



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Compiled by staff of  
Offaly Sports Partnership



Offaly Sports Partnership is a multi-sectoral subcommittee of Offaly County Council. It is hosted by the Community & Culture Section of Offaly County Council; and receives its core funding from Sport Ireland.

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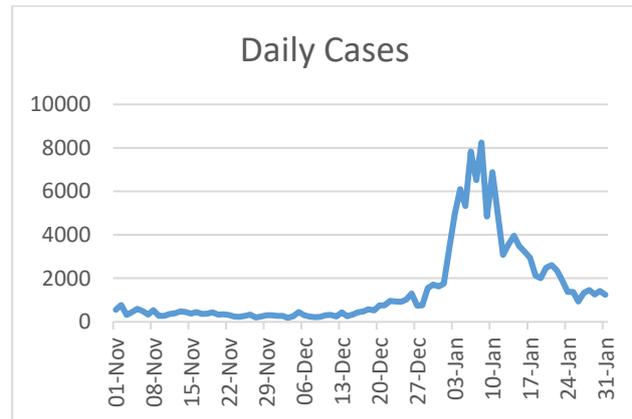
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## SECTION 1 - 2021, A YEAR IN REVIEW

Covid continued to dominate peoples' lives in 2021 and continued to impact heavily on sport. Despite this, the year was also characterised by efforts to resume some level of normality. There was a distinctive difference in the early part of the year compared to the latter part. There was also occasional changes in the levels of restrictions both nationally and internationally at various times.

The start of 2021 was a challenging time for all. Following the turmoil caused by the pandemic in 2020, it was hoped that 2021 would see a return to normality in peoples' everyday lives including sport. However, rapid increases in the transmission of Covid over the Christmas period and into the New Year saw further disruption to school, work and sporting lives.

In the absence of a vaccination programme at the start of the year, a number of new restrictions to reduce the spread of the virus were reintroduced in January. Schools remained closed after the Christmas holidays until after Easter. Working from home was the norm and tight restrictions were placed on sports training and sporting events, including the permitted number of spectators. There was limited travel in and out of the country, and many hotels remained closed. A national vaccination programme was rolled out to every county in Ireland including Offaly across the rest of the year.



*Reported New Cases of Covid19 in Ireland:*

*November 2020 – January 2021*

*(Source: Department of Health)*



*Offaly's first mass vaccination centre*

*at the Tullamore Court Hotel*

### ***Participation of Offaly Sports People on the International Stage in 2021***

The major global sporting event in 2021 was the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. Postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic, doubt remained as to whether the Games would be staged in 2021. Public opinion in Japan was largely opposed to the Games going ahead; however, despite this the Games were staged in Tokyo in empty stadiums and with strict protocols in place.

Offaly had its largest ever representation at an Olympic / Paralympic Games with four sportspeople from the county representing Team Ireland: -

- Tullamore man Jordan Conroy was a pivotal member of the Irish 7s rugby team
- Belmont's Darragh Kenny competed in show jumping
- Clara's Shane Lowry, together with Rory McIlroy, represented Ireland in golf. Shane also went on to represent Europe in the Ryder Cup following the Olympics
- Garryhinch teenager, Nicole Turner competed in the Paralympic swimming; winning a silver medal in the women's 50m butterfly S6 category



*Jordan Conroy, Rugby 7s*



*Darragh Kenny, Show Jumping*



*Shane Lowry, Golf*



*Nicole Turner, S6 50m Butterfly*

Offaly and the Sports Partnership are extremely proud of the achievements of our international sports people.



A further area of sporting pride for Offaly was the county's success in winning the All Ireland U-20 Football final

### ***A very busy year for Management Committee & Working Groups of Offaly Sports Partnership***

2021 was a particularly busy year for the management committee and governance working group of Offaly Sports Partnership. Remote meetings to progress and approve a new strategic plan were held; while the governance working group held numerous late night meetings on Zoom to ensure the Sports Partnership were compliant with Sport Ireland's "*Governance Code for Sport*".

As part of this work, a comprehensive review of the existing structure of the management committee of the Sports Partnership was undertaken. In advance of the launch of the new strategic plan, "*Active Offaly 2021 – 2025*", in December, the governance working group proposed a number of recommendations with regard to the restructuring of the management committee. Following lengthy debate, a new structure; and selection process to populate the committee was agreed. This resulted in the management committee being downsized from 19 to 14 members, the holding of an open competition for eight external seats, and the guaranteeing of gender balance on the committee. Offaly Sports Partnership is incredibly grateful to all who engaged in this difficult process; and all who served on the management committee throughout the pandemic.

### ***New Management Committee***

In quarter 4, a competitive process to select the members of the new management committee was initiated. Following a public call, 33 people expressed an interest for the eight available external seats on the committee. At a remote launch of the strategic plan in December, former members attended their final meeting, while new members attended their first. Offaly Sports Partnership wishes to express our gratitude to the 12 former members of the management committee that stepped aside in December. The Sports Partnership also wishes to extend a *“céad míle fáilte”* to the seven new members of the committee.

### ***Staff adapting to ever changing circumstances***

This report documents the wide range of work undertaken by Offaly Sports Partnership throughout 2021. This work was led largely by a very committed staff team who adapted to ever changing situations throughout the year. From the first week of the year when school closures were announced and throughout the entire year, staff learned to not only have a plan A for everything they did, but also plans B and C. The scope and depth of their work is detailed in the various sections of the report and appendices.

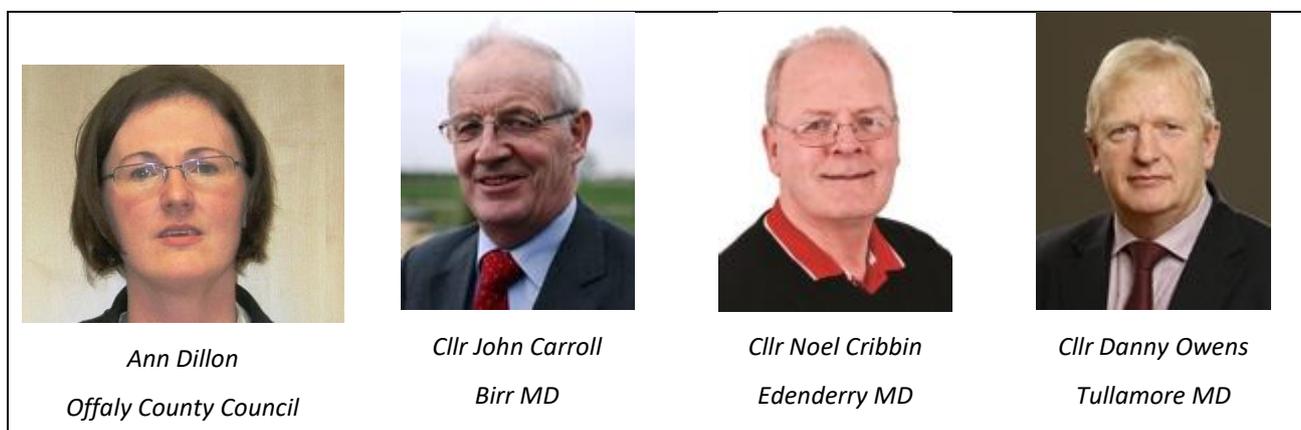
We want to thank all for their ongoing dedication during the year. In particular, we want to congratulate both our development officers on the new additions to their families.

## SECTION 2 - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, WORKING GROUPS & STAFFING

### *Offaly Sports Partnership management committee*

In 2021, the management committee of the Sports Partnership comprised representation from: -

- Offaly County Council
  - one representative as the employer; and
  - three public representatives, one from each municipal district - Birr, Edenderry and Tullamore). Representatives included: -
    - Ann Dillon, Chief Officer, Offaly Local Community Development Committee;
    - Cllr John Carroll, Birr Municipal District;
    - Cllr Noel Cribbin, Edenderry Municipal District; and
    - Cllr Danny Owens, Tullamore Municipal District



- An Garda Síochana (one representative) - Sgt David Scahill; replaced by Sgt William Kirwan
- Health Services Executive (one representative) - Clodagh Armitage
- Laois / Offaly Education and Training Board (one representative) - Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick
- Local Community Development Committee Liaison—Cllr Declan Harvey
- Third level sector (one representative) - Joe Meegan, Athlone Institute of Technology





*Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick*  
*Laois / Offaly Education & Training*  
*Board*



*Cllr Declan Harvey*  
*Offaly Local Community*  
*Development Committee*



*Joe Meegan, Athlone IT*

- three private sector representatives including: -

- Sean Campbell;
- Pippa Hackett; and

- Sean Loughnane



*Sean Campbell*



*Pippa Hackett*



*Sean Loughnane*

- Six sports sector representatives including: -

- Darren Butler, Athletics Offaly;
- Eamonn Brady, Combined Counties Football League, Football Association of Ireland;
- Robert Mc Dermott, Leinster Rugby;
- Miriam O Callaghan, Offaly Camogie;
- Jude Feehan, Offaly Community Games; and
- Marie Moran, Offaly Rowing Club



*Darren Butler*  
*Offaly Athletics*



*Eamonn Brady*  
*Combined Counties Football League,*  
*Football Association of Ireland*



*Robert Mc Dermott*  
*Leinster Rugby*



*Miriam O Callaghan*  
*Offaly Camogie*



*Jude Feehan*  
*Offaly Community Games*



*Marie Moran*  
*Offaly Rowing Club*

- Public Participation Network (PPN) / Disability sector representative – Shiela Foy



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***Executive Committee & Working Groups of Offaly Sports Partnership***

Following AGM in December 2020, the Offaly Sports Partnership’s Executive Committee for 2021 consisted of: -

- Robert Mc Dermott (Chair)
- Jude Feehan (Vice chair)
- Darren Butler (Financial monitor)

- Miriam O Callaghan (Sports representative).
- Ann Dillon (Offaly County Council representative); and
- Cllr Declan Harvey (Offaly Local Community Development Committee liaison)

In addition to the Executive committee, the governance working group continued to meet to review internal policy and corporate governance in support of Offaly Sports Partnership's affirmation to Sport Ireland that it is compliant with their "*Governance Code for Sport*".

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### ***Staffing in 2021***

In 2021, Offaly County Council continued to facilitate the employment of Offaly Sports Partnership staff.

The Coordinator and Administrator roles were 100% funded by Sport Ireland with Eamonn Henry and Olivia Murphy continuing in their respective positions. The Sports Inclusion Development Officer (SIDO) and the Community Sports Development Officer (CSDO) roles were funded to a maximum value of €35,000 each; with Jean Brady (SIDO) and Denise Coghill (CSDO) continuing in their respective positions.



*Eamonn Henry  
Coordinator*



*Olivia Murphy,  
Administrator*



*Jean Brady, SIDO*



*Denise Coghill, CSDO*



Eimear Lynch joined the staff of Offaly Sports Partnership as an interim SIDO to cover the work of Jean who went on maternity leave in September 2021.

Offaly Sports Partnership would like to thank Eimear for her work in 2021; and wish her well in her future endeavours



Offaly County Council on behalf of Offaly Sports Partnership also hosted a Sport Ireland funded (100%) ASPIRE graduate post in 2021.

Eoghan Pernot commenced work with the Sports Partnership in February 2021 and concluded his placement in December 2021.

Offaly Sports Partnership would like to thank Eoghan for his work throughout 2021; and wish him well in his future endeavours



Furthermore, Offaly County Council also continued to facilitate the employment of the Healthy Offaly Coordinator, Dermot Egan.

The post, funded by Healthy Ireland, was attached to Offaly Sports Partnership in 2021.

The Healthy Offaly Coordinator role is concerned with coordinating the delivery of the Healthy Offaly work plan for the period July 2019 to March 2022

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### ***Sports Hubs / Contracted Tutors / Interns / Student Placements / Volunteers***

Much of the work of Offaly Sports Partnership throughout the year was also made possible through the efforts of our Community Sports Hubs in South Offaly and Daingean, and our contracted tutors.

The South Offaly Sports Hub (operating out of the Crinkle Sport and Recreation Centre) supported the delivery of a range of outreach programmes to schools, clubs, organisations and the local community as well as continuing to secure greater usage of the facilities at the centre. The Sports Partnership's second Sports Hub was established in Daingean in 2021. The Daingean Sports Hub operates out of the new Daingean Sports Hall located on the grounds of Daingean GAA. A Community Sports Hub Coordinator was appointed in Daingean in the latter half of the year. Both Community Sports Hubs are supported from Dormant Accounts funding secured by Sport Ireland.

Contracted tutors supported the delivery of our education and training programmes, the sports inclusion disability programme, school programmes and women in sport programmes. Individual tutors involved in the delivery of the Sports Partnership's programmes are named further on in this report.

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The management committee and staff of Offaly Sports Partnership wish to express their thanks to all those that helped in the delivery of our programmes in 2021.

*"Go raibh míle maith agaibh!"*

### SECTION 3 – IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVE OFFALY

2021 saw Offaly Sports Partnership finalise and launch its newest strategic plan, “Active Offaly 2021 – 2025”.

December heralded the formal launch of the plan by John Treacy, outgoing Chief Executive of Sport Ireland.



An Olympic medallist, Mr Treacy has served as the Chief Executive of Sport Ireland (formerly, the Irish Sports Council) since 1999.

Offaly Sports Partnership are very grateful to Mr Treacy for his support, assistance and commitment in his 22-year tenure at Sport Ireland; and would like to take this opportunity to wish him well in his retirement.

As part of the strategic planning process, a comprehensive review of the management structure and governance procedures of the Sports Partnership were undertaken. In quarter 4, Offaly Sports Partnership announced its new management committee, members of which will serve until the end of the current strategic period

2021 also saw Offaly Sports Partnership carry out a comprehensive review of its corporate governance procedures and internal policy in support of its affirmation to Sport Ireland that it is compliant with their “*Governance Code for Sport*”. In December 2021, Sport Ireland ratified Offaly Sports Partnership’s adoption of the “*Governance Code for Sport*”.

Throughout 2021, Offaly Sports Partnership continued to work towards the delivery of sport and physical activity programmes in a Covid19 compliant environment under each of its five thematic pillars: -

1. Instil Fundamentals; and Improve Youth Fitness
2. Increase Adult & Older Adult Participation
3. Include the Least Active
4. Integrate; and Celebrate
5. Improve Capacity; and Inform the Sector

## **Pillar 1 - Instil Fundamentals & Improve Youth Fitness**

Offaly Sports Partnership is committed to instilling fundamentals and improving fitness levels by providing children and young people with a positive introduction to sport and physical activity, which supports lifelong involvement. A range of actions was written into our operational plan for 2021 to address this pillar including: -

- *online fit class & PE supports* - 19 fit class challenge videos were developed as part of the Healthy Ireland funded fit class programme in 2020. To support children to stay physically active during the quarter 1 lockdown, three videos were shared with the schools on our database every fortnight, which in turn could be incorporated into a school's remote learning programme as part of their PE curriculum.

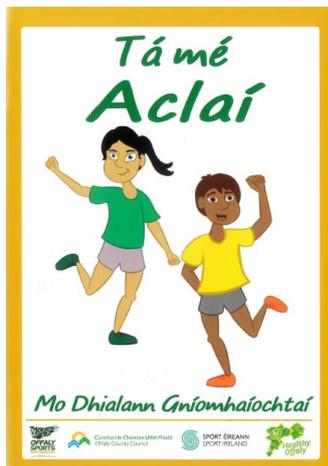
Pauline Curley also delivered a number of online PE classes for schools



*Fit class challenges*

- *spring / summer fitness programmes* – as restrictions eased in quarter 2; and children returned to school after Easter, the Sports Partnership delivered an in person spring / summer fitness programme across 40 primary schools in the county. Eoghan Pernot (Offaly Sports Partnership's ASPIRE graduate), the South Offaly Sports Hub and various tutors of the sports partnership including Alan Corboy, Pauline Curley, Patrice Delaney, Patrick Heffernan, Kellie Kinahan and Seán Tierney supported the delivery of this programme.

- *return to sport challenges* - delivered in conjunction with local sports clubs, the Sports Partnership disseminated return to sport challenges in six disciplines (athletics, camogie and hurling, Gaelic football (boys & girls), golf, rowing and rugby) to encourage everyone to get back into their sport following the easing of restrictions in quarter 2. Prizes were awarded to the overall County winner in each category (u-11, u-13, u-15)
- *Healthy Ireland funded “Fit Class / Active Me”* – Covid19 restrictions across 2020 and 2021 had a detrimental effect on the roll out of the “Fit Class” programme. As a result, permission was sought from Pobal to reconstitute the programme from an in school delivery activity, to the development and dissemination of an “Active Me” diary resource for primary schools.



The diary - developed by Frank Fahey of Fizzical Ltd. and illustrated by Andrea Cooke of the South Offaly Sports Hub - provides hints and tips for parents and teachers to encourage children to prioritise their participation in physical activity on a daily basis in much the same way as a homework journal encourages children to keep their school work up to date.

10,000 copies of the resource were distributed across primary schools in Offaly; and a further 400 copies were issued as gaeilge for children attending gaelscoileanna in Offaly.



(L – R): Dermot Egan, Healthy Offaly Coordinator; Anna-Marie Delaney, Chief Executive Offaly County Council; and Cllr Robert McDermott, Chair Offaly Sports Partnership at the launch of the “Active Me” diary in September 2021

- *autumn / winter multi-sport, fitness and athletics programmes* in 25 schools; while another 2,400 pupils from primary schools in Birr, Clara, Edenderry, Portarlinton and Tullamore participated in a *remote sprint event*. Eoghan Pernot (Offaly Sports Partnership's ASPIRE graduate), the South Offaly Sports Hub and various tutors of the sports partnership including Alan Corboy, Pauline Curley, Patrice Delaney, Patrick Heffernan, Kellie Kinahan and Seán Tierney supported the delivery of these programmes.

## Pillar 2 - Increase Adult & Older Adult Participation

The majority of actions under this pillar were delivered remotely in 2021 due to prevailing health conditions because of the ongoing Covid19 pandemic. Despite the ongoing health crisis, a range of actions to promote lifelong participation by adults and older adults in sport and physical activity were delivered in 2021 as follows: -

- *recreational sport and physical activity programmes* - over 190 adults and older adults availed of recreational sport and physical activity programmes throughout the year, Among the programmes delivered were: -
  - online dance classes in quarter 1
  - outdoor activator pole programmes across quarters 2 and 3
  - a summer boccia programme
  - walking football for 35 – 55 year olds
  - fitness classes, and strength and conditioning programmes for adults and older adults in quarter 4

Tutors supporting delivery of these programmes included Eimear Bryant, Alan Corboy, Pauline Curley, Patricia Flynn and Olive Whyte of “*Cross Country Jive*”.

- *Keep Well* - as part of the “Keep Well in the Community” initiative which ran from November 2020 to March 2021, Offaly Sports Partnership disseminated 250 keep well packs to longest day participants; and participants who had signed up to programmes in q4 2020 which were later deferred as a result of Covid19 health restrictions. The packs included a hi viz vest, hat with a head torch, snood and gloves



SPÓRT ÉIREANN  
SPORT IRELAND



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

- *Operation Transformation minimum fitness challenge –*



This free eight-week online programme supported 55 people in the achievement of a set of minimum fitness targets as promoted through Sport Ireland’s collaboration with Operation Transformation.

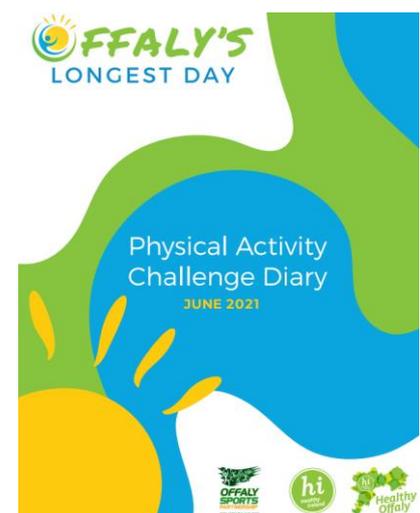
Participants were divided into small groups of five and assigned a tutor for the duration of the online programme, which consisted of two exercise sessions a week; and the provision of additional information and resources on leading a healthy lifestyle.

Tutors supporting delivery of this programme included Alan Corboy, Eimear Corrie, Patrice Delaney, Emmet Dynan and Eimear Lynch.

- *Longest Day Challenge 2021* - following the success of the Longest Day Challenge 2020, the 2021 challenge commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

2,000 participants signed up to the challenge; and committed to taking part in some kind of moderate intensity physical activity for at least 30 minutes on at least five days in the week.

The challenge ran from 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June with participants logging their daily physical activity in a specially commissioned diary for the challenge. At the conclusion of the challenge, participants were invited to submit their diaries to Offaly Sports Partnership for consideration in the end of programme awards



### **Pillar 3 - Include the Least Active**

By far, Offaly Sports Partnership's largest area of work continues to be our commitment to fostering equality of opportunity by enabling identified low participation groups<sup>1</sup> to partake in sport and physical activity. In 2021, interventions reached five of the seven identified low participation groups as detailed below: -

#### ***Low-income communities***

The South Offaly Sports Hub continued to outreach physical activity and sport programmes to low income communities in Birr and its environs. Among the programmes outreached were: -

- spring / summer and autumn / winter fitness programmes in 15 schools
- fitness classes, strength and conditioning programmes and recreational sporting programmes for adults and older adults

Dormant Account funding from Sport Ireland also allowed Offaly Sports Partnership to: -

- establish a second Sports Hub in Daingean in 2021
- deliver 20 "splash and dash" sessions for over 350 primary and secondary school pupils at the re-established Edenderry Canoe Club.

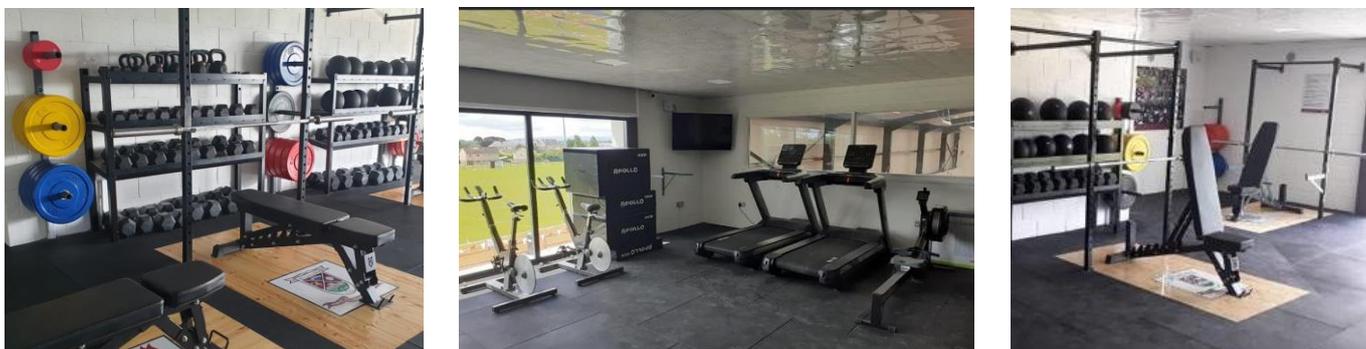


Splash & Dash in Edenderry – September / October 2021

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<sup>1</sup> Identified low participation groups of Offaly Sports Partnership's include low income communities (rural and urban); older adults; people with a disability; people of an ethnic minority including Travellers; the unemployed; women and girls; and youth at risk

While Covid19 restrictions did result in delays in the establishment of the Daingean Sports Hub, capital investment allowed for the purchase of gym equipment to support the delivery of fitness, strength and conditioning programmes for adults, older adults and young people.



Daingean Sports Hub gym

A limited number of outreach physical activity and sport programmes were also delivered in Daingean and its environs in the second half of the year. Among the programmes outreached were:-

- grant aided physical activity programmes in Daingean National School and Daingean Childcare; and
- exercise and recreational sporting programmes for adults, older adults and young people including boxing and boxercise, Gaelic for mothers and others, spin programmes with Grand Canal Wheelers, strength and conditioning programmes for various clubs, walking, yoga and Zumba.

Daingean Sports Hub also hosted our annual inclusive multi-sport camp for children with disabilities and their siblings; while “*return to sport*” funding was shared among local clubs to encourage a return to sport as restrictions eased.

## Supporting community based sport and physical activity



Denise Coghill continued in her role as Offaly Sports Partnership's CSDO in 2021, working towards increased participation by various communities and people from identified low participation groups<sup>1</sup> in sport, physical activity and active recreation.

The Community Sports Development Programme (CSDP) is made possible with funding from Sport Ireland alongside miscellaneous other funding supports from various organisations.

As in 2020, programme delivery options were adapted to suit the prevailing health conditions in situ at the time of delivery. A range of programmes were managed by Denise including: -

- *"Keep Well in the Community"* initiative supported by Healthy Ireland
- *"Operation Transformation"* minimum fitness programme
- *"Longest Day"* challenge supported by Healthy Ireland
- sport and physical activity programmes for adults and older adults
- sport and physical activity programmes for women and girls
- games on the green in association with Offaly County Council's housing section
- summer camps & winter programmes for low-income communities in association with the Offaly Local Development Company. Eimear Lynch, interim SIDO supported the delivery of these programmes

For more information on Offaly Sports Partnership's community sports development programme, see appendix 1, community sports development programme update for 2021.

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### ***Older adults***

Older adults participated in a variety of recreational sport and physical activity programmes as outlined at pillar 2.

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### ***People with a Disability***



Jean Brady continued in her role as Offaly Sports Partnership's SIDO in 2021, supporting the increased participation of people with disabilities in sport, physical activity and active recreation.

Ms Brady's role is made possible with funding from Sport Ireland (salary costs); while the Health Services Executive provides funding towards programme delivery

Eimear Lynch joined the staff of Offaly Sports Partnership as an interim SIDO to cover the work of Jean who went on maternity leave in September 2021.



As in 2020, programme delivery options were adapted to suit the prevailing health conditions in situ at the time of delivery. A range of programmes was delivered for over 600 people with disabilities including: -

- online exercise and fitness programmes for disability services in quarter 1
- inclusive PE, exercise and movement programmes for schools with special education needs units (both online and in person)
- disability awareness and inclusion training for clubs looking to establish integrated clubs
- Activator poles and Boccia programmes across quarters 2 and 3
- one to one physical activity supports for people with disabilities throughout the year
- July provision for DEIS schools, and schools with special education needs units
- inclusive camps (multi-sport and sport specific) for children with additional needs

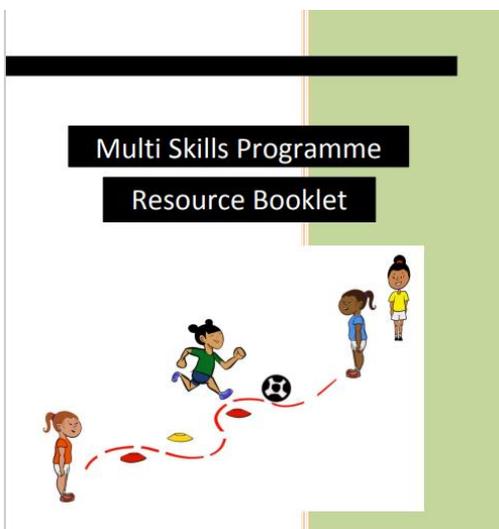
For more information on Offaly Sports Partnership's sports inclusion disability programme, see appendix 2, sports inclusion development programme update for 2021.

### ***People of an Ethnic Minority (including Travellers)***

A range of programmes and resources were developed and delivered to support the participation of people of an ethnic minority in sport and physical activity throughout 2021. Programmes delivered include: -

- an integrated sports camp at Halloween in conjunction with Tullamore Harriers Athletics Club. The camp was especially targeted at schools in Tullamore with high migrant populations. Over 60 children and young people registered for the camp; and over one third of the camp participants were children of an ethnic minority background
- ongoing support for participants from our integrated academy for athletics performance as they strive to maintain their participation in their chosen sport in a Covid ravaged era

Local coaches from Tullamore Harriers supported delivery of the Halloween camp, while Emmanuel Haastrup and Adam Mc Mullen supported the ongoing work of the academy. Eamonn Henry (Coordinator, Offaly Sports Partnership) also continued to develop training schedules, and provide support and guidance to academy participants transferring to third level education.



Resources developed included an *early years* (junior infants to second class) *physical activity resource* with a focus on integration through sport.

The resource, developed by Eimear Bryant and illustrated by Andrea Cooke of the South Offaly Sports Hub, provides hints and tips for teachers on the development of fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping, throwing, agility, balance and coordination.

This resource was further supported through the delivery of online PE classes in quarter 1 of 2021

## Women & Girls

A range of programmes coordinated by Denise Coghill (CSDO) were delivered to support the participation of women and girls in sport and physical activity throughout 2021. Programmes delivered include: -

- *online strength and conditioning* programmes for 22 female teams from sports as diverse as boxing, camogie, ladies football, rowing, rugby and soccer during the quarter 1 lockdown



- *exercise and fitness for teenage girls* - delivered in conjunction with the Offaly Local Development Company and Midland Youth Services (Tullamore), Offaly Sports Partnership was delighted to support delivery of a six-week exercise programme for teenage girls across May, June and July 2021. A variety of activities were delivered including dance, skipping, boxing and yoga; led by one of the Sports Partnership's women in sport tutors

Tutors on these women in sport programmes included Eimear Bryant, Pauline Curley, Patrice Delaney, Patricia Flynn, Ed Hartery and Adele Marikar.

- *Offaly Junior Golf Academy* – pre Covid, Offaly Sports Partnership committed to providing support to the Offaly Junior Golf Academy to help increase the participation of young women in golf.

The support from the Sports Partnership was utilised for the hosting of an end of programme tournament. Unfortunately, due to Covid, the 2020 tournament was deferred on three occasions; and was eventually hosted in July 2021. This was followed shortly thereafter by the hosting of the 2021 tournament in August.



Patrice Delaney, tutor with Offaly Sports Partnership pictured with female participants of the Offaly Junior Golf Academy

## Pillar 4 – Celebrate & Integrate

In keeping with Offaly Sports Partnership’s vision, mission and equality statement, we seek to: -

- i. foster a culture of acknowledgement, recognition and celebration of our sports people and volunteers; and
- ii. promote a culture of integration

Work in each of these areas is detailed below...

### Celebration

2021 saw a number of sports people from Offaly represent Ireland on the world stage. Jordon Conroy, Darragh Kenny, Shane Lowry and Nicole Turner did the county and country proud following their selection to the Irish Olympic and Paralympic teams; while Shane was also selected to the European Ryder Cup team.

In advance of the Tokyo Games, Offaly County Council and Offaly Sports Partnership hosted an online page for members of the public to send their good wishes to the competing athletes from Offaly.

The screenshot shows the website for Offaly County Council. At the top left is the logo for 'Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí Offaly County Council'. To the right are accessibility options (AAA, A, A) and a 'Select Language' dropdown. Below that is a search bar with the text 'How can we help you?'. A navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Services' (highlighted in green), 'Your Council', and 'Visit Offaly'. The breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home > Services > Corporate Services > Offaly at the Olympics > Get Behind our Olympians'. The main heading is 'Get Behind our Olympians' with a print and share icon. Below this are two logos: the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games logo and the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games logo. The text below the logos reads:   
"We all need to get behind our Olympians as they head off to Tokyo to represent our country with pride". That was the message from Cllr Declan Harvey, Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council. Leading good wishes to the Tokyo bound Olympians and Paralympian, Cllr Harvey said that this is the largest contingent ever from Offaly to compete at an Olympic Games.   
Four competitors from Offaly will represent Ireland at the Olympics and Paralympics later in July and August. Clara golfer, Shane Lowry teams up with playing partner Rory McIlroy in the golf; Tullamore rugby player, Jordan Conroy has been instrumental in the Irish 7s rugby team gaining qualification; Darragh Kenny from Belmont will be among Ireland’s leading performers in showing jumping; while in the Paralympics, 19-year old Nicole Turner from Garryhinch will compete in four individual swimming disciplines in her second Paralympic Games.   
Adding good wishes to the team was Cllr Robert Mc Dermott, Chairperson of Offaly Sports Partnership. "Being an Olympian is the pinnacle of sport achievement", said Cllr Mc Dermott. "It is what childhood dreams are made of. I would like to wish our Offaly Olympians the best of success in Tokyo. We are all very proud of you".   
**Wish our Olympians Well**

After the Tokyo Games, Offaly County Council and Offaly Sports Partnership presented framed mementos to the competitors from their time at the Games.



*Jordan Conroy being presented with a framed photo of one of his tries in the Rugby 7s at the Tokyo Games by Cllr Declan Harvey, Cathaoirleach Offaly County Council; Cllr Robert Mc Dermott, Chair Offaly Sports Partnership; and Miriam O Callaghan, Offaly Sports Partnership*



*Tena Kenny-Murray & Mary Kenny, aunts of Darragh Kenny being presented with a framed photo of Darragh competing on "VDL Cartello" in Show Jumping at the Tokyo Games by Cllr Declan Harvey, Cathaoirleach Offaly County Council; Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive, Offaly County Council; Cllr Robert Mc Dermott, Chair Offaly Sports Partnership; and Miriam O Callaghan, Offaly Sports Partnership*



*Emily Scanlon (Shane Lowry's grandmother) being presented with a framed photo of Shane Lowry & his caddy, Adam Lowry (brother) in the Golf at the Tokyo Games by Cllr Declan Harvey, Cathaoirleach Offaly County Council*

*Brendan Lowry (Shane Lowry's father) being presented with a framed photo of Shane Lowry at the Ryder Cup by Miriam O Callaghan, Offaly Sports Partnership*



*Nicole Turner being presented with a framed photo of her winning swim in S6 50m Butterfly, which secured her Silver at the Tokyo Games by Cllr Declan Harvey, Cathaoirleach Offaly County Council; Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick, Offaly County Council; and Cllr Robert Mc Dermott, Chair Offaly Sports Partnership*

During the course of the year, Offaly Sports Partnership sent additional congratulatory notes to a number of sports people, sports teams and sports volunteers doing their county proud on the national and international stage. Among the volunteers recognised were: -

- Miriam O Callaghan, former long serving member and Chair of Offaly Sports Partnership was appointed to the Board of Sport Ireland
- John Cronin of Tullamore Harriers was elected President of Athletics Ireland
- Liam Brereton of St Brigid's Boxing Club, Edenderry was appointed head coach to the Cayman Islands international boxing team
- Nicola Lalor was recognised by the Federation of Irish Sport as the recipient of a "volunteer in sport" award.
- Bernard Westman of Tullamore Rugby was appointed as coach to the Irish Rugby League u16s team

## *Integration*

Two GAA for All clubs were supported to establish, one in Edenderry and one in Rhode.

The Sports Partnership facilitated the delivery of disability awareness and inclusion training; as well as providing support and equipment in the roll out of GAA for All sessions during the summer.



## **Pillar 5 - Improve Capacity & Inform the Sector**

Offaly Sports Partnership carried out a significant piece of work on our own capacity in 2021 as detailed below...

The development and launch of our new strategic plan necessitated a review in the constituting of our management committee; as well as a review of our governance procedures to ensure that Offaly Sports Partnership is compliant with Sport Ireland's "*Governance Code for Sport*".

### ***Strategic plan***



After a lengthy consultation process, Offaly Sports Partnership's newest strategic plan was published. John Treacy, outgoing Chief Executive of Sport Ireland officially launched "*Active Offaly 2021 – 2025*" in December 2021,.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many inputs received as part of the consultation process

### ***Governance***

In tandem with the development of its new strategy, Offaly Sports Partnership established a governance working group to address its compliance with Sport Ireland's "*Governance Code for Sport*", as well as the re-constituting of its management committee for the next strategic period 2021 – 2025.

In November 2021, the Sports Partnership submitted its public statement of compliance with Sport Ireland's "*Governance Code for Sport*"; and has been added to the "*Register of Organisations in Compliance with the Governance Code for Sport*" on the Sport Ireland [website](#).

### ***Re-constitution of the Offaly Sports Partnership Management Committee***

As part of the re-constitution of Offaly Sports Partnership's Management Committee, the Sports Partnership established a mechanism to guarantee gender balance on the committee. In quarter 4, an open call for expressions of interest to join the Management Committee of the Sports Partnership was issued. 33 expressions of interest were received for eight external seats. The committee will be formally constituted at the start of 2022.

### ***Offaly Sports Partnership Communications***

The Sports Partnership continued to utilise a wide variety of communication channels to get our message of inclusive participation across the life span into the public domain. Our website, [www.offalysports.ie](http://www.offalysports.ie) and our social media channels (Facebook@OffalySportsPartnership, Twitter@OffalySP, Instagram@OffalySportsPartnership) provide in-depth information on sport and physical activity programmes, funding schemes, etc.; and we will continue to develop these methods of communication going forward

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### ***Sustainable sporting structures***

In 2021, Offaly Sports Partnership delivered a number of education and training programmes including: -

- Disability Awareness & Inclusion training programmes – tutors from the CARA Centre (Sport Inclusion Ireland) delivered two programmes for 20 volunteers looking to establish integrated clubs. A further 10 volunteers and coaches were supported to secure qualifications in the delivery of adapted sport and physical activity programmes for people with disabilities.
- Safeguarding (child protection training) - Mick Curley delivered 11 programmes for 175 volunteers from 11 organisations
- Sports First Aid - Mick Duggan delivered three programmes for 25 volunteers from a number of sports clubs and organisations
- Sports Leader UK training - 14 Sports Leader training programmes were delivered across five secondary schools for over 300 students. Tutors supporting the delivery of these programmes included Declan Cooke, Alan Corboy, Patrice Delaney, Daire Feely and Sylvia Gee.



Offaly Sports Partnership continued to support clubs to secure funding under sports capital and local funding schemes. In 2021, 44 clubs / organisations secured Covid19 return to sport funding to the value of €37,050. Clubs supported include: -

- Ballinagar GAA
- Ballyskenagh / Killavilla GAA
- Banagher Snooker
- Belmont Fishing
- Belmont GAA
- Birr GAA
- Birr Leisure Centre
- Bracknagh GAA
- Clodiagh Gaels GAA
- Cloneygowan Celtic Football
- Clonmore / Riverside Soccer
- Coolraine Soccer
- Derry Rovers Soccer, Edenderry
- Durrrow GAA
- Edenderry Golf
- Edenderry Snooker
- Kilclonfert GAA
- Kilcormac / Killoughey Badminton
- Kilcormac / Killoughey Camogie
- Killeigh Schoolboys/girls Soccer
- Moneygall Soccer
- Mucklagh Schoolboys/girls Soccer
- Naomh Ciaran Ladies Gaelic
- Naomh Mhuire Athletics, Daingean
- Naomh Molaoise Ladies Gaelic
- Offaly Rowing
- Portarlington Golf
- Rhode Ladies Gaelic
- Seir Kieran GAA
- Shamrocks GAA
- Shamrock's Ladies Gaelic
- Shannonbridge GAA
- Slieve Bloom Cricket
- Sparticus Boxing, Tullamore
- St. Bridget's Boxing, Edenderry
- St. Joseph's Boxing, Edenderry
- St. Manchan's Ladies Gaelic
- St. Sinchill's Camogie
- Tullamore Camogie
- Tullamore Hockey
- Tullamore Ladies Gaelic
- Tullamore Rugby
- Tullamore Town Soccer
- Walsh Island GAA

Furthermore, Offaly Sports Partnership supported Offaly County Council in the development of a local policy regarding the future funding of National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) in the delivery of their grassroots' programmes in the county. Following a competitive process in September, five NGBs were approved for funding as follows: -

- Football Association of Ireland - €11,891
- Athletics Ireland - €6,835
- Hockey Ireland - €4,050
- The Camogie Association - €3,624
- Golf Ireland - €3,600

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#### ***Interagency cooperation***

In addition to the education and training; and funding supports provided, inter agency cooperation has assisted Offaly Sports Partnership in promoting sport and physical activity opportunities in Offaly for people of all ages and abilities. Key successes in the area of inter-agency cooperation in 2021 include: -

1. access to Dormant Accounts funding via Sport Ireland allowed the Sports Partnership to: -
  - continue to support the South Offaly Sports Hub to deliver a range of outreach programmes to schools, clubs and organisations across Birr and its environs
  - establish a second Sports Hub in Daingean
  - purchase and disseminate adapted sports and physical activity equipment to schools, clubs and organisations; as well as provide training in the development of adapted sport and physical activity programmes
  - deliver 20 “*splash and dash*” sessions for over 350 primary and secondary school pupils at the re-established Edenderry Canoe Club.

2. Access to Healthy Ireland funding via Healthy Offaly allowed the Sports Partnership to: -
  - develop the “Active Me” resource as detailed at pillar 1
  - deliver “Offaly’s Longest Day Challenge” as detailed at pillar 2
  - deliver a range of therapeutic physical activity programmes for people with disabilities and their support networks; and 1:1 physical activity supports for people with disabilities. These activities are detailed in appendix 2, sports inclusion development programme review 2021



*Healthy Ireland funded therapeutic physical activity programmes; plus 1:1 physical activity supports for people with disabilities*

3. access to funding from various Government Departments<sup>2</sup> allowed the Sports Partnership to:-
  - deliver local variants of national physical activity events including Bike Week and Play Day / Recreation Week
  - support the development and maintenance of sport, play and physical activity infrastructure in the county including playgrounds and walking trails

<sup>2</sup> Government Departments supporting Offaly Sports Partnership in its work include: -

- DCEDIY – Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth
- DCRD- Dept. of Community & Rural Development
- DoH – Department of Health
- DTCAGSM – Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media
- NTA – National Transport Authority (Bike Week 2021)
- Pobal / Healthy Ireland

# APPENDIX 1



## Community Sports Development Programme 2021

Supported by



## Fáilte / Welcome



Denise Coghill continued in her role as Offaly Sports Partnership's CSDO in 2021, working towards increased participation by various communities and people from identified low participation groups<sup>1</sup> in sport, physical activity and active recreation.

The Community Sports Development Programme (CSDP) is made possible with funding from Sport Ireland alongside miscellaneous other funding supports from various organisations

The spike in Covid19 cases over Christmas and ongoing health restrictions had a significant impact on the roll out of planned community sports development programmes throughout 2021. As in 2020, programme delivery options were adapted to suit the prevailing health conditions in situ at the time of delivery. The following pages will give an overview of the CSDO's work in 2021, which reached over 500 people from various communities and identified low participation groups of the Sports Partnership...

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## Quarter 1 – January to March

### Keep Well

As part of the “Keep Well in the Community” initiative that ran from November 2020 to March 2021, Offaly SP disseminated 250 keep well packs to longest day participants; and participants who had signed up to programmes in 2020 that were later deferred because of Covid19 health restrictions. The packs included a hi viz vest, hat with a head torch, snood and gloves



### Strength and Conditioning Zoom sessions for female teams:



Both Jean and I worked extremely hard on this initiative to ensure that it facilitated the high volume of numbers participating on the programme. After weeks of planning, the success of the initiative can be judged on the fact that over 300 females from 22 teams participated on the programme.

Womens' teams supported included teams from sports as diverse as boxing, camogie, ladies football, rowing, rugby and soccer. Each team accessed eight sessions, an increase on the original six initially agreed.

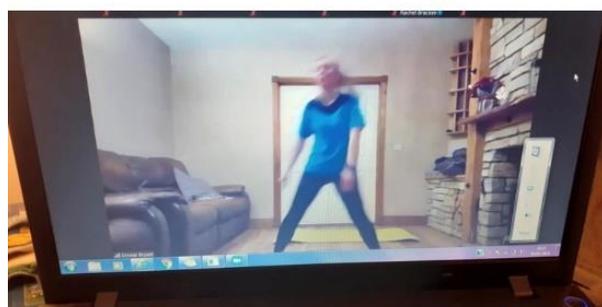


**St. Manchan's Ladies Football**

18 Jan · 🌐

Well done to all the players who joined our first [Offaly Sports Partnership](#) online S&C session this evening!

See you all next week! ❤️💙💜



Another Brilliant Session tonight with former Elite Champion & Coach Lynne O' Shea thanks Lynn . Another great turn out Ladies we back again next Tuesday night same time 🍷🍷 Stay Focus Stay Strong 🍷🍷

Edenderry All-Female Sparring Camp St Brigid's Boxing Club Edenderry Offaly Sports Partnership Leinster IABA Irish-Boxing.Com Leinster Girls Boxing Development Squad IABA Female Group Training



Tutors supporting delivery of the programme included Eimear Bryant, Alan Corboy, Pauline Curley and Patricia Flynn.

### **Online dance classes for older adults and women**

A 10-week online dance programme for 20 older adults and women was delivered in January.

I approached Olive from “*Cross Country Jive*”, with the idea of trying to facilitate an online dance class that would encourage people to get active in their sitting room.



However as dancing generally involves two people we had to adjust how the programme would be delivered taking cognisance of Covid restrictions in situ at the time. Because of this, we decided to focus on individual line dances.

Over the course of 10 weeks, we were guided through two dances a morning; and by the end of the programme, we had a great bank of dances learned and perfected ready for when the dance scene kicks off again. The class was well attended over Zoom; and everyone really enjoyed the variety of music and dances that Olive provided. It was great to see older adults catching up; and everybody spending their Wednesday mornings dancing around their sitting rooms for the full hour, enjoying the company and banter.

### **Ramblers group**

This group was set up following an initial conversation around the idea of establishing a rambling group in Ballycumber. Frank Fahey was contacted in relation to the purchase of activator poles for the group; however when the poles were purchased, the programme had to be deferred due to the re-introduction of restrictions. The re-establishment of the group will be looked at again in 2022.

### **Couch to 5k programme.**

I worked alongside our ASPIRE graduate, Eoghan Pernot to develop a “*Couch to 5k*” programme for beginners. The initiative was designed to support people who were looking to begin their fitness journey with a reference guide on how to get started and thereafter continue their journey. There was a great uptake for the initiative. Over 30 people requested the programme through our social media platforms.

### **Online PE classes with Pauline.**

This two-week programme was run with the Presentation Primary in Portarlington as a pilot programme. Each class was offered two 45-minute online PE sessions per week, accessed through Zoom. 45 pupils participated on the pilot programme.

Given the significant amount of out of hours work required to progress the programme, and the limited uptake on the pilot; we decided not to roll the programme out countywide.

### **Individual Challenge Videos.**

The staff of Offaly Sports Partnership produced these videos in 2020 as part of a Healthy Offaly funded “Fit Schools” programme. The idea behind the videos was to provide children with ideas for games / challenges that they could complete on their own in their back yard, which would help to keep them active.

Every fortnight, I issued three videos to all primary schools on our database. The schools then distributed the videos to their pupils as part of remote PE sessions. Unfortunately, I have no way of knowing how much they were used, as the schools did not look for feedback from their pupils.

### **Improve your physical fitness with Offaly SP’s eight-week online exercise programme:**



Again, Jean and I spent a number of weeks developing the initiative before expressions of interest were sought from the public to participate on the programme; and tutors were recruited to deliver the programme.

This free eight-week online programme supported people in the achievement of a set of minimum fitness targets as promoted through Sport Ireland’s collaboration with Operation Transformation. The programme began on 1<sup>st</sup> February with 55 people signing up to improve their physical fitness. Participants were divided into small groups of five and assigned a tutor for the duration of the programme. The programme consisted of two online exercise sessions a week and further information on how to lead a healthy lifestyle was also provided. Participants also received a t-shirt at the end of the programme and I would like to thank Jean for all her efforts in ensuring that this was possible.

Tutors supporting delivery of this programme included Alan Corboy, Eimear Corrie, Patrice Delaney, Emmet Dynan and Eimear Lynch

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## Quarter 2 – April to June

### Return to Sport May Challenges:

With an easing of restrictions, we designed our return to sport challenges in six disciplines, coming up with a challenge for each discipline that was sport specific. A number of weeks were then spent making the videos.

Delivered in conjunction with local sports clubs, Offaly SP disseminated return to sport challenges in six disciplines – athletics, camogie & hurling, GAA (boys & girls), golf, rowing and rugby – to encourage everyone to get back into their sport.

Prizes were awarded to the overall County winner in each category (u-11, u-13, u-15)



### Older adult outdoor physical activity programme

In the middle of May, our outdoor fitness sessions for older adults using activator poles recommenced in Tullamore Town Park. The original sessions had been cancelled before Christmas when level five Covid restrictions were re-introduced.

These one hour sessions took place across four mornings a week; with the programme running for six weeks. Despite being oversubscribed a maximum of 14 participants, split across two groups, were allowed per session as per Covid restrictions in situ at the time of delivery. 56 older adults took part on the programme across the six-week period; and I am happy to report that by the end of the six weeks, all interested parties had been accommodated on the programme.

### **Evening Activities with Teenage Girls:**

Delivered in conjunction with the Offaly Local Development Company and Tullamore Youth Services Offaly SP was delighted to support delivery of this six-week exercise programme which commenced on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May. A variety of activities were delivered including dance, skipping, boxing and yoga; led by one of Offaly SP's women in sport tutors

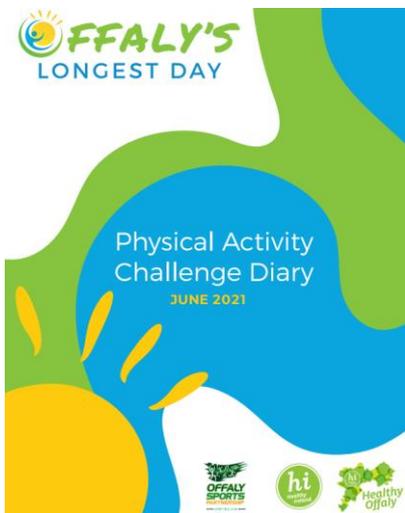
Tutors on these programmes included Patrice Delaney, Patricia Flynn and Adele Marikar.

### **Longest Day 2021**

Following the success of the Longest Day Challenge 2020, the 2021 challenge commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> June, however I began the preparations for this challenge in March.

2,000 participants signed up to the challenge; and committed to taking part in some kind of moderate intensity physical activity for at least 30 minutes on at least five days in the week. The challenge ran from 1<sup>st</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June; with participants logging their daily physical activity in a specially commissioned diary for the challenge.

At the conclusion of the challenge, participants were invited to submit their diaries to Offaly SP for consideration in the end of programme awards



### **Activator Poles Training Session:**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, we held a training day for tutors who will be delivering the activator poles programme to older adults and people with additional needs. Thanks to Frank Fahey for a lovely morning in Tullamore Town Park. All enjoyed the practical session; and we look forward to scheduling activator programmes in the coming months.

### **Offaly Junior Golf Academy:**

I attended the Offaly Junior Golf Academy Tournament on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June in Tullamore Golf Club. Offaly SP are delighted to be supporting the girls taking part in the tournament through our Women in Sport programme. Congratulations to all who took part in the event.

### **Older Adult Boccia Blitz:**

Our older adult Boccia blitz took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July in Colaiste Choilm Secondary School in Tullamore. It was great to see everyone back out chatting, having fun and been physically active after a long break from activities due to Covid. The outdoor event saw over 70 older adults come together with 16 teams taking part on the day. A great day was had by all.



### **Activities on the Green**

Throughout the summer months, I delivered our activities on the green programme, and a summer camp for Arden View family resource centre.



38 children took part in three “activities on the green” programme days in Church View estate; while 22 children took part in the Arden View family resource centre summer camp

### **Offaly Ladies Gaelic Football development.**

The weekly meetings for the steering group continued to meet every Thursday night through the summer months, with good progress being made in the area of the development of the game. Unfortunately, with the commencement of my maternity leave I had to depart the form.

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### **Quarters 3 & 4 – July to December**

August saw Denise Coghill depart on maternity leave. In advance of her departure, she planned the delivery of a number of sport and physical activity programmes for quarter 4, which were rolled out by members of Offaly SP's tutor panel. Programmes rolled out across this six-month period include:-

#### **Walking Football Programmes:**

Two eight week walking football programmes for adults aged 35 – 55 years, took place in Ballycumber and Birr, with large numbers in attendance at each venue.

Ballycumber participants were split 50/50, with 10 men and 10 women participating; while Birr established a mens' only group with a maximum participation of 35 men. In 2022, the establishment of a womens' walking football programme in Birr will be explored.

#### **Womens Fitness Programme:**

An eight week fitness programme for 20 women took place in High Street Hall, Belmont every Wednesday morning.

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For more information on the Community Sports Development Officer programme, contact Denise Coghill, Community Sports Development Officer, Offaly Sports Partnership on 086 7912513 or by email to [dcoghill@offalycoco.ie](mailto:dcoghill@offalycoco.ie)

# APPENDIX 2



## Sports Inclusion Development Programme 2021

Supported by



SPORT  
IRELAND



## Fáilte / Welcome



Jean Brady, Offaly Sports Partnership's Sports Inclusion Development Officer continued in her role in 2021.

Ms Brady's role is made possible with funding from Sport Ireland (salary costs); while the Health Services Executive provides funding towards programme delivery.

The Sports Inclusion Development Officer's role is to support the delivery of physical activity and sport programmes with the aim of increasing the number of people with disabilities (physical, sensory and intellectual; as well as those experiencing mental health difficulties) participating in sport and physical activity.

The spike in Covid19 cases between December 2020 and January 2021, and ongoing health restrictions thereafter had a significant impact on the roll out of planned sports inclusion development programmes throughout 2021.

Furthermore, Eimear Lynch joined the staff of Offaly Sports Partnership as interim Sports Inclusion Development Officer to cover Jean Brady's maternity leave between September 2021 and April 2022.



As in 2020, programme delivery options were adapted to suit the prevailing health conditions in situ at the time of delivery; and a range of programmes were delivered for over 600 people with disabilities.

The following pages will give an overview of the SIDO's work in 2021

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## Quarter 1 – January to March

### Keep Well

As part of the “Keep Well in the Community” initiative that ran from November 2020 to March 2021, Offaly SP disseminated 150 “keep well” packs to people who participated on the SIDP, and programmes of the sports partnership targeting older adults and women in quarter 1. The packs included a hi viz vest, hat with a head torch, snood and gloves



### Supporting the National Learning Network Tullamore 'Fitness Friday':

👏 Today's online Fitness Friday session was brought to us by Offaly Sports Partnership. ... See more



The National Learning Network in Tullamore delivered an excellent initiative to their students called 'Fitness Friday'.

Every Friday a guest instructor delivers an online exercise session that reaches up to 75 students. So far, the students have taken part in strength and conditioning, Pilates and yoga.

Offaly SP are delighted to be able to support this programme by sourcing tutors from different areas of fitness to deliver the online sessions. Well done to the National Learning Network on delivering such a worthwhile programme to their students.

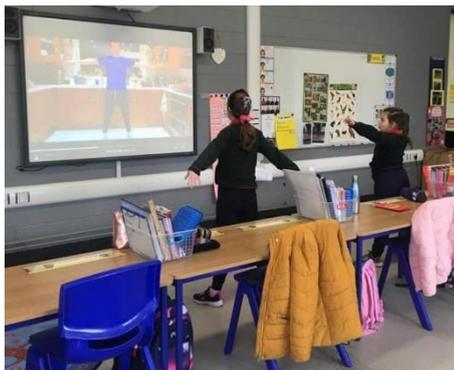
### **Online exercise programmes for disability services in County Offaly:**

The programme consisted of a 10-week online exercise session for disability services in County Offaly. The programme was delivered in three disability services - St. Cronans, Birr; Riverview Resources, Birr; and The Bannon Centre, Tullamore. Each service was allocated a dedicated tutor to deliver a varied and fun exercise programme.



### **SEN Exercise and Movement Video Programme:**

With the reopening of schools for junior classes and SEN units, Offaly SP delivered a SEN exercise and movement video programme for 25 classes and over 280 pupils. The programme involved dissemination of three videos / resources for dance, yoga, strength and conditioning or athletics to participating schools each week. Teachers could then support their students to participate in the programme as part of their in-school physical education curriculum



## Quarter 2 – April to June

### Access Great Outdoors Training:

I attended CARA's Access Great Outdoors Online Training on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. This training is designed to give an overview of the best practice outlined in "*Great Outdoors, a guide for accessibility*" and a foundation understanding of how to approach implementation of the guiding principles and recommendations of this document.

### SIDO / IWA Information Day:

The Irish Wheelchair Association held an online information day for Sports Inclusion Development Officers on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

The day was very informative, it was great to learn about the IWAs collaborations with Sports Partnerships and what programmes might be suitable for the Offaly area.



### Sport Inclusion & Disability Awareness Online Workshop:

I am delighted to be assisting Edenderry GAA Club with the establishment of a GAA for All section within the club, which will cater for participants with disabilities across the entire disability spectrum. In preparation for this new venture, the club undertook Sport Inclusion and Disability Awareness Training on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April with CARA. The course was attended via zoom by 13 enthusiastic coaches and volunteers. Well done to all who completed the course and thanks to CARA for a very informative evening.



### **Edenderry GAA for All**

The first session of the new Edenderry GAA for All club took place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

Great fun was had by all with a wide range of ages enjoying a variety of fun activities

### **Learn to Cycle Programme with Down Syndrome Offaly:**

The first of our learning to cycle programme for children with Down Syndrome took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. This 1:1 individual training from a specialised cycling leader will be delivered to 14 children in County Offaly.



### **Disability Inclusion Training with Rhode GAA:**

I am delighted to be assisting Rhode GAA Club with setting up a GAA 4 All Club that will cater for all disabilities. In preparation for this new venture, the club undertook Sport Inclusion and Disability Awareness Training on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> of June with CARA. Well done to all who completed the course and we wish them the very best of luck with their new venture.

### **Activator Poles Training Session:**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of June, we held a training day for tutors who will be delivering the activator poles programme to older adults and people with additional needs. Thanks to Frank Fahey for a lovely morning in Tullamore Town Park. All enjoyed the practical session; and we look forward to scheduling activator programmes in the coming months.

### **Edenderry Golf for Autism:**

I had the pleasure of attending Edenderry Golf Club on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June where I saw first-hand the fantastic Golf Programme being delivered for children with autism. The programme runs every Monday evening from 6.30 to 7.30pm. Along with Robert McDermott (Chair, Offaly SP) I was delighted to attend a presentation to the children in recognition of their hard work over the past few weeks.

### **Outdoor Boccia Blitz for Disability Services:**

An outdoor Boccia Blitz was held in Colaiste Choilm on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June for people with a disability. The day was well attended with groups from the National Learning Network Tullamore, Riverview Resources Birr and St Cronans Birr. A great day in the sunshine was had by all. Congratulations to Tullamore Amigos who were victorious on the day. A special thanks to Colaiste Choilm who are always so accommodating with their fantastic venue.



### **Quarter 3 – July to September**

#### **Summer Provision Sport days:**

There was huge interest in our Summer Provision Sports Day once again this year. Due to high levels of demand, two Summer Provision Sports Days were held. The first day was held in the Tullamore Harriers; and was attended by 80 students from across eight different primary schools in County Offaly. Schools were kept in their own pods and made their way around 10 physical activity stations over the two hours.

The second day took place in Scoil Eoin Phol Tullamore with 35 young boys taking part in a wide range of activities. Thanks to all our fantastic tutors who made sure both days ran smoothly and the children who attended had an enjoyable experience.



#### **1:1 physical activity supports for people with disabilities:**

The 1:1 physical activity supports for people with additional needs recommenced in July. 35 individuals ranging from children to older adults will benefit from multiple physical activity sessions with a qualified tutor.

#### **Physical Activity Leader Training with National Learning Network:**

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July we helped the National Learning Network completed their physical activity exam. The learners were taking through how to lead a warm up, main activity and cool down. They then demonstrated these skills to their classmates. Well done to all from the National Learning Network on completing their active module.

#### **Multi Sports Camp:**

Our annual multi sports camp for children with additional needs and their siblings took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of July in Daingean Sports and Physical Activity Hub. All in attendance got the opportunity to try out a wide range of activities including Soccer, Badminton, Wrestling, Dance, Meditation and Arts & Crafts. The feedback received from both children and parents was brilliant. A

huge thank you to all our wonderful tutors for making the camp so enjoyable for everyone in attendance.



*Lots of activities and lots of fun. Plenty of staff working at the camp. Even though I stayed on the grounds because the youngest child was nervous, I would have been happy to leave both children there as there were lots of staff and they were all very caring, helpful and competent with the children.*

*I had a very happy 6-year-old who didn't want the camps to be over*

*I would rate this camp as excellent!*

**Inclusive GAA Cul Camp:**

The Inclusive GAA Cul Camp in collaboration with Offaly GAA took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of August. 20 children with additional needs and their siblings took part in lots of fun activities over the three days.

A huge thank you to Liam O Reilly and all his coaches along with our fantastic sports partnership tutors who once again were amazing with all the children.



*Dear Jean and Liam,  
A massive thank you to both of you and the team of staff working at the inclusive Cul camp, especially Eoin and Kim for facilitating one of the most inclusive experiences for our children Áine and John. The camp was so well organised and your team were so flexible to each individual child's needs. We are thrilled that our children had the opportunity to participate. It was the first time that John with the support of Eoin independently participated in an activity without a parent. Eoin is a fantastic young man and an asset to your team. We can't thank you all enough.*



Eimear Lynch joined the staff of Offaly SP as interim Sports Inclusion Development Officer on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September in advance of Jean Brady taking maternity leave in October.

Eimear started her tenure as interim SIDO supporting the delivery of activator pole sessions for older adults as part of Positive Ageing Week 2021 from the 27<sup>th</sup> September to the 1<sup>st</sup> October

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### Quarter 4 – October to December

#### Inclusive PE programme

Across the months of October to December, six / eight week inclusive PE programmes commenced in nine schools: -

- i. Durrow National School
- ii. Scoil Naomh Sheosaimh, Ballinagar
- iii. Crinkill National School
- iv. Gaelscoil Eadán Doire
- v. Gortnamona National School
- vi. Mercy Primary, Birr
- vii. Scoil Mhuire, Tullamore
- viii. Scoil Shinchill, Killeigh
- ix. Scoil Chartaigh Naofa, Rahan

To date, 60 students have participated in the programme; and have been introduced to activities such as athletics, basketball, boccia, bowling, gymnastics, hockey and volleyball. It is anticipated that the participating schools will continue to deliver this programme within their schools following the initial intervention by Offaly Sports Partnership



In support of this, the sports partnership has made all ability kits available to a number of the participating schools



### **Clochán House multi-sport programme**

On Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October, an eight-week multi-sport commenced in Clochán House.

Various activities including bocchia, chair bowling, circuit training, parachute games, etc. were delivered throughout the eight-week programme; and great fun was had by all



### **Strength, conditioning & exercise programme for older adults**

On Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, I commenced a five-week strength, conditioning and exercise programme for older adults. The programme was delivered in two locations, Edenderry and Tullamore, with the support of the Offaly Local Development Company.

*Thank you to Offaly Sports Partnership for facilitating group exercises in Tullamore Park from the 3rd of November to the 24th of November.*

*The instructor, Eimear Lynch was at all times mindful of everyone's abilities and created inclusive and enjoyable sessions. All group members really enjoyed all sessions and I look forward to working with Eimear in the future.*

*Regards, Amanda*

*We recently had Eimear facilitate a four / six week fitness programme for a diverse group based in Edenderry. Eimear was a fantastic facilitator; she engaged with every single participant, knew all their names and made everyone feel safe and welcome.*

*With regards to the exercise, Eimear was excellent at explaining and demonstrating each exercises, explaining the benefits of the exercise and how to use an alternate exercise to make it easier.*

*The group loved having Eimear every week and are requesting to have her back in the New Year.*

*Many thanks, Niamh*

A further spike in Covid19 cases in December resulted in delivery of the SIDP being suspended; however, we hope to be in a position to recommence delivery of elements of the programme in the New Year subject to the prevailing health conditions in situ at the time of delivery

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For more information on the Sports Inclusion Development Programme, contact Offaly SP on 057 93 57462 or by email to [sports@offalycoco.ie](mailto:sports@offalycoco.ie)