

Cork City
Local Community Development
Committee (LCDC)
Annual Report 2024

Cork City





Table of Contents

Joint Statement by the Chairperson and Chief Officer.....	1	SláinteCare	10
Introduction and Background	1	Sláintecare Success of 2024.....	11
Purpose and Functions of Cork City LCDC ..	1	SEED Fund Projects 2024.....	13
Cork City LCDC Membership 31 st December 2024	2	Healthy Ireland Cork City	14
Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029	4	Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) 2024.....	14
Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2024 (SICAP)	6	Sexual Health Network	14
Key Achievements of SICAP 2024.....	6	Psyched	15
Meeting the Annual Targets	6	Cultural Companions	15
Adherence to Budget Parameters	6	Let's Play Cork.....	16
Lot level performance	7	Green Spaces For Health	17
Case Study	7	Transport Mobility Forum.....	17
New Arrivals Programme (SICAP) 2024..	7	LCDC Community Funding Schemes	19
Overview	7	Local Enhancement Programme 2024.....	19
Empowering Communities Programme 2024..	8	LGBTI+ Dormant Account Funds 2024.....	20
Achievements for 2024.....	8	Cork City Public Participation Network (PPN)	20
		Appendix 1	21
		Appendix 2	25



Joint Statement by the Chairperson and Chief Officer Cork City Local Community Development Committee

We are extremely proud of the hard work, dedication, commitment and achievement of Cork City Local Community Development Committee in 2024. It is an honour, in this first full year, as both new Chairperson and Chief Officer, to present this Cork City LCDC 2024 report on behalf of the committee and indeed the new members of the LCDC who joined us in 2024. 2024 was another dynamic and demanding year for the LCDC with the formation of the LCDC committee with an additional 8 new members in 2024. This type of membership change, over such a short period, can be very disruptive. We are happy to report that this transition has not alone been successful and seamless, it added new impetus and energy which can be seen threaded throughout this report.

The report itself outlines in detail the overall, magnificent work achieved and delivered on in 2024. A key achievement was the LCDC's statutory obligation to produce, design and delivery the new six year, Local Economic and Community Plan, (LECP). 'Let's Plan Together', 2024-2029 was launched on the 30th May 2024. There was a large and diverse attendance of stakeholders, public representatives and indeed residents who engaged in the public consultation. A huge congratulations to all who made this plan a relevant working document the city will hopefully see the fruits of in the coming years. The collaborative nature of such ventures continues to stand strong in Cork. 'Ní neart go cur le cheile'.

Another major piece of the progressive workload of the LCDC was the delivery of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP). SICAP continues to embed and deliver for communities less heard. The first full year of the new iteration of the SICAP Programme (2024-2028) was delivered reaching all Local Priority Target Groups and again exceeding its Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The continued investment of time and effort into this programme by those on the LCDC SICAP Sub-Group to ensure this programme is delivered in a value for money, cooperative and collaborative manner is to be commended. We congratulate Cork City Partnership as the SICAP Programme Implementor (PI) for their successful implementation of the programme on the ground across our city in 2024.

These are just two highlighted elements of the LCDC work but as can be seen, this report highlights much more in terms of programme delivery, allocation of grants and policy development and ongoing innovation across the economic and community strands we are tasked to deliver on. We hope the report gives the reader an insightful overview of the important work of the LCDC and its host organisation, Cork City Council, in collaboration with a team of professional organisations, statutory, civic society and the community and voluntary sector. 'Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine'.

Go raibh cead míle maith agaibh,

Denis Leamy and Rebecca Loughry



Denis Leamy Chairperson
Cork City LCDC



Rebecca Loughry Chief Officer
Cork City LCDC



Introduction and Background

Purpose and Functions of Cork City LCDC

Purpose: ‘Section 49A of the Local Government Act 2001 provides for the establishment of LCDCs in all local authority administrative areas “for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development”. In this regard, each LCDC will bring together local authority members and officials, State agencies and people actively working with local development, community development, and economic, cultural and environmental organisations to implement a joined-up, cross-sectoral approach to local and community development programming’. (*Revised Guidelines for the Operation of Local Community Development Committees, 2016*)

Functions: Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001 sets out the functions of LCDCs. These functions include—

- Deliver a Local Economic and Community Plan every six years.
- Coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes.
- Improve the coordination of public-funded local and community development programmes and reduce duplication, and to coordinate generally local and community development programmes within the LCDC’s operational area, and
- Prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions.

As per section 66, promoting community interests includes actions that promote—

- social inclusion or the social, environmental, recreational, cultural or community development, or
- the general development, including enterprise and economic functions arising from local and community development activities, within the local authority administrative area.

The SICAP Sub-Group: Perform additional responsibilities and additional meetings to review, in detail, the additional programmes covered by the LCDC, including SICAP, ECP, LCDC Grants Review, Slaintecare and Healthy Ireland Programmes.

This Annual Report outlines in detail the performance of Cork City LCDC functions for the year, 2024.



Cork City LCDC Membership 31st December 2024



Denis Leamy Chairperson



Rebecca Loughry Chief Officer



Dermot Crosby DEASP



Gabrielle O'Keeffe HSE



Cllr John Maher Cork City Council Local Authority



Martin Davoren Cork City Council Local Authority



Niall O'Keeffe Cork City Council Local Authority



Cllr Shane O'Callaghan Cork City Council Local Authority



Thomas Myers An Garda Síochána



Cllr Tony Fitzgerald Cork City Council Local Authority



Bernadette Connolly Cork City Public Participation Network



Cliona Barnes Cork Business Association



Denis J. Fitzpatrick Cork City Public Participation Network



Eoin Gunn IBEC



Katherine Harford Cork City Public Participation Network



Majo Rivas Vice Chair LCDC & Cork City Public Participation Network



Melissa Cotter Cork City Public Participation Network



Cllr Kenneth Collins Cork City Partnership



New members of the Cork City LCDC 2024

The Cork City Local Authority Elections of May 2024 brought natural change to the membership of the LCDC. Three newly elected members of Cork City Council, Cllr John Maher, Cllr Shane O' Callaghan and Cllr Tony Fitzgerald were duly selected by Council to sit as new members of the Cork City LCDC.

There were another five new members of the LCDC elected in 2024 due to the changes created by the ending of periods of tenure, career moves or election as representatives of the Cork City Public Participation Network. (PPN) These new members included, Martin Davoren, (Local Authority Official), Denis J. Fitzpatrick, (PPN), Katherine Harford, (PPN), Dermot Crosby, (DEASP), and Cliona Barnes, (CBA).

Cork City LCDC would like to take this opportunity to thank all the outgoing members in 2024 for their enormous contribution. Almost all those members served the LCDC for two terms of three years respectively. Six years of committed and dedicated hard work and steadfast contributions. The previous three City Councillors, Fergal Dennehy, former Chairperson, Former Vice-Chair, Cllr and now Senator, Garret Kelleher, and Cllr Ger Keohane. Cork City Council's Former Chief Executive, Ann Doherty. Siobhan Goulding, (DEASP), Adrian Kane, (ICTU), Joe Curtin, (PPN) and for a shorter period, Helen Murphy, (CBA).

There were 18 members of the LCDC on the 31st of December 2024 and the Irish Council of Trade Unions (ICTU) representative will be replaced in 2025. This will then complete the full complement of LCDC membership allowed under the Revised Guidelines for the Operation of Local Community Development Committees, 2016 to 19 members.

The LCDC Members attendance sheet can be viewed below in Appendix 2.



Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029

In May 2024, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Colette Finn, launched the new Local Economic and Community Plan for Cork City. This statutory plan will guide community and economic development in Cork City over the next 6 years. The LECP's goals and actions have a special focus on communities experiencing exclusion and disadvantage across the city. At the launch, the then Chief Executive of Cork City Council Ann Doherty emphasised,



“At a time of great change and major development, the LECP underlines the commitment the city holds to investing in and caring for its communities and social economy. We believe that this Plan represents a huge step to positively impact on the quality of life for all, especially the most vulnerable.”

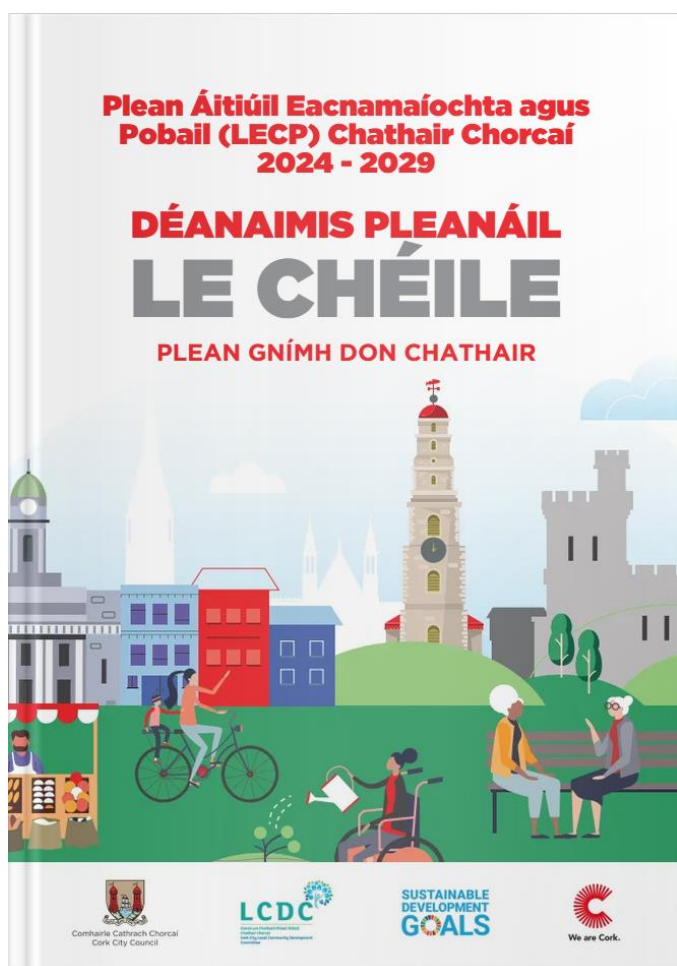
Every effort was made during the public consultation process to seek out and listen to the seldom heard voices in our city. In this way, it is hoped that the plan reflects their needs and demonstrates policymaking where no one is left behind. The plan also reflects a shared vision within Cork City Council and with our external partners, who have come together to commit to the collaborative delivery of 122 actions over the course of the plan. These actions will directly improve the neighbourhoods and communities of Cork City and help people to access education and employment opportunities. It will also support and strengthen our many community and voluntary groups and associations across the city who are doing amazing work.



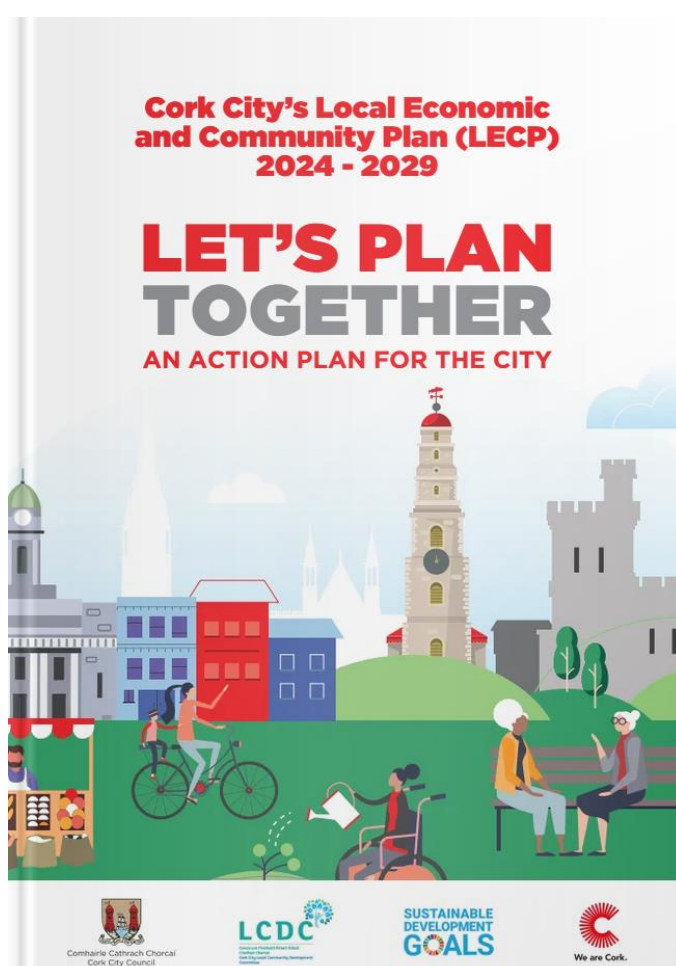


Tá an LCDC tiomanta do chur chun cinn na Gaeilge ó thaobh an Fhorbairt Pobail de agus thacaigh sé le Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí i rith na bliana ach go háirithe ar Sheachtain Ná Gaeilge i mí an Mhárta 2024. Cuirfidh an LCDC an teanga chun cinn tríd an PÁEP a bhfuil gníomh tiomnaithe aige do chur chun cinn na teanga thar na sé bliana amach romhainn. Faoin Sprioc Ardleibhéil, Cathair atá tógtha ar Chomhpháirtíocht, Cuimsiú agus Comhionannas, Gníomh 2.5.4 ‘Forbairt straitéise teanga a sheachadadh...

The LCDC is committed to the promotion of the Irish language in terms of its Community Development and supported Cork City Council across the year but in particular on Seachtain Ná Gaeilge in March 2024. The LCDC will promote the language through the LECP which has an action dedicated to the promotion of the language over the next six years. Under the High-Level Goal, ‘A city built on Partnership, Inclusion and Equality’, Action 2.5.4 ‘Deliver on the development of a language strategy.’



Chun an PAEP a léamh i nGaeilge, cliceáil [anseo](#)



To read the LECP in English, click [here](#)



Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2024 (SICAP)



Cómhaoiniú ag an
Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Key Achievements of SICAP 2024

Cork City Lot 17-1

The Cork City LCDC performed a review of the SICAP Annual Performance reports for end of year 2024 following the review checklist provided by Pobal. The review is required under the LCDC and the Cork City Partnerships contractual obligations to perform this Annual Performance Review. This review was approved by the LCDC on Thursday 27th February 2025 given that it had exceeded all programme targets and met all financial and budgetary requirements.

Meeting the Annual Targets

The Annual KPI target for Goal 1, (Local Community Groups or LCGs), is 96. The end of year actual target achieved is 137 LCGs engagement. This represents a **43% increase**.

The Annual KPI target for Goal 2, (Individuals), is 1,047 and the end of year actuals are 1428, representing a **36% increase**.

Both KPIs have exceeded their targets with a sizeable percentage increase in both as outlined above. This represented a successful increase on the annual targets for the first full year of the 2024-2028 SICAP programme.

Adherence to Budget Parameters

All financial requirements and parameters of Budget spend were compliant by the end of this review and Pobal was satisfied with same.

The Goal 1 and Goal 2 action costs/spend It is recommended that each goal has a 40% to 60% split of the total action costs, and this was met under the SICAP Programme. G1 was 46.01% and G2 was 53.99%. There was a major variance on the New Arrivals programme. G1 is 19.67% and G 2 is 80.33%. A rationale was presented to the LCDC by the Programme Implementor (PI) on this which was approved and agreed with the PI as requested. This is allowed under the programme. All other PI grant considerations were compliant in terms of Individuals, LCG and Social Enterprise Grants. The value of sub-contractors did not exceed the 30% threshold and was compliant.



Lot level performance

Taken in conjunction with the Action Progress Report, The Individual Caseload by Local Priority Target Groups and the Lot Summary Report and Dashboards on IRIS, all highlight the delivery of SICAP for 2024.

Case Study

The case study presented by the Programme Implementer has met the guidelines issued by Pobal in 2024 and presented to the LCDC in October 2024. The case study was a Goal 1 Project:

‘Contribute to Building more Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities’ on the new SICAP office in Glenamoy Lawn, Mayfield, an area of high deprivation. This was a collaborative venture between Cork City Council, who provided the premises, and Cork City Partnership who operate the SICAP programme from that office. It focused on one of the three LPTGs, ‘People living in disadvantaged communities. Empowering groups of individuals, local community groups, networks and social enterprises to address collective community needs. It promotes the SICAP programme in the area through engagement and collaboration.

New Arrivals Programme (SICAP) 2024

The end of year report outlines in detail the level of supports provided by the programme. The addition of another new arrivals’ hub in the Cork Migrant Centre and the continued support for the Ukrainian Hub add real value to the engagement of IPA and Ukrainian refugees. This further enhanced by the cooperation and collaboration with the Cork City Council LAIT team. These are new additions to supports for our New Arrivals in 2024. Supporting new local community groups who represent New Arrivals, with governance training is of huge benefit to integration. Cork City Councils Community Team have referred several new groups to Cork City Partnership for such training. Language classes with the cooperation of Cork ETB and pre-employment supports are assisting New Arrivals to settle in and participate positively add to all our social and economic benefits.

Overview

The LCDC congratulate Cork City Partnership (CCP) on its implementation and delivery of this important programme tackling such a wide variety of community development, social inclusion and social economic disparities and inequality. Delivering the programme for 2024 exceeding the KPIs and within budget is a huge achievement on collaborative engagement between the LCDC, CCP, POBAL and the Department of Rural & Community Development.



Empowering Communities Programme (ECP) 2024

Killala Gardens in Knocknaheeny was identified as the programme area for the 2024 Empowering Community Programme in collaboration between Cork City LCDC and Cork City Partnership (CCP). Cork City Partnership are the appointed Programme Implementor of the ECP in Cork City. Killala Gardens is spread across three of the SAPMAP areas surrounding St. Vincent's GAA Club which has a total population of 870.

Achievements for 2024

The essence of this programme is to build upon the trust and relationships with those less engaged and therefore empower people. Workshops listed below represent the type of engagement the ECP made with local community members. The ECP also provided access to Safe Pass training, Manual Handling, Forklift training and educational courses.

Insomnia workshop	4 X Well-being & Self-care workshops	ALONE info on supports to seniors & those living alone
Healthy food & nutrition workshop	Age Friendly Healthy Homes workshop	Moving Age workshop
Residents meeting with Cork City Council	Introductory gym sessions for teens	4 X Sports on the Green sessions for younger people
Chair Yoga	Accupuncture taster sessions	Well-being sessions
Pilates	Kintting & Crochet classes	Sewing classes
Estate Clean-Up's	New Community Garden	Painting Project Street Boxes
Women's Group Outings	International Women's Day Celebration	Family Fun Day





Many challenges presented to work on issues this community faced over a lengthy period. These are presented below. The main challenge for the ECP worker was to empower residents to engage and pro-actively involve themselves in their area.

The emphasis from the outset has been to establish an empowering supportive additional service through the ECP worker, visibly present within the estates. This was achieved by basic door to door contact and listening intently and genuinely to the voices of the residents. The purpose of this engagement process was made clear from the outset to ensure people are empowered in an informed way.



The challenges were met by gaining the trust of residents, managing expectations and creating change that was tangible. The programme reached a cross-generational population within the estate with various activities, workshops and events facilitated for all to enable as wide an engagement as possible.

Enhancing the psychical lived environment was crucial with the assistance of the residents, in collaboration with the ECP worker and other services. This brought, a new, very visible example of effecting change. The list below is just a another sample of the collective work achieved by the residents in 2024.

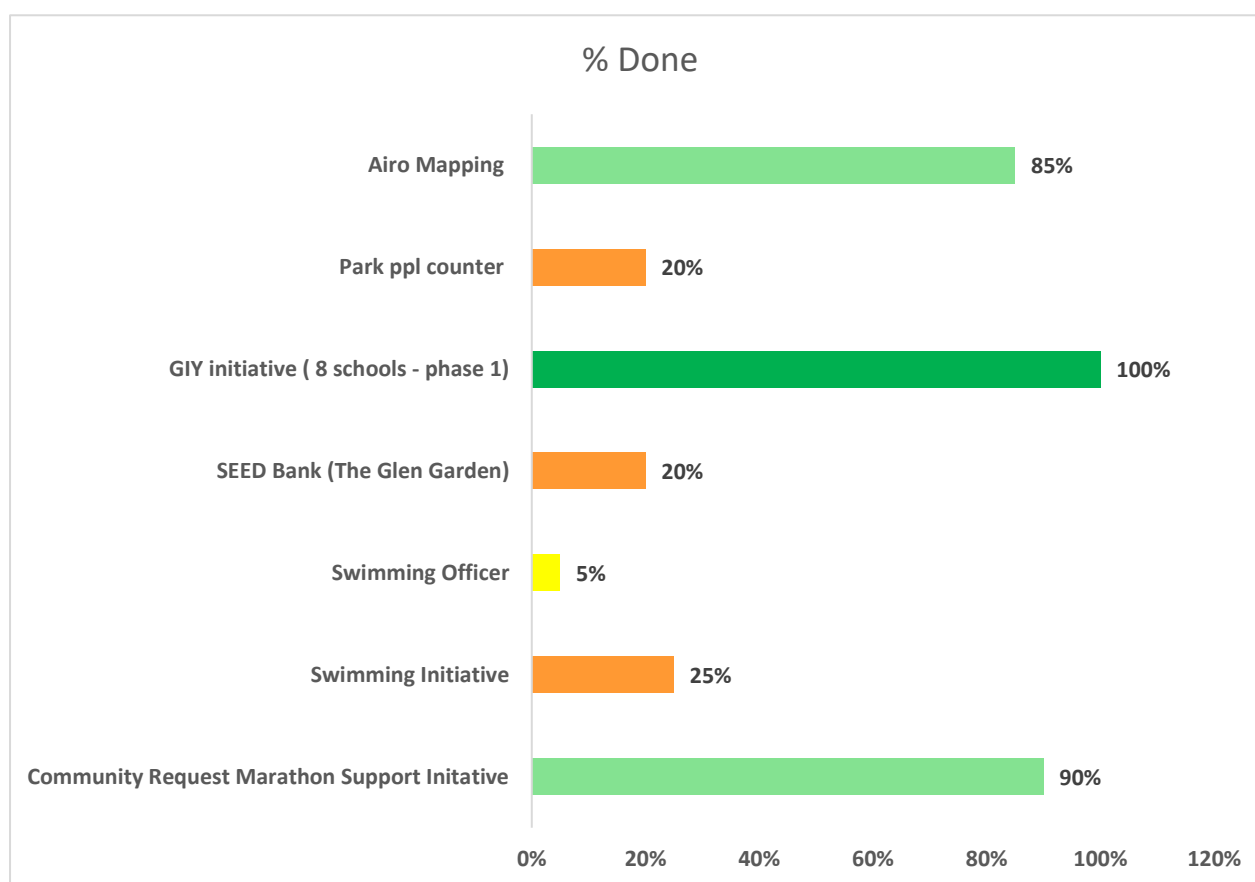
- Painting on the exterior walls of estate and within estate.
- Clean ups and general maintenance of rubbish removal.
- Areas treated for rodent infestation and clear out of overgrown areas.
- Community gardens.
- New signage.
- Graffiti removal and upkeep of garden areas of vacant house.





SláinteCare

The aim of Sláintecare Healthy Communities is to promote and improve health and wellbeing in communities where there are more health and wellbeing risk factors. Local authorities will work closely with the HSE and community groups to provide services that will deliver lasting improvements in health and wellbeing. Sláintecare Healthy Communities has a Healthy Community Local Development Officer to coordinate and support the programme. This officer supports the local authority to integrate the health and wellbeing agenda into the wider agenda of the local authority, with a focus on addressing health inequalities.



Sláintecare.
**Healthy
Communities**



Sláintecare Success of 2024

‘Grow it Yourself’(GIY) Grow at School programme for 8 schools [North Presentation Primary School, St. Vincent's Convent Primary School, S N Padraig Naofa C (St Patrick's Girls), Sn Padraig Naofa (St Patrick's Infants), Scoil Iosagain, Scoil Padre Pio NS, Scoil Colmcille (Blarney Street), St Brendan's Girls National School] from the catchment area. The GIY programme provides each school with a vegetable garden (4x raised beds/14 veg grown), Classroom resources & planting plans for every participating school and teacher training, engagement & support network. This project was submitted for LAMA Award for Best Community Health Initiative, as it involved over 160 students and twelve teachers from the eight schools.



Not Around Us Poster Competition is about promoting an environment where it is easier for those who smoke to quit and stay quit and to help de-normalise smoking for the next generation. Not Around Us is another step Towards a Tobacco Free Ireland. This initiative aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of smoking and vaping, especially the effects of second-hand smoke, through the creative expressions of young artists. The competition saw a range of artist interpretations submitted, each uniquely depicting the harmful consequences of smoking and vaping and emphasizing the need to protect peers and loved ones from second-hand smoke.





World Mental Health Day, Oct 10th, Sláintecare Healthy Communities took an impactful step to promote mental health awareness by launching a city-wide poster campaign in bus shelters. Featuring posters displayed in bus shelters promoted the 5 Ways to Wellbeing. This initiative aligns with the evidence-based framework outlined by the Foresight Programme (2008), which emphasizes practical actions—Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give—to enhance mental health and overall well-being.



SláinteCare Rooms in the Parochial Hall three rooms were refurbished as part of the Enhancement fund, a state-of-the-art community kitchen, designed to facilitate the weekly gatherings of the men's shed and Healthy Food Made Easy programmes. In addition, the hall now boasts a dedicated space for a friendly call service aimed at elderly residents. Third room, an open plan space upstairs that has the capacity to host a yoga class or meeting.



Outdoor Wellbeing space at The Glen Resource Centre and accompanying artificial grass projects from the Enhancement fund and SEED fund 2022 were opened formally to the public.





SEED Fund Projects 2024

Project	Status	% Done
1. Trauma informed training (Teachers)	In Progress	25%
2. Trauma & complex systems implementation Supplier (Creche x2)	In Progress	25%
3. Trauma trainers to deliver 'compassion prison project' (Cork Prison)	On Hold	10%
1. Traveller Specific Defibrillator Training	On Hold	10%
2. Sli na Slainte Walk Activation Programme	Not Started	10%
3. Handball Wall/Outdoor Gym Equipment & ground works	On Hold	10%
4. Climate/Environment Awareness Training / Train the Trainer	On Hold	10%
5. Green Dog Walker Recruitment Campaign	In Progress	60%
6. Love Your Community Campaign (Knocknaheeny & Mayfield)	Not Started	0%
7. Youth Leadership programme	Not Started	5%
8. Community Leadership workshops	Not Started	0%
9. Play Initiative – Mayfield	Not Started	0%
10. Housing Maintenance & Capacity Building	Not Started	0%
1. Army Vets Project	Not Started	0%
2. Resident/Tenant Capacity Building	Not Started	0%
3. Canine Public Safety Pilot Program	Not Started	10%
1. Not Around Us Phase 2	Complete	100%
2. Menopause Awareness	On Hold	10%
3. Leave No Trace	On Hold	10%
4. Green Dog Walker Program Awareness Campaign	Complete	100%
5. SunSmart	Not Started	10%

 = Trauma Projects

 =LECP Work strand

 = Human Learning Systems

 = Health Promotion



Healthy Ireland Cork City

Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) 2024



This was the first year of the round four programme running for twelve consecutive months. 80% of the €75,000 in grant funding subsidised the cost of four salaries for Cultural companions, Green Spaces for Health, Let's Play Cork and Transport Mobility Forum (T.M.F). The remaining 20% of the grant covered project costs for Psyched (Positive steps you can have every day) and the Sexual Health Network.

	HIF Project Costs Current Budget	HIF Salary Costs Current Budget	HIF Total Current Budget	HIF Project Costs Spends	HIF Salary Costs Spends	HIF Total Spend	HIF Remaining Spend
Outcome 1	€43,462.90	€55,593.47	€99,056.37	€17,718.35	€53,000.00	€70,718.35	€28,338.02
Outcome 2	0	€7,843.47	€7,843.47	0	€7,500.00	€7,500	€343.47
Total	€43,462.90	€63,436.94	€106,899.84	€17,718.35	€6,050.00	€78,218.35	€28,681.49

Sexual Health Network

The Sexual Health Network encompasses sixteen organisations comprising of statutory and non-statutory agencies with an interest of focus on the sexual health, sexuality, and wellbeing of clients. The Network provides a forum for knowledge and information sharing both inside and outside of the Network as appropriate, capacity building, awareness raising and streamlining referral opportunities. Together they provide dedicated counselling and exhaustive information as well as screening and testing for clients.



The Sexual Health Network held a conference on the 2nd of October 2024 entitled “Minding Your Sexual Wellbeing in a Digital Era”. Over 150 professionals from a wide variety of services both locally and nationally, community and voluntary organisations along with members of the public attended the



conference. Four keynote speakers from some of Ireland's leading experts on sexuality and digital wellbeing addressed the audience. Followed in the afternoon by roundtable discussions with committee members from each of the sixteen services. The purpose was for the conference was for attendees to get to know more about the Sexual Health Network and the services they offer locally.

Psyched

Psyched is committed to promoting better mental health in workplaces. Thirty-six workplaces were awarded Psyched Recognition by both the County Mayor and the Lord Mayor, this work plays a critical role in deepening workplaces understanding of mental health and reducing the stigma towards mental ill health in our workplaces and communities.



Online and in-person consultation took place with workplaces in 2023 regarding workplace needs on mental health and well-being which resulted in the following offerings in 2024.

“Introduction to Psyched – Mental Health Awareness training for staff of workplaces” workshops were delivered in person and online. These workshops were attended by staff from the HSE, ETB, UCC, MTU, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, hospitality sector, schools, community and voluntary organisation and staff of private sector workplaces. Psyched supported the Cork City Lifelong Learning Festival and facilitated and collaborated with Mental Health Services which resulted in the delivery of further workshops. A workshop on “3Hs = Healthy Habit Habitat or how to create and maintain positive behaviours”. “Building Resilience at Work.”

Cultural Companions

Cultural companions connect older adults with a shared interest in cultural and arts events throughout Cork City and County. The programme provides a unique opportunity to meet like-minded individuals and explore the vibrant, social, and cultural scene in Cork. Those attending monthly outings/events average eighteen members at each event. At Cultural Companion organised events this rises to an average of forty-five members. Members report they often network independently outside of the monthly meet ups. Facilitated by the set-up of a dedicated Cultural Companions WhatsApp group.

Cultural Companions Culture Call is a proactive check in initiative designed to support members. Each member receives a call when they sign up and during the year to identify to assess participation, any obstacles preventing engagement and to gather feedback and enhance the programme. This helps members to feel included, supported and informed about Cultural Companion opportunities. Attending events together fosters positive social interactions, reduces isolation, and strengthens community ties. Those who volunteer as ‘meet and greeters’ report a higher level of purpose and engagement, boosting both mental and physical health.



Let's Play Cork

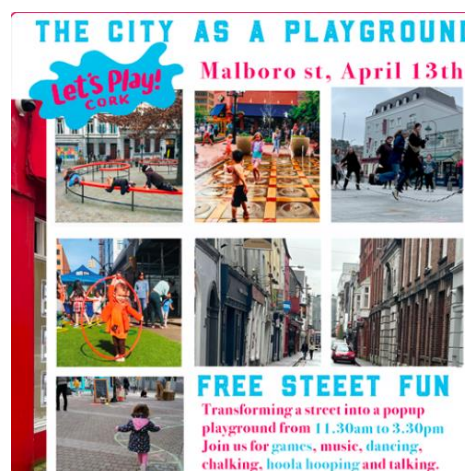
Let's Play Cork strives to create inclusive play opportunities for all ages and abilities across Cork. This was the first full year of work for the newly created part time post of Play Development officer, which for the first time encompasses both City and County of Cork. The role saw several new strategic developments, a growth in activities and an increase in engagement. The estimated combined reach from activities is more than 4,000 people. Twenty-six new Community Play Leaders were certified in 2024.

2024 included the development of a dedicated website to increase visibility and accessibility. Training of new Community Play Leaders, hosting of an International Playful Conference, coordination of a calendar of popup play events, supporting a new Cork City Council initiative called Open Streets and development of play partners both locally, nationally, and internationally. All objectives were achieved, and additional opportunistic activities were engaged in.

The first Playful Conference in Cork was organised with seventy-one attendees and fifteen presenters, showcasing the role of play in placemaking. Open Streets Initiative- Launched the rebranded Car-Free Day with playful interventions. Blue Play Events-Hosted events at the Cork Harbour Festival and the Cork Summer Show.

14 Pop up Play activities were Planned and resourced across the city during the summer including National Play Day events, Non-Fire Night, Cork on a Fork, Cork Summer Show and Heritage Games. Participation of more than 3,000 people across these events.

Collaborated with Cork City Council, Healthy Cities, and Child-Friendly Cities to integrate child-focused input into the Lough Mahon amenity redevelopment. Worked with Cork City Council Climate Adaptation team to enhance the Open Streets Play events. Hosted the "Playing After Dark" event for five hundred attendees. Assisted Blackpool Tidy Towns in organising their first community play event for one hundred participants.



Worked with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth to plan the October 30th seminar on participation, play, and recreation. Shared Let's Play Cork's achievements at a national seminar attended by 200 local authority staff.



Green Spaces for Health

Green Spaces run two gardens, Togher Community Garden, Clashdub Park Togher, and Parkowen off Quaker Road. Pairc Eoin is a garden for biodiversity and have been running it and co-managing it with City Council since 2019.

The other twenty-three gardens are spread across the city, and Maria helped get a number of these gardens up and running by acting as a liaison with Cork City Council for advice and grants and brought all the gardens together to form a network that meet bimonthly.

Volunteer numbers have gone from 10 to 80 since inception. From working with ten schools to twenty schools to now working with students on placement from MTU and UCC. Courses were run in 'Reconnecting with nature' for vulnerable adults. GSFH won The Irish Environmental Award for Biodiversity & The National Muintir Na Tire Award For their Community work in 2024.

Social Prescribers at local community development projects now recommend GSFH to many of their clients for their physical and mental wellbeing. Green Spaces continues to grow and flourish with two more gardens due to open this year as well as a Biodiversity hub in Ballincollig.



Transport Mobility Forum

TMF provides input into plans, policies, & projects through submissions, meetings & involvement which influence, deliver, or facilitate transport locally & nationally. The TMF is also key in ensuring these policies plans & projects consider active travel & public transport rather than focusing purely on the private motor vehicle.

TMF members directly contribute to provision of services & facilities which facilitate active travel & provide public transport services. The TMF plays a key role in communicating, coordinating & facilitating the dissemination of best practice between members which in turn increases the capacity effectiveness & efficiency of members' work.

TMF seek additional funding for other projects to deliver transport infrastructure, provision and or seek to effect behaviour change within transport. Allowing them to be a partner in the EMBRACER



INTERREG EU project bringing best practice from all over Europe to our members in Cork, to deliver twenty-nine bike week and six walking week events.

Taking an active part in planning & running open street events for the city council, be key part of the Get Cork Walking project & to lead an Irish Environmental Network Project to replicate the TMF model nationwide.

Cork compared to the rest of the country has demonstrated more rapid growth in passenger numbers. The first figures collected by TMF show continued significant double-digit percentage year on year increases in public transport usage in the Cork region last year. Trends indicate these increases (2022-2024) are still significantly above the figures seen in the rest of the country. Irish Rail show a 11 % increase in passenger numbers on local Cork services 2024 compared to 2023 and a 67 % increase in Cork 2022-24 with an average increase of passengers per weekday of 1,000 over 2023 and 3,500 over 2022.

The most recent figures available for public transport show Bus Eireann Cork City & County Services 2022 to 2023 YOY or YTD % increase Cork 27% Average increase in passengers/ weekdays 15,833 with the average increase outside Cork at 20%.

Local Link Cork City and County Service show a 18 % increase in passenger numbers on local Cork services 2024 compared to 2023 and 88 % increase in Cork 2022-24 with an average increase of passengers per weekday of 210 over 2023 and 660 over 2022. There are 20,000 more people using public transport in Cork every day in 2024 than there were in 2022. TMF have applied for funding to purchase, install, and monitor automatic pedestrian and bike counters as part of an EU project. Significant increases can be seen in the participation in and engagement with active travel projects such as bike week.





LCDC Community Funding Schemes

Local Enhancement Programme 2024



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



The Department of Rural and Community Development Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2024 will provide capital funding to support community groups across Ireland.

This capital fund supported groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

This funding helped communities, community groups and committees, allowing them to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their area, and in the process strengthen the bonds that tie communities together. The fund also aimed to support local strategic priorities through linkages with Local Economic Community Plans (LECPs).

The Cork City LCDC LEP 2024: Total €232,204.82

This total amount comprises of:

- €193,504.02 capital funding for the Local Enhancement Programme to use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- €38,700.80 capital funding ring-fenced for Women's Groups.

See **Appendix 1** below for the full details of all the recipient groups who received funding, and the funded amounts allocated to them. The LCDC is thankful to all those who applied for funding as we recognise the hard work of voluntary groups in pursuit of such funding options.



LGBTI+ Dormant Account Funds 2024

On 12th November 2020, Mr Joe O'Brien, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, published the Dormant Accounts Action Plan. This plan provided funding to address disadvantage, right across the state, right up to and including, 2024. Four Cork Projects serving the needs of the LGBTI + Community was proposed by the LCDC, and one of the proposed groups was awarded by the DRCD, as follows:

Gender Rebels (Supports for the Trans community including increased drop-in hours, outreach work and LGBTI awareness/sensitivity training.) Total Award: €7,000

This Department of Rural and Community Development Grant was awarded to ensure that the funding will be used in the course of their work to implement the following action included in the National LGBTI+ Strategy. *Action 6.3 - Take measures to ensure that existing community infrastructure is inclusive and welcoming to LGBTI+ people and consider the provision of pop-up LGBTI+ services.*

Gender Rebels were delighted to receive this funding and will deliver on Action 6.3 above throughout 2025.

Cork City Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Cork City Public Participation Network continue to play a pivotal and influential part in the annual work of the LCDC. The LCDC has a total of five members representing the three pillars of the PPN:

1) Social Inclusion

2) Community

3) Environment

The PPN members report back at each monthly meeting to and from the wider PPN network and linkage groups who they represent on the LCDC.

The PPN members are also very active on the SICAP Sub-Group who review many of the programmes and funding in detail for the full members of the LCDC. This involves participation in several additional meetings through the year. The LCDC is extremely proud of its engagement, interaction and collaboration with this representative body ensuring our commitment to real and meaningful public participation in all the LCDC obligations and workloads.



Appendix 1

Below are the recipients of Cork City LCDC Local Enhancement Programme 2024 funding.

There were two funding streams available - Capital Funding and Women's Groups Funding.

Group/Organisation Local Enhancement Programme 2024	Awarded under Capital Fund
2 nd Cork Ballyphehane Scout Group	€1,000
46 th /92 nd Scout Group	€1,000
Abode Doorway to Life CLG	€1,000
Africa Day Cork	€1,500
Ard na Coille Residents	€500
Ard Na Rí Day Centre	€1,500
Ballincollig Men's Shed	€500
Ballinlough Residents Association	€1,000
Ballyphehane & District Pipe Band	€1,389.93
Ballyphehane Community Association	€5,000
Ballyphehane Togher CDP CLG	€5,000
Bishopstown Community Playgroup	€1,000
Bishopstown GAA	€500
Blackpool Area Group CE Scheme	€2,020
Blackpool Community Co-Operative Service Centre	€1,500
CDYS Gurrabraher The Hut UBU Youth Project	€2,000
Churchfield Community Trust CLG	€4,000
Clogheen/Kerry Pike Community Association	€1,000
Cope Foundation	€1,500
Cork Alliance for Justice and Social Care CLG	€2,500
Cork Academy of Music	€4,000
Cork Deaf Association	€2,000
Cork Anti-Poverty Resource Centre CLG	€5,000
Cork Barrack Street Band	€3,500
Cork City Community Radio	€2,000
Cork Community Media Hub CLG	€1,000
Cork Community Media Hub CLG	€1,000
Cork Foyer	€5,000
Cork LGBT+ Pride & Cork LGBT+ Interagency Group	€5,000
Cork LGBT+ Pride CLG	€1,500
Cork Stroke Support	€3,000



Group/Organisation Local Enhancement Programme 2024	Awarded under Capital Fund
Cork Unitarian Church	€2,000
Down Syndrome Cork Field of Dreams (Branch of Down Syndrome Ireland)	€4,000
Douglas Park Community Garden	€1,500
Glanmire Area Community Association	€5,000
Elder Writers of Cork	€1,000
Farranree Community Association CLG	€700
Feed Cork	€4,000
Gay Project CLG	€2,500
Glanmire Men's Shed	€5,000
Glenfields Community Childcare	€1,000
Glen Community Association	€1,000
Grange/Frankfield Active Retired Group	€1,500
Kilcully Campsite	€1,000
Headway Ireland	€1,000
IECOCORK	€1,000
Irish Bee Conservation Project CLG	€2,000
Irish Red Cross Cork City Branch	€1,000
Irish Wheelchair Association	€1,000
Joy in the Park	€2,500
Mayfield Community Adult Learning Project CALP	€900
Mahon Association CLG	€3,000
Mahon CDP	€1,500
Mahon Community Garden	€1,500
Mayfield East Community Association	€700
Mayfield Integrated Community Development Project	€3,500
Mayfield Men's Shed	€5,000
Mayfield Sports Complex	€2,000
Newbury House Family Centre	€2,671.40
Men's Shed Douglas/Frankfield	€1,000
Nasc, The Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre CLG	€2,000
Neptune Basketball Club	€4,000
Newbury House Family Centre CLG	€569.86
Praxis Care	€925
Roches Buildings Resource Centre	€500



Group/Organisation Local Enhancement Programme 2024	Awarded under Capital Fund
Rainbow Club Cork	€2,039
RehabCare, Bachelors Quay	€2,000
St Brendan's, The Glen, Senior Citizens CLG	€2,950
Sample-Studios	€999.97
Sanctuary Runners	€1,000
Sanskriti CLG	€1,000
Sauti Studios by Cork Migrant Centre, Nano Nagle Place	€3,000
School Completion Programme	€1,000
See My Skills	€1,000
Shine a Light Suicide and Mental Health Awareness	€1,500
South Parish Community Centre	€2,000
South Parish Community Centre	€5,000
South Parish Old Folks Club	€1,000
St John's Ambulance – Glanmire Division	€1,000
St Joseph's Community Association Ltd	€3,000
The Glen Resource Centre	€1,500
The Apache Autism Youth Club Foroige	€1,000
The Carraig Parish and Community Centre CLG	€1,000
The Kabin Studio	€5,000
The Lantern Project Nano Nagle Place	€300
Traveller Visibility Group	€4,000
Togher Community Association CLG	€2,500
Togher Community Garden	€1,000
Togher Family Centre	€5,000
Upper Glanmire Community Association	€500
Turners Cross Community Association	€3,500
Turners Cross Community Playgroup	€1,000
Vision Community Support Services (VCSS)	€1,000
Waterloo Renewal Group	€838.86



Group/Organisation Local Enhancement Programme 2024	Awarded under Women's Group Fund
Ballincollig Senior Citizens Club CLG (Westgate Foundation)	€10,000
Cork Traveller Women's Network	€1,820
Headway Ireland	€1000
Mayfield Women's Shed	€4,667.95
Nasc, The Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre CLG	€657
St Brendan's, The Glen, Senior Citizens, CLG	€1,100
St Barbara's Girl Guides	€1,000
SW Region Irish Girl Guides	€1,000
The Sexual Health Centre	€8,455.85
Tower Active Retirement Association	€1,500
Vision Community Support Services (VCSS)	€1,000
Wellsprings t/a Huruma CLG	€1,000
Wilton Sistersheds	€1,500

Appendix 2

Name	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24
Ann Doherty	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies	Apologies	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rebecca Loughry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Martin Davoren	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Niall O'Keeffe	✓	✓	✓	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cllr. Kenneth Collins	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	Apologies	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies
Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
Cllr. Fergal Dennehy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Cllr. John Maher	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	Apologies	Apologies	✓
Cllr. Shane O'Callaghan	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
Cllr. Ger Keohane	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apologies	Apologies	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Cllr. Garrett Kelleher	Apologies	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Denis Leamy	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓	✓
Denis J Fitzpatrick	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Katherine Harford	✗	✗	✗	✗	Apologies	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bernadette Connolly	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	✓
Majo Rivas	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies
Melissa Cotter	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	✓
Thomas Myers	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	✓	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies
Gabrielle O'Keeffe	✓	Apologies	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies
Dermot Crosby	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	Apologies



Eoin Gunn	Apologies	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Apologies
Name	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	Jul '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24
Cliona Barnes	✖	✖	✓	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies
Brenda Cahill	✓	✓	Apologies	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖
Joe Curtin	✓	Apologies	✓	Apologies	Apologies	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖
Siobhan Goulding	✓	Apologies	✓	✓	✓	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖

There was no meeting held in August 2024

✖ = Not a member of LCDC at that point in time