

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018-2023 (SICAP)

LDC Annual Progress Report 2022
LOT – Kildare County (6-1)



Ireland's European Structural and
Investment Funds Programmes
2014-2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



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pobal

government supporting communities

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2023 is co-funded by the Government Ireland, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Union.

Purpose of the 2022 Annual Progress Report:

The purpose of the 2022 Annual Progress Report is to capture the role that SICAP played in responding to the needs of SICAP target groups during the year. In doing so, this report will capture beneficiaries' needs in your Lot in 2022, the approaches used by the programme to respond to these needs, alongside challenges faced and lessons learned during the year. Please include examples to support your answers, where possible.

There is a dedicated section within this year's Annual Progress Report where you can outline the details of the supports that you have provided to the Ukrainian arrivals in your Lot.

There is also a dedicated section to allow you to describe your work in responding to your chosen Lot priority groups within the National Programme Priorities.

Space is also provided for you to reflect on the supports provided by DRCD and/or Pobal in 2022, as well as to outline the types of supports you would like to receive in 2023.

Report size guide: 8-11 pages, excluding Annex 1. A page number guide is provided for each question. This can be adapted slightly to suit your reporting needs.

Two-three photographs can be included (optional), with the understanding that relevant permissions have been received and captions describing the photographs are provided. We would strongly encourage you to include photos and/or links to short videos if possible.

1. Please describe the needs of SICAP beneficiaries in 2022 and, where applicable, your responses to these needs. (3-5 pages)

*Guidance: Please consider individuals, LCGs, SEs, children and families, non-caseload individuals, and complete the below table. **Please do not include details on Ukrainians in this section** as there is a dedicated Ukrainian section within this report. The following questions may be useful to reflect on:*

What types of supports did beneficiaries require during the year? What did these supports look like?

*Please consider **individuals, LCGs, SEs, children and families, and non-caseload individuals**, when providing your answer.*

Please bear in mind the programme's horizontal principles (i.e., promoting an equality framework, applying community development approaches, and developing collaborative approaches) when providing your answer.

Beneficiary type	Identified needs in 2022	LDC Responses to needs
Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth – Confidence levels among the youth generally at a low and getting people to leave their rooms, let alone their houses was a huge task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth – a lot of one-to-one support, hand holding, checking in, chasing to make contact, gentle building of esteem through the one-to-one and group work. Creating programmes such as the Hospitality programme, Resilience programme, Harmony programme . In January the YEP ran an 8-week Hospitality Programme which involved four weeks of zoom sessions, each consisting of two 40-minute sessions on two days per week. Soft skills including self-confidence, self-esteem, communications, and teamwork were on offer. During the initial four weeks the group of 18 also completed online Manual Handling, HACCP, and Infection Prevention Control Courses. Workshops for C.V. preparation and interview techniques also took place. The following four weeks consisted of Mentored Work Experience in Lawlor's Hotel Naas. All participants who took part in the programme were guaranteed an interview with Lawlor's Hotel. Of the 10 that attended for interview 4 were offered employment. In collaboration with Community Education KWETB four Resilience through arts programmes were delivered in Monasterevin, Leixlip, Newbridge and Athy with attendance at the Athy programme proving particularly challenging due to the specific needs of the targeted hard to reach, disadvantaged group. Two Finding Your Feet programmes were delivered to Intellectual disability clients in collaboration with LEAP Maynooth and KARE Newbridge (Project Search). Participants on the Newbridge Project Search programme successfully completed personal development, in-person First Aid training, HACCP online training, Healthy Food Made Easy & Resilience Through Art over a 6-week period. Teambuilding events were planned in collaboration with Kildare Sports

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wellbeing – The pandemic knocked everyone, shaking confidence in social interactions and engagement. Getting people back to some semblance of “the norm” was a need that was identified.• Training needed to continue. People needed to be prepared for work opportunities with CV supports, Safepass and Manual Handling courses in particular.	<p>Partnership including a Dragonboat event, a visit to the Shackleton Museum in Athy, a walking tour of Athy with lunch in the Athy Youth Cafe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The YEP also worked in collaboration with The Hive (Insync) in Kildare Town to identify a suitable programme to counteract the effects of alcohol and substance misuse among disadvantaged young people from the town at risk of early school leaving. A 6-week Harmony Programme was identified and delivered to 14 at risk young people using music, songs and rap to engage individuals and promote a more positive message. This programme although very challenging at the start, proved very successful with all but one of the young people involved remaining in education. We continue to offer supports to all the young people involved and work closely with the one individual still at serious risk.• Wellbeing – for many people more one-to-one supports were needed to help people to figure out what they wanted, how to get out into society again and getting involved. For first half of the year life was still ruled by COVID and the ongoing contact SICAP workers made with clients allowed for checks on their wellbeing and how we could support them through it.• Online training was essential to facilitate the progression of individuals, many of whom were able to secure employment as a result. Safepass, while running in person, required additional supports around COVID paperwork in order to enable people to attend. Equipment was given to individuals to complete online courses, in their own time at home.
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<p>Local Community Groups</p>	<p>SICAP staff contacted Local Community Groups and existing SICAP beneficiaries to identify needs and put in place supports. The needs were identified through contact with community groups, service providers and individuals with a good knowledge of the local area. This engagement took place through telephone conversations and outdoor socially distant meetings. Community groups engaged, appreciated, and acknowledged the supports.</p> <p>The following needs were identified through this engagement process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As result of the Covid pandemic Older people were finding it difficult to adapt and engage within the local communities. There was heightened concern around Mental Health and Wellbeing for Community members including Older people and with a particular emphasis on rural communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaising with the “Heads Up” programme in developing the “Rural Intervention Initiative” and in promoting and delivering Mental Health & Personal Wellbeing to local communities had a positive impact. The delivery of food, fuel, and medicine still remained a need in some rural communities.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More vulnerable farmers that were living alone including small farm holdings were identified as requiring a regular check in.• Limited access to community centres, community shops, resource centres, addiction centres and services, youth clubs and drop-in centres, libraries, sports facilities, and gyms impacted SICAP beneficiaries, with lack of social interaction and participation for quarter 1 & 2, including access to local services.• Concerns around mental health and wellbeing arose from an early stage in conversation with SICAP beneficiaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A regular visit and/or phone call to check in on their care and welfare and to assist with any farm related tasks where needed.• As facilities started to reopen to the public, SICAP beneficiaries were able to re-engage within their group settings for social interaction and group activities and participation.• The participation of a Social Farming placement has had a very positive impact on the Mental Health and Wellbeing of participants.
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- Online access remained a challenge for many local community groups to engage and avail of online supports.

The needs varied from lack of knowledge and access to technology, equipment and broadband/Wi-Fi - to an inability to use online platforms like MS Teams and Zoom.

- As the pandemic continued during 2022 digital poverty became an increasing issue with concerns for older community members living in rural communities.
- A lack of local rural transport has been identified and remains a challenge in rural communities.

- In combating the online challenges encountered by local community's members. Supports were offered online and in person. Significant in person support was offered in supporting community groups in applying for online funding opportunities.

- Older community members were supported with basic one to one digital supports in rural communities.

- Information sharing with rural communities, where transport remains a challenge. A significant number of transport grants were applied for within rural communities.

<p>Social Enterprises</p>	<p>DRCD had identified the following needs for Social Enterprises' nationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting the doors open again after COVID. • Raising awareness/publicity as to what Social Enterprises are, what they do and where are they located. • A national database of Social Enterprises. 	<p>To support closing these gaps the DRCD launched rounds of DAF the SERP and ARISE programmes and through the ILDN co-ordination conducted the first SE census nationally.</p> <p>SICAP responded by increasing the staffing resources in this area of work from one person, doing 2-day to initially two people doing two days to two people now doing two days each over 2022 and this resulted in the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SICAP staff leveraged funding from both DAF programmes SERP and ARISE to support existing Social Enterprises in Kildare. • With SERP, a successful training and mentoring programme took place where financial diagnostic support was offered enabling Social Enterprises to pinpoint financial strengths and weaknesses, and/or Marketing/digital marketing supports to get or improve their online presence. Practical staff training such as manual handling and HACCP were delivered making staff business ready once COVID restrictions were lifted. • Social Enterprise Network Meetings continued to take place throughout 2022, both online and in person, growing and strengthening the Network, where agency speakers were invited to offer support such as the DSP Employment liaison person explain the new WPEP (work Placement Experience Programme), and the Kildare Volunteer centre giving advice on getting and keeping volunteers. • A successful branding campaign resulted in a logoed plaque being designed by the existing Social Enterprises for Kildare Social Enterprises and the Social Enterprise set up & hosted by CKLP <i>Kildare Small Jobs</i> installed these plaques in the Social Enterprises across Kildare. This will continue to be rolled out over 2023 adding more and more Social Enterprises as they self-identify, or as new Social Enterprises get established. • In November 2022 SICAP staff organised an Social Enterprise event to launch the new Kildare Social Enterprise logo with its digital map on every plaque so people can choose to shop social.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Local radio campaign over 8 weeks explaining what an Social Enterprise was and introducing 7 successful Kildare Social Enterprises over 7 weeks on the local radio station. This impacted the footfall increase back into Social Enterprises, and again promoted an awareness of shopping social. • To reach out to the younger demographic in Kildare SICAP staff using ARISE funding selected a Social Enterprise to have a TikTok created using a known Kildare influencer. This proved to be highly effective to promote the Social Enterprise concept and the Social Enterprise Lullymore Discover & Heritage Park. This campaign will launch in 2023. • Also, under ARISE funding SICAP staff commissioned promotional video clips for 12 Social Enterprises to use on their websites, promoting both the work of SICAP and the Social Enterprise itself. All which served to improve their online presence and promotion.
<p>Children and families</p>	<p>Disadvantage of Travellers in education</p> <p>Impact of missed school days due to covid, for students sitting Leaving Certs in 2022</p> <p>Challenges in schools around diversity & inclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action identified to carry out research into education barriers among Travellers. • Conducted initial focus groups with Traveller students and parents. • Researched Traveller Peer Education Research Project • Researcher selected after a recruitment process. • Recruitment carried out, but unsuccessful in finding a suitable Education Worker • Recruitment of Education Worker to be revisited in 2023. • Academic supports offered to Leaving Cert students through Jump a Grade in DEIS schools and one non DEIS school. • Students receive 1:1 supports in a chosen subject for the Leaving Certificate. • Kildare students saw a 15% increase in their grade level in the first roll out with a small cohort of students. • Number of students programme offered to grow in the third quarter of 2022. • The Yellow Flag programme was successfully completed by 1 school in Kildare in 2022 and continues to be supported in 3 other schools in the county still ongoing. • Given the increase in the number of Ukrainian people arriving and the increase in the numbers of non-Ukrainians seeking international protection in Ireland, and the increase in racist sentiment towards people, promoting positive inclusion is very important as an ongoing action.

Non-caseload individuals	<p>A main need is the need for information:</p> <p>The need for inclusion:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participated in two DSP-organised information fairs, where over 600 people attended. Liaised with close to 200 people to provide information on SICAP services and to identify their needs per an “interest list” where they provided a contact number based on their interest in a particular support/service.• Outreach information provision to targeted estates or groups – two Direct Provision services, several disadvantaged estates.• Older people who were not all wanting to be registered as individuals but wanted to participate in activities that were run during the year.• Social Farming – where a number of people took part in working on participating farms.• People with disabilities – where some were not suitable to be registered as individual clients but were nonetheless able to participate on classes & events through the year.
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2. Please provide an overview of SICAP supports provided to the Ukrainian arrivals to your Lot. (1-2 pages)

Guidance: What types of supports did Ukrainians require during the year? What did these supports look like? What challenges or barriers have you experienced? What has helped you overcome these barriers/challenges?

While Ukrainian people arrived in Kildare throughout 2022, the arrival of 800 people to Maynooth University for the summer months brought major challenges. Responding to this, SICAP staff together with other service providers and volunteers provided much needed and welcomed supports which included, English language classes, Interpreters, sports activities for children and young people, music workshops, organising trips to the seaside, supporting the operation of free Ukrainian shop on Maynooth University campus, suitcases to use when they were leaving, liaising with REALT coordinators and SICAP/LCDC staff in the counties to which they were relocating.

For those remaining in emergency accommodation over 3 months, extra trips were organised. Kilkenny Castle, Bray, Glendalough, National Stud & Japanese gardens. Links were also made with KCC and Sports Partnership where activities were put in place and reduced rates to access K-Leisure and pool was organised.

There are many people in pledged accommodation and hotels throughout the County. SICAP staff are engaged in weekly coffee mornings which prove vital not only as a source of social engagement but also as a hub for information sharing and support. The types of supports people need are wide ranging. From English language, School places for their Children, transport to and from the school where necessary, social welfare issues, Dental and medical appointments, and support when they are being moved including providing suitcases, sourcing new pre-schools, linking in with new hosts and providing interpreter for this. The HSE were organised to attend one of the venues to administer Covid 19 vaccinations.

Most people we have encountered have none or very limited English. Notwithstanding the obvious barriers Ukrainian people meet when needing to flee their country, not having the language is a huge difficulty. Both from their perspective and people supporting them. SICAP employed a part-time interpreter and engaged volunteer interpreters to help overcome this block. Helping people link in with local services including KWETB, INTREO, Helping Irish Hosts, Maynooth interagency network and volunteers is key to their integration in our county / Country.

Laptops were bought for 17 families to ensure they had access for School and English classes.

While most people of working age are eager to get work, the rule that if you leave work 'voluntarily' a person will not be able to claim jobseekers for 9 weeks is a major barrier. This is a huge concern especially for people living in emergency settings and waiting to be housed in pledged accommodation throughout the country. They cannot be without an income for 9 weeks. 2 x Manual handling courses were delivered for 29 people in Athy. 9 men were also supported to obtain Safepass training. The Department of Social Welfare – Employer Relations officer also attended and provided information to residents of one facility.



Figure 1 Some of the Ukrainian students receiving their Manual Handling certificate

Promoting integration of Ukrainian people within communities has been an objective of the SICAP programme in Kildare. Where possible people have been informed of groups and activities in their areas. This has led to some people visiting Women's shed, taking part in courses within the community, Healthy Food Made easy provided by the HSE is one example. A group of Ukrainian women also attended the launch of the Slainte Care programme in Athy.

Ukrainian Independence Day fell on 24th August 2022. SICAP helped the Ukrainian communities throughout Kildare mark this day. It was an emotional day for most people. The biggest celebration was held in Maynooth University before the group's departure. SICAP provided food to cook traditional dishes, entertainment and a sizeable number of staff helped out during the day and evening to ensure this very important day could go ahead.

Figure 2,3,4: Photos From Ukrainian Independence Day held in Maynooth College Campus:



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5: (One of the day trips organised) Residents of Bert House at the Invincible Spirit sculpture at The Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens

3. Please briefly describe the cross-programme, integrated approach that SICAP utilised during 2022 to respond to the needs of SICAP target groups. (half a page)

Guidance: How did SICAP work alongside other programmes during the year? What did this involve, what role did SICAP take and how did it contribute to the overall goal of SICAP?

SICAP Community Development Workers and Employment Support workers used a Strategic, Integrated and Inclusion based approach to sourcing, networking, collaborating, sharing resources with all internal projects and programmes during 2022.

SICAP and Kildare Sports Partnership worked on programmes targeting young people, older people, those with mental health difficulties. SICAP also collaborated with HEADSUP Kildare to support wellbeing projects. SICAP supported the Dara Project with some training supports, and the Enterprise Skills Programme with SICAP supported the participants in the Dara project to create and sell a product. The Sláintecare Healthy Food Made Easy programme was incorporated into many of the SICAP programmes targeting the youth project, those in disadvantaged estates. SICAP and Older Voices Kildare worked together to develop a programme targeting older people who want to get more involved in volunteering, community and perhaps even progress back to employment after retirement. SICAP links with TUS and various CKLP sponsored CE schemes to support the participants with training and planning beyond their placement. SICAP links with the Traveller specific CE scheme to build relationships with the Traveller community and provide individuals with education, training and employment supports.

- Networking meetings were organised with local community groups involving the staff from the various programmes that currently engage with local communities. The Network meetings provided the opportunity to clarify with local communities the range of programmes that are delivered and hosted by the company. Arising from the community network meetings a series of local group meetings, activities and workshops were organised to support groups in local communities.
- SICAP continued to work with the “Rural Intervention programme” in collaboration with “Heads Up” in delivering the local mental health initiative. Following the delivery of a ‘wellness talk’ within a rural community of North West Kildare it was identified the effects that a local suicide had on members of the community. As a result, the group participated in the Wellness Toolbox Programme which is a National Response programme to suicide.
- SICAP in establishing the “Kildare Social Farming Initiative” collaborates with key stakeholders including The Heads-Up Programme, Social Farming Ireland, Kildare County Council, HSE and local disability organisations in placing participants on Social Farm Placements in supporting and promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing.



Figure 6: Social Farming Poster

4. What type of work did LCGs and SEs (supported by SICAP in 2022) undertake in the community in response to the needs of SICAP target groups? Please provide one or two examples. (half a page)

Guidance: Please clearly indicate if the examples relate to an LCG or a SE.

LCGs: Community Network meetings were held in North West Kildare in qtrs. 3 & 4 of 2022. SICAP staff in collaboration with The North West Kildare Women’s Group hosted the first Network meeting with 27 local community groups in attendance while the Rathangan women’s group hosted the second with 10 community groups represented. This was the first time in two and a half years that LCGs had met in person. A large community support network was in attendance included local services and businesses, local day-care centres representatives, local Counsellors, Tidy towns, Lullymore Heritage park, Older Voices Kildare service, Heads Up service, Alone services, Healthy Ireland, and representatives from the National Men’s Shed organisation. As a result of these network meetings awareness of the local services were highlighted and additional new members joined local community groups.



Figure 7,8,9 – North West Kildare Coffee morning

Social Enterprises: In November 2022 SICAP staff organised an Social Enterprise event to launch the new Kildare Social Enterprise logo with its digital map on every plaque so people can choose to shop social. SICAP arranged a local radio campaign over 8 weeks explaining what an Social Enterprise is and introducing 7 successful Kildare Social Enterprise’s over 7 weeks on the local radio station. This impacted the footfall increase back into SE’s and again promoted an awareness of shopping social. To reach out to the younger demographic in Kildare SCIAP staff using ARISE funding selected a SE to have a TikTok created using a known Kildare influencer. This proved to be highly effective to promote the SE concept and the SE Lullymore Discover & Heritage Park. Also, under ARISE funding SICAP staff commissioned promo video clips for 12 SE to use on their websites promoting both the work of SICAP and the Social Enterprise itself. All which served to improve their online presence and promotion.



Figure, 10 & 11: Social Enterprise site visit to Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Centre, Figure 11: New Social Enterprise Plaque

5. Please provide a brief update on your progress with your Lot Priority groups which you selected in 2021 as part of the mid-programme review. (1 page)

Guidance: Please tell us the agreed priority groups that you are working with and describe the challenges and the successes that you have with this work in 2022

County Kildare LEADER Partnership SICAP programme set actions against all 5 of the priority target groups:

Long Term Unemployed – (LTU)

During 2022 SICAP supported 252 LTU people (over 1 year unemployed). Challenges that are prominent for these people include lack of education and skills, lack of a support network to help them reach their potential, i.e., no family support. Transport is a major issue in the south of the county. Cost of driving lessons and getting a car is beyond most people's reach while on a social welfare payment. This then compounds the ability to gain meaningful employment in some areas. Providing Safepass training and Manual Handling, within communities has had success in assisting people gain employment. The Youth employment programme delivered online has also had success in helping young LTU upskill and move into the workplace.

Travellers

In 2022 SICAP engaged with more Travellers than ever before, case loading nineteen. Four progressed to employment, Many are under 25 years of age and engaging with the youth programmes. There are many barriers to Traveller engagement in a CE scheme or education support roles and these take time to work through. Ongoing mentoring and capacity building is essential and time consuming. It is often a case of one step forward and two steps back when dealing with these issues. Overcoming discrimination and bias in relation to securing CE placements is a major challenge that is being dealt with on an ongoing basis.



Figure 12: Kildare Traveller CE Scheme Poster advertising opportunities for Traveller Community on CE Scheme

Older People

SICAP works across goals and links with Older Voices Kildare (OVK) to provide a range of supports to older people aimed at reducing isolation and helping them to reengage in society after the pandemic. A new programme, developed by SICAP and OVK, was run in Rathangan with 14 participants. They identified ways they wanted to support their community and set goals. Older People were supported in reengaging in community activities following the Covid Pandemic. Older People groups were supported in attending Healthy Food Made Easy programmes and Mental Health and Wellbeing workshops. Group members also participated in online digital skills courses, Chair yoga and craft workshops. Funding opportunities were supported for Older People to engage in social activities and outings.

Older People were supported in reengaging in community activities following the Covid Pandemic. Older People groups were supported in attending Healthy Food Made Easy programmes and Mental Health and Wellbeing workshops. Group members also participated in online digital skills courses, Chair yoga and craft workshops. Funding opportunities were supported for Older People to engage in social activities and outings.

Mental Health & Wellbeing:

“Mental Health” as a priority for 2022 was successful as SICAP staff continued to develop and support the expansion of the Kildare Social Farming Initiative with nine people experiencing on farm placements in Kildare in 2022. This initiative provides a therapeutic, holistic, wellbeing and social approach to the outdoors and farm animals. The practice of Social Farming strongly contributes to improved Mental Health and Wellbeing for all participants and their families. Social farming provides disadvantaged groups and individuals an opportunity for inclusion within rural communities. Social farming also creates the opportunity in further connecting rural farmers with the local community. Therefore, social farming has a value-based purpose with social objectives promoting inclusion, rehabilitation, choice, and giving a voice to its participants. People who potentially benefit from engagement in social farming are people experiencing social isolation and marginalisation, older people, people experiencing mental health issues and burnout, long term unemployed and people with disabilities as social farming incorporates a wide range of functions and activities to meet their needs.

New Communities

SICAP had an ongoing presence in the Direct Provision centres, providing information and engaging with people who were looking for supports such as CV preparation, manual handling, HACCP and other training. SICAP supported over 200 people from new communities who landed in Newbridge and needed a wide variety of supports.

6. Please outline the challenges faced and lessons learned in relation to the overall delivery of SICAP during 2022. Were you able to overcome any of the challenges? If so, please describe. (half a page - 1 page)

COVID for first half of the year impacted on the way work could be done. Very little was in person and working online was essential to meeting targets. Clients were ‘met’ over the phone and over Zoom/MS Teams. Agreements and paperwork were handled over email. We had become accustomed to this during 2020 and 2021. Gradually in Q3 and Q4 SICAP started to work more in person, but it was still found that a lot of work could be done effectively, and for the benefit of the client, online. Targets were met using this approach. Using a hybrid approach of in-person and online training SICAP are able to reach out to a wider audience and ensure a better attendance across our range of training programmes. Online HACCP works particularly well. Manual handling works in both delivery methods. The Youth Employment Programmes were successful when delivered online as it takes a while to build the relationships with young people and trust to encourage them to leave their rooms and homes to attend something in person with a group of people they haven’t met. Continuing with the hybrid approach would work well for the team and for SICAP clients.



Figure 13, 14, 15 – Selection of Online Courses provided through SICAP 2022

It was difficult through the year to encourage community groups to get back to operating effectively in person. Many people were slow to engage in group activities, even while others were eager to. The development workers made continuous contact with people to help encourage them to remain in or become involved in their community groups again.

For some of our older people and many of our young people a lot of “handholding” has been required to keep them engaged and involved in SICAP supports and other activities.

Digital poverty was an issue for many of the young people and some of the older people and SICAP was able to loan out devices and provide support in using these to access the online activities.

Following on from running the three Level 7 certificate courses fully online in 2021 due to COVID 19, and the feedback received from the participants, it was decided to keep the weekday evenings of the 2022 certificate courses as an online component. Having the weekday classes online made it a lot easier for people to work around work/family commitments and so be available to take part in the courses. SICAP also provided laptops to participants in 2022 for the duration of the certificate courses, to help address possible exclusion arising from digital poverty issues.

7. Please describe an approach or project that worked well in 2022 that you think would be useful to share with other SICAP implementers. (half a page)

Guidance: Please do not use the same project or approach that you used for your 2022 case study. This should be a different project

SICAP staff continue to support the expansion of the Social Farming Programme in County Kildare in collaboration with Social Farming Ireland. This programme continues to provide a therapeutic, holistic, wellbeing and social approach to the outdoors and farm animals which strongly contributes to the improved Mental Health and Wellbeing for the participants and their families.

SICAP staff link with other Social Farming Initiatives currently being developed in Ireland. The 2021 Disability Participation and Awareness fund continues to expand countywide with participations in placements for the first quarter of 2023.

The Kildare Social Farming Steering Group that involves key stakeholders including Social Farming Ireland, Kildare County Council, disability organisations and CKLP representatives continues to lead out and guide the development of the Kildare Social Farming Initiative.

A service level agreement has been put in place between SICAP and Social Farming Ireland to develop the Kildare Social Farming Initiative in 2023. Goal 1 staff have completed Social Farming Training for the further development of the Kildare Social Farming Initiative.

Additionally, SICAP staff continues to link with local farming families while supporting ongoing engagement between the farming families and the Department of Agriculture, IFA, Social Farming including Local and National supports.

8. Please reflect on the programme supports that DRCD and/or Pobal provided to LDCs in 2022. Were they helpful? Would you recommend any changes in approach or content? (quarter of a page)

Guidance: Please consider the SICAP thematic workshops, DTT events, annual engagement meeting, guidance provided around programme flexibility etc.

As with 2021, the flexibility around programme delivery by DRCD has facilitated the development of online engagement and the relaxation of programme requirements has allowed relationships with individuals and

local community groups to develop. This is evident in the increase in the number of interventions across Goal One and Goal Two. Based on the lessons learned in 6 above it is hoped that this way of working can be maintained for the remainder of the programme. These have included facility to provide training online and through the use of licences to provide online courses, use of Zoom and Teams for programme delivery and the flexibility in relation to the use of budgets to meet local needs during COVID 19 by agreement with Kildare LCDC.

9 Please suggest potential programme supports that DRCD and/or Pobal could deliver to LDCs in 2023, including programme supports that could assist with working with Ukrainians and/or the programme priorities. (quarter of a page)

Guidance: This could involve technical, or programme supports. Please be specific in terms of the topics / areas of focus and the preferred method of delivery e.g., online learning workshops, capacity building webinars etc.

1. Carry out research to review the HP Deprivation Index taking account the impact of HAP numbers on the deprivation indices.
2. Map SICAP initiatives for young people at risk of early school leaving to support the expansion of DEIS resources for schools in disadvantaged areas across the county.
3. Host a national event around best practice in supporting the long term unemployed.
4. Provision of continuous development through a database of:
Documents
Videos
Webinars
5. More network meetings for those below CEO level.

Annex 1 – Updates to the IRIS database

Please confirm that you have completed the following end-of-year requirements:

<input type="checkbox"/>	A narrative for each of the 2022 Actions has been input in the Update on Progress field under the End of Year report section of the action record. The <i>Action Progress Report</i> can be generated to view the updates for each action.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2022 financial and beneficiary data input is complete.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2022 data quality issues identified on system dashboards and views have been rectified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Potential duplicate records have been reviewed and deactivated if appropriate.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2022 data follow-up has been carried out, as appropriate (e.g., LLL activity outcomes, still in employment/self-employment).
<input type="checkbox"/>	ESF exit data has been recorded for Individuals who are no longer engaged with SICAP, in particular those who have not received any interventions in 2022.
<input type="checkbox"/>	ESF 6 month follow-up has been recorded for Individuals who exited SICAP up to end May 2022.
<input type="checkbox"/>	LDC contact information and staff member listing are up-to-date.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2022 End of Year Financial and Monitoring report (including the signed costs charged report, Lot Summary Report and goal outcome reports) has been uploaded to IRIS.