



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice



Our Waterford Our Safety

Your Community Safety Plan.

WATERFORD COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

2023-2028





Logos above: Clashmore and Kinsalebeg Community Council; Waterford Public Participation Network; Treo; Top of the City Community Garden; Tusla; Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber; Waterford Migrant Integration Forum; Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board; Waterford City & County Council; Department of Justice; Waterford Chamber; HSE; Waterford Older People's Council; An Garda Síochána; Dunhill & Fenor Community Alert; Ballysaggart Community Development; and Roanmore Park Resident's Association.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Cllr. John O'Leary, The Mayor of Waterford City and County

As Mayor of Waterford City and County, I am proud that Waterford is one of the chosen locations for the Community Safety Partnership, a pilot Government initiative. The new concept brings statutory services, the voluntary and community sector local councillors, and community members together in partnership to identify and tackle local community safety issues.

Community safety, as we all know is more than just policing crime. It is about people enjoying a better quality of life and feeling safe within their communities. The role of the new Waterford Community Safety Partnership is to work together with various communities and to deliver on their individual needs. The first step in this, was listening to the communities, in relation to how safe they feel.

I'm delighted to introduce the very first Waterford Community Safety Plan, which has been completed following inputs from numerous individuals, groups and agencies who have a stake in ensuring Waterford is the best place to work, live and visit. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Plan, by completing surveys, attending public meetings, participating in focus groups or simply by stopping and interacting at a pop up consultation stand, throughout the County.

I would like to wish the Independent Chair Mr. Sean Aylward, and all of the collaborating Partners every success as they embark on delivering a safer Waterford, by implementing the community led Safety Plan.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Sean Aylward, Chairperson

The freedom to go about our lives in safety is one of the highest human aspirations. Indeed, the principle behind it is enshrined in the ancient legal maxim: 'Salus Populi - Suprema Lex' (Public Safety is the Supreme Law).

No one agency of the state, acting on its own, can possibly succeed in keeping us feeling safe in our homes or outside them either, whether in our immediate neighbourhood or the wider public realm. It is only when all the actors involved, statutory agencies, the voluntary and community sector, local government representatives & management teams, and community members all consult and act together that we can effectively address the issues and concerns of the people in this respect.

I want to salute the 30 members of our partnership and all those involved in the multiple source and protracted consultations since 2021 to develop this 5-year community safety plan for Waterford City and County.

I want to especially thank the very small team who have helped to manage this consultation project from the outset. Initially Claire Loughnane from Waterford City and

County Council succeeded by Eddie Mulligan and joined by SETU postgraduate student Barbara Enticknap.

Just as multiple issues can give rise to concerns by any one of us about our personal safety so it is that many small incremental changes can enhance our sense of safety and belonging where we want to be.

Our plan is based on taking small, consistent positive steps to make Waterford safer. They also include building up the social capital in our neighbourhoods that need significant investment. We primarily focus of course, on increasing the effectiveness of the agencies which have a special responsibility to deliver services in our communities ranging from policing & social services to education and training, sports & recreation facilities & housing provision and, of course, to use one prosaic example, public lighting.

In the end of the day, this plan will to a great extent, stand or fall on the 'buy-in' it secures from the individuals & organisations whose responsibilities we spotlight in our specific recommendations. It will also be hugely dependent on the people of Waterford themselves taking on board the holistic approach to community safety & holding to account the agencies who support that objective.

This safety plan is a living document. It will be reviewed and adjusted in the years to come. I am full of hope, however, for the future of the amazing city and county of Waterford & for all of those who have the privilege to live and work there. We are already in a great place, but it can and will be even better.

INTRODUCTION

This is Waterford's first Local Community Safety Plan. The Community Safety Plan is the result of the collaborative efforts of the Local Community Safety Partnership and its constituent organisations, other stakeholders and the community of Waterford City and County.

This plan aims to increase the perception and experience of safety in Waterford for everyone who lives, works, or visits the County. This plan will set out the context for Safety in Waterford, and outline actions for the implementation of safety projects and initiatives aimed at achieving four broad strategic outcomes:



**AWARE &
KNOWLEDGEABLE**

The findings in this plan are informed by related policies, community safety best practices, and the most up to date socio-demographic data available. Most importantly, the development of this plan has been informed by strong public engagement with individuals and communities from the city, towns, villages, townlands, and rural hinterlands throughout Waterford. The plan aims to reflect the needs and priorities of individuals and communities in Waterford to enhance community safety across the entire County.



**PROTECTED &
RESPECTED**



**SUPPORTED &
INVOLVED**

The implementation of this plan will be spearheaded by the Waterford Community Safety Partnership, while statutory and sectoral bodies will work together to deliver the actions outlined in this plan.

The purpose of the Community Safety Plan is to build a solid foundation for all stakeholders to work together to maintain and enhance community safety in accordance with the Community Safety Policy issued by the Department of Justice and set out in the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill 2022.



**SAFE &
SECURE**

Local Community Safety Partnership Approach

In November 2020, the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee announced the establishment of three pilot Local Community Safety Partnerships in Waterford, Longford, and Dublin North Inner City. The Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP) replaced the existing Joint Policing Committee structures, and aims to have higher levels of community consultation in those areas.

These pilot projects are built on the premise that responses to community safety challenges need to be community-specific and will require a range of different services. Improving community safety requires a multi-sectoral approach, strong interagency collaboration and engagement from the community.

The three overarching objectives of the Community Safety Partnership pilot programmes are to:

- Prioritise issues identified by the community as safety concerns
- Improve multi-agency collaboration in the pilot area
- Increase community confidence in service providers.

The intention is that the pilots will run for 24 months (until the end of 2023) and will be subject to a robust independent evaluation to ensure the proposed structures are fulfilling their objectives. The Department

of Justice has commissioned CES (Centre for Effective Services) in partnership with the University of Limerick, to conduct the evaluation of LCSPs in the pilot sites, to inform the future rollout of the LCSP model and future National community safety policy.

A key function of the Local Community Safety Partnerships is to develop a Community Safety Plan. Waterford Community Safety Plan (WCSP) will detail how best the community wants to prevent crime and will reflect community priorities and local safety issues. The new WCSP will build on the successes in the preceding Waterford Joint Policing Committee Strategy (2019-2023), and aims to continue to make communities safer for families, residents, businesses and visitors.

The learnings from the pilots and their evaluation will be considered in the context of the statutory framework for community safety and will be applied to the National rollout of similar partnerships in communities across the country. It is envisaged that every local authority area will have a Community Safety Partnership, with dedicated funding and staff, once the policy is rolled out nationally as part of reforms outlined by the Commission on the Future of Policing.

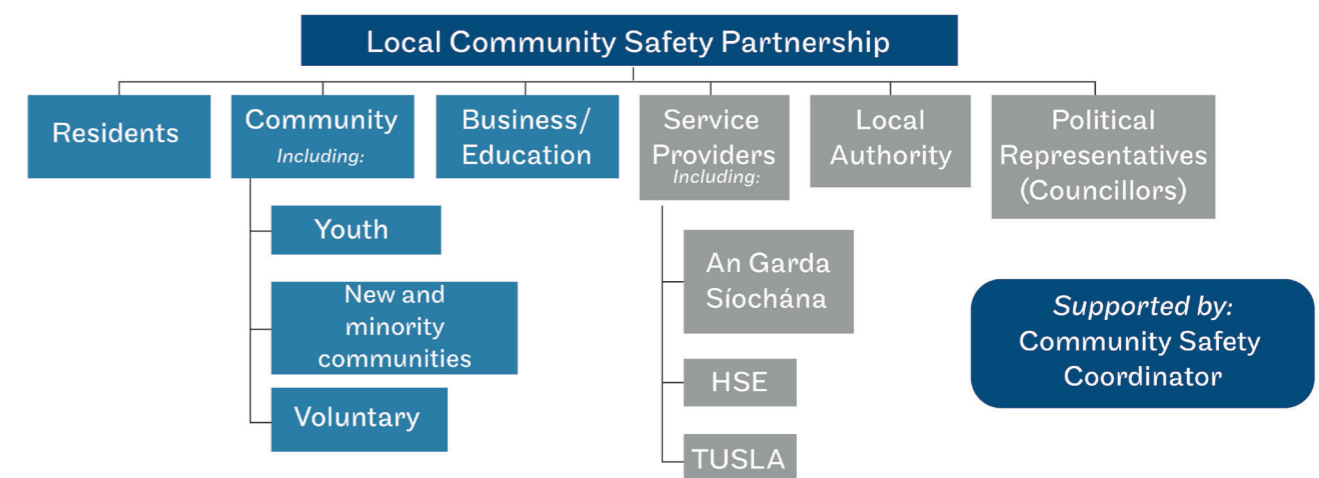
Waterford Local Community Safety Partnership

Waterford Local Community Safety Partnership has 30 members from statutory agencies, local community members, residents, and community services as well as Waterford City and County Public Participation Network.

The WCSP meets every quarter, with working groups meeting on a more regular basis to drive projects and initiatives across partner organisations and other stakeholders.

The Partnership was convened by the Department of Justice with an inaugural meeting on 20th July 2021 with an Independent Chairperson-Sean Aylward, former Secretary General of the Department of Justice. The initial Co-Ordinator was Claire Loughnane, who moved on through promotion and was then followed by Eddie Mulligan on 22nd August 2022. The logos of the member organisations/representative group can be found in on page 1.

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - STRUCTURE



Defining community safety

The concept of community safety is about people being safe and feeling safe in their own community. At the heart of the local community safety plan is the principle that every community has the right to be and feel safe in order to thrive, flourish and live the fullest lives possible.

Developing Community Safety Plans has two main components:

- Preventing and mitigating crime and harmful behaviours
- Addressing the broader conditions, including social alienation, that may contribute to violence, such as high levels of inequality, limited access to employment and education opportunities, housing, healthcare, substance misuse, a lack of social cohesion, and general feelings of disempowerment.

As such, when we refer to the concept of community safety, we are not only talking about efforts to reduce levels of crime and/or harmful behaviours in a particular area. We are also talking about taking actions to improve the social, cultural, economic, and political conditions. Through this approach of enhancing opportunity and the broader environment, we would hope to deliver safer and more contented communities through a multistakeholder approach driven by local needs

Plan structure

The plan outlines the current situation in Waterford today, including key socio-economic statistics and analysis, key consultation findings, and action areas.

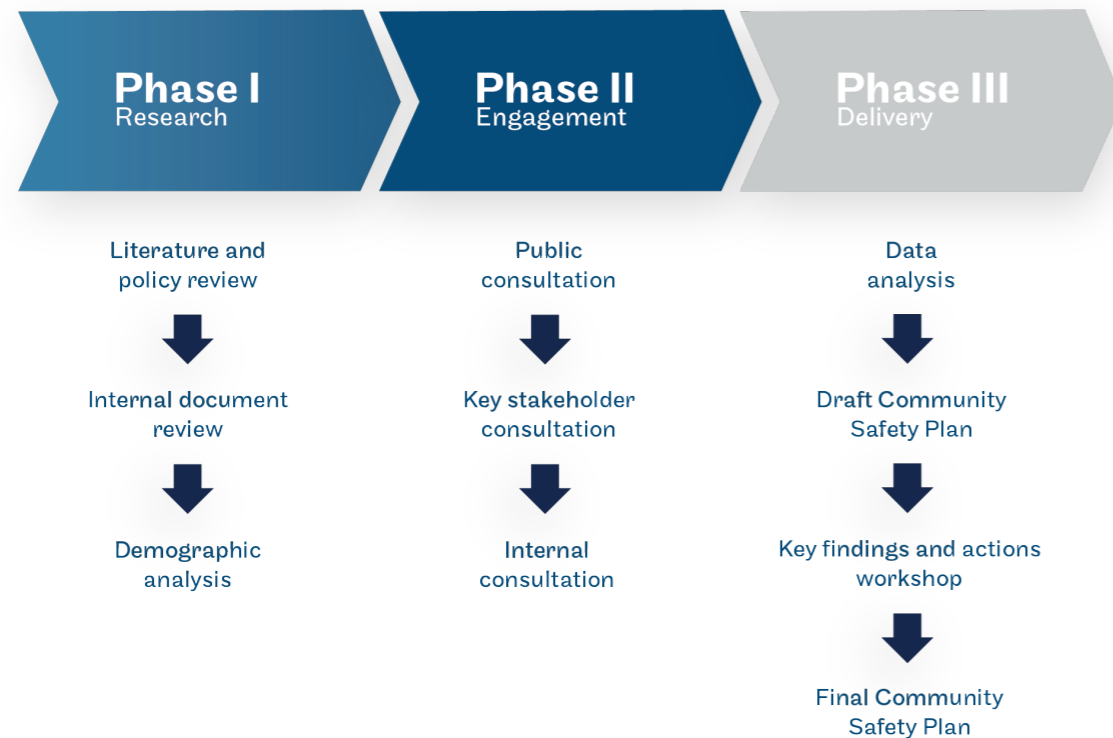
The Plan articulates a shared vision, mission and goals for the future. It includes strategic priorities and initiatives for the Partnership members and others, acting within their respective mandates and in collaboration, to achieve that.

The final section discusses next steps arising from the project, including the implementation of specific actions, suggestions for the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the project, and additional considerations.

Community safety recognises that:

- different stakeholders within the community are important actors in efforts to reduce crime and harmful behaviour and have the shared responsibility to ensure the safety of every individual
- communities are complex systems that need high levels of social cohesion to ensure that people living within the area are protected from crime and harmful behaviours.

THE PLANNING PROCESS



Plan development process

The Waterford Community Safety Plan was developed through a three-phased approach: Research, Engagement and Delivery. The process consisted of ten steps across the three phases, as detailed in the figure above. The order of these steps is sequential, but in practice, the process is incremental, with each step sometimes providing new insights for the stage before.

Phase 1: Research

This initial phase clarified the vision, mission and key outcome areas. The literature and policy context identified and reviewed national, regional, and local policies related to community safety. These documents were reviewed with the aim of ensuring that Waterford’s Community Safety Plan works in tandem with the goals and objectives set out in current policies. A review of existing community safety plans and internal documents identified best-practices in the development of community

safety plans, which helped to inform the development of WCSP.

A socio-economic and demographic data analysis of Waterford City and County was undertaken to establish a policy context for this exercise.

Phase 2: Engagement

Developing the WCSP Safety Plan in consultation with the community was of paramount importance, and every effort was made to ensure that the consultation process was inclusive and accessible. In addition to community-wide consultation, focus groups were held with a very broad range of targeted community groups.

Consultation was undertaken with organisations and agencies providing services and supports in Waterford City and County. These workshops and focus

Diligently planning a phased approach, through research and comprehensive public consultation we have developed Waterford’s first Community Safety Plan. We have already been able to commence work on a number of actions and initiatives in conjunction with our community safety partners to make County Waterford a safer place to live, study, work, recreate, and visit.



Image: Dungarvan Bay

groups identified specific actions that will be implemented over the lifetime of the WCSP.

Internal engagement included workshops with the WLCSP, which clarified the desired outcomes, priority areas and proposed actions.

Phase 3: Delivery

This final phase of the project consisted of analysis of all the data collected during phases one and two.

The key findings from the research and engagement phases informed the creation of priority areas and concrete actions. This three stage process ensured the development of the WCSP has a strong evidence base to:

- Support a coordinated approach to addressing community safety
- Advance principles of best practice in prevention and intervention
- Promote a better understanding of local concerns and explore the relevant safety

- risks and protective factors
- Encourage an improved level of community and stakeholder collaboration.

The actions for WCSP were adopted by the WLCSP on 29th June 2022.



Image: Cappoquin

WATERFORD AT A GLANCE

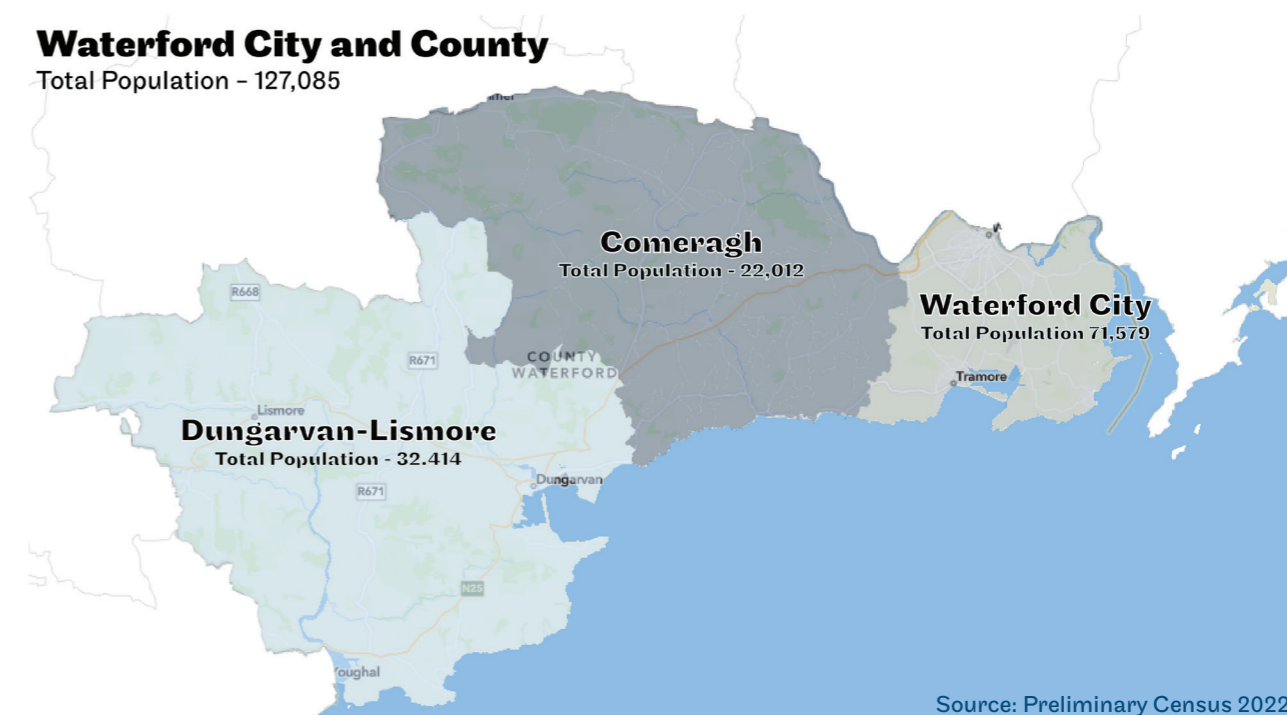
Key figures and findings

Over the course of the preparation of the plan, a detailed socio-economic profile of Waterford City and County was created and utilised to inform the development of objectives and actions. The following is a summary of the key trends that have emerged.

This section provides data about Waterford City and County at both County and Municipal District levels, thereby enabling a detailed depiction of the County's social and economic characteristics and trends. It also draws comparisons with wider regional and national data results, where available.

This profile utilises data collated from (but not limited to): Census 2022, Census 2016, the Live Register, Tusla data, Quarterly National Household Survey and Department of Social Protection data, Fáilte Ireland, the Pobal HP Deprivation index and other CSO Statistical Databases.

Due to delayed data collection and analysis as a result of COVID-19 and the timing of the most recent Census (April 2022), Census 2016 has been utilised where no alternative reliable data set was available. It is noted that as an action in this plan that the document will be reviewed inline with the Census 2022 information once available.



General

- Waterford City and County occupies an area of 1,835 km² and according to the preliminary Census 2022 has a **total population of 127,085 people**. Of this total, 56.5% (71,759 people) live in Waterford City Municipal District (MD), 25.5% (32,414 people) live in Dungarvan-Lismore MD and 18.0% (22,912 people) live in Comeragh MD.
- Waterford City and County is the **13th largest populated county in the State** and according to the preliminary Census 2022.
- According to Census 2016 of Waterford City and County's total population (116,176 in 2016) **61.6% live in urban areas** and **38.4% live in rural areas**.
- An Electoral Division (ED) level analysis of the Census 2022 results finds Tramore had the largest population (9,784), followed by Ballytruckle (6,505) and Farranstoneen (6,013). At 81 people, Mountstuart, in the West of the County, had the smallest population.

Population structure

- Between the 2016–2022 preliminary Census, Waterford City and County experienced population growth at a rate of 9.4%. This growth rate was notably higher than the State (7.6%) and the highest rate of population growth in the Southern region.
- According to the preliminary 2022 Census, roughly **69.3% of Waterford's population increase was due to in migration**, or people moving to

Waterford, higher than the State level (52.6%).

- According to the 2016 Census, the **average age in Waterford was below the national average** (36.8 and 37.4 years respectively), and this is generally reflective of the slightly younger age profile within the broader Southern region.
- According to the 2016 Census, **63.9% of the population in 2016 was of working age** (15 – 64 years) with 52.0% of that proportion being prime working age (defined as the 25–64 age cohorts). Specifically, 26.9% of Waterford's population was between 25 – 44 years old, with a further 25.1% between 45 – 64 years old.
- According to the 2016 Census, children and young people (under the age of 19) comprised 27.7% of Waterford City and County's total population. Of this 27.7%, the highest proportion of children and young people (10.3%) were between the ages of 5–11 years (primary school aged), 8.4% were between 12–17 years (secondary school aged), and 6.6% were between 0–4 years (pre-school aged).
- Of Waterford City and County's total 2016 population, 15.0% were aged **65 years or older** and **6.2%** of the population was older than 75 years of age.
- The **proportion of the population aged 70 years and older was slightly higher** at 10.1% than in the Southern Region (9.7%) and the State (8.9%) in 2016

Marriage & Families

- In 2016, the average household size was smaller in Waterford City and County (2.66 people) than the Southern Region (2.70 people) and the State (2.75 people).
- In the 2020/2021 year, weekly childcare costs in Waterford averaged at €175.61 for full time care, €101.27 for part time care, and €71.30 for sessional care. These **childcare costs were slightly lower than the national averages** (€186.84, €110.92, and €74.20 respectively).

Housing

- Over the first three quarters of 2022, 364 new dwellings were completed in Waterford City and County. This represented a 6.7% increase from 341 completions across the same period of 2021.
- According to the preliminary Census 2022, **the vacant dwellings in Waterford City and County reduced by 24.1%** between 2016 and 2022. This resulted in a **relatively low vacancy rate** of 7.1% which is lower than the Southern Region (8.1%) and the State (7.8%).
- In 2022 Q3, 110 new dwellings were built across Waterford City and County (a 20.9% increase from 91 dwellings built in previous quarter).
- According to the 2016 Census, Waterford had the **fourth-highest proportion of people renting from the Local Authority, and the third-highest renting from a voluntary body in the State** (12.1% and 1.6% respectively).

- In 2021, **approximately 1,300 households in Waterford City and County qualified for Social Housing Support**.
- As of July 2022, **73 adults in Waterford were homeless**, up from 64 in July 2021.
- According to the 2016 Census, the rent burden in Waterford City and County was 26.3%, which means that **over a quarter of renters were spending more than 40% of their income on rent**. As of Q1 2022, the average standardised monthly rent in Waterford was €1,031.

Diverse communities

- According to preliminary Census 2022 results, the gender balance was 50.6% female and 49.4% male which is inline with the State (50.3% female compared to 49.6% male).
- As of 07 November 2022, there were **1,515 Ukrainian refugees** with PPSNs (Personal Public Service Numbers) registered in Waterford City and County.
- According to the 2016 Census, Waterford City and County (13.0% other ethnicities and 9.9% other nationalities) was **slightly less ethnically and nationally diverse** than the Southern Region (13.0% other ethnicities and 10.2% other nationalities) and the State (15.6% other ethnicities and 11.6% other nationalities).
- In Waterford City and County, UK/British (3.0%), Rest of the world (2.3%), Polish and Other EU 28 counties communities, both with 2.1%, are the largest groups of non-nationals with pockets of high

concentrations of non-Irish nationals in Custom House B, The Glen and Custom House A Electoral District areas in the City. Though Waterford City and County is less ethnically diversified, **regionally had the highest Black or Black Irish population** (1.4%) of its total population.

- **Over 60 languages other than English were spoken in homes across Waterford** in 2016.
- According to the 2016 Census, the **Irish Travellers population was 4.5 persons per 1,000 of the total population** in Waterford City and County, the second lowest in the Southern Region.
- According to the 2016 Census, **14.4% of Waterford's population had a disability**.

Education

- In the academic year 2020/21 there were 15,817 students from the South East in higher education. Of these students, 37% (5,874) attended Waterford University for their education but 63% (9,943) went outside the region.
- The **highest proportion of population reported ceasing their education at 21 and over** in Waterford City and County (28.3%), slightly lower than the Southern Region (29.2%) and the State (31.4%).
- In Waterford City and County 50.2% ceased education at primary or secondary level, which was high compared to the Southern Region (49.1%) and the State (46.8%). This indicates **lower educational attainment**

compared to national averages.

- The most common qualifications in Waterford City and County are in the areas of social science, business and law, engineering, manufacturing and construction, health and welfare.
- More women are qualified in social science, business and law (31.3%), whereas men are qualified in engineering, manufacturing and construction (35.3%).

Economy

- Waterford City and County generates 1.93% of national GDP (estimated at €9.8bn).
- **Waterford City and County is classified as marginally below average on the Pobal Deprivation Index** (This Deprivation Rating provides a measurement of the affluence/deprivation of Waterford relative to the national mean in 2016).
- In 2020, there were 28,363 people employed in the 5,459 active enterprises registered in Waterford City and County. This represents a decline of 7.3% from the previous year when there were 30,593 people working in 5,268 enterprises.
- Across Q1 and Q2 of 2022, expenditure by Irish Residents on Domestic Travel to the Southern Region was €509mil. Interestingly, it was higher than the pre-pandemic €402 mil across Q1 and Q2 2019.
- The median household disposable income in 2019 in Waterford was €28,655, lower than the Southern Region €30,210 and State €31,812.

Employment

- Waterford City and County comprises of 3.2% of IDA supported jobs in the State.
- According to the 2016 Census, at 50.0% **the employment rate was lower than the Southern Region** (52.0%) and the State (53.6%).
- In Waterford City and County, **the most prevalent labour type was managerial and technical positions**, which comprised 31.4% of jobs.
- The Census 2016 showed that Waterford City and County had an **unemployment rate (15.4%) higher than the Southern Region (13.0%) and the State (12.9%)**. Waterford City and County had the third highest unemployment rate in the Southern Region.
- The 2016 Census data identified **nine unemployment blackspots** across the following Electoral Divisions: Larchville, Morrison's Road, Newport's Square, Lisduggan, Ballybeg North, The Glen, Roanmore, Mount Sion, and Kingsmeadow as unemployment blackspots.
- The Waterford City Municipal District (MD) had the highest level of unemployment (17.9%) out of the three MDs. Particularly high pockets of high unemployment were found around Custom House B (46.4%), Larchville (37.6%) and Shortcourse (37.3%) Electoral Districts (ED).

Transport and access to services

- Waterford has benefitted from route infrastructure improvements with

further upgrades for rail transport and the airport, enhancing connectivity.

- The highest proportion of commuters in Waterford City and County travel to work in less than 15 minutes (44.1%) followed by between 15 to 30 minutes (35.2%). By National and International standards, a positive convenience and one of the factors underpinning Waterford's status as a desirable place to live and work.
- **The majority of people travel to school or work by personal vehicle** (motorcycle or scooter, car driver, car passenger, van).
- Approximately **67% of Waterford's population lives less than 5km from a fire station**. This is a higher proportion than any other County in the South-East, and a higher proportion than the State (56%).
- Approximately 74% of Waterford's population lives less than 5k from a public library.
- As of 2022Q2, 25.0% of residential dwellings in Waterford City and County were between 2-5km to a remote work hub; 23.2% were 10km or more, and 22.2% were between 5-10km.
- In 2022Q2, 30.4% of residential dwellings were less than 500m from childcare services; 27.2% were between 500m-1km, and 17.9% were between 1km-2km.

Health and Wellbeing

- In Waterford City and County **89.8% of the population reported being in good or very good health** according to the Census 2016; this was the same

as the Southern Region (89.8%) and slightly lower than the State (90.0%)
The proportion of people who self-reported **poor health was same across Waterford City and County, the Southern Region and the State** (approximately 1.7%).

- According to the 2016 Census, the **disability rate was higher** at 14.4% than the Southern Region (14.2%) and the State (13.5%).
- In 2020, the birth rate (No. per 1000 population) was 10.3 in Waterford County, and 12.5 in Waterford City.
- In 2020, there was a **high infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births** was 7.0 in Waterford County and 5.0 in Waterford City, both higher than the State (2.7). The neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 7.0 in Waterford County and 3.3 in Waterford City, both higher than the State (2.0).
- **Suicide rates in Waterford City and County are marginally lower** than the State average but a higher rate is seen in males than females.
- In 2021, the **age group 45-64 years had the highest record of treatment for alcohol use** in Waterford City and County with 92 males and 42 females.

Crime and safety

- As of August 2022, there were **19 Garda stations employing 381 Gardai across Waterford City and County.** Analysis of the Waterford Garda station division shows 5,532 cases recorded in 2021; this

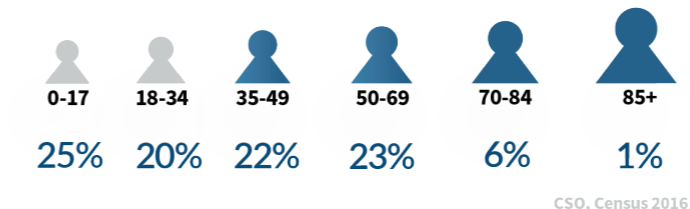
was 9.4% more than the 5,055 cases recorded in 2020. This is likely due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

- In 2022 Q1-3 Theft and related offences were the most commonly reported crimes in the Waterford Garda Division with 1,209 instances.
- In 2019, there were **323 children referred to the Garda Youth Diversion Programme** in Waterford City and County (9th highest in the country, up from 297 in 2018).
- In 2021, among Garda stations in Waterford, Ballybricken Garda Station has the highest records of criminal offences in the County with 3,354 crimes reported (representing 60.6% of crimes in Waterford).
- In 2019 (latest as per CSO) the **re-offending rate for Waterford City and County is higher** (50.0%) than the South-East Region (47.5%) and the State reoffending rate of (44.6%) in the same reference year.
- Between 2012 and 2021, the highest number of cases was in the year 2012 (with 7,191 cases), followed by 2013 (with 6,493 cases) and 2015 (with 6,041 cases), while the lowest was in 2020 (with 5,055 cases). The crime types with the most notable increase were theft, public order, disorderly conduct and damage to property.
- There were 44 persons released from prison in 2022, 109 persons released in 2021, and 111 in 2020.

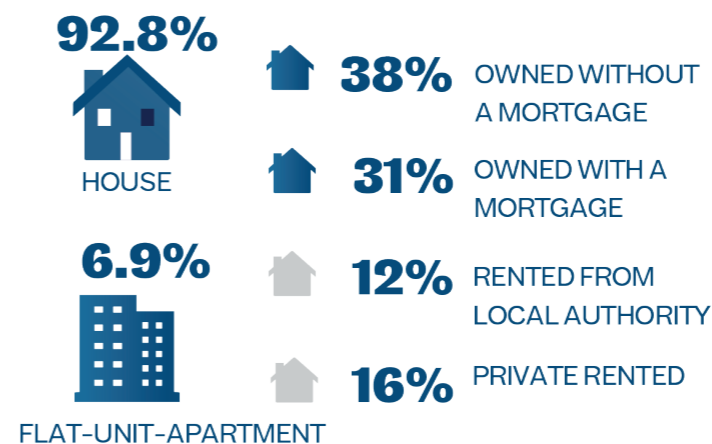
COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

TOTAL POPULATION PRELIMINARY CENSUS 2022 **127,085**

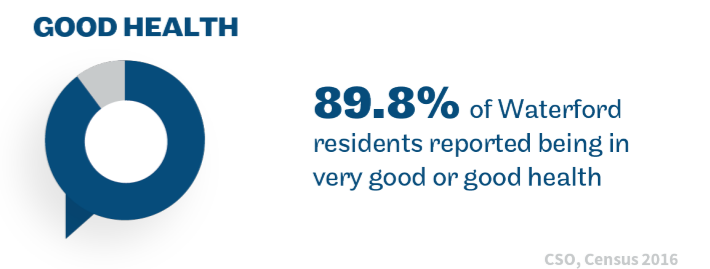
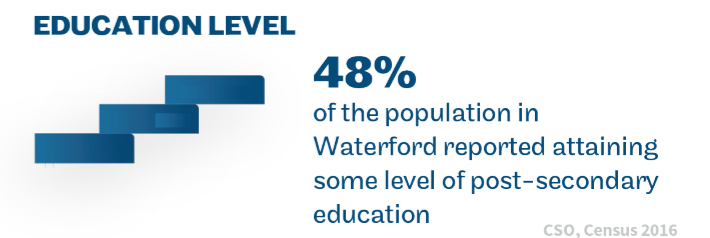
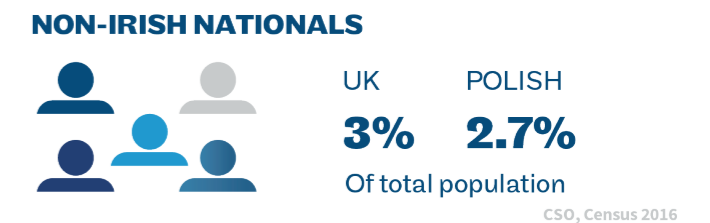
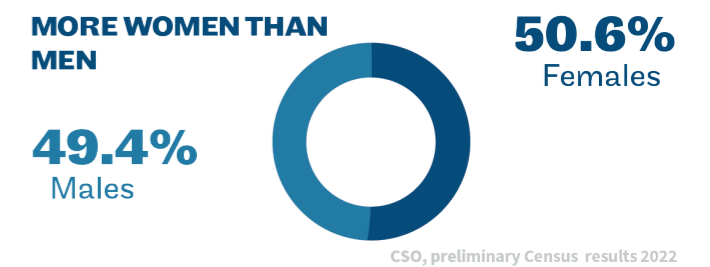
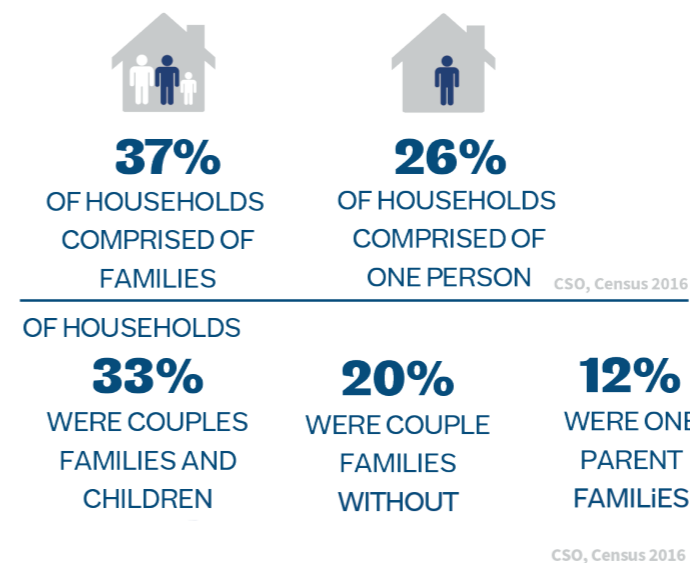
AGE STRUCTURE



TOTAL DWELLINGS **52,491**



AVERAGE OF 2.1 PERSONS PER HOUSEHOLD



The demographic and social infrastructure analyses highlight a number of community safety protective factors, as well as several community safety risks.

CRIME RATE



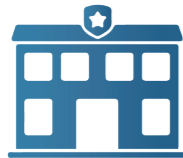
Crime decreased between 2019 and 2020, but increased between 2020 and 2021. Likely due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

CSO, TABLE CJA07

CRIME OFFENCE CASES 2021

19

Garda stations in Waterford



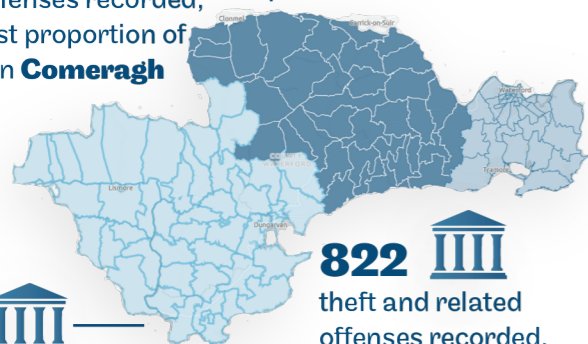
3,354

Waterford Garda Station (Ballybricken) recorded the highest number of criminal offence cases

CSO, TABLE CJA07

TYPE OF CRIME BY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT (2021)

37 attempts/threats to murder, assaults, harassments and related offenses recorded, the highest proportion of offenses in **Comeragh**



282 controlled drug offenses recorded, accounting for the highest proportion of offenses in **Dungarvan-Lismore**

822 theft and related offenses recorded, accounting for the highest proportion of offenses in **Waterford City**

CSO, TABLE CJA07

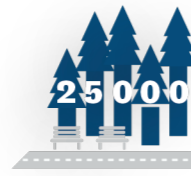
HOW PEOPLE TRAVEL



21.7% of people commute to work via active transport (on foot, public transport, or bicycle)

CSO, Census 2016

GOOD GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



250,000 people use the 46km Waterford Greenway each year

OSI, blog/using-osi-data-to-develop-waterford-greenway/

UNEMPLOYMENT



15.4% unemployment rate which was higher than the State (12.9%) and the third highest in the region

CSO, Census 2016

LIVE REGISTER



17,414 people on the Live Register as of April 2022

CSO, TABLE LRM07

HOMELESS POPULATION



73 unhoused adults up from 64 in July 2021

GOV.IE, Homeless Quarterly Progress Report for Q2 2022

DECREASING VACANCY RATE



7.1% vacancy rate in 2022 down from 9.9% in 2016 lower than the State (7.8%)

CSO, preliminary Census results 2022

Key findings from socio-economic data

Between the 2016 and the 2022 preliminary Census, Waterford City and County experienced population growth at a rate of 9.4%, a higher growth rate than the State (7.6%) and in the Southern region. More than half of this population increase was due to inward migration.

According to the 2016 Census, the average age in Waterford City and County was slightly lower than the State average, and over half of the population (52%) were of prime working age (24-64 years).

Housing affordability and availability are challenges right across the country, and Waterford is no exception. However, according to the 2016 Census, Waterford had the fourth highest proportion of people renting from the Local Authority, and the third-highest proportion renting from a voluntary body in the State. In 2021, approximately 1,300 households in Waterford qualified for Social Housing Support, and as of July 2022 73 adults in Waterford were homeless.

While Waterford was less nationally and ethnically diverse than the State average, 13% of the population reported ethnicity other than Irish. As a result of the ongoing war in Ukraine, 1,515 Ukrainian refugees had taken up residence in Waterford City and County as of 07 November 2022. In addition, Waterford's communities include a wide range of other diverse characteristics

including ethnicity, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, differing socioeconomic status, various religions, etc.

A deprivation index measures an area's level of deprivation regarding relevant domains such as income, employment, communication, transport, housing, education, and demographics. Based on the Pobal Deprivation Index, Waterford is characterised by marginally more deprived social and economic characteristics than other Counties. The County also has higher unemployment rates than at the State level. Waterford City and County has the second-highest concentration of unemployment blackspots in the State, with nine blackspots (eight of which are in Waterford City). The annual gross median income and in the annual average disposable income is lower than the State average. Education attainment rates are generally lower than State average and over the course of 2022, the number of people on the Live Register in Waterford City and County is increasing.

Waterford City and County has comparably good proximity to public facilities and the number of crime incidents occurring in the County is reducing.

It should be noted that this analysis is from the latest data available and a review is intended once the 2022 Census analysis is published.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

'The police are the public and the public are the police' – Sir Robert Peel.

The first Garda Commissioner, Michael Staines (1895–1855) said 'The Garda Siochana will succeed not by force of arms or numbers, but by their moral authority, as servants of the people.'

Public consultation

In order to help the WCSP better understand the Community Safety landscape in County Waterford, an extensive public consultation process was undertaken during July to October 2022.

In order to ensure that the WCSP responds to public needs, it was critical to carry out a public consultation process that provided ample opportunity for individuals and groups across Waterford to engage and have their voices heard. In March 2022, the WCSP undertook initial public consultation to develop the outcomes that guide the safety plan. Once these outcomes were determined, additional public consultation was carried out with the aim of identifying the perception and experience of individuals and groups across Waterford, the safety strengths and challenges, and specific actions aimed at addressing safety issues.

Not everyone wants or is able to participate in engagement in the same way, so a range of consultation opportunities were provided from July through to October 2022, including online and in-person options.



Image: Pop Up consultations in the Peoples Park

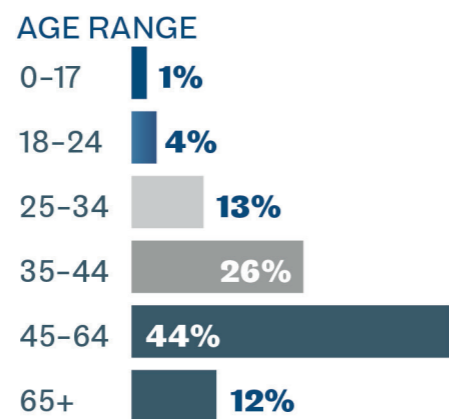
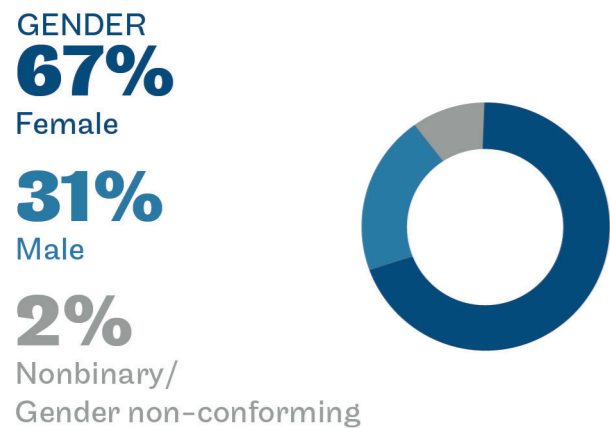
Pop Up Consultations were a unique and innovative popular feature of the Public Consultation Process. In the image, Maria Hall from Hub Planning is setting up to take feed back at a 'Pop Up' station in the People's Park, Waterford City. WCSP also undertook 'Pop Up' Consultations in our libraries to ensure an input from a cross section of the community, not online. Waterford is largely perceived as a safe place to live and work.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION BY THE NUMBERS

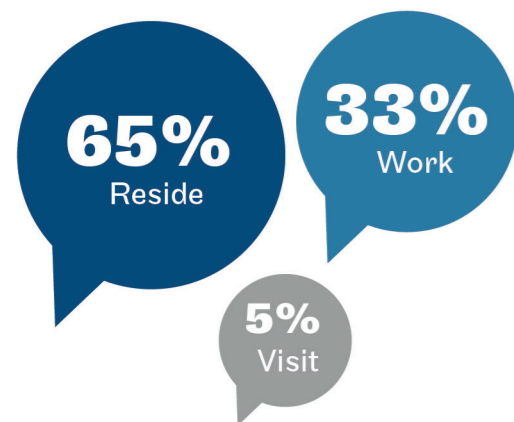
12 On-street pop-ups consultation sessions were held across the County in Cappoquin, Dungarvan, Kilmacthomas, Portlawn, Waterford City, Greenway, Tramore, and Dunmore East.



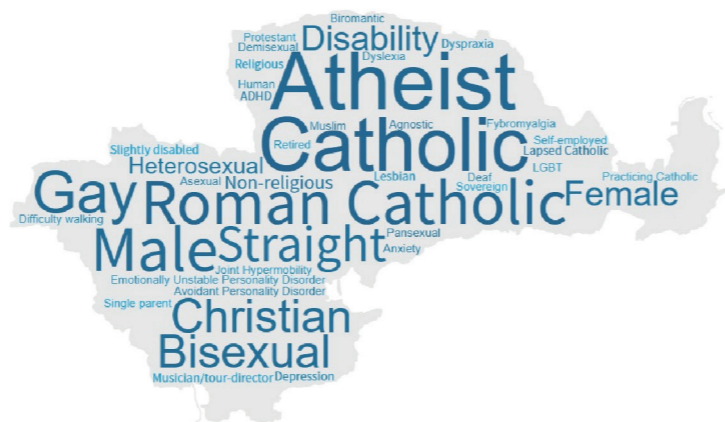
SURVEY RESPONDENTS (640+ Total)



PRIMARY RELATIONSHIP TO WATERFORD



SOME OF THE WAYS SURVEY PARTICIPANTS CHOOSE TO SELF IDENTIFY



Perceptions of safety

The majority of participants indicated that they feel safe in Waterford. Over half of survey respondents (56%) reported feeling either safe or very safe, and this sentiment was echoed in focus groups. On the other end of the spectrum, **17% of survey respondents indicated they felt either unsafe or very unsafe.** Feedback from focus groups and on-street consultations supported the general findings that participants largely perceive Waterford as a safe place to live, work and visit.

Consultation investigated whether people felt safe in their homes, where they worked, where they socialised, and where they exercised. The majority of participants indicated they feel safe in all four locations.

According to survey participants, they were **most likely to feel unsafe where they socialised than any other location**, with 20% of survey respondents indicating they did not feel safe where they socialised, and feedback from focus groups suggesting that people are selective about when and where they socialise in order to maximise feelings of safety. According to the youth consultation, **teenage participants** often have a difficult time knowing where they should socialise or hang out, and they indicated they often **feel unwelcome in public spaces.**

Day vs. night

A substantial proportion of participants perceived Waterford City and County to be **safe during the day, but unsafe at night.** Additional insight into this trend was provided by focus group conversations, wherein participants noted that the public realm improvements in the City Centre made them feel safer during the day. However, many participants also indicated that **anti-social behaviour and public substance misuse** made them feel unsafe in the City Centre, particularly at night.

Rural vs. urban safety

Half of survey participants (50%) indicated that they **perceived rural areas to be safer than urban areas**, while 12% perceived urban areas to be safer. Notably, the perception of rural vs. urban safety differed by the residential location of participants with the respondents who reported living in a village comprising of the highest proportion of those that either strongly agreed or agreed that rural areas are safer than urban areas (73.9%), while those that live in a city comprised the lowest proportion of the same (40.5%).

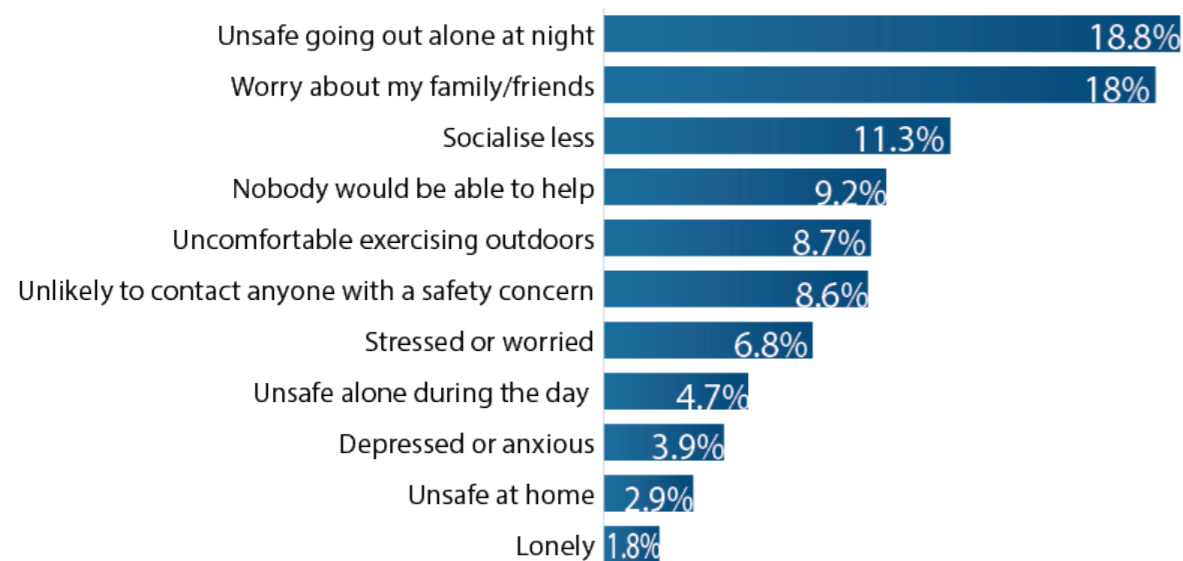
Respondents who reported living in a town comprised the highest proportion of those that strongly disagreed or disagreed that rural areas are safer than urban areas (24.7%), while respondents who reported living in the countryside comprised the lowest proportion of the same (3.9%).

Accessing safety supports

The majority (52.8%) of survey participants reported that they either did not know how to access relevant services for help with a safety concern (28.2%) or were unsure whether they knew how to access help (24.6%). This may suggest an opportunity for awareness campaigns and initiatives to direct people to the appropriate agencies and services for help with safety concerns.

According to consultation, most participants indicated that the Gardai would be the first point of contact if they had a safety concern. Over half of survey respondents (52%) reported they would contact the Gardai with concerns, and this was reflected in on-street consultations and focus group conversations.

HOW PEOPLE FEEL THEY ARE AFFECTED BY THEIR SAFETY CONCERNS



Effects of safety concerns

Consistent themes arose across the consultation process regarding the affects of safety concerns. According to participants, the most prevalent effect was feeling **unsafe going out alone at night**, and this was especially true for older adult participants. There was also a **higher proportion of women** (20.5%) being afraid to go out alone at night than either men (15%) or **non-binary/gender nonconforming people** (18.2%). Many participants also noted being worried about their family members or friends, and not socialising as much as they would like to.

Participant perceptions of safety affects varied by gender, with more women (10.2%) and nonbinary/gender non-conforming (9.1%) people indicating that they **feel uncomfortable exercising outdoors** compared to men (5.3%).

On the other hand, **more men indicated that they did not believe anyone would be able to help them if they had a safety concern**, and more men than women or nonbinary/gender nonconforming participants indicated that they would be unlikely to contact someone for help with a safety concern. **A higher proportion of men (21.8%) reported worrying about their friends/family members** than either women (16.2%) or non-binary/gender nonconforming people (18.2%)

According to survey results, a **higher proportion of nonbinary/gender non-conforming (4.5%) people reported being lonely** than either women (1.9%) or men (1.5%).

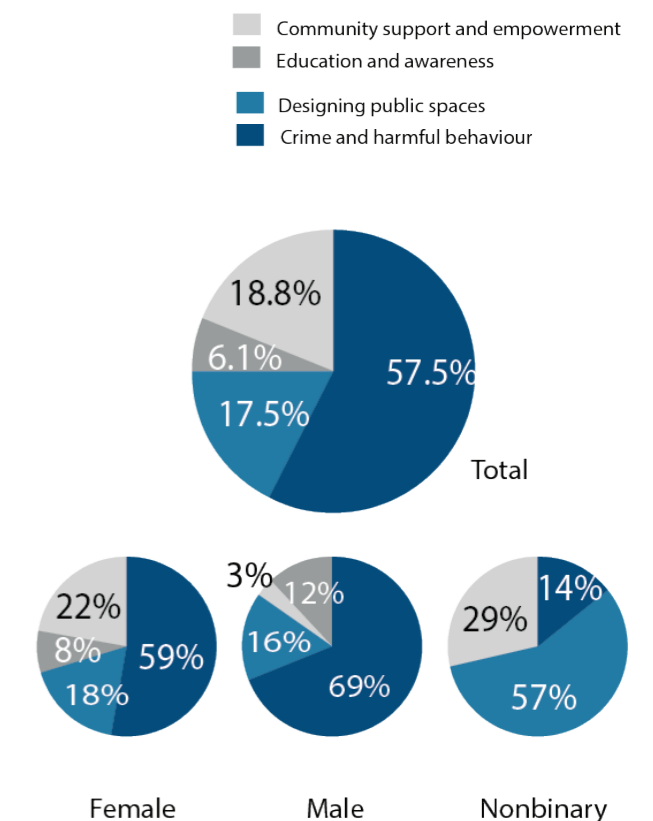
Aspects of community safety

When survey respondents were asked select the most important aspect of community safety, the highest proportion of respondents chose addressing **crime and harmful behaviour** (57.5%), followed by providing community support and empowerment (18.8%) and designing public spaces for safety (17.5%). However, when broken down by gender, **gender non binary overwhelmingly reported designing public spaces for safety as their priority area** (57.1%). Promoting safety education and awareness was reported as the most important aspect of community safety by

the lowest proportion of respondents (6.1%). This sentiment was echoed across all methods of consultation.

However, according to agency and community focus group conversations, there is an appetite for safety training and workshops, early intervention as a method of tackling substance misuse and anti-social behaviour, and clear communication channels for reporting safety issues.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY SAFETY IDENTIFIED



SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

GENERAL SAFETY



EXERCISING OUTDOORS



A much higher proportion of **women (10.2%)** and **non-binary/gender nonconforming people (9.1%)** reported that they are uncomfortable exercising outdoors than **men (5.3%)**

SEEKING HELP



More men believe that no one would be able to help them if they had a safety concern than women or nonbinary/gender non-conforming people

ALONE AT NIGHT



20.5% of women are afraid to go out alone at night than either men or nonbinary/gender-nonconforming people

Older people aged 65 years and older (26.2%) are especially likely to feel unsafe going out alone at night

LONELINESS



4.5% nonbinary/gender non-conforming people are lonely because of their safety concerns this was higher than men or women

MALE SAFETY CONCERNS



10.9% of men are less likely to contact someone for help with a safety concern than either women or non-binary/gender non-conforming people

REPORTING CONCERNS



47.2% of respondents knew how to access help if they had a safety concern

MOST IMPORTANT SAFETY ASPECT



For both **men (52.9%)** and **women (69.8%)**, the most important aspect of community safety is addressing crime and harmful behaviour, particularly anti-social behaviour and drug/alcohol misuse



For **nonbinary/gender non-conforming people (57.1%)** the most important aspect of community safety was designing public spaces for safety

THE TOP THREE EFFECTS OF SAFETY CONCERNS ARE:



- Feeling unsafe going out alone at night
- Worrying about friends and family
- Not socialising as much as they would like

ASKING FOR HELP



57% of people said if they had a safety concern, they would contact An Garda Síochána for help.

By the outcomes **Aware & Knowledgeable**

Working well

Participants indicated that community alert groups were a strength in many places across the County, and helped keep them informed of safety issues and concerns in their local area. Focus group conversations also highlighted the success of several safety campaigns, including Ask Angela, the Purple Flag Programme, Marriage Equality Campaign and City Safe.

A common theme in consultation was the benefit of local community service providers, libraries, Councillors and post offices in providing information and referrals to other agencies. The public often stated that agencies could have better awareness of each other's services (in relation to safety).

Room for improvement

Within the Aware and Knowledgeable outcome, drug related harm reduction and prevention was identified as the top concern, followed by a limited knowledge of what to do if there's a safety concern. False or misleading information was ranked as the least significant concern. However, focus group consultation and on-streets indicated that older adults were becoming increasingly concerned of 'fake news' circulating online particularly in WhatsApp and Facebook groups.

Notably, survey consultation revealed that the three youngest age cohorts (0-17, 18-24, and 25-34) all ranked a lack of trust between the community and the council/Gardaí as a concern within this outcome, while the three oldest age cohorts (35-44, 45-64, and 65+) all ranked this as the second-least significant challenge.

The majority (52.8%) of survey participants reported that they either did not know how to access relevant services for help with a safety concern (28.2%) or were unsure whether they knew how to access help (24.6%).

AVERAGE RANKING OF KEY CONCERNS FOR THE COMMUNITY



Focus groups echoed the survey findings, and provided the following insights around:

- Drugs and alcohol are perceived to be easily available in across Waterford City and County
- A perceived lack of awareness around the risks of substance misuse
- Early intervention and education efforts around substance misuse may be beneficial
- SETU Students Union has led successful safety awareness campaigns in the past
- It is important that safety information is available in a variety of languages
- Safety information should be available

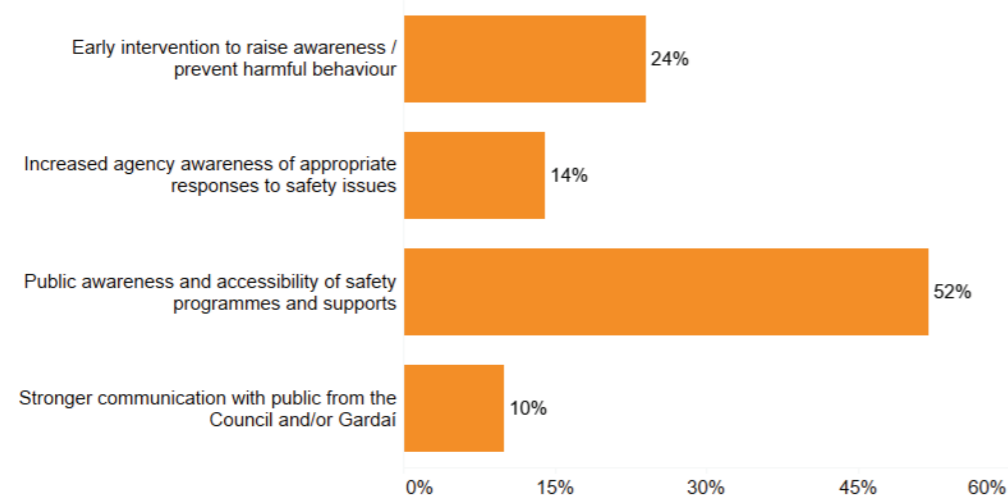
both online and on print materials and handouts

- Community text alert groups have been a successful method of sharing safety information in the past
- It is important that safety information is made available offline as well, to ensure that people without access to the internet have access

Opportunities for the future

Participants were eager to identify opportunities for increasing the feeling and experience of safety in Waterford City and County. The image below illustrates the priority areas that emerged through consultation, according not only to survey responses, but also focus groups, key stakeholder engagement, and on-street

pop-up conversations. Public awareness and accessibility of safety programmes were identified as the number one priority are followed by early intervention programmes, increased agency awareness and increased communication between the public with the Gardaí and Council.



By the outcomes Protected & Respected

Working well

Consultation participants noted several elements that were working well within the Protected and Respected Outcome. Both survey and in-person participants indicated that where they had seen visible Garda presence, they felt safer.

Interestingly, 55% of our the respondents to our indicated that they would contact an Garda Síochána if they had a safety issue, this was followed by Waterford City and County Council (22%), and 7% of survey respondents said they would contact Citizens Information, HSE, Community Services, such as Family Resource Centers or community workers. Although, the proportion of those that identified an Garda Síochána was highest, it was lower than expected. This demonstrates a lower reliance on policing as the primary driver of community safety.

Urban renewal and regeneration were also identified as a strength, with participants indicating that seeing more people utilising public spaces, increased passive surveillance and their sense of safety. Several participants specified that recent increased targeted drug raids made them feel safer, as the perceived a decrease in the availability of illegal substances.

Room for improvement

Within this outcome, anti-social behaviour/bullying was identified by respondents as the most significant crime and harmful behaviour-related issue, followed by drug and alcohol misuse and not enough garda presence. Of note, according to survey responses, both women and men both ranked anti-social behaviour/bullying as their top key issue, while nonbinary/gender non-conforming people reported fear of harassment in public areas as the most significant issue under this outcome.

A key issue highlighted in our public consultation was the perceived lack of accessibility to an Garda Síochána. Consultation indicated a tendency not to report crimes such as anti-social behaviour as they do not feel comfortable ringing the station to complain about 'trivial items' and believed nothing could or would be done. The public indicated a perception that Garda stations are under resourced, often manned part-time and people missed having a personal relationship with the 'local Garda.' This indicates a growing disconnect with some members of the community with An Garda Síochána.

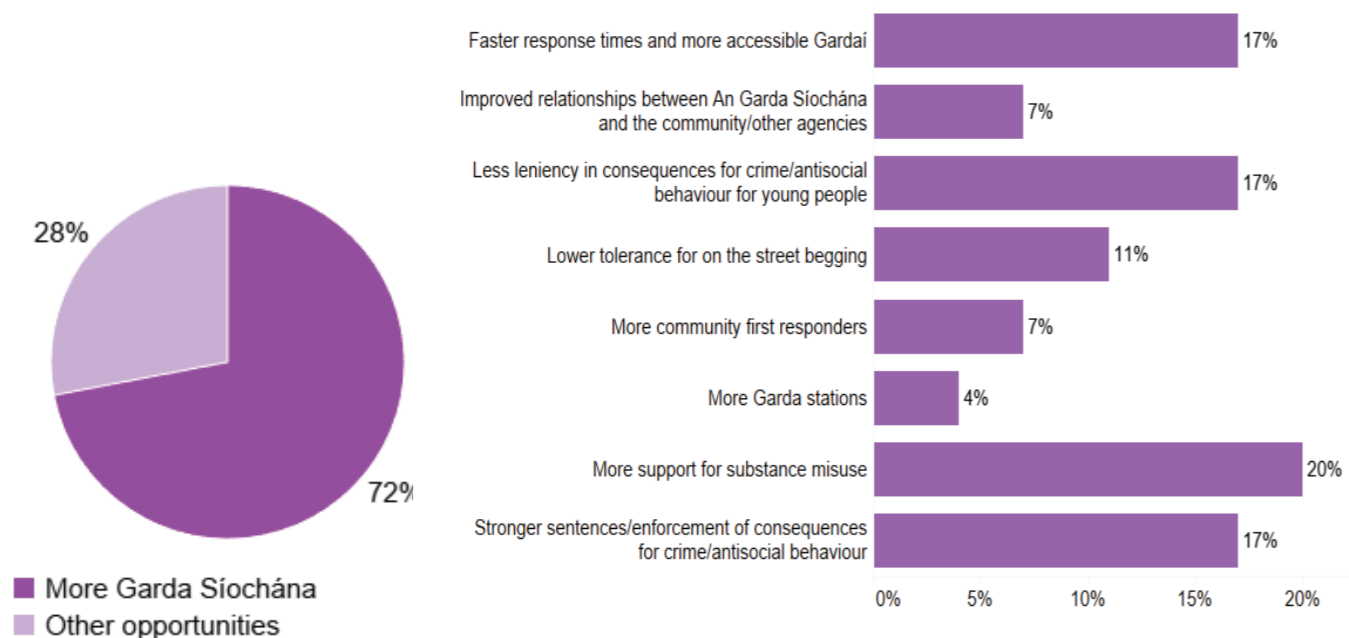
RANKING OF KEY CONCERNS FOR THE COMMUNITY



Opportunities for the future

Across all types of consultation, the Protected & Respected outcome, 77% of all survey responses referenced the opportunity for increased garda presence. The request for more visible Garda presence was the most requested change to improve to overall safety across Waterford City and County during the on-streets and focus groups also.

The figure below excludes 'increased garda' response in order to more accurately reflect the other opportunities reported within this outcome. Solutions for drug/alcohol misuse was identified as the primary opportunity for improving the future safety in Waterford, with participants suggesting that there should be both stricter enforcement of consequences for substance misuse, and that there should be increased social supports for those engaging in substance misuse or struggling with addiction.



By the outcomes Supported & involved

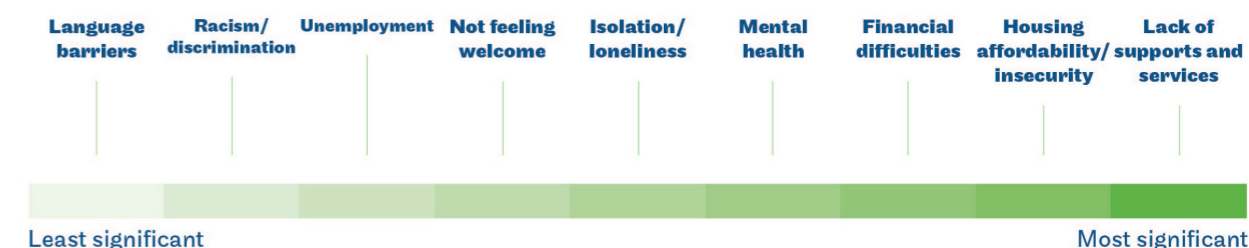
Participants across consultation identified a strong sense of community in their various areas of Waterford, and indicated that community groups and organisations were a significant strength. Many participants noted that the current social infrastructure, including service providing agencies and organisations were working well, and should be protected and enhanced as much as possible. Many participants also noted that they knew of concerted efforts to increase community spirit and ensure community integration, which they categorised as a strength.

Room for improvement

Within the Supported and Involved outcome, lack of supports and services was identified as a concern, followed by housing affordability/insecurity and financial difficulties. Language barriers was ranked as the least significant challenge under this outcome. According to survey data, racism/discrimination was identified by nonbinary/gender non-conforming people as the top issue, while both women and men ranked it as the second-least significant issue.

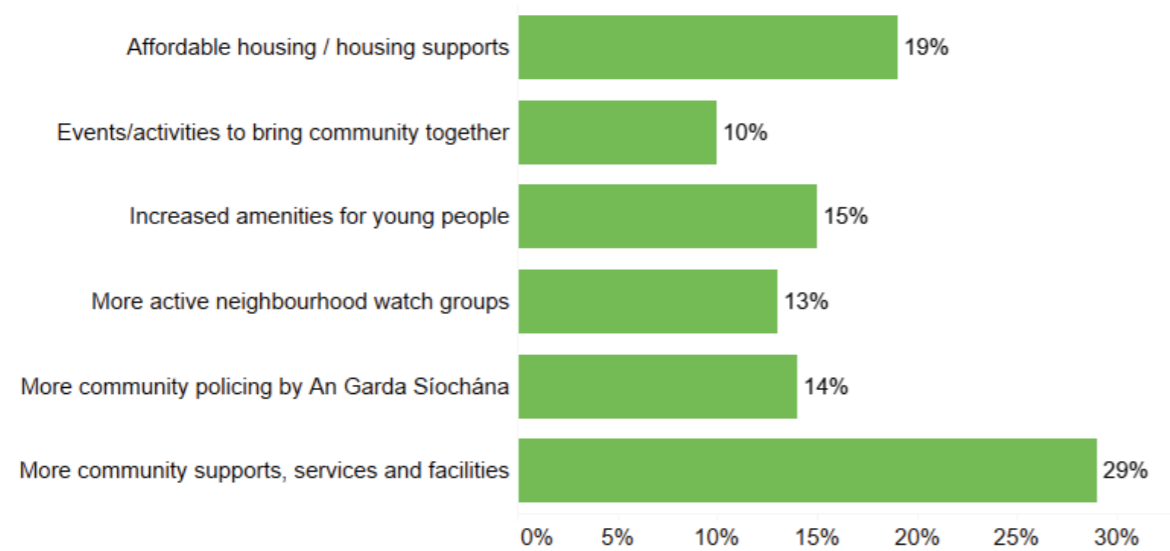
Consultation also indicated the potential benefit of increased community integration efforts to combat existing stereotypes and stigmas that some cohorts within Waterford City and County face.

RANKING OF KEY CONCERNS FOR THE COMMUNITY



Opportunities for the future

Participants identified the opportunity to build on the success of existing supports, services and facilities by increasing the provision of each of these. Housing supports were identified as an important area of future work, as housing instability was perceived as a main safety concern within this outcome. Consultation also suggested that both adults and young people would like to see an increase in amenities aimed at teenagers, including places to hang out safely, and youth clubs or activities in addition to sport.



By the outcomes **Safe & Secure**

Working well

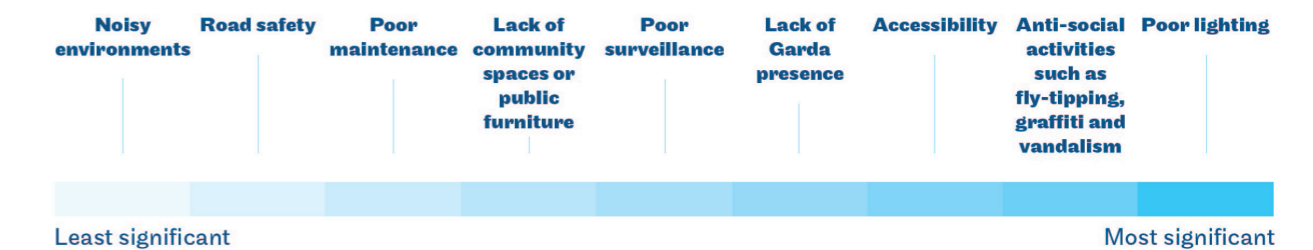
Many participants relayed that public spaces were being maintained well, and that this increased their sense of safety. On-street consultation highlighted that the 'Big Belly Bins' had reduced litter which has had a positive impact on public spaces. Where participants had noticed adequate or recently increased street lighting, they noted that these spaces felt safer at night. Another commonly identified strength across consultation was improvements to pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, with participants indicating that this increased accessibility and made places more attractive to spend time. Many noted the success of the greenway in providing a more accessible space for recreational walking, running and cycling.

Areas for improvement

Within the Safe and Secure outcome, survey participants identified poor lighting as the most significant concern, followed by anti-social activities (like fly-tipping, graffiti and vandalism), and accessibility. Focus group and on-street conversations were similar, however, disability access, maintenance of public spaces and vacant properties were also identified as areas of safety concern. Many mentioned the need for increased walkability and disability access audits, greater enforcement for those obstructing footpaths and ensuring public spaces are designed in consultation with those that have a disability. Requests were made for public bodies to appoint/advertise the appointment of their access/disability liaison or officer to help customers with disabilities to access their services, buildings, and information or report issues. Many mentioned frustration that when issues were reported there was minimal follow up and actions.

Noisy environments were perceived as the least significant concern by survey respondents. According to survey participants, a lack of garda presence was perceived differently by all genders: men ranked this as the third-most significant issue, nonbinary/gender non-conforming people ranked it as the least significant issue, and women ranked it in the middle (fourth of nine total issues).

RANKING OF KEY CONCERNS FOR THE COMMUNITY



Opportunities for the future

In line with both the strengths and challenges identified above, the most commonly identified opportunity for the future was increased lighting in public areas. Many participants also suggested that more surveillance would make an area feel safer to them. Consultation with older adults highlighted the appetite for traffic calming measures, and the demand for accessibility within the public realm, with a priority area being appropriate parking options to support their ability to access their GPs' office, a pharmacy, or shops.

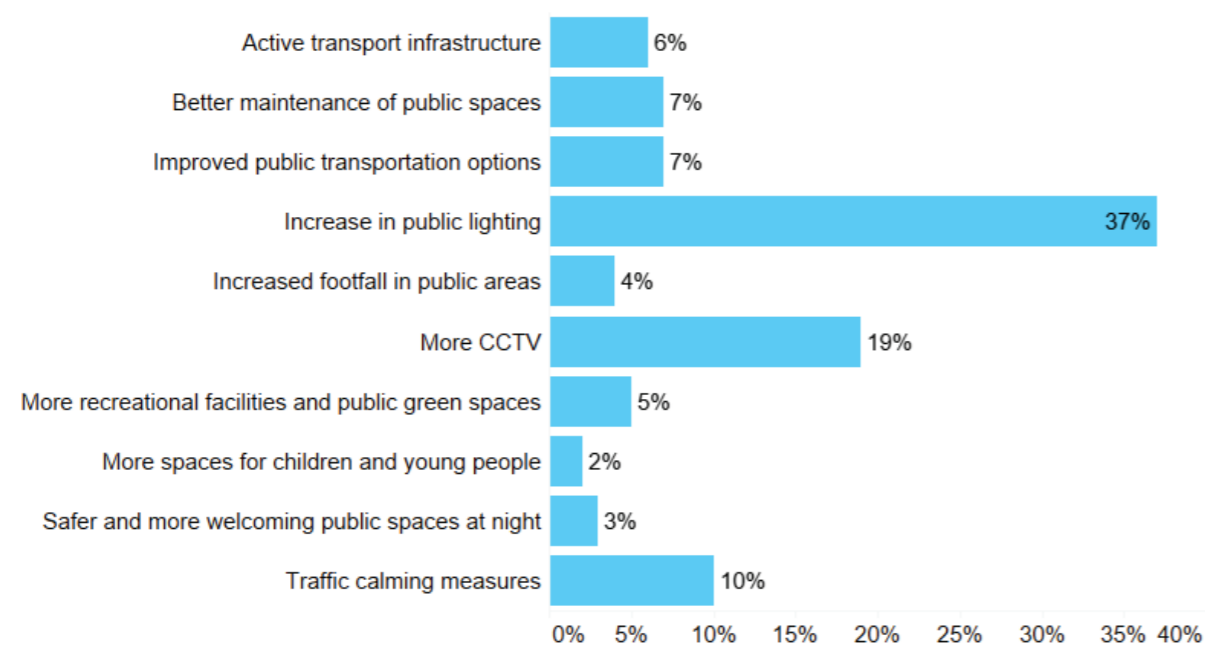


Image: Dungarvan Square

OUR COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

VISION

Waterford, a safe and inclusive community, where people feel respected.

MISSION

Waterford Local Community Safety Partnership's mission is to:

- Take an evidence-based approach to identifying the root causes of crime in the County
- Build collaboration between stakeholder groups to provide a unified, proactive approach to community safety
- Foster inclusion and positive activity to build strong and proactive communities
- Raise awareness of the supports, resources, and education opportunities to help individuals and communities prevent and resolve safety issues
- Work with stakeholder groups to deliver meaningful action plans to support the vision, and keep each other informed on progress for the delivery of the action plans.

Our Waterford Community Safety Plan

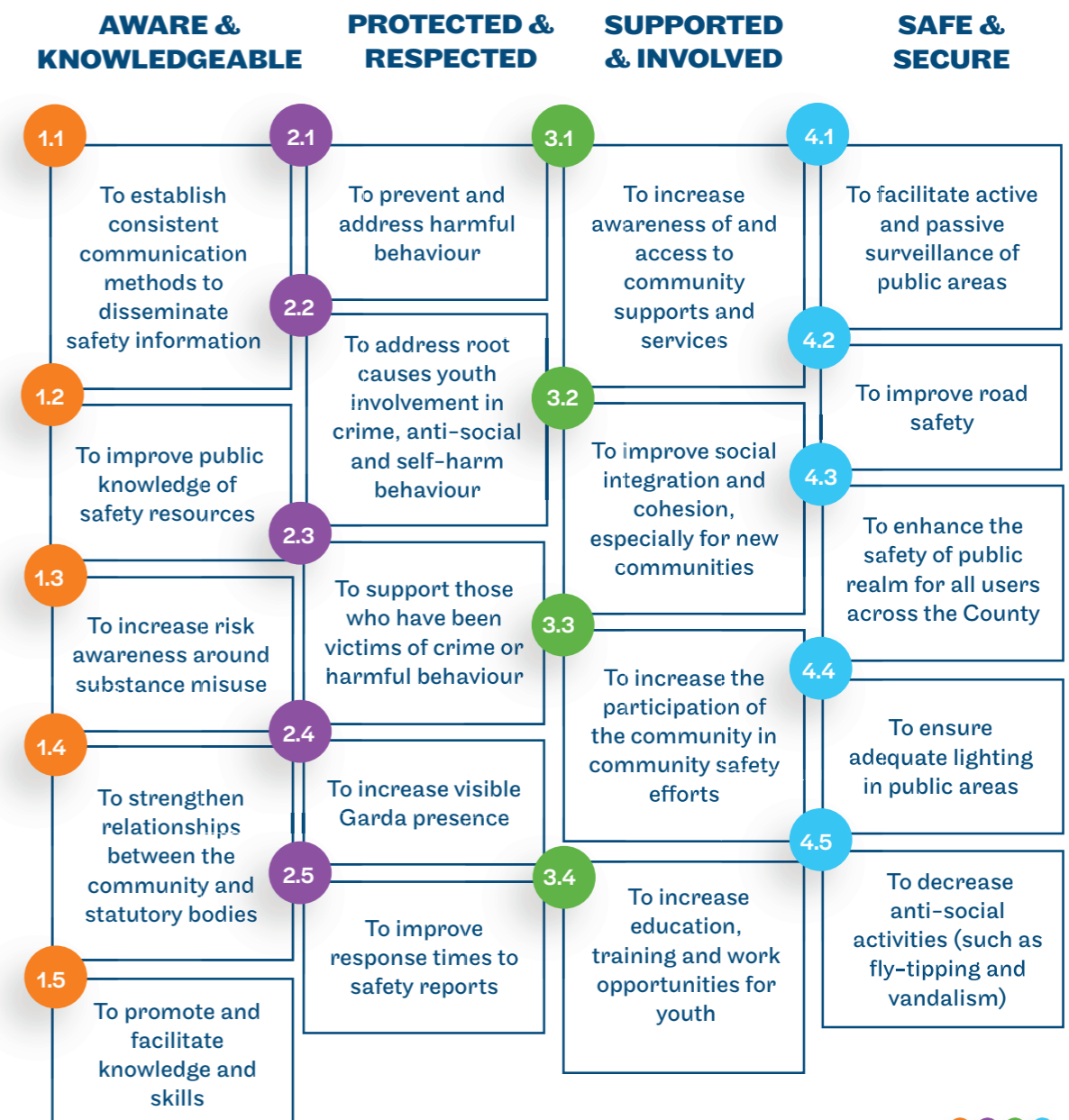
The development of the outcome, priority areas and actions were guided by the Waterford Community Safety Partnership. Priority areas and actions were further informed by the analysis and amalgamation of findings from the literature and policy review, a comprehensive demographic analysis, and extensive public consultation.

The resulting plan provides a clear, evidence-based framework for the delivery of time-bound actions to improve the perception and experience of safety in and across Waterford City and County.

The Waterford Community Safety Plan has been structured to include four broad outcomes, under which priority areas and actions have been organised:

- Outcome 1: Aware and Knowledgeable
- Outcome 2: Protected and Respected
- Outcome 3: Supported and Involved
- Outcome 4: Safe and secure.

PRIORITY AREAS



The Community Safety Partnership representatives set the foundations for our plan which was sculpted by listening to our Communities through online surveys, in person surveys, paper surveys, focus groups and then documenting your input.

The libraries supported consultation events and ensured we were successful in reaching communities that were not on line.

Image: Carrickpheirish Library.

OUTCOME 1: AWARE & KNOWLEDGEABLE

The main aim of this outcome is to ensure access to education, training, and awareness around community safety issues

Individuals and communities should be provided with access to information about how to prevent or address safety issues and risks. It is especially important that community members are aware of who they can contact for help with safety concerns.

Organisations and agencies can also benefit from ongoing education and training on responding to safety concerns. It is also important that organisations and agencies communicate with each other to ensure they have a good understanding of all of the different safety supports and services available to community members. In this context, the WCSP will seek to promote best practice and adaption of the most efficient and effective safety measures.



Priority area 1: Establish consistent and more accessible communication methods to disseminate safety information

The public consultation revealed that false or misleading information was perceived as a key issue within the focus groups. However this was identified as the lowest priority issue in this outcome within the survey. This suggests that many people may trust the safety information they receive, which may mean that **safety campaigns may be an effective way to spread information and awareness**. This was supported by focus group key findings, which noted the 'Ask Angela' Purple Flag Safety campaign and various SETU campaigns as safety strengths in Waterford.

Consultation indicated a preference for information to be disseminated both on- and offline, as not everyone has access to the internet or wants to receive information online. According to the 2016 census, approximately 80% of households reported having access to the internet.

It was also highlighted that **all safety materials should be made available in multiple languages**, to ensure that people who do not speak English fluently or at all are able to access safety information. In 2016, census respondents reported there were 66 languages other than English spoken at in the homes of residents across Waterford. Polish, French and German were the three most common languages.

Priority area 2: To improve public knowledge of safety resources

According to consultation, just over half of survey respondents either did not know or were unsure of how to access help with safety concerns. The on-street consultation also confirmed that people would like to learn more about who to contact with a safety issue, or concern.

Notably, men were more likely than women and nonbinary/gender non-conforming people to believe that no one would be able to help them with a safety concern even if they reported it, and approximately a fifth of male survey respondents (21.8%) reported they would be unlikely to report or seek help with a safety issue.

Over half of survey respondents (52.1%) reported that if they had a safety concern, they would call An Garda Síochána. This may indicate the **potential for an information campaign highlighting other safety resources to ensure timely responses and less pressure on An Garda Síochána, on issues which are not their direct area of responsibility**.

Priority area 3: To increase risk awareness around substance misuse

Recent crime statistics indicated that controlled drug offences were among the most commonly reported criminal offences across Waterford City and County, and key findings from the consultation phase suggested that harm reduction and drug prevention is an area of concern for respondents. Consultation found that participants perceived drugs and alcohol to be easily available in many parts of Waterford City and County, and that there may be a lack of awareness around the risks and consequences of substance misuse.

This priority area also aligns with the South East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force's "Reducing Substance Misuse Strategy 2020–2023". This strategy notes the importance of raising awareness and highlighting available support and help for substance misuse, and developing educational materials **to ensure families have up-to-date information and advice around alcohol and drug use and its impact on their close networks.**

Priority area 4: To strengthen relationships between the community and statutory bodies

A key objective in the Waterford Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan 2020–2023 is "to support increase and enhance interactions and relationships between

the community, An Garda Síochána, and Waterford City and County Council".

Consultation findings indicated that particular groups experience a higher likelihood of mistrusting the council/Gardaí, including nonbinary/gender non-conforming respondents, and survey respondents between 17–34 years of age. However, respondents aged 35–65+ years reported a comparatively low rate of mistrust in the council/Gardaí, which may be a potential strength upon which to build.

Focus group conversations suggested one part of the solution to establishing and/or enhancing trust may be increased consistency, with Gardaí serving the same areas long-term.

Priority area 5: To promote and facilitate knowledge and skills

The literature and policy review indicated that education is key in fostering a culture of safety which will heighten awareness and ensure people are safe and healthy in the home, school, community and workplace. **Promoting enhanced education, training and work opportunities are often referenced as effective approaches in addressing/reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.**

There are several current strategies and policies at the regional and local level that have objectives related to community safety.

As the official safety network in the County, the WCSP is positioned to centralise these diverse objectives and actions, and support their delivery collaboratively.

Additionally, a common theme in the consultation was **the need for a 'joined-up' approach to safety among agencies and service providers.** Community members indicated the view that it would be helpful if agencies had an increased awareness of each other's services (in relation to safety), and had ongoing training about how to respond collectively to different safety challenges.



Image: Time Museum

OUTCOME 1: AWARE AND KNOWLEDGABLE

Priority Area	Actions	Lead agency
1.1 Establish consistent communication methods to disseminate safety information	Enhance public awareness of reporting public lighting issues. Investigate potential create App irt vacant homes.	WLCSP
	Support and Strengthen Community Alert	AGS
	Further develop the Waterford Local Community Safety Partnership website and social media platforms to promote safety awareness, information, advice and support in the County.	N/A
	Investigate the introduction of an An Garda Síochána text alert scheme or similar	WLCSP/AGS
	Commitment, as part of an intelligence led approach to policing and informed deployment, to the promotion of mechanisms to open two way channels of communication e.g. Garda Text Alert.	Waterford Age Friendly Alliance/AGS
1.2 Improve public knowledge of safety resources	Build an Information Contact Pack	WLCSP
	Communication: Radio, social media, newspapers	PPN/WCCC/WLCSP
	Tap into local groups and use their membership to spread info on resources	PPN/WAP (Waterford Area Partnership)
	Roadshows/townhalls	WCCC/AGS
	Explore the potential for safety information/outreach workshops in rural towns and targeted estates in urban areas. Attend relevant fairs and community events to share crime prevention information and specific topic information.	WLCSP
	Compile a map and directory of key community safety services in Waterford, and ensure this is available via multiple channels (i.e. website, social media, print, local media, etc.)	PPN/WCCC
1.3 Increase risk awareness around substance misuse	Promote supports for people dealing with drug intimidation and how they can get support without retribution.	WLCSP
	Harm reduction information in pubs and clubs, youth clubs, see HSE (Health Service Executive) harm reduction for students and drug trends	HSE/SERDATF
	Public campaigns, such as those similar to F.A.S.T. stroke symptom campaign and make parents aware of the signs of drug use	HSE/AGS/CBDI (Community Based Drugs Initiative)/SERDATF/SCHOOLS
	Link in with SERDATF (South East Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force) to promote and improve accessibility of 'train the trainer' modules for community and voluntary groups in raising awareness and highlighting available support and help for substance use.	SERDATF/WLCSP

OUTCOME 1: AWARE AND KNOWLEDGABLE

Priority Area	Actions	Lead agency
1.4 Strengthen relationships between the community and statutory bodies	Community Gardaí; Outreach Workers; Community Hubs	WCCC/AGS
	Statutory bodies hold drop-in Clinics/public meetings/open days etc. where community can ask questions and get information.	WLCSP
	Explore the potential for public events, campaigns or initiatives that bring together community members and representatives from the Local Authority and An Garda Síochána to facilitate stronger relationships and networks	WLCSP/AGS/WCCC
1.5 Promote & Facilitate safety knowledge and skills in agencies and service providers	Training and upskilling (online options) such as Consent & Bystander Intervention Training	WLCSP
	Engage with Waterford-based groups such as Oasis House and Mens Development Network, particularly around the area domestic violence.	WLCSP
	Deliver a training programme to agency personnel around appropriate skills to ensure strong understanding and response to migrants' needs.	WCCC; Waterford Migrant Integration Forum
	Inform all education providers about 'yellow flag status' (recognition of integration / diversity), and actively encourage them to apply for it.	WCCC/WLCSP
	Raise awareness around Trauma Informed Care & Practice	WLCSP/HSE
	Engage with relevant organisations structures and provide guidance towards their ongoing contribution to Waterford Community Safety Plan	WCCC
	" Collaborate closely with both Waterford City and County Council and Wexford County Council, to ensure local and regional alignment and co-operation about local priorities under the remit of WWETB"	WLCSP/WWETB

OUTCOME 2: PROTECTED & RESPECTED

This outcome is centred on addressing and reducing crime and harmful behaviours.

The main aim of this outcome is to improve perceived and experienced safety by reducing things like anti-social behaviour, theft, harassment, and drug/alcohol misuse. A multi-agency approach to this outcome is important, and ensuring enforcement of laws and rules around crime and harmful behaviours was identified by community consultation as a critical component of achieving this outcome.



52 *Image: Waterford's Cultural Quarter*

Priority area 1: To prevent and address harmful behaviour

In 2021, Waterford Garda Stations recorded 5,532 crime cases recorded in 2021, this was 9.4% more than the 5,055 cases recorded in 2020. However, the impact of the pandemic must be taken into account. At the Municipal District level, there is a difference in the main types of crime recorded. According to 2021 data, in Waterford City, theft and related offences comprised the highest proportion (822 cases recorded), in Comeragh, assaults, attempts/threats to murder, harassment and related offences comprised the highest proportion (37 cases recorded); and in Dungarvan-Lismore controlled drug offences comprised the highest proportion (282 cases recorded).

According to public consultation with community members and key stakeholders,

drug and alcohol misuse and related intimidation and violence was recognised as a challenge with several facets. Consultation indicated that participants perceive substance misuse is an issue in and of itself, and that more addiction services and supports may be beneficial. Additionally, it was noted that substance misuse has the potential to lead to other types of crime and harmful behaviours, and as such public spaces feel unsafe when substance misuse occurs.

Responses to the survey indicated that participants have felt safer since Regional Garda drug task forces have successfully targeted drug dealers. However, it was noted in focus groups that drugs and alcohol are still perceived as easily available in many areas of Waterford.

Consultation suggested the preference for both for both more consequences for drug dealers, but also additional supports for those affected by or engaging in substance misuse.

Another area of concern expressed, is the increasing issue of drug debt being aggressively pursued within families, by drug gangs. It has been requested that the WCSP would work closer with families, in collaboration with Gardai, to stem this escalating issue.

Priority area 2: To address root causes of youth involvement in crime and harmful behaviours

In 2019, there were 323 children referred to the Garda Youth Diversion Programme in Waterford City and County (9th highest in the country, up from 297 in 2018). Consultation indicated a perception of anti-social behaviour/bullying as a key challenge in Waterford. It was noted that groups of teenagers hanging out together were perceived as intimidating, and that youth gangs posed safety concerns. Many participants suggested that they would like to see a stricter enforcement of legal consequences for anti-social behaviour/bullying for both adults and young people.

Importantly, consultation with young people shed light on this from another perspective. Young people noted that while groups of teenagers gathered together can be intimidating, the effect was that many adults are quick to be suspicious of all teenagers who are out together, regardless of behaviour. Teen participants relayed that in some instances, this leads them to feel less safe and welcome in public spaces, and increases their fear of being mistakenly perceived to be engaging in anti-social or harmful behaviour. Some young people reported that they avoid going out in public with their friends as often as they would like to in order to avoid this perception of community disapproval.

Many adults and young people suggested

that additional initiatives and facilities aimed at children and young people would be of benefit.

Priority area 3: To support those who have been victims of crime or harmful behaviour

Many of the 5,532 crime cases recorded in 2021 across Waterford City and County involved not just perpetrators, but also victims of the crimes committed. Public consultation indicated demand among the participants for additional supports for victims of crimes.

According to survey findings, participants between 18 years old and mid-30s had a higher fear of harassment in public than both younger and older community members. Fear of public harassment was also the top-rated safety concern in this outcome for non-binary/gender non-conforming people.

Consultation highlighted a perception of being asked for money in public areas as a personal safety issue. Participants identified this as a reason they would avoid certain public spaces, particularly in Waterford City.

Priority area 4: To increase Garda visibility and accessibility to An Garda Síochána

As of August 2022, there were 19 Garda stations across Waterford City and County, employing 381 Gardaí.

A perceived lack of visible Garda presence was identified as one of the top safety issues across all of the outcomes. Consultation indicated that where people had seen Garda presence increase, they felt safer. The community noted that in addition to more Gardaí on the beat, a faster response time would increase the feeling of safety.

According to survey responses, while a lack of Gardaí presence was a key issue for both men and women, this was the lowest priority issue for nonbinary/gender non-conforming people. This is consistent with nonbinary/gender non-conforming people reporting that a lack of trust between the council/Gardaí and the community was the top issue in Outcome 1: Aware and Knowledgeable.

The community suggested that building trustful relationships over time between the Gardaí and the community has a positive effect on the feeling of safety. It was noted that building relationships between the Gardaí and the community is challenging because of the reassignment of Gardaí to new areas.

The Waterford Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan 2018–2023 contains the

objective “to support a visible and engaging Garda presence on our streets, roads, neighbourhoods and communities.” The WCSP will include and build on this strategic objective.

Priority area 5: To improve response times to safety reports

A common theme arising from the consultation was the participants’ perception of long response times to Emergency 999 call reporting. Discussion during public engagement revealed that some participants are hesitant to call the An Garda Síochána with safety concerns because they believe that the wait-time for a response is too long to address an immediate safety issue. Despite this reported hesitation, according to survey responses, most participants indicated that An Garda Síochána would be their main contact if they had a safety concern.

This sentiment was echoed in focus groups. This may be indicative of an over-burden on Gardaí to respond to safety concerns. Both survey responses and focus group participants recommended **the establishment of “community first responders” from other agencies across the County, to provide additional avenues of appropriate support to the public.**



Image: Reginald's Tower Waterford City

OUTCOME 2: PROTECTED & RESPECTED		
Priority Area	Actions	Lead Agency
2.1 Prevent and address harmful behaviour	To support the development of appropriate and targeted responses for specific areas and types of crime.	WLCSP
	Continue to engage with established Neighbourhood Watch/Community Alert schemes and strive to encourage the development of new schemes.	WLCSP/Waterford Age Friendly Alliance/AGS
	To support and promote the strategic objectives of the SERDATF plan, particularly Strategic Objective 3: Support high-focus, measurable and sustained policing activities that reduce drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour associated with substance misuse.	WLCSP/SERDATF/AGS
	See Something Say Something anonymous text line.	WCCC, AGS
	Create a directory of treatment and support services for all of Waterford City and County including afterhours services.	HSE/Drug taskforce
2.2 Address root causes of youth involvement in crime and harmful behaviours	Variety of activities for youth, not just sports. For ex: horticultural education & experience social farming for children with disabilities	PPN (Public Participation Network) /WLCSP
	Increase coverage & investment in youth justice projects to work with young people to reduce criminal activity and promote personal and public safety	WLCSP/AGS/PPN/Tusla
	Support all schools, and in particular second-level schools, to challenge and eradicate all forms of bullying or harassment on the basis of ethnicity / nationality / creed / heritage / cultural background or identity	WLCSP/TUSLA/Waterford CYPSC (Children & Young People's Services Committee)/ Migrant Integration Forum
	Work with the Department of Justice to ensure that systems for police / garda clearance work effectively in the best interest of child protection and enabling increased migrant participation in sporting organisations – in paid and voluntary capacities	WLCSP/Migrant Integration Forum/Dept of Justice and Equality/ Dept of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth
	More youth services and places for young people to 'hang out', particularly alcohol free spaces	Tusla/Waterford Youth Services/DoJ/WLCSP
	School workshops to educate young people on the impact of crime and crime awareness	WLCSP/AGS/HSE
	Create & support a youth services directory for Waterford	TUSLA
	Create an Action Plan to promote increased take up in Waterford of apprenticeships and further other education routes	WWETB
	Effective pathways for teenagers and young adults experiencing mental health issues	HSE/CAMHS(Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services)/TUSLA
	Review after-school services for children and teenagers including homework clubs and places for teens to 'hang out'	Waterford Childcare Committee/FRCs/TUSLA

OUTCOME 2: PROTECTED & RESPECTED

Priority Area	Actions	Lead Agency
2.3 Support those who have been victims of crime or harmful behaviour	Support developments in targeted trauma informed care, dual diagnosis support and treatment across services working with mental health and substance use	HSE/WLCSP
	Review and possibly expand as required, domestic violence training and awareness supports and programmes in Waterford	SETU/TUSLA/HSE/WLCSP/DoJ
	Investigate increased and ongoing victim support	WLCSP/AGS/FRCS(Family Resource Centres)/Community centres
2.4 Increase visible Garda presence	On Street Presence and Patrols: In line with the Policing Plan, AGS will endeavour to increase on street presence on a regular basis in specific areas & embrace community based policing.	AGS
	To support a visible, supportive and engaging Garda presence on our roads, streets, neighbourhoods and communities	HSE/SERDATF
	Delivery of high visibility policing by engagement with the senior members of communities being central to the plan.	WLCSP/AGS/PPN/TUSLA
	Maximise AGS Resources: advocate for additional resources to be allocated to the Waterford Division of AGS, to assist with the delivery of increased visibility and community policing. Expand recruitment to Garda Reserve in Waterford.	AGS/DoJ/WLCSP
2.5 To improve response times to safety reports	Examine the potential to develop and increase the number of first responder community schemes	WLCSP/TUSLA/WYS/DoJ/Migrant Integration Forum
	Research the potential for a Waterford wide network of Community First Responders/First aid training provision to support communities	HSE/WLCSP
	Review Council capabilities on a platform for logging and reporting on Community Safety issues.	WCCC/WLCSP
	Enhance WLCSP Quarterly Reports for status update reports on incidents. Publicly available statistics to review improvement/disimprovement	AGS/DoJ/WLCSP



OUTCOME 3: SUPPORTED & INVOLVED

This outcome is focused on supporting social inclusion and building community capacity.

The main aim of this outcome is to increase community networks, and to ensure that individuals and communities have the tools and resources they need to live safe lives. Safety issues that arise are often symptoms of more foundational problems, like unemployment, lack of community supports and services, or housing affordability/insecurity. This outcome seeks to acknowledge and address underlying causes of safety issues in Waterford.

Priority area 1: To increase awareness of and access to community supports and services

Financial difficulties and economic disadvantages were noted as a high concern throughout the consultation period. Notably, although financial difficulties were ranked as a prevalent issue, unemployment was ranked as the third lowest issue, according to the survey. Suggesting that factors other than employment status are impacting people's financial security and well-being.

The socio-economic study indicated that Waterford's unemployment rate (15.4%) was the third highest in the Southern Region, and higher than the State rate of 12.9%. There are also nine unemployment blackspots in Waterford City.

The current housing crisis in Ireland is well-documented. Waterford residents identified

that affordable housing was the second-most impactful issue in terms of public safety in this outcome area.

In 2020, 1,276 households qualified for social housing support, the 15th highest in the country. This number fell between 2013 and 2018, but rose between 2018 and 2020. As of August 2022, there were 76 homeless adults in Waterford, up from 59 in August 2021.

Waterford City and County has a strong network of community supports and services, with a large number of groups registered with the Waterford Public Participation Network. Public consultation identified a need for a broad range of increased for a broad range of social infrastructure, including (but not limited to):

- Youth/teen clubs, groups and spaces
- Affordable childcare
- Addiction supports
- Mental health support
- Supports for unhoused people.

There may also be the **potential for increasing public awareness of existing supports and services.**

Many participants indicated that they felt anxious, stressed, worried or depressed as a result of their safety concerns. **The social determinants of health are the building blocks of safe communities.** This means supporting people's physical,

psychological, emotional and mental health and the range of qualities that make it a good neighbourhood to live socially, physically and economically.

Priority area 2: To improve social integration and cohesion, especially for new communities

At the county level, Waterford had comparatively low ethnic and national diversity, and racism and discrimination was reported as a relatively low concern in Waterford overall. However, it is vitally important to note that racism and discrimination were perceived and experienced as much more significant issues by minority groups during focus group consultation and the on-street engagement. Consultation indicated that participants that belonged to ethnic minority groups and/or the LGBTQIA+ community were much more likely to report encountering racism and discrimination.

Consultation also suggested that some participants reported the perception that members of certain groups were more likely to engage in crime and/or harmful behaviours, with misgivings about immigrants, refugees, and the Roma and Traveller communities noted in particular. This suggests **there is an opportunity to address racism and discrimination against minority communities, and the opportunity for community development work to establish and promote better social cohesion.**

Priority area 3: To increase the participation of the community

The strong sense of community across Waterford was echoed throughout the entire consultation period by all groups. Whether people were reflecting on their good neighbours, friendly people in their area, or active community groups, people valued the sense of being a part of a strong social network. This was highlighted as a main safety strength, will provide a strong foundation for future safety projects and initiatives.

For Waterford to build a culture of crime prevention, a focus needs to be put on developing and/or enhancing programs that fall under social and community development. **Strong community capacity can promote and maintain a sense of community safety and wellbeing.**



Image: Co. Waterford

Priority area 4: To increase education, training and work opportunities for youth

It has been identified through consultation that several interviewed, highlighted the importance of education and training opportunities, whilst unemployment was reported as a lower level concern. **It's vital for a better quality of life that all our youth have a guided path on education, training and job opportunities.** Through the WCSP collaboration, this positive path in life can be identified, promoted and mentored through the support of the various agencies and community partners.

An example of an ongoing project of this nature, is the ongoing partnership collaboration supported by the Community Innovation Fund in planning, coordinating and delivering a Community Improvement Facility House and Allotment, in Dungarvan. This has the potential to prepare young

people for the hospitality industry by experiencing horticulture, hospitality, cooking, and social education training which could potentially culminate in a community café.



Image: Tramore Bay

OUTCOME 3: SUPPORTED & INVOLVED

Priority Area	Actions	Lead agency
3.1 Increase awareness of and access to community supports and services	Link in with Healthy Waterford to deliver on the objective: "To work across all sectors to create stronger partnerships within communities and enhance awareness and accessibility".	WLCSP/Waterford LCDC
	Promote initiatives that focus on increasing awareness of economic and housing supports, particularly among groups who are traditionally underrepresented or marginalised.	WCC/WLCSP/PPN
	Ensure the ongoing needs of target groups are considered, identified and included in the planning and delivery of safety supports and services (groups may include those with mental health needs, people with disabilities, older adults, the LGBTQIA+ community, unhoused individuals, women, members of the Travelling community, and other marginalised populations).	WLCSP/WCCP/ PPN/ AGS/ HSE
	Promote street and neighbourhood networking events, like community dinners, recreational initiatives, sports days, clean up days etc.	WCCC/PPN/WCLSP
	Work with the Waterford LCDC (Local Community Development Committee) to implement relevant community safety actions within Waterford Migrant Integration Strategy 2020 – 2023.	WLCSP/Migrant Integration Forum/LCDC
3.1 Increase awareness of and access to community supports and services	Explore opportunities for colleges to support their local communities through the utilisation of school & college buildings and facilities out of hours (e.g. for homework clubs, parent groups etc.).	WWETB/DoJ/WCCC/ WLCSP
	Support events and festivals that encourage collaboration; Africa Day, Polish Day, St Patricks Day and events that foster pride of place and in people.	WLCSP/Migrant Integration Forum/WCCC
	Endeavour to address issues raised by older people, as we do all others from a two way perspective, top down bottom up striving to engage with younger sections of communities and create an understanding of the impact certain behaviours can have on other community members.	WLCSP
	Supporting the Waterford Migrant Integration Strategy, particularly the objective: engaging greater numbers of Irish people in promoting integration and tackling all forms of intolerance, prejudice and racism	AGS/WCCC/WLCSP
3.3 To increase the participation of the community in community safety efforts	Promoting buy-in and participation in Waterford Community Safety Partnership initiatives, particularly among new and/or marginalised communities.	WLCSP/WCCC
	Establish clear avenues to involvement in the Waterford Community Safety Partnership initiatives, including communication channels, opportunities to volunteer on a once-off or ongoing basis, and information/resources/support for the establishment of neighbourhood safety groups.	WLCSP/PPN
	Ongoing data analyse of the needs of each community, identify gaps and plan to fill them. Potential to utilise DataHub in an ongoing basis.	WCCC/WLCSP/PPN
3.4 To increase education, training and work opportunities for youth	For the WLCSP to loaise with Solas and WETB for youth educational opportunities.	WLCSP/PPN



OUTCOME 4: SAFE & SECURE

This outcome is focused on increasing safety in the built and natural environment.

The main aim of this outcome is to ensure that public spaces are developed and maintained in a way that supports people's feelings and experience of safety. This includes things like adequate street lights, active and passive surveillance, safe cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, and the reduction of anti-social behaviours like fly-tipping and vandalism.

Priority area 1: To facilitate active and passive surveillance of public areas

Fly-tipping, graffiti and vandalism were all identified as frequent issues in public spaces. This was true across all demographic groups, age ranges and genders. Consultation suggested that solutions to this issue may include more active and passive surveillance, with many

people stating that they felt increased surveillance would decrease dangerous or destructive behaviour. The Peoples Park was identified as a focus area for such initiatives.

The Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028 underscores the importance of passive surveillance to community safety. The Social and Inclusive Policy Objective Place 23 reads: "Ensure public open space and public realm is accessible to all users, safe, and designed so that passive surveillance is provided."

Priority area 2: To improve road safety

In 2019, there were three fatal road accidents in Waterford, and 228 people

injured in collisions. Consultation revealed that the implementation of increased traffic calming measures is a top-priority. People noted that fast traffic along with poor pedestrian and cycling infrastructure pose safety concerns while navigating through public spaces. Where pedestrian and cycle infrastructure has been recently developed, people noted it as a strength.

It was also identified that parking on footpaths makes it particularly difficult for people with mobility aids to safely use existing pedestrian infrastructure, and that increased disability parking bays would increase access to services like shops and GP offices. In addition, set down parking bays were considered to be a beneficial safety addition to the older community, with more required.

Priority area 3: To continue to improve and maintain the public realm across the City and County

The literature review indicated that there are several local plans that prioritise the development and maintenance of the public realm. The Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028 includes seven objectives related to the public realm, including: "To bring life and vibrancy to our urban centers ensuring that they are social, inclusive and culturally diverse places by planning, designing and retrofitting the public realm with the people who use them in mind." In Waterford City, the Waterford

Cultural Quarter Strategic Plan 2021-2025 contains 10 actions related to enhancing the public realm.

According to consultation, many people greatly value recent improvements to public spaces, and highlight that well-maintained and clean public spaces have made them feel safer. This was noted particularly around Waterford City Centre, and people noted that they would like to see these types of improvements in other areas as well. While noisy environments were ranked as a fairly low concern overall, it is intriguing to note that young people (0-17 years) ranked noisy environments as an issue, and suggested that this would make public spaces feel unwelcoming or unsafe.

Priority area 4: To ensure adequate lighting in public areas

The literature and policy review indicated Waterford City and County Council aims to deliver the National LED Retrofit Programme of 15,000 public lighting standards by mid 2023. Additionally, WCCC maintains an online platform that allows the public to report issues with street lights. A lack of public lighting was the most-often cited safety concern in public spaces. This was true across all demographic groups, including age and gender. Where public lighting was perceived to be adequate, people noted feeling safer.

While it was suggested in focus group conversations that areas were sometimes intentionally unlit to discourage their use at night, residents remarked that this had the unintended consequence of creating a space where people ‘up to no good’ knew they could meet up unseen, and decreased the feelings of safety overall.

Priority area 5: To decrease anti-social activities (such as fly-tipping and vandalism)

In 2021, 560 criminal cases of damage to property and to the environment were recorded in Waterford City and County. Although the number of these crime cases has dropped year on year since 2018, consultation indicated that further decreasing anti-social activities like fly-tipping and vandalism was important to participants. While many participants suggested that more visible Garda presence in public spaces would help to address this, there were differing opinions among different cohorts. According to survey respondents, increased Garda presence in public spaces was a key priority.

Some young people also shared that seeing Gardai in public spaces sometimes made them nervous, or feel as if they were going to get in trouble. Consultation with young people also indicated that they perceive vandalism and graffiti as a prevalent issue.

Image: Constabulary Barracks Ballydyff Lower converted to Garda Station 1926



OUTCOME 4: SAFE & SECURE		
Priority Area	Actions	Lead Agency
4.1 Facilitate active and passive surveillance of public areas	Review the legal operating context for deployment of cctv to address litigation concerns by local authorities and AGS	DoJ/AGS
	Interagency consultation to take place regarding the need for, and location of public realm CCTV	Waterford Age Friendly Alliance/WLCSP
	Investigate & Review potential for enhanced lighting and CCTV deployment across the City & County	NTA/DoJ
4.2 Improve road safety, including paths & cycle lanes	Support the objective set out in Waterford City and County Development Plan: "Implement innovative solutions to enhance the safety of school streets and general street layout across the city and in particular those in the vicinity of Peoples Park/Newtown and the city centre	WCCC
	Support and encourage safe cycling by supporting and promoting Cycle Right training (currently seven approved providers serving Waterford).	RSA/WCCC/WCSP/AGS
	Advocate for and support the Waterford City and County Development Plan's objective: "In order to develop a network of safe walking and cycling routes, we will put in place priority footways and cycleways on rural roads, when the opportunity arises and sufficient road width and route options exists so as to provide for improved pedestrian access to and from villages/towns and public transport and to counteract rural isolation."	RSA/WCCC/WLCSP/AGS
	Raise awareness of the Waterford County and City Development Plan's progress on the following: "We will prioritise road and traffic safety measures on all roads/streets across the City and County. In particular we will support and facilitate 'School Streets' in the vicinity and on the approaches to school premises based on the Fingal School Streets Pilot Project (2019)."	NTA/WCCC
	Development of cycling infrastructure, barriers between car and bike lanes.	NTA/WCCC
	Education day in schools and universities on road safety.	RSA/WLCSP
	Dangerous driving and car maintenance programmes	Treo Port Lairge
	Fund SETU students union to give out/subsidise high visibility garments for cyclists and scooter riders	DoJ/RSA
	Investigate a pilot scheme, similar to USA, where traffic cannot pass a school bus when it is loading or unloading.	Dept of Transport

OUTCOME 4: SAFE & SECURE		
Priority Area	Actions	Agency implementing structures
4.3 Continue to improve and maintain the public realm across the County	Explore ways to enhance Waterford's night-time economy through increased State funding for structured initiatives, already in place, such as Purple Flag Initiative	DoJ/ WCCC/Dept Tourism Culture, Arts, Gaelteacht, Sports & Media
	Support the reduction of crime and improve community safety through providing education and resources on good practice in the construction and rehabilitation of buildings and the public realm	WCCC
	Consider the potential for assisting good public realm development by undertaking research and compiling evidence-based suggestions on the public realm safety perceptions of specific cohorts (women, people with disabilities, older adults, young people, etc.)	WCCC/WLCSP/PPN
	Develop public realm plans to include the provision of additional footpaths, lighting and restroom facilities based on a needs analysis	Waterford Age Friendly Alliance/WCCC/WLCSP
	Mobility reviews to take place with a focus on a full lifecycle basis	Waterford Age Friendly Alliance/WLCSP
	Support the WCQ (Waterford Cultural Quarter) to investigate suitable areas to develop as play areas for children, and advocate for the development of areas suitable for teenagers to 'hang out'	Waterford Cultural Quarter/WLCSP
	More public toilets in park areas such as People's Park and Dungarvan Quays	WCCC
4.4 To ensure adequate lighting in public areas	In the context of Nationwide LED retrofit of existing lights, provide enhanced quality illumination in areas where this is practical	WCCC
	Review lighting in People's Park & Dungarvan Quay	WCCC
4.5 To decrease anti-social activities such as fly-tipping and vandalism	To develop cooperative approaches to tackling littering and illegal dumping	WLCSP/WCCC/AGS
	Explore creative approaches to mitigating vandalism. Maintain Waterford Walls initiative and open to increased community participation in creation of murals.	WLCSP/Waterford Cultural Quarter
	Support and promote Tidy Towns, Anti-Litter League and similar initiatives	WLCSP
	Audit of locations where fly-tipping is common	WCCC/WLCSP/PPN

NEXT STEPS

Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting

The Waterford Local Community Safety Partnership is committed to working with you to ensure that our communities feel and are safe and secure, and we want to encourage your ongoing input to make that happen. That's why we are continuing to engage with communities through regular sessions to capture your concerns, issues, and achievements. We want to hear from you directly to ensure that we are meeting your needs and addressing any safety concerns you may have.

We are also committed to transparency and accountability. Whether you have a question, comment, or concern, we want to hear from you. You can also contact our Community Safety Coordinator at emulligan@waterfordcouncil.ie.

The Waterford Local Community Safety Partnership will hold public meetings where residents and community members can meet with us and ask any questions they may have about the delivery of actions and initiatives. We will publicise these meetings widely in advance through multiple channels to ensure maximum public engagement.

Performance measures and benchmarks have been created to monitor the progression of actions over time. Finally, we believe in keeping you informed about our progress. We will publish interim reports, progress updates, meeting minutes, and updates as they become available, so you can stay up-to-date with our activities and progress.

Summary

The Waterford Local Community Safety Plan represents the collaborative efforts of the Waterford Local Community Safety Partnership, along with stakeholders and community members right across Waterford City and County. The aim of this document has been to create an ambitious but achievable plan to increase the perception and experience of safety within the county. This plan will be delivered by a range of statutory and community agencies, supported by the WLCSP.

A cooperative, joined-up approach has been embedded in every phase of this plan: from development to implementation, and through to monitoring and evaluation. This holistic approach will support the plan's vision: Waterford, a safe and inclusive community, where people feel respected.

The safety plan was developed using an outcomes-based approach, which began with the end in mind, and ensured that entire development process was guided by a uniform strategic direction. Stakeholder collaboration in the early stages of development informed the four overarching outcomes that guide the plan, which include:

- Outcome 1: Aware and Knowledgeable
- Outcome 2: Protected and Respected
- Outcome 3: Supported and Involved
- Outcome 4: Safe and Ssecure.

The development of the Waterford Community Safety Plan was informed by extensive research, demographic analysis, and public consultation with communities and stakeholders throughout Waterford City and County. Findings from these exercises informed the development of 18 key priority areas and 92 specific actions under each of the four main outcomes (see sections above for detailed action tables).

The Waterford Safety Plan aims to address the safety challenges in Waterford City and County on many fronts and includes actions such as (but not limited to):

- Exploring the option for new mechanisms for citizens to report public incidents to AGS
- Collaborative, multi-agency provision of a range of supports and services for those affected by substance misuse, both for those engaged in harmful behaviour, and those affected by related crime
- Addressing safety issues in public spaces, request for a review of the legal operating context for CCTV and continued enhancement of the quality of illumination of public lighting, where necessary
- Supporting a review of local youth services and exploring the provision of increased safe public spaces for teenagers to socialise
- Increasing community involvement in public safety via initiatives already being piloted in other parts of Ireland.

This plan also intends to address the often more “hidden challenges” in the community, such as phishing, domestic violence, and gender-based violence. While these and similar issues often tend to be less visible, they nevertheless have significant impacts and consequences for the victims involved.

Actions and initiatives will be undertaken in partnership with statutory and community agencies, many of whom are already investing time and other resources into developing supports and services aligned with this plan. Partner agencies are national, regional, and local, and include (but are not limited to) the Department of Justice, the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board,, An Garda Siochana, HSE, TUSLA and Waterford City & County Council.

This plan is a living document, and will be subject to ongoing review and evaluation. As new data becomes available from the Central Statistics Office, the socio-demographic profile will be updated and analysed to identify emerging themes and trends. The framework of the plan allows for flexibility in responding to emerging safety needs across Waterford City and County.

It is of paramount importance that the Waterford Community Safety Plan is an inclusive and actionable document that speaks to the needs of people across Waterford City and County. The development of this plan has been informed by strong public engagement with individuals and communities from the city, towns, villages, townlands, and rural hinterlands throughout Waterford. The plan aims to reflect the safety-related needs and priorities of individuals and communities in across the County. It is envisaged that these communities will also be instrumental in community safety decision-making, and will be supported by the WLCSP to feel a sense of ownership of public safety in their areas throughout the lifetime of the plan.



APPENDIX

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MEMBERSHIP

First Name	Last Name	Partner Category	Category being Nominated for
Sean	Aylward	Chair	Independent Chair
Emilene	Stafford	Dungarvan/Lismore	Business Representative
Peter	O' Fourke	Comeragh	OPC
Ger	Hurley	Waterford City	Business Representative
Orla	Bolger	Waterford City	Education Representative
			Rep from Social Enterprise that provides a support service for offenders, ex offenders or those at risk of offending.
Danny	Murphy	Tramore/Waterford City West	Local Resident Rep
Donal	Murphy	Comeragh	Local Resident Rep
Breda	Halligan	Waterford City	Local Resident Rep
Maureen	Walsh	Waterford City	Local Resident Rep
Michelle	Byrne	Waterford	Community Rep involved in Community/Social Projects
Michael J	Walsh	Dungarvan/Lismore	Community Rep involved in Community/Social Projects
Criostóir	Ó Faoláin	Dungarvan/Lismore (Gaeiltacht)	Voluntary Sector
Rosemary	Kennedy	Comeragh	Voluntary Sector
Abdul	Ganiyu	Tramore/Waterford City West	Representative from New and Minority Communities
Barry	Whelan	Waterford City	Youth Representative under age 25
Mary	Upton	Dungarvan/ Tramore area	Education and Training Boards Representative
Ivan	Grimes	Waterford City/ County	WCCC Management Representative
Greg	Mullan	Waterford Area	Tusla Representative
Anthony	Loneragan	Waterford City	AGS Representative
Michael	Leacy	Dungarvan	AGS Representative
Declan	Doocey	Dungarvan/Lismore	Councillor
Mairead	Tobin	Dungarvan/Lismore	Councillor
Declan	Clune	Comeragh	Councillor
Joanne	Bailey	Waterford City South	Councillor
Seamus	Ryan	Waterford City South	Councillor
Stephanie	Keating	Waterford City East	Councillor
Lola	O' Sullivan	Tramore/Waterford City West	Councillor
Paul	Goff	Waterford City	HSE Representative
Lisa	Robson	Coordinator South East Regional	Representative Local Drugs Task Force HSE
Maria	Scanlon	Dungarvan/Lismore	Local Resident Rep

Intacta Waterfordia Manet



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