



**Minutes of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board  
held in Marshal House, Dooradoyle Road, Limerick (Hybrid)**

**28<sup>th</sup> May, 2024**

**Present:** Mr. Sean McMahon, Acting Chairperson  
Mr. Michael Cregan  
Cllr. Michael Donegan  
Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald  
Mr. Michael Guilfoyle  
Ms. Catherine Hehir  
Cllr. Gabriel Keating  
Mr. Paul Moroney  
Cllr. Paul Murphy  
Cllr. Ann Norton  
Mr. Mark O’Dea  
Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon  
Cllr. Elena Secas

**In attendance:** Mr. George O’Callaghan, Chief Executive  
Mr. Donncha O’Treaaigh, Director of Schools  
Ms. Eamon Murphy, Director of Organisation Support and Development  
Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training  
Mr. Denis O’Brien, Head of Corporate Services & IT  
Ms. Aileen O’Sullivan, Corporate Services  
Ms. Caroline Hayes, Recording Secretary, Corporate Services

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

**Apologies:**

Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy  
Cllr. Joe Killeen  
Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
Ms. Marian Petty

**In Absentia:**

Cllr. Liam Galvin  
Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
Ms. Sheila Hickey  
Cllr. John Sheahan

Due to technical issues, Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon was unable to Chair the meeting. It was agreed by the Board that Mr. Sean McMahon would Chair the meeting.

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

- Ms. Elaine Keppel (Marshal House) on the death of her Uncle.
- Ms. Caroline Crowe (Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh) on the death of her father, Mr. PJ Crowe.
- Ms. Aisling Stack (Marshal House) on the death of her aunt, Ms. Patricia Stack.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, were adopted on the proposal Cllr. Ann Norton seconded by Mr. Paul Moroney.

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

None.

**5. Governance:**

- a. Risk Management  
No matter raised.

**6. Correspondence**

**Department Correspondence**

<u>CL 0032/2024</u> 28 March 2024	Re: Revised Pay Rates due under Building Momentum – A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2023 (“The Agreement”) for Tutors Delivering Adult Education in Certain ETBs.
<u>CL 0033/2024</u> 11 April 2024	Re: Revision of Teacher Salaries under The Public Service Agreement 2024 - 2026 effective from 01 January 2024.
<u>CL 0034/2024</u> 11 April 2024	Re: Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) under The Public Service Agreement 2024 - 2026 effective from 01 January 2024.
<u>CL 0035/2024</u> 11 April 2024	Re: Revision of Salaries and Allowances of Certain Grades other than Teachers and SNAs employed by ETBs under The Public Service Agreement 2024 - 2026 effective from 01 January 2024.
<u>CL 0036/2024</u> 11 April 2024	Re: Revision of Salaries and Allowances of Certain Grades other than Teachers and SNAs employed by ETBs under The Public Service Agreement 2024 - 2026 effective from 01 January 2024.
<u>CL 0037/2024</u> 11 April 2024	Re: Revision of Salaries of School Secretaries and School Maintenance Staff in Community and Comprehensive Schools under the Public Service Agreement 2024 – 2026.

<u>CL 0038/2024</u> 11 April 2024	Re: Revision of Salaries for School Secretaries Previously Grant Funded Effective from 01 January 2024.
<u>CL 0039/2024</u> 8 April 2024	Re: Grant Scheme for ICT Infrastructure.
<u>CL 0040/2024</u> 8 April 2024	Re: Information in relation to Standardised Testing and Other Matters – Academic Year 2023/24 and Subsequent Years.
<u>CL 0041/2024</u> 26 April 2024	Re: Guidance in Post-Primary Schools.
<u>CL 0042/2024</u> 8 April 2024	Re: Say Yes to Languages – Primary Languages Sampler Module.
CL 0051/2024 20 May 2024	Re: Prescribed material for Junior Cycle English (For the student cohort commencing Junior Cycle in 2024 and presenting for examination in 2027).
<u>Parents and Learners Unit,</u> <u>Department of Education</u> 29 April 2024	Re: The National Parents Council (formerly National Parents Council-Primary) is the only national association of parents recognised by the Minister for Education under Section 2 of the Education Act 1998. At the request of the Department, its remit has been extended to provide support to parents of both primary and post primary students.

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

### **Schools, Youth Affairs, Local Creative Youth & REALT**

#### **Croí na Coille Community National School in Fedamore**

This week Limerick and Clare ETB was delighted to welcome another school to our Community National School with the announcement of the establishment of Croí na Coille Community National School in Fedamore, Co Limerick.

This decision marks a new chapter for Fedamore National School, one that emphasises inclusivity and caters to the diverse needs of our community. This transition will create a vibrant learning environment where all students can thrive.”

The new Community National School will be child-centred, inspired by the principles of Steiner and forest school education, while also delivering the entire national primary curriculum in accordance with the Department of Education. It will aim to concentrate on developing the whole child and emphasise the importance of physical, emotional, social and spiritual development as much as intellectual development. It is also expected that children currently enrolled at the Croí na Coille independent primary school located at Buttercup Farm in Croom will transfer to the new Croí na Coille Community National School in Fedamore.

The school will be hosting an information session for parents and guardians in the coming weeks to provide information about the school and the transition. Details regarding the session will be communicated through the school’s existing channels.

### **Establishment of new Special School for Limerick**

The newly appointed principal (Ms. Deirdre Bourke) and the deputy principal (Ms. Niamh Cooke) have commenced in their roles for the new Special School due to open in September 2024.

The closing date for receipt of applications to the new school was 2 April 2024. Offers of school places will be made in week commencing 15 April 2024.

Ongoing meetings with the Working Group established by the Department of Education with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and NCSE are taking place to ensure that the new school will open in September 2024.

Additional information about the new community special school is available at [www.limerickcss.ie](http://www.limerickcss.ie).

The Board congratulated the newly appointed Principal and Deputy Principal and wished them well in their new roles. The Board welcomed the new schools and paid tribute to Director of Schools, Donncha O'Treasaigh for all his work to date. The Board also paid tribute to the Communications Team for the very positive social media campaign around the new schools.

### **REALT (Regional Education and Language Team) - Supporting Ukrainian Children in Limerick and Clare**

#### **School Enrolments**

The Department of Education can confirm that 18,291 Ukrainian pupils had been enrolled in schools across Ireland at the end of February. Out of that figure, 11,358 of these pupils had been accommodated in primary schools while 6,933 pupils had enrolled in post-primary schools.

This data indicates an enrolment rate of 90.2% among Ukrainian children aged 5-18.

#### **Community National Schools**

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board is supporting its three Community National Schools continues - Mol an Óige CNS, Ennistymon, and Raheen Wood CNS, Scariff and Glenroe CNS with enrolments for the new academic year 2024/2025.

Regular meetings with the principals of all three Community National Schools take place to support the schools with ongoing planning. The Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Schools Division Support Team provides additional supports to the schools also. A Student Support Training programme is close to completion for rollout in schools from September 2024.

#### **Post Primary Schools**

Recruitment for teachers in the post-primary Community Colleges is well under way with closing date for receipt of applications on Tuesday, 9 April 2024. This year saw the highest number of vacancies advertised in the history of the ETB. Shortlisting and interviews will commence in the coming weeks.

#### **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.

Schools are receiving support and guidance on the operation of the Department of Education Schoolbook Grant currently from OSD and Schools Division.

### **BD STEM Stars Competition in association with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board**

The future of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in schools across Munster looks bright after 16 teams were selected for the final of this year's BD STEM Stars competition run by BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), one of the world's leading med-tech companies. Desmond College, Newcastle West, received the 'Best Live Demo' award for their 'SmartOtoscope' project.

Two Clare students turned judges' heads at the prestigious BD STEM Stars competition run by BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), one of the world's leading medical device companies, with their app aimed at addressing injury prevention among young female sports athletes.

Third Year students Amy Hennessy and Juliette Purcell from Coláiste Mhuire, Ennis, Co. Clare, landed second place with their fitness app which focuses on preventing anterior cruciate ligament injuries in young women. Their research also found that young women are given the same fitness coaching as their male peers despite different body forms.

The BD STEM Stars 2024 Award, which is supported by the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB), is the biggest such awards programme in Munster. The competition was launched five years ago by BD to promote and encourage participation in STEM subjects for second level students. The brief given to students was to devise solutions that positively impact on and advance the world of healthcare.

In addition to the competition element itself, the students also received a tour of the high-tech BD Research Centre Ireland (RCI) facility before the announcement of the winners by Senior Manager, Design Assurance Engineering at BD RCI, Dr. John Carey and presentation to the winners by Site Lead for BD RCI, Seán Wall.

### **Care Aware Crew Project**

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 thirteen schools in Limerick and Clare have agreed to participate in our pilot scheme. In this phase of the project, we are gathering information about the effectiveness of our Care Aware Crew lessons from both an instructional and a health-promotion point of view. In essence, the programme consists of five short pre-recorded online lessons - each about a different aspect of First Aid - that have been prepared by locally based medical professionals. The lesson topics were chosen following consultation with primary school teachers and pupils in local schools. The lessons are intended for use with pupils in 3rd and 4th Class. Worksheets and other materials to enhance teaching and learning experiences will be supplied to teachers by the Project Team.

Phase 2 of the Care Aware Crew pilot started in February 2024 with schools from across Limerick and Clare participating:

Every week for five weeks, the teachers received an educational video and activities to carry out with their class. These activities aimed to support the pupils' learning and are a mixture of practical-based and knowledge-based activities. Each class also received a first aid kit, complete with all the equipment they would need. After the programme, the pupils undertook a project, with their teacher, to showcase their learning.

### **The All-Ireland Scholarships**

Several students from Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Community Colleges were selected for an All-Ireland Scholarships which were presented on Saturday, 23 March 2024 in the University of Limerick.

Three students from Castletroy Community College and three students from Mungret Community College were joined by their respective principals on the day along with Grace Quirke from Coláiste Íde agus Iosef Abbeyfeale.

The value of each All-Ireland Scholarship is set at €6,750 per annum in Ireland and £5,500 per annum in Northern Ireland, and the scholarships apply for the duration of the undergraduate programmes chosen by the scholarship winners.

Participation in the scholarship scheme is confined to those who attend non-fee-paying schools and are in receipt of a third level of education maintenance grant from SUSI, or are in receipt of the Educational Maintenance Allowance in Northern Ireland. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of the results of a candidate's first attempt at the Leaving Certificate Examination in Ireland, or a candidate's first attempt at the A Level Examinations or the BTEC Extended Diploma Examinations in the Further Education Colleges in Northern Ireland.

In excess of €42.7m has been disbursed to scholarship recipients to date, 1,799 scholarships have been awarded and over 1,400 All Ireland Scholarships winners have already graduated from university.

### **Mungret Community College student participates in Dáil na nÓg**

Congratulations to Mungret Community College student, Cathal Carmody who participated and spoke at the recent Dáil na nÓg event in Dáil Éireann on 27 March 2024, which was hosted by the Ceann Comhairle, in the Dáil Chamber at Leinster House with 165 delegates nominated from the 31 Comhairle na nÓg across Ireland.

Dáil na nÓg is a biennial youth parliament made up of young people between the ages of 12 and 18 years. This year, Dáil na nÓg debated issues put forward by young people across the country for Government action and reach a final vote on one single issue to progress over the coming two years.

A preparation workshop for this year's Dáil na nÓg was held on 24 February, where nominees from each comhairle broke down the broad issue of mental health into distinct policy areas. The 40 nominees in attendance heard a presentation on mental health services and policy positions, with the aim of providing delegates with sufficient information to form their views, in line with guidance from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

During their annual youth conferences, each local Comhairle na nÓg asked young people from their local area to identify an issue of importance to them and on which they would like the Government to act. The topics most often chosen fell within a broad theme of mental health and comhairlí worked to establish the top three issues within this theme. The most important themes emerged as:

- Mental health services
- Body image
- School stress

These themes were debated during Dáil na nÓg and delegates voted to select one of these topics for the incoming national executive to work on. The executive will comprise 31 young people, one from each comhairle, and the work will be done during a two-year term between 2024 and 2026.

### **VEX robotics 2024**

This year the Mungret CC VEX robotics team had the most successful year to date. The team consists of four 5th year students who all have a huge interest in Technology, Engineering, Maths and the physical sciences. They are a group that has worked tirelessly all year outside of class to progress through the competition to the world stage of the competition in Dallas, Texas.

Three of the 4 students took part last year in the Explore Engineering programme in Transition year run by UL where they found huge support. They also received great support from both local businesses and a variety of Engineering related companies after their visit to the engineering showcase in Shannon in March.

### **Autism Awareness Month - April**

All Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Community National Schools and Community Colleges are promoting Autism Awareness Month during April to raise awareness about autism spectrum disorder (ASD). During this month, various organisations, advocacy groups, and individuals around the

world engage in activities aimed at increasing understanding and acceptance of autism, promoting inclusion, and supporting individuals on the autism spectrum and their families.

The goals of Autism Awareness Month include:

- Education: Providing accurate information about autism to dispel myths and misconceptions.
- Advocacy: Promoting policies and practices that support individuals with autism and their families.
- Acceptance: Fostering understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity, recognising the strengths and challenges of individuals with autism.
- Support: Providing resources and support services for individuals with autism and their families.

Activities during Autism Awareness Month may include fundraising events, educational workshops, conferences, social media campaigns, community events, and advocacy initiatives. It's an opportunity for people to come together to support the autism community, promote inclusion, and work towards a more inclusive society.

### **Annual Sports Day 2024**

Teamwork was at the forefront of this event with all track events being relays and field events comprising of a team of two. It was great to get this fantastic event back up and running and allowing our Limerick & Clare ETB students to access athletics at a local level.

This year Mr. James Hayes attended the event and set up a SADS Awareness display. It was an ideal opportunity to raise awareness among young people.

A total of 252 medals were taken home by Limerick & Clare ETB students. The students were a credit to their individual schools and all behaved with the utmost integrity and respect.

Winners on the Day

- 1st place - Colaiste na Trocaire
- 2nd place - Mungret Community College
- 3rd place- Hazelwood College

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

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

- Over 330 students participated in Professional Cookery and City & Guilds accredited programmes culminating in the Shannon Region Junior Chef of the Year 2024 won by Ailey Lyons from Coláiste Íde agus Iosaf, Abbeyfeale.
- Hospitality Campus in conjunction with TUS hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Junior Chef Ireland competition on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May in TUS. The sponsor was Limerick Central Rotary and the competition was open nationally to all secondary schools. David Omielianowicz from Coláiste Mhuire Askeaton and Ailey Lyons from Coláiste Íde agus Iosaf Abbeyfeale qualified.
- Fifteen International students are currently in Ireland working on internships from colleges in Madrid, Malaga, France and Luxemburg. The students are in placements in hotels and restaurants in Limerick, Clare and Kerry. All students have come through the Hospitality Campus. Six students from the Hospitality Campus are currently on placements in Malaga including two in a Michelin Star restaurant and the 5 Star Grand Miramar hotel.

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

- Intake of apprenticeships has continued to increase in Raheen Campus, in line with the national apprenticeship plan; 168 apprentices started in 2023 and carried into 2024, while another 551 apprentices are scheduled to start over the year. Further expansion plans are in development, which

would provide a further 72 apprenticeship places in Raheen, putting Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board's apprenticeship total into the top three ETBs in Ireland.

- Students from a variety of schools were invited to test out the new Xplore Hub in Raheen Campus. This Hub will be used for Pathways from school to FET courses. Both certified and non-certified taster courses will be offered to second level students as an introduction to the world of engineering and technology. Students will explore solutions to real-world challenges using robotics, design, AI and many other branches of engineering. The main objective is to offer an insight into the value, relevance and excitement of Further Education and Training Courses as well as breaking down barriers and establishing clear pathways into Further Education and Training across Limerick and Clare. STEM teachers are visiting the Hub on May 28<sup>th</sup> to get a flavour themselves, meet our robots, Pepper and Nao, and offer feedback.
- Commissioning and training for instructors on the SMC M&I - 400 took place in May at Raheen Campus. The first of its kind in Ireland, it is a new piece of training equipment used to simulate industrial automation technologies which would be used in modern automated manufacturing industry e.g. Stryker, Analogue, Lilly, J&J. As well as enabling the provision of valuable production and maintenance training for industry, the new rig will be used to provide pathways training for second level students.

### **College of FET, Shannon Campus**

- Plans are in place to deliver specific skills training to 450 learners in areas such as driving, rigid, artic and forklift. This target is on course with 210 learners on various courses. This training will take place in designated unemployment blackspots. Shannon F-Gas Training has been nominated for a training award by the Institute of Refrigeration Ireland.
- Plans are in place to deliver traineeship training to over 220 learners in 2024. Recruitment for traineeships proves difficult as the demand for shorter, more specific courses grows.
- The construction of three new Apprenticeship electrical workshops is complete. Two new Electrical classes have started in College of FET, Kilmallock Road Campus with another scheduled. Two additional workshops will become available when roof repairs are carried out.
- Shannon Campus has a target to deliver TY taster courses to over 400 Transition year students in 2024 as part of FET Pathways from School. This target is on course with 190 learners registered to date.
- Shannon Campus has a target of 2,000 certified learners for Evening Provision in 2024. This target is on course as 724 learners are registered to date.

### **College of FET, Green Innovation Campus**

- Learners commenced the first instance of the Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) Air Tightness and Vapour Control Course in the refurbished Retrofit Bay at the College of Further Education and Training, Green Innovation Campus, Roxboro, Limerick on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024. This course is delivered over five days with two days online followed by three days practical onsite in order to facilitate the needs of employees in the Construction Industry. It provides learners with the skills to safely install air permeability and insulation measures in new build and retrofit. It will also raise awareness of the relevant legislation pertaining to NZEB and Retrofit and the issues arising from incorrect installation of the above measures.

### **College of FET, Mulgrave Street Campus**

- Film in Limerick/Innovate Limerick supported by Limerick and Clare ETB won the Film Commission Initiative of the Year at BAFTA in London. The award is for an initiative from a local, regional or national Film Commission which has made a significant impact on their territories and created an interesting proposition for a feature film, TV movie, TV series, episode, advertisement or short form. Established in 2022, the National Talent Academy for Film and TV Crew South was launched with funding from Screen Ireland. Nurturing a vision to develop a highly skilled crew base throughout the



region and to create ongoing programs, Film in Limerick continue to build crew and skills as well as delivering above-the-line training in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. The aim is to address and support the current skills gaps in the industry and drive more local crew from all backgrounds and disciplines into the sector.

- Film in Limerick and Fresh Film has been nominated for the Global Production Awards in Cannes. The Global Production Awards, took place at the Cannes Film Festival on May 21<sup>st</sup> celebrating the outstanding and sustainable work in the world of film and TV production, locations and studios.
- From the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April, Mulgrave Street Campus ran its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual College of FET Arts Festival, a fantastic celebration of all the creative offerings from Mulgrave Street & Kilmallock Road Campuses. Staff were thrilled to announce new partnerships with Limerick City cultural venues, adding even more depth to the festival experience. Highlights of the festival programme included New Short Films Premiere, Acting Performances and Musical Treats at the Belltable. The festival culminated with a fashion show at the Hunt Museum, where the work of the Fashion Department learners took centre stage. Throughout the festival, attendees had the opportunity to explore Visual Art and Photography Exhibitions, including Brandon Hanley's 'Anthems of Angels' Photography Exhibition at Limerick City Gallery of Art, as well as Visual Art and Creative Media learner exhibitions at Gardens International on Henry Street.

### **College of FET, Cappamore and Kilmallock Town Campuses**

- Part-time provision are delivering 138 courses across campuses and community partner locations as follows: Learning in Employment – Skills to Advance: 3 courses, Pathways – BTEI Groups: 17 courses, Community Education: 52 courses, Adult Literacy for Life – Adult Literacy Groups: 33 courses; ESOL: 33 courses.
- 60 learners are due for QQI Certification this period.

### **College of FET Abbeyfeale and Newcastlewest Campuses**

- A training course commenced with support staff from the HSE based in Limerick City. These support staff are now undertaking their '**Introduction to Irish Sign Language**' course for 12 weeks at Newcastlewest Campus. This Introduction to Irish Sign Language course is an important part of the Professional Learning and Development for these HSE Support Staff.
- A very successful Migrant Education and Information event took place at Abbeyfeale Campus on the 20<sup>th</sup> March. Approximately 65 migrants attended. This event had information stalls for different educational institutions and other agencies such as the University of Limerick, MTU, MIC, TUS, LCETB Apprenticeships, West Limerick Resources, Intreo, DORAS, LCETB Guidance and Information and Active Inclusion Support Services. This event was used to promote the courses in West Limerick such as the ESOL courses, ESOL Traineeship, Art, Craft and Trade Skills, Business Admin, Childcare, Cookery and many more. All attendees gave positive feedback about this event.
- As part of the Limerick Lifelong Learning Festival, LCETB West Limerick region Campus Open Day at Abbeyfeale Campus took place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April. This Open Day highlighted the great selection of courses on offer in the West Limerick region. Events included information stands on the various Further Education Training Programmes based in West Limerick with demonstrations sessions of the Art & Craft, Woodcraft, Stone Carving and Cookery courses.

### **College of FET, O' Connell Avenue Campus**

- **Trauma Informed Practice:** Seven LCETB staff and seven Community partners attended Trauma Informed Practice training by Quality Matters. The training comprised a half-day online module on Understanding Trauma and one full day in-person workshop on Trauma Informed Practice.
- **Community Wellbeing Event:** The third in a series of three Community Wellbeing events was held on Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> in the UL Access Campus Roxboro. Food for Wellbeing was the theme of this event which was attended by learners from across the city as well as ETB staff.

- **Digital Infrastructure Audit of Community Settings in Limerick City:** Community Education collaborated with LCEN and LCETB Learning Technology Development Office on an audit of the Digital Infrastructure of Community Settings in Limerick City which was carried out in 2023 with funding from the Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) Strategy. The report from this audit has been published and the findings will be used to support applications under REACH 2024 for digital infrastructure improvements.
- Two members of staff from VESD participated in the VPL Biennale in Kilkenny. As part of the LCETB presentation on embedding VPL in the ETB they spoke about two projects, one with the Defence Forces and one with Ukrainian Childcare learners.
- LCETB Guidance Counsellor presented to VESD and Core Skills learners with the Guidance Counsellor from Core Skills on progression routes within FET. Over 90 learners were in attendance and feedback was very positive.
- As part of the Lifelong Learning Festival an open day was hosted in O'Connell Avenue. This gave members of the public a chance to see what is on offer and to view the building.
- There was an International Day on 17<sup>th</sup> April which was very well attended by VESD learners and staff. Participants were given the opportunity to explore the different cultures that learners come from.
- VESD staff attended Networking event for Frontline Workers involved in Supporting access to Education and Work. This allowed reconnection with colleagues and workers across Limerick city.

### **Music Generation Clare**

- Three members of MGCE's team have recently achieved their BE driving licence, qualifying them to drive the new MGCE Jeep and Mobile Studio Trailer. The mobile studio will now be integrated into programmes throughout the county, helping to bring music education to areas deprived of access to music education, as well as helping to further promote the MGCE brand.
- MGCE are currently developing their new 5 year strategic plan. This involves strategic mapping for the future provision of music education for children and young people throughout Clare. As part of the process, MGCE are engaging with a wide variety of stakeholders including Principals, Teachers and Students from National Schools and Secondary Schools, Steering Group Members, Youth Service Providers, Musicians, Musician Educators, as well as Parents and Students from a wide variety of programmes.

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

- An open day with an Information Session was held on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Potential learners were invited to demonstrations by current learners, an open information session with the lead teacher and invited to a showing of current work in the gallery. Articles are in the Clare ECCO, Clare Champion and on two local radio programmes related to the exhibition of learner work in the Courthouse Gallery.
- To mark Bealtaine, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, a guided walk of the Burren took place which integrated with an en plein air (outdoor) drawing session. It gave a new perspective on the beautiful environment in North Clare.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, the communications teacher organised learners to have soft skill session in the Outdoor Education and Training Centre, The Burren.

### **College of FET, Ennis Campus**

- **Core Skills Co. Clare:** Core Skills hosted a wonderful celebration of learning with Community Education and Vocational Education and Skills Development in Ennis on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March. Certificates of completion and Quality Qualifications Ireland Level 1 to 4 were presented to Core Skills learners. Family Learning hosted a Stakeholder meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March for groups they work in partnership with. This allowed a sharing of work done to date and feedback from partners working with families on how best to support those who are most vulnerable. Hug Your Book Training was

delivered by Young Ballymun staff in Ennis on 12<sup>th</sup> March, to family learning staff across LCETB, local partners and included three staff from Laois Offaly ETB.

- **North Clare Focus:** Approximately seventy Ukrainians, including children, relocated to Abbeywest accommodation in Bellharbour, thirty four have actively participated in English Classes offered from A0 to B1 levels. On February 6<sup>th</sup>, Ballyvaughan welcomed thirty one new residents. Assessments and registrations were conducted for thirty one individuals. Nineteen learners are actively participating in classes in Ballyvaughan. Due to high demand, additional classes were established to accommodate all learners, as existing classes are at full capacity.
- The Customer Service Traineeship in Miltown Malbay concluded on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ten learners successfully finished the programme, with nine awaiting certification of a QQI Level 4 Employment Skills major award (4M0857), while one learner will receive seven component awards. All learners remain engaged in part-time work and continue to attend English classes. Two are establishing their own businesses, one in construction and the other in mechanics. Furthermore, seven learners have submitted applications for QQI Level 5 vocational programmes scheduled to commence in September.
- There will be a Voter Registration Drive held in May before the upcoming Local and European Elections in June.
- Family Learning staff delivered two days of training in Cork City on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April, to 11 adult literacy staff from across Cork City and County. Tutors found this very valuable from their evaluation sheets.
- Family Learning have started Sharing Our Stories project in two primary schools in Killaloe. A 100 year old lady has registered for the course, her granddaughter teaches in the school. This local history is an intergenerational project between grandparents and grandchildren. A lot of excitement is involved in these sessions looking at old objects, photographs related to shopping, farming, home and work. There is a partnership with Clare Museum who will visit both schools.

### **Outdoor Education & Training**

- Both OETCs are providing a number of funded skills courses for adults during the summer months in Kayaking, Hillwalking, Caving and Mountain Biking.
- OETC Kilfinane hosted a very successful Camp Abilities for Vision Ireland during week one of the Easter holidays. Construction of the new High Ropes course at OETCK has commenced with completion at the end of April.

### **Support Services**

**Active Inclusion:** “The importance of embracing diversity, inclusion and encouraging the progression of under-represented groups is a priority for the active inclusion support service”. In a bid to promote work being done by our Active Inclusion Support Service, Mary Cantwell (Migrant Specific Guidance Counsellor) and Barbra Nzvaura (Adult Educator, FET Pathways from School) attended and presented at the Diversity and Intercultural Education Network in ATU, Sligo on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 2024.

The Diversity and Intercultural Education Network was created in 2023 as a space for educators to engage with each other and promote collaboration between educators, schools, and other organisations working to promote diversity and intercultural education. Attendance at the event included teachers, educators and practitioners; those involved in working with children and young people.

During the event, the importance of education and targeted supports for under-represented groups was highlighted. Our presence at the DIEN event allowed us to raise awareness of the initiatives undertaken by AISS to foster inclusion through the Realising Potential Project and The FET Pathways from School project.

By sharing our experiences and materials, we aimed to inspire others to adopt similar practices towards promoting diversity and inclusion within their respective organisations. Mary contributed by speaking

about the impact of the Realising Potential and how it framed our ESOL and Migrant Framework. She also distributed an informative article she wrote addressing the changing climate in our educational landscape. The article aimed to raise awareness and foster discussions on adapting our practices and systems to the ever-changing landscape. Barbra, highlighted the lack of exposure to vocational learning and pathways during the Senior Cycle and the FET's sector's duty to improve access to education and progression opportunities for historically excluded groups.

Additionally, we presented materials including our FET Pathways from School booklet and the ESOL and Migrant Framework, which encapsulate our strategies and approaches supporting learners from under-represented groups.

### **Additional Information on Migrant Education Information Days**

Three information days were scheduled for 2024, aimed at providing valuable insights into educational opportunities for migrants. These events took place at the College of FET, O'Connell Avenue Campus on the 17<sup>th</sup> January and College of FET, Ennis Campus on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January and the final event took place in College of FET, Abbeyfeale Campus on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

These events had representation from various education institutions including Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, TUS, Doras and the DSP. The primary objective is to inform and empower the migrant community regarding the educational pathways offered by Further Education and Training (FET) and Higher Education Institutions (HEI), while also providing insights into the funding opportunities available.

Hosting and attending these events plays a vital role in strengthening connections with key stakeholders in the education sector across the region. Collaborating with the DSP has been instrumental in ensuring we provide a more supportive environment for migrants in accessing education and employment opportunities.

### **Information, Recruitment & Guidance**

- IRGSS attended a Recruitment event at the local Clare DSP/Intreo office with Bus Éireann re apprenticeships, Regeneration job fairs Limerick City, industry skills briefings in Microchip, Ennis and Modular Automation;
- IRGSS linked with Shannon recruitment agency eFlexes ([eflexes.com](https://eflexes.com)) for a presentation in the Ennis campus on relevant vacancies;
- IRGSS attended the national Adult Guidance Association, AGA, (<https://www.adultguidanceassociation.ie/>) AGM in Tullamore;
- IRGSS attended IGC Conference in Tralee;
- IRGSS attended the Lifelong Guidance Network Event in Dublin Castle.

### **Enterprise Engagement**

- EESS has integrated with the Senior Training Advisors to make a combined team of 10 persons engaging with industry.
- EESS demonstrated Strategic Employer Engagement Database (SEED), a new CRM for employer engagement;
- EESS presented the plenary review of the Explore Engineering Showcase;
- EESS is developing a new programme in conjunction with an aviation company, to meet the upskilling needs in the sector;
- EESS & IRGSS attended a number of information events re upskilling in industry, i.e. Microchip, Ennis May 9<sup>th</sup>;
- EESS attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Validation of Prior Learning Biennale in Kilkenny.

**8. For Adoption:**

- a. 2023 Draft Annual Report  
Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Ann Norton, seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating.
  
- b. Finance Report  
Adopted on the proposal of Mr. Mark O'Dea, seconded by Cllr. Paul Murphy
  
- c. Minute from the Finance Committee Meeting held on 23/02/24  
Adopted on the proposal of Mr. Michael Guilfoyle, seconded by Ms. Catherine Hehir
  
- d. Minute from Finance Committee Meeting held on 25/03/2024  
Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating.

**9. For Noting:**

- a. Minute from the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting held on 22/02/2024
- b. Minute from the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting held on 21/03/2024
- c. Report from the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting held on 23/04/2024
- d. Report from the Finance Committee 17/05/2024

**10. For Approval:**

- a. Purchase of Mungret College for Limerick Community Special School  
Approved by on the proposal of Cllr. Ann Norton, seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating.
  
- b. Lease Renewal of Round House, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick  
Approved by on the proposal of Mr. Paul Moroney, seconded by Ms. Catherine Hehir.
  
- c. Lease of Additional Space at LEDP  
Approved by on the proposal of Cllr. Ann Norton, seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating.
  
- d. Procedure for Board Members to seek Professional Advice  
Approved by on the proposal of Cllr. Ann Norton, seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating.

**11. AOB with the permission of the Chairperson**

The Chief Executive thanked the current Board for their commitment, support and diligent work during their term as Members of the ETB. He wished all the Members every success for the future and to those seeking re-election in the upcoming local elections.

The Chief Executive tendered his letter of retirement to the Board with effect from 31st August 2024.

On accepting his letter of resignation, the Board paid fulsome tribute to the CE for his commitment, vision and dedication to the ETB. Indeed, the Board attributed the success of the ETB to George as it is one of the leading ETBs in the country in terms of the delivery of its education and training mission across its three divisions i.e. schools, further education and training and organisational support and development.

The Board wished George every happiness and good health for his retirement.

Next Meeting to be confirmed.

George O'Callaghan  
Chief Executive.

Signed:

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Chairperson of Meeting held on

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