

What is Drogheda Implementation Board?

In March 2021 Minister Helen McEntee published the **Report into Community Safety and Wellbeing in Drogheda** because of concerns about rising crime and criminal gangs in the town. Some people call this the 'Geiran Report' because it was written by Vivien Geiran, a former Director of the Probation Service. The Report included 73 recommendations. In July 2021 Minister Heather Humphries published the **Drogheda Report Implementation Plan**. This Plan included all 73 of Vivien Geiran's recommendations as actions.

The Drogheda Implementation Board was set up in October 2021 to work on the actions in that Plan. The Board is hosted by Louth and Meath Education Training Board and supported by the Department of Justice.

Who are we?

The people who sit on Drogheda Implementation Board are from organisations like Louth and Meath County Council; Tusla; the Guards; Drogheda Chamber of Commerce; Probation Services; the HSE; North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force and community representatives. All Drogheda Implementation Board and subgroup members are listed on our website. www.droghedaimplementationboard.ie – About Us.

What have we done?

The Department of Justice publish a 'Progress Report' on the delivery of actions in the Drogheda Report Implementation Plan. The most recent Progress Report was published on the 30th March 2023 and shared updates to 31st December 2022. Progress reports are available on our website at <https://droghedaimplementationboard.ie/reports-updates/>. We also publish monthly updates on what is happening on the same page.

Actions delivered as a result of the Drogheda Report, Plan and Board to October 2023:

Policing & Drugs

- *Investment in An Garda Síochána:* Operation Stratus commenced in 2018 and is still ongoing, it has significantly reduced the activities of organised crime in Drogheda

- *Investment in the Red Door Community Addiction Service:*

Staffing Resources: Additional staff posts in the Red Door Project have been funded via both the HSE and Department of Justice since October 2021 including:

- Social worker
- Drug Court Worker
- Project Worker

Funding has also been provided for a Prison Links worker through the Community Safety Innovation Fund

In October 2023 Tusla confirmed that they have secured funding for a full-time Family Support Worker to be based in the Red Door and to work with the most hard to reach young people and families.

Red Door as a 'One Stop Shop': A Fixed Site Needle Exchange service, resourced by the HSE, opened in the Red Door in May 2023. A Drug Related Litter Campaign, supporting the community as a whole, has been developed by the North East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force to complement the Needle Exchange service

- *Investment in Family Support:*
 - €125,000 has been provided by the HSE to Merchants Quay Ireland for Family Support services for Louth/Meath area, including Drogheda
 - Additional funds given to the Family Addiction Support Network who also serve Drogheda
- *Investment in Community Safety*
 - Drug & Alcohol information events for schools: Almost 180 attendees from primary, secondary and further education came to two information events that we held in 2022.
 - The **Ask for Angela** (December 2022) and **See Something Say Something** (September 2023) campaigns were launched in partnership with An Garda Síochána.
 - A large scale Community Safety and Wellbeing event is being co-hosted with Louth Local Development in November 2023

Family Support, Children, Young People & Education

- *Investment in schools:* 3 schools got 6 extra teachers for 2021-2022 year. These schools now have 12 extra teachers and one extra deputy principal for 2022-2027.
- *Investment in Youth Diversion Projects:* €530,000 provided in 2021 to two Drogheda Youth Diversion Projects. In June 2022 Boyne was allocated over €75,000 extra p.a. to deliver early intervention and family supports on the Southside of Drogheda. In September 2023 CABLE Youth Diversion Project were approved for a full-time early intervention worker
- *Investment in Youth Services:* Drogheda now has its own Youth Officer who provides supports for youth services and looks for additional funding for the area.
- *Investment in Children:*
 - Funding of €48,000 provided to Moneymore Childcare Centre to extend and refurbish/kitchen/dining area.
 - Funding provided through the Community Safety Innovation Fund to Foróige for the New Choices project which works with children and young people aged 10-16 who are dropping out of school.
 - Funding provided for specialist counselling interventions for children who are experiencing trauma because of the activities of organised crime.

Employment, Business and Enterprise

- *Investment in Third Level Progression:* LMETB have been given funding to build a tertiary education block to expand opportunities to offer pathways to third level education in Drogheda. LMETB have signed a partnership arrangement with DCU which allocates spaces on DCU's nursing programme for DIFE students.
- *Investment in Apprenticeships:* LMETB have opened the first Apprentice Training Centre in Drogheda which will cater for over 360 apprenticeship places annually.
- *Investment in small business:* Louth and Meath County Councils have provided a €100,000 microfinance fund for small businesses in Drogheda and Laytown-Bettystown in response to the Drogheda Report Implementation Plan



Drogheda Implementation Board is supported by the Department of Justice and hosted by LMETB
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An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
 Department of Justice

Area/Community Development, Arts, Culture and Sport

- *Investment in Sports and Community:*
 - Drogheda Implementation Board issued €126,206 in small grants to 21 community projects including a number of sports and cultural projects.
 - Funding secured by LMETB to build a sports and community block in Drogheda Institute of Further Education (DIFE)
 - Fees for use of pitches and other sporting facilities at DIFE have been waived for the duration of Drogheda Implementation Board
- *Investment in community:*
 - Funding provided to refurbish and reopen the Lourdes Community Recreation Centre
 - Funding provided to progress plans to develop a new Moneymore Townland Community Hub. Louth County Council have taken on the role of lead agency in this project and are working closely with the representatives of community groups in the area (Moneymore Consortium) to progress this significant capital project. Louth Local Development also provide technical support to the new Moneymore Consortium structure.
 - Louth Local Development secured funding through Louth Local Community Development Committee in response to the Drogheda Report Implementation Plan for additional staff posts for Drogheda. These include a full-time Education and Community Development officer, whose focus is on supporting community development capacity with an emphasis on youth particularly on the southside of Drogheda; part-time Social Prescribing Officer to connect and support healthier and vibrant communities; and Youth and Education Coordinator post based on a part-time basis in Drogheda.
 - Louth Local Development have invested significant resources in the development of new town centre offices, providing a range of services to the community in Drogheda alongside a state-of-the-art meeting space for social inclusion groups in the town.
 - Meath County Council are developing a state-of-the-art Library and Community Building in Bettystown. With construction due to be completed mid 2024 before moving to fit-out stage this light-filled, outward looking landmark public building is immediately visible to the community and shows the commitment of Meath County Council to deliver the highest-quality modern public library lending services and associated community meeting spaces to the people of East Meath.
- *Investment in Arts and Community:* An event hosted by the Board in September 2022 has resulted in several community arts projects being delivered in 2023 with expansion plans for 2024. These include 'Pride and Picturesque' which featured photos taken by young people from Rathmullen and Moneymore capturing their area, culminating in a photography exhibition in Droichead Arts Centre; and Drogheda Youth Arts Festival
- *Investment in Sports:* A large event for sporting clubs and organisations in Drogheda and East Meath was hosted in Drogheda Institute of Further Education in October 2023 to create new connections and develop ideas and initiatives to support engagement with sports in the area.

Funding Department/Agency	Agency/Service	Purpose	Cumulative*	Reporting
Department of Justice	Youth Work Ireland Louth/Foroige	Youth Diversion Project Minibuses	€120,000	1st progress report
Department of Justice	Youth Work Ireland Louth/Foroige	Youth Diversion Project Family Support and Early intervention workers (p.a.)	€285,000	1st & 4th progress report
Department of Education	3 x primary schools	Additional Teachers x 6 2021-2022	€240,000	1st progress report
Department of Education	3 x primary schools	Additional Teachers x 12 + Admin Deputy (2022-2027)	€2,500,000	1st progress report
Department of Justice	Money more Childcare Centre	Essential Refurbishment	€48,000	1st progress report
Department of Justice	Money more Consortium	Money more Community Hub Feasibility Study	€15,000	1st progress report
Department of Rural and Community Development	Money more Consortium	Money more Community Hub Planning Preparation	€80,000	3rd Progress Report
Department of Justice	Red Door Project	Drug Court Liaison Worker, Social Worker, Project Worker, Part-time administrator	€270,100	1st progress report
Department of Justice/HSE	Red Door Project	Social Worker, Project Worker	€212,500	2nd progress report
HSE	Red Door Project	Needle Exchange	€8,000	1st progress report
HSE	FASN	Once off funding for services	€29,635	1st & 2nd progress report
HSE	Merchants Quay Ireland	North East Family Support Service	€250,000	1st progress report
Department of Rural and Community Development	Place Based Leadership Programme	Community Development	€94,325	1st progress report
Department of Justice	Probation Service	Additional Probation Officer	€135,000	1st progress report
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	LMETB	P/T Drogheda Youth Officer	€60,000	2nd progress report
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Skills	LMETB	Community Facilities and Tertiary Education Block - DIFE	€4,500,000	2nd progress report
Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Skills	LMETB	Drogheda College - Apprentice Training Centre	€6,538,439	3rd Progress Report
Department of Justice	Red Door Project	Community Safety Innovation Fund - Prison Links Worker	€98,014	2nd progress report
Department of Justice	Foroige	Community Safety Innovation Fund - New Choices	€150,000	2nd progress report
Louth and Meath Local Authorities	Louth County Enterprise Board	Drogheda Nurture Fund	€100,000	2nd progress report
Department of Justice	Drogheda Implementation Board	2022 Budget	€167,884	1st progress report
Department of Justice	Drogheda Implementation Board	2023 Budget	€268,407	3rd Progress Report
Louth Local Community Development Committee	Louth Local Development	Additional SICAP Staff	€186,000	1st progress report
	<i>Incoming investments</i>			
	HSE	Drive Lead	€50,000	
	Tusla	Family Support Worker - Red Door, p.a.	€60,000	
			€16,466,304	

* The majority of figures are approximate and/or rounded. For example staff costs are based on mid-point on salary scale. Unless otherwise stated figures are to end 2024.