

LCDC Community Progress Report and Updates – July 2026

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

Community Integration Forum (CIFO):

LAIT Update

As of 29th May , there were 2,828 BOTPs (+13) and as of 19th June , there were 621 IPAs in Waterford (144 children). The Local Authority Integration Team continues to support International Protection Applicants. The Local Authority Integration Team carried out 30 clinic appointments in June with 115 attendees. There were 10 non clinic enquiries. Topics Included: Accommodation queries/Renting in Ireland/Options to move from IPAS accommodation/Employment/English Language/Further Education/Volunteering/Summer Camps

Library Outreach – continues in IP centres on monthly basis with Library Orientation added to offering in May & June. In discussion with Waterford Libraries on MY Open Library access for those with poor English language

Summer Camps – LAIT have partnered with Buíon Phort Lairge & TUSLA to provide access to free summer camps for children (age 5 – 15) living in IPAS accommodation centres in Waterford City & County. Stage 1 (current stage) to offer to all IP children. Stage 2 offer to BoTPs. Stage 3 offer second camp (if available) to those where greatest need is identified.

Bespoke Summer Events – at planning stage – funding has been secured. LAIT working with TUSLA on this collaboration

Events in June

Refugee Week - Women's Visual Voices – an exhibition of work by Dr Méabh Savage - This exhibition is based on a participatory action research study conducted with women and mothers who are seeking international protection and living in direct provision. A key aim of this project has been to explore the lived experiences (barriers and enablers) to accessing and participating in education for women and mothers seeking international protection, and the value they attribute to education.

Exhibition was officially opened by Mayor of Waterford Cllr Seamus Ryan. In addition to the 30 A2 pieces a QR code was displayed to capture the response of those engaging with the material.

RPP Update

The final property for IRPP programme scheduled for resettlement in early July. This will complete the programme for Waterford with 31 properties and 92 residents.

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.

KPIs on 25/06/2026	Actual	Target	%
KPI 1 (Community Groups)	62	72	86%
KPI 2 (Individuals)	663	949	69.8%
% of Supported Individuals who fall into the local priority target groups: - Disabled People / People with Disabilities - People living in disadvantaged communities - People living in households that are jobless or are in low-paid and/or precarious employment	62.5%	88%	-

The SICAP Mid-Year Review has commenced and the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee met on Tuesday 23rd June to review the Finance and Monitoring Reports submitted by Buíon Phort Láirge and provide feedback to Pobal. Pobal undertook a high-level review of the Mid-Year financial and monitoring information and provided their feedback to the LCDC. The Mid-Year Review is on the Agenda for formal approval.

3. Local Economic and Community Plan – Anita Maher

4. Community Grants Update:

Supporting Waterford Communities Fund 2026 – Ger Mulhall

Grants totalling €240,258 were approved by the elected members at the Plenary Meeting on 12th March 2026 and the processing of payments commenced immediately. Four payments are outstanding and the Community Grants Team continues to engage with these groups to ensure the prompt processing of the last remaining payments.

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.

In Waterford, the total fund for allocation in 2026 was €248,286.26. The LCDCs list of recommended projects was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht in April for approval. It is now expected that the Minister will announce the successful applicants in early July.

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 increase participation in sport and physical activities across Waterford.

6. Reports from Sub-Committees:

(i) Skills / Training – Johnny Codd

Clustering: Funding is available for national clusters, regional clusters will need to find alternative funds.

UNESCO City of learning: Officially launched in October. Lifelong Learning Festival took place from 15th to 17th April and was well attended.

West Waterford Fab Lab: a review of the fabrication laboratories is ongoing. New NZEB (nearly zero energy building) facility is coming.

Youth Training and Employment: BUION 20% of caseload currently 15-24 year old age profile.

Skillnet Programmes: Skillnet courses will be circulated. Possible shift to a 3 year cycle with a national programme also a possibility.

Opportunities for New Arrivals: Demand for English classes continues. BUION have 200 in Failte Isteach programme. IEM very busy. Numbers of new arrivals static.

Classes that were held in Tycor need to be relocated.

Offshore Wind Farming: a variety of skills and courses are required. Boats are needed to service the farms and everything from VHF, first aid to skipper's tickets will be required.

A.I. Recruitment sector seeing increasing number job applications written by A.I.

Springboard A.I. courses available in SETU soon, up to 90% funding available

(ii) Health, Wellbeing & Sports – Eoin Morrissey

Activity across the Health and Wellbeing programme continues to develop positively, with significant progress achieved in strategic planning, external funding applications, community engagement initiatives, and sports and physical activity development. The attainment of WHO Accreditation, advancement of the Sports and Physical Activity Plan, and continued delivery of Healthy Ireland-funded projects provide a strong foundation for further progress during the second half of 2026.

Waterford successfully achieved WHO Healthy Cities and Counties Accreditation and a delegation from Waterford City and County Council attended the WHO Healthy Cities Conference in Portugal in June to formally receive the accreditation award. This recognition acknowledges the significant progress made in advancing health and wellbeing across the county and strengthens Waterford's position within the international Healthy Cities and Counties network. Work is now focused on building on this achievement through the continued implementation of local health and wellbeing priorities and the development of new collaborative initiatives.

A request was received to host a community roadshow in the mid – county. Talks are ongoing with the PPN with a likely delivery time of October 2026.

Delivery of projects funded under Healthy Ireland Round 4 continues across a range of health and wellbeing initiatives following approval by the Well Waterford Sub-Committee of the LCDC. In a positive development, the Department of Health has confirmed an extension of Healthy Ireland funding into 2027, with an additional allocation of €75,000 awarded to support the continuation and expansion of local health and wellbeing programmes. This additional funding will enable Waterford to build on the success of existing initiatives and further support community-based actions that promote health, inclusion, and wellbeing.

Applications under Erasmus+ and CERVE funding programmes are currently underway and have been submitted in support of a range of health and wellbeing initiatives.

The Community Department, in collaboration with Waterford Sports Partnership (WSP), continues to progress the development of the Waterford Sports and Physical Activity Plan. The purpose of the plan is to increase participation in sport and physical activity across Waterford.

(iii) Sláintecare Healthy Communities Update – Nicola Spendlove

In June, Sláintecare Healthy Communities saw significant progress as planning transitioned into implementation for the 2026 programme of work.

All four 2026 project proposals received formal approval from the Department of Health. This marks an important milestone for the programme and reflects the strength of the co-design process undertaken with communities and partner organisations.

Following approval, work has now commenced across all projects, with partners moving into delivery phases and establishing project structures, timelines, and engagement processes. Early activity has

included stakeholder engagement, detailed planning, and initial rollout of agreed actions within each initiative.

The approved projects – **Trauma Informed Neighbourhoods**, **Ballybeg Social Supermarket**, **Shed to the Stage**, and **Our Place Standard in Travelling Communities** – are now progressing in earnest, with a continued focus on partnership working, community engagement, and addressing health inequalities in Sláintecare areas.

This phase represents a positive strengthening of local collaboration and momentum, building on the foundations laid through the 2025 programme and ensuring sustained impact at community level.

(iv) SICAP Sub-Committee – Ger Mulhall

The LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee met on Tuesday 23rd June to review the Finance and Monitoring Reports submitted by Buíon Phort Láirge and provide feedback to Pobal as part of the SICAP Mid-Year Review.