



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

Drogheda Report Implementation Plan



INTRODUCTION

The Drogheda Scoping Exercise was commissioned by the Minister for Justice in 2020 in response to rising concerns regarding crime and fear of crime in Drogheda. The scoping exercise was to assess the current issues on the ground, exploring the relevant challenges as well as local strengths and resources, identifying measures that could be taken to improve the situation and others that could chart a path to improved community wellbeing and related outcomes in and around Drogheda. The recommendations in the report fall under two general headings:

- (1) the need for improved interagency cooperation in the administration and delivery of services in Drogheda, and
- (2) the need to resource services or provide additional services in the area.

Since the publication of the report, the Department of Justice has engaged with relevant Government Departments and agencies and Louth County Council to develop an action plan to implement the recommendations contained in the report. A number of recommendations have been actioned and work was ongoing which will deliver on a range of the recommendations contained in the report or on elements of those recommendations. Where such activity has been reported by a relevant body, it is reflected in the Action Plan under 'current status'. Where further steps are required, these are also set out with timelines and responsible body also indicated.

This Plan is a living document that will be updated on a regular basis. Where new actions or activities are advised that support the implementation of this Plan, they will be added. Such reviews will be conducted on a quarterly basis and the progress reports produced twice yearly.

The Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Drogheda Scoping Exercise is set out under the thematic headings identified in the report.

1. CROSS-AGENCY COORDINATION

1.1	<p>Drogheda Safety & Wellbeing High-Level Oversight Group: Led by (i) Department of Justice and comprising senior representatives of other relevant Departments: (ii) Health; (iii) Housing, Local Government and Heritage; (iv) Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth; (v) Education; (vi) Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science; (vii) Rural and Community Development; (viii) Social Protection; and (ix) Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Agency representatives to be invited to meetings as required.</p> <p>Quarterly Meetings to ensure strategic direction and action planning and receive reports on progress on action plan. Once the action plan is agreed, the Oversight Group might be reduced in size.</p>		
1.2	<p>Safety and Wellbeing Implementation Board: The core driver and coordinator of change. With an independent chair, small support team (headed by a fulltime coordinator) and own budget (to resource the coordination itself, as well as to provide ‘priming’ funds to innovative projects and initiatives) – the team to be hosted, resourced supported by Louth Local Authority or Louth Leader Partnership, but located in Drogheda. Other central Government departments and local bodies to provide proportion of the funding for this as agreed).</p> <p>Board comprised of senior (‘decision making’) representatives from relevant agencies, including, at least: (i) An Garda Síochána; (ii) Probation Service; (iii) Local Authorities; (iv) HSE; (v) TUSLA; (vi) LMETB (vii) LLP; (viii) IYJS/DoJ.</p>		
1.3	<p>Four sub-groups/working groups: Policing and Drugs; Family Support, Children, Young People and Education; Employment, Business, Enterprise; Area/Community Development, Arts, Culture and Sport.</p> <p>Sub/working groups to have identified chairs (some could be rotated), representatives from relevant agencies and bodies. All sub-groups to include representatives from relevant bodies in the C+V sector; sub-group (d) to include wider definition of ‘community’ representatives, on a rotating basis, as required. Sub-group work focus to be on agreed/clear action plans. To report in at appropriate intervals, through identified representatives, to the Implementation Board. The sub-groups could also identify new or added resourcing needs, and prepare business cases for consideration by the implementation.</p>		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
	Department of Justice (DoJ) to coordinate implementation of actions in line with timelines set out in this document and to produce six monthly progress reports	Ongoing	DoJ

Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) to host local Drogheda Implementation Board comprised of local representatives of relevant agencies and bodies	Ongoing	LMETB
Recruitment of Coordinator to support local Drogheda Implementation Board	Q3 2021	LMETB
DoJ to provide funding for single staff resource to support Drogheda Implementation Board	Q3 2021	DoJ

2. ADDRESSING CRIME

2.1	For those involved at a very serious or “senior” level in the drugs trade and related organised crime in the area, the current approach by AGS of targeting and disrupting their activities to be continued and resourced accordingly.	
<i>Current Status</i>		
<p>Drogheda has a dedicated Drugs Unit of one Sergeant and six Gardaí. This unit has made significant detections and arrests over the last two years since their inception. At the end of May 2021, there have been a total of 54 detections for the sale and supply of drugs in Drogheda for the year to date. This is on a par, if not above the busiest Districts in the country. This includes significant quantities of different types of drugs and cash seizures. A coordinated plan is in place under Operation Stratus in Drogheda to deal with serious organised criminality, and the targeting and arresting of persons involved in very serious distribution and sale of controlled substances.</p> <p>An Garda Síochána (AGS) not only target the seizure of illegal drugs but significantly the finances and other assets of all persons involved in the sale and supply of drugs. This approach has proven very successful and will continue to be fully resourced and supported. Gardaí in Drogheda also work closely with other agencies and Garda units, both on a local and national level, in targeting those involved in the sale and supply of controlled substances.</p>		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
	<i>Responsible Body</i>	
	An Garda Síochána approach of targeting the seizure of illegal drugs and assets of persons involved in the sale and supply of drugs to continue. Operation Stratus in Drogheda to be carried out to deal with serious organised criminality.	Ongoing
		AGS

2.2	Implement as a matter of urgency an intensive wraparound service for vulnerable children and young people exposed to and involved in organised crime group, as
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	well as their families, with a view to facilitating their disengagement from such criminal networks.
2.3	Continue – and increase, where appropriate – resourcing (e.g., staff, training, minibus/es) to the two Garda Youth Diversion Projects (CABLE and BOYNE GYDPs), to facilitate their work.
<i>Current Status</i>	
<p>Garda Youth Diversion Projects (CABLE and BOYNE) are funded directly by the Department of Justice. Community Based Organisations (CBO's) CABLE and BOYNE Youth Workers work with local Juvenile Liaison Officers to deliver services to young people who have been cautioned and young people deemed at risk of offending. This work is now captured as part of the partnership approach to service delivery in the new Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027. Transport may be made available based on business needs and the required funding for same is provided via GYDP through the Department of Justice. Chief Superintendent, Garda Youth Diversion Bureau is An Garda Síochána lead.</p> <p>Local Gardaí also engage with local services for children, including the Boomerang Youth Cafe Club and the two Garda Diversion Projects.</p> <p>Both projects are on three year funding agreements that are renewable.</p>	
<i>Next Steps</i>	
<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Engagement with CABLE and BOYNE projects regarding any additional needs	Q3 2021
	DoJ

2.4	Ensure continuing/strengthening of community policing – particularly in the town centre and suburban areas.
<i>Current Status</i>	
<p>The strength of the Community Policing Unit at Drogheda Garda Station now stands at one Sergeant and nine Gardaí. To improve the service provided to the public, the District has been divided into a number of Community Policing Areas and a member from the Community Policing Unit appointed to each area. That member is responsible for ensuring greater contact with the community within their area of operation. This approach has led to greater communication to and from members of the public. It has also increased accountability, as members of the public now have a member that they have direct contact with to help with problems or queries they may have. In addition, the rollout of the Community Policing Framework will provide a strengthened Community Policing service.</p> <p>In addition, a District Community Action Team of one Sergeant and five Gardaí has been established. This is an extension of the Community Policing type approach to policing, with a particular emphasis on responding to changing "hot spots" that cause issues at different times. Both units, the Community Policing Unit and the Community Action Team, engage with local groups, such as sporting clubs, groups for the elderly, neighbourhood watch groups, text</p>	

alert groups, Garda Youth Projects and other community-based initiatives, to ensure contact at ground level with all concerned.		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Roll-out of the Community Policing Framework to the Louth Division	2022	AGS

2.5	Consider the implementation of a Joint Agency Response to Crime (JARC) project in the Drogheda area.	
2.10	Explore ways in which the timeliness of criminal justice responses to offending and offenders can be improved where possible.	
<i>Current Status</i>		
<p>Recently, a new oversight and governance structure for offender management has been established in order to coordinate and align offender management programmes, including SORAM, JARC, Domestic Violence & Complex High Risk Prisoners and Life Sentence Prisoners.</p> <p>The current priorities for this new governance mechanism include developing and embedding the new reporting structures, developing a medium term vision for multi-agency offender management generally and streamlining approaches to programme delivery.</p>		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
	Any decision to rollout JARC to additional locations will be made by the Offender Management Governance and Strategy Group in the context of the outcome of ongoing programme evaluations. The procurement process for an independent evaluator for the regional JARC programmes is currently ongoing, and evaluations are expected to be completed by Q2 2022.	Q4 2022
		Offender Management Governance and Strategy Group (Chaired by DoJ, Membership includes IPS, AGS and Probation Service)

2.6	Allocate additional Probation Service resources (1-2 probation officers, as well as community service and community-based organisations, where and as needed) immediately to the Louth team, to allow adequate focus on and resourcing of responses to drug-related offending, young people involved in crime and related projects, as well as in the event of any expansion of the JARC programme, youth justice, community service and restorative justice programmes.	
<i>Current Status</i>		
<p>The Probation Service resources to the Louth Team, which include the Drogheda catchment, are at this time sufficient to meet the current work activity and referral rate. The allocation of an additional Probation Officer post in January 2021 has added to the Service's capacity to</p>		

respond the demands of referral agents and stakeholders. Resources for the Louth area will nonetheless be kept under review.		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Probation Service resources for the Louth area to be kept under review; assess what, if any, additional resources would be required in the event of any expansion of the JARC programme, youth justice, community service and restorative justice programmes	Ongoing	Probation Service

2.7	In spite of the constraints Proceeds of Crime legislation, explore how to demonstrate to local communities in a visible and practical way that money and other resources seized from organised criminals is, in effect, used to provide funding for community and other services.	
<i>Current Status</i>		
In April 2021 the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform agreed in principle to establish a new fund to support community safety which would reflect the successes of An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau in disrupting criminal activity and seizing proceeds of crime by providing additional funding for investment in community safety projects.		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Funding to be confirmed through the estimates process	Q3 2021	DoJ/DPER

2.8	Explore the provision of appropriate multi-disciplinary responses (including out-of-hours) to incidents (e.g., with mental health components or factors, such as suicidal or self-harming behaviour) currently managed by 'frontline' AGS members	
<i>Current Status</i>		
In July 2020, a project involving the implementation of Divisional Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) commenced, under A Policing Service for Our Future (APSFF). The aim of the project is to explore multi-agency intervention teams, which will be a collaboration between An Garda Síochána and mental health professionals to provide a rapid and integrated response to persons with mental health issues. The project is nearing the end of the scaling phase and it is hoped a pilot will be launched in the Limerick Division in Q2 2022. There is ongoing consultation with external police forces, mental health experts and the academic research partner (UL).		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Pilot Scaling phase to be completed	Q4 2021	AGS
Pilot launched in Limerick	Q2 2022	AGS
Evaluation and review of Limerick Pilot	2023	AGS

2.9	Explore how to address the previously raised and discussed issue of the impact of the county boundaries of Louth and Meath, and the corresponding delineation between Garda Districts/Divisions, specifically in relation to the policing of the Laytown-Bettystown area of East Meath.	
<i>Current Status</i>		
The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (D/HLGH) is developing proposals to improve co-operation and municipal governance for sizeable urban areas that significantly extend beyond county boundaries. This will involve establishing a formal structure whereby the relevant local authorities will work together to plan for their development in a way that best serves the interests of the residents and businesses located within them in the form of Statutory Urban Area Committees.		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
Legislative proposals to be brought by D/HLGH on Statutory Urban Area Committees		Q1 2022
		<i>Responsible Body</i>
		D/HLGH

2.10	Explore ways in which the timeliness of criminal justice responses to offending and offenders can be improved where possible	
<i>This Recommendation has been grouped with recommendation 2.5 above</i>		

2.11	Explore the practicality of implementing the Community Crime Impact Assessment (CCIA) process in Drogheda	
4.8	Build on previous initiatives to increase community capacity for responding to violent critical incidents at local level.	
<i>Current Status</i>		
CCIA is an instrument intended to give due weight to the experience of a community of living with drug-related criminality and anti-social behaviour. CCIA's are part of the National Drug Strategy Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery 2017-2025. Strategic Action 4.1.40 aims to: "measure the impact of drug related crime and wider public nuisance issues on communities" by: "developing and piloting a Community Impact Assessment Tool in order to measure the impact of drug-related crime and wider public nuisance issues on communities".		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
Department of Justice to engage with City Wide, An Garda Síochána and the Department of Health (DoH) in relation to exploring the practicality of implementing the Community Crime Impact Assessment in Drogheda		Q4 2021
		<i>Responsible Body</i>
		DoJ/DoH/AGS

2.12	Explore the implementation of a ‘See It. Say It’ scheme in Drogheda, in relation to anti-social behaviour.	
<i>Current Status</i>		
<p>There has been a significant increase in requests across the country for community engagement systems, with text monitoring, text alerts and apps being recommended by different groups. Garda ICT have looked at suitable solutions to deal with the demand and have found that they can leverage services from ICT as part of the Mobility Tender. In 2019, An Garda Síochána produced a Tender for Mobile Services, where Eir were the successful bidder. One of the services mandated in the tender was the ability to manage bulk text.</p> <p>ICT and Community Policing teams have been working with Eir and their sub-contracted provider Phonovation to progress the delivery of two services. The first service is to receive text messages from members of the public (similar to see something, say something), where An Garda Síochána will have an advertised short text number (50311 - non-emergency number) and members of the public can text in a message, which will be routed to the relevant control room and acted upon. The second service is for Community Alerts, where a granular system is being tested, that will allow messages to be sent out by the different levels of Garda Community Policing teams, from the local level, station, Division, etc.</p>		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
	“See It Say It” and Community Alert Systems verification of sites for initial pilot	Q3 2021
	Roll-out of new scheme similar to “See it. Say it” as well as Community Alerts system in the Drogheda area	Q4 2021
		<i>Responsible Body</i>
		AGS
		AGS

2.13	Continue to provide training and awareness raising in relation to the impact and implications of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) for all relevant bodies in Drogheda.	
<i>Current Status</i>		
<p>The Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 provides a developmental framework for further ongoing enhancement of youth justice services. The strategy outlines approaches to the effects of trauma and disadvantage, including in interagency work, in strengthening Garda policies on engagement with young people, and pursuing specialised training support for front line personnel who engage with young people.</p>		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
	DoJ to work with partners to deliver on the Youth Justice Strategy 2021-2027 objectives which relate to the effects of trauma and disadvantage on young people.	Ongoing in line with the objectives of the Youth Justice
		<i>Responsible Body</i>
		DoJ working with DCEDIY and other GSG bodies, local authority, community and local

	Strategy 2021-2027	development and other expert and community partners
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3. DRUG USE

3.1	The Red Door project should receive urgent additional funding for the provision of drugs outreach work (as a particular priority), counselling, family support, client progression pathways, Court-related and prisoner support and additional harm reduction services in the Drogheda area. Specifically, €150,000 additional for a full year, should be allocated to the Red Door, for provision of these additional services		
<i>Current status</i>			
DoJ began engaging with Red Door, HSE, the Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce in April 2021 in relation to supports for the provision of additional services.			
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
	Additional funding to be agreed and allocated to the Red Door project from earmarked Dormant Accounts funding	Q3 2021	DoJ in consultation with DoH and HSE
	Further engagement on additional resourcing needs following completion of HSE regional resourcing review	Q3 2021	DoJ/DoH/HSE
	DoJ, DoH and HSE to consider the issue of sustainability of funding to ensure a medium to long-term plan is in place for service delivery	2022	DoJ/HSE/DoH

3.2	Explore the possibility of utilising the Red Door facility as more of a ‘one-stop-shop’ for drug treatment and related services.		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
	HSE, North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force (NE-RDTF), Red Door and Probation Service to engage on how services can be developed and to eliminate overlapping or duplication of services; examine potential to step up the engagement with Social Work and Probation with the aim of considering the use of Red Door facility as a “one-stop-shop”	Q4 2021	HSE, NE-RDTF, Probation Service, DoJ

3.3	Review the State funding (approximately €7,500 p.a.) provided to the Family Addiction Network (FASN) – providing family support, especially in the context of		
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	drug-related intimidation work and wider family support for addiction-related issues.		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
	HSE engagement with FASN on funding proposals	Q3 2021	HSE

3.4	Commission/carry out an urgent review of the organisation of drugs (statutory and community and voluntary) services in the Drogheda area, similar in focus – but perhaps on a smaller scale – to the Service Review of the Dundalk Addiction Services (2015) carried out by the HSE , with a view to ensuring improved effectiveness and efficiency as a matter of urgency.		
	<i>Current status</i>		
	External consultants appointed to conduct a HSE review and have engaged with service providers in HSE, NE-RDTF, and community and voluntary groups in Meath and Louth including staff and service users.		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
	HSE Review to be completed	Q3 2021	HSE
	Commence implementation of findings of review	Q4 2021	HSE

3.5	Reinstate/continue the local Drug Court, with appropriate funding and other resourcing and formally evaluate its operation over a period of say one to two years, before deciding on its longer-term future.		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
	Business case being developed for specific case worker role situated within Red Door	Q3 2021	DoJ/Probation Service working with HSE
	HSE to consider funding for a Drugs and Alcohol project worker as part of review of services	Q3 2021	HSE

3.6	Agencies working in the substance use field in Drogheda should look at practical ways of improving interagency cooperation, including the identification and implementation of appropriate gateways to treatment and progression routes for service users, as well as reducing or eliminating overlaps and duplication, providing joint (cross-agency) training, developing shared language and even greater cooperation on assessment and intervention methods.		
	<i>Current Status</i>		
	Positive cooperative relationships are in place currently between agencies working in the substance use field in Drogheda.		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
	The National Drug Rehabilitation Framework (NDRF) eLearning module has been completed	Q3 2021	HSE

and will be available shortly on HSELand (ICT issues currently affecting the launch of the training). This 90 minute module will be available to HSE and HSE funded services		
Inter-agency cooperation to be supported via a subgroup of the Drogheda Implementation Board referenced in Recommendation 1	Q4 2021	Drogheda Implementation Board

3.7	Ensure full implementation of all appropriate harm reduction measures, as mandated by the National Drugs Strategy, including Needle and Syringe Programmes (NSP) and Naloxone, in Drogheda.	
<i>Current Status</i>		
Outreach drug/alcohol project worker assigned, manager in place, funding allocated by HSE. The NSP project began on 11 May 2021, operating 3 days per week.		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
Decision on vacancy for outreach worker subject to conclusion of HSE resourcing review		Q3 2021
		HSE

3.8	Explore and implement the most appropriate way of ensuring a best-practice response to drug using clients with identified dual (drugs and mental health issues) diagnosis. This could include interagency co-location of staff and joint training	
<i>Current Status</i>		
Ongoing activities around information exchange, joint training, development of common tools and appropriate care pathways.		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
Clinical programme being developed and rolled out		Ongoing
Inter-agency work to be carried out through Slaintecare on dual diagnosis to ensure a uniform and sustainable response nation-wide.		Ongoing
Review of roll-out of dual diagnosis to be carried out		Ongoing
		HSE

3.9	Provide further interagency training workshops on responding to drug-related intimidation for relevant staff in statutory agencies as well as those in the community and voluntary sector.	
<i>Current Status</i>		
There is a nominated Inspector in the Louth Division with responsibility for this portfolio, who works closely with a number of agencies in dealing with victims and families of drug related intimidation.		

<p>Arrangements are already in place to deliver on supports to individuals and funding has been secured by the Louth Local Community Development Committee to collaborate with Fingal County Council in the autumn of 2021.</p>		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
<p>Interagency training workshops to recommence once Covid restrictions are eased. In the meantime, Family Addiction Support Network and AGS are providing support.</p>	Q3 2021	<p>NE-RDTF/AGS/FASN/ National Family Support Network/ Louth Local Authority</p>

4. YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES

4.1	<p>The Northside/Moneymore community hub facility should continue to be progressed, as it currently is, by LLP on behalf of all stakeholders. This facility should accommodate the provision of services currently provided by bodies forming the Moneymore Consortium, as well as providing a hub for a wider array of community services, provided by statutory as well as community and voluntary agencies.</p>
4.2	<p>It would greatly boost morale in the area if, at an appropriate point, clarification could be provided by LCC and LLP to relevant stakeholders in Moneymore/North Drogheda on the likely direction of travel and timeline for the proposed centre, as soon as practicable.</p>
4.3	<p>4.3 The relevant bodies should commence, as a priority, exploratory moves including local consultations, to provide a similar facility on the Southside of the Town, in the general Rathmullan area.</p>
<i>Current Status</i>	
<p>In terms of Louth LEADER Partnership SICAP supports in Drogheda, the CEO is providing technical assistance and support to the Moneymore consortium relating to a proposed development of a community centre, which would house some existing services, which are based in Local Authority Houses. The consortium have now in place a number of key process including a commitment from the LA to site, a business plan, a community plan and a group Constitution which will enable them to go forward with the next phase. Louth LEADER Partnership will continue to play a key role in supporting this group and liaising with the LA and other key funding stakeholders. The Louth Local Authority has committed to supporting this proposal and has been liaising with the Moneymore Consortium on this matter.</p> <p>While community facilities are funded from many different sources across different Government Departments, Agencies and Local Authorities, there is no dedicated standalone funding stream for capital works for community centres. DRCD has developed a proposal for a Community Centre Capital Programme as part of a wider Community Recovery Investment Fund for inclusion in Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan proposals. Programming</p>	

is also underway for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and DRCD are seeking to engage with the ERDF for co-financing opportunities.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Engagement with DRCD, Local Authority and Moneymore Consortium on site identification	Ongoing	DoJ
In relation to exploring provision of a similar facility on the Southside of the Town, Louth County Council are exploring, in collaboration with An Garda Síochána, the designation of a former social house as a Community facility, subject to community acceptance.	Ongoing	Louth Local Authority/AGS

4.4	Progress, as a priority, the funding and development by LMETB of the sports and community changing/meeting block at DIFE (cost estimated at approximately €1 million).	
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
LMETB to be invited to make and application under the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund at the next call for proposals, with the support of Louth County Council	Next call for proposals TBC	LCC/LMETB

4.5	Agree an action plan for enhancing youth and community development capacity, particularly on the South side of Drogheda	
<i>Current Status</i>		
<p>The LPP SICAP Social Inclusion Manager has supported a number of Local Community Groups in Drogheda with grant aid activity across 2019 and 2020. The grant scheme empowers local community groups to undertake a range of Social Inclusion activities including support to address the impacts of COVID-19 including IT equipment and food bank services.</p> <p>The Social Inclusion Manager and Senior Education and Youth Officer represent SICAP at the PPN Youth Services Network Linkage group and are currently working on providing supports to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the youth across the county.</p> <p>SICAP staff have worked in collaboration with Louth CYPSC, Healthy Ireland and Louth PPN to fund and support Mental Health Sports and Well-being Packs for young people across county Louth who are currently affected by the ongoing impacts of Covid-19. This targeted initiative was successfully delivered on Friday 2nd April with up to 800 young people aged 12-18 years across County Louth receiving the packs.</p>		

SICAP staff have organised “Decider” youth mental health supports training to build the capacity of Youth Service Staff by providing a tool kit to enable them to support the youth across the county as public health measures are eased and services re open to the public.

The Drogheda Youth Services involved in this multi-agency network include Drogheda Youth Development Limited (Boomerang) the Foroige Cable Project and the Southside Community Youth Project (SPY) under Youth Work Ireland.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Recommendation to be taken forward by the Drogheda Implementation Board	To begin in Q4 2021	Drogheda Implementation Board

4.6	Generate an agreed strategic plan for the development of youth and community work and community leaders in Drogheda.	
4.7	Include appropriate actions in relation to the training and development of local youth and community workers in this strategic plan; and specifically, education, training and career progression routes, linked to pre-university and university-level programmes, as well as incorporating ‘on-the-job’ training elements	
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
<p>DRCD are funding a place-based leadership programme in Drogheda. Supporting the LCDC with their work in the area, the programme will develop leaders within the community.</p> <p>Louth Leader Partnership, under the oversight of the LCDC, will lead on the delivery of the programme. The programme will support community leaders who work in fear of intimidation and violence, lack of authority, or a perception that those with authority are unable to make an impact and the fear of being a lone voice.</p> <p>The objective is to help build a powerful community based, cross-sectoral coalition to address the impact of poverty and disadvantage and to create or develop alternative pathways and opportunities for young people most at risk of being drawn into the illicit drugs economy.</p>	Q4 2021	LLP/LCDC/DRCD

4.8	Build on previous initiatives to increase community capacity for responding to violent critical incidents at local level.	
<i>This Recommendation has been grouped with recommendation 2.11 above</i>		

5. SPECIFIC SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

5	<p>5.1 Ensure that the good work initiated and under way recently, to coordinate child protection and welfare and other children’s services, is maintained and further developed, specifically through the overarching strategic and service coordination proposals recommended above.</p> <p>5.2 An exercise has already been commenced, by LLP/CYPSC, to ‘map’ the services for children and young people in Drogheda. This valuable service ‘audit’ initiative, stalled because of Covid-19, should be re-started, prioritised and completed as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>5.3 Urgent consideration should also be given to how the various youth services could be more coordinated and supported.</p> <p>5.4 Ensure the completion of the review of Strengthening Families Programmes already provided and follow through as appropriate.</p> <p>5.5 There does appear to be certain gaps in some specific service provision for young people. These include mental health and suicide prevention, among others. Ensure these are prioritised in future planning and delivery.</p>		
<i>Current Status</i>			
<p>The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth provides youth funding under a number of different schemes. This includes the UBU Your Place Your Space scheme which seeks to engage young people described in the National Youth Strategy as disadvantaged, marginalised or vulnerable. There are various cohorts of young people targeted under the scheme, including those experiencing economic and social disadvantage, young migrants, carers, travellers, homeless, those with substance misuse issues etc.</p> <p>The UBU scheme is needs led and is underpinned by the Area Profile, Needs Assessment and Service Requirement (APNASR) process. This process was undertaken by Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB), who act as the mid-level governance agency for UBU, to identify the key needs for young people between the ages of 10 and 24 in Louth and Meath in 2019, including in Drogheda.</p> <p>Two Drogheda youth services are currently funded under the UBU Your Place Your Space scheme, Boomerang Youth Service and Drogheda Southside. The UBU Policy and Operating Rules sets out how new youth services can enter the UBU scheme, where funding becomes available. Any application for new funding must be preceded by a needs analysis by the Education and Training Board using the APNASR Tool mentioned above.</p>			
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>

Coordination of child and youth services in Drogheda and follow-up in relation to mapping and review activities to be taken forward by the subgroup of the Drogheda Implementation Board	Q4 2021	Drogheda Implementation Board
Recommendation 5.5 to be advanced following review of Recommendation 5.2	Ongoing	Drogheda Implementation Board

6. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

6.1	Due to the unique position and situation obtaining in St. Brigid’s and St. Patrick’s NS, St. Joseph’s CBS, and Presentation NS, an increase in DEIS status – from Band 2 to 1 – should be granted to the three schools immediately, at least on an interim emergency basis, at a minimum until (a) the passing of the worst impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and (b) improvement in the overall crime and related social situation in Drogheda, and (c) completion of any formal update review by the Department of Education. Alternatively, or at least pending the outcome of any DEIS review, it is recommended that at a minimum some alternative way to provide equivalent additional supports to these schools and their students should be found and implemented, to address the needs identified.
<i>Current status</i>	
The DEIS programme is a specific programme based on specific eligibility criteria. Work by the Department of Education (DE) remains ongoing on the refinement of the DEIS identification model. Until this work is complete, it is not intended to change the DEIS status of any schools. As recommended in the report, the Department of Education has arranged for additional supports to the 3 primary schools. This action is completed.	

6.2	Explore the potential for more apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programmes in Drogheda, and specifically through DIFE.
<i>Current status</i>	
<p>On 19 April 2021 the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Minister of State for Skills and Further Education launched a five-year Action Plan for Apprenticeship. The Action Plan sets out a five year strategy to deliver on the Programme for Government commitment of reaching 10,000 new apprentice registrations per year by 2025. The plan provides a roadmap to a single apprenticeship system and new supports for employers and apprentices. It will also do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create a new National Apprenticeship Office to drive reforms • a new grant for employers, with a top-up grant for areas of identified national skills needs and/or targeted recruitment of underrepresented groups such as female 	

apprentices, or lone-parents, people with disabilities, or members of the Travelling community		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-financial supports targeted to SMEs in areas such as recruitment and supervision of apprentices • set targets for the public sector to take on apprentices and to create cross-sector apprentices • examine the potential development of new cross-border apprentice programmes and support apprentice engagement in international programmes such as Erasmus 		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Action Plan for Apprenticeship to be implemented and delivered in the Drogheda area	2021-2025	D/FHERIS

6.3	Explore the potential for implementing an ‘Operation Encompass’ approach as part of the responding to domestic abuse and domestic violence incidents.	
<i>Current status</i>		
<p>The Operation Encompass Programme, as it operates in the UK, involves the police sharing information with a child’s school where there has been a domestic incident at the child’s home the previous day. A member of staff in the school could then ensure that the child was given the appropriate support during the school day.</p> <p>Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth have convened an inter-Departmental Group to explore the feasibility of the introduction of a programme in Ireland similar to Operation Encompass in England and Wales.</p>		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Inter-Departmental Group to report on feasibility of the introduction of a programme similar to Operation Encompass	2022	DCEDIY/DE/AGS/Tusla

6.4	Explore the potential for locating a ‘branch’ of DKIT in Drogheda, and also for the development of DKIT ‘feeder’ programmes – particularly those related to vocational and professional education and training – operating in Drogheda.	
<i>Current status</i>		
<p>High Education institutions are autonomous bodies and manage their own affairs, including in relation to location, however the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science will engage with DKIT on this issue.</p>		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>

Recommendation to be taken forward by the Drogheda Implementation Board	To begin Q1 2022	Drogheda Implementation Board
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6.5	Continue to develop training in and application of Restorative Practice aimed at dealing with conflict and addressing issues such as school suspensions, expulsions and refusals.	
<i>Current status</i>		
<p>The Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) provide CPD to schools on Restorative Practice. In the 2020/21 school year the PDST have supported 65 schools nationwide with over 1240 teacher CPD interactions.</p> <p>To apply for support, schools need to contact the PDST directly through their school support application system. The Department of Education will engage with the schools in the area in this regard. In November 2020 PDST provided input on Restorative Practice at an event hosted by an organisation called Genesis in County Louth who support schools in preventing learners from becoming disengaged from education. This event was entitled Suspensions and Exclusions in Primary School: Developing an Action Plan.</p> <p>Education Support Centres, which are funded by the Department of Education, are available to support clusters of schools to assist them in developing plans to meet their learning and development needs.</p>		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
Department of Education to continue to develop training in and application of restorative practices aimed at dealing with conflict and addressing issues such as school suspensions, expulsions and refusals.		Ongoing
		DE

7. ARTS, CULTURE, SPORT AND RECREATION

The Dormant Account Fund (DAF) is the mechanism used to fund sports-related projects that are specifically in line with defined “disadvantage” purposes. This funding is used to support projects aimed at increasing participation and engagement in sport among people from social, educational and economic disadvantage, and people with disabilities. Funding details are set out in the annual Dormant Account action plan published by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, eg. 2020 €8 million, 2021 €10 million. Applications for projects are reviewed and assessed by Sport Ireland. DAF funding is open nationwide for applications. The receipt of projects from the Drogheda area would be welcomed and will be assessed for funding by reference to the applicable eligibility requirements.

Listed below are some examples of projects which have been delivered by the Louth LSP in the Drogheda area in recent years.

The following **Community Sports Hub** project was funded by Sport Ireland through the 2020 DAF to the value of €61,500.

Louth LSP have identified the County Council managed Lourdes Athletic Stadium, located within a very disadvantaged RAPID area on the Northern side of Drogheda Town known as Moneymore, as the ideal venue to establish a Community Sports and Physical Activity Hub. In recent years, this area has experienced national media coverage due to ongoing gang violence and anti-social behaviour and this Hub will seek to work alongside a wide range of community support organisations to provide alternative opportunities to youths within the community. The provision of training and education opportunities as well as offering a facility for local sports clubs to further develop and provide sport within the community will also been key objectives of the Hub.

Local partners engaged in the development/delivery of this initiative include; Local Authority, HSE, Community groups, Sports clubs, Schools.

Youth Leadership initiatives have been run regularly in Drogheda by Louth LSP. These programme target secondary school aged learners who wish to develop their leadership skills, and focus on learners who are in socio-economic disadvantaged communities and those with a disability. Louth LSP received €6,500 from Sport Ireland through the 2020 DAF to run Youth Leadership initiatives.

Volunteer Supports funding has been used in Drogheda to deliver Safeguarding courses and a range of other Training and Education initiatives in recent years by Louth LSP. The volunteer supports initiative aims to successfully identify and assist targeted individuals who are volunteering in disadvantaged communities or with people with disabilities to gain community sport and physical activity leadership skills e.g. as coaches, leaders, referees, committee members etc. This fund can be used to support coaching and development programmes or to support standalone training opportunities to support targeted volunteers. Louth LSP received €14,000 from Sport Ireland through the 2020 DAF to run Volunteer Supports initiatives.

7.1	Develop a strategic plan for the development of opportunities in the arts, culture and sports in the Drogheda area, specifically those aimed at and involving young people.	
<i>Current status</i>		
There is an existing county-wide strategic Plan for local sports partnership, the Louth Local Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2018-2022.		
Fáilte Ireland launched a Destination Experience Development plan for counties Meath and Louth on May 12th 2021. It positions Drogheda as the Gateway to the Boyne Valley and calls out 28 key project areas, 9 of these projects incorporate Drogheda at different levels.		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
		<i>Responsible Body</i>

The development of an all-county Arts Plan to commence. Creative Ireland funding will be explored in particular building on the Cruinniu na nÓg. Droichead Arts Centre and the Drogheda Library provide educational and cultural programming targeted at youth.	Q4 2021	Louth Local Authority
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7.2	Explore opportunities for developing a centre of sporting excellence in Drogheda.	
<i>Current status</i>		
The Louth LSP Coordinator (in their dual role as Louth County Council Head of Sport) has been working on the Pitches for Drogheda project since 2014 and has identified the site and secured 100,000 in Sports Capital to develop the pitches. The Coordinator has also been liaising with the FAI over the last few years with regards to possible development of a stadium for Drogheda United.		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
	Development of pitches for Drogheda to continue	Ongoing
	Engagement with FAI on possible development of a stadium for Drogheda United	Long Term
		<i>Responsible Body</i>
		Louth LSP
		Louth LSP

7.3	Explore potential for increased use of the Boyne river, the sea and other local amenities that could lend themselves to development of different sporting disciplines and opportunities.	
<i>Current status</i>		
The Boyne River is central to the 'attraction of scale' for Drogheda project currently under way led by Fáilte Ireland in partnership with Louth County Council. This will scope out what an attraction of scale would look like in Drogheda. There are 4 concepts currently being marketed and consumer tested with a view to identifying one (or a combination of all) to progress to a project feasibility study. The Boyne River is central to these considerations both in terms of how and where such an attraction would be located adjacent to the Boyne, and how tourism related experiences emerging from the project can use the Boyne as a tourism asset.		
Fáilte Ireland is currently delivering a project to 'reimagine' the Boyne Valley Drive. Drogheda is a key touch point on the Drive and is one of 5 entry points being developed as an industry hub. Linked to this there are 2 further industry clusters being developed along the coast from		

Annagasson to the mouth of the Boyne and on the southern side from Julianstown to the mouth of the Boyne. In addition there are a further 3 industry clusters in development west of Drogheda along the Drive to Slane. These clusters will result in new experiences that will utilise the sea, coast line and river as tourism assets for Drogheda & the Boyne Valley

The Development of the Irish Sea Way is part of the current Programme for Government and Fáilte Ireland has commenced initial scoping work at the possibility of developing this as a cycle route.

Louth LSP has also engaged with clubs on the river to seek opportunities for participation programmes.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Fáilte Ireland project to “reimagine” Boyne Valley Drive project report to be completed	Q3 2021	Fáilte Ireland
Fáilte Ireland project to “reimagine” Boyne Valley Drive to be rolled out	Ongoing	DTCAGSM/ Fáilte Ireland
Develop a plan to create an innovative interpretative walk between Drogheda and the Battle of the Boyne site along the existing Greenway by the Boyne	Ongoing	Fáilte Ireland
Review the feasibility of incorporating a Greenway into a coastal defence project in Drogheda	2022	Fáilte Ireland
Review feasibility of the completion of the Greenway between Blackrock and	2023	Fáilte Ireland

7.4	Explore the possibility of making the Aura Leisure Centre available to the public as a community facility in the Drogheda area.
<i>Current status</i>	
This leisure facility is owned by Louth County Council and is managed by Aura on behalf of the Council. The facility is available to the community for a multiple of fitness and activity uses.	

7.5	Consider ways in which local sporting and cultural role models can be identified and employed in initiatives in engaging young people in particular in healthy and prosocial activities and implement as appropriate.	
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Recommendation to be taken forward by the Drogheda Implementation Board	To begin Q4 2021	Drogheda Implementation Board

7.6	Explore ways in which existing facilities in Drogheda (e.g. Lourdes Stadium, or DIFE – as described above) can be used to maximize their potential for the benefit of the local community.	
<i>Current status</i>		
Louth LSP, working with Louth County Council, are establishing a DAF funded Community Sports Hub in Moneymore to maximise existing facilities for the benefit of the local community. A hub coordinator has been identified to lead on this project but Covid restrictions have delayed progress in recent months. Up to now, the Stadium has been used by the LSP as a location to run initiatives for walking/running and other sports, as well as programmes for people with disabilities.		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
Community Sports Hub Coordinator to lead on maximising existing facilities for the benefit of the local community.		Ongoing
		<i>Responsible Body</i>
		Louth LSP

8. LOCAL AUTHORITY ORGANISATION AND SERVICES

8.1	While central Government/Departmental oversight of the present proposals is recommended, the two Local Authorities (Louth and Meath), as well as other bodies under their auspices (such as LLP) to continue their important local coordination work and responsibilities.	
<i>Current status</i>		
Louth County Council and Meath County Council cooperate and work together over a wide range of services for example Fire, Planning, Roads, Libraries and Tourism and have developed a number of joint strategies.		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
Louth and Meath Local Authorities to develop a Local Area Plan for Drogheda		2022
		<i>Responsible Body</i>
		Louth Local Authority/Meath Local Authority

8.2	As a matter of urgency and priority, Louth and Meath County Councils to agree an appropriate mechanism or ‘vehicle’ for the generation, agreement and implementation of a joint local development plan for Drogheda Town in its entirety, and including the appropriate area of East Meath, particularly the Laytown-Bettystown area of County Meath.	
<i>Current status</i>		
Once both authorities have completed their respective County Development Plans discussions regarding this matter can commence in detail.		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
		<i>Responsible Body</i>

Louth and Meath Local Authorities to develop a Local Area Plan for Drogheda	2022	Louth Local Authority/Meath Local Authority
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8.3	LCC to consider ways to ensure greater Council presence, visibility and engagement in Drogheda.	
<i>Current status</i>		
<p>Since 2014 Louth County Council is the single local authority for all of County Louth. Staff and services are deployed across all of the Council buildings and many staff across all the services attend Drogheda for meetings. The Housing section for the entire county is based in Drogheda along with a range of other services. These include Fire, Roads, Planning, Customer services, Traffic wardens, Dog wardens, School Crossing Guards, Water, Library, Arts, Motor Tax, Playgrounds and many more. Furthermore plans to redevelop Council Offices in Fair Street are well advanced with construction to commence in Q4 2021. All vehicles display Council branding.</p>		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
Construction on Council Offices in Fair Street to begin.		Q4 2021
		<i>Responsible Body</i>
		Louth Local Authority

8.4	Local Authority to consider and decide on an effective way of responding to and managing anti-social behaviour by its tenants and others as appropriate.	
<i>Current status</i>		
<p>Louth County Council has noted its strong existing anti-social behaviour policy for its tenants. In 2020 over 600 incidents of anti-social behaviour were investigated with 25 warnings issued.</p>		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
Louth county Council to continue to investigate incidents of anti-social behaviour and issue warnings as appropriate.		Ongoing
		<i>Responsible Body</i>
		Louth Local Authority

8.5	Local Authority also to put in place effective ways of responding to estate management issues that can assist in addressing anti-social behaviour (e.g., closing off alleyways, cutting back or removing hedging, installing lighting or speed ramps on roads etc).	
<i>Current status</i>		
<p>Louth County Council has an Estate Management Section within its staff that comprises anti-social behaviour Investigation Officers and Tenant Liaison Officers, supported by two social workers.</p>		

8.6	Local Authority to explore and implement appropriate ways of speeding up implementation of the policy and practice of dealing with social housing ‘voids.’	
<i>Current status</i>		
Louth County Council notes it has a strong management framework in place for voids return to habitable use. The recently announced funding for the current year will see 58 void units returned to use and a further 25 units will be improved under the energy retrofit scheme. This will eliminate the Voids backlog in the Drogheda area.		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
58 void units returned to use, a further 25 units to be improved under the energy retrofit scheme in order to eliminate voids backlog in Drogheda area.		Q4 2021
		<i>Responsible Body</i>
		Louth Local Authority

8.7	Louth County Council to engage as a matter of urgency with residents of Moneymore and Castlemanor (and any other stakeholders as appropriate), with a view to closing off the offending ‘gap’ and taking other measures arising; or else finding a mutually acceptable and reasonable resolution to this issue.	
<i>Current status</i>		
Louth County Council notes that this is a matter that is on-going for many years. To build and encourage a sustainable community and allow access to local schools by the desired route would necessitate developing the route in a regularised fashion. Alternative routes are being explored by the Council in conjunction with An Garda Síochána.		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
Alternative routes and options to be explored by Louth County Council and An Garda Síochána		Ongoing
		<i>Responsible Body</i>
		Louth Local Authority/AGS

9. LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS

9.1	Local Authority to clarify, for the relevant governance and oversight bodies, the potential value and specific contribution that the PANCR and other similar strategic local developments can add to the combined efforts at improving community wellbeing in Drogheda.	
<i>Current status</i>		
The construction of the Port Access Northern Cross Route has been a strategic objective of Louth County Council for over 20 years. Louth County Council notes that this critical piece of infrastructure once delivered will bring benefits that include:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening up new areas for housing construction(circa 6000 units) in North Drogheda 2. Opening up a direct route from the M1 Motorway to the port removing vast numbers of HGV’s from the North Quay Drogheda 		

3. Allowing the construction of new housing/office and retail spaces in the port area of the town.
4. Greatly improve the quality of life for Drogheda residents, workers and visitors to the town.

9.2	Local Authority (and others as appropriate) progress the West Gate Vision plan for Drogheda Town centre	
<i>Current status</i>		
Using funding secured under the first round of Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF), Louth County Council has recently concluded the first phase public consultation process for the development of the master plan for the Westgate Vision.		
<i>Next Steps</i>		
<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>	
Louth County Council to make an application for the first phase public realm redevelopment in the next round of the Urban Regeneration Development Fund.	2022	Louth Local Authority

9.3	Local Authority clarify what the Fáilte Ireland ‘Destination Town’ designation can bring to Drogheda, and how this can be progressed accordingly.	
9.4	As part of this, establish Fáilte Ireland presence/tourist information office in the Town.	
<i>Current status</i>		
<p>Drogheda has been identified as a Tourism Destination Town by Louth County Council and has received €500,000 support from Fáilte Ireland for development in this regard. The Fáilte Ireland guidelines for Destination Towns set out the key drivers of what makes a town appealing to the international tourist. Drogheda’s designation as a Destination Town is recognition by Fáilte Ireland of the town’s enormous potential as a key destination for tourists in the future.</p> <p>An Access & Orientation Plan was developed for Drogheda as an initial stage of the Destination Town plan. This was underpinned by the objectives of ‘Linking the Heritage Assets’ in Drogheda’s historic core. The Plan was brought to Part 8 completion by Louth County Council in January 2020. It includes a wayfinding system which is more easily understood by visitors as well as a visitor Signage & Orientation Plan for Drogheda.</p> <p>Louth County Council is in the process of appointing a multidisciplinary design team with a proven expertise in design and delivery of city / pedestrian wayfinding systems to implement the next stages of this Destination Town project. This has been held up due to Covid-19 and the work plan is currently being re-scheduled. It is anticipated that it will be completed in early 2022.</p>		

<p>Regarding recommendation 9.4, Visit Louth already manage a tourism office in Drogheda. Fáilte Ireland provides maps and other relevant collateral to this office. Louth County Council share a Tourism Officer with Meath County Council whose work is focused on the Boyne Valley area which includes Drogheda.</p>		
<i>Further Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Louth County Council to progress the Destination Town Project which will include the development of a major tourism attraction concept for Drogheda.	Early 2022	Louth Local Authority/ Fáilte Ireland
Fáilte Ireland to support Drogheda Bid in developing a music event of scale for 2022	2022	Fáilte Ireland

9.5	Local Authority (and others as appropriate) explore and clarify the potential for future use of the Dominican Church and Priory in Drogheda Town (being acquired by LCC).
<i>Current status</i>	
Louth County Council has purchased this building and it is still under conveyance. It is currently considered that the building's optimum use is for Housing use and Library services delivery.	

9.6	As part of strategic planning for the development of the Town, explore ways in which to develop and promote Drogheda as a healthier and welcoming town.	
<i>Current status</i>		
<p>The ethos of Fáilte Ireland Destination Experience Development Plan is about revealing the landscape, exploring the destination, wandering through time on ancient routes, trails pathways and blueways. This applies equally to their urban centres. All the development projects are about finding new and exciting ways to explore the tourism assets. Projects like industry hubs/clusters and the destination town will create a sense of arrival. The clusters at their core will mobilize the industry and give them the capability to deliver, at all points of the visitor journey. Where site improvement work is needed to support the development of the destination that will also be identified.</p> <p>The Fáilte Ireland Destination Experience Development Plan was launched on 12 May.</p>		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Roll-out of the Fáilte Ireland Destination Experience Development Plan	Ongoing	Fáilte Ireland
A number of Strategies and Plans will be developed including Local Area Plan, Healthy Ireland Plan and a Play strategy.	To begin 2022	Louth Local Authority

10. EMPLOYMENT, ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT

A new North-East Regional Enterprise Plan that will run to 2024 is in the process of being developed, and is expected to be completed in Q3 2021. The plan will be overseen and monitored by a Regional Steering Committee made up of regional stakeholders and chaired by a senior level private sector businessperson. A 'Project Delivery Team' from the steering committee is in place to focus on drawing up a 'first cut' of potential Strategic Objectives for the new North East Plan. These new objectives will be based on a review of the outgoing 2020 Plan, and also emerging new themes from the Steering Committee and stakeholder consultation meetings.

10.1	Local Authority and other relevant stakeholders - consider possibility to develop a new business and technology park on the North side of Drogheda.	
<i>Current status</i>		
In June 2021, IDA Ireland acquired a new landbank on the north side of Drogheda, Co Louth. This land acquisition is part of IDA Ireland's long term strategic plans to position Louth and the wider North East region to compete for FDI investment. The necessary site works are to be delivered within the current IDA Ireland strategy timelines. The acquisition of this landbank is part of IDA Ireland's overall property programme which is supported by the Government through the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment.		
<i>Next Steps</i>		<i>Timeline</i>
IDA to deliver on site works on the new land bank on the North Side of Drogheda		Ongoing
Under the new IDA Regional Property Programme, IDA will deliver advanced building solutions in Drogheda and Dundalk		2021-2024
<i>Responsible Body</i>		
		IDA
		IDA

10.2	Explore ways to develop productive links – in terms of promoting employment opportunities – with appropriate third level institutions.	
<i>Current status</i>		
Since 2016, Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) has engaged in Enterprise Ireland programmes which support innovation and R&D in Irish industry and received just over €3.1 million in funding.		
The LMETB received €4.6M under the Border Enterprise Development fund to establish the National Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence in Dundalk, Co. Louth. This will develop and pilot the application of skills foresighting in collaboration with training and technology specialists. The project contributes to addressing the disruptions impacting the future of work and provides a pipeline of skilled, innovation ready talent of current and future		

workers to border region employers. It will enhance the employability of learners in high skill and high reward sectors in the border region.

Funded through the Regional Technology Cluster fund, Dundalk IT have been supported with a Cluster Education and Outreach Manager. This role will focus on working with industry groups to develop strong cluster programmes in the North East Region. They will work with established clusters such as the Fintech Corridor or emerging Connected Health Cluster groups to enable them to be more effective, innovative and collaborative.

<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Cluster Manager based in DKIT since April 2021, to develop work plans and programmes for specific groups	Ongoing	DKIT
New CREDIT Technology Gateway in DKIT with a focus on energy efficiency – helping companies make their products and manufacturing operations more energy efficient. Funding of €338,000 for the establishment of this new Gateway was approved in January 2021.	2021	Enterprise Ireland
The Innovation Vouchers Initiative provide vouchers worth €5,000 to small business to introduce them to innovation, linking them with the network of knowledge providers, North and South of the border. This initiative encourages companies and public knowledge providers to work together on specific innovation projects related to the company’s needs. €355,000 has been received by DKIT over the last 5 years under this initiative.	Ongoing	Enterprise Ireland
The Innovation Partnership programme offers financial support to companies engaging in collaborative research projects with third level institutions – with grants of up to 80%. Enterprise Ireland provided €67,000 to fund Innovation Partnership Projects (mainly feasibility grants) between companies and research teams in DKIT over the last five years.	Ongoing	Enterprise Ireland

<p>The Commercialisation Fund supports researchers in Higher Education Institutions and Research Performing Organisations to undertake research that has the potential to result in the commercialisation of new innovations by way of licences to improve the competitiveness of Irish industry, or through the spin-out of new start-up companies. Over the last 5 years DKIT have received payments of over €100,000 for Commercialisation Fund projects and to invest in its technology and knowledge transfer infrastructure</p>	Ongoing	Enterprise Ireland
<p>New Frontiers is an entrepreneurship programme delivered by the Institutes of Technology/Technological Universities to accelerate the development of sustainable new businesses which have a strong employment and growth potential and contribute to job creating and economic activity in regional locations. DKIT has received almost €1.8 million in funding from the New Frontiers Programme.</p>	Ongoing	Enterprise Ireland
<p>The Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund was announced in the National Development Plan 2018-2027. It will be a very significant initiative in developing Ireland’s innovation ecosystem and responsiveness and the total value will be €500 million. This competitive fund will drive collaboration between our research base and industry. There have been 3 Calls under this fund. Under Call 1 in 2018, Dundalk Institute of Technology was approved funding for 2 projects totalling c. €686,000 of which more than half has been paid (June 2021).</p>	Ongoing	Enterprise Ireland
<p>The Technology Transfer Strengthening Initiative supports knowledge transfer, which is a cost-effective means through which companies of any</p>		

<p>size can build on key areas of innovation capability and improve their levels of ‘innovation intensity’. This initiative is supported by funding the Technology Transfer Office, which is the team in DKIT responsible for managing knowledge transfer services, including intellectual property management, licensing, partnering with industry and the creation of new companies. Since 2016 DKIT has been paid over €50k under this initiative.</p>	Ongoing	Enterprise Ireland
<p>The European Union provides assistance for new enterprises. Horizon Europe is an instrument which supports collaborative R&D in Europe and supports an important source of non-exchequer funding for companies. Enterprise Ireland leads the Horizon Europe National Support Network . Irish companies that compete successfully for funding from Horizon Europe will boost their innovation capability and competitiveness which in turn will deliver strong national economic impacts, including job creation. DKIT has received €2.83 million in funding under Horizon 2020 (the previous programme) and close to €300,000 from Enterprise Ireland to assist in winning this EU funding.</p>	Ongoing	Enterprise Ireland

10.3	Explore potential for enterprise initiatives and job creation in the agri-food sector	
<i>Current status</i>		
<p>The Boyne Valley Food Innovation District is a smart specialisation collaborative for the Mid and North East regions that nurtures food and drink SMEs and talent from across the regions to achieve their commercialisation and scaling potential. The Boyne Valley Food Hub in Navan will see the development of 9 individual food units and production labs in a continuum of sizes to support opportunities for food entrepreneurs and their staff to interact with each other; facilitating relationships and creating critical mass between businesses and institutions to generate, sharpen and accelerate the advancement of ideas.</p>		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>

The Boyne Valley Food Innovation District will support companies some of which may be Drogheda based. Business Development and Marketing to attract tenants in Q4-2021 with tenants on-site in Q1-2022.	Anticipated completion of BVFID Facility in Q1-2022	Meath Enterprise/ Meath Local Authority
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10.4	Consider ways to reduce the impact of crime and antisocial behavior on business and employment in the Town.	
10.6	Ensure that community Garda foot patrols in the town centre and more widely are maintained	
<i>Current status</i>		
<p>A Business Watch Scheme has been established in Drogheda Town centre and a member has been appointed full time to work with the business community.</p> <p>A Business Improvement District Scheme (BIDS) committee has also been established. The committee is made up of business owners from the entire Drogheda area. The committee has appointed a town centre manager, and in consultation with him and the Board of Directors from BIDS, a number of projects have been planned. One such project is the "See it, Say it" project referred to in Recommendation 2.12.</p> <p>Another project that has been delivered is the application for and awarding of Purple Flag status for the Drogheda Town centre area. Gardai worked closely with the "Love Drogheda" committee to ensure their application for this award was successful. An independent assessor gives the award once standards have been reached in relation to a safe night/evening economy. To maintain the status, Gardaí are working with the committee to ensure high visibility patrols are carried out so as to reduce the opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour, and the fear of same.</p> <p>Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, An Garda Síochána has increased high visibility patrols. There has been a welcome response to the increased visibility of Gardai and this is something AGS will endeavour to continue.</p>		
<i>Next Steps</i>		
<i>Timeline</i>		
<i>Responsible Body</i>		
Gardaí to continue to work with the Business Improvement District Scheme Committee to maintain the Purple Flag status for Drogheda Town Centre, ensuring high visibility patrols are carried out to reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour, and to reduce fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.	Ongoing	AGS/BIDS Committee

10.5	Explore ways to attract or facilitate at least some of the estimated 15,000 people from Drogheda who commute to other locations for work every day back to work in the Town	
<i>Current status</i>		
<p>The development and leveraging of remote work infrastructure is a crucial component to the progression of increased national remote work adoption. Adequate infrastructure must be in place to allow employers and employees to avail of remote working opportunities both at home and in hubs. Further developing and leveraging the existing remote work hub infrastructure and the delivery of broadband nationally will be a significant driver in facilitating people to work remotely and realise its full potential. Pillar 2 of the National Remote Work Strategy is focussed on developing and leveraging remote work infrastructure.</p> <p>The Strategy's actions are being monitored by the IDG on Remote Work chaired by DETE and are progress is underway to achieve all actions by their respective delivery dates. The IDG will continue to meet as the year progresses to drive implementation of the Strategy.</p> <p>Funded under the Border Enterprise Development fund, the Drogheda Digital Innovation Hub (DDIH) is designed to encourage high-potential future oriented tech projects seeking to start and grow, to locate in the greater Drogheda/ North East region. The project aims to foster an environment to facilitate these businesses, to succeed in the region, through the provision of a bespoke and affordable co-working space in Drogheda town centre complemented with tailored management and mentoring support to facilitate their growth and export potential. This project will offer entrepreneurs a viable alternative to locating in Dublin city, which has successfully built a reputation as a centre for future oriented technology companies. Of note, they project intends to partner with Dublin BIC on greater support across the Northeast, and specifically target highly skilled commuters to create tech startups via a CommuTECH support programme.</p>		
	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
	Refurbishment work to be completed on the DDIH	Q2 2022
	Hub Enterprise Manager to be recruited	Q4 2021
		Responsible Body
		Louth Local Authority

10.6	Ensure that community Garda foot patrols in the town centre and more widely are maintained
<i>This recommendation has been grouped with recommendation 10.4 above</i>	

11. ETHNIC AND RACIAL ISSUES

11.1	All stakeholders – consider the practical implications of the recently (2020) launched Louth Meath Joint Integration Strategy and implement accordingly.
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<i>Current status</i>		
The Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Forum has been established and a work plan agreed		
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
Implementation of Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Strategy	Ongoing 2019-2022	Louth Local Authority/Meath Local Authority

11.2	Explore and identify any existing or emerging issues of racial tension in the area and agree steps to deal with these.	
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
This will be monitored by the Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Forum and the Local Migrant Integration Network.	Ongoing	Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Forum/Louth Local Authority/Meath Local Authority

11.3	Plan at oversight group level how to engage with and involve the traveller and Roma communities in the area to a greater extent than currently, to include specific actions.	
11.4	LLP to progress actions already identified to engage and build development capacity in the traveller and Roma communities.	
11.5	HSE and other partners - build on positive engagement made with travellers and Roma during the course of the public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic.	
<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Responsible Body</i>
These are specific targets for SICAP and will be monitored by the LCDC.	Ongoing	SICAP/Louth Local Authority
HSE to support the re-establishment of the Primary Health Care Unit for Traveller Project in Louth, in keeping with recommendation 76 in the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021.	2022	HSE