



MINUTES OF LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Marshal House Dooradoyle Road, Limerick (Hybrid)

On

Tuesday, 25th February, 2025 at 4.30 p.m.

Present:

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. Mary Howard
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Mr. Conal Kelly
Mr. Michael MacCurtain
Mr. Sean McMahon
Cllr. Brigid Teefy
Cllr. Noreen Stokes
Cllr. John Sheahan

In attendance:

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

Apologies:

Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon
Ms. Claire Knight

In absentia:

Mr. Adrian O'Hanlon
Cllr. Catherine Slattery

1. Introduction by Chief Executive

Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Acting Chief Executive welcomed everyone to the meeting
Ms. Ann Norton acted as Chair for this meeting

2. Condolences

- Ms. Voureen Gavin Barry (Principal, Desmond College, Newcastle West) on the death of her father, Mr. Tom Gavin.
- Mr Gary Ryan, (Castletroy college) on the death of his mother, Ms. Mary Ryan.
- Ms. Ciara O'Driscoll (Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh) on the death of her father, Mr. James O'Driscoll.
- Ms. Mary Cantwell (Further Education and Training Campus, Kilmallock Road) on the death of her mother, Ms. Maura Cantwell.
- Ms. Jayne Foley (Further Education & Training Campus, Mulgrave Street) on the death of her mother, Ms. Barbara Foley.
- Ms. Breda O'Driscoll (Further Education & Training Campus, Ennis) on the death of her father in law, Mr. PJ O'Driscoll
- Ms. Claire Bolton O'Brien (Further Education & Training Campus, Ennis) on the death of her father, Mr. Noel Bolton.
- Ms. Marian McGonagle (Further Education & Training Campus, Kilrush) on the death of her sister Ms. Francis O'Shea.
- Ms. Nicole Seaward (Marshal House) on the death of her Mr. Adrian Portlock.
- The Family of Mr. Kieran Kirke (Retired Deputy Principal of Coláiste Chiaráin).
- The Wade Family on the death of Cllr. Eddie Wade (former Board Member of Co. Limerick VEC).
- The family of the late Bishop Emeritus Willie Walsh, Bishop of Killaloe.
- Ms. Mary Barry Fitzgerald (Further Education & Training Campus, Abbeyfeale & Kilmallock Town) on the death of her brother, Mr. John Barry.
- The family of the late Mr. Jack Cosgrave, former student Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh.
- Mr. Christy Guerin (retired Ennis Community College on the death of his wife, Ms. Sheila Guerin.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board

Minutes of meeting held on 21st January 2025 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Cllr. Michael Begley.

4. Matters arising from Minutes

There were no matters arising

5. Correspondence from:

Department of Education

CL 0004/2025 11 February 2025	Re: Special Education Teacher (SET) allocation for 2025/26 school year.
CL 0005/2025 11 February 2025	Re: Special Education Teacher (SET) allocation for the 2025/26 school year.
CL 0006/2025 11 February 2025	Re: Staffing arrangements in Voluntary Secondary schools for 2025/26 school year.
CL 0007/2025 11 February 2025	Re: Staffing Arrangements in Education and Training boards for the 2025/26 school year.
CL 0009/2025 12 February 2025	Re: Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme: Continued Implementation of the Scheme (2025/26) in Post-Primary Schools.
CL 0010/2025 12 February 2025	Re: Gaeltacht School Recognition Scheme: Continued Implementation of the Scheme (2025/26) in Primary Schools and Special Schools.
CL 0011/2025 11 February 2025	Re: Staffing arrangements at primary level for the 2025/2026 school year.
CL 0012/2025 23 January 2025	Re: Amendments to the Social Education Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) Module Descriptor
CL 0014/2025 30 January 2025	Re: Revised Domestic Subsistence Allowances effective from 29 th January 2025 payable to Staff in Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and members of ETBs and of ETBs Statutory Committees

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 school currently enrolls 30 students, and this will increase with the enrolment of an additional 18 students for September 2025. The closing date for admissions has passed and there was an increase of 60% in

applications to the school for September 2025. Works are due to commence shortly on the Mungret College building.

The standard of care and support for the children enrolled in the school is excellent and parents are extremely satisfied with the progress of their children in the school setting.

The Learning and Teaching Team are working very diligently on optimising the learning and personal development targets of all children and have recently developed the school's SPHE plan to meet the needs of the students.

Children are benefiting from visits to Library in Watch House Cross, horse riding in Liskennett, swimming in St. Gabriels, visits to bowling and Supermacs.

LCSS will be joining with two different post-primary schools locally for Junior Cycle Class to do iplay PE with their students.

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.

All school going age children and young adults in the newest IPAS accommodation centre in Charlotte's Quay, are enrolled and attending schools in Limerick city.

LCETB REALT coordinators, are members of the ESOL and Migrant Learning Steering Group, which provides a voice for migrant learners in post primary schools. It is a multi-agency group; whose aim is to ensure that ESOL and migrant learners have access to education and supports necessary to reach their maximum potential in Irish society.

REALT and Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) are piloting the use of Ellii, a virtual learning environment for English language education, in two LCETB post primary schools.

Community National Schools

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

Board of Management Training

Training for the Boards of Management of the Community National Schools continues in accordance with the Governance Manual for Primary Schools 2023.

The new boards of Limerick Community Special School and Fedamore Community National School met for training in Marshal House on 11 February 2025.

Teacher Allocations and Principals Meetings

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

Supports for Schools

Schools are consistently provided with resources to foster inclusive practices for all students in our care. This includes continuous support for Special Education Needs Coordinators (SENCOs), Additional Education Needs Teams, Student Support Teams, Transition Year Coordinators, Digital Leaders, Curriculum Leaders, Boards of Management, school leaders, teachers, and Special Needs Assistants (SNAs).

Focus on Universal Design for Learning (UDL): Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a framework aimed at improving and optimising teaching and learning for all people based on scientific insights into how people learn. By focusing on UDL, schools are enabled to create flexible learning environments that accommodate individual learning styles. This approach ensures that all students, regardless of their abilities have equal opportunities to succeed. The ongoing professional development schedule for our staff emphasises the implementation of UDL principles, helping to create more inclusive and effective educational experiences.

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.

Transition Year Coordinators Cluster Meeting	Wed, 22nd January	12.00 noon to 1.00pm	Transition Year Coordinators	Google Meet	Link to be sent
Provision Mapping Cluster	Wed, 22nd Jan	9.30am to 3.30pm	Provision Mapping Leads Year 2 Schools	In-Person	Limerick Education Centre
Child Protection and Safeguarding	Tuesday, 28th Jan	9.30am to 3.30pm	Principals and Deputies Post Primary	In-Person	Limerick Education Centre
Child Protection and Safeguarding	Wednesday, 29th Jan	9.30am to 3.30pm	Principals and Deputies Primary	In-Person	Limerick Education Centre
Trauma Responsive Education Day 4	Thurs, 30th Jan	9.30 am to 3.30pm	Relevant Personnel	In-Person	Limerick Education Centre
Ethos Coordinators Cluster 3	Thursday 30th Jan	12.00 noon to 1.00pm	Ethos Coordinators	In-Person	Link to be sent
HSCL	Wed, 5th Feb	11.30am to 12.30pm	HSCL	Zoom	Link to be sent
Curriculum Leaders Cluster 2	Wed 5th Feb	9.30am to 3.30pm	Curriculum Leaders	In-Person	Limerick Education Centre
Digital Leaders	Postponed	9.30am to 3.30pm	Digital Leaders	In-Person	Postponed - new date in due course
February Mid Term Break 17th -21st Feb					
Curriculum Leaders School Visits	Wed 5th March	9.30am to 3.30pm	Curriculum Leaders	Online	Link to be sent

Curriculum Leaders School Visits	Thurs 13th March	9.30am to 3.30pm	Curriculum Leaders	Online	Link to be sent
Green Skills Programme	Tuesday 24th March	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Guidance Personnel	In-Person	TBC
SST Annual Review	Wed 30th April	9.30am to 3.30pm	SST Coordinators	In-Person	Limerick Education Centre

Restorative Practices Pilot

The Schools Division undertook the facilitation of a review of Codes of Behaviour policies in schools in May 2023. Arising from this exercise, a proposal to examine the concept of Restorative Practice was considered as an interesting initiative to explore.

Restorative Practice training for teachers is an approach that focuses on building and maintaining positive relationships within school communities while addressing conflicts and harmful behaviour. The training equips educators with the skills to create a supportive environment where dialogue, empathy, and accountability are emphasised over sanctions. Teachers learn strategies for facilitating restorative circles, which provide a structured space for students to discuss issues, express feelings, and resolve conflicts collaboratively. This approach fosters a sense of belonging, reduces disciplinary issues, and promotes social-emotional learning. Overall, Restorative Practice training empowers teachers to cultivate a culture of respect, understanding, and cooperation in their classrooms and schools.

Since September 2023, a pilot initiative has been underway in Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton to examine the benefits of such an initiative for the students and staff at the school.

Initial reviews and feedback from the interventions have been very positive and an etb-wide expansion of the programme is being explored.

This pilot was extended to several schools in September 2024. A second round of Restorative Practice training is due to commence from March 2025.

Student Support Teams

Meetings and individual support for Student Support Teams coordinators continue. Trauma Responsive Education continues with Marie Delaney.

Partnerships

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and Mary Immaculate College

IDEAL Futures Project

The second trip as part of the IDEAL Futures Project (<https://ideal-future.eu/index.php/en/>) will take place in April with a trip to Madrid, Spain.

Junior Health Sciences Academy (JHSA)

A representative of the Schools Division Support Team, Mr. Ciarán Crowe represents Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board on the Board of the Junior Health Sciences Academy (JHSA). Ciarán has been instrumental in helping the Care Aware Crew Committee (a sub-committee of JHSA working to deliver high quality health/wellbeing/life-skill lessons to pupils in primary schools). The partnership has been successful in securing an award of €88,000 from Spark Impact (an HSE/National Doctors Training & Planning group that provides funding for transformative healthcare projects).

Trinity College Dublin Recognises Eleven Exceptional Students from Limerick and Clare

Several students from Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Community Colleges and Community Schools are amongst a list of students who have been awarded the prestigious 'Entrance Exhibition Awards' for the 2024/5 academic year by Trinity College Dublin.

These awards recognise academic excellence and are presented to students achieving the highest points among Trinity College entrants from their respective schools. They celebrate the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the recipients.

Donncha Ó Treasaigh, Acting Chief Executive of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, congratulated all the students from the region and commended their schools for their role in nurturing academic excellence: "This is an outstanding achievement for the students and their schools, and we are delighted that so many of the recipients attended Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Community Colleges and Community Schools."

The awards are given to students who achieve a minimum of 500 CAO points (or its equivalent) in their Leaving Certificate or other secondary school exams, including bonus points for Mathematics. When multiple students from a school attain the same high score, all are recognised. This year, a total of 593 students from 452 schools across Ireland, along with international recipients from 38 countries, were celebrated for their remarkable accomplishments.

The Limerick and Clare students who received the awards were:

- Daire Enright – Coláiste Iósaef
- Grace Morris – Coláiste Íde agus Iósaef
- Shirley Liu – Castletroy College
- Sarah Fahy – Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh
- Aadith Prakash Cheruppumpullil – Mungret Community College
- Eyla Lienhard – Scariff Community College
- Lauren Arthur – St. Anne's Community College, Killaloe
- Kaloyan Georgiev and Jack Keane – St. Caimin's Community School
- Brendan Ryan – Kilrush Community School
- Alanna Hayes – Ennistymon Community School

The awards were presented during three ceremonies held at Trinity College Dublin's Old Dining Hall on January 21st, 2025. The events were attended by the awardees, their school principals, and representatives from Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, further emphasising the vital role played by the school community in supporting these students and fostering the next generation of scholars and leaders.

Teaching Council Féilte Bursary

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB), in collaboration with the School of Education at the University of Limerick, is proud to announce its success in securing one of the fourteen new Teaching Council Féilte Bursaries.

The Teaching Council announced the recipients of the new Féilte Bursary Scheme, which includes schools from primary, post-primary, special schools, special care settings, and hospital schools last week. The bursary's lead schools span fifteen counties, with a total of ninety-eight schools collaborating on projects. The Féilte Bursary Scheme is designed to support collaboration between schools, enhance teachers' professional learning, and build collaborative professional communities. The recipients include fourteen collaborations with Higher Education Institutions, ten inter-county collaborations, and nine cross-sectoral collaborations (i.e., primary schools collaborating with post-primary). Each bursary recipient will create a 'digital asset' showcasing their professional learning activities.

Participating Schools:

- Castletroy College (Host School)
- Ennis Community College
- Killaloe Community College
- Kilkee Community College
- Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton
- Raheenwood Community National School
- Limerick Community Special School

Project Overview: Internationally, cooperating teachers play a crucial role in shaping student teachers' school placement experiences. They help integrate student teachers into the profession through daily interactions and mentorship. This project aims to foster collaboration and communication within a school-university partnership, supporting both students and cooperating teachers. It will establish a comprehensive framework for school placements, ensuring clear expectations and development while respecting the unique cultures and experiences of individual schools.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Review Meetings

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and University of Limerick

A review meeting of the MOU between Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and University of Limerick took place in January.

Areas of current collaboration and partnership which were discussed and reviewed include;

- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Community College and Community School Guidance Counsellor Forum
- Assistant Psychologist Provision in Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Community Colleges in association with University of Limerick
- FET and Tertiary Education Programmes
- QQI FET Pathways to UL
- LCETB & National Training Office discussions to progress a partnership regarding Immersive Software Engineering
- The Care Aware Crew' a new partnership with the School of Allied Health, UL
- The Health Careers Webinars, supported by Health Careers.ie which was launched by former Minister for Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Patrick O'Donovan TD.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

Senior Management of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board met with senior management of Mary Immaculate College, Limerick to review collaborative initiatives between the two organisations including;

- The Teacher Education Access Programme (TEAP)
- MIC Ability Pathways (MAP)
- Pre-University Programme for Mature Learners (PUP)
- QQI Routes to MIC
- The MIC English Language Programme
- IDEAL Futures (Integrated Digital Educational Leaderships for the Future)
- FET Teacher Education
- Teacher CPD
- RPL Research in Further Education and Training

Follow-on meetings will be arranged to progress the collaboration on these strategically important and mutually beneficial areas.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Youth Work

The Youth Work team are looking forward to the bilateral meeting with the new Department of Education and Youth. The meeting will offer better understanding of each ETB's unique situation and provide the Department with better insights into young people's needs and the situation with regards to youth related funding across the region.

Department Schemes - Youth Work

Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative €65,000

Southill HUB are the recipients of the TYESI programme. The TYESI fund programmes, interventions and actions to support young people aged 15 - 24 years (inclusive) who are not in education, employment or training, by providing community-based interventions and support to improve their soft skills, confidence and agency to ensure engagement by young people in progression pathways.

Integration Grant Supports to Ukraine (Migrant) Young People

€92,500 - a decrease of 50% on last year. This grant scheme aims to support youth organisations and youth clubs to support young people who have fled from the war in Ukraine in their community during 2025. This budget line has been reduced by over 50% for 2025.

UBU Resilience and Effectiveness Initiative 2025

€43,902 - The Resilience and Effectiveness Initiative is a UBU Your Place Your Space initiative to support UBU Funded Organisations to deliver a more efficient and comprehensive service to young people, while ensuring that they have sufficient resilience to operate effectively in the medium to long term. The allocation they receive becomes part of their overall core budget.

Summer 2025 Holiday Meals" pilot programme for young people

The pilot is part of a wider set of actions to tackle food poverty in Ireland by providing nutritious meals to young people during the summer months. Funding will be provided to run the pilot in one UBU project within each of the 16 ETB areas. The pilot aims to prevent young people, who typically rely on school meals, going hungry during the summer months – an issue often referred to as "holiday hunger".

Local Creative Youth Partnership - LCYP

Podcasting:

Podcasting is now taking place in Garryowen, Northside Youth Service and Youthreach O' Connell Avenue. Groups are developing episodes for our 'LINKS' Project.

Launching online for the LCYP Call & Response Festival April 4th-6th 'LINKS' Project will connect youth groups all over Limerick and Clare with a podcasting programme that allows groups across both counties to have their ideas and opinions shared and heard.

Inclusive Dance Club – Collaboration with Dance Limerick

This collaboration sees the 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.

LCYP Hubs

LCYP Creative Hubs are currently in creation, beginning with Abbeyfeale Creative Hub. This Creative Hub will be in collaboration with Limerick County Music Generation and Abbeyfeale College. LCYP Loop Head Creative Hub is also currently in creation, with strong ties to Kilrush and Kilkee Youth Services.

Workshops for participants with additional needs and disabilities

Dance workshops were hugely successful in Limerick Community Special School with dance time now scheduled within the school curriculum.

Messy/sensory play/ art workshops have been requested for younger students.

The LCYP will also be engaging in workshops with EVA – Ennis Voices for Autism in spring 2025. These teen workshops will take place in Ennis in February & March and focus on Art and Dance.

Training

Tutors have recently attended another Child Protection Awareness Programme training day.

Workshops on Facilitation will be delivered in March to all tutors.

Lámh training will soon be scheduled for all tutors as the LCYP adopt a Total Communicative Approach going forward.

Transforming Hate Awareness Programme will be scheduled in the coming months with NYCI.

Disability and Neurodivergence Awareness training is also being sought after as part of the LCYP continuous professional development.

2025 Spring aims

The LCYP will complete and launch its second strategic plan.

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

Congratulations to our College of FET, Hospitality Campus, on their tremendous success at the CATEX Competition in the RDS Simonscourt held over the last three days.

The Hospitality Campus stole the show receiving:

- 11 No. Gold Awards
- 17 No. Silver Awards
- 12 No. National Champion Awards
- Food Safety Professional Hygiene Award

Congratulations to Bernadette, instructors and all learners who participated. Well done to all.

College of FET, Raheen Campus

- 19 TUS classes (304 apprentices) and 3 Phase two classes (42 Apprentices) started on 6th January;
- A SOLAS Audit took place on 15-16th Jan. No issues arising;
- Hosted two companies – Induchem, which provides Process Equipment Solutions to the Manufacturing and Energy Industries based in Carrigaline, Co. Cork and Regeneron. Both are interested in the OEM apprenticeship and potential opportunities in Skills to Advance;

- Apprenticeship provision supported Minister Patrick O'Donovan at a Career Talk with three Co. Limerick schools including John the Baptist Community School, Hospital, Coláiste Iósaef, Kilmallock and Mungret Community College;
- Hosted six post primary schools in the Xplore Hub for sustainable living/wind-energy, virtual welding, robotics and drone workshops.

College of FET, Shannon Campus

- **Specific Skills Training:** Contracted Training was used to deliver specific purpose training to 768 learners in sectors such as Logistics and Transport, Engineering, Administration and Health. This number is set to increase in 2025 to over 800. This takes into account the increase in demand for shorter duration SST courses over traineeships;
- **Traineeship:** Increase in demand for Aircraft Maintenance Technicians from the aircraft sector has required additional courses. The sector has requested an increase in delivery for 2025. The take up in Traineeship courses dropped off in 2024 with people opting for shorter Specific Skills Training courses. This trend may continue in 2025;
- **Apprenticeship:** Shannon Campus has reached maximum capacity in the delivery of Craft Apprenticeship courses with 600 starters per year. Given that the waiting lists for electrical and plumbing have plateaued, a return to normal provision as against emergency provision is being reviewed. This will reduce the need to source additional instructors in critical areas, such as electrical;
- **FET Pathways from School:** Shannon Campus will extend its range of TY taster courses in 2025 to include Introduction to Aircraft. This TY course will be delivered in the Atlantic Aviation Part 147 Approved School. Work is taking place with Kilkee, Kilrush, Kilmihil, Kildysart, Scariff, Ennis, Crescent Comprehensive and Ennistymon Schools and will extend in 2025. Barista training with C&G L2 certification will continue in 2025, with over 192 students certified in 2024. The total pathways target for taster course training is 400 learners in 2024;
- **Evening Course Provision:** Shannon Campus delivered certified training to 1,745 learners in 2024, up from 1,450 learners in 2023. This figure is set to increase in 2025 to over 2,000. This is in line with our Strategic Performance Targets, agreed with SOLAS, for targets such as Transversal Skills, Key Skills and Skills to Compete.

Colleges of FET, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale Campuses

- New modular units are being installed at NCW Campus on Station Road. This relocation started in February and is due to be completed by April. As a result, of the new modular units being installed, the NCW Campus located at Station Road is non-operational and cannot be accessed to accommodate the building works. All staff located in this building had a very busy few weeks in January relocating to the Round House our 2nd Campus in NCW. All classes scheduled in NCW Campus on Station Road are continuing and have relocated to the Round House and NCW Community Centre since 15th January. We are looking forward to continuing to provide excellent learner experiences in the new state of the art modular units in April;

- As part of Mental Health and Wellbeing activities for learners and staff in West Limerick, the Active Inclusion Support Service organised a fun clay workshop at Abbeyfeale Campus on Wednesday 5th February. This was a very interactive and fun clay workshop session; that was enjoyed by all. Lots of positive feedback regarding this activity was received.

College of FET, Ennis Campus - Core Skills

- 478 certified Core Skills courses in total delivered in 2024 across Co. Clare;
- There has been a growing interest in Core Skills Wellbeing courses. Mindfulness and Meditation, and Introduction to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy courses finished before Christmas were so successful the learners wanted more. Another Mindfulness and Meditation course has started as well as an Understanding Stress and Anxiety course. Both are full and there is a waiting list. Learners have expressed high satisfaction with the courses and have recommended them to friends and family members;
- Core Skills Family Learning completed the Adult Literacy for Life Collaboration and Innovation Fund final report on €3,800 received in 2024 to create two books. Both these books are now printed: A) Sharing our Stories between Grandparents and school children in Killaloe Boys National School and Killaloe Convent National School. B) Our Traditional Table collected recipes and memories of food growing up from school children, parents and grandparents in Ennis Educate Together National School, Scoil Chríost Rí, Ennis and Killaloe Boys National School, with learners and staff across the Colleges of FET in Co. Clare;
- The College of FET Core Skills received over 1,000 ESOL course books from the Atlantic Centre of Education, Galway. These were distributed to FET Campuses across Limerick and Clare. The Atlantic Centre of Education ranks as one of Ireland's premium language schools. It is accredited for English language teaching by the Irish Department of Education and is a recognised Erasmus+ institution.

Youth Education & Training

Limerick Youth Service, Community Training Centre

- Building on the historical success of the LCA course delivery within LYS CTC, two Learners from the 2024 cohort were awarded the Fergal Quinn Award presented at the recent ceremony: Eowyn Ligtvoet and Ilja Jascenkovs received the award, having now progressed to Level 5 courses at College of FET, MSC;
- Progression numbers increased at year end 2024, with 77% Learner progression to employment or FET tracked. A significant measure, but only one measure of the significant work delivered by all in LYS CTC, and the 'distance travelled progress' of our Learners in 2024. Noted that two Learners marked in progression stats returned to 'mainstream' secondary school, highlighting strong links and collaborative work;
- As part of LYS Integrated Youth Service, learners from the CTC took part in an Erasmus Youth Exchange to Hungary. Other enrichment activities included team building and acknowledgment activities to UL

climbing wall, bowling and sports activities. Additional external visits included learners attending LCETB FET Apprenticeship Showcase, Raheen Campus and the Xplore Hub.

College of FET, Kilrush Campus – Youthreach

- Centre Co-Ordinator completed 2-day training on Crisis Prevention Institute – Safety Intervention foundation programme to give staff the skills to build an effective culture of safety within the LCETB Youth Provision organisation;
- 22 Youth Provision Learners completed Active Consent Programme.

College of FET, Shanagolden Campus – Youthreach

Rebecca Campbell Receives Prestigious Fergal Quinn Award

- We are thrilled to report that Rebecca Campbell has been awarded the prestigious Fergal Quinn Award for achieving the highest credits in the Leaving Certificate Applied Examination 2024 for the region. This prestigious honour, determined by the State Examinations Commission, marks an extraordinary achievement in Rebecca's academic journey. This is especially notable as Rebecca is the first learner from Shanagolden to ever win this award, a true testament to her hard work and dedication. Rebecca is currently studying Healthcare Service Skills at the Croom Campus and hopes to pursue a BSc in Midwifery at UL. A huge credit must go to the Youthreach staff in Shanagolden, whose unwavering support and guidance were integral to Rebecca's success. Their commitment to fostering a nurturing and empowering learning environment has played a key role in helping Rebecca reach this significant milestone.

College of FET, Hospital Campus – Youthreach

- As part of Practical Achievement Task for Leaving Certificate Applied, learners organised a Mental Health Awareness coffee morning and a fundraiser for Limerick Animal Welfare. In woodwork class learners made dog boxes and cat scratching posts which were donated to Limerick Animal Welfare;
- A grant in the amount of €1000 was received from the Council Consumer Protection Our Money Initiative to develop a Mathematics based project. This will help to purchase a Polytunnel and will enable learners to grow vegetables for use in catering;
- As part of the Creative Schools Initiative, a grant of €1,500 was received which will be used to promote well-being through Art and Sport by developing an outside recreation area.

College of FET, Northside Campus – Youthreach

- Leaving Certificate Applied Task interviews were carried out by the State Examination Commission in the areas of Art, ICT and Practical Achievement;

- A plot for horticulture at Ballynanty Youth Space was officially received, allowing for the pilot of QQI Level 3 Horticulture training.

Music Generation Clare

- Four new MGCE tutors completed online safeguarding training ensuring compliance with current guidelines. This training equips tutors to maintain a safe and supportive learning environment for young learners;
- Two new students joined Youthreach Guitar Classes free of charge from 14th January to mid-May. This initiative reinforces MGCE's commitment to inclusive, skills-based education;
- All learners aged 7–18 have equal access to educational opportunities, with no exceptions. This inclusive approach continued at the start of the second term in mid-January;
- A recruitment campaign in November 2024 established a new panel of tutors. Successful candidates were onboarded in January 2025 to enhance program delivery;
- MGCE collaborates with Music Generation Limerick County & Limerick School of Music. A joint showcase in March 2025 will feature students, teachers, and guests;
- From mid-January, MGCE deployed tutors across West Clare schools with diverse music programs. This supports staff development, education quality, and alignment with industry trends;
- MGCE provides a fully equipped recording studio and digital resources, including laptops. These tools improve accessibility, engagement, and overall learning experiences.

Outdoor Education & Training Centres, The Burren and Kilfinane

- Joanna McInerney, Manager of the OETC, The Burren retired on 31st December 2024 after nearly 30 years in her post. A presentation was made at the recent OETC network to include input from the Director of FET and the Manager of OETC, Kilfinane, on behalf of LCETB. The Burren post is currently advertised;
- Manager of OETC, Kilfinane, attended an Erasmus+ Mobility to Granada, Spain with the ETBI OETC Network. This programme focused on Outdoor Education in FET and examining the approach taken to OET in Spain;
- There has been a strong demand from schools and FET centres for 2025 with much of the year ahead fully scheduled.

Support Services

Active Inclusion Support Service

- **ETB Literacy Provision and PIAAC Assessment Review:** The ALL office produced a 2024 report on ETB Adult Literacy Provision, and PIAAC released the results of its assessment of adult competencies. On 6th

February 2025, ETBI convened a meeting with representatives from all 16 ETBs to review both the report and the findings from the PIAAC assessment. This meeting will inform an Expert Working Group tasked with reviewing ETB Literacy Provision and making recommendations on future provision and Government funding for this area. (For more information see [Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies \(PIAAC\) 2023 - Central Statistics Office](#), ETB Adult Literacy Provision Report (Available on request);

- **Collaboration and Innovation Fund 2025:** With a total of €1 million available, this year's fund is allocated across two strands: €750,000 for projects supporting literacy, numeracy, and digital skills, and €250,000 for financial literacy initiatives. Both strands aim to promote innovative and collaborative approaches to fostering a more inclusive and literacy-friendly society. The application process closed on the 7th February 2025, and a panel meeting is scheduled for 24th February 2025 to review Limerick and Clare submissions and make funding recommendations

Information, Recruitment & Guidance

- IRGSS involved with Intreo DSP/CLDC, Employability Clare and the Hotels Federation in the upcoming Hospitality Recruitment Fair in The Woodstock Hotel, Ennis on 4th March 9.30am to 1pm;
- Shannon Chamber of Commerce event, Recruitment Resources for Employers (Eures / Clare Co. Co., Integration Team /IRGSS/DSP/Intreo), EI Electronics, Shannon Co, Clare 8am to 10.30am. on 30th Jan;
- New Education, Careers and Employment Resources Padlet for learners;
- IRGSS in Limerick have developed a virtual one-stop-shop for information and resources to help part-time learners and clients of the IRGSS to plan their education and career journey;
- IRGSS has attended Information Event in Kostal re options for upskilling due to announcement on redundancies.

Enterprise Engagement

- LCETB FET to chair industry education consortium Explore Engineering;
- Attended the Digital Mid-West: Future Skill Needs Event on 22nd January;
- Presented at the SkillNet/Skills to Advance information session at EI Electronics Friday 7th February;
- Linked with Castletroy College re Careers Fair Jobs of the Future Saturday 8th February;
- Presented on the theme of careers 'Jobs of the Future' at the UNESCO Lifelong Learning Symposium in Castletroy Park Hotel on Friday 31st January;
- Presented to TY students at Wystem event in Johnson & Johnson Vision Care on 23rd January.

Professional Development

- 2024 was another busy year for Professional Learning & Development across the College of FET, with over 180 unique events appearing on our calendar reaching more than 2,500 participants;
- In addition, 62 staff were supported to complete accredited programmes between Level 6 and 9;

- 29 staff got the chance to participate on an international professional development mobility in locations in Europe.

7. Finance Report

For Noting:

- (a) Minute from the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting held on 13th December, 2024
- (b) Annual Report from the Audit & Risk Committee for 2024

Noted.

8. For Adoption:

- (a) Finance Report
The Finance Report was adopted on the proposal of Mr. Sean Mc Mahon and seconded by Cllr. Brigid Teefy.
- (b) Minute from Finance Committee Meeting held on 12th December, 2024
Minute from Finance Committee Meeting held on 12th December, 2024 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Noreen Stokes and seconded by Cllr. Brigid Teefy.
- (c) 2025 Service Plan
2025 Service Plan was adopted on the proposal of Mr. Conal Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Michael Begley.
- (d) Code of Practice for the Governance of Education and Training Boards 2024
Code of Practice for the Governance of Education and Training Boards 2024 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating and seconded by Cllr. Noreen Stokes.
- (e) Finance Committee Annual Report for 2024
Finance Committee Annual Report for 2024 was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Noreen Stokes and seconded by Mr. Sean Mc Mahon.

9. For Appointment

- (a) Change of Parent Nominee to Board of Management Fedamore Community National School to Ms. Deirdre O'Neill.
Ms. Deirdre O'Neill was appointed to the Bord of Management Fedamore Community National School on the proposal of Cllr. Marie Donoghue and seconded by Mr. Darren Feldon.

10. For Approval

- (a) Mary Garvey for co-opting onto Colaiste na Trocaire, Rathkeale Board of Management
Ms. Mary Garvey was co-opted to the Board of Management at Colaiste na Trocaire, Rathkeale, this was approved by Cllr. Noreen Stokes and seconded by Cllr. Brigid Teefy.

11. ETBI Phase 2 Online Governance training additional date 3rd March, at 6pm.

Noted.

12. AOB with the permission of the Chairperson

As this was Donncha's final meeting as Acting Chief Executive, Ms. Ann Norton acknowledged the tremendous work he had done and sincerely thanked him for his dedication and leadership. She highlighted the immense honour of having him serve as CE, emphasising his remarkable achievements and the significant impact of his contributions.

In response, Donncha expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their support and contributions during his tenure. He extended special thanks to Breda and Eamon for their dedication and hard work, recognising their invaluable role in the organisation's success. He also acknowledged the support of Paul Patton, whose guidance and encouragement were deeply appreciated.

Additionally, Donncha conveyed his sincere appreciation to the administration staff for their commitment, teamwork, and efficiency in ensuring that the needs of staff, students, learners, and those seeking the services of the ETB were met. He also thanked Ms. Ann Norton for her kind words and thoughtful recognition of his efforts.

Members of the board joined in commending Donncha for his outstanding leadership and dedication, recognising the lasting impact of his contributions to the organisation.

Cllr. Michael Begley highlighted the challenge posed by the Department's late notification of funding availability, emphasising the difficulties it creates for the ETB in managing its resources effectively. In response, Donncha assured members that this issue is being addressed at a national level.

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

Donncha O'Treasaigh
Chief Executive (Acting).


Chairperson:

25th March, 2025