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The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development and the European Union through the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027

SICAP 2024-2028

End of Year Review

Lot Name:	Waterford City & County (24-1)
LCDC:	Waterford City/County
LDC Name:	Waterford Area Partnership CLG
Pobal Coordinator:	Aileen Gilchrist

Financial Compliance

The New Arrivals cash on hand is €32,875.71 which is in excess of the 5% maximum allowable of €17,196.24. The LDC have submitted a carryover template for €32,875.43. Total carryover allowed into 2025: €32,875.43

The SICAP cash on hand is €90,899.62 which is in excess of the 5% maximum allowable of €70,419.60. Carryover will be capped at €70,419.60.

Grant Compliance Check

No issues

Payments

Please review the VAT payments entered into IRIS for 2024. There are no payments entered for New Arrivals, where we would expect there to be two of each for SICAP and New Arrivals in 2024.

KPI Targeting and Local Priority Target Groups

The majority of the caseload have come from the target group of People Living in Households that are jobless or are in low paid &/or precarious employment 80%, People impacted by educational disadvantage 34%, Long Term Unemployed 30% and Refugees 26%.

There are 3 Local Priority Target Groups for Waterford include: People Living in Disadvantaged Communities (24% /312 individuals), Disabled People/People with Disabilities (18% /227 individuals)



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government supporting communities



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and People Living in Households that are jobless or are in low paid &/or precarious employment. They have worked with 1043 individuals from jobless households on a one-to-one basis and accounts for 80% of KPI 2 case load.

Overall, there is widespread engagement across the target groups of the programme.

Please upload the 2024 Individual Target Group Report within the document section on IRIS.

Progress on Actions

The 2024 Annual Progress Report has been uploaded and is in line with guidance issued. The report clearly documented the needs facing all beneficiary types in 2024, with particular emphasis on the approach used by the LDC in addressing the needs of New Arrivals residing in the Lot. There is a strong emphasis on collaboration throughout the report in terms of the delivery of the Annual Plan.

14 individuals progressed into employment, 54 into self-employment and 1101 individuals participated on a course (28% certified). 75% of individuals on the KPI 2 caseload were newly registered in 2024.

Clear practical examples of how the SICAP horizontal principles underpin the delivery of the Action Plan are given.

A wide range of supports and services have been provided to New Arrivals during the year including English language supports, business mentoring and training, targeted employment programmes and information sessions delivered at Direct Provision Centers/ accommodation centers. Referenced collaborative work with Waterford Volunteer Centre and Community Integration Forum to support integration locally.

Progress on actions supporting the Local Priority Target Groups is evident in the end of year update on activity and the action progress report on IRIS.

Noted points made by the LDC with regard to projects that have worked well in 2024 such as the workshop with neuro divergent adults to access education supports to reach their goals, collaborated with LEO to access additional training supports for those ready to establish their businesses, strategically worked with WWETB on a pre-engagement programmes with Respond Housing participants and the provision of English language courses in private schools offering tailored solutions for different proficiency levels.

The LDC outlined the various challenges with its implementation in 2024 such as certain community organisations reluctance to create new structures/ unwilling to take on more administration roles and approaching the LDC for assistance with HR and finance responsibilities, online grant applications/portals proving challenging for Community Organisations coupled with the requirement to pay in advance with reimbursement when report and receipts are submitted, referrals received from agencies for employment/self-employment supports also presenting with issues such as



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mental health etc. The LDC referenced the impact of the policy limiting Temporary Protection Applicants to stay in Designated Accommodation Centers to 90 days, required a rapid and flexible program delivery. In addition, the receipt of additional New Arrival funding mid-year posed challenges for annual planning and resource allocation.

Communication and Visibility

The contact details for the LCDC and LDC are up to date on IRIS.

The LCDC and LDC SICAP landing pages includes all the relevant logos and strapline

Data Quality Check

The dialogue box for each action has been updated. There is a high level of data recorded against each action, as well as detail on the outcome of the delivery of each action for the end of year Action Progress update section on IRIS.

There are a number of data quality items that need to be addressed :

- 9 Potential Duplicates
- 1-Individual address not mapped
- 1- Employment Follow up
- 2- Self -employment Follow up
- 19-EIST Long term Follow up

Case Study

The Title of the case study is The People's Transition - Larchville and Lisduggan. The case study focuses on SICAPs engagement with the communities of Larchville and Lisduggan in collaboration with TASC and reflects on the communities/stakeholders experience in designing a number of climate solutions to benefit the community.

The video is 17.5 minutes long and includes 9 contributors including TASC, CEO of LDC, SICAP Development Co-ordinator, staff from Waterford County Council and 4 members of local resident's associations/LCGs who share their experience and highlight their engagement with SICAP and the benefits to their community. There are real positive messages from the contributors.

The video outlines the 3 phases of The People's Transition model which was led by TASC. This



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model aims to give people and communities ownership of the transition to zero-carbon societies.

The video works very well in conveying the level of buy in from the community, the value of SICAPs long-established relationship in Larchville/ Lisduggan and acknowledges that people have more pressing priorities than climate change such as housing, cost of living crisis but deals with these priorities and challenges in a way that is climate smart. The collaborative approach is very evident in the case study. It highlights the benefits to the communities such as wellbeing, air quality and urban greening and barriers such as drawing the various actors together. The challenges for disadvantaged communities are referenced. Progress is very evident on a number of fronts such as accessible pathways, successfully accessed funding for 3 biodiversity projects from Climate Action Fund, engagement with County Council in relation to accessible transport, retrofit project, repair cafe, intergenerational project and the community have signed a Memo of Understanding to be a UNESCO Learning Neighbourhood.

The video case study is complimented by a narrative report which sets the case study in context, details the stakeholders involved and the extent of engagement through the focus groups, surveys and one to ones. It highlighted SICAP role and contribution and details the project impacts and outcomes to date. The case study submitted is in line with guidance issued. The role of SICAP is central to the project and very evident in the case study. This is a well-presented case study and will be useful in creating an awareness of SICAP role in engaging and supporting communities in the climate action/climate change space.