

***Ensuring the voice of community education is heard
at local and regional levels
CEN October 2017***

Tara Farrell

Deputy CEO, Longford Women's Link

AONTAS



@TeeFarr

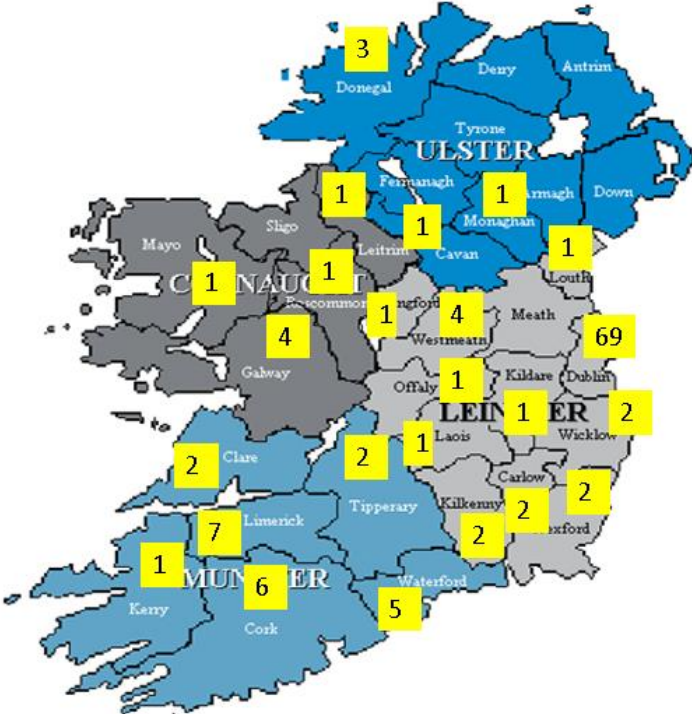
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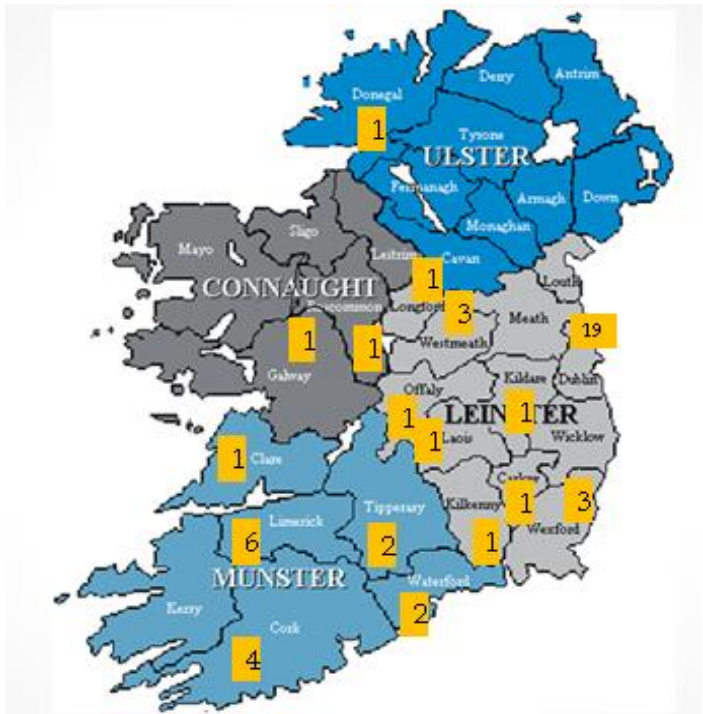
AONTAS Community Education Network (CEN)

Total CEN Membership

(160 in 121 orgs)



CEN Member QZI 'Legacy' Providers





Longford Women's Link



Who are we?

LWL Vision:

Longford women can fulfil their potential in a safe and equal society

- Social Enterprise
- Employs 110 staff
- 300+ learners p/a
 - Formal EQF L2-6
 - Non-formal

Context – Rural Learners

- Rural Isolation
- Access to critical services – childcare, transport
- Experience of Domestic Violence
- Lack of third level & employment opportunities
- Unequal representation in local & national government



PURPOSE:

LINK Women with the **RESOURCES**
to **CHANGE** their lives and
TRANSFORM their community.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Training & Education
- Peer Support Groups
- Female Entrepreneurship
- Employment & Work Experience



- Local & National Representation & Advocacy
- Manifesto Model of Democratic Engagement

- Domestic Violence Support
- Counselling
- Childcare
- Mobile Childcare Solutions

GOVERNANCE *Sustain a Strong, Stable, Visible and Diverse Organisation*

LWL Integrated Model of Service Delivery

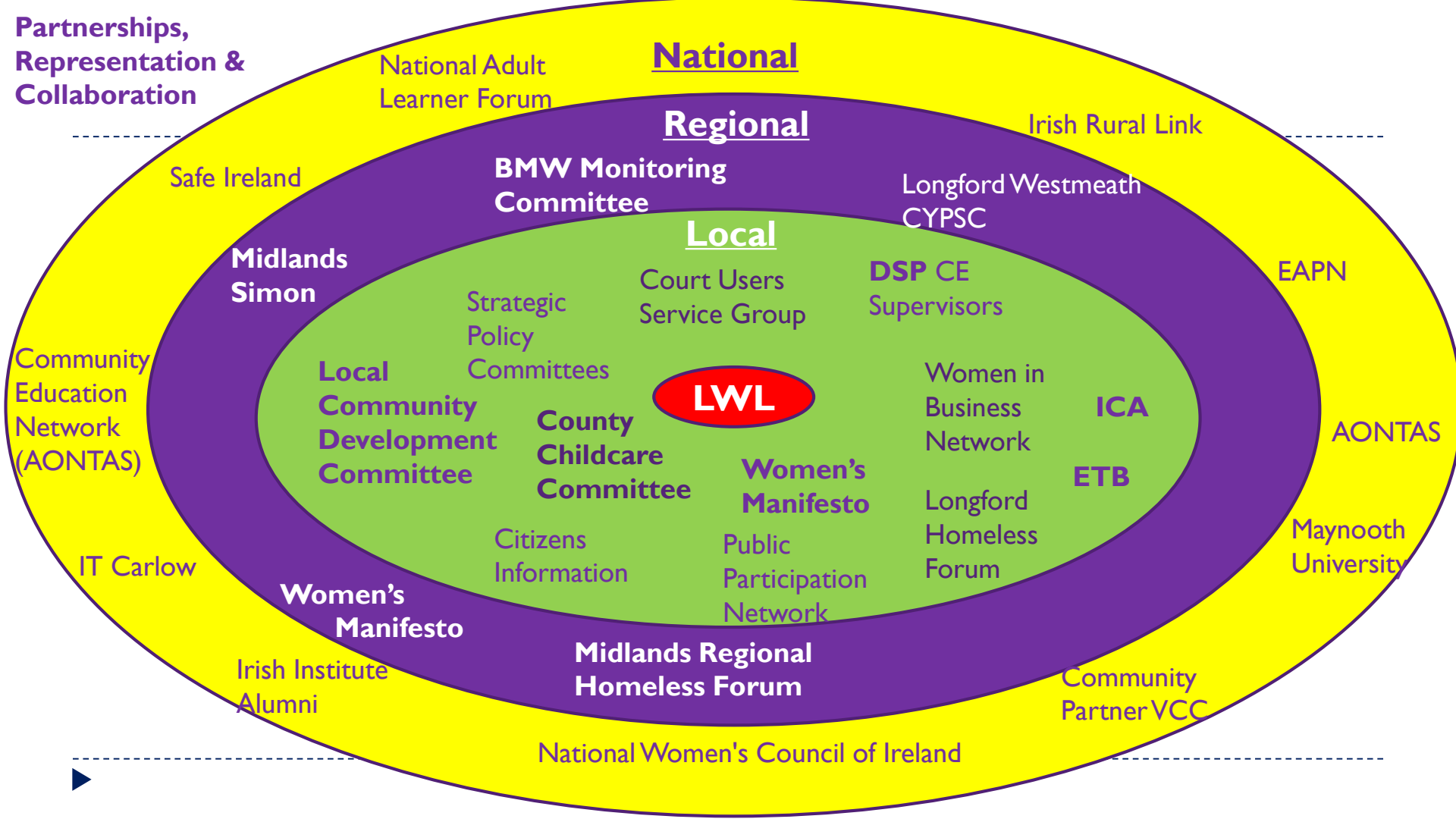


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- ▶ *The learner is supported, community capacity increased and social change effected*

Who do you engage with?

- ▶ Think of the learners in your organisation.....
- ▶ Which **agencies** do you engage with in order to achieve the best outcomes for your learners?





Over to you!

- ▶ What are the challenges for your organisation when establishing partnerships and collaborations?
- ▶ Where do you need to be to support the learner?



Overcoming Challenges as an Organisation

- **Dependency on relationships**
- ❖ **Choosing partners**
- **Funding issues**
- ❖ **Context is key**
- **Network/external representation/media**
- ❖ **Be selective!**
- **Avoid funding-led**
- ❖ **Know the local/regional factors**



Model of Engagement

- ▶ Women's Manifesto Programme
- ▶ Engaging women in local democracy and decision-making
 - Who
 - Individuals
 - Women's groups
 - Women active in their community
 - Targeted Support
 - Workshops for Local Election candidates
 - Manifesto Network
 - Seminars and research
 - Formal and informal learning



Why?

- ▶ Dissatisfied/powerless
- ▶ Women's perspectives
- ▶ Working at local level
- ▶ Collective action



What we do.....

➤ **Manifesto Meetings**

- **Monthly: Agenda – feedback, issues discussion, decisions**
- **“What is the impact on women, their families, the community?”**

➤ **Council Meetings**

- **Monthly, rota basis, buddy system, template for feedback**
- **Councillors see us & we see them**

➤ **Representation on other committees**

- **PPN, SPC, LCDC, Other agencies e.g. CIC**

➤ **Engage**

- **Notices of Motion**
 - **Submissions**
 - **Develop relationships**
-



If you want change you have to do something

INFORM/BUILD CAPACITY



ACT



ENGAGE WITH THE SYSTEM



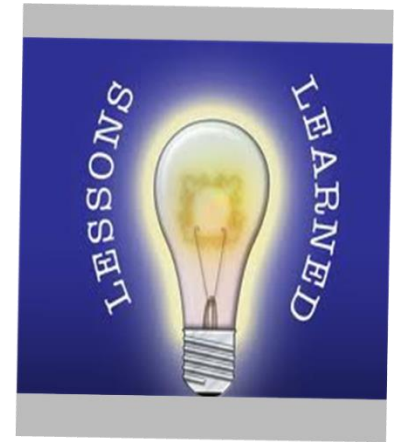
What have we achieved?

- **Recognition**
- **Response**
- **Replication**
- **Resources**



What have we learned?

- **Be clear about what you want**
- **Learning as part of the group**
- **Understanding the system**
- **Change takes time!**





- ▶ Increasing PPN membership is positive BUT
 - ▶ How do you make sure everyone is informed?
- ▶ Volume of information
 - ▶ Pressure on volunteers/community reps
 - ▶ Accessing information
 - ▶ Where to start!
- ▶ Marathon not a sprint!

Remember....

***The master's tools will never
dismantle the master's house***

Audre Lorde



Strategic Policy Committee	County Council Members	Sectoral Representatives
Housing Services Strategic Policy Committee	Cllr. P.J. Reilly. Cllr. Gerry Warnock. Cllr. Martin Mulleady Cllr. John Browne Cllr. Paul Ross	Development and Construction - Derek Scanlon PPN Reps - Tess Murphy Stephanie Igoe Eileen Finan
Infrastructure and Environment Strategic Policy Committee	Cllr. Micheal Carrigy. Cllr. John Duffy Cllr Gerard Farrell Cllr. Luie McEntire Cllr. Mick Cahill	Agriculture and Farming - Andrew McHugh Trade Union - Michael Spillane Environmental/Conservation - Niamh Moran PPN Rep - Teresa Kearney
Planning and Development and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee	Cllr. Mae Sexton. Cllr. Mark Casey. Cllr. Mick Cahill Cllr. Pauric Brady Cllr. Gerard Farrell	Agriculture and Farming - Pat O'Rourke Environmental/Conservation - Noreen McLoughlin PPN Reps - Pat Murphy Paddy Howe
Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee	Cllr. Seamus Butler. Cllr. Pauric Loughrey. Cllr Pat O'Toole Cllr. Colm Murray Cllr. Peggy Nolan.	Business / Employers - Vacant Environmental/Conservation - Ray Hogan. County Tourism Committee - Mona Considine. PPN Rep - Louise Lovett

▶ Longford SPCs

LWL/Manifesto members

▶ PPN Secretariat

▶ Tess Murphy

▶ LCDC

▶ Tess Murphy

▶ Louise Lovett

SICAP 2018-2022

SICAP has two Goals.



New SICAP 2018-2022

- ▶ **G2:2 - Providing lifelong learning opportunities**
- ▶ **G2 – 2:1** SICAP clients receive information about opportunities for lifelong learning.
- ▶ **G2 - 2:2** SICAP clients participate in lifelong learning.
- ▶ **G2 - 2:3** SICAP clients achieve higher levels of qualifications as a result of participating in lifelong learning.



Over to you!

- ▶ What has your experience been to date?
- ▶ Feedback will be collated and circulated to wider CEN



Ten things you can do

1. Be a chatter champion in your circle
 - Talk to others about underrepresentation
 - Get them to commit to action with you
2. Go to a local Council meeting
 - Visit your Council website for full details
3. Join a political party locally
 - Visit party website for full details
4. Join your local PPN
 - Make sure you're up to date with what's happening
5. Find out who are your community representatives?
 - Is there a linkage group you can join?



Ten things you can do

6. Get in touch with your local councillor
7. What do you need to know more about?
 - The system? SICAP?
8. Share information
 - Use CEN and other networks to find out what's happening elsewhere
9. Find out where education/lifelong learning is at in your area
 - Get a copy of your LECP (Local Economic and Community Plan)
10. Connect with us - start a Group in your area
 - Contact LWL! www.facebook.com/LongfordWomensLink



Thank you

Contact Longford Women's Link



tarafarrell@lwl.ie



www.lwl.ie



[@LWLLongford](https://twitter.com/LWLLongford)



www.facebook.com/LongfordWomensLink

