



MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on Tuesday, 16th January 2018

In Limerick Training Centre, Raheen, Limerick.

Present: Mr. Sean Mc Mahon, Chairperson
Ms. Joan Aherne
Mr. Tony Brazil
Mr. Michael Cregan
Cllr. Cathal Crowe
Cllr. Michael Donegan
Ms. Mary Flanagan
Cllr. Liam Galvin
Ms. Catherine Harran De Parra
Cllr. Mary Howard
Cllr. Marian Hurley
Mr. Gordon Mewis
Ms. Ann Nicholas
Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue
Mr. Dónal O'hAiniféin
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon
Cllr. Elena Secas
Cllr. Lisa Marie Sheehy

In attendance: Mr. George O'Callaghan, Chief Executive
Ms. Bernadette Cullen, Education Officer
Mr. Paul Patton, Director, Further Education and Training
Ms. Shelagh Graham, Director of Organisation and Development
Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of Corporate Affairs and ICT
Ms. Mary Troy, Head of Finance
Ms. Aileen O'Sullivan, Recording Secretary

1. Apologies/Condolences

Apologies: Cllr. Ann Norton
Cllr. Michael Hillery

Condolences: Votes of Sympathy were passed to the following;

Mr. Declan Edwards (Marshal House) on the death of his mother, Nora.

Mr. Gearoid Herbert (Marshal House) on the death of his mother, Bríd.

Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of IT & Corporate Services, on the death of his mother in law, Ms. Teresa Bradshaw.

Ms. Yvonne Lane (Further Education and Training) on the death of her father.

Ms. Miriam Gallagher (Marshal House) on the death of her aunt, Ms. Rosaleen Roche.

The family of the late Marie O'Riordan (Clonroad, Ennis).

The Family of the late Jack Clancy, Apprentice, Shannon Training Centre.

Ms. Anne Mulcahy, (Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton) on the death of her father, Mr. Eamon Ryan.

Ms. Paula Pita (retired LCFE) on the death of her mother, Ms. Nancy Hannan.

Mr. John Egan, Retired Principal Askeaton, on the death of his mother.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Minutes of Meeting held on 17th November, 2017, were confirmed and signed on the proposal of Cllr. Elena Secas seconded by Ms. Mary Flanagan.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

4. Correspondence

DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

CL 0071/2017
5th December, 2017

Re: Flexi Time Scheme for Administrative Personnel in
Education and Training Boards.

CL 0072/2017 November, 2017	Re: Reminder to schools regarding the deadline of 31 December 2017 for the retrospective vetting of teaching staff, non-teaching staff and others.
CL 0073/2017 21 st December, 2017	Re: Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) with effect from 1 January, 2018.
CL 0074/2017 21 st December, 2017	Re: Revision of Salaries with effect from 1 January 2018 for Clerical Officers and Caretakers Employed in National Schools Under The 1978/79 Scheme and Clerical Officers Employed in Post Primary Schools under the 1978 Scheme.
CL 0076/2017 21 st December, 2017	Re: Revision of Salaries in Respect of All Staff Other Than Teachers and SNAs Employed by ETBs with effect from 1 January 2018.
CL 0077/2017 21 st December, 2017	Re: Revision of Salaries of all staff paid directly by a recognised school or ETB with effect from 1 January 2018.
CL 0079/2017 21 st December, 2017	Re: Revision of Pay Rates in 2018 for Grant funded School Secretaries, Caretakers and Cleaners employed by the Boards of Management of Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme and associated increases in Grant funding for same.
CL 0080/2017 8 th December, 2017	Re: Physical Education in Senior Cycle.
CL 0081/2017 December, 2017	Re: Publication of new "Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017".
CL 0083/2017 December, 2017	Re: Revision of Teacher Salaries with effect from 1 January, 2018.
CL 0001/2018 December, 2017	Re: Teacher Refund Scheme 2017

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Howard, seconded by Ms. Joan Aherne, Circular Letters were adopted.

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

A possible protected disclosure has been made to the Department of Education and Skills by an employee of the LCETB.

As per the Protected Disclosure Policy, the Department has referred the matter to the Chairperson of the Board.

Under the terms of the LCETB Protected Disclosure Policy, the Chairperson has appointed an external investigator to examine if the Disclosure falls within the meaning of the Act and to advise on a course of action in respect of the matter under investigation.

Further updates will be provided to the Board as appropriate.

The CE advised members that the Standard in Public Office Commission has withdrawn its recommendation that officials should complete a NIL return in the event they have no interests to disclose. Members only have to make a return where they have a conflict of interest.

If during the course of the year if a member believes they have a conflict of interest they must disclose this to the Chairperson.

5. Chief Executive's Report Incorporating Post Primary Education & Further Education and Training

EDUCATION REPORT

Launch of Strategy Statement

This took place on 19th December in the Hospitality Education and Training Centre, Roxboro and was launched by Patrick O'Donovan TD, Minister of State for Finance and Public Expenditure. This event also celebrated the graduation of learners from the authority's Hospitality Education and Training Centre.

The launch of the strategy followed a comprehensive consultation process with the authority's stakeholders that began in March last year. Facilitated by an Internal Strategy Development Team led by the Director of Organisation Support and Development, the consultation consisted of meetings and focus groups involving Students, Parents, Principals/Managers, Co-ordinators, Support and Development teams and staff from across the organisation. An online survey of learners, parents, staff, board members, strategic partners and other stakeholders was also a key element of the consultation. From this process, strategic goals and priorities

emerged which were reviewed by both the Senior Management Team and the authority's Board.

The Strategy Statement is framed by the ETB's vision to enhance the quality of learning and life in our region. It also emphasises the role the authority will play in fulfilling the personal, social, economic and employability needs of the community it serves. As a statutory framework, the document specifies the objectives of the authority and promotes a shared vision and guides the ETB's Organisation Support and Development, Schools and Further Education and Training Divisions in the development of annual service plans for its provision. It sets out four organisation-wide strategic priorities, which are in line with specified objectives.

Cllr. Marian Hurley congratulated the staff of LCETB on the successful launch of the Strategy Statement which took place at the Hospitality Education Centre in Roxboro.

Cllr. Hurley congratulated the students who graduated that morning and mentioned how good it was to hear the positive experiences of those who undertook the courses.

She proposed that a letter be sent to the management of the Centre to commend them on their great work. This was seconded by Ms. Joan Aherne.

The STEM Alliance Pilot Initiative

A new innovative, industry led project that aims to encourage young people to become engaged and interested in STEM has been signed in the Midwest between Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board and regional industry clusters Limerick for Engineering and Limerick for IT. The objective is to promote awareness and understanding of the importance and relevance of STEM to everyday life and increase awareness of career opportunities that exist on their doorstep. The project focus is on empowering teachers and young people to experience and become knowledgeable about STEM skills for life.

The STEM Industry & Education Partnership will deliver a programme with LCETB schools in the region engaging and immersing educators, students and families in STEM experiences, highlighting and increasing the awareness around the importance of STEM and the career opportunities that exist. This will be achieved by establishing relationships with STEM enterprise and industry, schools and educators, further and higher-level institutions, and the wider STEM community and thus fostering a culture of collaboration for professional learning in STEM education.

This innovative STEM Education pilot project, the first of its kind in Ireland, will lead the way in developing a model or framework that could be adopted by initiatives and fora across Ireland and Internationally.

Principals Meeting

A meeting of Principals was held on 23rd November with consideration of implementation of the new JCT, recruitment for 2018, the implications of the impending safeguarding legislation. The Deputy Principals were present for the afternoon session for a workshop on materials for Boards of Management on Junior Cycle, Wellbeing Guidelines, Looking at Our Schools and School Self-Evaluation and also Board Self-Evaluation. The agreed materials will be rolled out to Boards of Management by the Senior Management Teams in schools over the next few months.

Leading Learning and Teaching Initiative

A working group meeting of the Leading Learning and Teaching was held on Thursday 7th December and the first webinar of curriculum leaders was held in the afternoon. Other supports and initiatives are planned.

Student Support Team Co-ordinators

A meeting of the student support team co-ordinators was held on 6th December the workshop addressing deal with a critical incident. Further sessions are planned.

Professional Development Service for Teachers and LCETB Partnership

The co-ordinators of SPHE in our schools were facilitated by PDST staff on 28th November to support the implementation of the new wellbeing guidelines at Junior Cycle. Further supports and sessions are planned.

BT Young Scientist Entrants

Best wishes to all our schools taking part in the BT Young Scientist Showcase. The dedication of our staff teams to providing students with opportunities with extra and co-curricular opportunities is to be complimented.

2018 BT Young Scientist Technology Exhibition Winners	
School Name:	Desmond College
Teacher awards:	Donal Enright
Award:	Intel Educator of Excellence
School Name:	Castletroy College
Students involved:	Liam O'Mara
Title of Project :	Hel-Mate – A concussion monitoring device

Category:	Technology
Award:	1st place Junior individual & Special Award- Irish Patents Office
School Name:	Coláiste Iósaef, Kilmallock
Students involved:	Alex Goodison
Title of Project :	FILTER An algorithm to help detect and combat Fake News
Category:	Technology
Award:	2nd place intermediate individual & Special Award- IE Domain Registry
School Name:	Hazelwood College
Students involved:	Conor Heenan, Stephen Long, Iain Kelly
Title of Project :	No keys, no problem!! An innovative key finder to aid individuals locate misplaced keys
Category:	Technology
Award:	3rd place Junior group

School Name:	Desmond College
Students involved:	Lauren McMahon, Hazel Corbett, Orla Mullane
Title of Project :	Alzheimer's Alert
Category:	Technology
Award:	Highly Commended

School Name:	Desmond College
Students involved:	Jack Corkery, Bryan Mortell, David O'Brien
Title of Project :	Don't Bin the Banana Peel- Biomass it!

Category:	Technology
Award:	Highly Commended

School Name:	Gaelcholáiste Luímnigh
Students involved:	Anna Shaw, Teagan McGarvey
Title of Project :	Boilgeoga & Broidearnach! Staidéar ar ráta imoibríocht Berocca
Category:	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences
Award:	Highly commended

Cllr. Donegan proposed that a letter be written to the 2018 BT Young Scientist Technology Exhibition Winners acknowledging their achievements. This was seconded by Mr. Tony Brazil.

Desmond College

A hand-held seed-planting device developed by Jack O'Connor and Diarmuid Curtain from Desmond College, Newcastlewest won the Science for Development Award for the project that best addressed a development challenge facing communities in poorer regions of the world.

Jack and Diarmuid received the Irish Aid sponsored €5,000 travel bursary for the seed planter which they designed to save both time and labour, and bring precision to seed planting. As part of their prize, they will join a group of 20 students and teachers from across Ireland on a schools study visit to Malawi with Gorta-Self Help Africa, next month.

Previous winners of the Science for Development Award have included young inventors of solar powered water purifiers, cooking stoves, solar refrigeration and seed storage.

The award was established by the Development Education unit of Gorta-Self Help Africa in 2006, to encourage teachers and students to develop ideas, using appropriate scientific technology, that address challenges faced by people in the Global South. It is sponsored annually by Irish Aid.

This year's award will be presented by Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs Helen McEntee at next weekend's Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in Dublin's RDS.

Ennistymon Vocational School

Ennistymon Vocational School has been selected as the only school in Clare and only one of forty nationwide to participate in Leaving Certificate Computer Science Pilot. Starting in September this year, the forty schools throughout the country will provide Computer Science as a Leaving Cert subject to fifth-year students. Minister Bruton also stated that it is the

Department of Education's intention that Computer Science will be available to all schools in Ireland by 2020. Ennistymon Vocational School is also part of the Digital Strategy, one of fifty schools nationwide.

Colaiste Chiarain, Croom.

Colaiste Chiarain has been selected as the only school in Limerick and also one of the forty nationwide to participate in Leaving Certificate Computer Science Pilot. Starting in September this year, the 40 schools throughout the country will provide Computer Science as a Leaving Cert subject to fifth-year students.

Mungret Community College

Mungret Community College has won the Robert Dunbar Memorial Libraries award. The scheme, backed by Children's Books Ireland (CBI) and dedicated to the late champion of children's literature Robert Dunbar. This award, like our school, is in its first year. The Robert Dunbar Memorial Award is given to two secondary schools and two primary schools in memory of the critic and editor, who passed away last year. Mungret Community College beat 158 other primary and secondary schools to the prize, which will see €1,500 worth of books donated to our new library. Congratulations to all involved.

Castletroy College

The school would like to thank Monsignor Dan Neenan for his dedicated service to the Board. Monsignor Neenan has tendered his resignation from the Board as he has been transferred to Adare Parish. We wish Monsignor Neenan every success in his new parish. The Diocesan Office has advised that they are nominating Canon Gerard Garrett, Parish Priest, Monaleen as replacement for Monsignor Neenan and the Board's approval for this appointment is being sought.

Cllr. M Hurley wished to acknowledge the good work of Monsignor Dan Neenan, he was a man of calibre who touched the whole community. Ms. Joan Aherne also acknowledged the Monsignor.

FET Division –Report

PLC

Ennis College of Further Education

102 learners have registered for PLC courses at Ennis College of Further Education at Ennis Community College for the academic year 2017-18. They are studying a range of programmes including Early Childhood Care and Education Levels 5 and 6, Office Administration, Business, General Studies, Community Health and Nursing Studies and Accounting Technicians Year 1 and 2. Many learners have already completed Manual and Patient Handling and Occupational First Aid Training in the first term and are undertaking their work experience in a range of settings across Ennis and the wider community. Picture shows new Principal, Brian O'Donoghue addressing PLC learners at Ennis Community College.

VTOS

Kilmallock Town Campus

Annual Awards Ceremony – 22nd November 2017

QQI level 5 and level 6 awards and certificates were presented to graduates of the FET centre in Kilmallock, in Business, Childcare & Healthcare. LCETB Staff and Learners were guest speakers on the night. This event was held in Deerbert House Hotel.

Workshops in flower arranging

Workshops in Christmas flower arranging was given to learners of the centre. A VTOS learner assisted in running these workshops.

Visit to the Access Office at UL – November 2017

The mature learner access office at UL, facilitated a visit from VTOS Kilmallock in November. Learners were able to meet current mature learners in UL. The aim of this visit is to encourage VTOS learners on to further education.

Kilmallock Road Campus

In December, VTOS held its annual Intercultural Day in Kilmallock Road Campus. Learners shared food and music from their native countries and many wore traditional dress.

The VTOS annual Christmas concert took place in the library in KRC. Learners sang, danced and played music in what was truly a unique occasion given the myriad of nationalities involved.

Shanagolden Campus

VTOS Shanagolden has facilitated QQI learning at RUSAL Aughinish, Askeaton, Co. Limerick and more recently has facilitated QQI certification process at Levels 5 and 6 for employees of the company in Supervisory Management.

The workplace partnership with RUSAL Aughinish continues. The VTOS Co-ordinator was contacted by the company seeking to employ a person in administration. The past learner recommended by the VTOS Co-ordinator is now employed on a part time basis at RUSAL.

YOUTHREACH

Shanagolden Campus

Baking Charity Enterprise as part of Practical Achievement Task- Donations to UHL Children's Ark Ward

The Practical Achievement task is a LCA Year 2 task. Each learner chooses a practical skill they want to learn. One of the learners at Shanagolden Campus is learning the skill of baking (apple tarts, scones and buns). She decided that instead of just taking home her baking that she would sell it within the Centre and donate the money to the playroom of the Children's Ark in UHL.

O'Connell Avenue Campus

PURPLE UP-Campaign

'Purple Up' was part of the International 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women. This involved a workshop with Youthreach O' Connell Avenue learners delivered by an Adapt Services Support Worker. A banner was created by a group of learners and teachers over a number of weeks and was displayed at a service on Thomas Street in late November 2017.

Simon Community Fundraiser

With support from various staff, a group of Youthreach O' Connell Avenue Learners made Christmas Cards and decorative trees which were sold in a fundraiser in early December 2017. €300 was donated to the Simon Community on December 21st, 2017

Hospital Campus

The centre's elderly neighbours were invited to Christmas Dinner to help promote the work of the centre in the community.

On November 17th, learners held a coffee morning for Crumlin Children's Hospital and raised €293.

The 6th years visited the Glen Youthreach in Cork. Learners were interviewed and filmed for a promotional DVD about Youthreach.

In December the centre received a welcome Christmas present, a donation of €10,000 towards a new bus from the JP McManus Benevolent fund.

Tuamgraney Campus

Learners engage with Raheen Community Hospital weekly to meet with the elderly who are residing there. Crafts, storytelling, decorating, horticulture activities are carried out between learners and elderly. This is hugely beneficial to learners and the elderly alike.

HOSPITALITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRE, ROXBORO

Longcourt House Hotel Newcastlewest

The Hospitality Centre has been working in partnership with management and owners for the opening of this Hotel. The Department of Social Protection worked in partnership with the Hotel, Hospitality Campus in recruiting 16 candidates who were long term unemployed from the local area. All candidates were trained for specific roles and jobs for the hotel and all 16 were employed. The Hospitality Campus worked on the site with trainees to get the Hotel open for their deadline on the 8th December.

Diageo Learning for Life

14 trainees were recruited from the live register that started in September and successfully completed the programme. 12 trainees got full time/part time positions. All received qualifications in QQI Level 4.

Government Excellence Award

The Hospitality Campus was awarded National Government Award in Excellence. This was announced after several months of judging panels in Dublin. The category the Hospitality Campus was successful in was Promoting Economic Development.

Launch of Traineeship

The Hospitality Campus was chosen to attend the launch of the National Career Traineeship by Minister Bruton. Two Trainees were asked to speak about their experience having been long term unemployed and they spoke about their successful career path and described the job they are working in currently. It was also requested that an employer i.e. King John's Castle would discuss their working relationship with LCETB.

RTE 6 One News

The Hospitality Campus was featured on the RTE news regarding the launch of the Level 6 Apprenticeship Commis Chefs. Featured was the Centre Manager, Apprentice and Enterprise Partner Bella Italia.

Southill Senior Citizens Christmas Party-Hospitality Campus hosted lunch, entertainment and mass for 70 locals on Christmas week.

LCETB Strategy Statement 2017 – 2021 Launch

The Hospitality Education & Training Centre in Roxboro hosted the launch on Tuesday 19th December 2017 of the LCETB Strategy Statement 2017 - 2021, which was officiated by Patrick O'Donovan TD, Minister of State at the Department of Finance and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The event coincided with the graduation of learners from the authority's Hospitality Education & Training Centre and was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Limerick City & County, Cllr Marian Hurley, Senator Maria Byrne, LCETB Board Members, local representatives and LCETB Senior Management, staff and invited guests.

EDUCATION UNIT – LIMERICK PRISON

Music Generation visited the prison on Tuesday, 19th December, and performed three Christmas concerts in the school over the course of the day, one each for the two main segregated wings in the morning and afternoon, and an evening concert for the female prisoners. The concerts were attended by prisoners who regularly attend the school and were a great success.

LITERACY

East Clare: 'Sights and Sites' exhibition was launched on Wednesday 13th December at Scariff Public Library. A big congratulations to all involved.

On Friday 8th December, the Brothers of Charity (BOC) group joined with Literacy - East Clare to celebrate the opening of the BOC's new outreach service in Killaloe and their client's involvement in Intensive Tuition in Adult Basic Education (ITABE). This was a lovely occasion with excellent feedback all round.

Shannon: The new allotment will be operational from mid-January. This is located at Hastings Cottage in Shannon. Duchas na Sionna has kindly allowed LCETB Shannon to work in the garden.

Ennistymon: Family Learning in Ennistymon is hosting two creative QQI Level 3 courses at present in the local Vocational School with evening classes in Stained Glass and Bread, Pastries and Desserts.

Ennis: International Volunteer day (5th Dec) hosted a talk from the Director of Clare Volunteer Centre.

Clare County Childcare Committee were invited into FET Centre, Clonroad, Ennis to support staff and learners to understand the new Affordable Childcare options coming into place in September 2018.

Family Learning organised a very successful Coffee Morning for Pieta House, Limerick to support their work in counselling. Pieta House provides help for those affected by suicide and is a suicide and self-harm crisis centre. A total of €765.50 was raised in one hour.

CABES Roma Families Learning Comenius Project was showcased with six other LCETB projects at a Leargas Event in UL on Friday 1st December.

NALA & LCETB advert in Live 95fm

For National Adult Literacy Week, NALA funded and organised for a radio advertisement with 3 adult learners from LCETB (2 from Limerick City and 1 person from Co Clare). The advert comprised of short snippets of learners speaking about their reasons for returning to adult literacy.

Guidance & Adult Literacy

In the 2017/18 AEIGS Plan in conjunction with Adult Literacy (Limerick City) have refocused and broadened their remit in terms of increased one to one learner engagement and providing front line guidance to ESOL and Skills for Work groups. Feedback from learners and tutors has been very positive.

Volunteer Tutor Training

15 volunteers participated in Volunteer Tutor Training in October. The training session provided comprehensive workshops on reading, writing and spelling, use of technology, phonics and also a guidance input. These volunteers are currently linked with learners requiring one to one support.

ESOL

2017/18 has seen strong demand for ESOL classes. There are currently 170 learners registered and participating in English Classes. Further classes are being set up due to ongoing demand including self-referrals and DEASP referrals. The first community-based ESOL class is starting in January in St. Munchin's Family Resource Centre.

HACCP Training

11 learners who completed L3 Culinary Operations as part of the Skills for Work programme received HACCP training and certification in July 2017. More HACCP training is being provided for learners engaged in accredited culinary programmes in February 2018.

Skills for Work update

2017 saw 19 Skills for Work groups attend part-time courses in the Adult Literacy Service in Limerick City. 9 of those groups took place between Sept – Dec 2017, of which six are progression in January 2018.

Integration of Language, Literacy and Numeracy

As part of the implementation plan for the Integration of Language, Literacy and numeracy strategy which was developed to support the objective 'to promote literacy and numeracy across Further Education and Training' (FET Strategy '14-19) , the initiative is currently being piloted in two locations:

FET Centre Raheen Campus-support is being provided to the Apprenticeship programme:- literacy, numeracy and study skills with the aim of improving examination results and reducing dropout rates. This support has now become an integral part of the courses.

The second project to engage with the integration of Literacy is a Community based Hairdressing Level 5 two year course. This opportunity to have additional support will motivate and encourage the learners to commit to completing the course and work through the barriers to success.

Learner Celebration 2017

BES/BTEI celebrates learners' accreditation on December 7th at The Strand Hotel. 256 learners from the Literacy Service achieved certification in November, in components such as Reading & Writing, Numeracy, Health & Fitness and Culinary Skills. This year also saw a number of learners presenting portfolios at Level 1, a first for BES.

Engaging with People who are Homeless

A lot of work has been done to increase the number of homeless people attending the Adult Literacy Service in Limerick City. LCETB are represented on the Mid West Homeless Forum and links with Focus Ireland and other homeless organisations have grown from strength to strength. A new programme (based on a Clare model) centred on the theme of home management ran from Sept-Dec with great success. This group is progressing in January.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

FET Centre O'Connell Avenue Campus

A process review of the Community Education Programme is being carried out between Dec 2017- March 2018 by an external consultant. A Steering Group comprised of AEO, Professional Development Officer, Community Education Facilitator and representatives from Paul Partnership and LCEN is providing overall guidance for the review.

The review will include:

- a descriptive analysis of the structures, process and activities of the Community Education Programme in Limerick City;
- a literature review and assess the implications of recent policy development on the delivery of Community Education in Limerick City.

A key element of the review is an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses and challenges associated with the current model, including funding model.

Focus group discussions and interviews with key stakeholders will be held as part of the review process. Stakeholders: Learners, Tutors, Part-Time Programmes, FET Director, Operations Manager, Community Co-ordinators & LCEN.

Conclusions and recommendations from the review will inform the future development and operation of the programme.

BTEI

LCETB - a key player in Upskilling HSE employees in the Mid-West area

LCETB, through one of its part time programmes, BTEI in Limerick City, is involved in the delivery of a Level 5 Health Service Skills Award to groups of HSE employees, who are in the workforce for many years but have to get their qualifications in place in order to retain their employment.

This group of learners (below) are some from a total of 50 learners, who participated in 5 separate courses that ran during 2017. All will finish the full Award over an 18 month period and are released from their workplace for four hours per week for the duration.

All participants are Carers/Health Care Attendants, with many years of 'on the job' experience. Coming back to learning has been a demanding, but very rewarding experience for them, and they are thrilled to be working towards their qualification with the first eight people achieving their Major in November 2017... they are totally dedicated and committed both to their work and learning!

Going to College as an Adult Learner

BTEI learners across Limerick City, who attended the recent 'Going to College as an Adult Learner' talk in O Connell Ave Campus, found the mature learner stories truly inspirational. The talk was an opportunity for learners to hear first-hand information about entry routes, options and supports available for adults in higher education locally. Mature Learners from LIT related their learning journey back to education and how they are successfully overcoming challenges to achieve in third-level.

The Mature Student Officers from LIT and UL were present to give practical advice and tips on preparing for third-level education and they facilitated a very informative Q&A session. The event which ran during College Awareness Week 2017 had a positive impact on the part-time programme learners who attended, with some now considering third-level in the future and how best to prepare for their next step.

Linking learners into LIT Culinary Arts progression options!

On the 15th November a group of BTEI learners from "Introduction to Culinary Skills" attended LIT with their guidance counsellor. Here they had the opportunity to meet with the Head of Culinary Arts for a question and answer session on studying in LIT. They were given a tour of the Culinary Department. The tour culminated in a three course meal in the Department's fine dining restaurant. This was a great opportunity for our learners to get a 'taste' of life in Third Level. Since the visit several of the learners have decided to apply for Level 6 Culinary Arts course. They will be following in the footsteps of four of our past BTEI Limerick City learners who have gone on to do this course in previous years.

ENTERPRISE ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Hospitality & Tourism

Discussions and some meetings have taken place with General Managers and Owner Managers in the Hospitality sector to determine future skill needs in recent weeks. As a result a new Hospitality Training Network has been established to include the Hospitality Training Centre, Irish Hotels Federation, and the RAI. From meetings held to date skills training in areas covering HR, Compliance, Digital Skills, Conflict Management, Leadership and Management have been identified.

Construction

LCETB and MWRSF have held two meetings with the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) regarding current and future skill needs. The CIF are finalising a national careers promotional campaign to target post primary students and LCETB have agreed to support this campaign once launched nationally in early 2018.

Apprenticeship National Competition 2018 LCETB

The inaugural apprenticeship competition was launched recently. The closing date for expressions of interest is Friday January 19th. The competition provides a great platform for further engagement between LCETB Training Centres and industry to collaborate with apprentices in the design and build of the Generation Apprenticeship new logo 'A'.

Skill, Planning and Enterprise Engagement (SPEE) Unit Department of Education & Skills

The LCETB and MWRSF were welcomed to a meeting with SPEE on December 14th, which discussed the following items;

- The National Skills Council, The EU Skills Agenda
- Governance, Manager Contracts
- Performance Metrics
- Plans for 2018 (Enterprise Ireland Clients)

European Vocational Skills Week 20th - 24th November 2017

The series of awareness raising open days and events held in centres throughout the week to promote vocational education and training were very successful. These open days included skills demonstrations and tours in some of our FET centres, for young people who will be progressing from post primary education as well as to guidance personnel in schools and for groups who might be thinking of progressing on to apprenticeships, traineeships or in to vocational courses in PLC.

The week culminated in the flagship Forum event on 24th November in the Strand Hotel which had over 80 attendees. The event celebrated vocational education and focused on Further Education and Training. There were a number of high profile speakers, including Dr. John Sweeney, Labour Market Council, and a discussion panel, providing viewpoints on the opportunities presented by Further Education and Training as a smart career path to high-quality jobs and increased employability and put a spotlight on the wide choice of further education and training opportunities available to learners and enterprise in the Limerick and Clare region. Eimear Brophy launched the LCETB Enterprise Engagement Strategy at the event and outlined the opportunities for collaborative working with enterprise.

Learning Limerick Strategy Launch, 30th November, Hunt Museum

The Learning Limerick Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022: Helping to Grow Limerick as a Learning Region –was launched on Thursday 30th Nov 2017 in The Hunt Museum by the Mayor of City and County of Limerick, Cllr Stephen Keary, with Eimear Brophy, Further Education and Training Manager with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, as MC for the event; and Carmel Kirby, Director of Social Development at Limerick City and County Council.

- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, along with the third level colleges, is committed to working in partnership with all stakeholders to implement this plan for Limerick and to influence education and skills policy locally, nationally and internationally.
- The purpose of Learning Limerick is to promote the importance of lifelong learning for every person, family, community and workplace in the Limerick region. This is to develop Limerick as a learning city and make education accessible to all sectors of society, no matter how old or young, or whether they are urban or rural dwellers.

LCETB DEASP Response to Economic Blackspots - Enterprise Engagement Training

The QQI Level 5 Hairdressing Entrepreneurship Programme is progressing well in St. Munchin's Family Resource Centre. There are 15 participants and additional supports have been put in place this month for the learners from the Literacy service; as well as the additional supports that have been given by the Information and Guidance Service. The learners will be going on work experience in hairdressing salons in February.

Evaluation on PLC Programmes by the Economic and Social Research Institute

The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) has reported that the PLC Sector "generally appears to be poorly connected to the requirements of the labour market". The ESRI commented that the lack of strategic planning by the PLC sector results in programmes being aligned to the demand of learners and the skillset of teachers rather than being aligned to employer's needs.

The PLC Sector enrolls 32,000 students per year. The programmes are of one year duration, and serve a dual purpose of preparing school leavers and others for work or acting as a link to higher education. The report demonstrated that on completing their course 33% of PLC Graduates go straight to work, 28% progress to Higher Education, 19% remain in Further Education and 12% remain on the live register. The ESRI Report commented that the PLC Courses are producing too many childcare, healthcare and community service workers and hairdressers and there is an "over supply of graduates with qualifications in these areas".

The ESRI Review commented that "despite conditions set out by the Department of Education and Skills in 2012 that all courses must be justified on the basis of labour market trends" .that this is not happening on the ground. The Minister for Education & Skills along with SOLAS has promised to implement a range of more than 40 actions to address the concerns in the review.

The review also reports "particular concerns that only one third of PLC Learners reported having access to career guidance during their course"

The CE Report was proposed by: Cllr. Mary Howard, and seconded by Cllr. Marian Hurley

The CE outlined the rules regarding non-attendance at Board Meetings and that Cllr. Ann Norton had now reached the non-attendance quota. Cllr. Norton missed these meetings due to personal reasons and the CE stated that under Standing Orders, with the permission of the Board, the time frame could be extended for another six months.

Permission of the Board was granted on the proposal of Cllr. K. O'Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Richard O'Donoghue

6. Finance, For Adoption

On the proposal of Ms. Catherine Harran de Parra, seconded by Cllr. Marian Hurley, the Financial Report for January was adopted.

The Audit Committee Report and Minutes were noted.

7. Board of Management Minutes:

On the proposal of Cllr. Mary Howard, seconded by Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon the following Board Minutes were adopted by the Board:

- a. Castletroy College
- b. Colaiste Chiarain, Croom
- c. St. Joseph's Community College, Kilkee
- d. Mungret Community College

8. For Appointment – Trustee Nominee to Castletroy Board of Management

On the proposal of Cllr. Elena Secas, seconded by Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Canon Gerard Garrett, Parish Priest, Monaleen was approved as Trustee Nominee to Castletroy Board of Management

9. For discussion - Aonad

For the purpose of understanding Mr. Dónal O'hAiniféin informed the Board that An Aonad Lán-Ghaeilge is a unit in which students are immersed in Irish from the beginning to the end of the school day. The Aonad operates within a parent school where English is the language of communication and teaching language of the school. There is an issue with the Department and development of Aonad is a complicated one. There is a requirement of 400 students for an all Irish school.

He raised the following questions:

a) What is our existing policy?

The CE informed members that the Board passed a resolution in 2013 advocating a Gaelcholaiste in Clare.

The Department now have a rule where there must be 400 students before they can establish a Gaelcholaiste. Not a potential numbers.

Mr. Dónal O'hAiniféin proposed meeting with the Department to discuss this.

b) What is our enrolment and recruitment policy for Schools that have An Aonad and can we look at provision of extra hours from existing allocation to promote Irish?

The CE informed members that we did get extra teaching hours in 2009 which was of benefit, however, this has been eroded over the last few years. This issue also needs to be raised with the Department. A qualification in Irish should be desirable or mandatory but this limits the pool of qualified teachers.

The CE informed members that planning permission for an extension to Ennis Community College is being sought but there are two conditions to be met:

- a) The Council requested that the façade be clad in limestone, this is very expensive, however they are willing to accede to a different form of render which looks like limestone.
- b) Parking – the Council have ruled that the proposed parking area was too risky, having staff cross the road was a risk. Talks are ongoing with Erasmus Smith House and proposed use of parking within their premises. This should fulfil the conditions laid down by the Council.

We should be able to go to tender for the extension once the façade is sorted.

Cllr. R. O'Donoghue raised the issue of newly qualified teachers going into the going into private industry. The numbers going into the teaching profession has decreased significantly.

Mr. Michael Cregan raised the issue of teachers having to attend college for 6 years to attain a teaching degree,

Cllr. Mary Howard stated that this needs to be addressed to keep students in the teaching profession and wished to add her support to Mr. D. O'hAiniféin.

Mr. M. Cregan also mentioned the School for the Deaf and St. Gabriel's and the resources available to the students attending these schools. Students are not being catered for.

Mr. Tony Brazil raised his concern on the shortage of Home Economics and Maths teachers. He requested that the Chairperson voice these shortages within the system publicly.

The Chairperson notified members that the Teaching Council will address the issue of teacher supply next week when a statement will issue.

Cllr. Liam Galvin commended Mr. Dónal O'hAiniféin on his passion for Irish and proposed that the Chairperson, CE and Dónal meet with the relevant people in the Department. He also wants to include Mr. Michael Cregan in what he is proposing as the School for the Deaf and St. Gabriels also are an issue. Seconded by Cllr. Mary Howard.

10. Schedule of Meeting Dates

Previously circulated. The provisional meeting dates were agreed, with the meeting of the 20th March to be held in Kilkee.

12. Any other Business with the permission of the Chairperson

The Chairperson, Mr. Sean Mc Mahon, proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Dolores O’Riordan, lead singer of the Cranberries.

Cllr. Richard O’Donoghue asked about Colaiste Chiarain and whether the tender documents had been received. The CE informed the Board that the lowest tenderer has been written to for clarification and allowing for standstill period decision should issue in approximately two weeks. The M & E tenderers will also have to be written to and that will also require a two week standstill period, final decision should issue in four weeks.

Cllr. Cathal Crowe asked whether Youthreach Shannon was moving to Ennis. The CE informed the Board that that Youthreach Ennis would manage Youthreach Shannon but we were struggling to fill places in Shannon. Cllr. Crowe mentioned the importance of keeping a presence in Shannon.

Cllr. Liam Galvin mentioned how beneficial the Men’s Shed was to the participants, and how grateful they were for the use of the premises. There were, however, some issues which he did not outline at the meeting, but he mentioned insurance specifically. He asked the CE to look into this.

Ms. Joan Aherne mentioned the signage coming into Raheen Training Centre, the old FAS signpost and lack of direction to the centre. She requested that we put up an LCETB sign. The CE informed the Board that this is a planning issue.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 20th February 2018.

(Signed) GEORGE O’CALLAGHAN,
Chief Executive

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Mc Mahon', written over a horizontal line.

Chairperson of meeting held on 10th February, 2018.