



Annual Activity Report 2020

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Overview of the LSP

The main object of Clare LSP is to enable the ongoing development of quality sporting and active recreational opportunities throughout the county in an environment that promotes healthy lifestyles, maximum participation, and achievement. The Company devotes itself to the attainment of the main object of the LSP and will undertake a range of activities in Clare, which may include but not be limited to:

- allocation and distribution of funds for sport,
- administration and development of sport,
- enhancement and improvement of coaching in sports,
- encouragement of increased levels of participation in sport, especially amongst specific target groups such as those who live in identified disadvantaged communities, unemployed people, people with disabilities, migrants, ethnic minorities, young people, older people, girls and women and men over 40,
- development and promotion of local sports clubs,
- development and management of volunteer training programmes,
- the compilation of directories of sports bodies and facilities,
- compilation and dissemination of information on sports bodies, programmes, initiatives, and facilities,
- engaging in research on sport in keeping with the LSP's main object and Sport Ireland's research policies,
- entering into arrangements for the better use of sports facilities,
- establishment of clear priorities for the provision and improvement of sports facilities with related quality management initiatives,
- provision of links between relevant bodies including but not limited to schools, clubs, local community, national governing bodies of sport, and the corporate sector,
- promotion of local sports competitions, events programmes, facilities, and opportunities.

Vision: Where everyone in County Clare can enjoy sport and physical activity to their full potential, where sport and physical activity is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

Mission: By providing leadership and support, Clare Sports Partnership will increase participation in sport and physical activity throughout County Clare to ensure that Sport & Physical Activity becomes normalised for all members of our community.

Our Values: At Clare Sports Partnership, our values are built around:

- Strategic Leadership
- Working in Partnership
- Honesty and Transparency
- Inclusivity.

Clare Sports Partnership provides strategic leadership and partnership in County Clare, while operating simultaneously with the relevant local and national strategies and policies, in an honest and transparent manner in order to promote and support the development of

inclusive sport and physical activity in our county. We honour our values by empowering people and clubs, who are the lifeblood of many towns and villages throughout County Clare in their role of enhancing and enriching people's lives and providing a healthy and enjoyable sport and physical activity experience.

Chairperson's Statement

As Chairperson of the Clare Local Sports Partnership, it gives me great pleasure to bring to you this annual report for 2020. It has been a difficult year for us and society as a whole, but I believe, as an organization, we have excelled in the way that we have gone about our business in reaching our objectives for the year.

I am conscious that at the start of the year the staff, under the guidance of our coordinator John Sweeney, produced a large piece of work in the guise of a programme booklet for the community.

This was an exceptional document, which no doubt will lead to increased numbers of participation and engagement with this Sports Partnership, by availing of the programmes within the booklet. Unfortunately, in March this was abruptly shelved, due to the restrictions that were put in place in order to suppress the virus.

That said, like every good organisation or sports team, we quickly adapted to the adversity and using our years of experience and knowledge, we implemented a rapid response through our innovative minds. As Chair, I would like to thank John and all the team for their professional approach and dedication in this regard.

As a Board, we also had to adapt and change with all our work going on-line. Following the AGM we set some clear priorities for the year, one of which was around ensuring that our organisation have solid governance standards and practices.

By inviting and working with the other local sports partnerships that are companies limited by guarantee, I Chaired a group that engaged the Institute of Public Administration to develop frameworks and policies for the organisations.

Part of the project was also a training initiative, where the directors of all the eight organisations attended a 3 hour workshop with the institute on governance and all that it brings. This was highly beneficial and as a result it is really embedding our knowledge of governance within the culture of the organisation. As a funded body through Sport Ireland, we have a requirement that by the end of 2021 to ensure we are a signatory to the Sports Governance Code.

Succeeding in this endeavor will guarantee continued funding and support for CLSP from Sport Ireland for 2022. The current Board of Directors have done an immense amount of work on this code, and it will be incumbent of the incoming Directors to finish out the piece of work and confidently sign the code.

I would like to thank Sport Ireland and all our funding partners who without we could not achieve success in our organisation. 2021 will bring many opportunities for sports participation in the county the level of funding increases for the coming year. There have been generous opportunities for clubs to ensure that they can return to sports safely following the lifting of restrictions due to the pandemic. We will continue to support those at most sport disadvantage, through our community sports hubs and other dedicated programmes for these target groups.

Finally, I would like to thank all my colleagues on this Board, for their dedicated work throughout the year and the support that they have given to me, as the Chairperson.

Structure, Governance and Management

Organisation and governance

Board Directors:

The Board is collectively responsible for leading and directing the LSP, supervising the management of the organisation, and reporting on stewardship and performance.

The organisation is governed by a board of 7 directors. The board are mandated to meet at least 6 times per year. In 2020, the directors were:

Tim Forde (Chairperson), Dr. Paul Mc Kenna, Mr. Jim Madden, Mr. Ger O'Halloran, Cllr. Ann Norton, Cllr. Joe Garrihy, Cllr. Joe Killeen

In addition to the board, three sub-committees have been set up to ensure support and direction is given to the Coordinator and staff to receive the required assurances and give oversight in relation to the governance of the organisation.

- 1) Executive Committee
- 2) Strategic Committee
- 3) Governance Committee

Throughout the year in line with a review of all matters relating to governance, it was proposed that the relevance / function / structure of these committees be looked at. It has been recommended that for 2021, the following restructuring takes place:

- 1) The Executive Committee to be re-constituted to become the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.
- 2) Strategic Committee
- 3) Governance Committee

Governance Standards:

The function of governance is to ensure that an organisation fulfils its overall purpose, achieves its intended outcomes for its key stakeholders, and operates in an effective, efficient, and ethical manner. Good governance ensures that a framework of structures, policies, and processes are in place to deliver on key obligations, and it allows for an objective assessment of performance.

A culture of good governance is at the core of our organisation. Clare Local Sports Partnership CLG are a soon to be signatory to the 'The Governance Code' for not for profit organisations as administered by Sport Ireland .

The governance codes collectively assert that good governance is about delivering priorities, achieving objectives, behaving with integrity and acting in ways that are consistent with legal, regulatory, and governance obligations. Within the LSP, this incorporates the set of relationships between the board, the chairperson, the co-ordinator, staff and wider stakeholders.

Our initial declaration for this code came in 2012 when we became one of the first sporting organisations to declare the set standard of governance. In 2020, the Board of Directors have begun the process to re-declare our commitment to the new ‘The Governance Code for Sport’ as required by our main funding partner, Sport Ireland. The code is based on 5 principles:

- 1) Leading the organisation
- 2) Exercising control over the organisation
- 3) Being transparent and accountable
- 4) Working effectively
- 5) Behaving with integrity

Staffing:

In order to deliver on our strategy in the most productive way and to target those that are of most sport disadvantage, we are organised so that our team have specific areas of responsibility. This is so as we need to ensure that we are working in unison with each other, across our targeted programme areas. The diagram below gives a visual representation of how we are organised. As our staff resource grows, the areas of responsibility will be spread even more strategically across our professionals. We very much value working in partnership with each other to ensure knowledge and information is shared across each programme area.

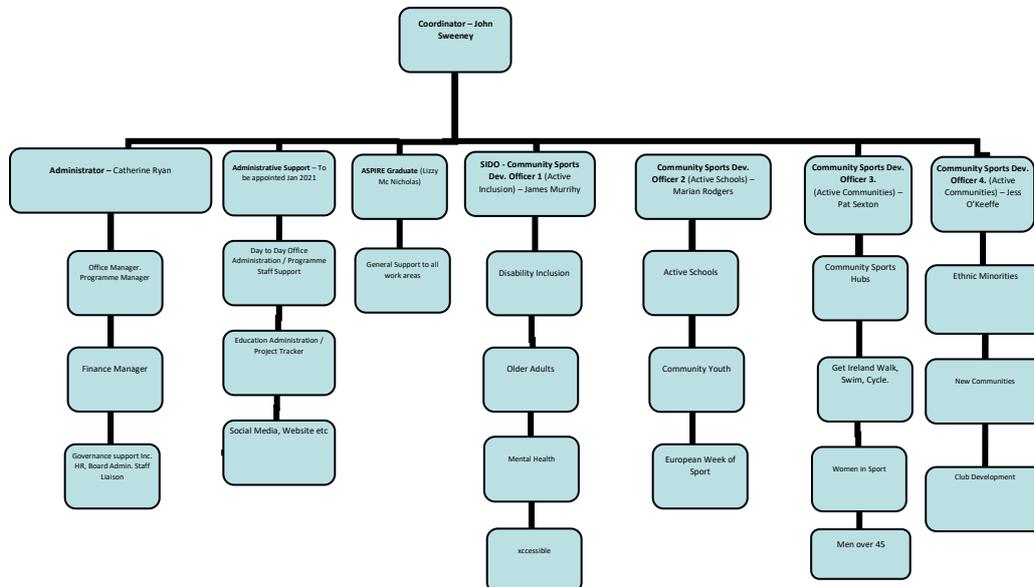


Fig. 1 - Clare LSP Staffing Structure December 2020

Objectives, Achievements and Performance

Commentary on the year

Like for the rest of the world, 2020 did not play out in the way that we had envisaged that it would. The COVID-19 pandemic initially had a major impact in the planning that we had put in place for the year. Initial crisis management meetings were held in order to assess the risks associated with the pandemic to the staff and to the organisation. Immediate steps were taken to ensure that the safety of the staff was paramount and all staff were instructed to cease face to face delivery as a matter of immediacy. Full public health guidelines and instructions were communicated to the staff and it was expected that all the staff would abide by these at all times and without exception. Through strong leadership and innovation, the development professionals were empowered to rapidly re imagine and reinvent how their sport and physical activity projects would be delivered, within the confines of the public health guidelines, in order to maintain as much physical activity levels as possible for their target groups. It was evident from an early stage that many opportunities were being created for us to engage larger numbers of our target groups through online delivery methods that empowered the individual to get active at their own pace.

We were also able to increase our staff capacity in 2020 from 6 to 8 people. The first position that we filled was that of a Sports Development Officer with special responsibility for Ethnic Minority / Traveller programs and Club Development. This was achieved through support funding received from local stakeholders and through income generated. Our second post was filled as an internship through the 'Aspire' programme as offered by Sport Ireland. The Aspire intern has a role to support and learn from all areas of the organisation from administration to development work.

Our organisation cannot exist without the continued support of our funding partners and we would like to thank them for their ongoing belief and support. Our primary and core funding partner was Sport Ireland. Our other main funding partners that we would like to thank are:

- Dormant Accounts
- HSE
- Clare County Council
- Healthy Ireland through Healthy Clare
- Midwest Regional Drugs Task Force

Objectives for the year:

In this current strategic phase, our annual work plan is developed around 3 core objectives that span the life of the strategy. In turn, a series of actions are:

Objective 1: Building Capacity

To build the capacity of all relevant sporting organisations and individuals, to deliver a life-cycle approach to competitive and recreational sports.

Objective 2: Creating Opportunities

To ensure that there is ongoing and appropriate opportunities for all members of society to participate in competitive and recreational sport in county Clare.

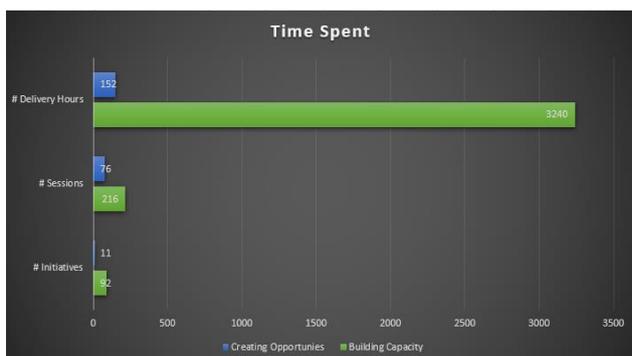
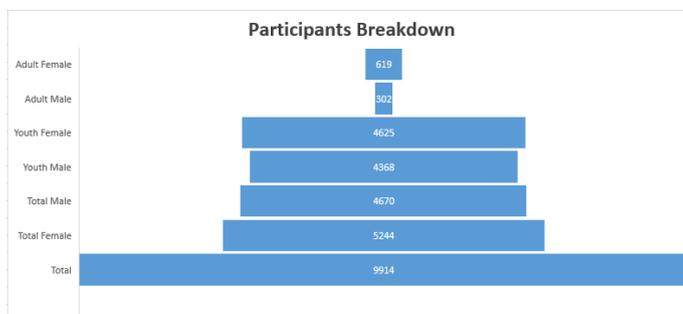
Objective 3: Good Governance

To establish governance structures that will stand up to any public scrutiny.

Key Achievements and Outputs for the Reporting Period

Creating Opportunities / Building Capacity

In total we engaged with 9914 participants over the course of the year with nearly 3400 staff hours being involved in running the programmes. Our main impact was in the interaction of children through both the home and school setting. It was more difficult this year to engage with more targeted and vulnerable groups such as Older Adults and People with Disabilities due to the pandemic and the associated risks / restrictions.



Due to the restrictions, all of our projects had to move online for 2020. This meant that the staff had to show great creativity and innovation in order to adjust their initiatives. We feel that in the main we had a great impact on the community and in some way helped our target groups in the ‘lockdowns’ to stay active and healthy. All of our education and training had to move online and as a

result we saw an increase in some events such as Safeguarding. In total 8 workshops were completed with 143 participants taking part. We piloted Disability Awareness workshop online where 15 people took part.

Good Governance

The Board of Directors met 6 times in 2020 as per the requirements of the organisation. Alongside this, they worked closely with the management to ensure business support and continuity throughout the period. The appointed directors for 2020 were:

Tim Forde (Chairperson), Dr. Paul Mc Kenna (Treasurer), Cllr. Ann Norton (Secretary), Mr. Jim Madden, Mr. Ger O’Halloran, , Cllr. Joe Garrihy, Cllr. Joe Killeen

As part of the Board of Directors ongoing commitment to ensuring that our governance standards will stand up to any public scrutiny, the chairperson coordinated a project with the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), where 8 CLG LSP's engaged with the project to develop a common understanding and framework for Local Sports Partnership Governance. The impetus and funding for this came from Sport Ireland as all funded sporting bodies must have committed to the Sports Governance Code by Dec 31st 2021.

In December 2020, the Board of Directors adopted the framework after a 3 hour workshop facilitated by the IPA.



Clare LSP Governance Framework
A Guide for Board Members and Staff

Clare LSP Governance Framework – Adopted For review by Dec 2024

As an example of policy work, the LSP was selected as a national pilot site (1 of 7) to achieve the 'Xcessible Bronze Award'. Xcessible has been developed to help support and empower LSPs & NGBs to positively and meaningfully provide opportunities for people with disabilities



to take part, sustain participation and excel in sport and physical activity. Xcessible has been developed by using the Sport Inclusion Disability Charter as a guiding tool. The seven organisations were guided through the bronze award under the headings of Openness, People, Activities, Facilities and Promotion and was supported

by Cara through each area and set realistic and manageable goals and deadlines.

Each organisation was required to provide evidence of their work and journey and presented to the Xcessible panel at the end of November on their experiences, results and outcomes of their work completed in line with the objectives of the Xcessible Award.

‘The panel was hugely impressed with your work under the 5 objectives of the programme and in particular the cultural change that you have achieved throughout the organisation in relation to inclusion. The panel was also impressed with the connectivity between staff and board members and also with the open conversations among staff that are now happening organically to plan and develop activities. ‘ – Assessment Panel, CARA Centre

Programme Area Reports

The following reports are the high level reports that aim to give an overview of the practical work that the organisation was engaged in throughout the year. Initially at the start of the year, we published a comprehensive booklet that outlined all our initiatives and supports for 2020. As the pandemic took a grip, we had to scale back and innovate to ensure that we were able to continue to support and meet the needs of our target group.



Active Communities

Kilrush Community Sports Hub

Funding Source:

Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts

Healthy Clare

Mid West Regional Drugs Task Force

Main goals for 2020:

To build on the successful start since the beginning of the project. Following our great lift-off in September 2019, with our “come and try series”. New equipment purchased for each club to increase their playing capacity and enhance the enjoyment for participants, thus creating a closer link with all sports club in the area. We also are working with the Kilrush Interagency Working Group to deliver the Healthy Clare Physical Activity and Recreation Project.



Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

With Covid restrictions, all activities came to an abrupt end in March 2020. Our hub coordinator communicated with all sports clubs during this period and asked them to help signpost children and adults from the area to the virtual programmes we were running. With regard to the physical activity and recreation facilitator, we were able to build on two of the 8 objectives and then with the restrictions we had to cease again at the end of December.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

Not many opportunities presented themselves during this period due to the nature of the project. However, clubs and coaches were supported to ensure that they built their capacity in terms of safeguarding etc.

Get Clare Walking

Funding Source:

Sport Ireland

Get Ireland Walking

Main goals for 2020:

To increase the volume of people walking regularly and provide them opportunities to view our beautiful County by joining us on our monthly walks throughout County Clare.



Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

Our monthly walking series was cancelled due to group numbers and travel restrictions. However, by running a virtual programme and creating a community feel to it, we increased our numbers and range.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

We increased our walking numbers as participants could engage with us while been in their environment but “felt” part of a club/team/group. We have since focused on keeping this group engaged with more online programmes.

Get Clare Running

Funding Source:

Sport Ireland

Main goals for 2020:

To build on the successful applicants of the Athletic Ireland Endurance Course and to start up Meet and Train groups around the County.

Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

Again, our goal was unachievable due to Covid restrictions. It is something to achieve when normal activities resume.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

We ran a very successful Couch to 3k podcast series, leading to a 3-5K programme. By providing instructions and encouragement, people felt they had a running partner, which helped achieve their goal.

Get Clare Swimming

Funding Source:

Sport Ireland

Main goals for 2020:

Having started with the successful Swimming women programme in October 2019, we worked closely with Swim Ireland, Ennis Leisure centre, Lakeside hotel, and Shannon leisure centre to bring “swim for a mile training” to Clare in January 2020.



Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

Indoor sports was one of the hardest hit during the pandemic. All pools were closed for an extended period, and no group classes/training was allowed. However, we completed our first swim for a mile event in October, some ten months after the beginning of the programme.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

This is the hardest to work due to heavier restrictions placed on indoor sports. However, as we are lucky to be situated along the coast and have many lakes, outdoor swimming is a real opportunity for us as we advance. We have engaged with Swim Ireland to run outdoor programmes in Clare in the summer of 2021.

Get Clare Cycling

Funding Source:

Sport Ireland

Main goals for 2020:

To build the number of the programme we can run County-wide with the new bank of tutors freshly trained up by CSP

Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

All programmes were cancelled with Covid restrictions in Spring/Summer 2020 when we usually roll out of programmes.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

While we ran a successful cycling challenge in July 2020, we hope to roll out these programme in a face to face setting in 2021.

Bike Week 2020

Funding Source:

Clare County Council Bike Week

Main goals for 2020:

To build on the successful rollout of Bike week 2019, to increase our partners and create stronger links with the cycling community in Clare to showcase and celebrate all things cycling within the county.

Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

Due to Covid-19, Bike Week in June was postponed and rescheduled for September; this changes the project, with the main differences being weather and daylight hours compared to the annual June event. With a limit been placed on group gathering, we could not organised small cycle sportif's so the call went out to the cycling club to help share their experience/knowledge and provide their communities with cycling activities for the week! Also, many virtual events replace the regular face to face events held previously.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

By asking the clubs to help, we could increase our resources and capacity to get the people of Clare up on their bikes in a safe place. Competitions took place to promote cycling to school, and we were blown away by the interaction from primary schools in Clare, our largest engagement so far! We also promoted cycling to work and ran a competition for this purpose! We ran a competition to encouraged kids 4-12 years old to practice their cycling at home to be in with a chance of winning a cycling helmet, again a very encouraging response from the public.



Men on the Move

Funding Source:

HSE

Main goals for 2020:

To increase the number of programme and volume of participants per programme in 2020

Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

This demographic are difficult to engage in normal circumstances; however, with the right timing and promotion, we ran a very successful virtual programme in November 2020

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

We have engaged an excellent bank of tutors to run this programme in a virtual setting. We achieved a community spirit, strava group/WhatsApp group and our meeting every Monday night. We increased the areas we could reach and engaged new participants who did not know Clare Sports Partnership and its services previously



Women in Sport

Funding Source:

Sport Ireland

Main goals for 2020:

To increase the numbers of female coaches throughout sports in both recreational and competitive sport in Clare. To provide an in-depth course to educate and support coaches on how best to deal with their athletes, enhance their own leadership quality and focus their coaching style to suit their playing group!

Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

Covid 19 prevented any face to face gatherings so this course was completed online, twice per month. It worked so well with attendance rates in the high 90's over the six month course! We had 22 coaches from 7 different sports involved! Ideally, face to face delivery would have helped with more Q&A's to discuss certain topics/situations and internet can be an issue.



Opportunities Covid19 presented:

As it was delivered online, it helped with attendance rates been so high! It opened the door to coaches to realise they are in a role of leadership and influence, plus realising that they want the best for their players but didn't have the confidence to trust their own judgement as it was "mainly" males that made the final decision! It was so well received, we hope to engage these ladies to help build a WIS policy for Clare to encourage the next generation of ladies to lead in a sporting context.

Club Development

Funding Source:

Sport Ireland

Main goals for 2020:

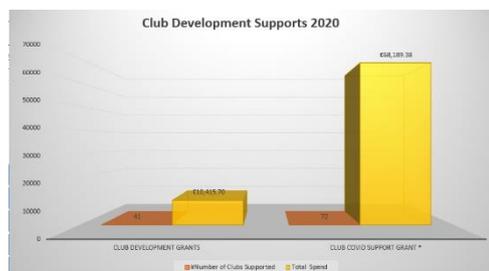
To continue to support sports clubs in Clare through a dedicated human resource responsible for supporting them.

Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

Due to the shut down of society, we were unable to engage a dedicated human resource until the latter end of the year.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

As all training opportunities for clubs went online, there was a marked increase in numbers attending training such as Safeguarding, Disability Awareness etc. Also, in December and through additional covid support funding obtained through Sport Ireland, we were able to run a substantial grant scheme to help clubs be prepared for returning to sport in a safe way. This funding stream was administered by the new Club Development Officer and gave her a real early and positive introduction to the clubs which strengthened relationships.



75 clubs in Clare were approved for funding through the Covid Grant Scheme in order to assist them with the costs of returning to sport during Covid-19. The total amount allocated was €70,276.38. To drawdown their funding each club had to supply us with the following:

- Covid-19 related receipts dated May 2020 – December 2020
- Proof of insurance
- Club bank details
- To be signed up to our club directory/facilities audit

71% of the grant - €50,236.48 was processed and paid out to 55 clubs in December. The deadline was extended into the new year to allow clubs time to get their paperwork together. A further €9,007.39 was paid out in January to 9 clubs and €8,945.51 in February. *(The remainder has been approved but not fully processed as of yet. This is with agreement of the club until the indoor facilities open up again.)

We continued our annual club development grant scheme to assist clubs, especially those in Community Sports Hub areas and disadvantaged areas, to ensure that they can maximise participation, coach education etc. In total €10,415.70 was administered through this fund.

Ethnic Minorities & New Communities

Funding Source:

Sport Ireland

Clare County Council

Main goals for 2020:

To continue to work with members of the travelling community, those from ethnic minorities and new communities, to ensure that they have the opportunities to participate in Sport and health enhancing physical activities.

Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

All face to face engagement was cancelled due to the restrictions at the beginning of the year. When the restrictions were eased in early summer, we re-engaged face to face within the direct provision setting and with members the Travelling community.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

With the advent of virtual physical activity initiatives, we were able to encourage men from the travelling community to engage in some of our online offerings. We also, through the



Keep Well funding stream, we were able to develop a series of translated (14 languages) physical activity and healthy eating brochures for those living in direct provision. There are 2 different brochures – one for adults, the other for children. Both brochures contain information about the benefits of physical activity, how much is recommended, examples of exercises that can be done at home and healthy eating tips. It is hoped that these brochures will increase awareness amongst children and adults, living in direct provision, about the importance of healthy living for body and mind.

Active Inclusion

People with Disabilities and Older Adults

Funding Source:

Sport Ireland

HSE

Main goals for 2020:

The overall goal was to increase physical activity and participation opportunities for People with a Disability and Older Adults.

Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this

From January to March 2020 programmes like our TY Wheelchair Basketball, Clare Boccia League, Go For Life Games League Older Adult /Adult Disability Exercise classes, Children's groups around Swimming , Cycling , Athletics and Fundamental Movement Classes were carrying on as normal until Covid 19 hit.

While some school programmes had to be cancelled due to its face-to-face nature we were able to adapt and change other programmes to specifically meet the needs of Older Adults and People with a Disability.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

The use of the Internet through Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Youtube, Whatsapp through the phone and the old reliable of paper came to the fore as online classes ,videos clips were uploaded and posted while mail drops with exercise sheets and booklets were put through the letter box to help both target groups adapt to the restrictions brought about by Covid.

- In our Older Adult group support we had over 525 adults taking part pre covid in 25 weekly classes. Through the use of Zoom and Whatapp groups we retained weekly engagement with 305 people in 17 weekly classes.
- Using mail drops with the support of Clare Library service we have dropped 1000 exercise booklets and sheets to both target groups
- In engaging with our National partners of CARA Centre and Age & Opportunity and using their resources we have engaged over with over 280 people from both target groups.
- Disability specific Summer Camp activities were cancelled for children with disabilities. Online courses /websites /resources/challenges run by Clare LSP were used to continue to engage over 100 children with disabilities.
- With programmes not happening under their normal organised guise the opportunity to provide training for teachers and coaches around physical activity and sport presented itself as the use of online platforms increased. We engaged over 50 teachers and coaches in Disability Awareness Training and Get Autism Active Training online.

The above mediums continued up until September 2020 as very little face to face activities/ programmes taking place due to the vulnerable nature of both Older Adults and People with

a Disability towards Covid. However the easing of restrictions allowed for Children's groups around Cycling, Athletics and Fundamental Movement Classes to return for a short period. Adaptions were made to facilitate outdoor classes with the running of Inclusive Bike Week programmes a welcome respite for people. We engaged 10 adults in training and 63 children taking part in 3 cycling programmes.

Xcessible

Main goals for 2020:

An important piece of work for Clare LSP started in February 2020 with the process of attaining our Xcessible Bronze award.



Xcessible has been developed to help support and empower national governing bodies (NGBs) and local sports partnership (LSPs) to provide positive and meaningful opportunities for people with disabilities to take part in sport and physical activity.

Xcessible is a three-staged resourced pathway designed to ease an NGB or LSP into the area of inclusion and supports them through the process of developing and increasing their capacity to support people with disabilities and to be active in their sport in terms of participation, coaching, volunteering, officiating and employment. The objectives for the award were set under the headings of Openness, People, Activities, Facilities and Promotion, Clare Sports Partnership were 1 of 7 organisation's nationally to achieve this award in November 2020 with final part of the process being a Ger O' Halloran (Vice – Chair Clare LSP) , John Sweeney (Co-ordinator) and James Murrihy (SIDO) delivering a presentation on the objectives to CARA (awarding body). Going forward into 2021 adaptability is a key component of working with our target groups of Older Adults and People with Disabilities in developing programmes that can run either face to face or online with minor tweaks.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

Once such opportunity will be around the increase in numbers of hosting /attending meetings and running Disability Sport training courses. Where face to face delivery was part of the fabric of our society pre- covid. I can see an increase of people wanting to do more training courses with the greater ability to deliver online has allowed people the opportunity to better able manage their time by attending courses from the comfort of their own home. The ability to develop outdoor programmes is going to be key as we will have to move away from the traditional use of indoor activities with these groups into 2021 and for however long Covid will be with us.

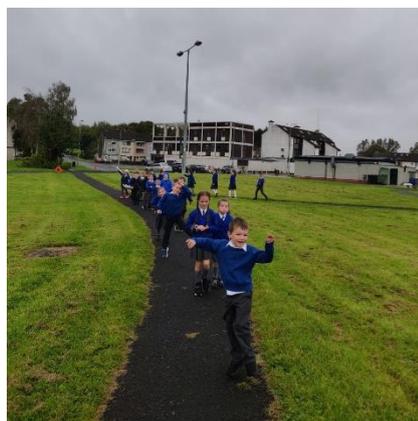
Active Schools

Funding Source:

HSE

Main goals for 2020:

- Build on the successes of the previous year, particularly Sportshall Athletics, and Active Play programme.
- Learn from the feedback received from previous programme participants and make changes to improve these where necessary, while also making the delivery of programmes and training more efficient.
- Link with additional organisations to pilot new initiatives, placing particular focus on disadvantaged youth (Kayaking pilot week at Scoil Chriost Ri, Cloughleigh as a precursor to the Urban Adventure Hub) and inactive teenagers (Teen Girls After school programme in two of our HUB areas).



Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

The full extent of challenges were not felt until the new academic year commenced in September. Sporadic school closures, increased demand for supports, travel restrictions, staff concerns, remote working, and additional cleaning requirements made the safe distribution of equipment quite difficult at times. Some programmes were stopped completely due to Covid19 (Teen girl programme), while many others needed to be completely redesigned.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

- Far more schools aware of our work, and engaging with Clare Sports Partnership
- Increased ownership and pro-activeness from schools and their staff regarding physical activity.
- Willingness of school staff to complete training for programmes outside of school hours.
- Positive changes to the delivery of some programmes/ way of working that will be continued into the future.

Community Youth

Funding Source:

Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts

HSE

Main goals for 2020:

Place greater focus on community based youth programmes, particularly for

- disadvantaged youths (Shannon FRC after school programme, Multi Activity Summer Camps in all HUB areas)
- Provide opportunity and supports to youth that wish to gain coaching qualifications in their chosen sports, so they can in turn support their clubs (Youth Coaching grant).
- Link with new organisations to support at risk youths (CAMHS programme)
-

Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

Due to Covid 19, our planned Summer Camps were changed to 'online camps', while some youths were delayed in gaining their coaching qualifications until NGB's returned to practical delivery of courses. Our 'goals' also changed to providing supports to all youths and families throughout Clare, regardless of their social or demographic location, as Covid 19 was affecting individuals of all ages.

Opportunities Covid19 presented:

- Greater awareness of Clare Sports Partnership by the general public, and the supports we offer.
- Greater collaboration between staff, linking far more closely together on programmes and ensuring they were adaptable and suitable for participants of all ages.
- New programme creation, and a greater focus on creativity and 'thinking outside the box'
- Increased levels of funding to provide physical activity supports to those in need.
- A very visible move of Clare Sports Partnership to online delivery, rather than past site-based delivery, which lead to increased participant engagement, and more accessibility of programmes.

European Week of Sport

Funding Source:

Sport Ireland

Main goals for 2020:



Put forward a proposal in a bid to secure funding for the event, having been unsuccessful in 2019. The proposal and submission was completed during Covid 19, keeping restrictions and safety very much to the fore in our planning. Our submission of the 'Banner Challenge' was successful.

Challenges Covid 19 posed in achieving this:

The delivery needed to be in keeping with the ever-changing Covid 19 situation and guidelines. Some of the key challenges included 5km travel restrictions for exercise, no group activity, logistics of delivery and engagement with participants, suitability of activity for all ages and abilities, I.T. issues for participants, and distribution of medals after the week.

Opportunities Covid 19 presented:

- The ability to run a mass participation event, while only requiring a small number of staff for delivery.
- The realisation of possible online programme delivery
- Participation of far more individuals than we would have been able facilitate had the 'Banner Challenge' been an 'on site' event.
- High number of youths, families, and those with disabilities participating in the challenge.

Finances –

As per Audited accounts. To be included following AGM.

Future plans

The future for the local sports partnership network is very positive as we are now being referenced as key stakeholders in national policy such as the national sports plan, Sport Ireland's participation plan etc. In Clare we will continue to build on our successes. our main priority for 2021 is to ensure that the Governance Code for Sport is signed by the board of directors and that we continue to ensure but the culture of Governance is embedded within the organization.

For 2021 we have also built a great team of highly enthusiastic and professional sports developments officers and sports administrators. Having these people in situ is paramount to the success of the organization. We will continue to support our team in their strategic rollout of activities and projects within their program areas in order to ensure that remain as a highly effective and professional organisation for our community.

Thanks to all our partnerships and supporters



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