



## **Submission to Local Economic Community Plan**

June 2023

This submission was written in collaboration with Youghal Family Resource Centre, Cumann na Daoine and Youghal Community Health Project. Currently, Youghal Family Resource Initiative has a temporary premises and is also operating on an outreach basis with a part-time project coordinator.

We hope you will consider our submission and recommendations in the next stage of the development of this working document. We believe our input endorses the following high-level goals set out in the Local Economic Community Plan, and wish to ensure our specific local views are considered under these goal suggestions.

### **HIGH LEVEL GOAL 1: SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives in the LECP framework to support this high-level goal may include:

- Support initiatives and maximise potential opportunities for funding from various schemes to renew and regenerate our towns and villages.
- Support the delivery of sustainable and inclusive digital and multi-modal transport connectivity.
- Support initiatives and projects to increase availability, improve access and enhance existing sports, recreation and community facilities.
- Facilitate the delivery and promotion of active and sustainable travel infrastructure.
- Encourage initiatives to enhance community integration, diversity and engagement.
- Support community led groups who work to improve and enhance the towns, villages and communities in the county.
- Support sustainable job creation within our communities.

### **HIGH LEVEL GOAL 2: A SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE COUNTY**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives in the LECP the framework to support this high level goal may include:

- Promote and support equitable access to education, training and lifelong learning.

- Enable the provision of supports to help reduce barriers to employment and increase opportunities for the existing and recently arrived populations.
- Facilitate the delivery of focused programmes and supports to enhance inclusion and diversity and reduce isolation across our communities.
- Support citizens in accessing information on available supports.
- Promote actions that improve the quality of life for all citizens in Cork County to improve their mental, physical, and social well-being.
- Support the provision and enhancement of community-based services to address poverty and social exclusion.
- Support the provision of improved digital and multi-modal transport connectivity to aid social inclusion.
- Facilitate initiatives which support and enable people with disabilities to fully participate in education, employment and in their communities.
- Promote the embedding of accessibility and the principles of universal design into practice.

### **HIGH LEVEL GOAL 3: A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE COUNTY**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives in the LECP the framework to support this high-level goal may include:

- Foster cross-agency collaboration and partnerships to continue to improve health and wellbeing and maximise funding opportunities.
- Support and promote increased participation in physical activity and sports for all ages and abilities.
- Support the implementation of health-based initiatives at a local level to improve health and wellbeing.
- Support and promote participation in recreational activities to increase wellbeing and reduce isolation for all ages and abilities.
- Support initiatives that facilitate healthy and positive ageing in association with the Council's age friendly strategy and policies.
- Support and promote increased awareness of, and engagement with, health and wellbeing initiatives.
- Support initiatives which seek to address health inequalities within the county.
- Support public transport initiatives which enhance connectivity for older and disabled people to enable them to live vibrant and healthy lives.

### **HIGH LEVEL GOAL 4: A LOW CARBON AND CLIMATE RESILIENT COUNTY**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives in the LECP the framework to support this high-level goal may include:

- Support initiatives to aid all sectors in transitioning to low carbon and sustainable practices.
- Raise awareness of climate change and facilitate education and training.
- Support the continued development of sustainable communities in the County.
- Support the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

**Youghal currently does not have a Family Resource Centre building (FRC). Population projections for Youghal are due to increase. More families and more people but current community provision cannot meet that need. We therefore recommend that, Youghal needs to have a Family Resource Centre in advance of this population rise in order to address increasing demands on community services.**

**Housing developments need to give way to green space and also needs to consider community supports and in consultation with community groups. Further use of existing buildings needs to be done in consultation with the community/voluntary sector as many organisations/groups are providing essential services without adequate building facilities to support this. Could the council look to upgrade/purchase buildings to enable the community to be fully serviced i.e. develop a Family Resource Centre?**

**Many of the community projects in Youghal are operating and providing services with just one worker this is a particular concern for sustainability and growth of supports/capacity we can offer.**

**Youghal is serviced by a combination of community led organisations working in tandem to deliver essential community services. We recommend that this is acknowledged Local Economic Community Plan via a consultation process in relation to the provision of a premises to accommodate a Family Resource Centre, which Youghal currently does not have. We believe a Family Resource Centre servicing Youghal urban and rural areas is a key need within the Youghal area.**

**We therefore recommend, the Local Economic Community Plan needs to support a building for a Family Resource Centre. A family resource centre in Youghal would provide a community crèche, afterschool childcare, parenting hub for parenting supports. A community crèche and afterschool childcare will directly support the Local Economic Community Plan, enabling adults to access new employment opportunities.**

**Youghal in our view, is not well serviced in healthcare provision. It is without a Day Care Centre, and the Youghal primary care facility needs to accommodate some CAMHS staff coming to Youghal on an outreach basis. Currently, using existing services it takes a whole day to get to Glanmire and return. We believe this is essential, to go some way in addressing the inequality experienced by vulnerable children and young people experiencing mental health difficulties living in the Youghal area whose parents depend on public transport to attend these vital appointments.**

**The county development plan accurately acknowledges the high unemployment rate in Youghal. However, it is our belief that growth in employment depends on affordable childcare for families particularly in Youghal given the numbers of one parent families being higher than the national average.**

We therefore recommend the LECP supports a Family Resource Centre that incorporates community childcare as a priority in addressing challenges for parents who wish to have the opportunity to return to education and employment. Youghal needs a Family Resource Centre to support parents and children at the universal level.

While participation in the labour force increased between 1996 and 2006, Youghal town had a higher unemployment rate (at 10.7%) than other towns of similar size for 2006. Numbers unemployed have almost doubled since March 2008 from 922 to 1,810 in March 2013. More recently, in Census 2016, the percentage of residents “at work” is below the national average of 54% in Youghal Urban (43%) and close to the national average in Youghal Rural (53%). COVID 19 may have increased the unemployment rate for Youghal rural and urban given the strong link between employment and tourism for the town.

#### Disadvantage

- Over 3,000 people in Youghal Urban, or about 40% of the entire population can be considered as “disadvantaged” or “very disadvantaged” based on Hasse & Pratsche Deprivation Index scores (2016).

Small Area ID	Pobal HP Index 2016	Pobal HP Description 2016
47323027	-21.29	very disadvantaged
47323023	-24.02	very disadvantaged
47323020	-21.82	very disadvantaged
47323019	-20.32	very disadvantaged
047323021/047323022	-11.93	disadvantaged
47323026	-15.77	disadvantaged
047323012/047323013	-10.85	disadvantaged
47323016	-12.64	disadvantaged
47323011	-11.54	disadvantaged
47323028	-11.57	disadvantaged
47323006	-10.97	disadvantaged
47323014	-12.84	disadvantaged
47323015	-12.15	disadvantaged
47323001	-13.68	disadvantaged

<b>Youghal Urban ED</b>	-7.98	Marginally below average
<b>Cork County</b>	2.52	marginally above average
<b>National</b>	0	

— The total dependency ratio for Youghal is about 58%, which is 6% higher than the national average of 53% and the county average of 56%.

We believe the figures noted above further support the essential need for affordable childcare options within the Youghal area, alongside parenting supports being readily available to parents at the universal level.

### Context and background of Youghal FRC

In March 2021, Barnardos lead by a steering group of community organisations in Youghal, established a proposal for a new Family Resource Centre (FRC). Our aim is to be funded by TUSLA under the National FRC Programme. We have currently secured a part-time project coordinator post to set up a parenting support hub, reestablish the afterschool club and establish a base in preparation for the next call for applications from the National FRC Programme.

The FRC adopts a strong community development approach to working with children and their families by integrating a participative approach to all the work. We currently do not have a premises and are seeking to operate the services on an outreach basis. Youghal ETB are supporting the operation of our afterschool club and we are starting our parent hub in the virtual space.

The FRC has developed a parenting hub for the area in a temporary space, which enhances parenting supports through one off workshops, signposting parents to supports they may need by providing a drop-in service, parenting courses and collaborating with key agencies in the area to set up supports where gaps are identified. We have reestablished the afterschool club, but our current capacity is just 24 for primary school aged children with an emphasis on developing their social and emotional wellbeing alongside supporting them to complete their homework. This service is currently operational due to the goodwill of Cork ETB a purpose-built building will go far in assisting us to develop this service and further enhance support to children and families within the town.

To support our work, we need a permanent premises, which will allow us to grow our formal parent supports, a drop in service, alongside afterschool club provision, community childcare and other supports identified as gaps by the steering group and through consultations with parents and families in Youghal. It will enable us to meet the current demands whilst being able to grow and develop as our increase in population demands.

Kind regards



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