



Appendix D

Sport4Empowerment

Programme

Supported by



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



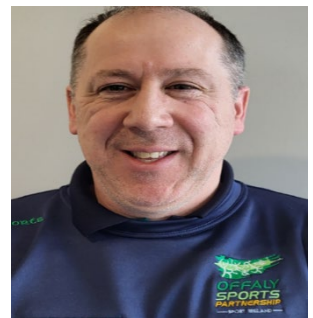
Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union



Fáilte / Welcome

The context for the delivery of Offaly Sports Partnership's (Offaly SP) Sport for Empowerment Programme in 2024 is as follows...

- The Sport for Empowerment is designed to foster social inclusion and provide education, inclusion and personal development programmes for European Social Fund (ESF+) target groups such as youth at risk, ethnic minorities and migrants (including asylum seekers) throughout the country
- The programme is made possible with funding from the European Social Fund+ (ESF+) which is administered by Sport Ireland
- David Mc Caffrey (pictured), commenced work with Offaly SP in the role of ESF+ Social Innovation through Sport Officer under the Sport4Empowerment programme in February 2024
- David was supported in his Sport4Empowerment work by Offaly County Council staff, various tutors of Offaly SP, local clubs and service providers



The following pages will give an overview of this work in 2024...

Quarter 1 – January to March

February / March

Stakeholder mapping, introductory emails, face to face meetings and site visits were very much front and centre for me in the first two months of delivering the new Sport4Empowerment programme. The Sport4Empowerment programme is represented on the Community Integration Forum, a network of local statutory and voluntary organisations based in Offaly and is hosted each month online by Offaly County Council.

I established a working relationship with the Local Authority Integration Team housed in Offaly County Council as well as the staff of Offaly Spors Partnership (Offaly SP) to promote the Sport4Empowerment programme.

Quarter 2– April to June

Training supports for the ESF officers from Sport Ireland continued through quarter 2 through Dr Karl Thomas workshops, individual meetings and in person meetings in Sport Ireland.

I also supported the staff of Offaly SP to deliver Africa Day, and a number of regional athletics days for primary schools in Offaly.

Quarter 3– July to September



After meeting with international protection applicants (IPA) residing in the Fisherman's Rest in Edenderry, the women expressed a need to exercise as well as the securing of opportunities to get out into their new community.

As a result of this consultation, an eight week women's only exercise programme was delivered by tutors of Offaly SP catering for 12 IPA women

The male IPA residents in the Fisherman's Rest enquired about cricket. As a result, I linked in with Cricket Leinster to organise a trip to North Kildare Cricket Club who hosted a match for the Edenderry men against a team from City West in Dublin, another IPA centre.

Three of the men living in Edenderry have now made applications for membership to the North Kildare Cricket Club for 2025.



Building on the success of the pilot initiatives above, a more sustainable activity for the IPA residents proved to be volleyball, which was facilitated through the Sport4Empowerment programme, supported by the local authority integration team (LAIT).

What started out as a social inclusion week initiative turned into a twice weekly volleyball night in the newly established Edenderry Volleyball Club; with 15 IPA now club members.

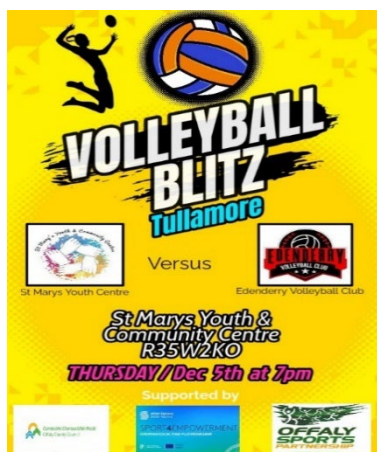


Quarter 4– October to December

Given the popularity and growth in the numbers of IPA adults playing volleyball in Edenderry, a decision was made to try replicate this project in Tullamore.

I facilitated a number of meetings with St Mary's Youth Centre Tullamore and local IPA centres; and as a result, a taster session was delivered which in turn was followed by a four-week coaches led programme in volleyball.





The plan is to now bring together teams from Edenderry and Tullamore for a blitz before year end.

It is also hoped that the social volleyball group playing in Tullamore will look to establish a volleyball club affiliated to Volleyball Ireland in 2025.

Friendship, Integration & Teamwork through Sport (FITtS)

The Friendship, Integration and Teamwork through Sport programme is a dormant account funded initiative managed through the Sport4Empowerment programme.

FITtS is an after schools' project delivered in Banagher, a community which hosts an international protection applicant (IPA) accommodation centre.

Currently there are 26 children, with 50% of those children from the IPA accommodation centre, taking part in a fun programme of sport and fitness in association with children from the host community.

It is anticipated that the programme will encourage children from the IPA accommodation centre to become better integrated within the local community through their progression from the FITtS programme to joining local sports clubs and participating in inter school, inter county and community games events



Swim, Kayak and Water Safety



The poster features a swimmer in the foreground and two smaller images of kayakers. It includes the following text:

OFFALY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

West Offaly Training

An exciting opportunity for adults to develop or learn new skills that could lead to a new hobby or career

Swim, Kayak & Water Safety

The Programme

- Indoor Swimming Assessment
- Introduction to Kayak
- Safety and Rescue
- Water Safety Skills

CONTACT

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Email: dmccaffrey@offalycoco.ie

LOCATION

BIRR Leisure Centre

Starting Thursday November 28th - 11am-12pm. PLACES LIMITED

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SPORT IRELAND

OFFALY SPORTS

0862010013

A second Dormant Accounts funded programme with a focus on swim, kayak and water safety skills is also being managed through the Sport4Empowerment Programme.

This initiative is for adults of an ethnic minority background residing in South and West Offaly to equip them with the competencies to pursue future training for leadership or work in water-based sports.

10 participants have recently started the programme, with recruitment ongoing to fill the last few places.

For more information on the Sport4Empowerment programme, contact David on 0862010013 or by email to dmccaffrey@offalycoco.ie