

Case Study 12



RECOGNITION PROGRAMME



COMMUNITY VIBRANCY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME 2017-2019

NEWKD in partnership with Kerry Group are delighted to announce Kerryhead / Ballyheigue Family Resource Centre as the twelfth recipient of the Community Vibrancy Recognition Programme.

This is a three-year initiative (2017-2019) aimed at recognising the diversity and vibrancy of community work throughout the region. Every year NEWKD works with over 500 community groups, businesses and initiatives under our 4 Strategic Pillars:

- **Social Supports**
- **Employment Services**
- **Enterprise and Tourism**
- **Community, Environment & Rural Development**

The 'Community Vibrancy Recognition Programme' pays tribute to a number of recipients each year. Each project is selected for their uniqueness, vibrancy and responsiveness to addressing local need. Recipients are recognised locally through the NEWKD structures which operate in Tralee, Listowel, Castleisland and Dingle, and will promote best practices and innovative solutions in social, economic and environmental development, while giving recognition to community leadership and entrepreneurs.

Previous recipients:

1. Glanageenty Walkways
2. The Kerry Food Hub, Fries
3. Ballybunion Men's Shed
4. Dingle New Music Choir and Orchestra
5. Baile Bhuire Day Care Centre
6. Ballybunion Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels
7. Mol Teic - Dingle Creativity and Innovation Hub
8. NEWKD's Local Area Advisory Councils (LAACs)
9. Castleisland Community Garden
10. Sliabh Luachra Boxing Club Castleisland
11. Áras Mhuire Nursing Home

Kerryhead / Ballyheigue Family Resource Centre CLG

Kerryhead / Ballyheigue Family Resource Centre (FRC) was established in 2003, funded under Tusla, Child and Family Agency the centre is part of the National Family Resource Centre Programme.

One of 109 nationally with 13 centres based in County Kerry. The centre covers the areas of Kerryhead and Ballyheigue which has a total population of 2,031 (CSO '11). The centre is located in Sraid Thaidhg Estate with a village base adjacent to the local community centre for sports and recreational activities.

Governed by a voluntary board of management, as part of their role training is essential and has been undertaken in the competencies of committee skills, management training, community profiling, needs analysis and policy development. The FRC mission statement is 'to provide a centre that is welcoming and friendly and which supports the community by providing opportunities for people to broaden their horizons and develop new skills'. Collectively the board, management and staff have worked towards ensuring that the development of the centre would reflect the needs of the most disadvantaged in the community, whilst providing an opportunity for all community members to take part in activities together, support each other and share skills and resources.



Core to the work of the centre is to support the family unit through a life-cycle approach. Key successes to-date include:

- Operation for 15 years, providing services for the local community.
- Delivery of adult and community education classes. Providing support for personal development, adult education and community empowerment through acknowledging, sharing and developing skills within the community.
- Provision of childcare.
- Supporting opportunities for the elderly to be involved in the local community.
- Reduction of rural isolation - through successful lobbying for improvement in the transport service within the community, through the support for men's initiatives, active retirement and health promotion, family fun days.
- Provision of activities and events for young people including an afterschool service and breakfast club both operating 5 days a week and sports access projects.
- Improving access to community services for all especially those most marginalised and disadvantaged.
- Being a source of local community information and support include advice and referrals.
- Developing a spirit of volunteerism within the community, volunteers are involved in every aspect of the centre.
- The local primary and secondary schools namely Boulensheere and Glenderry and our local secondary school Causeway Comprehensive, having supported students in the transition from primary to secondary school as well as other school retention schemes. This has helped in the establishment of school transition projects and has increased our profile, in turn increasing access to overall services.
- Residents associations in both Sraid Thaidhg and Marian Park work closely to tackle local challenges and enhance estate management.
- A partnership with the local youth club has allowed us to develop a number of youth initiatives including a drop in service / youth space. The youth space provides a hub to deliver targeted work as well as social strategies. Garda youth diversion projects also work in the youth space with local young people, facilitating 'copping on' programmes and other interventions.
- The provision of counselling and support to individuals and groups, including play therapy.
- Prevention and intervention, applying the Meitheal and area based approach.

The centre works in an every change environment influenced by the local economy, social and environmental changes. The geographic area is coastal and distinctively diverse throughout the year, from a winter isolation with hard weather exposure to the beauty of the coast with enhance tourist activities. Each providing a different community experience and challenges for the centre.

Going forward the centres key focus is to review the current facilities, with a need and a vision to increasing the space potential, as the current facility is unable to accommodate the activities and services required.

For further information contact:

Kerryhead / Ballyheigue Family Resource Centre

Sraid Thaidhg, Ballyheigue, Co. Kerry

Tel: 066 711 6961 | Email: ballyheiguefrc@gmail.com

SUPPORT FROM NEWKD

- *RSS - Rural Social Scheme: caretaker, reception positions.*
- *Tús Community Work Placement Programme: caretaker, youth worker, reception positions.*
- *SICAP - Training and capacity building.*
- *Listowel Jobs Club: outreach job searching training and skills development.*

GOOD PRACTICE & LEARNING:

- **Involve all stakeholders and service users in every aspect of the centre.**
- **Develop partnerships with agencies including: Tulsa, HSE, Kerry County Childcare Committee, Kerry Education and Training Board, Kerry County Council, NEWKD, Local Link Kerry, CIC/MAB., North Kerry older person maintenance service, Local Community Groups (Tidy Towns, Community Centre).**
- **Harness the knowledge and skill-set of our Board of Management and community.**



Rialtas na hÉireann
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NEWKD and Kerry Group wish to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to

KERRYHEAD/BALLYHEIGUE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Presented in recognition of the valuable contribution the centre makes to the:

- Community Vibrancy of the Kerryhead / Ballyheigue area
- Social Supports in the provision of Family Supports
- Community, Environment and Rural Development Leadership

November 2018

