



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, 19th January, 2021, at 4.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Chairperson
Cllr. Michael Donegan
Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald
Cllr. Liam Galvin
Mr. Michael Guilfoyle
Ms. Catherine Hehir
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Cllr. Joe Killeen
Cllr. Paul Murphy
Cllr. Ann Norton
Mr. Mark O'Dea
Mr. Donal ÓhAiniféin
Ms. Marian Petty
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. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training
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. Clare Colleran Molloy
Ms. Sheila Hickey
Mr. Sean McMahon

Condolences:

A Vote of Sympathy was passed to the following:

- Ms. Rio McGonigle (Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom) on the death of her parents, Ms. Margaret Power McGonigle & Patrick McGonigle.
- Mr. Ignatius Mangan (Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom) on the death of his father, Mr. Patrick Mangan.
- Ms. Finola Sharkey (retired Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom) on the death of her husband, Mr. Barry Sharkey.
- Ms. Breifni Sharkey (Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh) on the death of her father, Mr. Barry Sharkey.

- Ms. Geraldine Neylon (Station Road) on the death of her mother, Ms. Mary Neylon (née Mc Goff)
- Family of late Ms. Eva Brosnan, former teacher in Desmond College.
- Ms Janice Griffin (Castletroy College) on the death of her mother, Ms. Mairead Griffin.

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 17th November, 2020, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

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.

The CE extended sympathy to all bereaved during the current global pandemic and paid tribute and acknowledged those involved in ongoing work.

The CE stated that while we are still operating during unprecedented times, statutory deadlines e.g. allocations, reporting to DES, continue to be complied with and paid tribute to all staff across the organisation.

Members were advised that Government advice would be forthcoming in relation to reopening schools, but the Board noted the high number of cases being reported.

The CE informed Members that the FET sector had frontloaded online work but possible challenges may lie ahead in relation to assessment and timelines, in particular with apprenticeships due to practical modules.

The Board noted that the majority of administrative were working remotely with some exceptions.

The Board noted that it was a challenging time for students and learners with learning disabilities and also the non-engagement with online learning in some instances. The Board was advised that, in general, there was a very high engagement across the sector but that this continued to be closely monitored.

It was noted by the Board the concern around examinations and mock examinations and the CE advised that some schools had postponed the mock exams until after the mid-term break. The Board was also informed that there was now only one company supplying mock exams due to one company going into liquidation. This was also a concern in relation to availability but schools would continue to monitor the situation.

The Board agreed that a decision on the Leaving Certificate exams should be made as a matter of urgency for the wellbeing of students and learners.

Following a frank discussion on the difficulties of learning for children with disabilities, the Board agreed that this should not be a "blame game" but that a way forward should be agreed as a priority.

Cllr. Liam Galvin expressed his dissatisfaction with meetings on zoom due to difficulties in connectivity. The CE advised that we are currently using the best technology to conduct meetings, operating as best we can and also within Government guidelines. Members of the Board suggested that anyone having connectivity or service issues should contact their local council office where facilities could be made available for meetings, whilst adhering to government guidelines. Members of the Board expressed their satisfaction with meetings to date.

6. Correspondence

Department Correspondence

CL 0075/2020 Re: Provisional Results of Calculated Grades for
November, 2020 Leaving Certificate Applied Year 1 2020

CL 0076/2020 Re: Arrangements for the Implementation of the
18th November, Framework for Junior Cycle with particular
2020 reference to school year 2020/21.

CL 0077/2020 Re: Grant Scheme for ICT Infrastructure -
November, 2020 2020/2021 School Year.

CL 0079/2020 Re: Arrangements for the Election of Staff to the
December, 2020 Board of KETB & DETB.

CL 0080/2020 Re: Payment of Tool Allowance to Craft Workers -
December, 2020 2020.

CL 0081/2020 Re: Revised Procedures for The Upgrading of Grade
21st December, III Secretary Posts in Schools to Grade IV Posts
2020 (Revision to Section 7 Of Circular F39/1997).

CL 0082/2020 Re: Revision of Schools Support Staff Funding
22nd December, Grant Rates for Voluntary Secondary Schools in
2020 the Free Education Scheme.

7. For Consideration; Chief Executive's Report Incorporating; Schools and Youth Work

Post Primary Schools

Muintearas in ár Scoileanna - Connection in our Schools

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board's Schools Division organised a webinar for staff of all schools on 1 December 2020 with the Internationally Renowned Dr. Zachary Walker.

This event was a very uplifting and inspirational session and was organised to acknowledge the outstanding contribution and commitment of all staff in our Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board schools since schools reopened in September 2020.

The timing of the event was carefully chosen to provide for an uplifting presentation to stimulate professional dialogue amongst subject departments and at staff meetings. It was also very conducive to our collective efforts on promoting personal wellbeing amongst staff.

Teachers, SNAs and PMEs/Teachers on COOP and school leaders enjoyed the webinar which also featured a panel of contributors including our Chief Executive, Mr. George O' Callaghan, Dr. Mary Shire, Director at Regeneron and Mr. Donncha Ó Treasaigh, Director of Schools. The event was viewed by over one-thousand staff across schools and colleges.

Remote Learning

The Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD, announced on Thursday, 6 January that;

- Schools will be closed until 1 February 2021

Minister for Education Norma Foley TD confirmed that all schools will remain closed to students from Monday 11 January.

The Government decision, taken on 6 January, on foot of public health advice to reduce mobility in the community, was to close schools for the vast majority of students for a period of three weeks.

As of Monday 11 January students, including children with special needs, will resort to a programme of remote learning in line with the rest of the Government restrictions.

How we are supporting Remote Learning and Teaching

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board has supported schools with professional development and workshops on sharing best-practice since March 2020 in relation to utilising on-line tools and systems. All staff meetings and staff Professional Development days have focused on upskilling everyone to be more proficient and comfortable with the school's excellent Learning Management System (LMS) - G Suite for Education (Google) or Microsoft 365 (Microsoft).

Schools also received training and support in using Zoom.

Students in our schools are very familiar with this Learning Management System and each school has a dedicated Remote Learning Portal on its school website. This is the main portal for accessing on-line classes and feedback from teachers.

The next three weeks

Schools will focus their efforts for the three weeks of Remote Learning on teaching, learning and the provision of effective feedback to students. Students have a blend of on-line 'live' classes, 'flipped learning' lessons, assignments and homework. Teachers communicate this information to students via the school's Learning Management System (LMS).

Supports for Students including Internet Connections and Data Bundles on Mobile Providers

The Department of Education and Management Bodies have been working closely with the tertiary education sector to address issues raised in relation to accessing online provision including broadband issues.

Management Bodies have requested that the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications reintroduce the Covid-19 Consumer Commitment which was in operation between April and August in 2020 as a matter of urgency. This commitment provided for the following:

- Any fixed broadband customers who do not have unlimited usage already as standard will be given the opportunity, if they require, to upgrade their package (which may be on a temporary basis), with their current service provider
- Any customer who does not have fixed broadband and who relies solely on mobile access to the Internet will have the opportunity to avail of affordable unlimited mobile data access/package from their service provider
- Fair usage policies will not be automatically applied to unlimited fixed and mobile data packages

- Service providers may implement appropriate permitted traffic management measures to avoid network congestion
- Access to healthcare and educational resource websites identified by the Government will be zero-rated for all customers where technically feasible

Customers experiencing issues should contact their service provider in the first instance, before contacting ComReg's Consumer Care Team at consumerline@comreg.ie or 01 8049668 (from 8.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 1.00pm on Saturday, excluding public holidays).

Wellbeing including physical activity

NEPS, the Department's National Educational Psychological Service, has developed advice and resources for keeping Children and Young People well during Covid-19. These resources aim to support children and young people's learning and wellbeing at this time.

In the context of wellbeing, NEPS has included a reference in its advice for young people and for parents of young children for the need for physical activity as part of everyone's daily routine while schools are closed.

There is an excellent range of supports available on www.loveparenting.ie specifically for parents to help with this. These resources have been created specifically for parents to use with their children and cover these areas;

- Having the chats
- Routines
- Managing your child's anxiety
- Parent Self-Care
- Maintaining Routines

For information, the relevant text can be found at the following links:

Advice for Young People: <https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Announcements/advice-to-young-people-while-schools-are-closed.pdf>

Advice for Parents: <https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Announcements/guide-for-parents-supporting-children.pdf>

Supporting Students with Additional Education Needs

The National Council for Special Education has developed resources for parents of children with additional needs who may benefit from specific advice during the period of school closure. All resources are available on the NCSE website and publicised through education partners and Twitter. The NCSE visiting teacher service continues to provide direct telephone/skype support to families and students. The NCSE resources can be accessed at:

www.ncse.ie/online-resources and include;

- resources for parents and teachers such as class\age level activities
- practical advice on how to take care of Assistive Technology in the Home and a suite of Occupational Therapy and
- Speech and Language Therapy resources (including a social story animation on attending a Covid-19 test Centre prepared by the HSE).
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BT Young Scientist 2021

The BT Young Scientist Exhibition was held online from Wednesday 6 - Friday 8 January 2021 and was officially opened by President Michael D. Higgins. The Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD also delivered a virtual good luck message to all participants

on Tuesday 5 January 2021.

Over 1,000 students from across Ireland took part in the first ever virtual BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE). It was the 57th BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition and the first to ever take place virtually.

The Exhibition included projects from 1,000 students across 200 schools in Ireland.

A total of twenty-five (25 projects from Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board post-primary schools qualified, with eight (8) of our schools represented.

School Name	Title of Project	Category	Group/Individual
Castletroy College	Covidiocy' - an emerging phenomenon	Social and Behavioural Sciences	Individual
Castletroy College	The development of racial prejudice in children: a statistical analysis on the influence of society and home life on a child's thoughts and attitudes towards racism	Social and Behavioural Sciences	Individual
Coláiste Chiaráin	Shining A Light On School Coronavirus Cleaning Protocols	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Group - 2 Students
Coláiste Iósaef	Project Poles	Technology	Group - 3 Students
Desmond College	Polarised, Anti-bacterial Face Shield, for use with Hurling Helmets	Technology	Group - 2 Students
Desmond College	"Using magnets to help prevent heart attacks"	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Group - 2 Students
Desmond College	Self-Sanitising Surfaces	Technology	Group - 2 Students
Desmond College	Personal Pop-Up Pod	Technology	Group - 2 Students
Desmond College	D.O.R.A.S. "Door Operation Rural Alert System"	Technology	Individual
Desmond College	Biodegradable Face Mask to Reduce Pollution & Protect the Environment	Biological and Ecological	Individual
Desmond College	Electronic Taste Simulation	Technology	Individual
Desmond College	A Chemical alternative to Google Maps	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Individual
Desmond College	Treatment on Ecchymosis using Ultrasound	Technology	Individual
Desmond College	Teacher's P.E.T. (Personal Educational Tools)	Technology	Group - 3 Students

Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh	Comparáid idir an méid iarann atá á fáil ag feoilséantóir i gcomparáid le uiliteoir	Biological and Ecological	Group - 2 Students
Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh	"My Nana & Telehealth".	Technology	Individual
Hazelwood College	An investigation into the use of oat milk as an alternative in baby formula products	Biological and Ecological	Individual
Mungret Community College	To Design A Learning Plan For Primary Schools To Prevent Future Hate Crime	Social and Behavioural Sciences	Individual
Mungret Community College	To investigate the nutrients of fruits and vegetables over a period of time.	Biological and Ecological	Individual
Mungret Community College	Blended Learning: Using online learning techniques to support 2nd Level Education	Social and Behavioural Sciences	Individual
St Joseph's Community College	Eco-Friendly Bale Netting	Biological and Ecological	Group - 3 Students
St. Joseph's Secondary School	Speedy Compostables	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Group - 2 Students
St. Joseph's Secondary School	Rockpool Quest	Biological and Ecological	Group - 2 Students
St. Joseph's Secondary School	Nanosilver:What does it do to our Marine Life?	Biological and Ecological	Individual
St. Joseph's Secondary School	Solar Powered Chemistry - Study Chemical Reaction Rates in Ultraviolet Beads	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Group - 2 Students

Awards and Highly Commended

Sixteen projects were successful in being selected as winners or determined as highly commended. Details of the winning projects are outlined in the table below.

Award	Category	School	Title	Level	Students
Biological and Ecological Senior group 2nd Place	Biological and Ecological	St Joseph's Community College	Eco-Friendly Bale Netting	Senior	Fergal Keane, Ciarán Bonfil, Fionn Doherty

Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Junior Group 1st Place	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Coláiste Chiaráin	Shining A Light On School Coronavirus Cleaning Protocols	Junior	Seán O'Sullivan, Tahnjie
COMREG - Commission for Communications Regulation	Technology	Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh	Automated Pill Dispenser - increasing independence, efficiency and reducing dosage errors. (Dáileoirl Pill Uathoibríthe - neamhspleáchas agus éifeachtúlacht a méadú.	Senior	Sarah Moloney
Highly Commended	Social and Behavioural Sciences	Mungret Community College	To Design A Learning Plan For Primary Schools To Prevent Future Hate Crime	Intermediate	Cathal Carmody
Highly Commended	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Desmond College	A Chemical alternative to Google Maps	Junior	Cathal Ryan
Highly Commended	Technology	Desmond College	Polarised, Anti-bacterial Face Shield, for use with Hurling Helmets	Intermediate	Emma O'Shea, Rebecca Enright,
Highly Commended	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Desmond College	"Using magnets to help prevent heart attacks"	Intermediate	Ethan Kirwan, Jack Kelly,
Highly Commended	Biological and Ecological	Desmond College	Biodegradable Face Mask to Reduce Pollution & Protect the Environment	Intermediate	Lucy Flaherty

Highly Commended	Social and Behavioural Sciences	Castletroy College	Covidiocty' - an emerging phenomenon	Intermediate	Orna Collins
Irish Research Council	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Coláiste Chiaráin	Shining A Light On School Coronavirus Cleaning Protocols	Junior	Seán O'Sullivan, Taha Njie
Science for Development (Self Help Africa and Irish Aid)	Social and Behavioural Sciences	Castletroy College	The development of racial prejudice in children: a statistical analysis on the influence of society and home life on a child's thoughts and attitudes towards racism	Intermediate	
Technology Senior Individual 1st place	Technology	Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh	Automated Pill Dispenser - increasing independence, efficiency and reducing dosage errors. (Dáileoirl Pill Uathoibrithe - neamhspleách as agus éifeachtúlacht a méadú.	Senior	Sarah Moloney

The Board and CE congratulated all prize winners and to everyone involved.

Board of Management Training

Training for Boards of Management took place in the first two weeks of December 2020 via Zoom. This is the first time that training for Boards of Management was delivered on-line.

The third and last round of Board of Management training has been organised for 2 and 3 February 2021 (choice of evenings). The training will be delivered over Zoom due to the Government's Level 5 Restrictions on movement.

Date	Venue	Topic	Duration
2 or 3 February 2021 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm	On-line via Zoom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Behaviour - Suspensions & Expulsions • Admission to Schools Act, Admissions Notice & Reviews/Appeals • Special Educational Needs & the Board of Management 	30 minutes (7.30 pm - 8.30 pm)

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 regular online meetings regarding the management of the operation of schools during Covid-19. A weekly online meeting for Principals and Deputy Principals takes place each Thursday morning between 10.00 am and 11.00 am.

Meetings, Training and Supports for post-primary schools

Support seminars and training were provided to post-primary personnel in the following areas;

- Digital Clusters training and community of best-practice Day 2/3 & 4 prior to Christmas
- Student Support Team Coordinators meeting
- Meeting of Transition Year Coordinators
- Student Support Team training
- Meeting of Guidance Counsellors
- Leading Inclusive Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LILTA) Cluster Day 2

Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP)

Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP) is a pilot initiative under the Creative Ireland Programme's Creative Youth Plan to expand cultural and creative creativity at a regional level, with a total of €300,000 divided equally between the three ETBs of Limerick and Clare, Kerry and Laois/Offaly. Limerick and Clare Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP) Steering Group reports to Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, the Department of Education and Creative Ireland in the design and delivery of a Creative Youth programme for the region.

The LCYP programme is funded by Creative Ireland and is drawn down by LCETB through the Department of Education.

Update on programme and activity: October to - December 2020

1. July Stimulus Package and associated programmes

The last quarter of the year proved to be very busy with new opportunities for activity enabled through the government's July Stimulus package. Each LCYP received an extra grant allocation of €50,000, administered to each pilot through the Department of TCAGSM. Funding was forthcoming only on proof of expenditure from accounts departments of each ETB. The open call for Creative Youth Arts Residencies in September was originally designed to support two residencies but became a valuable vehicle for dispersing additional funding from Stimulus. Following a submission from ten organisations, all applicants were eventually offered funding to undertake their programmes. Two applicants

felt they did not have the capacity to deliver the work, under current restrictions. Programmes enabled through this package are listed as follows;

Programme Element	Location/Dates	Status	Participant Numbers
Creative Youth Art Clubs in collaboration with Schools Completion Oct. 27 to Dec. 18 Midterm, 3 days. After Schools, 7 weeks from Nov. 2nd.	Ennis and Weston	In progress both online and in physical spaces. Ukuleles and art materials delivered to homes during Midterm	16 children, learning from a blend of online and physical tutorials 90 + engaging with videos
	Ukuleles for CY Art Clubs (16) and additional 8 for Older Weston club.		24 children
Creative Youth Arts Residencies. Oct to Dec 2020	Southill Hub and Irish Aerial Creation Centre	Proceeding from Dec. 4th with pods of four children at a time.	6 young people
	Garryowen CDP/Limerick Youth Service and visual artists Sandra Sheehan and Stephen Lappin	Proceeding from October with pods of four children at a time.	8 young people
	Clare Youth Service and visual artist Martin Shannon working on murals for the community garden at The Junction.	Proceeding from October with pods of four children at a time.	16 young people
	Croom Foróige with visual artist Liam Madden	Proceeding from October with pods of four children at a time blended with online sessions.	12 young people
	Fresh Film with film artist Rachel Power	Online co-production 'Mark us' through the Give + Take format	12 young people

	Murroe-Boher Scouting Group and visual artist Mark Bourke working on exterior of Murroe Muintir na Tire hall	October, online with all groups in the area	100 young people
	Limerick City Direct Provision Family Hub. Tutors and materials in dance and craft	Planning for delivery Nov./Dec.	10 to 20 young people
	East Limerick Cappamore Visual Art Programme with Julianne Hennelly	Commencing Nov. 9th. Combined online and pods of four.	15 young people
	Limerick Youth Theatre Costume Design and Making for Stage, Film, TV	Commencing Nov. 16th. Blend of online and physical workshops	12 young people
Delivery of Art materials to young people living in areas of deprivation	135 Packs already delivered to Ennis from The Art & Craft Shop		
	100 Packs already delivered to Kilrush from Gleeson's Kilrush		
	30 Packs delivered over Midterm to Cappamore From Paints n Pencils		
	100 Wild Atlantic Way activity books for distribution in Christmas packs from O'Mahonys		

Item	Update
Meeting of three LCYP Pilots	A second meeting of the three LCYP Pilots took place on 3 November 2020. The following statement was agreed and is now featured on the home page of lcyp.ie: Local Creative Youth Partnerships provide creative opportunities for children and young people in their communities There was much discussion on the subject of LCYP activity being based in an 'out-of-schools' context, with Katie Sweeney from DES emphasising this point with which all parties were in agreement.

<p>Programmes of work funded by primary grant from DES</p>	<p>Croom Boat launch: 11 December 2020 was the date earmarked for the launch of the boat, built over the summer by members of Foróige, Croom.</p> <p>NYCI Residencies: Rathkeale Youth Space and West End Youth Centre have both managed to continue with their NYCI residencies which the LCYP also supported.</p> <p>Ongoing Workshops: Griffin House, Direct Provision Family Hub, workshops with Dance Limerick and Limerick Youth Service as collaborators. St. Augustine's School, Sexton St., currently exploring possibilities.</p>
<p>Postponed Programmes</p>	<p>Programmes postponed until 2021 due to public health guidelines include:</p> <p>Pop-up cinema nights Camán project in collaboration with the Michael Cusack Centre and the Burren Outdoor Education Centre</p> <p>Programmes that did not have follow on from strong beginnings in 2019 include: Inspire ELC Programme Future FilmMakers</p> <p>We hope to reopen these programmes in 2021.</p>
<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>An evaluation process of the work carried out, to date, by the LCYP has just begun and is being managed by a newly recruited tutor, Sinead Ryan. Data has been collected from a broad range of projects and is now being collated and analysed. This will be an important resource for the Steering Group as well as for LCYP funders and stakeholders in assessing our work to date. Following initial research, both within and outside of LCETB, we are suggesting the following questions which may help the LCYP and stakeholders assess and evaluate the impact of the work:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What impact did this project have in the context of the LCYP Strategic Plan: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Did the project reach groups identified as marginalised or living in disadvantage? b. Did the project represent the voice of the child and young person? c. Was it of quality and did it have visibility? d. What partners were involved in design and delivery and is the partnership sustainable? 2. Were young participants asked their opinions about the project: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. In advance of it being set up? b. During the running of the programme or event? c. In an evaluative context?
<p>Tutor Panel</p>	<p>Following an interview process in late September, the LCYP recruited 22 new tutors with an incredible range of skills across almost every art form. Some of these tutors are already working on projects and are bringing a wealth of talent to programmes.</p> <p>No applications were received from dance artists.</p>

Strategic Plan	The text content of the DRAFT Strategic Plan is now with our designers. There will be two further opportunities for input from Steering Group members and from stakeholders. The text of the plan accompanies this report. We will also print a poster, A2 folded to A4 as a promotional tool for the LCYP which will share key messages and design elements of the plan.
Hub na nÓg Training Video	Anne O'Donnell and Eibhlis Bray have selected Limerick and Clare LCYP supported projects, currently being delivered in Weston, on which to base training videos on voice of the child. These videos will be used as training material by Hub na nÓg and beyond. Red Paw Media, an established LCETB supplier, will carry out this work on behalf of the three pilot LCYPs who have agreed, in principle, to share the cost.
Funding for 2021	The Department of Education advised that LCETB will receive a renewal of its €100,000 grant to continue its work for next year.

Update Limerick and Clare ETB Youth Work

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Mr. Roderic O Gorman TD has approved 2021 grant funding for Limerick and Clare ETB UBU Your Place Your Space Scheme for youth services - an increase of 2.5% on last years' funding - 2021 allocation €2,863,053

UBU Your Place Your Space provides out of school supports to young people. These supports offer a wide range of quality activities, which are mainly community-based. By providing this place and space, UBU aims to enable all young realise their maximum potential.

2020: Funding to support improvement in ICT infrastructure for Youth Projects and Clubs in the region - €86,056.00

The Youth Work Team met with the 26 UBU Your Place Your Space projects in December to support and guide projects on all aspects of the Scheme for 2021

Section 29 Appeal

Appeal against Permanent Exclusion, Suspension or Refusal to Enrol
Circular 0069/2020 introduced new arrangements and procedures for appeals under Section 29 of the Education Act, 1998 effective from 12 November 2020 onwards.

Section 7 of the Education (Admissions to Schools) Act 2018 has provided for the replacement of the existing Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 with a series of new sections numbered 29 to 29F. These new appeal provisions in sections 29 to 29F are designed to work alongside the wider admissions framework in the 2018 Act and will come into operation from 12 November 2020 onwards.

Following consultation with the education partners and in accordance with Section 29B of the Education Act 1998, the Minister has also determined the following procedures for appeals which will apply from 12 November 2020 onwards;

1. Appeals in relation to refusal to admit a student due to a school being oversubscribed

A request for a review by the board of management is optional in this type of appeal and must be made in writing or by completing and submitting, to the school's board of management, a Review by the Board of Management Request Form (BOMR1). If you are taking this optional review request to the Board of Management, it must be made prior to completing a Section 29 appeal application form.

2. Appeals in relation to refusal to admit a student for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed

A request for a review by the board of management is mandatory in this type of appeal and must be made in writing or by completing and submitting, to the school's board of management, a Review by the Board of Management Request Form (BOMR1). This review request must be made prior to completing a Section 29 appeal application form:

3. Appeals in relation to suspension (not less than 20 days) and expulsion
Section 29 of the Education Act, 1998 provides for an appeal where a board of management, or a person acting on behalf of the board of management (normally the school principal) expels a student.

To make an appeal you must complete the Section 29 Appeal Form for expulsion or suspension.

Appeals since the last meeting of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board

- A Section 29 Appeal regarding suspension of students for not complying with requests to wear face-coverings in Castletroy College was heard by the Department of Education in November 2020. The appeals were not upheld and the Department of Education did not allow the appeals.
- A Section 29 Appeal regarding suspension of students for not complying with requests to wear face-coverings in Ennis Community College was heard by the Department of Education in November 2020. The outcome of this appeal is awaited.

Further Education and Training Division

Full-Time Provision & Part-Time Provision

PLC, Apprenticeship, Traineeship, Youth Education & Training, Vocational & Employee Skills Development, Core Skills, VTOS & Community Education & Training
College of Further Education & Training, Croom Campus

PLC: This centre is moving to the existing Coláiste Chiaráin building in February. It is currently undergoing refurbishment with new IT labs, state-of-the-art Animal Grooming room, science labs, classrooms etc. Business Administration, Level 5, is being introduced to add to the diverse range of full-time courses already on offer.

FET Centre, Mulgrave Street Campus (LCFE)

Evening Provision PLC: For October 2020 season, LCFE Night School enrolled 1,004 learners with 86 courses running both onsite and online but QQI courses primarily online except for Art, Craft, some Childcare/Healthcare and some language courses. There were 75 part-time learners enrolled in the Cappamore Campus. Following the Covid-19 stoppage, LCFE recommenced activities to finish the unfinished courses on 31st August 2020 and 25 unfinished courses (mostly Arts & Crafts) all finished successfully. Additionally, a remaining 5 QQI courses from the Jan 2020 season were put through for Dec 2020 Certification, 52 portfolios. January 2021 courses to start 18th January primarily online; Hobby courses to start 1st February (COVID permitting).

LCFE has released its Prospectus for Full-Time Courses 2021/2022 with a number of new course offerings included.

LCFE launched their Green Gallery wall which will be a rotating gallery which aims to promote a more sustainable attitude on campus.

Apprenticeships: LCFE is currently running the Accounting Technician apprenticeship online.

FET Centre, Shannon Campus

Apprenticeships/Traineeships: A full range of provision for SST courses is posted to the PLSS calendar for 2021. This includes a range of online courses aimed at people who are in employment and wish to upskill.

Plans are in development in Shannon and Raheen to increase apprenticeship capacity in Electrical, Refrigeration and Plumbing. Plans are also in progress to develop new Electrical workshops, classrooms and online delivery rooms in Ennis Campus.

FET Centre, Raheen Campus

Apprenticeships/Traineeships: Construction of a Learning Hub, comprising of a briefing space and a learner support area, completed in Raheen Campus. Motor Technology workshop developed in FET Centre, Hospital Campus, for a new traineeship in motor technology. Training provision in Moyross Youth Academy further expanded. A new short course is planned in Floor and Wall Tiling to be followed by a traineeship in Furniture Making and Design.

FET Centre, Tuamgraney Campus

Youthreach: In consultation with QASS, a very successful work experience week took place for East Clare Youthreach learners in December. Great relationships have been built with employers over the years who understand the needs of the Youthreach learner. One learner who completed the programme in July is now in full-time employment following successful work experience last year.

FET Centre, Hospital Campus

Youthreach: A significant investment was made in upgrading the kitchen including the purchase of new equipment and the installation of an industrial extraction system.

FET Centre, O'Connell Avenue Campus

Youthreach: Learner of the year FET Centre, O'Connell Avenue 2020 was awarded to Youthreach learners James Garvey and Jordan Walsh for their excellent Leaving Cert Results and their outstanding commitment and engagement with Remote Learning from March to June 2020.

Vocational & Employee Skills Development: Apart from Practical Courses such as e.g., Culinary Skills or Payroll Manual and Computerised, most VESD Limerick City courses since September have been 'blended' with many sessions delivered on Microsoft Teams. Despite the challenges of this for part-time learners, figures taken in November show that there has been approximately an 85% retention rate on courses overall. This compares quite well, with any other 'normal' year. A total of 252 portfolios (212 learners' work) were successfully presented for certification in November in VESD Limerick City and these were all to do with work undertaken during the first 'lockdown'. Many contingencies had to be managed in the midst of this but all were successfully completed. Eight of the 252 portfolios successfully presented for Authentication from VESD Limerick City in November, were from Defence Force employees, done by means of RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning). Staff and learners on this took 'blended learning' to a new high when one of the learners completed his portfolio in Syria.

Community Education & Training: The Limerick City Community Based Education cluster meeting took place on Nov 26th and was attended by 25 community groups across the city involved in the provision of community-based FET. Among the issues discussed was the central role of technology in engaging learners during the pandemic. Many of these groups subsequently purchased a variety of digital devices under the MAEDF in December. Proceeds from the sale of 'Flavours of Limerick' a collection of memories, recipes and artwork from Community Education groups in Limerick City totalled €1200 by Christmas, this will be presented to Limerick Marine Search and Rescue in Jan 2021.

College of Further Education & Training, Ennis Campus

Core Skills:

Science for all, the first course of a suite of newly developed Science courses has started with more learner interest for 2021. A number of courses are being planned in partnership with Clare Co Council/Creative Ireland on Bio-diversity, Holy wells and Travellers. Simply Said (COVID-19 special) 2020 is ready for soft launch in January. First major Family Learning meeting was held LCETB wide in December. Implementing Family Learning Guidelines by gathering LCETB wide information on what is working well, and the FL priorities for coming year. A generic Family Learning form and brochure for LCETB has been developed and printed. MAED funding applications were successful and some of the supplies ordered will be shared LCETB wide. Group of Dads completed an Introduction to Kayaking and successfully achieved Level 1 Kayak Skills Award through Canoeing Ireland. The families of these learners have engaged with other courses as a result.

FET Centre, Kilmallock Road Campus VTOS:

Almost 50% of VTOS classes were delivered remotely during November. All of the preparatory work paid off i.e., device allocation to learners, TEL training for staff, TEL peer group support, learners set up on Teams etc. VTOS participated in several planning and review meetings with senior management, incorporating employer engagement, curriculum development, FARR returns, FET College of the Future. The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted on recruitment with PUP recipients not entitled to join full-time training. This issue is being addressed with the development of innovative courses for 2021 as well as developing a comprehensive publicity strategy for January 2021 with the FET PR team.

FET Centre, Scariff Campus

VTOS: New Office Administration Level 5 course to begin in VTOS Scariff in January 2021. 24 learners had 46 portfolios were put through for authentication in November 2020. Two new high spec prefab spaces have been constructed and are operational as classrooms at Scariff Campus.

FET Centre, Shanagolden Campus

VTOS: First Year learners are progressing and are adapting to online learning. They have completed assessments in most subject areas. Second years are coping better online as the process is familiar to them. Teaching staff have successfully engaged in upskilling on Teams and have all completed Teaching and Learning Online. Both learners and teaching staff have reported that classroom learning is preferential to remote online learning. Learner engagement has been mixed during Level 5. Two learners are using AISS psychological support MyMind. Links with local industry continue with two past learners gaining employment through VTOS as accounts assistants with FDC Group in Foynes and Tadhg O'Connor's Hardware, Newcastle West.

Support Services

Active Inclusion

A total of 933 learners registered for supports in the period August to December 2020. The types of supports requested are broken down as follows:

- 111 requests for information/guidance (11.8%);
- 155 requests for reading/writing/learning supports. (16.6%);
- 728 requests for laptops (78%);
- 75 requests for disability supports (8%);
- 85 requests for reasonable accommodation (9.1%);
- 62 requests for psychological counselling (6.6%);

(The supports figures won't evenly equal 100% due to learners requesting multiple supports).

- A total of 477 devices are currently loaned out to learners under the device equity scheme (21/12/2020);

- Under the Mitigating Against Educational Disadvantage Learner Assistance Fund, over €14k was approved in individual payments for over 130 learners in December 2020.

Information, Recruitment & Guidance

- Information Recruitment & Guidance are rewriting their Strategic Framework 2021 - 2025 in line with the new FET Strategy. A series of workshops are arranged for early 2021 to implement the Framework.
- EESS provided industry briefings for Guidance Counsellors. Webinars with Takumi and Regeneron were scheduled October to December.
- The successful social media marketing campaigns generated additional inquiries for Pandemic Unemployment training and Community Education training. Information Officers provided links and signposting for these courses.

Enterprise Engagement

- The development of the EESS video newsletter created a greater awareness of the EESS internally and externally. EESS in collaboration with Mid-West Regional Skills Forum and Code Institute have initiated participation in a Diploma in Software Development. This is as a direct response to a request from the IT sector. 47 learners are engaging with the programme to date.
- Manufacturing Sector: EESS have responded to industry requests for programmes in Project Management, Lean Six Sigma and Industrial Pneumatics.
- Hospitality and Retail Sectors: EESS have responded to industry requests for training in Conflict Management and the ILM Certificate in Leadership and Management Course.

8. For Adoption;

a. Finance Report

Adopted on the proposal of Mr. Mark O'Dea, seconded by Cllr. Elena Secas.

b. Report of the Audit and Risk Committee

On the proposal of Cllr. Paul Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Ann Norton.

9. For Approval:

a. Extension to Lease Agreement for FET Premises, Ennistymon

Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Cllr. Ann Norton.

b. Amendment to Castletroy Land Transfer to Limerick City and County Council

Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Sarah Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Elena Secas.

10. AOB

Members agreed that whilst meetings are on Zoom, commencement time for same would be 4 p.m.

It was agreed that the Director of Schools would provide a detailed report on the current and future provision of Special Classes and Special Units / ASD Units across Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board schools and colleges. This report will be included in the CE's Report to the Board at its February meeting.

Cllr. Gabriel Keating requested the organisation to submit a Sports Capital Application for the Burren Outdoor Education Centre.

The Board wished to thank all Members of Staff but especially to those recently retired and for their many years of dedicated and committed service.

A Schedule of Meetings was proposed for 2021 and this was unanimously agreed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 23rd February, 2021, at 4 p.m.

George O'Callaghan
Chief Executive.

Signed: 
Chairperson of Meeting held on 23rd February, 2021