



ANNUAL REPORT

2024



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without the support of our funders, our board, partners and staff, we would not be in a position to shoulder the extent and scale of work outlined in this report, nor would we be able to achieve the significant positive outcomes experienced by the people we serve.

The mix of projects funded and the complementary nature of the work undertaken has made a significant impact and a positive difference in the lives of so many of the communities that we serve.



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Arna chomhchistiú ag an Roinn Forbatha Tuaithe agus Pobail
Co-funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration



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Tuaithe**
Our Rural
Future



**Healthy
Limerick**



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Luimnígh
Limerick Local Community Development
Committee





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ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Office West Limerick Resources CLG
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ABOUT US



our history

A stronger, vibrant and inclusive West Limerick community with enhanced personal and community identity, values, opportunities, structures, services, facilities, health and sustainability.

our mission & vision

West Limerick Resources is the community development organisation that works to achieve positive change in the lives of people and groups in West Limerick.



FOREWORD

As we reflect on 2024, we are proud to present this Annual Report, which captures the breadth and depth of the work carried out by West Limerick Resources across our communities. This year has been one of both progress and poignancy.

Our programmes have continued to deliver meaningful impact—from employment services and healthcare initiatives to community development and social inclusion. These achievements are a testament to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, and the communities we serve. Their commitment to building a more inclusive, resilient, and vibrant West Limerick is evident on every page of this report.

However, 2024 was also marked by profound loss. We mourn the passing of Pat Brennan, our former Chairperson, whose leadership and vision helped shape the direction of West Limerick Resources for many years. Pat's unwavering belief in community empowerment and social justice left an indelible mark on our organisation and on all who had the privilege to work with him.

We also remember Denis Robinson, Coordinator of Rathkeale Together, whose sudden passing in October deeply affected us all. Denis brought compassion, creativity, and a deep sense of purpose to his work. His efforts to foster reconciliation and inclusion in Rathkeale were both courageous and inspiring. His legacy lives on in the initiatives he helped build and the lives he touched.

As we move forward, we do so with renewed determination to honour their memory through our continued work. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Board of Directors, staff, funders, and community partners for their support throughout the year.

Together, we remain committed to building a stronger West Limerick—one rooted in respect, opportunity, and shared community.

Sean Lavery
Chairperson

Shay Riordan
CEO



IN MEMORIUM



The staff and Board of Directors were all deeply saddened by the untimely passing of our former Chairman of the Board at West Limerick Resources on the 18th June 2024.

Pat was the Newcastle West Representative on the Board nominated by Newcastle West Community Council. He had a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to his local Newcastle West and wider West Limerick Community. His dedication, jovial and calm nature made him a pleasure to work with both as staff across the organisation and with the Board.

We were fortunate to have had the pleasure of his company for many years, and his contribution to the Company will always be remembered.

Local Area Employment Service - LAES

The Mid-West Local Area Employment Service is a 52 week activation programme. LAES aims to improve clients employment prospects offering training, upskilling and development opportunities.

LAES Service plays a key role in liaising with local employers offering job vacancies. Access to the service is via DSP. Clients will include individuals who are long term unemployed. LAES clients will have follow up appointments every month to review their Personal Progression Plan.

Milestones and Quarterly Reviews

LAES clients have appointments scheduled every 20 days with their employment case officers to explore training opportunities, update their CV or apply for online job vacancies. The initial Personal Progression Plan is reviewed and updated on a quarterly basis.

Total Client Appointment for 2024	1662
Milestone: Initial 1:1 Appointments	107
Milestones: Personal Progression Plan (PPP)	107
Quarterly Reviews	320
Follow On Appointments	1083
Exit Interviews	103
Referrals from DSP	118

Training

January: 2 Clients successfully completed a Mental Health and Wellbeing Course online.

February: 7 Clients completed a Manual Handling Course conducted by Training Officer Caroline Kennedy.

March: 10 Clients completed Manual Handling Course and 4 Clients completed HACCP Training.

May: 1 Client completed the Safe Pass Course with Amber Safety and 8 Clients completed Interview Training Course.

June: 3 Clients completed Discovery Skills Training Course conducted by Training Officer, Caroline Kennedy.

July: 12 Clients completed Discovery Skills Training Course conducted by Training Officer Caroline Kennedy.

Local Area Employment Service - LAES

September: Clients began studies in the following areas:

- Data Analytics with Spring Board
- Care of the Elderly with FET
- Addiction Studies Degree Course in Maynooth

6 Clients referred to the Construction Skills Course held in the Desmond Complex by the SICAP team. 4 LAES Clients attended.

October: - 4 Clients attended Aptitude and Dexterity Training. 7 LAES and 1 SICAP clients attended Manual Handling Course. 4 LAES Clients and 1 SICAP client attended HACCP Training.

November: 1 Client successfully completed a Safe Pass Course.

December: 1 Client completed a Safe Pass Course

2024 Progressions

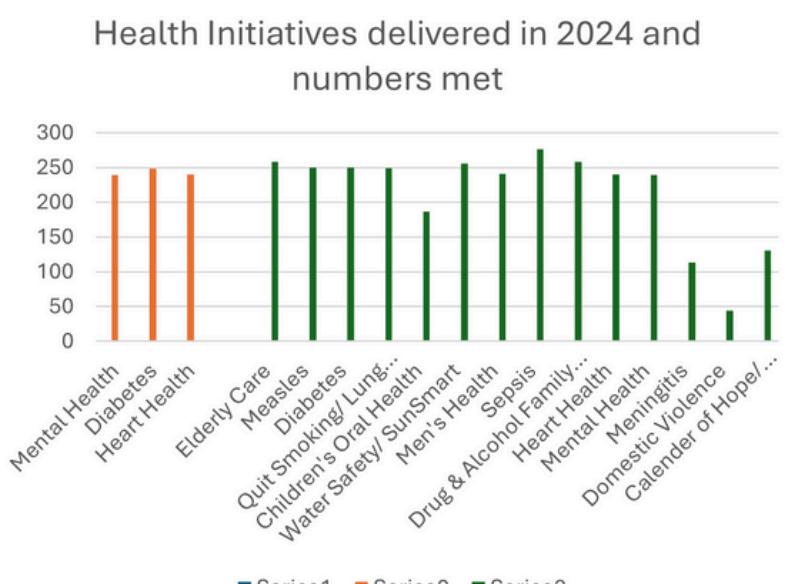
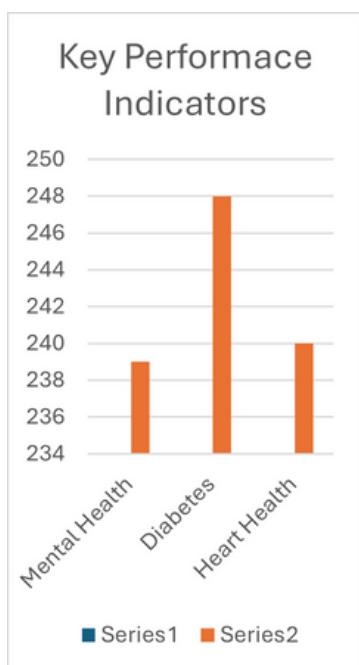
- Assisted Clients with online Website Indeed.ie
- Helped Clients with filling out application forms
- Assisted Clients to register with Jobs Ireland
- Assisted Clients to navigate through the FETCH Website (ETB Courses)

Full Time Employment	16
Community Employment Placements	6
TUS Participants	5
Enterprise Referrals	2
Self Employed	0
Work Place Experience Programme (WPEP)	2

West Limerick Primary Healthcare Project for Travellers

The West Limerick Primary Health Care Project (PHCP) for Travellers was established in September 2010. It is funded by the Traveller Health Unit in the HSE. The West Limerick PHCP for Travellers aims to improve the health status and quality of life for Travellers in the West Limerick area. The project works in line with the West Limerick Resources Strategic Plan, the National Traveller Health Action Plan 2022-2027, and other National Health Policies. As well as this representatives from the PHCP are members of regional networking groups such as the Chronic Disease subgroup, the Traveller Accommodation subgroup and the Drug and Alcohol Network to name a few. This gives the project an opportunity to advocate for the health needs of Travellers and work alongside mainstream health services to ensure Traveller voices are heard.

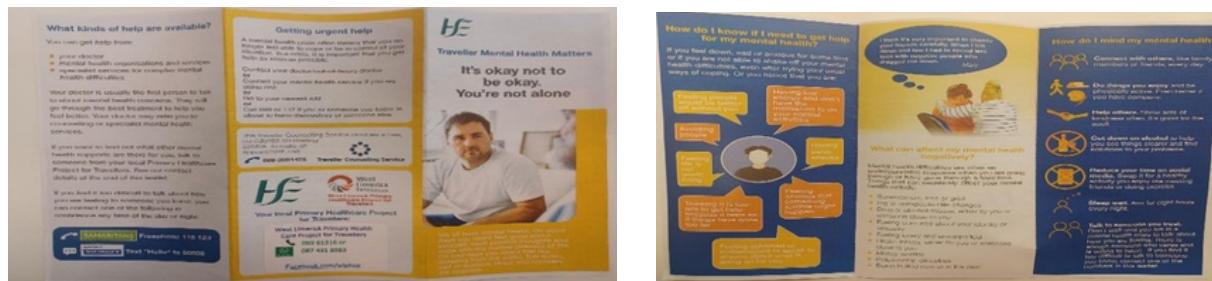
The Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for the project, respond in particular to the priority health issues identified by the All-Ireland Traveller Health Study. As shown in the chart below the PHCP exceeded this target significantly in 2023. The second chart demonstrates the health initiatives delivered by the Project Staff in line with the 2024 Annual Plan and numbers of individuals met.



West Limerick Primary Healthcare Project for Travellers

Key achievements: The Calendar of Hope

The PHCP spent a lot of time planning and producing Mental Health Calendars. These calendars contained local imagery across the 5 areas covered by the PHCP, quotes selected by the Traveller Community and finally tips on how to mind Mental Health and contact details for relevant support services. They will be given out to over 250 Traveller households by the end of January 2025. New Mental Health leaflet co-produced between the PCHP continue to work alongside the Mental Health Service Co- Ordinator for Travellers.



Final highlights: Christopher Bailey- Arts and Health Lead for The World Health Organisation visited our cushion making course during a visit to Ireland resulting in Christopher speaking about the WLPCHP on the Pat Kenny Radio Show.

Total contacts for year: 3243

Facebook: Page grew from 741 Followers in December 2023 to 792 in December 2024.

Group work: Cushion Making, Mental Health Programme, Men's Gym Programme. Heart Health Event and Walking Programme with colleagues in Rathkeale Together, Story telling in Abbeyfeale library with SICAP colleagues.

Staff training: 7-week Health Promotion Course, Manual Handling, First Aid, Children's First and Domestic Violence Training. Monthly training also provided from relevant health professionals in line with Annual Plan and roll out of initiatives.

LEADER

LEADER 2017-2022 Programme Close out

The first half of 2024 focused on closing out remaining claims under the LEADER 2017 to 2022 Programme. The below table provides a summary of the overall approvals and claims processed under the programme. While most sub-themes show LEADER Grant Amount remaining, in most cases this is as a result of a decommitment (project coming in under budget) or a project not proceeding. Only one project remains that is yet to submit a claim. It is hoped that this will close out in Summer 2025.

Sub-Theme	LEADER Grant Amount	LEADER Grant Amount Paid	LEADER Grant Amount Remaining
Enterprise Development	€602,411.48	€545,686.86	Decommitment of €6267.36
Tourism	€687,488.69	€603,469.18	Decommitment of €9,588.94. Remaining difference already reallocated
Rural Towns	€845,719.51	€845,704.87	Decommitment of €14.64
Broadband	€51,339.74	€48,748.63	Decommitment of €0.03.
Basic Services for hard-to-reach communities	€1,784,020.32	€1,318,651.41	Decommitment of €464,060.73
Rural Youth	€402,584.99	€400,557.87	Decommitment of €0.01. Remaining difference already reallocated
Local Biodiversity	€304,176.71	€300,057.88	Decommitment of €74.99. Remaining difference already reallocated
Water Resources	€6,324.78	€6,324.78	€0.00
Renewable Energy	€135,940.13	€129,298.13	Decommitment of €6,642
Cooperation Projects	€455,161.25	€450,600.84	Decommitment of €4560.41
Food	€707,509.23	€506,442.02	€128,536.53 – one project still to drawdown (Decommitment of €70,327.79)

Case Study



Project Title: EURI Sensory Area of Carrigkerry Playground

Promoter: Athea Carrigkerry Old Mill Development Association

Sub-Theme: Rural Youth

Description: The Promoter, Athea Carrigkerry Old Mill Development Association, through the assistance of LEADER funding developed a playground which was opened to the public in 2022. Visitors to the playground had expressed their delight with the current facilities however they also identified the need for a specific area for autistic children.

The promoter planned the development having consulted with the public as well as the local school autistic unit. The plan included a specific autism friendly area which would mostly involve touch and sound through the addition of flowers, colour and sound items such as bells.

LEADER

Beneficiaries included the current users of the playground, their families and the wider neighbouring communities who could also visit regularly, particularly any children with sensory needs.

With the assistance of LEADER funding, groundworks, fencing, laying of concrete and soft surface, landscaping, installation of chimes, mirrors, trampoline, planting, benches and seating were completed to develop the new sensory area. The sensory area has given a safe and suitable space to children who cannot fully enjoy the playground particularly autistic children. Total Grant Drawn down €29,900.15

Launch of LEADER 2023 to 2027



On February 27th 2024, Limerick LCDC was informed by the Department that the Local Development Strategy (LDS) they submitted in partnership with West Limerick Resources had been selected by the Independent Selection Committee as the successful LDS in respect of the Limerick sub-regional area, covering both East and West of the County. The second half of 2024 focused on launching this new 2023 to 2027 LEADER Programme. Operating procedures were put in place and proposed local policies for LEADER 2023 to 2027 were finalised,

presented and approved at the September LAG meeting, providing more clarity as to the types of supports that will be available locally under the new programme. The LAG also approved the commencement of the programme with a single targeted call for applications covering all programme sub-themes. 70% of the total programme value is included in this call. Those wishing to apply under this call were required to submit an Expression of Interest by December 16th, 2024, with full applications from eligible projects due April 30th 2025. Targeted calls allow for comparative assessment of projects and secure equal opportunities for potential applicants.



An official launch Information Session took place in Woodlands House Hotel Adare, October 3rd 2024 with an estimated attendance of approximately 180 people. The night included a presentation on the new programme and offered attendees the opportunity to register for a geographic clinic. Initially 10 geographic clinics were held across the county during October with 2 additional clinics held in East Limerick in November. By the closing date for EOI on December 16th, 163 EOIs were received. Total Estimated Value is €13.4million. Available budget under the current call is €3.6million.

Rural Social Scheme

The Rural Social Scheme (RSS), administered by West Limerick Resources, provides financial support offering part time employment to low income farmers who are on a long term social welfare payment. Scheme participants provide assistance in their local communities by working 19.5 hours each week in projects such walking / cycle trails, village enhancement, community / sports centres, care for the elderly and not for profit organisations.

The type of work carried out by RSS participants

- maintaining & enhancing greenways and agreed walks
- village & countryside enhancement projects
- social care & care of the elderly, community care for both pre-school and after-school
- environmental maintenance work – maintenance and caretaking of graveyards, community and sporting facilities
- projects relating to not for profit cultural and heritage centres
- community administration/clerical duties
- any other appropriate community projects

KEY STATISTICS FOR 2024 - ALLOCATION OF 50 PLACES

33 Participants on the RSS

7 Participants left the RSS in 2024 (5 retirements)

3 New participants joined the scheme in 2023

**Total figure for payroll
2024 - €571, 939.34**

31 Community Organisations availed of regular RSS assistance (we had **29** for 2023 so this includes Gerald Griffins & NCW Town FC)

The RSS participants would assist with many other organisations throughout the year. Examples of these would include Rathfredagh Cheshire Fete, Adare and Rathkeale parades, graveyard in Adare and Brothers of Charity.

Rural Social Scheme

The photos below are some of our retirees and workers during 2024.



Emmett O'Connor –
Ballyhahill



Willie Broderick – Glin



Seamus Collum –
Knockaderry



William Quirke –
Abbeyfeale
Coursing Club

RSS Breakfast Meeting

The RSS had two breakfast meetings during the year. One in April and the second in October. At the April meeting we did 95% of our renewal documentation and at the October meeting we had a talk from Teagasc. Many subjects were covered such as ACRES and the native wild flower areas.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)



SICAP Goals

The programme has two goals that focus on a) supporting communities and b) individuals:

Goal 1

Aim is to support communities and target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues, developing the capacity of local community groups and creating more sustainable communities.

Goal 2

Aim to support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports.

In our work we are able to and work to provide cross over in the goals of the programme. It is the optimum that beneficiaries can move to avail of the supports set out in both Goal 1 & 2, providing opportunities, pathways and synergies.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Goal 1 Action – A2405 Community Networks & Strategic Collaborations

Background

West Limerick community has for many years welcomed refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and more recently the movement of people under temporary protection due to the war in Ukraine. In 2016, WLR was responsible for rolling out the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Program, which marked a turning point in creating strategic responses to integration. Our SICAP Community Development Worker Stefanie Jaeger Liston, a migrant herself recognised the importance of community integration from both sides and set about building capacity with individuals across the West Limerick community.



Working with people on an individual level, she identified early in her work that there were limited options for refugees, migrants or any new arrivals to the community to have a safe space to meet but also to participate in the Community. Factors affecting participation and inhibit refugees and migrants having a voice include language barriers, cultural differences, lack of accessible information and fear of 'the new'. The risk was that the migrants and refugees would remain on the margins or become ghettoised, so it was important to give migrant communities a voice in planning and decision-making processes.

Response

Covid 19 scuppered an attempt to establish a Network. Following several failed initial attempts, the SICAP worker reverted to meeting people at an individual level again to provide more information on what the Network could be. Individual interventions as encouraged by the programme have the strongest outcomes. In 2023, the network began to take shape, building capacity at individual and group level. Today it consists of 10 members from 10 different countries including Armenia, Afghanistan, Moldova, Poland and Syria, with members bringing their cultures, traditions and ideas to work towards building a presence and a recognised entity in the community.

Inclusion Focus

The main aim of the network is to make West Limerick a more inclusive and diverse society and encourage migrant participation, showcasing and utilising the skills that they bring. The network is promoting positive messages on migration and its benefits, the richness of diversity, new ideas and cultural integration.

'I think it's a place where we can come, because we as migrants have this unique perspective, we have the challenges that maybe people that work here or live here, don't even recognise.'

~ Karolina Ciucias, Member of the West Limerick Migrant Network ~

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Developments & Events

The International Holiday Fair in 2023, planned and delivered by the Network had over 300 people from across the community attending. Structured around food, music, dancing it gave the community a deeper understanding of new cultural experiences. 2024 saw the Network, participating in its first Saint Patrick's Day parade in Newcastle West with many other migrants joining enroute. This was a very strong statement on that particular day, where we are all celebrating our nationality and culture.

A *Family Day for International Children's Day* took place with great attendance by communities from all over the world. Sowing the seeds of integration at an early age supports stronger social inclusion. Critical to building and strengthening the voice of migrants and refugees and promoting equality the Network organised Voter Education Programme workshops locally. Delivered by Dublin Adult Learning Centre (DALC), the focus was on migrant engagement and to strengthen their understanding of the Irish voting system, and their entitlement to vote at local elections. A very strong step in strengthening voice, integration and active citizenship.



The Network was instrumental in promoting and celebrating National Refugee Week 2024, by organising International Potluck Dinner. Members used their culinary skills to celebrate diversity, to raise awareness of opportunities for refugees, migrants to participate in community events and to be welcomed. Simple yet effective methods of integration, over 40 people eating together, sharing and celebrating cultural experiences.

Strategic Collaboration and Future Direction

Network members attended the launch of the Limerick Migrant Integration Forum in the Council Chambers of Limerick City & County Council, The Forum aims to empower migrant communities in Limerick to collaborate, and promote social inclusion, integration and active participation in key decision-making bodies and networks in the region. It was an opportunity for the West Limerick Migrant Network to learn about other, more elaborate networks and explore potential opportunities for their development.

Social Farming Ireland

Open Day Collaboration

Social Farming provides people who use services with the opportunity for inclusion, to increase self-esteem and to improve health and well-being by taking part in day-to-day farm activities on a family farm. Key to our work is the opportunity to work in collaboration with a wider range of supports and services but also within West Limerick Resources adding value to the other programmes, creating opportunities for the beneficiaries and pathways for progression.

Social Farming Ireland in collaboration with the SICAP team welcomed over 70 attendees to their open morning on Thursday 27th June. The open morning was hosted by Limerick farmers, Celia and Geoffrey Brighten and their family, and brought together interested participants, service providers and farmers in the Limerick area to learn all about Social Farming. WLR programmes including SICAP, RDP, Tús also attended with information stands, giving an idea of the broader company supports as did colleagues from Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP), Rathkeale Mens Shed. One of the groups supported to attend through SICAP was a group of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, living in the West Limerick Community, with a view to piloting a placement for them, with a view to offering supports with a focus on integration and resilience, as they navigate their new circumstances.



The morning kicked off with a few words from Eadaoin O'Connell, Southwest Regional Development Officer, followed by West Limerick Resources (WLRs) CEO, Shay Riordan and WLRs Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme Co-ordinator, Dearbhla Conlon Ahern. Social Farming Irelands' Policy officer, Mary Brennan, gave an insight into the valuable ongoing work nationally on farms across the country, engaged in Social Farming.

Those in attendance then heard from host social farmers, Celia and Geoffrey about their family farm and Social Farming experience before giving a tour of their idyllic farm in Rathkeale. There was a lot of conversation and interaction across the attendees as people walked the farm together. The morning was a resounding success for those in attendance, with great interest arising from the event and people now having a greater understanding of Social Farming and the benefits for those who both facilitate and participate in the initiative.

TÚS

TÚS is a national community-based work placement programme offering short-term working opportunities to those who are unemployed and on the live register. These work opportunities are provided by Community and Voluntary organisations who deliver services that are vital to their own community and locality. TÚS gives those who participate on the programme the opportunity to learn and develop new skills, while also networking and gaining confidence to re-join the workforce in a part time capacity.

Allocation The allocation of TÚS participants to West Limerick Resources by the Department is 120 participants and 3 TÚS Supervisors. At year end, there were 43 TÚS participants on the programme. During 2024 the programme had 33 starters and 38 leavers.

Extensions For each quarter in 2024, TÚS had the option to extend 30% of leavers contracts by six months. This was very welcome news for both participants and organisations as unfortunately in most cases the programme had no replacements for these leavers.

Referrals During 2024 there were 163 referrals received from the DEASP (please see table in the appendix for breakdown by location and status). From these referrals, 37 candidates started on TÚS (2024 & 2025), 4 candidates are Work in Progress, 22 candidates are on a Panel (due to no vacancy at present or English needs development), 56 candidates were referred back to the DEASP for various reasons, 36 candidates did not attend interview and 8 candidates were referred twice or were not in the West Limerick Resources area.

Department Inspection In February 2024, TÚS had a department inspection. The outcome was very positive. It stated that in overall terms, the existence of policies and procedures were demonstrated and that the programme was deemed to be in compliance with the TÚS Programme Operating Procedures.

Training TÚS participants availed of Manual Handling training, Chemical Awareness, Wearing correct PPE, Safepass, Basic First Aid and a 3-day First Aid Responder course during the year. TÚS Supervisors availed of training on "Using Google Apps", Sharepoint, Excel, Time Management and Digital Marketing.

Initiatives During the year, TÚS was involved in and partook in a Job Fair run by the DEASP, a Skin Cancer awareness campaign for all TÚS participants, a TÚS Forum run by the ILDN and an U18 Pilot Scheme to activate 18-year jobseekers with low probability of employment.

Employment Some participants have secured employment after being on the TUS programme e.g. part time Caretaker with Brothers of Charity (West Limerick Children's Services), full time employment with Brothers of Charity (Abbeyfeale), part time tour guide with Foynes Flying Boat Museum.

Ukrainian Community During the year, TÚS have supported members of the Ukrainian community on the TÚS programme. Placements are built around their English classes, and support is given by both TÚS Supervisors and organisations through translation apps to help them to settle in their new roles.

Limerick Volunteer Centre

Limerick Volunteer Centre (LVC) had a target of registering 500 new Volunteers and recording 20,000 Volunteer Hours in 2024.

Total new Volunteers Registered by 31st December was 565 or 113% of target 15,250 Volunteer hours were recorded which equates to 77% of annual hours target.

We received €173,354 core VC funding from DRCD but if charged at average industrial wage volunteer hours would represent a contribution of €318,000 into the local economy.

·23 new organisations registered with LVC in 2024.

·97 new opportunities were created and advertised on www.volunteerlimerick.ie . This is our most successful year for new opportunities since the covid pandemic. It is an area which the VC Staff targeted specifically in 2024 and was, as a result, our most successful year for opportunities since 2017.

·565 registrations represents a 13% over-run on our annual target which is, an obvious indicator of the level of activity in the centre for the year. We maintained 5 monthly registration records in 2023 and consequently great credit is due to our placement officer (Geraldine) who has individually contributed possibly more than any other placement officer in our national 29 Volunteer Centre network.

·Of those 565 registrations it must be noted that only 279 people registered as Irish. The fact that half of our customers are not Irish should be an indication of the extra demands on VC staff. Again when one considers that English is not the first language of about half of the people with whom we engage, this is just another reason to commend staff on a remarkable year.

·We forwarded 869 applications to Organisations of which 170 placements were confirmed and hours allocated.

·We logged 15,250 placement hours for volunteers in 2024. Which when costed at average industrial wage of €35,000p.a. represents a return into Limerick of €318,000 which is double the €157,000 funding we received to run the Volunteer Centre in 2024.

·Crucially we recorded the following:

Irish people represented just 49% of our volunteer registrations as opposed to 77% in 2021.

Garda Vetting

In 2024 LVC provided a Garda Vetting Service to 44 Limerick based organisations and processed almost 1000 applications. Garda Vetting was given to eight new Garda Vetting Officers for various organisations.

Limerick Volunteer Centre

Working with Limerick City and East County Migrant Forum

In 2024 we attended regular meetings of both the Limerick City and East Limerick Forums. Initially the forums were set up as Ukraine response but by end of 2024 it was agreed by the membership of both groups that they be referred to as Migrant Forums. We meet bimonthly to monitor movements and report progress. LVC have been active in recruiting Conversation Class Volunteers for the Northside Family Resource Centre in the city and Ballyhoura Developments classes in the east of the county. On migrant status the following is a breakdown of the 65 nationalities recorded as registered with ourselves by November 2024;

The following table illustrates the new reality of our work in a volunteer centre. Gone are the days when over 90% of our clientele were Irish.

Irish	260	Malaysian	2	Afghan	4	Dominican	1
Brazilian	33	Mexican	2	Costa Rican	4	English	1
Nigerian	22	Mongolian	2	Ghanian	4	Georgian	1
Indian	20	Motswana	2	Moroccan	4	Indonesian	1
Jordanian	19	Romanian	2	American	3	Ivorian	1
Ukrainian	14	Taiwanese	2	Chilean	3	Lithuanian	1
Pakistani	11	Zambian	2	French	3	Mauritian	1
Canadian	9	Zimbabwean	2	German	3	Moldovan	1
Chinese	9	Batswana	2	Iranian	3	Nepalese	1
Polish	9	Argentinean	1	Portuguese	3	Saudi	1
Algerian	7	Austrian	1	South African	3	Slovakian	1
British	7	Bolivian	1	Sudanese	3	Somali	1
Italian	6	Chadian	1	Syrian	3	Sri Lankan	1
Spanish	6	Colombian	1	Bangladeshi	2	Thai	1
Kenyan	5	Congolese	1	Egyptian	2	Togolese	1
Palestinian	5	Croatian	1	Japanese	2	Turkish	1
						Vietnamese	1

It is of course obvious that this new reality brings about a whole new set of challenges for us and our client Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIO's).

2024 Outreach

In 2024 we continued to events hosted by city and east county migrant forums as well as events organised by LCFE and LCVEC. We tried outreach at libraries in east, west and city and we continued our valuable networking with Munster VCs and nationally at VCMN. We played a direct part in the reorganisation of VCMN to its new iteration as a National Volunteer Centre Network which will meet at 3 conferences in 2025. The new network includes Placement Officers and we feel is hugely enriched by their inclusion.

Limerick Volunteer Centre



LCETB Showcase Event September '24



Munster VCs Staff Training Dungarvan

In Conclusion

Our demographic has clearly changed to a much more diverse group of volunteers who require differing routes to volunteering. Thankfully the problem we had in 2023 with lack of opportunities was not repeated in 2024 when we put a huge effort into generating opportunities and consequently recorded our best numbers since 2017.

Our direct approach to organisations by correspondence and subsequent follow up visits worked well for us. Particularly with organisations who had not returned to us post pandemic. This is certainly an exercise we will repeat in 2025.

But in 2024, were we worth it?

Financial Impact of LVC in 2024

Core VC funding €173,354 Ukraine Response €34,008	€207,362
Volunteering hours. contributed into local economy	15,250
Impact in €	€318,000

Rathkeale Together

Overview

Rathkeale Together (RT) is a collaborative initiative involving the Methodist, Church of Ireland, and Roman Catholic Churches, West Limerick Resources, and the Rathkeale Community. Its mission is to foster reconciliation and justice between Traveller and Settled communities through inclusive events and programmes, guided by a Christian ethos.

Leadership & Governance

The RT Committee, comprising 14 members, met five times in 2024, alongside strategic discussions with West Limerick Resources. A pivotal Away Day at Glenstal Abbey focused on long-term planning. The sudden passing of Project Co-ordinator Denis Robinson in October marked a significant loss. Valerie Foley and Amanda McCarthy stepped up to maintain momentum, with Amanda playing a key role in Traveller community engagement. A new Co-ordinator was appointed in March 2025.

Community Engagement & Activities



RT hosted its second annual seminar on Wellness in the Community, attracting 120 attendees including the Mayor of Limerick. Key initiatives included:

- Town Centre First (TCF): RT contributed to this national revitalisation project, though Traveller representation on the steering group remains absent.
- Men's Shed: Evolved from a small group to a nationally registered Shed with 14 members, promoting wellness and connection.
- Women's Group & Joint Activities: Collaborated on cultural outings and celebrated International Women's Day with over 300 participants.
- Halting Site Renovation: RT's advocacy led to major upgrades at Hillview Park, improving living conditions for 15 families.
- Festive & Cultural Events: Included Christmas celebrations, St Patrick's Day parade, and ecumenical services.
- Youth & Family Initiatives: Camps, workshops, and a Christmas youth café supported by the Community Safety Fund engaged over 100 young people.
- Oral History Project: Documented Traveller experiences through interviews, led by Dr Tomás Mac Conmara.
- Vigil on Christmas Eve: Following a tragic accident which claimed the life of a young local woman, RT organised a public vigil to pay tribute to the victim. The event, on 24th December, was attended by almost 1,000 people, from all sections of the community.

Rathkeale Together



Partnerships & Outreach

RT collaborated with over 25 agencies, including Citizens Information, ADAPT, ALONE, and Rainbows Ireland, enhancing access to vital services. Staff appointments to the Traveller Accommodation Unit and Community Council strengthened RT's influence on policy and local development.

Challenges & Future Plans

Key challenges include securing multi-annual funding, suitable premises, increasing engagement with Traveller men and the international cohort, and enhancing volunteer networks. Plans for 2025 include deeper community outreach, another major seminar, and leveraging the TCF initiative for broader impact.

Finance

RT operates without a separate bank account; funds are managed by West Limerick Resources. Financial transparency is maintained through regular reporting to the Committee.

Conclusion

Denis Robinson RIP



RT made significant strides in 2024, despite the loss of a key leader. The commitment of staff and volunteers continues to drive meaningful change in Rathkeale. The group remains focused on fostering unity, inclusion, and sustainable development. The year was marked by the loss of Denis Robinson, whose vision and commitment laid the foundation for RT's progress. We honour his legacy by continuing the work he championed, united in a spirit of respect, inclusion, and shared community.

Governance & Compliance

West Limerick Resources is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.

The Board of Director membership as at 31st December 2024 and the sectors they represent are listed as follows.

Name	Representing
Sean Kelly	Community – Estuary
Anthony Murphy	Community – Rathkeale
Aoife Keogh	Community - Abbeyfeale
David Browne	Community - Deel Upper
Lisa Quirke	Limerick Youth Service - Social Issues
Deirbhile Browne	Teagasc - Social Partners
Sean Lavery	IFA - Social Partners
Bertie Wall	ICTU - Social Partners
Michael O'Callaghan	ICMSA - Social Partners
Claire O'Mahony	An Garda Síochána - Statutory
Therese Donnellan	HSE – Statutory
Catherine Hayes	Inland Fisheries Ireland - Statutory
Martin Cournane	Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board - Statutory
John Sheahan	Limerick City & County Council - Elected Representative
Francis Foley	Limerick City & County Council - Elected Representative
Tommy Hartigan	Limerick City & County Council - Elected Representative
Ger Ward	Limerick City & County Council - Elected Representative

Our board of directors met 8 times in 2024 with the AGM held on 24th April 2024. The Board appoints a number of sub-committees to oversee the company's compliance and operational obligations.

The sub-committees include:

- Board Executive subcommittee
- Finance & Audit subcommittee

Financial Statements

Schedule of Income and Expenditure Account 31st December 2024

INCOME	€
Department Employment Affairs & Social Protection	
Local Area Employment Service	120,816
Rural Social Scheme	46,928
Tús	92,844
Department of Rural & Community Development	
Limerick Volunteer Centre	148,403
Community Centres Investment Fund	11,577
Limerick City and County Council	
Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme	690,023
LEADER 2014-20	152,223
LEADER 2023-27	186,773
Rathkeale Together	143,301
Greenway Fund	3,807
Rural Development Fund	62,458
LCCC Various	18,221
HSE	
Primary Health Care Project	154,263
Social Farming	23,200
Older Persons Service - Section 39	5,147
Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine - Social Farming	106,483
TUSLA Child & Family Agency - Family Support Project	41,814
Department of Justice – Community Safety Fund	8,666
Department of Children & Youth – Peer Support	1,707
The Heritage Council – Traveller Oral History Project	23,585
Leader Projects - Various	20,010
Social Farming Matching	60,715
Other Income	45,344
Total Income	2,168,308

EXPENDITURE	€
Project and Admin Staff costs	1,413,436
Project Specific costs	430,050
Admin and Overhead costs	316,437
Total Expenditure	2,159,923
Surplus / (Deficit) for the financial year	8,385

Financial Statements

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2024

FIXED ASSETS	€	€
Tangible Assets		88,772
Current Assets		
Debtors	136,089	
Cash at bank and in hand	1,063,795	
	1,199,884	
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	(1,126,466)	
	-	
Net Current Assets		73,418
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		162,190
Capital and Reserves		
Revenue Reserves		162,190
Reserves		162,190

TOP PERFORMING POSTS



243
13

39

106
18

94

117
3

12

BEST PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR

Kilmeedy Development decided we should try & open a community shop in the village and then somebody said, well, why not do a café in the shop & to be honest, people thought, Oh my God, this is mad, a cafe in Kilmeedy that's not going to possibly work.

Once we had four shops in the village then for a number of years we didn't have any. Our ethos is farm to fork. We try to keep our carbon footprint down & use locally sourced products as much as we can.

We always said getting it to open was easy, keeping the door open is quite challenging. It's an all day, every day, every week challenge because of costs and staff. We're always on the lookout for volunteers.

Consistency is the name of the game. If you say the door is open from 8 to 5 you have to have somebody inside for those hours serving good quality products & food, which we pride ourselves in.

Our new outside area is amazing and we've started catering for parties. We've have gone as far as we could possibly go, but our kitchen is not used in the evening time. If local producers were looking to come into a commercial kitchen, we have the facilities. We would love it if people used it to its full potential.

We know you couldn't do a weekly shop in a small convenience store. But just pick one item and switch it out and maybe purchase it with us instead - it keeps local jobs and our community going.

Maura Heenan & Michelle O'Connell, Roots Shop & Cafe, Kilmeedy