



## MINUTES OF LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

### LCETB BOARD MEETING WAS A HYBRID MEETING

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

**Present:** Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon, Chairperson  
Mr. Michael Cregan  
Cllr. Michael Donegan  
Ms. Catherine Hehir  
Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
Cllr. Gabriel Keating  
Mr. Mark O’Dea  
Mr. Donal ÓhAiniféin  
Cllr. Elena Secas  
Cllr. Joe Killeen  
Cllr. John Sheahan  
Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
Mr. Sean McMahan  
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. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training  
Mr. Donncha O’Treaaigh, Director of Schools  
Mr. Denis O’Brien, Head of Corporate Services & IT  
Ms. Joanne O’Brien, Recording Secretary, Corporate Services  
Ms. Caroline Hayes, Corporate Services

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

A Vote of Sympathy was passed to the following:

- Cllr. Gabriel Keating on the death of his brother, Mr. Vincent Keating.
- Mr. Padraig Barry (College of Further Education and Training, Raheen Campus) on the death of his baby daughter,
- Mr. Liam O’Mahoney (Principal, Mungret College) on the death of his uncle, Fr. Seamus Ryan.
- Ms Rachel Dempsey (Marshal House) on the death of her uncle Mr. Kevin Dempsey
- Ms Catherine Scully (Marshal House) on the death of her aunt.
- Ms. Rose Hogan (Marshal House) on the death of her, brother in law, Mr. Tadhg Hogan.

- The Family of Late Joe Sheahan (retired teacher, Castletroy College and St. Nesson's Community College).
- The Family of the Late Sean Broderick (former Board Member of County Limerick VEC).
- The Family and Community of the Sisters of Mercy on the death of the late Sr. Jerome Darcy (Former Teacher) Coláiste na Trócaire, Rathkeale.
- Mr. Steve & Mrs. Caroline Shea on the death of their son, Luke Shea (second year electrical apprentice, College of Further Education and Training, Raheen Campus).
- Mr. Oisín McGill (Limerick School of Music) on the death of his father, Mr. Tim McGill.
- Mr Eoin Minihan (Raheen Training Centre) on the death of his father, Mr. Liam J. Minihan.
- Ms. Aisling Walsh (Active Inclusion Support Services, Abbeyfeale Campus) on the death of her uncle, Fr. Tim Galvin.
- Family of the late Cali O'Leary, Student, Colaiste Iosef, Kilmallock.

As a mark of respect a minutes silence was observed.

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2023, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Cllr. John Sheahan.

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

None.

## **5. Governance:**

The CE advised that there were no areas of concern in relation to Covid due to the successful procedures and processes in place and paid tribute to all involved. He advised Members that there had been no significant impact on services.

He noted that whilst Ukrainian students had been accommodated with school placement, that there were still challenges in relation to school transport. The Board paid tribute to all concerned.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **Department Correspondence**

#### **CL 0001/2023**

17 January 2023

Re: Advice on the use of assessment instruments/tests for Guidance or for additional and Special Educational Needs (SEN) in Post-Primary Schools.

**CL 0002/2023**  
26 January 2023

Re: Staffing Arrangements in Voluntary Secondary Schools for the 2023/24 school year.

**CL 0004/2023**  
26 January 2023

Re: Staffing Arrangements in Education and Training Boards for the 2023/24 school year.

**CL 0005/2023**  
31 January 2023

Re: Teacher Fee Refund Scheme 2022.

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

### **Schools and Youth Work**

#### **Community National Schools**

Enrolments in all three of the ETB's Community National Schools are projected to show increasing demand in spite of the Department of Education statistics on falling enrolments over the next ten years.

#### **Board of Management Training**

Training for chairpersons and secretaries of the Boards of Management of the Community National Schools in Clare took place on 30 January 2023.

#### **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).

#### **Teacher Allocations and Principals Meetings**

The initial teacher allocation for the next academic year, 2023-2024 has been received. Meetings via Zoom with each school principal are currently taking place and an appeal for additional teacher allocation will be submitted in March.

#### **Minister for Education Turns Sod on Multi-Million Euro New Mungret Community College School Campus**

The Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD, turned the sod on a multi-million euro new school campus for Mungret Community College on Friday, 23 January 2023. The new campus, located on a 10-acre greenfield site, will cater for 1000 students upon completion. Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board was delighted to welcome the Minister on site to mark the official start of construction. The project represents a €35 million euro investment under the Department of Education's Schools Capital Programme.

The new 11,000 square metre school building will feature 37 General Classrooms, a 2-classroom SEN facility, 2 DCG Rooms, 6 Science Labs, 2 Art/Craft Rooms, 2 Home Economics Rooms, 2 Technology Rooms, 2 Multimedia Labs, a Music Room, 2 Textile Rooms, a Construction Studies room, an Engineering Room, a Library, an Olympic-sized PE Hall and Fitness Suite, multiple ancillary spaces, and extensive external areas including 6 Hard Play Courts.

The project design team for the new school campus is led by Healy Partners Architects. Construction by Coolsivna Construction Group is now underway, with the project due for completion in late 2024.



## **Multi-Million Euro Castletroy College Extension Confirmed By Minister For Education On Visit To School**

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board welcomed the announcement of a new 3,000 square metre extension at Castletroy College. The announcement was made by Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD, during a visit to the ETB community college last Friday and represents a multi-million euro investment in the school building under the Department's Schools Capital Programme. The school, which opened in 2000, has seen its enrolment increase significantly over the past 23 years with a previous extension completed in 2006/2007.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board anticipates the development of an exciting and innovative design to provide a quality educational environment to meet current and future educational needs of Castletroy College students. Chief Executive, George O'Callaghan, said: "We are delighted as an ETB to support this school in every way we can in the provision of education, including through resources and building facilities. The most important element of any school are the students and teachers. I congratulate the teachers of Castletroy College for the fine job that they do in terms of teaching and learning and the students for all that you do and for your commitment."

He continued: "As an ETB we have a commitment to all of the students in our care. Part of that is our policy to ensure that all of our schools also have modern Special Education Needs facilities and Special Class provision. I am delighted to be able to say that Castletroy College is also committed to that provision and to the provision of Special Class education from September 2023. We are delighted that our policy of inclusivity, reaching out to everybody in our care and ensuring that they get the best possible education, is happening here. I commend the school on its results but also on the care and support it gives to its students."

The new extension will feature a 2-classroom SEN facility, several General Classrooms, DCG Room, Science Laboratory, Art/Craft Room, Home Economics Room, Technology Room and multiple ancillary spaces.

The design process, led by Healy Partners Architects, commenced in late 2022 and the Design Team are currently progressing submission of the Stage 1 Report to the Department's Devolved Project Section.

## **New State-of-The-Art School Extension at Ennis Community College / Gaelcholáiste An Chláir Officially Opened By Minister For Education**

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board marked the official opening on Friday 20th January of the multi-million euro new school extension at Ennis Community College / Gaelcholáiste an Chláir, in Ennis. The opening was undertaken by the Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD.

The event was attended by the school's students, staff and board of management; Cathaoirleach of Clare, Cllr Tony O'Brien; Chair of the ETB, Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon; Chair of the School Board of Management, Cllr Ann Norton; Chief Executive of the ETB, George O'Callaghan, and ETB senior management; the project design team and the main contractor; as well as numerous elected representatives and representatives of the local community.

Construction of the €12.5 million new stand-alone extension over 3 floors commenced in Autumn 2019 and the students moved into the new building in early 2022. The landmark building is located in the heart of Ennis Town Centre. Not alone does it provide a range of specialist and general teaching spaces necessary to cater for the increasing number of students, it has also delivered an external area at the rear of the school where the students can play and socialise in an open, safe and welcoming space. The design team, led by Thompson Architects, worked with the main contractor, Coolsivna Construction, to successfully manage the safety of all involved and deliver a high-quality project on completion.



The state-of-the-art new development sees the addition of 4,500 square metres of teaching accommodation. As well as a significant number of new classrooms, the project also includes a new Science Lab, Home Economics room, Art room, Library and General Purpose Hall. Additionally, a full-size PE Hall, fitness suite and changing facilities have been delivered as part of the project.

### **Official Opening of New Astro turf Pitch at Colaiste Mhuire Askeaton Enhances Facilities at School**

A new astro turf pitch at Coláiste Mhuire Askeaton was officially opened last week by Minister for Skills and Further Education, Niall Collins TD. The event was attended by students from the school, Principal Morgan Heaphy, along with Chief Executive, George O'Callaghan, and Director of Schools, Donncha Ó Treasaigh, from the school's patron Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

The new facility at the school costing €94,000 received €69,500 funding from the Government's Sports Capital Programme for an artificial playing surface. Additional funding was provided by the ETB, as the school's patron body. The main contractor was Munster Astro turf, with Rogerson Reddan Associates providing Quantity Surveying services. Speaking at the opening, George O'Callaghan, Chief Executive, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, paid tribute to the patron's capital and procurement team for its management of the project.

### **Supports for Schools**

Schools continue to be supported in the development of inclusive school practices for all including ongoing support of Special Education Needs Coordinators (SENCOs), Additional Education Needs Teams in schools, Student Support Teams, Transition Year Coordinators, Digital Leaders, Curriculum Leaders, Boards of Management, school leaders, teachers and Special Needs Assistants (SNAs).

A Professional Development schedule has been developed to support our schools in accordance with comprehensive feedback from teachers and school leaders.

Access to all support and resources made available by the Department of Education, as well as resources that the Director of Schools and the Support Team have created and developed have been made available to our schools on a central hub on the Schools Division Support site - [lce.tb.com](https://lce.tb.com).

### **UL Health Sciences & Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Joint Schools Event**

#### **Junior Health Sciences Academy Early Careers Online Event 2023**

Students from across the Mid-West region gathered recently at Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board's head office to help launch this year's Junior Health Sciences Academy Early Careers Event 2023. Careers in Healthcare will take centre-stage with an online event taking place via Zoom from 9.30am to 12.30pm on February 28th, 2023. The event is designed for Transition Year and Fifth Year students who would like to learn more about a career in the world of healthcare.

Students will be inspired by representatives from over 20 diverse healthcare professions at the third annual event, organised by the Health Sciences Academy with Limerick and Clare ETB and the Limerick Education Support Centre.

This year, students will hear from clinical staff from UL Hospitals Group and HSE Mid-West Community Healthcare, as well as academic staff and students from health programmes at University of Limerick who will provide workplace and study insights, guidance on subject choices and career opportunities.

The event will also feature patient stories, a 'Business in Health' segment, a Q&A session and special guest speakers. These will include an interview with Katie O'Brien, a qualified veterinarian and Para-rower who will share her story of sporting accomplishments and personal challenges and Jack Kavanagh, a pharmacist and inspirational speaker who will talk to students about his life-changing spinal cord injury.

All students are welcome, and registration is essential, at <https://www.ul.ie/hsa/upcoming-events>

#SeeYourFuture

University of Limerick staff will also be on hand to give advice on programmes and entry requirements.



## Care Aware Crew Project - An Exploration of Students' Experience

The Care Aware Crew Project is a collaboration between the Junior Health Science Academy, the University of Limerick, University Hospital Limerick, HSE Midwest Community Healthcare and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

We are very grateful that Principals and Classroom Teachers in six Limerick schools have agreed to participate in the second pilot to test out the value and efficacy of the programme that the Care Aware Crew Project Team has put together. In essence, the programme consists of five downloadable lessons (MP4 format) - each about a different aspect of First Aid - which have been prepared by locally-based medical professionals following consultation with the teachers and pupils who will be participating in the programme. The lessons are intended for use with pupils in 3rd Class and/or 4th Class. Worksheets and materials to enhance teaching and learning experiences will be supplied to teachers by the Project Team.

For evaluation purposes, the Care Aware Crew Project Team carried out research into teachers' and pupils' experiences of the Care Aware Crew Project (to find out what worked well and what pupils learned, and so forth). By gaining a greater understanding of students' and teachers' experiences of the Care Aware Crew programme, funding was secured from the HSE for future development of the programme to additional schools in 2023.

## Partnership with Dell - Dell Student TechCrew

The Schools Division is partnering with Dell, Raheen Business Park, Limerick to be the first European country where the Dell Student TechCrew is made available to Irish students.

The Dell Student TechCrew is already established in the US and is a program that promotes future career skills and learning via hands-on experience as students help their peers and school staff members with technology issues.

The benefits of this partnership are:

1. Student Learning & Certification - Students receive industry certification and work-based learning that creates employment opportunities.
2. Additional Technical Support - The organisation gets hardware support from certified students in the TechCrew program
3. Entrepreneurship - Support global thinking, customer service, communication, collaboration, creativity, and problem solving.

## Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP)

### Activity Report to 20 Feb 2023

2023	Location and activity	Status	Participant Numbers
Early Years programme	<b>INSPIRE: Baby Dance for under 2s</b> This programme commenced in 2019 with a conference for Early Years educators in MIC and has now been identified as a pilot project by Hub na nÓg within DCEDIY. Two Early Years settings in Limerick have been identified for participation in this project which is now at detailed planning stage with delivery scheduled from early March. Produced in collaboration with Limerick Childcare Committee.	Ongoing	30+ young people
	<b>INSPIRE: The Art of Storytelling</b> This programme is presented in collaboration with Clare Childcare Committee and Clare County Library services. Activity from 2022 is under review and planning for 2023 in under way.		30 + pre-school children

<b>Film and Tech Programmes</b>	<p><b>My Abbeyfeale</b>, created by four teenage Traveller girls with Redpaw Media, will receive its premiere in the West Limerick Town in March.</p> <p><b>Breaking Barriers</b>, created by ten young trainee film makers with Redpaw Media, will receive its premiere in March.</p> <p><b>Podcast workshop</b> programmes will commence in March in Southill Hub and in April in Foróige Newcastle West.</p> <p><b>Teenage Voices from Clare</b> will have a new monthly airing during Clare FM's morning programme – run in collaboration with Clare Youth Service.</p>	Ongoing	25 young people across all programmes
<b>Youth Theatre</b>	<p><b>Kilkee Youth Theatre</b> continues to thrive with our 9 to 12 year olds programme now full. A new teenage programme will commence with an initial introductory/taster workshop in Kilkee Community College on March 4<sup>th</sup></p> <p><b>Thomond Youth Theatre</b> continues with weekly after school sessions in Thomond Community College</p>	Ongoing	16 young people in Kilkee to date  20 young people in Thomond
<b>Weekly Programmes</b>	<p><b>Workshop Programmes</b></p> <p>LCYP tutors continue to deliver programmes in the following centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knockalisheen Direct Provision Centre: Craft</li> <li>• Fáinleog School, Rathkeale: Visual art and woodwork</li> </ul> <p>New programmes for Spring 2023: The LCYP will initiate/resume programmes in the following centres with whom consultations are current:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lough Graney Youth Club, East Clare</li> <li>• St. Mary's Clubs, King's Island Limerick</li> </ul>	Ongoing	50 young people across four centres

## Youthwork

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) have recently launched two new initiatives for the Youth Work sector

<b>Integration Fund 2023 Ukraine focus</b>	<p>The Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth secured funding with respect to the integration of young person's receiving permission to remain having fled the war in Ukraine.</p> <p>This funding is to support local integration efforts through additional places in UBU Your Place Your Space funded organisations and existing clubs, and the formation of new clubs as appropriate.</p>	€125,000
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<b>Youth Climate Justice Fund 2023</b>	The Youth Climate Justice Fund supports youth-led initiatives related to climate justice at community, regional and national level. The primary objective of the Fund is to further the active engagement of young people in climate justice activities, initiatives and programmes that develop and support their knowledge, agency and empowerment in relation to climate justice.	Grant amounts of between €10,000 and €100,000 are available to support projects All applications are directed to the Department only and not through ETB's.
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### **Youth Club Grant Scheme 2023: Allocation €160,140**

The LYCGS supports club activities at a local level. Funding for the Scheme is provided by DCEDIY and is administered locally by ETBs on behalf of DCEDIY.

The Scheme supports club activities for young people; with priority given to clubs catering for young people aged 10–21. The primary focus of the Scheme is to assist local clubs that provide a programme of youth work activities for young people. We will work with our local groups over the coming weeks to roll out the scheme to all clubs in the region.

### **Youth Work Plan**

The Youth Work Strategic Plan 2023-2027 of the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board is complete. We are delighted with the final plan, the launch of the plan will take place in April in Glor Ennis. We extend an invite to ETB board members to attend the launch. Details to follow.

### **UBU Your Place Your Space - next Cycle**

The next cycle for UBU Your Place Your Space is due to start on 1 January 2024. This requires the preparation of an area needs analysis and approval of a service requirement. Over the coming months the Youth work team will be consulting with our local projects for the next cycle of the scheme.

## **Further Education and Training Division (FET)**

### **College of FET, Hospitality Campus**

- Learners in the Hospitality Campus have qualified for competitions at CATEX, at the RDS Dublin 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2023;
- Confirmation this month that learners from Lycée Professionnel Hôtelier Sainte Thérèse will be arriving in March for Hospitality placements.

### **College of FET, Raheen Campus**

- **Staff Workshop:** A workshop entitled 'Supporting Staff to Support our Learners' was delivered to the staff team in October 2022. The purpose of this training workshop was to increase the awareness of issues around learner mental health and wellbeing and links to successful learning. Its core aim was to build on the skills and experience of staff in identifying the signs and symptoms of when a learner is not coping well because of stress in their lives and how best they can be supported. It was co-facilitated by Gerry Mitchell, Psychotherapist and Coman Wilkinson, Psychotherapist with Éistim Psychotherapy Services. The workshop was developed and delivered in consultation with the staff team. Feedback from staff has been very positive. It is intended to run similar workshops in 2023 as a consequence;



- **Limerick City Build:** With the move to its new campus, Limerick City Build has positioned itself as a centre point for training within the City centre. The Clare Street Campus will focus specifically on learners from disadvantaged areas in Limerick and work in partnership with the Irish Prison Service to address existing gaps faced by those exiting prison or the long-term unemployed and people experiencing social exclusion. The Campus is currently in the process of carrying out significant upgrades. Learners have been making considerable improvements, attendance has grown and has stabilised. Learner engagement has improved with new skills developed and honed over the last number of months. Furthermore, since learners began the City & Guilds Course on the 17th of October, 2022 several modules have been completed successfully. Instructors have been able to cover topics such as block wall construction, forming and pouring concrete paths, laying paving slabs, constructing timber frame walls, plaster slabbing, taping and jointing etc. Instructors have built lesson plans and adapted modules to incorporate various project work such as pods, paved areas, slabbing, and electrical units/rigs. Huge efforts have been undertaken to complete the unfinished areas of the Campus with particular focus on the wood working shop and fulfilling electrical requirements to deliver the course in a safe and efficient manner. The delivery of several of the required pieces of machinery needed to deliver the joinery elements of the course have arrived and they will be commissioned in the near future. In partnership with Limerick City Build, we have made strides in teaching our learners valuable skills and knowledge that will serve them well in their pursuit of gainful employment in the skilled trades after graduation.

### **Outdoor Education & Training**

- Limerick and Clare ETB Schools Bouldering (low level rock climbing) event held at OETC Kilfinane on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 with 130 students attending;
- OETC provision planning to commence Level 5 QQI in Outdoor Sport and Recreation in September 2023 in conjunction with Raheen Campus;
- Life Safety Systems full upgrade currently being completed at OETC Kilfinane with funding from SOLAS emergency works fund.

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

- Four VTOS teachers continue on the ETB TEL secondment project. This project focuses on the development of TEL resources for the future blended delivery of modules. Also, the increased production of e-portfolios for the QQI Authentication process will be another welcome development;
- VTOS, as a learner payment system, has an allocation of 120 core and 90 dispersed learners for the 2022-23 academic year. Full learner numbers were attained in September, largely due to the significant increase in applications from Ukrainian nationals who wanted full-time education, particularly at Levels 3-4. These employability skills courses focused on the provision of intensive English language supports;
- All Junior Cycle Youthreach learners 2022 passed the Junior Cycle (results issued Nov. 2022);
- Seven learners took part in the Aontas 'Learner Voice' consultation;
- Christmas Charity Appeal 2022, Society of St. Vincent de Paul – €283.
- FAI LTI learners completed 39 hours of work experience from 19<sup>th</sup> December to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2022.

### **College of FET, Kilrush Campus**

- Youthreach learners participated in 'Annual Christmas Carols in Regina House for Old Folks' and learners also participated in Holly wreath making competition.



## College of FET, Mulgrave Street Campus

- **Open Day for schools:** This year's highly successful Open Day at the College of FET, Mulgrave St Campus attracted over 700 post-primary students along with others interested in viewing Campus facilities and learning more about the courses on offer. The Open Day featured an exciting Visual Arts Exhibition (Art and Design, Fashion, and Photography), Learner Demonstrations, Campus tours and Guidance briefings on course offerings and opportunities;
- **Erasmus+:** 20 learners from the Mulgrave Street Campus headed to La Rochelle in France and to Malaga in Spain to complete a two-week work placement within the Erasmus+ programme;
- **Photography Tour Budapest:** The photography department and its staff led a week-long field trip to Budapest for photography learners, participating in full-time Level 5 photography and creative media courses;
- **Recent Jan 2023 Enrolments:** Excellent numbers were secured for Jan 23 season with 877 at Mulgrave Street plus 39 at Cappamore Campus - total 916. Of the 98 courses that are running Mon to Thur nights - 15 courses are Online;
- **New Courses:** In Sept 2022 and Jan 2023 new courses included an Introduction to Craft Beer Brewing (Treaty City Brewery Collaboration), Community Addiction Studies QQI L5 (Online), Physiotherapy Assistant Theory and Practice QQI L5, Occupational Therapy Theory & Practice QQI L5, Exercise & Fitness QQI L6 and Decoupage. In Sept 2022, at Cappamore Campus, 9 class-based courses enrolled to include Blacksmithing, Welding, SNA QQI L6, Spanish, Computers, Introduction to Plumbing, Traditional Home Baking, Basic Cake Decorating Skills and Woodcraft Skills;
- **Skills to Advance Funding:** Many learners availed of Skills to Advance funding to assist with upskilling pre-dominantly in the Mid-West region. Longer courses like ITEC Holistic Massage and Accounting Technician Ireland continue to figure well with regard to demand on a yearly basis. Night school/day school collaborations that worked well in 2022 (where 20% Discount was given to Mulgrave Street Campus Day learners), were the delivery of Medical Counter Assistant (Irish Pharmacy Union IPU single module). Additionally, with the assistance of Skills to Advance funding, Maths QQI L5 was delivered where various day learners joined to gain added progression possibilities and the added single module available in the evening - Maternity Care Support QQI L5 - worked well for Nursing and Emergency Care Day Classes together with other general night Adult learners assisting with their future employability and skills attainment.

## College of FET, Ennis Campus

- PLC provision have a new beauty salon up and running with ITEC Level 2 Beauty Specialist Courses;
- The second group of Electrical Apprenticeship learners are on site in Ennis;
- Class of 2022 FT programmes had their graduation ceremony recently with graduates in QQI Major and Component Awards;
- The Amber Flag team held a Valentine's event in the new canteen area for all learners across Campus;
- In 2022, a total of 2,824 Ukrainian learners were provided with English language classes across Co. Clare (550 approx. learning English over previous years). This involved fast logistical planning and rearrangement of existing staff, recruitment of new staff, induction and support. Huge efforts continue to be made to support these learners with a range of other classes provided outside of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): Cookery, My Baby and Me, Art, and other accredited courses;
- Graduation of QQI Level 6 Regional Tour Guiding took place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January in Milltown Malbay for 15 learners. The course covers topics in Heritage, Culture, Digital Media Skills and Customer Care. Learners developed a comprehensive knowledge of the structures in the tourism and hospitality sectors. These learners are now actively working in the Tourism and Hospitality sector. Recruitment of Learners is taking place at present for Level 6 QQI Regional Tour Guiding which is hoped to start next month;



- Expansion of Family Learning courses across Co. Clare as schools within Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) scheme have increased from 7 to 32 schools, while staff levels have remained the same.

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

- Connecting with local artist, galleries and art therapists has allowed learners to experience the impact of art on health and as a means of communication, a pathways to further study and possible career choices has been created. Exploring the centenary of the Irish civil war with local artist Marie Connole and pairing this with a visit to an exhibition on the Ukrainian war by a Ukrainian artist living locally, fosters understanding and inclusion with learners who are currently experiencing these crisis' and creates a safe space to discuss these matters in an art learning environment.

### **College of FET, Abbeyfeale Campus**

- On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, Level 3 Craft Textiles group enjoyed an excellent educational experience on a trip to Kerry Woollen Mills in Beaufort, Killarney. The learners received a guided tour of the working mill, established in 1760 and learned about the different stages of wool processing from fleece to finish product as part of their studies;
- As part of their Campervan Conversion Skills course, learners took part in a four week 'Sewing for Interiors' course. With the help of an excellent Craft and Textiles Tutor, the learners gained the required knowledge and sewing skills needed for the upholstery of the seats and trim of the campervan's interior;
- Health & Beauty courses now available at the Campus with one group having started in January. An investment was made by the Campus to procure equipment and supplies to ensure courses in this area are up-to-date and relevant.

### **College of FET, Newcastle West Campus**

- **Small Public Services Vehicle (SPSV)** course started this month and is proving popular with learners. An SPSV license permits a driver to operate all categories of SPSV – taxi, hackney and limousines. This course helps to prepare learners to sit the SPSV Industry Exam. This course has lots of potential for learners and learners are encouraged to apply for funding grant provided by the National Transport Authority as part of a Local Hackney Pilot Scheme;
- **Level 5 Healthcare Support** Award modules started at Newcastle West Campus in January. The learners enrolled on the Healthcare Support modules are very enthusiastic about progressing onto Higher Education or going straight into employment in the health care sector.

### **College of FET, Shanagolden Campus**

- The new Level 4 Employment Skills Traineeship learners based at the College of FET, Shanagolden Campus, are starting their work experience placements and are looking forward to the opportunity to support their English language learning in practical, real life work settings. This Level 4 Traineeship is in partnership with Raheen Campus and is all about developing the relevant knowledge, skills and competence in a broad range of employment and personal skills which enable employment, under direct supervision in a variety of sectors or progression to further education and training.

### **Music Generation Clare**

- Music Generation Clare facilitated a vocal collaboration between Hands of Harmony Deaf choir and FET learners. This 5 week programme ran between 18<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022, with all learners meeting weekly to learn and rehearse a Christmas themed repertoire. The programme culminated with a performance on 16<sup>th</sup> December in the canteen at the College of FET, Ennis Campus.



- Music Generation Clare partnered with Music Generation Limerick City to offer a creative/collaborative workshop event in UL on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. Young musicians from all genres and abilities were invited to attend this day long event where they got to work alongside both other amateur players as well as professional musicians. This multi-genre collective, including strings, brass, trad and rap, allowed all involved to play an equal role in the process where the emphasis was on creativity and improvisation;
- Music Generation Clare tutors attended a day long CPD session in Logic Pro on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January. This session was facilitated by experienced Technical Production Manager and UL lecturer Liam Marley. Topics covered included audio engineering, audio processing, audio editing, and Digital Musical Instrument Design.

## Support Services

### Information, Recruitment & Guidance

- IRGSS collating responses to the National Framework for Guidance Consultation Paper;
- IRGSS working on moving all recording to PLSS. Ongoing workshops in place with the closure of AEGI database and recording new information on PLSS;
- Recruitment of two new guidance counsellors.

### Enterprise Engagement

- **SEED Project:** This project was funded by the SOLAS Innovation fund and involved collaboration with MSLETB, CMETB, GRETB and Donegal ETB. Initial implantation of SEED (Strategic Employer Engagement Database) CRM database has begun, the system will be implemented with the assistance of Spanish Point Technologies over the next three weeks with a live launch date to be set for mid-May. SEED can be used on a desktop, tablet or mobile and has a web portal feature for employers to request information;
- **Beauty and Barbering Traineeship:** In partnership with colleagues in College of FET, Ennis Campus, the new Beauty and Barbering Traineeship will be launched on 27<sup>th</sup> of February, with industry employers across the region invited;
- **Explore Engineering:** The Enterprise Engagement team coordinates the publicity and promotions for the upcoming Explore Engineering Showcase in Departures Hall, Shannon Airport on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This involves the promotion of the event through business and on social media channels and the promotion of apprenticeships on the Limerick and Clare ETB stand;
- **SOLAS Sustainability Programmes:** SOLAS and Enterprise Engagement colleagues have developed 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 commences Spring 2023. Feedback forms have been issued to employers for feedback on new Level 5 Introduction to Sustainable Procurement and Supply Chain programme. 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:** 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 qualifications to develop Shannon Foynes Port and related wind energy projects;
- **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.



## Professional Development

- 100 participants were present at the first in person ESOL Professional Learning and Development Networking Event since 2019 –inputs from Dr. Sharon Lambert, our Director of FET and College of FET Support Services;
- 16 College of FET staff are being supported to complete the Level 6 TESOL programme being delivered online by SETU;
- The PL&D Support Service in collaboration with Quality Assurance and Active Inclusion Support Services are rolling out training in WRAT V testing.

## 7. For Adoption:

- a. 2023 Service Plan  
Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Mr. Sean McMahon.
- b. Finance Report  
Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. John Sheahan, seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating.

## 8. For Noting:

- a. Report of the Audit & Risk Committee – 27th October, 2022  
The Board noted the contents of the Report.

## 9. For Appointment:

- a. Board of Management Vacancy - St. Anne's Community College Killaloe  
Cllr. Joe Killeen was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Cllr. John Sheahan.

## 10. AOB

Ms. Kate Hehir queried the use of the existing school campus in Ennistymon following amalgamation. The CE advised that this would reopen as a FET Campus. The CE confirmed that the 1<sup>st</sup> September is the amalgamation date for the new school.

Cllr. Sarah Kiely raised a concern re displaced children within the Common Application System (CAS) in Limerick. She expressed her disappointment at the lack of information for parents and if asked if the organisation had an update on the matter. The CE advised that the administration of the CAS was not within the remit of Limerick and Clare ETB. The Director of Schools, Donncha O'Treasaigh advised that the LCETB schools within the CAS had provided an additional 100 places for Children. As a possible solution the Department was advised that LCETB could provide an additional classroom for students but the Department has not reverted on same to-date.

The Board was pleased to note that a Design Team had been appointed for the Mol an Oige CNS.

Further to a query re provision in the Outdoor Education Centres, Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Provision (FET) advised members to contact him in relation to queries on this matter.

Mr. Donal O'hAinifein reiterated his request for the provision of a standalone Gaelcholaiste in Ennis.

Next Meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at 4 p.m. (Hybrid)

George O'Callaghan  
Chief Executive.

Signed:

  
Chairperson of Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.