

Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board

FET QUALITY ASSURANCE

EZINE -
SUMMER 2025



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA
CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

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KWETB FET Governance of Quality structure 2025–2026

KWETB FET Quality Council
Chair: Ken Seery
Secretary: Brenda Lynch

Members
Gabriel Allen
Garry Allen
Caitríona Cullen
Eileen Cullen
Annette Mangan
Louise Fortune
Lisa Harvey
Susanne Kelly
Una Burke

**Quality Assurance
Sub-group**

Chair: Caitríona Cullen
Secretary: April White

Members
Éilís Clare
Deirdre Curtin
Karen Donegan (KARE)
Bernice McLaughlin
Tracy O'Shaughnessy
Christine Wray

**Quality
Assurance**

Members
Patrick Flannagan (SME)
Olivia Knight
Noel MacAoidh
Caroline McCabe
Debbi Metcalfe

**Programme Governance
Sub-group**

Chair: Una Burke
Secretary: Patricia Dalton

**Stakeholder Engagement
Sub-group**

Chair: Eileen Cullen
Secretary: Olivia Deegan

Members
Rory Clarke,
Niamh Fingleton,
Mary Mooty,
Ashley Stephens,
Ruth McSherry



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GOVERNANCE OF QUALITY

Summer Report: Quarter 1 Activity of the Programme Governance Subgroup

The Programme Governance Subgroup (PGSG) met in February under the leadership of Brenda Lynch, who chaired the meeting for her final time. Brenda has led the subgroup since its formation in 2019, will now move to her new position as Secretary of the Quality Council. We thank her for her dedicated service and leadership during the subgroup's foundational period.

Una Burke, newly appointed as Adult Education Officer (AEO), has assumed the role of Chairperson from May 2025. The groups membership was refreshed in 2025 with 4 new members; Olivia Knight, Debbi Metcalfe, Noel Mc Aoidh and Caroline Mc Cabe.

Continuing Members include Patricia Dalton who remains in the role of secretary, and we are very lucky to continue to have Patrick Flanagan continue as Industry Representative.

Q1 Activities and Achievements

During the first quarter, the PGSG processed a significant volume of programme requests:

- 14 Programme Approval Requests
- 3 Applications to add centres to validated programmes
- 11 Requests to add components to already validated modules

The subgroup achieved two notable milestones this quarter:

1. New Level 4 Certificate in Visual & Creative Arts
2. The group recommended approval for this new certificate, which has been in development for some time with the valuable support of Angela Higgins and numerous art teachers from the Kildare Wicklow FET Team.
3. Special Purpose Awards for Employment
4. The group proudly recommended approval for two special purpose awards developed specifically for people in employment:
 - QQI Level 5: Building Resilience for Customer Relations
 - QQI Level 6: Customer Experience Design for Business

Looking Ahead

The PGSG will reconvene in May to review three additional programme validation requests and to process 27 reviewed CAS (Common Awards System) awards.

The first Results Approval Panel meeting for Further Education was held on 4th February.

Results were approved for the April certification period, with eleven centres submitting a total of 688 learner portfolios for approval. A range of grades were achieved, including successful at levels 2 and 3, and Distinction, Merit and Pass grades across programmes at levels 3,4,5 and 6.

Work is now being carried out on the forthcoming June certification.

Congratulations to all learners on their achievements and to the tutors and centre staff for their dedication and hard work in ensuring these successes.

Summary of Grades Achieved April 2025 Certification

Summary of Grades submitted for April 2025 Certification					
Field of Learning	Successful	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Total
Core, Languages	85	33	13	3	134
Education, Health		141	80	39	260
Business, Admin		192	47	20	259
ICT	2	1			3
Art Craft Design		4	2		6
Sport, Science, Services, Horticulture		14	8	1	23
Engineering					
Micro Qualifications/Special Purpose Awards		2		1	3
Total:	87	387	150	64	688

Results Approvals

Certification in FE for
April 2025 certification period



Figure 1 KWETB QQI awards 2025 across FET provision (QQI Infographics)

481

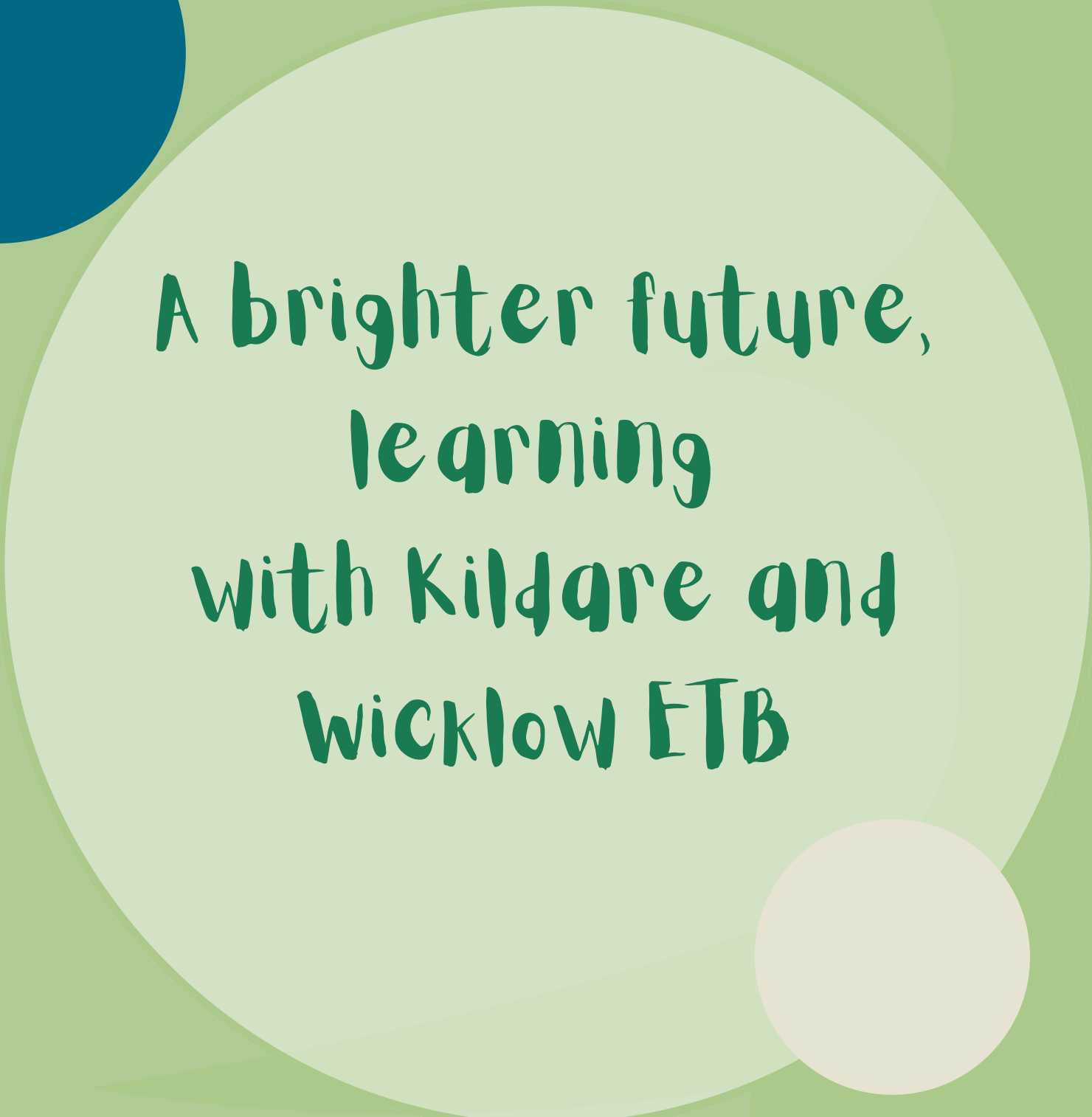
QQI awards issued to KWETB FET
Feb 2025 certification period

631

QQI awards issued to KWETB FET
Apr 2025 certification period

QQI Infographics

QQI Certification 2025 –
QQI Awards issued to KWETB



A brighter future,
learning
with Kildare and
Wicklow ETB



News and Achievements

From our centers



COMMUNITY EDUCATION TASTER WORKSHOP AND NETWORKING EVENT

Community Education group leaders and learners from over 25 community education groups across County Kildare took part in a fully booked taster workshop event in Newbridge on March 7th as part of the [AONTAS Adult Learners' Festival 2025](#). The event was organised by the Kildare Community Education service to provide group leaders with an opportunity to experience a flavour of **what Community Education can offer** and marks over ten unbroken years of Adult Learners' Festival events in Kildare. The focus for this year's event was to allow group leaders to experience a range of the workshops and courses available through the Community Education Service and to meet with other groups.

Across the morning, learners attended **workshops in Horticulture, Digital Skills, Craft and Well-being** and shared the stories of their group's experiences with each other.

The tutors **Colm O'Callaghan, Kathrina Hughes, Joanie Murphy and Mary Ruth Fallon** ran short workshops which allowed the participants to experience what it would be like to participate in a Community Education programme with appropriate class numbers and not just listening to a tutor but actively participating in the workshop. They planted window boxes, learned tips on online safety, got an introduction to printmaking and experienced a healing sound bath.

Learners attended from across County Kildare and described how **enriching it was to experience** these opportunities first-hand.



Many ideas were shared including a presentation from **Conor O'Leary, Community Education Facilitator Kildare with KWETB on Community Education funding and support for groups and The REACH fund. The REACH Fund** is funded by the **Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science** and aims to provide funding to support educationally disadvantaged learners in accessing and participating in Community Education.

The morning concluded with group leaders expressing a desire to meet again soon and explore their shared **challenges and experiences** and an offer from the Community Education Team to organise a workshop to bring them together. There followed a round of thanks to everyone for making the event possible including the fantastic staff (**Lisa Hopkins and Stefanie Larkin**) and tutors of the Community Education service, KWETB and the staff of Newbridge Parish Centre.

The event effectively highlighted how Community Education is an approach to learning which involves working with community groups to identify their needs and develop educational responses. It promotes **equality and inclusion** and values the life experience of learners whilst recognising the importance of learning together in local community groups. It is also highly creative and seeks to bring about **positive personal, community and social change**.



**Conor O'Leary,
Community Education Facilitator,
Kildare Community Education, Naas FETCN**

**You can contact Community Education Kildare
by e-mailing communityedkildare@kwetb.ie
or calling the office at 045-881863.**

West Wicklow Youthreach Leads the Way with BFETC Swap Shop!

This March **West Wicklow Youthreach** were proud to organise and run the first **BFETC Swap Shop**—a learner led project focused on promoting sustainability, reducing waste, and connecting with both our campus and the wider community.



Over the course of the two week event, we collected, sorted, and displayed **hundreds of clothing items**; encouraging BFETC learners, staff, and members of the general public to take part by swapping or donating clothes. It was great to see so many people get involved and show support for more sustainable fashion choices.

Any leftover items were donated to the local **Saint Vincent de Paul and Direct Provision Centre**, ensuring they continued to be useful and appreciated by others.

The Swap Shop also supported several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including:

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, by encouraging the reuse of clothing and reducing textile waste.

SDG 13: Climate Action, by promoting environmentally-friendly habits and lowering the impact of fast fashion.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, by helping make good-quality clothing accessible to everyone.



Organising and running the event gave us the chance to lead another meaningful initiative, while building stronger connections across our BFETC campus and the local community. We are proud of what we accomplished together and are excited to keep working toward a more sustainable future.

This academic year marked a milestone in the development of Leixlip Youthreach's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) curriculum, with students embracing hands-on learning and stepping into leadership roles in new areas. Across the year, learners engaged in 30 hours of STEAM learning—22 hours of teacher-led sessions and 8 hours led by students themselves.

A STEAM-Powered Journey at Leixlip Youthreach



Photography

The teacher-led sessions were designed and delivered by Maths and IT teacher Rachael as part of her “STEAM Education in Youthreach” professional development course, facilitated by the National Youth Council of Ireland and accredited by Dublin City University. These sessions explored areas as varied as measuring human vital signs, testing food samples for macronutrients, making cheese and butter, constructing pinhole cameras, developing photos in our “darkroom”, and studying light, lenses, and microscopy.

A huge highlight of this year's STEAM journey was the student-led component. Five students from our centre took part in the Dreamspace Ambassador Programme—a flagship STEAM student leadership initiative run by Microsoft's Dreamspace Team. This was the first year Youthreach centres participated in the programme, with 13 centres nationwide taking part—three from our own ETB.



Vital Signs



Food Production and Waste





Minecraft Education: Student Led Ethical AI Workshop

Our Dreamspace Ambassadors co-led engaging sessions for their peers on topics such as **artificial intelligence, algorithms, and coding**. They also planned and hosted a Tea and Tech event, inviting older family members and guests for a morning of digital learning and friendly chats. As well as delivering presentations, they facilitated tech-based group activities and presented prizes for challenge winners. The event was made even more special with help from fellow students who supported our guests and who baked a range of treats, turning the occasion into a true Leixlip Youthreach community celebration. The Ambassadors will graduate from the programme later this month and are aiming to achieve the highest award level in recognition of their learning and leadership.



Student Led “Tea and Tech” Event

We look forward to continuing to build on the momentum created this year and seeing where it leads our students and entire centre community in the future!

If you are interested in the DCU PL&D module for STEAM Education in Youthreach, more information is available here:

[Module: STEAM Education in Youthreach](#)

[STEAM in Youthreach – National Youth Council of Ireland](#)

[More information on the Microsoft Dreamspace Ambassador Programme is available here: Dream Space Ambassador Program](#)

National Voter Registration Day

Wicklow Town

National Voter Registration Day was facilitated by the ABE service in Wicklow Further Education and Training Centre on Wednesday 30th April. There was plenty of interest and enquiries from all students in the centre on the day. There was a particularly high degree of interest from ESOL and other asylum seekers as some of them did not realise they could vote at all. Students were happy to be provided with information and eligibility and direction on how to register. Irish students were enquiring about how they can check if they are registered as they were unaware that they could check the register. We also provided information to our Youthreach students and had some register with us on the day. Overall a successful level of awareness raised on National

West Wicklow

National Voter Registration Day took place on 30 April 2025. KWETB took part for the first time ever. In West Wicklow KWETB ABE Services collaborated with Wicklow PPN and Wicklow County Council. In Blessington FETC we held an outdoor event in the Centre from 10 – 1. In Baltinglass we held our event in the library from 10 – 1.

While numbers to register were low, we did register 20 people in both centres and also people came along to check their details were correct and we also had interesting discussions on why vote. Wicklow PPN also supported West Wicklow ABE services in this endeavour.

Voter Registration.



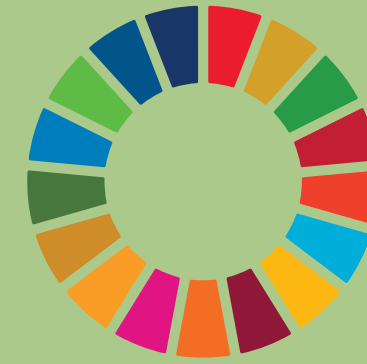
Arklow

The Arklow ABE service facilitated the National Voter Registration Day on the 30th of April. This was the first time the ABE service in Arklow engaged in this event but it will not be the last. It was an eventful day with interest from learners across all programmes.

As in Wicklow town many ESOL learners did not realise the eligibility to register and the steps to take to register. We were delighted we could provide this information for them. It was an informative and productive day, one we would definitely engage in again.



Commitments for Climate Action



We would like to introduce Debbi Metcalfe as KWETB's new Education for Sustainability Coordinator.

With a passion for education and sustainability, Debbi will be supporting our FET community in integrating climate literacy, green skills, and sustainable practices across all programmes.

The focus of this role will be on supporting educators, learners, and partners to develop resources and deliver training, to integrate climate literacy, sustainability principles, and green skills into teaching and learning. Through small actions, we can drive big changes, whether through curriculum development, professional training, or engaging hands-on learner initiatives.

The aim is to help make sustainability a meaningful part of our educational journey.

Stay tuned for upcoming workshops, resources, and opportunities to get involved. Together, we can make sustainability not just a goal but a cornerstone of FET education!

Let's go green, together!





Erasmus+ 24-25

Erasmus+

Enriching lives, opening minds.



Střední odborná škola energetická a stavební,
Obchodní akademie a Střední zdravotnická škola,
Chomutov, příspěvková organizace

VOCATIONAL COLLEGE



Our Erasmus+ Project for 2024-2025 has come to a close.

During this project, 48 staff travelled to 7 different FET organisations across Europe. Funded by the EU Commission, our application was governed by themes such as Quality Assurance in FET, curriculum development and assessment, digitisation, inclusion, apprenticeships and industry links, and FET Colleges of the Future.



The host partners staff travelled to were: Eduko Vocational College, Finland, Louvi Vocational College, Belgium, ESOZ, Czech Republic, Rīgas Technical College, Latvia, I.T.E Giambattista Bodoni, Italy, Liepāja Technical College, Latvia, and Region Académique de La Réunion, France,



eduko
Kouvolan Ammattiopisto

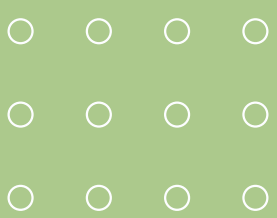


Staatsinstitut für Schulqualität
und Bildungsforschung München

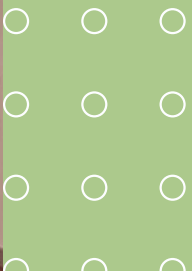




An integral part of Erasmus+ is forging sustainable relationships for future partnerships. Through our previous and current activities we have hosted visitors from a VET Principal's Network from Germany, staff from MBO Utrecht, The Netherlands, A VET Principals Network from Latvia and staff from I.T. E. Bodoni Giambattista, Italy.



We hosted two participant debrief days in order to gather data on shared experiences, learnings and ultimately future actions which arise from our activities. Our autumn 2025 participant debrief was held in Marine House, Wicklow, and our Spring participant debrief was held in Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre.





Our internal governance structure for all of the above is overseen by our Erasmus Steering group which support our strategic direction and which we report into regularly.

As part of our commitment to our local community the official KWETB gifts for our hosts p partners were custom made “friendship scarves” from a local socially enterprise project – CEART. Currently the team are busy preparing our end of project report to Leargas, and with future development of our 2025–2026 Erasmus+ projects.



Looking forward to future projects, KWETB FET services and Adult Education have both achieved Accreditation status from Leargas, which is our national agency for European Projects. Being an Accredited organisation means that we have proved that we hold a high standard of Quality Assurance for our projects, which not only adds value to our mobilities, but also because of this status, future funding applications should be easily secured for our staff and learners.



Thank you to all who applied for a place, participated in a mobility, provided feedback, and supported our work.

We will be in touch in autumn 2025 with information on Erasmus 2025–2026!



Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Feedback



"I found this Erasmus+ mobility experience as a positive and it was really beneficial to me in my career"

"Excellent opportunity to learn from each other and to make changes to our practice, policies and environment".

"On behalf of the group, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for this wonderful trip. It has been an incredible experience one we will never forget".

"The Erasmus experience has been profoundly enriching, offering a unique blend of professional growth and personal discovery".

"I will always be thankful to KWETB for giving me the opportunity to participate on this Erasmus mobility and will be taking a lot back to my practice".





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For all of your hard work and dedication throughout the year

Have a wonderful summer break!