



### **Sample Testimonials:**

#### **HSE Mental Health Services – Lead for Connecting for Life (2018)**

I worked with Maria Power (Community Consultants) on a number of projects in the area of suicide prevention and mental health, including a recent evaluation of a national youth mental health service 'Jigsaw' and I've found her to be thoroughly professional and personable – which are essential qualities when engaging with a range of stakeholders. Maria brings a lot of in-depth experience to her work and has a great understanding of health, community and social issues. Above all, I can recommend Maria's work because she always delivers the required end product.

*Derek Chambers*

#### **South East HSE Regional Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention (2018)**

I have had the pleasure of working with Maria Power from Community Consultants over a number of years specifically while developing the local suicide prevention plans for the HSE within the South East. Maria's experience and reputation in the development of strategies and plans that tackle the most difficult and emotive social issues is renowned, so I was privileged to have the opportunity to work with her.

Community Consultants was the successful tender applicant for the development of both *Connecting for Life Waterford* and *Connecting for Life South Tipperary*. Maria's involvement in the strategy development in both counties extended from the very first consultation in the community to the print and design element. The values underpinning her work include sharing responsibility, working at all times from a solid evidence base and in line with best practice, she is committed to using a partnership approach and was consistently available and flexible to meet arising issues or contingencies.

Throughout this development process it was imperative that we used a community development approach. Maria emphasised inclusion and accessibility so that all stakeholders were supported to have a voice and to influence the direction of mental health and suicide prevention policy in their very own communities. Maria's ability to empathise and meet people

where they are at is innate and that was apparent in her recognition and acknowledgement of the lived experience of people touched by suicide and self-harm.

Community Consultants as a company is responsive, adaptable and efficient and offers excellent value for money. The results in this case speak for themselves and implementation of both community based, achievable and robust suicide prevention plans is well underway. I am very much looking forward to working with Maria again in the future.

*Tracy Nugent*

#### **HSE South: Cork - Kerry**

"Community Consultants has successfully carried out a qualitative evaluation of all five of our Primary Health Care projects .... and since then have continued to work with us on a number of community initiatives. They have shown a strong and sincere commitment to the community sector that we work with and we would not hesitate to contract them again in the future"

*Ronnie Dorney*

#### **HSE Waterford Community Services**

(Community Consultants) "Work with Community Groups has been to a very high standard and is regularly awarded public funding contracts for work in this sector" We are very happy to recommend and work with Community Consultants.

*Clare McNamara*

#### **Clan Credo Social Finance Bank** (who sought references from several sources)

"All sources were very happy with the quality of work done by Community Consultants .... and with the dedication and commitment of the staff, we would have no hesitation using their services again or recommending the company to other organisations"

*Jim Boyle*

#### **South Tipperary Local Development Company**

"We have worked with Community Consultants on a number of projects over the past 5 years – the external evaluation of a youth project, a rationale for expansion of the RAPID programme in Clonmel, and a whole town integrated community development plan. However the most significant project was a Social Inclusion Audit of South Tipperary and following on from that, a plan for the expansion of the LDSIP to the remainder of South Tipperary. Community Consultants as a team guided us as a Company through this entire process. They demonstrated clear insight into community work, excellent research and analytical skills and, what was of critical importance to us, the development of a strategic and sustainable framework for future work in the County. I always looked forward to working with Community Consultants, and never once doubted that they would deliver anything other than work of the highest calibre. I strongly recommend Community Consultants"

*Phil Shanahan*

**Cumann na Daoine (Community Development Project, Youghal, Co. Cork)**

"Cumann na Daoine have benefited greatly from the services of Community Consultants. The support and training that we have received has helped our project develop and grow from strength to strength. We look forward to working with Community Consultants in the future"

*Dolores Corcoran*

**Clare County Childcare Committee**

"Community Consultants has provided services to Clare County Childcare Committee on a number of occasions over the years particularly in the area of facilitation. They have always approached their work in a professional manner and supported us to achieve results in areas where we faced difficulty in the past. We hope to continue a working relationship with them into the future"

*Karen McCarthy*

**Youth New Ross**

"On-going evaluation of any project can be daunting and time consuming, Community Consultants enabled this process in a way that was easy to follow, productive and engaging of all stakeholders. Their involvement has enhanced the work and not only resulted in a professional evaluation process, but also added value in terms of support and development"

*Julie Sommers*

**Waterford Inner City Cohesion Project**

"As chairperson of the Waterford Inner City Cohesion project I was delighted that we used Community Consultants to help us develop our Needs Analysis and Implementation Plan. With their help the project was launched on time and we really hit the deck running on the implementation plan"

*Dick Hickey*

**Kilkenny LEADER Partnership**

"Kilkenny LEADER Partnership has worked successfully with Community Consultations on a long-term interagency project to support the development and capacity of the Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement. The aim of the project is to make the KTCM an independent sustainable organisation which progresses Traveller based interests at a county level & house a number of key projects. Community Consultants has played a key role in the development of the members of the KTCM and the structures that enable the group to operate the KTCM Co. Ltd."

*Martin Rafter*

**Community and Enterprise Department Kilkenny County Council**

"Kilkenny County Council Community and Enterprise Section have used the services of Community Consultants for many projects including the development of the Traveller Interagency Plan, Social Inclusion planning, staff planning and the development of the Local Economic Community Plan. The work of Community Consultants has always been thorough and professional- that is why we keep going back to them for crucial pieces of work."

Lindsey Butler & Brid Hynes

**Youghal RAPID Team/Cork County Council**

"Community Consultants have carried out a number of projects on behalf of the Youghal RAPID Team over the last 8 years and we have always found them to be extremely professional and highly dedicated. Of particular note is their keen insight into the needs of community groups and their ability to engage both statutory and voluntary groups alike. Community Consultants have undoubtedly enhanced the work of the RAPID Team and its associated community groups."

*Lorraine Hogan*