



Carlow
Volunteer Centre
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Cheatharlach

CARLOW VOLUNTEER CENTRE



2021

ANNUAL
REPORT



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Carlow
Volunteer Centre
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STAFF OF CARLOW VOLUNTEER CENTRE





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1.Operational Content:

1.1 Governance: -

Carlow Volunteer Centre is an independent organisation. There is a volunteer Board of Directors in place made up of five representatives from the local community which represent key stakeholders. The board oversee the strategic direction of the organisation and delegate operational activities to the manager.

Chairperson: - Michelle o Hara

Company Secretary: - Frank Comerford

Martin Meagher

Martha Jane Duggan

Fiona Dunne

1.2 Staffing:

One full time member (Manager) and two-part time staff members. Volunteers and Tus participants are utilised to enhance services periodically but due to Covid 19 this was not possible in 2021.

Area Profile: -



Carlow County is an inland county, measuring 896 sq. km in area, located in the South East Region, and bordered by Counties Wicklow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Laois, and Kildare. Carlow Volunteer Centre serves the county-wide area – a population of 56,932. The population density for County Carlow of 56.4 people per sq. km remains below the national average of 60.6, thus indicating a relatively high level of population dispersal in the County. This suggests a likelihood of social issues related to rural isolation and impacts on the ability of isolated people to become involved in formal voluntary activity based within the urban centres. This is exacerbated by the poor public transport within the county, especially in rural areas.

Carlow has a higher level of social housing provision than most other Irish counties – the fifth highest proportion among Ireland’s thirty-one local authorities. In respect of family cycle, Carlow has a higher proportion of households with preadolescent and adolescent children than is the case nationally, and the county-level data, suggest that this demographic bulge is not being sustained, as the proportion of pre-family households is below the State average.

Like most of Ireland, Carlow is becoming increasingly diverse in respect of nationalities, ethnicity, and languages. Non-Irish nationals and those with dual nationality account for 12% of the county’s population. There are notable micro-level geographies associated with the distribution of foreign-born persons. Tullow and Carrickduff have notable concentrations of Poles, while Myshall has the highest proportion of Lithuanians among its resident population. Polish, French and Latvian are the most widely spoken foreign languages in Carlow. While foreign-born persons are distributed across most of Carlow’s towns and villages, Ireland’s largest ethnic minority, Irish Travellers are concentrated; the settlements with the highest proportions of Travellers in the resident population are Carrickduff and Tullow.

The Haase-Pratschke Index of Affluence and Deprivation reveals that Carlow is less socially polarised than are most other Irish counties. While there are pockets of affluence, over three-quarters of Electoral Divisions (EDs) in Carlow record scores on this Index that are ‘marginally below average’ and a further 7% are classified as ‘disadvantaged’. A micro-geographical analysis of affluence and deprivation reveals that a number of neighbourhoods in Carlow Town and Hacketstown are classified as ‘very disadvantaged.’

2. Introduction

Carlow Volunteer Centre offers support and guidance to individuals and Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) to reach their individual and collective goals while making a significant contribution to their local community and society.

This report outlines the work and highlights the achievements of Carlow Volunteer Centre (CVC) in 2021.

CVC currently works with 394 VIOs offering them a range of services. In addition, CVC works with 1,378 active volunteers in Carlow, is part of a national network of volunteer centres and works closely with other organisations in the county including Carlow Public Participation Network, Carlow County Council and both local partnerships companies.

In 2021 CVC continued to offer most of their services using technology with the Manager and staff of CVC keeping in regular contact with both volunteers and VIOs. This included

- Work closely with Carlow County Council on the Community Response Team to help identify and ameliorate community issues caused by COVID-19, such as food poverty, isolation, and the digital divide.
- Liaise with all registered VIOs to help them deliver their services virtually.
- Promote training and webinars from Carlow Volunteer Centre, Sports Partnership, ETB, Public Participation Network, Volunteer Ireland, The Wheel and others.
- Organise virtual events for National Volunteer Week that addressed the topic of well-being.
- Continue our Transition Year Student programme virtually and promote virtual volunteering opportunities.
- Continue our advertisement in the Carlow Nationalist and our Social media platform outlining new volunteering opportunities and thanking volunteers for their interest.



2.1 Our Vision

“A vibrant Carlow society where every person feels connected to their community through active participation in voluntary activities”


2.2 Our Mission

To promote the value of volunteering and increase the range and quality of volunteering in Carlow,

To help individuals find meaningful opportunities to volunteer and to support not-for-profit organisations to involve volunteers in their work.

2.3 Our Values

Our key values are:

 Equality.

We believe all people should be valued and respected equally. We are also committed to removing barriers that exclude vulnerable groups from participating fully in society.

 Sense of Community.

Volunteering is ultimately about people helping others and feeling connected with their community.

 Professionalism.

We work in an environment where honesty and integrity is paramount and where people are encouraged to bring their ideas to life while remaining accountable to ourselves and others.



Chairpersons Report

On behalf of myself and the Board of Management of Carlow Volunteer Centre, I am delighted to present our 2021 Annual Report. Carlow Volunteer Centre offers support and guidance to individuals and volunteer involving organisations to attain their individual

goals, while also contributing to their local community and indeed, wider society.

2021 was another difficult and uncertain year where our emphasis was to ensure a continuity of service to the volunteers and organisations we serve. We continued our work supporting our organisations and volunteers, we also held virtual coffee mornings and online training throughout the year.

We were delighted to be able to hold our Volunteer Recognition Awards ceremony in person this year. Over 120 guests attended the event, with some attendees stating that it was the first time they had been out in over a year.

It was an enjoyable evening filled with amazing nominees and insights into volunteer involving organisations who helped their community in so many different ways throughout the pandemic.

We were grateful for, and we commend our staff for their dedication through the year.

I would like to personally thank the Board of Carlow Volunteer Centre for their continued support and guidance throughout 2021.

As 2021 draws to a close we look forward to a brighter future. We move into that future acutely aware of how the people of Carlow can, and do, respond in times of need. We are truly humbled to be part of this community.

Michelle O'Hara (Chairperson)

4. Services Provided by Carlow Volunteer Centre



We help members of the public to find suitable volunteer roles from a constantly updated list of volunteer opportunities. This has been done virtually in 2021.



We advertise volunteer opportunities on behalf of non-profit organisations to the public. This includes virtual opportunities.



We provide training and consultancy on volunteer management to charities and community organisations. We provide access to Garda Vetting for non-profit organisations.



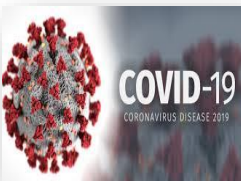
We are part of the many community agencies in Carlow, including older persons forum, Healthy Carlow, Carlow Social prescribing service, a member of Carlow Social Inclusion forum and Carlow Sports Partnership



5. Our impact in 2021



Volunteers were supported
274 in finding volunteer roles in Co. Carlow



Volunteers directly placed in
173 Covid-19 roles helping our
Community in Co. Carlow



7,057 Hours contributed by
Volunteers in 2021



164 Organisations using our
services in Co. Carlow



2,767 Engagements with
622 volunteers in 2021.



562

**Volunteer Opportunities
Published**



1,184

**Engagements with 159
Organisations in 2021**



41

**Staff meetings held during
2021**



**Webinar on the Benefits of Volunteering
sent to all the Second and Third level Schools
in Carlow and an online Workshop was
given to the 3 Third level Intuitions**



245

**Organisations using Garda Vetting
service and 750 Vetting Applications
processed.**



**25 organisations received Garda Vetting Training.
CVC delivered a two-day training course on the
Fundamentals of Volunteering to 15 VIO's.**

6. Events in 2021

6.1 “Brighter days ahead” project

Carlow Volunteer Centre in collaboration with Healthy Carlow held a “Brighter days ahead” project as part of the Keep well campaign, an initiative of the Government of Ireland, in Ballymurphy, Carlow on June 30th 2021.

This was an initiative to help older people become more proactive in looking after their mental health. The project aimed to break down the social isolation felt by older people in this location. Provide a safe space for a small group to come together, and to support participants to share stories and give voice to their community

Older people have been affected in diverse ways due to the pandemic. We wanted to capture what ideas would support them to be well.

Morning Beverage/scone & lunch was provided on the day while John Bergin with his mobile entertainment unit provided the entertainment.

Monica from KCLR interacted with the group and shared lots of memories of times gone by which included accounts of cultural events and nostalgic anecdotes that captured the importance of our community.

“Hi Helen & Natasha

Thanks so much for all your support on the Brighter Days Ahead event. Well worth the effort such a good news story makes it all worthwhile. Natasha thanks in particular for all your work yesterday.

Midge



6.2 Volunteer Recognition Awards 2021

Carlow Volunteer Centre held their Volunteer Recognition Awards on November 10th in Seven Oaks Hotel Carlow. This was partly funded by the DRCD.

Michelle O Hara, Chairperson of Carlow Volunteer Centre thanked the 131 guests that attended on the night and spoke of the contribution of the many volunteers during Covid 19.

27 Awards were given to volunteers who volunteered in their community during Covid 19.

The Volunteer celebration continued with food and music with many guests commenting that it was the first time in over a year that they had ventured out to a social gathering.





Carlow Volunteer Centre

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Carlow Volunteer Centre CLG

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TRADING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2021



	Schedule	2021 €	2020 €
Income			
Department of Rural and Community Development- Core		121,000	121,000
Department of Rural and Community Development- Additional		-	10,559
Sundry income		10,826	10,174
Enhanced Referral Income		2,421	-
		<u>134,247</u>	<u>141,733</u>
Gross surplus Percentage		<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Overhead expenses	1	<u>(112,368)</u>	<u>(119,186)</u>
		21,879	22,547
Miscellaneous income	2	<u>302</u>	<u>8</u>
Net surplus		<u><u>22,181</u></u>	<u><u>22,555</u></u>