



MINUTES OF LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

**COVID-19 - LCETB BOARD MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM AND WAS NOT A FACE
TO FACE MEETING**

on Tuesday, 15th June, 2021, at 4 p.m.

Present: Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Chairperson
Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy
Mr. Michael Cregan
Cllr. Michael Donegan
Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald
Cllr. Liam Galvin
Mr. Michael Guilfoyle
Ms. Catherine Hehir
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Cllr. Sarah Kiely
Cllr. Joe Killeen
Cllr. Paul Murphy
Mr. Mark O'Dea
Mr. Donal ÓhAiniféin
Cllr. Elena Secas
Cllr. John Sheahan
Cllr. Brigid Teefy

In attendance: Mr. George O'Callaghan, Chief Executive
Ms. Shelagh Graham, Director of Organisation Support and Development
Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Director of Schools
Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of Corporate Services and ICT
Ms. Joanne O'Brien, Recording Secretary, Corporate Services

1. For Consideration; Apologies/Condolences

Apologies: Cllr. Ann Norton
Ms. Marian Petty
Mr. Sean McMahon
Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training

Condolences:

A Vote of Sympathy was passed to the following:

- Cllr. Mary Howard, (former Board Member of Limerick and Clare ETB) on the death of her sister, Ms. Bríd Howard.
- Ms. Deirdre Wetherill (Castletroy College) on the death of her father, Mr Alec Cregan.
- Ms. Eilis Liddy (Further Education and Training Department, Ennis) on the death of her mother.
- Ms Bernie Kelly (Ennis office) on the death of her aunt, Ms Bridie Moloney.
- Ms Evelyn Griffin (Ennistymon) on the death of her brother.
- Ms. Máire Lynch (Further Education and Training Department, Ennis) on the death of her father-in-law, Mr. William Corbett.
- Ms. Angela Russell (Scariff Community College) on the death of her mother, Ms. Pauline Keane.
- Ms. Aine Sheerin (Corporate Services, Marshal House), on the death of her brother in law, Mr. David Sheerin.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interests

All Board Members confirmed no conflict of interest with any Agenda item.

3. For Adoption;

Minutes of Meeting of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, held on 20th April, 2021, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Sarah Kiely, seconded by Mr. Mark O’Dea

4. For Consideration; Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Governance:

- a. Business Continuity Plan incorporating COVID-19 Update

The Chief Executive briefed Member on the measures and supports to date within the organisation. Members were pleased to note that exams were proceeding smoothly but that numbers sitting exams was reduced due to predictive grades and students opting for same.

The Board was advised that there was no major outbreak in schools or centres.

The Chairperson stated that this was a challenging time for schools and centres and the Chief Executive and Board paid tribute to all staff.

6. Correspondence

Department Correspondence

CL 0023/2021

5th May, 2021

Re: Allocation of Assistant Principal Posts 2021/2022

CL 0024/2021

26th April, 2021

Re: Revised Payment Mechanism for Hourly-Paid Bus Escorts with effect from the commencement of the 2021/2022 Academic Year Cessation of "Rolled-up Holiday Pay".

CL 0026/2021

28th April, 2021

Re: Recruitment of Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) - Supplementary Assignment Arrangements for the 2021/2022 school year.

CL 0028/2021

May, 2021

Re: Cost Limits for Post-primary School Buildings.

CL 0029/2021

12th May, 2021

Re: Special Needs Assistant Allocations for the 2021/22 School Year for Mainstream Classes in Primary and Post Primary Schools.

CL 0030/2021

24th May, 2021

Re: Parent's Leave Scheme for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.

CL 0030/2021

1st June, 2021

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Arrangements for Staff other than Teachers and Special Needs Assistants who are employed in ETBs.

CL 0031/2021

1st June, 2021

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Arrangements for Staff other than Teachers and Special Needs Assistants who are employed in ETBs.

7. For Consideration; Chief Executive's Report Incorporating;

Community National Schools

The initial Staffing Allocation for the Community National schools (3) was received in April. Meetings with each principal took place to ensure that staffing requirements for the next academic year are in order. An appeal for additional teaching resources for 2021/2022 in relation to the growing numbers enrolled in Glenroe Community National School was submitted to the Department of Education. An allocation of an additional teacher for Glenroe Community National School was sanctioned by the Department of Education in accordance with Circular 0019/2021.

New language sampler module for third to sixth class pupils in primary and special schools

All our schools have been encouraged to submit an expression of interest to participate in a new language sampler module.

The proposed language sampler allows schools to identify a modern foreign language of their choice, or Irish Sign Language (ISL). Schools will be supported by Post-Primary Languages Ireland (PPLI) in providing a six-week sampler module across a range of additional languages including Irish Sign Language (ISL).

This six-week sampler module is targeted at pupils in 3rd to 6th class for up to 1 hour per week within the normal school timetable. It will be open to schools to participate on a voluntary basis. Schools will have the

autonomy to determine the language they wish to introduce to the children and to secure a language tutor/teacher e.g. language teacher/language assistant from a post-primary school /a member of the school/wider community who is fluent in the target language.

The new sampler module aims to:

- Generate awareness among pupils of the range of languages used by their peers, including Irish Sign Language, in their schools and communities which may help support greater inclusion and appreciation of diversity in society
- Encourage uptake of languages at post-primary level
- Provide opportunities for increased levels of collaboration among the school community with regard to the celebration of languages and cultures
- Support implementation of Languages Connect, Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017 – 2026.

Mol an Óige National School

Dr. Joe O' Connell is continuing to work with the staff, Parents Council and principal of Mol an Óige National School with regard to the recommendations of the Whole School Evaluation (September 2020). The Parents Council constitution has been reviewed and will be brought to the next meeting of the Board of Management for review and approval.

Raheenwood Community National School

The Director of Schools presented to the staff of Raheenwood Community National School in May during one of the school's Croke Park Hour meetings.

Glenroe Community National School

The development of Glenroe Community National School continues with the first cohort of students coming to the end of their first year at the new school. Admissions for the next academic year are steady and the school will have its second classroom teacher from 1 September 2021. The Director of Schools has finalised a handbook for the school's Management Board and this will be addressed with the school in late June 2021. A very active Parents Council has been established to support the school in its on-going development.

Post Primary Schools

Principals and Deputy Principals Meetings

Regular contact with school principals and deputy principals has been on-going to ensure that schools are supported as effectively as possible.

Principals and Deputy Principals have continued to attend weekly meetings via Zoom regarding the management of the end-of-year, the Leaving Certificate Accredited Grades process and planning for the next academic year.

The principals of St. Anne's Community College, Killaloe - Ms. Aideen Walsh, Ennistymon Vocational School - Ms. Elizabeth Flanagan and St. Michael's Community College, Kilkee - Ms. Theresa Donnellan were all acknowledged by the Chief Executive, the Director of Organisation Support and Development and the Director of Schools for their outstanding contribution to the development of their schools and their wonderful commitment to the community in which they served.

Staffing Allocation & Appeal

The initial Staffing Allocation for schools was received prior to Easter. Individual meetings with each principal took place over the two weeks of Easter. An appeal for additional teaching resources for Post-Primary Provision for 2021/2022 was submitted to the Department of Education.

Training and Supports for post-primary schools

Support seminars and training are planned for post-primary personnel in the following areas;

- Online meeting of Special Education Needs Coordinator Group
- Leading Inclusive Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LILTA) online meeting
- Transition Year Coordinators
- SNA Training
- Supports for next academic year

The supports and resources made available by the Department of Education have been made available to our schools on a central hub on the Schools Division Support site - www.lcetbdrive.ie.

This also includes resources that the Director of Schools and the Support Team have been updated.

Thomond Community College & UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

Anna Linehan from Thomond Community College spoke at the UNESCO World Conference to promote educating students on environment and sustainable development. Anna and her teacher, Eric O' Donnell addressed an international audience of educators and policymakers at the UNESCO world conference on education for sustainable development. The pair were invited to speak at the conference which saw an audience attendance of around 2500 stakeholders on the role of schools, educators, and students in combating the global climate crises.

Anna is a third-year student and was the only student speaking at this prestigious event. She delivered a powerful speech on how action is urgently required to slow the damage being caused to our planet and to her generation's future. She outlined how she had become interested in the global climate crisis and how she had sought to develop her understanding further by getting involved in some of Thomond's extracurricular activities which seek to educate students on environment and sustainable development. Anna identified ways in which schools and communities can encourage one another to seek better solutions and create a paradigm shift on the global scale towards action over inaction. Mr. Eric O'Donnell, her Construction studies teacher, spoke on the many ways in which Thomond Community College has been engaged in climate and environmental awareness. School and community collaboration is essential, efforts based on education must be enacted in the community and there is a desire to see real and meaningful change in the Limerick community.

Thomond Community College has worked closely with An Taisce to establish a Green Schools program within the school and community. Ms. Veronica Lavin, the Green School's Programme coordinator at Thomond Community College helped the school reduce plastic waste by implementing a non-reusable plastic bottle ban on campus, along with many other educational programs.

The Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD, wrote to the principal of Thomond Community College, Ms. Norma O' Brien, to congratulate Thomond Community College and in particular student Anna and teacher Mr. O'Donnell for their fantastic input at the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The Minister outlined that the Department of Education is interested in publishing a feature on Thomond Community College in its next ESD newsletter which will be published in September 2021.

BD STEM Star Awards

BD Research Centre Ireland (RCI) in Castletroy organised in association with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board the second year of its competition for secondary school students in Limerick and Clare to promote the use of STEM subjects. BD RCI personnel worked with the Schools Division of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board to promote this exciting competition about STEM subjects and their ability to have a positive impact on our health. BD STEM Stars asked students to identify a key health problem and explain how they would go about solving or improving it using STEM subjects.

Pupils from four Limerick schools were acknowledged this year for their projects and research in identifying and solving health issues in Ireland today. The top prize of €10,000 funding for STEM projects was awarded to Desmond College, Newcastle West, Limerick with €5,000 to Salesian Secondary College, Pallaskenry Limerick. Scoil Pól, Kilfinane and Gaelcholáiste Uí Chonbá, Newcastle West received special commendation and €1,000 each for their projects.

The winners were announced at a virtual presentation hosted by BD Research Centre Ireland with the support of Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board. Professor Norelee Kennedy, Vice President of Research, University of Limerick presented the awards.

The winners and recipients of €10,000 were Desmond College, Newcastle West. Their project 'Exercise is the Key' was submitted by transition year students Aoife Lee and Emma Brennan. They looked at the issue of teenage obesity and the connection between lack of exercise and the rapid increase in the amount of screen time among Irish teenagers and developed a device that positively rewarded exercise with screen time using a modified power adaptor.

A special Commendation prize of €1,000 each was presented to Gaelcholáiste Uí Chonbá, Newcastle West. Gaelcholáiste Uí Chonbá's entry showcased the development of an electronically adapted fork to simulate the taste of salt thus reducing the need for salt in diets to improve health.

Padraig Fitzgerald, BD RCI's Site Director chaired the judging panel. "All of the students were able to clearly show how the STEM subjects they study in school have given them skills to solve real-life health problems. This is exactly why Ireland has such a strong reputation in research and innovation, attracting companies like BD to set up R&D centres in the country. Despite the restrictions around the pandemic in the last year, we saw a huge degree of curiosity, teamwork, innovation and resourcefulness in the entries. BD is delighted to be in a position to recognise talent in the area and award prize money to be put towards STEM resources at Desmond College, Salesian Secondary School, Scoil Pól and Gaelcholáiste Uí Chonbá in recognition of their projects."

Presenting the awards, Professor Norelee Kennedy, Vice President for Research at the University of Limerick said "I would like to congratulate BD on this innovative and impactful initiative. STEM skills are crucial to the future well-being and development of our island and this region, and it is vital that STEM education in the school system continues to develop to support these skills needs. This has been a long-standing topic of research and education at the University of Limerick, which hosts the National Centre for STEM Education. The BD STEM Stars focus on health this year is very welcome given the pandemic and the importance of students developing skills and knowledge to support their own well-being." To find out more about the winning entries and the BD STEM Stars winners from this year and previous years, [click here](#).

‘Shannon Region Junior Chef of the Year 2021’ Inspires Next Generation of Culinary Stars

A new apprenticeship ‘taster’ scheme for transition years with an interest in the hospitality industry as a career proved to be highly popular with students across the Limerick and Clare region over the past academic year. The initiative, facilitated by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board’s College of FET Hospitality Campus in Limerick and the Schools Division, is aligned with the national FET strategy to integrate ‘taster’ vocational courses into second-level education.

Since last September, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board schools have participated in two different hospitality taster courses specifically developed for transition years: a junior chef ‘apprenticeship taster’ and a barista skills taster. Running over eight-week cycles, one day a week, the courses were aimed at students who have an interest in the hospitality sector as a career, or in learning an essential skill for life.

The Junior Chef ‘Apprenticeship Taster’ course was run by a team of professional executive chefs from the ETB’s Hospitality Campus and the Panel of Chefs of Ireland. The taster course culminated in today’s competition specifically for transition year students – the Shannon Region Junior Chef of the Year 2021. One student finalist was selected from four schools across the region to represent their school in the 2-hour live culinary grand final in the Limerick Strand Hotel kitchen. Fionn Kennedy, a TY student from Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh was the overall competition winner and received the 1st Place Gold Medal.

The Minister for Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science, Simon Harris TD, sent a special video message to help celebrate the inaugural event.

Chief Executive of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, George O’Callaghan, who opened the competition, congratulated all of the schools and Transition Year students involved in the competition from Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh, Thomond Community College, Gaelcholáiste an Chláir and Mungret Community College.

One of the competition judges was Tom Flavin, Executive Chef, Limerick Strand Hotel. He said: “I’ve seen at first hand the benefits of the apprenticeship system to develop the next generation of chefs. This ‘apprenticeship taster’ course and the Shannon Region Junior Chef of the Year 2021 competition is helping significantly to encourage, nurture and mentor second level students who want to pursue careers in the hospitality industry.” You can view the event by going to <https://youtu.be/PJYjnYGEpdl>.

Cllr. Sarah Kiely paid tribute to those involved in the Programme and stated that it was a model that should continue for Transition Years. The Board discussed the supply shortage of chefs and Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald paid tribute to the local media for their coverage of the event and also stated that it was an excellent model, in particular from an industry and student perspective. She stated that this model was a positive step forward for the industry and expressed the hope that momentum would ensure this model would be rolled out nationally.

Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh students win national AWS GetIT Final

AWS GetIT is an initiative designed by Amazon Web Services (AWS) to encourage girls aged 12-13 to consider a career in tech – challenging long standing gender stereotypes.

Running between the fall and spring terms of the school year, AWS GetIT invites teams from different schools to an app-building competition to solve real issues faced by their school or community. Along the way, participants learn practical digital and IT skills, experience working as a team, and gain self-confidence by presenting ideas to wider audiences – all while being exposed to IT as a potential career.

Since AWS GetIT’s launch in 2018, the program has captured imaginations and grown rapidly: by the end of 2020, AWS estimates that over 23,000 students from 136 schools will have taken part.

AWS GetIT runs throughout the school year. The journey begins with an overview of the program and opportunities for women in IT at a school assembly. Then, the students are invited to enter an inter-school app building competition in which they attend an AWS GetIT Bootcamp, the students refine their concepts and prepare for subsequent prototyping and testing phases. From there, each school can enter up to two ideas into the competition. An AWS judging panel narrows the contenders down to 10 teams, with the finalists pitching their ideas in front of a wider audience at the AWS Summit – with an overall winner selected. Throughout the process, students are encouraged to adopt Amazon principles, such as to learn and be curious, think big, invent, simplify and do more with less, earn trust and treat others respectfully, and dive deep – mastering everything from the tiniest detail to the big picture. Along the way, they're inspired and supported by female ambassadors from AWS and the wider IT industry.

Students at Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh in Limerick City won the final of the AWS GetIT competition in May 2021. The winning entry, developed by students at Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh, Limerick City, Limerick is an app idea called Scan'n'Go which allows users to scan an item of rubbish and tell you what bin the item needs to go into – waste or recycling. The students created the app as they have seen an increase in rubbish in their local community, particularly since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic as more people are socializing outside and not discarding their rubbish correctly. The Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh students received a trophy and an opportunity to visit Amazon HQ in Dublin for a day in the life experience when Covid restrictions permit.

Students spent time learning about Amazon's working backwards approach to innovation and getting guidance from female leaders at AWS. AWS GetIT ambassadors and volunteers provided support, feedback and guidance on developing their application ideas in a fun and collaborative environment. The programme also introduced students to the variety of roles available in technology to give them a sense of the different types of career paths open to them, to help them imagine what working in tech might be like, and to help them learn about the positive impact that women are having in the industry.

Youth Work

A meeting of the Youth Work Committee took place on 13 May 2021 via Zoom. The group received an excellent presentation from Scouting Ireland (John Egan and Noel Leahy)

The Youth work team continues to work closely with all community groups in Limerick and Clare with the implementation of the targeted youth funding scheme entitled, UBU – Your Place Your Space, which provides over €38.5 million for youth services.

The scheme aims to provide services that support young people to develop the personal and social skills required to improve their life chances. These include services covering health, education, employment and social connectedness. The scheme targets young people who are marginalised, disadvantaged, or vulnerable. Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board's Youth Work team are excited to be involved in rolling out the new scheme with our community and voluntary partners.

The goals of the scheme are to;

1. provide young person-centred, community-based and out-of-school youth services to young people in need of support.
2. ensure that each layer of the governance structure adds value to the direct work with young people". In the context of the UBU funding scheme, these layers include DCYA, Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and funded organisations.

The Youth work team has held two briefing sessions in February to our Community and Voluntary partners who are funded under the old schemes. In excess of sixty participants including managers, youth workers etc. attended the briefings.

The team are liaising closely with the promotion of the following;

- Garda Diversity Internship
- SHEP Leadership for Living & Social Action' Programme
- Soar Training Program 2021
- DRCD Launch 2021 COVID19 Stability Fund
- Surviving Exam Stress & Support Yourself as a Parent (East Limerick Family Support Network Event)
- Pathways - All the news from An Cosán
- Covid-19 guidance update: transport
- Community Initiative to address the misuse of scramblers, quad bikes and similar vehicles
- Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative 2021 – 2022 (Dormant Accounts Fund) Consultation with Education and Training Boards
- Exploring the Meaning and Experience of Digital Exclusion in Limerick
- Clare Local Development Company in the next Bulletin – for Clare-based community organisations.
- Northside Youth Forum Re-engagement Sub Group: please complete survey
- Accredited Summer Course, NVC Peer Practice
- Creative Hub summer programme for teens

Local Creative Youth Partnership - LCYP

Local Creative Youth Partnership Strategic Plan Launch

On Tuesday 11th May Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board's Local Creative Youth Partnership launched its first Strategic Plan. One of three national pilot programmes, the Partnership is part of the Creative Youth pillar within Creative Ireland, with a remit to develop creative opportunities with young people in their communities.

The Strategic Plan identifies specific groups of young people to be prioritised in the establishment of creative programmes across Limerick and Clare. Young people living in communities of socio-economic disadvantage, those living with a disability, migrant young people and those living in remote, rural communities are all identified as priority groups for the work of the Partnership with an immediate focus on communities in the Loop Head Peninsula, West Limerick and Direct Provision centres.

Speaking about the initiative, Chief Executive, George O'Callaghan, said: "Partnership with stakeholders from the youth sector as well as from arts and culture is key to sustaining the work at hand. Limerick Youth Service, Clare Youth Service, Foróige, scouting groups and community and family resource centres are key collaborators, as are Arts and cultural bodies across both counties, particularly those with a youth arts remit." He continued: "Also pivotal to the plan are Music Generation Limerick, Music Generation Clare, and the ETB's strong Youth Work team within which the Local Creative Youth Partnership plays an integral part."

The Director of Schools also spoke about the work being done with young people in the age range up to 25 and how the published strategy values the voice of the child and young person as a guiding principle for its work. He said: "Consultation with young people in a range of settings continues to shape and influence the kinds of creative programmes presented. Through these consultations, young people have identified a wide range of activities that they would like to explore from the more conventional arts to aspects of environmentalism and popular culture."

Monica Spencer, Creative Youth Partnership Coordinator, also spoke enthusiastically about the strategic plan: “The voice of the very young child is integral to the work of Partnership, which has programmes in place with Limerick and Clare Childcare Committees. These programmes seek to hear the voices of those children in early years education and the non-verbal expression of babies through dance and creative movement.” She continued: “Working closely with Hub na nÓg and Creative Ireland, the local Creative Youth Partnership adopts a rights-based approach, aiming to find those young people who are hard-to-reach and seldom heard, realising the overarching mission set out by Creative Youth which aims to enable the creative potential of every child and young person.” Youth and community groups who are interested in finding out more about developing creative programmes in their communities should contact monica.spencer@lcebtb.ie. You can view the launch of the strategic plan by visiting; <https://lcebtb.ie/local-creative-youth-partnership-strategic-plan-launch/>

FET Division

Full-Time Provision

PLC, VTOS; Apprenticeship; Specific Skills Training, Youth Education & Training

PLC

Learners have completed Major Awards at Levels 5 and 6 at Ennistymon Campus. The ‘online file exhibition’ was extremely successful this year (part of exhibition techniques) and continues to reach thousands of people around the world. Staff and learners are excited to be moving to a new beautiful premises in the heart of Ennistymon for the 2021-22 year.

LCFE has successfully guided approx. 800 full award and 400 part-time successful learners through their Level 5 or Level 6 QQI course this year. LCFE has completed its first Pathways to Apprenticeship in Construction this year and the College hopes to expand into other Pathways in the coming academic year. Four learners from LCFE Photography Department have been nominated for SMedias Photographer of the year. A Media learner has also been nominated for a radio documentary. A learner has qualified as a finalist in the Graphic Design and Illustration section of the Smarter Travel Campus Awards 2021.

VTOS

From 22nd March to 1st April 2021 four learners from VTOS Kilmallock Town Campus completed a virtual work placement with Accenture, a company based in Cork and Dublin. Learners were tasked with completing a social media campaign for a business who wanted to go online. One of the learners was in the winning group, who won best campaign. On 16th April, learners attended an online workshop in Digital Marketing, given by CEO, Splash Marketing, Killarney.

Full-time delivery of Major Award in Music and Level 5 Minor Award in Engineering Drawing and Level 4 Minor Award Entrepreneurial Skills will commence at College of FET, Ennis Campus, from September 2021. Signage, new PCs and interactive screens have been fitted in Scariff Campus.

QQI Level 5 examinations took place in FET Centre Shanagolden Campus during May. Internal verification was conducted May 31st to June 4th in preparation for external examination for QQI July assessment.

Apprenticeships/Traineeships

Shannon Campus is in the process of seeking QQI validation for the awards on Refrigerant F-Gas handling and Refrigerant handling for Mobile AC units. This centre is the only provider of F-Gas training in the country and is in the process of expanding this provision to include Hydrocarbon, Heat Pump and Fire Extinguisher Maintenance Training. Discussions ongoing with AAG in the development of a new traineeship on composite training for the repair of newer aircraft. This will be the first of its kind in the country and will be jointly accredited by EASA and C&G.

Working groups are setup with local glazing employers to develop new Façade Designer Traineeship with Raheen Campus and to reassess suitability of the current Hairdressing Traineeship as a pathway to the National Hairdressing Apprenticeship. Marine Engineering Traineeship is being developed and scheduled to commence Autumn 2021. Apprenticeship training in Phase 2 is now well under way, with the first 4 weeks online covering induction and theory. Apprentices usually return onsite around week 5 to cover essential practical work and assessments.

Specific Skills Training

A new and positive vibe was created on the NLN Raheen Catering Support programme thanks to Limerick and Clare ETB who funded Surface Pros for learners. This inspired the catering learners to recreate the 'Today Show' recipe where the owner of 1826 Restaurant Adare cooked Maple Glazed Chicken Burger. Learners recreated the dish for their families via an online tutorial with their tutor.

21 of the 22 learners at FAI Kilmallock Road Campus completed this year's programme where 20 of those 21 achieved a full L5 award in Sport and Recreation.

Headway clients are gradually returning to onsite congregated setting services as the full vaccine programme for disability services is coming to completion. The Headway programme is currently offering a blend of in-house and online modules; with nine different in-house modules weekly and eight different online modules weekly. Headway will continue to offer some online services into the future to meet clients' needs. The Newcastle West Hub re-opened for onsite services on 10th May and the Nenagh Hub will re-open on the 22nd June.

The 'Be Well' Youth Mental Health Advisory Panel, presented 'Be Wellbeing Packs' to Trainees at Limerick CTC. The packs contained tips & information on wellbeing & self-care. The CTC continues to promote open and honest discussion on mental health and foster a culture of positive mental health.

Youthreach

All learners and staff in full attendance since East Clare Campus reopened on April 12th. Year 1 learners will have a Summer programme in the centre in June and will prepare for work experience in July.

A new Youthreach Co-ordinator has been appointed to Shanagolden Campus who previously held the position of Co-ordinator of the FAI Player Development LTI.

Since the return to Kilmallock Road Campus after lockdown, the programme focus has been on preparation for final year assessments and on preparing learners for progression into the world of work or Further Education and Training.

- 8 learners will complete the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) from this Centre (Two of those are from the Travelling Community);

- Learners have been supported to register on FETCH to attend the following Centres - LCFE, VTOS & FAI. Courses applied for are in Early Childhood Care and Education with Special Needs; FAI Level 5 Course KRC; Liberal Arts; Marketing; Retail Sales and Office Administration;
- One has stated that he wishes to go into the world of work, working with a family.

A new layout of the Horticulture Garden at Kilrush Campus with CCTV fully installed is ready for QQI Level 3 Horticulture Programme to start in September 2021.

Hospitality & Tourism

A new Traineeship in Professional Cookery (2 years) for the iNua Collection Hotel Group QQI Level 6 has begun. The First Shannon Region Junior Chef of the Year Competition 2021 took place on 19th May with post-primary schools. There was huge endorsement nationally from IPC, IHF, Fáilte Euro-Toques Ireland, Ireland, ETBS & IOT.

Part-Time Provision

Core Skills, Community Education, Vocational & Employee Skills Development

Core Skills

A national online self-directed Family Learning tutor training was created due to COVID-19 and delivered through Moodle from March to May. Participants attended from 10 ETBs. Trinity College Dublin has started conducting research on the impact of COVID on family learning delivery, what helped parents and what were the challenges? A number of other ETBs are involved.

30 learners from Core Skills Clare recently took their Cambridge B1 or B2 English exams at Galway Cultural Institute in April/May. Attaining these internationally recognised language qualifications is a huge achievement for learners who want to progress onto higher education or improve their employment prospects. The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund project was also part of this initiative.

An Adult Literacy Organiser provides online information sessions to residents in Direct Provision Centres on the International Protection System and accessing the Labour Market. FET Campus Shannon Town is preparing for the arrival of four Syrian families under the Refugee Resettlement Programme. Amber Flag was achieved in College of FET, Clonroad Campus, promoting mental health awareness, this involved a huge team effort online over past year.

Community Education & Training

The Annual Cluster planning meeting for Community Based Education in Limerick City took place online on Fri May 21st and was attended by 33 representatives from community groups and schools. The focus of the meeting was planning for the resumption of onsite delivery in Sept in keeping with Covid guidelines and the option for blended learning where appropriate.

Over 50 learners participated in a Self-Portrait project which was launched as an online exhibition during the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival. This project was an initiative to keep learners engaged with Community Education during lockdown.

Community Education Clare in partnership with Music Generation Clare provide weekly online singing classes to support the wellbeing of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board staff.

A video in partnership with Brothers of Charity Clare was produced which will be used both locally and nationally to advocate for a changing places facility for Co. Clare.

Three successful online programmes are taking place for reps of small local business for rural and social enterprises and community and voluntary groups on how they can best use social media to advertise and promote their products/services.

Vocational & Employee Skills Development

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) as part of the Healthcare RPL Pilot Project - PT Programmes Limerick East was successful in presenting 14 RPL portfolios during the June 2021 submission period. This project is aimed at applicants working in healthcare, using their work, and learned experiences to gain accreditation in their employment area. This was the first time a bulk submission of RPL work was undertaken in Limerick East and the submission is the result of a huge amount of on the ground work by the RPL mentor. It is clear that the assessment was conducted in a supported and professional manner and therefore achieved the objectives of the RPL programme set out by LCETB to a high standard. This model of RPL demonstrates validity, reliability, and authenticity and offers the applicant a quality assured programme and accreditation. The award also offers currency and value to the employers in the community. (Quote from EA report). Overall an excellent model of RPL assessment and presentation of integrated evidence. Well done to all involved in this RPL process. (Quote from EA report).

Vocational and Employee Skills Limerick City summer courses are due to begin and run for the month of June. Courses are mainly online or blended and are a popular choice for those who are working on their Healthcare and Childcare qualifications in order to work in these sectors or improve their chances of promotion or employability.

Support Services

Active Inclusion

- Limerick and Clare ETB AISS were part of an ETBI Sectoral Input at the AHEAD Annual conference 2021 Reconnection - Placing Inclusion at the heart of online learning and support;
- Limerick and Clare ETB AISS continue to work on the ETB's Public Sector duty project and completed the assessment phase in May 2021 with consultations with civil groups planned for June 2021;
- Staff from across the Learning Hubs have been involved in a number of projects including a learner survey on learners' experience of online and blended delivery which was completed by almost 500 learners. They have also been working with the communications officer to develop a suite of video's and promotional materials to promote the range of supports available.

Enterprise Engagement Support Service (EESS) and Information, Recruitment & Guidance Support Service (IRGSS)

- Harmonisation of current AEGI Databases is in train.
- Connecting with Skills to Advance Groups for Career Guidance Support.
- Development of a PLC, Apprenticeship & Traineeship Information Webinar for Post-Primary Schools.
- Developing a guidance pilot programme - Vocational Training guidance initiative based in Kilrush, Co. Clare.
- EESS inputted into Consultation on New Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan.
- EESS inputted into presentation to Ennis Chamber of Commerce re Pathways in FET.
- EESS presented to Clare Local Development Company on Pathways to Further Education and Training.
- EESS is participating in the national collaboration of ETBs on the SEED Project.
- Traineeships: Ongoing development of HGV Service Technician Traineeship, Façade Traineeship and Hospitality Traineeships.

8. For Adoption;

a. Finance Report

Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, seconded by Cllr. Sarah Kiely.

b. Annual Report 2020

Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Paul Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

c. Amended 2021 Service Plan

Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Paul Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy.

d. Report from the Audit and Risk Committee

Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Liam Galvin, seconded by Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

9. For Approval;

a. Lease renewal - FETC Bru na Sionna

Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Cllr. Sarah Kiely.

10. For consideration

a. Student Grant Scheme 2021

b. Student Support Regulations 2021

The Board considered the 2021 Student Grant Scheme and Support Regulations.

AOB

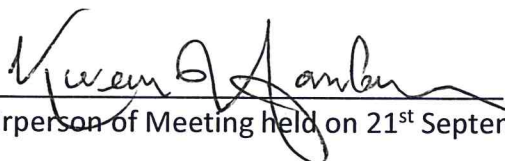
The Board congratulated Mr. Donal ÓhAiniféin in relation to the additional accommodation for Gaelscoil Mhíchíl Cíosóg Inis.

The Chief Executive, following query from Board in relation to Ennistymon New Build, advised that the contractors were due on site and that there was no further update on same.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 21st September, 2021, at 4 p.m.

George O'Callaghan
Chief Executive.

Signed:


Chairperson of Meeting held on 21st September, 2021