**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



**Report on the SOCIAL, COMMUNITY & EQUALITY SPC**

**Tuesday, 21 May 2024; 3pm; Hybrid Meeting**

**In Attendance:**

Cllr. Trevor Gilligan (Chair); Cllr. Shirley O’Hara; Cllr. Vicki Casserly; Cllr. Justin Sinnott.

**Officials present:**

Elaine Leech, A/Director HSCD; Edel Clancy, A/SEO HSCD; Paul McAlerney, Senior Community Officer; Joe Lumumba, Administrative Officer HSCD; Maria Nugent, Interagency Co-ordinator; Fionnuala Keane, Administrative Officer HSCD; Nicoletta Coppola, Integration Support Coordinator; Ololade Olawale Adeniyi, Integration Support Worker; Trevor Keppel, Integration Support Worker; Ailbhe Mulligan, Community Officer; Seán Barron, Staff Officer HSCD; Margaret Farrell, Clerical Officer HSCD.

**Apologies:**

Cllr. Lilian Guéret, Daire Hennessy (PPN).

The Chair, Cllr. Gilligan opened the meeting at 3pm.

**Agenda Item 1: Minutes of Social & Community SPC Meeting**

The minutes of the Social, Community & Equality SPC Meeting held on 20th February 2024 were proposed by Cllr. Gilligan and seconded by Cllr. Sinnott and agreed.

**Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising**

**There were no matters arising.**

**Agenda Item 3 (i): Integration Team**

N. Coppola delivered the presentation. The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) has just been established. She outlined the team structure and the backgrounds of each of the 3 team members, all of whom have experience working with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

The guiding principle of the team is integration from day one​ and to help people from any country feel like they belong without losing their identity and culture. The LAIT will provide numerous services including English language support, supports to access work, education and training and support for cultural, social and political participation.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 3 (ii): Community Recognition Fund**

T. Keppel delivered the presentation. South Dublin County Council has been allocated €2,249,663 by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to deliver projects over 2024 and 2025, with funding allocated across 3 application windows.

The allocation of funding will be a competitive process and expressions of interest will be evaluated by the LAIT. The LAIT held two public information sessions online in advance of opening for application for Call 1, which was attended by approximately 50 people. 10 applications have been received since the opening of Call 1.

Successful applications will be submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development for approval to proceed. Community groups interested in the CRF can contact CRF@sdublincoco.ie for more information.

Cllr. Gilligan raised queries in relation to the funding allocation across the 3 application windows and asked whether an applicant can apply in multiple windows. E. Clancy responded to these queries.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 4: Bealtaine / Dementia Pilot**

A. Mulligan delivered the presentation. The pilot was developed following a motion submitted by Cllr. L Hagin Meade and involved collaboration and communication with the HSE, local businesses, service providers and residents in the Ballyroan area.

The pilot launched on 7th May in Ballyroan Library and was attended by staff and representatives and featured guest speakers. Preparation is underway to provide training for staff for local businesses and community members by the HSE. When completed, businesses will be furnished with the Understand Together sticker that they can display on their shop fronts.

Ballyroan Community and Youth Centre has been suggested as the location for a Dementia Café. Engagement has begun with local sports clubs to host initiatives that may be beneficial to people with dementia.

Cllr Gilligan commended the pilot and queried whether elected members can assist in any way. E. Leech responded and advised members of the upcoming Age Friendly Expo on Saturday 25th May.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 5: Junior JPC**

M. Nugent delivered the presentation. 6th class students from schools all across South Dublin County met with senior members of An Garda Síochána, senior council officials and the Chair of the JPC on Friday 17th May.

The children were asked to suggest some topics for discussion at their first Junior Safety Forum on the 31st May next which included:

* Litter/Graffitti
* Broken glass in the playgrounds and lack of lighting.
* Dog fouling in the parks
* Safety including online safety
* Scramblers destroying the football pitches
* Escooters on footpaths
* Speeding
* Drugs

The Junior Safety Forum empowers young people to have a voice in their community. Meetings will be held twice a year.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 6: Capital Update**

P. McAlerney delivered the update. Glenasmole Community Centre is officially opening at 11:30a.m. on 24th May. Saggart School House is officially opening at 14:30p.m. on 30th May and all members of the SPC are welcome to attend.

Works are progressing well in Orchard Lodge age friendly centre and the building stage is almost complete. Kilcarbery Community Centre is being delivered as part of the Kilcarbery Housing Scheme and will serve as a multi-purpose hall with a café and office space.

There were questions from Cllr. Gilligan (in relation to funding for Kilcarbery and Newcastle Community Centres) and from Cllr. O’Hara (regarding the remaining snags on Saggart School House and Rathcoole Old Court House). P. McAlerney and E. Clancy responded to the queries and E. Leech invited members to visit Orchard Lodge

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business**

Cllr. Gilligan thanked all members of the SPC and the team in the Community Department for their support. E. Leech thanked the Chair and the SPC members on behalf of the Community Department.

There was no other business, and the meeting concluded at 15:45p.m.