



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice

# Drogheda Report Implementation Plan

5<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Update; 2<sup>nd</sup> Published Progress Report

January 2023



## INTRODUCTION

The Drogheda Scoping Exercise was commissioned by the Minister for Justice in 2020 in response to rising concerns regarding crime and fear of crime in Drogheda. The report, entitled 'Drogheda: Creating a Bridge to a Better Future', was completed by Mr. Vivian Geiran, former director of the Probation Service, and published in January 2021. The report explored the challenges presenting in the Drogheda catchment area, in addition to local strengths and resources. It also identified measures that could support community safety and chart a path to improved community wellbeing in and around Drogheda.

The recommendations in the report fall under two general headings:

- The need for improved interagency cooperation in the administration and delivery of services in Drogheda, and
- The need to resource services or provide additional services in the area.

Following the publication of the report, the Department of Justice engaged with relevant Government Departments, Agencies, and Louth County Council to develop the Drogheda Implementation Plan, an action plan focused on implementation of the recommendations contained in the report. The Drogheda Implementation Plan outlines 73 actions and is reviewed on a quarterly basis, with a progress report published biannually.

At a local level, the Drogheda Implementation Board is the core driver and co-ordinator of the activities outlined in the Plan, while the Department of Justice provides national oversight to ensure strategic direction, action planning and delivery of the Drogheda Implementation Plan. Additionally, the Drogheda Implementation Plan High Level Oversight Group, chaired by the Department of Justice, provides further oversight with representatives from key Government Departments and Agencies.

The first public facing biannual progress report was published in November 2022, covering the period from January to June 2022. This report, the second biannual progress report, now provides an update on the status of actions to the end of December 2022. The report once again demonstrates many positive activities for the people of Drogheda, including:

- Funding for a Drugs Treatment Court Liaison Case Worker situated within the Red Door Project in Drogheda has been secured through Dormant Accounts Funding until Q3 2024.
- Two projects based in Drogheda were successful in attaining funding from the Community Safety Innovation Fund 2022. These were:
  - Just over €98,000 for a Prison Links Worker – situated within the Red Door Project for 2 years.
  - €150,000 for the New Choices Project – the project, run by Foroige, is an individualised alternative learning programme for young people aged 13-16 who have dropped out of the school system.
- The LMETB were successful with an application for capital investment from SOLAS to develop a tertiary education facility on the Drogheda Institute of Further Education campus. Minister Harris announced the multi-million capital investment on 5

September. The project will greatly enhance capacity to deliver third level programmes in Drogheda.

- An LMETB submission to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for a dedicated Youth Officer in response to the Drogheda Implementation Plan was approved. The Youth Officer took up post in September 2022 and is working in partnership with key stakeholders to define and research the current youth specific requirements in the area.
- Funding has been provided to the Connect Family Resource Centre to provide short-term, targeted counselling interventions for primary aged children impacted by trauma through Marymount N.S and St. John & St. Paul's N.S on the Southside of Drogheda.
- The LMETB made a submission to SOLAS to deliver a large scale electrical apprenticeship hub with 360 apprentice training places per annum to the town. On 17 October 2022, Minister Harris announced this first ever Apprenticeship Training Hub for Drogheda. The LMETB have secured a large premises on the Southside of Drogheda for this purpose. The Centre will open in 2023 and will become a centre of excellence for electrical apprenticeship training and also deliver up to 20 permanent jobs in the town.
- The 'Ask For Angela' safety campaign, which allows people to discreetly signal if they need feel unsafe on a date or night out, was implemented as part of a suite of community safety initiatives by An Garda Síochána and Drogheda Implementation Board in December 2022.

The Government remains committed to improving safety and wellbeing for the community in Drogheda. Progression of further actions from the Drogheda Implementation Plan will help continue this strong momentum and build towards a safe, sustainable community for the town and wider area.

## GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

AGS	An Garda Síochána
BIDs	Business Improvement District
C&V	Community & Voluntary
CHO8	HSE Community Health Organisation area - Midlands Louth Meath
FRC	Family Resource Centre
CSIF	Community Safety Innovation Fund
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
DDIH	Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub
D/FHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Skills
DIB	Drogheda Implementation Board
DOJ	Department of Justice
DRIVE	Drug Related Intimidation and Violence Engagement
DTC	Drug Treatment Court
DTCAGSM	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
FASN	Family Addiction Support Network
HLOG	High Level Oversight Group (senior representatives of Government departments)
JARC	Joint Agency Response to Crime
LCC	Louth County Council
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LCSP	Local Community Safety Partnership
LECP	Local Economic Community Policy
LLSP	Louth Local Sports Partnership
LLP/LLD	Louth LEADER Partnership/Louth Local Development
LMETB	Louth and Meath Education Training Board
NERDATF	North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force
MLSP	Meath Local Sports Partnership
MQI	Merchants Quay Ireland
SICAP	Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme

## 1. CROSS-AGENCY COORDINATION

1.1	<p><b>Drogheda Safety &amp; Wellbeing High-Level Oversight Group:</b> Led by (i) Department of Justice and comprising senior representatives of other relevant Departments: (ii) Health; (iii) Housing, Local Government and Heritage; (iv) Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth; (v) Education; (vi) Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science; (vii) Rural and Community Development; (viii) Social Protection; and (ix) Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.</p> <p>Agency representatives to be invited to meetings as required.</p> <p>Quarterly Meetings to ensure strategic direction and action planning and receive reports on progress on action plan. Once the action plan is agreed, the Oversight Group might be reduced in size.</p>
1.2	<p><b>Safety and Wellbeing Implementation Board:</b> The core driver and coordinator of change. With an independent chair, small support team (headed by a fulltime coordinator) and own budget (to resource the coordination itself, as well as to provide 'priming' funds to innovative projects and initiatives) – the team to be hosted, resourced supported by Louth Local Authority or Louth Leader Partnership, but located in Drogheda. Other central Government departments and local bodies to provide proportion of the funding for this as agreed).</p> <p>Board comprised of senior ('decision making') representatives from relevant agencies, including, at least: (i) An Garda Síochána; (ii) Probation Service; (iii) Local Authorities; (iv) HSE; (v) TUSLA; (vi) LMETB (vii) LLP; (viii) IYJS/DoJ.</p>
1.3	<p><b>Four sub-groups/working groups:</b> Policing and Drugs; Family Support, Children, Young People and Education; Employment, Business, Enterprise; Area/Community Development, Arts, Culture and Sport.</p> <p>Sub/working groups to have identified chairs (some could be rotated), representatives from relevant agencies and bodies. All sub-groups to include representatives from relevant bodies in the C+V sector; sub-group (d) to include wider definition of 'community' representatives, on a rotating basis, as required. Sub-group work focus to be on agreed/clear action plans. To report in at appropriate intervals, through identified representatives, to the Implementation Board. The sub-groups could also identify new or added resourcing needs, and prepare business cases for consideration by the implementation.</p>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p><b>1.1 Drogheda Safety &amp; Wellbeing High-Level Oversight Group</b></p> <p>The High-Level Oversight Group has been established. The Group met twice in 2022, including a meeting held in Drogheda on 10<sup>th</sup> October.</p>	

## **1.2: Drogheda Implementation Board**

The Safety and Wellbeing Implementation Board, generally referred to as the Drogheda Implementation Board, was established in late October 2021. An expanded Board membership was agreed in February 2022 to include community representation in addition to senior decision-making representatives from statutory and other key agencies.

The Board now consists of an independent, voluntary Chair, appointed by the Department of Justice, and 16 individuals representing 14 organisations. Full board membership is available to view on their dedicated website at [www.droghedaimplementationboard.ie/about/board-membership/](http://www.droghedaimplementationboard.ie/about/board-membership/)

The Drogheda Implementation Board met 11 times in 2022. Attendance and engagement rates by members are particularly high, with an average attendance rate of over 80%.

LMETB are providing hosting and administration supports to the Board, including employment of a full-time Coordinator. This Coordinator has been in position since December 2021. [Click here](#) to view the Chief Executive of the LMETB, Martin O'Brien, talk about the role of the LMETB in establishing and supporting the Drogheda Implementation Board.

## **1.3: Subgroups of the Board**

As noted in previous Progress Reports, four subgroups of the Board have been established which reflect the recommendation contained in the Drogheda Scoping Report:

- Policing and Drugs;
- Family Support, Children, Young People and Education;
- Employment, Business, Enterprise;
- Area/Community Development, Arts, Culture and Sport.

58 individuals representing 31 stakeholder organisations were members of the Drogheda Implementation Board subgroups in 2022. Subgroup membership is available to view here [www.droghedaimplementationboard.ie/about/subgroups/](http://www.droghedaimplementationboard.ie/about/subgroups/). 36 subgroup meetings were held across the year, in addition to meetings of smaller working groups from within subgroups.

The Drogheda Implementation Board plays a strategic oversight role in relation to the delivery of the Implementation Plan whilst subgroups work on specific actions. To that end the Board has mapped actions from the Implementation Plan to subgroups which they are progressing.

A meeting to which all members of structures of the Drogheda Implementation Board have been invited is planned for January 2023 to evaluate progress of action delivery and identify priorities for 2023.

The Department of Justice secured €150,000 in 2021 and €250,000 in 2022 through Dormant Accounts Funding (DAF) to support the establishment and running of the Drogheda Implementation Board. A further €350,000 has been secured for 2023.

Of the funds secured for 2021-2022 €300,000 (75%) has gone directly to community resources such as staffing posts in the Red Door Project (see action 3.1); refurbishment of community facilities (see actions 4.1, 4.3 and 7.6); and addressing gaps in service provision (see action 5.5). Over €7,000 resourced the delivery of a number of events and activities to address the need for better interagency cooperation and coordination as identified in the

Drogheda Report. These included Drug and Alcohol Information and Awareness events for education providers (see action 3.9); events to support the development of Trauma Informed Approaches and Restorative Communities in Drogheda (see action 2.13) and events bringing together the Arts, Community and Statutory sectors in response to specific actions in the Drogheda Report Implementation Plan (See action 7.1).		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Department of Justice (DoJ) to coordinate implementation of actions in line with timelines set out in this document and to produce six monthly progress reports	Ongoing	DoJ
Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) to host local Drogheda Implementation Board comprised of local representatives of relevant agencies and bodies	Ongoing	LMETB
Recruitment of Coordinator to support local Drogheda Implementation Board	Complete	LMETB
DoJ to provide funding for single staff resource to support Drogheda Implementation Board. Funds secured via Dormant Accounts for 2022.	Complete	DoJ
Submission to be made to Dormant Accounts Fund for 2023 funding	Complete	DoJ

## 2. ADDRESSING CRIME

<b>2.1</b>	<b>For those involved at a very serious or “senior” level in the drugs trade and related organised crime in the area, the current approach by AGS of targeting and disrupting their activities to be continued and resourced accordingly.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>‘Operation Stratus’ is a Garda operation deployed in Drogheda to identify and disband Organised Crime Gangs through the targeting and arresting of persons involved in very serious distribution and sale of controlled substances in the Drogheda area. This targeted approach has resulted in significant drugs and firearm seizures by Investigating Gardaí in the Drogheda area.</p> <p>A number of incidents have been detected, some of which include Murder, Attempted Murder, Possession of Firearms, Possession of Drugs, Manufacture of Drugs, Importation of Drugs, Possession of Explosives, Petrol Bomb incidents, Criminal Damage offences and Arson.</p>	

In addition, a Divisional Drugs Unit with dedicated resources under a Senior Investigating Officer is based in Drogheda Garda Station. This Drugs Unit continues to make a significant number of detections and arrests for a range of Drug Related Offences. In 2022 Gardaí in Drogheda took €4 million off the streets, seized assets, charged people with Organised Crime offences and have charged 83 people with possession of drugs for sale & supply.

An Garda Síochána continues to proactively target the finances and other assets of all persons involved in the sale and supply of drugs. Gardaí in Drogheda will continue to work closely with other agencies and Garda Units, on a local, national and international level in order to target those involved in the sale and supply of controlled substances.

This operational and strategic approach has proven to be very successful. Resources allocated to Drogheda in response to an escalation in organised crime and the Drogheda Report & Implementation Plan continue to be essential in the continuation of An Garda Síochána's disruption of activity by those at a senior level in the drugs and organised crime trade.

[Click here](#) to view Chief Superintendent Alan McGovern of Louth Cavan Monaghan Division give an insight into the real impact of these resources.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
The strategy outlined above will continue in relation to the seizure of illegal drugs and assets. This strategy is directly linked with Operation Stratus which continues to deal with serious organised criminality in Drogheda	Ongoing	An Garda Síochána

<b>2.2</b>	<b>Implement as a matter of urgency an intensive wraparound service for vulnerable children and young people exposed to and involved in organised crime group, as well as their families, with a view to facilitating their disengagement from such criminal networks.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>The Greentown Project trial sites are progressing in two locations in the State to develop approaches to wrap around support for vulnerable children. The learnings from these trials will inform the deployment of services in areas where children and young people are exposed to, and involved in organised crime groups, as well as their families, with a view to facilitating their disengagement from such criminal networks. The very effective cross-agency collaborative work that is taking place has assisted a number of young people to date to receive the necessary training to enable them to gain employment which will help them to break the link with, and dependency on, criminal networks.</p> <p>Extern is an all-island social justice charity supporting children, young people, individuals and families to overcome their challenges, empower positive change and support the family unit. Representatives of Extern were invited to the May meeting of the Policing and Drugs Subgroup of the Drogheda Implementation Board and presented on an intensive family support pilot which they are delivering in the Drogheda area. This pilot is funded by the Department of</p>	



Justice. Extern has also been engaging in the Youth Service Network Meetings facilitated by the Drogheda Implementation Board Coordinator and Louth LEADER Partnership.

2.3	Continue – and increase, where appropriate – resourcing (e.g., staff, training, minibus/es) to the two Youth Diversion Projects (CABLE and Boyne GYDPs), to facilitate their work.		
Current Status			
<p>The CABLE and Boyne Youth Diversion Projects are funded directly by the Department of Justice. CABLE and Boyne Youth Workers work with local Juvenile Liaison Officers to deliver services to young people who have been cautioned, and young people deemed at risk of offending. This work is now captured as part of the partnership approach to service delivery in the new Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027. Transport may be made available based on business need, the required funding for same is provided via YDP through the Department of Justice. The Chief Superintendent, Garda Youth Diversion Bureau is the lead in An Garda Síochána. Both projects are on two-year funding agreements that are renewable.</p> <p>In 2021 the Department of Justice met all appropriate funding needs for and provided €530,000 in funding to the two projects including additional funding of €25,000 to Boyne and €66,000 to CABLE for the purchase of mini-buses.</p> <p>In June 2022 Boyne Youth Diversion Project was allocated almost €75,000 under the Youth Justice Strategy to deliver Early Intervention Supports and Family Supports primarily to Youth Diversion referrals on the Southside of Drogheda. The CABLE Project had received funding in a previous round to deliver these supports on the Northside of the town.</p> <p>Youth Work Ireland Louth (the BOYNE Project) found it challenging to procure a minibus for the funds initially allocated to them due to the increase in costs nationwide for the purchase of all vehicles, but in particular minibuses. In October 2022 they issued a public appeal to try to secure a suitable vehicle to no avail. In response to this the Department of Justice allocated additional funds to the BOYNE Project to bring the total allocation for the minibus to €60,000.</p>			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
Engagement with CABLE and Boyne projects regarding any additional needs.		Complete	Department of Justice
This objective has been achieved however engagement will remain ongoing.			

2.4	Ensure continuing/strengthening of community policing – particularly in the town centre and suburban areas.
Current Status	
Community Policing in Drogheda has been significantly strengthened. The Drogheda Community Policing Team has recently been awarded the ‘Best Not for Profit’ organisation in	

2022 by the Drogheda & District Chamber which marks a significant achievement for An Garda Síochána and Policing in Drogheda.

Each member of the Community Policing Team has been assigned to dedicated sectors within communities and interest groups in both urban and rural locations within the Drogheda area. Gardaí continue to use technology to assist the community gain an understanding of sector areas through the [Garda Website](#), on the dedicated [Louth Garda Facebook Page](#) in addition to sharing with public representatives and interest groups. Any queries/requests to this Unit can be addressed to [Drogheda.Community@garda.ie](mailto:Drogheda.Community@garda.ie).

The Community Policing Team attended the Public Facing Joint Policing Committee meeting which took place in Drogheda on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and were available to provide advice on a personal level for all in attendance. Community Policing is a matter for all members of An Garda Síochána, however, with a dedicated team comes a clear vision in terms of responsibility for dedicated sectors, delivery of schools programmes, high visibility foot and pedal cycle patrols, targeting of hot-spots, engaging with older persons, vulnerable persons, neighbourhood groups, text alert groups, engagement with NGOs, engagement with other agencies and dealing with a range of issues that impact on the communities within the town of Drogheda.

This unit has had, and will continue to have, a significant role in addressing and delivering the goals of the Drogheda Implementation Plan.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Roll-out of the Community Policing Framework to the Louth Division	Complete	AGS
Continue to increase the profile and effectiveness of the Community Policing Team and achieve strategic and community orientated policing objectives.	Actioned and ongoing over the lifetime of the Board	AGS

<b>2.5</b>	<b>Consider the implementation of a Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC) project in the Drogheda area.</b>
<b>2.10</b>	<b>Explore ways in which the timeliness of criminal justice responses to offending and offenders can be improved where possible.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>A new oversight and governance structure for offender management has been established in order to coordinate and align offender management programmes, including SORAM, JARC, Domestic Violence, Complex High-Risk Prisoners and Life Sentenced Prisoners.</p> <p>The current priorities for this new governance mechanism include developing and embedding the new reporting structures, developing a medium-term vision for multi-agency offender management generally and streamlining approaches to programme delivery.</p>	

During 2021, significant progress was made on the evaluation of the JARC programme and the 'ACER 3' projects in particular. The results of the ACER 3 evaluations have been circulated to all stakeholders and feedback has been received. A presentation on the conclusions of the evaluation will be organised for Q1 2023.

In Q4 2022, relevant stakeholders from the Drogheda Implementation Board Policing & Drugs Subgroup (Representatives from Probation Service, Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána and the Red Door Project) met to consider and agree the selection criteria for participants and to define the specific catchment area within Drogheda Garda District for the proposed JARC type initiative. Drawing from Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for existing JARC programmes, the group drafted a SOP document proposing a partnership approach with The Red Door, a pathway organisation appropriate to crime trends and addiction needs in the catchment area.

The JARC National Coordination Team (NCT) hold responsibility for co-ordinating, supporting and overseeing operational responses. The work of the NCT is overseen by the Offender Management Oversight Group (OMOG), referenced in the Drogheda Report Implementation Plan and who are responsible for the national coordination of the various adult multi-agency offender management initiatives. The Offender Management Governance and Strategy Group have direct oversight of the work of the Offender Management Oversight Group, regularly reviewing updates and making strategic policy and governance decisions, where appropriate.

The draft SOP document for JARC Drogheda was completed and forwarded in December 2022 for onward consideration by the National Co-Ordination Team (NCT).

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Any decision to rollout JARC to additional locations will be made by the Offender Management Governance and Strategy Group in the context of the outcome of ongoing programme evaluations. Evaluations are expected to continue throughout Q1 2023.	Q1 2023 (previously Q4 2022)	Offender Management Governance and Strategy Group (Chaired by DoJ, Membership includes IPS, AGS and Probation Service)

2.6	<b>Allocate additional Probation Service resources (1-2 probation officers, as well as community service and community-based organisations, where and as needed) immediately to the Louth team, to allow adequate focus on and resourcing of responses to drug-related offending, young people involved in crime and related projects, as well as in the event of any expansion of the JARC programme, youth justice, community service and restorative justice programmes.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
The Probation Service resources on the Louth Team, which include the Drogheda catchment area, have remained static in 2022.	

The Probation Service continues to review resource levels for this team. There are likely to be resource implications to facilitate the delivery of specific actions within the Drogheda Implementation Plan, such as the continuation and sustainability of the Drug Court and the JARC type initiative which will be at commencement stage in Q1 2023. The delivery of community sanctions is a key aspect of the work carried out and will continue in 2023, in partnership with other relevant community-based services.

The Probation Service team from Co Louth is represented on both the Policing and Drugs Subgroup and the Family Support, Children, Young People and Education Subgroup of the Implementation Board.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Probation Service resources to be kept under review	Actioned and ongoing over the lifetime of the Board	Probation Service

2.7	In spite of the constraints of Proceeds of Crime legislation, explore how to demonstrate to local communities in a visible and practical way that money and other resources seized from organised criminals is, in effect, used to provide funding for community and other services.	
Current Status		
<p>In April 2021 the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform agreed in principle to establish a new fund to support community safety which would reflect the successes of An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau in disrupting criminal activity and seizing proceeds of crime by providing additional funding for investment in community safety projects.</p> <p>The establishment of a Community Safety Innovation Fund was announced in Budget 2022 with an initial outlay of €2 million.</p> <p>The Fund officially opened for applications on 8 April and closed on 8 June. 124 applications were received by this deadline.</p> <p>Twenty-two applications were successful, two of which are focused on the Drogheda area. These are a Prison Link Worker situated within the Red Door Project for 2 years, linked to action 3.1 and the New Choices Project run by Foroige, an individualised alternative learning programme for young people aged 13-16 who have dropped out of the school system, linked to action 5.5.</p> <p>The Fund outlay for 2023 has been increased by 50% to 3 million.</p>		
Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body
Funding to be confirmed through the estimates process	Complete	DoJ/DPER

Application Criteria for Community Safety Innovation Fund Agreed	Complete	DoJ
Community Safety Innovation Fund Launched	Complete	DoJ
Applications for funding reviewed and applicants informed of decision. Funding issued to all successful applicants.	Complete	DOJ

2.8	Explore the provision of appropriate multi-disciplinary responses (including out-of-hours) to incidents (e.g., with mental health components or factors, such as suicidal or self-harming behaviour) currently managed by ‘frontline’ AGS members	
Current Status		
<p>A project focusing on the implementation of Divisional Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) commenced under A Policing Service for Our Future (APSFF). The aim of the project is to explore multi-agency intervention teams, which will be a collaboration between An Garda Síochána and mental health professionals to provide a rapid and integrated response to persons with mental health issues.</p> <p>This is due to be piloted in Limerick Garda Division and will be reviewed and evaluated by An Garda Síochána.</p> <p>In the interim, An Garda Síochána in Drogheda will continue to develop their excellent working relationships with all of the agencies concerned and will continue to respond efficiently and effectively to incidents concerning mental health.</p> <p>The Policing and Drugs Subgroup of the Drogheda Implementation Board are continuing to review this action with a view to identifying potential local responses.</p>		
Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body
Await the commencement and subsequent evaluation of the project in Limerick Division. CAST Pre-Pilot to commence in Limerick in Q4 2023.	Ongoing (previously Q3 2022)	An Garda Síochána

2.9	Explore how to address the previously raised and discussed issue of the impact of the county boundaries of Louth and Meath, and the corresponding delineation between Garda Districts/Divisions, specifically in relation to the policing of the Laytown-Bettystown area of East Meath
Current Status	
The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (D/HLGH) is carrying out a review of the operation of urban area committees. These aim to improve co-operation and municipal governance for sizeable urban areas that significantly extend beyond county boundaries.	

Several models are under consideration ranging from cooperative arrangements to more formal structures. The review will also consider whether there is a requirement to legislate in order to support such structures.

A team has been developed from both the Louth and Meath/Westmeath Garda Divisions to review the realignment of boundaries which will ensure key areas will receive a more efficient service. The team selected to examine realignment has responsibility for examining those key areas from a technical and practical approach in order to ensure a smooth transition of the areas identified. However, the resourcing of Laytown-Bettystown area of East Meath from a policing perspective currently rests with senior management with responsibility for the Meath/Westmeath Division.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
A review is examining whether a formal mechanism is required to improve cooperation in administrative areas in large urban settings that cross over administrative boundaries.	Ongoing	D/HLGH

<b>2.10</b>	<b>Explore ways in which the timeliness of criminal justice responses to offending and offenders can be improved where possible</b>
This Recommendation has been grouped with recommendation 2.5 above.	

<b>2.11</b>	<b>Explore the practicality of implementing the Community Crime Impact Assessment (CCIA) process in Drogheda</b>
<b>4.8</b>	<b>Build on previous initiatives to increase community capacity for responding to violent critical incidents at local level</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>CCIA is an instrument intended to give due weight to the experience of a community living with drug-related criminality and anti-social behaviour. CCIAs are part of the National Drug Strategy 'Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery' 2017-2025. Strategic Action 4.1.40 aims to "measure the impact of drug related crime and wider public nuisance issues on communities" by: "developing and piloting a Community Impact Assessment Tool in order to measure the impact of drug-related crime and wider public nuisance issues on communities".</p> <p>Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign, who developed the CCIA tool, presented to the Drogheda Implementation Board and Department of Justice team members in June 2022. Following on from this the Drogheda Implementation Board agreed to implement CCIA in Drogheda at their meeting on 23 September 2022.</p>	

A procurement process has been undertaken and a local community organisation appointed to deliver the CCIA in identified areas of Drogheda with initial planning meetings held in November and December.		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Drogheda Implementation Board to engage with City Wide, An Garda Síochána and the Department of Health (DoH) in relation to exploring the practicality of implementing the Community Crime Impact Assessment in Drogheda	Complete	Drogheda Implementation Board/ DoH/AGS
Commence delivery of CCIA in Drogheda	Q1 2023	Drogheda Implementation Board

2.12	Explore the implementation of a ‘See It. Say It’ scheme in Drogheda, in relation to anti-social behaviour		
Current Status			
<p>An Garda Síochána in Drogheda have engaged with the Assistant Commissioner, Roads Policing &amp; Community Engagement to progress the “<i>See Something, Say Something</i>” initiative which is currently being evaluated after being piloted in Kerry.</p> <p>A presentation regarding the “<i>See Something, Say Something</i>” initiative was made by members from the Kerry Division to the Drogheda Implementation Board on 15 July 2022. Following this presentation Drogheda requested to be included in the pilot. This has been sanctioned by the Assistant Commissioner, Roads Policing &amp; Community Engagement.</p> <p>This initiative will provide an anonymous platform for people to report concerns by text within the Drogheda Community making it easier to report issues.</p>			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
Presentation by key members of AGS headquarters and Kerry Division to Drogheda Implementation Board.		Complete	An Garda Síochána
Drogheda Gardaí continue to engage with Assistant Commissioner, Roads Policing & Community Engagement with a view towards rolling the initiative out in Drogheda on a phased basis.		Q1 2023	An Garda Síochána
Chief Superintendent Louth/ Cavan/ Monaghan has requested a meeting with An Garda Síochána Head of Innovation and Digital		Q1 2023	An Garda Síochána

Services and Assistant Commissioner, Roads Policing & Community Engagement in early 2023 to address outstanding issues and finalise the roll out of this initiative in Drogheda.		
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<b>2.13</b>	<b>Continue to provide training and awareness raising in relation to the impact and implications of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) for all relevant bodies in Drogheda.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>The Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 provides a developmental framework for further ongoing enhancement of Youth Justice services. The strategy outlines approaches to the effects of trauma and disadvantage, including through interagency work, through strengthening Garda policies on engagement with young people, and through pursuing specialised training support for front line personnel who engage with young people. Implementation of the Strategy is being supported by cross-agency governance and oversight structures, a dedicated research partnership with the University of Limerick (REPPP project), and a Youth Justice Advisory Group. This Advisory Group comprises community, professional and academic experts with a broad range of relevant experience including in relation to the impact of trauma and adverse childhood events.</p> <p>A series of training and other events to raise awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences have taken place or been attended by practitioners in Drogheda across 2022. Louth Local Development's Genesis ABC Programme worked with both Louth CYPSC and Tusla Child and Family Support Networks to procure a series of Trauma Informed Practice accredited and independently evaluated training events through 'What Works' Dormant Accounts Funding. In total, 127 Practitioners attended training in January 2022 including representatives from 5 primary schools, 10 community &amp; voluntary sector organisations, school completion programme staff, Tusla staff, HSE staff, pre-schools and Louth Local Development team members. 75% of attendees serve the Drogheda area.</p> <p>A large contingent of Drogheda based practitioners travelled to Belfast in June 2022 to attend the Trauma Summit featuring over 40 world renowned trauma experts as speakers. These attendees included members of An Garda Síochána, Tusla, School staff and local community and voluntary sector organisations.</p> <p>The Drogheda Implementation Board and Genesis ABC Programme co-hosted a 'Building a Restorative Community through a Trauma Informed Approach' event on 30 September 2022 as a follow-on to attendance at the Trauma Summit. This event was attended by almost 50 people from a wide variety of bodies in Drogheda including the Probation Service, Youth Justice Services, the Voluntary &amp; Community Sector, Homeless Services, Addiction Services, Tusla, HSE, Primary and Second Level Schools. Further training and events are planned in 2023. The Tusla and Genesis team are working collaboratively with Drogheda Implementation Board structures to build on these initial activities and develop a plan for building a community resilience network with a trauma informed approach in the area.</p>	



<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
DoJ to work with partners to deliver on the Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 objectives which relate to the effects of trauma and disadvantage on young people.	Ongoing in line with the objectives of the Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027	DoJ working with DCEDIY and other GSG bodies, local authority, community and local development and other expert and community partners
Increase Louth Community Resilience Network membership and formalise plan for building community resilience	Ongoing	Louth LEADER Partnership, Louth CYPSC, TUSLA

### 3. DRUG USE

3.1	<b>The Red Door Project should receive urgent additional funding for the provision of drugs outreach work (as a particular priority), counselling, family support, client progression pathways, Court-related and prisoner support and additional harm reduction services in the Drogheda area. Specifically, €150,000 additional for a full year, should be allocated to the Red Door Project, for provision of these additional services</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>A number of additional posts in the Red Door Project have been resourced through Dormant Accounts Funding and the HSE since October 2021. They include the new positions of Social Worker and Drug Court Liaison Worker, discussed further under action 3.5, and an additional Project Worker post. Funding for the Social Worker and Project Worker posts has been confirmed by the HSE on an interim basis until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 until a longer term arrangement is in place with all relevant parties. The Department of Justice has secured Dormant Accounts Funding to continue funding the Drugs Court Case Worker post until Q3 2024. In addition, the Red Door Project team were successful in securing funding through the Community Safety Innovation Fund (see action 2.7) for two years to employ a Prison Links Worker. All of these interventions enhance the Red Door's capacity to support a broader base of clients and deliver harm reduction services in Drogheda.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to view the Red Door team speak about the impact of these resources on their service.</p> <p>The Draft North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NERDATF) external evaluation report and draft NERDATF Strategic Plan 2022-2025 have been circulated to the NERDATF Committee. The Committee are currently reviewing the draft documents in advance of signoff.</p>	

The HSE representative (Addiction Manager CHO8) on the NERDATF Committee will also present the draft plans to the HSE Head of Primary Care and General Manager for review.

The conclusions and recommendations arising from the above two reports and the HSE review of Addiction Services in Louth and Meath, CHO 8 will inform the development of a roadmap for drug and alcohol service provision across the Louth/Meath area. A meeting has been scheduled in Q1 2023 between the Head of Primary Care, General Manager, Addiction Manager, NERDATF Chairperson and NERDATF Co-ordinator in October in order to progress.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Additional funding agreed for 2022 and allocated to the Red Door Project from earmarked dormant accounts and HSE funding	Complete	Department of Justice/Department of Health/HSE
Further engagement on additional resourcing needs following completion of HSE regional resourcing review	Complete	DoJ/DoH/HSE
DoJ, DoH and HSE to consider the issue of sustainability of funding to ensure a medium to long-term plan is in place for service delivery	Ongoing	DoJ/HSE/DoH

**3.2**

**Explore the possibility of utilising the Red Door facility as more of a ‘one-stop-shop’ for drug treatment and related services.**

The HSE, NERDATF and the Red Door Project continue to engage in a collaborative approach to support the establishment of a needle and syringe exchange programme to operate from the Red Door Project (see action 3.7)

Through additional resources allocated under 3.1 above, the Red Door Project team are expanding the services provided within the Centre. These include partnering with Extern and Boomerang Youth Café to deliver a Supporting Young People Programme, a weekly afterschool group for 14-17 year olds who are impacted by addiction within their family system; and establishing ‘The Pink Door group’, run in conjunction with The Saol Project, which provides a weekly womens only space. Through these additional services the Red Door Project are engaging over 20 individuals who are not otherwise engaged with the Project. They have further services planned for Q1 2023 including a Cocaine ‘Reduce the Use’ programme to be delivered in the evenings so that it is accessible to more members of the community.

The Red Door Project have also made their premises available to Merchants Quay Ireland Family Support Service (funded by the HSE) to hold meetings with their clients.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
HSE, North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force (NE-RDTF), the Red Door Project and the Probation Service to engage on how services can be developed and to eliminate overlapping or duplication of services; examine potential to step up the engagement with Social Work and	Ongoing	HSE, NE-RDTF, Probation Service, DoJ

Probation with the aim of considering the use of the Red Door facility as a “one-stop-shop”		
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3.3	Review the State funding (approximately €7,500 p.a.) provided to the Family Addiction Network (FASN) – providing family support, especially in the context of drug-related intimidation work and wider family support for addiction-related issues.		
Current Status			
<p>Additional once off funding was allocated by the HSE Midlands Louth Meath to FASN in May 2022, amounting to €9,635.</p> <p>In December 2022, an additional once off funding was again allocated to FASN by the HSE Midlands Louth Meath/NE Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force, amounting to €20,000.</p> <p>The FASN was included in an independent evaluation of community and voluntary drug and alcohol services, commissioned by the North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NERDATF). The Draft NERDATF external evaluation report and draft NERDATF Strategic Plan 2022-2025 have been circulated to the NERDATF Committee and finalised. A meeting will take place in early 2023 to look at how the recommendations align with the HSE internal review report.</p> <p>The conclusions and recommendations arising from the above two reports and the HSE review of Addiction Services in Louth &amp; Meath, CHO 8 will inform the development of a roadmap for drug and alcohol service provision across the Louth/Meath area. A meeting between the Head of Primary Care, General Manager, Addiction Manager, NERDATF Chairperson and NERDATF Co-ordinator has been rescheduled from October 2022 to early 2023 in order to progress this.</p> <p>Merchants Quay Ireland (MQI) have been funded by the HSE to provide a new Northeast Family Support Service in the Louth Meath area, including Drogheda. The Northeast Family Support Service offers a confidential non-judgemental and supportive service in Counties Louth and Meath to any family member, partner or friend impacted by a loved one’s problematic use of alcohol and/or drugs. The posts of Family Support Co-ordinator and Family Support Worker were both in place by Q3 2022.</p> <p>The HSE commissioned Family Support Services are now operational across the Louth/Meath area. Progress has been made in relation to interagency referrals both in to the service and onward referrals. The Family Support Coordinator and Family Support Worker continue to engage in an interagency approach and are receiving referrals from community-based addiction services.</p>			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
Family Support Coordinator and Family Support Worker roles to commence		Completed	HSE
HSE to engage with FASN on funding proposal submission		Ongoing	HSE

3.4	Commission/carry out an urgent review of the organisation of drugs (statutory and community and voluntary) services in the Drogheda area, similar in focus – but perhaps on a smaller scale – to the Service Review of the Dundalk Addiction Services (2015) carried out by the HSE, with a view to ensuring improved effectiveness and efficiency as a matter of urgency.	
Current Status		
<p>The HSE review of Addiction Services in Louth and Meath, CHO 8 was completed in June 2021. The HSE Senior Management Team continue to work through the recommendations and continue to progress work with all related disciplines across the Louth/Meath area.</p> <p>The North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NERDATF) commissioned an external review of S39 funded services across the Louth Meath area which was completed in Q4 2022. The Task Force will start working through these recommendations in Q1 2023.</p>		
	Next Steps	Timeline
	Consultants appointed and review commenced	Complete
	Consultants to meet with service providers in HSE, Taskforce and community and voluntary groups in Meath and Louth (staff and service users)	Complete
	Evaluation of S.39 Organisations completed	Complete
	NERDATF to work through recommendations	2023

3.5	Reinstate/continue the local Drug Court, with appropriate funding and other resourcing and formally evaluate its operation over a period of say one to two years, before deciding on its longer-term future.
Current Status	
<p>The Drug Treatment Court (DTC) in Louth, operating as a pilot, encompasses principles of the National Drug Rehabilitation framework, i.e. assessment, care planning, client consent, a shared care model and exit planning. It is a cross agency response to drug users before the Court, with a focus on rehabilitation, as opposed to punishment.</p> <p>The designated DTC Liaison Case Worker, based in the Red Door Project in Drogheda and resourced through Dormant Accounts Funding, and the allocated Probation Officer, engage with each participant and co-ordinate client case management plans, assessing client progress and agreeing progress reports for Court. The focus of the DTC is the process of recovery, encompassing a motivational approach, emphasising harm reduction and supporting progress</p>	

towards a goal of abstinence. The Department of Justice has secured Dormant Accounts Funding to continue funding the DTC liaison Case Worker post until Q3 2024.

HSE supporting funding for any posts will be considered in line with detail as set out in 3.1 above.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Develop business case for specific Drugs Treatment Court Liaison Case Worker role situated within Red Door Project Complete DoJ/Probation Service	Complete	DoJ/Probation Service
Provision of second year of funding for DTC Liaison Case Worker	Complete	DoJ
Funding for year 3 to be disbursed	Q4 2023	DoJ
DoJ to formally evaluate the operation of the Drugs Court over one year with a decision reached regarding its longer-term future	2023	DoJ/Probation Service

<b>3.6</b>	<b>Agencies working in the substance use field in Drogheda should look at practical ways of improving interagency cooperation, including the identification and implementation of appropriate gateways to treatment and progression routes for service users, as well as reducing or eliminating overlaps and duplication, providing joint (cross-agency) training, developing shared language and even greater cooperation on assessment and intervention methods.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>Three meetings of the HSE Clinical Quality and Safety Committee (CQSC) for Addiction Services, which is chaired by the HSE Clinical Lead, Addiction Services CHO8, have taken place. These meetings discussed the establishment of a subcommittee structure which will comprise membership from the MRDATF, NERDATF and Funded Services (Section 39s).</p> <p>The third meeting took place in November 2022 and subgroups were agreed for S39 and North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NERDATF) / Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (MRDATF), as well as Tier 4 Residential and Waiting List sub-groups. Some subgroups meetings have already taken place - these subgroup structures will further enhance interagency collaboration &amp; networking and offer further operational &amp; clinical supports in 2023.</p> <p>CHO 8 and NERDATF continue to engage with service providers to further strengthen interagency collaboration and co-operation. The conclusions and recommendations arising from both the NERDATF evaluation and strategic plan development will further inform and support this collaboration</p>	

The NERDATF is directing local shared care partners to the HSE and National Drug Rehabilitation Framework online training resource, and will be linking with agencies in 2023 to see what additional training and supports they need before planning an in-person workshop.		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
The National Drug Rehabilitation Framework (NDRF) eLearning module has been completed and will be available shortly on HSE and (ICT issues currently affecting the launch of the training). This 90 minute module will be available to HSE and HSE funded services	Complete	The HSE National Social inclusion office
“Pilot comprehensive care plan evaluation outcome to be implemented” Pilot assessment and care plan project is led by the HSE National Social Inclusion office. Evaluation of the pilot sites was delayed due to COVID priorities and the cyber-attack. The evaluation commenced in 2022 and is expected to be completed by Q2 2023.	Q2 2023 (previously Q3 2022)	The HSE National Social inclusion office
HSE Clinical Quality and Safety Committee (CQSC) for Addiction Services Subgroups consisting of s39 representation, Task Force and HSE to be established and meeting	Q1 2023	HSE/MRDATAF/NERDATAF

<b>3.7</b>	<b>Ensure full implementation of all appropriate harm reduction measures, as mandated by the National Drugs Strategy, including Needle and Syringe Programmes (NSP) and Naloxone, in Drogheda.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>The HSE have secured funding to support the employment of two posts (1.6 Whole Time Equivalent) – Drug &amp; Alcohol Workers, with an additional Outreach Worker post secured. The posts will operate across the Louth/Meath area. These workers will support the provision of a mobile needle and syringe exchange programme, harm reduction, key working and interagency care planning. A mobile vehicle (van) has been made available by the HSE to support the provision of the needle and syringe exchange programme. These posts are expected to be in place by Q1 2023.</p> <p>The HSE will liaise with the HSE Clinical Lead regarding the roll out of a Naloxone Programme in the Louth/Meath area.</p> <p>The HSE, North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NERDATAF) and the Red Door Project continue to engage in a collaborative approach to support the establishment of a fixed needle and syringe exchange programme to operate from the Red Door Project. Meetings, training and engagement around governance arrangements have taken place over Q3 and Q4 2022.</p>	

The HSE have processed the insurance cover invoice to support the provision of the needle exchange service out of the project. The HSE will also provide needle exchange paraphernalia to the Red Door. Further discussions will take place between the HSE Addiction Service, HSE Clinical Lead, and the Red Door Project to agree a plan moving forward.

The Red Door Project is currently in the process of establishing a governance committee to oversee the operation of the service with input from the Clinical Lead, Addiction Service CHO8 and is finalising relevant policies & procedures with a view to going live end Q1 2023.

The NERDATF Coordinator has established an interagency collaborative initiative around safe disposal of drug related waste and litter across the Louth/Meath area.

Interagency meetings commenced in October 2022. The Group's work includes training of staff across the groups as well as developing a draft protocol for the safe clean up and disposal of discarded drug paraphernalia. The group is currently looking at equipment needs, Contracts/Standard Operating Procedures, reporting templates and a communication plan similar to the existing HSE/MRDATF plan across the Midlands area.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Outreach drug/alcohol project worker assigned, manager in place, funding allocated by the HSE. The NSP project began on 11 May operating 3 days per week	Complete	HSE
€50,000 allocated for needle exchange provided and delivered by the HSE recurrently	Ongoing	HSE
Vacant Outreach Worker post to be clarified pending outcome of review	Complete	HSE
Establishment of a Safe Disposal Drug Related Waste and Litter Group	Complete	NERDATF/HSE
Three outreach worker posts filled	Q1 2023	HSE

<b>3.8</b>	<b>Explore and implement the most appropriate way of ensuring a best-practice response to drug using clients with identified dual (drugs and mental health issues) diagnosis. This could include interagency co-location of staff and joint training.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>The HSE will organise another webinar (previous webinar held in April 2022) which will provide an update on the National Clinical Programme for Co-morbid Mental Illness and Substance Misuse (Dual Diagnosis). Staff from HSE CHO8, the North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NERDATF) and funded services will be invited to attend.</p> <p>The HSE and NERDATF plan to commence an initiative in early 2023, focused on Dual Diagnosis Awareness and Train the Trainer Workshops. The purpose of the initiative is to build</p>	

community capacity around dual diagnosis. Similar initiatives previously took place in both Dublin North East Inner City and Finglas/Cabra, facilitated by the Dublin North/Northeast Recovery College. Funding for this is being discussed with the Drugs Policy Unit in the Department of Health.

Through additional resources allocated under 3.1 above the Red Door Project staff are in a position to support a number of clients with acute and complex mental health needs along with ongoing addiction issues who require intensive case management. This involves providing daily check-ins, weekly one to one sessions and interventions to ensure their safety.

The Red Door Project is also a member of a consortium of seven organisations who have secured funding to deliver a 'Seeking Safety' pilot project. Seeking Safety is an evidence based integrated treatment for PTSD/Trauma and Substance Abuse and is focused on women who have experienced domestic and gender based sexual violence and are presenting with addiction issues. They are currently undertaking recruitment for a part-time Project Worker and part-time Peer Support Worker to roll out the project.

[Click here](#) to view the Red Door team speak about the impact of these resources on their service.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Clinical programme being developed and rolled out	2023	HSE
Inter-agency work to be carried out through Slaintecare on dual diagnosis to ensure a uniform and sustainable response nation-wide	2023	HSE
Review of roll-out of dual diagnosis to be carried out	2023	HSE
Webinar to take place on Co-morbid Mental Illness and Substance Misuse	Q1 2023	HSE

<b>3.9</b>	<b>Provide further interagency training workshops on responding to drug-related intimidation for relevant staff in statutory agencies as well as those in the community and voluntary sector.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>The Drug Related Intimidation and Violence Engagement (DRIVE) Model is an interagency response and data driven intervention model to respond effectively to drug-related intimidation and violence in communities in Ireland. The National Drug Related Intimidation and Violence Engagement (DRIVE) lead has been in post since June 2022 with a workplan for delivery of the DRIVE model being developed nationally by the Drive Oversight Committee (DOC), to include the adaptation and development of a training programme to complement the DRIVE Model. As a result, local Drug Related Intimidation training has been postponed until</p>	



national training programme and materials are developed and the local DRIVE lead (see below) is in position.

The North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NERDATF) have contacted Louth County Council to discuss the DRIVE project with the Joint Policing Committee, with a view to including this in their workplan.

The NERDATF hosted an information session on the DRIVE initiative as part of a National DRIVE Roadshow on 7 September in Monaghan. The event was very well attended with a wide range of community, voluntary & statutory sectors represented. A DRIVE Roadshow was held in the Louth/Meath area in November 2023 with a large number of community, voluntary and statutory agencies in attendance.

In response to the Drogheda Report and Implementation Plan the Department of Health have allocated resources for a local DRIVE Lead, based in Drogheda and covering the North East Region. This post is one of two local DRIVE lead pilots in Ireland. NERDATF, in consultation with HSE Addiction Service Manager CHO8, has prepared a funding application for this resource. This was submitted to the DOC (DRIVE Oversight Committee) for discussion at their December 2022 meeting and a decision on same is awaited.

NERDATF is to establish an interagency DRIVE implementation group that will lead on the roll out of DRIVE across the NERDATF region. Funding is expected for the regional Drive Lead imminently, following the submission of proposal last autumn. Once this is secure then partners will be asked to nominate representatives to join this group from the local authorities /Joint Policing Committees, family support services, alcohol & drug treatment services and others.

As noted in the Drogheda Implementation Plan Progress Report to end June 2022 the Policing and Drugs Subgroup identified a need to extend the term 'interagency' to include staff in the education sector so that they can have access to relevant information and feel empowered to deal with issues relating to drug and alcohol use in children and families, including drug debt related information. Two drug and alcohol information and networking seminars were held in May and October attended by over 170 people across both events from primary, secondary and further education providers and community organisations in both Drogheda and East Meath. Feedback on these events was overwhelmingly positive ([Click here](#) to view May event report) and the subgroup are exploring resourcing so that such events can be mainstreamed and run on an annual basis at a minimum.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Interagency training workshops to recommence. In the meantime, Family Addiction Support Network and AGS are providing support.	Q1 2023 (previous timeline Q3 2022)	NERDATF/AGS/FASN/National Family Support Network

Funding for regional DRIVE lead in North East to be approved	Q1 2023	NERDATF
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#### 4. YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES

4.1	<b>The Northside/Moneymore community hub facility should continue to be progressed, as it currently is, by LLP on behalf of all stakeholders. This facility should accommodate the provision of services currently provided by bodies forming the Moneymore Consortium, as well as providing a hub for a wider array of community services, provided by statutory as well as community and voluntary agencies.</b>
4.2	<b>It would greatly boost morale in the area if, at an appropriate point, clarification could be provided by LCC and LLP to relevant stakeholders in Moneymore/North Drogheda on the likely direction of travel and timeline for the proposed centre, as soon as practicable.</b>
4.3	<b>The relevant bodies should commence, as a priority, exploratory moves including local consultations, to provide a similar facility on the Southside of the Town, in the general Rathmullan area.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p><b>4.1</b> In July 2021, the Department of Justice provided funding of €15,000 through Dormant Accounts Funding to the Moneymore Consortium, a group of community organisations who are leading on the development of a Northside/Moneymore Community Hub, to support the procurement of architectural services to develop a preliminary site plan, including an estimate of construction costs for the Moneymore Community Hub Facility. The absence of such plans was identified by the Moneymore Consortium as a key barrier to pre-planning talks and access to funding applications. Following discussions with Senior Planners in LCC a number of plan revisions were made and Pre- Planning has been achieved. An official Architect led launch of these plans was held on 10 October in Droichead Arts Centre. This launch was attended by a wide variety of stakeholders and showcased site location and other key information regarding the development of the Community Hub.</p> <p>The Moneymore Consortium have received professional estimated costings for the delivery of the Community Hub based on these modified plans, including the fitting out of the building. Current estimate of costs, including all professional fees, stands at €5.8million, reflecting the current volatility of the construction industry, inflation and generally uncertain economic times. These cost projections will be kept under scrutiny by the Consortium, with value for money a key objective of members who recognise the challenge of current construction costs and the need to leverage funding to resource same.</p>	

Following on from initial business plans resourced by Louth Local Development, the Consortium have prepared an interim operational plan aimed at identifying revenues to ensure the viability of the Centre which will be presented to key agencies in Q1 2023. A funding strategy for the sourcing of funds to deliver the building itself is also currently being prepared. The recent announcement of a new Community Centre Investment Fund by the Department of Rural and Community Development will be explored as a potential route to funding for what the Moneymore Consortium believe is an essential piece of community infrastructure for the area. Louth Local Development continue to be available to provide supports to the group.

Through community fundraising resources the Moneymore Consortium are producing a video which will be completed in Q1 2023 to showcase the importance of the community facility and this fundraising has also facilitated the group progressing towards the formalisation of their structures from a working group of one of the member organisations (Connect Family Resource Centre) to an independent Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status (Moneymore Townland Development CLG). This structure will be responsible for the ongoing management of the Community Hub.

As noted in the previous Drogheda Report Implementation Plan Progress Report the Department of Justice also provided €48,000 from Dormant Accounts Funding to Moneymore Childcare Centre for refurbishment works which were completed in 2022.

**4.2** Louth County Council has identified and confirmed the availability of the most suitable site in the area and community have been made aware of this through a variety of mechanisms, including the architect led launch mentioned above.

The Moneymore Consortium have identified the required documentation to secure full planning permission. Progression to planning permission will be subject to funding of approximately €73,500 for professional fees being secured – this sum being included in the overall cost of delivery of the Community Hub as noted in action 4.1.

Louth County Council's Community and Public Realm teams will facilitate the preparation of the necessary documentation (Section 183 notice) in order that the Council (elected members) can consider the formal transfer of the preferred site when planning permission is confirmed and the necessary funding is in place to complete the project.

**4.3** As noted in the Scoping Report on Community Safety and Wellbeing in Drogheda, from which this plan emanates there may be "a need first to build community development capacity and explore the range of local community needs in this area." Lifestyle Development have been providing supports within the community on the Southside of Drogheda for 30 years. Lifestyle Development are in the process of developing their new Strategic Plan which includes a review of service provision to local residents. A submission to Tusla regarding Family Resource Centre status, which would enhance community development provision on the Southside, has not been successful as there are currently no funding avenues for new Family Resource Centres, however Tusla have indicated an openness to exploring other funding opportunities.

Louth County Council continue to be committed to making a housing unit available for use as a community resource for the area. An offer has been made to a local community based organisation to provide services from this unit which has been referred to the Governing Board of that organisation.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Completion of necessary refurbishment works at Moneymore Childcare facility	Complete	Moneymore Childcare Committee
Completion of design, feasibility and QS process	Complete	Moneymore Consortium
Engagement with LCC Planning team	Work progressing and ongoing	Moneymore Consortium
Identify group(s) suitable to act as anchor tenant for a unit on the Southside	Work progressing and ongoing	Louth County Council

4.4	Progress, as a priority, the funding and development by LMETB of the sports and community changing/meeting block at DIFE		
Current Status			
<p>A submission by LMETB to SOLAS Capital Investment, and supported by the Drogheda Implementation Board, for the phased development of a sports and community changing/meeting block at Drogheda Institute of Further Education (DIFE) as per this action was successful.</p> <p>In accordance with action 6.4 of the Plan, LMETB included a request for capital investment to develop a new multi-purpose tertiary education block as a key response to the Drogheda Report on Community Safety and Wellbeing and would constitute a second phase of development on the site.</p> <p>Minister Simon Harris announced this multi-million capital investment at an event in DIFE on 5th September 2022 which was also attended by Minister McEntee. Following approval by SOLAS, LMETB considered the most economically advantageous method of project delivery on a live densely populated site. It was decided that the safest and most expedient approach was to appoint a new design team, give them the full brief for merging both phases and proceed to appoint a contractor for one building project. Procurement of Design Team is underway.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to view Davy McDonnell, Principal of DIFE speak about the impact of this investment.</p>			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
Identify and apply for funding to develop sports and community changing/meeting block at DIFE		Complete	LMETB
Commence procurement process for Design Team to Design and Plan the works.		Complete	LMETB
Submit planning application		Q4 2023	LMETB

New flexible multi-purpose built tertiary facility to be developed through the capital programme to extend capacity at the Drogheda Institute for Further Education	2023	D/FHERIS
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<b>4.5</b>	<b>Agree an action plan for enhancing youth and community development capacity, particularly on the South side of Drogheda</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>Louth Local Development (LLD) Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) team administer a grant scheme that empowers local community groups to undertake a range of Social Inclusion activities including support to address the impacts of COVID-19 such as IT equipment and food bank services. A number of local Drogheda-based community groups were supported with grant aid activity in 2022, with additional funding specifically ring-fenced in the SICAP Summer Programme Grants scheme for five Drogheda-based community organisations. The Summer Programme in particular enabled Youth Projects in offering educational and personal development in addition to team building opportunities to disadvantaged young people across Drogheda. Louth Local Development also supported a Summer Family Fun Day held in Rathmullan on the Southside of Drogheda to support community cohesion in the area.</p> <p>A new LLD SICAP Education and Community Development Officer took up post in May 2022. This is an additional post for the Drogheda area, provided through resources allocated from Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), and will have a focus on supporting community development capacity, particularly on the Southside of the town and will also have a particular emphasis on youth. LLD also recruited a new Youth and Education Coordinator in the same time frame who is based part-time in Drogheda to strengthen and develop community connections and youth and education initiatives.</p> <p>Louth Local Development's (LLD) Youth &amp; Education Coordinator and Education &amp; Community Development officer, through the Services for Young People Network (see below) carried out a scoping exercise to develop an engagement strategy for young people over 16 who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs). In collaboration with services such as Youthreach, the two Youth Diversion Projects and Turning Point, a Drogheda based Foróige youth project, 20 young people from the town who are classified as NEETs were identified. A virtual driving school package experience was offered as a starting point in building connections amongst the young people and enabling them to develop this life skill. The virtual driving school completed in December 2022 with potential development and further engagement planned for 2023. In September 2022, LLD provided funding to Moneymore After School Club to support Homework Club provision. There are plans in 2023 to scope out the provision of similar supports in the Southside of Drogheda.</p> <p>The LLD SICAP Community Development Officer established a Services for Young People Network in early 2022. This group, initially convened in partnership with the Drogheda Implementation Board Coordinator, met a number of times in 2022 to look at the Scoping</p>	

Report on Community Safety and Wellbeing in Drogheda, Drogheda Report Implementation Plan and to review action 5.5 of the Drogheda Report Implementation Plan (gaps in service provision for young people). A number of actions were identified to enhance capacity to deliver supports to young people in Drogheda and two collaborative submissions to the Community Safety Innovation Fund (CSIF) were developed as a result. One of these applications, the New Choices Project, an intensive alternative learning programme for young people aged 13-16 who are not in education, was successful and staff recruitment will take place in Q1 2023. The group are finalising a terms of reference for the network to include the identification of collaboration opportunities to enhance youth and community development capacity in Drogheda. A meeting is scheduled for early 2023 to facilitate planning for the year.

LLD Youth and Education Team are also working with Turning Point to develop and support the delivery of a QQI Major Award Level 4 Leadership Programme that will focus on building the capacity to develop young people to be Community Champions in Drogheda.

An LMETB submission to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for a dedicated Youth Officer for the Drogheda area in response to the Drogheda Report Implementation Plan, initially recommended by the Family Support, Children, Young People and Education Subgroup and endorsed by the Board, was approved by DCEDIY and the post was filled in September 2022. The Youth Officer, in partnership with key stakeholders, will seek to define and research the current youth specific requirements to be addressed generally and in particular for the Drogheda area. The work will include a gap analysis, identifying specific targeted needs and engagement with stakeholders with respect to youth services/provisions across the Drogheda region.

A number of residents and community representatives from the Southside of Drogheda are participating in the Place Based Leadership Development Programme which is outlined in more detail in actions 4.6/4.7.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Education and Community Development Officer in post	Complete	Louth Local Development
Recommendations made and actioned	Actioned and ongoing over the lifetime of the Board	Family Support, Children, Young People and Education subgroup

<b>4.6</b>	<b>Generate an agreed strategic plan for the development of youth and community work and community leaders in Drogheda.</b>
<b>4.7</b>	<b>Include appropriate actions in relation to the training and development of local youth and community workers in this strategic plan; and specifically, education, training and career progression routes, linked to pre-university and university-level programmes, as well as incorporating 'on-the-job' training elements</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	

A Place Based Leadership Development Programme, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and led by Louth Local Development (LLD), with oversight from Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), has been running in Drogheda since early 2022. The objective of this programme is to help build a community based, cross-sectoral coalition to address challenging issues in the community. Participants are from a variety of sectors including community & voluntary organisations, local residents, youth workers, school staff, An Garda Síochána, Louth County Council, Tusla and the Department of Social Protection. The course aims to develop the leadership skills of participants and promote collaboration and partnership working amongst those that take part. It will allow people time to develop a deep understanding of the key challenges impacting upon the area and to identify and try possible solutions.

A new LLD Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Education and Community Development Officer has been in post since May 2022. This additional post is specifically for the Drogheda area and the staff member has been building relationships with youth and community organisations in Drogheda, particularly on the Southside. Following a targeted approach regarding funding for students accessing Third Level Education within the Drogheda area, €10,000 was specifically allocated to support students at a socio-economic disadvantage to avail of the SICAP Third Level Access Grant Aid. The Third Level Access Grant was launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> July and SICAP Development staff worked in collaboration with the Youth Services and relevant training and employment services to facilitate students in Drogheda accessing this scheme.

The Family Support, Children, Young People and Education Subgroup of the Drogheda Implementation Board have completed their service audit as per action 5.2 of the Plan and are reviewing the outcomes from same. The identification of opportunity gaps in relation to training opportunities for youth workers and leaders emerged from this audit. The subgroup are exploring potential steps that could be taken as part of their review.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Place Based Leadership Development Programme to commence	Completed	LLP/LCDC/DRCD
Completion of review of youth service provision in Drogheda	Completed	Subgroup B
Place Based Leadership participants to develop initiatives in response to youth and community issues	2023	LLP/LCDC/DRCD

<b>4.8</b>	<b>Build on previous initiatives to increase community capacity for responding to violent critical incidents at local level.</b>
This Recommendation has been grouped with recommendation 2.11 above	

## 5. SPECIFIC SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

5	<p><b>5.1 Ensure that the good work initiated and under way recently, to coordinate child protection and welfare and other children's services, is maintained and further developed, specifically through the overarching strategic and service coordination proposals recommended above.</b></p> <p><b>5.2 An exercise has already been commenced, by LLP/CYPSC, to 'map' the services for children and young people in Drogheda. This valuable service 'audit' initiative, stalled because of Covid-19, should be re-started, prioritised and completed as a matter of urgency.</b></p> <p><b>5.3 Urgent consideration should also be given to how the various youth services could be more coordinated and supported.</b></p> <p><b>5.4 Ensure the completion of the review of Strengthening Families Programmes already provided and follow through as appropriate.</b></p> <p><b>5.5 There does appear to be certain gaps in some specific service provision for young people. These include mental health and suicide prevention, among others. Ensure these are prioritised in future planning and delivery.</b></p>
Current Status	
<p><b>5.1</b> – Child protection and welfare services were included in the mapping process undertaken through action 5.2 below.</p> <p><b>5.2</b> – A comprehensive service audit process by the Family Support, Children, Young People and Education Subgroup of the Drogheda Implementation Board was completed in July 2022. A full analysis of the results of this audit including gaps, challenges, proposed solutions and what has been done to date was conducted by the Subgroup members at their September and October 2022 meetings, with request for comment issued to the Policing and Drugs Subgroup on specific items. A number of proposed responses to identified gaps have already been progressed, such as securing the position of a Drogheda Youth Officer (see 4.5 above and 5.3 below); the establishment of a new child protection team; and the piloting of a 'Family Help Team' in Tusla in Drogheda to support repeat child welfare referrals. A recommendation to resource targeted counselling interventions for children on the Southside of Drogheda made by the subgroup to the Drogheda Implementation Board was approved. The service audit review is a 'live' document and will continue to be used by the Subgroup to identify priorities and track delivery of interventions.</p> <p><b>5.3</b> – Local Youth services have been working collaboratively on a number of initiatives, including a joint submission on resourcing required for frontline service delivery. An LMETB submission to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for a dedicated Youth Officer for the Drogheda area in response to the Drogheda Report Implementation Plan, initially recommended by the Family Support, Children, Young People and Education Subgroup on foot of the joint submission by youth services and endorsed by the Board, was approved by Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). The post was filled in September 2022. The Youth Officer, in partnership with key stakeholders, will seek to define and research the current youth specific requirements to be</p>	



addressed generally, and in particular for the Drogheda area. This dedicated Youth Officer post will enhance the capacity of local youth organisations to draw down a variety of funding streams and support and coordinate activity across youth services. Their work will include a gap analysis, identifying specific targeted needs and engagement with stakeholders with respect to youth services/provisions across the Drogheda region.

**5.4** – As discussed in Progress Report to end June 2022, a review of the Strengthening Families programme was completed and considered by the Family Support, Children, Young People and Education Subgroup. The programme is operating very well with two programmes successfully delivered in Drogheda in 2022. This action is deemed to be closed.

**5.5** – This action is aligned to the Service Audit outlined in action 5.2 above. The Subgroup's review of this audit identified that there continues to be a gap in counselling and mental health provision for young people in the Drogheda area. While this is impacting the town as a whole, some targeted specialist interventions had been provided through Connect Family Resource Centre (FRC) on the Northside of Drogheda. A particular gap on the Southside was therefore noted. On foot of this, funding was provided to Connect FRC to provide short-term, targeted counselling interventions for primary age children who have been impacted by trauma through Marymount N.S and St. John & St. Paul's N.S. on the Southside of Drogheda. The subgroup continue to pursue potential responses to the general gap in mental health services for young people. The previously identified gap in Suicide Officer provision in the area has been addressed by the HSE with a Louth/Meath Resource Officer now in post and actively providing supports in Drogheda.

The challenge of a lack of interventions for young people aged 12-15 in the Drogheda area who have, or may be at risk of, dropping out of school and potentially engaging in antisocial or criminal behaviour was further noted by the Subgroup. Two initiatives have been developed in response to this. LMETB developed a proposal, in partnership with the Tusla Education Support Service and endorsed by the Drogheda Implementation Board for a pilot educational intervention programme for 12-15 years old in the Drogheda area, based in St. Oliver's Community College.

LMETB are resourcing this intervention themselves with support from Tusla Education Support Service. This pilot programme, Forás, will have the support of an Education Welfare Officer and an assigned School Coordinator and will work with young people at risk of not completing their Junior Certificate programme.

Foróige also submitted a successful application to the Community Safety Innovation Fund for 'New Choices', an individualised alternative learning programme for young people aged 13-16 who have dropped out of the school system in the Drogheda area. This proposal was developed in response to gaps identified by the Drogheda Young Person's Services Network, and Family Support, Children, Young People and Education Subgroup Service Audit.

It is planned that both Forás and New Choices will commence in Q1 2023.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Complete updated review of children and young persons' services in Drogheda	Complete	Family Support, Children, Young

		People and Education subgroup
Recommendations made and actioned	Ongoing over the lifetime of the Board	Family Support, Children, Young People and Education subgroup

## 6. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

6.1	<p><b>Due to the unique position and situation obtaining in St. Brigid's and St. Patrick's NS, St. Joseph's CBS, and Presentation NS, an increase in DEIS status – from Band 2 to 1 – should be granted to the three schools immediately, at least on an interim emergency basis, at a minimum until (a) the passing of the worst impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and (b) improvement in the overall crime and related social situation in Drogheda, and (c) completion of any formal update review by the Department of Education. Alternatively, or at least pending the outcome of any DEIS review, it is recommended that at a minimum some alternative way to provide equivalent additional supports to these schools and their students should be found and implemented, to address the needs identified.</b></p>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>Following the publication of the Drogheda Scoping Report, the Department of Education met with the 3 schools involved and explored options to provide additional support. It was explained to the schools that at the time a reclassification of the schools from DEIS Urban Band 2 to DEIS Urban Band 1 was not possible as work on the DEIS identification process was still ongoing.</p> <p>Following a review of the schools' teacher allocation and engagement with the National Educational Psychological Service, the Department of Education Inspectorate and Tusla Education Support Service, and with the agreement of the 3 schools as an interim measure the Department allocated an additional 2 concessionary posts to each of the schools involved for the 2021/2022 academic year.</p> <p>The extension of the DEIS programme was completed by the Department of Education in late June 2022. The named schools were not identified as having met the criteria for inclusion under the refined DEIS identification model. The Department of Education allocated additional supports to the schools for a fixed term of 5 years in order to support the implementation of evidence-based programmes and initiatives. These programmes will build school capacity to respond to the needs of their students in relation to the issues outlined in the Scoping Report into Community Safety and Wellbeing in Drogheda. The additional resources include additional teaching posts across the 3 schools which will meet the recommendations set out in this action. This allocation is separate from the DEIS programme and is in response to issues raised in the Scoping Report and specifically in response to this action in the Implementation Plan.</p>	

A case study on the impact of these interventions for the three schools has been completed and can be [viewed here](#).

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Allocation of additional resources for evidence based programmes to named schools	Complete	Dept of Education
Complete appeal process	Complete	Dept of Education

6.2	Explore the potential for more apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programmes in Drogheda, and specifically through DIFE.	
Current status		
<p>On 19 April 2021 the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Minister of State for Skills and Further Education launched a five-year Action Plan for Apprenticeship. The Action Plan sets out a five-year strategy to deliver on the Programme for Government commitment of reaching 10,000 new apprenticeship registrations per year by 2025. The plan provides a roadmap to a single apprenticeship system and new supports for employers and apprentices.</p> <p>Earlier this year the LMETB made a submission to SOLAS to deliver a large-scale electrical apprenticeship hub in Drogheda which will bring over 360 apprentice training places per annum to the town and is being designed as the Drogheda Apprentice Training Centre of Excellence. On 17 October 2022, Minister Harris announced this first ever Apprenticeship Training Hub for Drogheda to be delivered by LMETB. LMETB have secured a large premises on the Southside of Drogheda for this purpose. The Centre will open this year and will become a centre of excellence for electrical apprenticeship training. It will also deliver up to 20 permanent jobs in the town.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to view LMETB Chief Executive, Martin O’Brien speaking about the Apprentice Training Centre of Excellence</p>		
Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body
Action Plan for Apprenticeship to be implemented and delivered	2021-2025	D/FHERIS
Complete procurement process for Design Team to Design and Plan the works contractor to carry out works	Underway	LMETB
Apprenticeship Training Hub to open in Drogheda	Q2 2023	D/FHERIS

<b>6.3</b>	<b>Explore the potential for implementing an 'Operation Encompass' approach as part of the responding to domestic abuse and domestic violence incidents.</b>	
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Current Status		
<p>The Operation Encompass Programme, as it operates in the UK, involves the police sharing information with a child's school where there has been a domestic incident at the child's home the previous day. A member of staff in the school then ensures that the child is given the appropriate support during the school day.</p> <p>The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) has convened an Inter-Departmental Group to explore the feasibility of the introduction of a similar programme in Ireland. Discussions have been primarily around the applicability of Operation Encompass in this jurisdiction. Ireland has a different administrative landscape to the UK, including the existence of a dedicated child and family agency. The Department of Justice, Department of Education and DCEDIY have agreed to seek legal advice on the applicability of Operation Encompass in this jurisdiction.</p>		
Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body
Inter-Departmental Group to report on feasibility of the introduction of a programme similar to Operation Encompass. Legal advice has been obtained and requires in-depth consideration before taking the issue further.	Ongoing	DCEDIY/DE/AGS/Tusla

6.4	Explore the potential for locating a ‘branch’ of DKIT in Drogheda, and also for the development of DKIT ‘feeder’ programmes – particularly those related to vocational and professional education and training – operating in Drogheda.	
Current Status		
<p>The successful application by LMETB for capital investment from SOLAS to develop a tertiary education facility on the Drogheda Institute of Education (DIFE) campus (noted under action 4.4) will greatly enhance capacity to the delivery of third level programmes in Drogheda through potential providers, both domestic and international. <a href="#">Click here</a> to view Davy McDonnell, Principal of DIFE speak about the tertiary education block.</p> <p>A number of engagements with interested providers took place in 2022 and will continue in early 2023 with a view to progressing a tertiary offering within the DIFE campus.</p>		
Next Steps	Timeline	Next Steps
Explore the potential to deliver a cluster of programmes within the DIFE campus through domestic and international 3 <sup>rd</sup> level providers	Work is progressing and will be ongoing for the duration of the Plan	LMETB

New flexible multi-purpose built tertiary facility to be developed through the capital programme to extend capacity at the Drogheda Institute for Further Education	2023	D/FHERIS
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6.5	Continue to develop training in and application of Restorative Practice aimed at dealing with conflict and addressing issues such as school suspensions, expulsions and refusals.							
<p>The Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) provides CPD to schools on Restorative Practice. In the 2020/21 school year the PDST have supported 65 schools nationwide with over 1240 teacher CPD interactions. To apply for support, schools need to contact the PDST directly through their school support application system. The Department of Education will engage with the schools in the area in this regard. In November 2020, PDST provided input on Restorative Practice at an event hosted by an organisation called Genesis in County Louth who support schools in preventing learners from becoming disengaged from education. This event was called Suspensions and Exclusions in Primary School: Developing an Action Plan.</p> <p>Education Support Centres, which are funded by the Department of Education, are available to support clusters of schools to assist them in developing plans to meet their learning and development needs. The Education Support Centre located in County Louth has initiated engagement with the schools in the Drogheda area and the PDST. The Education Support Centre will work with local interested schools and the PDST with a view to establishing a cluster in Restorative Practice.</p> <p>On reviewing this action in the context of the Scoping Report into Community Safety and Wellbeing in Drogheda, the Family Support, Children, Young People and Education Subgroup of the Board identified that restorative approaches and practice go beyond the school setting. Emma Wheatley of the National College of Ireland’s Early Learning Initiative (ELI) was invited to speak to the subgroup at their July meeting on their experience of developing a Restorative Neighbourhood in the North East Inner City. On the basis of this presentation she was invited to be a guest speaker at a ‘Building a Restorative Community through a Trauma Informed Approach’ event co-hosted by Drogheda Implementation Board and Louth Local Development on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. Further detail on this is outlined under action 2.13.</p>								
<table><tr><th>Next Steps</th><th>Timeline</th><th>Responsible Body</th></tr><tr><td>Department of Education to continue to develop training in and application of restorative practices aimed at dealing with conflict and addressing issues such as school suspensions, expulsions and refusals</td><td>Ongoing</td><td>Dept of Education</td></tr></table>			Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body	Department of Education to continue to develop training in and application of restorative practices aimed at dealing with conflict and addressing issues such as school suspensions, expulsions and refusals	Ongoing	Dept of Education
Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body						
Department of Education to continue to develop training in and application of restorative practices aimed at dealing with conflict and addressing issues such as school suspensions, expulsions and refusals	Ongoing	Dept of Education						

Explore the development and delivery of a restorative community approach in Drogheda	2023	Drogheda Implementation Board
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## 7. ARTS, CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION

7.1	<b>Develop a strategic plan for the development of opportunities in the arts, culture and sports in the Drogheda area, specifically those aimed at and involving young people.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>The Louth Arts Development Plan 2022-2026 was published in December 2022. The Plan includes strategic priorities and actions regarding community arts engagement and a specific focus to bring more inclusivity, diversity and equality by reaching marginalised groups and those living in areas of disadvantage.</p> <p>Creative Ireland community grants funding was allocated in 2022 to two youth initiatives in Drogheda to deliver the below projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A movie making project for young people aged 16-22 in the Moneymore area delivered through Connect Family Resource Centre. The ‘So you wanna make a film’ project completed in August 2022 with the final product, a movie called ‘Imperfect’ available to view <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• A music project delivered through Boomerang Youth Café’s Basement Sounds initiative which resulted in the production of an album of work by young people from across Drogheda and East Meath. The album, “It’s a Drawda Thing” was launched in October 2022 and is available to download on Spotify <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul> <p>Crinniú na nÓg 2022, the national day of Creativity for Children and Young People under 18, took place on 11th June 2022 with a number of events taking place in Droichead Arts Centre in Drogheda. Louth and Meath County Council teams have commenced discussions to collaborate on a number of targeted Crinniú na nÓg 2023 events for the Drogheda / East Meath area.</p> <p>Drogheda Implementation Board hosted an event on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022, ‘Commencing the Conversation’, in partnership with local Arts and Music Generation officers and facilitated by experts in the field of design thinking. This event brought together 70 people from across the Arts, Community Groups and Statutory Organisations in Drogheda and East Meath to develop arts and culture-based responses to issues identified in the Drogheda Scoping Report and Implementation Plan. Several projects were identified and are being progressed by groups formed during the event. A similar event bringing together sports clubs and groups is being planned for 2023.</p> <p>Youth Leadership initiatives are run regularly in Drogheda by Louth Local Sports Partnership, the most recent of which was held in DIFE in August 2022 and attended by 31 participants. Participants who completed this programme received a Sport Ireland recognised Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership. Louth Local Sports Partnership support clubs in developing opportunities in Drogheda in a variety of other ways including distribution of grants; training supports;</p>	

facilities supports; developing women in sports leadership programmes; and specific initiatives such as a schools' basketball programme which has engaged 560 students across Drogheda.		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Completion and confirmation of County Arts Development Plan	Complete	Louth County Council
Delivery of Creative Ireland Projects (2022)	Complete	Louth Arts Office
Completion of Crinniú na nÓg 2022 Programme	Complete	Louth Arts Office
Delivery of a Crinniú na nÓg 2023 Drogheda / East Meath Programme	Q2 2023	Louth Arts Office
Delivery of projects identified during Commencing the Conversation event	2023	Louth and Meath Arts Offices, Drogheda Implementation Board, Community Partners

7.2	Explore opportunities for developing a centre of sporting excellence in Drogheda.	
Current Status		
Subgroup D of the Drogheda Implementation Board, Area/Community Development, Arts, Culture and Sport, has been assigned responsibility for this action.		
Louth and Meath Sports Partnership Coordinators, members of Subgroup D, have developed a collaborative proposal, ‘Driving Change Through Sport’ to deliver on sporting actions within this Plan. The proposal was presented to the Drogheda Implementation Board at their meeting in December 2022 and endorsed subject to adaptations made to reflect Board feedback. The proposed project would advance initiatives such as the previously proposed development of a South Louth/East Meath water based outdoor amenities hub.		
Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body
Recommendation to be taken forward to Drogheda Implementation Board	Ongoing	Area/Community Development, Arts, Culture and Sport Subgroup
Explore funding opportunities to deliver the ‘Driving Change through Sport’ proposal	2023	Louth and Meath Sports Partnerships/Drogheda Implementation

		Board/High Level Oversight Group
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<b>7.3</b>	<b>Explore potential for increased use of the Boyne river, the sea and other local amenities that could lend themselves to development of different sporting disciplines and opportunities.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p><b>Boyne River</b></p> <p>Fáilte Ireland, alongside key delivery partner Louth County Council, have been exploring the potential development of concepts for an ‘attraction of scale’ focused on the Boyne River and using the river as a tourism asset for Drogheda and the Boyne Valley Drive. Following market/consumer testing and refinement of the concepts, two concepts have progressed to feasibility study stage. These reports are in draft form and are currently being reviewed by Fáilte Ireland &amp; Louth County Council. The Boyne River is central to these considerations both in terms of how and where such an attraction would be located adjacent to the Boyne, and how tourism related experiences emerging from the project can use the Boyne as a tourism asset.</p> <p>The Development of the Irish Sea Way is an element of the current Programme for Government, with Fáilte Ireland having commenced initial scoping work on the possibility of developing this initiative as a cycle route. Louth Local Sports Partnership has also engaged with clubs on the river to seek opportunities for participation programmes.</p> <p><b>Boyne Valley Drive</b></p> <p>Fáilte Ireland is currently delivering a project to ‘reimagine’ the Boyne Valley Drive. The Boyne Valley Drive will be re-imagined from a point to point journey between some of Ireland’s most important and compelling heritage sites, to a wider immersive visitor proposition that will become a 5000 year journey through time. The project will focus on the development of 15 immersive industry/product clusters across the Boyne Valley.</p> <p>Drogheda is a key touch point on the Drive and is one of five entry points being developed as an industry hub. Linked to this there are two further industry clusters being developed along the coast from Annagassan to the mouth of the Boyne and on the southern side from Julianstown to the mouth of the Boyne. In addition, there are a further three industry clusters in development west of Drogheda along the Drive to Slane. These clusters will result in new experiences that will utilise the sea, coastline and river as tourism assets for Drogheda &amp; the Boyne Valley. Drogheda Business Improvement District lead the cluster group in Drogheda.</p> <p><b>Boyne Greenway and Navigation Restoration</b></p> <p>There has been significant activity in the development of the Boyne Greenway and Navigation Restoration. Meath and Louth local authorities have completed a Section 85 agreement which will allow for the development of the Rathmullen to the Boyne section of the Greenway. The scope of the project is to create a safe, attractive and environmentally sympathetic canal and river side walking and cycling route in tandem with the sensitive restoration of the Boyne navigation route. The scheme will be approximately 26.5km long and will incorporate a study</p>	



area extending across the river valley. Due to the operational, technical and environmental complexities of the project the selection of the emerging preferred route has taken longer than anticipated. Meath County Council have been liaising with the OPW and have requested that additional work is carried out by our consultants to undertake a more detailed review of the existing flood model information that is held by OPW. In addition, Meath County Council have instructed the commencement of time-dependent base line ecological surveys along the river to inform the design and environmental reports required for planning approval.

A separate application for statutory approval is with An Bord Pleanála for a greenway between Drogheda and Mornington.

**Boyne Valley Trails** is a Drogheda based voluntary group supported by Boyne Valley Walking. Working in partnership with LOVEDROGHEDA Business Improvement District, they have developed a series of walking routes and tours, including the Boyne Valley Camino, to avail of the natural, cultural and heritage landscape in Drogheda and its' vicinity. They hosted a walking festival in September 2022, supported by Louth County Council, delivering 16 walking tours across the period of one week which leveraged the heritage of Drogheda and the natural landscape of the area. Their website can be [viewed here](#). Fáilte Ireland also provided €15,000 support for the Boyne Valley Trails walking festival initiative.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Fáilte Ireland project to "reimagine" Boyne Valley Drive project report to be rolled out	Ongoing	DTCAGSM/ Fáilte Ireland
Progress Greenway Route Option Report	Q1 2023	DTransport/MCC
Receipt of Draft Navigation Restoration Feasibility Report	Q1 2023	DTransport/MCC
Baseline and Targeted Ecological Surveys	Q1 2023	DTransport/MCC
Non-Statutory Public Consultation in relation to the Emerging Preferred Greenway Route	Q1 2023	DTransport/MCC
Non-Statutory Public Consultation in relation to the feasibility of the Navigation Restoration	Q1 2023	DTransport/MCC
Develop a plan to create an innovative interpretative walk between Drogheda and the Battle of the Boyne site along the existing Greenway by the Boyne	Ongoing	Meath County Council
Review the feasibility of incorporating a Greenway into a coastal defence project in Drogheda	Ongoing	Louth County Council
Review feasibility of the completion of the Greenway between Blackrock and Drogheda	2023	Louth County Council

7.4	Explore the possibility of making the Drogheda Leisure Park available to the public as a community facility in the Drogheda area.		
Current Status			
Drogheda Leisure Park is a premises on the Southside of Drogheda currently owned by a private consortium. The Drogheda Implementation Board Chair and Coordinator met with members of this consortium and it is not within the scope of the Drogheda Implementation Board to bring this building into use as a community facility at this time.			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
Review Drogheda Leisure Park premises		Ongoing	Drogheda Implementation Board

7.5	Consider ways in which local sporting and cultural role models can be identified and employed in initiatives in engaging young people in particular in healthy and prosocial activities and implement as appropriate.		
<p>The Area/Community Development, Arts, Culture and Sport Subgroup of the Drogheda Implementation Board has been assigned responsibility for this action and is considering it in tandem with other actions within the Plan.</p> <p>Louth and Meath Library services and Arts Offices continue to explore potential cultural role models that targeted youth can engage with.</p> <p>The Louth Sports Partnership recognises the potential for peer role models in a sporting environment with Youth Leadership initiatives run regularly in Drogheda by Louth Local Sports Partnership. Programmes such as the Award in Sports Leadership Programme for 13- 17 year olds referenced in action 7.1 have the potential to develop in-community peer role models who may encourage others to engage in healthy prosocial activities. This programme was held in DIFE in August 2022, attended by 31 participants.</p> <p>As outlined in action 7.2, Louth and Meath Sports Partnerships have developed a collaborative proposal which was presented to the Drogheda Implementation Board in December 2022. This proposal includes the development of initiatives that would harness local sporting role models to engage young people in sporting and healthy activities.</p> <p>The Drogheda Implementation Board plans to host an event for sports clubs in the Drogheda area in 2023, replicating that for arts and culture sector organisations as outlined in action 7.1.</p>			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
Identify appropriate role models		Ongoing	Area/Community Development, Arts,

		Culture and Sport Subgroup
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7.6	Explore ways in which existing facilities in Drogheda (e.g. Lourdes Stadium, or DIFE – as described above) can be used to maximize their potential for the benefit of the local community.		
Current Status			
<p>Louth and Meath Sports Partnership Coordinators, members of Subgroup D, have developed a collaborative proposal to deliver on sporting actions within the Drogheda Implementation Plan. The proposal was presented to Drogheda Implementation Board at their meeting in December 2022. The proposed project would include working alongside local authority sports facility teams and other community resources to maximise community engagement with same.</p> <p>Louth County Council have increased the number of sporting staff available in addition to changing the staffing structure at Lourdes Stadium. This has allowed for increased opening hours for casual users and created shared slots to allow additional groups use the stadium in 2022. The Louth County Council Sports Facilities’ team aims to maximise local use of this facility and have developed a number of new initiatives to draw new users into the facility, including developing a quarterly timetable so individuals and groups can both see what is on and slots that are available to book.</p> <p>The Louth County Council Sports Facilities Team were successful in early 2022 in securing over €100,000 from Sports Capital Funding to increase capacity in Lourdes Stadium to include a new storage area and outdoor fitness area, conversion of old storage area to new multipurpose room and additional toilets. These capital works will allow further increased usage and the capacity to cater to different groups and training opportunities at the facility. A design lead and construction contractor have been appointed to this project.</p> <p>The My Open Library service commenced in Drogheda in July 2022 and offers a democratic community space to all members of the community at times best suited to the user, making the library available to the public 14 hours a day, 365 days a year.</p> <p>The Lourdes Community and Recreation Centre, based in Yellowbatter on the Northside of Drogheda and in close proximity to a number of established and new social housing developments, has been closed to the public since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Drogheda Implementation Board supported refurbishment works to bring this facility back into community use. LMETB have committed to taking the building under licence for 2023 to facilitate access by local community organisations.</p>			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
Procurement of design lead and construction contractor to progress the improvement of facilities at Lourdes Stadium		Q3 2023	Louth County Council

Reopen Lourdes Community and Recreation Centre for community use	Q1 2023	LMETB
Explore funding opportunities to deliver the 'Driving Change through Sport' proposal	2023	Louth and Meath Sports Partnerships/Drogheda Implementation Board/High Level Oversight Group

## 8. LOCAL AUTHORITY ORGANISATION AND SERVICES

8.1	While central Government/Departmental oversight of the present proposals is recommended, the two Local Authorities (Louth and Meath), as well as other bodies under their auspices (such as LLP) to continue their important local coordination work and responsibilities.		
Current Status			
<p>Louth County Council and Meath County Council cooperate and work together over a wide range of services including Fire, Planning, Roads, Libraries and Tourism, and have developed a number of joint strategies.</p> <p>A series of joint meetings of Drogheda and East Municipal districts were held during 2022 to brief members on what is happening in relation to the activities of both local authorities in their area. Items discussed included tourism, proposed projects and works for the area of Drogheda and East Meath, Local Area Plans, Environmental Awareness Coordination, and Garda cross boundary responsibilities and activities. While not part of the statutory local area planning process, they are an opportunity to share local coordination work across Louth and Meath county boundaries.</p> <p>The joint Boyne Valley Tourism Strategy 2016 -2020 has been fully completed with an interim plan in place during Covid. A new Tourism Strategy will be tendered and completed in 2023.</p> <p>An annual tourism plan will be implemented on a joint basis between Meath and Louth County Councils, including press visits with resulting coverage on Drogheda in key national and Northern Ireland publications, creation of Drogheda specific content on discoverboynevalley.ie, #MyBoyneValley Video on Drogheda, marketing campaigns, promotional shows and social media to attract visitors to Drogheda.</p>			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
Continuation of joint meetings of elected representatives with briefings from senior local authority staff and exchange of information		Ongoing	Louth County Council/Meath County Council

Meath and Louth Local Authorities to develop a new Tourism Strategy for the Boyne Valley 2023-2027	2023	Meath County Council/Louth County Council
Implement joint Annual Marketing Plan for the Boyne Valley	2023	Meath County Council/Louth County Council

8.2	As a matter of urgency and priority, Louth and Meath County Councils to agree an appropriate mechanism or ‘vehicle’ for the generation, agreement and implementation of a joint local development plan for Drogheda Town in its entirety, and including the appropriate area of East Meath, particularly the Laytown-Bettystown area of County Meath.		
Current Status			
<p>Working Group and Steering Group meetings are ongoing between Meath County Council Executive and Louth County Council Executive on background work in relation to the Drogheda Local Area Plan. The Louth County Council Executive developed a Draft Strategic Issues Paper in Q4 2022, which has been shared with Meath County Council Executive. It is planned to issue this non-statutory Strategic Issues Paper for public consultation in Q1 2023.</p> <p>Timelines and completion date for the statutory process may be impacted by a number of factors including with regard to submissions received on the statutory draft plan and whether any material amendments are required.</p>			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
Louth and Meath Local Authorities to develop a Local Area Plan for Drogheda		2023	Louth Local Authority/Meath Local Authority

8.3	LCC to consider ways to ensure greater Council presence, visibility and engagement in Drogheda.
Current Status	
<p>Since 2014, Louth County Council is the single local authority for all of County Louth. Staff and services are deployed across all of the Council buildings and many staff across all the services attend Drogheda for meetings.</p> <p>Louth County Council continues to deliver a myriad of services from the Fair Street Office complex and other rented offices in Drogheda town. Housing, Operations and Fire Services have significant staff numbers in place in Drogheda. Staff from Planning, Infrastructure, Energy and Economic Development offices also operate on a regular basis from the Drogheda facilities.</p>	

Facilitation works at the Fair Street offices of Louth County Council have commenced. The preferred contractor has been on site since Q2 2022, delivering a highly visible works programme of some eighteen months. In addition, works commenced in Q3 2022 on a public realm development on Saint Peter's Hill which occupies an elevated site overlooking the town of Drogheda and across to the tower at Millmount on the far side of the River Boyne are nearing completion.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Construction / reconstruction of Louth County Council Offices to commence	Complete	Louth County Council

8.4	Local Authority to consider and decide on an effective way of responding to and managing anti-social behaviour by its tenants and others as appropriate.	
Current Status		
Louth County Council Estate Management team continues to offer services to the housing tenants in Drogheda. The Estate Management Team work collaboratively with An Garda Síochána to manage what can be a challenging environment regarding ASB challenges.		
Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body
The work of the Estate Management team to continue.	Complete	Louth County Council

8.5	Local Authority also to put in place effective ways of responding to estate management issues that can assist in addressing anti-social behaviour (e.g., closing off alleyways, cutting back or removing hedging, installing lighting or speed ramps on roads etc).		
Current Status			
Louth County Council has an Estate Management Section which comprises Anti-social Behaviour Investigation Officers and Tenant Liaison Officers, supported by two Social Workers. A number of housing infill projects are at various stages of planning and or design. The completion of such works will address a majority of the poor design issues that lead to the issue of ASB.			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
Continue the progression of infill housing		Ongoing	Louth County Council

<b>8.6</b>	<b>Local Authority to explore and implement appropriate ways of speeding up implementation of the policy and practice of dealing with social housing 'voids.'</b>	
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Current Status		
<p>Louth County Council completed a very active voids programme in 2022 following a similarly active programme in 2021. In 2022 62 properties were returned to active housing stock. 164 units were completed in the Energy Retrofit Programme bringing the housing units to a BER rating of B2. A plan is in place to retrofit a minimum of 200 units in 2023.</p> <p>Rolling void units are a feature of managing a stock in excess of 4000 social housing units. The majority of long-term voids are now returned to service and plans to secure funding and address the remaining void stock is an objective of the Housing Section of LCC.</p>		
Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body
58 void units returned to use, a further 25 units to be improved under the energy retrofit scheme in order to eliminate voids backlog in Drogheda area	Complete	Louth County Council
Continue to manage the vacant housing stock and expedite the Energy retrofit scheme	Ongoing	Louth County Council

8.7	<p><b>Louth County Council to engage as a matter of urgency with residents of Moneymore and Castlemanor (and any other stakeholders as appropriate), with a view to closing off the offending ‘gap’ and taking other measures arising; or else finding a mutually acceptable and reasonable resolution to this issue.</b></p>
Current Status	
<p>In considering measures to respond to an issue such as this it is important to consider the long term impacts of any proposed actions and to gauge issues such as the level of antisocial behaviour over a period of time to provide a proper evidence base for decisions reached.</p> <p>Louth County Council carried out a number of engagements with residents of Matson Lodge, Castlemanor and Moneymore regarding the pedestrian route linking the housing developments of Moneymore and Castlemanor/Matson Lodge – commonly referred to as ‘the gap’. These include public consultation meetings held in September 2022 and a letter drop encouraging residents in the vicinity of the access to engage in with the consultation process. One to one telephone engagements were carried out with residents who were unable to attend in-person meetings.</p> <p>Louth County Council Estate Management team also carried out a number of surveys of use of ‘the gap’ over a variety of times of day. It was noted that the gap was used by 40-50 individuals morning and evening en route to one of three schools on the Ballymakenny Road. Engagement with staff in these three schools – Presentation, Scoil Oilibhéar Naofa and Ballymakenny College - was also carried out to determine usage of the route and contribution to journey time for pupils. It was estimated that up to 30 minutes of journey time would be added for students if this access route were removed.</p>	

Drogheda Gardaí have also been very engaged with Louth County Council in relation to this matter over an extended period. Senior members of An Garda Síochána and Louth County Council also visited the site on numerous occasions over an extended period of time. Recent upgrades to the CCTV system has resulted in very good coverage of those accessing and egressing the area with An Garda Síochána now having access to high quality images from the location. The reporting of anti-social behaviour issues have significantly reduced in this area.

Having taken all of the above and issues such as active travel into consideration, a decision was made to 'regularise' the access – this will include cutting and maintenance of hedgerows; installation of footbridge and footpath; installation of appropriate lighting; and inspection and adjustment of CCTV system to ensure appropriate coverage of footbridge and its access.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Alternative routes and options to be explored	Complete	Louth County Council/AGS
Commence works to regularise access	Q1 2023	Louth County Council

## 9. LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS

<b>9.1</b>	<b>Local Authority to clarify, for the relevant governance and oversight bodies, the potential value and specific contribution that the PANCR and other similar strategic local developments can add to the combined efforts at improving community wellbeing in Drogheda.</b>
<b>Current Status</b>	
<p>The construction of the Port Access Northern Cross Route has been a strategic objective of Louth County Council for over 20 years. Louth County Council continues to prioritise the delivery of PANCR and recognise that the construction of the road and associated infrastructure is one of the key requirements to ensure Drogheda develops to its full potential in a sustainable manner. Louth County Council notes that this critical piece of infrastructure, once delivered, will bring benefits that include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening up new areas for housing construction (circa 6000 units) in North Drogheda</li> <li>2. Opening up a direct route from the M1 Motorway to the port removing vast numbers of HGVs from the North Quay Drogheda</li> <li>3. Allowing the construction of new housing/office and retail spaces in the port area of the town.</li> <li>4. Greatly improve the quality of life for Drogheda residents, workers and visitors to the town.</li> </ol> <p>Louth County Council have been working with developers and other stakeholders in order to deliver the Port Access Northern Cross route in the absence of central Government funding. Following ongoing discussions for some time between Louth Local Authority and a consortium of developers, the Louth County Council Chief Executive announced the signing of a Licence for Road Works by 'PANCR Developments Limited' in September 2022, which allows for</p>	



construction of Phase 1 of the long-awaited Port Access Northern Cross Route, along with other necessary infrastructure works including water services.

Phase 1 construction of the PANCR has now commenced.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
The delivery of PANCR remains a strategic objective for Louth County Council	Work is progressing and will be ongoing for the duration of the Plan	Louth County Council

9.2	Local Authority (and others as appropriate) progress the West Gate Vision plan for Drogheda Town centre	
Current Status		
<p>Using funding secured under the first round of Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF), Louth County Council has concluded a public consultation process for the development of the master plan for the Westgate Vision. The Westgate Vision Consultation Report was published in March 2022 and is available to view here <a href="https://www.westgatevision.ie/downloads/westgate-consultation-survey-report.pdf">https://www.westgatevision.ie/downloads/westgate-consultation-survey-report.pdf</a> .</p> <p>A public realm team is in place to manage this project and a design team has been procured to progress the plan. Designs were completed in Q3 2022 and presented to elected members of Louth County Council. The project will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála and a further application submitted to the Urban Regeneration Development Fund when it opens.</p>		
Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body
Louth County Council to make an application for the first phase public realm redevelopment in the next round of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund.	Work is progressing and will be ongoing for the duration of the Plan	Louth County Council

9.3	Local Authority clarify what the Fáilte Ireland ‘Destination Town’ designation can bring to Drogheda, and how this can be progressed accordingly.
9.4	As part of this, establish Fáilte Ireland presence/tourist information office in the Town.
Current Status	
Drogheda has been identified as a Tourism Destination Town by Louth County Council and has received €500,000 support from Fáilte Ireland for development in this regard. The Fáilte Ireland	

guidelines for Destination Towns set out the key drivers of what makes a town appealing to the international tourist. Drogheda's designation as a Destination Town is recognition by Fáilte Ireland in terms of the town's enormous potential as a key destination for tourists in the future. As outlined in action 7.3 work is ongoing on identifying what an attraction of scale might look like in Drogheda.

An Access & Orientation Plan was developed for Drogheda as an initial stage of the Destination Town plan. This was underpinned by the objectives of 'Linking the Heritage Assets' in Drogheda's historic core. The Plan was brought to Part 8 completion by Louth County Council in January 2020. It includes a wayfinding system which is more easily understood by visitors as well as a visitor Signage & Orientation Plan for Drogheda. Louth County Council appointed a multidisciplinary design team (Placemarque) who have completed the design and content of the bespoke wayfinding interpretive signage. Procurement for the provision and installation of the signage has been undertaken and it is expected that the process will be completed by Summer 2023.

Louth County Council secured funding of €672,000 from Fáilte Ireland for a three-year Urban Animation Project in Drogheda which has been branded 'Lú Festival of Light'. This 10-day festival, a partnership between Fáilte Ireland, Louth County Council and Drogheda Business Improvement District took place over the Halloween mid-term break. This family friendly festival leveraged Drogheda's connection to Ireland's mythological past, consisting of spectacular light projections on key heritage buildings in the town and drawing thousands of spectators to the streets of Drogheda each night for a safe, evening activity.

An application for the development of a regeneration plan for the George's Square area of Drogheda, under stream two of the Historic Town Initiative, was successful and tenders for specialist consultants to deliver same issued.

In terms of action 9.4, Visit Louth already manage a tourism office in Drogheda. Fáilte Ireland provides maps and other relevant information to this office. Louth County Council share a Tourism Officer with Meath County Council whose work is focused on the Boyne Valley area, which includes Drogheda. The Tourism Officer highlights Drogheda offerings at national and international level, including at shows such as Bloom and Balmoral. Fáilte Ireland will deliver a 'Local experts' visitor servicing programme in 2023 across the wider destination of Meath & Louth.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Louth County Council to progress the Destination Town Project which will include continued exploration re: the potential development of a major tourism attraction concept for Drogheda.	Work is progressing and will be ongoing for the duration of the Plan	Louth County Council / Fáilte Ireland
Fáilte Ireland to advise on the future provision of visitor information services in line with its national approach which has been developed to meet visitor needs	Q1 2023	Fáilte Ireland / Louth County Council

Roll out a 'Local experts' visitor servicing programme in 2023 across the wider destination of Meath & Louth	2023	Fáilte Ireland
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9.5	Local Authority (and others as appropriate) explore and clarify the potential for future use of the Dominican Church and Priory in Drogheda Town (being acquired by LCC).		
Current Status			
<p>Louth County Council has purchased this building. The conveyance process has now been completed. A number of opportunities are currently under consideration by Louth County Council and the design consultants leading on the Westgate Vision have been appointed to review same.</p> <p>The Dominican Priory is currently in use as a centre for housing Ukrainian refugees.</p>			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
Continue to explore options for use and funding for any such plans.		Work is progressing and will be ongoing for the duration of the Plan	Louth County Council

9.6	As part of strategic planning for the development of the Town, explore ways in which to develop and promote Drogheda as a healthier and welcoming town.
Current Status	
<p>Fáilte Ireland continue to work closely with Louth Local Authority, as their delivery partner, and other key stakeholders such as Drogheda Business Improvement District to further the Fáilte Ireland Destination Experience Development Plan ethos which is about revealing the landscape, exploring the destination, wandering through time on ancient routes, trails pathways and blueways. This applies equally to the urban centres. All the development projects are about finding new and exciting ways to explore the tourism assets. Projects such as industry hubs/clusters and the destination town will create a sense of arrival. The Urban Animation Project referenced in action 9.3 is an element of this objective.</p> <p>Work is ongoing on the visitor orientation plan linking all the heritage assets along the axis of the old town walls, currently being rolled out with interpretation. Four concept options for an attraction of scale have been market tested and are being refined. A Business Plan has been developed for 2 refined concepts. Work continues in supporting Drogheda’s bid for developing a music event of scale. It is envisaged that this will take place in Summer 2023.</p> <p>Louth County Council Operations and Community Sections continue to work with a variety of stakeholders. A collaboration between Louth County Council, Drogheda and District Chamber</p>	

of Commerce, Drogheda Business Improvement District, Drogheda Tidy Towns and the Mayor of Drogheda was launched in Q4 2022 to respond to issues relating to litter in the town. #LookingGoodDrogheda is an initiative of the business community of Drogheda to improve the town's appearance.

Louth Healthy Ireland Coordinator was appointed in Q3 2022. This post will have a role in supporting health and wellbeing initiatives across the County. The Coordinator carried out community consultations regarding same in December 2022.

In September and October Love Drogheda Business Improvement District engaged with the local community and Ballsgrove Youth Club to create a Community Mural that was delivered by a local artist Darrin Finnegan and the local children, showcasing their pride in the area. This project was partly in response to the June IBAL report which noted large levels of litter and dumping in the area. The project has assisted in increasing local youth engagement and increasing the IBAL scoring for the area.

As part of improving the sense of arrival along the Marsh Road, Drogheda Business Improvement District have undertaken a hoarding project where images of Drogheda and the surrounding area have been installed along a 50m piece of hoarding at a site adjacent to Scotch Hall.

In October 2022 it was announced that Louth County Council were successful in their application for a Night-Time Economy Advisor for Drogheda. Nine pilot cities and towns are part of this pilot initiative to support the development of a vibrant and diverse Night-Time Economy. The Night-Time Economy Advisor's role is to drive and support a more sustainable night-time economy, working with business, communities, residents, venues and artists to create a more vibrant nightlife for all in a safe and sustainable way.

The #AskForAngela initiative outlined in action 10.4 contributes towards the promotion of Drogheda as a more welcoming town. This multi-stakeholder campaign showcases local hospitality venues and taxis can showcase as safe places for locals and visitors alike to enjoy the night-time economy in Drogheda.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Roll-out of the Fáilte Ireland Destination Experience Development Plan	Work is progressing and will be ongoing for the duration of the Plan	Fáilte Ireland
Louth County Council, Drogheda BIDs, and Drogheda Tidy Towns to continue to develop initiatives to promote Drogheda as a healthier and welcoming town	Ongoing	Louth County Council, Drogheda BIDs, Drogheda Tidy Towns
Appointment of a Healthy Ireland Coordinator	Complete	Louth County Council

## 10. EMPLOYMENT, ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT

10.1	Local Authority and other relevant stakeholders - consider possibility to develop a new business and technology park on the North side of Drogheda.		
Current Status			
<p>In June 2021, IDA Ireland acquired a new landbank on the north side of Drogheda, Co Louth. This land acquisition is part of IDA Ireland’s long-term strategic plans to position Louth and the wider North East region to compete for FDI investment. The necessary site works are to be delivered within the current IDA Ireland strategy timelines. The acquisition of this landbank is part of IDA Ireland’s overall property programme which is supported by the Government through the Department of Enterprise, Trade &amp; Employment.</p> <p>A multidisciplinary team has been appointed by the IDA to the Drogheda Advanced Building Solution Project and this review is ongoing and progressing well.</p> <p>James Boyle, Regional Manager, IDA gave a comprehensive presentation to Drogheda Implementation Board at their November meeting on the ongoing work of the IDA in Drogheda and their plans for the town and wider region.</p>			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body
IDA to deliver on site works on the new land bank on the North Side of Drogheda. IDA consultants are currently working on design requirement.		Work is progressing and will be ongoing for the duration of the Plan	IDA
Under the new IDA Regional Property Programme, IDA will deliver advanced building solutions in Drogheda and Dundalk.		2021-2024	IDA

10.2	Explore ways to develop productive links – in terms of promoting employment opportunities – with appropriate third level institutions.
Current Status	
All Enterprise Ireland work is focused on their clients and creating an ecosystem to support both them and entrepreneurship in general. Since 2016, the Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) has engaged in Enterprise Ireland programmes which support Innovation and Research and Development (R&D) in Irish industry and has received just over €3.1 million in funding. Under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund, Border Enterprise Development Fund and Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme, Co. Louth has secured in total over €11.5m for 6 innovative enterprise focused projects.	

As detailed in previous reports a wide variety of Enterprise Ireland funded programmes and initiatives delivered through DkIT are available to relevant Enterprise Ireland clients in Drogheda, examples of same outlined below:

- New Frontiers
  - Since January 2022 DkIT has ran two New Frontiers Entrepreneur Development Programmes Phase 1 which had 30 participants. Of these 30, one participant came from the Greater Drogheda Area.
  - Since May 2022 DkIT has ran two New Frontiers Entrepreneur Development Programmes Phase 2 – of which there were 22 participants. Of these 22, two participants came from the Greater Drogheda Area.
- Innovation Vouchers
  - In 2022 DkIT secured voucher projects with two Drogheda companies.
- dConnect & Connected Health and Wellbeing Cluster
  - In terms of both the dConnect project and the Connected Health and Wellbeing Cluster initiative DkIT has engaged with Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital staff on EIT Health iDays (student innovation days as part of an EU project funding through EIT) and HSE staff based in Drogheda on the eHealth Embark accelerator.
  - Our Lady of Lourdes hospital and RSCI are also engaged on the Connected Health and Wellbeing Cluster. Industry membership based out of Drogheda includes BD, aCGT Vector / GMAC Pharma, EVB Sport and MyLo.
- THRIVE Programme
  - The THRIVE programme participated in the Womens Enterprise Day panel for LEO Louth and Meath which was held in City North in October 2022 with a large audience from Drogheda area.
  - Three participants on the programme are based in Drogheda
  - THRIVE also worked closely with M1 Drogheda Chamber Skillnet Project Managers to inform and promote the THRIVE programme and secured funding stipend over two funding rounds.
- CREDIT Tech Gateway
  - The CREDIT Tech Gateway engaged with the Accelerate Green Bord Na Mona accelerator programme launched at the Mill Enterprise Centre and managed by Resolve Partners based in Drogheda (late 2021 early 2022).

LMETB received €4.6M under the Border Enterprise Development Fund, and a further €1.4m under the Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme, to establish the National Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence in Dundalk, Co. Louth. This will develop and pilot the application of skills foresighting in collaboration with training and technology specialists. The project contributes to addressing the disruptions impacting the future of work and provides a pipeline of skilled, innovation ready talent of current and future workers to border

region employers. It will enhance the employability of learners in high skill and high reward sectors in the border region. The AMTCE ran nine courses on 3D concrete printing for 66 learners between June and November 2022. Both theory and practical elements of these courses were held in Drogheda.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Enterprise Ireland and DkIT to continue to deliver opportunities local industry	Ongoing during the lifetime of the Plan	DkIT/Enterprise Ireland

10.3	Explore potential for enterprise initiatives and job creation in the agri-food sector	
Current Status		
<p>The Boyne Valley Food Innovation District is a smart specialisation collaborative for the Mid and North East regions that nurtures food and drink SMEs and talent from across the regions to achieve their commercialisation and scaling potential.</p> <p>The Boyne Valley Food Hub in Navan will see the development of nine individual food units and production labs in a continuum of sizes to support opportunities for food entrepreneurs and their staff to interact with each other; facilitating relationships and creating critical mass between businesses and institutions to generate, sharpen and accelerate the advancement of ideas. Following a retendering process, contractors are now on site and works are projected to be completed by year end.</p> <p>Meath and Louth local authorities are developing the Boyne Valley as a national/international Centre of Food Culture. A presentation was given to members of the Employment, Business and Enterprise subgroup of the Drogheda Implementation Board at their meeting on 21 September 2022 by the Boyne Valley Food Development Officer on what opportunities this may present to the Drogheda area. Meath and Louth County Council have agreed to joint fund a new Project Manager role for the Centre of Food Culture, this post was advertised in December 2022. Joint funding has also been provided by both local authorities for the implementation of Year One of the Centre of Food Culture Operational Plan.</p>		
Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body
Re-tendering for Boyne Valley Food Hub completed	Complete	Meath Enterprise/ Meath County Council
Centre of Food Culture Project Manager in place	Q1 2023	Meath County Council/Louth County Council
Delivery of Year One Operational Plan for Boyne Valley Centre of Food Culture	2023	Meath County Council/Louth County Council

10.4	Consider ways to reduce the impact of crime and antisocial behavior on business and employment in the Town	
10.6	Ensure that community Garda foot patrols in the town centre and more widely are maintained	
Current Status		
<p>As outlined in action 2.4 there has been a significant change in the Community Policing Unit in Drogheda. Community Gardaí have been assigned to dedicated sectors within communities in both urban and rural locations in the District. A member of the Drogheda Community Policing Team has been assigned as a specific point of contact for the Business Community.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to view Chief Superintendent McGovern discussing the impact this has had in Drogheda.</p> <p>An Garda Síochána in Drogheda continue to liaise very closely with the Business Improvement District Scheme Committee and are proud to be associated with the Purple Flag initiative for Drogheda Town Centre, ensuring high visibility patrols are carried out to reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour, and to reduce fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. Additional beat patrols take place at peak business times in response to collaboration with BIDs members and the business community.</p> <p>An Garda Síochána, Drogheda Implementation Board and a number of community partners such as the Vintners Federation, Restaurant Association, Taxi Federation, Drogheda Business Improvement District and Drogheda &amp; District Chamber of Commerce launched an #AskForAngela campaign in Drogheda. ‘Ask For Angela’ is a safety campaign that allows people to discreetly signal if they need feel unsafe on a date or night out. This initiative was implemented as part of a suite of community safety initiatives by An Garda Síochána and Drogheda Implementation Board in December 2022, in time for the busy festive season.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to view campaign launch.</p>		
Next Steps		
Timeline		
Responsible Body		
Continue to engage with relevant stakeholders	Ongoing	AGS

10.5	Explore ways to attract or facilitate at least some of the estimated 15,000 people from Drogheda who commute to other locations for work every day back to work in the Town
Current Status	
The development and leveraging of remote work infrastructure is a crucial component to the progression of increased national remote work adoption. Adequate infrastructure must be in place to allow employers and employees avail of remote working opportunities both at home and in hubs. Further developing and leveraging the existing remote work hub infrastructure and the delivery of broadband nationally will be a significant driver in facilitating people to work remotely. Pillar 2 of the National Remote Work Strategy is focused on developing and	



leveraging remote work infrastructure. The Strategy's actions are being monitored by the Inter-departmental Group (IDG) on Remote Work chaired by Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment and progress is underway to achieve all actions by their respective delivery dates. The IDG will continue to meet as the year progresses to drive implementation of the Strategy.

#### **Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub**

Funded under the Border Enterprise Development fund, the Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub (DDIH), was developed by Louth County Council with Drogheda Enterprise Centre CLG t/a, The Mill Enterprise Hub (The Mill) and supported by Enterprise Ireland. This project has been awarded €587,600 in funding against project costs of €734,500 (80%) and is designed to encourage high-potential future oriented tech projects seeking to start and grow, to locate in the greater Drogheda/North East region.

The project aims to foster an environment to facilitate these businesses to succeed in the region, through the provision of a bespoke and affordable co-working space in Drogheda town centre complemented with tailored management and mentoring support to facilitate their growth and export potential. This project is an opportunity to target 'post-covid' commuters, those seeking a career change from employee (commuter) to entrepreneur (in the region) and the 'Brexit opportunity' to target UK businesses seeking an EU home which will all add to the project's success. It is also an opportunity to attract many technology start-ups located outside the region due to the lack of viable property solutions. The project will also offer entrepreneurs a viable alternative to locating in Dublin city, which has successfully built a reputation as a centre for future oriented technology companies. Of note, the project intends to partner with Dublin BIC on greater support across the Northeast, and specifically target highly skilled commuters to create tech startups via a CommuTECH support programme.

There are 3 elements to this initiative:

1. A pre-accelerator programme to be delivered in Drogheda, aimed at those from the greater Drogheda region. The specification for the first pre-accelerator, 'Commu-tech', has been completed with LEO Louth managing the e-tender/procurement process. The programme will be managed, promoted and driven by the LEO in partnership with the Mill Enterprise Hub. A procurement process for the delivery of the DDIH Pre-Accelerator Programme commenced in December 2022 and it is anticipated that tender will be awarded Q1 2023 with programme promotion to commence soon after.
2. DDIH Programme Manager to be recruited. As part of the process of assessing the application for the Hub Enterprise Manager role it was identified that the role would have to be analogous to a specific grade. The process of reviewing this and aligning the role to Grade 6, Senior Staff Officer, had an impact on the projected recruitment timeline for this role. It is expected this job will be advertised and recruited during Q2 2023.
3. Refurbishment of premises in Drogheda Town Centre. A new location, on Narrow West Street has been identified and is being researched by Louth CoCo's Public Realm Team to complement the design of the West Gate Vision. The previous location compromised the greater vision for the WestGate area.

Drogheda Chamber of Commerce, Love Drogheda BIDS, and The Mill Enterprise Hub are collaborating on a new strategy to encourage more start-ups, multinationals and remote workers to base themselves in the wider Drogheda region. They recently completed a remote working and commuter survey to inform the development of this strategy. Drogheda Chamber have developed [www.InDrogheda.com](http://www.InDrogheda.com) to showcase Drogheda to the international business market and attract employment opportunities to the local area.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Enterprise Manager to be recruited	Q2 2023 (Original Timeline Q4 2021)	Louth County Council
Refurbishment work to be completed on DDIH Hub	Q4 2023 (Original Timeline Q2 2022)	Louth County Council

<b>10.6</b>	<b>Ensure that community Garda foot patrols in the town centre and more widely are maintained</b>
This recommendation has been grouped with recommendation 10.4 above.	

## 11. ETHNIC AND RACIAL ISSUES

11.1	All stakeholders – consider the practical implications of the recently (2020) launched Louth Meath Joint Integration Strategy and implement accordingly.		
Current Status			
<p>The Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Forum has been established and a work plan on the delivery of the strategy agreed. The Forum is meeting on a quarterly basis with an in-person meeting held in DkIT in September 2022. A proposal to extend the work of the Forum to December 2023 will go before the respective Louth and Meath Local Community Development Committees in January 2023.</p> <p>Louth Public Participation Network (PPN) hosted an event on 27 September in partnership with See Her Elected (SHE) focusing on women and diversity in local government. The event was attended by a number of migrant women living in the Drogheda area. This is the first in a series of events being organised by Louth PPN to encourage people from minority backgrounds to engage with local government.</p>			
Next Steps		Timeline	Responsible Body

Implementation of Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Strategy	Ongoing 2019-2022	Louth Local Authority/ Meath Local Authority
Consider proposal to extend Joint Migrant Integration Strategy	January 2023	Louth / Meath Local Community Development Committees

11.2	Explore and identify any existing or emerging issues of racial tension in the area and agree steps to deal with these.	
Current Status		
The Joint Louth Meath Integration Forum and Local Migrant Integration Network continue to engage and act as a channel to identify and seek to address racial tension issues that may arise. A proposal to extend the work of the Forum to December 2023 will go before the respective Louth and Meath Local Community Development Committees in January 2023.		
Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible Body
Continue to monitor the issues through the Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Forum and the Local Migrant Integration Network.	Ongoing 2019-2022	Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Forum via LCC & MCC

11.3	Plan at oversight group level how to engage with and involve the traveller and Roma communities in the area to a greater extent than currently, to include specific actions.
11.4	LLP to progress actions already identified to engage and build development capacity in the traveller and Roma communities.
11.5	HSE and other partners - build on positive engagement made with travellers and Roma during the course of the public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
Current Status	
Opportunities to support Traveller and Roma communities are explored via the Louth Community Development Committee and Louth Local Development's Networks Provision. Addressing such support needs is provided for via the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP).	

The Louth Local Development SICAP Development Officer is currently establishing links with key agencies and local stakeholders in the development of an engagement approach with members of the Travelling Community. The Louth Local Development SICAP Social Inclusion Manager has been liaising with the HSE to plan and organise a meeting regarding the Primary Health Care Unit in the context of the Drogheda area.

A Business Case supporting the need to re-establish the Traveller Health Unit and support structures was prepared in December 2021. This was considered at a HSE Midlands Louth Meath Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO8) Senior Leadership Team meeting in February 2022, with support in principle for the need to re-establish the Traveller Health Unit. In respect of funding for same and to progress matters, it was agreed that in-year (2022) COVID 19 monies would be used to support appointment where possible of key staff (either through HSE or a section 39 organisation or Agency) or align structures across CHO8 to fulfil:

- Social Inclusion Manager
- Community Developmental Coordinators

A General Manager is now the lead in Social Inclusion and work is progressing and the HSE Traveller Health Unit for Louth Meath (THU) has been re-established, meeting every two weeks.

Separately, CHO8 has submitted a Business Case in an effort to secure ongoing revenue funding for the Service for 2023 onwards through a HSE-led Initiative to improve health outcomes for other vulnerable groups (including Roma, Migrants and Women), who are currently living in insecure or unsuitable housing. This has provided the CHO with an opportunity to bid for €200,000 funding for development of a Traveller Project for Co. Louth.

The HSE has prepared a submission for Estimates Process 2023 for a number of posts for Louth/Meath as follows:

1. Traveller Health Unit Coordinator for Louth Meath
2. Three community Development posts (1.5WTE) for Primary Health Care for Traveller projects in Louth Meath (Navan, Drogheda & Dundalk).

Funding has been approved and negotiations at an advanced stage between the HSE and Extern to employ a Community Development Worker across Louth and Meath. As a part of this agreement, Extern will complete a scoping exercise with a view to establishing a Traveller Primary Health Care Project in Drogheda. This will identify:

- current supports
- key stakeholders
- resources and budget required and include in proposal & roadmap to establish a Traveller Primary Health Care Project in Drogheda.

It is expected that the plan/proposal for Drogheda would be completed within three month, by the end of Q1 2023. Three and six month reviews will be built in to ensure the roadmap/proposal is completed as a matter of urgency. The THU, chaired by the General Manager, Primary Care Covid & Social Inclusion Services, will oversee all of the above.

The Louth Local Development (LLD) SICAP Development Officer is currently establishing links with key agencies and local stakeholders in the development of an engagement approach with members of the Travelling Community. The LLD Social Inclusion Manager and SICAP Development Officer in the Drogheda area met with the HSE on the 21st November to discuss the engagement strategies and potential developments of a Traveller Primary Health Care Team Project within the Drogheda area. There is a follow up meeting scheduled for January 2023.

LLD's Youth and Education Team have been using a youth work approach to engage with Youth Travellers. Working in collaboration with a number of specialist youth projects in the town including Turning Point – a Foróige programme, Youth Diversion projects in the town and YouthReach they coordinated virtual driving school opportunities referenced in Action 4.5. LLD Youth and Education Team are also working with Turning Point to develop and support the delivery of a QQI Major Award Level 4 Leadership Programme that will focus on building the capacity to develop Community Champions. Participants within this programme will include Youth Travellers.

Five young Travellers from Drogheda received adult guidance supports in the second half of 2022 from the LLD Youth and Education team. These young people have progressed to bespoke training opportunities that were fully funded by SICAP and have received further support to access Third Level Access Grants.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
<p>In line with the recently published (Nov 2022) National Traveller Health Action Plan (NTHAP) 2022-2027 CHO8 will Develop and strengthen processes and mechanisms to ensure implementation of relevant NTHAP actions at a regional and local level in partnership with Travellers and Traveller organisations.</p> <p>CHO8 is currently reviewing the functioning and capacity of the Traveller Health Unit with a view to strengthening and standardising representation, membership staffing, resources etc.</p> <p>The CHO8 Traveller Health Unit will develop, oversee, and be accountable for the implementation of an action plan which includes the re-establishment of a Traveller Primary Health Care Project in Drogheda (NTHAP 2022-2027 Goal 1 Strategic Action &amp; Goal 4 Strategic Action 43)</p>	2023	HSE