone wall repairs
- Milford and District Resource Centre, pointing and plastering of building
- Gartan Graveyard, maintenance of grounds
- Manorcunningham Resource Centre, construction of storage shed
- The Termon Complex, painting
- The Mustard Seed Café, painting and power washing
- DLDC's office relocation x 2, moving Donegal Town and Letterkenny office building

# Success Stories

## Angelika

Angelika participated in the CE Childcare Scheme, which offered her the chance to complete multiple trainings. After successfully completing QQI Level 5, Angelika took the opportunity to further enhance her qualifications by pursuing QQI Level 6. This advanced certification allows her to work as a Room Leader, equipping her with a diverse range of knowledge in areas such as supervision, child development, and relevant laws, rights, policies, and procedures. Throughout the programme, she deepened her understanding of child development, communication, and child well-being. Angelika also gained hands-on experience in a childcare setting, which provided valuable insights into daily operations.



*"I am incredibly grateful for the support and guidance provided by my supervisors. Their encouragement throughout was fantastic! I am convinced that the CE SCHEME Programme is very good for everybody. It allows people to return to work and develop their qualifications. The structure of the programme (19.5h per week plus study) is not too intense, so it is even suitable for people with children. I would highly recommend the programme."*

- Angelika



# Finance

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# Finances for 2022

DLDC receives funding from several national programmes and state agencies, which are listed below:

- Department of Rural and Community Development
- Department of Social Protection
- Department of Justice and Equality
- Donegal Local Community Development Committee
- Donegal County Council
- Health Service Executive
- Rethink Ireland
- Donegal ETB
- Fáilte Ireland

DLDC is a not-for-profit organisation and did not return a profit or loss for the financial year ended 31st December 2022.

The audited financial statements will not be available until the completion of the AGM in September; however, the table opposite outlines the breakdown of the income and expenditure recorded for 2022.

DLDC received a total combined income of €3.5m from funders during the year.

[Please see chart \(Fig 1.\) on next page which shows the income breakdown >](#)

During the year, DLDC invested €2.5m into the local community in the form of programme staff time and programme initiatives.

[Please see chart \(Fig 2.\) on next page which shows the investment breakdown >](#)

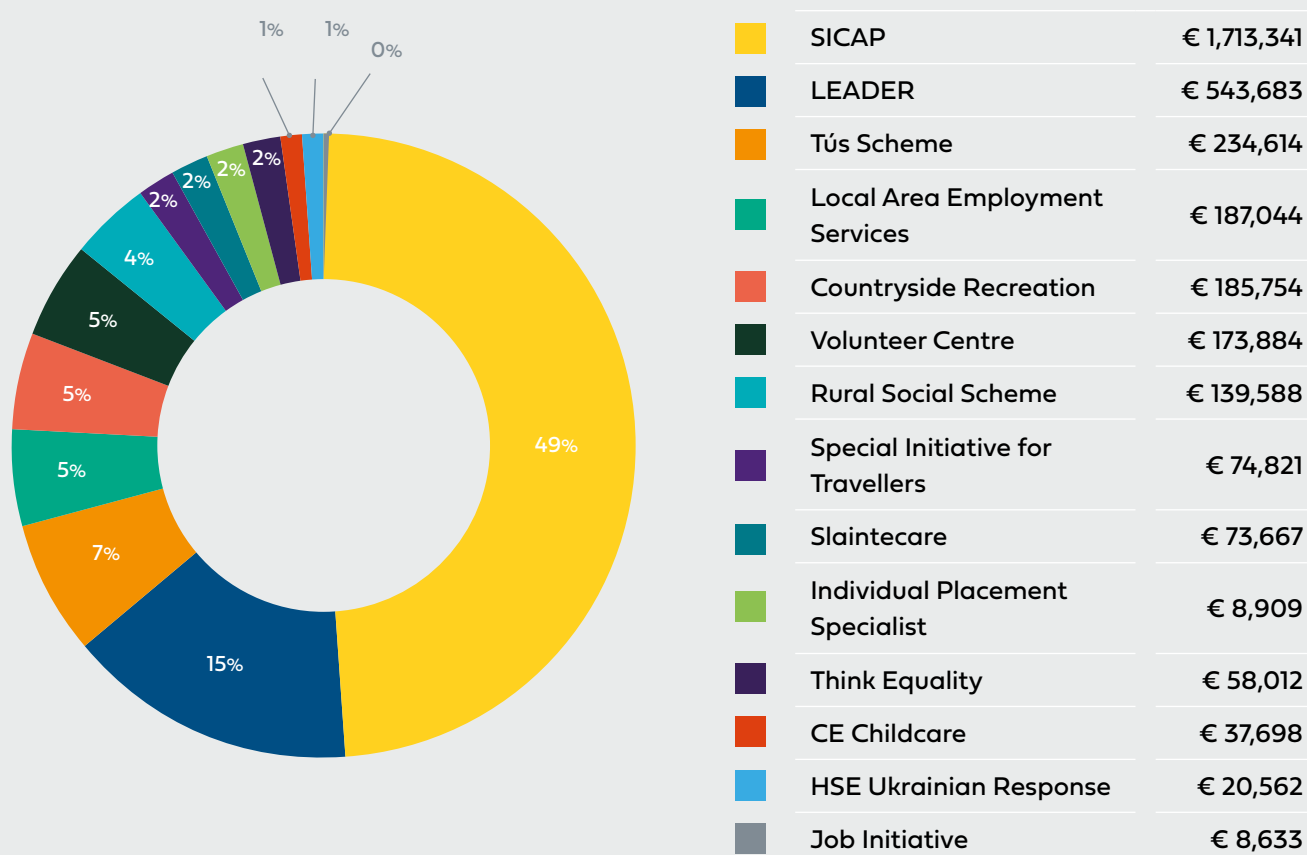
In addition to the income and expenditure recorded through its financial statements, as outlined above (and opposite), DLDC also supported community groups to receive:

- LEADER funding      €1,402,562

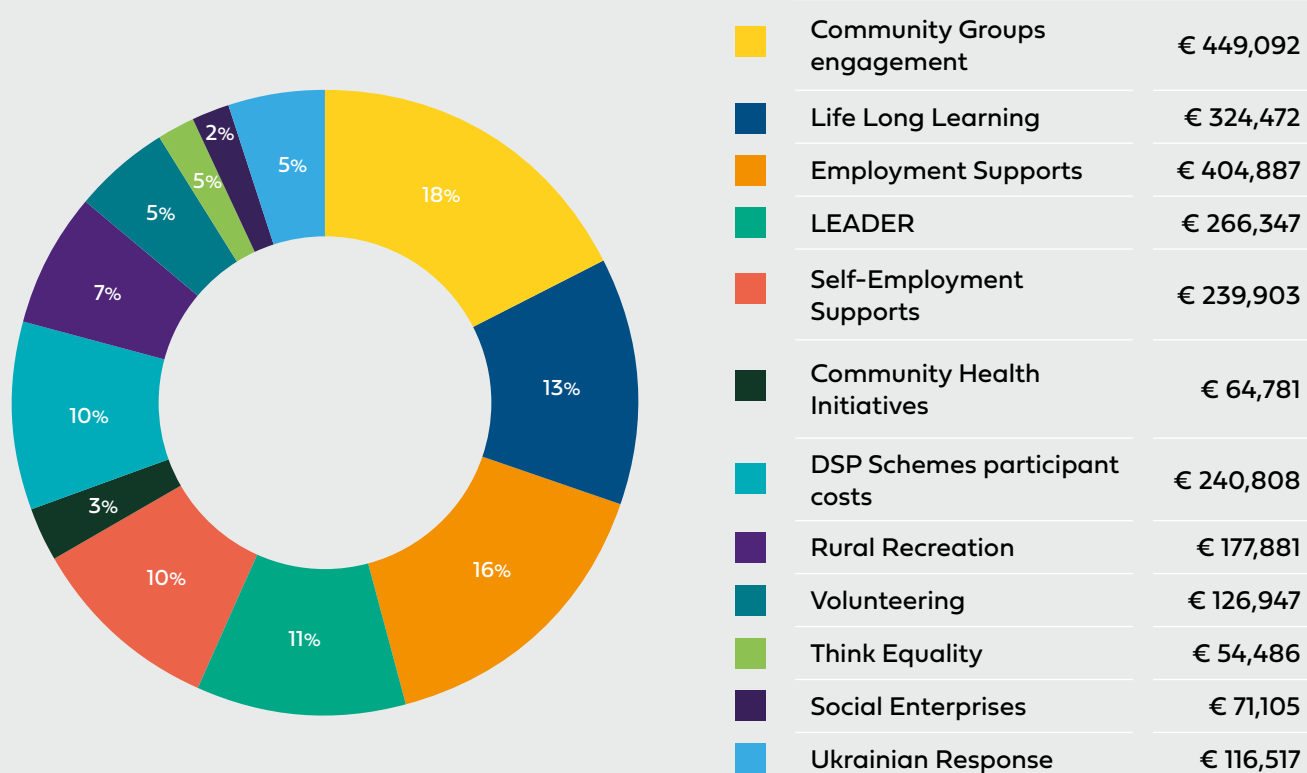
- Dormant Accounts  
ARISE funding      €23,200
- ETB Community  
Education Supports      €14,302



**Fig 1. DLDC Total Programme Income 2022 was €3,512,604**



**Fig 2. DLDC investment in the Community 2022 (Actions and Salaries)**



# Our Offices



## Head Office

Donegal Local Development CLG and  
Donegal Volunteer Centre  
Unit 1, 2nd Floor,  
Glenview Business Park,  
Carnamuggagh Upper,  
Letterkenny, Co Donegal  
F92 X5EF

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