



MINUTES OF LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

**COVID-19 - LCETB BOARD MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM AND WAS A COMBINED
REMOTE AND HYBRID MEETING**

on Tuesday, 18th January, 2022

Present: Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Chairperson
Mr. Michael Cregan
Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald
Cllr. Liam Galvin
Mr. Michael Guilfoyle
Ms. Catherine Hehir
Ms. Sheila Hickey
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Cllr. Paul Murphy
Mr. Mark O'Dea
Ms. Marian Petty
Cllr. Elena Secas
Cllr. John Sheahan

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
Cllr. Michael Donegan
Cllr. Sarah Kiely
Cllr. Joe Killeen
Mr. Sean McMahon
Cllr. Ann Norton
Mr. Donal ÓhAiniféin
Cllr. Brigid Teefy

Condolences:

As a mark of respect a Minutes Silence was held for the following:

- Ms. Mary Troy, Former Head of Finance, Limerick and Clare ETB.
- Family of Late Ashling Murphy who was killed tragically in Co. Offaly.
- Councillor Clare Colleran on the death of her mother Dolly Colleran.

A Vote of Sympathy was also passed to the following:

- John Garrahy (Retired Deputy Principal, Kilmihil Vocational School.
- Ms. Fiona McGrath (Music Generation Clare) on the death of her father; Mr. Bill Bloomfield.
- Ms. Catriona Tierney, Marshal House, on the death of her father, Mr. Tom Tierney.
- Mr. Simon Dalton and Ms. Yuki Nishioka Dalton (Limerick School of Music) on the death of Simon's Mother, Ms. Evelyn Dalton.
- Ms. Geraldine Gardiner, Marshal House, on the death of her granddaughter, Ms. Chloe Higgins
- Ms. Theresa Markham, Capital and Procurement, on the death of her Mother in Law, Ms. Frances Markham.
- Ms. Anne Enright and family on the death of her Husband Flan Enright (retired teacher Scariff Community College).
- Ms. Lorraine Markham, LCFET, on the death of her mother, Mrs. May Markham.

The Board, Chief Executive and Director of Organisation Support and Development paid fulsome tribute to the late Mary Troy, former Head of Finance in Limerick and Clare ETB and also Finance Manager in the former City of Limerick VEC. Mary will be remembered for her dedication, loyalty and as a most committed public servant and who was an exemplar in her profession. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilís.

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 16th November, 2021, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Liam Galvin, seconded by Cllr. Elena Secas.

4. For Consideration; Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Governance:

- a. Business Continuity Plan incorporating COVID-19 Update

The Board was briefed on the recent challenges of the Omicron variant but were pleased to note that all schools and centres remained open. The CE advised that difficulties remain in relation to teacher and student absences and that some year groups had to remain at home but due to the enormous contribution of staff, all services continue. The CE expressed the hope that the current wave of the virus had reached its peak and that it remains the focus of the organisation to keep all services open for students and learners. The Board noted the tremendous work of Management and Staff and paid tribute to all Staff across the organisation.

6. Correspondence

Department Correspondence

<u>CL 0057/2021</u> 24 th November, 2021	Re: Panel access for fixed-term/temporary (this includes substitute) and part-time teachers to the Supplementary Redeployment Panel for the 2022/23 school year
<u>CL 0058/2021</u> November, 2021	Re: Payment of Tool Allowance to Craft Workers – 2021.
<u>CL 0059/2021</u> 29 th November, 2021	Re: Arrangements for the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle with particular reference to the school year 2021/22.
<u>CL 0060/2021</u> 30 November 2021	Re: Grant Scheme for EU NRRP Funding to Schools to Address the Digital Divide, And Learners at Risk of Educational Disadvantage.
<u>CL 0061/2021</u> 1 st December 2021	Re: Study and examination leave for staff other than persons employed as teachers and special needs assistants employed in education and training boards.
<u>CL 0062/2021</u> 2 nd December 2021	Re: Appeal System for Permanent Principal and Deputy Principal Appointments.
<u>CL 0063/2021</u> 14 th December 2021	Re: Final closing date of 30 April 2022 for receipt of eligible qualification allowance applications (as a Result of the Findings of the Adjudicator under Claim 447/19.
<u>CL 0064/2021</u> 14 th December 2021	Re: Changes to the Domestic Subsistence Rates Effective from 01 December 2021 Payable to Staff in Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and members of ETBs and of ETB Statutory Committees.

CL 0065/2021 15 th December 2021	Re: Enhanced Minor Works Grant Funding for Primary Schools, Exceptional Minor Works Grant Funding for Post-Primary Schools with a particular focus on supporting enhanced ventilation.
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OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Colaiste Na Trocaire, Rathkeale 6 th December, 2021	Re: Appointment of replacement Parent Nominee, Ms. Olga O'Mahony to the Board of Management. Adopted on proposal of Cllr. Liam Galvin, seconded by Mr. Mark O'Dea.
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7. For Consideration; Chief Executive's Report Incorporating;



Community National Schools

Opening of Main Refurbished Building at Glenroe School

The pupils at Glenroe moved into state-of-the-art facilities on Monday 22nd November following the successful completion of refurbishment works at the school. Approval was granted by the Department of Education earlier this year to refurbish the school's main building. The works on the building help to build on a successful first year of operation for the school and increased enrolment this year. The refurbishment will provide excellent accommodation for the school for many years to come.

Glenroe opened in September 2020 following a collective effort and partnership between the local working group from Glenroe/Ballyorgan Community Council, the Diocese of Limerick, Department officials and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. Julie O'Connor was appointed as Head Teacher of the school. Glenroe joins a growing network of community national schools throughout Ireland. The school provides a child-centred education that caters for the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral, and spiritual needs of the pupils. The staff nurture pupil development with a rich and diverse learning experience where there is a particular emphasis on languages, wellbeing, technology, arts, and natural sciences.

Raheenwood Community National School

A Special Class for students with autism opened in Raheenwood Community National School on 6 January 2021. This is a very positive development for the school in meeting the needs of the community. The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) and Mr. Ciarán Crowe (former principal of Patrickswell NS) is supporting the school with this development.

Mol an Óige Community National School

Creative Ireland has approached Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board regarding a proposal to develop collaborative creative learning spaces as part of the planning and development of the new school building for Mol an Óige Community National School in Ennistymon.

The project will involve LCETB, LCYP, Creative Ireland and the Inspectorate of the Department of Education. Niamh Barry, a post primary Inspector with the Department of Education has undertaken research on schools as collaborative creative learning spaces – ‘Evolution of Post-Primary School Design and Use: Pedagogical Cues’.

New Year Welcome for Commencement of Construction at Site of Multi-Million Euro New Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh School Campus in Limerick City

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board welcomed the commencement on Tuesday 4th January 2022 of the multi-million euro development of a new school campus for Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh in Limerick City. The commencement was marked by Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh students at the site on Clare Street. Also in attendance was George O’Callaghan, ETB Chief Executive, along with the Chair and senior management of the school’s patron, as well as the Principal and the Chair of GCL’s Board of Management, the project design team and the main contractor.

The new 8,000m² school to accommodate 750 students involves an investment of more than €20m by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, funded by the Department of Education’s Capital Programme for Post-Primary Schools. The Design Team for the state-of-the-art new building is headed up by Thompson Architects and includes Rogerson Reddan, Downes & Associates, Don O’Malley & Partners and Integrated Risk Solutions.

Located on the former Kerry Group site on Clare Street, the campus will comprise seventy teaching spaces including five Science Laboratories, two Home Economics Rooms, Art and Textiles Rooms, Technical Graphics, Construction Studies, Engineering and Multimedia Rooms, together with a PE Hall, General Classrooms, Staff Room and a range of External Play Areas, Ancillary and Support Facilities. The main contractor for the project is Limerick company, Conack Construction, with work now commencing on site. Construction is slated for completion in 2023.

Virtual Parent Teacher Meetings

Our schools have made great progress in adapting to the challenge which Covid-19 has created for facilitating parent teacher meetings by switching to virtual parent teacher meetings. Schools are using either Zoom, Teams or Meets to facilitate parent teacher meetings and the response from parents and staff has been positive and very much welcomed.

Training has been provided by the Schools Division to schools on managing parent teacher meetings on-line.

Third Level Entrance Scholarships

Congratulations to all Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Leaving Certificate students (Class of 2021) who received entrance scholarships to various third level colleges and universities.

Muintearas in ár Scoileanna - Connection in our Schools

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Schools Division organised a webinar for staff of all schools on 30 November 2021 with the renowned Dr.David Coleman.

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 2021.

The timing of the event was carefully chosen to provide for a beneficial and supportive 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. Jennifer McMahon, University of Limerick and Mr. Donncha Ó Treasaigh, Director of Schools.

The event was viewed by over one-thousand two hundred staff across schools and colleges.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Schools Division, in association with Professor Stephen Kinsella (University of Limerick), will host a 30-minute Webinar for Leaving Certificate students, parents/guardians, Guidance Counsellors and Principals and Deputy Principals. This Webinar will outline the benefits of the newly developed Immersive Software Engineering course on offer at the University of Limerick on Thursday, 27 January 2022 from 8.00 pm.

Professor Kinsella and a panel of speakers will provide a brief overview of the entry requirements, the course, and the employment opportunities on completion. There will also be time for questions at this webinar.

Board of Management Training

Training for Boards of Management in relation to the work of Boards support of Teaching, Learning and Assessment has been drafted and will be delivered online via Zoom after mid term break in February 2022. Boards will also have the opportunity to participate in another one hour webinar on ethos and core values in ETB schools at a later date in 2022. These will be one hour sessions over two dates.

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 9.30 am and 10.30 am.

Meetings, Training and Supports for post-primary schools

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

- Student Support Team Coordinators meeting
- Meeting of Transition Year Coordinators
- Student Support Team training
- Meeting of Guidance Counsellors
- SENCo Forum meeting
- Student Voice Training for schools
- Leading Inclusive Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LILTA) Cluster Day
- Leading School Improvement (LSI) - a School Self Evaluation initiative to support SSE coordinators

Limerick and Clare ETB Youth Work

The Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth, Mr Roderic O’Gorman TD secured an additional €5 million overall for youth services. The Department advised that Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board was successful in being selected for one of the eight new services planned for 2022 for a site in rural Clare. These initial eight new services were drawn from a panel created for the period 2022 to 2023. The amount available is €120,000 per service.

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 Skills 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 Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board through the Department of Education and Skills.

Programme Element	Location/Dates	Status	Participant Numbers
After Schools Clubs:	<p>After Schools Clubs were developed in a number of locations in 2021. This area of activity is one that has strong potential for growth and is an one highlighted by Creative Ireland, for development within the framework of its next national plan that is currently underway.</p>		
	<p>The following schools and centres have worked exceptionally well with the LCYP in delivering creative workshops in this context in2021:</p>		
	<p>Ennistymon Vocational School: Podcast creation facilitated by artist John Lillis with a group of Traveller girls. Supported by North West Clare FRC Youth Worker, Emma Sams</p>	<p>Completed Dec. 21</p>	<p>6 participants</p>
	<p>Corpus Christi Primary School, Moyross: Drama Workshops led by Tutor, John Hogan. Supported by teacher Fionnuala Bromell. Thomond Community College will join this programme in January.</p>	<p>Completed Dec. 21</p>	<p>10 participants</p>
	<p>St. Clements Secondary School, Limerick City: Tech and Drama workshops with a group of migrant boys, led by tutors, James Ryan and John Hogan. Facilitated by a group of teachers working on a voluntary basis.</p>	<p>Completed Dec. 21</p>	<p>12 participants</p>
	<p>Knockalisheen Direct Provision Centre: Woodcraft and dance workshops led by tutor, James Ryan and facilitator, Ciara Nash. Co-facilitated by childcare staff in Knockalisheen.</p>	<p>Completed Dec. 21</p>	<p>13 participants</p>
	<p>Lisdoonvarna Direct Provision Centre: Drama workshops led by tutor, Jacinta Sheerin.</p>	<p>Completed Dec. 21</p>	<p>15 participants</p>

<p>Community based programmes completed in Q4:</p>	<p>Dance Programme in Dance Limerick with young people from Griffin House Direct Provision Centre, led by dance artist Rachel Griffin</p> <p>Audio Programme in Dance Limerick with young people from Griffin House Direct Provision Centre, led by The GAFF facilitators</p> <p>Wreath making in Ennis and Kilrush supported by Clare Youth Service</p> <p>Song writing with girls Group in St. Mary's with artist Jane Fraser NYCI residency, supported by Limerick Youth Service</p> <p>West End Youth Centre, Music and Visual Art programme led by tutor Julianne Hennelly</p> <p>St. Mary's Youth Groups, dance workshops and physical activity, supported by Limerick Youth Service and PAUL Partnership</p>	<p>Completed Dec. 21</p> <p>Completed Dec. 21</p> <p>Completed Dec. 21</p> <p>Completed Dec. 21</p> <p>Completed Dec. 21</p> <p>Completed Dec. 21</p>	<p>8 participants</p> <p>4 participants</p> <p>20 participants</p> <p>7 participants</p> <p>12 participants</p> <p>28 participants</p>
<p>Community Based Programmes commenced in Q4 due to develop in 2022</p>	<p>Dóchas Midwest Radio Play, writing and performance programme led by tutor John Hogan, co-facilitated by Dóchas</p> <p>Kilkee Youth Theatre, developing a sustainable model for youth theatre in the Loop Head peninsula in partnership with Clare County Council Arts office.</p> <p>Pallasgreen Mural Project, led by Tutors Julianne Hennelly and James Ryan This project began and will continue into 2022</p> <p>St. Mary's Young Mothers Writing and performance project, led by facilitator, Carrie Barrett and supported by Limerick Youth Service.</p>	<p>Completed Dec. 21 (phase 2)</p> <p>Completed Dec. 21 (phase 2)</p> <p>Both projects Interrupted due to restrictions and due to continue in 2022</p>	<p>6 participants</p> <p>8 participants</p> <p>6 participants</p> <p>5 participants</p>

<p>Priority areas of activity for 2022</p>	<p>In response to requests from partners and in line with the LCYP Strategic Plan, the following areas of activity are prioritised for 2022:</p> <p>Developing after schools activities in locations where target groups exist</p> <p>Continuing to work with young people from the Traveller community with a broad base of partners</p> <p>Sustaining our work with Direct Provision Centres</p> <p>Re-focusing on partners working with young people living with a disability</p> <p>Sustaining existing programmes for young people living in socio-economic disadvantage and in peripheral parts of the region</p> <p>Developing our participative festival programme</p> <p>Evaluating our Early Years Programme</p>		
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Latest updates on operation of Youth Work and Covid-19 Restrictions

Covid continues to restrict the desired normal functioning of all youth related organisations. In the weeks before Christmas, it was clarified by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) that the general imposition of an 8.00 pm time limit for groups was not to apply to youth work with vulnerable young people, which is deemed an essential service. This was welcomed by youth work organisations.

Further Education and Training Division (FET)



Full-Time Provision

VTOS, Apprenticeship, Youth Education & Training

VTOS

The main area of increase in learner numbers was from foreign nationals for English for Work programme at Kilmallock Road Campus. The online Healthcare course is up and running successfully.

Two part-time courses, Getting into I.T. (stand-alone) and Drawing Skills (integrated with VTOS) ran successfully at Shanagolden Campus. Word-Processing Level 6, Painting Skills and IT skills are scheduled for 2022.

Speakers from Loop Head Tourism visited the College of FET, Ennis Campus to speak to Tour Guiding groups.

A former learner visited Graphic Design groups at College of FET, Ennis Campus to speak about her experience of studying at Limerick School of Art & Design. The Art room at Scariff Campus has been upgraded to include a new interactive screen, Apple Macs and some key pieces of design focused equipment, which will be utilised by Level 5 Fashion Design learners.

Apprenticeships

The emergency provision for apprenticeship courses such as Plumbing and Electrical has started in Shannon. A new HGV driver traineeship is scheduled to commence in March. This is in response to meet the shortage of drivers in the sector. A new approved Driving Instructor course to meet the need to deliver RSA approved driving instructors, delivered by contracted training, has proved successful. A full course is currently running with a wait list for the next iteration.

In December, Raheen Campus hosted three hairdressing taster programmes. These one-day programmes (two for TYs and one for a LCA group) were very well received by the participating schools. Three additional two-day CNC taster programmes for TY students were also hosted.

New traineeships in Façade Design and Workboat Master are at an advanced stage of development and will run in early 2022.

Skills to Advance

Industrial Pneumatics: The Skills to Advance team in conjunction with College of FET, Shannon Campus and the College of FET, Raheen Campus delivered an Industrial Pneumatics Course to 7 learners from the following companies: Analog Devices, Modular Global and Zimmer Biomet as part of a pilot programme with Industry.

Diploma in Software Development: The Skills to Advance team set up a Diploma in Software Development course in FET College, Raheen Campus, that commenced November 29th 2021 with 30 employees. Companies that are engaging: CSA Associates Cleaning Company, Aldi, Supervalu, Milano, Uber, Airbnb, Others

IPC 7711 Rework of Electrical Assemblies (Institute of Printed Circuits): Following ongoing networking with Electronics industry cluster in Limerick and Clare IPC 7711 Rework of Electrical Assemblies commenced in December 2021 with employees from the following two companies: Vitalograph & RTR Electronics.

- **Youth Education & Training:**

Learner Mentoring Initiative (LMI): Phase 1 and 2 have now been completed. LMI Resource staff have been appointed; six days of mentoring training (Initial and Advanced) has been completed, evaluated and badging provided. Community of Practice sessions have been scheduled and two have already taken place. A new LMI Resource toolkit is in development and centres are in process of engaging supervisors for Staff Support and Supervision. Mentoring is due to rollout in all LMI centres from January 2022 to all learners.

Pathways to a Career in Outdoor Learning: 35 sessions have taken place in 2021 for Youthreach and CTC learners. An end of project evaluation session took place on 15th December, which was attended by OETC Managers, Centre Co-ordinators and centre staff who participated in the Outdoor Learning sessions with learners.

Headway's Nenagh Hub (STP) will open an additional day on Thursdays from 20th January to facilitate additional service provision. Programme has a new staff member working as part of Community Rehabilitation Case Work team 2 days per week to support work placements and programme progression. Two new learners are due to join the VT programme in January 2022, they have been sampling the programme since November 2021.

Youthreach

Staff and learners ran a very successful coffee morning in aid of "LauraLynn(Children's Hospice)" in Ennis Campus. A sum of €231.74 was raised.

Work placement took place in the first week of December for LCA2 Watchhouse Cross Campus and progression group. Placements included; JD Sports, Painting contractors, TROY Studios, Moyross Enterprise Centre and St Vincent de Paul Shop, Watch House Cross.

A key development in Kilmallock Road Campus this term has been the completion of the annual Centre Evaluation and Improvement Plan (CEIP). Another highlight was the Dept. of Education Inspection. This consisted of inspecting the Centre's Covid-19 compliance – A Safe Return to School and a Level 1. Child Protection/ Safeguarding Inspection (cf. Department of Education website for final report). Other developments include Completion of the Pathways to a Career in the Outdoors programme, which proved to be a great success. The embedding and consolidation of the Learner Mentor Initiative (LMI).

Work experience with Year 1 Scariff Campus learners took place in November, with some learners having part time weekend job offers throughout the year. 2 learners passed the driver theory test prior to Christmas. The group took part making a short film as part of the Fresh film festival in December.

Outdoor Education & Training – OETC Kilfinane

- Outdoor Education and Training Strategic Framework 2021-2023 published by ETBI. The move to SOLAS on 1.01.2022 will bring new funding opportunities under FAR for courses and capital costs e.g. Gate 1 approval from SOLAS for Fire Safety Systems;
- Commenced new FET OE courses in 2021 (Pathways to OE, Outdoor Learning Access) with more to launch in 2022. School provision continues with strong uptake from LCETB schools particularly TY, Wellbeing, Junior Cert PE;
- Funding received from SOLAS, Irish Adventure Sports Training Trust and MAEDF to provide Pathways & community based OE Training. FET department funding for minibus and maintenance. €23k approved from Sports Capital grant to draw down in 2022.

Outdoor Education & Training – OETC Burren

- Outdoor Education and Training Strategic Framework published by ETBI. The transfer of the OETCS into FET, SOLAS and the DFHERIS will develop new opportunities to embed Outdoor Education in FET;
- OETC collaborations with FET: Areas include Adult Literacy through Kayaking, Pathways to a Career in the Outdoors: Outdoor Education programme for Youth Provision, deliver modules for VTOS Tour Guiding, Community Education: Kayaking. School provision continues with Field Studies, Transition Year Life Skills, Junior Cert CBA for PE (Orienteering), Wellbeing Outdoors, Wellbeing On the Water;
- Funding pathways identified through MAEDS and SOLAS to promote inclusion, digital literacy and provide pathways to lifelong learning. €15K approved from Sports Capital for equipment. FET funding for maintenance and safety.

Music Generation

- TY students in Ennistymon Vocational School are enjoying Music Generation Clare's 'More Than Music' programme where they are composing and writing a song with the underlining theme of mental health and wellness. A well-known singer and songwriter has collaborated on this programme and worked with both students and MGCE tutors in the songwriting process. The students will get to perform this composition at the 'To The Moon' concert at Dolans, Limerick on 16th January 2022;
- Students attending the QQI Level 5 Music Course have been working on their performance module. As part of this module, these students have working behind the scenes on sound and lighting for the MGCE end of term concert at the West County Hotel;

- Music Generation Clare learners performed at a concert in the West County Hotel, Ennis, on Wednesday 15th December. This end of term concert showcased the progression made by many learners including the Junior Trad Group, the Music Generation Clare Harp Ensemble, as well as group classes in concertina, fiddle and bodhrán.

Part-Time Provision

Core Skills

- East Clare's great outdoor learning: The Kilkishen Reading the Landscape group had a small showcase of their work in the local Cultural Centre. Projects were displayed on the 12 O' Clock Hills and Scariff Further Education and Training Facebook pages to mark Heritage Week and have also been uploaded to Clare County Council's see website: heritage.clareheritage.org. The new heritage course Researching Sacred Sites Along the East Clare Way involves developing primary and secondary Research Skills and Mapping GPS coordinates, Google mapping and linking to East Clare Way;
- Level 6 Tour Guiding: All learners have received their results and are now certified Tour Guides and working. A face to face graduation event could not take place. A virtual celebration will happen shortly.
- Family Learning Co. Clare presented The Ripple Effect of the Kayaking Course in engaging hard to reach parents at the National Adult Literacy Agency's webinar on Tuesday 30th November, 2021. The course started with 6 individuals engaged 25 others across a range of programmes over the past year.

Community Education and Training

- In response to requests from learners and community centres, courses in December were allowed to run longer than originally scheduled in some instances with small numbers of learners. This flexibility was important for learners who had felt isolated during the earlier COVID lockdowns and attending face-to-face classes in small safe groups increased their confidence in returning to learning.
- 34 groups who are existing LCETB community partners completed the new community partner registration process. Four new groups have applied to become LCETB partners, and three have completed the process, these are Paul Partnership, Limerick Jazz Workshop and Coolmine Mid West. Limerick City Build has applied but not completed the process yet.
- In recognition of the work of Community Education Tutors during the year, two fun online wreath-making workshops were held before Christmas.

Vocational & Employee Skills Development

- The VESD in Clare have commenced delivering a QQI Level 5 Healthcare programme from the recently opened Ennistymon Campus. A one day course "Recognising and Responding to Elder Abuse in Residential and Community Care Settings" was also delivered in December;
- The VESD in Clare has also commenced a QQI level 5 Addiction Studies course in Ennis. This is being delivered in conjunction with the Mid West Regional Drug and Alcohol Forum;
- A former learner represented VESD, Limerick City at the recent ETBI conference 'Mainstreaming RPL in the ETB FET Context'. This learner spoke about how completing RPL with VESD was a route for her to go onto higher education. She is currently studying a dual Masters in WIT and Brest Business School. A great example of how RPL works so well for some!
- VESD and the Information and Guidance Team in O' Connell Avenue Campus were delighted to invite, a former mature student to speak to current learners about being a mature student in third level. This event took place on 24th November as part of College Awareness Week. This learner

started with VESD in 2017 studying Healthcare Level 4 and then progressed onto Health Service Skills Level 5. She is now in her third year of Social Care in TUS. She is a great role model to other learners and spoke to them about how the supports she received in O'Connell Avenue helped her on her journey.

Support Services

Active Inclusion

- Work finished on the newly redeveloped Learning Hub in the Mulgrave Street Campus with work ongoing on the development of a Learning Hub in Kilmallock Road Campus and the refurbishment of the Learning Hub in the O'Connell Avenue Campus;
- The MAEDF Learner Assistance Fund 2021 distributed just under €21,000 in financial support to learners attending full and part time FET provision in Limerick and Clare in November/ December 2021;
- management supplies. The FET Period Poverty initiative is being rolled out across 23 FET Campuses in December 2021/January 2022. This initiative will provide free products to women and girls attending LCETB provision.

Enterprise Engagement

- Collaboration with IDA and Midwest Regional Skills Forum in the delivery of government-funded initiatives for training and upskilling for workers that will be made redundant by Rettig in Newcastle West. IRG services will work with Rettig from January to June 2022;
- Commenced membership of the Midwest Renewable Energy Training and Education Network;
- EESS collaborated with Irish Road Haulage Association (IRHA) and Mid West Regional Skills Fora in development of HGV Traineeship and driving skills programmes;
- Membership of SOLAS working groups, development of sustainability awareness QQI modules for industry. Commencement date second quarter 2022;
- Skills to Advance:

Programmes scheduled to run for 2022:

Level 6: Industrial Electrical Systems, Communications, Programmable Logic Controllers, Electrical Principles, Preventative Maintenance, Team Leadership. Level 5: Lean for Green, Resource Efficiency and Level 4: Sustainability Awareness.

Information, Recruitment & Guidance Support Service

- Weekly engagement with Skills to Advance Groups for Career Guidance Support;
- Weekly online delivery of a pilot guidance programme - Vocational training guidance initiative based in Kilrush, Co. Clare;
- Co-ordinated an online Mental Health Worksop for Skills to Advance learners;
- Collaboration with PAUL Partnership on Guidance initiatives in Limerick City;
- Promotional campaign at the FET College, O'Connell Avenue Campus. "Meet You at the Gate!" Raising awareness of Guidance and Information availability on site.

For Adoption;

a. Finance Report

Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Cllr. Paul Murphy.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 22nd February, 2022 at 4 p.m.

George O'Callaghan
Chief Executive.

Signed:



Chairperson of Meeting held on 22nd February, 2022.