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## **Foreword**

Leitrim Development Company is one of a network of local development companies throughout the country. The aim of the Company in its broadest sense is to improve the quality of life of people living in Leitrim, particularly those who are struggling because of unemployment, disability or other disadvantage.

The Company's mission statement commits us to "strive to stimulate social, local, economic and rural development throughout Leitrim for the benefit of all, particularly the marginalised, empowering them to engage with development opportunities that respond to their needs".

The wide variety of programmes that the Company administers clearly demonstrates the extent of the work throughout the County. Our staff are committed to working with people and communities in Leitrim to bring about real change for the better. This booklet gives an outline of the work of the Company and I hope that you will find something that will benefit you in it.

Leitrim Development Company operates an open door policy and everyone is always welcome to call to our offices, where our staff are always willing to help.

Donal Fox

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donal Fox', written in a cursive style.

CEO  
Leitrim Development Company

## **About Leitrim Development Company**

Leitrim Development Company is a community led Local Development Company. We deliver a range of rural, social and economic programmes at local level across County Leitrim. We support communities, individuals and businesses to increase their economic sustainability and improve their quality of life. Supports include capital grant aid, technical assistance, guidance and mentoring, information and support, training opportunities and development initiatives.

Leitrim Development Company implements two main programmes on behalf of Leitrim Local Community Development Committee.

1. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)
2. Rural Development Programme/LEADER

## **SICAP**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015-2017 is funded by the Irish Government and co-funded by the European Social Fund and includes a special allocation under the Youth Employment Initiative.

The aim of SICAP is to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration.

Its vision is to improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment through community development approaches, targeted supports and interagency collaboration, where the values of equality and inclusion are promoted and human rights are respected.

The Programme has three Goals:

1. Empowering Disadvantaged Communities
2. Lifelong Learning
3. Employment

# **Empowering Disadvantaged Communities**

## **Community Development**

Leitrim Development Company provides development support to community groups operating in disadvantaged areas throughout Leitrim.

Types of community development supports include:

- Development support and training to new and established groups in disadvantaged areas with planning, accessing funding and implementing projects to benefit their areas.
- Residents' associations in local authority estates are provided with assistance to organise committees, develop plans, access funding and liaise with Leitrim County Council and other agencies.
- Community groups are supported to engage in networks and decision making structures. Groups are assisted to register for the Public Participation Networks (PPN).
- Support is provided to the following community networks: South Leitrim Community Network, North Leitrim Community Network, Leitrim Residents Network, Leitrim Active Age Forum and Cairde Liatroma Disability Network.

- Active age groups are provided with development support, information, assistance with applications for funding and networking meetings.
- A survey of community buildings throughout the county is being undertaken to establish the support needs of community centre committees throughout the county.
- Information seminars and training events are organised in conjunction with community networks.
- Supports are provided to groups and projects supporting integration of new communities.

### **Volunteering in Leitrim**

Are you interested in volunteering?

Or

Is your community group looking for volunteers?

If so, visit [www.volunteerinleitrim.ie](http://www.volunteerinleitrim.ie) a dedicated volunteer website for County Leitrim. The website aims to co-ordinate volunteering opportunities in Leitrim, increase the number of people volunteering and support community groups/organisations which are looking for volunteers.

## Traveller Programme

Leitrim Development Company provides support to the Traveller Community in the following ways;

- Leitrim Development Company manages the Shannonside Community Child Care Centre in Carrick on Shannon.
- A Traveller Primary Health Care Project employs four part time Community Health Workers who do a variety of health promotion work.
- Support is provided to the Leitrim Travellers Development Group, an independent group set up in 2013.
- A FETAC Level Four Childcare course is run for 12 Traveller women in Carrick on Shannon. Childcare is provided to facilitate the women on this course.
- An After School Programme is run for primary and secondary school children.
- A Pre School is also up and running.
- Support to individual Travellers in a variety of areas is an ongoing part of our work.



**For more information contact:**

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# Lifelong Learning

## Education

Leitrim Development Company provides supports to individuals who are interested in returning to learning. Individuals are assisted to explore lifelong learning opportunities. Support can be provided on a one-to-one basis or in a group setting.

The service aims to:

- Provide guidance and advice on learning supports and educational opportunities.
- Assist individuals to identify their skills, interests and goals.
- Provide information on funding opportunities and entitlements.
- Put mechanisms in place to facilitate and respond to individual needs.
- Develop a Personal Action Plan with each individual which is tailored to fit their needs.

Leitrim Development Company provides a range of courses throughout the year. Courses are delivered in response to individual needs and include both formal and informal courses. Some examples of courses run by Leitrim Development Company include:

Hospitality Operations	Computers
Occupational First-Aid	Sewing
Refresher First-Aid	Payroll
Manual Handling	Safe Pass
Farm Accounts	Personal Development

### **Children & Young People**

Leitrim Development Company provides advice and support to young people who are aged between 15 and 24 and not in employment, education or training.

Our main programme for young people is the Leitrim Youth, Training and Education Programme which targets unemployed early school leavers aged 16 to 25 with few or no qualifications. This programme allows participants to gain QQI Level 3 & 4 awards and the opportunity to progress onto further education, training or employment.

Leitrim Development Company also supports and runs a range of programmes for children and those working with children including:

- Afterschool Programmes
- Summer Projects
- Leitrim Afterschool Network
- Training for Afterschool staff

**For more information contact:**

Jeanette Leyden  
Education & Youth Support Worker  
Drumshanbo Office

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**E-mail:** [Jeanette@ldco.ie](mailto:Jeanette@ldco.ie)

# Employment

## Self-Employment

Leitrim Development Company provides support and guidance for people who are interested in starting their own business. The supports provided include;

- One to one mentoring and advice to help you develop your idea into a sustainable business.
- Business planning and development.
- Advice on the legal obligations around starting your own business.
- Information on funding available for business start-ups and business expansion.
- Start your own business courses and other business related training.
- Assistance with applications for Back to Work Enterprise Allowance/Short Term Enterprise Allowance.

Leitrim Development Company in partnership with the Department of Social Protection implements the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance Programme.

## Employment

Leitrim Development Company provides support for people who are looking for work. These supports include;

- Professional one-to-one support to assist with career progression.
- Job seeking supports (e.g. professional CV development).
- Assistance with job application forms & aptitude tests.
- Assistance with Job Seeking Skills (e.g. interview coaching).
- Assessment of current education, training and skills experience.
- Information on/referral to training courses available (Back to Education; Apprenticeships).
- Work experience supports (Job Bridge).

### **For more information contact:**

Karen Sweeney  
Enterprise and Employment Support Worker  
Drumshanbo Office  
**Tel:** 071 9641770  
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## **Job Club**

County Leitrim Job Club is in operation since January 2000 and its main function is to assist unemployed people find realistic work and training opportunities. The Job Club is funded by Department of Social Protection and sponsored by Leitrim Development Company.

The Job Club runs a number of four week Job Seeking Skills Programmes in different locations around the County. Topics covered on the programme include:

- C.V Preparation
- Writing Cover Letters
- Job Application Forms
- Communication Skills
- Interview Skills
- Mock Interviews
- Job Searching
- Computer Skills
- Manual Handling (Certified)

Participants attend training sessions five mornings a week 10am to 1pm and an attendance allowance is payable to participants on completion of the programme.

Follow up support is available to all Job Club Participants and every effort is made to assist people progress successfully.

**For more information contact:**

Martina Giblin/Mary Nash-O'Brien  
Job Club Facilitators  
Drumshanbo Office

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**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/leitrimjobclub>



# Rural Development Programme

## LEADER

The aim of the Rural Development Programme LEADER 2014-2020 is to promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

The commitment to promoting social inclusion and poverty reduction is a defining feature of LEADER for 2015-2020. Whilst LEADER has primarily operated from a rural and economic development context, historically it has generated social inclusion outcomes for individuals and communities. The policy context for the new programming period calls for a focus on addressing poverty and social exclusion, particularly given the significant economic and social changes that have taken place within the last decade.

LEADER has three broad focus areas:

1. Facilitating diversification, creation of new enterprises and job creation.
2. Promoting local development in rural areas.
3. Enhancing access to, use and quality of ICT in rural areas.

In addition, the RDP outlines a series of key themes and sub-themes that will form the basis of LEADER

activities at a local level. The three key themes are as follows.

- Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation
- Social Inclusion
- Rural Environment

### **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. Social Farming provides people who use services with the opportunity for inclusion, to increase self-esteem and to improve health and well-being.

Leitrim Development Company operates the national support office for Social Farming with the support of the Department of Agriculture Food and Fisheries and CEDRA innovation funding in the following ways:

- Provision of advice and guidance to farmers/farm families throughout Ireland who wish to establish social farming services, through information and training events;

- Assistance in the development of service users and their families' understanding of the potential and delivery of social farming services;
- Continue to raise public awareness of social farming through public events, mainstream and social media, engage with and support new initiatives around Ireland which are progressing and developing social farming.

**For more information contact:**

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James Duffy  
Sustainable Development Officer  
Manorhamilton Office  
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## **Labour Market Schemes**

Leitrim Development Company manages the following schemes:

### **Rural Social Scheme**

The Rural Social Scheme is a community work programme with a focus on the provision of direct services in the community. The aim of RSS is to provide a supplementary income for low-income farmers and fishermen/women in order for them to continue to farm on a part-time basis. Duties include:

- Maintaining and enhancing waymarked ways;
- Conservation work for the elderly and the less well off;
- Village and countryside enhancement projects;
- Social Care, care of the elderly and community care;
- Environmental maintenance work;
- Projects relating to not for project cultural and heritage centres;
- Community Administration/Clerical duties.

### **TÚS**

Tús is a community work placement initiative providing short-term working opportunities for unemployed individuals. The work opportunities are to benefit the community and are provided by community and voluntary organisations throughout Leitrim.

## **CE - Estate Management**

The Estate Management Community Employment Project (CE) provides environmental and maintenance support to 32 local authority estates throughout Leitrim. Duties include:

- Grass cutting;
- Maintenance of green areas;
- Hedge trimming;
- Maintenance of community owned facilities.

## **CE - Childcare and Development Programme**

The Community Employment Childcare Programme is designed to help long-term unemployed people to secure training and work experience in the field of Childcare. The programme runs over a period of three years. The training provided through the Community Employment Programme leads to a major award on the National Framework of Qualifications, a QQI Level 5 Early Childhood Care and Education. Participants also work in community childcare facilities, gaining practical experience in the workplace.

**For more information contact:**

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Labour Market Schemes Co-ordinator  
Drumshanbo Office  
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# **Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme**

## **Warmer Homes**

This scheme is administered by Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and aims to improve the energy efficiency of homes occupied by low-income families, making the homes more comfortable, healthier and more cost effective to run.

The service involves the installation of standard energy efficiency measures appropriate to the eligible household. The service is free of charge and the measures currently available under this scheme are:

- Cavity Wall Insulation
- Attic Insulation
- Lagging Jackets for hot water cylinders
- Energy Efficient Lighting
- Bathroom & Kitchen exhaust fans
- Energy Conservation Advise
- Ventilation
- Draught Proofing

**For more information contact:**

Máirín Heron

Administrator

Drumshanbo Office

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## **Sub-Offices**

### **Mohill**

Leitrim Development Company

Credit Union Building

Mohill

Co. Leitrim

**Tel:** 071 9631715

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### **Manorhamilton**

Leitrim Development Company

New Line

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### **Drumkeerin**

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Rowantree Centre

Drumkeerin

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Comhaltas, Pobl agus Rialtas Áitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government

