

LAOIS TRAVELLER ACTION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2022





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CHAIRPERSONS ADDRESS

LTAG continued to grow throughout 2022. It has been a very busy year for LTAG with exciting new projects being developed by the service which you will read later in this report. LTAG continues to thrive even though it has faced many challenges such as restrictions in funding which is now limiting the growth and demand for services from the Project.

In 2022 LTAG launched its new 2022-2025 Strategic Plan which our dedicated staff is working towards and in line with our mission statement 'To work to achieve equality, better living conditions, better health for Travellers, and the recognition of Traveller Culture and ethnicity.'

I would like to take this opportunity to thank LTAG's staff who are all committed, dedicated and who work tirelessly to support and advocate for members of the Travelling community. Your dedication has enabled LTAG to grow to where it is today.

I would also like to thank Annette Long, Project Manager. Annette was appointed by the Board of Management in December 2021. Annette has been working in LTAG since 2014. Annette's main goal in 2022 was to work and implement our new Strategic Plan and through staff individual work plans ensuring these goals are met.

And lastly, I would like to thank my colleagues on the board of management. The board continue to give their time to support Annette in running of LTAG and ensuring high standards and governance are met.

Lisa McGinley

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STRATEGIC PLAN

Annette Long

LTAG were successful in a funding application that was submitted to the LCDC for the Development and Implementation of Strategic Plan. LTAG engaged BCH Professional to work closely with the LTAG team, board, agencies, and stakeholders carrying out consultations with all groups to develop this.

Our strategic plan was launched towards the end of quarter one. The full Strategic Plan 2022-2025 can be found on our website www.ltag.ie. Below are the five strategic goals that LTAG are working towards.

Goal 1: To work towards equality of access and outcome for Travellers Health

- Continue to offer the primary health care programme.
- Ensure that there is provision of services at local level.
- Advocate with similar organisations for a midland's traveller THU strategic plan
- Improve communications through social media, networks, and word of mouth.
- Continue to support Travellers with accommodation issues.
- Continue to advocate with Laois County council for suitable accommodation.

Goal 2: To work to continue to develop programmes and services offered by LTAG to improve access and outcomes.

- Continue the Traveller health programme.
- Continue the men's shed.
- Encourage young people to participate in LTAG through development of activities in which they have a particular interest, by using links with Laois Sports Partnership and other relevant organisations.
- Continue referrals to counselling and support services.

Goal 3: To work with relevant services and organisations on LTAG's key priority areas to achieve better access and outcomes for Travellers.

- Increase links with community by organising events out in local areas, to improve uptake and accessibility.
- Improve links with community development organisations in Mountmellick, Portarlinton, Portlaoise and Mountrath
- Improve collaboration with existing local services to ensure the needs of the Traveller community are highlighted and responded to
- Develop relationships with relevant organisations to improve progression routes to training, education, and employment.

- Include education for older people in relation to physical and mental health in the brief of the education officer when recruited.
- Organise an event for Department of Social Protection (DSP) and employers to encourage the establishment of a link with LTAG.

Goal 4: To develop direct supports to Young Travellers

- Seek funding for a youth worker.
- Begin to establish links with young Travellers through family, schools, and youth services.
- Involve the young people in programme design.
- Support families and young people to remain in education and progress to further education and training.
- Provide information on physical and mental health supports
- Continue referrals to counselling and support services.

Goal 5: To develop LTAG as a community development organisation.

- To provide services including advocacy for individuals and families in the Traveller community and celebrate their achievement.
- To work in partnership with Traveller specific and mainstream services, representative structures, and funding partners to increase the capacity to deliver best services to the Traveller community.
- To continue to provide training opportunities for staff and service users.
- Promote Traveller representation on local community development organisations and provide mentoring to ensure meaningful engagement.
- Continue the annual Traveller Pride event.
- Develop with assistance of the national Traveller organisations an Awareness programme that can be delivered to key agencies to provide knowledge on how to engage with Travellers
- Attend community open days to communicate the work of LTAG and create an awareness of traveller culture.

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE TEAM

Amy Costello

LTAG's Primary Healthcare Programme employs five Primary Healthcare Workers part-time. Amy Costello was recruited in January 2022 as the Primary Healthcare Coordinator.

Under this Primary Healthcare Programme working alongside Amy is our Public Health Nurse, Nuala Hogan. This programme works to promote health, wellbeing within the Travelling community in Co. Laois.

2022 was a busy year for the Primary Healthcare Team. With covid restrictions finally lifted it meant that the team could return to normal working conditions. The new Primary Healthcare Coordinator primarily focused on ensuring that the National KPI targets were reached whilst also offering information on other important topics affecting the health and wellbeing of the Traveller community.

Amy and Nuala worked closely to cover topics such as breast cancer, cancer of the prostate, anxiety, depression, viral infections, important vaccinations especially in children and Asthma.

LTAG's KPI's set by the Traveller Health Unit were met and delivered in a number of ways. The KPI topics are Cardiovascular, Diabetes and Mental Health.

Whilst the outreach is a massive part of the PHC Teams work, they also arranged information sessions to deliver this health messages. There were several information mornings throughout the year with agencies and stakeholders' delivery talks and information sessions to the PHC Team. Examples of this are:

- Information Morning with Sarah Butler (Youth and Engagement Officer) from Jigsaw
- Meeting with Patrick Gallagher regarding Mental Health Services Laois
- Information Session with Nuala Hyland (CADS) around addiction and addiction services
- Presentation by Amanda Caulfield and Aisling Warburton around "Making Every Contact Count), Mindfulness and Support around stopping smoking.
- Our team also worked on planning and organising events for the community such as:
 - Traveller Pride
 - Children's Christmas Party
 - Home-coming Event for Johnny Harty Representing Ireland in European Boxing Championships
 - Suicide Awareness Mass
 - Wellness and Relaxation Morning
 - Breast Cancer Talk



Breast Cancer Awareness Talk



Suicide Awareness Mass



Johnny Harty's Homecoming Event

The Primary Healthcare Team in conjunction with the staff in LTAG's afterschool service, Tir na Nog hosted a homecoming party for Johnny and Neddy Harty to celebrate their success boxing for Ireland at the European Championships 2022.





Children's Christmas Party

The Primary Healthcare Team organised the annual Children's Christmas Party and Santa kindly visited us at this event in St. Mary's Hall, Portlaoise



Events Attended

Members of the Primary Healthcare Team attended a number of events such as;

The National Traveller Mental Health Conference



National Mental Health Network protest Dublin



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WOMEN'S GROUP

Jules Fitzpatrick

At the start off the year, we had a combined group of Men and Women who completed a large-scale Mosaic Project throughout February and March. This project was part funded by Laois Partnership who supported us to purchase the materials and supported by LOETB as a community education programme. From design to completion this was a lovely celebration of Traveller Culture in our groups and a nice way for the Men's and Women's groups to work together. All of our Primary Healthcare team were involved in this project too. This amazing piece of art now welcomes anyone who comes through our door as it adorns the reception wall as a lovely representation of Traveller Men and Women who attend our groups. Following on from this our Women's group embarked on individual project creating Mosaic Mirrors.



Groupwork Facilitation QQI Level 6

LTAG supported the roll out of the midlands groupwork facilitation programme that started in Tullamore pre covid with Fusion training. Jules Fitzpatrick facilitated the group each week in Laois for the local participants and supported Ger from Fusion Training to coordinate this group and engage with all counties to maintain participation levels. We hosted the whole group in LTAG for six weeks to the groupwork assessments. The group was a success with all 12 participants completing their Groupwork Facilitation award at QQI Level 6. Four participants from Laois completed the course, 3 with merit and one distinction.

Women's Groups

The women's groups ran throughout the year, enjoying a large variety of projects such as candle making, flower wreaths, gardening, gym and swim groups, flower arranging and upcycling, finishing the year off with the Christmas programme, including cooking, wreaths, and centre

pieces. We ran workshops for the women's group focusing on self-care, wellbeing, and positive mental health. Jules was able to tap into the existing women's group in Portarlington that attend the LEOTB and Laois Partnership programmes and run a few of the summer groups and the whole Christmas programme with them. This went really well and was enjoyed by all.



Women's Trip

In May we had a successful day trip to Knock Shrine in Mayo, this trip was attended by 45 Traveller ladies from the Laois area. We had lunch and dinner at Hannon's hotel in Roscommon on route and enjoyed a whole afternoon in the Shrine for Mass, blessing of the sick and a very relaxing and meaningful day for all who attended.



NUIG Programme

The NUIG programme ran all year with the preparation programme being a great success January to June, we had seven participants from Laois who completed this. We were able to support this programme weekly, hosting study sessions in house and support sessions facilitated by LOETB.

In September five of our participants continued on to commence with the Diploma programme. LTAG and LOETB run study and support sessions as well as the local bi-weekly learning days in LOETB hub. On other weeks all participants attend Tullamore for the NUIG tutorials. We were able to secure funding through the SICAP further education programme for each participant. Jules maintains links with all stakeholders involved in this project through the steering groups and regular communications.

Adult Literacy

We started a new adult literacy group in September supported by LOETB with two members of the Traveller community enrolling on this. These sessions are facilitated on a 1-1 basis to enable each participant to receive support tailored to their needs. This is going well, and we have another 2 adults have registered their interest in this. This is facilitated by LOETB.

Community Development

The day-to-day Community development work is in addition to the above. This work consists of supporting Travellers with many issues, including education, mental health, and accommodation. Both Jules and Brian work daily with Travellers to address housing needs and issues as they arise. We maintain a good relationship with Laois county council to ensure we can advocate effectively for better outcomes.

Jules chairs the local LTACC meetings and ensures we have active participation in our local accommodation programme and maintain links with other Traveller organisations, through working groups and networks which are actively addressing accommodation issues for Travellers. Jules participated in homelessness law and mediation training in September.

Education

Jules works closely with Education welfare officers in Laois to support families with school issues, such as school placements, attendance and other areas as required and maintain good links with home school liaison officers and guidance counsellors to support families and students with individual needs.

Midlands Health Network

The midlands health network reconvened in 2022. Laois hosted a meeting in October with information session from National Traveller MABS to support families with cost-of-living crisis and hardship. We have new Laois members and have attended networks in Longford, Westmeath, and Offaly.

YOUTH GROUP

Jules Fitzpatrick & Brian Byrne

One of the biggest successes of 2022 was the roll out of our Traveller Youth Programme. This was a pilot in the summer and was able to return for a Christmas programme due to further funding received from the HSE.

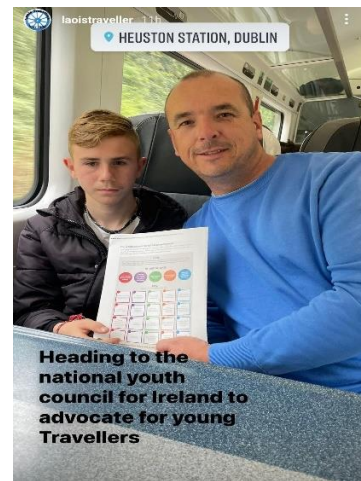
This programme was attended by 16 young people aged 10-15. They young people experienced many new activities, including mosaic art, cooking, music lessons, theatre workshops, STEM and much more, as well as down time to relax, play pool, chat, eat together and enjoy social interactions with their peers. This group was facilitated jointly with Jules and Brian and two of the team at Youth Work Ireland and we used their premises in Portlaoise to run this group. We used their Youth Café as it is a great space and equipped with all amenities. We cooked with the Youth each week and they really enjoyed cooking and tasting what they cooked.



From this group we were invited to the National Youth Council for Ireland consultation event in Dublin in July. We attended with two of the young people from our group who were excellent advocates for young Travellers and caught the attention of many other groups in attendance.

The forum is a coming together of young people from different minority groups across Ireland to discuss issues that they feel need addressing by the government. It was an opportunity for our youth group members Tony and Dolly to speak up on behalf of young Travellers in Laois.

They were absolutely amazing and interacted very well with everyone on the day. Many people in attendance were very impressed with their interaction. Through this event we were able to make links with Young Traveller group in Cork and NYCI to seek support to maintain this group moving forward.



Comhairle Na Nog AGM

We attended the Comhairle Na nOg AGM in Portlaoise with 5 young people from the Youth group. Two of them are now members of the Comhairle and are active advocates for young Travellers in Laois.



Music Generation

We have been able to successfully secure funding from creative Ireland for a music group for Young Travellers in Music Generation in Portlaoise and this is attended by 10 young people each week.



Story Telling Workshop

A workshop for the Youth was arranged with the Super Paua Theatre company in July. Two members from the youth theatre travelled down from Dublin to do a story telling workshop with the youth group. This was the first project that Suer Paua theatre company had done with a Traveller youth group. It was a story telling workshop where the youngsters were split into groups and had to make up their own funny ghost stories. We hope to link in with Super Paua in the near future to do another project with our youth group.

We took the group to see a pantomime in the Red Cow Hotel in Dublin at Christmas which was a lovely experience and completely new one for all the young people. They really enjoyed the experience, and it was a great success. Many thanks to the staff from Youth Work Ireland who assisted us on the trip and have been a great help to us throughout the year with our youth group.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – MEN’S GROUP

Brian Byrne

Men’s Trips

LTAG’s Men’s Group went on a boat trip on the river Barrow in Athy. It was a lovely afternoon for the 2-hour trip. The men really enjoyed the cruise along the river, and they commented how relaxing it felt. There were a few younger members of the Traveling community who attended with their Dads. They really enjoyed this trip.



Mens Mental Health Week

As part of men’s mental health week, we went on a trip to Croagh Patrick in June. There was good attendance for the trip with men from Portlaoise, Portarlinton, Mountmellick and Mountrath on the trip. When we got to Croagh Patrick some of the men were interviewed by an RTE television crew as part of Traveller Men health.



Group Work

After many months of trying to source a premises for our men's group, we were offered a lease by Laois County Council on a premises in Portarlinton. This new premises was adjacent to the Traveller group housing scheme in Woodlands Park which is currently being run as an afterschool for young Traveller children.

Laois Traveller Action Group took over the lease on this premises in Ballymorris, Portarlinton and is now the outside buildings are being used by our men's group. Extensive work has been done on this Recreation room, which included renovating and decorating this premises. It is now fully furnished and being used by our men's group on a weekly basis.



Our men's group also meet every Monday for a game of pool in our new room in Portarlinton. There is always good attendance from the men who really enjoy coming together for the chats and banter. Our men's group also meet every Wednesday evening to play outdoor soccer at Portarlinton leisure centre.



Men's Shed

We sourced funding to construct a new shed which the men will use as their men's shed. This will afford the men the opportunity to have their own premises that they can use for various projects such as woodwork. The men have been very busy working on the shed to get it completed & fitted out so that they can start using it on a weekly basis.



Residents Association

LTAG has established a new residents association with the Traveller families living in Woodlands Park. The set up and establishment of this Resident's Association and training has been funded by Laois County Council.

Community Development

It has been another very busy year for our Community Development work LTAG. Both Jules and Brian have been assisting many families and individuals throughout 2022. Much of this work would be assisting Travellers with accommodation issues. We work very closely with Laois County Council and have regular meetings with the LTACC which is chaired by Jules.

We also assist Travellers with education, health, and mental health issues. Both Jules and Brian sit on various National Traveller working groups and both attend National meetings on a regular basis. We continuously advocate on Traveller rights at both local & national levels.

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE NURSE

Nuala Hogan

Introduction

The public health nursing (PHN) role in partnership with Laois Traveller Action (LTAG) has many diverse components. A central part of my role is working as a health co-coordinator in the Primary Health Care Programme (PHCP) with the five peer Community Health Workers (CHWs) at LTAG. I devise and roll out Traveller-specific health education programmes for CHW outreach. I also receive clinical and social referrals from all members of the healthcare team at LTAG and other allied healthcare professionals within the HSE to provide family support, health promotion, guidance and advocacy for all clients.

Traveller-Specific Health Programmes

I found 2022 a challenging year. The year saw a continued increase in the demand for nursing services to Travellers due to the pandemic. It brought new issues to our healthcare system and created more difficulties within our work. Health issues for Travellers differ from those of the settled community and this makes them more vulnerable.

My work with the Traveller community has many diverse components to it. I have worked as a Traveller specific nurse practitioner within Traveller Health for over a decade. I take social and clinical referrals from my colleagues in LTAG and act as a conduit between mainstream services and Traveller health to encourage and promote health and social gain for Travellers.

Examples of programmes devised include the rollout of specific health education on HPV, diabetes, heart disease, Covid-19, child safety awareness training, Talking Buddies workshops with speech and language therapists from the HSE, and mental health workshops at LTAG in partnership with community services and the mental health nurse. The need for Traveller-specific health education programmes is outlined in the All-Ireland Health Status Study (2007-2010) and the CHWs deliver them to the broader Traveller community as part of their outreach work.

Health Screenings

I carried out several health screenings that form part of my clinical role with LTAG. Health screening and health promotion were provided to 35 Traveller women in May 2022 when we travelled to Knock, County Mayo. I took blood pressure/pulse taking and blood sugars and offered health consultations. The ultimate goal of screenings is to increase service uptake.

I also oversee and manage the Nurse Led Health Screening Clinics for Traveller men and women that use the social model of clinical healthcare and are Traveller specific. It allows clients to develop an awareness of the need for and the benefits of routine healthcare screening. It involves screening healthy people to record symptoms of potential conditions and when caught can be successfully treated. Two of the main elements that help ensure success here are trust and professionalism.

I delivered this model to 60 people in July 2022 at the Traveller Pride Day in Mountrath. In addition, I completed health screening at the Portarlinton site in the nearby Pre-School / After School office in February 2022 to facilitate clients from the Portarlinton area. I also undertake a health screening with clients on the initial visit to their home or in the LTAG office.

Health Inequalities

As a health professional, I try to understand the issues faced by each client I meet. It means “putting myself in the client’s shoes”. I need to predict my client’s needs and find the best ways to improve their engagement with health services. One of my principal aims when working with Traveller clients is to tackle health inequalities and ensure inclusivity. Health issues facing Travellers differ from those of the settled community; it requires building and maintaining trust that are essential for achieving my outcomes successfully.

The importance of having a public health nurse working in traveller health is critical for improving health outcomes. I take referrals from all members of the health care team at LTAG and health care professionals within the HSE. I visit clients on my own and with the wider LTAG team. The six C’s of care, compassion, competence, communication, courage, and commitment are at the heart of my role. I also explain my job to Traveller clients as “The Well Being Nurse.” It normalises and takes away any medical jargon or barriers. I cover five main areas - therapeutic activities, liaison interventions, education interventions, referrals, and follow-up interventions.

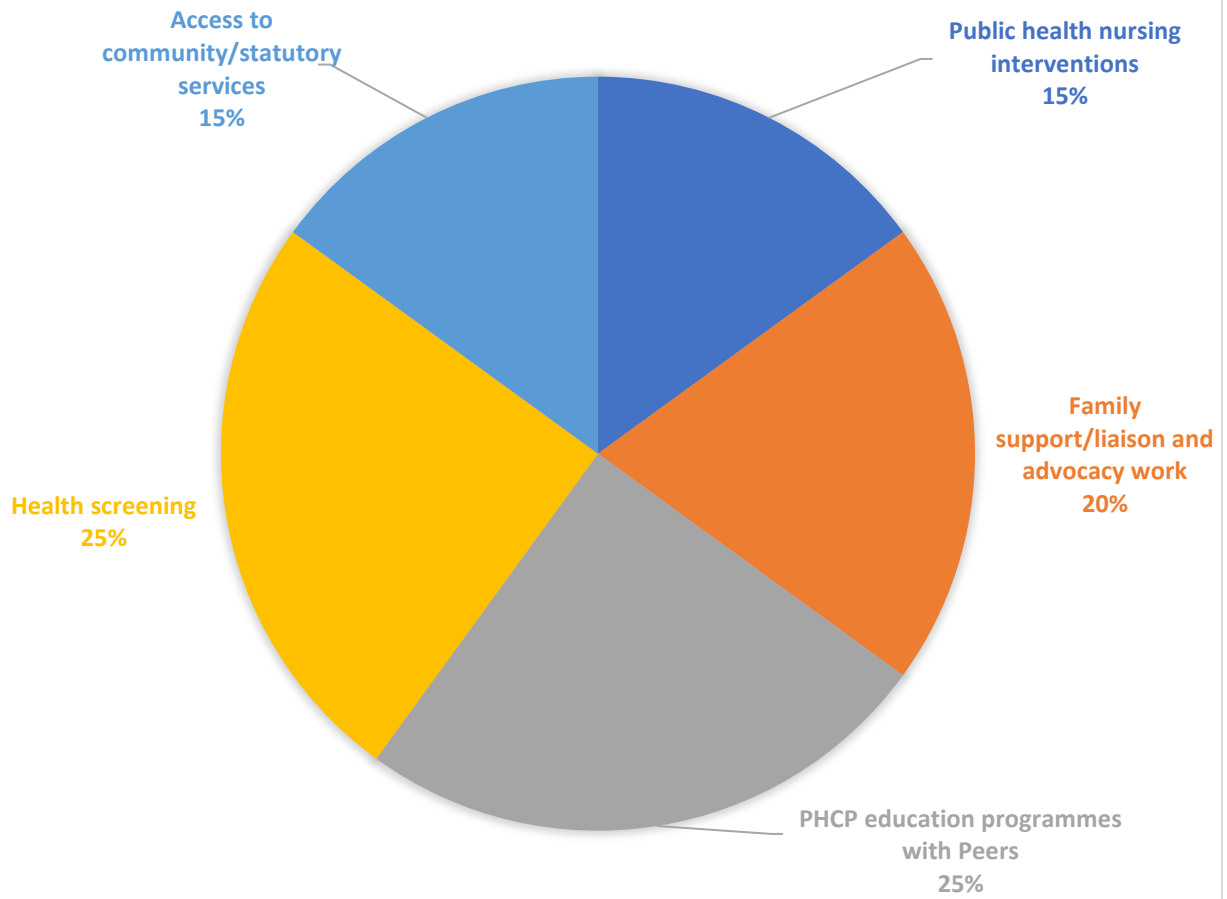
Model of Good Practice

An inter-professional model of good practice is in place at LTAG with the nursing / social model of care setup in 2021 when Aislinn Daly joined LTAG as a social worker. We do joint home visits or office visits to clients, and this decision is made based on a referral. We provide family support, preventative and practical interventions, health promotion and guidance to clients. We complete holistic nursing and social assessments linked to poor accommodation, poor access to health and social care and clients in crisis.

The importance of addressing all of the above within the socio-determinants health approach is an central principle of our work. I am also a member of the Local Crisis Response team at LTAG, and we met several times in 2022 regarding planning and organising staff who need to attend to clients in crisis. Our work aims to make every contact count (MECC 2021, HSE Health Promotion) and support the health and well-being of the wider Traveller community in County Laois.

Additionally, I sit on the Board of Management at Parents First in Tullamore, Co. Offaly also allows me to work closely with other agencies such as Triple P Parenting Programme, TUSLA, Barnardos and nursing colleagues in the HSE.

BREAKDOWN OF WORK 2022





TRAVELLER PRIDE

LTAG's Traveller Pride event took place in Bloom HQ in Mountrath on the 20th July 2022. This event was funded by the Department of Children and Equality. This event was very well attended by Traveller families living in Laois.

The Youth group displayed some of the work they had done at their weekly group meetings.

Breast Cancer Ireland attended along with HSE Health Screening service provided by the Traveller Health Unit, HSE.



AFTERSCHOOL SERVICE

Amy Costello

Laois Traveller Action Group took over the running of Tir Na Nog afterschool's in September 2022. This has proved to be a long process which we began in June of 2022 and as of December 2022 was yet to be finalised. The setting was previously operated by a company in Portarlinton and was already established as a traveller specific service. The service is funded by Pobal a government body created to promote social inclusion and facilitate Early Learning and Care for children.

Annette worked closely with Amy Costello in relation to LTAG taking over the afterschool service. Change of ownership with Pobal and Tusla were implemented, funding achieved to continue this service, insurance, child protection policies updated. While Amy continues to Manage this service, governance, accountability, and reporting are completed by Annette.

As mentioned above this service is managed daily by Amy Costello. There is a team of three other Childcare Workers, one employed by LTAG and two CE participants. The staff have been in place for many years and have built very close relationships with the children and their families.

Daily schedule

The service currently has 20 children attending daily. The focus of this service is to ensure that children complete homework daily, to provide a hot meal and to offer fun activities for the children.

The setting itself offers daily challenges for the staff as we have children with a variety of needs. A lot of the children attending our service have intellectual and learning difficulties therefore extra care and support is required to ensure that these children have a positive experience of learning. We also have a number of children attending the service who are awaiting or have been diagnosed with ADHD. This can prove very difficult for the staff and the other children availing of the service. However, our staff are very experienced and have been trained to deal with these situations. The children are showing constant improvement in their learning and engagement of educational activities.

CE Worker

In October 2022 we were very lucky to gain a new member of staff via the CE scheme. Helen is a member of the traveller community and has proved to be a very welcomed addition to our team. We feel that having Helen as a permanent presence in the children's lives is so important to

children within the community. Helen is showing the children that there are possibilities out there for you if you work hard and want to achieve.

Laois Partnership

We have received ongoing support from Laois Partnership who have been great in offering funding to improve and add to the service and afforded us to purchase new equipment and supplies. In December 2022 we took the children on their first trip to a Christmas Pantomime which was funded by Laois Partnership. The day was a massive success, and the children really enjoyed the excitement of a bus trip and attending the show.

Tir na Nog – Afterschool Service



Christmas Pantomime



PILOT SOCIAL WORKER PROGRAMME

Aislinn Daly

The Travelling to Wellbeing Mental Health Service based in Offaly Traveller Movement is over 9 years in operation. The number of Travellers accessing this service is increasing year on year for both one to one and group support. These figures demonstrate the need for a social work service in Laois. Offaly Traveller Movement were awarded funding from the National Office of Suicide Prevention to extend their service. A condition of this funding was that a pilot programme be undertaken in Co. Laois for a twelve-month period.

Aislinn was recruited as Social Worker and commenced her post in June 2022 and began working within the community to build relationships in July 2022. This report has reflected the work carried out in quarter 3 on two days a week. It can already be seen that Quarter four is reporting more than double interventions. This shows the need for a full-time social work post in Laois to deal with the demand of the service.

Mental health and suicide are having a detrimental impact on the Traveller community. The second ever national survey of Travellers, carried out by Behaviour & Attitudes Market Research in 2017 and funded by the Community Foundation Ireland confirms that 90% of Travellers agree that mental health problems are common among the Traveller community. 49% of Travellers in Leinster (outside Dublin) had personal mental health concerns and 82% had been affected in some way by suicide. Laois is host to many Traveller families and the demand for this service is steadily increasing. Indeed, with the success of this service in Offaly and Laois, the ongoing increasing rate of Traveller engagement, and the requests for support outside of the county demonstrates the need for Travelling to Wellbeing- a Traveller specific mental health and suicide prevention service to be made available in other regions with maximum resources. This will ensure that Travellers have a dedicated, timely and professional mental health service, one that will encourage them to seek the help and support urgently required.

Demand for Social Work Services

There is a growing demand for the T2WB service in Laois. The Social Worker is only working two days in Laois and every month has shown the increase for the need in the area. Referrals are being received from a number of different agencies including CAMHS, TUSLA, the Laois council and HSE Mental Health Services. A full-time social work post is needed to manage the demand for the service in Laois.

Challenges for Families

- Homeless families. It is highly stressful for families living in hotel rooms, B&B's, on unofficial sites and on the side of the road with no services. Links with PHN's and other professionals and joint visits to families throughout Laois.

- There is a high level of families that require support to access children’s disability services
Social worker has noted that there is a high number of families struggling to access
- Children’s Disability Services for their children as a result of long waiting list. Social worker has supported a huge number of families to complete relevant paperwork, advocating on their behalf to access appropriate services for their children. This requires an extensive amount of time.

• Activities/Events Attended – Training/Workshops/Meetings				
No	Activity/Event	Month	Duration	Details/Note/Comment
1.	Strategic planning day around cultural diversity for the Traveller Community	June	Full Day	SW has attended the strategic planning day around cultural diversity for the Traveller Community in conjunction with the HSE and gave a short overview of her own role within both organisations.
2.	Traveller Pride Team Meeting	July	2 Hours	Meeting with LTAG staff to plan for Traveller Pride event.
3.	Information Sharing and Networking event for Laois/ Offaly	September	Full Day	This event organised by The National FRC Mental Health Promotion Project, the HSE Resource Office for Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Ireland. T2WB Social Worker attended the day which involved round table discussions on four World Café questions with the aim of building relationships and strengthening future collaborations in relation to the promotion of positive mental health and suicide prevention. There was an opportunity to mingle and share information with other attendees. There were over 40 attendees at this event.
4.	Jigsaw Support Service Information Session	September	Half Day	T2WB Social Worker attended in information in LTAG. Jigsaw attended LTAG to provide information on their service in both Offaly and Laois.
5.	Mass for those who were bereaved through suicide	September	2 hours	LTAG held a mass for those families have bereaved which SW attended
6.	Advanced Salesforce Training	September	Half Day	T2WB Social Worker completed 2 sessions on Salesforce training around basic use of salesforce and reporting.

7.	Making Every Contact Count Training	September	Half Day	T2WB Social Worker attended this training, which was delivered by the HSE, aims to support professionals to encourage clients to make healthier lifestyle choices during routine contacts to help prevent and manage chronic diseases.
8.	Meitheal	September	Half Day	T2WB Social Worker Chaired a Meitheal meeting in LTAG for an Offaly Case.
9.	Joint Strategy meeting with TUSLA and the Guards	September	2 hours	Joint meeting in relation to a case in Laois
10.	Workshop for Professionals and Key Contact People Providing support to those Bereaved by Suicide	September	Full Day	T2WB Social Worker attended this workshop for professionals and key contact people providing support to those bereaved by suicide. The workshop aims to support professionals by developing a knowledge and understanding of the grieving process and enhance their skills in supporting people who are bereaved by suicide.
11.	Offaly Domestic Violence Conference	October	Full Day	SW represented OTM and LTAG at the conference. SW spoke about the everyday challenges Travellers face, the Travelling to Wellbeing service provided, Domestic violence within the Travelling community and barriers faced to accessing supports. SW spoke what all services could do to break down these barriers including working more collaboration and including cultural awareness training.
12.	Consultation with Laois Education Centre	October	3 hours	-SW along with the team sat in consultation with Laois Education Centre around looking at how to make education more inclusive for Travellers.
13.	Safe TALK Training	November	Half Day	Social worker attended SafeTALK training in Tullamore this quarter as part of their ongoing upskilling.

14.	Education Working group-Community of belonging staff meeting	November	3 hours	Staff in LTAG met to discuss ideas for working with the community to highlight how to make education more inclusive
15.	Mental Health Conference in Croke Park on Creating Change for Traveller Mental Health Through 'Partnership and Action'	November	Full day	SW attended the Mental Health Conference in Croke Park and presented a presentation to a group on the Travelling to Wellbeing Programme
16.	Zoom meeting with TUSLA Family Welfare conference meetings	December	1.5	Meeting with the Family Welfare Conference Officer in TUSLA Portlaoise to discuss an individual family's needs
17.	LTAG Children's Christmas Party	December	3	SW supported the staff in LTAG on the day of the children's Christmas party

Number of Contacts/Interventions between June and December 2022:

Age Category →		<i>0 to 5</i>	<i>18 to 65</i>	<i>65 and over</i>	Total
Item ↑	Intervention Attendee: Gender ↑	<i>Record Count</i>	<i>Record Count</i>	<i>Record Count</i>	<i>Record Count</i>
<i>Access to Community/Statutory services</i>		<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>7</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>Female</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>49</i>
Subtotal		<i>7</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>Emotional Support</i>		<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
	<i>Female</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>15</i>
Subtotal		<i>3</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>18</i>

<i>Family Support</i>		8	0	0	8
	<i>Male</i>	0	4	0	4
	<i>Female</i>	2	43	2	47
Subtotal		10	47	2	59
<i>Housing Issues</i>		12	0	0	12
	<i>Male</i>	0	10	0	10
	<i>Female</i>	5	87	7	99
Subtotal		17	97	7	121
<i>Mental Health</i>		7	0	0	7
	<i>Male</i>	0	6	0	6
	<i>Female</i>	2	52	0	54
Subtotal		9	58	0	67
<i>Physical & Mental Wellbeing Support</i>		2	0	0	2
	<i>Male</i>	0	3	0	3
	<i>Female</i>	1	22	1	24
Subtotal		3	25	1	29
<i>Physical Health</i>		1	0	0	1
	<i>Female</i>	0	10	0	10
Subtotal		1	10	0	11
<i>Suicidal Ideation</i>		1	0	0	1
	<i>Female</i>	0	1	0	1
Subtotal		1	1	0	2

<i>Support for issues relating to abuse- childhood & DV</i>		2	0	0	2
	<i>Male</i>	0	5	0	5
	<i>Female</i>	0	4	0	4
<i>Subtotal</i>		2	9	0	11
<i>Welfare Rights</i>		3	0	0	3
	<i>Male</i>	0	1	0	1
	<i>Female</i>	0	28	3	31
<i>Subtotal</i>		3	29	3	35
<i>Total</i>		56	341	13	410

GENERAL OPERATIONS

Annette Long

LTAG Website

LTAG were awarded funding from the LCDC in 2022 to undertake upgrading and maintenance of our website. We engaged Barry from ClearCell Web Design to work with us to achieve this new and improved site. The link to our website is www.ltag.ie

LTAG Logo

Whilst working on the site and under the instructions of Annette, Barry redesigned our Logo. This logo was approved by the board of management and launched in April in line with our website.



Board of Management Training

LTAG received a second funding stream from the LCDC for the Training of the board of directors. BCH Professional were appointed to carry out this training which was Governance and Finance. Some of the topics covered in this one day training session were;

- Introduction to Governance
- The Regulatory Framework for Organisations in the Voluntary and Charities Sector
- Charities Act 2009
- Risk Management
- Financial Administration
- Code of Governance
- Companies Act 2014
- Structure of Charities and Voluntary Organisations

LTAG Policies & Procedures

Throughout 2022 our Project Manager worked to identify and implement missing Policies & Procedures from the Employee Handbook. Annette worked on policies and once approved by the board they were implemented in the Employee Handbook. Some of these new policies are:

- Lone Working Policy
- Financial Procedures Policy and Procedure
- Communications Policy
- Right to Disconnect
- Green Office Policy & Procedures
- Safety Welfare, Hygiene Policy & Procedure
- Funding Application Policy & Procedures
- Complaints Policy & Procedures
- Student & Volunteer Policy & Procedure
- Credit Card Policy

Board of Governance Handbook

LTAG's Project Manager worked with BCH Professional to develop a Board of Management Board of Governance Handbook for all current and new members to the board. Items covered in this handbook are:

- Introduction
- Overview
- Organisation Background
- Vision
- Mission Statement
- Aims & Objectives
- Strategic Goals
- Terms of Reference
- Roles & Responsibilities of Board members
- Roles & Responsibilities of the Officers of the Board
- Code of Conduct for Board members
- Division of Responsibilities between staff and the board
- Management of Conflicts of interest
- Legal Obligations and Duties of Board members
- Briefing note on Charities Act
- Meeting Frequency and Structure

Strategic Plan

Annette worked closely with BCH Professional, staff members of LTAG and the Board of Management to agree a three-year strategic plan, 2022-2025. This plan is now active, and it has been implemented in the individual staff work plans.

LTAG BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2022

Lisa McGinley, Chairperson. Barry Donnelly, Treasurer. Pamela McInerney, Secretary.

Board Members: Charles McDonagh, Kathleen Donoghue, Thomas Byrne, Pauline Flanagan, Lillian Ashe

STAFF LIST 2022

Annette Long, Project Manager

Annemarie Boland, Accounts Officer

Amy Costello, Primary Healthcare Coordinator

Bridget McInerney, Primary Healthcare Worker

Kathleen Nevin, Primary Healthcare Worker

Bridget O'Connor, Primary Healthcare Worker

Maureen McInerney, Primary Healthcare Worker

Kathleen McDonagh, Primary Healthcare Worker

Jules Fitzpatrick, Community Development Worker

Brian Byrne, Community Development Worker

Aislinn Daly, Social Worker, Traveller to Wellbeing

Nuala Hogan, Public Health Nurse

Amy Browne, Childcare Worker

Louise McInerney, Primary Healthcare Support Worker



LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Accountant & Auditor: McMahon & Company
9/10 Academy Court
Kildare Town
Co. Kildare

Principle Banker: Bank of Ireland
Lyster Square
Portlaoise
Co. Laois

Solicitor:

LTAG's Registered Office: Unit 7
Bridge Street
Portlaoise
Co. Laois
R32

Company Number: 413265
Registered Charity Number: 20074548
Charities Regulatory Authority: CHY: 19107