



Longford Community Resources clg

Longford Volunteer Centre

Annual Report 2017

1. Introduction

This report highlights the achievements of Longford Community Resources clg. Longford Volunteer Centre (LVC) in 2017. We offer support and guidance to individuals and Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) to reach their individual and collective goals while making a significant contribution to their local community and society.



Our Services

Volunteers

The opportunity to meet with a member of staff to discuss volunteering opportunities.

Access to a database of volunteering opportunities so that the volunteer can choose the opportunity that best suits them.

Information on the how, why and where of volunteering.

The volunteers rights and obligations and best practice in volunteering.

On-going support for the volunteer through regular contact.

Volunteer Involving Organisations

We offer a free volunteer placement and referral service.

Guidance and support in developing volunteer roles.

Post Volunteer Opportunities.

Guidance and support on policy issues.

Guidance and support developing new projects involving volunteers.

Training, guidance and support around best practice issues when involving volunteers.

Garda Vetting Service.

2. Our Activities

2.1 With Volunteers and VIO's



We supported

525

Volunteers

From

25

Countries

Who contributed

15,665

Hours



892

- Engagements with VIOs

190

- Garda Vetting forms processed

864

- Volunteers referred to VIOs

Delivered Volunteer Leadership Training (VLT) to a broad range of VIOs.

6 participants from **5** VIOs

CASA - Caring and Sharing Association

Ballymahon Convent and Day Care Centre

ISPCA

Longford Friends of Children of Chernobyl

Mental Health Association Longford

"I learned so much about the expectations of volunteers".

"Much more knowledgeable about managing Volunteers".

90%

Satisfaction

"Down to earth informationvery practical".

"Great assistance with developing wording for Volunteer Role Descriptions".

We were involved in the following:-



Modular Training

We delivered a Workshop to VIO's on "Dealing with Difficult Situations"



Paired Reading Project

We helped set up a Paired Reading Project between St. Michael's N.S and Scoil Mhuire Longford .

17 Students from Scoil Mhuire helped 3rd and 4th Class students develop their reading skills.



Longford Volunteer Centre have assisted St. Christopher's Day Care Centre to develop their own Salesforce Database for their Leisure Buddy Program. The database will assist in the day to day co-ordination of their volunteer programme.



International Volunteer Day/10th Birthday celebration

Alongside celebrating International Volunteer Day we also celebrated 10 years in operation. 77 volunteers helped us celebrate and we were honoured to have Emir Smith representing Mairead McGuinness (MEP) in attendance.



We participated in an Open Day as part of the National Volunteering Week's campaign to position the Network as the go to voice on

Volunteering.

We also co-ordinated a project **All Stitched Up**. Participants donated 50 bags to Team Hope for their annual Shoe Box Appeal.

2.2 On Social Issues

Longford Community Resources clg. Longford Volunteer Centre recognises that there is a range of social issues which can be partially addressed by our work in conjunction with our colleagues in the local development company LCRL clg.

Inward Migration

Held outreach sessions in Richmond Court Direct Provision Centre in conjunction with Longford Community Resources clg.'s Community Development Worker. 37 of the residents registered with the Volunteer Centre in 2017 and we have successfully placed 98% of them in volunteer roles in the locality.

We have placed a large number of volunteers with Failte Isteach conversational English language classes co-ordinated by Longford Community Resources clg.

Unemployment

We have given talks to Pre-employment Courses around the county on the benefits of Volunteering.

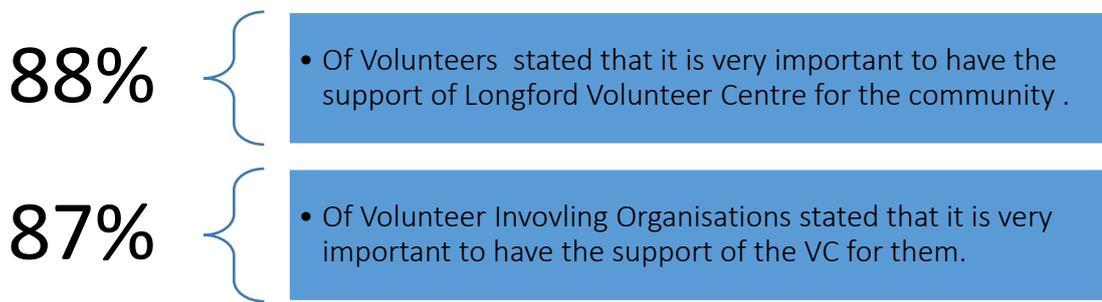
Talks to classes in Longford/Westmeath Education Training Board.

Outreach in Department of Social Protection, Longford Town.

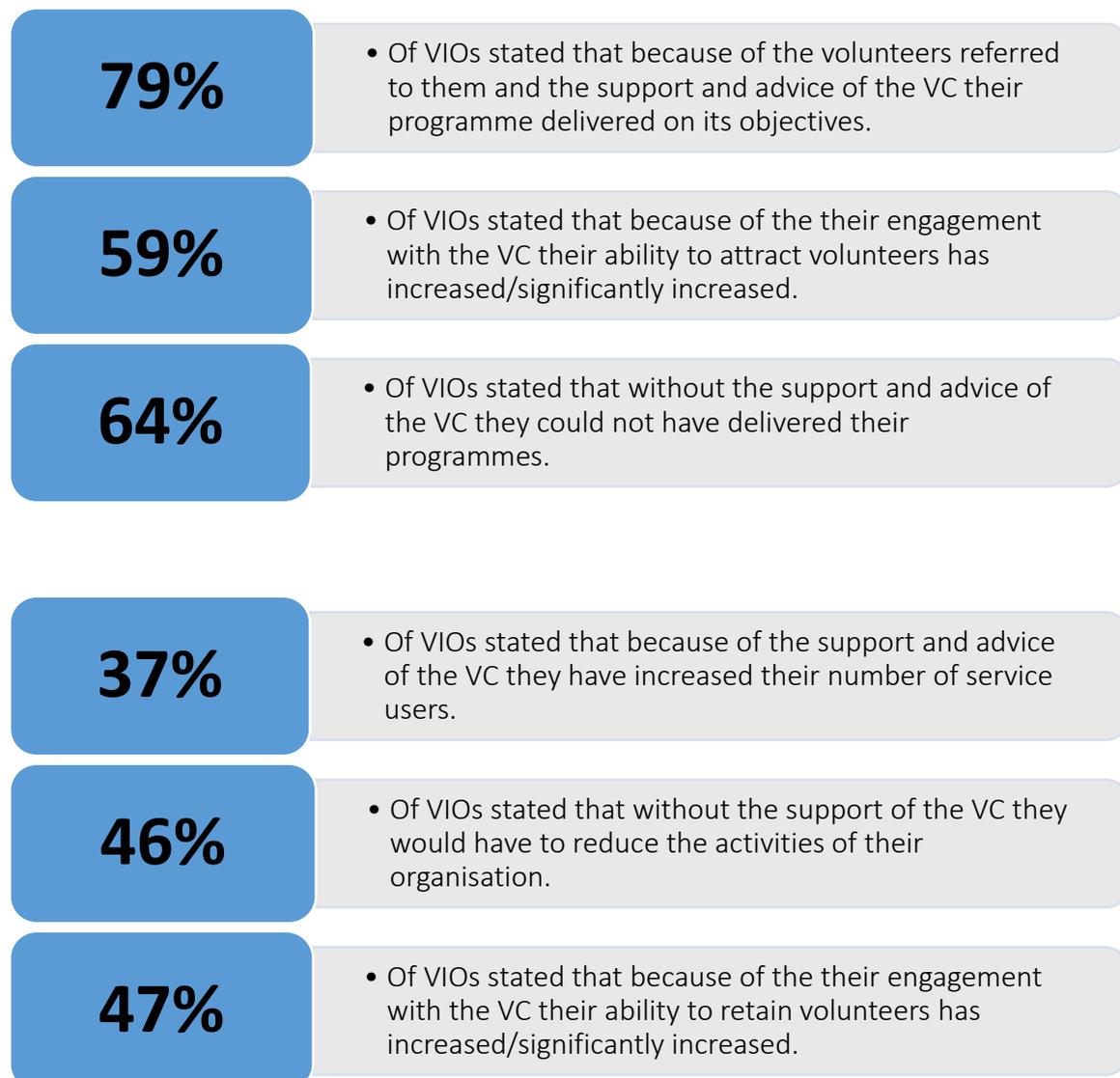
We had a stand in Ballymahon as an outreach to the Unemployed in conjunction with other services provided by LCRL clg.

3. Our Impact

According to our volunteers and VIOs our work has a significant impact on them and the community and it is very important that they have the support we offer.



3.1 on VIOs



(source 2017 Annual VIO Survey)

VIO Case Study

55% of VIOS said they were extremely happy with the support from the Volunteer Centre

Ballymahon Convent and Day Care Centre

The centre is partly funded by the HSE which funds 2 staff members and utility bills. The centre cannot operate with just the above so it is essential that volunteers are involved to help with the running of the centre. Each volunteer brings their individual qualities and skills tailored to suit the clients needs. This in turn improves the daily running of the centre and gives the volunteers an opportunity to develop their confidence and be able to put their expertise into practise. The volunteers assist with the preparation of meals, help organise daily activities with the staff and engage with the clients by talking and helping them when required.

The benefits of the above are huge and help to create a friendly atmosphere in the centre.

The feedback from the clients regarding the volunteers is always very positive and they play a very important role within the organisation. *"The centre would not run as efficiently if that option to have volunteers was not made available to our organisation. We are so grateful for the support from Longford Volunteer Centre with the volunteers they refer, and the support they provide in terms of training, Garda Vetting and advice."* **Breda Greaves
Manager**

3.3 Volunteer Stories

55% of volunteers stated in an online national survey that their mental health and well-being had increased following their volunteering experience.

Faisal

Faisal Khandoker is a resident in our local Direct Provision Centre, Richmond Court:

"I have enjoyed all the roles that I have taken on and I believe volunteering is a way of spreading love and peace to society. It helps me to relax my mind and recharge my mental strength to face whatever challenges may arise. I believe being mentally healthy prepares you to engage in physical activities and knowing that I am giving back enhances my sense of well-being. Volunteering is a great source of training and development; which helps me learn about responsibility, value of time, gender equality and so on. As a migrant, volunteering has played an important role in my integration into society. By volunteering at different events and with different organisations, I believe I am making a positive and valuable contribution to Irish society."

