

Eibhlin Byrne

Responsabile Nazionale per il Coinvolgimento Civico
Dipartimento di Giustizia, Affari Interni e Migrazione
EMN Irlanda

National Lead on Civic Engagement Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration
EMN Ireland





An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration



Community Engagement

Eibhlin Byrne, National Lead on Civic Engagement, EMN Conference, Italy
October 2025

About the Community Engagement Team



The Community Engagement Team (CET) was established in the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth with the support of Department of An Taoiseach, **to engage directly with elected representatives, Local Authorities** and other entities and individuals. In July 2025, the CET transferred to the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

Purpose

The purpose of the team is to **assist the flow of information** regarding arrivals into areas. This is to ensure that local communities are provided with up to date information about the current situation regarding accommodation for those seeking international protection, particularly where it relates to their area.

The team **does not have a role** in the procurement of premises or the allocation of new arrivals.

Objectives of Community Engagement



INFORM

Give people and groups in the community area easy access to trusted, relevant and factual information on the project and progress

Engage

Meet with and involve local leaders and champions across the community to prepare for and support integration activities in the area



Community Engagement Meeting Model



- **Small groups of community representatives** rather than hosting or attending public meetings facilitate a meaningful dialogue
- Seeks the support of the Local Development Company and or the Local Authority Integration Team
- **Listens** to their concerns and provide responses to queries where appropriate.
- Community representatives are usually identified by a local agency and or local elected representatives
- Community Engagement Team meets local elected representatives separately if requested.

Typical Community Concerns



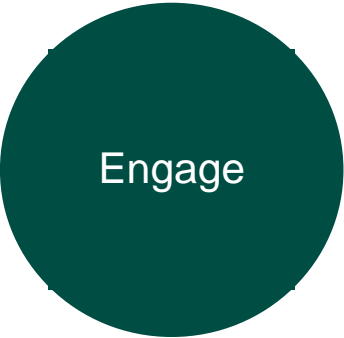
Communities wish to retain their values.

Challenges to social standing engender fear.

Concerns about allocation of resources can lead communities to question whether accepting newcomers with needs can be justified.

It is important that the unique characteristics and needs of communities are recognised and that any programme to bring new arrivals to an area takes cognisance of already established culture and norms and how these might be drawn upon and enhanced to provide an integrated community.

Governments cannot 'manage' migration / integration without recourse to communities.



Community Engagement 2024



■ Queries ■ Briefing notes ■ Meetings ■ Properties



EU Pact on Migration and Asylum: An Opportunity for Change

The transition to the EU Pact is an opportunity to design and build the future of migration and asylum in Ireland. It will deliver improved processing, deliver greater efficiencies and ways of working for our people and those seeking protection in Ireland.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR IRELAND?

- ✓ The introduction of new legislation to drive more efficient processes
- ✓ New and improved technology to enable these processes
- ✓ Decisions made against targeted timelines
- ✓ Reception conditions to align with other MS
- ✓ New organisational structures to support the EU Pact requirements
- ✓ Introduction of independent monitoring mechanisms to safeguard fundamental rights
- ✓ An asylum system that commands public trust through its effectiveness, efficiency, and fairness

A National Implementation Plan is due to be delivered to the EU outlining how the Pact requirements will be delivered. It is a proposed roadmap of how we transition to the EU Pact with new end-to-end processes, technology and structures for our teams.

IMPLEMENTATION WILL TAKE PLACE THROUGH 2025 to JUNE 2026



Citywest Transit Hub and IPAS Community Engagement

1. Inform:

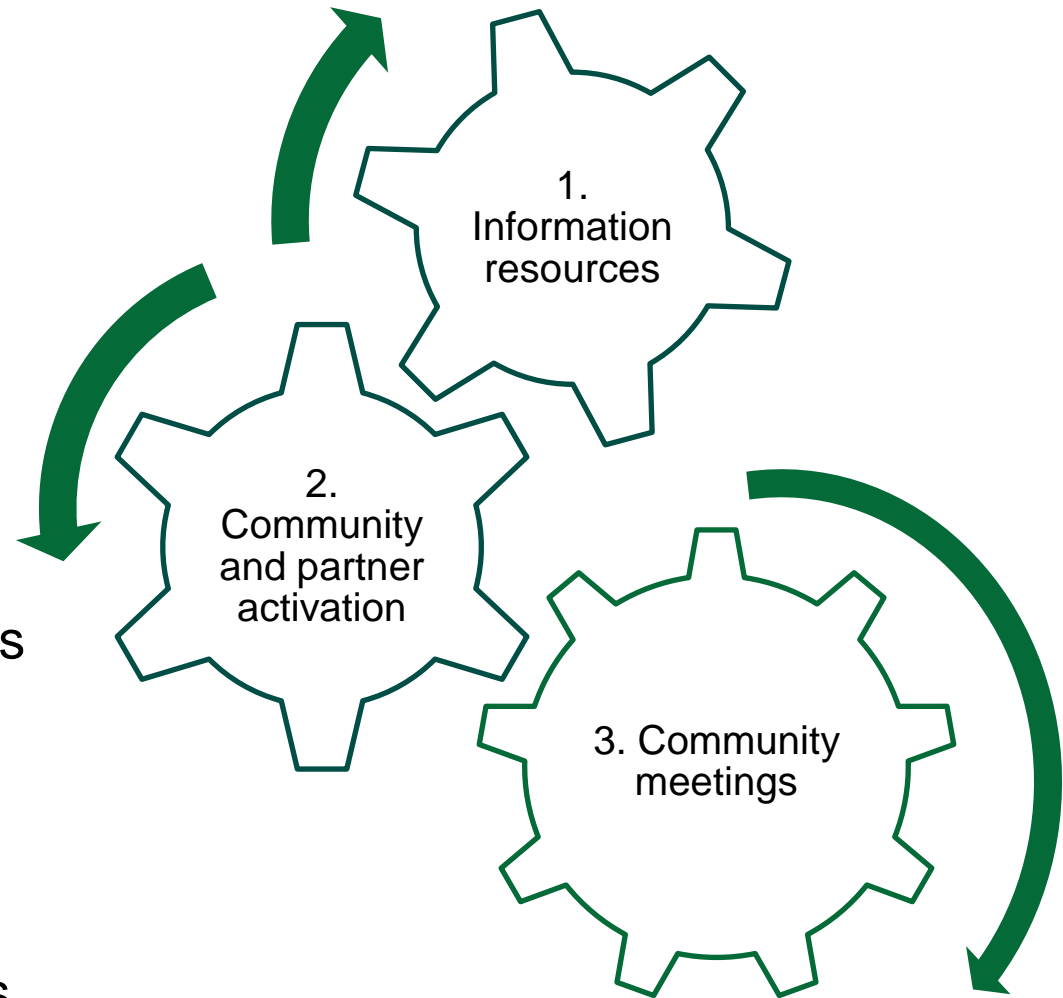
- Leaflet drop
- Webpage for Citywest updated
- Information resources on migration and integration

2. Community and partner activation

- Pathway to identify priority community needs to support integration agreed
- Showcase integration activities

3. Engage

- Schedule series of community rep meetings
- NGO / Civil society and business community





“Your attitude is more important than your ability,
your motives are more important than your
methods,
your courage is more important than your
cleverness,
and always have your heart in the right place”

*(Lt Col Dermot Earley 1948 – 2010,
Irish Defence Forces and United Nations)*