



NEWKD is the Local Development Partnership for the north east & west of the county, and was formed from companies established in the 1990's. NEWKD currently delivers many different development programmes focusing on community-led initiatives and is governed by a voluntary board of directors. NEWKD currently employs over 320 people and has an annual turnover of over €3m. The range and types of supports include:

- LEADER RDP Programme
- SICAP (Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme)
- Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
- Tus - Community Work Placement
- Community Services Programme
 - ✓ Older Persons Home Maintenance Service
 - ✓ Revamp
 - ✓ Community Halls / Hallaí An Phobail
- Jobs Clubs
- Local Employment Service (LES - DSP)
- Community Employment Schemes
- Tralee Community Drug Initiative (SRDTF)
- Skillnet Programmes
- Youth Initiatives
- Family Supports
- Enterprise Supports
- Community Development
- Trails Development
- Farm Family Supports
- Farmers Markets
- Education & Training Supports
- Carer's Supports
- School Meals Programme
- Moving On

NEWKD has been working with community-based Social Enterprises in its area since it was created in 2008. NEWKD offers a range of valuable supports to the social enterprise community at each stage of a project's development from the initial set up, daily operations through to scaling.

We support Social Enterprise through:

- SICAP supports – mentoring, grant assistance, business planning, training workshops, networking
- LEADER – grant assistance

- We manage 3 fully operational social enterprises which are assisted through the Community service programme
- Placements through TUS, RSS and CE schemes.

Social Enterprise is alive and thriving in County Kerry. Locally there are social enterprises across a wide range of sectors such as food poverty, transport, community gyms and centres, and older persons' supports. Social enterprises have the potential to bring much-needed services and jobs to community.

Recently NEWKD launched its 3-year Social Enterprise Strategy & Action which is aimed at supporting the Social Enterprise community, and works towards achieving better outcomes by using existing NEWKD and new resources. The development of the Strategy presents a real opportunity to enhance and build on the work that has been happening within NEWKD for a number of years.

In relation to the National Policy on Social Enterprise

- We welcome the publication of the government's Draft Social Enterprise Policy, the state's first such policy which has the potential to underpin and significantly develop a key sector in Irish economy and society.
- We welcome the policy's building on the 2013 Forfás report and the ILDN/UL report on 'Creating an Enabling and Supportive Enterprise for the Social Enterprise Sector in Ireland'.
- From our experience working in the community we would like to state that Local Development Companies are well-placed to support the implementation of actions arising from the Policy, given their delivery of LEADER and SICAP (both with SE elements), their management of the state's main labour activation work schemes, their current provision of business, marketing and governance supports for enterprise (through Social Enterprise and BTWEA programmes) as well as their direct management of social enterprises.
- Social enterprises are especially important in cases of low demand, market failure, low spending power of consumers, for groups struggling to participate in a conventional or competitive labour market. LDCs already work with each of these groups already through existing programmes and we see a strong SE policy as a core tool for social and geographic inclusion.
- The Policy is silent on Social Clauses and we believe that the implementation of these as core instruments of policy is required.
- The policy is silent on Displacement, mentioning clear and concise guidance is needed to maintain an open market with no further mention of this within the possible policy recommendations
- The national policy should clearly outline the need for the sector to come together in a single entity for the purposes of ensuring that the voice of the sector is cohesive and comprehensive.

With over 40 designated social enterprise staff members in the LDCs across the country, it is the view of NEWKD that ILDN represents the largest single body of work being done on the ground to support, expand and initiate social enterprises. We are of the view that the Department Policy should establish a new independent support entity for sectoral stakeholders. However, if it is considered that any existing organisation should be responsible for this important task, ILDN is best placed to represent the Social Enterprise sector as it already has active members and staff in every part of rural and urban Ireland. These Local Development Companies, based on partnership structures, have full country coverage and understand the challenges and opportunities for Social Enterprise from directly supporting the establishment, development and growth and governance of

social enterprises. We have bought the policy to our network of Social Enterprises who hold the view that this work should be delivered on the ground through LDCs