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Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Dhún na nGall
*Donegal Education and
Training Board*



**Adult
Literacy
for Life**

Donegal Regional Adult Literacy Coalition: Action Plan 2024



SOLAS
learning works



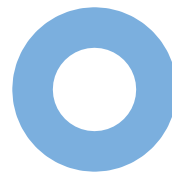
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Adult Literacy for Life Strategy

Adult Literacy for Life (ALL) is a 10-year national strategy that aims to:

- ensure that every adult has the necessary literacy, numeracy and digital literacy to fully engage in society and realise their potential; and
- support organisations and services to be literacy friendly and fully accessible to adults with unmet needs.

The Strategy is using a cross-Government, cross-economy and cross-society approach.

The ALL Strategy is important because it will help people gain the necessary skills to achieve their personal, social and employment goals so that they can take part fully in society. The Strategy will also help organisations and services to be literacy friendly and fully accessible to adults with unmet needs. This will support a more inclusive, equal society.

Implementing the ALL Strategy

SOLAS (Ireland's Further Education and Training authority) set up a National Programme Office to coordinate the Strategy across all Government departments and stakeholders.

At regional level, Regional Literacy Coordinators (RLCs) have been appointed to the 16 Education and Training Boards. They are driving partnerships between organisations that will support the aims of the ALL Strategy. They have set up Regional Literacy Coalitions, who are a broad mix of representatives and organisations in each region. The sixteen Coalitions are sharing their expertise and developing appropriate responses at local level.

Donegal Regional Adult Literacy Coalition

In Donegal, the Coalition is made of membership from the following organisations:

Donegal ETB
Donegal Co. Library Service (Donegal County Council)
Donegal Home School Community Liaison's (HSCL) Network
Donegal Family Resource Centre (FRC) Network
Donegal Local Development Company
Inishowen Development Partnership
Donegal Volunteer Centre
Donegal Intercultural Platform
Donegal Travellers Project
Health Service Executive (HSE) Health and Well-being
Donegal County Childcare Committee
Donegal Citizens' Information Service
Department of Social Protection (DSP)
North-West Regional Skills Forum
Muintearas na Gaeltachta
Donegal's Regional Literacy Coordinator

The inaugural meeting was held on the 14th of September 2023, where Ashlean McGeehan, HSCL from Finn Valley College, was elected as Chairperson.

Together, the Coalition has written this action plan to address the unmet literacy needs of adults across Donegal.

Main Action Points



2024 Regional Literacy Action Plan



Adult
Literacy
for Life



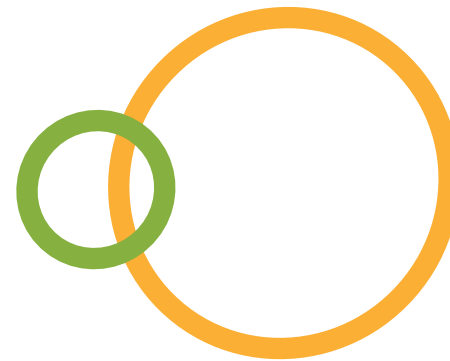
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Priority 1: Publicity campaign and awareness raising [Understand pillar]				
Actions	How	Who	When	Indicators/measure
<p>Action 1.1 Ensure organisations know how and where to signpost those with unmet literacy needs for support. Ensure staff are trained in literacy awareness. (Linked to 1.4)</p>	<p>Organise Literacy Awareness Training for voluntary, statutory and community groups countywide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donegal ETB and commitment from Coalition member organisations to ensure staff and volunteers attend. Coalition members responsible to ensure staff are accessing this training. 	<p>Spring – Summer 2024 and ongoing for new staff.</p>	<p>Attendance records maintained.</p> <p>Record of training delivered included in RLC quarterly report.</p>
<p>Action 1.2 Ongoing publicity and awareness raising in the public arena. 'ALL' events tagged on social media, radio ads, newspaper ads etc. #AdultLiteracyForLife #LiteracyChangesLives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively encourage and participate in literacy campaigns such as: Ireland Reads, International Literacy Day, Read DL, Social Inclusion Week, Learner Voice events etc. Initiate literacy campaigns relevant to your organisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalition member organisations to initiate literacy friendly campaigns and events. Coalition member organisations to attend and actively support literacy events. 	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Record attendance / engagement within your own organisation in the different campaigns and events.</p>
<p>Action 1.4 Devise an online platform that includes a database of relevant organisations which is kept up to date easily. (Linked to 1.1 and 1.3)</p>	<p>Publish a list of relevant contact people and services that is easily accessible for organisations and enables effective signposting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLC to devise and maintain the online database platform. Coalition members responsible for sharing the resource across their networks and submitting updates/info. to the RLC. 	<p>Q1 2024 and ongoing</p>	<p>Platform should be maintained up to date: organisations to update RLC when changes in staff occur.</p>

Priority 2: Literacy friendly promotion and services [Access pillar]

Actions	How	Who	When	Indicators/measure
<p>Action 2.1 Promotion of the use of plain English/Irish.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise training in plain English for organisations to attend. Actively use plain English/Irish in presentations and discussions. Lobby organisations to use plain English/Irish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLC to organise Plain English training for Coalition members and their staff. Coalition members to commit to using and promoting Plain English/Irish across their organisation. 	<p>Q2 2024 Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLC to maintain a record of those who attend plain English training. Communications such as posters, social media etc in Plain English/Irish.
<p>Action 2.2 Research where and how devices and/or the internet can be accessed easily.</p>	<p>Coalition members to find out where/how devices/technology can be accessed within the reach of their organisation (if relevant). For example, Libraries, Digital hubs, Community Centres, FRCs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalition members to collate and forward information to RLC. RLC to upload this information to the online platform. 	<p>Q3 2024</p>	<p>Record of where and how people can access technology and / or devices made available.</p>
<p>Action 2.3 Publicise the Enterprise Engagement Programme of Donegal ETB.</p>	<p>Coalition members to widely inform organisations and employers of the supports available for those in the workplace through Donegal ETB's Skills for Work Programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLC to organise Enterprise Engagement to present at a Coalition meeting. Coalition members to promote and encourage interaction with the Skills for Work Programme. 	<p>Q3/4 and ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of Coalition, recording presentation from Enterprise Engagement. Record maintained of referrals made on foot of the information sharing.
<p>Action 2.4 Ensure information and services are fully accessible and inclusive. (Linked to 2.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal Design for Learning training for those offering educational support. An audit checklist created for organisations to ensure their information has a universal design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal Design for Learning CPD for relevant staff. RLC to devise a UD checklist and upload to the online platform. 	<p>Ongoing Q1 2024</p>	<p>Record of attendance at UDL training maintained.</p>

<p>Action 2.5 Identify groups with low or no participation and promote services to improve and widen access to literacy services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and contact groups with low participation and communicate referral process. • Build strong links across organisations so we can support the target cohorts better. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalition members to identify those who are hard to reach and explore how best to engage them. • Build on collaboration across organisations so referrals and engagement increase. Networking events organised such as Social Inclusion Showcase event. 	<p>Q2 2024 and ongoing</p>	<p>Record of the 'hard to reach' referrals / groups participating with the literacy service and included in RLC quarterly report.</p>
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Priority 3: Enhanced and innovative provision [Expand pillar]

Actions	How	Who	When	Indicators/measure
<p>Action 3.1 Increase the number of numeracy initiatives by running dedicated projects. (Link to 3.6)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the possibility of C&I funded projects dedicated to numeracy. Specific numeracy projects run through the Adult Literacy Service and in collaboration with other organisations such as FRCs or MABs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RLC to encourage applications to the C&I fund relating to numeracy. Coalition members to run numeracy focused initiatives such as money management / Health literacy and managing medications etc. CIS and RLC to reach out to MABs – invite to a Coalition meeting. Create a numeracy focused sub-group within the Coalition. 	<p>Q1 2024 and ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record of programmes and projects rolled out and record in RALC reports. Sub-group to give feedback re. initiatives to main Coalition group and record in minutes.
<p>Action 3.2 Continuing upskilling of practitioners in UDL, especially at the lower levels (1-3).</p>	<p>Continuous Professional Development targeted at staff delivering courses, with priority given to new staff.</p>	<p>Donegal ETB to continue to offer CPD on UDL.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Record of attendance kept with Donegal ETB’s PL&D Coordinator.</p>
<p>Action 3.3 Design innovative initiatives that will enhance provision.</p>	<p>Generate ideas around initiatives that are engaging and innovative.</p>	<p>Coalition members to organise and host an ‘idea generation session’ with staff and students across organisations.</p>	<p>Q3/4 2024</p>	<p>Record of attendance from the session and record of innovative initiatives developed in RALC quarterly report.</p>
<p>Action 3.4 Sharing of initiatives that could innovate and enhance provision.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share good practice across organisations and build on good ideas together. Encourage and promote innovative ideas through the C&I fund. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalition members to regularly update RLC about literacy initiatives to update the online platform. Coalition members to ensure Literacy is on the agenda at meetings. RLC and Coalition members to promote the C&I fund. 	<p>Ongoing – agenda item for the Coalition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of RALC recorded and platform for sharing information maintained up to date. Records of successful C&I funded projects.



Priority 4: Pathways, health and well-being; supports [Empower pillar]				
Actions	How	Who	When	Indicators/measure
<p>Action 4.1 Maintain strong inter-agency relationships to ensure person centred pathways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information across the Coalition and more widely across the member organisations. • Maintain the sharing platform up to date. • Attend and organise networking events. • Organise campaigns and events in collaboration to build relationships. 	<p>All Coalition members to actively organise and participate in networking activities e.g. Social Inclusion Showcase.</p>	<p>Q1 and ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online platform maintained up to date with contact details and information. • RLC to record events organised/attended in RALC quarterly report.
<p>Action 4.2 Develop community initiatives through collaboration.</p>	<p>Actively encourage organisations to collaborate and submit an application for the C&I funding stream.</p>	<p>Facilitate time at Coalition meetings for networking and brainstorming new ideas.</p>	<p>Ongoing agenda item.</p>	<p>Record of successful C&I applications and where applications are unsuccessful, how they could be adapted or run on a smaller scale. Coalition agenda item.</p>
<p>Action 4.3 Support health and well-being alongside literacy.</p>	<p>Inter-agency support to encourage good health and well-being as well as building literacy skills e.g. Social Prescribers aware of how to refer into the ALS.</p>	<p>HSE Health Promotion and the RLC to actively seek involvement from health and well-being stakeholders to promote adult literacy.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Record of referrals made to the ALS and mapped back to the Coalition.</p>
<p>Action 4.4 Develop health and well-being programmes that integrate literacy.</p>	<p>Collaborate across organisations to develop health and well-being programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff from the adult literacy service and the HSE to collaborate on health and well-being content. • RLC to encourage applications to the C&I fund with a Health Literacy theme. 	<p>Q2 2024 and ongoing</p>	<p>Record of successful C&I projects.</p>



Donegal Regional Adult Literacy Coalition

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