



## MINUTES OF LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

### LCETB BOARD MEETING WAS A HYBRID MEETING

28<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

**Present:** Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon, Chairperson  
Mr. Michael Cregan  
Cllr. Michael Donegan  
Cllr. Liam Galvin  
Mr. Michael Guilfoyle  
Ms. Catherine Hehir  
Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
Cllr. Gabriel Keating  
Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy  
Cllr. Ann Norton  
Mr. Donal ÓhAiniféin  
Cllr. Elena Secas  
Cllr. Joe Killeen  
Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
Mr. Sean McMahon  
Cllr. Paul Murphy  
Ms. Marian Petty  
Ms. Elaine Fitzgerald

**In attendance:** Mr. George O’Callaghan, Chief Executive  
Ms. Shelagh Graham, Director of Organisation Support and Development  
Mr. Donncha O’Tresaigh, Director of Schools  
Mr. Denis O’Brien, Head of Corporate Services & IT  
Ms. Aileen O’Sullivan, Recording Secretary, Corporate Services  
Ms. Caroline Hayes, Corporate Services

### **1. For Consideration; Apologies/Condolences**

**Apologies:** Mr. Mark O’Dea  
**In absentia:** Cllr. John Sheahan  
Ms. Sheila Hickey

### **A Vote of Sympathy was passed to the following:**

- Ms. Fiona Kelly (College of Further Education and Training, Raheen Campus) on the death of father, Paddy Kelly.
- Mr John Moore (Raheen Training Centre) on the death of his mother, Mary Teresa Moore.
- Ms. Mary O’Callaghan (Marshal House) on the death of her father-in-law, Michael O’Callaghan

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023, were adopted on the proposal of Mr. Sean McMahon seconded by Mr. Donal ÓhAiniféin.

## 4. For Consideration; Matters arising from the Minutes

None

## 5. Governance:

Update on Ukrainian Refugees – the Chief Executive stated that there is nothing more to report from what is included in the CE Report on REALT.

## 6. Correspondence

### Department Correspondence

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <u>CL 0006/2023</u><br>January 2023     | Re: Staffing arrangements in Primary Schools for the 2023/24 school year.  |
| <u>CL 0007/2023</u><br>20 February 2023 | Re: Revision of Teacher Salaries under The Building Momentum Pay Agreement with effect from 01 March 2023.   |
| <u>CL 0008/2023</u><br>20 February 2023 | Re: Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) under Building Momentum Pay Agreement with effect from 01 March 2023.   |
| <u>0009/2023</u><br>20 February 2023    | Re: Revision of Salaries and Allowances of Certain Grades other than Teachers and SNAs employed by ETBs under The Building Momentum Pay Agreement with effect from 01 March 2023.  |
| <u>0011/2023</u><br>20 February 2023    | Re: Revision of Salaries of Clerical Officers and Caretakers employed under the 1978/1979 Scheme under The Building Momentum Pay Agreement effective from 01 March 2023.   |
| <u>0012/2023</u><br>23 February 2023    | Re: Graduate Certificate in the Education of Pupils on the Autism Spectrum (AS) for teachers working with Pupils on the AS in Special Schools, Special Classes or as Special Education Teachers in mainstream Primary and Post-Primary Schools, 2023/2024. |

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
|                                      |  |
| <u>0013/2023</u><br>23 February 2023 | Re: Post-Graduate Diploma Programme of Continuing Professional Development for Special Education Teachers, 2023/2024.  |
| <u>CL 0015/2023</u><br>6 March 2023  | Re: Amendments to Junior Cycle Irish T1 and T2 specifications and assessment arrangements for Classroom-Based Assessments 1 and 2.                                 |
| <u>CL 0014/2023</u><br>7 March 2023  | Re: Post-Graduate Certificate/Diploma Programme of Continuing Professional Development for Teachers working with Students with Special Educational Needs (Autism). |
| <u>CL 0017/2023;</u><br>9 March 2023 | Re: Primary Curriculum Framework.  |

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

### ETB Day

#### Limerick and Clare ETB takes home honours at Education and Training Board Excellence Awards

Education and Training Boards Ireland marked a very special milestone on 2 March, celebrating 10 years since the establishment of 16 Education and Training Boards throughout the State. A week-long celebration of students, learners and staff from ETBs throughout Ireland took place from February 27th to March 3rd.

One of the highlights of the week was the National ETB Excellence Awards at Croke Park, Dublin which took place on ETB Day on Thursday March 2nd and was hosted by RTÉ newsreader and journalist, Ray Kennedy, who is also a former City of Dublin ETB student. ETB's all over Ireland competed for awards in categories including: Care, Respect, Equality, Community, Youth Services, Education, Further Education and Training, Organisation Support and Development, ETB Hero and Gradam Sármhaitheasa sa Ghaeloideachas.

Limerick and Clare ETB was delighted to win gold at the event; with Karol Torpey from Killaloe Community College, County Clare, awarded first place in the Excellence in Care category. The award recognised Karol's work in caring for the emotional, spiritual and social needs of the entire school community including establishing a strong connection via social media.

Other Limerick and Clare ETB nominees at Croke Park included Thomond Community College for Excellence in Education for its Leading Learning, Teaching and Inclusion initiative and the ETB's Local Creative Youth Partnership was nominated for an Excellence in Youth Services award for its Future Film Makers 2022 project.

#### Community National Schools

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board is supporting its three Community National Schools continues - Mol an Óige CNS, Ennistymon, Raheen Wood CNS, Scariff and Glenroe with enrolments for the new academic year 2023/2024.

Regular meetings with the principals of all three Community National Schools are held to support the work of these schools. Enrolments for all three locations are projected to be higher than September 2022 which is contrary to the situation in many parts of Ireland with a national decline in pupil numbers at primary school according to CSO and Department of Education data.

## **Post Primary Schools**

### **Coláiste na Trócaire All-Ireland Champions in the Niall McInerney Cup**

Congratulation to all students, coaches and parents as well as the entire school community of Coláiste na Trócaire, Rathkeale on winning the All Ireland PPS Senior D Hurling final v Coláiste Phádraig CBS, Lucan, which takes place in Portlaoise on Thursday 16th March at 1:30pm. Coláiste na Trócaire trailed at half time but rallied strongly to win the match. The final score was 2-21 to 1-16.

### **Amalgamation of schools in Ennistymon, Co. Clare**

Regular meetings of the patrons of the three post-primary schools in Ennistymon are taking place in advance of the amalgamation of the schools and the anticipated opening of the new campus in September 2023.

The patrons, interim Board of Management and principal are working very effectively in preparing for the amalgamation of the three schools. Regular meetings with the patron representatives of the patrons, the newly appointed principal, Orla Conway and the three current principals ensure that the communities of each respective school are kept informed about the school's development. Staff and parents were briefed recently on the arrangements for the amalgamation scheduled to take place on 1 September 2023.

### **Enrolment at Post-Primary in Ennis**

Limerick and Clare ETB worked closely with the patrons (CEIST, Diocese of Killaloe, ERST and Limerick and Clare ETB) of the post-primary schools in Ennis Again this year to implement the same process that worked so effectively in 2022 to address the issue of students without school places at post-primary in Ennis.

The patrons and school principals worked with the facilitator (Mr. Eamon Stack, former Chief Inspector in the Department of Education) to implement the Unified Admissions Process for enrolment to post-primary in Ennis for September 2023. The patrons are very grateful to the principals for their cooperation with this year's new process which has been extremely successful. All students received an offer of a school place in accordance with their choice of schools through the common application form.

A meeting of the patrons with the facilitator will take place shortly to review the process. The Department of Education and Tusla have praised the operation of the Unified Admissions Process for enrolment to post-primary in Ennis and this has been acknowledged by the principals' network group in Ennis also.

### **Responding to the needs of Ukrainian Families displaced by War**

#### **Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT)**

The Limerick and Clare REALT Team meets weekly to address the enrolment of children requiring school places in Limerick and Clare.

All children who have arrived in Limerick and Clare have been enrolled in schools at both primary and post-primary to date in Limerick and Clare.

Information for parents in Ukrainian and Russian on accessing school places is available on [www.lcetb.ie](http://www.lcetb.ie).

The Department of Education confirmed that as of 1 March, 14,931 Ukrainian pupils have been enrolled in schools across Ireland. Out of that figure, 9,650 of these pupils have been accommodated in primary schools while 5,281 pupils have enrolled in post-primary schools.

Current data indicates an enrolment rate of 91% among Ukrainian children aged 5-18.

| County   | Primary | Post-Primary |
|----------|---------|--------------|
| Clare    | 573     | 340          |
| Limerick | 308     | 195          |

The Schools Division has created a specially designed and curated support hub for teachers and staff of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board schools and colleges to guide schools on meeting the needs of displaced students from Ukraine. This hub provides resources, advice and guidance for schools which can be accessed quickly and with ease.

The resources cover both the needs of staff in our Community National School network and Community Colleges. Resources include:

- Trauma-Informed Resources for Schools
- Links to NEPS Resources
- Supports for Parents and Guardians
- Useful Links

Additional information for parents in Ukrainian and Russian on accessing school places is available on [gov.ie/Ukraine](http://gov.ie/Ukraine) and [www.lcetb.ie](http://www.lcetb.ie).

#### **Early Careers Event Inspires Students to Consider a Career in Healthcare**

The Junior Health Sciences Early Careers Event was held on Tuesday the 28th February 2023. This was a virtual live event hosted by the Health Sciences Academy in conjunction with Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board and Limerick Education Support Centre. It aims to provide information on careers and programmes of study in health. It was the 3rd year hosting this successful event. It showcased healthcare as an option for further study and career opportunities. Building on the success of the past 2 years, and incorporating feedback from students, we have created this event to be as informative and interactive as possible.

Questions were gathered in advance through the Padlet videos, TY Coordinators and these were answered during the event. These were answered live on the 28th of February (event day).

Over 10,000 Transition Year and 5th Year students from across the Midwest region virtually attended the Junior Health Sciences Academy 'Early Careers' Event. Dedicated health professionals were praised by leading sports and media stars at the recent Junior Health Sciences Academy 'Early Careers' Event which encouraged students to think about a career in healthcare.

Hosted by the Health Sciences Academy (HSA), together with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and Limerick Education Centre, the online event gave students valuable information about the educational courses and careers that are open to them in healthcare in the MidWest region.

#### **Narrative 4 Empathy School Awards**

Narrative 4 is an empathy education programme that started in high schools in the United States of America and now runs in over five countries. Narrative 4 was established to address isolation in young people by creating a space for young people to connect and share their own stories and experiences with each other. This helps them to see the world from another's perspective so that they can understand themselves and other people better. Storytelling is a powerful tool that allows us to see the commonality of human experience. N4 trains teachers in an evidence-based teaching method that fosters connection, empathy and encourages positive relationships in the classroom.

In 2016, Narrative 4 Ireland replicated the US model and began running the programme in Ireland with advice from the Schools Division of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board through one of its post-primary Community Colleges - Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh. The programme was developed under the guidelines for the National Council for Curriculum & Assessment (NCCA) Junior Cycle Wellbeing Unit.

The Narrative 4 Empathy School Awards were designed to recognise post-primary schools that foster an environment of empathy, lead with kindness, and cultivate connection and understanding in their students and staff.

Mungret Community College and Gaelcoláiste Luimnigh received their bronze Empathy School awards recently to acknowledge their involvement with this initiative.

### Youth Work Team Board Updates March 2023

The Youth Work team are looking forward to the launch of the Limerick and Clare Youth Work Plan 2023 - 2026. The Board's valued input into the plan is very much appreciated and we look forward to seeing you all in Glór, Ennis on Wednesday 19 April at 4pm!

\*\*\*If you are planning to attend the launch, please rsvp to Elizabeth.roche@lcteb.ie. \*\*\*\*\*

| Scheme   | Allocation      | Details   |
|--|-----------------|---|
| Capital Funding Scheme 2023<br>Youth Club Equipment Grant    | €109,705.00     | The 2023 Capital Funding Scheme (minor works and/or equipment) will support the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small scale projects, including equipment for working with young people,</li> <li>• adaptations to outside areas, outdoor furniture,</li> <li>• refurbishment and health and safety improvements in local youth services,</li> <li>• ICT for working onsite or remotely with young people.</li> </ul> |
| Integration Grant Supports to Ukraine (Migrant) Young People | €125,000        | This grant scheme aims to support youth organisations and youth clubs to support young people who have fled from the war in Ukraine in their community during 2023.   |
| Local Youth Club Grant                                       | €160,140        | The Scheme supports voluntary youth club/group activities for young people; with priority given to clubs/groups catering for young people aged 10–21. The primary focus of the Scheme is to assist local, volunteer-led youth clubs/groups that provide a programme of youth work activities for young people.  |
| Summer Grant Scheme 2022                                     | To be finalised | This funding enables organisations to broaden and enhance existing initiatives or deliver new, innovative opportunities with their young people during the summer period. Maximum available per application is €2,500.  |

**Local Creative Youth Partnership  
Activity Report to Mid March 2023**

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board LCYP has continued to impress with requests from the Department of Education and Creative Ireland to assist with the development and upskilling of the new LCYPs for Galway Roscommon ETB, Mayo Sligo and Leitrim ETB and Cork ETB.

The success of the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board LCYP stems from its strategy to fund events and activities with excellent tutors and local organisations that provide tailored responses to the voice of the young people throughout Limerick and Clare.

Details about the activities and projects which are available to young people in Limerick and Clare are available on the LCYP website which has been developed by Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Schools Division - [www.lcyp.ie](http://www.lcyp.ie).

The latest programme of events is available in the schedule below.

**Local Creative Youth Partnership Activity Report to 16 March 2023**

| 2023                     | Location and activity  | Status  | Participant Numbers                              |
|--------------------------|--|---------|--|
| Early Years programme    | <p><b>INSPIRE: Baby Dance for under 2s</b><br/>This programme commenced in Childworld in Weston on March 14<sup>th</sup> and in Nursery Times Limerick on March 21<sup>st</sup>. It is run in close collaboration with Limerick Childcare Committee. The dance programme has been identified as a pilot for developing new methodologies in hearing the voice of the very young child through non-verbal communication and a special steering group is in place in DECDIY to monitor and report on findings.</p> <p><b>INSPIRE: The Art of Storytelling</b><br/>This programme is presented in collaboration with Clare Childcare Committee and Clare County Library services and will resume activity after Easter.</p> | Ongoing | 30+ young people<br><br>30 + pre-school children |
| Film and Tech Programmes | <p><b>My Abbeyfeale</b>, received its premiere at FRESH Film on March 15<sup>th</sup> and will have another public screening in Abbeyfeale in the coming months.</p> <p><b>Breaking Barriers</b>, received its at FRESH Film on March 15<sup>th</sup> and was attended by most of the trainees.</p> <p><b>Podcast workshop</b> programmes now under way in Southill Hub and Youthreach O'Connell Avenue and are due to begin in Newcastle West in the coming weeks.</p> <p><b>Teenage Voices from Clare</b> had its first airing on Clare FM on March 10<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p><b>Future Film Makers</b> will run again in 2023 with an expanded programme.</p>   | Ongoing | 25 young people across all programmes            |
| Youth Theatre            | <p><b>Kilkee Youth Theatre</b> is expanding. A new teenage programme commenced with an initial introductory/taster workshop in Kilkee Community College on March 4<sup>th</sup></p>  | Ongoing | 16 young people in Kilkee to date                |
| Ukrainian response       | <p>A new dimension to Kilkee Youth Theatre is emerging with the Ukrainian community. A separate programme based on a play currently being used for English</p>   |         | 20 young people in Thomond                       |

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
|   | language training is to be explored for public performance.<br><br><b>Thomond Youth Theatre</b> has fifteen regular attendees who will take part in The Creative Show in Belltable on March 22 <sup>nd</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> . The Creative Show is produced by Limerick Youth Theatre in collaboration with Avista (Daughters of Charity)  |  |  |
| <b>Limerick Youth Service 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b> | The LCYP has supported Limerick Youth Service in this year's St. Patrick's Day parade. One of the LCYP dance tutors has been working with a group who will feature as part of the youth service's 2023 entry. Support for the St. Patrick's Day Parade is exceptional and responds to the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the service. Limerick Youth Dance will also feature in this year's parade – this is independent of the LCYP.   | <b>Due to take place on March 17th</b> | <b>20 young people</b>                     |
| <b>Weekly Programmes</b>                                  | <b>Workshop Programmes</b><br>LCYP tutors continue to deliver programmes in the following centres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knockalisheen Direct Provision Centre: Craft programme to expand to teenage group</li> <li>• Fáinleog School, Rathkeale: Visual art and woodwork due for completion May</li> <li>• St. Mary's Young Mothers group has been working with tutor Carrie Barrett on a drama programme</li> </ul> New programmes for Spring 2023:<br>The LCYP will initiate/resume programmes in the following centres with whom consultations are current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lough Graney Youth Club, East Clare</li> <li>• Enable Ireland Ennis</li> </ul> | <b>Ongoing</b>                         | <b>50 young people across four centres</b> |
| <b>National news</b>                                      | <b>The new Creative Youth Plan 2023-2027</b> will be launched on March 28 <sup>th</sup> in a physical event in the National Gallery.<br><b>An additional, seventh Local Creative Youth Partnership</b> will join the existing six entities in the coming months. This window is now open to new ETB applicants.  |  |  |

## Further Education and Training Division Report (FET)

### College of FET, Hospitality Campus

- Catex Results: 22 Gold, 13 Silver, 9 Bronze & 5 Best in Class; Overall Grand PRIZ;
- International students arrive 17<sup>th</sup> March from France for a month working in hotels in Limerick and Clare.

### College of FET, Raheen Campus

- **Pathways to FET:** On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> of March, a number of learners from Youthreach KRC attended a taster day on the Electrical Apprenticeship course at the College of FET, Raheen Campus. This



was organised to support learners' progression plans as part of the Learner Mentoring Initiative. Learners were given the opportunity to experience first-hand what the Electrical Apprenticeship entails. They had the opportunity to work on technical skills and to ask questions and learn from those already on the course. This was a fantastic learning opportunity for learners and a great opportunity to explore progression options after completing Leaving Certificate Applied Course. Feedback from learners was positive

- **Pathways to Apprenticeship:** Learners went on their first week block of work experience on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Staff have been actively working on employer engagement since the start of the course and this has ensured that each learner was matched to their preferred area to get a feel for a particular discipline. On foot of his work experience one learner has been offered an informal apprenticeship in lime plastering. This learner was delighted to take up this position and will be starting in his new role next week. The remaining learners have reported that they are looking forward to returning to the course.

### **Outdoor Education & Training**

- OETC, Kilfinane, is hosting NCBI Camp Abilities 2023 during Easter break. Camp Abilities is a 5-day residential programme for youths who are blind/vision impaired;
- IT infrastructure upgrade in OETC, The Burren, and Life Safety Systems upgrade in OETC, Kilfinane, are near completion;
- Plans underway for development of High Ropes course at OETC, Kilfinane;
- OETC, The Burren, hosting a new outdoor education programme for Co-operation Ireland in March.

### **College of FET, Kilmallock Road Campus**

- Since September, Youthreach LCA 2 have engaged in a range of activities as part of the requirements for the Gaisce Bronze Award. Every Wednesday for one hour a week the class volunteers attend Senior Citizens Group in Southill. This project ended and the learners and their teacher invited the Senior Citizens to KRC to showcase the site and to show their appreciation to the Seniors Group. Lunch was provided along with music and dancing for the Senior Citizens Group;
- Youthreach KRC, together with FAI KRC and staff from O'Connell Avenue and Northside ran a very successful Soccer match consisting of FAI KRC course learners and an amalgamated Youthreach soccer team. The final Score was 8 – 8. The real winner however was football! This is only the first of such events, as other Youthreach Centres in LCETB have expressed an interest in being involved.

### **College of FET, Croom Campus**

- Animal Science learners attended Gurteen College Ballingarry, Roscrea, Co Tipperary to complete cattle and sheep handling skills demonstrations as part of their studies;
- Animal Care and Animal Science learners visited John Curtin's farm in Banogue to view the automated milking system in operation;
- There is a Learning Hub Adult Educator providing support for learners on site Wednesdays and Thursdays;
- Animal Science co-ordinator facilitated information session regarding Croom Campus Level 6 courses at Mallow College of FET;
- Horsemanship learners are attending work experience at Manister House Stud. One learner has been offered part-time weekend work as a result of this.

## **College of FET, Ennistymon Campus**

- As part of the combined material module, learners are engaged by making animation an option as part of this module;
- Planning is ongoing towards an open day and a PR campaign around the annual art exhibition;
- A learner has used the work experience module as a starting point to make a proposal for funding for a self-employment initiative to the Enterprise Board;
- Investigating film as a way to elaborate and present working processes in the design module at Level 5 is incorporated and also exhibition techniques Level 6.

## **Limerick School of Music**

- LSOM have been awarded funds from the Social Intervention Fund towards the purchase of instruments for partnership programmes with local primary schools;
- LSOM put on a wonderful production of a Children's Opera recently in TUS Millennium Theatre. Lily's Labyrinth by Irish composer Marian Ingoldsby was produced in partnership with the Limerick Opera Festival and was a great triumph for all involved with performances on 4<sup>th</sup> February last;
- LSOM has been delighted to welcome guests from Music Generation Waterford to partner on music workshop days at the Mulgrave Street Campus on two consecutive Saturdays featuring wind and brass instruments one week and classical guitar students the next. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students of both institutions to make music together and get to know one another;
- LSOM held its second annual recital festival on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March with high profile guest adjudicators for Strings, Singing, Wind and Brass and Piano. A wonderful weekend of music making was had and the adjudicators commented on the exceptionally high standards of performance at Limerick School of Music.

## **Music Generation Clare**

- Music Generation Clare invited an esteemed guest artist Tyler Duncan to visit all Trad Group classes on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Tyler is a renowned musician and producer, has worked with many big names in the industry and it is hoped his approach and experience will inspire young musicians in Music Generation Clare. Evaluations from previous programmes show that guest musicians are often the highlight of the academic year for students;
- Music Generation Clare partnered with Music Generation Laois on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March, bringing together Trad Group students from both areas. Young musicians from Music Generation Clare travelled to Music Generation Laois for this day-long event where they got to work alongside fellow students, as well as professional musicians. While educational and fun, this collaborative workshop involved a sharing of ideas and styles, as well as helping to strengthen musical ties between both counties;
- Students from Music Generation Clare's Irish Concertina Orchestra have been invited to travel to Dublin on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March to perform at the St Patrick's Day Festival. The performance, which is testament to the wonderful work the students are doing, will take place from 12:00 to 12:30 on the festival's main stage at Collins Barracks. The Irish Concertina Orchestra are being highlighted in all promotional material for the festival.

## **Support Services**

### **Technology Enhanced Learning**

- The LCETB FET Division TEL Support Service held a critical planning and reflection day with all FET programme and service managers on 23<sup>rd</sup> February focussing on the Digital Transformation of FET. The event was opened by Paul Patton, Director of FET, and commenced with workshops where all present prioritised actions from the TEL Action Plan 2022 – 2025. There followed consultation

workshops on Blended and Online Learning and in the afternoon all present explored the impact of AI on FET following a keynote input by AI expert Dr Keith Quille of TUD;

- The new TEL Action Plan developed in 2022 was officially published and details how our Colleges of FET programmes and services are enabled and supported to use existing, new, and emerging technologies. The plan is also accompanied by the implementation process which is detailed on MS Planner and includes expected impacts, responsibilities and timelines for each action;
- New campus-based College of FET TEL Support Service roles were approved and advertised. These new roles will ensure that TEL supports are available in-campus to support implementation of the TEL Action Plan and to support staff with the adoption and use of technology.

### Quality Assurance

- At the recent National ETB Excellence Awards at Croke Park, Dublin which took place on ETB Day on Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the FET Innovation, Development and Quality Support Service was recognised for Excellence in Further Education and Training. The service was awarded runner-up for its ground-breaking Recognition of Prior Learning initiative for the Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Hairdressing. The FET Manager, Innovation, Development & Quality and the Quality Assurance Officer accepted the runner up award in the Excellence in FET category for Recognition of Prior Learning for Level 6 Advanced Cert in Hairdressing project from Andrew Brownlee, CE, SOLAS;
- Following publication of the review report of the Inaugural Review of Quality Assurance, and one year after submission of its QA review action plan, Limerick and Clare ETB have submitted a follow-up report to QQI on progress against the plan, and how it is addressing the outcomes of the review. The report identifies the range of strategic and logistical developments and decisions that have occurred within the ETB since the publication of the review report and addresses each of the key findings and recommendations that the reviewers presented. Significant milestones are also included, as well as reflections and learnings from the inaugural review process;
- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board launched a new Beauty Therapy Training Salon in the College of Further Education and Training, Ennis Campus on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Project managed by the Beauty Therapy Curriculum Support Officer, the development of this state-of-the-art training facility will facilitate the delivery of full-time traineeship programme and the beauty therapy apprenticeship programme which is currently in development.

### Information, Recruitment & Guidance

- participated in the successful Explore Engineering Event at Shannon Airport;
- are currently working on the new functionality on PLSS to capture and support the data gathering for the IRG team. This is a pilot project and involves migrating from the old system to PLSS;
- recruited two new Guidance Counsellors and are now based in College of FET, Clonroad Campus;
- were requested by DEASP/INTREO to help host their Healthcare Recruitment Fair 7/3/23. It was hosted at the College of FET, Clonroad Campus and 18 Healthcare employers as well as over 200 participants attended;
- supported the HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare Recruitment events in Ennis (23/2/23) and Kilrush + Ennistymon (24/2/23);
- hosted an LCETB FET stand at the West Clare Jobs Fair 1/3/23;
- supported the DEASP/Intreo Group Sessions for Ukrainians in Lisdoonvarna (28/2/23 and 1/3/23); Ennis (2/3/23 and 3/3/23) + Kilrush (14/3/23).

### Enterprise Engagement

- **Skills to Advance:** Currently 140 learners from industry are engaging in Skills to Advance training.

## Seed Project

- **Strategic Employer Engagement Database:** Enterprise Engagement Support Service team have collaborated with MSLETB & Spanish Point, Technologies and the implementation of the database is underway with a commencement date in May;
- **Beauty and Barbering Traineeship:** In partnership with colleagues in the College of FET, Ennis Campus, the **Beauty Therapy Salon** was launched on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, with over 150 industry employers across the region invited. Aoibhinn Garrihy local businesswoman and social media influencer officially launched the event;
- **Explore Engineering:** The Enterprise Engagement team collaborated with Explore Engineering on the design and presentation of the Limerick and Clare ETB booth at the showcase on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. EESS co-ordinated the publicity and promotions for the Explore Engineering Showcase in Departures Hall, Shannon Airport on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. EESS in collaboration with LCETB schools' division contacted over 100 schools and disseminated collateral to ensure all were aware of the event. Over 1,700 people passed through Shannon Airport Departures area to view the stands and Limerick and Clare ETB Raheen and Shannon Campus were represented at the event. The EESS and IRGSS teams collaborated on the evening and were present on the main meet and greet stand as well as providing support to the ETB stand;
- **UNESCO Lifelong Learning Festival:** EESS launched the UNESCO Lifelong Learning Festival in Istabraq Hall in Limerick City and County Council and attended the Shared Island Learning Cities Network in Belfast on March 14<sup>th</sup> ;
- **SOLAS Sustainability Programmes:** SOLAS and Enterprise Engagement colleagues are collaboratively developing on a suite of Environmental Sustainability QQI Level 4 and 5 Programmes. EESS attended Q&A sessions for Level 5 Environmental Sustainability in the workplace programme. 9 ETB employees have been upskilled on delivery of Level 4 Sustainability programme which will commence Spring 2023. Attendance at monthly green skills programmes development group is ongoing and new programmes being identified, such as; Skills to Advance Fish Farming Micro-Qualification, skills for Zero Carbon, employee profile in development;
- **Mid-West Renewable Energy Education and Training Network/Seafarers Conference:** Enterprise Engagement co-chairs the above network, which involved recent meetings with a delegation from Norway, including the Norwegian ambassador at the Bernal Institute at UL. Purpose of the meetings is to develop an ongoing pipeline of workers with vocational skills and qualifications to develop Shannon Foynes Port and related wind energy projects. The EESS meeting has been arranged with representative employees from DEFHRIS & DECC governmental departments in relation to a steering committees across the regions;
- **Biopharma:** As the Mid-West continues to develop a MedTech Biopharma sector, Limerick and Clare ETB Enterprise Engagement is participating in discussions on the identified gap in the regional life sciences/biopharma ecosystem. This consultative project received €40k regional enterprise funding last year from EI, and the UK consulting firm Urban Foresight is currently developing a feasibility study and interviewing LCETB as part of the process;
- **Healthcare Jobs Fairs:** EESS collaborated with IRGSS team in College of FET, Clonroad Campus on two jobs fairs promoting Health Care jobs with employers showcasing at stands for the DSP Healthcare recruitment career fair.

## Active inclusion Support Service - Summary of Activity from March 2022 to March 2023

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board FET Division is committed to being part of the Irish Government's humanitarian response in welcoming people fleeing the war in Ukraine and seeking protection in Ireland. In addition to those staying with families and in privately rented accommodation, the latest numbers from the Limerick and Clare Community Response Fora for the ETB region indicate

more than 6 thousand Ukrainian Refugees are currently housed in IPAS Accommodation Centres in Limerick and Clare. Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board have taken a service wide integrated approach from the beginning, so our Ukraine Response is integrated across both the FET and Schools Divisions in Limerick and Clare.

**Structures:**

- A cross service FET operational group was established in March 2022 and meets weekly. This group includes the relevant FET Managers and Guidance Staff;
- A cross service FET Team Site was established in March 2022 to provide daily updates on number of arrivals, share resources and statistical updates and events;
- A Regional Education and Language Team (REALT) was established by the ETB and meets weekly to provide supports to children in accessing school places and transport. [realt@lcebtb.ie](mailto:realt@lcebtb.ie) and 086-4408220;
- An interagency Regional Education and Language Team Site was established to provide daily updates on number of arrivals, share resources and statistical updates and events;
- A new email address [fetresponse@lcebtb.ie](mailto:fetresponse@lcebtb.ie) and our 1800 70 70 77 number were put in place to centrally manage requests for ESOL provision in March 2022;
- A Ukraine Response Page was added to our website <https://lcebtb.ie/ukraine/> to signpost and direct the community to relevant services and supports;
- A two-sided ESOL brochure in both English and Ukrainian was produced and these, along with posters, were widely distributed through the Community Fora membership and within the IPAS Centres;
- An Education information Booklet in Ukrainian and English was produced and published and widely distributed through the Community Fora membership and within the IPAS Centres;
- Our Information, Recruitment and Guidance Service have provided or participated in a range of separate once off Educational Guidance and Information events with a reach of over 4000 learners approximately. Many of these events were run in conjunction with other agencies.

**Further Education and Training (FET):**

- Our initial ESOL bid for 2022 was €453,422 however-this bid was submitted in 2021 prior to the Ukrainian Refugee response requirement. Following submission of a Business Case to SOLAS and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in July 2022, additional ESOL funding of circa €530k was allocated to enable enhanced response to the demand for ESOL provision. In 2022 our ESOL expenditure was €990,754.67 excluding accruals which have not yet been finalised. €537,332 of this expenditure is directly related to the Ukrainian Response;
- Following submission of a Business Case to SOLAS and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, two additional Adult Literacy Organisers (Ukraine Specific) were appointed in January 2023. One each for North Clare/ Ennis and South Clare/ Limerick City. Funded through SOLAS and Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, appointments are on the first point of the salary scale, so these roles represent an additional €100k allocation in 2023;
- Our estimated ESOL expenditure for 2023 includes €1,141,800 pay and €100,000 non pay costs. When compared with our original estimate for 2022 prior to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, this represents an increase of €788,378 in our ESOL estimate and this is reflected in the increased number of ESOL courses and learners planned for 2023.

| 2023 | Current Courses | Est. Places | Future Courses | Est. Places | Past Courses | Est. Places | Courses | Est. Places |
|------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------|-------------|
| ESOL | 112             | 1,434       | 268            | 3,576       | 2            | 24          | 382     | 5,034       |

### Resources Developed:

- **ESOL Brochure:** A two-sided brochure in both English and Ukrainian was produced and these, along with posters, were widely distributed through the Community Fora membership and within the IPAS Centres.
- **Education Information Booklet:** Booklet were developed by FET and translated into Ukrainian. The booklet provides Ukrainian refugees with an overview of the Irish Educational System; Information on how to have qualifications recognised in Ireland; An explanation of the Common European Framework of Languages (CEFR); Some useful websites to help with English language acquisition; contact details for the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Limerick and Clare and contact details for course enquiries/English classes/career guidance appointments.

Cllr. Gabriel Keating thanked the Chief Executive for his report on Ennistymon and also congratulated Ms. Bernadette Enright on the great achievement at Catex.

### 8. For Adoption:

- a. Draft Annual Financial Statements and Working Papers
- b. Finance Committee 2022 Annual Report
- c. Finance Report Period Ending February 2023

Adopted on the proposal of Mr. Donal ÓhAiniféin, seconded by Mr. Sean McMahon.

### 9. For Noting:

- a. Audit & Risk Committee 2022 Annual Report
- b. Report from the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting held on 01/12/2022  
Noted.

### 10. For Appointment Board Nominees to:

- a. St. Michael's Community College, Kiamichi
- b. Coláiste na Trócaire, Rathkeale (2 vacancies)
- c. Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher

Deferred to the next meeting of the Board. Members were asked to send in nominees for the next meeting. The CE advised that vacancies can also be filled by non-members of the Board.

### 11. For Approval:

- a) Lease Agreement re Cappamore Campus
- b) Lease Agreement re Mol an Oige

Both leases were adopted on the proposal of, Cllr. Paul Murphy seconded by Mr. Sean McMahon

### 12. AOB

Cllr. Gabriel Keating enquired about the Kilrush green field Gaelscoil site and whether any progress had been made. The Chief Executive informed him that 58 Capital Projects have been put on hold and this is one of those projects.

Cllr. Keating also enquired about having a future Board Meetings in the Hospitality Centre in light of their achievements at CATEX. This will be considered.

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon also congratulated the Hospitality Centre and stated that it was a wonderful achievement on behalf of both staff and learners. Ms. Elaine Fitzgerald congratulated all in the Hospitality Centre and stated that it was a testament to their skill level.

Cllr. Sean McMahon enquired re opening of new Ennistymon school as the construction is delayed. The CE advised that the new amalgamated school would be reopening on 1<sup>st</sup> September under one Principal and two Deputies and that the then former Ennistymon Vocational School may be used to facilitate students until construction is complete.

Due to work constraints by Members, it was agreed that future meetings would commence at 4.30 p.m.

Cllr. Elena Secas asked if it was possible to provide ETB template policies for use by secondary schools. The CE advised that template policies are available to all LCETB School and if further information is required, to contact the Director of Schools and Director of Organisation Support and Development

Next Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at 4.30 p.m. (Hybrid)

George O'Callaghan  
Chief Executive.

Signed:

  
Chairperson of Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.