
From: Knockmore Rathduff (<mailto:knockmoreerc@gmail.com>)

Sent: 14 May 2019 16:46

To: DRCD Info

Subject: Public Consultation on Social Enterprise

Dear Department Official,

URN 896382S Knockmore Rathduff Economic & Social Development Company.

CSP Project No. C0032 Knockmore Rathduff Recreation & Resource Centre.

We are a social enterprise located in a rural area in North Mayo

Our Services for the Elderly: Meals on Wheels, Drop in Centre, Social and Recreational Activities – Mini Bingo, Gardening Classes, Talks, Health and Wellbeing,

Light Exercises, Computer Classes, Arts and Crafts, Befriending (one to one telephone contact to the persons own home)

Community Services: Facilities for Groups/Organisations/Clubs/Indoor Games/Fitness Suite/Community Events/Birthday Parties/Retirement Functions.

Annual Events such as Communion and Confirmation Functions.

We are grateful for the funding we receive from the Department however it does not cover 100% of our wage bill. The cost of meeting the minimum wage from €8.65 to €9.80 and all overheads as well as meeting our financial commitments to the bank is placing a huge burden on our organisation. In 2010 we lost €4065 per FTE which was a loss of income of over €20,000 per annum

together with expenditure towards wages of €26,000 to meet current minimum wage and top up plus €2000 loss on the Managers salary which has never been restored.

We are finding that the programme has become more focused on income generation/sustainability, an example of this was the original hardship fund where we were informed that this would be a once off payment and that we would be looked at closely to find ways of generating more income ourselves. There is a definite emphasis on generating income to sustain a social enterprise business model and less emphasis on the social aspects which is demanded from the community in which we serve. All of these expenditures amount to several thousand euro that has to be made up of income generation methods in a very competitive and unfair environment.

Our services are being provided by commercial businesses as they are non-profit making and non-sustainable to the private sector. We would encourage the Department to meet the actual minimum wage if not match wages that other schemes are being paid and for the restoration of the operational overhead funding that was cut in 2010 as well as the cut in the Managers salary.

The Community Services programme needs the same government investment as other programmes/schemes receive in order to sustain the delivery of those vital services to the local community.

Thanking you for affording us this opportunity to highlight our services/activities and the financial constraints and concerns that we are expected to operate under as a voluntary Board of Directors.

Bernard Cumiskey
Chairman of the Board.