

Meeting 12: 24th October 2022, Boomerang Youth Café

James Boyle, Regional Manager, IDA gave a comprehensive presentation to members on the ongoing work of the IDA in Drogheda and their plans for the town and wider region.

LMETB were commended on their successful application for a new Apprentice Training Centre of Excellence which they anticipate will be open to apprentices in March 2023 and will train up to 400 apprentices per year.

The recent announcement that two community-based Drogheda projects will receive funding totalling €250k through the Community Safety Innovation Fund was welcomed. Foróige secured funding for a two year alternative learning programme for young people aged 13-16; while the Red Door Project was successful with their project to establish a prison links programme, supporting people in addiction leaving the prison system to continue on their rehabilitation journey and be diverted from criminal activity.

The strengthened Community Policing unit of 2 sergeants and 14 Gardaí in Drogheda was also welcomed. An Garda Síochána have been deploying additional foot patrols in Drogheda town centre in recent weeks.

The High-Level Oversight group met in Drogheda on 10th October last and a number of actions within the Plan were discussed.

The North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force are developing two proposals for submission to the HSE, for a Drug Related Intimidation and Violence Engagement (DRIVE) lead pilot for the region, based in Drogheda; and the replication of a Community Dual Diagnosis model which has been piloted in the North East Inner City in Dublin.

The Family Support, Children, Young People and Education subgroup are continuing to review gaps in counselling and mental health provision for children and young people. The appointment of a Louth Suicide Prevention Officer by the HSE was welcomed.

Additional resources allocated to Child Protection and Welfare were noted, including a new 'Family Help Team' which will be piloted in Drogheda and for which staff recruitment is almost complete.

The recent launch of detailed architectural designs for a new community centre by Moneymore Consortium, which took place in the Droichead Arts Centre, alongside the launch of the Connect Family Resource Centre Strategic Plan 2023-2026, was discussed in the context of the announcement of a new Community Centres Fund by the Department of Rural and Community Development.