

Liffey



PARTNERSHIP



Realising Potential
Transforming
Communities

2025 ANNUAL
REPORT

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Company Information

Chairperson: Michael O'Riordan **Company Secretary:** Teresa Dunphy

Directors: Michael O'Riordan (Chairperson), Terry Hobdell, Patricia Cassells, Hazel De Nortúin, Gwen Redmond, Daithí Doolan, Martin Gore, Warren Dempsey, Eleanor Burke, Ray Cunningham, Peter Kavanagh (resigned February 2025), Jennifer Courtney (resigned December 2025), Dave O'Donovan (resigned September 2025), Janine Zube (appointed December 2025), Michael Kelly (appointed February 2026), Lisa Clancy (appointed February 2026).

Company Number: 252413

Charity Number: 20033958

Registered Office: 4 Drumfinn Park, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, D10AY66

Auditors: GSW Faulkner Orr. Dublin: Second Floor, One Stephen Street, Dublin 8, D08 DR9P

Solicitors: Arthur Mclean & Co 50A Patrick Street Dublin D08Y53

Introduction: **Leading Integrated Community Support in Ireland**

Liffey Partnership continues to demonstrate national leadership in the delivery of Government funded programmes by placing people, not programmes, at the centre of everything we do. In 2025, our integrated model once again proved its strength by enabling residents of Ballyfermot, Cherry Orchard and surrounding areas to move through services seamlessly, confidently and with dignity.

Across employment, education, family support, early years, health and community development, our work is grounded in five defining strengths that set Liffey Partnership at the forefront of community-led local development

- **One organisation**, multiple supports, one continuous journey ensuring that every person who enters our doors has access to a full spectrum of coordinated services.
- **Integrated services** that place the person, not the programme, at the centre, driving meaningful and sustained progression.
- **Seamless collaboration** between departments that supports whole person outcomes and removes the silos often seen in traditional service models.
- **Evidence-led community action**, shaped by strong research, multi-agency partnerships and a shared commitment to tackling inequality.
- **A unified system with single registration**, shared CRM and coordinated pathways generates real outcomes with individuals, families and the wider community.

This approach ensures that all Government and other funded programmes we deliver, from Employment Services, and Tús, to Family Matters, Health and Wellbeing, Community Development, Enterprise Supports, Lifelong Learning and more, operate not as standalone offerings, but as interconnected pathways. Every programme builds on another. Every team works collectively. Every client journey is designed, monitored and supported through one cohesive organisational system.

As a result, Liffey Partnership continues to deliver high-quality, accountable, people-centred public services, strengthens community wellbeing, and supports Government priorities for inclusion, employment, lifelong learning and social justice.

This is integrated service
delivery in action.

This is Liffey Partnership.



Chairpersons Welcome

In December 2025, I was honoured to be nominated and elected by my fellow Directors as Chairperson of Liffey Partnership. It is with great pride that I present the 2025 Annual Report, reflecting a year of meaningful progress and community impact.



Following our rebranding and name change in 2024, 2025 saw Liffey Partnership's refreshed identity fully integrated into our work. Our commitment to serving the communities we represent remains at the core of our efforts, with our values guiding everything we do as a community-led local development company. We listen, research, and respond attentively to the needs and aspirations of those we serve.

As a community-led organisation, our mission is to be a unifying force, bringing people together to build a fairer, more just society for all. We foster connections between individuals and neighbourhoods, creating space for diverse voices to be heard, respected, and celebrated.

A significant highlight from 2025 was the launch of a major research project on food poverty across our community. This insightful study not only highlighted the harsh realities many families face in securing adequate nourishment but also inspired the formation of the multi-agency Dublin 10 Food Alliance - a collaborative effort to confront and reduce food poverty.

I am continually encouraged by the dedication and belief of Liffey Partnership's staff in the potential and capacity of local people. From supporting individuals' return to education and lifelong learning, to encouraging entrepreneurial ventures and community leadership, our teams make a real difference every day. At our Board of Management meetings, project staff regularly update us with inspiring reports on the positive impact of our work, effectively linking governance with tangible community outcomes. Our efforts are grounded in the principle of equity, striving to bridge gaps and connecting people to opportunities.

As a registered charity, we uphold the highest standards of accountability and governance. I am pleased to confirm that we remain fully compliant with the Charities Governance Code and the requirements of the Companies Registration Office. Our Annual Financial Statements for 2025, published alongside this report, transparently detail how public funds have been managed in alignment with our 2024-2028 strategic plan. These and other key documents are available on our website at www.liffeypartnership.ie

Our programmes span a wide range of services, engaging people at all stages of life - from early childhood to older age - and addressing needs including parenting, family support, social inclusion, education, health, well-being, employment, and self-employment. Beyond individuals and families, we also collaborate closely with local community groups, statutory agencies and social enterprises that enrich the fabric of our neighbourhoods.

Throughout this report, you will see the scale and breadth of our 2025 activities. None of this work would be possible without the commitment and funding from our valued partners: the Department of Rural and Community Development, Dublin City Council, the Department of Social Protection, the Health Service Executive, Tusla, and the Ballyfermot Drugs and Alcohol Task Force. On the ground, these programmes are delivered by a dedicated staff team under the strong leadership of our CEO, Anne Fitzgerald.

Finally, as a charity, we rely heavily on the generosity and expertise of our voluntary Board of Directors. I am proud to serve alongside such committed individuals who freely give their time and skills to ensure Liffey Partnership achieves its goals and meets all its legal responsibilities. To my fellow Directors, I extend my sincere thanks - your dedication makes all our work possible.

Michael O’Riordan

Chairperson

May 2026

*Michael making
a presentation to
outgoing chairperson
Jennifer Courtney*



Introduction from CEO

As CEO of Liffey Partnership, I am pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report. The Annual Report is shaped not only by data, but by the stories, experiences, and voices of the individuals and communities who engaged with us throughout the year. Their lived experiences are at the heart of everything we do and are the true measure of our impact.



At Liffey Partnership we are guided by a deep commitment to inclusion, diversity, and equality in all aspects of our work. We describe our approach as collaborative and integrated. We recognise that we are one of many organisations - both statutory and voluntary - working to make our communities better places to live, work, and play. In addressing complex challenges, particularly poverty and social exclusion, partnership and collaboration are essential to delivering effective, responsive, and sustainable supports.

Placing individuals and communities at the centre of our work shapes how we design and deliver our services. Our integrated delivery model is supported by shared systems and practices, including cross-programme staff engagement, a unified registration process, and a centralised client management system. This enables a seamless experience for those we support, ensuring that services respond flexibly to individual needs rather than requiring individuals to fit rigid programme criteria. At its core, Liffey Partnership is a person-first organisation, committed to providing the right support at the right time.

This approach requires ongoing engagement with our funders to ensure both effectiveness and accountability. We are grateful for their continued support and openness to this model, which demonstrates that a person-centred approach can be successfully delivered within strong governance frameworks. As a learning organisation, we value this partnership and the opportunity to co-create and shape responsive programmes together.

In 2025, our integrated model delivered meaningful outcomes across our communities. We welcomed 1,518 new clients, supported 2,543

individuals, and engaged 468 families through parenting and family support programmes. A total of 122 individuals progressed to further and higher education, while 397 people accessed health and wellbeing supports through Sláintecare Healthy Communities. Employment guidance was provided to 1,035 individuals, and through the Tús programme, 175 participants contributed 177,450 hours of work placement support to community groups.

Liffey Partnership delivers its work across five core areas: Social Inclusion and Employment Services, the Family Matters (Area Based Childhood Programme), the Empowering Communities Programme, and a growing suite of Health and Wellbeing initiatives. In total, we delivered 22 projects spanning community development, lifelong learning, older persons' supports, recovery and mental health services, enterprise, employment, and school and family support. Our community garden initiative continues to contribute to our climate action commitments.

Our achievements are made possible by the dedication and commitment of many. I would like to sincerely thank our Chairperson Michael O Riordan for his leadership and inspiration, the Directors of Liffey Partnership for their governance and guidance, and the management team and staff whose professionalism, compassion, and enthusiasm drive our work every day.

We are also deeply grateful to our funders, including the Department of Rural and Community Development, Dublin City Council, Tusla, the Health Service Executive, and the Department of Social Protection, for their continued support and partnership.

Finally, I would like to thank the individuals and communities who continue to place their trust in us. Your stories, aspirations, and experiences guide and challenge us to continually improve. We welcome your feedback and reflections as we continue our work together.

Anne Fitzgerald

Chief Executive Officer

May 2026



Meet Our Board

All Directors serve defined terms on the Board of Liffey Partnership. They are drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds with a focus on particular skills, sectoral representation, and a strong link to local resident and target group representation. All directors serve as volunteers and receive no remuneration for their participation. In particular, the directors are selected based on their commitment to the mission and values of Liffey Partnership along with their skills.

Michael O’Riordan

Michael O’Riordan, a Liffey Partnership Director since 2025, took up the role of Chair in December 2025 following nomination and selection by his fellow Directors of the Board. Michael is a native of Stoneybatter who retired in 2023 after a long career spanning many disciplines from his early work as a bricklayer, a training instructor, Training Centre Manager, and Community Services Manager in FAS in Dublin North. Michael was then Area Manager for the Department of Social Protection in Finglas. From 2017, he was Programme Manager for the Implementation of the actions in the Mulvey Report for Dublin’s North East Inner City, a social and economic development initiative of the Department of An Taoiseach. Michael has been a champion of Partnership working and values since the commencement of Partnership Companies in 1991.



Daithi Doolan

Daithi is a long-term Director of Liffey Partnership. A councillor in Ballyfermot-Drimnagh since 2014, Daithi hopes to continue working to improve local services and make our communities safer, welcoming places to live and work in. As a member of the Council’s Housing Committee, Daithi has been an advocate for the homeless and for social and affordable housing. As an active trade unionist for 25 years, Daithi is involved in many campaigns including Dublin’s fire fighters’ struggle for better pay and conditions. Daithi is also working to bring the bin service back into public ownership. He is a key worker in a community-based drug rehabilitation project. Daithi is a member of the Drugs Task Force, Bluebell Community Council, local policing forum, and on the Board of Directors for Familibase.



Eleanor Burke

Eleanor Burke (known as Ellie) joined Liffey Partnership in November 2024 as a Community Voluntary Board Member. Ellie is currently employed as a member of the Finance team of The Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and also looks after the Finances of Craol Community Radio. She brings over 25 years' experience in administration and accounts in the not-for-profit sector and is also a member of the Audit, Finance and HR committee of Liffey Partnership. Ellie's previous roles included accounts administrator of FusionCPL, Frontline Make Change Addiction Service and Operations Officer of Exchange House Ireland National Traveller Service. Ellie currently resides in Ballyfermot and has, for many years, had links to the area through work and family. She enjoys giving back to the community and has volunteered in previous roles.



Gwen Redmond

Gwen Redmond is an Adult Education Officer with City of Dublin ETB. Gwen joined as a Board Director in 2024. She has twenty years' experience in the Adult Education sector in the areas of Literacy, Communication Education, Back to Education Initiatives and Adult Guidance provision. Gwen leads a team of over 70 staff in City of Dublin ETB, providing education programmes to over 4000 beneficiaries annually in the Dublin South Central region. Gwen has previous and ongoing experience with board and committee work, including the Dolphin Regeneration Board, Dublin 12 Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce, NALA and BAM Community Benefits Oversight Committee.



Hazel De Nortúin

Hazel is a long-term Director of Liffey Partnership. Hazel is a Dublin City Councillor for the Ballyfermot-Drimnagh Ward and a Gaeilgeoir with a passion for social change. From her time as a Community Employment supervisor, she brings both a knowledge of the needs of people who are unemployed and an enthusiasm for and knowledge of social enterprise. Hazel is a founder of Teanga Beo Naionra and Cafe Glic - both based in Ballyfermot to promote the everyday use of Gaeilge. Interested in Public Housing and social change generally, Hazel is currently focused on advocating for improvement in domestic violence services and resources.



Janine Zube

Janine Zube-Lawlor joined the Board as a Director in February 2026. Janine is a community representative on the Board of Liffey Partnership. Janine is an accomplished senior leader in health and social care, with over two decades of experience delivering and governing disability and community services across Ireland and Germany. She currently serves as Disability Network Manager within the HSE, where she leads the delivery of integrated, high-quality services across the Dublin North Central region, ensuring compliance with statutory frameworks. Janine has a strong track record in strategic leadership, service transformation, and governance. Her leadership spans service design, policy development, financial oversight, and quality assurance, with a consistent focus on person-centred, family-focused care. Her work as Board volunteer is underpinned by a commitment to inclusion, equality, and continuous service improvement.



Lisa Clancy

Lisa Clancy is a community representative as a Director of Liffey Partnership; she joined the Board in March 2026. A Cherry Orchard native, Lisa is a mother of two boys and has spent 20 years working in Funds Administration in Dublin's IFSC. Lisa is currently studying Women, Gender and Social Justice at UCD, funded by a Liffey Partnership programme in 2025, Leaders in Learning, following engagement with Liffey Partnership's Community based courses. Lisa's community involvement includes Saint Ultan's Board of Management (Parent Representative and Treasurer, 2022 - 2025). Lisa was a founding committee member and Event Director of Cherry Orchard Junior Parkrun (2020-2025). Since January 2026, Lisa has been a member of the Tús Nua committee in St Seton's Secondary School, advocating for a new school building.



Ray Cunningham

Ray Cunningham joined the Board of Directors of Liffey Partnership in 2025. He currently serves as a Green Party councillor for the Ballyfermot-Drimnagh ward on Dublin City Council. A resident of Walkinstown for over 20 years, Ray has deep roots in the community where he has raised his family and remains actively involved in local life. Professionally, he works as a technical writer, specialising in analysing complex information and presenting it in a clear and accessible way. Ray is a committed community member. He is an avid runner, an athletics coach, and a Parkrun volunteer, reflecting his passion for health, wellbeing, and community engagement. In his role as a Director of Liffey Partnership, he is committed to supporting local communities to reach their full potential and helping to make the area an even better place to live.



Michael Kelly

Michael joined the Board as a Director in March 2026. He represents the needs of older people on the Board as a Director. Michael was born and raised in Ballyfermot and has lived in Cherry Orchard for the past 45 years. Michael has been actively involved in community work throughout this time, both on a voluntary basis and as a former, now retired employee, with Liffey Partnership. Michael has served previously on the board of The Ballyfermot Credit Union, gaining valuable governance experience and a strong understanding of community needs and supports.

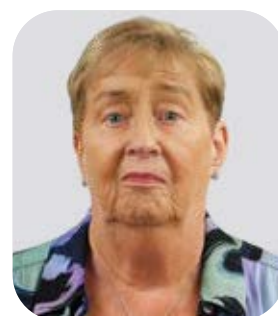


During the COVID-19 pandemic, Michael was among a small number of volunteers who took on responsibility for coordinating the foodbanks programme, ensuring essential deliveries reached homes across Dublin during a critical time.

Michael has developed a deep understanding of the issues facing older people in the Dublin 10 area. By combining his lived experience with his professional background, Michael brings valuable local knowledge, insight, and practical ideas to the Board.

Patricia Cassells

Patricia is a long term committed Director of Liffey Partnership with extensive experience in community development and public service. Originally from Finglas, she remains actively involved in her community, volunteering on local school Boards of Management. As a retired public servant, Patricia formerly managed the DDLETB Training Centre in Baldoyle, where she was responsible for business planning, budgeting, and the management and delivery of activity plans. She consistently achieved key performance indicators while leading and motivating a diverse team. Patricia's expertise in quality assurance, governance, and stakeholder engagement has been invaluable in building strong relationships with external training providers, agencies, and government departments. Her strategic insight and hands-on leadership bring significant value to the Liffey Partnership Board, helping to drive community initiatives and foster collaborative partnerships for sustainable local development.



Martin Gore

Martin joined the Board as a community director in 2024. A Ballyfermot native, Martin is now retired. A former Dublin Bus employee, in addition Martin has significant experience of the needs of those living with mental health challenges emanating from his time working as a chef in a local mental health care centre. Martin has undertaken voluntary work as a facilitator for Schizophrenic Ireland and currently volunteers with the Lighthouse Homeless Cafe.



Terry Hobdell

Terry Hobdell is a long-standing Director of Liffey Partnership, bringing decades of practical business leadership and community-focused insight to the role. Born in London to an Irish mother from Kerry and a London Cockney father, he later moved to Dublin where he founded Irish Fencing and Railings Ltd. and married his wife, Phyll. Terry has four children and seven grandchildren. As a Director, drawing on his experience as a business owner, he contributes a strong understanding of enterprise development, employment, and local economic growth. His background with Skillnets and as the first Chairperson of ISME reflects a deep commitment to workforce development and supporting SMEs. He also brings valuable grassroots perspective through his ongoing involvement in Ballyfermot initiatives, particularly Community Properties Ballyfermot, strengthening the Partnership's mission to support inclusive, sustainable local development.



Warren Dempsey

Warren has been a Community Director within Liffey Partnership since September 2019. Professionally, Warren works within the Transport Industry serving the entire Outer Dublin Metropolitan Area ODMA and Dublin Commuter Services around Ireland contracted by The National Transport Authority of Ireland.

Warren was gratefully nominated to the Board by the people of Ballyfermot following a sequence of large public events, gatherings, community activities and positive influence/momentum during a period of uncertainty and unrest specifically around mental health and wellbeing in addition to managing his own personal trauma sustained within that period.

Warren is a proud lifelong Ballyfermot professional who believes in constant upskilling, learning, development and inclusion for all. Warren leads with a welcoming approach, an understanding of generational struggles and offers clear, simple outcomes to improve everyday challenges we face.



2025 The Year in Numbers

2,543

Clients Supported



144

People supported into full-time employment



34

People supported into part-time employment



1,518

New Clients Registered



137

Clients engaged in counselling and



1,963

KG of food sustainably produced by Cherry Orchard Community Garden



651

Speech & Language Appointments Attended



85

participated in group based mental health programmes



468

Families engaged in parenting & family support programmes

122

Clients Supported to Access Further and Higher Education



175

people provided



177,450

hours support to Community Groups through the Tús programme

Support provided to

40

Community Groups



397

People received Health & Wellbeing Supports through Sláintecare Healthy Communities



22

New Businesses were established with support from LAP



Employment guidance provided to

1,035

people



22,000

Cross-service service support activities



How Liffey Partnership's Integrated Services Model Delivers for Communities and Individuals

Liffey Partnership operates on the conviction that enabling individuals to realise their full potential catalyses transformative change in entire communities. This guiding principle underpins our commitment to delivering not just siloed programmes, but a cohesive, integrated service model grounded in the real, often complex, needs of clients and communities.

At the heart of Liffey Partnership's approach is a deliberate shift away from traditional programme-driven frameworks toward a client- and community-centred model. This is not merely a structural choice but a value-based philosophy that recognises people as experts in their own lives. Instead of imposing predetermined programme criteria, Liffey Partnership listens actively to individuals, respects their diverse experiences, and adapts services to fit these realities. This ensures dignity, fosters empowerment, and builds trust, reflecting core values of equity, fairness, and inclusion.



Connectivity Between Programmes: A Holistic Framework of Support

One of the principal strengths of Liffey Partnership's model lies in the seamless integration of its varied services, spanning health, education, employment, family supports, and community development. These services are interconnected rather than segmented, creating a "wrap-around" network of supports tailored holistically to individual and family needs. This interconnectedness reduces barriers that clients often face navigating multiple, siloed services, where overlapping or conflicting demands can undermine engagement and progress.

For example, a person seeking employment support may also require assistance with childcare, health care, or educational opportunities for themselves or their children. Traditional programme models might require navigating multiple entry points, lengthy assessments, and repeated storytelling. Liffey Partnership's integrated approach eliminates such fragmentation by providing a single, unified access point. Through shared information systems and collaborative staff engagement, the organisation coordinates necessary supports efficiently and responsively, ensuring no client falls through the cracks.



Wheel of Engagement

Liffey Partnership's **Wheel of Engagement** serves as a conceptual and practical tool, illustrating how all programmes connect within a single gateway. This "one door" approach ensures clients access a continuum of supports without needing to differentiate between separate funding streams or service silos. Staff operate with cross-programme knowledge, enabling them to guide clients dynamically toward the right resources, even if these lie outside their immediate area of expertise as staff.

'Every door is the right door to access LP supports'



© Liffey Partnership

A Values Led Model That Delivers Better Outcomes for People and Communities

Placing individuals and communities at the centre of programme design and delivery is fundamentally a values-driven practice. It acknowledges the intrinsic dignity of every person and the belief that those engaging with services must have agency in shaping their own support pathways. This commitment to inclusion and respect is critical, especially for marginalised groups who may have experienced systemic exclusion and poverty.

More than a value driven proposition, however, this approach is also evidence-based and highly pragmatic. Research consistently shows that service models grounded in client participation and responsive to lived realities produce better outcomes. When programmes are adaptable, culturally sensitive, and designed to remove barriers, people are more likely to engage meaningfully and sustain that engagement.



By focusing on the whole person and their environment - rather than isolated need - Liffey Partnership addresses the multiplicity of factors that contribute to poverty and social exclusion. This integrated lens recognises that poverty is rarely caused by a single issue; it is often the intersection of unemployment, lack of education, health challenges, inadequate housing, and social disconnection. Programmes that work in tandem and pivot as needs evolve respond to this complexity effectively.

Supporting Sustainable Transitions Out of Poverty

Poverty alleviation is a high-level goal of Liffey Partnership, and it recognises the systematic and structural causes of poverty and its own limits as an organisation of its scale and size, however it believes its model offers a supportive alternative approach to all organisations involved in local development. Through integrated, client-centred services, individuals and families receive comprehensive supports that build resilience and may unlock new life opportunities. For instance, access to employment support combined with family care, educational development, and community inclusion addresses immediate economic needs while fostering long-term wellbeing and social capital.

All Liffey Partnership staff members from hiring are encouraged, resourced and trained to have knowledge across all programme areas as well as their core area of expertise. The model's emphasis on continuity and relationship-building is crucial. This sustained engagement is essential to overcoming chronic barriers and maintaining progress.

Moreover, the integrated system allows timely identification of emerging needs or challenges. Clients can move fluidly between supports without delay, avoiding crisis points and supporting stability. This responsive approach, supported by a bespoke Customer Relationship Management system, enhances the organization's capacity to track outcomes, learn continuously, and improve services.

In summary

Liffey Partnership's integrated service delivery model exemplifies how placing clients and community needs at the centre - guided by values of empowerment, equity, and inclusion - not only aligns with ethical best practice but also optimises outcomes. By fostering connectivity among programmes and focusing holistically on clients' real-life circumstances, the model supports sustainable transitions out of poverty and embodies an approach that truly transforms individuals and communities.

The Liffey Partnership Model offers a replicable framework for organisations committed to responsive, effective, and person-centred service delivery in complex social landscapes.

A Values-Led, People-Centred Model

Our work is grounded in dignity, inclusion, and respect - placing people and communities at the centre.

Integrated Supports That Work Better

One access point and fully connected programmes ensure clients get the right support without fragmentation.

Tackling Complex Needs Holistically

Joined-up services address the real-world complexity of poverty, supporting long-term progress and stability.

CRM: The Backbone of Joined-Up Delivery

A strong CRM system connects programmes, tracks progress, and enables timely, co-ordinated support.



People, Pathways, Progress: Stories Shaped by Liffey Partnership's Integrated Services Model

The following case studies are used to illustrate how our clients journey through Liffey Partnership's integrated service delivery model. Following the first point of Registration, each department in Liffey Partnership communicates closely with one another to ensure the best outcomes for its clients, and its internal referral system means that people are met with a holistic approach regardless of their point of entry.

Amy's Journey: Success Starts with a Single Step

Amy's story shows how Liffey Partnership's integrated model works: a single-entry point that leads through education, wellbeing supports, community development, training, and employment pathways.

Born and raised in Ballyfermot and now living in Cherry Orchard, Amy is a proud mother of four sons. While the Partnership had been on her radar since the days of 'Obair,' it only in the last two years that she became a regular client.

Devoted to raising her boys, Amy found that her own interests and career goals took a back seat while they were small. Over time, Amy began to feel disconnected from the world outside her home and her mental health suffered.

Recently, Amy became involved with the Kylemore/Chapelizod Sister Shed, which she finds to be a vital social outlet. In 2025, Amy was encouraged by a friend in this group to do the Steps to Success programme at Liffey Partnership. This became Amy's formal entry point into the organisation. Entering a new environment with unfamiliar faces was a daunting but transformative leap.

"The safe space of the group helped me to realise that I wasn't alone and gave me the courage to share my story."



Amy, Liffey Partnership Client

The programme, she says, helped her adopt a more resilient mindset, letting go of things outside her control and focusing instead on her own capacity and confidence.

The Steps course proved to be a literal stepping stone to many other pursuits. Amy proceeded to attend multiple Kickstart sessions in Liffey Partnership, which helped her to build her computer literacy. As part of the Sister Shed, she completed Healthy Food Made Easy with the Health and Inclusion Team, which “gave her great tools for shopping smart and eating well”. She also participated in some grant writing workshops developed by the Community Development Team, expanding her skillset and giving her insight into how local projects are shaped and funded.

This increased self-esteem inspired her to pursue a FETAC Level 5 in Hospital Administration. As part of the course, she undertook a placement at Liffey Partnership’s own reception desk. Amy takes great satisfaction in providing meaningful support to clients, offering information, and being a welcoming face for those who walked through the door. She is amazed by the amount of community activities available in the area and is inspired to progress her career in this direction.

Motivated by these experiences and her passion as a mother, Amy has set her sights on becoming a Youth Worker in her own community. Taking it one step at a time, she is currently applying for the Trinity TAP programme with the goal of pursuing an undergraduate degree related to Youth Work and Social Care.

Liffey Partnership didn’t just help Amy rediscover her confidence. It helped her find her direction, her purpose, and her future; growing from client, to learner, to colleague, and soon, a community leader.

Tara’s Journey

Tara’s experience can be told as one continuous journey through the integrated services of Liffey Partnership, showing how each step opened the door to the next.

Tara first approached Liffey Partnership in spring 2025, at a time when life felt heavy. Her referral to the Tús employment programme came through the Department of Social Protection, and this became her entry point into Liffey Partnership. She was at home full-time with her four-year-old daughter, Ella, trying to manage day-to-day pressures on a limited income and without much structured support.

The Tús Supervisor immediately helped stabilise the basics by ensuring that Tara received the correct payment for herself and Ella. That financial clarity reduced stress at home and gave Tara a sense that things were finally moving in the right direction. Due to the integrated model, Tara’s Tús Supervisor could link her to another department, Family Matters ABC, knowing Tara would benefit from family-centred support.



Through Family Matters, Tara entered the Home Visiting Programme, where she received tailored guidance on feeding, sleep, self-care and early play routines. For the first time, she felt someone was walking alongside her, offering practical support without judgement. This programme didn't just help Tara learn about baby development; it rebuilt her confidence as a parent.



From there, moving into Baby Massage felt natural and easy. The warm, welcoming environment allowed Tara to form friendships with other parents. She learned how to read Ella's cues, understand her cries, and use massage to soothe her before bedtime and found a routine that brought calm to their household. Socially, Tara's world grew wider; emotionally, she felt less isolated.

After Baby Massage, Tara completed the 8-week Incredible Years Babies programme, where she found space for reflection, reassurance, and a deeper understanding of both her own needs and Ella's. The friendships formed in the group grew stronger, with parents arranging regular park walks that expanded Tara's support network and gave Ella positive social experiences with other babies.



Although Jack (Ella's Dad)'s work schedule initially prevented him from attending the early programmes, he could see the positive impact they were having on Tara and Ella and decided to rearrange his shifts so he could join PEEP Learning Through Play Together group with Ella. Despite feeling nervous at first, he quickly became engaged in the sessions, gaining confidence as a father and a new appreciation for how simple everyday interactions like singing, counting, and playing support Ella's language and brain development while strengthening their bond. Now, whether it's Tara, Jack, or Granny, someone always brings Ella to the weekly Family Matters Parent and Child Drop-In Group at Ballyfermot Family Resource Centre, which has become an important source of connection, support, and routine for the whole family.



Tara's story shows how the integrated service model of Liffey Partnership works in practice. One referral opened the door to multiple supports, each one building on the last. Moving from Tús to Family Matters was easy because the services talk to each other, understand each other, and place the person - not the programme - at the centre. The impact spread through Tara's whole family: improved financial stability, stronger parental confidence, richer social connections, enhanced early learning for Ella, and greater overall wellbeing.



Pre-Employment Home Visitor Programme

Before entering Liffey Partnership, many of the twelve women who joined the Pre-Employment Home Visitor Programme were searching for direction. Some were out of work, others were mothers caring for families full-time, and many had been unable to access training that matched their skills, interests, or language needs. Confidence was often low, and employment felt out of reach. Yet each woman carried a strong desire to support families in their community; they just needed the right door to open.



The Home Visitor Pre-Employment Programme was developed as a training initiative to strengthen local employment opportunities, particularly for women interested in family support roles. The role of the Home Visitor is increasingly important locally due to rising pressures on statutory services and the need for in-home support for new mothers. Its primary aim was to prepare participants for future Home Visitor positions, as well as acting as role models for their peers, by building skills, confidence, and understanding of the practical and professional requirements of community-based family support work.

Delivered from September to November 2025, the programme supported twelve women from diverse cultural backgrounds, including Irish, Traveller, Romanian, Indian, and Somalian participants. From the outset, each participant received one-to-one guidance sessions, creating a personalised plan and helping them understand the opportunities available across Liffey Partnership and beyond. This made it easy to progress through different areas of support, moving naturally from personal development to professional skills, from wellbeing to career planning.

Delivery was achieved through internal collaboration between the Community Development, Family Matters (ABC), Health and Inclusion Departments and specialist facilitators. This partnership ensured the content was both theoretically grounded and practically informed, offering participants a realistic perspective on home visiting work.

Over the eight-week journey, the women travelled through a number of departments without ever needing to “start again.”

Each woman carried a strong desire to support families in their community; they just needed the right doorway in.



- Community Development strengthened their communication, creativity, and confidence.
- Family Matters introduced the realities of home-visiting work, infant development, and supporting new parents.
- Specialist facilitators added professional insight and pathways into family-support role, provided emotional wellbeing tools, WRAP Level 1 training, and strategies for resilience.

Skills learned in one session were supported and reinforced in another. The women experienced Liffey Partnership not as separate services, but as one continuous pathway designed around their growth.

A strong diversity and inclusion approach underpinned the programme. Activities were designed with accessible, visual, and experiential learning tools to accommodate varied literacy levels. Creative methods, such as drawing, and movement-based exercises supported different learning styles and helped build a safe and inclusive environment. Workshops emphasised discussion and participation over written tasks, while optional workbooks allowed for personal reflection outside of sessions.

The programme aimed not only to build local capacity to support vulnerable families but also to reflect the growing cultural diversity of Cherry Orchard and surrounding areas. Bringing together a multicultural group enhanced shared learning, empathy, and social understanding.

Feedback from participants indicated strong personal development outcomes including increased self-confidence, improved communication and listening skills, greater emotional awareness, stronger coping strategies, and enhanced self-care practices. Participants expressed growth in assertiveness, boundary-setting, and readiness to pursue further education or employment. Reflections shared during a creative focus group highlighted themes of resilience, optimism, peer support, and personal growth.

To date, programme outcomes include employment for three participants, progression to internal programmes within different departments for several others, and continued guidance for those seeking work, volunteering opportunities, or further education. Overall, the programme achieved strong completion rates, high satisfaction, and meaningful personal development. These participants' journeys show that when services are integrated, progression is natural. Liffey Partnership offered layered support at the right pace, in the right order, with the person at the centre.

Reflections shared during a creative focus group highlighted themes of resilience, optimism, peer support, and personal growth.



Robert's Story

Robert's experience shows how the collaboration between the Tús team and the Guidance Service provides an integrated pathway, from assessment and placement to confidence-building and full-time employment.

In 2025, Robert began his Tús placement with the South West Inner City Network (SWICN), a safe and creative learning space for young people aged 10–18. As a former film teacher, Robert was eager to return to the workforce. After receiving guidance and support from the Liffey Partnership Employment Services and Labour Market Programmes Departments, he was offered a placement at SWICN teaching and mentoring young people.

"As a former teacher in adult education, it felt quite intimidating to work with young people at first," Robert admitted. "But after a few weeks of observing them, I realised I could do something interesting with the group." His initial idea was to screen films and break down specific scenes to show the young people how they were created. "The first film I showed them was Ghostbusters. I explained specific scenes and demonstrated how the producers achieved certain special effects. The students absolutely loved it!"

Shortly after completing his Tús placement, Robert was offered a full-time position with the organisation. "It's really great," Robert says. "I didn't know quite what to expect when I started the Tús role, but from day one I treated it like a proper job. I probably wouldn't be doing what I'm doing now without Tús. I'm now doing something I genuinely enjoy – and since taking on the full-time role, I even have my own desk and a bit more paperwork to handle!"

"As a former teacher in adult education, it felt quite intimidating to work with young people at first, but after a few weeks of observing them, I realised I could do something interesting with the group."



Robert pictured with Tús Supervisor Daniel



Jonathan's Story

Jonathan came to Liffey Partnership in 2023 with a clear goal of setting up a solar installation business. After an initial meeting with the enterprise officer, he completed his solar installation training and went on to successfully apply for the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance in 2024.



Later that year, Jonathan submitted a highly competitive proposal for Liffey Partnership's Climate Action Fund application. Jonathan didn't just submit a quote, he took time to help the organisation understand the real climate and financial benefits of solar energy and how to communicate them for a successful application. As Jonathan's quote was the most impactful and competitive, his business was selected for the installation of LP's solar panels. He worked closely with Martin, the partnership's finance and facilities manager, to install 46 solar panels, two 5kW batteries, and an EV charger.

Jonathan is a great example of how support within Liffey Partnership often comes full circle. The Partnership helped him get his business off the ground. In return, he helped us better understand our sustainability potential. Through our community wealth building approach and due to his capacity to compete, we were then able to award him a valuable contract allowing him to grow his enterprise further while he helped us make real progress in our sustainability goals and reduce our long-term costs. The impact from supporting Jonathan will benefit both LP and the client for long into the future.

Jonathan is a great example of how support within Liffey Partnership often comes full circle. The Partnership helped him get his business off the ground. In return, he helped us better understand our sustainability potential.



Jonathan on site installing solar panels

New Dublin 10 Food Alliance: From Research to Collaborative Action

In line with Liffey Partnership's integrated model of working where research, community insight and cross-sector collaboration are brought together to drive structural change; the creation of the New Dublin 10 Food Alliance emerged directly from a coordinated, partnership-driven response to local need.

Following extensive research conducted in 2024, the 'Spinning Plates' community needs assessment was published in June 2025. The HSE fully supported this research by providing funding for a full time Community Food and Nutrition Officer through the Slaintecare Healthy Communities Initiative. This staff member dedicated the vast majority of their time over a full year to the project which was an invaluable contribution that made this depth of research possible.

The report evidenced a stark prevalence of food insecurity within Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard, with a rate of 43% compared to the National Average of 9%. Of particular concern, 1 in 4 survey respondents reported *'going a full day without eating in the last month'* due to financial hardship. The data acknowledged specific sub-communities, including Irish Travellers (86%), large families (65%), people who are unemployed (56%), ethnic minorities (53%), households with disabilities (52%) and Cherry Orchard residents (51%), as being at disproportionate risk.



Consistent with Liffey Partnership's whole-systems approach, the environmental analysis underscored the infrastructural barriers to health, identifying an 11:1 ratio of unhealthy to healthy food outlets, with a minimum of 17 takeaways within a 1km proximity of every local school. Affordability was confirmed as the primary barrier to food security, with a nutritionally adequate shop consuming 33-45% of household income for those reliant on social welfare.

The report's launch on June 12th at the Wood Quay Building successfully convened many key national stakeholders, including the Children's Rights Alliance, the Departments of Health and Social Protection, the HSE and Safefood's All-Island Food Poverty Network, among many others. The panel discussion between Susanne Rodgers, Nesson Vaughan, Yvonne Fleming and Paul Ginell prompted many insightful questions and comments, reflecting an urgent appetite for change across policy and urban planning. The launch gave way to some media traction and consequently many presentations on the key report findings were made within relevant networks such as the Sláintecare Healthy Communities National Conference, CYPSC, HSE Public Health, Department of Social Protection Roadmap for Social Inclusion, and a Local Area Briefing.



HSE and Liffey Partnership staff at the collaborative launch of Spinning Plates June 2025

This momentum supported the establishment of the Dublin 10 Food Alliance in November 2025. A cross-sector partnership between Liffey Partnership, Dublin City Council, the HSE, the Department of Social Protection, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Familibase, Ballyfermot Family Resource Centre and local representatives Ray Cunningham, Daithi Doolan and Hazel De Nortúin, the Alliance is committed to:

- Elevating food poverty on the national and local agenda.
- Advocating for income equality as the primary determinant of health.
- Building a dignified and health-promoting local food environment and coordinating services to increase access to low-cost, nutritious food.

Drawing inspiration from progressive European and Scandinavian models that champion community-led co-operatives, healthful institutional food and the dignified repurpose of surplus, the Alliance has curated an ambitious, action-oriented workplan for 2026 including a new, centralised community food hub home to such ventures: as social cook-ups, dinners kits and low-cost public dining, pending funding and stakeholder support.

By aligning research, community insight, multi-agency commitment and strategic planning - and with critical support from the HSE-funded research post - the development of the Dublin 10 Food Alliance mirrors the core principles of Liffey Partnership's integrated service model: coordinated action, shared purpose, and meaningful progress for the communities of Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard.



Staff View:

How the Integrated Model Works in Practice

From the perspective of staff across Liffey Partnership, the strength of the organisation lies in its ability to operate as one unified system rather than a collection of separate programmes. Every day, staff see how the combination of a single registration form, a shared internal CRM, and a client-first value system creates an environment where people can genuinely progress, not just participate.

Staff describe that this structure allows them to support people as whole individuals, not as isolated cases belonging to separate funding streams. It means that while each staff member may work in a specialised programme, the organisation behaves as one team with shared purpose and shared responsibility for each client's journey.

The single registration form is frequently mentioned by staff as a transformative element. It allows clients to tell their story once, avoiding the burden of repeating sensitive or complex information multiple times. Staff say this approach reinforces dignity, reduces client stress, and creates an immediate sense of trust. It also enables staff to get to work quickly on what matters: supporting the person, not processing forms and data.

Staff also frequently highlight the central organisational CRM as the tool that makes this integration possible. Staff say the CRM is where values become practice. It allows them to see the full timeline, outcomes and impacts of a client's engagement including past supports, current challenges, upcoming opportunities, and to coordinate easily with colleagues across other departments. For staff, this visibility strengthens their confidence in making decisions and referrals, and designing supports that genuinely meet the client's identified needs. Staff can track how clients progress, where interventions made a difference, and where additional supports may be needed. This visibility supports reflective practice and allows staff to improve services continually. It helps them understand the real-world effects of their work, reinforcing professional pride and a sense of shared mission.



*LP staff from a range of departments
at the 2025 Strawberry Fair*



Staff also note that although they must operate both funder-mandated CRM systems and Liffey Partnership's internal CRM, the additional work is ultimately worth it. While the dual-system approach requires extra administrative steps; staff report that the organisational CRM makes the job easier overall. It reduces duplication, prevents information from being lost between services, and creates a coherent picture of each client that external systems alone cannot capture.

Underlying all of this is a shared value system that staff refer to often: client needs come first and programme boundaries come second. This principle guides decisions across departments. Staff work collaboratively to move clients to counselling, guidance, training, community groups, employment supports, family services, or wellbeing programmes based on what the individual needs, not what any one programme can offer in isolation.

From the staff perspective, this approach strengthens every part of the organisation. It enables them to do their jobs more effectively, improves communication, increases consistency, and supports the delivery of meaningful outcomes. It also reassures staff that they are working within an ethical, respectful system that honours the complexity of the people they serve.

At the same time, staff recognise that the integrated model delivers substantial benefits for funders: clearer outcomes, more efficient use of resources, stronger reporting, and evidence of real progression rather than fragmented outputs. The CRM and shared processes allow the organisation to track multi-department engagement and long-term improvement - data that funders increasingly require and value.

In staff experience, this integrated structure results in better outcomes for clients, clearer workflows for staff, stronger accountability for the organisation, and deeper confidence for funders. It reflects and strengthens Liffey Partnership's mission, vision and values.



LP staff at a training and development event

Our Services



Health Programmes	David O'Connell Health, Inclusion & Enterprise Programmes Manager Phone 01 623 5612 Email doconnell@liffeypartnership.ie
Social Prescribing	Social prescribing offers GPs and other health professionals a means of referring people to a range of non-clinical community supports which can have significant benefits for their overall health and wellbeing.
Nutrition	Healthy Food Made Easy is a 6-week course which aims to; encourage healthy eating, improve our knowledge of nutrition when preparing our meals at home, learn healthy meals on a budget.
Smoking Cessation	We Can Quit is a free, friendly and supportive 8–12-week programme for people who smoke and who want support to quit smoking.
Heads Up	Heads Up is a mental health education programme for men or women who are finding life stressful, feel isolated or lonely and wish to learn ways to improve their wellbeing. This group programme aims to encourage participants to make positive change to their lives, access local supports and develop resilience.
Treatment & Rehabilitation	The Treatment & Rehabilitation Project Officer works closely with the Ballyfermot Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force (BLDATF) and addiction projects as well non-specialised substance misuse services as relevant within the 4 Tier Model of Substance Misuse Services.
Community Connector	The community connector works closely with the HSEs Integrated Care of Older Persons team to connect older people living in the St James' Hospital catchment with services and supports in their community.
Community Food & Nutrition	The CFN project aims to improve community health and wellbeing in the Cherry Orchard and wider Ballyfermot areas by addressing the issues of poor diet and food poverty.
Counselling Service	Free 6 sessions of counselling psychotherapy with a fully qualified and accredited psychotherapist. Counselling is a talking therapy that involves a trained therapist listening to you and helping you find ways to deal with emotional issues.
Living Well	Living Well is a free group programme for adults with long-term health conditions. This 6 week self-management programme supports people to develop the practical skills and confidence to live well with their condition.
Community Development	Georgina Perryman Community Development Projects Manager Phone 01 623 5612 Email gperryman@liffeypartnership.ie
Community Development	Support for local people and community groups to come together and take collective action to address community challenges, promote social inclusion and enhance life for all residents of the area.
Cherry Orchard Community Garden	The Cherry Orchard Community Garden provides an area of horticultural development and recreation for residents in the area of Cherry Orchard and is an inclusive space in a social and therapeutic setting.
Empowering Communities	The Empowering Communities Project works in Cherry Orchard to empower local communities to craft their own response to area based poverty, social exclusion and the resulting consequences.
Community Health	Health Promotion Activities with a focus on the whole Ballyfermot Community and in particular members of the Traveller Community living locally with the goal of awareness raising and improving health outcomes



Child & Family	Liz O'Sullivan Child, Family & Community Programmes Manager Phone 01 623 5612 Email losullivan@liffeypartnership.ie
Parenting Programmes/ Workshops	Range of group based parenting programmes and workshops available throughout the year including Baby Massage, Parent, Baby and Toddler programmes, Early Years, Child & Adolescent programmes, and programmes for parents with children who have ADHD or Special Needs.
Parent Child Plus	Parent Child + Home visiting programme: an early literacy and school readiness programme designed to support early parent/child relationship.
Youth Mental Health	To support the mental health and wellbeing being of children and young people in the Ballyfermot area.
Speech & Language	Two Senior Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs) work within the Family Matters Oral Language Programme, in early years services and primary schools intervening at universal, targeted and specialised levels with a focus on prevention and early intervention.
Childcare Fund	Providing funding for parents affected by drug and alcohol use to support childcare placements in local early years services.
Individual Family Support	Individual Family Support is provided in an integrated way within all the strands of the Family Matters programme, by our partners BTAP and Familibase, enabling parents and children to reach their potential socially, emotionally and educationally.
Education Supports	In collaboration with schools and early years services, children, young people and their parents are supported to reach their potential in having high realistic expectations, and increased skills and knowledge around their future education and training.
Education Access	Funding to help with the costs of education (Fees, travel, IT and essential equipment) for learners of any age accessing further or higher education or apprenticeship
Employment Services	Mike Burger Dublin City Community LAES Manager Grainne Lynch Dublin City Community LAES Deputy Manager Phone 01 623 5612 Email mburger@liffeypartnership.ie or glynch@liffeypartnership.ie Ciara O'Connell Labour Market Programmes Manager Phone 01 623 5612 Email coconnell@liffeypartnership.ie
Local Area Employment Services	One to one career guidance and group-based employability supports for those in receipt of social welfare payments and others who are looking for work. Drop in career guidance available daily in Drumfinn Office.
Tús	Tús provides opportunities for people who are unemployed to break the cycle of long-term unemployment, helping to improve a person's work readiness and support them in returning to the labour market through a 12-month work placement with local community organisations.
Pre-Employment Programmes	Group-based support to move clients closer to work with a focus on CV preparation, interview skills, motivation and goal setting, career paths, IT programmes. Personal development programmes such as STEPS for Success and practical training such as manual handling, SafePass and Driver theory.
Self-Employment Support	One to one support combined with training and mentoring to support people to set up their own businesses. Also supporting new businesses in the first two years of trading.
Ability Project	Employability Programme is aimed primarily at young adults 18 to 29 years old based in Dublin 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 20 communities who experience emotional, psychological and mental health challenges (EPMH) and/or co-occurring disabilities. Programme includes 1:1 support, group programmes and work experience components.
Careers Edge	The aim of the Careers EDGE programme is to support the employability and progression of people with a history of substance misuse. This group-based training programme runs 2-3 times annually for 18 weeks and covers personal & professional communication, employability modules and work experience placement.

Financial Summary 2025

	2025	2024
Income		
Grants from government and co-funders	6,596,015	6,484,256
Expenditure		
Charitable Activities	6,070,272	6,083,613
Net Income	525,743	400,643

Fixed Assets	43,432	13,848
Current Assets	5,571,978	4,631,648
Total Assets	5,615,410	4,645,496
Total Liabilities	3,644,587	3,200,416
Net Assets	1,970,823	1,445,080

Liffey



PARTNERSHIP

Community Development



We believe... Community Development is supporting communities of either place or interest to identify and take collective action on issues that are important to them. Equality, social justice, human rights, inclusion, and sustainable development lie at its heart.

Integrated & Person-centred Development



We believe... Our services and supports are holistic, wrap-around and coordinated. We continually adapt them to pivot around the person.

Equality & Equity



We believe... Everyone has an equal right to support and life opportunities to reach their full potential. To access equal opportunities, many may need extra support due to their circumstances and where they are starting from. Our work with people and communities is about both advocating for equality and supporting equity.

OUR VALUES

Empowerment



We believe... Individuals and communities are empowered when they feel valued, supported, and have a sense of control and ownership to make decisions. Liffey Partnership sees learning as core to empowerment. When working with people and communities, Liffey Partnership will focus on what matters to them.

Inclusion & Participation



We believe... Inclusion values diversity and we believe that everyone has something unique to offer. Liffey Partnership strives in its work to create spaces and places where people and communities feel accepted and included for who they are.

Accountability



We believe... Accountability is taking ownership of both failure and success. Organisationally, we are all accountable to each other, our stakeholders, and the communities we serve.

Liffey



PARTNERSHIP

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

TÚSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



Sláintecare.
**Healthy
Communities**



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in your future
European Social Fund



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection



**City
of Dublin**
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Education and Training Board



Intreo | Partner
Seirbhísí Fostaíochta
Employment Services