

LCDC Community Progress Report and Updates – March 2026

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 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 27th February, there are 2,813 BOTPS in Waterford (increase of 31) As of 16th February there are 638 IPAs (154 children) in the 7 IPAS centres.

For the month of February, the team carried out 26 group clinics with 149 attendees. There were 32 non clinic enquiries (Facebook/email/telephone)

The outcome is individual queries answered/ advice and information packs provided and signposting to relevant services.

Information clinics on identified needs have been very successful with topics including Welcome to Waterford Event, Employment Preparation Programme (CV and Interview Workshop, Revenue, Workplace Relations Commission, Apprenticeships) Housing in Ireland, General Clinics, Adult Education Guidance Service.

IRPP update

WCCC was successful in applying for a 6-month extension to the IRPP integration support process. This is now extended to October 2026. LAIT will provide support after this.

Two families are scheduled for resettlement on 5th and 19th March. This will mean 30 of the 31 properties will be occupied.

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 SICAP on behalf of the Waterford LCDC. The budget allocation for SICAP for Waterford City and County (Lot 24-1) for 2026 is €1,497,267. The budget allocation for 'New Arrivals' for 2026 is €246,807.

The Annual Performance Review for 2025 and review of the Annual Plan for 2026 have been completed and are listed on the agenda for formal approval.

3. Local Economic and Community Plan – Anita Maher

No update until the April meeting.

4. Community Grants Update:

Supporting Waterford Communities Fund 2026 – Jonathon Codd

Waterford City and Council's Supporting Waterford Community Fund 2026 went live from the 12th of December until 4.00pm on the 23rd of January 2026. The Community Grants Team in collaboration with the PPN hosted an online workshop on the 12th of January to assist applicants and answer queries in relation to the fund and application process. Over 400 completed applications were received through the online system by the deadline.

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 were invited to 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.

All applications have been assessed by the Community Grants Team, and the final recommendation will be presented at a member's workshop scheduled for the 4th of March before final approval at the March Plenary Meeting.

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 administered by the Waterford LCDC through Waterford City and County Council.

Waterford has been allocated funding of €219,286 for the LEP 2026. Funding will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out necessary repairs and small capital works/improvements to facilities, or to purchase equipment.

The LEP 2026 closed for applications on Friday 27th February 2026 and 218 applications were received by the deadline. The LCDC Assessment Group is scheduled to meet to assess the applications received on Tuesday 31st March and the list of projects recommended for funding will be brought to the April meeting of the LCDC for approval before submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024 –

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

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.

5. 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.

6. Reports from Sub-Committees:

(i) Skills / Training – Johnny Codd

No update until the April meeting.

(ii) Health & Wellbeing – Eoin Morrissey

Expressions of interest – Community Initiatives: Expressions of interest for the recent community initiatives closed on the 13th February. In total, sixty six applications were received. The applications are currently being reviewed and applicants will be contacted regarding the outcome in due course.

Healthy Waterford Health and Wellbeing Practitioner Network: The first gathering of the Healthy Waterford Health and Wellbeing Practitioner Network took place on the 13th of February. The network is open to active health and wellbeing practitioners, students and researchers. For further information please contact Eoin Morrissey at evinmorrissey@waterfordcouncil.ie

Connecting Communities Roadshows: Plans are progressing for two Connecting Communities Roadshows which are scheduled to take place in mid-March. The PPN and the Health and Wellbeing Unit are currently confirming suitable venue and liaising with relevant partners to support the events.

WHO Healthy Cities and County Accreditation: Work is ongoing to include Waterford in Phase VIII of the WHO Healthy Cities and Counties Programme. The application has been drafted and will be brought to the LCDC for final approval.

Healthy Ireland Fund – Round 4:

The following organisations and initiatives have been approved for Healthy Ireland funding:

- Playful Communities
- Social Farming
- SHEP Reflective Practice
- Waterford Sports Partnership
- Community Wellbeing Seminars (Well Communities)
- Period Poverty Educational Workshops
- Treo Port Láirge
- Aiséirí Céim Eile
- Place Standard – Community Needs Assessment Funding

Place Standard Training Event: A two-day Place Standard training event will be jointly delivered by WCCC and the PPN in April for twenty-five participants, with input from Council sections such as Planning. The training will equip attendees to act as community facilitators and leaders, supporting the delivery of local actions ranging from small projects to engagement with the Council on larger infrastructure improvements. The event will be presented as a safe and open space for discussion, with a clear explanation of the process and expectations. Participants will be made aware that the training represents the first step in the process, after which they will support community activation and follow up on agreed actions, with WCCC providing ongoing support and feedback.

(iii) Sláintecare Healthy Communities
No update until the April meeting.

(iv) SICAP Sub-Committee – Ger Mulhall
No update until the April meeting.