LIMERICK REGENERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTERVENTION FUND 2023

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Contents

1. Application Process & Key Dates

Limerick City and County Council is pleased to invite applications for grant funding under the Economic and Social Intervention Fund 2023.

Please note that the Economic & Social Intervention Fund Grant process is specifically linked to The Limerick Regeneration Programme and is scheduled to conclude in 2023. This is the final round of ESIF funding under the LRFIP.

Applicants should read these Guidelines carefully.

You should start preparing your application as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to compile the information and supporting documentation you need.

Any queries in relation to the application process 2023 and / or request for information or support in preparing your applications should be directed to:

Email: ESIF@limerick.ie; Telephone: 061-557572

1.1 Submission deadline & method of submission

The deadline for submission of applications is **Friday 4th November 2022 @ 4pm.**

All applicants must complete the official online Application Form. The form will be available at the following link from Friday 23rd September:

https://mypoint.limerick.ie/en/content/economic-and-social-intervention-fund-2023

Late applications will not be accepted

1.2 The Application

An Application to The ESIF 2023 consists of: (1) the completed Application Form and (2) all supporting documentation.

1.2.1 Application Form:

The online application form at mypoint.limerick.ie is the only valid application form accepted in the ESIF 2023 competition. The online form consists of the following sections:

1. Declarations
2. About Your Organisation
3. About The Project – You will need to fill in this section for each project.
4. Uploads and Signature – You will need to upload relevant documentation before you can submit.
5. Preview – You must click Submit in order for us to receive your application.

We strongly advise saving your work as you go along, particularly if you are submitting an application for multiple projects.

1.2.2 Supporting Documentation / Checklist:

Applications that are missing any of the required supporting documentation as outlined in the checklist below will be deemed invalid and will not be considered for funding in 2023.

Please upload the relevant documents below in order for your application to be deemed valid. Upload each document type as a single pdf:

- Copy of applicant's 3 months' most recent **bank statements**
- If your organisation works with children: **Child Safeguarding Statement** under the Children First Act 2015 for organisations that have ticked yes for working with children in section 1
- If you are applying for capital or equipment**: Three quotations** each for all applications that include capital and equipment costs, professional fees (except audit fees), and promotion and publicity costs.
- If you are applying for staff costs: **A job description** for all posts to be supported by the ESIF

If your <u>total</u> application is for €10,000 or more, you will also need to upload:
- Copy of applicant's **insurance certificates**
- **Health & safety statement**
- Copy of minutes **of last 3 Board Meetings / or Management Committee meeting** including extract from minutes showing that this grant application has been approved by the Board **OR** a **letter signed by CEO / Manager / Chairperson** stating that funding is being sought from ESIF
- If your organisation is registered as a Limited Liability Company: **Memorandum or Articles of Association**

You are also encouraged to submit any new **Annual Reports, Strategy Documents, or Evaluation Reports**.

Should your application be successful, you will be required to submit the following before you can draw down your funds:
- Copy of applicant's most recent **audited or certified accounts** (must have been completed within the last two years: 2020 or 2021)
- **Tax Clearance Access Number**
- If you are applying for staff costs, you will also be required to submit:
  - A copy of the **contract of employment**
- **Three quotations** each for all applications that include capital and equipment costs, professional fees (except audit fees), and promotion and publicity costs.

1.3   Screening for eligibility & assessment of applications

When your application is received by Limerick City and County Council by the submission deadline, it will be screened to check that it is: **(i) fully completed and (ii) all supporting documentation is provided.**

Applications that are not fully compliant based on the screening (i.e., not complete or supporting documentation missing) will be deemed "invalid". Late applications and Invalid applications will not be considered for funding in 2023. These applications cannot appeal.

All compliant applications will be forwarded to relevant subcommittees of the Local Strategic Advisory & Monitoring Group (LSAMG). **Applications will be allocated to one of the five subcommittees based on the main theme of the project as indicated on the application form**. The subcommittee themes are:

- Education & Learning
- Health & Wellbeing / Ageing Well
- Employability and Work
- Families and Youth at Risk
- Community

The subcommittees will review and evaluate all applications **within six weeks** of the submission date for applications. Applications will be reviewed for eligibility, evaluated and scored based on the selection criteria set out below.

The subcommittees will recommend applications suitable for funding under The ESIF 2023 to Limerick City and County Council and the amount of grant to be awarded. Decisions made by the subcommittees will be reviewed by an Independent Assessment Panel before being forwarded to the LSAMG for approval.

Applications that are not recommended for funding by the LSAMG will be deemed "Unsuccessful".

All applications recommended as suitable for funding will be referred to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for approval. The Department will also receive a list of those applications deemed "Unsuccessful" in the selection process.

Applicants will be informed in writing of the decision from the selection process – i.e., grant "Approved" or "Unsuccessful". Successful applicants will be required to sign and return a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Limerick City and County Council within **two weeks** of the approval date. The Service Level Agreement will specify the amount of the grant awarded, the purpose of the grant and terms and conditions associated with it.

Feedback can be provided to those applications that were not successful. There is an appeal process in place for **valid completed** applications that were "Unsuccessful". An Independent Appeals Panel will reconvene to consider all appeals. Decisions on appeal are final.

2.   The ESIF: Description & Requirements for Applications

The Economic and Social Intervention Fund (ESIF) is a critical instrument to support the social and socio-economic regeneration of Limerick's most disadvantaged estates.

2.1   Overview of the LRFIP

The ESIF is incorporated into the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP), approved by Limerick City and County Council in 2014. The overall vision for the LRFIP is to create "*safe and sustainable communities of opportunity where people of all ages enjoy a good quality of life, a decent home and a sense of pride about their place. Well-serviced and attractive neighbourhoods will be physically connected and fully integrated with the social, economic and cultural life of Limerick*".

The LRFIP receives additional funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to deliver physical, social and economic regeneration targeting Limerick's most disadvantaged estates. The LRFIP includes an implementation plan and metrics / indicators on outputs and outcomes expected to be achieved. The LRFIP can be accessed here: Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan[1]

2.2   Funding Available, Objectives & Themes in the Social Regeneration

Under the ESIF, €3 million is provided each year to support social and community projects. An additional €1 million is provided for economic regeneration projects. This level of funding has been provided by the Department since Limerick City and County Council took on responsibility for regeneration in June 2012. The LRFIP strategy and implementation were reviewed in 2016. The review found that progress has been made in many areas. This includes better performance of children and young people in school, more stable communities, improved community safety and enhanced services to address identified needs in the target population. However, the development gaps between the regeneration communities and the city average remain very significant. The findings of, and lessons from, the review can be accessed here: Review of the LRFIP.[2]

The overall objectives of the social regeneration are: "*to improve the quality of life of residents in the regeneration communities, focused on improving health and well-being of the population, closing gaps in health with the average population, improving the social environment and safety on the estates, stabilising community life and supporting civic engagement in the community; to address needs of the population so that they can access opportunities, closing gaps with the average population. This covers improved access to economic and social opportunities linked to preventive interventions in early years, interventions to improve attainment in education from the earliest stages and access to further education, training and work*".

---

[1] https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2017-05/limerick_regeneration_framework_implementation_plan_small_version.compressed.pdf

[2] https://www.limerick.ie/sites/default/files/media/documents/2017-05/limerick_regeneration_framework_implementation_plan_review_0.pdf

A further important objective of the LRFIP is "*to improve the coherence of service provision across the statutory and voluntary / community sector, with a view to improving effectiveness in responding to needs of the population and to achieve better value for money invested by the totality of the services*".

Projects under the ESIF are supported under the following themes:

1. Education & Learning
2. Health & Well-being
3. Ageing Well – Health & Well-being of Older People
4. Employability & Work
5. Families & Youth at Risk
6. Community Participation & Empowerment

Applications will be allocated to one of the five subcommittees based on the main theme of the project as indicated on the application form. For more detail on the six priority themes as well as the relevant indicators for each theme, please see the Appendix to this document.

2.3   Who can apply?

Limerick City and County Council welcomes applications to The ESIF 2023 from community and voluntary bodies in particular.

Public or statutory bodies may also apply, ideally working in collaboration with a community or voluntary body / bodies. Applications from a public body will **only** be accepted for projects that are additional to existing core programmes / services delivered by statutory bodies.

All applications from voluntary / community and / or public bodies must be for projects that demonstrate they are working in areas relevant to the objectives of the social programme in the LRFIP and impact on communities and / or residents of Limerick's regeneration areas.

Applications involving cooperation of two or more organisations are welcome. In this case, a lead organisation must be specified. The lead organisation must be established as a legal entity. If successful, the lead organisation will sign the Service Level Agreement with Limerick City and County Council, will be the recipient of the grant and must be tax compliant.

The lead organisation will be responsible for oversight and management of the funds awarded, accountable for project implementation and responsible for submission of all progress reports and supporting documentation (receipts, invoices, quotations, tender documents) and monitoring information.

In partnership-based applications, the lead organisation must demonstrate agreement of the other partners to participate in the project. This will require a letter / agreement or memorandum of understanding stating the organisations' agreement to participate in the project, approved and signed by the Chair / Secretary of the Board of Directors, or supervisory or management committee.

In the case of partnership-based applications, the governance and financial controls in relation to the grant / project must be clearly outlined in the application form. This should explain the composition of the decision-making structure, the process (e.g., meeting schedule), the management structure and arrangements for the delivery of actions.

Organisations operating as community or social enterprises may apply for funds. Organisations in this category must fit with the definition of "social enterprise" applied by ForFas[3].

In exceptional circumstances, private enterprises may apply for a grant. All such cases will be referred to the Limerick Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to ensure that there is no duplication with LEO programmes and for the opinion of the Head of LEO on the quality of the project.

Individuals are not eligible to apply for grants under the ESIF 2023.

2.4   Award criteria & eligible costs

All applications must clearly demonstrate the following:

1. Strategic alignment with the objectives and with a theme or themes in the social programme of the LRFIP

2. Clear targeting of regeneration communities and / or specific groups in Limerick City prioritised for support under the LRFIP (children, young people and families at risk, long-term unemployed persons, adults with low education, at risk tenancies, older people on low incomes)

3. Evidence-base of needs and potential to respond effectively to them. This includes a brief description of the needs in the regeneration communities or specific groups, demonstrating engagement with the target population, stating how the needs are addressed in the project, capacity to deliver actions that work (e.g., previous experience / track record of success) and potential for success

4. Focus on achieving positive outcomes for the target regeneration areas or groups

5. Capacity to design, plan and implement the project

6. Capacity for project management, governance, financial management and monitoring progress and results being achieved

7. Sustainability of the project and potential impact on the mainstream. This includes capacity to complement other government programmes, attract other public or private funding and / or generate own income and add value to existing government initiatives and programmes

8. Costs and value for money. This concerns the extent to which costs are clearly and realistically specified, rationale for costs included, cost effectiveness of the project with reference to the needs, outputs and outcomes expected to be achieved.

The following chart shows the weighting of the assessment criteria that will be used in the evaluation of applications:

---

[3] A social enterprise is been defined as "an enterprise that trades for a social/societal purpose, where at least part of its income is earned from its trading activity, is separate from government, and where the surplus is primarily reinvested in the social objective." https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Publications/Publication-files/Forf%C3%A1s/Social-Enterprise-in-Ireland-Sectoral-Opportunities-and-Policy-Issues.pdf

Criteria	Marking
Quality of the project proposal: Evidence that it meets needs of regeneration communities; Relevant target groups; clear description of actions; Potential to deliver positive outcomes in line with LRFIP	40
Implementation & Project Management	30
Sustainability & Impact on the mainstream (e.g., match funding, especially by public agencies)	20
Costs and Value for Money	10
Total	**100**

2.5   Eligible Costs

Eligible costs can include: staff costs, small-scale equipment, feasibility studies, professional services related to project planning, design, feasibility testing, business plan development, training, contribution to rent of premises / equipment, programme delivery costs including venue hire, materials, travel and expenses and small-scale capital and maintenance costs.

All costs must be directly related to the actions / project described in the application form.

All costs must be additional to the core activities of organisations funded under existing public services /government programmes.

All costs must be verifiable with evidence of payments provided when submitting progress reports detailing expenditure. Expenditure must be verified with copies of receipts, bank statements, staff payment records, procurement processes, invoices, copies of attendance sheets and expenses claims, etc. See the cost breakdown and verification section below for more details on how to verify each type of expense.

Limerick City and County Council reserves the right to conduct an independent audit of all expenditures of an approved project.

Funding must be spent and all completed paperwork must be returned by September 2024. After September 2024, all unspent grant aid will be de-committed. Funding paid in advance and not spent must be refunded to Limerick City and County Council.

Requests for any carryover of funding from year-to-year must be submitted in writing to Limerick City and County Council with an explanation as to why monies remain unspent. The organisation (grantee) will be informed in writing by Limerick City and County Council as to whether carryover of funding is agreed.

2.5.1 Cost Breakdown and Verification

Use the table on the online application to detail the cost breakdown of the project. **Please note that in the event the granted amount is less than the amount applied for, the grant must be spent across the categories proportional to the initial application.** If your organisation requires a breakdown other than that applied for, written approval <u>must</u> be received from LCCC Regeneration Directorate in order to draw down the funds.

Staff / Salaries

Includes all staffing required to run the ESIF-funded project.

> At the time of application, please submit a job description for each post applied for.
>
> In order to draw down funds, employee names and contracts will be required.
>
> Pay slips and bank statements will need to be provided in order to receive the second installment of the grant.

Operating Costs

Includes services and materials not associated with a specific project, but necessary for the overall running of the organisation. Where an application is for core funding, eligible expenses include:

- Utilities (such as gas, phones, etc.)
- Insurance
- Security
- Ongoing buildings maintenance, pest control and cleaning
- Fire protection services
- IT solutions and support (NOT equipment or salaries)
- Rubbish removal
- Basic provisions (e.g., water deliveries, tea, coffee, etc.)
- Printing and printers

> Receipts and bank statements will need to be provided for all of the above in order to receive the second installment of the grant.

Premises / Rent

Does NOT include charges for use of organisation's own premises.

> Bank statements will need to be provided for as proof of payment in order to receive the second installment of the grant.

Travel & Expenses

Includes costs of travel (e.g., fuel, train tickets) and subsistence (e.g., hotel bookings and meals).

> Receipts and bank statements will need to be provided for all of the above in order to receive the second installment of the grant. Additionally, dates and reasons for each trip will need to be detailed (e.g. meeting, event, conference).

Professional Fees

For services provided to the project promoter organisation, including e.g., legal fees, audit fees, consultants.

> Applications for work by external consultants will require the submission of three quotes, with the exception of audit fees.
>
> Bank statements will need to be provided as proof of payment in order to receive the second installment of the grant.

Promotion and Publicity

Includes communications costs, such as leaflets, advertising in traditional & social media outlets, as well as web design and web maintenance costs. This does NOT include salaries for internal marketing or communications staff, which should be included in staffing above.

> Three quotes will be required at the time of application.
>
> Bank statements will need to be provided as proof of payment in order to receive the second installment of the grant.

Programme costs

Costs associated with specific project programming, such as events, classes, or service supports. Programme-related contractors should be accounted for in staffing. Eligible costs include:

- Materials, such as stationery, flip charts, art supplies
- Event premises rental
- Catering or other provisions (e.g. tea, coffee, snacks)

> Receipts and bank statements will need to be provided as proof of payment in order to receive the second installment of the grant.

Capital Costs and Equipment

Tools and other items needed for the running of the ESIF-funded project. Eligible costs include, for instance:

- Small Scale Capital Works – Includes renovations, new builds, and fire upgrades for buildings as well as outdoor facilities.
- Capital Investment & Equipment –
    - Vehicles (e.g., bicycle, bus)
    - Electronics (e.g., phones, laptops, computers, cameras)
    - Kitchen and other appliances
    - Furniture
    - Tools, garden / environmental equipment (e.g., pickers, lawnmowers)
    - Sports equipment

- o Clothing / uniforms
- o Musical instruments

> Three quotes must be provided for all capital investment at the time of application in order for the application to be deemed valid.
>
> Receipts and bank statements will need to be provided as proof of payment in order to receive the second installment of the grant.

2.6   Ineligible Costs

An indicative list of ineligible costs is as follows:

i. Organisation's overhead costs incurred and not approved as part of the project application

ii. Retrospective costs – i.e., costs that take place before the expected date of the commencement of the project

iii. Costs for staff, activities, equipment that are already supported by statutory and public funding

iv. Costs that are not directly linked to the project approved

v. Staff costs in the organisation that are not used in delivery of the project

vi. Costs associated with preparing the application for ESIF 2023

vii. Equipment costs that do not have on-going use throughout project implementation, that are not essential in order to complete the project and that are not retained for community benefit after project completion

viii. Costs of room / venue hire of one's own premises

ix. Capital costs towards the purchase of land, buildings or larger-scale buildings refurbishment

x. Costs related to private or unfunded pensions

xi. Costs of gifts, donations and alcohol

xii. Activities of a party-political nature

xiii. Redundancy costs

xiv. VAT costs (where VAT can be reclaimed from Revenue), fines / financial penalties, costs of legal disputes, pre-existing financial deficits

xv. Funds to build up reserves of the organisation.

Where the applicant is unsure as to whether costs can be covered by the grant, they should contact Limerick City and County Council, ESIF 2023 staff at the email address above.

3.   Preparing the Application

You must complete all sections and questions on the application form. Please be as concise as possible. Be sure to save your application as you go along so that your entries are not lost.

Applicants - which may be one organisation or a lead organisation on behalf of a partnership - can apply for a grant for a single project or for more than one project. Multi-project applications for the same organisation or lead organisation must be presented on the same form.

Ensure all actions and costs presented fit the eligibility criteria; that you include a statement/brief description of needs and that you state how your project will impact on regeneration communities / specific groups targeted in the social regeneration.

Clearly describe what the project will do, stating what it sets out to achieve and the activities to be completed.

In planning your project, identify the main tasks and what you expect to have completed by a specific point in time. This will enable you to identify the key milestones. A milestone is an achievement in the project implementation. It could mark the start of a significant stage of the work (e.g., training participants recruited and courses started) or the end of a significant stage in the work (e.g., publicity / outreach events completed and information events held in local community). This level of planning will also help in the preparation of progress reports.

Specify how you will measure the outputs to be achieved – e.g., you will record the number of people taking up a specific service or programme such as an after-schools' service or a counselling service, attendance at local community events, number of users from regeneration areas of community / sports / recreation facilities; number and / or area covered by local area clean-up schemes, etc.

Specify how you will measure the outcomes to be achieved. These are the benefits expected to happen for the target communities / population as a result of the project implementation. The outcomes identified should be based on those presented in the measurement framework (indicators) for the social programme in the LRFIP. These are identified by theme in the LRFIP. You should specify a small number of the key outcomes that are relevant to your project(s) and the theme(s) you have selected for your application. This level of planning will help in monitoring your own progress in relation to objectives set and in the completion of the ESIF Monitoring Form (which you will be required to submit to LCCC in the year after you have received the funding). For more information on indicators, see the Appendix.

In the project costs, ensure that you present funding expected to come from other sources and name those sources. Clearly state if such funding from other sources has been secured. Limerick City and County Council reserves the right to verify amount of funding to be provided by other partners.

In the case of an applicant applying for more than one project, each project will need to be described in terms of main theme under the ESIF, needs met, target group, fit with LRFIP, activities, key milestones, outputs and outcomes and costs.

Your Board or decision-making structure must approve your application prior to submission. This should be evidenced in an extract from your Board / Management Committee minutes submitted as one of the supporting documents with your application.

Prior to submission, go through the checklist of Supporting Documentation to ensure that all required documentation is submitted with the completed application form.

# 4.	Post Assessment & Post Approvals of Applications

The assessment process including right of appeal has been outline above in section 1.3

## 4.1	Service Level Agreement & conditions associated with the grant

If your application is approved, in whole or in part, you will be informed of the decision. The applicant organisation (the grantee) will be required to sign and return the Service Level Agreement to Limerick City and County Council.

Successful applicants must do the following:

i.	Acknowledge the funding from the Economic and Social Intervention Fund, Limerick City and County Council in all public documents associated with the approved project

ii.	Comply with public procurement guidelines and be able to demonstrate this (e.g., quotations sought, service tendered etc.)

iii.	Comply with good practice in recruitment and employment contracts – e.g., staff positions advertised, job description, remuneration specified, skills and competency criteria, recruitment properly executed, employment contracts in place)

iv.	Complete the final report and monitoring form required by Limerick City and County Council to verify implementation and expenditure and submit this with supporting documentation (e.g., invoices, receipts, and payroll data).

## 4.2	Payments to successful applicants

Payments will be made in two instalments and at the discretion of Limerick City and County Council (e.g., for larger-scale projects) in three instalments. The total amount of schedule for payment will be specified in the Service Level Agreement (SLA).

The first payment is subject to previous years' grants being finalised and the submission of a signed SLA and any further required documentation. For successful projects approved for a grant of €10,000 or more (for a single project or a number of different projects), on return of the SLA, 60% will be paid in the first instalment. For applications awarded a grant of less than €10,000 (for a single project or combined projects), on return of the SLA, 90% of the grant will be paid in the first instalment.

The second instalment will be paid once the full amount of the grant has been spent down. In order to draw down the second instalment, all financial returns must be submitted along with the final report and monitoring form.

Appendix: LRFIP Priority Themes and Indicators

The following sections set out the objectives under each of the priority themes of the LRFIP, as well as the indicators measured for each theme. Note that some indicators appear under multiple themes. To choose the theme of your project, please read through the following and select the theme that best fits your project.

Education & Learning

This theme is addressed to education and learning at different stages of the life course. The emphasis is on a preventive approach from the early years, through childhood and into early adulthood in mainstream education. It also focuses on return to education and adult learning drawing on a lifelong learning approach.

Objectives are as follows:

1. To support learning in early years and improve school readiness of children on starting school;
2. To reduce absenteeism of pupils in mainstream school (primary and secondary);
3. To improve retention rates in secondary school to Junior Cert and Leaving Cert levels;
4. To improve educational attainment levels of pupils in primary school, focused on literacy and numeracy, and in secondary school;
5. To address social, emotional and behavioural issues that prevent school children from progressing in school / in their learning;
6. To improve capacity for learning in the adult population and key competencies (literacy, numeracy, use of ICT, social competencies) targeting those who have left school without qualification and address to employability, activation and work;
7. To improve capacity for education and learning and qualification levels in the adult population, targeting those who have left school without qualification to improve capacity to function in modern society and encourage / assist children with their education and learning;
8. To further develop the capacity of the education infrastructure and services in local communities at all levels, and integration in service provision in education and other relevant services.

The following indicators are measured under Education & Learning:

1. Improved school readiness – applies to young children starting school
2. Education attainment in school (pupils) and / or achieving qualifications (adult learners)
3. Re-engagement with education – applies to young people at risk of early school leaving & people with low education returning to education
4. Reduced absenteeism from school or improved attendance at education / training or other support activities
5. Reduced emotional or behavioural problems – applies particularly to children and young people
6. Improved access to services
7. Improved mental health & well-being
8. Number and % progressing from education, training, other services into Further Education & Training (FET)

Health & Well-being

This theme is addressed to health and well-being over different stages of the life course from birth into old age. It addresses health in the broadest sense encompassing the World Health Organisation (WHO) definition of health as "a complete state of physical and mental health and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". The social environment of neighbourhood (community safety and social capital / social cohesion), the family situation and economic factors (income and resources) have an important impact, particularly on mental health. Again, drawing on the WHO perspective, mental health is not just the absence of mental disorders. It is defined as "a state of well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community".

Objectives are:

1. To promote improvement in the mental health and well-being of the target population.
2. To build the capacity of individuals, families and the community to improve and manage their health by promoting lifestyle practices associated with better physical and mental health (diet, exercise, smoking, drinking, drug-taking and other risk behaviours).
3. To support early diagnosis of problems (mental and physical health problems, behavioural problems, addictions) by improving access to appropriate services mainly located in primary care and accessible in the community.
4. To support improved access to services for treatment of problems of addiction and physical and mental health issues and support to manage health. This includes a strong emphasis on the recovery model in mental health.
5. To build local capacity in the services in communities to support health and well-being including community participation in primary care.

The following indicators are measured under Health & Well-being:

1. Improved mental health & well-being
2. Reduced emotional or behavioural problems – applies particularly to children and young people
3. Reduced absenteeism from school or improved attendance at education / training or other support activities
4. Improved access to services
5. Re-engagement with education – applies to young people at risk of early school leaving & people with low education returning to education

Ageing Well

Supporting active and healthy ageing is an important priority of all advanced societies linked to the phenomenon of ageing populations. Promoting Limerick as an age-friendly city with age-friendly neighbourhoods and communities is a priority of the local authority, drawing on the national initiative of "Age-Friendly Counties". The aim of the national initiative is to develop an "age friendly county programme" in all local authority areas in the State. Age-friendly strategies address a broad agenda and involve a multi-stakeholder approach (statutory, voluntary organisations, the business community, academic institutions and older people themselves). Age-friendly neighbourhoods focus on how the needs and experiences of older people are addressed in terms of the physical built

environment, housing, transport, access to services including shops, amenities, leisure and essential public services including health and social care, safety and security of place and the presence of places to socialise / mix. The Age-friendly agenda also concerns older people inputting to planning and decision-making on services, giving older people "a voice", in order to address needs, support independent living in old age and provide opportunities to participate in society.

The objectives of this priority are:

1. To support and promote the ageing well agenda in the city by creating a forum and opportunities for older people to engage in all aspects of planning and decision-making related to the needs and well-being of older people, meeting current and future challenges of an ageing population.
2. To support planning and implementation of programmes to address, in particular, the needs of vulnerable elderly people. These include elderly people living in the most disadvantaged areas of the city.
3. To support good health and well-being of older people by promoting community-based access to health and social services, appropriate housing, and safety and security. This should address the issue of changing health needs of elderly people as they age while at the same time, supporting independent living and autonomy of older people for as long as possible.
4. To create conditions and promote opportunities for social connectedness and, maintaining the independence of older people.

Indicators under the theme of Ageing Well are:

1. Improved access to services
2. Improved mental health & well-being
3. Reduced social isolation
4. Improved social integration

Employability & Work

If education is the foundation for breaking cycles of intergenerational exclusion, employability and work are outcomes that support people of working age in the communities to take part in the economic life of the city, increasing economic security / income and personal and household well-being. Getting people into work has both a demand side – requiring the creation of jobs in the local economy – and a supply side – cultivating appropriate skills and knowledge among potential employees and supporting people such that they can access work opportunities.

Objectives are as follows:

1. To promote improved employability of people of working age in the target population. This encompasses employability in the broadest sense covering personal development / improved motivation towards the labour market, key competencies and skills required in the labour market, and qualification.
2. To develop labour market activation and access to employment initiatives for the target population.
3. To promote stronger cooperation and collaborative partnerships between activation services (LCETB and SOLUS (formerly FÁS), LES, PAUL Partnership and Intreo offices) and community

and voluntary organisations on-the-ground with capacity to reach groups distant from the labour market including targeted interventions for specific groups. In particular, these groups include young people who have left school early without qualification and are unemployed or not in employment, education or training (NEETS), long-term unemployed men; women with no or little experience of work including lone parents and who may be economically "inactive".

4. To support people through employability pathways, through on-going access to continuing / further education, training and mentoring including support in employment settings.

5. To link employability with jobs developing in the local labour market, including community and new start-up enterprises, jobs in construction linked to the physical regeneration and other employment opportunities in the city, and support the target group to enter such jobs.

6. To develop links and work pro-actively with enterprises / businesses and other sources of employment (public and voluntary bodies) within and outside of the target areas with a view to opening up access to work experience / work placements, internships and permanent job placements.

Indicators under the theme of Employability and Work are:

1. Education attainment in school (pupils) and / or achieving qualifications (adult learners)
2. Re-engagement with education – applies to young people at risk of early school leaving & people with low education returning to education
3. Number and % progressing from education, training, other services into Further Education & Training (FET)
4. Number and % progressing to employment on exit from the service
5. Number and % in employment 6 months after exit from the service
6. Improved employability – e.g., work orientation, self-confidence, transferable skills such as teamwork, punctuality, presentation
7. Reduced absenteeism from school or improved attendance at education / training or other support activities
8. Improved access to services
9. Improved mental health & well-being
10. Number of enterprises / self-employed assisted
11. Number of initiatives to support social / community enterprises
12. Number of new social / community enterprises created
13. Number of social / community enterprises expanded
14. Number of jobs created

Families & Youth at Risk

This theme is addressed to family support and young people, focusing on families at higher levels of need and young people at risk. Families and young people targeted under this priority theme are those at the higher levels of need, using the Hardiker scale to define thresholds of needs and corresponding levels of service intervention (1=universal to 4, highest level of need requiring most intensive support).

Objectives are as follows:

1. To promote improved family functioning, improved parenting capacity and better outcomes for children and families with a profile of complex social problems and at greatest risk of social exclusion and poor child welfare.

2. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery to families with a profile of complex social problems, drawing on the essential service characteristics to support better outcomes for children and families, as identified in national policy. This could include adding new services if needed, as well as adapting existing services supported under mainstream programmes.

3. To improve outcomes for young people (adolescents) at high risk of social exclusion and who may be engaged in or at high risk of offending behaviour.

4. To build capacity and partnership across the key stakeholders, with a view to improving quality in service delivery and integration in planning, implementation and evaluation of services to children and families at highest levels of need.

Indicators under the theme of Families and Youth at Risk are:

1. Improved school readiness – applies to young children starting school
2. Reduced emotional or behavioural problems – applies particularly to children and young people
3. Improved access to services
4. Participation in community organisations
5. Reduced risk of juvenile offending, or of offending behaviour
6. Improved mental health & well-being
7. Re-engagement with education – applies to young people at risk of early school leaving & people with low education returning to education
8. Education attainment in school (pupils) and / or achieving qualifications (adult learners)
9. Number and % progressing from education, training, other services into Further Education & Training (FET)

Community

This theme is addressed to community development and community participation, empowerment and civic engagement. The community dimension cuts across all aspects of the social programme, as well as the physical and economic framework plans for the regeneration areas.

Objectives are as follows:

1. To build the capacity of the community infrastructure as partners with statutory agencies in addressing the needs of residents – building up community organisation, skills / systems, facilities and services in the communities.

2. To strengthen the structures and processes for community participation and civic engagement in the regeneration communities – i.e., a broadening and deepening of engagement by residents and improving diversity of representation – and across communities in the city.

3. To promote empowerment of the communities to engage in decision-making on local policies and planning and delivery of services to the communities.

Indicators under community are:

1. Improved access to services
2. Number of regular users of services in community hubs
3. "Footfall" into community service centre

4. Participation in community organisations

5. Community groups / members of community groups participating in wider decision-making structures (e.g., PPN)

6. Improved community spirit

7. Reduced social isolation

8. Improved image of the area

9. Improved social integration

10. Reduced emotional or behavioural problems – applies particularly to children and young people

11. Reduced risk of juvenile offending, or of offending behaviour

12. Improved mental health & well-being

13. Number and % progressing to employment on exit from the service

14. Number and % in employment 6 months after exit from the service

15. Improved employability – e.g., work orientation, self-confidence, transferable skills such as teamwork, punctuality, presentation

16. Number of enterprises / self-employed assisted

17. Number of initiatives to support social / community enterprises

18. Number of new social / community enterprises created

19. Number of social / community enterprises expanded

20. Number of jobs created