

LCDC Community Progress Report and updates – October 2025

1. Community Integration Forum/LAIT update for LCDC – Noleen Osborne

Community Integration Forum (CIFO):

Waterford Council's Ukrainian Team working with arrivals to the Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC) has now concluded and the building has been returned to owners. New pledge properties are now offered to the other DACs and the team will work with DAC staff to ensure occupancy of properties and management of the licenses going forward. The team continues to support those in pledged accommodation and are still seeking pledge properties (vacant and shared) and can be contacted at 058/22059 or offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT):

As of 29th August, there are 2,553 BOTPS in Waterford (increase of 61 on July). As of 21st September there are 615 IPAs (159 children) in the 7 IPAS centres.

For the month of September, the team carried out 3 group clinics with 20 attendees. Also 9 one: one sessions and 4 group engagements. There were 27 non clinic enquiries (Facebook/email/telephone)

The outcome is individual queries answered/ advice and information packs provided and signposting to relevant services. Discussions were held regarding; English Classes, transport, pathways to employment, education, housing supports, translation and work permit supports.

The LAIT continues to progress resettlement under the IRPP – currently there are 36 individuals residing in 13 WCCC provided houses. There are 2 further resettlements booked for October.

2. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) – Ger Mulhall

Work is ongoing with Buíon Phort Láirge (formerly Waterford Area Partnership), who continue to implement the SICAP Programme on behalf of the Waterford LCDC. The SICAP budget allocation for 2025 Waterford City and County (Lot 24-1) is €1,452,756. The budget allocation for 'New Arrivals' for 2025 is €246,807. In June, additional New Arrivals funding of €29,080 was allocated to Waterford City and County.

KPIs are on target and the 2025 case study, detailing the development of a range of english language classes, will be submitted to Pobal at the end of October.

	Actual	Target	
KPI 1 (Groups)	73	79	92%
KPI 2 (Individuals)	923	949	97%

3. Local Economic and Community Plan – Orla Kelly

Partners who have yet to submit their 2024 updates have been contacted, with a view to assist them in reporting and with the aim to have a complete and more comprehensive report for circulation to the Members in advance of the October LCDC meeting.

A meeting of the LECP Reporting Oversight Subgroup is being scheduled to take place in the coming days.

4. Local Community & Development Committee (LCDC) Members Survey – Orla Kelly

The purpose of the survey is to gather input from our LCDC Members regarding the work and priorities of the Waterford LCDC. The survey has been circulated to LCDC Members on the 3rd October and all Members are encouraged to complete the survey in the coming week to assist with future planning of the LCDC.

Please click the link below to access the Members survey, which should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete. Many thanks for your input.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cExYvXfKrEOmt2eF71SPP56UHOCSixHqIYzU2ZOeV1UMUowTkY0NUtFM1FOMUpWSjFFTFVNQVIXOC4u>

4. Community Grants Update – Claire Flavin

Supporting Waterford Communities Fund 2025

Waterford City and Council's Supporting Waterford Fund budget for 2025 was €240,338, which was allocated to 305 groups throughout the county. Processing of payments to approved applicants continues, with 99% of grants processed to-date. The deadline for submission of receipts is 30th November.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

Window 1 (€491,392): Three of the seven projects are now complete and three of the remaining projects are close to completion.

Window 2 (€86,557): Work is progressing with the project approved under Window 2 project, which is currently preparing to go to tender.

Window 3 (€786,625): Two of the seven projects have requested interim payment and are over 50% complete.

5. Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Grants 2025 – Ger Mulhall

The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025 is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. In June 2025, Minister Dara Calleary TD announced the successful projects under the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025. A total fund of €236,645 has been allocated for 2025. Grants are paid to successful applicants once receipts are provided. The deadline set for submission of receipts was 30th September. To date, just under three quarters of applicants have

submitted their receipts and the Community Department is now following up with those groups that have yet to submit their receipts.

6. Waterford Local Sports & Physical Activity Plan – Ger Mulhall

The Community Department has been progressing the development of a Sports and Physical Activity Plan for Waterford with the appointed consultants, S3 Solutions Ltd. The purpose of the plan will be to increase participation in sport and physical activities across the county.

Four in-person public consultation events were held on the week commencing 29th September 2025, in Kilmacthomas, Dungarvan, Waterford City and Tramore. In addition, a number of online consultation surveys will be available to the public through the Council's communication channels: website, social media etc to allow all in Waterford to feed into the consultation process.

Further details can be found on the Council's website at - www.waterfordcouncil.ie/sportsplan

7. Reports from Sub-committees:

a. Skills / training – Johnny Codd

There will be an update at the November meeting.

b. Health & Wellbeing:

In August and September, Healthy Waterford continued its commitment to responding to local needs and collaborating with community, voluntary groups, and other agencies, by supporting key themes with a variety of activities.

- **National Conference Hosting:** Waterford hosted a national conference on September 11th and 12th at the SETU Arena. Titled "Building Resilient Futures through Local Government," the event focused on addressing health inequalities and promoting place-based approaches to community wellbeing. The conference provided a significant platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration among local government leaders and officials from across Ireland.
- **The Playful Communities** initiative was a huge success, with over 45 events attracting 5,000 participants.
- Planning for the **Connecting Communities** program for 2026 is underway, with a review meeting scheduled with the PPN in October.
- Locations are being identified for Buddy Benches and the installation of additional benches are being planned for 2026.
- **Place Standard** – Place Standard has been completed for two of the three locations. Healthy Waterford continues to work closely with the PPN on this.
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing** – A variety of activities are taking place as part of mental health week. The roll out of the Elephant in the Room Project is one such project in early stage of development.
- A pilot of the **Civic Dollars** program will be launching in selected Waterford parks and green spaces. This innovative scheme allows residents to earn digital "dollars" for spending time in

public spaces. The initiative promotes physical and mental wellbeing, while supporting the local economy and is a collaborative effort with support of Chambers of Commerce, PPN, Waterford Sports Partnership, and other departments.

- **New Members Group:** Following its official launch in June 2025, the Healthy Waterford Practitioners Network Members Group continues to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing among health and wellbeing practitioners in the city and county. This network is a vital component of Healthy Waterford's strategy for joint initiative development and effective resource coordination.
- The "**Community Wellbeing**" programme continues to positively impact neighbourhoods across the city and county. This project, which began in May 2024, promotes social connection, physical activity, mental health, and nutrition based on local community needs. It is a prime example of how Healthy Waterford, in partnership with other organizations, is delivering on priorities identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and by the LCDC.

Healthy Waterford's projects are funded by the Healthy Ireland Fund through the Department of Health, with Pobal overseeing administration for the Waterford LCDC. The Committee ensures projects align with the Healthy Ireland Fund Local Strategy (HIFLS) 2023-2025.

Bridge funding of €75,000 has been secured for 2026, with any underspend being carried forward. Additionally, the Department of Health has committed to long-term funding for the Healthy Cities and Counties post across all 31 Local Authorities, including Waterford.

Following recent restructuring in line with the designation of the WHO Healthy City and County Accreditation, nominations for the Well Waterford Subcommittee were announced.

The nominees were put forward due to their expertise and ability to drive the Committee's key objectives forward.

The following individuals have been nominated to serve on the Subcommittee:

- Professor John Wells (represented by Kathryn Kiely): From SETU, Professor Wells brings invaluable expertise in research and education. His role as a subject matter expert will be crucial for evidence-based decision-making.
- Paul O'Brien (represented by Karina Daly): As the WWETB Business Development Manager, Paul will lead efforts in education, innovation, and new projects. His insight will be key to developing impactful, forward-thinking initiatives.
- Councillor Liam Brazil: Representing the Comeragh Municipal District, Councillor Brazil's nomination is a step towards ensuring a political lead for wellbeing in each Municipal District, strengthening the Committee's reach and influence at a local level.
- Margaret Collins: As the CYPSC Coordinator, Margaret provides a strong and essential voice for young people and the services that support them. Her ability to connect and collaborate with these groups will be vital for inclusive planning.

c. Sláintecare Healthy Communities – Ovi Matiut

Five projects are being funded through the Seed Fund 2025:

- Pop up Physio,
- Men's Health Training,
- Wyse Park Garden Room,
- Community Food Initiative and
- Need More Nature.

Work is ongoing with Mincéirí Port Láirge in delivering the Enhancing Health Outcomes for the Traveller Community in Waterford City project, funded by the Genio Trust.

d. SICAP Sub-Committee – Ger Mulhall

The SICAP Annual Engagement Meeting between the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee, Buíon Phort Láirge and Aileen Gilchrist, Pobal's SICAP Development Co-Ordinator, took place on Friday 3rd October 2025. This meeting provided an opportunity for LDC staff and LCDC SICAP Sub-committee members to engage directly with Pobal.

The SICAP Social Inclusion Analysis Report 2025 for Waterford circulated in advance of the meeting has been uploaded to the Portal. This report is a tool to reflect on the implementation of the SICAP programme to date and will inform the development of the 2026 annual plan.