

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY, SPORTS AND CULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY 24th JUNE 2026

ITEM NO. 2 – SPC PROGRAMME UPDATES

Implementation & Updates	Report
Community Development and Inclusion	LECP update
Strengthen communities through participation, connectivity, inclusion and Building capacity of community leaders	LECP update
Gender Equality Inclusion	Poetry in Swords Castle Fingal Libraries collaborated with Fingal-based poetry collective Rough Draft Poetry for two spoken word events in the Chapel, Swords Castle. 'Bloom' featured spoken word performance, music, and collaborative writing exercises. 'Strands of Home' focuses on women's stories and took place on Poetry Day Ireland, 28 th May.
Creative Ireland Programme	Cruinniú na nÓg Cruinniú na nÓg took place on Saturday, 6th June offering a day of free creative activities for children and young people across Fingal. This year, over 50 events took place in libraries, arts & cultural centres and Swords Castle. <i>Carnivals of Curiosity</i> transformed

	every library branch into a lively hub of imagination. Swords Castle hosted <i>We Own the Castle</i>, a live music event for teenagers featuring Garageland Galaxy, alongside the <i>Wavin' Words</i> spoken word event showcasing performances by some of Fingal's most promising young talent. Fingal was represented at the national launch of the programme on 18th May, by two of the acts due to perform at <i>We Own the Castle</i>: Eabha O'Keeffe (17) and the band Aerial — Thomas Flynn (15), Matthew Newell (16), Nathan Keegan (17), and Alex Greham (17) — who performed for the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan. Creative workshops and performances were delivered across Fingal's Arts and Cultural Centres. These included dance, graffiti, and visual arts workshops in Draíocht, Blanchardstown; puppetry, bodhrán-making, and a circus céilí at the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre in Naul; and spoken word workshops for teenagers at the Carnegie, Swords. Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Creative Fingal has successfully secured additional funding under the <i>Creative Health and Wellbeing in the Community Scheme 2026–2028</i> to deliver two projects: • Imagine, Create, Grow: Helium Inspiring Life Through Art
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	Weaving Worlds: Creative Fashion Upcycling Across Borders and Ages
Promotion of Irish Language	Compliance with, and education regarding, the requirements of Irish Language legislation continues with regard to Signage, Advertising, Correspondence etc including reporting on our compliance with the bilingual Advertising requirements. We continue to promote the language within the Council and the County with all Press releases available in Irish and the language prominent on Social media and in internal communications. A Pop-Up Gaeltacht took place at Family Fun Day during Bike Week and Yoga as Gaeilge at Move Swords. Many Irish events formed part of Cruinniu na nOg and a Pop-Up Gaeltacht will be part of Flavours of Fingal as we continue to integrate Irish into events. Staff Irish language training continues in 2026 with the Certificate in Professional Irish and evening Gaelchultur courses. An Irish language episode of Inside Fingal podcast with Architects Brian O'Connor and Daire Bracken was recorded. Lanyards with Labhair Gaeilge Liom have been have very popular with staff who are happy to use Irish. Irish Officer Bernie Kelly retired on June 5th after 11 years in the role.
Sports Strategy	The Sports Office will prioritise Commitments 2, 3 & 4 of their Sports Strategy over the summer months which focuses on "improving opportunities and choices for everyone" "participation in the Outdoors" and "raising the profile of Sport & Physical Activity in the County". The Sports Office Summer Series will be launched with a 'Move at Swords Castle' event in early June showcasing fitness

	classes, health talks and family activities with 500 families expected to attend. The Water Sport Ability Camp will follow in early July which will provide inclusive opportunities for children with additional needs and all population groups will be prioritised with over 20 different ParkFit, Beach Yoga and Park & Trails activities later in the summer covering Fingal's 7 electoral areas. This will raise the visibility of physical activity in the county. All these events and programmes utilise a Whole Council Approach with other Departments in enhancing opportunities for people in Fingal to stay active.
Public Participation and Resident Engagement	First PPN Plenary of 2026 took place in May with over 60 groups registered to attend. Current membership is 971 groups made up as 769: Community Pillar, 149: Social Inclusion Pillar, 53: Environment Pillar. 39 new members have registered in 2026
Focus on capabilities rather than disabilities.	Inclusive Creativity Adults supported by Prosper Fingal are taking part in creative workshops in Balbriggan, Howth, Malahide and Rush libraries over the summer months. These workshops will give participants an opportunity to express their creativity and interact with others in a supportive and friendly environment Creative Brainwaves Fingal Creative Fingal partnered with the Global Brain Health Institute to deliver a session of talks and discussions around brain health. Curated by Atlantic Fellows for

	Equity in Brain Health, Karen Meenan and Mike Hanrahan, this event showcased global and local initiatives in creative arts, dementia, brain health, Parkinson's, and extended reality (XR), with talks, workshops, and performances aimed at promoting wellbeing through creativity and innovation. Glas Tú Community Garden A high proportion of people with disabilities are engaged as volunteers who are participating in workshops and programmes on upskilling their gardening techniques. Local Social Prescribers are signposting people to Glas Tú for non-medical community supports to improve physical, mental, and social wellbeing. Swords Neuro Diverse Network The network is being supported to coordinate a local Festival in a Van for their members and the wider community in Rivervalley Community Centre 18th July Pride of Place Howth Autism Town is currently coordinating a presentation of their services for the national judging taking place on 24th Aug Conai Club Blanchardstown Collaboration with community facilities to support club members to receive mentoring in an employment situation WALK Swords Recent 12-week work experience in Donabate community centre - very
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	successful programme for the individual and the centre.
Active Citizenship	Fingal Comhairle na nÓg All the Comhairle members participated in the EU Survey on the Digital Fairness Act. Six Fingal members attended Dáil na nÓg 2026, contributing to discussions on education reform.
Community Not For Profit Early Childhood Education & Childcare	• Fingal County Development Plan 2023-2029 supports childcare provision in line with national policy set by the Childcare Facilities Guidelines (2001) • National Childcare Sector is under review with the Minister for Children • Council is proactively engaging with the Department regarding provision of facilities for not-for-profit childcare in Fingal • Council is proactively engaging with the Fingal County Childcare Committee • Council continues to collaborate with sector partners including Fingal CYPSC and Fingal LCDC • Support continues to be provided to volunteer community centre boards where childcare is delivered to c. 800 children
Fingal Age Friendly Strategy	The 2026 OPC annual conference (120 attendees) focused on safe independent living, covering safety, fall prevention, online security, and supports. Weaving Worlds Intergenerational Cross-Border Project: Collaboration with Libraries

	€163,000 secured for a cross-border, intergenerational fashion upcycling initiative promoting wellbeing, creativity, and inclusion.
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