**Role Profile Community Link Worker**

Main duties and responsibilities;

1.The successful candidate will play a key role in outreach and relationship building within the Carlow Community with individuals and community groups. Using community development approaches they will implement a range of initiatives based on recognised community development best practice.

2 .The community development approach involves individual and collective empowerment, enabling and supporting members of a community (of place, identity or interest) to work collectively, to improve the quality of their lives, their community and their society. The work of the successful candidate will be underpinned by the core values collectively of, community empowerment; social justice and sustainable development; human rights, participation; equality and anti-discrimination.

**Responsibilities will include:**

• Working with local people to establish, develop and/or grow relationships between the community and the relevant local and statutory organisations

• Establish and facilitate events to regularly consult with the local community to inform the work of local services

• Using community development approaches enable and work alongside local people to gain the knowledge, skills and attributes to become leaders within their own community

• With local people, map out the needs of the local community to put required supports and structures in place to address any weaknesses and strengthen the capacity of the local community to engage meaningfully with existing community structures

• Co- work with local people to have community gain projects, be that environmental, recreational, social enterprise, education, social inclusion or others as determined by the local community

* To collaborate with other Community Link Workers and the Community Connection Programme (CCP) Co-Ordinator within the Irish Local Development Network in the researching, developing and expanding of good practice, and engage with the Co-Ordinator where appropriate on evolving situations, persistent barriers to implementation that may require Departmental input.

• To ensure that Carlow County Development Partnership’s value of collaboration is maintained through strong, working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders in the statutory and community sectors including the local authority, local community and voluntary organisations and residents of the area.

**Additional duties and responsibilities include:**

• Developing a suite of capacity building activities to assist community empowerment

• Outreach, engagement and design of responses to the needs of individuals who are new residents of the community

• Following community interest in conjunction with colleagues provide opportunities for individuals to train in leadership and community development reporting

• Developing and implementing evaluation systems to assess the impact of the Community Link Project

• To prepare timely quantitative and qualitative reports on a quarterly basis as required for funders and Carlow County Development Partnership.

**Knowledge & Expertise**

The Community Link Officer should be able to demonstrate experience and expertise in the following areas:

• The successful candidate will be educated to a minimum of QQI level 5. A qualification to degree level in a related field (Community Development, Sociology, Human Sciences etc) is desirable but not essential

• Possess experience at ground level either in a paid or voluntary capacity in community organising

• Group facilitation, relationship building and outreach and engagement skills

• Solid understanding of the principles and process of community development

• Capacity to effectively interact and take a leadership role with a broad range of stakeholders

• Experience of working in paid or unpaid capacity with communities experiencing marginalisation and social exclusion

• Must have knowledge and understanding of the factors impacting on disadvantaged communities

• Must demonstrate an understanding and commitment to social inclusion and social justice

• Must have experience of establishing contact and developing relationships with key stake holders including statutory bodies, and stakeholders in the community and voluntary sectors

**Skills & Competencies - The Community Link Officer should be:**

• Able to work inclusively with communities living in the local area

• In possession of good written (both academic and report/proposal writing), oral communication, facilitation and presentation skills

• The ability to work sensitively and in an empowering way in a community setting

• Flexible, creative with the ability to adapt to a changing and challenging environment

• Able to work in a self-directed manner

• Able to conduct themselves in a way that commands confidence and respect

• Computer literate in dealing with standard MS word systems. Character & Personal Qualities

• Be creative, solution focused, collaborative and forward thinking

• Able to work in a self-directed dynamic manner, and to develop good working relationships with all stakeholders

• Appreciative of the main social, economic and environmental issues currently affecting the sector

• Fair, impartial and open to new ideas and information