



Coiste Gairmoideachais Chontae na Mí
Fiúntas agus Nuálíocht in Oideachas

County Meath VEC
Excellence and Innovation in Education

Summary

County Meath VEC

Education Plan 2010 -2015

Mission

Values

Strategic Goals

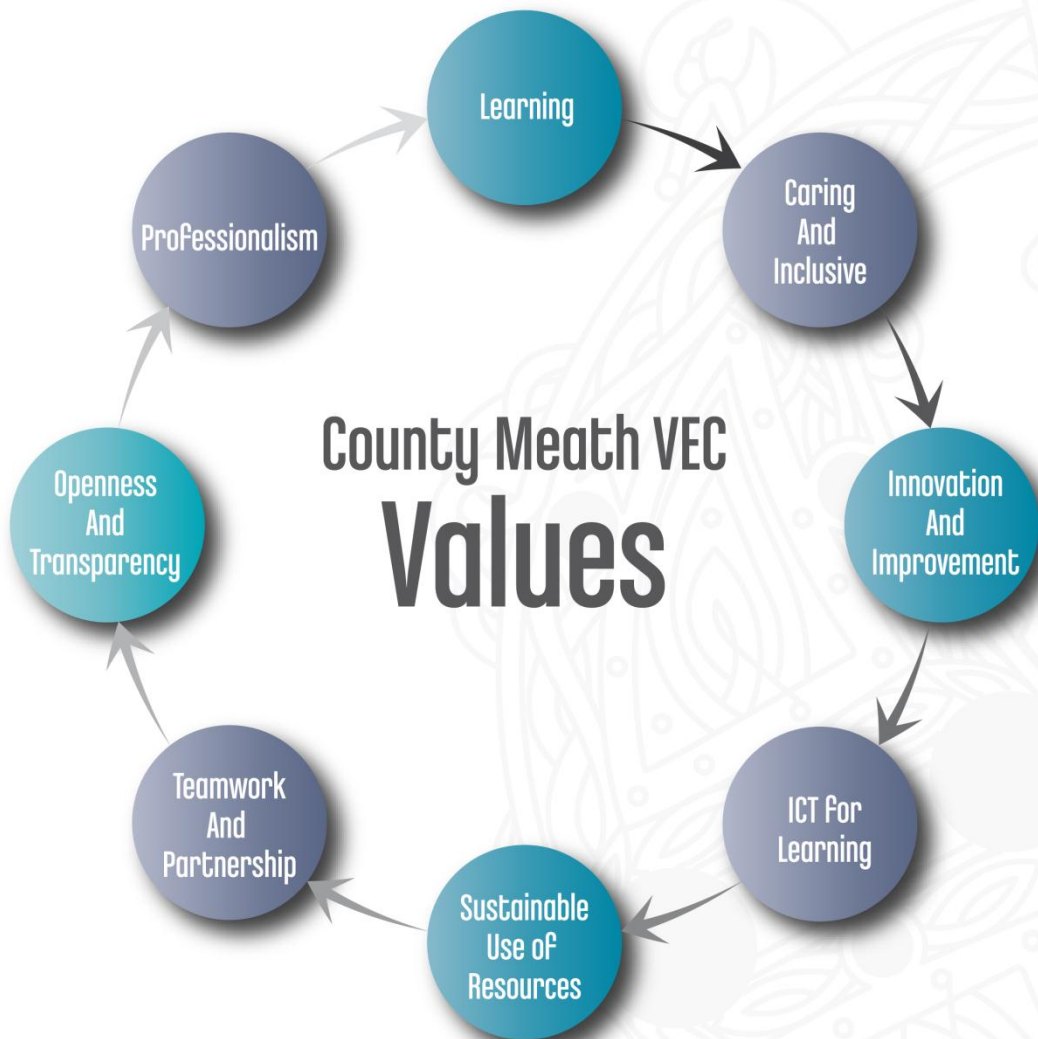
4.1 Mission Statement

County Meath VEC is committed to excellence and innovation in the education of young people and adults through the provision of dynamic services delivered by professional staff.



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4.2 Values





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4.3 Strategic Goals 2010 - 2015

Goal 1

Development
of Schools
and Centres

“Plan proactively for the development of schools, centres and programmes in response to demographic, social and educational needs in County Meath”

Goal 2

Provide Quality
Education

Provide quality education services for all students and service users of County Meath VEC.

Goal 3

Staff
Development

“Develop a comprehensive Continuous Professional Development (CPD) plan for County Meath VEC”

Goal 1: Plan proactively for the development of schools, centres and programmes throughout County Meath in response to demographic, social and educational needs in Co. Meath

Objective 1.1 Respond to the need for establishing new educational centres and services throughout County Meath VEC

- 1.1.1 At preschool level, monitor the need for such provision in conjunction with primary schooling provided by the VEC.
- 1.1.2 Work with traditional primary school patrons and the Department of Education and Science to cater for new emerging primary schooling demands.
- To offer the VEC as patron of new primary schools that may be needed in Ashbourne, Clonee, Ratoath, Dunboyne, Navan, the East Coast agus bheith toilineach bunscolaíocht trí ghaeilge a ofráil.
 - To work with existing providers of primary schooling and be prepared and willing to participate in a joint patronage role.
 - To respond to DES requests for Co. Meath VEC to act as a provider of services to primary schools in the area of buildings, procurement, ICT or other services as requested.
- 1.1.3 Monitor 2nd level education needs throughout the county with a view to:
- Establishing new VEC colleges in Navan, Ashbourne and Enfield/Kilcock as the population growth demands.
 - Providing for the requirements of students attending gaelscoileanna in Dunboyne, Ratoath, Dunshaughlin and Ashbourne by establishing a gaelcoláiste or Aonad Ián Ghaeilge in Ashbourne.
- 1.1.4 Cater for future Post Leaving Certificate needs in Co. Meath by establishing new centres for PLC provision.
- Cater for the growing Post Leaving Certificate demands throughout the county by establishing independent Colleges of Further Education (CFE) in Dunboyne and Navan.
 - Commence PLC provision in Ashbourne alongside the provision of a new 2nd level college.
- 1.1.5 Seek to establish new Alpha Learning Centres (integrated centres for Community Education, BTEI, Adult Literacy and Adult Education Guidance) in centres of population growth such as Ashbourne, Laytown and Athboy.

1.1.6 Advocate for further Youthreach Programmes as need arises in line with population growth and Community need, especially in areas such as Dunboyne/Dunshaughlin/Clonee.

1.1.7 Respond to the needs for training or education of unemployed adults by establishing centres as required where VEC Alpha Learning Centres do not exist such as Dunboyne, Duleek and Oldcastle.

Objective 1.2: Advance the building programme for new school buildings or procurement of premises for the full range of VEC educational services in particular new schools.

1.2.1 To source appropriate locations and advance the building of new primary schools to cater for the growing school going population in Navan, Ashbourne, Clonee.

1.2.2 To work with the local authority and Department of Education and Skills to identify and procure suitable 2nd level school sites and to advance the building projects to completion in Navan and Ashbourne.

1.2.3 To plan for CFEs in Navan, Ashbourne and Dunboyne which will be independent schools under County Meath VEC established in either new or appropriately modified premises.

1.2.4 Work in conjunction with the Local Authority, Health Board and other training agencies to build or modify existing property in which to provide a range of adult services including full-time and part-time courses under Alpha Services.

1.2.5 Source and prepare new premises appropriate to the needs of Youthreach students in Laytown, Navan, and Dunboyne/Clonee.

Objective 1.3: Advance the programme for the renovation and extension of existing schools and centres for education.

1.3.1 Work with the Department of Education and Skills, school management and Design Team to complete a 4,300m² extension at Community College Dunshaughlin

1.3.2 Advocate and press the case for extensions at O' Carolan College, Nobber, Ratoath College and St. Oliver Post Primary School, Oldcastle

Objective 1.4: Extend the range of Educational Services provided by County Meath VEC

- 1.4.1 Show readiness to act as central agent for building services for schools outside the VEC network
- 1.4.2 Continue to develop Co. Meath VEC's ICT capacity to deliver ICT services to VEC schools and other education providers at primary and post primary level.
- 1.4.3 Develop the procurement systems of Co. Meath VEC with a view to streamlining our own procurement systems. Also to be prepared in response to any DES requests to provide services to VEC schools and other educational providers at Primary and Post Primary level.
- 1.4.4 Plan for the modernisation and unification of student support systems during the lifetime of the plan.
- 1.4.5 Explore areas of educational need exposed by national economic circumstances and seek to service these in the areas of return to education, re-training and upskilling in conjunction with existing providers and agencies.
- 1.4.6 Design alternative programmes that meet the education needs of Adult Travellers in response to the proposed closure of Navan Traveller Education Centre.

Objective 1.5: Plan and engage with all stakeholders in Government decisions and Ministerial orders regarding the amalgamation of VECs.

- 1.5.1 Engage with the Department of Education and Skills to maximise the organisational effectiveness and quality of educational delivery encompassed in legislation and regulations.
- 1.5.2 Work to safeguard the conditions of service and security of employment of current staff of County Meath VEC.
- 1.5.3 Seek opportunities to extend the scope and reach of the service of any proposed new education entities.
- 1.5.4 Communicate regularly and effectively with all staff and the general public regarding all stages of advancement of any proposed education entities.

Goal 2: To Provide Quality Education

Objective 2.1 To Create a Positive Learning Environment

- 2.1.1 To ensure that the needs of learners are the starting point for all decisions in educational planning and provision.
- 2.1.2 To ensure that the establishment of positive relationships between teachers/tutors and learners is seen as key to fostering real learning and helping students achieve their full potential.
- 2.1.3 That appropriate supports are in place in all settings to respond to learners' needs and to ensure their continued participation in the educational process. This includes that:
- Learners are facilitated to learn in ways that reflect their preferred learning styles.
 - Learners are facilitated to participate in learning in ways that suit their personal circumstances.
 - Learners have the opportunity to work with peers in active learning settings.
 - Learners have the opportunity to provide feedback and evaluation of their learning experiences and that this information informs the planning cycle.

Objective 2.2 Provide programmes that meet the needs of learners

- 2.2.1 Develop and implement a planning framework to inform the range of programmes on offer in Schools, Youthreach, Adult Education and Alpha Services.
- 2.2.2 Carry out quantitative and qualitative research as a basis for determining the programmes on offer.
- 2.2.3 To develop a partnership forum for adult services that will carry out a comprehensive county-based training needs analysis. To work in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure coordinated delivery of education and training to county.
- 2.2.4 To establish student fora for schools, Youthreach centres and adult services that allow for student feedback on programmes.

2.2.5 Develop feedback mechanisms to ensure that all stakeholders are able to inform us regarding responses to education needs in the county

Objective 2.3 To reach specified standards and educational attainment levels in all schools, centres and programmes

2.3.1 Develop reporting mechanism to monitor attainment level of learners in line with national norms and standards.

2.3.2 Develop a framework of staff feedback and mechanisms for ensuring these form part of planning cycle.

2.3.3 Develop staff recruitment and induction processes in line with best practice.

2.3.4 Ensure that a system of CPD adequately supports the aim of quality teaching and learning.

2.3.5 Initiate and embed systems in our schools, centres and programmes that support quality learning for our learners.

2.3.6 Showcase excellence in the attainment of learners.

2.3.7 Develop a PR strategy to ensure dissemination of learning excellence.

2.3.8 Embed system of Quality Assurance within all programmes and centres.

Objective 2.4 Students learning is informed by 21st Century educational methodology and supported by appropriate technology.

2.4.1 Teachers and tutors are made aware of the most effective methodologies for facilitating learning as informed by current research.

2.4.2 That teachers/tutors are trained on how to develop and maintain positive relationships with learners and between learners.

2.4.3 That new teachers have an effective induction programme to prepare for work in Meath VEC.

2.4.4 That appropriate CPD resources, including online resources, are available for teacher/tutors to continue their professional development.

2.4.5 That collaboration between teachers and tutors is part of the work cycle and that this collaboration is facilitated and structured.

2.4.6 That resources, learning methodologies and learning strategies are shared across the entire learning community through a system of on-line curriculum mapping.

Objective 2.5 Innovation

2.5.1 Encourage innovation at every level in Meath VEC.

2.5.2 Develop an innovation forum as a means of recording and disseminating all innovation practices within Co. Meath VEC.

2.5.3 Initiate an Innovation Showcase Workshop system for the county.

2.5.4 Introduce a system of recognition for staff innovation.

Goal 3: Staff Professional Development

- 3.1 To develop a comprehensive CPD plan for all staff over the life of the Education Plan 2010 - 2015**
- 3.1.1 To consult with all staff regarding their CPD needs as a basis for informing the CPD plan.
- 3.1.2 To actively promote staff participation in devising and implementing the CPD plan for staff.
- 3.1.3 The proposed CPD plan will include the following elements:
- CPD programme with on-line self-evaluation and personal reflection.
 - Support staff in identifying their individual CPD needs.
 - Balance the individual priorities of staff and the needs of the local school Development Plan or centre/programme plan.
 - Promote participation in collaboration between schools and VEC services/programmes as part of the CPD programme.
 - Database of CPD undertaken and completed by each staff member.
 - The effectiveness of CPD is evaluated and part of a continuous improvement in delivery.
 - Innovative strategies for participation in CPD are implemented and take into account different learning styles of teachers.
 - Where appropriate Meath VEC staff will have the opportunity to lead the delivery of CPD.
- 3.2 To develop a clear CPD framework for teaching staff that will focus on the following areas:**
- Subject Content: adequate knowledge of and recent developments in the subject matter.
 - Methods for effective teaching and active learning to promote student achievement.
 - Continuous development of classroom management skills.
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- Understanding of and catering for diversity in abilities and background of learners.
 - Competence in the use of technology in supporting learning and school administration.
 - Skills to support the effective management and running of schools and centres.

3.3 Induction of New Staff

3.3.1 To develop a comprehensive system of induction training for all new teaching staff in Co. Meath VEC to include central and local induction supports.

3.3.2 To initiate effective peer mentoring programme for all new staff at each school over the life of the Education Plan 2010 - 2015