



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Compiled by the 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.

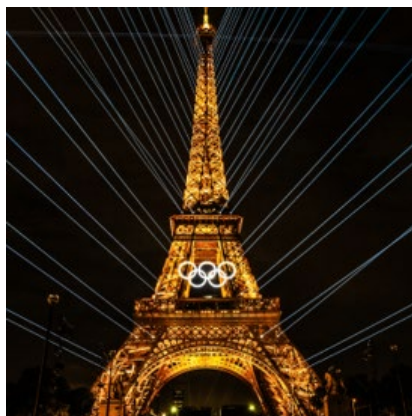
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SECTION 1 - 2024, A YEAR IN REVIEW

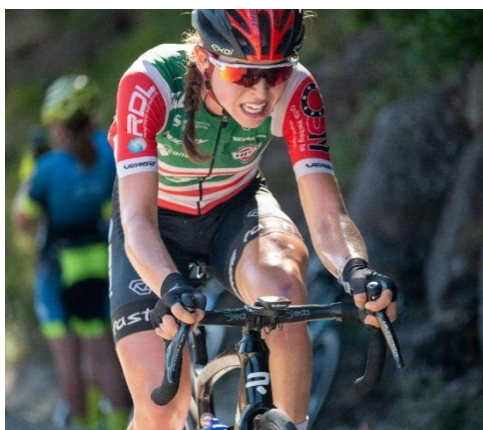
1.1 Notable Sports Successes

2024 proved to be an extremely successful sporting year for Offaly with the county punching above its weight on the international stage.



At the Paris Olympics / Paralympics, eight of the county's leading sportspeople represented Team Ireland in a variety of sports.

Based on population, Offaly had over three times as many competitors on the Irish team when compared to the national average.



Shinrone's Megan Armitage was Ireland's sole competitor in road cycling.

Competing against 91 other top cyclists in the 158km race, Megan placed 35th in her first Olympic Games.



Megan Burns from Gorteen was a member of the Irish Women's Rugby 7s team which qualified for their first Olympics.

A key member of the team, Megan lined out in all six matches contested.

In their first outing on the Olympic stage, the Irish women's team placed eighth overall.



Jordan Conroy from Tullamore competed at his second Olympic Games with the Irish men's Rugby 7s team.

He scored the opening try in the first match of the Games against South Africa before picking up an injury in the second game against New Zealand. The Irish men's team placed sixth overall, an improvement of three places on their debut Olympics in Tokyo.



Josephine Healton from Cappincur competed in her first Paralympics in tandem cycling in the B2 category.

Competing in four races, she finished 7th in the 1,000m track time trial, 5th in the 3,000m track pursuit, 5th in the 28.3km road time trial and 4th in the 99.4km road race.

Following the Paris Games Josephine competed in the UCI Para-cycling World Road Racing Championships in Zurich, picking up a bronze medal in the 84.7km race.



Belmont's Darragh Kenny was selected for his second Olympics in showjumping.

In Paris, Darragh was the reserve rider for the Irish team.

Following the Olympics, Darragh competed in the Dublin Horse Show at the RDS, where he won the Sport Ireland Classic on the opening day.



Golfer Shane Lowry from Clara competed in his second Olympic Games.

Testament to the high esteem in which he is held, Shane and Limerick athlete, Sarah Lavin, were selected as Irish flag bearers for the opening ceremony.

Shane finished 26th overall in Paris.

His best performance in 2024 came in the Zurich Classic of New Orleans which he won with playing partner Rory McIlroy.



Nicole Turner from Garryhinch competed in two events in her third Paralympic Games in the S6 swim category.

She finished 5th in the 50m freestyle and 6th in the 50m butterfly.

Nicole also competed in the European Para-Swimming championships in Madeira where she won one gold, one silver and two bronze medals.



Grainne Walsh from Tullamore qualified for her first Olympics in the welterweight boxing category.

Having reclaimed her national title at the end of 2023 following a long comeback from injury, Grainne competed in two qualifying tournaments to claim her place at the Games where she exited in the round of 32.



To acknowledge their achievements, Offaly County Council and Offaly Sports Partnership hosted a civic reception in honour of the County's Olympians and Paralympians. This is the highest honour the elected members, on behalf of the people of Offaly, can bestow.

Other Competitors on the International Stage

Rugby continues to enjoy growth in the county with players progressing up through the ranks.

In 2024 Aoife Dalton's was selected for the Irish Women's six nations squad, while Cormac Izuchukwu became the first man from Offaly to be capped on an Irish Rugby Union senior team.



Aoife Dalton



Cormac Izuchukwu

In athletics, Offaly was strongly represented in female categories at the European cross-country championships.

Ann Maria McGlynn (nee Larkin) who hails from Mucklagh and now lives in Donegal, won the national cross-country title. She also won the Dublin City marathon.

Tullamore's Danielle Donegan finished third in the national cross-country championship and was also selected on the Irish senior team.

At U-23 level, two Tullamore Harriers athletes based in the US were selected; Laura Mooney (Cappincur), and Ava O'Connor (Emo, Laois)



Left to right: Danielle Donegan, Ava O'Connor, Laura Mooney, Ann Maria McGlynn

Hurling Success

2024 saw a continued revival of hurling success in the county with the U-20 team winning both the Leinster and All Ireland titles, and the senior team winning the Joe McDonagh Cup.



All Ireland u20 James Nowlan Cup winners



Joe Mc Donagh Cup winner

Major Sporting Event



For a second year Offaly played host to a stage of Ras Tailteann. The first stage of the Ras set out from O'Connor Square in Tullamore to Kilmallock in Co. Limerick with competitors from at home and abroad competing.

1.2 Sports Partnership Operational Environment 2024

Budgetary

Continuing investment through various agencies including Sport Ireland, Dormant Accounts, the Health Services Executive, TUSLA, Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and other funding partners resulted in Offaly Sports Partnership securing just under €750,000 in financial contributions to deliver its range of programmes for the year.

In addition to this investment, the Healthy Offaly programme budget of €75,000 and Offaly County Council's €30,000 funding scheme for National Governing Bodies of Sport were both managed by the Sports Partnership.

Increased Staff Compliment

Two new roles were created within Offaly Sports Partnership in 2024 due to increased investment from Sport Ireland: -

- i. Liam O Reilly was appointed to the role of Programmes' Manager. This middle management function is fully funded by Sport Ireland
- ii. David McCaffrey joined the team as the Social Innovation through Sport Officer. This position is funded through the European Social Fund

These new fully funded positions are a very welcome addition to the Sports Partnership. Nonetheless there is still a shortfall in funding for development officers' posts due to incremental salaries, and a cap on the maximum allocations from Sport Ireland. An increase in funding for the development officers' posts was secured for 2025, but there will still be a salary shortfall going forward.

Additional Staffing in 2024

Johnny Corboy completed his 11-month placement with Offaly Sports Partnership. He was retained to the end of the year to provide staff cover. He covered Jean Brady's role while she was on maternity leave. He later covered the role vacated by Liam O Reilly when he was appointed as Programmes Manager.



Heather Murphy, a third-year student at the Technological University of the Shannon, also completed a six-month placement with the Sports Partnership before travelling to the United States on a two year athletics scholarship at Montreat University, North Carolina.

SECTION 2 - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, WORKING GROUPS & STAFFING

2.1 Management Committee

In 2024, the Management Committee of Offaly Sports Partnership comprised representation from: -

- Three partner agencies, namely Offaly County Council, the Health Services Executive (HSE) and the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), Athlone Campus
- Three public representatives, one from each municipal district. Following local elections in May and Offaly County Council's annual meeting in June, the representatives on the management committee changed
- Eight representatives (four male and four female) from the sport and voluntary sector

The work of the management committee was supported by two working groups: -

- i. The executive committee comprising of the chairperson, vice chair, financial monitor, a representative of the sports sector and the County Council's representative. The executive met as necessary where decisions needed to be taken between management committee meetings
- ii. The governance and risk working group which met to review internal policy and compliance with the governance code for sport

Agency Representatives



Lourda Giles, Offaly County Council



Clodagh Armitage, HSE



Joe Meegan, TUS

Public Representatives (January to June 2024)



Cllr Clare Claffey, Birr MD



Cllr Robert Mc Dermott, Edenderry MD



Cllr Danny Owens, Tullamore MD

Public Representatives (July to December 2024)



*Cllr Audrey Kennedy Hennessy
Birr MD*



*Cllr Fergus Mc Donnell,
Edenderry MD*



*Cllr Ollie Bryant
Tullamore MD*

Sport & Voluntary Sector Representatives (male)



Sean Campbell



Jude Feehan



Van Gillissen



Ray Spain

Sport & Voluntary Sector Representatives (female)



Ciara Ní Chéilleachair



Eileen O'Neill



Carol Scott



Breege Loftus

2.2 Appreciation of Former Members

At its AGM in September 2024, tribute was paid to four former long serving members, (John Carroll, Robert Mc Dermott, Danny Owens and Miriam O Callaghan) to acknowledge their commitment to sport, the Sports Partnership and public life in the County



Jude Feehan & John Carroll



Lourda Giles & Robert Mc Dermott



Cllr Ollie Bryant & Danny Owens



Miriam O Callaghan

2.3 Staffing in 2024

In 2024, 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), Community Sports Development Officer (CSDO) and ACE Coordinator roles were funded by Sport Ireland to a maximum value of €35,000 each; with Jean Brady (SIDO), Denise Coghill (CSDO) and Liam O Reilly continuing in their respective positions.
- Liam O Reilly secured a promotion to the post of Programme Manager with the Sports Partnership. This new role is also 100% funded by Sport Ireland
- Johnny Corboy continued in the role of Sport Ireland ASPIRE graduate. He coordinated the delivery of the Sports Inclusion Development Programme in the first half of the year during Jean's maternity leave; and the ACE programme in the second half of the year following Liam's promotion
- David Mc Caffrey joined the staff of the Sports Partnership in February as the ESF+ funded *"Social Innovation through Sport Officer"* tasked with fostering inclusive sport for target groups such as youth at risk, ethnic minorities and migrants (including asylum seekers) throughout the county
- A third level student from the Technological University of the Shannon, Heather Murphy completed a six-month placement with the Sports Partnership.
- Offaly Sports Partnership also facilitated the line management of the Healthy Offaly Coordinator, Dermot Egan on behalf of Offaly County Council



Eamonn Henry, Coordinator



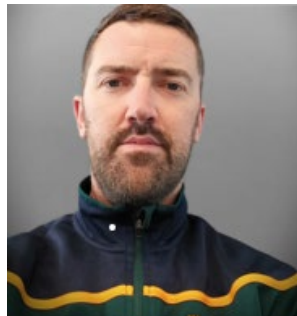
Olivia Murphy, Administrator



Jean Brady, SIDO



Denise Coghill, CSDO



*Liam O Reilly, ACE Coordinator /
Programme Manager*



Johnny Corboy, ASPIRE



*David Mc Caffrey, ESF+ Social Innovation
through Sport Officer*



*Heather Murphy
Student placement*



*Dermot Egan
Healthy Offaly Coordinator*

2.4 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, Daingean, Mucklagh and Ballycumber; and our contracted tutors.

The South Offaly Sports Hub (operating out of the Crinkle Sport and Recreation Centre), the Daingean Sports Hub (operating of the Daingean Community Sports Hall on the grounds of Daingean GAA), the Mucklagh Sports Hub (operating out of Mucklagh Community Centre) and the Ballycumber Sports Hub (operating out of the Ballycumber Activity 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 their facilities.

Contracted tutors supported the delivery of education and training programmes, the sports inclusion disability programme, school programmes and women in sport programmes.

SECTION 3 – IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVE OFFALY



Across 2024, Offaly Sports Partnership continued to implement its five year strategy, “*Active Offaly 2021 – 2025*” with five thematic pillars guiding the work of the Sports Partnership: -

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 were delivered in 2024 in support of this commitment.

Two programmes (spring athletics and “Fast Feet”) under the ACE schools’ programme were delivered for over half the primary schools in the county. Over 5,000 pupils from first to sixth class availed of the programmes.



Spring athletics



Fast Feet

Testimonial from participating school:

The programme was excellent from start to finish; the quality of coaches provided is top class. As for the regional days and the final day - well they were just so well organised. Everyone involved deserves so much credit. I really think you should be promoting the programme more in the media as it is wonderful to see so many children engaged in athletics and the positive spin off this programme could result in many young children joining their local athletics club, A big well done to all involved.

In school & After schools’ programmes In addition to the “ACE Schools programme”, the Sports Partnership also supported the delivery of two in school and after schools’ programmes (boxing, and soccer) across six schools and two community locations.



Boxing



Soccer

Pillar 2 - Increase Adult & Older Adult Participation

A range of actions in the areas of increasing adult and older adult participation in sport and physical activity were delivered in 2024.

- The Healthy Offaly funded “Drop & Move” programme. This programme was delivered in nine locations catering for over 125 adults and older adults
- 100 adults and older adults availed of a variety of exercise and fitness classes through the community sports development programme and community sports hubs in Daingean, Mucklagh and Ballycumber. Among the classes provided were activator poles, hitt (high intensity training), Pilates, strength and conditioning and yoga
- The 2023 / 2024 older adult boccia league concluded in the first quarter of the year, while the 2024 / 2025 league commenced in winter. Between 100 and 125 older adults participate on this programmes annually
- The Community Sports Development Officer piloted a six week older adult in sport morning programme for 175 adults in Mucklagh Sports Hub
- The Community Sports Development Officer also delivered a series of recreational sporting programmes for over 120 adults and older adults in various locations (Ballycumber, Edenderry, Killeigh and Mucklagh). Among the recreational sporting programmes delivered were meet & train programmes, social dancing, social darts, pickleball and walking football



Drop & Move



Activator poles



Older adult boccia



Recreational sport sessions - Pickleball

Supporting Local Clubs deliver participation programmes

In 2024 the Sports Partnership supported efforts of athletic clubs, cycling clubs and a triathlon club to increase adult participation in their respective sports.

Athletics (Recreational Running / Jogging)



Through Healthy Offaly, athletic clubs in Offaly continued to be sponsored to deliver local couch to 5k programmes and host local 5k road runs. Eight athletic clubs hosted such runs with Healthy Offaly being the lead sponsor of the Offaly 5k Road Race Series. An average of 300+ participants take part in these events.

Cycling

Through Bike Week funding secured from the National Transport Authority, cycling clubs were engaged in the Grand Canal Greenway cycle relay and three clubs played host to local events during the week.

Triathlon

Tullamore Triathlon club was supported to subsidise the cost of an introduction to triathlon for beginners. This programme saw the club provide running, cycling and swim training for 16 adults new to the sport

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 to partake in sport and physical activity.

In 2024, this work was led out by our development officers, Jean Brady in the area of inclusive sport for people with additional needs / disabilities; Denise Coghill in the area of community sports; and David McCaffrey in the area of inclusive sport for youth at risk, ethnic minorities and migrants. Liam O'Reilly (ACE Coordinator), Johnny Corboy (ASPIRE graduate), Heather Murphy (student placement), and various tutors assisted in the delivery of the targeted sports programmes.

The following pages provide a synopsis of the Sports Partnership's work in supporting the participation of those least active, with interventions reaching five of the identified low participation groups, including: -

- i. Disadvantaged and Low income communities
- ii. Older adults – see pillar 2 for information on the older adult programmes delivered
- iii. People with additional needs / disabilities
- iv. People of an ethnic minority background including asylum seekers
- v. Women & Girls

3.1 Disadvantaged and Low Income communities

Among the programmes delivered to support the participation of disadvantaged and low income communities in sport and physical activity were: -

- Games on the green / Community sports days. Delivered in association with the Housing Section of Offaly County Council, 11 games on the green / community sports days were supported across seven local authority housing estates during the year catering for 100 children aged 6 – 12 years
- Community Games return to sport programmes in four locations (Banagher, Daingean, Ferbane and Rhode) catering for 250 children
- Secondary schools' & Youth diversion supports in three locations in the county
- Term time camps for children aged 6 – 13 years in Mucklagh Sports Hub. Participants got to try out a wide variety of sports such as badminton, basketball, pickleball, soccer and much more as well as fun games during these camps
- July provision days for eight schools and over 100 children
- A summer programme for children aged 7+ years in Ballycumber Sports Hub. Delivered over six weeks, over 300 young people participated across the various programmes which included badminton, dance, dodgeball, futsal, injury prevention for teens, pickleball and rounders



Games on the Green



Community Games return to sport



Positivity / Bí Cineáltas week



July provision days



Term time camps / Summer programme



3.3 People with Additional Needs / Disabilities

Our Sports Inclusion Development Officer continued to support over 650 people with additional needs / disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity programmes including: -

- Five adapted physical activity programmes in schools and for community based disability organisations catering for 100 participants including primary school pupils, post primary school students, adults and older adults
- 1:1 physical activity support programmes for 50 children and young people with additional needs / disabilities
- Four “Learn to” programmes (cycling, horse riding, golf and swimming) for over 175 children with additional needs / disabilities
- Six multi sports camps for 190 children with additional needs / disabilities and their siblings during the summer
- Three recreational sports days / programmes for 150 people with additional needs / disabilities including primary school pupils, post primary school students, adults and older adults, and people with physical and sensory disabilities



Banagher College / IWA Sport Boccia



“Learn to” programmes



Older adult in sport mornings for people
with additional needs



Multi-sport camps

3.4 People of an Ethnic Minority Background

David Mc Caffrey, who joined the staff of the Sports Partnership in February oversaw delivery of various interventions targeting people of an ethnic minority background.



Physical activity supports for people in IPA accomadation.

With the support of the Local Authority Integration Team, David met with residents of the International Protection Accommodation Services in Edenderry. As a result of this meeting, three programmes were delivered including exercise classes for women, cricket for men and social volleyball for all. Following the success of the Edenderry social volleyball, a second social volleyball programme commenced in Tullamore. Across the four programmes, 50 international protection applicants (IPAs) were facilitated to participate; and two new volleyball clubs have been established, one in Edenderry and one in Tullamore

Water activities programme. A Dormant Accounts funded programme with a focus on swim, kayak and water safety skills commenced delivery in late 2024 for 10 adults of an ethnic minority background residing in South and West Offaly. The programme is designed to equip participants with the competencies to pursue future training for leadership or work in water-based sports.

The *Friendship, Integration and Teamwork Through Sport (FITTs)* programme was a second dormant account funded initiative delivered as an after schools' project in Banagher, a community which hosts an international protection accommodation services (IPAS) centre. 26 children, (with 50% of an ethnic minority background), took part in the winter element of the programme. This programme built on earlier work undertaken by the Sports Partnership in supporting integration through Community Games. Over 60 children participated on this programme.

3.5 Women & Girls

Various programmes were delivered to support the participation of women and girls in sport and physical activity throughout 2024 including: -

- i. Women in Sport week
- ii. HER Outdoors week
- iii. HER Moves

Offaly Sports Partnership's third annual women in sport week was held in March with several activities supported as illustrated: -



Rugby



3v3 basketball



Futsal



Camogie



Pauline Curley Relay Marathon



Launch of SHE TUS Research



Social Basketball

SEACHTAIN AMUIGH FAOIN AER DI

HER OUTDOORS WEEK

August saw the delivery of Offaly Sports Partnership's third annual "HER Outdoors" week between the 12th and 18th. HER Outdoors week is designed to encourage women and girls to #FindYourOutdoors and #EmbraceYourSpace. Various events took place as illustrated: -

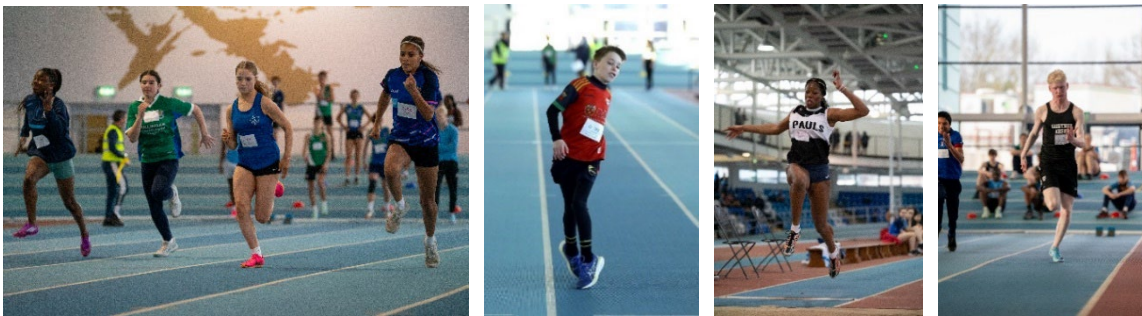


Towards the end of the year, the Sports Partnership's kicked off its second "HER Moves programme. This programme is designed to inspire and support more inactive teenage girls to become and remain active in sport and physical activity. 160 post primary school students in Tullamore are being reached through the programme.

Pillar 4 – Integrate & Celebrate

In addition to the ESF+ funded Sport4Empowerment Programme managed by David Mc Caffrey, Offaly Sports Partnership also delivered two events to encourage the integration of children with additional needs / disabilities, and children of an ethnic minority background into mainstream sport.

- “Diversity Games” & “Para Athletics” festival. Delivered in association with Athletics Ireland and Paralympics Ireland, this two day festival catered for 750 young people from 30 primary and post primary schools across the country in the international indoor arena in Athlone



Diversity Games / Future Star

- Offaly Sports Partnership’s third annual Africa Day event in the Tullamore Harriers. Over 300 participants from seven counties and nine schools took part, with one third of the participants being children of African descent



Congratulatory notes also issued to several sports people, sports teams and sports volunteers; and a civic reception was hosted to honour Offaly’s Olympians and Paralympians in December.

Pillar 5 - Improve Capacity & Inform the Sector

A range of actions were delivered to address the various elements associated with the pillar of improving capacity and informing the sector. Among the actions delivered were: -

- i. community sports hubs
- iii. funding supports
- ii. education & training programmes
- iv. urban outdoor adventure

Community Sports Hubs

In 2024, three community sports hubs were operating in Offaly: -

Established in 2020, the Daingean Sports Hub operates out of the Daingean Community Sports Centre at Daingean GAA; and was managed by Johnny Corboy and Liam O Reilly



Community
Sports Hub

Established in 2022, the Mucklagh Sports Hub operates out of the Mucklagh Community Centre; and was managed by Liam O Reilly while Jean Brady was on maternity leave



MUCKLAGH
COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB

Established in 2023, the Ballycumber Sports Hub operates out of the Ballycumber Activity Centre at Ballycumber GAA; and was managed by Denise Coghill



Community
Sports Hub

The Community Sports Hubs are made possible with funding from Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts; and have a focus on bringing local people together to provide a home for local clubs and sporting organisations, thereby increasing the number of people of all ages participating in sport and physical activity in their communities.

Various programmes catering for over 750 people including children and young people, adults and older adults, and people with additional needs / disabilities were outreached to schools, community groups and sports clubs across the three sports hubs.

Education & Training programmes

In 2024, Offaly Sports Partnership delivered several education and training programmes including: -

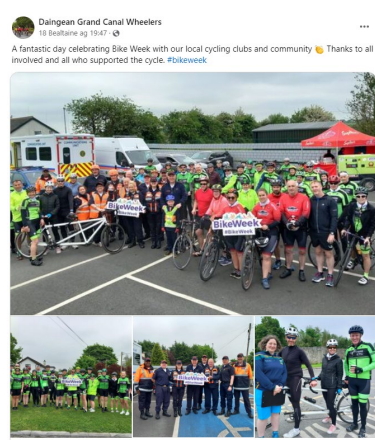
- *“i coach kids”* – in association with Sport Ireland Coaching and Laois Sports Partnership, Offaly Sports Partnership hosted the “i coach kids” programme for 50 volunteers in September
- *safeguarding* (child protection training) - Mick Curley delivered five programmes for 75 volunteers
- *sports leader training* – following the success of our 2023 sports leader training in post primary schools, Offaly Sports Partnership continued to facilitate delivery of this training. Over 120 students from four post primary schools availed of the training which is a mix of theory and practical work with a focus on leadership skills, fundamental movement skills and adapted physical activities. The students also get an introduction to the work of the Sports Partnership when they support us to deliver events as part of the practical element of this programme
- *volunteer supports* – volunteers from several clubs were supported to avail of training in first aid and coach qualifications in athletics, camogie, canoeing and GAA disciplines

Funding supports

Offaly Sports Partnership continued to support clubs, organisations and schools to secure funding through local funding schemes including bike week, club development, the sports capital & equipment programme, energy support and Offaly County Council’s supports for National Governing Bodies of Sport delivering grassroots programmes in Offaly.

Three cycling clubs (Daingean Grand Canal Wheelers, Lynx Cycling Club and Tullamore Cycling & Touring Club) were supported to host cycling events as part of *Bike Week 2024*. Among the programmes delivered were Daingean Bike Week, Ferbane Bike Week, Rás Tailteann (stage 1 start) and the Grand Canal Greenway Cycle Relay.

Daingean Grand Canal Wheelers hosted the *“Tour De Peatlands”* on Saturday, 4th May and a school cycle day on Friday, 17th May. Lynx Cycling Club hosted a *“Women on Wheels”* programme on Monday, 13th May and a school cycle day on Friday, 17th May. Tullamore Cycling & Touring Club were heavily involved in hosting the stage 1 start for the *“Rás Tailteann”* in Tullamore on Wednesday, 14th May. All three clubs also supported the delivery of Offaly Sports Partnership’s second annual Grand Canal Greenway Relay.



23 clubs / organistaions secured €15,000 in club development grant funding: -

Birr MD	Edenderry MD	Tullamore MD
Banagher Snooker & Billiards Club	Edenderry Juvenile Athletics Club	Clara Town Soccer Club
Brosna Gaels Camogie Club	Edenderry Golf Club	Coolraine Soccer Club
Ferbane Athletics Club	Edenderry Rugby Club	Mucklagh Community Centre
Kilcormac / Killoughey GAA / LGF Club	St Brigid's Boxing Club	Spartacus Boxing Club
Killoughey Badminton Club	St Brigid's Social Club	St Sinchill's Camogie Club
Lynx Cycling Club		Tullamore Camogie Club
Moneygall Soccer Club		Tullamore Cycling Club
		Tullamore Hockey Club
		Tullamore LGF Club
		Tullamore Rugby Club
		Tullamore Squash Club

49 projects secured €15,245,188 under the 2023 Sports Capital & Equipment Programme announced in the course of 2024. The breakdown of this funding is detailed below: -

- 38 clubs / organisations secured €5,023,539 for capital developments
- seven clubs / organisations secured €258,095 for equipment only purchases
- three clubs / organisations secured €1,063,554 for regional capital developments
- one organisation secured €8,900,000 to rebuild Edenderry Swimming Pool in a new location in the town

Five clubs / organisations secured €5,000 in funding to offset their energy costs via the Sport Ireland supported “energy support scheme”: -

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| i. Edenderry Swimming Pool | iv. St Brigid’s Social Club, Cloneyhurke |
| ii. Moneygall Development Committee | v. St Mary’s Youth Centre, Tullamore |
| iii. Mucklagh Community Centre | |

Offaly County Council also supported the Football Association of Ireland and Leinster Rugby under the National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) scheme to deliver their grassroots programmes for children and young people across Co Offaly. Offaly Sports Partnership on behalf of the local authority administered the €30,000 in grant funding assigned to this programme.

Urban Outdoor Adventure project

Offaly Sports Partnership secured €48,000 in Dormant Account funding via Sport Ireland to deliver an urban outdoor adventure project in Tullamore.

Working alongside Tullamore Canoe Club, the host club for the project, capital funding was used to purchase various items of non-personal paddling equipment including boats, paddles, wetsuits, buoyancy aids, helmets, spray decks and throw bags.

Working alongside West Offaly Training, programme funding was used to deliver: -

- splash and dash days for 700 people from primary and post primary schools, community organisations and youth projects
- canoe polo
- open boating
- summer camps
- canoeing / kayaking for people with additional needs

Over 100 people took part in the summer activities (canoe polo, open boating, summer camps and canoeing / kayaking for people with additional needs).



Schools splash & dash



Community splash & dash



Summer camps



Canoe polo

Go Raibh Míle

2024 was another highly successful year for Offaly Sports Partnership. Staffing increased following the recruitment of the ESF+ funded Social Innovation through Sport Officer. A middle management staffing position of Programmes Manager was created, and the Sports Partnership also hosted a graduate placement and a student placement. Funding of just under €750,000 was secured to support the delivery of the Sports Partnership's 2024 programme of activities, events and programmes.

A large range of activities were delivered reaching children and young people, and various identified low participation groups. The Sports Partnership also continued to assist the sports sector in Offaly in securing investment for ongoing developments.

Sincere thanks to all who supported the work of the Sports Partnership in 2024 including: -

- the 14 members of the Management Committee of Offaly Sports Partnership
- dedicated staff members
- schools, clubs and community organistaions that engaged with Offaly Sports Partnership throughout the year
- external tutors and contractors supporting programme delivery
- funders and local partners including Sport Ireland; Offaly County Council; Dormant Accounts; the Health Services Executive; Healthy Offaly; TUSLA; Technological University of the Shannon, (Athlone); Department of Foreign Affairs / Irish Aid; Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth; and the National Transport Authority

A massive comhgairdeas to the Offaly sports people who represented their county and country proudly on national and international stages.