

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG



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May 22, 2019

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG

Forewords



Regina Doherty TD Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection

I WISH to extend my warmest congratulations to South Kerry Development Partnership on the publication of this excellent and informative supplement. The Tús and Rural Social Schemes in South Kerry do magnificent work in the area, and I know how much they are appreciated by the local community. This supplement helps to highlight and showcase the fantastic work that local projects involved in the Tús and Rural Social Schemes carry out day to day in the local area.

During my time as Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, I have seen first-hand just how important initiatives like Tús and the Rural Social Scheme are to their local communities. These schemes help people gain valuable experience and training, and also provide a much needed service to the community. They promote and support social inclusion all across the country. I am fully committed to the future of those community employment schemes that make a valuable contribution to local communities, and I want to see them sustained.

South Kerry Development Partnership is responsible for delivering Tús and Rural Social Scheme placements to up to 279 people in South Kerry who are either long term unemployed or under employed.

The Rural Social Scheme provides opportunities for farmers and fishermen who are currently in receipt of certain social welfare payments to work to provide certain services of benefit to rural communities. Communities benefit from the skills and talents of local farmers and fishermen and the participants have the opportunity to improve existing skills, or develop new skills, while performing this valuable work in their local communities.

In recognition of the crucial work undertaken in rural communities under the Rural Social Scheme and as part of my Department's budget package for 2018, the Government approved an additional 250 places on the Rural Social Scheme, increasing the overall number of places available to 3,350.

The Tús initiative is a very valuable community work placement scheme that offers participants useful work-related skills, helping to make that first step back to employment while playing a part in their local community. Activities involved under the scheme include work on tidy town's teams, landscaping, developing amenities, and working in IT and administration.

The Budget 2019 allocated a €5 increase in all social welfare payments, including community employment placements like Tús and the Rural Social Scheme.

Finally, once again I congratulate South Kerry Development Partnership, and everyone involved in the Tús and Rural Social Schemes in South Kerry, for their enthusiasm and the contribution they have made in providing opportunities for people in the area.



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí**
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection

Special thanks to Stephen Fernane and Michelle Cooper Galvin for their contribution to this supplement.



Noel Spillane Chief Executive Officer Gloria O'Driscoll, Chairperson

WE are delighted to support this supplement, which showcases the very valuable work that both the Rural Social Scheme & Tús Programme under-take in communities right across South Kerry. The Rural Social Scheme & Tús Programmes are funded by the Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection and both schemes are implemented in South Kerry by South Kerry Development Partnership CLG.

We are very proud of the work undertaken by the participants on both schemes and the very significant impact of the schemes in supporting community and voluntary activity in South Kerry. The SKDP Rural Social Scheme & Tús Programme supports over 200 community and voluntary organisations in South Kerry with a range of community, environmental, recreation, social, cultural and community enterprise projects. They provide an invaluable labour resource to support the many active and committed community organisations to deliver vital services in their communities.

The concept behind the Rural Social Scheme was a simple one: provide an income support for small farmers and fishermen, who in return would provide 19.5 hours work per week to the community. The Rural Social Scheme thereby enabled many small holders to remain farming whilst providing the wider community with the benefits of the skills and expertise that many of these smallholder s possess. Small holders are self-employed farmers whose existence provides the countryside with the biodiversity and green landscape, on the back of which our tourism and food industries are marketed. In the absence of the Rural Social Scheme, the future of many small family farms in South Kerry would be seriously threatened.

We have a long and proud tradition of community development in South Kerry and this was very clearly captured by Dr Brendan O'Keeffe in a very comprehensive report on rural vibrancy in South Kerry, published in 2015. Dr Brendan O'Keeffe noted that the community and voluntary organisations in South Kerry are more active than ever before. They have more members, more capacity and more responsibilities than at any time in the past.

He added that the range of services and activities operated by community and voluntary groups has also expanded very considerably, and over 95 percent operate at least two services. Indeed, the level of service provision on the part of voluntary bodies in many communities is almost commensurate with that of a municipal (local) authority in most European countries.

Dr Brendan O'Keeffe's findings highlight the desire and spirit of the people of South Kerry to develop and help themselves if supported and enabled to do so.

The Rural Social Scheme & Tús programme in South Kerry has played a very significant role in providing this support and enabling community & voluntary organisations in South Kerry become more active, increase their capacity and expand the range of services they provide. The success of both schemes makes a compelling case for increased and on-going investment in community development and in the rural economy.

South Kerry Development Partnership, with its community led structures, its integrated suite of development programmes, its extensive links with communities across South Kerry and its committed staff, has provided the platform for the success of both schemes and will continue to be the most appropriate structure to implement the schemes going forward.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection for their ongoing funding, the South Kerry Development Partnership Board of Directors for their governance and oversight of both schemes, the RSS/ TUS Programme Manager Joseph McCrohan and the scheme supervisors for all their hard work and above all the many community & voluntary groups throughout South Kerry for their active engagement with both schemes and their commitment to improving the quality of life and place in their own communities.

We look forward to many more years of Rural Social Scheme & Tús Programme activity in South Kerry underpinned by the community led bottom up approach of South Kerry Development Partnership CLG.



Joe McCrohan RSS & Tús Manager

THIS South Kerry Development Partnership CLG, Rural Social Scheme (RSS) and Tús community work placement initiative (Tús) supplement has been put together to show what community volunteers, supervisors and participants can achieve together. Whilst it was not possible to cover every project that the South Kerry RSS & Tús participants work on, the supplement gives a good cross section of the type of work the participants do every week of the year.

Currently, we have 200 farmers and fishers participating on the Rural Social Scheme and 102 people participating on the Tús community work placement initiative. Over the past two years South Kerry Development Partnership CLG received 28 new RSS places which is an endorsement from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

We currently have five places available for farmers or fishermen on the Rural Social Scheme and we would like to talk to any farmer that might be interested in working on a community project locally. Over the coming years we will have more places becoming available as current participants retire or finish their six-year contract on the scheme. Farm incomes are under pressure due to low beef and lamb prices at farm gate, and the increase input cost associated with farming in South Kerry. The Rural Social Scheme provides a practical opportunity for low income farmers to address low farm family income. It also provides a social outlet for farmers each week where they get the opportunity to work with other farmers and community organisations.

Tús provides long-term unemployed people with opportunities to work in their local community and receive additional income for their families. For many different reasons, people can find themselves unemployed and Tús provide a new starting point. The move from redundancy to new employment, from education to your first job, or the move from poor health to back to work can be a difficult time in a person's life. The South Kerry Development Partnership CLG Tús initiative is there to help. As this is a one-year initiative for participants, places will always become available and we encourage people who are 12 months on the live register to make contact with me, or any supervisor.

The cost of this supplement was entirely covered by the adverts from community groups and local businesses contained on these pages. South Kerry Development Partnership CLG is sincerely grateful to these groups and we encourage you to support the local businesses that supported this supplement.

I encourage people to read the supplement and ask the question, 'could my community benefit from the RSS and Tús?' If the answers is 'yes' then please contact me with your ideas at 066-9472724 or by e mail at jmcrohan@skdp.net

Community life has changed in recent times, people work longer hours, further from home, traditional industries have declined, families are smaller, people are living longer, community services and infrastructure standards are higher and so on. Community services and infrastructure must change to meet these new needs. South Kerry Development Partnership CLG is there to meet the new community needs and continue to deliver on existing commitments.

I would like to thank all the RSS/Tús Supervisors, past and present, for their hard work in keeping this very important community support up and running week in and week out for many years. I would also like to thank the board of South Kerry Development Partnership CLG, who have overall governance responsibility for the operation of both schemes. I extend my sympathies to the families of RSS and Tús participants who have passed on. We look forward to continuing our work with community volunteers in the years ahead.

Lastly, on the 23 December 2018 it was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Donal Foley former Supervisor in the Mid Kerry area. Donal was an outstanding supervisor with strong local knowledge of community life in Mid Kerry and its people. Donal could get the best out of people and he was always willing to give everyone an opportunity to work and be part of the Tús initiative. We miss Donal in South Kerry Development Partnership CLG and we extend our sympathy to his wife Marta and daughter Tara and the extended Foley family.

Joseph McCrohan, RSS & Tús Manager
Tel 066-9472724 Email: jmcrohan@skdp.net

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG



Killarney Supervisors

Breda O Shea	T 087 9715446	E boshea@skdp.net
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Ger Moynihan	T 087 1240365	E gmoynihan@skdp.net

SKDP Supervisors front row left to right; Mary Clifford, Rosaire McGillycuddy, Joseph McCrohan RSS and Tús Manager, Breda O Shea, Adrian Griffin, and middle row left to right Paudie O Shea, John McCrohan, Lisa Murphy, Donal McCarthy, back row left to right Concubhair Lyne, David O'Neill, Breda Keating and Ger Moynihan.

Ross Café: a welcoming place to pop in for tea ...



Kathleen Collins (centre) with Joe McCrohan RSS & Tús Manager and Lisa Murphy Supervisor at Ross Café, Upper Lewis Road, Killarney.

THIS is a venue that is thriving thanks to the warm and friendly atmosphere created by everyone associated with the Ross Café in Killarney.

Run by Kerry Mental Health Association, it is a fantastic setting in the heart of Killarney where people with special needs of all ages and abilities form part of a busy café environment. It is a well-supported café that also functions as a drop in centre for people to relax and interact.

Social scheme members under the auspices of SKDP have done a fantastic job in getting the Ross Café up and running. A new seating area will be open shortly, which will add further to the atmosphere. In many ways this is an underused facility that is open to the public for meetings and casual get-together events.

"The SKDP is hugely important as they send the RSS and Tús participants who help us. We couldn't have done what we

have only for them. They're very skilled RSS and Tús participants that have made a huge difference," said Joan McCarthy. Up to 20 people work at various times throughout the day in the Ross Café, which is testament to its overall sense of inclusiveness. All the money raised goes back into the services they provide. Those who oversee the running of the café are immensely proud of it and the work of Kerry Mental Health Association.

Kerry Mental Health Service providing support

SOUTH Kerry Development Partnership (SKDP) is hugely supportive to the service users of Kerry Mental Health Service. It regularly requires their assistance in providing practical supports to vulnerable people living in the community.

Moreover, SKDP also help to improve people's basic living conditions by providing RSS and Tús participants to assist with the clear-out of homes, painting and the upkeep of gardens. Improvements made to the home environment have a significant positive impact on people's mental health needs.

The work carried out by SKDP in these instances is an integral part of the overall Kerry Mental Health Service and in the user's recovery journey. In its experience, Kerry Mental Health Service say that SKDP is very flexible and adaptable to its service users' needs and work in a collaborative way, while also being sensitive and respectful.

Lastly, Kerry Mental Health Service personnel stress that staff in SKDP are friendly, approachable and very community orientated in their work. This helps to promote and foster positive relationships in the community and ensures an inclusive service for all. SKDP's service is invaluable



Tara Monaghan of Kerry Mental Health.

and Kerry Mental Health Service looks forward to continuing its good working relationship into the future.

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'Football For All' kicks on to bigger and better things



John and Jane O'Donoghue, Denis Tucker, Lisa Murphy SKDP Supervisor, volunteers and participants at the Killarney Celtic/Football for All at Celtic Park, Killarney.

KILLARNEY Celtic's Football For All is a fantastic sporting initiative set up for children with intellectual, sensory and physical needs so they can participate in soccer in a non-competitive environment.

Established by John and Jane and O'Donoghue, it's for children aged 6 to 16 years with many of the athletes going on to become members of the

Kerry Stars Special Olympics. Just four athletes took part in the very first Football For All event but this has steadily increased to over 50 members. A recent blitz attracted close to 150 children from all over Munster. RSS and Tús participants from SKDP have been an integral part of Football For All story - both in terms of coaching and administration. They undergo special training for the

role and it is helping the club to prosper. One of the many positives arising from this group is that the earlier children start playing sport, the better their overall development.

Mary Lyne of Killarney Celtic FC said the success of Football For All has exceeded everyone's expectation, while the input of RSS and Tús participants coming from the local schemes is

equally beneficial.

"The people that SKDP send to us are extremely good. They stay with us for a year and it serves as a great springboard for them and their ongoing training. Also, because we are a community based club, we introduce people to what is a very vibrant and interactive setting. It's an arrangement that works well for everyone," said Mary.

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Looking to a bright future for Killarney Rugby Club

THE success of Killarney Rugby Club has resulted in a rise in membership and interest in the game locally. In 2019 the seniors just lost out on promotion, while the 16s won the Munster Development Cup for the first time. Over 30 senior players contributed to the club's success this season, while the club is confident of having its own U18 structures in place for 2019-20.

Killarney Rugby Club Chairman, Ger Moynihan is pleased with the club's progression, which has consolidated its support base thanks to a combination of volunteerism and passion for the game. The input of SKDP is a vital part of the day to day running

of what is now a growing club. RSS and Tús participants look after over 13 acres of pitches, providing a year-round service in cutting, fertilising and lining pitches. Tús workers also help with administration work. "This help takes a lot of pressure off the club," Ger explains. "The work they do is fantastic and as well as the pitch, they also look after the surrounds as well."

The future of Killarney Rugby Club is a bright one and its main strategy in the years ahead is to build its own club house. This will rely on a combination of grants and self-funding, which will call on the club's volunteers and fundraising capabilities.



Ger Sugrue, Ger Moynihan and Liam Murphy Killarney Rugby Club with John O'Leary and Clint Frost of SKDP at Killarney Rugby Club, Fossa, Killarney.



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Killarney Celtic Football for All team who participated in the Munster Football for All blitz in Celtic Park, Killarney.



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Killarney's looking good thanks to its loyal Tidy Towns volunteers...

KILLARNEY is a town that continues to score high in the national Tidy Towns competitions. It's easy to see why this is when one factors in the solidarity of its volunteers. Over the past number of years the Killarney Looking Good committee has worked closely with SKDP on a number of employment schemes.

An example of some of the works carried out in the past 12

months include stonework and nameplates at the entrance to the town, as well as at the entrance to estates, edging green areas within estates, and planting in and around the town.

This work complements the work of the Council and the volunteers, while these works not only visually enhance the town and estates, they also provide us with the knowledge and experience of what can be achieved when people work together

in partnership towards a shared goal.

"There is a great sense of cooperation in Killarney between all organisations and it is this working together that allows the town maintain such high standards in everything it does. Ní neart go cur le chéile - we are stronger when we work together," said Eileen O' Donoghue on behalf of the Killarney Looking Good Committee

Best Wishes to
South Kerry Partnership from
Killarney Community Services



Holy Cross Day Care Centre,
Rock Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry, V93 EVP2
Tel: **064 6631987/6635005**
Email: **killarneycommunityservices@eircom.net**



Ionad na Dromoda

This Community Development project is the Hub of the Dromid Community. We appreciate support through Schemes or Funding Programmes made available to us by SKDP

Services available for all ages from infants of four months to seniors in their ninties.

Do eolas breise / for further information on all the services offered glaoch ar Cathy on **066 947482 / 087 6852570, maistirgaoithe@eircom.net**

Continued Success & Best Wishes to
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from



TEMPLENOE GAA CLUB



Tom O'Sullivan, Noel O'Leary Killarney Town Council with Breda O'Shea and Joe McCrohan RSS and Tús Manager at St Brendan's Place, Killarney.

Ballydribeen Residents' Association: building a strong community base



Standing from left; Julie Casey, Lisa Murphy Supervisor, Eilbhín Ní Chatháin, Carmel Lanigan, Éadoin Moynihan, Maria Culebra, Joe McCrohan RSS and Tús Manager and Bridget O'Neill at the Ballydribeen Residents' Association, Killarney.

THE Ballydribeen Residents' Association was set up in 2011 with the purpose of improving the locality for residents. The association currently encapsulates around six housing estates containing over 1000 residents.

They also boast of a very hardworking committee, which helps to keep things ticking over. Through SKDP, the Ballydribeen Residents' Association is able to utilise various aspects pertaining to SKDP like Tús workers and the assistance of Community Development worker, Aileen Moynihan.

Liam Grimes of Ballydribeen Residents' Association explains

that Aileen assists the group by informing it of grants they can avail of, as well as support and mentoring.

"This help is vital to our association as it allows us to avail of their experience and advice. They have access to the people we need and that's a great help. It just wouldn't be possible for one group to achieve this without recourse to the supports that are there," said Liam. Lastly, Liam said that thanks to the assistance of Kerry County Council and Leader Funding, Ballydribeen Residents' Association have recently opened a new Community House, which will serve as a focal point for the community.