



Fingal Volunteer Centre Annual Work Plan 2020

**Submitted to the Department of
Rural and Community
Development**

Date:



Introduction

Fingal Volunteer Centre is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. The Fingal Volunteer Centre Steering Group was brought together in 2005 to drive the Volunteer Action under the Fingal Improved Cohesion Plan. The group included Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Comhairle, Fingal LEADER Partnership (formerly Co-operation Fingal), Fingal County Council, and Volunteer Centres Ireland. Fingal Volunteer Centre is currently supported by the Volunteer Ireland, the Department of Community and Rural Affairs, Fingal County Council, Blanchardstown Area Partnership, Foróige, Citizens Information Board & Dublin 15 Citizens Information Centre. Our funders are the Department of Community and Rural Affairs, Fingal County Council and we also generate some income by providing the Garda Vetting Service and Volunteer Management Service via our Event Volunteers Programme.

Fingal Volunteer Centre works closely with (a) individuals, (b) groups and (c) organisations, across the county on all volunteering matters including the areas of volunteer management training, outreach and promotion, talks, workshops and information stands, referral of clients, support, advice and related services such as Garda Vetting, and multi-lingual information on volunteering for people from other countries. It also runs a socially inclusive Event Volunteers Programme which involves volunteers in one off public events in Fingal. Fingal Volunteer Centre involves a number of volunteers to assist with data entry.

1.1 Vision To promote the value of volunteering aand increase the range and quality of volunteering in Ireland

1.2 Mission Every person feeling connected to and participating in their communities to build a better Irish society.

1.3 Core Objectives

- 1)** Increase Access to Volunteering by offering a Support Service to the Public and Volunteering Involving Organisations (VIOs).
- 2)** Increase the Quality of Volunteering.
- 3)** Increase Awareness of Volunteering by Marketing and Promoting Volunteering.
- 4)** Ensure the Organisation is Sustainable through Good Governance and Management.

1. Operational context

Scope	Volunteer Centre is an independent and free matching service to encourage more people to become involved in volunteering across
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	<p>the county. We manage and develop a database of volunteer opportunities, recruit volunteers for community groups and provide training and support to co-ordinators of volunteers.</p> <p>We are one of the 22 (+7) Volunteer Centres and Volunteer Information Services in Ireland and one of four Volunteer Centres in the greater Dublin area. We aim to promote, develop and support volunteer participation in Fingal County. We are funded by the Department of Community and Rural Affairs</p> <p>The Centre provides a range of outreach and online supports to volunteers looking to volunteer and provides a series of training, volunteer management supports to volunteer involving organisations in Fingal. We also act as Authorised Garda Vetting Signatory to groups who may not otherwise have access to this service.</p>
Governance	<p>Board of Management 2019/2020</p> <p>Anna Marihina Liam Murray Gwendoline McGowan John Hayes Joanne Moody Adekunle Adeodu</p>
Staffing	<p>Manager – Daiga Martins Borges, Placement and Outreach Officer – Chiara Tamborini Garda Vetting Liaison and Admin –(part time) Julie Cahill.</p>
Area Profile: Demographics, Population Density	<p>Fingal is 452.7 sq.km in area. The population of Fingal has almost doubled in the past 25 years, rising from 152,766 in 1991 to 296,214 in 2016 according to the Census figures. It is an increase of 22,223 since 2011. The population is made up of 145,209 males and 151,005 females. Balgriffin saw the biggest rise in population in Fingal outside of Dublin 15 with a staggering increase close to 60% in the last five years. Most areas in Fingal hovered around that county-wide average increase of 8% with Balbriggan Rural growing by 8.8% while the urban part of Balbriggan by 7.4%. Two rural villages in Fingal saw considerably higher than average growth in population with Ballyboughal growing by some 14% and Garristown growing by 12.5%. The population density in Fingal is 651.60.</p>
Area Strengths	<p>Fingal Volunteer Centre has a great local reach to organisations and individuals who have already availed and continue to use of our services. The Centre works closely with various players to include Fingal County Councils Community and Events Departments, Event Partners, Fingal Libraries. Despite the geographical spread we have a</p>

	county wide presence and have monthly outreaches in each of 10 Fingal Libraries which is a great opportunity for groups and volunteers to access our services.
Area Challenges	The public transport system in Fingal is not well connected. For instance to get from Blanchardstown in Dublin 15 to Swords there are no direct public transport links and individual needs to either travel via Dublin 17 or Dublin City Centre and it could take up to 2 hours to get there, whereas to get there by car it is only about 15-20 minute journey. Therefore we feel a lot of organisations we work with are missing out on certain workshops, courses we run and we would also agree that it also prevents potential volunteers to travel and explore other volunteering opportunities that might only be 15minutes away from them. If we want a full participation we are then looking at running the same workshops in three locations in Fingal -Balbriggan, Swords and Blanchardstown to ensure everyone has access to them. Fingal has a large youth population yet we feel we are not reaching out to them all.
Key Priorities	Raise organisational awareness and increase the number of Volunteer Involving Organisations registered with us. Increase our visibility across County via extensive marketing and promotion. Become fully Compliant with Charity Governance Code.
Budget Requested	125,582