

LCDC and PPNs

Notes from the PPN Conference workshop 11th October 2019

BACKGROUND

LCDC policy framework emerged through Putting People First 2012 as part of Government Reform

In 2014 the legal basis for LCDCs came about

LCDCs are mentioned in Our Public Service document about enhancing a whole of government approach and using the LCDC as the primary vehicle for collaboration at local level

Purpose of LCDC is to bring together range of representatives for a more joined up approach to community development programming with the LECP (community element) as a guiding document

Vision for LCDCs is;

- to coordinate and manage local funding – SICAP, LEADER, Healthy Ireland
- Lead on interagency planning and collaboration
- Input via the LECP on a more strategic approach to community development, enhancing participation by communities and creating sustainable approach to service provision plus lead on national initiatives

PPN nominating structure for c and v interests on LCDC – represent opinions and views of whole PPN

LCDC review process – get a sense of where they were, 4 years in existence – build on what been done and reach potential.

Key findings – 4 distinct themes and findings emerged

Collaboration at local level improved and interagency working improved (spectrum/generalisation)

Lack of clarity that LCDC members had regarding what their role was – both as individuals and the committee in general. – never got chance to figure out who they were – assigned

Need for comprehensive training and development

More structured and formalised communication with Dept

Need for greater recognition at strategic level for LCDC – cross government recognition

Greater emphasis on role of LECP and importance

Burden of programme delivery – LEADER

More guidance around how LCDC can support marginalised communities

Better collaboration with CYPSC

LCDC Review findings

- More guidance and direction to engage with marginalised comm. Through PPN
- LCDC admin arrangement do not support PPN participation
- PPN members feel isolated – lack of resources to support full participation in decision making
- Timing of meetings - hard to suit all
- Tailored supports provided to PPN members to facilitate attendance and participation – is funding this year for proper training programme next year – bulk may be online modules combined with local interaction.
- Communications with PPN reps and LCDC and general community not adequate

OBJECTIVES for review

- Secure cross government support for LCDCs – process currently underway
- More effective communication of LCDC role to stakeholders – communications plan. Something linked with PPN
- Comprehensive Training and support programme for LCDC funding secured
- Streamline support systems for LCDCs – nature of funding calls, timelines, deadlines – schedule

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop Modules – strategic planning and delivery, operation management , interagency and governance etc
- Auditing existing LCDC supports for appropriateness
- LECP – in period of review and come to top of agenda – support LCDCs in development of these – interventions and programmes and processes. Not have a plethora of individual strategies – link to national funding streams.

INTRODUCTION TO NEW STRATEGY TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

- Long term vision for communities
- Developing relationship between dept and c and v sector

11 objectives in strategy with Action 7 specific to PPNs –

Aims

- change how decisions are made for and on behalf of communities , especially this most marginalised
- Community resilience
- Support operational capacity build state relationship with community and voluntary sector

How will we do it

Provide community with means and opportunity to be involved in decision making and fit for purpose

Capacity building in community groups – training and development

Funding – develop multi annual and suitable funding model i.e. UN development goals

Timeframes

Short term – 2021 / medium 2023 / long term – longer than the 5 years but starting in lifetime of project

Implementation

- Creation of annual workplans supported by cross sectoral group
- DRCD are the lead organisation on this

Questions

Q1) Clare PPN

Regarding the training programme – one thing emerged is that although committee called LCDC there is no shared understanding what community development is – principles and understanding need to be embedded in training alongside intercultural and anti racism awareness

Q2) Social Justice

There seems to be no acceptance of the real role that PPNs can play – huge practical problems for ppn reps i.e. access to information being allowed to communicate information etc – LA have right to communicate beforehand but ppn do not – not –failure to understand participative approach.

Regarding financing and plans – a real credibility issue emerges – take long term funding strategy sector that lost out most as result of crash had greatest pressure on them and only sector that haven't got back what was lost.€ 1.2 billion to business, peanuts to community

A) Agree not where it should be but at least a start

Q3) Laois PPN

Alignment for LCDC and PPN is important but also need to make sure that Cllrs are on the same page – training on what it all means and how to works together . Cllrs need training with PPN – don't see as equal –need to train with us

- A) We are hosting a network event on 9 November –to look at clarity of role – lack of time and space to think of what you are as an individual – no time to think of committee role

Q4) Sligo PPN

PSD need to be included in all training

- A) There will be a pilot workshop with LCDCs to be developed up into a regional approach. This will include PSD

Q5) LCDC Rep

little concerned as so far as may develop into 2 tier LCDC – main functions are rolling out leader programme but if you living in housing estate in high deprivation index how to you match fund leader funds – who sign off etc – what is happening not going to people who need it. SICAP entitled to give small grants to communities – do not use this – not available for small grants all used for service delivery. Third of leader funding not drawn down – not accessible

LAG squeezed in making 4 hour meetings – totally frustrating for members and a sense that they are becoming more administrators than community development practitioners

LAG and LCDC should not sit together

Q6) Social Justice Ireland

Large volume of work proposed for PPNs – resource workers overwhelmed with requirements, futures for all staff uncertain, constant transition impeding development – cannot plan beyond the year either for their job or for their personal lives and financial responsibilities. Can the Pobal model of minimum 3 year funding not be replicated?

For the wider sector funding has been decimated and never restored –yet this is the sector picking up the flack when no public services are available.

- A) Agree that Pace can be very frustrating and doesn't allow for long term planning. Would have preferred shorter term but wasn't achievable. Going in right direction but that is all that can be said.

Q7) Cork PPN

What we need to look at is way society is run – lack of joined up thinking at root of all problems – only reps of affected industries as they are the ones paid to be there – ppn allows broader view on these committees to allow more holistic planning BUT if the agencies for which we come in and give our expertise to place no value on what we say but would rather pay a fortune to consultants. PPN does not have resources to do anything but pay travel – has to be better supports for civic society to feed in.

- A) Yes it was reflected in the feedback that PPN members are saying it is more difficult for them to engage fully because do not have support of organisations behind them such as the HSE and as part of

our actions we will look at supports to PPNs and to LCDCs in general to assess if they are operating appropriately in a community context.

Q 8) Unknown

Because PPNs are contributing free advice it is not acknowledged as being valid advice – paying for advice not needed because don't listed to community. Have a huge and broad expertise to contribute yet input not acknowledged

Q 9) T training is needed by all SPCs and other committees as well as LCDC

A) Some of the training will be generalised and applicable across committees. They are so diverse but is proving very hard to suit everybody – have tried things for example such as having meetings on sat – not huge interest so will look at online modules and combine person to person interaction with a suite of tools and these can be used by any committees.

Q10) Louth PPN

Training – biggest mistake in training over last 5 years was a regional approach – it needs to be done in each county. Is there an opportunity for train the trainer process i.e. train PPN resource workers and LCDC workers?

Also it is absolutely critical that people supporting the LCDC are qualified and experienced in community development.

One very critical thing – increased role for community is not being valued and accepted – if LA are going to fully embrace they need a completely new vision and LA need resources to do it. Ask a pro rata question as to what level of funding is going to the community department as is going to economic department – something is very wrong in this balance.

A) Objective 10 of the strategy outlines the need to have community development be professionalized in Las and for a restatement of commitment to community and role of LG as facilitator of community and local development

Q11) Unknown

There is a need to look at LA as being so close to LCDC – should be interagency but often seen as LA committee with members coming in – admin from LA, chief officer from LA, CE sits on it, chair often Cllr – impossible to be neutral – some kind of separation needed and dedicated staff only for LCDC and its programmes. 5 reps from PPN and should have a very strong base. Also LEADER robs the committee of strategic approach

A) There is a role we should have played before LCDC formed – building confidence and putting in place proper training for ppn members so that they do not feel intimidated – once LCDC members walk in the door to a meeting they should all be equal

Dept. is working with IPA on leadership process so all members see themselves as community leaders – see themselves as equals

There are no resources to work with each LCDC – pilot in a few areas

Q 12) Unknown

PPN reps and resource workers may not be kept aware of things coming from LCDC – correspondence not coming down

A) Shared space being created

Q13) Unknown

Review needs to actually recognise the work that LCDC actually does – programmes the committee are asked to deliver do not match the way the LCDC actually functions – if delivering a programme need to keep in mind structure and capacity of LCDC to deliver – lot of stakeholders influencing decision makers and LCDC often last to know policy decisions happening – often caught in meetings in situations where LCDC members are being informed of action by programme implementers rather than being involved in the process .