

KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN

#LocalEmploymentServicesWork

**Progressing People's Potential
Protecting Communities**

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LOCAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND JOB CLUBS

The ILDN is currently marking 25 years of serving communities through our network of 49 Local Development Companies (LDCs) across the country. LDCs are not-for-profit, volunteer-led organisations that provide services in relation to employment supports, enterprise grants, social inclusion, training, well-being and environmental supports in a holistic and integrated manner so that all services can be provided under one roof.

Over the past 25 years our Local Development Companies in Ireland have been providing public employment services successfully for through Local Employment Services and Job Clubs (*operating in 19 of our LDCs*).

The Minister for Social Protection has now signalled in the *Pathways to Work Strategy 2021-25*, her intention to replace the current model of Local Employment Centres and Job Clubs with a new model of Regional Employment Services. This

new model proposes that by the end of 2021 community-led Local Employment Services will have to compete in open Requests for Tender against private operators. Essentially, the Minister is seeking to replace the successful 25-year-old community-led and non-profit model of employment services with an untested, unproven, centralised profit-driven model of delivery.

The cessation of our local employment services would impact most adversely those who have become unemployed during the COVID-19 pandemic, lone parents, people with disabilities, migrants and the underemployed – all of whom really need access to the type of walk-in, person-centred, community-based employment service with the wrap-around supports that our current LES and Job Clubs provide.

In addition, this new model proposed in the *Pathways to Work Strategy* will lead to job losses for the group of highly skilled and committed staff in the local centres who have accumulated huge knowledge and expertise in assisting the more vulnerable members of their communities to enhance their life outcomes and progress to employment.

Rather than ceasing our service we believe the Minister should be expanding the employment services through the existing and reputable network of Local Development Companies rather than seeking to create new structures through private entities.

We are therefore calling on the Minister to:

- Halt the process for the rollout of the New Regional Employment Services,
- Examine the expansion of the current Local Employment Services / Job Club model across the 49 Local Development Companies in any future review/proposal for local employment services.
- Establish a working group made up of all stakeholders
- Allow sufficient time to review the most recent tender process

See Also

[ILDN Calls for Government Engagement on Future of Job Clubs & Local Employment Services on National Day of Protest](#)

[ILDN: Government's New Regional Employment Service A Bad Deal for Jobless in Our Communities](#)

[Indecon Review of Local Employment Services](#)

[The creeping marketisation of welfare and employment services Michael McGann, TASC, July 2021](#)

[SIPTU warns 300 jobs at risk over reforms to local employment services Irish Times, 5 April](#)

[Local Employment Services workers hold Dublin protest, RTE September 2021](#)