

2024 | ANNUAL REPORT



Inishowen
Development
Partnership

People
Place
Progress

"SUPPORTING PEOPLE,
PLACE, AND PROGRESS
ON IRELAND'S LARGEST
PENINSULA."

INISHOWEN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Our team understands
the unique strengths
and challenges of our
towns, villages, and
rural areas. We work
in partnership with
individuals,
community groups,
and organisations to
support inclusive,
sustainable
development.

www.inishowen.ie

Company Information



Chair	Helen Nolan	
Treasurer	Sean McDermott	
Secretary	Anthony Doogan	
Directors	Fionán Bradley Gareth Whitmore Kevin McKinney Francis Burns Cllr Albert Doherty Cllr Rena Donaghey Cllr Nicholas Crossan Cllr Johnny McGuinness Tommy Doherty Seamus Hopkins Kevin Cooley Geraldine Canning Garvan Meehan Cllr. Joy Beard Cllr. Jack Murray	
Charity Number	20067786	
Company Number	447893	
Office Address	St. Mary Road Buncrana Co. Donegal F93 PW61	Pound Street Carndonagh Co. Donegal F93 TCX2
Registered Office	Pound Street, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal, F93 TCX2	
Auditors	McDaid, McCullough, Moore 28/32 Clarendon Street, Derry, BT48 7HD	
Bankers	Bank of Ireland Carndonagh Co. Donegal	Bank of Ireland Buncrana Co. Donegal

Message from our Chairperson

We are pleased to present our 2024 Annual Report—a year marked by both productivity and transformation for our organisation.

Throughout 2024, the Board continued to work under our strategic framework, reaffirming our core values, mission, and objectives. This strategy remains central to our operations, guiding our efforts and ensuring that our focus stays firmly on supporting the communities we serve.

This year also marked the rollout of the next round of our two core programmes: the Social Inclusion and Community Development Programme (2024–2028) and the Rural Development Programme. These programmes reflect our commitment to addressing social and economic challenges while fostering inclusive growth across the region.

This report outlines our key achievements across the wide range of programmes we deliver on behalf of the Government. We are proud to work in partnership with Donegal County Council, the Department of Social Protection, HSE, Tusla, Irish Aid, International Fund for Ireland, Department of Agriculture and Food and other valued funders.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Directors of IDP, who generously volunteer their time to serve on our Board. Their leadership and oversight are vital in maintaining transparency and ensuring that we remain accountable to the communities we serve.



Finally, we sincerely thank our funders for their continued support, and our dedicated staff teams, whose commitment and professionalism drive the delivery of high-quality services throughout the Inishowen Peninsula.

We look forward to another year of meaningful impact and continued progress

Helen Nolan
Chairperson

Message from Joint CEO's

As Joint CEOs, we are delighted to see IDP continuing to go from strength to strength, with our dedicated team and Board successfully advancing the five key strands of our work in 2024.

Throughout the year, the IDP team remained steadfast in promoting the People, Place, and Progress of Inishowen through a broad portfolio of Social Inclusion and Rural Development programmes. At the core of our work is a commitment to individual wellbeing, community inclusion, and sustainable development.

A significant milestone in 2024 was the initiation of the new LEADER programme. Our staff have led its rollout with a focus on stimulating and supporting innovative and sustainable rural development, while building a diverse economy, encouraging environmental stewardship, and celebrating heritage and culture – all contributing to the improved quality of life across the peninsula.

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), alongside over 20 complementary initiatives, demonstrated strong impact throughout the year. In total, we reached:

- 477 individuals,
- 64 community groups, and
- 5,119 participants across
- 77 events delivered during what was a busy and productive period.

Our reach is further strengthened through community-focused programmes such as Community Employment, Tús, and the Rural Social Scheme, which continue to offer vital support to both individuals and communities.

We remain acutely aware of the challenges facing Inishowen's communities. As such, we are committed to doing all we can within our remit while actively collaborating with partners to seek additional supports and prevent further hardship.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to our teams across both IDP offices for their professionalism and tireless dedication to community support. Our Voluntary Board of Management also deserves special recognition – their leadership and insight have been instrumental to our collective success.

Looking ahead, we anticipate the need to secure new premises for our Buncrana office as our current lease nears its end. This will be a key focus for 2025 as we prepare to build on this year's achievements and look towards celebrating 30 years of local development in Inishowen in 2026.



Andrew Ward



Shauna McClenaghan

The Year in Numbers:

2024 *Every Number Tells a Story*



Funding through IDP -
SICAP & LEADER



Additional Funding
Leveraged



Individuals received
One-to-One Support



Community
Organisations Supports



Individuals Supported into
employment



Individuals Supported into
self-employment



Individuals Supported
into Education, Training,
Life Long Learning



Individuals working in
the Community through
Tús, RSS & CE



Young People Supported



Reach through all our
Social Media Outlets



Events



Non-case load supported

APPROACH

Strand 1

Enterprise, Employment, Learning, & Development

Strand 2

Community Development, Environment & Sustainability

Strand 3

Resilience, Health, and Well-being

Strand 4

Governance, Finance & Administration

Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) is led and governed by a cross sectoral and multi skilled Board. The locally based teams have established relationships within the communities across Inishowen and have significant knowledge and understanding of the issues faced. All at IDP are committed to developing and creating innovative approaches to respond with agility to local needs.

The work is driven by evidence with an increasing focus on prevention, early intervention, and collaboration while focusing on a diverse range of social and economic challenges by applying:

- **A human rights and equality framework, with a focus on gender equality and anti-discrimination.**
- **Quality community development approaches with a focus on participation and combatting poverty.**
- **Collaborative approaches with a focus on evidence and impact.**
- **An emphasis on climate justice, with a focus on facilitating a just and equitable transition to a greener economy and society.**

IDP is invested in developing capacities and skills and the core focus across all programmes and strands of work is on community led local development and co-designing local solutions following consultations such as the EnVision Inishowen Series carried out throughout the Winter of 2020/2021. These conversations have affirmed the need for integrated and vibrant community led approaches for Inishowen. IDP is an experienced local development company and currently manage a range of national programmes for the Inishowen community including:

- **Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**
- **LEADER Rural Development Programme.**
- **Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) Donegal**
- **Local Area Employment Service (LAES) for Inishowen**
- **Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in Inishowen** (one of two priority areas in Co Donegal)
- **Rural Social Scheme (RSS)**
- **TÚS Programme**
- **Community Employment (CE) Childcare Programme**
- **Community Employment (CE) Health and Social Care Programme**

This core work is complemented by other initiatives funded under Erasmus+; International Fund for Ireland; Donegal County Council; TUSLA Prevention Partnership and Family Support; and the HSE to name a few.

We have seen significant social impact over the decades specifically in terms of creating positive change and addressing social issues in the context of rural disadvantage and deprivation. These are local responses to local challenges, informed by evidence from international, national, cross-border, and regional good practice approaches.

Purpose, Values and Objectives



Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) is one of 49 local development companies in the Republic of Ireland. At our core is social inclusion and rural development, building capacity and supporting the people, place and progress of the Inishowen Peninsula, the largest peninsula on the island of Ireland. We connect the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the possibilities from the green deal to our communities and their livelihoods and have been advocating for, co-designing, and underpinning a sustainable and inclusive future for all generations.

MISSION STATEMENT

The overall mission is to learn from our shared achievements in growing a more vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive future for all, IDP will build bridges of collaboration across public, private, academic and community partners.

VISION

The IDP Vision is to be an innovative community leader for Inishowen empowering its people, promoting our place, and advocating for progress.

VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We promote community-led, sustainable local development built upon the values of integrity, connectedness, innovation, and inclusivity. The following are the guiding principles to which IDP as an organisation commits itself:

Collaboration	Sustainability
Community Development	Innovation
Accountability	Leadership
Social Inclusion	Empowerment

AIMS

Working across our community, we aim to enable, empower, and engage the people of Inishowen to achieve their full potential.

GOALS:

1. Use the process of community development to ensure participation and representation from all sections of the community for collective action, social change and addressing inequalities.
2. Develop locally appropriate and seamless supports and services in Inishowen so that individuals, businesses, and communities can reach their full potential.
3. Co-design programmes and initiatives using Local, Regional, National, Cross Border, EU, and International best practice to maximise opportunity, innovation, and impact.
4. Build resilience and wellbeing for all within our community.
5. Enable integrated approaches to supporting community-led local development with social inclusion and sustainability at the core.
6. Develop the organisation with strong leadership and governance to facilitate innovation and growth.

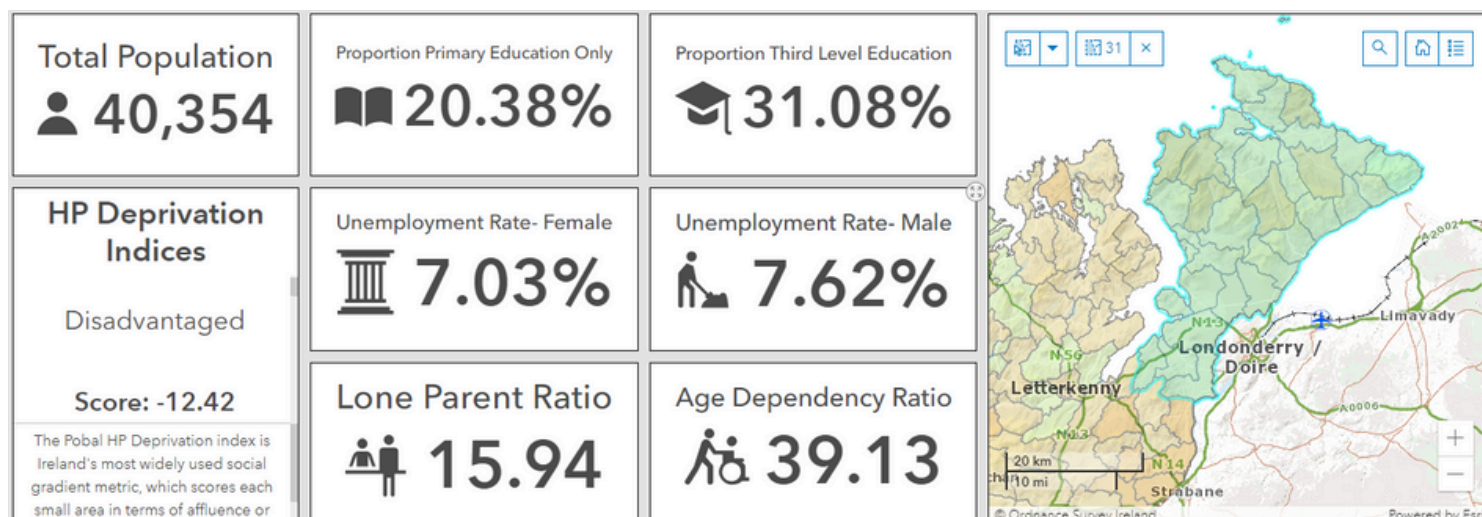
INISHOWEN PROFILE

Inishowen, in the North-west, is the largest peninsula on the island of Ireland. Our nearest city is Derry which is very much our social and economic hinterland – for shopping, university, medical care, entertainment, festivals, transport links, collaborations, and peace building. For people living in Inishowen, our links to Derry and our past are integral to our heritage, our history, our culture and a future of possibilities for our people, place, and progress. As a border area, communities in Inishowen are directly connected to communities in Derry at Bridgend, Muff/Culmore, Killea, Carrigans and Newtowncunningham and Magilligan point, through a small roll-on-roll-off seasonal Ferry service which operates across Lough Foyle and connects Magilligan and Greencastle.



Inishowen, is connected geographically, socially, economically, and politically to Derry, and the number of commuter daily border crossings shows this very clearly, with 9,336 people cross the border for work or school every daily; workers make up three quarters of all commuters (7,037 commuters) with the remainder being students (2,299 commuters). As a county, Donegal records the highest number of daily cross-border commuters in the country. Seventy-six percent of all commuters traveling daily from Inishowen, travelled daily from Inishowen, to Derry via Bridgend and Muff.

Almost a quarter of the population of Co Donegal lives in Inishowen according to the Census 2022 data showing the population to be 40,354. Over 26% of in the population of children, young people, and young adults from Co Donegal, live in Inishowen. This data from a point in time April 2022 is before the current increase in refugee children in Co Donegal because of the crisis in Ukraine and increase in locally based IPAS Refugee Centres. Parity of investment is essential if we are to maintain this population and improve the deprivation and disadvantage across Inishowen.



LEADER Programme

Funded by European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development



LEADER is a community-driven initiative for rural development, supported by Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan 2023–2027. The program offers financial support to projects focused on improving the economic, social, and environmental well-being of rural areas.

The program's key priorities include:

- Enterprise development
- Social inclusion
- Enhancing rural infrastructure and services

Funding is available to community groups, businesses, and individuals who are working on innovative and sustainable projects. The ultimate aim is to create vibrant, sustainable rural communities that offer a higher quality of life for their residents.

LEADER Programme 2023–2027: Funding Announcement and Progress Update for Donegal

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has officially announced the details of the €180 million LEADER Programme for the period 2023–2027. As part of this national investment in rural development.

- **County Donegal** has been allocated a significant **funding** package totalling **€10.4 million**. This funding will be distributed among the county's four Implementing Partners (IPs), supporting a wide range of local development initiatives aligned with the programme's objectives
- On **30th November 2024**, the official LEADER Programme 2023–2027 Funding Agreement was issued. The **agreement was signed** on behalf of Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) by our Secretary, Anthony Doogan, marking a key milestone in the implementation of the programme at the local level.
- The first tranche of LEADER applications from Inishowen successfully passed through the Donegal LCDC Local Action Group (LAG) meeting held on 13th November 2024.

This tranche secured funding of **€196,056.46** across the following sub-themes:

- **1** project under **Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion**
- **2** projects under **Sustainable Development**
- **1** project under **Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation**
- **1** project under **Economic Development & Job Creation**

***“This is just the beginning
– we’re thrilled to see
strong interest and can’t
wait to support more local
ideas.”***

**Anthony Doogan,
Secretary, IDP**

The overall success and impact of LEADER in fostering lasting change and assisting communities in Inishowen to identify local needs and secure funding for projects.

LEADER Programme

Funded by European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development



Project case study under LEADER Programme

under Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation – Enterprise Development

Originally established in 2009 as Millfarm Hoofcare, the business rebranded to Eko Hoofcare in 2019. It began as a hoof trimming service for farmers in northwest Ireland and has since expanded nationally and internationally to Northern Ireland, the UK, Holland, New Zealand, and most recently Doha.

Over time, the business diversified into hoof trimming equipment and consumables, supplying contractors, farmers, and vets. It began trading second-hand hoof trimming crushes and later moved into new equipment sales by partnering with Dutch suppliers. Eko Hoofcare also developed its own crush brand, 'Eko Chute', originally produced in Holland and now manufactured in Northern Ireland. Since its launch, demand for the Eko Chute has consistently exceeded supply.



The project involved building a purpose-designed storage shed for agricultural vehicles (mobile Eko Chutes) and assembling portable Hoofcare chutes. It includes an office and a secure storage room for high-value parts. Now employing five staff, the promoter began the LEADER process just before COVID, facing delays and rising costs due to restrictions. Despite these challenges, his perseverance led to a successful business with its own premises in Inishowen.

Shared Island Project 2024/25

Network Community Collaboration for Environmental Stewardship In partnership with RAPID (Derry), three cross-border educational workshops will be delivered focusing on environmental stewardship. Proposed topics include:

- Protecting threatened wildlife
- Bird surveys & wetland ID (field trip)
- Peatlands and water (field trip)
- Wildlife photography using smartphones (field trip)
- Gardening with wildlife (field trip)
- Garden & woodland birds (field trip)

Also included are:

- Delivery of LANTRA Environmental Stewardship training
- A Citizen Assembly event

IDP held its first training session on Saturday 30th November in the Carndonagh Office – Module 1 Protecting our threatened wildlife delivered by Trish Murphy from the Inishowen Rivers Trust with participants coming from both sides of the Border

ORIS 2024/2025

Measure 1 Applications (submitted 14th March by IDP):

- **Lakes Loop** (Northwest Community Development): Development of a new 2km looped trail off the existing Drovers Trail, (total trail length 5.5km). Funding requested: €40,000.
- **Stragill Trailhead Works** (Northwest Community Development): Upgrades to Stragill Trailhead, including kerbing, car park surfacing, & rock armour. Located along Lough Swilly's scenic coastal path. Funding requested: €40,000.
- **Sharagore Wetland Trail** (Wild Inishowen): Extension of a trail first funded in ORIS 2022, including new paths, signage, & trail furniture on a 7-hectare wetland site with wildflower meadows & woodland. Funding requested: €27,270.

The overall success and impact of LEADER in fostering lasting change and assisting communities in Inishowen to identify local needs and secure funding for projects.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme



Funded by Department of Rural and Community Development

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is dedicated to fighting poverty and social exclusion through the power of local partnerships. By focusing on individuals who are most at risk of being excluded from mainstream services, SICAP seeks to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in society.

The programme is built on a community development model, addressing social inequalities and exclusion by engaging local communities directly. Central to SICAP's success is its emphasis on collaboration—bringing together community organisations, public sector agencies, and the individuals it serves. This partnership approach ensures that solutions are co-designed and responsive to the unique challenges faced by each community.

One of SICAP's key strengths is its flexibility. The programme is tailored to meet the specific needs of different communities, adapting its actions to reflect local realities. While working within a broader national framework, SICAP remains responsive to local conditions, allowing for bottom-up initiatives that are relevant and effective. This ensures that the support provided is of the highest quality, and that the programme meets its performance targets and objectives. Ultimately, SICAP provides a personalised, impactful approach to combating social exclusion and inequality, empowering individuals and communities alike.

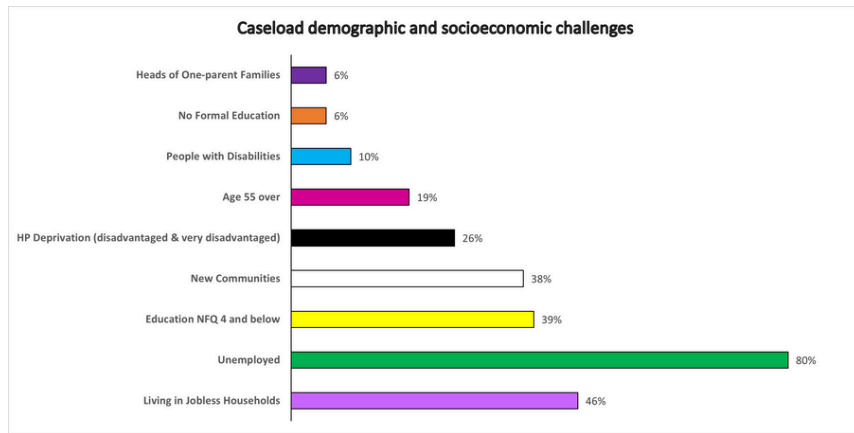
IDP 2024 Impact Report:

Thanks to the initiatives and support provided, a number of positive outcomes were achieved, reflecting the programme's impact on the community.

- A total of **64 community organisations** supported – 16 Social Enterprises, 6 Networks, 42 Local Community Groups (LCGs), together, these organisations represent a wide array of efforts & initiatives, all working towards the betterment of their communities, creating opportunities & fostering positive social change.
- A total of **77 non-caseload events** were held throughout Inishowen, attracting an impressive **5,119 attendees**.
- Also **8 Children & Family** events were held, engaging a total of **857 young people & 105 parents/guardians**.
- **477** individuals supported in total – **53** successfully **secured employment**, and **37** took the entrepreneurial leap & **launched their own businesses**, contributing to local economic growth & job creation. Furthermore, **4 individuals chose to dedicate their time & skills to volunteer positions**, strengthening the social fabric of their communities & helping others in need.
- Out of an overall caseload of 477 individuals, a total of **1,814** targeted **interventions** were delivered by IDP staff. These supports spanned a wide range of areas, with the most frequently accessed being **Career Guidance (310)**, **Pre-start up Business supports (286)**, **CV preparation (202)**, **Mentoring (201)** & **Referrals** to other agencies (**258**). Clients also benefited from interventions focused on building confidence, goal setting, & self-efficacy (106), strengthening connections with others (138), improving literacy & numeracy (81), & developing interview skills (32). Additional support included new business aftercare (24) & guidance on progressing to further or third-level education (28). These interventions demonstrate a holistic, person centred approach, with **71%** of support delivered through **in-person** meetings focused on advancing education, employment, and enterprise.



The overall success of these initiatives demonstrates the effectiveness of SICAP in creating lasting change and supporting individuals and community organisations in overcoming the barriers they face.



The graph highlights the demographic and socioeconomic challenges faced by the **477 individuals** supported. It provides insights into key areas such as unemployment, education levels, living conditions, and community diversity, which can help in designing targeted interventions, allocating resources effectively, and addressing systemic inequalities. Understanding these factors is crucial for creating programs that address the specific needs of disadvantaged groups and promote social inclusion.

Some of the highlights in 2024:

Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) is proud to report the success of several initiatives in 2024 aimed at boosting employment, supporting local industries, and enhancing community wellbeing across the region.

- A standout event was the Inishowen **Job Fair**, which attracted **270 attendees** and brought together talented job seekers with local businesses from a variety of industries. The fair played a key role in strengthening connections between employers and potential employees and highlighted the vibrancy and diversity of Inishowen's workforce.
- In support of the farming community, IDP delivered a series of impactful events through the **FIT4FarmLife Health & Wellbeing Programme**. The initiative addressed key areas such as healthy eating, physical fitness, safety, and mental health for farmers across the peninsula. The programme culminated in a **closing event attended by 150 farm family members**, celebrating the shared achievements and commitment to farmer wellbeing.
- Additionally, **90 farmers participated** in a **Farm Scheme information meeting**, where they explored available supports and opportunities.
- In a major boost for the local construction sector, IDP facilitated the arrival of a specialist training unit delivering subsidised **Near Zero Energy Building (NZEB)** courses, in collaboration with Mount Lucas. This hands-on training provides both experienced workers and newcomers (39) to the field with essential, future-ready construction skills.
- Under its **Defective Concrete Blocks (DCB)** remit, IDP also hosted two targeted events—one for construction sector professionals and another for affected homeowners. These sessions provided vital information, updates, and ongoing support, underscoring IDP's commitment to assisting both groups through the crisis.
- IDP also proudly took part in **Local Enterprise Week and Social Inclusion Week**, demonstrating continued dedication to inclusive growth and opportunity for all.



These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting communities, empowering workers, and creating a more inclusive, skilled, and resilient Inishowen,



SICAP IMPACT ACROSS INISHOWEN IN 2024

477

Individuals

64

Community Organisations

37

Enterprise Start-ups

Local Area Employment Service (LAES)

Funded by Department of Social Protection



The Local Area Employment Service (LAES) is a year-round programme funded by the Department of Social Protection, supporting long-term unemployed jobseekers to access the labour market or move from part-time to full-time work. It is jointly delivered by Inishowen Development Partnership for clients in the Inishowen area & Donegal Local Development Partnership (DLDC) for the remainder of the county.

Overview: LAES offers one-to-one support through an Employment Support Officer from our office in Buncrana, or from one of our outreach facilities in Carndonagh & Moville. The service helps clients assess skills, explore career options, & develop progression plans. Support includes identifying training, preparing for job applications, & overcoming employment barriers, with a focus on long-term work & personal development.

LAES: A Story of Progress and Possibility 2024:

Over the past year, the Local Area Employment Service (LAES) has made a meaningful difference in the lives of **231 individuals** across Inishowen. Each client who walked through our doors brought their own story, some facing long-term unemployment, others seeking to transition into more stable or fulfilling work.

Outcomes for 2024:

- **225** supported with one-to-one support
- **22** (35%) secured full-time jobs, sustaining them past the critical 17-week stability mark
- **11** (17%) entered part-time work
- **17** (27%) joined Community Employment (CE) or Tús schemes
- **13** (21%) took the step into self-employment
- **124** participated in upskilling courses

Case Study: Annemaire McDaid



In 2023, I connected with Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) through the Local Area Employment Service (LAES) for guidance and support in finding suitable employment. With their help, **I applied for a Community Employment (CE) administrative role** with the Health and Social Care scheme and began the position in February 2024, gaining valuable experience.

This **role led to further opportunities** within IDP, including providing reception cover and assisting with general administrative tasks. The supportive environment and kind staff made it an incredibly rewarding experience. **Through these responsibilities, I developed greater confidence, particularly in communicating with the public.**

Working at IDP — and the support I received from the Local Area Employment Service, has positively transformed both my professional and personal life, giving me confidence, purpose, and a strong sense of belonging.

At its core, LAES isn't just about finding jobs—it's about restoring hope, unlocking potential, and supporting sustainable change. Behind each number is a person who's moved closer to independence, purpose, and a brighter future.

Childcare Community Employment Scheme (CE)



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

Funded by Department of Social Protection

The Community Employment (CE) programme is designed to help people who are long-term unemployed (or otherwise disadvantaged) to get back to work by offering part-time and temporary placements in jobs based within local communities. Participants can take up other part-time work during their CE placement. The work is community-based. The duration of a CE placement is for 12 months with some exceptions.

Overview: The Community Employment (CE) Childcare Programme 2024, delivered through IDP, **supported** a total of **25 participants** in **developing** the **skills, knowledge**, and **experience** required to pursue a career in the early learning and care sector. The programme combined accredited training, practical experience, and personal development in a structured, supportive environment.

Outcomes for 2024:

- **2 participant** successfully progressed into **full-time employment** with Quigley's Point Community Centre & Spraoi agus Sport highlighting the programme's success in creating direct employment pathways.
- The **remaining** participants **continue to develop their skills** through training & placement, with a view to entering employment or progressing to further education upon completion.
- The training component of the 2024

programme was comprehensive & responsive to both participant needs & industry requirements. Training included both accredited QQI certified modules and non-accredited short courses in compliance, care, and professional development.

- **Accredited Training (QQI Levels 5 & 6)**
- **Child Protection & Quality Frameworks**
- **Health & Safety Compliance**
- **Additional Skills Development**

Individuals gained industry recognised qualifications, hands-on experience, & increased confidence in their professional capabilities.

Julie's Journey from Unemployment to a Career in Childcare:

Julie, aged 28, had been unemployed for 15 months when she came across an advert for a Community Employment (CE) childcare position on the IDP Facebook page. Encouraged by the opportunity, she applied & began her placement just three weeks later. Reflecting on that moment, she shared,

"I have not looked back since."

During her time on the CE programme, Julie successfully completed two major awards in Childcare at Levels 5 & 6. She embraced every opportunity to upskill & gain hands-on experience in a supportive environment. **"The CE programme offered me great opportunities to upskill & gain valuable experience. I did them all,"** she said proudly.

Upon completing her CE placement, Julie was offered a permanent position in the childcare sector an offer she accepted without hesitation. While she plans to pursue a degree in the future, for now, she is thriving in her role. **"I plan on doing the degree when the time is right, but right now, I love my work."**



Julie's story highlights the impact of the CE programme in empowering individuals to build confidence, gain qualifications, and secure meaningful employment in their chosen field.

The programme continues to play a vital role in addressing local childcare staffing needs while supporting individuals on their path to sustainable employment or further education.

Health & Social Care Community Employment Scheme



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

Funded by Department of Social Protection

The first dedicated Health and Social Care Community Employment Programme in the country has been going from strength to strength since it was introduced in Inishowen in December 2023. Funded by the Department of Social Protection (DSP) the pilot scheme is being managed locally by Inishowen Development Partnership after they identified the need for the programme in the Inishowen community. Through the Health and Social Care CE Scheme, you can gain valuable practical experience while completing a Major QQI Award, free of charge at a pace that would be suited to someone who was re-entering the workforce. All participants will be placed and working in local healthcare settings

Outcomes for 2024:

- a total of **15 Individuals** were on the scheme of which there was **8 women, 7 men**
- They have completed all mandatory training required for healthcare settings including People Moving and Handling, Fire Safety Awareness and Cardiac First Responder, they have also completed 15 further training certificates.
- In 2024 individuals enrolled with ETB to commence their QQI Level 5 award in Health Service Skills and have completed two of the major modules Care Skills and Care of the Older Person.
- **3** of the individuals have **taken up part time employment** in the healthcare settings alongside their Community Employment scheme.



CCE Participant Rose McGuigan Rejoins the Workforce Through Health and Social Care Scheme

After a career break to raise her family, Rose McGuigan returned to work through the Health and Social Care Community Employment (CE) Scheme. Since joining in January, she has gained over 500 hours of experience and completed key healthcare training at St. Columbcille Village in Clonmany. Praised for her dedication and passion, Rose now also works part-time at the care home, continuing to build a career in the healthcare sector.

"I really recommend this for anyone interested in Healthcare or becoming a Carer – it has been great for me to get back to work and it is very flexible to work around family life," added Rose.

"Train While You Work in Your Community."

Start your career in Health and Social Care with practical experience and a QQI qualification.

Funded by Department of Social Protection

Tús is an activation program designed for individuals who are unemployed for 12 months and registered on the Live Register. It offers short-term, meaningful employment opportunities, allowing participants to gain work experience while contributing positively to their local communities.

Outcomes for 2024:

- In 2024, we received **244** candidate **referrals** from the Department of Social Welfare. Of these, we **engaged with 192** individuals, and 84 of them nearly **44%** were confirmed as **eligible**.
- A total of **40 placements** were made on-site, with 27 participants securing positions in 2024 and the remaining 13 placed in 2023.

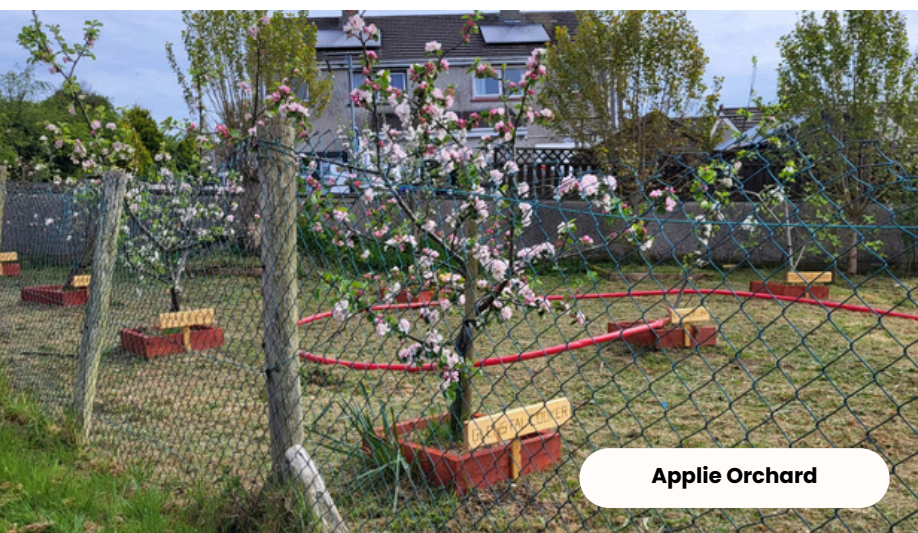
The placements covered a variety of roles, including:

- **16 caretakers** maintaining facilities,
- **11 shop assistants** supporting retail operations,
- **2 childcare workers** providing essential care,
- **9 administrative assistants** handling office tasks,
- **2 grounds workers** maintaining outdoor spaces.

These roles supported community services while helping participants gain valuable skills & work experience.



Ballyliffin Tidy Towns



Applie Orchard



Aoileann McGilloway & Teresa McDaid

"Creating Opportunities, Strengthening Communities."

Meaningful local employment that builds experience and supports Inishowen's future.

RURAL SOCIAL SCHEME (RSS)



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

Funded by Department of Social Protection

The Rural Social Scheme offers additional income support to low-income farmers and fishers who are unable to earn a sufficient livelihood.

To be eligible, applicants must be receiving a qualifying social welfare payment. In exchange for this support, participants contribute to their local rural communities by providing various services.

Participants are required to work 19.5 hours per week. These hours are arranged to accommodate the demands of farming or fishing, allowing individuals to continue their primary work without disruption. Successful applicants are offered a contract starting from their entry date and running until the following 31 March. If all eligibility requirements continue to be met, participants may be considered for renewal after the initial contract ends.

Outcomes for 2024:

In 2024, a total of **47 individuals** participated on the scheme, of these 45 were men and 2 were women. The occupational background of the participants included **45 individuals from farming backgrounds** and **2 from the fishing sector**.

The age distribution of participants in the Rural Social Scheme for 2024 is as follows:

- **18 participants** are within the **60–66** age group, representing the largest segment of the group.
- **14 participants** fall within the **52–59** age range.
- **10 participants** are aged between **43 and 51**.
- **One participant** is in the **34–42** age category.
- **4 participants** are aged between **25 and 33**.

This profile highlights a strong representation of older adults, with the majority of participants aged 52 and above, reflecting the scheme's appeal to individuals with long standing ties to farming and fishing communities.



25 community groups were supported through the scheme. Participant placements included:

- 22 individuals working in the maintenance and support of sporting facilities
- 3 individuals providing assistance in caring roles
- 8 individuals assigned to community centre operations
- 1 individual supporting childcare services
- 3 individuals involved in the upkeep of church grounds
- 10 individuals contributing to village enhancement projects

A total of **17 towns** and villages host participants, highlighting the scheme's broad regional coverage.

Impact Statement: Rural Social Scheme 2024

In 2024, the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) made a significant and tangible impact on community life by supporting the operation and sustainability of facilities across the region.

Delivered through the active participation of low-income farmers and fishers, the scheme provided meaningful part-time employment while harnessing the skills and commitment of participants to meet local needs. Their contributions directly improved the quality and accessibility of key services for people of all ages—particularly in rural and underserved areas. The scheme not only helped to maintain vital community infrastructure but also promoted social inclusion, reduced isolation, and reinforced the value of locally-driven development.

By connecting rural workers to purposeful roles in their communities, the RSS in 2024 proved to be a model of sustainable support, mutual benefit, and rural resilience.



INISHOWEN 2024: OUTCOMES OF EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

76 TÚS

64 RSS

25 CE Childcare

14 **CE Health & Social Care**
with 3 to start in placement



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

ACRES Donegal



Funded by Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

The Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme ('ACRES') was launched by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in Autumn 2022. This latest scheme is part of Ireland's CAP strategic plan and replaces the GLAS scheme. ACRES aims to deliver significant long-term environmental improvement through two approaches – ACRES Co-operation and ACRES General.

In Donegal the ACRES Co-operation Programme is delivered by Donegal ACRES – an independent company that has been appointed to deliver the scheme on a local level in Donegal.

ACRES Payments

DAFM continue to work through the core payments to participants for 2023 and 2024. Payments for 2023 must be completed before 2024 payments can be issued.

- Balancing payments – total paid in respect of **2024 is almost €34.6 million, to 45,715 farmers**. This means that 85% of all participants are up to date with payments.
- Advance payments for 2024 – **total paid €211.8 million, paid to 49,350 farmers**, or over 91% of all ACRES participants.

Non Productive Investments / Landscape Actions

Non-Productive Investments (NPIs) are actions that farmers in the Co-operation approach can take to improve environmental management on their farms. Landscape Actions are large-scale environmental actions focussing on issues such as threatened species, water quality protection, invasive species management and encroaching scrub management in species-rich grassland. They are available on private ground and CP and Non-CP commonage entered into the scheme and the aim is to deliver these as a suite of actions on a farm to increase the environmental impact. The actions for Donegal will be closely

aligned with the recommendations of the ACRES Donegal Local Action Plan.

- A draft specification for the LAs is now available online. The LA window is open and is expected to close in mid September. LAs are developed by the CP Team who agree a suite of action with the participants directly (instead of through farm advisors).
- NPI claims portal is now open to participants for NPIs approved in 2023 and 2024. Payments are expected to issue by October.

ACRES Donegal Progress Report

- As of the latest update, a total of **3,020 participants** are registered with ACRES Donegal.
- In **May and June 2025, mandatory advisor training** was successfully delivered to **58 advisors** by the **Donegal CP Team**, ensuring readiness for the current scoring season.
- The **scoring season** officially opened at the **start of June** and will continue until **31 August 2025**. The Donegal CP Team is making steady progress with the **scoring of commonages**, maintaining momentum in line with programme targets.



More information on the ACRES Co-operation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-agriculture-food-and-the-marine/campaigns/agri-climate-rural-environment-scheme-acres/>
www.acresdonegal.ie

Active Inishowen



Funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund, managed nationally by Sport Ireland and locally by Inishowen Development Partnership & Donegal Sports Partnership

Active Inishowen is a five-year initiative to promote walking and cycling participation across Inishowen, co-managed by IDP and DSP. It builds on the outdoor recreational needs identified through the EnVision Inishowen consultation series and the ongoing success of the Inishowen Walking Festival. These needs were further defined in the Active Inishowen Walking & Cycling Needs Analysis, developed in partnership with the project and published by Outscape in January.

The findings have guided the project's focus to date, including a review of trail networks, the rollout of training programmes, and targeted community activation across 10 local hubs. A strong partnership has been established with North West Community Development to support the upgrade of over 60km of trails to nationally recognised standards.

The project will look to deliver inclusive, low barrier walking and cycling programmes with trained Cycling Ireland Ride Leaders and a newly qualified team of Lowland Leaders through Mountaineering Ireland. These investments not only enable delivery during the project's lifespan but also build long-term local capacity and community leadership that will support active lifestyles well into the future.

Outcomes for 2024:

- Community-based engagement with each community hub, focusing on tailored support & funding use **19 community groups** and clubs engaged through one-to-one meetings for the Needs Analysis.
- **Public online survey launched**, supported through multiple Highland Radio interviews and digital campaigns.
- **Walking Football launched** with **Moville Family Resource Centre** and **Greencastle Resource Centre**
- Hosted **events during National Walking Day, Bike Week, Her Outdoor week** and supported **Green Schools walk weeks**.
- **Delivered Lowland Leader Introductory Training** in association with **Mountaineering Ireland** and **Bren Whelan of Donegal Climbing**.
- **Collaborated with North West Community Development** and **Jeremy Smith Trails and Mapping** to assess trails for national registration and marketing.
- **Supporting the promotion of new trails**, with groundwork laid for a Peninsula-wide trail launch and associated media marketing strategy
- Direct **input to new Greenway planning** discussions with local authorities (Quigley's Point-Carn & Carn-Buncrana).
- Developed initial focus hub actions for **new community walking & cycling initiatives** in Muff, Drumfries and Greencastle



"Step Into Inishowen – Walk It. Cycle It. Love It."

Funded by International Fund for Ireland

This is a wrap-around support programme offered to young people aged 16–25 who are not in full-time Education, Training, or Employment. Participants can self-refer or be referred by their old school, youth workers, family support worker or other support agency. The initial conversation with them (with them and their parents or guardians if under 18 years of age) focuses on their strengths and their world – where they are right now. Exploring what their interests are and what they want to do the Chance Projects creates a safe space and place for them to meet peers as well as plan a pathway for themselves with the coordinator.

In the past Chance participants have gone to train in areas such as car mechanics, security, early years, banking, etc. and have found work experience and jobs because of this. They continue to be supported until they are ready to move on.

This is a significant investment in a tailored wraparound Personal Development Programme by the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and Department of Foreign Affairs. IDP completed the 2nd cohort of CHANCE participants in August 2024 and successfully secured a further 2 years of funding for a 3rd cohort young people not in education, employment or training. Each cohort is for 18 young people aged from 16–25 years of age, and key partners are JIGSAW, DYS, Foróige, TUSLA, HSE and local schools.

Outcomes for 2024:

Currently, **28 participants** are actively engaged in the CHANCE Project

18 continuing from the **previous** phase and **6 new** additions.

- One participant successfully passed their driving test, achieving personal independence.
- Another is attending weekly personal training sessions, supporting both physical health & mental well-being.
- One participant has been accepted onto the PAVE Project, led by Inishowen Development Partnership, & will travel to Paris in November 2024.
- Several others have enrolled in new courses & training programs aligned with their personal & career goals, continuing to make steady progress with CHANCE's guidance.

Each participant receives tailored support, enabling meaningful growth in career readiness, personal development, & the exploration of individual interests within a nurturing environment.

- **28 young people** supported on their personal and professional journeys.
- **22 participants** completed Good Relations **training**, gaining greater understanding and respect for others,
- **28** received employment-related training tailored to their individual goals.
- **8 young people** successfully completed accredited training, resulting in a total of **22 new qualifications**
- The programme also provided valuable real-world experience, with **5 young people** completing work placements, gaining hands-on experience.
- **9 participants** have moved on to further education or training,
- **9 have already secured employment** a testament to their hard work.

Together, these outcomes paint a picture of transformation young people not only participating but thriving, better equipped for life, learning, and work.

Team: Eileen Hegarty (with Ava Bradley and Barry McLaughlin covering Maternity leave in 2024 supported by IDP team)

'To help young people build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience and make them more employable'

ChangeMakers Donegal



Funded by Irish Aid

ChangeMakers Donegal is a global education project committed to tackling local and global injustices. In partnership with Inishowen Development Partnership, Donegal ETB, Trócaire, Concern Worldwide, and Self Help Africa, we empower adults through workshops, accredited courses, and community initiatives. Our offerings include a Documentary Film Club (funded by Concern Worldwide), the Sustainability Passport Programme, and support through funding and mentoring. At our core, we aim to inspire meaningful action toward a fairer, more equal world.

ChangeMakers Donegal 2024 Impact Summary Outcomes:

- **Community Engagement: 16 groups** supported through Seeds of Change, linking local actions to global issues.
- **Reach:** Through community initiatives **701 adults** engaged directly, with a further **248** reached.
- **Workshops:** We held **11 sessions** on topics like hate & hope, sustainability, active citizenship, and social justice.
- **Sustainability Passport:** Certificates awarded to **12 individuals, 11 groups, 1 enterprise, & 2 businesses** for sustainability efforts.
- **Film Club:** Six Disappear Here events held with Concern Worldwide support; bursary awarded to filmmaker Caroline Harvey.
- **Fair Trade:** Awareness raised during Fairtrade Fortnight with activist Rafael Fonseca visiting Inishowen.
- **Community Dialogue:** Two Conversations Towards Action events empowered local problem-solving.
- **Accredited Learning:** Courses on global development and sustainability delivered with Donegal ETB.
- **Annual Seminar:** Featured Bernadette McAliskey, sparking vital dialogue on civil rights and advocacy.



Participants in the Environmental Sustainability Course in Carradonagh at Barrack Hill Town Park & Gardens, May 2024



Participants at the Disappear Here Film Club Six Inches of Soil screening were treated to local organic food grown and prepared by Bernard de Ceuster at Muineach Farm, Buncrana



Elizabeth Folake Fawibe took part in the ChangeMakers Donegal Active Citizenship and Voter Education course in May 2024



Bernadette McAliskey & Roisin O'Hara of Trócaire on stage at the 12th Annual ChangeMakers Donegal Seminar

Quotes shared by participants:

"We are different colours but we are still human. For that fact alone, I think we should treat each other with respect, with one-ness" Bookless Bookclub participant

"... if everyone does their bit, especially in developed countries, this will help globally." Environmental Sustainability Course participant

"The workshop helped us gain practical skills in sourcing fruit trees sustainably, preserving heritage varieties, boosting pollinators, and reducing food miles. One participant is now exploring the ACRES scheme for his smallholding and encouraging others to do the same."
— Seeds of Change participant, June 2024

ChangeMakers Donegal is a global education project committed to tackling local and global injustices.

Defective Concrete Blocks (DCB)



Funded by Donegal County Council

Donegal County Council, in its capacity as a Designated Local Authority, is responsible for administering the Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The statutory basis for the Enhanced Scheme and Donegal County Council's role as a Designated Local Authority is provided by the Remediation of Dwellings Damaged by the Use of Defective Concrete Blocks Act 2022. The core objective of the Enhanced Grant Scheme is to support homeowners whose properties have been affected by harmful materials, enabling them to carry out necessary remediation works. Two DCB Community Facilitators are employed by IDP due to demands for the service. They support and guide affected homeowners through the application process, including assistance accessing the necessary supporting documentation required, and facilitating access and signposting to other relevant support services.

Service Usage Statistics outcomes for 2024:

- Total Clients Engaged: **1,506** individuals reached out for the service.
- Most Common Age Group: The majority of users were between **50–69** years of age.
- Phone Call Appointments: A total of **1,453** phone consultations were conducted.
- One-to-One Clinic Appointments: There were **403** in-person clinic appointments.
- Referrals to Counselling Services: **147** homeowners were referred for counselling support.

Key Challenges Under the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme:

As the Enhanced Grant Scheme progresses, several critical issues have emerged that are significantly impacting applicants. These concerns span logistical, financial, and emotional dimensions, with many homeowners experiencing increased levels of stress and uncertainty.

- CBP Shortages: A lack of available Chartered Building Professionals to carry out required Building Condition Assessments (BCAs) is causing significant delays in scheme entry.
- Construction Delays: Both CBPs and builders are operating at full capacity, with some applicants facing waiting lists of over a year to begin works—well beyond the scheme's 78-week commencement requirement.
- Builder Availability and Cost Issues: There is a two-year wait with many builders, and applicants report difficulties sourcing builders willing to complete works within the government's grant limits.
- Financial Barriers: Upfront costs such as the BCA report, along with overall project expenses, are creating hardship—especially for low-income families and pensioners unable to secure loans.
- Financial Barriers: Upfront costs such as the BCA report, along with overall project expenses, are creating hardship—especially for low-income families and pensioners unable to secure loans.
- Foundations Not Covered: The scheme's exclusion of foundation replacement is creating uncertainty around mortgageability and insurance, adding to applicant anxiety.
- Lack of Temporary Accommodation: There is a shortage of suitable temporary housing, particularly in rural areas like Inishowen, disproportionately affecting older individuals and families with additional needs.
- Emotional & Mental Health Impact: Stress and confusion are growing among applicants, reflected in rising referrals for counselling and a general decline in morale. Feelings of guilt are also common among those at different stages of the remediation process.

Embrace Project

Funded by International Fund for Ireland



EMBRACE is a cross-border cultural collaboration programme developed by the North West Cultural Partnership in partnership with the Inishowen Development Partnership. Funded by the International Fund for Ireland, this initiative aims to build meaningful and lasting connections between communities on both sides of the border through creative engagement. The project primarily uses culture, arts, and dialogue to create a space for participants to deepen their understanding of the past, while more importantly setting a path for the future. The project provides creative, innovative, and exciting opportunities to develop effective and meaningful relationships across border communities, allowing participants from both sides of the border to engage and feel empowered. We are creating a legacy of North-South collaboration and understanding across a range of demographics, through cultural workshops, talent development and dialogue and discussion.

Outcomes for 2024:

By December 2024, EMBRACE had engaged **over 3,000 participants** in cross-border cultural activities, highlighting its strong impact in fostering connection, understanding, and collaboration between communities.

Participant Evaluation Comment

"A good mix of shared and different cultures – lets have more"

"I really enjoyed it, I don't attend many events like this but I found it really enjoyable and informative."

"The creativity and quality was excellent and the number of young people included in such a high quality performance was something else."

"A highlight for me was the blend of traditions and explanations of how things come to be."



Inishowen Family Action Network (IFAN)



IFAN is an Inishowen wide network acting as the local network for TUSLA, the HSE and Donegal County Council for Inishowen. Active collaborative network with a range of priority/gaps sub-groups such as Community Health Forum, DCB/MICA Supports and Integration and connecting Communities.

Inishowen Family Action Network (IFAN) was set up in 2007 in response to research commissioned by the HSE and carried out with children, young people, their families and the agencies and organisations supporting them across Inishowen. This identified a need for a more collaborative approach to supporting families in all spheres of their lives. The aim is to create an environment for a joined up and integrated approach to supporting parents and those in parenting roles, children, and young people living in Inishowen. IDP hosts this network made up of 120 members who are working with and for children, young people, parents and families across Inishowen. Members are circulated a collated activities link each month on all things happening across IFAN Members and on posts and notices relevant to Inishowen.

Hosted by Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP), IFAN demonstrates a high level of interagency working and meaningful collaboration. IFAN is currently the host for the Child and Family Support Network (CFSN) under TUSLA Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS), Sláintecare Healthy Communities in Inishowen, DCB/MICA supports and Connecting Communities as well as the Community Health Forum and linking with the HSE Community Healthcare Network in the area. IFAN is an open and welcoming network of stakeholders and service providers in the Inishowen Peninsula.



IDP IFAN Team:

Patricia Lee

Team Lead, Resilience & Well-being

Claire Doherty

Administrator, Resilience & Well-being

Denise McCool

Team Lead, Community Development & Environment

Rachel Grant

Administrator & Project Support, Community Development

IFAN is a collaborative network of over **30 active members** and **100+ contacts** from community, voluntary, statutory, education, and youth sectors, working to support children, young people, families, and the wider community in Inishowen.

Led by IDP (Chair, admin, & communications)

Key Activities:

- **MICA Support Subgroup** (since 2021) for affected families
- **Seminars** on topics like childhood anxiety & mental health
- **Training Coordination** (e.g. Rainbows, SHCP, Community Resilience)
- **Newcomer Integration Subgroup** (est. 2024) supporting refugees & asylum seekers

The success of IFAN is driven by strong collaboration, targeted and evidence-based approaches, and coordinated action across sectors. This joined-up, synergistic model has significantly amplified its impact to date.

Together, this team works to strengthen collaboration, drive targeted initiatives, and enhance the wellbeing of children, families, and communities across Inishowen

IDP Green Initiatives



Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) is actively implementing changes within its workplace to become more environmentally aware and sustainable. These initiatives reflect IDP's commitment to reducing its environmental footprint and promoting eco-friendly practices both internally and within the wider community. IDP is adopting a range of green strategies, such as improving energy efficiency, minimising waste, increasing recycling efforts, and encouraging staff to use sustainable transport options. Additionally, IDP is integrating environmental awareness into its workplace culture through training, policy updates, and day-to-day operations. These steps not only contribute to a healthier planet but also serve as a model for other local organisations and businesses striving to make a positive environmental impact.

Outcomes for 2024:



- IN MAY the IDP Green Team invited Seamus McLaughlin of **Buncrana Tidy Towns Initiative** into our office **for a lunch-time chat with staff** about the work they do, how we can support them and **what we can do to make small changes** ourselves to help improve the environment. Seamus talked about the work carried out by Buncrana Tidy Towns with our ChangeMakers Donegal Sustainability Passport.
- Green Team members took part in our **5-week QQI Level 4 in Environmental Sustainability course** in Barrack Hill in Carndonagh . The course aimed to raise awareness of the impacts of environmental change and key sustainable practices that can be implemented at individual and community level. It was held in collaboration with Change Makers Donegal and Donegal ETB
- In June IDP's Green Team, in collaboration with the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) CHANCE Project, began the task of revamping our Buncrana office entrance. The Green Team along with CHANCE participants **focused on creating biodiversity friendly areas around our building.**
- Our stunning **planters were custom made for us using all recycled wood by the team at Moville Men's Shed.** Thanks also to our colleagues at ECO Inishowen, Buncrana Tidy Towns Initiative and Change Makers Donegal for supporting us in this project. Guidance and advice also provided by participants on the QQI Level 4 Environmental Sustainability Awareness course.

Small changes in our day-to-day activities make an impact: food waste bins have been added to our kitchen and tea/coffee areas, paper towels in the staff toilets have been replaced by real towels & liquid soap containers are refilled rather than replaced. All procurement & purchasing includes environmental & ethical considerations.

IDP Resilience & Wellbeing Initiatives

Funded by

IDP coordinates the development and delivery of targeted supports to communities, families, children and young people in collaboration with our funders and IFAN partners. In many cases these are piloted or offered through IDP because they are not available through mainstream providers.

TUSLA PPFS

In 2024, TUSLA PPFS funded over €50,000 to provide family support across Inishowen through part-time Family Support Workers (FSWs), IFAN collaborations & coordination of Rainbows group sessions for children experiencing bereavement or parental separation, delivered in partnership with local schools & community groups. Toward

the end of 2024, IDP advocated transferring one-to-one family support to Springboard under Donegal Parent and Family Support Services (DPFSS) to better address complex needs, ensuring the resource remained in Inishowen. TUSLA will continue supporting Rainbows and IFAN coordination through the CFSN into 2025.

Pilots and one-off initiatives:

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP) – Donegal County Council Seed Funding – **Waste & Preservation / Air Fryer – Healthy Eating on a Budget**

- Funding: **€10,000** secured in 2024
- Participants: **50** to be supported into 2025

Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine – Farm Safety Call 2024 – **Fit4FarmLife**

- Funding: **€22,000**
- **Participants: 58** directly engaged
- Outreach: **150 attendees** at final Health & Wellbeing **event**, sharing key messages on self-care, health checks, and safety toolkits

- HSE National Lottery Funding – **Teen Nutrition: Mood and Food**

Targeted at young people (ages 16–18), focusing on the impact of diet on mental health.

- **Participants: 16**

Key Collaborations:

- **Donegal CYPSC:** 2024 children's needs analysis; Inishowen rep on multiple sub-committees.
- **School Completion Programme:** Community rep on local committees; data support for schools.
- **Donegal Peace Partnership:** Secured 2-year PEACEPLUS funding for 2025–27 health initiative.
- **LDCN Staff Fora:** National health & well-being support across 49 Local Development Companies.

S-Team

An 8-week support space for siblings of children with special needs, offering self-care and relaxation.

- Participants: **10** (ages 10–12)

Community Lunch (Strand 2 link)

Promoted social connection and integration for residents in IPAS centres.

- Participants: **18** across two community gatherings

These initiatives demonstrate IDP's ongoing commitment to community wellbeing, with over **€47,425 secured in 2024** to support a diverse range of participants through targeted, inclusive, and innovative health and wellbeing interventions.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme

- Participates in quarterly HSE-led SHCP partner meetings and Donegal Food Equality Forum (2024).
- IDP serves as Rural LDCN rep on Dept. of Health's National Evaluation Steering Group (RCSI-led).
- Hosts pilot of HSE's COMPASS ARC GIS Data system (2024–2025 rollout).
- Preparing data to pilot S3 Solutions' Impact Ready system with two SHCP programmes into 2025.

New Communities



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

Funded by the Department of Community, Disability, Equality, Integration and Youth

The New Communities in Inishowen are composed of IPAs (international protection applicants), BOTPs (Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection), other refugees and general migrants. Since February 2024, IDP's Connecting Communities team, have worked with other providers to ensure that all new communities have access to training, wellbeing, recreational, work, volunteering and other opportunities.

Outcomes for 2024:

Employment Support:

- support was provided to **160 International Protection Applicants** (IPAs) residing in Buncrana. This included a wide range of individual interventions tailored to meet personal needs
- **17 individuals** enrolled in a driver licensing programme starting October 2024.
- **23** attended employment support workshops

Training Supports:

- **32** IPAs attended the ETB Further Education & Training Fair
- **4** IPAs completed Red Cross First Aid Training
- **17 IPAs & 15 BoTPs** completed Manual Handling; **17 IPAs & 13 BoTPs** completed Basic First Aid.
- **20 (19 IPAs, 1 BoTP)** completed Safe Pass training.
- **11 IPAs** attended an ETB info session.
- **22 IPAs** participated in English classes at Colgan Hall.
- **21** attended the "Understanding Cultures" course (13 IPAs, 2 community, 6 staff incl. 2 BoTPs).
- **19** organisations (10 community, 9 statutory) took part in International Protection Awareness training.

Integration, Association and Recreation

- **90+** IPAs attended Africa Day in Letterkenny
- **29** IPAs visited Glenveagh National Park
- **29** IPA women took part in International Women's Day
- **8–10** (mostly IPAs) joined weekly board game sessions at Buncrana Library
- **10–15** attended monthly IPA lunch clubs

Health & Wellbeing

- **32** IPAs attended two wellbeing workshops/lunch clubs

Volunteering

- **31** IPAs volunteered with Inishowen Rivers Trust
- **32** IPAs attended a volunteer prep workshop
- **72 attendees** (IPAs, BoTPs, locals) joined the IDP Volunteer Fair in July; **40+** attended the Oct follow-up celebration
- **12** IPAs completed Sports Coach training



New Communities foster fresh opportunities for connection, innovation, and inclusivity by bringing people together around shared goals and values.

PAVE Project



Funded by European Commission – Erasmus+

The PAVE Project is dedicated to fostering peace, intercultural dialogue, and volunteerism among young people in the European Union. Through peace education and hands-on experiences, PAVE aims to raise awareness about the importance of peaceful relations among nations, communities, and individuals. By connecting European youth with the realities of conflicts, past and present, such as those in Ukraine, Northern Ireland, and the Balkans, the project encourages a deeper understanding of conflict consequences and a sense of European solidarity.

Outcomes for 2024:

The PAVE Project engages youth through two main initiatives:

International Peace Academy

- A **7-day** immersive program focused on peace education, dialogue, and conflict resolution.

International Volunteering Program

- Involving **96 young people** in week-long volunteer placements in conflict-affected communities.

Participating Countries:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Ireland, Poland, Spain, and Ukraine.

- The closing conference in Paris in November 2024 gathered participants, partners and stakeholders to discuss project outcomes, lessons learned and future applications leading to a more peaceful Europe. Local young people were given the opportunity to travel to Paris along with IDP staff to participate in this final conference.
- The conference highlighted increased awareness and empathy of participants of PAVE activities and fostered further networking of the PAVE community of interest.



The PAVE Project strengthens youth engagement in peace efforts and promotes a shared sense of responsibility and solidarity across Europe.

Funded by HSE and Department of Health

Sláintecare is the HSE and Department of Health's national plan to reform Ireland's health and social care system. Its goal is to create a universal, single-tier health service where care is based on need, not ability to pay. The focus is on providing timely, appropriate care in the right setting, especially within communities and homes, to reduce reliance on hospitals. To support this, six new regional health areas are being developed to deliver integrated care tailored to local needs.

Programme outcomes for 2024:

SHCP – Community Food and Nutrition Workplan for Inishowen:

Community Food and Nutrition Work (CFNW)

Focus:

Coordinating & developing innovative programmes promoting community food & nutrition across Inishowen.

Key Activities:

- Annual CFNW Workplan guides initiatives on food access, nutrition, and education.
- Example programmes:
 - **Air fryer cooking courses**
 - **Food waste & preservation workshops**
 - **Research into food inequality**

SHCP Healthy Food Made Easy (HFME):

A 6-week nutrition and cooking programme helping people eat healthily on a budget.

Programme Details:

- Duration: 6 weeks (2 hours per week)
- Locations: Delivered across 14 Inishowen communities
- Partners: Hosted in venues provided by local community partners
- Support: Includes a session with a HSE dietitian in week 5
- Coordination: Supported by the HSE Dietetics Department

2024 Impact:

- **14 programmes delivered**
- **149 participants engaged**
- Focus on practical, affordable healthy cooking skills

Targeted Pilot Programmes:

- Fit4FarmLife & TransFarmation: Designed to support isolated farmers, focusing on being Fit, Safe & Well. **58** farmers engaged. with **150** attending the final event.

Collaboration & Partnerships:

Key partners include:

- HSE Health Promotion & Improvement
- Donegal County Council
- DLDC-led Donegal Food Response Network
- 40+ local and regional partners

Funding & Support:

- Supported by SHCP Seed Funding from Donegal County Council.
- 2024 highlight: TransFarmation Programme (Strand 1) with **12 participants**.

SHCP Social Prescribing (SP)

A free one-to-one support service that begins with a personal conversation about what's going well – and what's not – to guide individuals toward local activities that support health and wellbeing.

Key Stats:

- **133 individuals** supported one-to-one
- 60 linked into group activities

Who It's For:

People feeling isolated, experiencing life changes (e.g. bereavement, redundancy), new to the area, carers, or living with anxiety or a recent diagnosis.

Access:

- Free of charge
- Self-referral or referred by GPs, CMHNS, OTs, Physios, family, or others

Goal:

To improve health & wellbeing by building social connections & encouraging community engagement.

SláinteCare

Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP) in Inishowen

Funded by HSE and Department of Health



SHCP Parenting Support (PP):

- Parents Plus Healthy Families Workshops & a range of Parents Plus programmes **supported 65 parents** through 6–8 week programmes (2 hours per week), focusing on parenting skills.
- **10 one-off Parenting Support Workshops** were delivered in 2024, engaging **226 attendees**. Topics included self-care, sleep, nutrition, mental health, communication in complex family settings, and managing technology use at home.

SHCP We Can Quit Smoking Cessation (WCQ):

A free, 8-week group programme for those ready to quit smoking, delivered in North & South Inishowen.

- **3 programmes** delivered
- **26 people** quit smoking
- **10 partners** involved in wrap-around support

Support Includes:

- Weekly group sessions
- One-to-one support
- Mental health tips, health checks, nutrition advice
- Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)
- Co-facilitated by trained community leaders to guide participants through their quitting journey.

RESILIENCE, HEALTH & WELLBEING – Sláintecare Healthy Communities Inishowen



We Can Quit Smoking Cessation – helping people to quit smoking with the support of community facilitators, group sessions and free Nicotine Replacement Therapy. You can also avail of 1-1 support with a Stop Smoking Advisor.



Healthy Food Made Easy – a nutrition and cookery course that helps people to change to a healthy diet, plan meals on a budget and make easy to cook meals. There are also opportunities to look at minimizing food waste.



Parents Plus Programmes – positive, proven parenting programmes, effective for parents of children up to the age of 12 years. Groups provide practical tips to help parents with the ups and downs of rearing children.



Social Prescribing – linking people into community activities and services to improve mental health and wellbeing. Individuals receive one-to-one support from our Social Prescribing Link Worker who will reach out for the most suitable community-based support.



€206,344

SHCP Budget in 2024



Activity/Programmes	Details	Partners
Community Food and Nutrition Workplan	Partner Meetings and Gatherings of Dietitians, CF&N Workers and HSE Teams	40
Healthy Food Made Easy Programmes	14 programmes running for 6 weeks each x 2 delivery hours engaging 149 participants	20
Social Prescribing	One-to-One supports and creating space for connecting - 133 individuals and 12 group activities involving 60 participants	10
WCQ programmes	3 programmes delivered over 8 weeks with nutrition, health and MH supports for 26 smokers who set a quit date	9
Parenting Programmes	7 programmes running for 6-8 weeks x 2 delivery hours each engaging 65 parents	14
Parent Support Workshops	10 one off Workshops and Talks engaging 226 attendees	7

IDP Board Commitment

"The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring that the highest standards are pursued and maintained in the governance and administration of all public monies received, including SICAP & LEADER funding."

- Across **9 board meetings**, members contributed a total of **354 voluntary hours**.
- This significant time investment reflects not only a deep commitment to governance and strategic oversight, but also enabled critical decision making, strengthened organisational accountability, and supported the delivery of key community initiatives. The voluntary nature of these contributions highlights the dedication of board members to the mission and long-term sustainability of the organisation."
- Our board is a powerful mix of experience and community insight – from social enterprise leaders and educators to farmers, healthcare managers, union organizers, and local business owners.
- With representation from sectors such as education, agriculture, industry, healthcare, and public service, each member brings a unique perspective to the table. This diversity ensures well-rounded, informed decisions that reflect the real needs of our community.

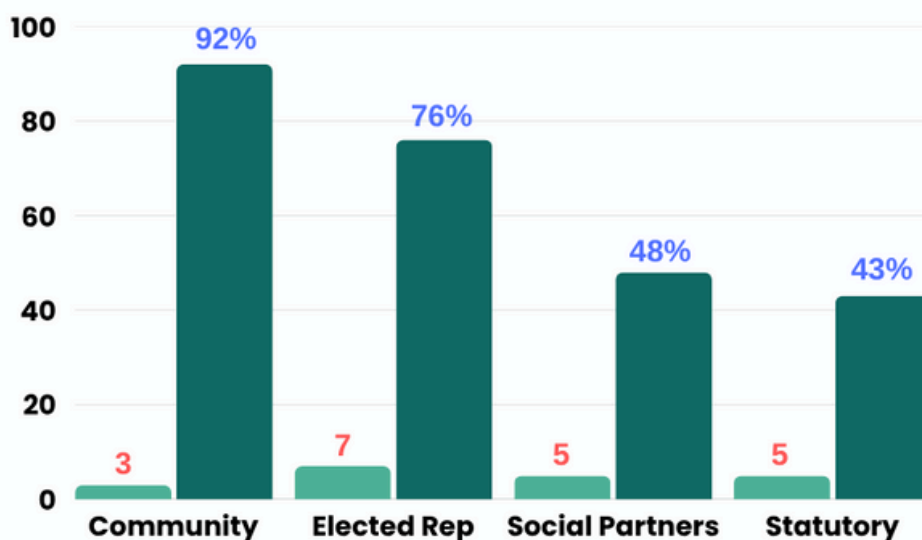
Board Participation in 2024:

The below chart highlights the level of engagement across the different representatives who are directors on the IDP Board.

Community members demonstrated the highest participation rate at **92%**, reflecting strong grassroots involvement.

Elected representatives followed with **76%**, showing solid civic engagement. **Social Partners** participated at **48%**, while **Statutory representatives** had a **43%** participation rate. These figures indicate a broad base of input, with particularly strong representation from the community sector.

Board Participation

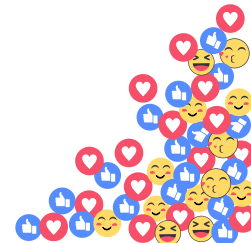


■ number of members on Board from each representative.

■ represents % of members in attendance at meetings from each representative.

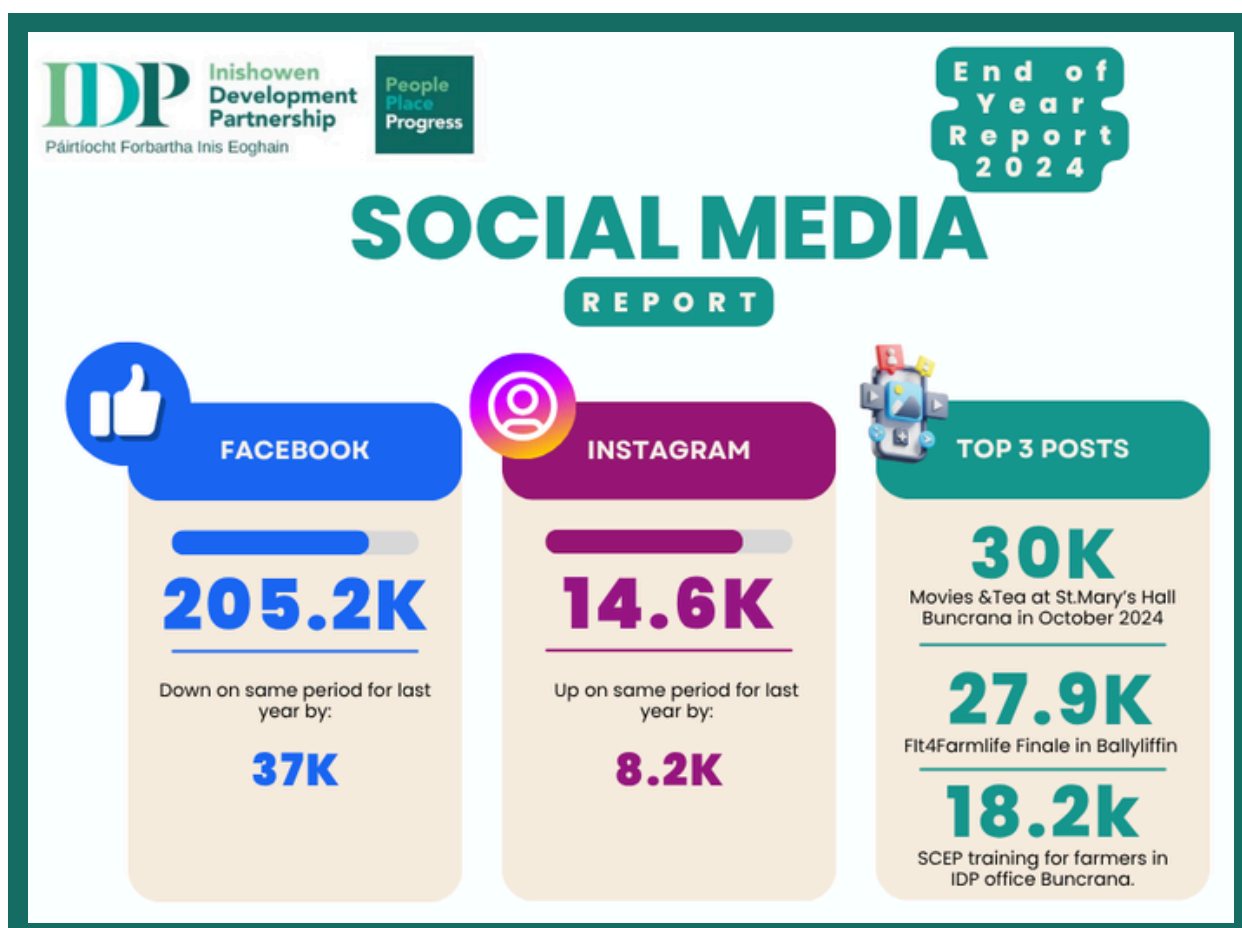
This is not just a board. It is a reflection of the community we serve — resilient, collaborative, and committed to positive change.

IDP Social Media Reach



Inishowen Development Partnership uses social media as a tool to quickly and effectively share our message, engage with the community, and raise awareness about our programs and events.

- Over the past year, Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) has seen a remarkable growth in its social media presence, reflecting the strong engagement of the local community with its events and initiatives. On **Facebook**, the follower count reached an impressive **205,000**, while **Instagram** followers grew significantly to **14,600** an increase of 8,200 from the previous year. This surge highlights the growing interest and active participation in IDP's programs.
- Among the many posts shared, three stood out as the most popular, drawing the highest levels of interaction and reach. The event **"Movies & Tea"** at St. Mary's Hall, Buncrana held in October 2024 captured the community's attention the most, with a staggering **30,000 engagements**. This cozy and inviting gathering successfully brought people together, combining entertainment with social connection.
- Close behind was the **"Fit4FarmLife"** Finale event in Ballyliffin, which garnered **27,900 interactions**. This event celebrated the culmination of a wellness program tailored for the farming community, emphasizing physical and mental health in rural life—a topic that clearly resonated deeply with followers.
- Lastly, the **"SCEP Training for Farmers"** in Buncrana attracted **18,200 engagements**. This practical and educational initiative supported local farmers in enhancing their skills and sustainable practices, reinforcing IDP's commitment to community development and environmental stewardship.
- These figures demonstrate not only the effectiveness of IDP's outreach through social media but also the community's enthusiasm for events that foster learning, wellness, and connection.



Social media helps us spread our message wider, engage deeper, and create real community impact.

Our Funders

We acknowledge all our stakeholders, board members and our funders whose work in partnership make us who we are.



We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute local communities in Inishowen.

Contact

Inishowen Development Partnership

St. Mary's Road, Buncrana, Inishowen, Co. Donegal, F93 PW61
Pound Street, Carndonagh, Inishowen, Co. Donegal, F93 TCX2

Buncrana: 074 93 62218 – enquiries@inishowen.ie

Carndonagh: 074 93 73083 – info@inishowen.ie

www.inishowen.ie

Inishowen Development Partnership | EOY Report 2024


Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-Funded by the
European Union



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027.



Registered Charity No: 20067786

CO. Reg. 447893

CHY17949

