

LCDC Community Progress Report and Updates – January 2026

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

The ClFo Working Groups continue to work with agencies and stakeholders to provide services and supports to all Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) and International Protection Applicants (IPAs) residing in Waterford.

As of 15th December, there are 2,734 BOTPs (increase of 31) and as of 22nd December, there are 611 IPAs in Waterford (153 children). The team continues to seek pledge properties (vacant and shared) and can be contacted at 058 22059 or offerahome@waterfordcouncil.ie.

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

The Community Department continues to support the work of Buíon Phort Láirge who implement the SICAP programme on behalf of the Waterford LCDC.

Buíon Phort Láirge exceeded their KPI targets for 2025 with 80 community groups and 1,242 individuals assisted in 2025.

KPI Targets set for 2026 are as follows:

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

The SICAP budget allocation for Waterford City and County in 2026 is €1,497,267, representing just over 3% of an increase. The budget allocation for 'New Arrivals' in 2026 has still to be finalised by the Department.

The budget allocations in respect of the delivery of SICAP for Q1 2026 in Waterford City and County (Lot 24-1) are as follows:

SICAP Budget Q1 2026	New Arrivals Budget Q1 2026
€ 374,316.75	€ 61,701.75

DRCDG and Pobal will advise on revised timelines for the submission and approval of the 2026 Annual Plan and the 2025 End of Year Reports, once the 2026 budget for New Arrivals has been finalised.

3. Local Economic and Community Plan – Orla Kelly

A request issued to LECP Reporting Partners on the 19th December for their progress updates for Quarter 4, 2025, with a deadline of the 15th January 2026. Once the deadline has passed, all 2025 reports will be collated and a single report for the year will issue to the LCDC in early 2026.

Preparations will be commencing for a new Implementation Plan that will need to be prepared during the course of 2026. Further updates will follow on this.

4. Community Grants Update:

Supporting Waterford Communities Fund 2026 – Orla Kelly

Waterford City and Council's Supporting Waterford Community Fund 2026 went live from the 12th of December and will remain open until 4.00pm on the 23rd of January 2026 (extended deadline). An online workshop will be held in early January to assist applicants, notice will issue through the Council's social media platforms and the PPN.

The fund of €239,838 aims to assist Residents Associations, Community Groups, Sports Clubs and other groups/committees engaged in community activity, providing community services or carrying out improvement works in their communities.

Groups may apply under one the following 3 funding strands:

1. **Residents Association Fund** – to provide grant assistance to resident's associations, groups, or committees, who are engaged in community activity, or carrying out improvement works within their own estates/ neighbourhoods/ areas.
2. **Community Activity Fund** – to assist communities or a combination of communities, to work together to develop a local plan for their own area(s), to establish sustainable structures enabling communities to identify and meet their own needs. The Fund can also be used to up-grade or replace equipment.
3. **Sports & Recreation Fund** – to aid sports clubs and recreational organisations who are engaged in community activity, providing sports opportunities across all ages and abilities. The fund aims to assist sports clubs to provide or improve the range of sport and leisure opportunities to their communities.

Further details can be found at this link: [Supporting Waterford 2026 - Waterford City & County Council](#)

To date, 40 completed applications have been received.

5. Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) Grants 2026 – Ger Mulhall

The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and is administered by the Waterford LCDC through Waterford City and County Council.

Waterford has been allocated funding of €219,286.41 for the Local Enhancement Programme 2026. LEP 2026 funding is for capital projects only, with no provision for funding current projects in this iteration of the programme. Funding will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out necessary repairs and small capital works/ improvements to facilities, or to purchase equipment.

It is anticipated that the 2026 LEP will launch on the 30th of January 2026 until the 27th of February 2026. Notification will be circulated widely to Members, Elected Representatives, through the PPN and on the Council's website and through its social media channels.

The Department has issued an Information note for LCDCs in relation to this fund which has been uploaded to the LCDC Extranet.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024 – Orla Kelly

Window 1 (€491,392): Four out of the seven projects are now complete and the remaining three projects have claimed interim payments.

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 interim payments and are over 50% complete.

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

The Community Department, in collaboration with Waterford Sports Partnership (WSP), 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.

Following a significant consultation process, including online surveys, one-to-one meetings and facilitated workshops, the appointed consultants: S3 Solutions, engaged with key personnel in Waterford Council and the Sports Partnership and are finalising the strategic review of the sport and recreation function and resources within the Council and the Sports Partnership, before moving onto the strategic visioning and planning phase of the plan development.

It is anticipated that a draft Sports and Physical Activity Plan will be presented to the Plenary Council in late Quarter 1, 2026.

7. Reports from Sub-Committees:

(i) Skills / Training – Johnny Codd

No update

(ii) Health & Wellbeing – Eoin Morrissey

Community Health & Wellbeing:

The Council has recently set up a new unit in the Community Section incorporating Age Friendly, Healthy Waterford, the Sports Plan, and Sláintecare Healthy Communities. In December, the Council's Community Health and Wellbeing Team continued to demonstrate its strong commitment to addressing local needs through collaboration with community and voluntary organisations, as well as partner agencies.

Throughout December, the team supported and delivered several initiatives and events aimed at promoting physical, mental, and economic wellbeing across the city and county. In January, the team will launch two initiatives: the Playful Communities Programme and the Community Wellbeing Programme. Expressions of interest are now open. To apply, please click the links below:

Playful Communities Programme:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZPNV596>

Community Wellbeing Programme:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cwellbeing>

Healthy Waterford Health and Wellbeing Practitioner Network Review

The Healthy Waterford Health and Wellbeing Practitioner Network was established in December 2024, with its first meeting held in Gardenmorris, Kilmacthomas. During 2025, the network met regularly, including an online planning meeting in January and in-person meetings in Mount Congreve, Dunhill, Lismore, and Waterford City. Venues were rotated to reflect cross-county membership and support accessibility. Meetings followed a consistent, informal format focused on connection, participation, and peer learning. Sessions included networking, updates and resource sharing from Healthy Waterford, facilitated discussion, and a "Gift from Practice" segment, which became a core feature allowing members to share practical tools and insights from their work.

The inaugural meeting centred on co-creating the network and identifying its purpose. Key themes included collaboration, shared resources, support and signposting, and the value of a community of practice approach. Practical considerations such as meeting times, locations, and maintaining engagement were also discussed. Throughout 2025, the network strengthened its structure through guest speakers, increased social media visibility, development of a member database, and draft terms of reference and promotional materials. Consultation on WHO accreditation goals was a key milestone, highlighting opportunities for stronger links to local practice, community engagement, and collaboration. Attendance remained positive and consistent, with a strong emphasis on member feedback.

Priorities for 2026 include finalising governance, strengthening alignment with WHO goals, progressing working groups, and continuing peer support and network development. It is envisaged this will continue in 2026 with the results of the survey to be available from the 9th of December.

(iii) Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Work is continuing in partnership with Mincéirí Port Láirge to support the delivery of the Enhancing Health Outcomes for the Traveller Community in Waterford City initiative. This work focuses on addressing key health inequalities and strengthening access to appropriate, culturally informed supports for members of the Traveller community across the city.

As part of this programme, five projects were approved under the 2025 Seed Funding initiative. One of these projects has now been successfully completed, achieving its intended objectives, while implementation is actively underway on the remaining four projects. These projects continue to progress through collaboration with community partners and stakeholders, with ongoing engagement to ensure they respond effectively to identified needs and priorities within the Traveller community.

(iv) SICAP Sub-Committee – Ger Mulhall

Nothing to report this month.