



MINUTES OF LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Marshal House Dooradoyle Road, Limerick (Hybrid)

On

Tuesday, 21st January, 2025 at 4.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon Chairperson
Ms. Ann Norton Deputy Chairperson
Cllr. Antoinette Baker Bashua
Cllr. Michael Begley
Cllr. Maria Donoghue
Cllr. Peter Doyle
Mr. Darren Feldon
Ms. Jeannette Ferguson
Cllr. Rachel Hartigan
Ms. Kate Hehir
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Mr. Conal Kelly
Ms. Claire Knight
Mr. Michael MacCurtain
Mr. Sean McMahan
Mr. Adrian O'Hanlon
Cllr. Catherine Slattery
Cllr. Brigid Teefy

In attendance:

Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Acting Chief Executive
Mr. Eamon Murphy, Director of Organisation Support and Development
Ms. Breda Flynn, Director of Organisation Support and Development
Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education & Training
Mr. Denis O'Brien, Head of ICT/Corporate Services
Ms. Caroline Hayes, Corporate Services

Apologies:

Cllr. Noreen Stokes
Cllr. Mary Howard

In absentia:

Cllr. John Sheahan

(a) Introduction by Chief Executive

Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Acting Chief Executive wished all members a happy new year and extended his best wishes for prosperity and health for 2025.

(b) Condolences

- Mr. Niall O'Brien, (Caretaker, Scariff Community College), on the death of his mother, Ms Noreen O'Brien
- Ms. Norma O'Brien, (Director, Limerick Education Support Centre, Marshal House) on the death of her Father, Mr. Sean Twomey.
- Ms. Aileen Healy Byrne (Marshal House) and Mr. Tom Byrne (Desmond College, Newcastle West) on the death of Aileen's mother and Toms mother -in- law, Ms. Mary Healy.
- Ms Bridget O'Connor (Youthreach Hospital) on the death of her mother, Ms. Catherine Tierney.
- Ms Eukaria O'Grady (Principal St Anne's Killaloe) on the death of her father in law Mr. Jackie Evans.
- Ms Catriona Madigan (Further Education and Training Campus, Newcastle West) on the death of her mother, Ms. Mary Madigan.
- Ms Martina Crowley Hayes (Further Education and Training Ennis Campus), on the death of her father Mr Noel Crowley.
- Ms Josephine Dempsey (Further Education and Training Campus Ennis), on the death of her mother, Ms Bridie Tubridy.
- Ms Brenda O'Donoghue (Further Education and Training Campus Ennis) on the death of her uncle, Mr Leo O'Donoghue.
- Ms Audrey Anslow (Thomond Community College) on the death of her father, Mr. Timothy O'Keefe.
- Ms Dearbhla Hassett (Scariff Community College) on the death of her father, Mr Patrick Hassett.
- Ms Joan O'Hanrahan (Further Education and Training Campus Ennis) on the death of her mother, Ms. Bernadette O'Hanrahan.
- Mr. Declan Nolan (St. Michael's Community College, Kilmihil) on the death of his mother, Ms. Bridie Nolan
- Mr. Kevin McNamara (St. Michael's Community College, Kilmihil) on the death of his grandmother, Ms. Mary Leamy.

- Mr. Morgan Heaphy (Colaiste Mhuire, Askeaton) on the death of his mother in law, Mrs Mary Kearney.
- Ms. Niamh Deegan (Further Education and Training Campus, Mulgrave Street) on the death of her brother, Daniel Ahern.
- Ms Joan Prendeville (Station Road, Ennis) on the death of her father, Mr Patrick McNamara
- Ms. Caroline Hayes (Marshal House) on the death of her aunt, Ms. Margaret Albert.
- Family of Mr. Christy Coughlan, former Colleague, College of Further Education and Training, Raheen Campus.
- The family of the late Mr. Daniel Costello, (former Caretaker, Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher).

(c) Minutes of Previous Meetings of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board

Minutes of meeting held on 19th November, 2024 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Mr. Sean McMahon.

(d) Matters arising from Minutes

None.

(e) Correspondence from:

Department of Education

CL 0064/2024 10 December 2024	Re: The Operation/application and deployment of Special Education Teacher resources.
CL 0081/2024 12 December 2024	Re: Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations Guidelines for Schools in Supporting Students.
CL 0083/2024 19 November 2024	Re: Code of Practice for the Governance of Education and Training Boards 2024.
CL 0084/2024 4 November 2024	Re: Advice on the use of assessment instruments/tests for Guidance or for additional and special educational needs (SEN) in post-primary schools.
CL 0086/2024 21 November 2024	Re: Prescribed material for Junior Cycle Irish for students presenting for Final Examination in 2027, 2028 and 2029.
CL 0087/2024 3 December 2024	Re: NQF Level 9 Graduate Diploma in Social Personal and Health Education/ Relationships and Sexuality Education (SPHE/ RSE) Programme 2025.

CL 0088/2024 20 November 0024	Re: Costs of living measure to support increased school running costs.
CL 0090/2024 21 November 2024	Re: Panel access for fixed-term/temporary (this includes substitute) and part-time teachers to the Supplementary Redeployment Panel for the 2025/26 school year.
CL 0092/2024 11 December 2024	Re: Special Leave with Pay for Sporting Purposes for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools.
CL 0093/2024 11 December 2024	Re: Special Leave with Pay for Sporting Purposes for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools.
CL 0001/2025 2 January 2025	Re: Guidance in Post-Primary Schools 2025.
CL 0002/2025 13 January 2025	Re: Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Examination 2027, 2028, 2029(For student cohort commencing 5th year in Sept 2025, 2026 & 2027).
CL 0003/2025 13 January 2025	Re: Teacher Fee Refund Scheme 2024.

6. For Consideration: Chief Executive's Report Incorporating:

Schools, Youth Work, Local Creative Youth Partnership and REALT

Limerick Community Special School - Mungret

Limerick Community Special School opened in Mungret for classes on 5 September 2024. The 30 students who are enrolled in the school (aged from 4-14 years) have settled in well and are enjoying school.

Limerick Community Special School had a very special visit on the 18th of December 2024, with Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, Olaf the snowman and the elf all arriving on their sleigh.

For 8 of the families this was their first opportunity to visit Santa successfully in a sensory and communication friendly environment. Some children accepted and opened a present for the very first time in their lives. Parents and guardians were proudly sharing these precious pictures with family and friends. This event was fully funded by donations to the school from the support of the Parents Association and local business communities.

Senior Infants Pery Classroom visited the Rugby Museum on the 17th of December to see the school's entry to Make a Big TLC Christmas Tree decorating our tree with decorations made from all waste materials.

Admissions for September 2025 opened last and all information is available on the school website – www.limerickcss.ie.

Limerick Community Special School has been selected to be the base school for a new special school supply panel, this is the first nationally.

Fedamore Community National School - Croí na Coille

The staff and pupils of the newest community national school in Limerick and Clare had a wonderful first term. Opening with just seven pupils from junior infants to sixth class, the school has been a hive of activity in the first term. From small and humble beginnings, the school continues to go from strength to strength. The staff secured its digital arts flag for the school. In other creative endeavors the school has linked up with Glenroe CNS for the Peace Proms initiative. The school have also worked in collaboration with renowned local composer Fiona Linnane and entered a project 'The Irish Elk' in the European young heritage makers competition. The school has engaged with the Heritage Keepers initiative and has secured funding through this initiative to develop outdoor wellbeing and biodiversity spaces on the school grounds. The school has also been successful in gaining the Education for Sustainable Development grant from the Department of Education to help fund a poly tunnel for the school.

Pupils have enjoyed a broad and balanced education with everyone on staff bringing their own skills, interests and positive dispositions to the school each day. Pupils have experienced outdoor learning and forest school activities, active learning, digital literacy and lots of hands-on experiences in STEM and creativity.

Linking with the local community is very important to the staff. The local community has been extremely supportive through community endeavors such as a coffee morning in aid of sick children in Ireland, a movie premiere of 'The Irish Elk', the open evening, the Christmas shoe box appeal.

Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT)

Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT) are hosted by the regional education and training boards around Ireland and staffed by regionally based education support personnel.

REALT also support schools in the area to meet the needs of these children as they emerge, to advise and support the Department of Education in developing new capacity where required, and to coordinate the provision of education services to schools and families across their defined area.

Update from REALT Team

Two relatively large International Protection Applicant Centres, housing families only, have recently opened in Limerick city. All of the children and young adults from the first centre are currently enrolled and attending school, whereas REALT is currently working with enrolments for the second centre, which has only recently opened. Families are extremely appreciative to schools to be able to enrol their children as it brings a sense of normality to their lives.

BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2025

A record number of students from Limerick and Clare ETB Community Colleges have qualified for the upcoming BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2025. This significant achievement

underscores the talent and dedication of the community college and community school students and their inspiring teachers.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board is immensely proud of its students who qualified for the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2025. Their dedication to their projects and their passion for science and technology are truly inspiring.

The qualifying projects from students encompass a diverse range of scientific disciplines, showcasing the breadth of scientific talent within the ETB community.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board extends its warmest congratulations to all the students who qualified for the 2025 competition.

Qualified Projects

St John Bosco Community College	The effect of blue oyster mushrooms on the rate of decomposition of waste.	Biological & Ecological
St Joseph's Community College	Herd Herbs: Herbal Remedies to Prevent Mastitis in Dairy Cows	Biological & Ecological
St Joseph's Community College	InstaVape: Ensuring Safe Vaping with Instant, On-the-Go Substance Detection	Technology
Desmond College	"Facial Rehabilitation: A Technological Approach for Bell's Palsy Patients"	Health & Wellbeing
Desmond College	Chill "N" Heal Bandage	Health & Wellbeing
Desmond College	Using Benford's Law To Detect Electoral Fraud	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences
Desmond College	OtoInSight	Health & Wellbeing
Coláiste Iósaef	Connected By Blood a Continued Study	Health & Wellbeing
Colaiste Chiarain	"Quantum Insights: Particle Profiling via Cloud Chamber & AI Analysis"	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences
Colaiste Chiarain	Discovering Habitable Exoplanets with the help of AI.	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences
Castletroy College	An investigation into the relationship between catch areas to the quantity of microplastics found in fish's gastrointestinal system.	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences
Colaiste Chiarain	An investigation to understand the reasons behind the falling trends of EV sales in Ireland	Social & Behavioural Sciences
Colaiste Chiarain	Which Plant is the Best Defence Against Ocean Acidification?	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences

Colaiste Chiarain	Barriers to protect against fluvial flooding	Technology
Colaiste Chiarain	The Big Irish Head On You!	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences
Colaiste Chiarain	Bó-Watch: An AI powered monitoring system for cows	Technology
Colaiste Chiarain	Identifying AI Speech: the Future Of Cybersecurity with ZypAI	Technology
Mungret Community College	To investigate the Influence of LED Light Spectral Variations on Basil (<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L.) Vitamin C Composition.	Biological & Ecological
Mungret Community College	IndependentMe: An at home healthcare device to support independent living for people suffering from memory impairment.	Technology
Colaiste Chiarain	SmartSpecs	Technology

BT Young Scientist Exhibition Winners 2025

Gold Partner Awards

Award Title	Project Title	School Name	Student(s)
Stripe Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Award	Discovering Habitable Exoplanets with the help of AI.	Colaiste Chiarain	Miles Bueno, Lillie Li

Category Awards

Award Title	Project Category	School Name	Project Title	Student(s)
1st Junior Individual	Health & Wellbeing	Desmond College	Facial Rehabilitation: A technological approach for Bell's Palsy patients	Nell McMahan
1st Intermediate Group	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Colaiste Chiarain	Discovering Habitable Exoplanets with the help of AI.	Miles Bueno, Lillie Li
3rd Junior Individual	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Ennistymon Community School	Analysis of voice frequencies using FFT	Jacob McEntee
2nd Junior Group	Technology	Kilkee Community	InstaVape: Ensuring Safe Vaping with	Mae Burns, Noah

		College	Instant, On-the-Go Substance Detection	Hanrahan, Orla Connolly
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Highly commended

Award Title	Project Category	School Name	Project Title	Student(s)
Highly Commended	Biological & Ecological	Kilkee Community College	Herd Herbs: Herbal Remedies to Prevent Mastitis in Dairy Cows	Ava Daly, Laura Mahoney, MollieCollins
Highly Commended	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Colaiste Chiarain	Quantum Insights: Particle profiling via cloud chamber and AI analysis.	Emily Ceban, Maxim Olesovs
Highly Commended	Health & Wellbeing	Desmond College	Chill "N" Heal Bandage	KingaTobianska, Paulina Varuyeva
Highly Commended	Health & Wellbeing	Desmond College	OtoInSight	AoibhilinnHeath, Caoimhe Greene

Display Awards

Award Title	Project Category	School Name	Project Title	Student(s)
Display Award	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Castletroy College	An investigation into the relationship between catch areas to the quantity of microplastics found in fish's gastrointestinal system.	Orlaith Lynch, Luke McKeon
Display Award	Health & Wellbeing	Coláiste Iósaef	Connected By Blood: A Continued Study	Zeina Mohammed
Display Award	Technology	St John Bosco Community College	Smog Sucks!	Michelle Shannon, Adam Hehir

Ennis Unified Admissions Process for enrolment in post-primary

The Ennis Unified Admissions Process (UAP) is a collaborative system used by post-primary schools in Ennis, Co. Clare, to manage the enrolment of 6th class primary school students to first year. This process ensures a streamlined and fair approach for all applicants.

The process was designed by the patrons and is facilitated by the former chief inspector of the Department of Education, Mr. Eamon Stack.

Key details and dates for the UAP for the 2025/2026 school year

1. **Participating Schools:** The process includes Coláiste Muire, Ennis Community College, Gaelcholáiste an Chláir, Rice College, and St. Flannan's College.
2. **Application Deadlines:**
 - a. **Special Classes:** Applications must be submitted by December 6, 2024, at 12:30 PM.
 - b. **Ordinary Classes:** Applications must be submitted by January 10, 2025, at 12:30 PM.
3. **Notification of Offers:** Schools will send out offers or refusals by January 29, 2025.
4. **Acceptance of Offers:** Parents/guardians must accept or decline offers by February 6, 2025, at 12:30 PM.
5. **Completion of Process:** The goal is to have all applicants placed in a school by the week ending February 21, 2025.

The enrolment process of students for Special Class places is currently taking place in collaboration with the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) Special Education Needs Organisers (SENOs), the schools and facilitator, Eamon Stack.

Digital Awards for Schools

Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh and Castletroy College awarded European 'Digital School' status for excellence in digital teaching and learning.

Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh has been recognised with the prestigious European 'Digital School' status for its outstanding contribution in digital teaching and learning. This achievement follows the success of Castletroy College, another Limerick and Clare ETB community college, which was awarded the Digital Schools Award in March 2022. Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh and Castletroy College are now mentor schools in the Digital Schools Award programme, a testament to their commitment to digital innovation in education.

Supported by global technology leaders HP and AMD, in partnership with government and education organisations, the Digital Schools Awards Europe programme promotes digital teaching and learning and recognises schools that are preparing students with essential digital skills for the future.

To earn this award, schools must demonstrate a whole-school digital strategy, demonstrate how digital technology enhances learning, and commit to ongoing professional learning for teachers. The programme emphasises innovative and collaborative approaches to digital technology in education, setting an example for other schools to follow.

"We are incredibly proud to have achieved this award," said Ciara Ní Dhrisceoil, Digital Leader at Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh. "It reflects the hard work of our entire school community and our dedication to enriching learning and teaching."

Joe Shortt, Digital Learning Coordinator at Castletroy College, added: "We are proud to have contributed to the Digital Schools Awards since our win in 2022 as a mentor school, witnessing first hand its transformative impact on schools. We're thrilled to be part of the Digital Schools Award community and encourage all schools to seize the opportunity the initiative presents. We

look forward to continuing as a mentor school with the Digital Schools Award as part of a network of educational professionals that can support each other and learn from one another.”

The Digital Schools Awards programme offers participating schools, which have completed the European Commission’s SELFIE self-reflection survey, access to mentorship and professional development resources. The programme covers key themes such as leadership, collaboration, infrastructure, professional development, teaching and learning, assessment, and student digital competencies.

Donncha Ó Treasaigh, Acting Chief Executive of Limerick and Clare ETB, described the Digital Schools Awards as being very beneficial for schools: “I’m really delighted that we’ve been able to support an initiative like this, where the digital innovation of both teachers and students is formally recognised. This award is a testament to Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh’s commitment to providing students with a cutting-edge education and equipping them with advanced digital skills. We are incredibly proud of both Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh and Castletroy College for achieving this recognition and for their dedication to fostering digital excellence in education. Limerick and Clare ETB is committed to supporting all ETB schools in their journey towards digital transformation.”

During the recent Open Day, where student digital leaders received their Special Recognition Awards, Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh Principal Kevin Ó Raghallaigh said: “The Digital Schools Award Europe provides an essential platform for schools to evaluate, develop, and be acknowledged for their digital capabilities. Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh has shown remarkable leadership in integrating digital technology to enhance education. Congratulations to all the teachers and students on this achievement, and we look forward to continuing to drive digital innovation within our school.”

Currently, 285 schools in Ireland are registered for the Digital Schools Awards Europe programme. To find out more, visit the official website, www.awards4selfie.eu.

RTÉ Young Sportsperson of the Year - Róisín Ní Riain

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board congratulates Róisín Ní Riain on winning RTÉ Young Sportsperson of the Year.

Donncha O Treasaigh, Acting Chief Executive of the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, extends heartfelt congratulations to Róisín Ní Riain, a distinguished alumna of Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, on her remarkable achievement of being named RTÉ Young Sportsperson of the Year at a special event on Sunday, 16 December 2024.

Róisín's dedication, perseverance, and outstanding performance in her sport have earned her this prestigious accolade, reflecting her exceptional talent and commitment. Her journey from the classrooms of Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh to the national stage is a testament to her hard work and the support of her educators, coaches, and family. Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh is rated the top swimming post primary school in Munster.

"We are incredibly proud of Róisín's accomplishments," said Donncha. "Her success is an inspiration to all our students and a shining example of what can be achieved with determination and passion. Róisín has not only excelled in her sport but has also demonstrated the values of excellence and resilience that we strive to instill in all our students."

Róisín's achievement highlights the importance of nurturing young talent and providing opportunities for students to excel in various fields. Limerick and Clare Education and Training

Board is committed to supporting the holistic development of its students, ensuring they have the resources and encouragement needed to pursue their dreams.

"We look forward to following Róisín's future endeavors and celebrating her continued success," added Donncha. "She has made us all proud, and we are confident that she will continue to achieve great things."

ETB Schools Division - Annual Student Support Team Conference

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Schools Division held its annual Student Support Team Conference recently in Co. Clare. Conference attendees included school principals, deputy principals, student support team coordinators, and a range of supporting agencies including the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Youth Work Team, REALT, HSE, TUSLA, UL, and NEPS. This made for a truly multidisciplinary, collaborative event featuring relevant stakeholders who work closely on supporting young people in Limerick and Clare.

The theme of this year's conference was "Connection with self and others using emotional intelligence" with guest speaker Fin Chambers.

Muintearas in ár Scoileanna - Connection in our Schools Webinar for all Staff in Schools

The Schools Division of the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board held its annual school-wide winter webinar on Thursday, 28 November 2024. This on-line event for all staff across schools in Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board featured Shane Martin, an esteemed psychotherapist renowned nationally for his expertise in supporting organisations with inspirational keynotes in promoting effective cultures of psychological safety.

Donncha Ó Treasaigh, Acting Chief Executive, took the opportunity to acknowledge the staff for their commitment in supporting communities across Limerick and Clare. The Chief Executive emphasised the pivotal role played by the webinar in nurturing an effective inter-school connection across the region.

Supports for Schools

Schools are being 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). The Professional Development schedule (below) has been developed to support our schools in accordance with comprehensive feedback from teachers and school leaders and is available to our schools on a central hub on the Schools Division Support site - www.lcetb.com.

School Support

As of the 20th of December 2024, a total of 2316 personnel (teachers, SNAs, parents/guardians) have been directly supported through professional learning events.

Schools continue to be supported at senior management, teacher, and student levels on an individual basis with school visits, telephone and email support where required.

A total of 80 occasions of school support with schools were completed.

The following log outlines the support to the communities of practice and other support to date.

Event/s	Date
Onboarding and Induction for newly Appointed Teachers Confirmation.	16/09/2024
Digital Cluster #1	16/09/2024
SST Coordinators Critical Incident review meeting,	18/09/2024
TY Cluster 1	19/09/2024
HSCL Cluster	25/09/2024
Provision Mapping Day 1 Year 2 schools	25/09/2024
Provision Mapping New Schools Induction	01/10/24
Parent Webinar, Colman Noctor, Anxiety talk	02/10/24
SST Induction Training	02/10/2024
SST Induction Training	03/10/2024
Ethos Co-ordinators	03/10/2024
CL Cluster 1	10/10/24
Provision Mapping Day 2 Year 1 schools Induction	15/10/24
Trauma Responsive Education Day 3	16/10/24
Joe Power Restorative Practice (delivered in schools)	Ongoing
Tom Coleman, Sleep Seminar	22/10/24
Senior Management Input	7/11/2024
SST Annual Conference	13/11/2024
English Language Teaching Award Cambridge Assessment	13/11/2024
Muintearas in ár Scoileanna	28/11/2024
English Language Teaching Award Cambridge Assessment	4/12/2024

Ethos: Thirteen schools and two Community National Schools are involved in this initiative. A 'Goodness Me Goodness You' created for CNS with ETBI support.

Student Support Teams

The first of our SST coordinators' meetings has occurred. New members have received training and inducted. Critical Incident and SST support materials have been developed. The Assistant Psychologist program is continuing. Ongoing collaboration with external agencies (HSE, TUSLA, NEPS, and other local and national agencies/bodies) forms an integral part of the work. NEPS are offering Cluster Groups for Limerick Schools. Clare schools receive support from the NEPS office in Ennis. Trauma Responsive Education continues with Marie Delaney.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board to host national ICT conference

The 2025 annual conference of the Computers in Education Society of Ireland will take place on Saturday 1st March in Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh. 'Navigating Digital Futures: 2025' is the theme for this prestigious conference.

Partnerships

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and Mary Immaculate College

IDEAL Futures Project

The first trip as part of the IDEAL Futures Project (<https://ideal-future.eu/index.php/en/>) took place in November in Rennes, France.

The first iteration of the project was piloted regarding the Teaching Academy. A key theme that emerged from the discussions was the meaningful integration of AI into education. The group explored how AI can enhance learning experiences, personalise instruction, and support teachers in their roles. The group reviewed important and topical areas of assessment and understanding how AI impacts assessment practices.

University of Limerick Hospitals Group & Junior Health Science Academy

Junior Health Sciences Academy (JHSA)

Primary Schools in the Mid-West Invited to Join Free, Award-Winning, Care Aware Crew Education Programme

HSE Mid-West Health Sciences Academy and partners expand fun, free and engaging Healthcare Skills Programme for primary school across the Mid-West.

Mid-West primary schools can now register for the award-winning Care Aware Crew programme, a free initiative that teaches primary school children essential health knowledge, including emergency skills, about the human body, and health literacy, while introducing them to the idea of careers in healthcare.

The Care Aware Crew programme offers schools a series of interactive videos and workbooks on health topics like making a 999 call, first aid, and brain health. The programme, already piloted with over 1,000 students across 20 Mid-West schools, has received enthusiastic feedback from teachers and students alike. Developed by local healthcare professionals and informed by teachers, Care Aware Crew is a partnership between Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, HSE Mid-West Health Sciences Academy, and University of Limerick.

Following initial funding from QExchange in 2022, the Health Sciences Academy recently secured additional funding of €88,000 from HSE Spark Innovation enabling the programme to reach all primary schools in the Mid-West region. This expansion ensures that more students can gain invaluable, lifelong skills and confidence in handling health emergencies.

“As a principal who has delivered the Care Aware Crew programme, I’ve seen our students gain essential, lifelong skills for handling emergencies with confidence and care,” says Seamus Barry, Principal of St Joseph’s National School, Ballybrown, Co. Limerick. “I highly recommend the programme to schools across the Mid-West.”

Pupils in St Joseph’s National School Ballybrown, Co. Limerick completing the Care Aware Crew programme.

Miriam McCarthy, Health Sciences Academy Manager, adds, “We’re thrilled to have secured this funding, allowing us to bring the Care Aware Crew to every school in the region. This fun, engaging programme teaches health knowledge and life skills, and we hope to expand access nationwide by next summer.”

Donncha Ó Treasaigh, Acting Chief Executive of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board stated “We are thrilled to expand the Care Aware Crew programme to reach every primary school

in the Mid-West. This initiative empowers young people with essential life-saving skills, equipping them to handle emergencies with confidence. Through our partnership with the HSE Mid-West Health Sciences Academy and University of Limerick, we are bringing vital health education to schools. The Care Aware Crew programme is a testament to the power of collaboration in improving the well-being of our young people.”

Teachers and principals interested in partaking in the programme should register now by visiting ul.ie/hsa/junior-health-sciences-academy.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board contributed as a key partner in helping the Care Aware Crew Oversight Committee (a sub-committee of JHSA) secure an award of €88,000 from Spark Impact (an HSE/National Doctors Training & Planning group that provides funding for transformative healthcare projects

To date, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Schools Division Support Team have drafted and designed two primary school workbooks for the Care Aware Crew project:

- (1) The First Aid Workbook
- (2) The Human Body Workbook

The team has also advised on the production of three new Care Aware Crew video lessons for primary schools:

- Digital Literacy/Navigating the Digital World
- Sleep and Wellbeing
- Life Balance and Wellbeing

The team has also played a leading role in the publication of a new primary school workbook: ‘Wellbeing’.

The official launch of a major new Care Aware Crew website (in early 2025) along with the roll-out of Phase Three of the Care Aware Crew programme to approximately 4,000 pupils 100 primary schools in the Midwest region (Spring 2025) is also nearing completion.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Youth Work

The Youth Work team are looking forward to starting the Youth Work Traineeship in the Spring. The aim of the traineeship is to enable learners to acquire the knowledge skills and competence to work under supervision in a youth work context. The course will provide learners with an understanding of youth work practice and the role of the youth worker by exploring current issues facing young people and those working in the field.

The course is 11 months in duration and includes 14 weeks on the job training. Each learner will be assigned a workplace mentor who will guide and support them in the workplace.

A co-coordinator has been recruited to manage the traineeship and will be supported by the Youth Work team and the Raheen Traineeship manager.

A call for service has issued seeking an organisation with experience of providing a Youth Work, Community Drug Education and Prevention Service to Young People. This project is being established in line with the UBU Your Place Your Space scheme funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY)

This is an existing UBU Your Place Your Space-funded provision, focused on support for targeted young people in Limerick City and reaching out to UBU projects in the county.

Information is available on Youth Work Call For Service | Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board <https://lcteb.ie/yw-call/>

Local Creative Youth Partnership - LCYP

Podcasting:

Podcasting workshops began in Garryowen Youth Service in November 2024.

Having listened to some of their work, there is huge potential here to expand their 'Limerick Links' podcast and connect Youth groups all over Limerick and Clare with their own podcasts.

In Spring 2025 LCYP will run a creative programme that allows groups across both counties to have their ideas and opinions shared and heard.

The Garryowen group will spearhead this, and we will use their episodes to launch this programme in the LCYP Call and Response Festival 2025 - April 4th 5th & 6th.

Inclusive Dance Club – Collaboration with Dance Limerick:

Katy Hewison of DL Bridge and the coordinator of LCYP have met and agreed to begin this 2025 collaboration on Saturday January 11th, 2025.

As the inclusive dance club will be part of the LCYP inclusive strategy, there will be some crossover here, for training.

Dance artists involved will be offered a place on LCYP Lámh training and additional needs awareness training and LCYP tutors will be offered inclusive dance training and artist shadowing opportunities.

Continuation of weekly inclusive dance club classes for children 7-16yrs at Dance Limerick Studio and summer schools in both urban and rural areas in partnership with LCYP.

This will be a long-term collaboration in 2025 and will, once again, highlight the benefits of inclusivity, adaptability and long-term engagement - as the Streetwise collaboration in Brothers of Charity Ennis has done in 2024.

The LCYP will expand this project to Limerick and Clare and tie it in with LCYP Creative Hubs in rural areas.

Workshops for participants with additional needs and disabilities:

Dance workshops continue in Limerick Community Special School with other discipline options being explored with older students.

Meeting to be held with principal Rose-Marie Flanagan regarding workshops in St. Anne's Special School in Ennis.

The LCYP will also be engaging in workshops with EVA – Ennis Voices for Autism in Spring 2024.

Second Strategic Plan:

The strategic plan is at an advanced stage of completion with great consultations with local groups, organisations and ETB staff.

Projects with national potential:

The LCYP are in talks with THE GAFF regarding accessible distribution of the Paint Punch Project in Limerick and Clare and also potentially rolling out this programme across all LCYP's nationally.

2025 Spring aims:

The New Year will focus on training for tutors and will incorporate Child Protection Training, Lámh training for a Total Communicative Approach, Disability and Neurodivergence awareness training and continuous professional development.

The Call and Response LCYP Festival celebrating and showcasing youth creativity from Limerick and Clare will take place April 4th, 5th, 6th in various locations across both counties.

Further Education and Training, Youthreach and Music Generation

College of FET, Hospitality Campus

- At the Worldchefs Congress, the Hospitality Campus won the award for Designing and Encouraging the Chefs of the Future. This award was presented by President Dr. Manjit Singh Gill, Indian Federation (IFCA);
- Bernadette Enright, Campus Manager was recognised for her work internationally for supporting under-privileged countries in supporting training and development of colleges from the President Alieu Bangar from Liberia;
- Freddie Cullen Commis Chef Apprentice won the Hospitality Apprentice of The Year with SOLAS.

College of FET, Green Innovation Campus

- A major milestone was reached at the Green Innovation Campus in December 2024 when over 1,000 learners attended LCETB NZEB Courses in 2024.

Colleges of FET, Cappamore, Kilmallock, Croom & Hospital Campuses (Part-time Provision East Limerick)

- Part-Time Provision are delivering 118 courses across four campuses and at over 20 community partner locations; Pathways – BTEI Groups: 10 courses, Community Education: 65 Courses, Adult Literacy Groups: 13 courses/ESOL: 30 courses;
- There is ongoing planning and review of Blacksmithing in Cappamore to offer various progression pathways for City & Guilds blacksmithing learners and to develop a long-term strategic plan for the future of the Forge;
- VTOS provision is under review to convert full-time programmes into part-time courses for 2025.

Colleges of FET, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale Campuses

- The Minister for Further Education & Training, Research, Innovation and Science, Patrick O'Donovan T.D. visited Newcastle West Campus on 4th November. He announced that LCETB has been given approval to move to the next phase of its development of the College of the Future in Newcastle West. This development will be of great benefit to the local community in West Limerick and the wider community of Limerick & Clare ETB;
- As part of Mental Health and Wellbeing activities for learners and staff in West Limerick, the Active Inclusion Support Team organised a fun drumming session at Abbeyfeale Campus on Wednesday 27th November. Lots of positive feedback was received regarding this activity and staff look forward to organising more mental health and wellbeing activities in the weeks ahead;
- As part of plans to support Family Learning, links have been established with HSL Coordinators. There was an eight-week Health & Beauty course for parents of children at the local schools in Newcastle West which was a great success;
- Staff are continuing links with local secondary schools and creating exciting taster sessions and Pathways for Transition Year and Leaving Cert Applied learners at Abbeyfeale Campus. Important links have been established with the staff and Transition Year Coordinators at Coláiste Íde agus Iosef in Abbeyfeale. It is planned to run these taster sessions in February and create further plans for September 2025;
- Level 4 Traineeship learners demonstrated their teamwork and enterprise skills as part of their course assignments, by setting up a Coffee Morning at Newcastle West Campus on 12th December. This was a great success with lots of staff and learners attending the event. Tea, coffee and treats were on sale and the learners raised over €200 for a Children's Charity;
- As part of our commitment to support the educational needs of local employers, an IT-related course took place with staff from Local Link in November. There was also an IT course with the team of staff at Ortec Inc., Newcastle West.

College of FET, Ennis Campus - Core Skills

- Core Skills collaborated with Clare Traveller Development Project to deliver cookery classes for Traveller groups of men and women. These classes were very successful with the learners requesting more and as a result Christmas cookery classes were organised for November/December;
- Core Skills review in Ennis showed the huge numbers of learners supported across subject areas.

College of FET, Ennistymon Campus

- On October 24th, learners collaborated with various local community groups to create an inclusive and engaging event, A Midnight Court Sitting, held at Kilfenora Community Hall. This unique gathering brought together diverse voices from the community to reinterpret Brian Merriman's 18th-century satirical Aisling poem, known for its bold critique of societal norms and playful disregard for stereotypes, all conveyed with a respectful yet irreverent tone. Participants included members from the Day Care Centre, parents from Burren Sonas, working with learners from the College of FET Ennistymon Campus, who had prepared a series of workshops, alongside others drawn by public invitation. Attendees were encouraged

to step into the perspectives of the opposite gender by performing lines from the poem, observing debates, and embracing a festive, carnival-like atmosphere with costumes. The event fostered a lively and inclusive conversation on gender relations, equality, and identity, blending humour and personal storytelling. A call-and-response session of spoken word and singing followed, using the Sean-nós song Óró Mhíle Grá as a shared refrain. Through laughter and open dialogue, participants broke down barriers, transforming the evening into a powerful celebration of inclusion, understanding, and community connection;

- During the Level 6 sculpture module, learners worked closely with their tutor and members of the Day Care Centre to create masks for the Midnight Court event. This hands-on project fostered deep personal connections, with many participants treasuring their masks as meaningful keepsakes. The module also included a poetry workshop where learners and participants addressed contemporary social and environmental issues through original poems presented during the court proceedings. Topics ranged from environmental concerns at Lickeen Lake and gender identity in legislation to protections for women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and societal issues from The Cailleach's perspective. These poems honoured the oral storytelling tradition of the Midnight Court, amplifying diverse community voices. A strong collaborative spirit developed throughout the process, with learners, tutors, and community members actively contributing. This was especially evident on the week before the event when learners, guided by their tutors, made protest placards as part of their socially engaged practice program, reinforcing the event's focus on community participation and civic engagement. This tutor is interested in developing socially engaged practice as a special purpose award or as a Level 6 module in the future. Further workshops concentrated on developing mummer head dress making with learners for the local mummer groups who participated in the actual event;
- One of the tutors at this Campus will be taking part in an artist residency programme in India for one month. At the same time, she will be introduced to a partner teacher in the local community school to teach art. She hopes this will lead to a stronger partnership for professional development in the future.

College of FET, Shannon Campus

- **Specific Skills Training:** In total, 386 learners were trained in specific skills. This included 270 learners in various transport and logistics courses. Some of these courses were focused on unemployment blackspots in Limerick and Clare;
- **Traineeship:** 100 learners commenced training on a number of traineeships. The demand for aircraft maintenance technicians remains high. The demand for longer duration traineeships is losing out in favour of shorter duration SST courses;
- **Apprenticeship:** In total, 597 apprentices started phase two training. This is up from 434 starters in 2023. The focus in 2025 will be on curricula revalidation;
- **FET Pathways from School:** In total, 426 learners went through Pathway training. This included 192 Barista C&G certified learners. Pathway offering has been extended to 10 Schools in Clare and Limerick;

- **Evening Course Provision:** In total, 1840 learners went through evening course provision in 2024. This included 690 learners in F-Gas training, 275 in aircraft modules and 400 in various welding courses.

College of FET, Raheen Campus

- Hairdressing Apprenticeship Instructor Margaret Curtin was selected as a finalist for the Educator of the Year category in the Professional Beauty, Hair & Spa awards UK & Ireland 2024. Typically, finalists in this competition tend to be high profile individuals or private colleges/academies, so being selected to represent the College of FET, Raheen Campus is actually a win for all FET centres nationally. The entry process was via an extensive application form that was judged by a panel of experts from PBHJ Magazine UK. Margaret's objective was to promote the delivery of the hairdressing apprenticeship within the FET Colleges and to raise the profile of hairdressing educators within industry. She says, 'It is a privilege to highlight the dedication and effort that goes into supporting and encouraging our apprentices throughout their apprenticeship journey at Raheen and Ennis Campuses.'
- Manufacturing Industry Partnership; during November, Raheen Campus rolled out the third of a suite of pilot courses for manufacturing developed in partnership with local industry as part of Evening and Skills to Advance Provision;
- The following courses were designed specifically based on local partner requirements: Introduction to Pneumatics, Maths for Manufacturing and Fault Finding-Right first time;
- In November the annual Apprenticeship and Traineeship Showcase took place at the Radisson Hotel, Limerick over two days. Trainees and Apprentices ran the stands and demonstrated their chosen crafts and skills to the students, teachers and parents. The feedback from those who attended was fantastic. So far, over 30 schools have requested tours and tasters for their students e.g. Xplore sessions, tasters in Hair, CNC and Motor.
- Graduations: 70 Traineeship learners graduated from the College of FET Conferring Ceremonies held at the Radisson Hotel, on Oct 23rd and 24th. Learners graduated in Motor Technology, Welding, Hairdressing, Customer Service, Workboat Master and Beauty. All of these groups have successfully gained employment. Three of the hairdressing instructors were awarded Advanced Certificate in Hairdressing through RPL on 24th October. That means all Hairdressing Apprenticeship and Traineeship Instructors at Raheen Campus now have attained this most significant recognition. The first group of Beauty Trainees graduated in October.

Youth Education & Training

Community Training Centre – Clare

- Kaitlyn Ferns and Katie Hartigan from the Leaving Cert Applied 2024 group achieved full marks in their LCA exam results. They will be recipients of the Feargal Quinn Awards at a ceremony in Athlone on Saturday 25th January. These awards are presented each year to the top performing LCA learners throughout Ireland.

Music Generation Clare

- MGCE presented their annual end of term show on Wednesday 18th December 2024 in St Columba's Church, Ennis. All learners were invited to attend and showcase the new skills they had acquired throughout the term. The venue was packed to capacity with audience members comprising of parents and other family members, as well as local representative from MGCE's Steering Committee.

Outdoor Education & Training Centres, The Burren and Kilfinane

- Both OETCs have completed the 2024 year in a break-even position with strong throughput of FET learners and school students throughout the year;
- Course bookings for 2025 are good and it is hoped that funding will resume for Pathways from School to FET courses. OETC Managers working with QA department to provide accreditation for these courses;
- A substantial portion of building works to Sports Hall at Kilfinane OETC are now completed. Works to be completed early in 2025. Planning permission lodged for replacement staff accommodation unit.

Support Services

Active Inclusion



The new Learning Hub in Ennis Campus opened in December 2024. Designed with versatility and collaboration in mind, the hub provides a welcoming space to support study, learning, and engagement. Key features of the Learning Hub include:

- 9 Desktop Computers: Fully equipped for individual work and online research;
- Central Console: A shared workspace ideal for study or laptop use;
- Device Loan Library;
- One-to-One Meeting Space: A private area for focused discussions or support sessions;
- Library and Reading Area: A small collection of resources and a quiet space for reflection and reading.

The Learning Hub is a testament to our commitment to enhancing the FET campus environment and providing learners with the tools necessary for success.



Supporting the Rollout of Active Consent: The Role of the Active Inclusion Support Service

The Active Consent programme equips learners with the knowledge and skills to engage in respectful and informed relationships. It emphasises the importance of clear communication, mutual agreement, and understanding personal boundaries, empowering learners to make informed decisions. In 2024, the Active Inclusion Support Service (AISS), working with ALO Martina Crowley Hayes, played a vital role in the successful rollout of the **Active Consent programme**, reaching approximately **400 learners** across multiple campuses by November 2024. This initiative is part of the broader effort to foster a culture of respect, safety, and awareness within the College of Further Education and Training.

Information, Recruitment & Guidance

- IRGSS facilitated a workshop for DSP Clients on 'Work and Training in Retail and Hospitality'. 25 clients attended the Intreo/IRGSS session and feedback from participants and also from DSP staff was hugely positive. IRGSS will collaborate with DSP on a number of similar workshops on different career/employment fields in 2025;
- The IRGSS team worked with AISS and Programme Colleagues to run its second Mental Health and Wellbeing Event for community-based learners. 'The Importance of Sleep for Wellbeing' facilitated by Psychologist Dr Derry O' Malley, drew over 35 learners from Community Education Courses across the city and was hosted at UL Access Campus at Roxboro;
- IRGSS ran the following education and job search events and workshops for part-time learners at the end of term one: CVs and Applications, Interview Skills and Pathways to University for Adult Learners;
 - Three of the Clare Information, Recruitment and Guidance Support Service (IRGSS) staff attended the Inspire Engineering event held in UL on 4th December <https://www.facebook.com/exploreengineering/posts/inspire-women-in-engineering-is-backsave-the-date-4th-december-2024-1000-1300-at/841169951515618/>
 - Siobhan Brangwyn, Guidance Counsellor (GC) facilitated an LCETB FET stand at the Kilrush Community School careers day on 5th December promoting Apprenticeships, Traineeships and general FET to the school's senior cycle students;
 - Following on from the recent Erasmus trip to the University of Ulster Derry, Guidance Counsellor Una Howley organised a workshop on UCAS applications on 27th

November, where FET learners, in particular the Nursing Studies learners are being encouraged to apply.

Enterprise Engagement Support Services

- EESS as a member of Explore Engineering managed promotions and publicity for the annual Inspire Women in Engineering event held on 4th of December and welcomed 640 young females from secondary schools across the Mid-West;
- EESS in collaboration with Atlantic Aviation Group (AAG) delivered a newly developed suite of programmes, targeting companies involved in Aviation leasing, systems and regulations to 75 employees across the Mid-West Region;
- EESS attended the Mid-West Regional Skills Upskilling Roadshow in Analog Devices.

Technology Enhanced Learning Quality Assurance

- Critical Evaluation of Learning Technologies project main workshop was held in December where 30 teachers and support staff were involved in the critical evaluation of various Learning Technologies for use in teaching and learning. The project involved teachers exploring the use of specific educational technologies and critically evaluating their potential with a view to licensing across FET;

Ongoing focus on professional development with a particular focus on AI Workshops continued across campuses in November and December and LCETBs work in this area was shared nationally in FESS workshops delivered by Brendan Ryan and Maire Lynch who highlighted LCETB as a case study. A second one was delivered by Lies Gubbins, Caroline Carr and Shirley O' Leary who shared practical advice for teachers and support staff in the use of AI for teaching and Learning. Brendan Ryan also shared the LCETB experience as a presenter at the national QQI conference in November.

7. Finance Report

The Financial Report and on the proposal of Mr. Sean McMahon and seconded by Cllr. Bridget Teefy.

8. For Appointment to Boards of Management.

The Appointment of Nominees to Boards of Management and Committees on the proposal of Cllr. Michael Begley and seconded by Cllr. Bridget Teefy.

9. For Noting:

- (a) Report from the Finance Committee 12 December, 2024
Noted.

10. For Approval:

(a) Land Title Rectification, Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher
Mr. Eamon Murphy outlined to the Board the background to this matter whereby title to the domestic dwelling house of the late Ms. Tess O'Kelly was erroneously included on the title to the property acquired as the site of Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher. This error has been confirmed in a Sworn Statement by the then CEO, Mr. Sean Burke.

The Board unanimously approved the rectification of the title by excluding the private dwelling house from the folio of the school site.

(b) Assignment of Lease at Watchhouse Cross to NCSE.

Mr. Eamon Murphy outlined to the Board the request from the NCSE to assign the lease of the former Youthreach premises at Watchhouse Cross. It was clarified to the Board that the premises would continue to be used for educational purposes as the NCSE is a statutory body under the remit of the Department.

The Board unanimously approved the assignment of the Watchhouse Cross lease to the NCSE.


10. AOB with the permission of the Chairperson

None.

Date of next meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, 25th February, 2025.

Donncha O'Treasaigh
Chief Executive (Acting).

Chairperson:



25th February, 2025