

# Investing in People, Investing in Communities



## Table of Contents

page 4	Glossary of Terms
page 5	Overview of Wexford Local Development Programmes
page 6	Foreword
page 7	Introduction
page 8	Insight into Wexford Local Development
page 10	Policy Context for the LCDP
page 12	Summary Profile of Co. Wexford
page 16	Creating the LCDP Plan for Co. Wexford
page 18	Objectives of the LCDP for Co. Wexford 2011-2013

## Glossary of Terms

- Area Implementation Teams (AITs)
- Back to Education Initiative (BTEI)
- Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA)
- County Development Board (CDB)
- Community Development Project (CDP)
- Community Employment (CE)
- County Enterprise Board (CEB)
- Citizens Information Service (CIS)
- Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS)
- European Union (EU)
- Family Resource Centre (FRC)
- FDYS (Ferns Diocesan Youth Service)
- Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC)
- Health Services Executive (HSE)
- Home School Community Liaison (HSCL)
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT)
- Local Development Company (LDC)
- Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP)
- Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LDSIP)
- Local Employment Service (LES)
- Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)
- National Learning Network (NLN)
- National Reform Programme 2011 (NRP)
- National Rural Development Programme (NRDP).
- Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development (RAPID)
- Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
- School Completion Programme (SCP)
- Social Inclusion Measures (SIM)
- South East Regional Drugs Task Force (SERDTF)
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
- Tús - Labour market activation programme - Community Work Placement Initiative
- Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS)
- Wexford Area Community Team (WACT).
- Wexford County Enterprise Board (CEB )
- Wexford Local Development (WLD)
- Wexford Organisation for Local Development (WORD)
- Work Placement Scheme (WPS)  
(allows people on the live register to work for nine months while retaining their social welfare payment)

## Overview of Wexford Local Development Programmes

**The Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP)** tackles poverty and social exclusion by working with groups and individuals to design and deliver innovative responses to educational, training, employment and community development needs.

**The National Rural Development Programme (NRDP)** provides grant assistance to community groups and businesses to promote economic activity, job creation, alternative and additional income generation and innovative approaches to rural development.

**The Local Employment Service (LES)** offers a range of free services to individuals wishing to enter or return to the workforce including one-to-one guidance and support and a personal career path planning service.

**The Cornmarket Project** provides counselling, training and rehabilitation and drop-in services to people with substance misuse problems who may also be involved in the criminal justice system along with a support group for their families.

**The WARM Project** tackles fuel poverty by providing insulation services to low income households in privately owned homes as well as providing employment and training opportunities for people who are long-term unemployed.

**The Rural Road Runner Project** is part of the Rural Transport Programme and meets the transport needs of those most isolated in the community with a particular focus on older people.

**The Get Vocal Programme** facilitates older people to influence policy and shape the delivery of services which affect them.

**The RAPID Community Participation Programme** supports communities living in designated RAPID areas in Wexford town, Enniscorthy and New Ross to participate fully in identifying the needs of their areas and planning inter-agency responses.

**The Tús initiative** is a community work placement scheme providing short-term working opportunities for unemployed and under-employed people. The work opportunities benefit the community and are provided by community and voluntary organisations in both urban and rural areas.

**The Rural Social Scheme (RSS)** allows low-income farmers and fisherpersons who are unable to earn an adequate living from their farm holding/fishing to earn a supplementary income by providing certain services of benefit to rural communities.

**Traveller Community Programmes** address the needs of the Traveller community, particularly from a health perspective and include initiatives for women, men, young people and children.

**The Meitheal Programme** trains young people at senior level of post-primary school to become mentors for incoming first year students.

## Foreword

Ireland has witnessed considerable change in the past ten years. Since the preparation of the last social inclusion plans in County Wexford in 2000, the economy grew rapidly and then contracted with even greater speed. The impact of this downturn was first felt in Wexford during 2007 as economic activity slowed down and unemployment began to rise. These changes have altered the landscape of social inclusion and anti-poverty work. Over the three year strategic plan period 2011-2013 we face increased unemployment, emigration, deepening social problems and fractured communities.

The principal challenge for Wexford Local Development in preparing this plan was to identify the key issues and develop effective and measurable responses for our beneficiary groups under the LCDP. We achieved this through our internal review, extensive consultations and analysis of all relevant data.

We look forward to playing a renewed and vital role in responding to the long-standing issues of social exclusion in the County, such as low educational attainment as well as unemployment and poverty. Our focus is on a clear articulation of goals and actions, building synergy with all the relevant agencies and organisations, measuring outcomes and evaluating impact over the lifecycle of the strategic plan.

We believe in the importance of synergy and that agencies and organisations must stand shoulder to shoulder with communities and those experiencing poverty and social exclusion. As an organisation straddling both the statutory and the community arenas, Wexford Local Development is well placed to create effective mechanisms for service delivery and to ensure that the voices of the people targeted by those services are to the forefront, informing their design, development and delivery.

It is a pleasure to present this Executive Summary of the first comprehensive Social Inclusion Plan for County Wexford. I wish to express our gratitude to all who contributed to the development of this plan. The plan has been informed and enriched through consultation and your contributions. I wish also to express our appreciation for the continued support of Pobal and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in our delivery of the programme. I invite you to read about our vision for social inclusion in Wexford and to continue to work with us to make this County a more inclusive, equal and enterprising place to live for all of us.

**Patrick Rath**

Chairperson, Wexford Local Development  
December 2011

## Introduction

This document is an executive summary of the Wexford Local Development LCDP Strategic Plan 2011 - 2013. The full plan is comprehensive and sets out our intentions for the next three years with related costs, targets and performance indicators. It includes detailed contextual and statistical information, socio-economic profiling, analysis of local service provision, the results of an internal review and our extensive consultations within the community. Readers who seek detail are encouraged to access the full plan. It is available to download from our website [www.wld.ie](http://www.wld.ie).

This executive summary is designed to offer a glimpse of the full plan, its purpose, how it was created and to set out our objectives. It is structured in the following sections:

- Insight into Wexford Local Development
- The Policy Context for the Local Community Development Programme (LCDP)
- Summary Profile of Co. Wexford
- Creating the LCDP Strategic Plan for Co. Wexford
- Objectives of the LCDP Strategic Plan for Co. Wexford 2011-2013



## Insight into Wexford Local Development

This section offers an insight into Wexford Local Development as a company and the focus of our work.

Wexford Local Development is one of 52 Local Development Companies (LDCs) in Ireland. All local development companies operate under the aegis of the National Development Plan. LDCs aim to counter disadvantage, promote equality and foster social and economic inclusion. They achieve this by supporting communities that work collectively to meet local needs and are committed to maximising the potential of their areas. All companies manage a range of exchequer and EU funded programmes.

Wexford Local Development was formed in 2008 following a Government decision to amalgamate local development companies across Ireland. Three companies came together: County Wexford Partnership, Wexford Area Partnership and Wexford Organisation for Rural Development.

We are funded by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, through Pobal and tasked with implementing the LCDP in County Wexford over the period 2011-2013.

Wexford Local Development works throughout County Wexford in the four electoral districts of Wexford, Enniscorthy, New Ross and Gorey. Detail of the work with communities in each area is available on our website [www.wld.ie](http://www.wld.ie)

We are committed to making a positive difference in County Wexford. We aim to do this by promoting employment and social inclusion and supporting enterprise development. We work with a wide range of community, voluntary and statutory organisations to make Wexford a good place to live, particularly for those in our society who feel vulnerable or isolated.

### Our mission statement is:

“To help people who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing economic and/or social disadvantage, to improve their lives through united local action.”

The strategic objectives of Wexford Local Development are:

- To create significant and verifiable improvements in the social and economic circumstances, levels of participation and equality status of the most excluded groups and communities in our area through developing a continued understanding of factors maintaining exclusion, and an inclusive approach to combating its adverse consequences.
- To address the structural causes of social exclusion, segregation and inequality in the longer term, through developing the capacity of excluded groups and communities for full involvement in the planning and decision making processes that affect their lives.

Our work at Wexford Local Development is carefully planned to serve the needs of specific named target groups, in accordance with priority, based on detailed data analysis. This is in tune with national policy and our target groups are as follows:

- people who are long-term unemployed
- lone parents
- low income families
- disadvantaged men
- disadvantaged women
- disadvantaged young people
- Travellers
- LGBT community
- substance misusers
- offenders
- homeless people
- Older people
- people with a disability
- family carers
- non-Irish nationals
- refugees
- asylum-seekers
- the under-employed

Wexford Local Development seeks to work closely with the full range of relevant statutory, voluntary and community organisations within the county. We believe that good relationships and the integrated way that we work together will enhance our collective response to the needs of County Wexford.

Over the years, Wexford Local Development has developed effective working relationships with many of the most disadvantaged communities in the County. We have spearheaded the development of Community Teams in priority areas – locally-based networks of groups, individuals and service providers that are focused on social inclusion and anti-poverty work. We work in tandem with the existing community development infrastructure to inspire, encourage and support development and positive change.

In early 2011, Wexford Local Development completed an analysis of services and programmes within the County under the following nine themes that are central to our work:

- Welfare, Advocacy and Information Provision
- Supports for Employment and Self-Employment
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Health and Wellbeing
- Children, Young People and Family Support
- Housing, Planning and Environment
- Justice and Policing
- Culture and Recreation
- Agriculture, Rural Development and Transport

The results of this exercise provide a comprehensive picture of service provision within the County and identify the potential for the LCDP to complement and/or augment existing service provision and address gaps. The detailed analysis is available in Appendix One of the full Strategic Plan. [www.wld.ie](http://www.wld.ie)



## Policy Context for the LCDP

This section draws attention to the national policy context of relevance to the work of Wexford Local Development.

Wexford Local Development believes in dovetailing our local work with national policy to enhance social inclusion. We believe it is vital for us, as one of 52 local development companies nationally, to be in tune with national social inclusion priorities and policy initiatives in order to achieve a full return on social investment.

Government strategy for social inclusion is based on the lifecycle approach reflected in a number of key policy documents. The principal policy document aimed at addressing poverty and achieving social inclusion is the *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPinclusion) – Building An Inclusive Society 2007-2016*. This National Action Plan is complemented by the social inclusion elements of the *National Development Plan 2008-2013 – Transforming Ireland – A Better Quality of Life for All and Towards 2016*, the *Ten-Year Framework Social Partnership Agreement for 2006 – 2015* and sets out how the social inclusion strategy will be achieved in the period to 2016.

The LCDP is linked to the priority themes in the National Reform Programme for Ireland 2011. The NRP states that (2011: 26):

- Improving the position of vulnerable groups is critical to the achievement of the national poverty target and will require targeted interventions to address their multiple problems.
- A joined-up and multi-disciplinary approach to policy, involving a wide range of actors, is critical to meet the poverty target. The policy focus in the NRP is on the linkages between poverty, employment and education, as emphasised in the integrated employment guidelines for the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) is a key instrument of national policy to enhance social inclusion. The LCDP is the national social inclusion programme which aims to tackle consistent poverty and social exclusion

through partnership and constructive engagement between Government and its agencies and people in disadvantaged communities. The LCDP is the result of the integration of the former Local Development Social Inclusion Programme and Community Development Programmes into one new Programme.

The LCDP is managed by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Wexford Local Development has been tasked with the delivery of the programme in County Wexford.

The LCDP prioritises marginalised people and groups within the most disadvantaged communities. This means that it targets those furthest from access to education, training and employment, and those at highest risk of social exclusion.



The four inter-related goals of the LCDP as laid out in the National Framework (with each goal accompanied by objectives, associated outcomes and indicators) are to:

Promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services.

Increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural activities and resources.

Increase people's work readiness and employment prospects.

Promote active engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities.

The provisions of the Equal Status Act (2000-2004) provide a legal framework to safeguard equality of access, participation and outcome on nine grounds: Gender, Civil Status, Family Status, Age, Race, Religion, Disability, Sexual Orientation and Membership of the Traveller community. Many LCDP target groups have experienced some form of discrimination on the basis of one or more of these grounds.

The Wexford LCDP Strategic Plan seeks to engage LCDP target groups on an equal footing with other stakeholders in the process of planning for social inclusion work to meet their needs locally. WLD will work to ensure that actions, programmes and services delivered under LCDP and, where possible, with the resources of other programmes to support and promote equality of opportunity and condition for our target groups.

# Summary Profile of Wexford County

This section presents a summary profile of County Wexford and the focus of WLD work during the period of the LCDP Strategic Plan 2011-2013.

It highlights the socio-economic backdrop and demographic features of County Wexford that informed the LCDP Strategic Plan. This is based on careful analysis of a range of data, completed as part of the strategic planning process. The purpose of displaying this data is to show the rationale behind the priority aspects of the work of Wexford Local Development over the period 2011-2013 and how we propose to manage the funding received under the LCDP. Readers who wish to explore the data in more detail are encouraged to access the full strategic plan at [www.wld.ie](http://www.wld.ie).

## Summary Results of Secondary Data

At the time of the Census in 2006, the population of County Wexford stood at 131,749 persons. In the fifteen years to 2006, Ireland's population as a whole grew by 20.3%. Wexford's population, by contrast, grew by 29.1% over the same period, with a growth of 13% in the period from 2002-2006 alone.

In December 2011, the national standardised unemployment rate was 14.3%. County Wexford has been severely affected by this rise in unemployment. In December 2011, there were a total of 19,366 people on the live register in the County – 4731 in Enniscorthy, 4139 in Gorey, 3484 in New Ross and 7012 in Wexford.

Building and construction were mainstays of Wexford's economy during the 'boom' years and this sector was significantly affected by the recession with a 300% rise in the numbers on the live register in the County since May 2007.

The downturn in the Irish economy in 2008 led to extensive job losses particularly in the construction industry and this has impacted on low skilled workers, many of whom are men.

Census 2006 revealed that the proportion of households with at least one dependent child aged

15 or less headed by a single parent stood at 21.8% in County Wexford. This figure is significantly higher in certain areas of the county, most notably the urban areas around Wexford (35% or 274 households), New Ross (37.8% or 157 households) and Enniscorthy (36.5% or 76 households).

Three areas in County Wexford are included in the RAPID programme. The whole of New Ross town, certain parts of Wexford town and parts of Enniscorthy town.

Notwithstanding a relative improvement in the levels of educational attainment amongst its adult population in the period 1991 – 2006, Wexford still has the lowest proportion of adults with a third level qualification of any county, 9% below the national average of 30.5%.

There has been a gradual increase in the number of professionals and a more pronounced decline in the proportion of semi- and unskilled manual workers. At 29.5%, the proportion of professionals in Wexford is below the national average of 32.9% while, at 21.7%, Wexford has a higher proportion of semi- and unskilled manual workers than the national figure of 18.6%.

Wexford is the eleventh most disadvantaged Local Authority area in Ireland.

The highest incidence of poverty occurs in families with children where there are no adults in paid employment. Other related indicators for this group include levels of payment of rent supplement and mortgage supplement. In both cases Wexford has significantly increased levels of these payments vis-à-vis other counties in the South-East, pointing to the severity of the economic downturn in the county. There was a 31% increase in the number of recipients of mortgage supplement in Wexford from 2009 to 2010 while numbers in receipt of the Back to School Clothing and Footwear payment rose by 14% from 17,588 in 2009 to 20,074 in 2010.

There were 569 Traveller families residing in the County in September 2010, the fifth highest population of Travellers by county nationally.

Wexford has a higher than average proportion of people aged nineteen or under at 28.8% compared

to the national figure of 27%. Factors such as early school leaving, lone parent families, limited educational attainment, alcohol and substance misuse, youth unemployment, anti-social behaviour and criminality present a challenge in terms of ensuring the best outcomes for our young people.

The latest available data on homelessness in Wexford shows that 334 cases of homelessness have been recorded since August 2007. The age profile of those presenting to the services is relatively young: 20.2% are under 25 years with 34.9% of those presenting under the ages of 30 years. The most commonly cited reason for homelessness is domestic violence (33% of cases), followed by family disputes (11%) and relationship/marital breakdown. Eviction, alcohol abuse and mental and emotional abuse are also common factors.

A report commissioned by the South-East Regional Drugs Task Force in 2010 revealed that Wexford had the highest number of users of illegal drugs at 11,500, compared to 9,500 in Waterford, 7,700 in Kilkenny, 7,266 in South Tipperary and 4,551 in Carlow. Wexford was also highlighted as having the highest incidence of heroin use amongst the five counties in the South-East region.

The South-East has the highest incidence of drug and alcohol related fatalities outside the Dublin area.

Census 2006 revealed that there were 3,944 non-Irish nationals living in the Wexford area, 2,389 in the Enniscorthy area, 2,454 in the New Ross area and 2,391 in the Gorey area. In the publication "Non-Irish Nationals Living in Ireland", which analyses data from the 2006 census and was published in 2008, Bunclody and New Ross were amongst the five towns with the highest proportion of Polish people in the country.

A recent report examined the social and economic context within County Wexford and proposed several potential growth areas for the future. This was based on extensive consultation with local stakeholders and a review of relevant policy. The areas of potential growth include tourism, culture, food, green energy, financial services, medical and life sciences and the reorientation of the construction sector towards retrofitting and eco-construction.

## The Focus of WLD Work 2011-2013

The analysis tells us that the immediate challenge facing Wexford is the unemployment crisis. This fits with the national priority of tackling unemployment. The impact of joblessness has reverberated throughout the community leading to increasing stress, income poverty and personal indebtedness. Education, training and lifelong learning are also of critical importance and are inextricably linked to employment and well being.

The geographic concentrations of disadvantage include the RAPID areas of Wexford town, Enniscorthy and New Ross, rural towns and villages including Taghmon, Ferns, Bunclody, Clonroche and Campile. Many of these areas have associated levels of low educational attainment.

Other areas such as Gorey town, Castlebridge and the Bridgetown/Kilmore Quay area experienced a large growth in population since 2006 and WLD's work on the ground indicates significant levels of social exclusion in these communities.

We believe that the optimum way to address the social inclusion needs in the County, through the LCDP, is to invest our energy and resources in the following:

### Welfare, information and advocacy

- By our interaction with service providers to increase knowledge, awareness and uptake of services by LCDP target groups.

### Employment, training and enterprise

- By enhancing training provision at FETAC levels 3 and 4 for those who are most distanced from the labour market.
- By providing flexible training, personal development courses, group supports and mentoring and facilitating more effective coordination and design of training targeted at people who are unemployed.
- By providing support to people interested in becoming self-employed and increasing the level of resources in this area.

### Education and lifelong learning

- By building on successful models of informal after-school provision.
- By strengthening support for young people, building links with pre-school community providers in the most disadvantaged areas, transition programmes from primary to post-

primary, homework and study supports, support for parents, literacy initiatives and community education.

### Health & Well Being

- By increasing awareness, knowledge and uptake of services.
- By linking with organisations that are working with recovering substance misusers to provide a pathway to further opportunities.
- By promoting positive mental health and wellbeing, links to health promotion activities, outreach, one-to-one and group supports and recreational and social activities.

### Children, young people and families

- By promoting the formative importance of the early years of life.
- By ensuring that children in disadvantaged areas avail of the free pre-school year and that parents are supported in their own development.
- By developing partnership approaches to youth work, involving young people in assessing their needs and becoming aware of and engaged with their local community.

### Housing environment and planning

- By working with communities to input into Local Authority development plans and assisting them to develop and maintain community resources such as community buildings, recreational space and green areas.

### Justice and community safety

- By continuing to support communities to engage with other agencies and structures such as the Joint Policing Committees.
- By working closely with Youth Diversion Projects.

### Culture and recreation

- By engaging with LCDP target groups in an educational way and with a view to creating training and employment opportunities.

### Rural development

- By strengthening the integrated approach between LCDP and NRDP to strategically target WLD resources at those areas most in need of developmental support.

### Community Development

- By carefully targeting areas for supports, mindful of the designated areas of greatest need and building on links with existing community infrastructure.
- By our collaborative work to stimulate participation by LCDP groups in decision-making structures.
- By building the county-wide network of Community Teams as a mechanism to develop, test and implement innovative approaches to social exclusion, facilitating joined-up thinking and approaches to specific issues at local level and documenting and learning from these initiatives.





# Creating the LCDP Plan for County Wexford

This section describes WLD's preparation, research, consultation and analysis that informed the Wexford Local Development LCDP Strategic Plan. This included the aforementioned analysis of existing secondary data (e.g. socio-economic and Census data and recent publications of relevance) an internal organisational review, external stakeholder consultation, online surveys, focus groups and written submissions.

## Review

There is a sturdy foundation on which to continue, build and strengthen the work of WLD over the LCDP period 2011-2013. The results of our internal organisational review show that progress has been made, over the years, in relation to:

### Building community infrastructure and organisational capacity:

The establishment of a range of community-based projects, structures and initiatives in Wexford (coordinated locally by 'Community Teams') has been the direct result of LDC support and intervention. This is also true in respect of capacity building as it relates to 'communities of interest' as well as geographically defined communities.

### Building joint understanding and co-operative structures:

The Wexford Area Community Team, the Community Manifesto of 2007 and community participation levels in jointly-organised conferences and events are evidence of progress in building relationships, collaborative working, linking people and communities.

### Influencing policy and practice:

Progress is evident across a range of programmes, policies and plans e.g. the strong role played by the community in the RAPID programme; strategic

working alliances formed between mainstream service providers and community interests (for example in drugs-related and educational initiatives); and community input into development plans.

We believe that progress has been possible because our attention has been on 'the community' as the centre piece for WLD actions and programmes. We have focused on:

- Building the capacity of community-based organisations to identify and respond effectively to the needs of the most excluded in their areas.
- Developing partnership-based services and programmes in response to the needs identified.
- Strengthening new and existing community organisations in their efforts to form strategic alliances with each other and with mainstream service providers and policy-makers.

The strengths are in:

- The capacity of community teams to continue to engage with, and represent the interests of, the most excluded.
- Effective working relationships between Community Teams and statutory agencies which facilitate the targeting of resources to and increase the uptake of services by priority groups and communities.

WLD will build on these strengths by working to a model that enables us to demonstrate and measure benefits over time.

## Stakeholder Consultations 2011

Wexford Local Development conducted an intensive and carefully planned consultation process with the full range of stakeholders across the County during the months of February and March 2011. The purpose of this consultation process was to tune into and gather the knowledge and experience of people and organisations that know their communities, understand their needs and have a vested interest in the success of County Wexford. The rationale was that the process would yield a clear and unified sense of the needs of the County and that this in turn would inform the direction and decision making of the strategic plan.

The stakeholders included community representatives, statutory and community and voluntary providers of services, coordinating bodies and structures locally including RAPID Area Implementation Teams, public representatives and social partners.

The consultation process was facilitated by WLD and involved meetings and workshops with the stakeholders to hear their sense of the needs and the best way forward, through the LCDP, to address these needs.

The consultation process was structured around the following themes:

### Employment Supports, Training and Enterprise

### Education and Lifelong Learning

### Children and Young People

### Community Development, Health and Wellbeing

The results of the consultation process, including written and online submissions, were collated and analysed thematically to capture the needs, areas of concern and recommendations for possible action under the LCDP. These results informed the decision making and strategic priorities of the plan as reflected in the objectives outlined in the next section. A brief summary of the results is presented below under the four headings. Readers who wish to explore the data in more detail are encouraged to access the full strategic plan at [www.wld.ie](http://www.wld.ie).

### Employment, Training and Enterprise

The main concerns under this heading were the negative impact of unemployment on families, on men and young people in particular and the barriers to accessing employment and training.

The recommendations centered on enhancing support, access to and quality/focus of training provision and strengthening the link to employment opportunities, intensifying support for small business and the self-employed and developing social enterprise. There was a strong sense that there is a need for a more innovative, flexible and tailored approach to the way we provide training and support for people to develop their skills and be ready for the world of work and/or involvement in some meaningful way within their community.

### Education and Lifelong Learning

The main concerns under this heading were early school leaving, take up of pre-school education and enhancing access to higher education (perception, attitudes and beliefs, cost, location, places and possibilities) and other more flexible forms of learning. The recommendations centered on creating positive feelings and beliefs about the value and relevance of learning and education from the early years and right through our life cycle, strengthening support for parents and out-of-school supports and expanding access to specific education programmes, personal development and learning in general.

### Children and Young People

The main concerns under this heading were the uneven provision of services across geographic areas, safety, well being, mental and physical health, and attitudes to/perceptions of young people.

The recommendations centered on promoting healthy development for young people and their families, innovative responses to the needs of children and young people, safe spaces to play and hang out, better quality facilities and activities, dedicated transport, engagement with and support for parents, promoting active citizenship and community involvement, achieving seamless delivery of initiatives and services across the 'life cycle', building links between activities for children, youth work, education and entry to the workplace.

### Community Development, Health and Wellbeing

The main concerns under this heading were about promoting the value of community and community work, and the importance, to our well being, of volunteering, recreational and community facilities, access to quality services, training, education and employment.

The recommendations centered on finding innovative ways to raise awareness and provide information about services and supports, networking to share learning, information and actions, continuing to build strong communities and provide support for volunteers, discerning low/no cost activities and ways to be resourceful so as to sustain community services, supports, buildings and facilities. Communities are seeking to augment their participation in decision-making, their role in achieving social inclusion and promoting well being through better physical and mental health at all stages of our life cycle.

# Objectives of the LCDP Strategic Plan for County Wexford 2011-2013

This section sets out the objectives of the LCDP Strategic Plan for County Wexford. These objectives form the framework for all our work at WLD and will determine how we deploy our funding and resources to tackle social exclusion and poverty in the County over the plan period.

## WLD Commitment to the LCDP Strategic Plan

Wexford Local Development's work under the LCDP will maintain a strong focus on communities. We will work towards greater social inclusion through a series of inter-related actions in the areas of employment and enterprise supports, education and lifelong learning, community development linking to policy and decision-making and increased awareness and uptake of services.

From the outset we will invest a large proportion of our energy and resources in providing support to groups and individuals in disadvantaged areas. This is in tune with the national emphasis on employment, education and training under Goals Two and Three of the LCDP. Our intention is to raise awareness and increase understanding within target communities and amongst agencies and service providers of the value of social inclusion. We will achieve this by increasing the level and scope of opportunities locally which respond directly to the needs of our priority groups and areas.

We will continue our support for communities to develop their local organisational structures, understand the needs of and involve their 'target groups', develop facilities, plan, review and communicate their activities. Time commitment to priority groups or communities will be 'front-loaded' in accordance with need and stage of development. Naturally, less support time is required for those areas and organisations where strong and autonomous organisations have developed. In these areas we

will build on existing resources and add to the opportunities available locally for our target groups in partnership with organisations on the ground.

Our decision to work in this way allows for:

- Facilitation of linkages between organisations representing the most excluded and mainstream service providers.
- Facilitation of linkages amongst community-based and interest-based organisations.
- The development of particular service and programme responses (informed by needs identified by Community Teams and organisations on an ongoing basis, and delivered in partnership with the relevant statutory agencies).
- Connecting Community Teams and organisations with opportunities to access resources and to influence policy through locally-based and national programmes.

Our work under eight local objective statements will be characterised by a strong community development approach. This differentiates the work of Local Development Companies from that of mainstream service providers and also facilitates clearer and stronger connections between those providers and the target groups of LCDP, rooted in the communities and areas where they live.

We are committed to monitoring and evaluation over the lifetime of the LCDP. We believe in reflecting and learning from what we do and that we have a responsibility to monitor and track the progress, benefits and impact of our work. We will carry out our work under LCDP in accordance with national monitoring and evaluation requirements, capturing relevant data through the IRIS system. We will activate our systems locally applying a logic model, building time for tracking, reflection and learning in the interest of the continuous improvement of our local and community development work.

## Wexford Local Development - LCDP Objectives

The eight Local Objective Statements are described in detail in the full Strategic Plan on [www.wld.ie](http://www.wld.ie). Each statement is accompanied by the following information:

---

**Rationale**, which explains the reasons for the objective and how it was informed by the needs analysis and consultation process.

---

**Financial cost**, a statement of the amount of money to be invested in achieving the objective.

---

**Set of actions**, a description of the specific activities that WLD commit to in order to achieve the objective.

---

**List of partners**, a list of the relevant agencies and organisations whose understanding, commitment, support and contribution is necessary to achieve the actions.

---

**Expected National Outcomes**, a statement of the tangible outcomes that are envisaged as a result of the actions under the objective.

---

**Expected Indicators of Progress**, a statement of the signs or signals that will show that there is movement and progress on the objective over time.

---

**Baseline Position**, a brief description of the current status in relation to the action including statistical indicators, work already completed, in train or necessary in order to achieve the objective. This baseline position will be used to benchmark direction of travel, difference made and progress over time.

---

**Local Target**, a firm quantitative and/or qualitative statement, as appropriate, of what will be achieved under the objective, e.g. number of participants, numbers completing, systems developed, measures of change, etc. These targets will guide the monitoring and evaluation process over the lifetime of the LCDP. The eight objectives of the Wexford LCDP Strategic Plan 2011 – 2013 are described in detail in the full Strategic Plan on [www.wld.ie](http://www.wld.ie).

---

The following pages provide an overview of these objectives with key actions and the working partnerships necessary to achieve each.

An overarching aspect of our ongoing work is our WLD presence and participation on key planning and policy structures within the County and nationally. This allows us to promote the needs of the LCDP groups, identify potential areas of work and develop joint initiatives. As resources become scarcer, our capacity to broker and facilitate working partnerships with other statutory, community and voluntary service providers is more vital. It means that supports available for the promotion of social inclusion are maximised and the progression of our target groups and communities remains firmly on the local agenda. Our working relationships with target communities and groups are an integral and distinctive part of this equation.

Our objective one fits under the national **Goal One** 'to promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services.'

Our objectives two, three and four fit under the national **Goal Two** 'to increase access to formal and informal education, recreational and cultural activities and resources.'

Our objectives five, six and seven fit under the national **Goal Three** 'to increase people's work readiness and employment prospects.'

Our objective eight fits under the national **Goal Four** 'to promote engagement with policy, practice and decision making processes on matters affecting local communities.'

Objective	Summary of Key Actions	Partners
<p><b>Objective One</b> To work with service providers and local communities in the most disadvantaged areas of County Wexford to develop joint initiatives which will increase awareness, knowledge and uptake of services by LCDP target groups by 2013.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborative research with key service providers to identify areas of need and barriers experienced by priority target groups and areas.</li> <li>• Development of referral and follow-up mechanisms and data-capture systems both within WLD and with other service providers.</li> <li>• Information seminars and workshops tailored to the needs of particular groups and areas.</li> <li>• Localised service directories and community websites.</li> <li>• Provision of outreach, technical support and funding advice to communities and groups experiencing high levels of disadvantage.</li> <li>• Development of joint initiatives to address the service needs of young unemployed people, LGBT community, substance misusers, offenders and homeless people.</li> </ul>	<p>CIC, MABS, FÁS, DSP, SERDTF, HSE, Wexford Local Authorities, CDB, RAPID AITs, Homelessness Action Team, Probation Service.</p>
<p><b>Objective Two</b> To work with providers and communities to increase awareness and uptake of formal educational opportunities by LCDP priority target groups in County Wexford by 2013.</p>	<p>The following actions will be targeted at areas and target groups identified as high priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headstart Programme.</li> <li>• Magic programme.</li> <li>• Anti-bullying Programme.</li> <li>• Meitheal.</li> <li>• Wexford Education Network.</li> <li>• Leaving Certificate Group Grinds Programme.</li> <li>• WLD Financial Supports for progression to 3<sup>rd</sup> level and further education.</li> </ul>	<p>Co. Wexford VEC, SCP, HSCL, RAPID AITs and Sub-Groups.</p>
<p><b>Objective Three</b> To work with providers and communities to increase awareness and uptake of informal educational opportunities by LCDP priority target groups in County Wexford by 2013.</p>	<p>The following actions will be focused on the areas and target groups identified as high priority :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After-school sessions and homework supports.</li> <li>• Education supports for substance misusers and offenders.</li> <li>• Supporting LCDP target groups to participate in Grundtív European Adult &amp; Community Education Programme.</li> <li>• Community Education Programmes.</li> <li>• Young Parents'/ Young Women's programme.</li> </ul>	<p>VEC, Local Communities, Probation Service, SERDTF, HSE.</p>
<p><b>Objective Four</b> To work with providers, community organisations and LCDP priority target groups in County Wexford to increase opportunity of access to recreational and cultural activities including developmental youth work by 2013.</p>	<p>The following actions will be focused on the areas and target groups identified as high priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships with Community Teams to develop summer fun and holiday-time programmes for young people.</li> <li>• Collaborative youth work with Community Teams.</li> <li>• Cultural Programmes with priority groups and areas to increase LCDP target group engagement with local cultural resources.</li> <li>• LGBT Youth Activities.</li> <li>• WLD will continue to work on the CDB and at SIM level to address the recreational and cultural needs of LCDP groups in the county.</li> </ul>	<p>Community groups, BelongTo, ABC Trinity College Dublin, FDYS, Foróige, Co. Wexford VEC, Sports Active Wexford, RAPID AITs, HSE, Garda Síochána, Youth Diversion Projects.</p>

Objective	Summary of Key Actions	Partners
<p><b>Objective Five</b> To develop and provide a range of services to support, prepare and assist the long term unemployed in County Wexford to re-enter the labour market by 2013.</p>	<p>The following actions will be focused on the areas and target groups identified as high priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network for Employment.</li> <li>• Local Employment Service (LES) supports.</li> <li>• Career Focus and Interview Skills Initiatives.</li> <li>• WARM project.</li> <li>• Tús initiative.</li> <li>• Social Economy Initiatives.</li> <li>• Cornmarket Re-integration Programme.</li> <li>• Facilitated Business Network.</li> <li>• County Wexford Smallholders Initiative.</li> <li>• WLD will participate in the County Development Board, Social Inclusion Measures Group, SERDTF, RAPID AITs and national policy structures to promote the needs of the LCDP groups and to identify potential areas of work and to develop joint initiatives.</li> </ul>	<p>Department of Social Protection, FÁS, Probation Service, Regional Drugs Task Force and SEAI, Wexford CEB, Chambers of Commerce and local Enterprise Centres.</p>
<p><b>Objective Six</b> To increase the availability of training focused on named growth areas in the labour market such as culture and tourism, green economy, sustainable construction, health care and food production to assist the long term unemployed in County Wexford to up-skill and to re-enter the labour market by 2013.</p>	<p>Working closely with the LES and communities in areas of high disadvantage, WLD will provide FETAC accredited training in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Efficiency Building Skills (Level 5).</li> <li>• Culture and Tourism Awareness (Sales, Customer Service) (Levels 4 and 5).</li> <li>• Health Care (Levels 4 and 5).</li> <li>• Food Technology (Levels 3, 4 and 5).WLD will promote the training needs of the LCDP groups at the County Development Board, Social Inclusion Measures Group and RAPID AITs.</li> </ul>	<p>Department of Social Protection, FÁS and the VEC.</p>
<p><b>Objective Seven</b> Develop a range of supports and aftercare services to increase the levels and numbers of long term unemployed people in County Wexford becoming self-employed by 2013.</p>	<p>The following actions will be focused on the areas and target groups identified as high priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprise supports: One to one advice and guidance to support business start-ups and development. Administering BTWEA scheme on behalf of the DSP.</li> <li>• Pre-enterprise supports: "Moving from Welfare to Self-employment", "Start your own business" courses, group supports with the development of business plans.</li> <li>• Aftercare Supports: Business Skills Training and information seminars, one-to-one coaching and mentoring programme and facilitating business networks for BTWEA clients.</li> <li>• County Wexford Smallholders Initiative: One-to-one support with small holders.</li> <li>• WLD will highlight the needs of LCDP target groups, identify potential areas of work and develop joint initiatives to promote self-employment and enterprise.</li> </ul>	<p>Department of Social Protection, Wexford CEB, local Enterprise Centres and Chambers of Commerce.</p>

Objective	Summary of Key Actions	Partners
<p><b>Objective Eight</b> To develop and increase the number of effective structures and processes for dialogue between policy makers, providers and local communities in County Wexford by 2013, thereby contributing to the development of more inclusive and transparent policy and decision-making processes.</p>	<p>The following actions will be targeted in areas identified as high priority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued development of local 'Community Teams' in areas with high levels of disadvantage, including area- and group-specific initiatives.</li> <li>• Developmental support for existing groups/networks/ initiatives with communities of interest, specifically: older people, disadvantaged young people and the LGBT community and initiatives to support Travellers, substance misusers, offenders and homeless people to engage effectively with policy makers, providers and local community teams and networks.</li> <li>• Supports for volunteering as a means to promote greater social inclusion.</li> <li>• Development, expansion and resourcing of the Community Team network piloted in the Wexford Area (Wexford Area Community Team) to Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross.</li> <li>• Organisation of seminars and conferences aimed at deepening the involvement of communities in policy issues and decision-making.</li> <li>• WLD will support LCDP target group participation in local decision-making structures.</li> <li>• WLD will ensure that communities are supported to participate effectively in the management of WLD-led projects and initiatives.</li> </ul>	<p>Community Teams / community organisations, Volunteers involved with former CDP Boards of Management, Wexford Area Community Team, Co. Wexford Age Equality Network, Gay Wexford, Co. Wexford Traveller Network, Wexford County Development Board and Social Inclusion Measures Working Group, the South East Regional Drugs Task Force, Wexford Local Drugs Task Force, The Cornmarket Project, Co. Wexford Community Forum.</p>

**wexford**   
local development

Forbairt Áitiúil Loch Garman

tel: 053 915 5800  
fax: 053 912 1024  
email: [info@wld.ie](mailto:info@wld.ie)  
[www.wld.ie](http://www.wld.ie)

