



South West Mayo

DEVELOPMENT COMPANY CLG

Comhlacht Forbartha
Iardheisceart Mhaigh Eo CTR

Your guide to

SOUTH WEST MAYO DEVELOPMENT COMPANY CLG

Supporting people, communities, and businesses.



Welcome

On behalf of the Board of South West Mayo Development Company (SWMDC), I am delighted to present this guide to our work.

Since 1991, we have grown into a strong and vibrant Local Development Company, currently implementing **13 rural and social development programmes**.

Much of our success is down to our voluntary Board and sub-committee members over the years. CEO, Gerry O'Neill and Financial Controller, Mary O'Malley, manage a committed and experienced staff which, including employment scheme and activation programme participants, is in excess of **500 people**.

We continue to be committed to the 'bottom-up' approach for long-term sustainability of projects and actions. Our offices in Newport and Balla ensure that we are accessible to the people we serve.

With over 25 years' experience in rural, community and social development, we have a deep understanding of the needs and challenges faced by our communities. We use this experience and understanding to secure additional programmes and resources to support our communities.

I invite you to contact South West Mayo Development Company today to see how we can benefit you, your business, or your community.

Is mise le meas
Michael O'Donnell
Chairperson, South West Mayo Development Company

SWMDC is 25 years in existence
Over 50 Programme & Company Staff
450 Community Employment & Activation Staff

Our Programmes

- Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2014 - 2020
- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2015 - 2017
- Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
- Tús Initiative
- Community Employment Schemes (South and West Mayo)
- Rural Recreation & Walks Scheme
- Western Region Drugs & Alcohol Task Force (WRDATF)
- Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme
- Diversity Mayo (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund)
- Mayo Intercultural Action (MIA)
- Social Farming
- Community Food Initiative
- Community Futures

13 Rural & Social Development Programmes
Company annual budget of almost €3 million.
€6.1 million annual budget for Employment Schemes
and Activation Programmes

Our Finance/Administration/Reception Teams

Newport: Eavan Casey, Natasha Kane, Mary O'Malley (Financial Controller), Peg McGrail, Fiona McGreal, Ann Moogan, and Majella Mulchrone.

Balla: Martina McNeely, Kay O'Malley, Rose Ann Prendergast and Margaret Walsh.

Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2014 - 2020

Introduced in 1992, we are now implementing our **fifth LEADER programme** in south and west Mayo (including Gaeltacht and Kiltimagh).

What does LEADER do?

LEADER offers rural communities and businesses grants for a variety of eligible projects and initiatives under themes and sub-themes:

Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation

- Rural Tourism
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Towns
- Broadband

Rural Environment

- Protection and Sustainable use of Water Resources
- Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity
- Development of Renewable Energy

Social Inclusion

- Basic services targeted at hard to reach communities
- Rural Youth

Who can I talk to about LEADER?

Norita Clesham **Community (South/East Mayo)**

M: 087 611 4072 **E:** nclesham@southmayo.com

Sue O'Toole **Business (West Mayo)**

M: 087 254 9470 **E:** sotoole@southmayo.com

Sabina Trench **Business (South/East Mayo) & Community (West Mayo)**

M: 087 741 4000 **E:** strench@southmayo.com

LEADER Administration Team: Fionuala O'Malley, Fiona McGreal, and Majella Mulchrone.

***The LEADER programme has €8.2 million
available for eligible projects in County Mayo.***

Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

2015 - 2017

SWMDC started working on social inclusion in 1996. We implement SICAP in the municipal districts of Castlebar & Claremorris, and Mayo's islands.

What does SICAP do?

SICAP provides the building blocks for local and community development. Aimed at reducing disadvantage and poverty, strengthening local communities, promotes life-long learning and helps people become more job ready.

Summary of SICAP Goals

1. Address social exclusion and equality issues;
2. Life-long learning;
3. Employment and self-employment.

SICAP Target Groups: Disadvantaged children and families, Lone Parents, New Communities, People Living in Disadvantaged Communities, People with Disabilities, Roma, The unemployed, Low Income Workers/ Households, Travellers, Young Unemployed People, NEETs.

SICAP 2016 Achievements

- ✓ Assisted **590 people** and **55 community groups**
- ✓ Educational supports for **365 people** and **667 children/young people**
- ✓ **87 new business start-ups**

Who can I talk to about SICAP?

Aíne Carr

M: 087 192 6187

Anne-Marie Carroll

M: 087 212 8109

Caroline Healy

M: 087 615 1675

Catherine McCloskey

M: 087 124 7771

Breda Murray

M: 087 224 2133

SICAP Project Officer

E: acarr@southmayo.com

SICAP Project Officer

E: amcarroll@southmayo.com

SICAP Project Officer (Islands)

E: chealy@southmayo.com

SICAP Project Officer (Youth)

E: cmccloskey@southmayo.com

Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA)

E: bmurray@southmayo.com

SICAP Administration Team - Peg McGrail, Caroline Price, and Margaret Walsh.

Rural Social Scheme (RSS)

The RSS was introduced in 2004, and SWMDC has grown the scheme in south and west Mayo to a team of **ten Supervisors** and **216 participants**. Our Supervisors manage the RSS participants, provide a contact point for local groups and help communities to plan projects. Our RSS area runs from Mulranny to Shrule, including the smaller towns and villages around Castlebar, Westport, Claremorris and Ballinrobe.

What does the Rural Social Scheme do?

Our Rural Social Scheme supports the work of over **300 community and voluntary groups**. Groups include Tidy Towns, Meals on Wheels, sports clubs, schools, community centres, childcare and elder care groups, walking/cycling trails, visitor centres and heritage committees.

The Rural Social Scheme participants, who come from the local farming and fishing communities, carry out this work. Participants work for **19.5 hours per week** in their community or project.

How do you qualify as a Rural Social Scheme participant?

Participation on the RSS is available to members of the farming and fishing community and who are in receipt of certain social welfare payments. The scheme provides a top-up payment to participants based on their individual circumstances.

To be eligible to work on the RSS you must be eligible for a social welfare payment, such as Farm Assist or Jobseekers Allowance. You must also be linked to an active family farm or involved in the fishing industry. Eligibility for the RSS is based on the family income, but eligibility can transfer to the spouse, partner, brother, sister, daughter or son of the farmer may also be eligible for the RSS, if they meet DSP rules. For more details: <https://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Rural-Social-Scheme.aspx>

Who can I talk to about the Rural Social Scheme?

Tom Carolan

RSS Coordinator

T: 094 936 6692

E: tcarolan@southmayo.com

RSS Supervisors: Gabrielle Clesham, Padraic Corcoran, Breege Duggan, Martina Fadden, Patricia Jennings, Frank McNeela, Chris Mannion, Noel Mulroy, Maura Murphy, and Mark Reed.

RSS Administrators: Eavan Casey and Cathy Connor.

Tús – Community work placement initiative

The Department of Social Protection (DSP) introduced the Tús initiative in 2011 to provide work placement opportunities for unemployed people. Our **eight Team Leaders** coordinate Tús placements and help community/voluntary groups to plan projects for **180 participants**.

What does Tús do?

Tús provides short-term suitable work opportunities for unemployed people within the community and voluntary sector.

Our Tús participants support over **300 community/voluntary groups** in our area of operation, which stretches from **Mulranny to Shrule**. The work is varied and includes everything from small construction-type projects to administration and community social services.

Tús provides opportunities for unemployed people to break the cycle of joblessness and helps to improve work readiness and support a return to employment. Tús aims to boost motivation and confidence, by offering a variety of work placements opportunities and experiences.

SWMDC also provides training to participants such as; Safepass, HACCP, manual handling, interview skills training and job searching advice.

How do you qualify as a Tús participant?

To be eligible for a Tús placement, you must be unemployed for at least one year and in receipt of Jobseekers allowance. People are selected to participate on the Tús initiative and you can contact your case officer in the DSP if you want to be selected for the scheme.

The European Commission provides funding to Tús for participants U-25 years. Tús is jointly backed by the Youth Employment Initiative, the European Social Fund and the Department of Social Protection. For more see: <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Ts--Community-Work-Placement-Initiative.aspx>

Are Tús and RSS the same?

The two schemes complement each other, sometimes working collaboratively on projects. However, Tús is focussed on progressing people from unemployment back into the workforce.

Tús Team Leaders: Michael Carroll, Kevin Cunniffe, Mairead Dooley, Brian Finn, Ben Gilbert, Trevor Grimes, Tony Hynes, Olivia Kitterick, and Michael Robinson.

Tús Administrators: Eavan Casey and Cathy Connor.

Community Employment Schemes

Funded by the Department of Social Protection, SWMDC has sponsored two Community Employment (CE) schemes since 2010. The schemes are divided between the south and west of our area and we employ **two Supervisors and an Assistant Supervisor** to manage **50 participants**. A total of **21 community organisations** benefit from our CE schemes.

What do CE schemes do?

CE Schemes provide meaningful part-time employment to long-term unemployed and other disadvantaged groups. CE participants help our communities to provide vital social and community services that would otherwise be unaffordable. Childcare, elder care, environmental and resource workers, bus drivers, and caretakers are typical areas of work.

How do you qualify for Community Employment?

As a general rule you must be **over 21** and in receipt of a social welfare payment for at least 12 months. Rules can vary for different people so you must check out your eligibility according to your own situation.

A new pilot scheme allows a percentage of participants who are over 62 years to stay on the scheme until retirement age. A complete list of eligibility criteria can be found at **www.citizensinformation.ie**.

Our CE schemes also have a training budget which is allocated to each participant so they can upskill while on CE. The training and work experience gained on CE, helps participants' chances of finding employment. In fact, last year **10 participants** who finished on our CE schemes gained employment. Our annual CE budget is **€750,000**.

Who can I talk to about SWMDC's CE schemes?

Ann Connor	(Supervisor - West)
T: 087 223 6906	E: aconnor@southmayo.com
Norah Campbell	(Assistant Supervisor - West)
T: 087 131 5082	E: ncampbell@southmayo.com
Declan Walsh	Supervisor (South)
T: 087 223 6906	E: dwalsh@southmayo.com

CE Scheme Administrators: Mary Corless, Margaret Lawless and Peg McGrail.

Walks Scheme and Rural Recreation Programme

The **Walks Scheme** was launched in 2008 to develop, enhance and maintain National Waymarked Ways, Fáilte Ireland/National Trails Office (NTO) approved looped walks and other priority trails.

In return for a payment, landowners agree to repair, upgrade and maintain the routes across their lands. The landowner also agrees to offer access to walkers, who must adhere to the 'Leave No Trace' principles.

We operate the Walks Scheme on the following NTO approved routes:

- The Western Way
- Burrishoole Loops 1 and 2
- Clogher Loop
- Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail

In 2017, **230 landowners** on the scheme received annual payments of almost **€220,000**. It is one of the largest walks Scheme Programme in Ireland.

Rural Recreation Programme

The Rural Recreation Programme aims to implement the National Countryside Recreational Strategy objectives to:

- Promote recreational projects and land/water-based activities.
- Develop and promote other outdoor recreational activities.

We work in partnership with others on a range of projects such as:

- ✓ Administration of the **Walks Scheme** in Mayo.
- ✓ Finalisation of the pilot water-based, **Blue Ways** project
- ✓ Upgrading of the **Western Way Trail** (Galway and Mayo).
- ✓ Investigating the possibility of a **Mountain Access Scheme**.
- ✓ Developing a **Code of Practice** for Croagh Patrick.
- ✓ Creating new community walks and cycle ways.
- ✓ Upgrading the Tóchar Phádraig, Croagh Patrick Heritage Trail to Knock and the Bangor Trail.
- ✓ Promoting the Wild Nephin Mountain Range.

Who can I talk to about Rural Recreation and the Walks Scheme?

Martin Dillane

Rural Recreation Officer

M: 087 657 8147

E: mdillane@southmayo.com

Rural Walks Administrator: Majella Mulchrone

Western Region Drugs & Alcohol Task Force (WRDATF)

The WRDATF was set up in 2003 to research, develop and implement an appropriate response to substance misuse. SWMDC hosts **two WRDATF-funded posts**: Community Liaison Worker (CLW) and Drug Education Support Worker (DESW).

Community Liaison Worker

Our CLW supports communities to develop their own response to substance use issues, develop interagency collaboration and joint initiatives to tackle local substance misuse problems, co-ordinate, design and deliver awareness-raising initiatives as appropriate and also support groups and organisations to develop substance use policies.

An example of the CLW work is the **Mayo Junior Cert Results Night** initiative. Evaluations of the initiative have found a **90% reduction in Garda arrests** on results night compared to the same night in 2011. The CLW also co-facilitated a pilot **Life Skills and Job Activation Programme** aimed at 18-25 year olds who are Not Engaged in Employment, Education or Training (NEETS) in the Castlebar area with company SICAP staff.

Drug Education Support Worker

Our DESW supports the development and delivery of drug education to high risk individuals and the wider community of the western region.

An example of drug education work is the **'Putting The Pieces Together'** drug training resource that has been rolled out nationally since 2009.

Another example of work is the **Pre-Teen Years Early intervention Initiative**: A Parent's guide to talking with their child about alcohol before they move to secondary school.

Our DESW also delivers **SAOR: Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention** training. SAOR is a one-day alcohol intervention training programme. In the western region alone, we have **trained up to 400 people** to date.

Who can I talk to about the WRDATF?

Gillian Conway DESW M: 087 781 4779 E: gconway@southmayo.com

Pat Conway CLW M: 087 740 0011 E: pconway@southmayo.com

WRDATF Administrator: Peg McGrail

Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project

SWMDC's Syrian Resettlement Project involves the resettling of Syrian programme refugees in County Mayo. The Syrian Resettlement Project currently supports **24 Syrian families**, comprising of **114 people** living across the **4 towns** of Ballina, Castlebar, Claremorris and Westport with the first group arriving in Mayo in November 2016. The project runs for 18 months and will conclude in March 2018.

The Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project is a programme of the Office of the Promotion of Migrant Immigration (OPMI) within the Department of Justice & Equality. SWMDC is the local implementing partner on behalf of Mayo County Council. The project is overseen by an Interagency Working Group which consists of representatives from all relevant government, agency and community bodies.

SWMDC employs two Resettlement Support Workers and an Intercultural Worker who work with the Interagency Working Group, local service providers, and the wider community to:

- ✓ support refugees in the first months post arrival
- ✓ promote participation and inclusion programmes
- ✓ promote self-sufficiency and independent living
- ✓ act as a liaison and advocate for refugees and local service providers
- ✓ create awareness of the refugee issue in a sensitive manner

The Resettlement Support team develops and monitors a range of actions and activities including: Education programmes, community integration events, drop-in clinics, house visits, youth activities, resettlement talks, be-friending and exit programmes.

Who can I talk to about the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project?

Abdelhalim Bouacha

M: 087 134 7919

Rachel Mansour

M: 087 231 3270

Michelle O'Mahoney

M: 087 770 8426

Intercultural Worker

E: abouacha@southmayo.com

Resettlement Support Worker

E: rmansour@southmayo.com

Resettlement Support Worker

E: momahoney@southmayo.com

Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project Administrator: Fiona McGreal

Diversity Mayo

Diversity Mayo started in April 2017 and will run for three years. It is funded by the Department of Justice under the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF), Mayo County Council, Tusla and the HSE.

Diversity Mayo aims to enable asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable Third Country Nationals (TCNs) in Mayo to access high-quality information, advocacy, activities, supports and services appropriate to their legal status. A second aim is to build the capacity of front-line services to respond to the needs of the target group in a culturally competent way.

How will this programme be delivered?

Mayo Intercultural Action (MIA), a Mayo-based migrant representative and advocacy group, will host the AMIF programme in Castlebar. Two staff members will deliver the programme; working with people living in Direct Provision and outreach to people living in the community.

What will be delivered?

Direct Provision: Outreach drop-in service is being established to enable residents to receive advice, support, information about their rights, entitlements and opportunities in relation to health, welfare, education/training, accommodation and linking with the local community. Group pre-counselling supports, cultural, well-being and sport activities, and a befriending programme will be put in place to support those who move out of Direct Provision into the community.

Outreach and training: A series of **outreach sessions will be established in six towns** across the county. We will organise inter-cultural activities and the programme aims to increase awareness of migrant issues with agency staff by running a training programme, led by migrants themselves and by producing information videos.

Who can I talk to about Diversity Mayo?

Natalya Pestova

M: 086 040 6134

Patricia Quinn

M: 087 096 6560

CE Project Workers:

Diversity Mayo Administrator: Eavan Casey **MIA Administrator:** Peg McGrail

MIA Coordinator

E: npestova@southmayo.com

Diversity Mayo Outreach and Training Support

E: pquinn@southmayo.com

Elzbieta Gizicka and Brian Kyne

Social Farming

Since November 2016, SWMDC, with support from the Department of Agriculture under the CEDRA Fund, and in conjunction with Leitrim Development Company is driving the development of Social Farming in Mayo, Galway and Roscommon.

What is Social Farming?

Social Farming is the practice of offering activity on family farms as a form of social support service. In Social Farming the farm remains a working farm at its core but invites people to participate in the day - to-day activities of the farm.

We are working with Western Care, HSE Mental Health Services, Rehab, Probation Services, Brothers of Charity, Ability West, Employability Galway, National Learning Network and other Local Development Companies who work with long-term unemployed across the three counties.

From the farmers' perspective, it creates the opportunity to reconnect farmers with their local communities by opening up their farms as part of the social support system in the community. It also provides an opportunity for income diversification and multi-functionality on the farm.

What happens on the farm?

Generally 2-4 participants spend one day a week on the farm for 10-12 weeks and the farmer receives some financial support. A typical day is 10am-3pm and activities are based on the needs and abilities of the participants.

Farmers undergo training before they welcome participants which includes, planning, Garda vetting, safe guarding, and risk assessment. There are **15 farmers** ready to receive participants across the three western counties. Some farmers have already started in Westport and Partry, welcoming participants from Western Care, HSE mental health services and Rehab. During 2017, **40 participants** will be involved in placements across **15 farms**.

Who can I talk to about Social Farming?

Margaret Leahy **Regional Network Development Officer**

M: 087 623 3862 **E:** mleahy@southmayo.com

Social Farming Administrator: Eavan Casey

Community Food Initiative

SWMDC is one of 17 Community Food Initiative (CFI) organisations in Ireland. Started in 2016, CFI aims to positively influence the eating habits of families in low-income communities by making food skills more mainstream and healthy food more accessible.

Since securing the programme, we have hosted several public events attracting almost **200 adult attendees** and over **30 children**. The focus of the events is on the practical aspects of food preparation, healthy eating on a budget, understanding ingredients, and the new food pyramid.

Who can I talk to about the CFI?

Fiona McGreal T: 098 419 50

E: fmcgreal@southmayo.com

Majella Mulchrone T: 098 419 50

E: mmulchrone@southmayo.com

Community Futures

In partnership with Mayo County Council, SWMDC employs two Community Futures Development Workers. These workers support local communities across County Mayo to develop strategic plans for their local areas. The Community Futures model is based on the principles of community consultation and every effort is made to ensure that everyone living in the area has their say.

The community futures process culminates in a community open day where everyone is invited to view the suggestions for the area and choose priorities for development. The process also involves consultation with local agencies and organisations such as Mayo County Council, Local Development Companies, and the local community and voluntary sector.

Who can I talk to about Community Futures?

Sheila Coll

Community Futures Development Worker

M: 087 741 4141

E: scoll@mayococo.ie

Geraldine Leneghan

Community Futures Development Worker

M: 087 258 5957

E: gleneghan@mayococo.ie

Who do we work with?

The success of our programmes is dependent on our funders and by working in partnership and collaboration with other agencies and organisations, including:

- An Garda Síochana
- Brothers of Charity Services Ireland (Galway and Roscommon)
- Comhar na nOileán
- Community and Voluntary Groups and Organisations
- Fáilte Ireland
- Family Resource Centres
- FORUM Connemara
- GMIT (Castlebar Campus)
- Government Departments - Agriculture, Rural and Community Development, Health, Justice & Equality, Social Protection
- Health Service Executive
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
- Intreo
- Irish Local Development Network (ILDN)
- Irish Prison Service
- IRD Kiltimagh
- ISPPC
- Leave No Trace
- Local Community and Development Committee (LCDC)
- Local Enterprise Office Mayo (LEO)
- Mayo MABS (Money Advice and Budgeting Service)
- Mayo Arts Squad
- Mayo Arts Office
- Mayo Community Futures
- Mayo Community Transport
- Mayo County Childcare Committee
- Mayo County Council
- Mayo LEADER Local Action Group (LAG)
- Mayo Local Employment Service (LES)
- Mayo North East LEADER Partnership
- Mayo Public Participation Network (Mayo PPN)
- Mayo Rape Crisis Centre
- Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education and Training Board (MSLETB)
- Mayo Sports Partnership
- Mayo Travellers Support Network
- Mayo Volunteer Centre
- Mindspace Mayo
- Moy Valley Resources
- National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- National Trails Office (NTO)
- Office of the Promotion of Migrant Immigration (OPMI)
- Pobal
- Rehab Mayo
- Safefood
- Tusla
- Udarás na Gaeltachta
- Western Care
- Western Region Drugs & Alcohol Task Force (WRDATF)

Contact South West Mayo Development Company

Call our Newport office: 098 419 50
Call our Balla office: 094 936 6692
See our website: www.southmayo.com
Email us: info@southmayo.com

Write to us:

- Head Office, George's Street, Newport, Co. Mayo **or**
- Main Street, Balla, Co. Mayo

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Twitter: www.twitter.com/southwestmayo

Important

Please note that this is a summary guide to South West Mayo Development Company CLG's programmes. If you want to find out more, please contact us and we will be able to talk to you about each programme in more detail.

All information is correct at time of printing, but may be subject to change. South West Mayo Development Company CLG accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

September 2017

