



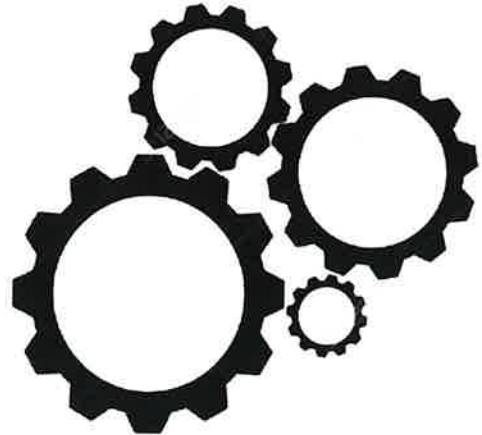
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Lú
Louth Local Community Development
Committee

Annual Report 2024

**Ms. Alison Quail, Chairperson, Louth Local Community Development
Committee**

**Mr. Finbar Gethins, Chief Officer, Louth Local Community Development
Committee**

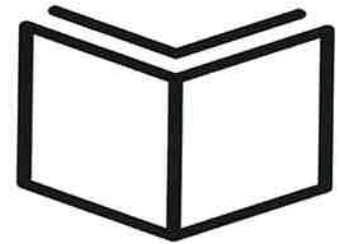
**LOUTH LCDC
2024
HIGHLIGHTS**



**€320,275.82
WAS AWARDED TO 6 LEADER
PROJECTS**



**88 COMMUNITY &
VOLUNTARY GROUPS
RECEIVED GRANTS
UNDER LOCAL
ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAMME**



**1221 INDIVIDUALS
SUPPORTED
THROUGH LIFELONG
LEARNING**



**107 COMMUNITY
GROUPS RECEIVED
DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORTS**



**Age Friendly 'Ardee Garden
Care & Repair' Project
shortlisted for Age Friendly
Ireland Award 2024 under
the Environment Theme**



**€185,641.85 AWARDED
UNDER LOCAL
ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAMME**



Membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in 2024

Public Sector	
Louth County Council	Cllr. Shane McGuinness replaced Cllr. Liam Reilly, ratified by LCC June 2024
Louth County Council	Cllr. Kevin Meenan
Louth County Council	Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton replaced Cllr. Eileen Tully, ratified by LCC June 2024
Louth County Council	Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Louth County Council Official	David Conway replaced Joan Martin
Louth County Council Official	Niall Gallagher replaced Niamh Dennehy
Louth Meath ETB	Sadie Ward McDermott
DSP	Sharon Curran
HSE	Bridie Pepper
Private Sector	
Louth Leader Partnership	Ciarán Reid
Community & Voluntary Interests	Alison Quail
Community & Voluntary Interests	Jasmine Mathew
Louth Volunteer Centre	Kayleigh Mulligan replaced Olivia Conlon, ratified by LCC July 2024
Social Inclusion	Bernardine Quinn
Social Inclusion	Carol Murphy
Environment	Vacant
Farming	Kevin Sweeney replaced John Carroll, ratified by LCC May 2024
Chamber of Commerce Dundalk	Pat McCormick replaced Una McGoey, ratified by LCC April 2024
Chamber of Commerce Drogheda	Hubert Murphy replaced Steven Rice, ratified by LCC September 2024

A Message from the Chairperson



Welcome to the 2024 Annual Report of the Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

The LCDC is required to prepare and submit a report to the Local Authority on its activities during the last year. The LCDC provides strategic leadership at a local level and is responsible for the planning and oversight of community funds for local development. The LCDC is also responsible for the delivery of the Local Economic Community Plan using a collaborative approach across the membership, ensuring it remains a strong and effective platform for local development and social inclusion

I would like to thank all the LCDC members, both statutory and non-statutory, for their significant time commitment in attending the LCDC meetings and for the valuable role they play in progressing the social and economic development of our county.

During the year, several key plans and strategies were launched, reinforcing our commitment to local economic and community development. These include the Local Economic & Community Plan (2024-2029), the Local Development Strategy (2023-2027), and the PEACEPLUS Action Plan. Each of these frameworks plays a crucial role in shaping sustainable development, fostering inclusivity, and strengthening partnerships across communities, businesses and government agencies.

The promotion and delivery of funding programmes play a central role in the work of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), enabling sustainable community development and social inclusion. Key programmes such as SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme), LEADER funding and the Local Enhancement Programme provide vital resources to support local communities, businesses and social enterprises.

Promotion of health and well-being in Louth is also an important key function for the LCDC. Louth LCDC continues its fourth round of Healthy Ireland. The main emphasis for this round is to support Positive Mental Health and increased Physical Activity amongst certain target groups.

2024 marks the beginning of the new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028. This programme, funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), continues the efforts of previous SICAP programmes to tackle poverty, promote social inclusion, and support disadvantaged communities. Louth Local Development CLG has continued to support disadvantaged communities and individuals throughout the county through targeted programmes focusing on individuals and groups.

Input from the Public Participation Network (PPN), through the five PPN representatives on the LCDC committee and the link they make to the PPN is invaluable. This link is vital to the relevance of the LCDC for our communities and the valuable and positive contribution they make to civic life in County Louth.

The success and effectiveness of the LCDC is heavily dependent on the commitment and expertise of the Community Section staff. I would like to extend my appreciation to the Chief Officer, Finbar Gethins and all the staff for their work in developing and enhancing structures in the LCDC and partnerships with communities, government agencies, the business community and stakeholder groups.

I look forward to working with the LCDC members and staff during the last months of my tenure on the LCDC and delighted to be involved in the support it gives to community in Louth and to be part of the positive impacts the above programmes will have in our County over the coming year.

Alison Quail, Chairperson Louth LCDC

Introduction

Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) are required, under the provisions of Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001, to prepare, adopt and submit an annual report to the local authority, no later than the 31st March each year, in respect of the performance of its functions in the previous calendar year. The annual report should be coordinated with the preparation of the local authority's annual report and include an outline of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) activities in the relevant period. At a minimum the report should cover each of the LCDC functions, as outlined in the Act, but also other areas of activity such as development, review or implementation of community elements of the plan and contributing to the economic objectives of the Plan, both in its development and implementation.

Meetings Held in 2024

Louth LCDC meetings were held on the following dates during 2024:

- 15 January 2024
- 19 February 2024
- 25 March 2024
- 20 May 2024
- 24 June 2024
- 15 July 2024
- 16 September 2024
- 21 October 2024
- 19 November 2024
- 16 December 2024

In consultation with the members, the LCDC moved to a hybrid model for their monthly meetings with members attending in person and via Teams.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029 - Community Goals

The final Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP), reflecting Stakeholder, Municipal District and Regional Authority input was approved by the LCDC on 15th January 2024 and the Economic SPC on 23rd January 2024.

The Louth LECP was approved by the Council on 19th February 2024 and officially launched by members of Louth LCDC and members of the Economic SPC on Monday 20th May 2024.

The Louth Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029 is a strategic framework guiding the county's economic and community development for six years.

Developed by Louth County Council in collaboration with key stakeholders, it aims to foster a prosperous, sustainable and inclusive community with a high quality of life.

Key aspects of the plan:

- Informed by consultation with communities, businesses, government agencies and education providers.
- Incorporates lessons from the 2016-2022 LECP.
- Structured approach: High-level goals, objectives and outcomes are outlined in the LECP Framework, while actions are detailed in a rolling two-year Implementation Plan with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Aligned with local, regional and national policies, including the County Development Plan, National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.
- Commitment to sustainability and equality, with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a core principle.
- Addresses cross-cutting priorities such as climate action, equality, poverty, rurality, age and disability to meet public sector obligations under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014.

The plan ensures continuous adaptation and monitoring, updating every two years to reflect progress and emerging policies



Members of Louth LCDC and the Economic SPC at the launch of the Louth Local Economic & Community Plan 2024-2029

Local Enhancement Programme

At their March meeting, the Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) approved €185,641.85 of funding to 88 Local Community & Voluntary Groups in Louth through the Local Enhancement Programme 2024 (LEP).

The LEP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area. The Programme supported groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, and to purchase equipment, such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers and training equipment, supporting them to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their area, and in the process strengthen the bonds that tie communities together.

€32,568.74 of the funding was ring-fenced for Women's Groups and 20 projects benefitted from this funding.

The fund was advertised in local newspapers, on social media and through the PPN, resulting in 151 applications received. This was an increase in numbers from the previous year and the fund also saw an increase in groups applying for funding under the Local Enhancement Programme for the first time.

Funding was allocated across each Municipal District Area.

The table below sets out a summary of how the total LEP fund of €185,641.85 was allocated throughout the county:

Area	No of Successful Applications	Allocation
Dundalk	41	€83,218.76
Drogheda	29	€64,014.43
Ardee	18	€38,408.66
Total	88	€185,641.85



Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024 - 2028

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028

- In 2024 SICAP supported 107 local community groups and registered 1221 individuals
- 107 community groups received developmental, technical and capacity building supports
- 23 Local Community Groups received grants including 2 Social Enterprises. In total 23 Grants were administered
- 1221 individuals engaged in lifelong learning and labour market supports
- 7 individuals were supported into employment
- 108 individuals referred by the Department of Social Protection were supported to establish their own business through the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme
- 93 individuals received education/training grants
- 12 individuals received enterprise grants



Rathmullen Community House, Drogheda, Officially Opened 24th October 2024



Youth Connect Fest January 2024



**Digital Cafe, Smarter Living for Older People
Ardee October 2024**

SICAP 2024 Case Study:

The 2024 Case Study was in video format titled "*SICAP & The Drogheda Implementation Board: A Focus on Quality Community Development & Collaborative Approaches.*"

To view the video, please click the link below:

https://youtu.be/yBBZdhi51TQ?si=0LNe_5yyp9fYWuGW



LEADER

Development led by local communities

The LEADER Programme 2014-2022 concluded in 2024. By mid-July, the remaining fifteen project payment claims were completed and paid, bringing the total processed claims for the programme to 331. €6.51 million was allocated to projects across County Louth throughout the duration of Programme.

Notable Achievements in 2024 included:

- A Service Level Agreement between the LCDC, Louth County Council and Louth Local Development was signed in May 2024.
- The Louth Local Development Strategy (LDS) was launched in Louth County Council offices in May 2024.
- Six projects were approved for funding in 2024.
- 62 Expressions of Interest for Funding were received in 2024 by the implementing partner, Louth Local Development.
- Louth County Council is the lead financial partner for the LEADER Programme in Co. Louth and they carry out the Article 48 checks on all projects and claims.



Joe McGuinness, Chief Officer, Louth County Council, Alison Quail, Chairperson of the Louth Local Development Committee, Joan Martin, Chief Executive, Louth County Council and Ciaran Reid, Chief Executive of Louth Local Development at the Launch of the LEADER Programme 2023-27 in May 2024.

LEADER Programme 2023-2027

	TOTAL
Expressions of Interest (EOI) Received	62
EOI eligible for Funding	59
Ineligible for Funding	3
Contracts Issued	6
Food Contracts Issued	0
Claims Processed	0
Funding Allocated	€320,275.82
Claims paid in 2024	€0

GR8 Entertainment Limited

Funding of €196,588.85 was allocated to The GR Social in Park Street Dundalk. The project will renovate the old 'Dunnes Stores' building on Park Street into a bowling alley and games arcade.



Pictured outside the premises are Ciaran Reid, Chief Executive, Louth Local Development, Dermot McArdle, Managing Director, GR8 Entertainment Limited and Finbar Gethins, Chief Officer, Louth Local Community Development Committee.

The European & Cross Border Office



The Peace Committee, which is a sub-committee of the LCDDC, oversees both the PEACE IV and PEACEPLUS Programmes.

Peace IV Programme

Peace IV projects have been supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special European Programmes Body (SEUPB) and supported locally by Louth County Council and Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDDC). Match-funding has been provided by The Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department for Rural and Community Development in Ireland.



Shared Spaces

There was a wreath laying ceremony and event held at the PEACE IV Shared Space, the Dundalk War Memorial. This demonstrates continued and sustained use of the site as a Shared Space and reflects the value of the site for the town and communities.



Wreath Laying Ceremony at the PEACE IV War Memorial in Dundalk

The final PEACE IV newsletter was circulated on 17th June 2024.

Information on all PEACE IV projects undertaken has been updated on the Louth County Council website at <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/economic-development/peace-iv/>

A brochure detailing all PEACE IV projects is available to view at the following link - <https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/sustainable-energy-cross-border-european-relations/peace-iv/news-events/lcc-peace-iv-programme-book-final.pdf>

The Peace office also provided information to ongoing, routine audits of the PEACE IV programme by SEUPB.

PEACEPLUS Programme 2021 – 2027



Special EU Programmes Body
 Comhlacht na gClár Speisialta AE
 Special EU Skemes Boadie



PEACEPLUS
 Northern Ireland - Ireland
 Co-funded by the
 European Union |  UK Government
 

PEACEPLUS is the new European Union Funding programme designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. The programme's design emphasises not only peace-building efforts but also initiatives that will positively impact the economy, foster prosperity and adapt to the evolving challenges and environment we face.

The Louth County Council Action Plan, submitted under PEACEPLUS Investment area 1.1, has been allocated €4.6 million under three themes:

- Theme 1:** Local Community Regeneration and Transformation - 40% of the budget
- Theme 2:** Thriving and Peaceful Communities - 39% of the budget
- Theme 3:** Celebrating Cultures and Diversity - 21% of the budget

PEACEPLUS Action Plan

The Final Draft PEACEPLUS Action Plan was adopted by the PEACEPLUS Partnership at their Committee meeting on the 6th February 2024.

It was subsequently approved by the Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) on the 19th February 2024 and was noted at a meeting of Louth County Council on the 25th March 2024. The Action Plan was submitted to the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) on 28th March 2024.

The Louth PEACEPLUS Action Plan was approved by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) in October 2024. The final Letter of Offer was received from SEUPB on 28th November 2024 and the acceptance was signed and returned by Louth County Council on 16th December 2024.



County Louth PEACEPLUS Partnership Committee meeting on 6th February 2024

PEACEPLUS Procurement

Work was ongoing throughout 2024 to ensure that the procurement process used to deliver the two PEACEPLUS capital projects and recruitment of delivery agents for the fifteen other PEACEPLUS projects, fully complies with Office of Government Procurement (OGP) and SEUPB regulations. To achieve this objective, a PEACEPLUS procurement plan was drafted and published on the Louth County Council website. Invitations were issued to recruit members to various tender assessment panels. An online procurement information meeting was organised for prospective tenders in November and its guidance notes published on the Louth County Council website.

There are 2 capital projects proposed Under Theme 1: Community Regeneration and Transformation. These are works to improve accessibility and information at the Battle of the Boyne site, Drogheda and the rejuvenation of St Nicholas Church, Dundalk.

The Planning Office was requested to carry out an appropriate assessment of the Battle of the Boyne site. Additionally, Grade 1 Conservation Architect Cathal Crimmins was appointed to advance the project to Stage 2 of the planning application for the refurbishment of Saint Nicholas Church of Ireland, Dundalk, which is a protected structure of regional significance.



Saint Nicholas Church of Ireland, Dundalk

Healthy Louth

Introduction

The Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) plays a central role in overseeing and guiding the work of Healthy Louth, ensuring that health and wellbeing initiatives align with national policy objectives and local priorities. Under the governance of the LCDC, Healthy Louth is responsible for delivering the Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025 programme, which funds targeted projects that promote physical and mental health, social inclusion and community engagement.

The Louth LCDC Health & Wellbeing Sub-committee acts as a strategic driver for these efforts, conducting regular reviews, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, and supporting funding applications to sustain and expand community health initiatives. The sub-committee ensures that Healthy Louth initiatives address the health and wellbeing needs of all residents, particularly priority groups, including children, adolescents, disadvantaged families and individuals at risk of homelessness.

Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025

Healthy Ireland is a government led initiative aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of everyone in Ireland. It adopts a 'whole-of-government' and 'whole-of-society' approach to deliver four key goals:

1. Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life.
2. Reduce health inequalities.
3. Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing.
4. Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a Healthy Ireland.

Following public consultation, funding in Louth has been allocated to initiatives supporting:

- Increase in an individual's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index
- Increase in percentage of adults & children meeting physical activity guidelines
- Delivering targeted health promotion campaigns to raise awareness and encourage community participation in wellbeing initiatives.

These initiatives address the needs of the general population and priority groups, including adolescents, disadvantaged families, individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness and those with mental health concerns.

Healthy Ireland Fund – Top 3 Key Achievements:

1. Healthy Ireland Fund as a Catalyst for Growth – The Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) has served as essential seed funding, enabling the launch of multiple successful initiatives. These projects have since secured significant additional funding, demonstrating sustainability and long-term impact.
 - The *Take 5 for Positive Mental Health* initiative led to the *Dear Future Me* campaign, which has evolved into a standalone project with €140,000 in funding from Creative Ireland, Creative Wellbeing in the Community, Shared Island Fund.
 - Work with homeless and at-risk populations, supported through HIF, has resulted in strengthened partnerships with Peter McVerry House and Dundalk Simon, leading to an additional €15,000 from Creative Ireland for the *Step into My World* project, which raises awareness of homelessness through real-life experiences.
 - The success of our engagement with homeless services has also secured €5,000 from Dundalk MD Councillors to bring the Irish Homeless Street League to Louth, with an additional funding application recently submitted to align the league with a Health Literacy Programme of activities to address the health literacy needs of the target group.

2. Increased Participation in Mental Health and Physical Activity Initiatives – There has been a measurable increase in individuals engaging with Healthy Louth’s community-based mental health and physical activity support programmes.
3. Expansion of Targeted Initiatives – Programmes such as *Take 5 for Positive Mental Health*, LLDC’s *Mental Health Matters & Family Matters Programme*, the Boomerang Youth ‘Minding Your Mind’ project and physical activity projects like *Boxing Clever*, *Sailing into Wellness*, *Fun Fitness*, *High Five Programme*, *Football Crazy*, and *DkIT initiatives* (ex-HER-cise, DkIT’s Fittest STEPS Challenge, and Sport as a Tool for Inclusion) have made significant strides.

Healthy Ireland Fund - Key Developments in 2024

Expansion of the 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth' Campaign

The 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth' campaign made significant strides in 2024, with several key developments that have furthered its impact in the community.

Highlights include:

- **Launch of New HSE-led Breastfeeding Support Group in Dunleer:** A major milestone during National Breastfeeding Week 2024 was the launch of a new HSE-led breastfeeding support group in Dunleer. This group builds on the success of Dunleer’s designation as the first 'Breastfeeding Friendly Village' in Louth in 2023. The launch of the support group offers new mothers a vital space for guidance, advice, and connection. The launch event, supported by the Healthy Ireland Fund, was a central part of National Breastfeeding Week celebrations here in Louth.
- **County-wide Promotional Drive 2024:** Throughout 2024, a dynamic, county-wide promotional campaign aimed at raising awareness and normalising breastfeeding was implemented. Events in Dundalk and Drogheda featured breastfeeding workshops, information sessions and networking opportunities for parents and healthcare professionals.

These efforts have contributed to building a stronger, more supportive community for breastfeeding across Louth, setting the stage for further growth of the campaign in the years ahead.



'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth' Campaign

'The Five Ways to Wellbeing: Opportunities for Community Health in Louth' Event

The 'Five Ways to Wellbeing: Opportunities for Community Health in Louth' event, organised by Louth Social Prescribing Committee, took place at the Fairways Hotel, Dundalk on the 23rd October 2024 and marked the official launch of the CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath '5 Ways to Wellbeing' Resource. This initiative aims to support individuals, groups and communities in taking simple, practical steps to enhance their wellbeing.

The event showcased over 30 stands from local organisations, health services, voluntary and community groups, each offering valuable information and resources for improving mental, physical and social wellbeing. The focus was on the five key principles of the '5 Ways to Wellbeing Framework: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give. These principles, embedded in the resource, are designed to encourage positive changes and promote long-term wellbeing within the community.

The launch of this resource represents a significant step forward in Healthy Louth's ongoing efforts to improve the wellbeing of residents and strengthen community ties. The resource offers accessible and actionable advice for people of all ages and backgrounds to incorporate wellbeing practices into their daily lives.

For more information click the link below:

<https://www.louthcoco.ie/en/services/community/programmes/healthy-louth/community-connect/>



'The Five Ways to Wellbeing: Opportunities for Community Health in Louth' Event, Fairways Hotel, Dundalk

'Not Around Us' Campaign – Smoke & Vape-Free Spaces

A key milestone in 2024 was the collaboration with Dundalk FC to integrate the 'Not Around Us' (NAU) campaign into matchday events, halftime activities and club social media. The campaign encourages businesses, schools, and community spaces to create smoke and vape-free environments, particularly in places frequented by children and young people.



'Not Around Us' Campaign

Recognition at the All-Ireland Community & Council Awards

Healthy Louth's 'Mental Health Matters' Project was shortlisted for 'Best Mental Health' initiative at the 2024 LAMA All-Ireland Community & Council Awards.

The awards ceremony took place at the Royal Convention Centre in Dublin on Saturday 17th February 2024, where representatives from Louth County Council and Louth Local Development Company, Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) attended.

The 'Mental Health Matters' initiative is a collaboration between Healthy Louth and SICAP. It has been recognised for its innovative approach to promoting mental well-being within the community. Through workshops, events, and outreach programmes, the initiative has:

- Raised awareness about mental health issues.
- Reduced stigma around seeking support.
- Provided valuable resources to those in need.

This award recognition highlights the commitment of Healthy Louth and Louth Local Development Company in addressing mental health challenges and promoting well-being across the county.



Pictured at the LAMA Awards 2024, Ms. Alison Quail, Chair of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Ms. Paula Keenan, Healthy Louth Co-ordinator, Louth County Council, Mr. Finbar Gethins, SEO – Community Section, Louth County Council, Ms. Ina McCrumlish, Project Co-ordinator, SICAP, Louth Local Development Company

Communications & Awareness in 2024

Healthy Louth continued to expand its digital presence and communication efforts, ensuring that health and wellbeing messages reached the wider community.

- **Healthy Louth Newsletter**
 - The Healthy Louth bi-monthly newsletter continues to be distributed through The Louth PPN Friday communiqué, as well as social media and direct email networks.
 - Topics covered included mental health, physical activity, nutrition, workplace wellbeing, and support services.
- **Social Media Growth & Engagement**
 - Campaigns such as 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Louth', 'Not Around Us', and CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath initiatives were actively promoted.

Launch of 'Dear Future Me' – €140,000 Mental Health Initiative

Healthy Louth secured €140,000 in funding for its innovative positive mental health initiative, "Dear Future Me." This funding, awarded through the Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community, Shared Island Fund, will support the project over two years (2024-2025).

In partnership with Dundalk Youth Centre and the Magnet Centre in Newry, this initiative will implement transformative mental health programmes for young people aged 10-18 across Louth, Newry, Mourne, and Down.

Programme Highlights:

- Tackling loneliness, isolation and poor mental health through creative activities.
- Workshops in art therapy, videography, performing arts and cooking for wellness.
- Outdoor activities such as ‘Top of the World Hiking’ and ‘Picnic in the Park’ events.
- ‘Dear Future Me’ community events where young people will showcase their achievements and engage in community events.



Mr. Kevin Moran, Dundalk Youth Centre, Ms. Paula Keenan, Healthy Louth Co-ordinator, Louth County Council & Ms. Teresa Kearney, Manager, Magnet Youth Centre, Newry

‘Step Into My World’ – Empowering Homeless Voices Through Art

Healthy Louth, in collaboration with Louth Local Development Company (LLDC) and Louth County Council’s Homeless Section, has secured €15,000 from Creative Ireland to deliver ‘Step Into My World’, an innovative project aimed at amplifying the voices and experiences of individuals affected by homelessness.

Key Objectives of the Project:

- Providing a creative platform for those in Direct Provision, women’s refuge centres, homeless shelters and addiction recovery services.
- Using art therapy and storytelling to help participants express their realities and challenges.
- Recording personal narratives that will be shared with the wider community.
- Creating a collaborative art piece to be publicly displayed.

The project aims to raise awareness and reduce stigma around homelessness, while fostering empathy and understanding throughout the broader community.



Ms. Ina McCrumlish, Project Co-ordinator, SICAP, LLDC, Ms. Paula Keenan, Healthy Louth Co-ordinator & Ms. Maeve Harkin, Social Inclusion Manager, LLDC

Signed: *Finbar Gethins*
Chief Officer

Date: 24/03/2025