



SOUTH KERRY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Joanne Griffin (Enterprise Officer with SKDP)



Supports for local jobseekers

HELPING PEOPLE to find employment in their local area is a priority for the SKDP, and one of the ways they do this is by making sure that people access available enterprise supports, through the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.

"These include the Back to Work Allowance Scheme," says Joanne Griffin, Enterprise Officer with SKDP.

"This scheme allows people who have been on social welfare to continue receiving 100% of their payments for the first year after setting up their own business and 75% for the second year."

The supports also include access grants of up to €2,500, which cover accountancy and advertising services as well as the cost of purchasing equipment. There's a separate capital funding grant of 65% of the cost of the item being purchased up to a maximum of €500.

"People participating in the programme get invited to local networking events where they get to meet each other and build relationships as well as hear talks about LEADER funding and other

related topics," says Joanne. "They are also given access to a bookkeeper who teaches them how to manage their finances and how to keep books of accounts."

Another way the SKDP helps people to find work is by encouraging employer engagement locally. "We build relationships with employers in South Kerry in order to help the people who are most distant from the labour market to find jobs," says Joanne.

A recent example of this was an event organised for the hotel sector in the area.

"This was our second hotel event and we had 12 of the main hotels in Killarney involved," says Joanne.

"87 of our registered jobseekers turned up to meet the HR managers from those hotels and 50% of people got an interview as a result."

Local employment services

THE SOUTH Kerry Local Employment Service (LES) and South Kerry Jobs Club have been helping people to find work since 1995.

With offices in Cahersiveen, Killorglin, Killarney and Kenmare and outreach offices in Sneem, Waterville, Valentia Island and Annascaul, they are well placed to serve the people of South Kerry.

"We provide a range of employment supports and career guidance to enable unemployed and underemployed jobseekers in South Kerry to access work and training," says Bridie Buckley, manager of South Kerry LES and South Kerry Jobs Club.

"We also provide services to employers, help with recruitment, upskilling and access to employer incentives. Our services are tailored to the needs of each individual client with no cost to the employer or jobseeker."

South Kerry LES and Jobs Club have built up detailed knowledge of the local economy and its various support services over the past 23 years. This has enabled them to provide thousands of people with the relevant skills training, assistance with CVs



Bridie Buckley (manager of South Kerry LES and South Kerry Jobs Club)

and letters of application and interview skills advice that has ultimately led to them finding a job.

In 2019, South Kerry LES assisted more than 700 new jobseekers, placing 261 into full-time employment or self-employment and 118 into part-time employment.

A further 181 accessed training and education courses and 145 took up positions on Labour Market programmes like Community Employment Programmes, TUS and the Rural Social Scheme.

Offices are found all over South Kerry, with the main ones in Cahersiveen, Killorglin, Killarney and Kenmare. To find out more about the services or to make an appointment, call 066 9473068.

Backing local enterprise success



Enterprise supports with impact from SKDP

SOUTH KERRY Development Partnership (SKDP) supports enterprises at all stages of their development by offering a comprehensive suite of services and supports.

"We are here to help," says Noel Spillane, the CEO of South Kerry Development Partnership.

"Whether you are an aspiring entrepreneur with a business idea, or an established business looking to expand and grow, SKDP have a range of enterprise supports that can assist the individual or business on their enterprise journey."

The SKDP range of enterprise supports include training, mentoring, feasibility studies, grant aid, support to access other state-funded grant schemes, the provision of labour resources to support Social Enterprise Groups and referral to other enterprise support agencies where appropriate.

SKDP also provides a range of supports to employers - including support with recruitment and advertising staff vacancies through the South Kerry Local Employment Service weekly job sheet.

SKDP in Killorglin, l-r: Maureen O'Donnell (Rural Development Coordinator), Sean De Buitléar, Joanne Griffin (Enterprise Officer), Noel Spillane (CEO), Ann O'Riordan (Enterprise Officer), Aisling O'Sullivan Darcy (Development Officer) and Bridie Buckley (LES Coordinator).



Noel Spillane (CEO of South Kerry Development Partnership)

Through the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme, SKDP can provide grant aid of up to 50% to support qualifying micro, small and medium sized businesses across a number of eligible areas.

Social inclusion is a core ethos, and SKDP places an important emphasis on supporting individuals who are unemployed and who wish to pursue

self-employment as a career option.

Working closely with the Dept of Employment and Social Protection, SKDP supports eligible individuals to access the DEASP funded Back to Work Area Enterprise Allowance Scheme.

The scheme enables participants to retain their social welfare benefits for the first two years of the scheme (100% in year 1 of the scheme & 75% in year 2) whilst they establish their enterprise.

Advice and guidance is also available on small scale capital funding, mentoring and start your own business courses for those who establish an enterprise through the scheme.

Through its training network - South Kerry Skillnet, SKDP provides a range of enterprise-led training opportunities to upskill business at all levels, including owners, managers and employees.

"Ensuring that enterprises have the range of skills needed for their current and future operating needs is crucial in ensuring their competitiveness and growth in what is now a fast-moving and dynamic business environment," says Noel Spillane.

Details of all the SKDP programmes and contact details can be found in our offices in Cahersiveen, Killorglin, Killarney and Kenmare or through our website www.southkerry.ie or on our Facebook page.

Business training from Skillnet



Aoife O'Reilly (manager of South Kerry Skillnet)

SOUTH KERRY Skillnet is a business training network that aims to support lifelong learning in enterprise across every sector in Kerry and throughout the wider region.

"Our goal is to develop the workforce in the region by upskilling people in employment," says Aoife O'Reilly, manager of South Kerry Skillnet.

"We want to help employers to retain their staff and we want to ensure that employees have opportunities for career progression within their chosen fields."

The needs of enterprise and employers are to the forefront of what South Kerry Skillnet does.

"They tell us what the skills gaps are in their workforce and we respond by organising sub-

sidised training programmes for them, taught by the best trainers in the business," says Aoife.

In 2019, South Kerry Skillnet assisted more than 160 of its member companies with over 800 trainees availing of courses or networking events.

"It's free to become a member," says Aoife. "Our membership has grown by over 100% in the past four years as more and more people become aware of the training and networking opportunities we have to offer."

Some of these member companies were large businesses such as Astellas and Fexco,

while Skillnet's services are available to small and medium-sized enterprises too.

South Kerry Skillnet also hosts a number of forums for owners and managers working in different industries such as childcare, HR, leisure centres and spas and hairdressing.

Aoife would like to emphasise that South Kerry Skillnet is an organisation that offers a full and affordable support system to facilitate learning and development needs throughout the Kerry region and even further afield.

Visit our website at www.kerryskillnet.ie, email: info@kerryskillnet.ie or call us on 066 9762477.

Crafty about local beer

CRAFT BEER has come to the Iveragh Peninsula. McGill's Brewery is the first craft brewery to be set up in the region.

Founded by Radio Kerry presenter and beer enthusiast Joe McGill, its beers are directly inspired by the local area. "Each beer reflects local heroes, culture and history," says Joe.

Joe began home brewing in 2014 and became so passionate that he finally decided to set up a brewery of his own in Murreigh in Waterville.

"I found the perfect premises in what was formerly Moran's Shop, right across from the church," he says.

He opened last year, selling hand-crafted traditional Irish beer styles.

"There's the Skellig Monks blonde beer and the Dark Sky Reserve Stout," says Joe. "This summer, I'll be launching the Maud De Lap red ale. All of these are 4.5% sessional beers and produced in small batches."

The response from the public has been positive so far. "So many pubs and restaurants have approached me asking if they can stock the beer because they want to have a local product to offer their customers," Joe says.



Joe and Mags McGill from McGill's Brewery at Murreigh, Waterville.

The beer is now stocked in 65 different locations throughout South Kerry and as far afield as Tralee and there are plans to introduce draught McGill's beer in select locations over the summer.

"SKDP's LEADER funding helped

with the cost of purchasing equipment and to pay for marketing and signage," he says.

"The support and advice I've been given is invaluable too. It's great to know that they're behind me."

More at www.mcgillsbrewery.com.

High spirits in Cahersiveen



SPIRITS ARE high in Cahersiveen thanks to the ongoing success of the town's Skellig Six 18 Distillery. Founded by locals June O'Connell, Patrick Cooney and Pat Sugrue, this distillery is already producing Skellig Six 18 Gin and has plans to produce premium pot still Irish whiskey by the end of 2021.

The distillery is located on Valentia Road, where it enjoys excellent views of Valentia Harbour, Doulus Head, Ballycarbery Castle and Beginish Island.

"We acquired the former Wilson Socks factory here with the intention of converting it into a destination distillery with state-of-the-art production supported by a visitor centre," says Pat Sugrue. "The plan is to commence developing the visitor centre later this year."

"We believe Cahersiveen to be an excellent location to base our business and intend for Skellig Six 18 to develop into a global participant in this fast-growing industry."

The company has installed a 500 litre gin

The management team at Skellig Distillers pictured at a recent Taste the Island Event held at the new distillery in Cahersiveen, l-r: Stephen Kelleghan, Patrick Cooney, June O'Connell, Pat Sugrue and Norma O'Shea.

still and is making inroads into the Irish and European gin markets with its signature Skellig Six 18 brand of gin.

The team behind Skellig Six 18 Distillery are thankful to the South Kerry Development Partnership for their support.

"Stepping into the domestic and international drinks market is a capital-intensive activity," says Pat.

"SKDP's professionalism and knowledge have been just as important as the financial support received. Because of them, we have made an excellent start."

SKDP has also introduced Skellig Six 18 to the FILECS programme. "We are delighted to engage in this programme because sustainable production is centre to our mission statement development," says Pat.

www.skelligsix18distillery.ie

Kim Elliot is on a Rocket to success!

KIM ELLIOT has been living in Southwest Kerry for over 20 years. Two years ago, she set up Rocket Deliveries, providing fresh organic fruit and vegetable boxes to homes on the Ring of Kerry and the Tralee area.

"I have always enjoyed seasonal Irish-grown fresh organic produce," says Kim. "When I ran a market stall, I found that customers loved the taste too as well as the knowledge that no chemicals had been used to grow the produce and no plastic was used in the packaging, just reusable bags and boxes."

When Kim decided to set up Rocket Deliveries, she approached SKDP Cahersiveen for advice.

"Enterprise Officer Anne O'Riordan explained the benefits of availing of the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance," she says.

"This enabled me to attend an SKDP-organised Start Your Own Business Course in Killorglin."

SKDP provided Kim with financial assistance too, part-funding the gazebo she needed for her market stall and helped her purchase a tablet.

"Last year, I teamed up



Kim Elliott (Rocket Deliveries)

with an organic farmer in Galway as I needed a higher volume of produce to meet demand," says Kim.

"They helped me to grow the business to where it is today, to the point where I

was shortlisted for an ILDN National Enterprise Award in May 2019," she says.

www.rocketdeliveries.com, or contact 087-4118678.

From craft company to high-end manufacture

PAUL HURLEY and Kevin Gallogly founded Mango Crafts in 2003, shortly after they graduated from university.

"It was initially a craft company but over time, we have moved into high-end furniture manufacture," says Kevin.

"We custom-make furniture to the express specifications of our customers, using only the finest timbers in the world to make something that is truly unique."

They source their timber from Asia but do so in a sustainable way. "We only use timbers from salvaged, reclaimed or managed sources," says Kevin. "We also plant 500 teak trees every year in order to offset our shipping footprint."

Mango's furniture is on display in their two showrooms, one on Shelbourne Street in Kenmare and one in



Paul Hurley and Kevin Gallogly of Mango Crafts in Kenmare and Killarney

the Killarney Outlet Centre.

Kevin and Paul received a lot of support from SKDP, especially when things were economically challenging.

"Following the downturn, SKDP helped us move into new markets and with producing higher-end products," says Kevin.

"They sat down with us to discuss our strategy for entering the UK market and helped us to upgrade our workshop and website. They also helped with marketing, distribution

and enabled us to take on new employees."

SKDP provided support again in the aftermath of Brexit.

"They couldn't do enough to help us respond to the changing needs of a changing market," says Kevin.

"They have played a huge part in our success and in making us the company we are today, with eight full-time employees including ourselves."

www.mangocrafts.com.

Ireland's only Creamery Experience museum



FOUNDED BY Paul and Annette Garland last year, the Kerry Creamery Experience visitor centre recreates the creamery, showing how it once functioned as a pivotal point of rural life.

The Garland family had purchased the old creamery site at Lissavane East from the Kerry Group in 2002, and ran a garden centre there until 2018. When they closed the garden centre, they decided to convert the site into a museum devoted to the creamery movement in Ireland, the first and only one of its kind in the country.

"We wanted to educate younger generations about bygone rural life and the creamery movement," says Annette Garland.

"We wanted to introduce tourists to our history, and we wanted to evoke fond memories for older visitors who remember their local creamery."

They had to renovate the original creamery building, which still had an intact manager's office complete with paperwork. They collected a large exhibition of machinery

Paul and Annette Garland of The Kerry Creamery Experience in Listry

and objects.

"Visitors see the arrival of the churns on donkey and cart," says Annette. "They are talked through the whole process of measuring and grading the milk and then hear interviews with local people about their recollections of the creamery."

"We highlight the social importance of the creamery, how it was a place where news was exchanged, and help was offered when need became known."

The Kerry Creamery Experience can also be booked for private tours, birthday parties and school tours.

The Garland family are very grateful to SKDP for their help. "We'd like to thank Noel Spillane for his guidance and support when we applied for LEADER funding," says Anne.

"He was always there for advice when we needed it."

www.thekerrycreameryexperience.ie.