

LCDC Community Progress Report and Updates – November 2025

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

Waterford Council's Ukrainian Team working with arrivals to the Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC) has now concluded and the building has been returned to its 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 31st October, there are 2,703 BOTPS in Waterford (increase of 56). As of 26th October, there are 616 IPAs (164 children) in the 7 IPAS centres.

For the month of October, the team carried out 9 group clinics with 37 attendees. There were also 14 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, driving in Ireland information session, welcome to Waterford discussion, navigating the portal, applications on the portal, budgeting and employment readiness.

The LAIT continues to progress resettlement under the IRPP – currently there are 54 individuals residing in 18 WCCC provided houses. There are 6 properties at kit-out stage, so there will be further resettlements before Christmas period.

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

Work is ongoing with Buíon Phort Láirge (formerly known as Waterford Area Partnership), who continue to implement the SICAP Programme on behalf of the LCDC. The SICAP budget allocation for 2025 for 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 & County.

KPIs are on target and the 2025 case study, detailing Buíon Phort Láirge's development of a range of English language supports for New Arrivals, was submitted to Pobal at the end of October. The video for the 2025 Case Study is available on their YouTube channel [here](#)

Extracted from IRIS System 04/11/2025	Actual	Target	
KPI 1 (Groups)	73	79	92%
KPI 2 (Individuals)	1,013	949	107%
% of Supported Individuals who fall into local priority target group(s)	100%	88%	-

The annual planning process for 2026 has now commenced, with KPI Targets for 2026 approved by the SICAP Sub-Committee (as below) and submitted to Pobal in early November.

<i>KPI 1 (Community Groups)</i>	72
<i>KPI 2 (Individuals)</i>	949

3. Local Economic and Community Plan – Orla Kelly

All reporting partners have been contacted and requested to report progress on their LECF actions for the period Quarter 1 to Quarter 3, 2025. To date, one complete report and four partial reports have been received from partners. Further follow up will be required, with an aim to having a final report compiled for the December LCDC Meeting.

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

An LCDC survey was circulated, the purpose of which is to gather input from our LCDC Members regarding the work and priorities of the Waterford LCDC for 2026.

All Members are urged to please complete this survey and help inform the LCDC's priorities for the coming year. It is a very short survey and should not take any longer than 10 minutes to complete.

To date, only 5 responses have been received, which is disappointing. The survey can be accessed at the following link:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=cExYvXfKrEOmt2eF71SPP56UHOC5xixHqIYzU2ZOeV1UMUowTkY0NUtFM1FOMUpWSjFFTFVNQVIXOC4u>

5. 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 groups to submit their receipts is 30th November.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024

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

Window 2 (€86,557): Work is progressing with the project approved under Window 2 project.

Window 3 (€786,625): One out of the seven projects is now complete and two have requested their interim payment and are over 50% complete.

6. 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. A total fund of €236,645 has been allocated for 2025. Grants are paid to successful applicants once receipts are provided. To date, just over three quarters of the groups have provided their receipts. The deadline for groups to submit receipts was 30th September.

The grants team has been following up with groups in relation to outstanding receipts. It is expected that the Department will be in contact in the coming weeks with the 2026 LEP allocation, LCDC Members will be updated accordingly.

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

The Community and Sport Department, in collaboration with Waterford Sports Partnership, continues to progress the development of a Sports and Physical Activity Plan for Waterford, the purpose of which, will be to increasing participation in sport and physical activities across the County.

The appointed consultants, S3 Solutions, held four in-person public consultation events, in Kilmacthomas, Dungarvan, Waterford City and Tramore at the beginning of October and a number of online consultation surveys were circulated through various communication channels at the start of October to allow all in Waterford to feed into the consultation process.

It is envisaged that a draft Sports & Physical Activity Plan will be presented to the LCDC in December 2025, prior to being presented to the elected members in early new year.

8. Reports from Sub-Committees:

(i) Skills / Training – Johnny Codd

- Thirteen candidates received a bursary from the engineering cluster to study in Carlow.
- UNESCO coordinator Laura Power linked in with Trevor (WWETB) to pilot the use of a digital badge platform.
- The West Waterford Fab Lab official Launch will be in 2026.
- Opportunities for New Arrivals: English language courses are well attended, and the demand continues. WCCC have published a dedicated skills page, or one-stop-shop for those seeking to train or upskill.

(ii) Health & Wellbeing – Eoin Morrissey

In October, Healthy Waterford continued its commitment to responding to local needs and collaborating with community, voluntary groups, and other agencies. This support focused on key themes through a variety of activities.

Community Engagement Highlights

- **Playful Communities** was a major success, with **over 45 events engaging 5,000 participants**.
- Planning for the **Connecting Communities** program for 2026 is advancing, with a review meeting scheduled with the Public Participation Network (PPN) this month.
- The **Place Standard** tool has been completed for two out of three targeted locations, with continued close cooperation with the PPN.
- Locations for **Buddy Benches** have been identified. A launch is planned for November, with additional installations scheduled for 2026.

Wellbeing Initiatives

- The completion of **Mental Health Week** saw multiple events with good attendance, including the early-stage development of the **Elephant in the Room Project**.
- The **civic dollars pilot** was launched in selected parks and green spaces. This innovative scheme rewards residents with digital currency for time spent in public areas, supporting **physical and mental wellbeing** and the **local economy**. The initiative is a collaborative effort with the Chambers of Commerce, PPN, Waterford Sports Partnership, and others.
- The **RESET Programme** was launched and has commenced in the Southern Regional Assembly. Workshops will take place over the coming weeks, led by Doug Dane and Linda Barry. Aoife, who is a placement student, had a great opportunity to interview Doug Dane, which will be released soon.
- A wellbeing event took place in Dungarvan, led by Bernie Woods, a member of the Healthy Waterford Practitioners Network Group. Multiple areas were covered, including nutrition, musical games, and dance aerobics, delivered by our placement student, Aoife Malone

Collaboration and Networking

- The **Healthy Waterford Practitioners Network Members Group**, officially launched in June 2025 continues to facilitate **collaboration** and **knowledge sharing** among health and wellbeing professionals. This network is key to developing joint initiatives and coordinating resources effectively.
- 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 organisations, is delivering on priorities identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan and by the Waterford LCDC.
- The IPA President Robin Moore Miller, who is also the CEO of Play Australia, visited the Council in late October.

Funding

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 Healthy Cities and Counties post across all 31 Local Authorities, including Waterford.

(iii) Sláintecare Healthy Communities – Ovi Matiut

Work is ongoing with all Seed Funded projects and with Mincéirí Port Láirge in delivering the Enhancing Health Outcomes for the Traveller Community in Waterford City.

(iv) SICAP Sub-Committee – Ger Mulhall

The Sub-Committee met on the 3rd November to agree and approve the SICAP KPI Targets for 2026. The Sub-Committee approved a proposal from Buíon Phort Láirge for a reduction on KPI 1 (Community Groups) from 79 in 2025 to 72 in 2026, to allow for increased focus and engagement in the Larchville and Lisduggan areas. The Sub-Committee once again increased the indicative target established by the Department for KPI 2 (Individuals) by the 15% permitted to maintain the target at the 2025 level.

The SICAP KPI targets for 2026, approved by the Sub-Committee and submitted to Pobal, are as follows:

KPI 1 (Community Groups)	72
KPI 2 (Individuals)	949

