

Quality Assurance

EZINE



AUTUMN 2024

#Erasmus4FET
#ThisisFET #SeoéFET



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CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

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ERASMUS PLUS 2024-2025

Professional Development



Welcome (K Seery)

▶ TBC



GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE NEWS

- Quality Council & Governance groups updates
- Governance Review of Quality
- Results Approvals
- Autumn courses across FET



Governance of Quality

Quality Council

Awaiting article

Quality Assurance Sub-group

The Quality Assurance Sub-group has had a productive year in 2024. This has involved ongoing refinement of the newly implemented Quality Framework, incorporating feedback, identifying areas for improvement, and establishing a detailed review schedule for all QA policies and procedures, starting from 2025. This schedule is now ready to be presented at the next Quality Council meeting.

The group has also carefully reviewed feedback and identified improvement areas from the Result Approval Panel (RAP) meetings. Additionally, time was dedicated to reviewing and approving the QASG terms of reference as part of the Governance Review process.

As the QASG concludes its current phase and prepares to welcome new members following the KWETB Governance Review, we would like to sincerely thank all outgoing members, including interim secretaries Lynn Armstrong and Maria Lally, along with Linda Levingstone, Patricia O’Brien, and Elizabeth Jenkins.

Their hard work, support, and dedication over the past few years have been invaluable. Each member played a crucial role in establishing and embedding the QASG within KWETB's governance structure, making significant contributions to how Quality Assurance is managed and monitored.

The newly reformed QASG looks forward to welcoming new members and continuing its focus on key priorities, including the draft FET Learner Handbook which is currently in progress.

Programme Governance Sub-group

Awaiting article

FET Results Approvals (awaiting)



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KWETB 2024-2025 Brochures



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Full-Time
Part-Time
Courses

2024-2025



Further
Education
and
Training
Courses
Co. Kildare

NOW
ENROLLING



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KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Wicklow Further Education and Training Centres
Courses 2024-2025



Now
Enrolling

A brighter future, learning
with Kildare and Wicklow ETB



NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Quality Assurance team news
- Early Learning and Care
- Shelton Abbey
- West Wicklow Youthreach
- Leixlip Youthreach
- Equality Diversity & Inclusion Committee
- Launch of 23-25 Erasmus+4 FET opportunities



Quality Assurance Team News

National FET Programme Review

A national agreement has been reached across the ETBs for a process to proceed with the review and development of a prioritised group of programmes.

Work is ongoing and a further update is to follow soon.

Single Quality Assurance Framework

The KWETB Single Quality Assurance Framework roll out is almost complete. Sessions are still ongoing, and the QA team met with centres across Kildare & Wicklow over the last number of months.

The launch of the learner handbook is to follow. The QA team would like to thank staff for their cooperation and please do not hesitate to get in touch with any queries you may have.

Governance of Quality Review

The Governance of Quality Review phase 3 is now complete, and a report of findings has been provided to the Quality Council.

The proposed updates are now in development, and a further announcement will be made shortly.

The Quality team would like to thank everyone who attended the workshops and provided their feedback.

In 2021-2022 KWETB Piloted the new ELC Programme in Bray and Wicklow we are now delivering it across 6 centres. Each year the Lead ETB DDLETB conduct a survey on the programme national and share the relevant findings with the individual ETB. The findings are also reported back to the Programme Board each year for review and/or action.

Based on the review findings and the feedback from the ELC programme managers national Community of Practice, the following decisions/actions occurred:

Year 1 : Decision that the Programme needed to “bed” in, all findings noted.

Year 2 : Programme Board approved changes in conjunction with looking for PAEC approval from QQI on relevant amendments.

- A rebalancing of direct and self-directed hours with a downwards revision on direct hours of 360 hours at level 5 and 340 hours at level 6.
 - The range of duration for part-time programmes has been expanded from 18-22 months per level/stage to 9-24 months per level/stage, with the advice that clear distinction must be made around part-time and full time delivery.
 - Resit/repeat assessment requirements revised from 2 opportunities to where a learner otherwise would fail a module must be given an opportunity to repeat/resit an assessment.
 - RPL updates
 - Titles streamlined for PLSS
- NL12129/Q5M Early Learning and Care, Level 5 Certificate
- NL12123/Q5M Early Learning and Care, Advanced Certificate Stage 1 / Level 5
- NL12131/Q6M Early Learning and Care, Advanced Certificate Stage 2 / Level 6
- The term ‘early childhood care and education’, ‘early childhood education and care’, ‘early years’ are understood and acceptable. However, the sector has moved away from the term ‘childcare’ and it should not be used.

Early Learning and Care



[Spring 2023 ELC programme survey report](#)

Year 3 : Feedback to go to the next Programme Board meeting. Within KWETB the attached presentation has gone out to the Centres validated to delivery the ELC Programme and is being shared in the KWETB Quality October eZine.

ETBs Early Learning and Care programme

2023 review

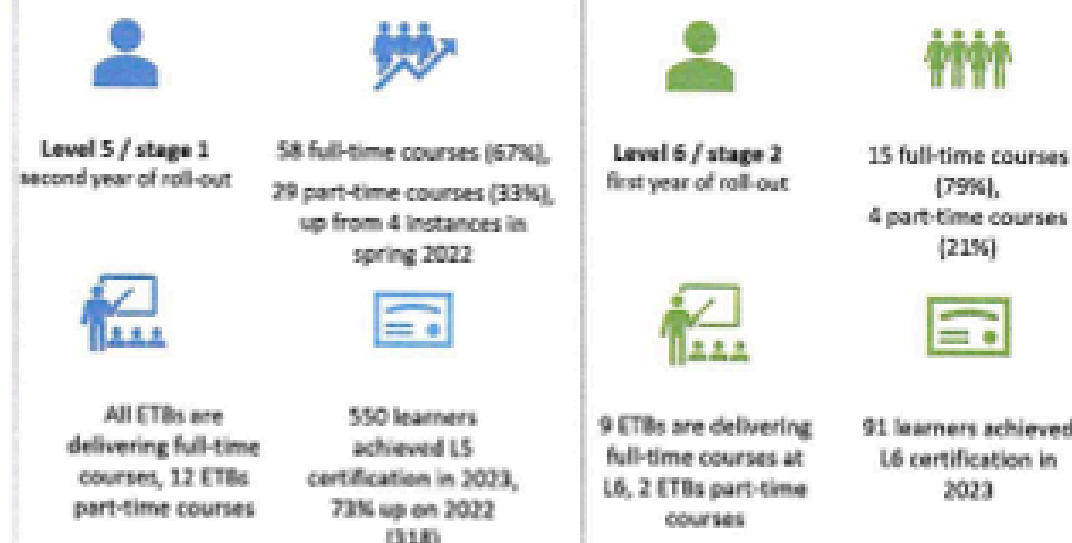
Leading to professional qualifications:

- Level 5 Certificate in Early Learning and Care 5M21473
- Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care 6M21471

1.

What is the extent of delivery of the programme?

Sources:
2023 annual review survey of ETBs.
QQI infographics.



2. How does certification compare with other QQI awards?

For ETBs, certification at NFQ Level 5 in this field retained its high ranking in comparison to certification in other fields (figures for Q1-2 2023):

1	Community Health Services 5M4468	711 graduates
2	ELC 5M21473 525 + ECCE 5M2009 184	709 graduates combined
3	Nursing Studies 5M4349	694 graduates

Source: QQI

Note: ECCE 5M2009 was deactivated by QQI in December 2023 by agreement with the Department of Education and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

3. What is the retention rate on ELC courses?

Centres reported that across learners on course in March 2023

Level 5 average retention rate: 77%

Level 6 average retention rate: 85%

Source: 2023 annual review survey of ETB centre managers/course coordinators.

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ETBs Early Learning and Care programme

4. What is the progression within and from the programme?

Actual progression pathways in 2022

318 learners were awarded the Level 5 Certificate in ELC in 2022, the first year of certification.

By June 2023, 84 (26%) had started and achieved the Advanced Cert (Level 6). A further 130+ learners started Level 6 part-time courses in 2022-2023.



Of the 35 ELC graduates who made CAO applications in 2022,

- 11 accepted a L8 offer on the basis of their QQI award
- 3 accepted a L6/7 offer on the basis of their QQI award
- 10 accepted a CAO offer not rated as QQI (CAO Statistics)

Figures for progression to employment are unavailable.

Intended progression pathways for learners on course in spring 2023:

Learners on Level 5 courses:

52% - progress to Stage 2/Level 6

19% - go into employment in the ELC sector

7% - progress to L7 or L8

Learners on Level 6 courses:

43% - go into employment in the ELC sector

15% - continue in employment in the ELC sector where already employed there

17% - to progress to L7 or L8 in higher education in this subject

Based on responses from 288 learners in a survey in April 2023 as part of the 2023 annual review.



Sources: QQI, CAO, SOLAS, 2023 annual review surveys of ETB centres and learners.

For more details, see the Annual review report 2023.

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Shelton Abbey

Candy Cart Woodwork Project



Following the success of last year's woodwork summer project, the outside seating area (pergola) adjacent to the school building, it was decided to design and build a 'Shelton Candy Cart' for use at family days and other events here in the prison. It made its debut at our recent Shelton Abbey Open Day and was admired by all.

Listowel Prison Writing Competition

Shelton Abbey English department are delighted with our recent success in Listowel Prison Writing Competition 2024.

One of our learners was awarded 2nd prize in the Short Story Category for his wonderful story 'The Visit'.

All learners with an interest in poetry and short story writing are encouraged to prepare for and participate in this competition annually.

Bee in My Family Project



The Shelton Abbey Education Centre hosted a 'Bee in My Family' learning/activity event for visiting families on Saturday 22nd June. The emphasis of our 'Bee in My Family Day' was on environmental and sustainability literacies and communicating and sharing ideas through creative writing and drawing

"Family Together" Stencil Art Project

An Education Centre Collaboration Between the Art Department, Irish Red Cross and Library Service.

The aim of the "Family Together" collaborative project was to create an art making tool which would provide the opportunity for bonding time between prisoners and their children on weekend visits. Art Department Students researched and explored design options which would appeal to a variety of ages and then created a range of re-usable and sustainable stencils that can be easily stored in the community bookcase and used by their own children and the wider community on weekend visits.



West Wicklow Youthreach

"Vision for the Future"

Apollo Project 2024

Since the start of 2024, learners from West Wicklow Youthreach worked with artist Lynn Haughton, Russborough House and the National Gallery of Ireland to express their vision for the future through a collaborative upcycled art project.

The project draws upon the learner's own lived experiences as well as the collections and spaces found at Russborough and the National Gallery of Ireland.

Using unwanted waste textiles and materials, Lynn and the learners created an art piece which tells a story of treading new paths to discover a better future for human life, learning, and the environment.



The artwork titled "Vision for the Future" was launched at a special event in the unique Russborough House maze, which was a source of inspiration for the piece, in the summer of 2024.



The artwork will go on public display in the National Gallery of Ireland from November 5th -9th during the Gallery's first Youth Festival as part of the "Real Life" exhibition, which celebrates artistic representations of nature.

This project is the most recent achievement born out of a flourishing relationship between West Wicklow Youthreach, the Apollo team from the National Gallery, and our wonderful nearby neighbours at Russborough House.

Come one and all and see our vision for the future!"

News of formers students progression at:

Leixlip Youthreach

Staff and young people at Leixlip Youthreach are used to the delicious baked goods that are regularly produced by students in our kitchen. However, they were somewhat surprised when four cakes were delivered from a local bakery recently. It turned out that a UK based former student and business owner had ordered them as a thank you to Youthreach. "I couldn't have done it without you - Youthreach Leixlip was the best boost to achieve what I've done" he said.

Some of our 2023 graduates have also shared news of their successes. One dropped in with news of his journey towards an electrical apprenticeship. Two others shared photos of their graduation from Dunboyne College of Further Education and acceptance into NUI Maynooth.

At a time of year when our centre is busy preparing for a new intake of students it's a nice to be reminded of the impact we are having.



*You can read more news about
Leixlip Youthreach on our
Instagram!*

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Equality and Human Rights in the Public Service

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB) hosted an event to acknowledge employees who have completed training on Equality and Human Rights in the Public Service.

The training, provided by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC), is designed to enhance understanding and implementation of equality and human rights principles within public service roles.

KWETB's ambition is to be one of the most progressive, inclusive, public service organisations in the country. Focussing on building a diverse workforce and ensuring equality of access to our information, and education and training services.

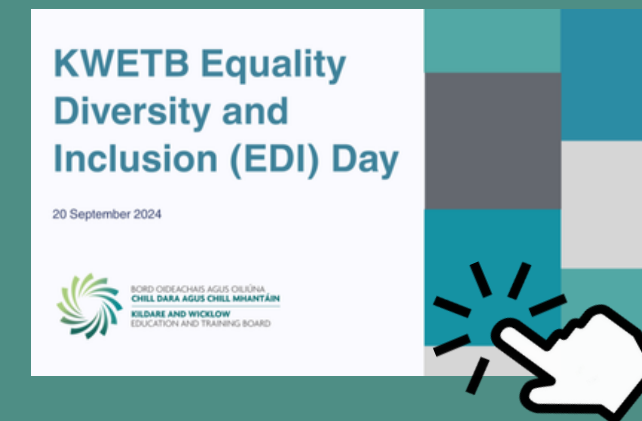
KWETB's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group is the driving force behind this initiative as one of several actions agreed for this year.

EDI Working Group Chair Brenda Lynch states. *"Our commitment to both the Public Sector Duty and the Equality and Human Rights Act has encouraged us to take positive action in training our staff from across all areas of our organisation, Schools, Administration and Further Education and Training division".*

During the event, employees were presented with certificates recognising their commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable workplace and services. This milestone underscores KWETB's dedication to promoting a culture of respect, diversity and equality.

KWETB Chief Executive Dr Deirdre Keyes remarked, *"Today marks a significant step forward for the KWETB. By equipping our staff with essential knowledge on equality and human rights and by enhancing the accessibility of our communications, we are reinforcing our commitment to serving our employees and learners with integrity and inclusivity."*

By investing in equality and human rights training, KWETB is not only enhancing the skills and awareness of its employees but it also sets a standard for public service provision in the locality.



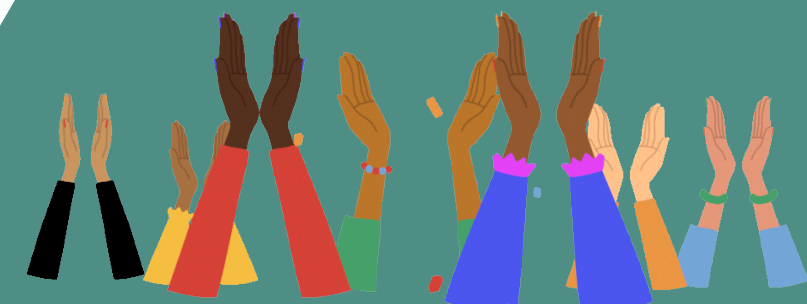


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AUTUMN 24-25

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**MORE ERASMUS+ OPPORTUNITIES
TO BE ANNOUNCED FOR 2025...**

**4th-8th November
24
Eduko College,
Finland.
QA & Governance of
QA**

**11th-15th November 24
Rigas Technical College,
Latvia.
FET College
Development and
Innovation**

**2nd-6th December
24
ESOZ, Czechia.
QA & Governance of
QA**

Professional Development (awaiting article)



Next issue:
December 24

*Thank you for your
contributions!*

