



Pobal NEETs Event

23rd of October 2017

WLD's work with Young People under
SICAP 2015 - 2017

Wexford Local Development

- Local Development Company based in Co. Wexford with offices in Wexford town, Enniscorthy, Gorey and New Ross
- Deliver several inter-linked programmes including SICAP
- Annual individual caseload target of 1,881 under SICAP 2015 – 2017
- Strong emphasis on Community Development
- Focus on working with young unemployed going back many years



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Local Context in Co. Wexford

- 15 – 24 year olds - 11% of the population in Co. Wexford (Census 2016)
- Young people aged 15 – 24 = 20% of WLD individual caseload in 2016.
- 51% come from a jobless household.
- 1,545 18 – 24 year olds on the Live Register (DSP, July 2017)
- 31,263 = population in disadvantaged areas in Co. Wexford in 2016 of which 3,824 aged 15 – 24 years (Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2016)



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Disadvantaged Areas in Co. Wexford 2016



Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2016



Relative Deprivation Scores, 2016

State: 0.6
 Wexford: -4.8
 Municipal Districts: New Ross MD (-6.5),
 Enniscorthy MD (-6.2), Wexford MD (-3.8), Gorey MD (-4.6)

Work with Young People pre-SICAP

- At 47%, Wexford had the 3rd highest rate of youth unemployment nationally according to Census 2011.
- WLD Responses 2012 - 2014:
 - Research with young people, service providers and employers to find out the ‘stories behind the statistics’
 - Conference attended by 200 delegates in November 2012
 - District level network meetings of key service providers to highlight findings of research and promote joined up solutions
 - Community Development – formation of Wexford Youth Action

Work with Young People pre-SICAP

Community Development support to stimulate a collective approach by young unemployed people resulting in the formation of a group which

- Developed a submission on the Youth Guarantee scheme
- Developed and presented a Youth Employment Manifesto
- Participated in a joint meeting with members of Co. Wexford Age Equality Network
- Took part in a Media skills workshop
- Addressed a meeting of the VSI/EU transnational 'Let's Move the Market' initiative in Dublin in May 2014.

Wexford Youth Action: Community Conference and Visit to Dáil Eireann



Wexford Youth Action: Meeting with John Lyons TD and joint session with Co. Wexford Age Equality Network



Wexford Youth Action: Local Election Candidates Forum and presentation to EU project partners



Profile of WLD NEETs Caseload Jan 2015 – May 2016

- 575 young people who were NEET (340 males, 235 female)
- 7% were aged 18 years or younger. 93% were aged 19 to 24 years old.
- 84% of young people had an education level of Leaving Certificate or lower
- 16% had post-leaving cert qualification
- 86% young people = white Irish or white non-Irish, 10% young people were from ethnic minorities. Data was not available on 4% of young people.
- Using the HP Deprivation Index, the relative levels of affluence or disadvantage by location for NEETs were as follows:
 - - 6% were living in very disadvantaged areas
 - - 33% were living in disadvantaged areas
 - - 51% were living in areas marginally below average
 - - 9% were living in areas marginally above average
 - - 1% were living in affluent areas

WLD Approach to Engaging with and Supporting Young People who are NEET

- ✓ Whole company approach to working with clients
- ✓ Single Salesforce CRM system to manage caseload and action plans and track interventions and training referrals

SICAP :

- Community Development outreach – 45% of referrals of young people were via Goal 1 outreach and work with groups
- Youth specific programmes
- Access to mainstream SICAP supports – 625 training places taken up, 90% in unaccredited short courses with 85% completion rate

WLD Approach to Engaging with and Supporting Young People who are NEET

- LES – one to one employment guidance
- Tús – dedicated programmes for under 25s enhanced with training supports funded with support from SICAP originally piloted in 2012 under LCDF.
- Traveller Primary Healthcare Programme – outreach and group supports.
- Traveller and Roma Inter-agency Pre-Development Programme – outreach, needs assessment and community education responses.
- The Cornmarket Drug Rehabilitation Programme – stabilisation and community education programmes.
- LEADER – development of funding proposals with SICAP LCGs for facilities to support disadvantaged youth.



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What has worked well?

- **Integrated company-wide approach**
- **Community Development outreach to individuals and group supports**



What has worked well?

- **Facilitating a safe, flexible and responsive relationship with young people**
- **Working closely with employers**



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The Challenges

- **Mismatch between needs of young people and eligible responses**
- **Concentration of NEETs in disadvantaged communities and within jobless households**
- **Transport**



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The Challenges

- **Need for intensive one to one support but pressure to spread resources**
- **Caring responsibilities**
- **Young Travellers/Roma**



Recommendations

- Good **Community Development outreach** is the cornerstone of our work – need to be visible and flexible, working within the communities to which these young people belong and devising ways to engage them.
- Need for **personal development** and one to one/small group **supports** as the barriers to participation are significant.
- Access to **work experience** is a challenge for this cohort – creative engagement with local employers and programmes like Tús can bridge this gap.
- **Early intervention** in schools and training centres is required to prevent young people falling into unemployment. Collaborative work essential.

For more information phone us on 053 9155800

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