



Coiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil
Local Community
Development Committee

South Dublin County

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



In partnership with
SDCC

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1 | Foreword

by Local Community Development Committee
Chairperson Tricia Nolan



2025: Building on Strong Foundations

2025 was a year of momentum for the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in South Dublin. With our new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2030 firmly in place, our focus shifted to implementation, while we continued to oversee SICAP 2024-2028 in its second year and administer vital funding to communities across the county.

Driving the LECP Forward

With the LECP adopted in 2024, 2025 was about turning strategy into action. We progressed work on an implementation plan throughout the year, including exploring digital tracking tools to support effective monitoring and accountability. This groundwork will be essential as the plan gathers pace in the years ahead.

SICAP: Continued Oversight and Accountability

The SICAP Oversight Subcommittee remained active throughout 2025, maintaining close engagement with South Dublin County Partnership on programme delivery. Key highlights included:

- Our annual engagement meeting with POBAL in November, reviewing the 2025 Social Inclusion Analysis Report
- Robust subcommittee oversight of KPIs, targets and programme performance
- A Lifelong Learning SICAP Case Study, which powerfully illustrated the real impact of the programme on people's lives in our communities
- SICAP targets for both Goal 1 (working with groups) and Goal 2 (Individuals) confirmed and carried forward with a clear rationale for 2026

We also received and considered the final internal audit report for SICAP 2024, reflecting our commitment to transparency and good governance.

Investing in Communities

Our LCDC Funding Subcommittee continued to manage the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP), directing resources to community groups most in need. The year also saw presentations and engagement on LEADER funding, with a number of local groups at various stages of the application cycle.

We were pleased to engage with emerging funding streams and to play our part in the broader national LCDC communications campaign, with members and staff participating in training provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Broadening Our Perspectives

Our meetings in 2025 were enriched by a range of presentations and guest contributors, including:

- Marian Quinn from the Community Development Initiative (CDI)
- HSE reports on physical activity and community health pathways
- Updates on the South Dublin County Economic Strategy 2026-2036, providing important context for our work on the LECP

Governance and National Engagement

The LCDC engaged constructively with the Local Government Taskforce's stakeholder consultation on Local Democracy reform during the summer of 2025. This reflects our commitment to having a strong voice in shaping the structures that support community development across Ireland.

Gratitude

None of this work happens without people. I want to sincerely thank all LCDC members, partner organisations and the staff of South Dublin County Council for their continued dedication. In particular, I thank our Chief Officer Edel Clancy and LCDC Co-ordinator Maria Nugent for their professionalism and commitment throughout the year.

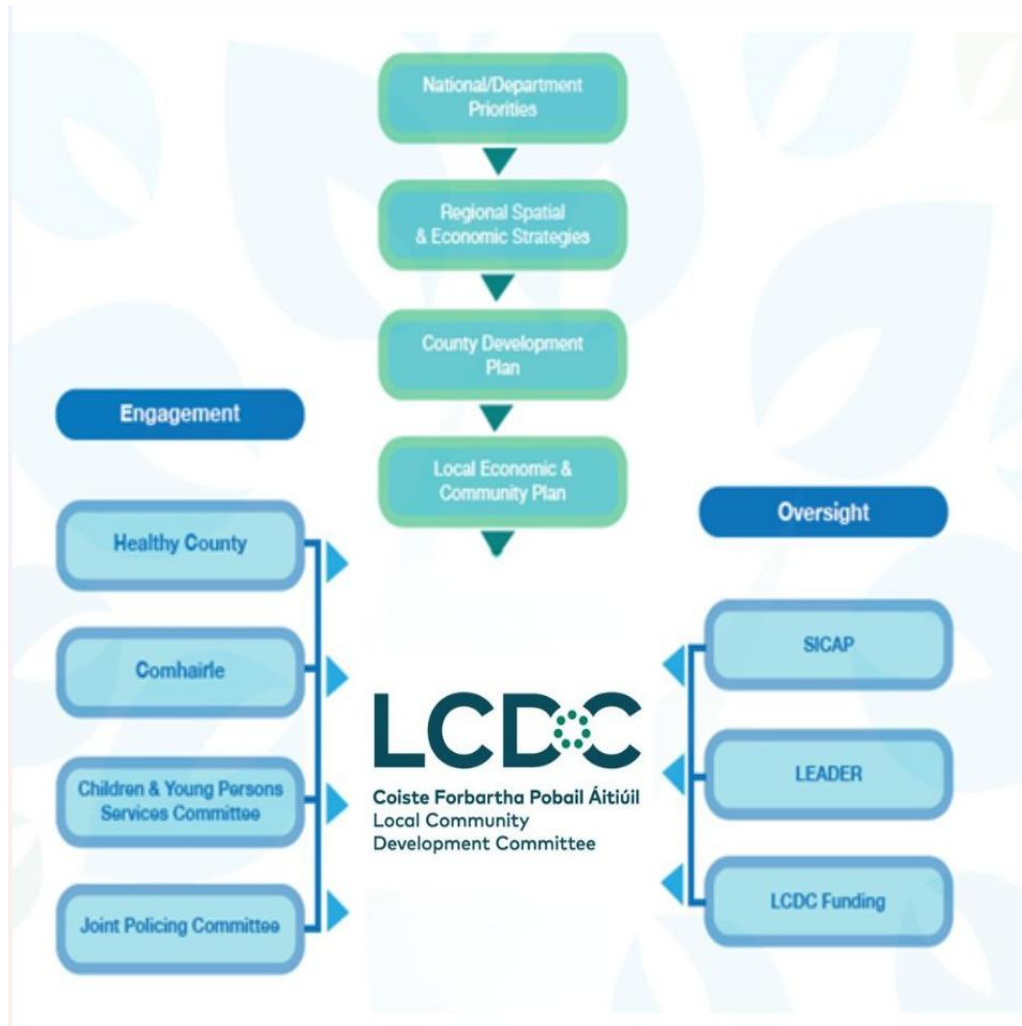
As we look ahead, the work of the LCDC has never felt more relevant. South Dublin's communities are vibrant, diverse and resilient. We are proud to serve them.

2 | Members of the LCDC 2025

Representative	Sector
Private	
Simon Monds	South Dublin County Partnership
Tricia Nolan	Chair, South Dublin Volunteer Centre
Seán Farrell	PPN Community Pillar
John Conroy	PPN Community Pillar
Vacant	PPN Environment Pillar
Noreen Byrne	PPN Social Inclusion Pillar
Sharon Harty	PPN Social Inclusion Pillar
Andy Leeson	Youth Services
Dr. Noel McCarthy	Community Representative, TCD
Vacant	Community Representative
Public	
Cllr Alan Hayes	Elected Members, SDCC
Cllr Yvonne Collins	
Cllr Sarah Barnes	
Margaret McQuillan	Health Service Executive
Valerie Hogg	Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education & Training Board
Eugene Donnelly	Department of Social Welfare
Thomas Rooney (Jan-Aug)	Local Enterprise Office
Peter Connolly (Sept- Dec)	Local Enterprise Office
Elaine Leech (Jan- May)	Director of Housing, Social and Community Development, SDCC
Lorna Maxwell (June- Dec)	Director, Community
Edel Clancy	LCDC Chief Officer, SDCC
Maria Nugent	LCDC Coordinator

3 | Membership and Organisational Structure

Membership and Organisational Structure of the South Dublin County LCDC



The membership of the South County Dublin LCDC is drawn from community representatives, state agencies and local authority elected members. The membership of the LCDC and attendance at meetings is set out in Appendix 1.

Role and Function of South Dublin County LCDC

The role and functions of the South Dublin County LCDC in accordance with the functions detailed in the Act, have primary responsibility for co-ordination, planning and oversight of local development spend, whether that spend is delivered by local authorities or on behalf of the State or by other local development agencies and structures.

LCDC's bring a more coherent approach to the implementation of local and community development programmes and interventions, seeking to ensure an integrated approach to local community and local development services between providers and delivery structures; LCDC's drives meaningful citizen and community engagement in the scoping, planning, delivery and evaluation of local and community development programmes.

- LCDC's ensure a more efficient administration of local and community programmes and delivery structures, the appropriate matching of resources to priorities and the achievement of value-for-money in the delivery and governance of programmes and the management of local delivery arrangements.
- LCDC's focus on learning and feedback, enhancing the links between practice and policy development, and
- LCDC's explore and pursue opportunities for additional funding resources for the area, whether Exchequer, EU, private or other sources.

Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001 (inserted by Section 36 of the 2014 Act) sets out the functions of LCDCs. These functions are –

- To prepare the community elements of a 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan.
- To implement or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the Plan.
- To review the community elements of the Plan at least once within the period of 6 calendar years and if necessary, to amend the community elements of the Plan.
- To monitor and review on an on-going basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan and, if appropriate, to revise the actions and strategies set.
- To achieve the objectives of the community elements of the Plan,

- To co-ordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes that have been approved either by the relevant local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and a relevant public authority (e.g., Government Department, State agency)
- To seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between public funded local and community development programmes, in addition to public funded programmes, to pursue the co-ordination generally of all local and community development programmes within the functional area of the Committee
- To consider and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in respect of the economic elements of a draft of the Plan prepared by the local authority
- To prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions.



4 | Report of LCDC Meetings in 2025

There were six meetings of the LCDC in 2025.

LCDC Meetings:

- 12th February 2025
- 26th March 2025
- 9th April 2025
- 18th June 2025
- 17th September 2025
- 19th November 2025

Meetings in 2025 covered a range of issues including the following:

- Sláintecare
- Healthy Ireland
- Comhairle na nÓg
- Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)
- Childhood Development Initiative
- South Dublin LCDC Area Report: HSE Health & Wellbeing

SICAP

The following reports were presented to the LCDC in 2025:

- 2025 Annual Progress Report
- SICAP 2025 Mid-Year Review
- SICAP: Case Study – Lifelong Learning Programmes
- 2025 SICAP Annual Plan

Funding

- Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme Funding
- Healthy Ireland Programme Funding
- Local Enhancement Programme 2025

5 | Local Economic and Community Development Plan (LECP 2024 – 2030)

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is a statutory framework designed to support sustainable development at the county level in Ireland. Governed by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the LECP is structured to operate over a six-year period and outlines the key objectives and actions necessary to promote both economic and community development within each local authority area. South Dublin County Council formally adopted its LECP in December 2024, marking a significant milestone in local governance. Implementation of the plan is set to commence in 2025.

At its core, the LECP aims to enhance the quality of life for individuals and communities by ensuring a cohesive approach to economic growth, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and community wellbeing. This is achieved through a dual focus on economic development such as business supports, employment creation, and infrastructure investment and community development, which encompasses social services, education, health, and inclusive participation.

The importance of the LECP lies in its integrated and collaborative design. It brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including public agencies, community organisations, local businesses, and the general public. The creation and execution of the LECP are supported by key structures like the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), ensuring alignment with broader regional strategies, such as the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), and national plans like Project Ireland 2040 and the Climate Action Plan.

The LECP's emphasis on evidence-based planning, public consultation, and shared governance enhances its capacity to address local needs dynamically and responsively. By incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate action initiatives, and the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, the plan aligns local actions with national and global priorities.

South Dublin's LECP serves both a guiding vision and a practical framework for action. The overarching Framework LECP sets out long-term High-Level Goals and sustainable objectives, while a dedicated Implementation Plan will detail the specific, measurable steps to be carried out over the life of the plan. Progress on these actions will be tracked using key performance indicators and monitoring mechanisms, ensuring transparency, accountability, and ongoing refinement.

In 2025, the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) entered the first year of its implementation phase, marking a significant step forward in translating strategic objectives into tangible actions. Delivery partners and agencies have made positive progress in advancing their committed actions, demonstrating continued collaboration and alignment with the plan’s goals. While implementation is at an early stage, momentum is building across key priority areas, with several initiatives underway or in development. In addition, SDCC are in the process of implementing an online monitoring tool to collate and track action updates for the LECP, which is expected to be operational in 2026. A link to the South Dublin LCDC Local Economic and Community Plan is included in Appendix 3, and progress will continue to be monitored and reported as implementation of the LECP advances.



6 | SICAP Report

(Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme)

A key responsibility of the South County Dublin LCDC is oversight of the SICAP (Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme). The Social Inclusion Activation Programme (SICAP) aims to tackle poverty, social inclusion and long-term unemployment through local engagement and partnership between individuals, community organisations, public sector agencies and other stakeholders.

South Dublin County Council sought tenders, on e-tenders, for SICAP 2024 – 2028, and South Dublin County Partnership CLG were successfully awarded the contract to deliver the SICAP Programme in South Dublin County following this tender process.

The SICAP 2025 Annual Plan Budget is €2,780,064.00 and the New Arrivals 2025 Allocation (International Protection Applicants and Holders of Temporary Protection) is €570,870.00. The LCDC and South Dublin County Partnership CLG agreed on targets.

In 2025, KPI 1 achieved 97% of its target, reflecting some limitations in capacity and reach throughout the year. KPI 2 exceeded expectations, achieving 105% of its target, with 99.26% of individuals in local priority areas successfully supported.

Meeting Annual Targets	Achieved	% Achieved
Achievement of KPI 1 Target - 90	87	97%
Achievement of KPI 2 Target – 1,483	1,564	105%
Supported Individuals in Local Priority Target Areas – 70%		99.26%

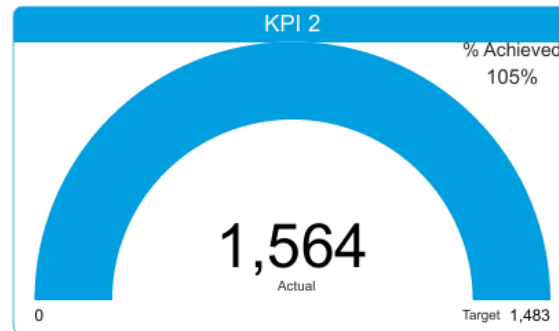
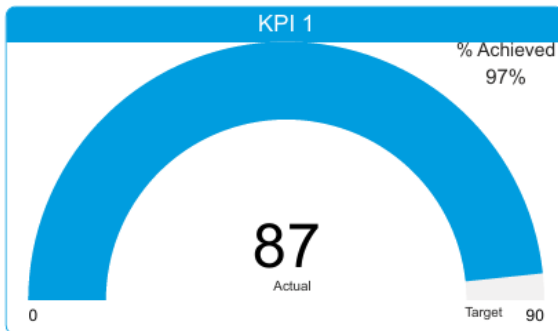


Key Performance Indicators 2025/ South Dublin County

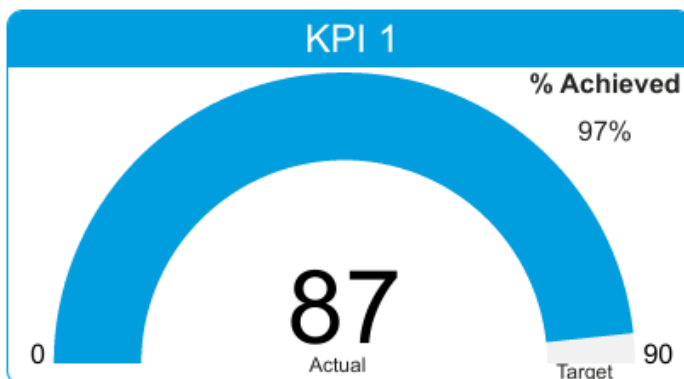


Monitoring Report:

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KPI 1 South Dublin County (Community Organisations (COs) 3-1) 2025



Community Organisations by Type

Type of Community Organisation	No. Community Organisations
LCG	72
Social Enterprise	15
Total	87

Median Number of Interventions

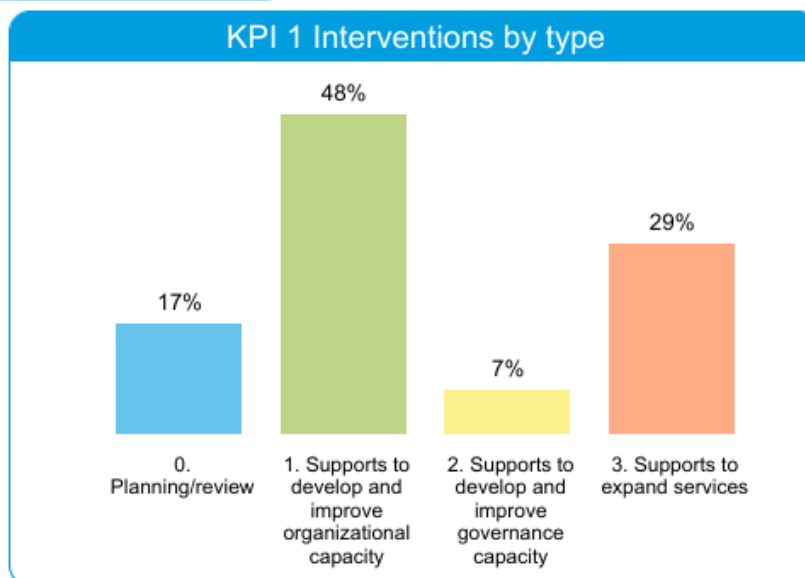
4

No. COs receiving Grants

13

Total grants awarded

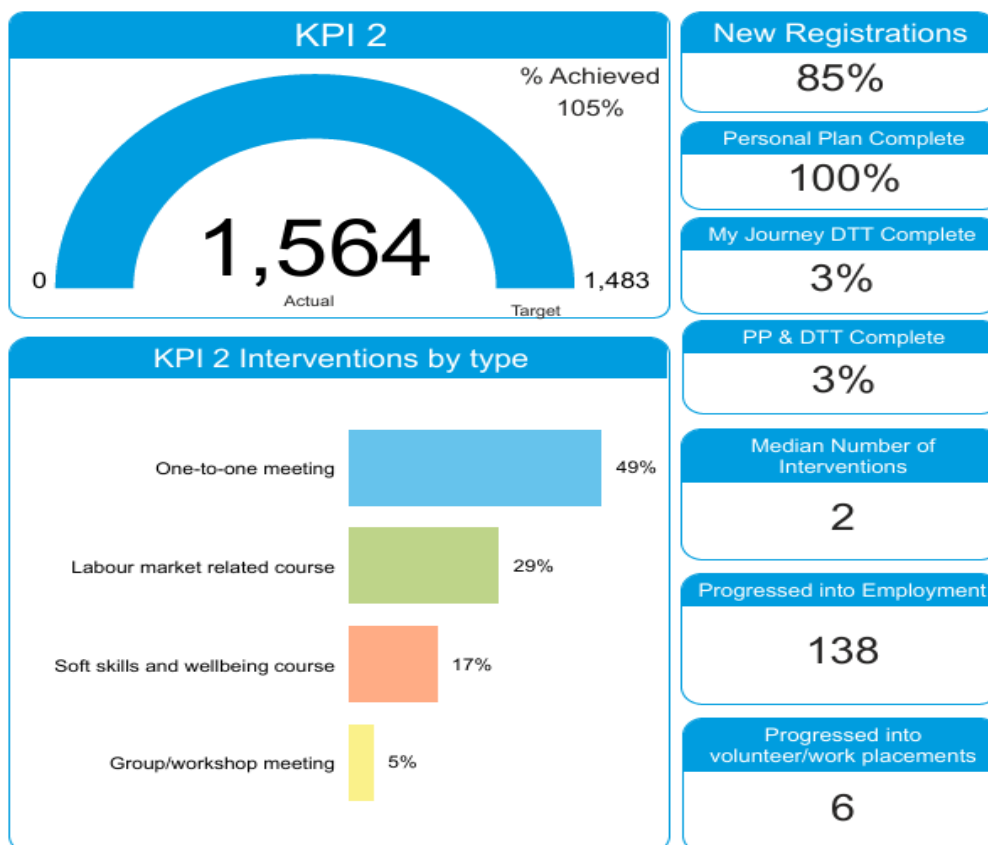
€18,954



CO breakdown by Target Group and Focus Area

Type	Target Group Name	Primary Target Group/Focus Area (KPI 1%)		Secondary Target Group/Focus Area (KPI 1%)	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Target Group	Disabled People/People with Disabilities	2	2%	3	3%
	Heads of One-parent Families	0	0%	4	5%
	International Protection Applicants	6	7%	0	0%
	Island residents	0	0%	0	0%
	People impacted by educational disadvantage	3	3%	3	3%
	People living in disadvantaged communities	38	44%	23	26%
	People living in households that are jobless or are in low-paid and/or precarious employment	1	1%	6	7%
	People who are long-term unemployed	3	3%	7	8%
	People with a criminal history	0	0%	1	1%
	Refugees	0	0%	1	1%
	Roma	0	0%	1	1%
	Travellers	3	3%	2	2%
Focus Area	Addiction	5	6%	2	2%
	Climate action and the just transition	1	1%	6	7%
	Gender	8	9%	0	0%
	Homelessness	0	0%	0	0%
	LGBTQI+	0	0%	0	0%
	Older people (aged 65+ Years) in isolation	9	10%	10	11%
	Refugee and migrant rights and integration	3	3%	5	6%
	Youth (Aged <18 Years)	5	6%	4	5%

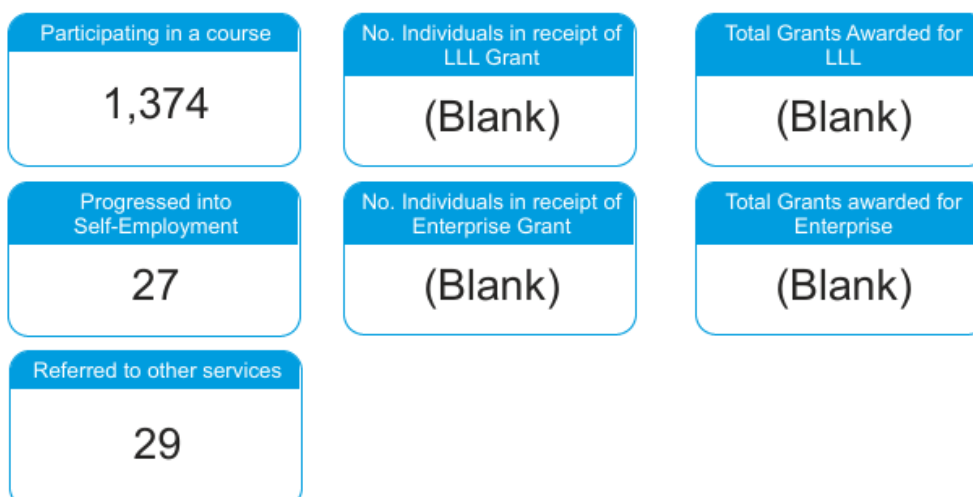
KPI 2: Individuals



People living in disadvantaged communities

Top 5 disadvantaged small areas

Small Area	Electoral District	HP Deprivation	No. Individuals (KPI 2)
267053001/01	CLONDALKIN VILLAGE	Disadvantaged	14
267140013	TALLAGHT-JOBSTOWN	Disadvantaged	12
267141010	TALLAGHT-KILLINARDAN	Disadvantaged	12
267140017	TALLAGHT-JOBSTOWN	Disadvantaged	10
267141001	TALLAGHT-KILLINARDAN	Very disadvantaged	9
267143006	TALLAGHT-KILTIPPER	Very disadvantaged	9



Individuals participating in a course

Participating in a course

Course Type	Count of Individual ID	%GT Count of Individual ID
No accreditation	926	67%
Industry certified	598	44%
Accredited certification	53	4%
Total	1374	100%

Course Outcomes

Course Outcome	Accredited certification	Industry certified	No accreditation	Total
Course completed successfully	45	568	765	1192
Did not complete	3	10	139	151
Some course modules completed successfully	1	24	54	79
Course completed unsuccessfully	4	3	9	16
Outcome not yet known			15	15
Requested but not provided			1	1
Total	53	598	926	1374

Accredited Courses

Education Sector	No. Individuals (KPI 2)	% of Individuals participating in a course
Generic Programmes	24	50%
Education Services	19	32%
Business, administration and law	10	17%

Unaccredited Courses

Area of learning	No. Individuals (KPI 2)	% of Individuals participating in a course
General work readiness	433	47%
Confidence, goal setting and self-efficacy	232	18%
Literacy and numeracy	145	17%
Communication skills	91	9%
Connection with others	86	10%

Industry Certified

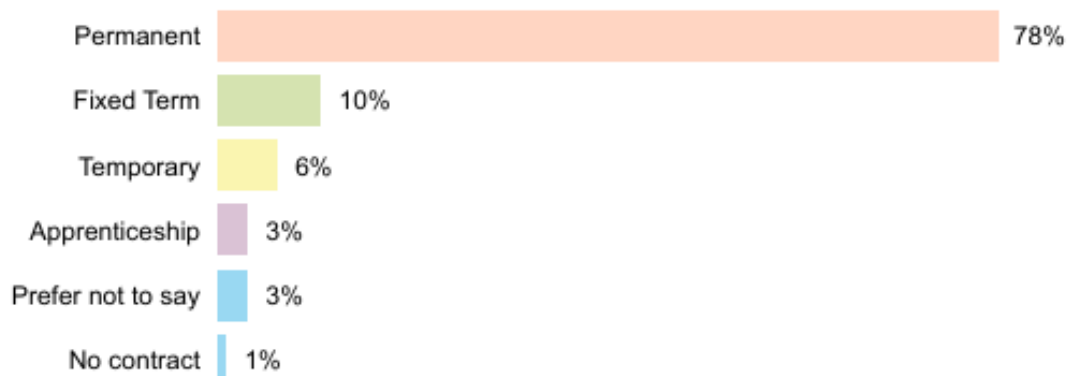
Industrial/Professional Sector	No. Individuals (KPI 2)	% of Individuals participating in a course
Health & Safety	338	44%
Construction	306	54%
Business & Accounting	14	2%

Individuals progressed into Employment or Self-Employment 2025

Progressed into Employment

138

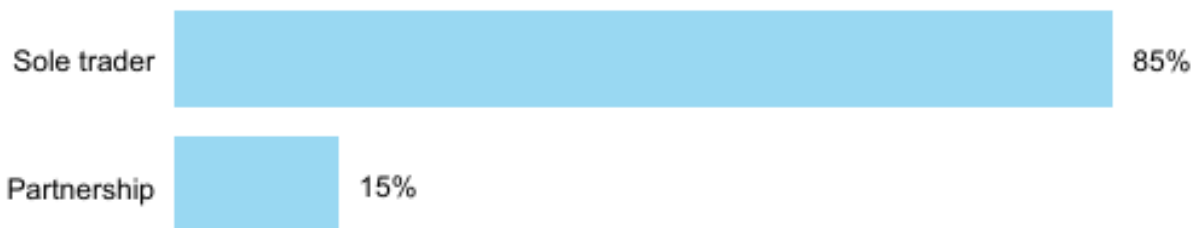
Job Type



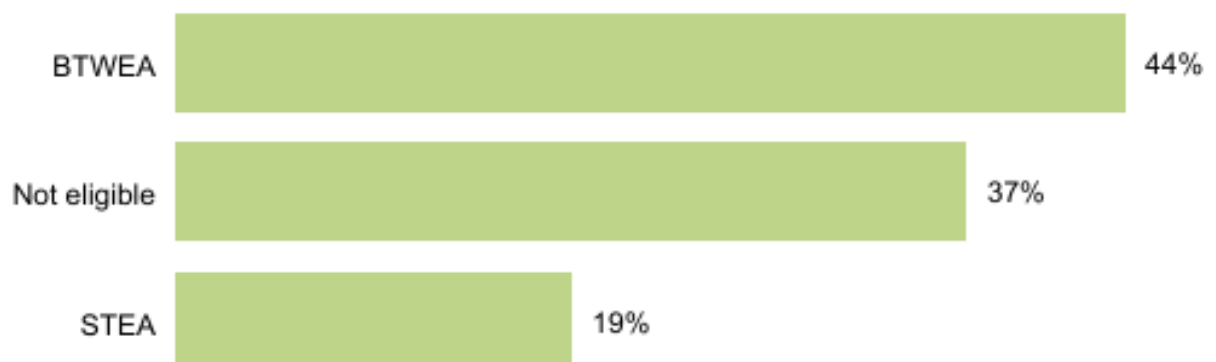
Progressed into Self-Employment

27

Business Type



In receipt of DSP enterprise allowance



Individuals Progressed into volunteer/work placements or referred to other services

Progressed into work experience/ volunteer placements

6

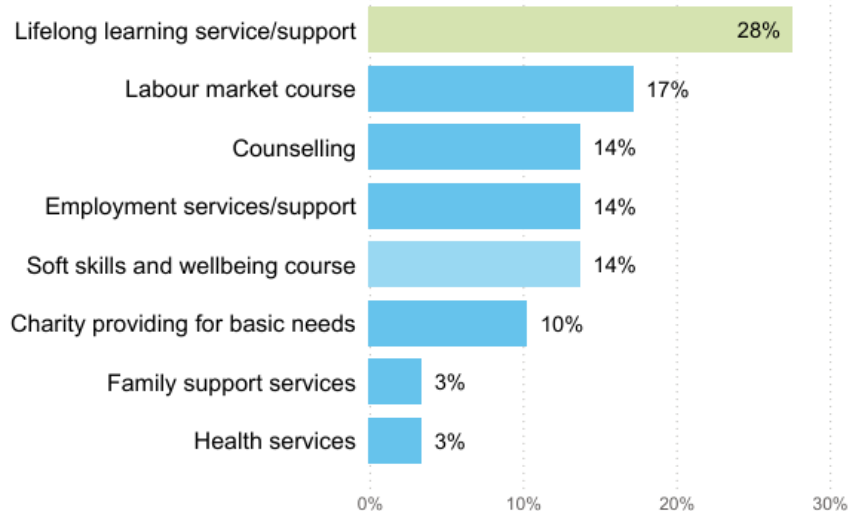
Work experience placements by type

Placement Type	No. Individuals (KPI 2)	% of Placements
Volunteer placement	2	33%
Work experience placement	4	67%
Total	6	100%

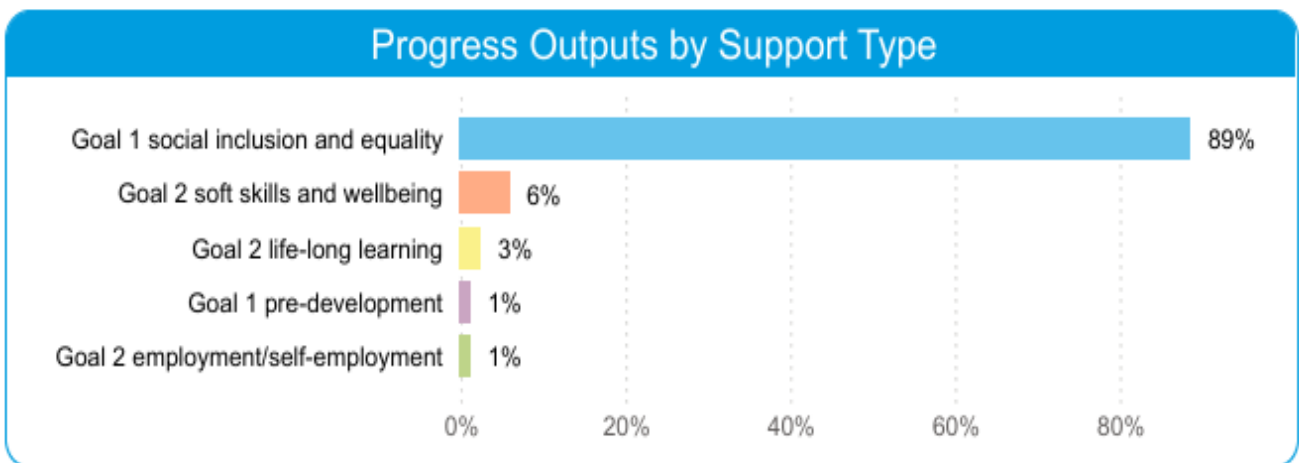
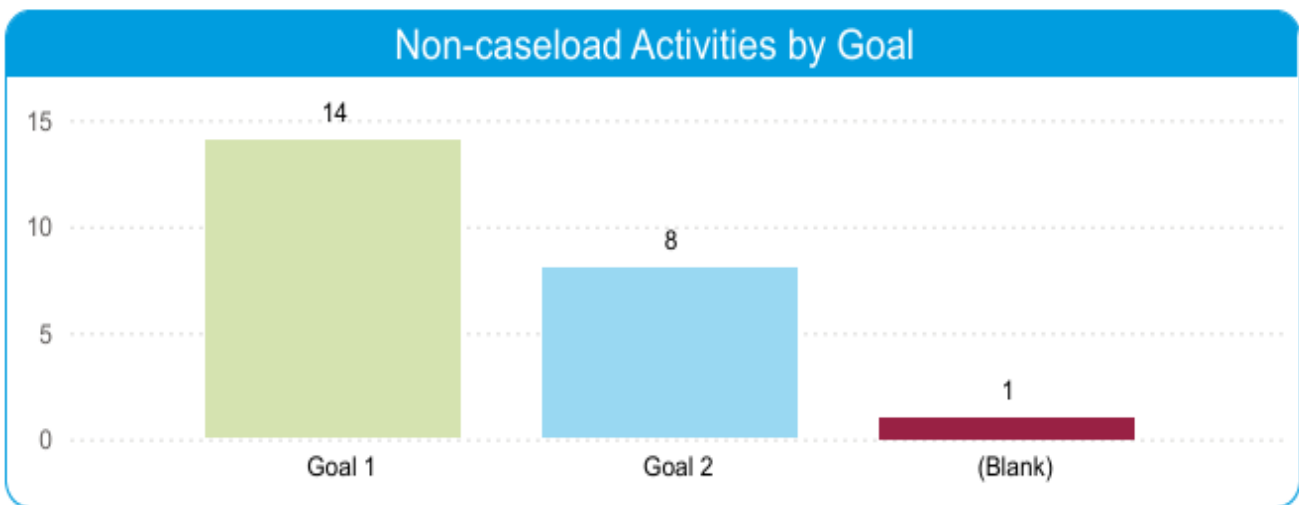
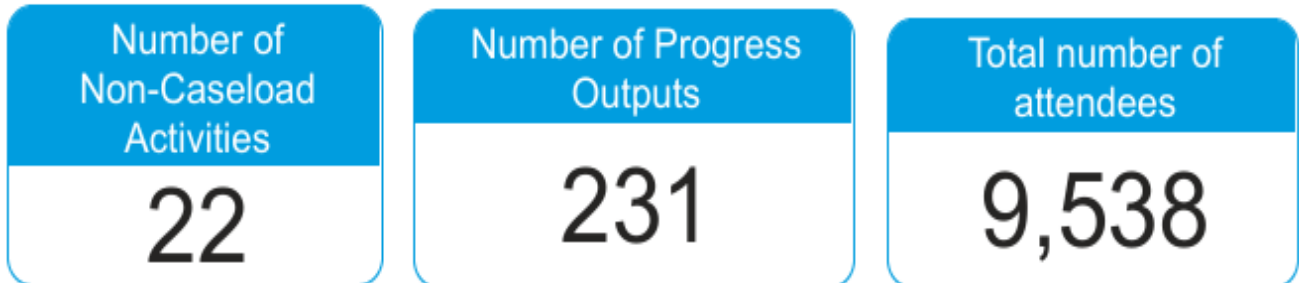
Referred to other services

29

Services by type



Non-Caseload Events



Non Caseload Activities by Target Group/Focus Area

Type	Target Group Name	Primary Target Group /Focus Area	Secondary Target Group /Focus Area
Target Group	Disabled People/People with Disabilities	0%	4%
	Heads of One-parent Families	0%	0%
	International Protection Applicants	48%	0%
	Island residents	0%	0%
	People impacted by educational disadvantage	4%	9%
	People living in disadvantaged communities	26%	13%
	People living in households that are jobless or are in low-paid and/or precarious employment	4%	9%
	People who are long-term unemployed	4%	4%
	People with a criminal history	0%	0%
	Refugees	0%	35%
	Roma	0%	0%
	Travellers	0%	0%
Focus Area	Addiction	0%	0%
	Climate action and the just transition	0%	0%
	Gender	4%	0%
	Homelessness	0%	0%
	LGBTQI+	0%	0%
	Older people (aged 65+ Years) in isolation	4%	0%
	Refugee and migrant rights and integration	0%	13%
	Youth (Aged <18 Years)	0%	0%

Children & Family Activities

Number of Children &
Family Activities

68

Number of Progress
Outputs

68

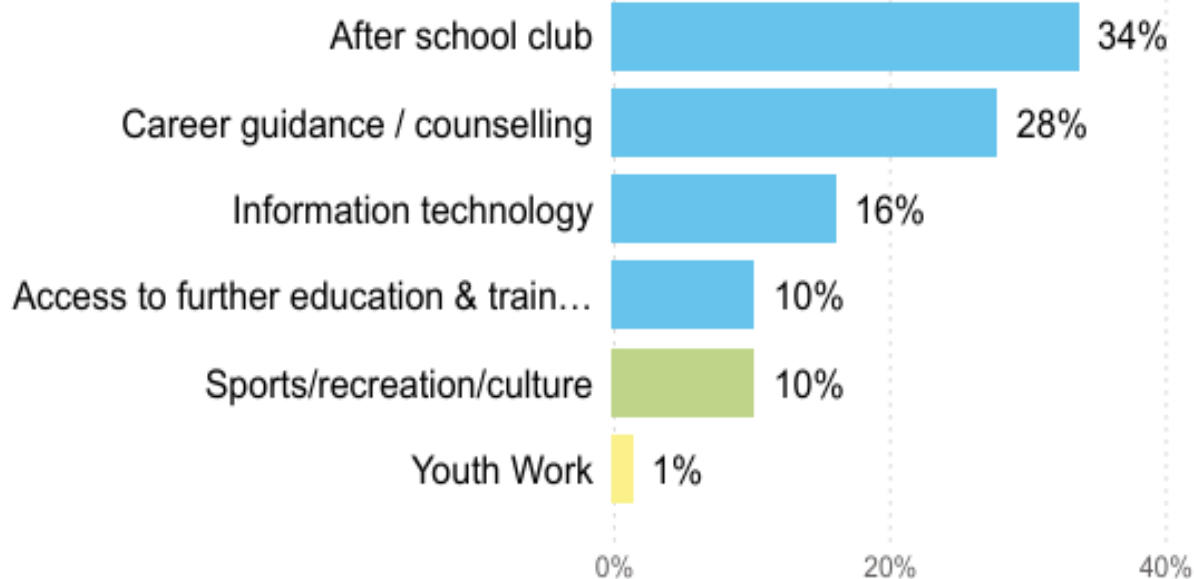
Attendees (Children)

2,048

Attendees
(Parents/Guardians)

486

Progress Outputs by Activity Type



Children & Family Activities by Target Group

Target Group Name	Primary Target Group/ Focus Area	Secondary Target Group/ Focus Area
Disabled People/People with Disabilities	3%	0%
Heads of One-parent Families	0%	6%
International Protection Applicants	3%	0%
Island residents	0%	0%
People impacted by educational disadvantage	14%	44%
People living in disadvantaged communities	78%	22%
People living in households that are jobless or are in low-paid and/or precarious employment	0%	0%
People who are long-term unemployed	0%	0%
People with a criminal history	0%	0%
Refugees	0%	3%
Roma	0%	0%
Travellers	3%	0%

Programmes run under this initiative include:

1. Microsoft Data Centre Tech Taster

Developed and delivered in collaboration with Microsoft Ireland and Collinstown Park Community College, this week-long programme offers NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) young people a hands-on introduction to the growing data centre industry. Participants engage in workshops at Microsoft DreamSpace, meet professionals from the sector, and receive guidance on education and career routes. This intervention demystifies tech careers and helps young people from disadvantaged areas see tangible, local career pathways in high-value industries developing in South County Dublin.

2. Digital Skills for Older People

In partnership with the South Dublin County Council Age Friendly Team, this six-week course supports older adults to improve their confidence using smartphones and tablets. Participants co-design the content and pace of each session—learning to use WhatsApp, email, online banking, and local services—bridging generational divides and strengthening community connection.

3. Our Kids Code©

Our Kids Code is a research project based in the School of Computer Science and Statistics, Trinity College Dublin. The core aims are to increase parental involvement and promote greater diversity in computer education, by providing STEM opportunities for families with primary aged children, particularly in rural communities. SDCP through SICAP have successfully piloted this project in a DEIS primary school in North Clondalkin and are now partnering with OKC, TCD to roll the programme to three additional DEIS primary schools in South County Dublin. This family learning programme introduces parents and children to the basics of coding through creative, playful workshops. It supports parents to become active partners in their children's digital learning while breaking down fears around technology.

4. Women in STEM

Empowering Young Women in STEM. This week-long programme targets young women from local DEIS post-primary schools, Youth Reach and Community Training Centres in Clondalkin aiming to address barriers to participation in STEM for those from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Hosted in Microsoft Data Centre, Grange Castle and DreamSpace and coordinated by SICAP Aspire project and Let's Get Digital, the camp offers immersive experiences in cloud computing, sustainability, data centre operations, and data analytics. Participants engage in interactive AI and coding challenges while learning about real-world tech applications.

5. Basic Computer Skills for ESOL Learners

To address digital and language barriers simultaneously, this intervention supports migrants, international protection applicants, and refugees to gain foundational computer and English skills using NALA and resources.

Learners develop practical skills such as typing, using Microsoft Office, emailing, and accessing online public services, all while improving their English literacy and employability.

6. Digital Skills and Country Orientations for ESOL Learners

This programme aims to support ESOL learners, focus on essential digital skills like communication, online transactions, and safety, while incorporating digital tools and country-specific information into lessons.

This approach integrates language learning with practical digital competence, using technology to enhance engagement and help learners navigate daily life, online services, and employment opportunities.

7. Construction Career Preparation – Click Confident Module

A short, intensive course designed and delivered through the Aspire project, for early school leavers and NEET youth. Participants explore practical industry skills and use digital tools for career preparation, online job applications, and portfolio building. At the conclusion of this programme young people have successfully completed industry certified training, a requirement for entry level employment, have an up-to-date CV, and can attach and send it by email to potential employers. This programme addressed an observed need by staff for young people who, due to low levels of literacy, required additional support on in basic tasks such as typing a CV.

8. Inspiring STEM

Inspiring the Future (ITFI) is a SDCP Project co-funded by Google Data Centre and SICAP, the project connects children and young people in DEIS schools with volunteers from the world of work.

Inspiring STEM - Through career talks, workshops, and workplace visits, participants meet role models “from their community or working in their community,” helping to counteract stereotypes and raise aspirations. A new strand, *Inspiring STEM Careers*, focuses on building structured Transition Year work placements in local tech, fintech and pharma companies, bridging education with meaningful, local career experience.

Celebrating STEM – Coordination of large-scale community-based STEM events and University Access visits with a focus on STEM subjects, the aim of which is to increase awareness and aspirations by highlighting career pathways: Visits expose students to a wide range of STEM careers they may not have known existed. Students learn about people working in STEM, which is especially powerful for breaking down stereotypes and showing that it's a field for everyone.

7 | Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) – Bawnlea/Jobstown & Clondalkin

The Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) is an area-based, community-led initiative that supports small, defined communities to build capacity, strengthen relationships, and address local issues through resident participation and collaborative working with key stakeholders.

Through active resident participation, the programme helps to develop leadership, increase confidence, and foster stronger social connections within communities. This, in turn, enhances their ability to respond to challenges and opportunities. Collaborative working with key stakeholders also ensures better coordination of services and more effective use of resources.

From an LCDC perspective, the ECP plays a key role in delivering on the objectives of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). It provides a practical mechanism for targeting disadvantage, promoting social inclusion, and improving outcomes in priority areas. The LCDC's oversight ensures that the programme remains aligned with strategic priorities, is evidence-based, and contributes to measurable community development outcomes.

Bawnlea / Jobstown Empowering Communities Programme

In 2025, the Empowering Communities Programme in Bawnlea and Jobstown focused on developing a strong foundation through community engagement, trust-building, and the gradual introduction of resident-led activities in a defined area of 174 households.

The programme established a strong and visible presence within the community through consistent engagement, including door-to-door outreach, participation in local groups, and use of community spaces to build relationships with residents. It delivered regular community meetings alongside a structured community survey, ensuring that local priorities and activities were directly informed by residents' views. A range of inclusive, community-based events and initiatives were facilitated, such as *Tea on the Green*, seasonal events, and family activities, creating safe opportunities for residents to come together and connect. Through this approach, a core group of engaged residents emerged, actively contributing to the planning, organisation, and delivery of local initiatives. In addition, the programme supported community enhancement projects, including planting and painting initiatives, and delivered capacity-building supports such as CPR/AED training for residents, contributing to both physical improvements and increased local resilience.

The programme has resulted in increased community participation and social interaction, with residents reporting stronger connections with their neighbours and a renewed sense of community. It has supported the development of positive, pro-social activities for children, young people, and families, while also strengthening relationships between residents and

local services, including improved engagement with community facilities. There are also early indications of community capacity building, with residents beginning to take active roles in shaping and delivering local initiatives.

However, a number of challenges remain. Limited access to dedicated community space within the estate has impacted programme delivery, while ongoing issues such as anti-social behaviour and safety concerns continue to influence resident participation. As the programme is still relatively new to the area, there is also a continued need to build trust and maintain consistent engagement with residents over time.

Overall, Bawnlea/Jobstown has progressed from initial introduction to early-stage delivery and active community engagement, establishing a strong platform for future development.

Clondalkin Empowering Communities Programme

In 2025, the Empowering Communities Programme in Clondalkin continued in its third year of delivery, working across Quarryvale, Balgaddy, and Rowlagh. The programme focused on deepening engagement, strengthening leadership, and delivering collaborative, multi-agency initiatives.

The programme delivered significant progress through a range of collaborative and capacity-building initiatives. A community leadership programme was implemented, supporting participants to develop skills and confidence in taking on active roles within their communities. Large-scale collaborative projects were also delivered, including Creative Ireland-funded mural initiatives, which successfully engaged young people and local partners. In addition, the programme worked closely with schools and partner organisations on environmental and community enhancement projects, such as tree planting and stewardship activities involving young people.

Community engagement was further strengthened through the delivery of seasonal events and programmes, which brought together families and residents in positive and inclusive settings. Throughout the year, strong interagency partnerships continued to be developed and maintained, involving local authorities, schools, community organisations, and businesses. This collaborative approach contributed to enhanced community pride and visible improvements in local environments, while also supporting the development of community leadership and increased volunteer participation across the areas. There was also a notable increase in the engagement of young people in positive, structured activities and improved coordination between services and communities.

Despite this progress, several challenges remain. The scale of the programme, which spans multiple estates with differing needs, continues to present demands in terms of delivery and coordination. Limited staffing resources relative to the size of the area also present constraints, while there remains an ongoing need to build and sustain trust within communities to support long-term engagement and participation.

Overall Summary

The 2025 Empowering Communities Programme delivery across both areas reflects two distinct but complementary stages of development:

- Bawnlea/Jobstown: A newly established programme that has successfully moved from engagement to early implementation, building trust and activating resident participation.
- North Clondalkin: A mature programme demonstrating sustained impact, strong collaboration, and community leadership development.

Collectively, both areas highlight the effectiveness of the ECP approach in supporting resident-led change, strengthening communities, and delivering targeted, localised impact.



8 | LEADER Programme



Dublin Rural
LEADER
Growth, Sustainability & Inclusion

The LEADER programme is administered at a local level by Local Action Groups (LAG)s, which contain local representatives from the community, public and private sector. Each group is responsible for selecting and awarding LEADER funding to projects within their geographical area in accordance with the local development strategies they develop themselves.

The LEADER programme accepts applications based on projects which improve:

Theme 1 - Economic Development and Job Creation

- The Green Economy
- Agricultural Diversification
- Rural Tourism & Recreation
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Food Production
- Social, Community & Cooperative Enterprises

Theme 2 - Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion

- Rural Infrastructure
- Accessible Services
- Optimising Digital Connectivity
- Rural Youth

Theme 3 - Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

- Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment
- Climate Change Capacity Building
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Eligibility for LEADER funding

Geographical area

For the purposes of the LEADER programme in Ireland, rural areas are defined as all parts of Ireland with the exception of the areas within the boundaries of the five main cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Galway.

Project eligibility

In order for a project to be eligible for LEADER funding, it must be compatible with the actions outlined in the approved LDS in the geographical area concerned, and it must comply with the EU Regulations and Operation Rules in place for the programme.

Project promoter eligibility

A project promoter is an individual, group or other body (e.g. company) that submits a funding application to the LAG and, where successful, is given a contract to deliver the approved project.

The project promoter must be able to demonstrate that they can provide matching contributions to meet the full costs of the project and ensure that they will be operational as funded for five years from the date of final LEADER grant payment.

Rural areas of South Dublin County include (the electoral districts (EDs)) of Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart, Ballinascorney and Bohernabreena. The Dublin Rural Local Action Group (LAG) includes members from South Dublin County Council, Fingal County Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

South Dublin County LCDC members of the LAG in 2025:

- Elaine Leech, SDCC
- Lorna Maxwell, SDCC (June 2025)
- Andy Leeson, Foróige
- Cllr Sarah Barnes
- Vacant

LAG Evaluation Committee:

This committee evaluates recommendations for funding from the Programme implementer and then makes recommendations to the LAG. Membership is drawn from the three counties.



9 | LCDC Funding 2025

Social Inclusion Community Activity Programme (SICAP)

South Dublin County received an allocation of €2,780,064.00 in relation to SICAP in 2025 and €570,870.00 funding towards New Arrivals. SICAP Reporting is a standing agenda item at each LCDC meeting and comprehensive reporting is delivered by South Dublin County Partnership.

Local Enhancement Programme 2025

The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025 was launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht on the 7th November 2024. South Dublin County LCDC were allocated:

- €343,032.00 in capital funding for community groups to use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc. The applications received for capital funding sought a total sum of €872,396.27.
- €57,172.00 current funding to assist community groups with running costs such as energy bills. Applications received for assistance with running costs totalled €237,142.66.

75 Grant applications were received in total seeking a total of €1,109,538.93. The LCDC had the difficult task of allocating the sum of €400,204.00 available for both capital and current funding.

The Funding Subcommittee convened on 13th March 2025 to assess the applications received and presented a preliminary funding report to the LCDC on 26th March 2025, outlining their recommendations. The LCDC reviewed the applications and submitted its recommendations to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

Successful applicants were notified after the press release from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

A full list of grants awarded are listed in Appendix 2.

10 | Healthy Ireland & Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme

The Health Ireland framework is the National Government Strategy for improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities across the population. Its implementation requires strong local leadership to translate national policies into practical community based actions. LCDC's provide this leadership by bringing together the Local Authority, state agencies, community organisations and other stakeholders to support coordinated health and wellbeing initiatives at County and local level. Through the development and oversight of these programmes, the LCDC ensures they are aligned with identified community needs and integrated with the broader community development objectives.

Similarly, the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme was established to deliver targeted health and wellbeing supports in areas experiencing the highest levels of deprivation and health inequality. The programme recognises that improving long term health outcomes requires community led, place-based approaches that address social exclusion and unequal access to services.

Across both programmes, the LCDC acts as a key local coordination and oversight body. Its role includes:

- Providing strategic governance and local leadership
- Coordinating interagency collaboration across health, local government and community sectors
- Identifying local priorities and ensuring alignment with the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
- Supporting community engagement and participation in programme design and delivery
- Overseeing funding allocation, implementation and reporting requirements
- Promoting evidence-based approaches to reducing health inequalities

The involvement of the LCDC ensures that both the Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programmes are embedded within the wider local development structures and are delivered through a collaborative, community focused model. This strengthens capacity of local areas to respond to health inequalities in a sustainable and integrated way, while supporting national policy objectives around prevention, wellbeing and social inclusion.

Highlights of Healthy Ireland Programmes include:

Healthy South Dublin delivered a broad range of impactful initiatives in partnership with community organisations and statutory agencies, promoting health, wellbeing, and community engagement across the county.

A Health Literacy Pilot Programme was successfully delivered in Kingswood, equipping participants with essential health knowledge and access to local supports through expert-led sessions.

A new COPD Support Group was established in Rowlagh, providing ongoing physical activity and peer support, strengthened by a multi-agency working group to ensure sustainability and continued referrals from primary care services.

In collaboration with Age Friendly partners, a countywide Health and Wellbeing Programme for Adults 55+ engaged over 800 participants across 47 activities, culminating in a highly attended social Tea Dance that fostered connection and active ageing.

The One Jobstown initiative, a youth-led TikTok campaign, positively promoted community identity and pride, reaching over 800,000 views and demonstrating strong engagement and impact among young people.

Targeted wellbeing programmes included the HerSpace initiative, supporting women's physical and mental wellbeing, and a Period Dignity Initiative, which expanded access to free period products across community facilities.

The Junior Safety Forum empowered young people to address key issues such as vaping and nitrous oxide use, resulting in the countywide rollout of the "Escape the Vape" campaign and the creation of an educational animated video on the dangers of Nitrous Oxide.

Healthy South Dublin also supported a wide range of community-based health and wellbeing programmes, including partnerships with Women's Collective Ireland and funding for local groups promoting active lifestyles, inclusion, and recovery supports.

Large-scale community events and health fairs across Tallaght, Clondalkin, Adamstown and Jobstown provided accessible health information, screenings and supports to diverse population groups.

Seasonal and recreational initiatives, including National Play Day, community fun runs, and Halloween safety events, contributed to safer, more active and connected communities.



Highlights of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme

The Energy Use in the Home Programme pilot completed 49 household visits across Clondalkin and Tallaght, highlighting the strong link between energy poverty, poor housing conditions and adverse health outcomes. The programme identified significant issues including damp, mould, poor ventilation and aging, inefficient heating systems, with many households experiencing high energy costs, unliveable spaces and safety risks. Findings underscored how inadequate housing and energy inefficiency contribute to worsening chronic health conditions and deepen existing health inequalities.

Complementing this work, investment in community infrastructure such as the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in MacUilliam has supported positive health outcomes by providing an accessible space for physical activity, social interaction and youth engagement, promoting wellbeing and strengthening community cohesion. Together, these initiatives highlight the importance of integrated, place-based approaches that address both the environmental and social determinants of health.



Appendices

Appendix 1

South Dublin County LCDC membership and attendance 2025

Representative	Sector	Feb	March	April	June	Sep	Nov
Private							
Simon Monds	SDC Partnership	P	P	P	P	P	P
Tricia Nolan	Chair, South Dublin Volunteer Centre	P	P	P	P	P	P
Seán Farrell	PPN Community Pillar	P	P	P	P	P	P
Sharon Harty	PPN Community Pillar	A	P	A	A	A	P
John Conroy	PPN Community Pillar	P	P	P	P	P	A
Vacant	PPN Environment Pillar						
Noreen Byrne	PPN Social Inclusion Pillar	P	A	A	A	A	P
Andy Leeson	Youth Services	A	P	P	P	P	P
Dr. Noel McCarthy	Community Representative	P	A	A	P	P	P
Helena Fitzgerald	Community Representative	P	A	P	P	P	A
Public							
Cllr Yvonne Collins	Elected Member	P	P	P	P	A	-
Cllr. Alan Hayes	Elected Member	A	P	P	P	A	A
Cllr. Sarah Barrnes	Elected Member	P	A	P	P	A	P
Margaret McQuillan	Health Service Executive	P	A	P	P	P	P
Valerie Hogg	Adult Education, Dublin & Dun Laoghaire Education Training	A	P	P	P	P	P
Eugene Donnelly	Department of Social Protection	P	P	A	A	P	A
Thomas Rooney	Local Enterprise Office	P	P	A	A	A	A
Elaine Leech	Director of Services	P	P	P	-	-	-
Lorna Maxwell	Director of Services	-	-	-	P	P	P
In Attendance							
Maria Nugent	Coordinator	P	P	P	P	P	P
Edel Clancy	Chief Officer	P	P	P	P	P	P

P- Present

A- Apologies given

C- Absent conflict of interest

Appendices

Appendix 2

Local Enhancement Programme 2025 Funding Allocations:

LCDC	Group / Organisation	Amount
South Dublin County	Women's Collective Ireland Lucan (WCI) - Clondalkin Women's Network	€3,996.02
South Dublin County	Bawnogue Youth and Community Centre	€6,275.85
South Dublin County	Coeliac Society of Ireland	€2,010.00
South Dublin County	Coeliac Society of Ireland	€4,384.95
South Dublin County	Ronanstown Community childcare Centre	€9,222.72
South Dublin County	Muintir Chrónáin, Áras Chrónáin Ionad Cultúir	€17,850.00
South Dublin County	The WEB Project	€35,000.00
South Dublin County	Ronanstown Women's Community Development Project	€4,980.00
South Dublin County	Quarryvale Community and Leisure Centre	€41,902.00
South Dublin County	Clondalkin Addiction Support Programme	€22,380.23
South Dublin County	Quarryvale Family Resource Centre	€2,785.30
South Dublin County	Anam Cara Parental & Sibling Bereavement Support	€1,856.30
South Dublin County	Tallaght Choral Society	€1,585.00
South Dublin County	Order of Malta Tallaght Unit	€101,150.69
South Dublin County	168th St. Aengus Tymon North Scout Group	€9,000.00
South Dublin County	St. Marks Youth Club	€6,233.06
South Dublin County	Foroige Tallaght Youth Services	€6,750.00
South Dublin County	New Hope Residential Centre	€15,000.00
South Dublin County	Women's Collective Ireland Tallaght	€995.58
South Dublin County	Sophia Housing	€595.00
South Dublin County	SAOIRSE Domestic Violence Services	€8,000.00
South Dublin County	Killinarden Community Council	€6,150.50
South Dublin County	Citywise Education	€9,298.80
South Dublin County	Fettercairn Community and Youth Centre	€21,230.00
South Dublin County	Clondalkin Travellers Development Group	€2,500.00
South Dublin County	Jobstown Community & Youth Centre	€1,900.00
Capital	Total	€343,032.00

LCDC	Group/Organisation Name	Amount
South Dublin County	Retired Active Men's Social (RAMs)	€600.00
South Dublin County	Women's Collective Ireland Lucan (WCI) - Clondalkin Women's Network	€184.38
South Dublin County	Whitechurch Community and Youth Centre	€8,000.00
South Dublin County	Clondalkin Travellers Development Group	€1,200.00
South Dublin County	Clondalkin Addiction Support Programme	€16,015.62
South Dublin County	Anam Cara Parental & Sibling Bereavement Support	€2,855.00
South Dublin County	St. Marks Youth Club	€9,479.84
South Dublin County	New Hope Residential Centre	€7,982.00
South Dublin County	SAOIRSE Domestic Violence Services	€6,250.00
South Dublin County	Citywise Education	€4,605.16
Current	Total	€57,172.00

Appendices

Appendix 3

South Dublin County LCDC Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

[sdcc-lecp_final.pdf](#)

[sdcc.ie sdcc lecp irish.pdf](#)

Glossary

Phrase or Acronym	Translation	Explanation
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education	
EMRA	Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly	
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	
ESF	European Social Fund	The main financial instrument for supporting employment in the member states of the European Union as well as promoting economic and social cohesion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the SICAP programme with EU funding
ESRI	Economic and Social Research Institute	
ETB	Education & Training Board	
EU	European Union	
Functional area of a Committee		The administrative area of South Dublin County Council.
FRC	Family Resource Centre	
HSDSG	Healthy South Dublin Strategy Group	Developing Memorandum of Understanding with LCDC
HSE	Health Services Executive	
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	
IHREC	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	Ireland's national human rights institution and national equality body.
ILDN	Irish Local Development Network	The representative body for the country's Local Development Companies who deliver RDP LEADER, Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme, Rural Social Scheme, Tús, Local Employment Service, Jobs Clubs, Rural Recreation Programme, The Walks Scheme, Back to Work Enterprise Allowance and social enterprise programmes across rural and urban Ireland.
IRIS	Integrated Reporting and Information System	POBAL computer system for managing the SICAP programme
JPC	Joint Policing Committee	Have Memorandum of Understanding with LCDC
KPI		Key Performance Indicator
LAG	LEADER Advisory Group	
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee	
LCDP	Local Community Development Programme	Any action, intervention, programme, scheme or any other support, financial or otherwise, which is concerned with promoting the interests of local communities.
LCG	Local Community Group	
LDC	Local Development Company	The company that delivers the SICAP programme usually and area-based Partnership company
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement. de l'Économie Rurale	LEADER is a French acronym that roughly translates as 'Liaison among Actors in Rural Economic Development.'
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan	A 6-year plan jointly agreed by the LCDC and Economic SPC
LEO		Local Enterprise Office
LGAS	Local Government Audit Service	
LGMA	Local Government Manager's Association	
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	An agreement between two (bilateral) or more (multilateral) parties. It expresses a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended common line of action.
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training	
NESC	National Economic & Social Council	
NOSP	National Office for Suicide Prevention	
NUI Maynooth	National University of Ireland, Maynooth	
PEIL	Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning	The Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020 is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the ESF with a special allocation from the Youth Employment Initiative.

Glossary

Phrase or Acronym	Translation	Explanation
PI	Programme Implementer SICAP programme	The Local Development Company (LDC) who delivers the
Plan POBAL		The 6-year Local Economic and Community Plan POBAL acts as an intermediary for programmes funded by the Irish Government and the EU by supporting groups and communities that are applying for, or receiving, funding for specific programmes. In practical terms, this can involve assessing funding applications, providing support, checking financial returns, processing payments, and auditing to ensure funds are used for the intended purposes.
Publicly funded body		A body whose funds, directly or indirectly and in whole or in part, come out of money provided by the Oireachtas for the purpose of performing its functions.
PPN	The Public Participation Network	The South Dublin County Public Participation Network (PPN) is the representative, collective voice of community & voluntary, environmental and social inclusion organisations in South Dublin County. Resident Association
RA RACI	Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, Informed	Responsibility assignment matrix: RACI is an acronym derived from the four key responsibilities most typically used: Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, and Informed.
RAPID	Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development	Programme ran from 2002-2012. A new programme was introduced in 2017 with the RAPID Funding Scheme
Rathcoole EGF		Rathcoole European Globalisation Fund
Representatives of local community interests		In relation to the functional area of a committee, people who are representative of community interests that are concerned with promoting the development of aspects of those interests within that area and such representatives may include representatives of non-governmental organisations, development agencies, community-based groups, recognised associations, cultural bodies, sporting bodies and social movements and networks.
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	
SDCC	South Dublin County Council	
SDC Partnership	South Dublin County Partnership	
SDC Volunteer Centre	South Dublin County Volunteer Centre	
SICAP	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme	
SME	Small and medium sized enterprise	
SPC	Strategic Policy Committee	To formulate, develop, monitor and review policies which relate to the functions of South Dublin County Council and to advise the Council accordingly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic SPC agreed LECP. Community SPC deals with community related issues of SDCC
Standing Orders		The Rules of Debate, the Agenda, and any "local" rules concerning the conduct of the meeting are loosely referred to as "Standing Orders."
TU Dublin	Technological University Dublin	Previously the Institute of Technology Tallaght
Tusla		The Child & Family Agency

Glossary

Phrase or Acronym	Translation	Explanation
The Act		The Local Government Reform Act 2014
AIRO		All-Island Research Observatory (Maynooth University)
BTWEA	Back to Work Enterprise Allowance	
CCMA	County and City Manager's Association	
CDP	Community Development Project	
Chief Officer		The person appointed by the Chief Executive of the Local Authority to assist the LCDC and manage the business of the Committee.
CEP	Community Enhancement Programme	(Funding) New scheme in 2018
CFS	Communities Facilities Fund (Funding)	
CIF	Community Initiative Fund (Funding)	
Clondalkin Travellers DG (CTDG)	Clondalkin Travellers Development Group	
CPG	Corporate Policy Group	
CYPSC	Children & Young People's Services Committee	Have Memorandum of Understanding with LCDC
DEIS	Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools	
DEASP	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	
DoH	Department of Health	
Department or DRCD	Department of Rural & Community Development	To provide a renewed and consolidated focus on rural and community development in Ireland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source of funding for LCDP programmes • Provides policy framework. • Enacts Government policy

