



Waterford City Youth Strategy 2009-2012

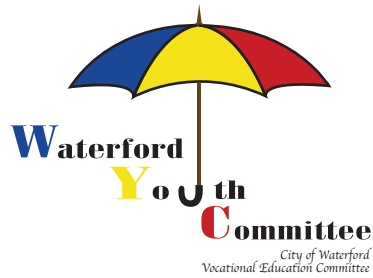


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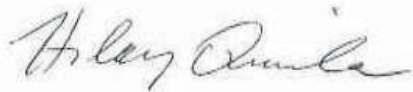
Foreword

Waterford City Development Board Chairperson

On behalf of the Waterford CDB, I welcome the completion of this Youth Strategy and the broad level of consultation undertaken during its development. I would like to express my thanks to both the young people and those working with youth who took the time to share their views and opinions which have formed the basis of this Strategy.

One of the key roles of the City Development Board is co-ordination and this new and unique model of working between Waterford CDB, Waterford Youth Committee and Waterford Area Partnership Board which has resulted in the production of this Youth Strategy for the City is an excellent practical example of agencies working together for the betterment of a target group.

This Strategy and previous work undertaken by the CDB have highlighted the need for greater co-ordination at a City and neighbourhood level and for the need to be more responsive to needs at a local level and this Strategy is a further step towards achieving these goals.



Councillor Hilary Quinlan
Chairperson Waterford CDB
March 2009



Waterford Youth Committee Chairperson

As Chair of Waterford Youth Committee (City of Waterford VEC) I am very pleased to be associated with the Waterford City Youth Strategy 2009 - 2012. The approach that was taken to develop the Youth Strategy was unique, inclusive and co-ordinated. Having regard to the requirement of the Youth Work Act 2001 that each VEC Youth Work Committee prepare a Youth Work Plan, and the requirement of the City Development Board's Strategy for Economic Social and Cultural Development 2002– 2012 as well as Waterford Area Partnership Board's Youth Initiatives, this Youth Strategy was developed. This model is a practical demonstration of what can happen when the needs of young people are approached in an integrated way in Waterford City. It places a very important emphasis on consultation and partnership with young people, volunteers and service providers.

The Strategy underlines the need for greater planning, development and co-ordination of services at local level and emphasises the need to further roll out the Youth Work Act in order to meet those challenges. Waterford Youth Committee is happy to embrace those challenges and changes and will continue to do so in the spirit of partnership and inclusiveness and in the knowledge that future development in youth work will be planned, appropriately resourced, sustained and rewarded.



Councillor Mary Roche
Chairperson Waterford Youth Committee
March 2009



Executive Summary

Having regard for the Waterford City Development Board's (CDB) Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2012, and the requirement of the Youth Work Act 2001, that each VEC Youth Work Committee prepare a Youth Work Development Plan to address the youth work requirements in its administrative area, this Youth Strategy for Waterford City was developed. This Youth Strategy has been informed by an assessment of the current needs of young people and the levels of service and facilities which currently exist. The strategy seeks to assist service providers in the delivery of a more co-ordinated and effective response in the support of young people over the period 2009-2012 and taking into consideration the findings of the pilot co-ordination of youth services initiatives. Conducted research both primary and secondary, have indicated a commendable level of existing services and facilities for young people in Waterford City. However, shortfalls in some areas of provision and related issues were identified. Accordingly, the strategy outlines these shortfalls and proposes a planned and staged response to achieve an improved and sustainable delivery of service and facility provision over the life of this Strategy.

1. Introduction

A core objective of the Waterford City Development Board (CDB) Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2012 is to “develop a strategy to meet the needs of youth” and as part of this, to ‘undertake an assessment of youth needs including facilities and services and develop a co-ordinated response.’ Prior to the drafting of this Strategy, the Waterford CDB has focused on the area of youth through conducting an audit of youth services. This work has highlighted the need for greater co-ordination at both local and national level in relation to youth service delivery. To progress this issue, it was agreed that a holistic youth strategy for the City should be developed and that this would incorporate the Waterford Youth Committee’s Youth Work Development Plan and the Waterford Area Partnership’s Community Based Youth Initiative’s Measure. Waterford City is unique in adopting this inter agency approach to developing and implementing a youth strategy to address the needs of youth.

In accordance with the requirements of the Youth Work Act 2001, each Vocational Education Committee (Youth Committee) is required to prepare a Youth Work Development Plan to address the youth work requirements in its administrative area. In accordance with this, the strategy seeks to identify the key issues and challenges faced by the VEC in the development of youth work services and programmes. Having regard for the Waterford City Development Board Strategy 2002-2012, the Youth Strategy is holistic in character and endeavours to include the widest possible considerations concerning youth and has been developed following an extensive consultation process involving the key stakeholders and young people themselves. The Strategy examines the current provision of services and facilities, the gaps, deficits and demographic trends. It sets out a vision, strategic objectives and a work programme for youth provision in Waterford City. Linking together the objectives of Waterford CDB, Waterford Area Partnership and Waterford City VEC Youth Committee, the strategy will support the co-ordination of service provision and assist in effective planning to meet future needs.

While recognising the positive provisions for youth in Waterford City, this study has sought to focus on shortfalls in provision or in need of further development. It has endeavoured to avoid the often negative stereotypical labelling conferred on particular geographical areas, groups and individuals. Instead, it maintained a clear focus on the need for a more responsive and inclusive provision of services and facilities for young people regardless of class, gender, geography or ethnicity. The positive themes of education and training, and sport and leisure activities were considered alongside the recurrent negative themes of unemployment, substance / alcohol / drug abuse. The study also takes regard of issues relating to disability, lesbian and gay rights, anti-social behaviour and issues relating to young people of non-Irish origin.

The development of this Strategy has also been informed by further research being conducted concurrently into youth service receipt in a number of neighbourhoods in Waterford City. Many of the findings from this research have served to support the findings of the consultation process undertaken in preparing the Youth Strategy.

2. Context

In recent years Waterford City, like many other areas of the country, has experienced unprecedented growth. While embracing the challenges and opportunities that growth and expansion present, it has successfully fused 'the past with the present to produce a sophisticated and vibrant modern City' (WCDB 2002). That vibrancy is due, in no small part, to the contribution made by the City's growing youth population. In ensuring that the needs of the City's youth are met, Waterford City Development Board, Waterford City VEC Youth Committee and Waterford Area Partnership have reaffirmed their commitment to young people in commissioning this strategy.

In developing a local strategy to meet the needs of young people, the national context in which the youth sector operates should be borne in mind and specifically the following policy and legislative frameworks and definitions:

Youth Work Act 2001

Under the terms of the Act, each VEC must prepare and implement three year development plans, annual budgets and regular reports on youth services to the Minister for Education. In addition, each must establish a Youth Work Committee and Voluntary Youth Council to facilitate the involvement of voluntary services, young people and other individuals in the development of services and may provide support to voluntary bodies for the provision of youth work services.

Youth Work

The 2001 Act defines Youth Work as: 'A planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young persons through their involvement which is complementary to their formal, academic and vocational training and provided primarily by voluntary by organisations'. While the chronological age of youth in Ireland is those over the age of 10 and under 25, the Act requires that particular attention be paid to those aged between 10 and 21 and those who are economically or socially disadvantaged.

Youth Work Legislative Context

Over the last decade, a number of key Acts have added focus to the work of the VEC in terms of the services and work procedures. These are identified as:

- ✿ The Education Act (1998)
- ✿ The Qualifications, Education and Training Act (1999)
- ✿ The Education Welfare Act (2000)
- ✿ The Equal Status Act (2000)
- ✿ The White Paper on Adult Education Act (2000)
- ✿ The Children's Act (2001)
- ✿ The Vocational Education Amendment Act (2001)
- ✿ The Youth Work Act (2001)
- ✿ Education for Persons with Disabilities Bill (2003)

Under these national policy instruments, a context is provided for youth services with a focus on consultation and partnership with young people, volunteers and other service providers.

3. Vision

The strategy seeks to inform and enhance Waterford City's commitment to its young people by endeavouring to have a City responsive the needs of its young people.

It seeks the co-ordination and enhancement of local youth services and facilities to ensure that our young people:

- ♣ Realise their full potential and engage actively in their own development, in their own community and in society in general.
- ♣ Have the opportunity to participate in high quality programmes delivered by local service providers that support all aspects of a young person's development – personal, social, educational, political, cultural and spiritual.
- ♣ Have the confidence, skills, knowledge and opportunities to make a meaningful contribution within their own organisations, their own community and within local and national political decision making structures and processes.
- ♣ Are fully aware of what services and facilities are available to them at neighbourhood and City level.

4. Strategy Formulation

In keeping with the emphasis in the Youth Work Act 2001, this Strategy is premised on broad consultation with young people and service providers in Waterford City. The key research aims of the strategy were to identify the current needs of young people and identify the 'gaps' in service provision. The specific objectives of the strategy were:

- ♣ To examine demographic trends and future growth.
- ♣ To carry out an audit of youth services in Waterford City.
- ♣ To establish gaps in current facility and service provision.
- ♣ To involve stakeholders in strategies for service provision.
- ♣ To develop a Youth Strategy for Waterford City 2009–2012.
- ♣ To propose an action for the implementation of the strategy.

This process was carried out during the months of June, July, August and September 2008 and had particular regard for the neighbourhood approach which is being adopted by the Waterford CDB. A Steering Group composed of representatives drawn from the Waterford City Development Board, Waterford City VEC Youth Committee, Waterford Area Partnership and Department of Education & Science Regional Education Offices oversaw the development of the strategy.

Youth Strategy Steering Committee Membership

Joe Gough	Waterford Youth Committee, City of Waterford VEC
Maria Lindell	Waterford Area Partnership
Catherine Anderson	Department of Education & Science Regional Education Office
Lisa Grant	Waterford City Development Board

Consultation

A call for participants was circulated in early June to youth groups and services registered with the Waterford Youth Committee and were subsequently supported by telephone contact. Seasonal considerations such as holidays slowed the initial response but recovered somewhat following a 'reminder' circulation requesting participants. The research was further supplemented by several street listening surveys conducted in late August and early September.

Overview of Methodology

The consultation process was conducted over the period June to September 2008. A variety of methodologies was used to ensure a broad representation of both young people and those working in the youth sector was captured. Representative samples were drawn from community youth-projects, family centres, voluntary groups, cultural and uniformed groups. 'Street' listening surveys were conducted in the city-centre area, where young people were asked to comment and give their opinions on the facilities and services that were available to them.

The fieldwork interviews (both one to one interviews and focus group interviews) took place in youth facilities and places of work and had a duration varying from 15 to 50 minutes. Questionnaires were generally completed post-interview. The street listening survey utilised selected open ended questions drawn from the questionnaires and which were used as prompts to solicit data. Each of the listening surveys had an approximate duration of one and a half hours and was carried out on Fridays and Saturdays and on the evening of the Junior Certificate results 2008.

Over all, those who did participate, did so enthusiastically and were supportive of the development of a strategy. However, a small number of those contacted exercised their right not to participate while others did so only on the assurance of anonymity. Reasons cited for non-participation ranged from scepticism regarding the purpose of the strategy to not having enough time due to engagement with an extensive summer youth programme. In some instances, prospective participants indicated that they were not initially contacted or had put responding 'on the long finger' and subsequently forgot. The quality of most interviews was good with the exception of three where responses were very short and non committal, yielding poor quality data.

5. Neighbourhood Profile

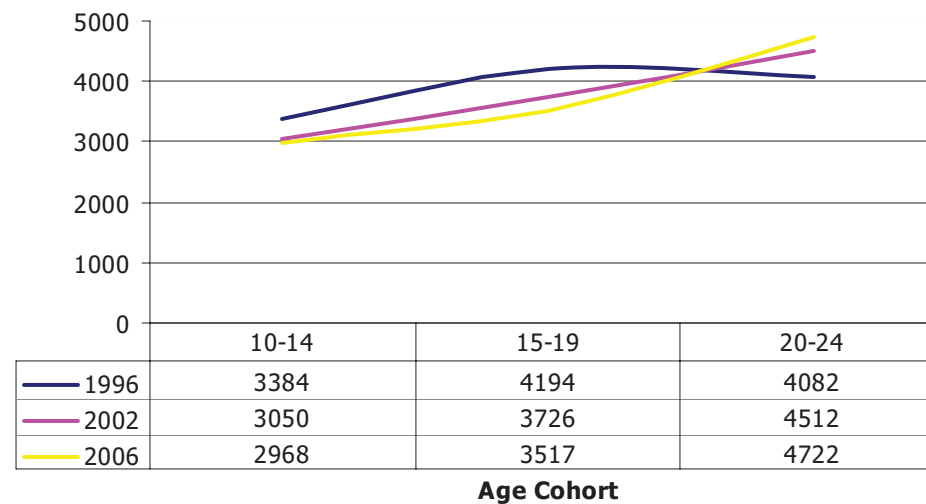
The overall population of Waterford City is currently 45,748 and has been steadily increasing over the last number of Census periods. The focus of this Strategy is on the age group 10-25 and this particular age cohort has remained relatively constant over the last three Census periods, although the three cohorts (10-14; 15-19; 20-24) within the overall 10-25 age cohort have experienced some changes (See Chart opposite).

In line with the Waterford CDB objective of developing sustainable neighbourhoods, Waterford City has been divided into seven distinct neighbourhoods: Ballybeg Kilbarry, Dunmore Road, Ferrybank (which includes Kilculiheen ED, Co Kilkenny), Inner City, Larchville Lisduggan, North West Suburbs and the Sacred Heart. Across the seven neighbourhoods¹ there are 11,207 young people aged between 10 and 24 years which represents just over one fifth of the total population of the City's neighbourhoods which highlights the importance of this age cohort from a service provision perspective.

As this Strategy will cover the period up to 2012, it is important also to look at the population aged 0-9 who will come within the remit of this Strategy over the coming years. As of Census 2006, there were 6,665 young people aged 0-9 living in the seven neighbourhoods. The Chart on the following page shows the breakdown of the population aged between 0 and 24 across each of the seven neighbourhoods.

The maps on Page 9 and Page 10 also highlight where the main concentrations of young people are in the 10-24 and 0-9 age group across the City's neighbourhoods. Each of the seven neighbourhoods is discussed separately below.

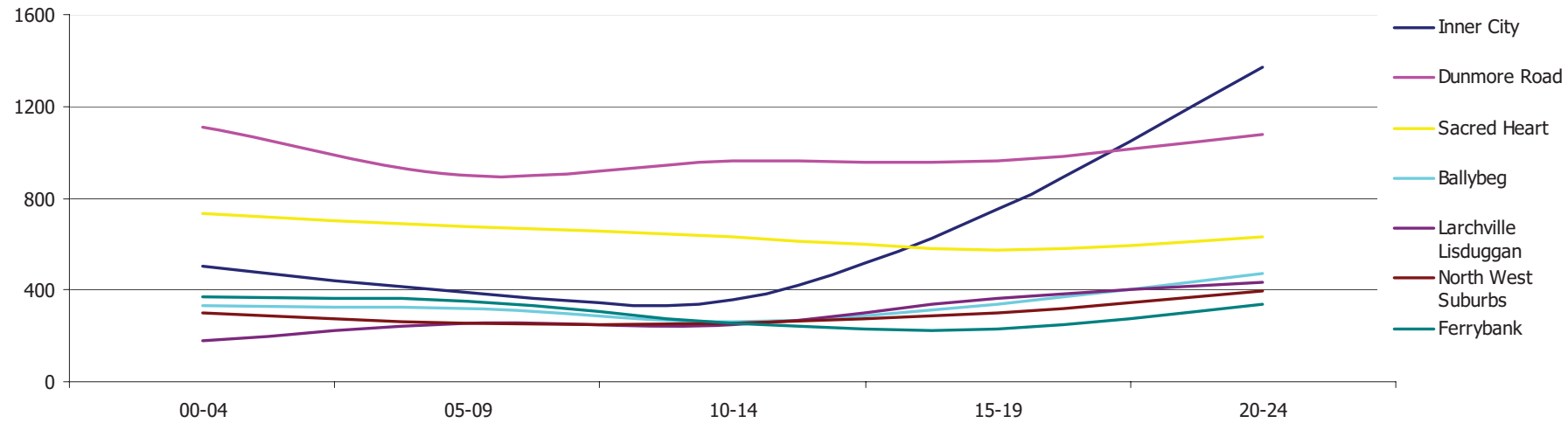
Waterford City Population Aged 10-25



Source: CSO 1996, 2002 & 2006

¹ The population of the seven neighbourhoods is 49,241 which is based on the population of Waterford City (45,748) and the population of Kilculiheen ED, Co Kilkenny which is included in the Ferrybank neighbourhood.

Population Aged 0-24 by Neighbourhood (2006)



Source: CSO 2006

Ballybeg Kilbarry

While Ballybeg Kilbarry has a high young dependency² at 34.9% compared to the City average of 27.9%, the actual number of young people has been decreasing. There are currently 1,073 aged 10-24, which represents a 30% decrease since 1996 and a further 655 aged 0-9, a decrease of 42.75% since 1996.

Dunmore Road

The Dunmore Road neighbourhood has the highest number of young people aged 10-24 (3,002). This neighbourhood has also experienced growth of 18.7% in this age category over the last ten years. There are a further 2,009 young people aged 0-9 living in this neighbourhood which represents almost one third of this age category living in the City.

² Dependency is expressed as a percentage of the total population aged between 15 and 64 years. The notion of dependency is not entirely precise as variations occur over time in the number of young persons staying on for longer periods in full time education and in the number of persons over 65 continuing to work. The relative proportions of persons aged 15-64 who are inside and outside the labour force may also vary over time.

Ferrybank

The Ferrybank neighbourhood is comprised of the Ferrybank ED in Waterford City and the Kilculiheen ED of County Kilkenny. This neighbourhood has experienced significant growth over the last number of years which can be attributed to the level of housing development taking place in Kilculiheen. There are currently 818 young people aged 10-24 and a further 717 aged 0-9 years living in this neighbourhood. The number of young people in the 0-9 age category has more than trebled since 1996.

Inner City

One fifth (2,484) of the City's 10-24 population lives in the Inner City along with a further 892 aged 0-9 years. While the neighbourhood has a relatively low youth dependency ratio (17.2%) compared to the average for the City (27.9%), there is still a high number of young people living in the neighbourhood.

Larchville Lisduggan

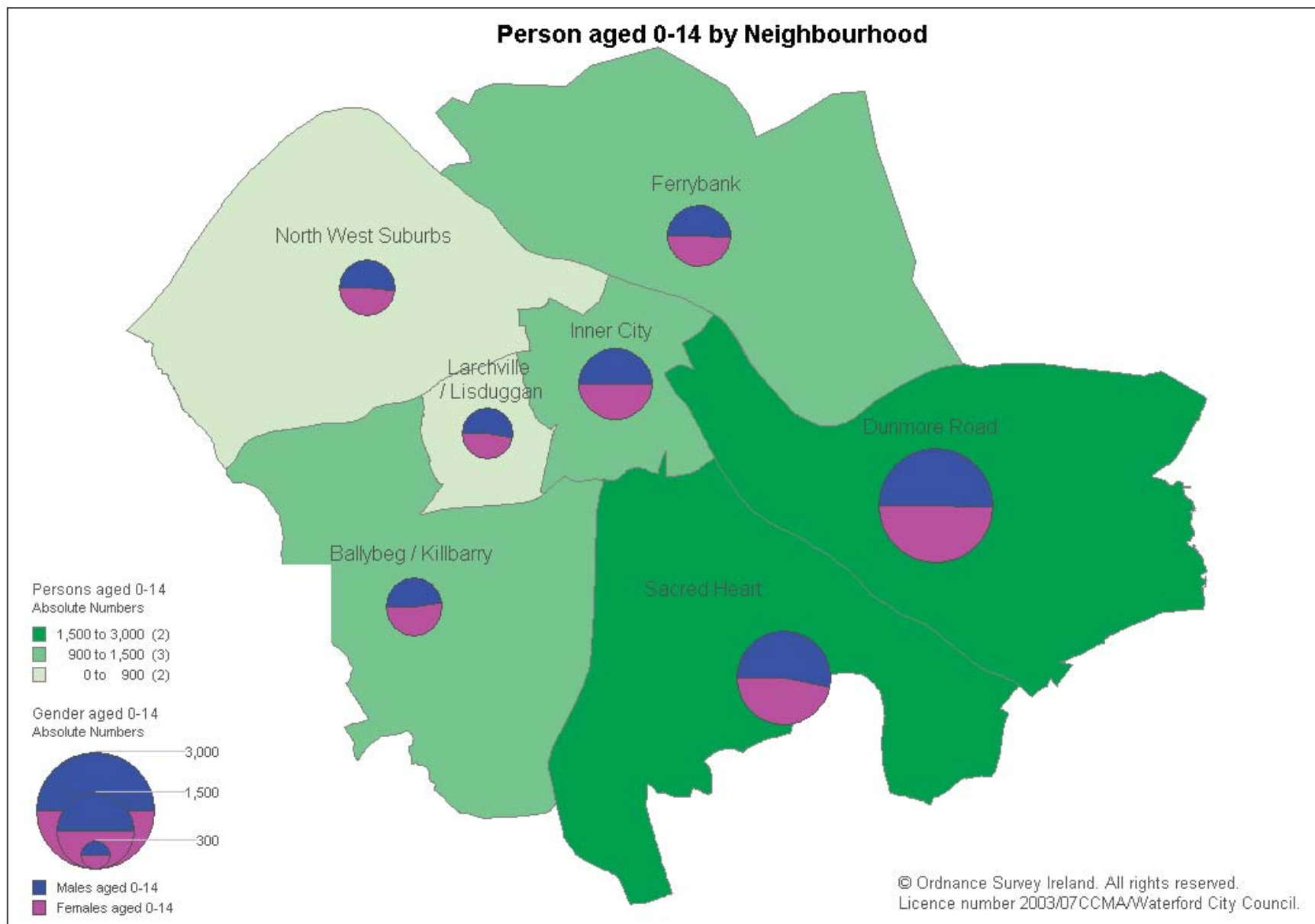
The overall population of the neighbourhood of Larchville Lisduggan has been declining over the last three Census periods and this pattern is mirrored in both the 10-24 and 0-9 age cohorts which have both decreased by almost half since 1996. There are currently 431 young people aged 0-9 years and a further 1,048 aged 10-24 years. The youth dependency ratio for this neighbourhood is also below the City average at 20.8% compared to 27.9%.

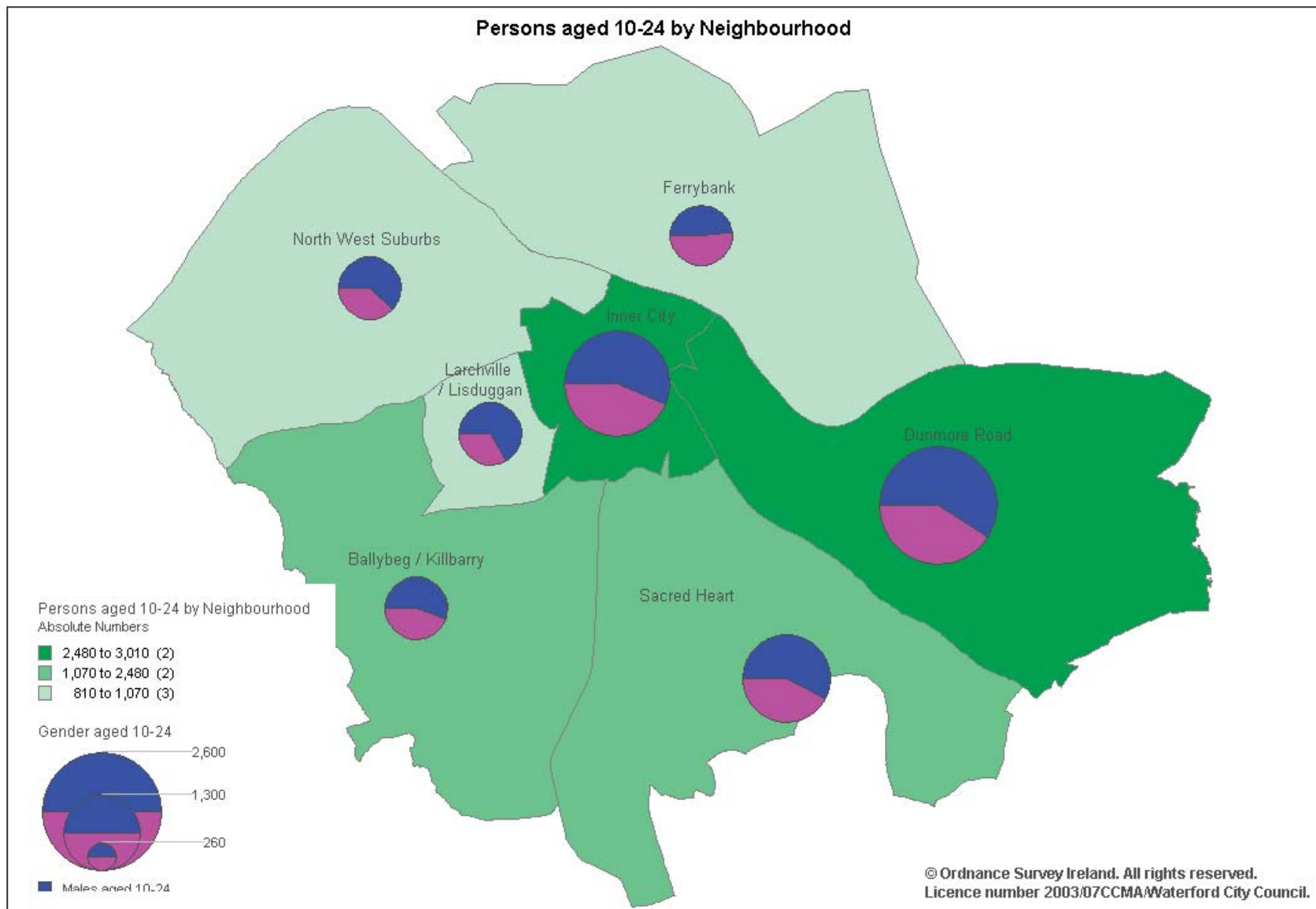
North West Suburbs

The North West Suburbs is Waterford City's newest and least developed neighbourhood. The overall population of this neighbourhood increased by 8.7% between 2002 and 2006 and it is expected that there will be significant increases in future years as land has been zoned for 4,000 households which will cater for approximately 12,000 people. Currently the youth dependency ratio is substantially lower than the average for the City at 18.4% compared to 27.9%. There are 938 young people aged 10-24 and a further 630 aged 0-9 living in the North West Suburbs.

Sacred Heart

The total population of the Sacred Heart neighbourhood has been growing over the last number of Census periods and the youth population has also grown by almost one third. There are currently 1,833 aged 10-24 and an additional 1,405 aged 0-9 years. The Sacred Heart also has a high youth dependency ratio at 39.0%.





Summary

The Audit of Youth Service Provision conducted by Waterford CDB in 2005 and 2006 highlighted high levels of youth service provision and the extensive youth sector in Waterford City. From a neighbourhood perspective, the report indicated that it is primarily the disadvantaged areas that are being served and that almost half the projects included in the audit are serving RAPID areas. The report recommends that 'in order to ensure that the needs of all young people are addressed, the focus of future initiatives needs to be wider than 'youth at risk'. Where there are programmes targeted at disadvantaged or at risk youth, these should not be tied to geographic areas'.

The final report on the co-ordination of youth services initiative includes a number of recommendations to achieving this including that Government Departments and agencies allow for some flexibility in funding at local level to allow projects to respond to changing demographics and to ensure that they remain relevant in the area which they are serving, to address services versus facilities and structured versus unstructured programmes and activities to meet local needs.

Analysis of Geographic Areas served by Projects and Youth Population (Examples)			
	RAPID Area	Population Aged 10-24 (2002)	No of Projects serving area ³
Ballybeg ⁴	✓	1,171	14
Dunmore Road		2,713	2
Ferrybank (incl Kilculiheen, Co Kilkenny)		688	8
Inner City	✓	2,413	8
Larchville Lisduggan ⁴	✓	613	11

Source: Final Report on the Two Year Pilot Co-ordination of Youth Provision (June 2007)

³ Serving a geographic area should not be read that the project is based in that area. In Waterford City there are a number of projects based in the city centre but which have a city wide remit. While Ballybeg has 14 projects serving the needs of youth in the area it does not have a purpose built youth building in the area.

⁴ The geographic area included in these population figures refers to the area included under the RAPID Programme and not the wider area included under the Waterford CDB neighbourhood definition.

Youth Facilities

The Waterford City Council City Development Plan 2007-2013 has as an objective, to ensure during the lifetime of the Plan, that each neighbourhood designated in the Plan will have a purpose built youth facility, a neighbourhood park including a playground, an active recreation area for teenagers and a kick about area. The Table below provides an overview of how each neighbourhood is currently being served in relation to dedicated youth facilities.

Youth Facilities in Waterford City			
Neighbourhood	Dedicated Youth Building	Playground	Active Recreation Area
Ballybeg	Site provided by Waterford City Council, awaiting funding	✓	✓
Dunmore Road	✓	✓	✓
Ferrybank	Site identified by Waterford City Council	Site identified by Waterford City Council	Site identified by Waterford City Council
Inner City	✓	✓	✓
Larchville Lisduggan	✓	✓	✓
North West Suburbs	Site identified by Waterford City Council and planning permission applied for. Awaiting funding.	Site identified by Waterford City Council	Site identified by Waterford City Council
Sacred Heart	✓	✓	Site currently being developed

6. Overview of Youth Provision in Waterford City

As an umbrella body Waterford Youth Committee represents an amalgamation of statutory and voluntary youth organisations in Waterford City. Its aims are to co-ordinate and promote the development of youth services within the framework of the City of Waterford VEC. Working within this framework it is responsible for addressing the needs of young people in its administrative area and for the overall development and organisation of youth services. In addition the VEC is responsible for the administration of youth services in its administrative area. Coupled with the direct provision of funding the VEC provides legal and financial guidance, training, monitoring and other supports to voluntary and community based services.

Youth Service Providers

Currently there are 85 youth organisations registered with the Waterford Youth Committee who are involved in the provision of youth services in Waterford City under the following categories;

- Cultural 15 groups
- Uniformed 21 groups
- Special Needs 8 groups
- Youth Clubs 14 groups
- Voluntary Managed 27 groups

Cultural

Emphasising our cultural and artistic heritage, these groups provide opportunities for young people to learn new skills with a focus on self development and enhance their talents. Expression is given to these pursuits through visual and performing arts, music concerts, and exhibitions.

Uniformed

Groups such as the Irish Girl Guides and the Scouting Association of Ireland provide specific youth programmes focused on camping, first aid, hill walking and other activities which award badges marking levels of achievement.

Special Needs

These groups work towards improving the life chances of young people with intellectual and physical disabilities. Programmes and activities are designed to support these young people in their efforts to become more independent and to participate as fully as possible in society.

Youth Clubs

Long regarded as the cornerstone of youth services in Ireland youth clubs provide a broad range of high quality activities for young people. Often these clubs are located in areas of disadvantage or in areas of reduced service access.

Voluntary Managed

These youth projects operate at a very local level and are managed by a voluntary committee comprising local people. The programmes are often a response to a specific local issue such as early school leaving, anti-social behaviour or under age drinking.

Sports

In addition to these registered groups, there are over 120 sports groups catering for young people, ranging from track and field games to indoor sporting activities. Sporting bodies are registered with the Waterford Sports Partnership.

7. Research Participation

In identifying participants for the youth strategy particular consideration was given to ensuring that there was representation on both a neighbourhood level as defined by the Waterford CDB and also of the youth provision categories identified by the Waterford Youth Committee. Responses received to the invitation to participate in the research were seen as being largely representative of the above considerations and the wider youth experience in Waterford City. Overall justification for the research sample taken also lies in the consideration taken of those who were interviewed, as having a wider understanding and a specific experience of youth needs and issues in their particular geographical areas.

Overall Participation Rates: Participation and Categorisation of Respondents

Of the 301 individuals and groups that were approached, 246 individuals and groups took part; this 82% participation rate reflects the level of support for and around young people in Waterford City. The 18% non-participation rate is not necessarily reflective of a lack of support for young people, but rather, an indication of the demands conferred on volunteers, service providers and supporters of young people and young people themselves, during the summer months. Significantly, this pie chart highlights the fact that of the percentages of data collected, 33% were collected from 'adult sources' (the Youth Service Provider Questionnaire and Youth Service Provider Interviews) and 67% were collected from 'youth sources' (Listening Survey, Youth Questionnaire and Focus Group Interviews). This shows that this study was largely informed from a youth perspective.

Overall Participation							
	Youth Service Provider Interview	Focus Group Interview	Youth Questionnaire	Youth Service Provider Questionnaire	Listening Survey	Total	%
Participation	32	62	32	50	70	246	82
Non participation	3	*	9	3	40	55	18
Total	35	62	41	53	110	301	100

** Please note the figure of non-participation for focus group interviews is not calculable*

Youth Service Provider Interview Participation

Youth Service Provider interviews were largely held on a one-to-one basis. Of the 35 interviews requested and agreed to, 33 interviews were completed. Youth Service Provider interviews include interviews with volunteers, workers, managers and adults with a vested interest in youth services and facilities.

Focus Group Interview Participation

The average focus group interview consisted of six young people (minimum 2: maximum 9). 62 young people were interviewed in ten focus group interviews. Participants in focus group interviews were drawn from across the City, and were representative of different age-groups, gender and socio-economic backgrounds. Difficulties in accessing members to participate within the groups was exacerbated by the ending of the school term and the deferring of youth and community projects for the summer recess. Also, a number of youth groups or projects were running extensive Summer Youth Programmes and were

unable to commit to facilitating a Focus Group Interview. The focus groups were held in the area or offices of the Youth Service Providers as this was familiar to the young people.

Youth Questionnaire Participation

Of the 32 youth questionnaires filled out; 17 were done in the presence of the researcher and handed in straight away while the other 15 which were distributed through managers/volunteers/leaders were all successfully collected.

Youth Service Provider Questionnaire Participation

Of the 53 Youth Service Provider Questionnaires requested, 50 were returned. These were delivered to, posted or emailed to each person. This high level of participation illustrates the level of supporting young people and the provision of facilities and services. The non-participatory figure of 3 is not relative to the amount of initial contact made, but rather to the number of individuals or groups that initially agreed to take part and for varying reasons did not complete the questionnaire.

Listening Survey Participation

110 young people were approached in various public areas in Waterford city. The very nature of the listening survey would presume a lower participation rate compared to the other data sources. The voluntary and semi-structured approach of spontaneously surveying young people meant that the non-participation rate was 40 of 110.

8. Key Findings and Issues Arising

Arising from the process of information gathering and consultation, a wealth of information revealed a range of needs, trends, gaps in services and other issues which the resultant Youth Strategy seeks to address. Overall, there was a general sense of satisfaction with current provision in the Waterford City area among young people, volunteers, staff and managers of youth services. However, there are a number of key issues which were identified which need to be addressed to ensure the development and delivery of appropriate quality services to young people in Waterford City. While there were many common and overlapping issues highlighted by all respondents, every effort has been made to avoid over repetition in the following thematic categorisation of issues raised.

Youth Workers and Volunteers

- ♣ Promotion and recruitment of new volunteers
- ♣ Retention, training and supports
- ♣ Strengthen local partnership amongst groups/ projects
- ♣ Develop innovative programming
- ♣ Develop closer information sharing with other groups
- ♣ Promote in-service best practice
- ♣ Develop and expand centres of excellence for young people
- ♣ Broaden cultural education and training to support non-Irish youth

Services and Facilities

- ♣ Develop facilities focused on older teenagers (youth cafes) with later opening hours
- ♣ Services that are easily accessible and in some cases not obviously youth facilities
- ♣ The need for the wider 'selling' and promotion of services and facilities
- ♣ Improved / expanded outdoor facilities
- ♣ Develop mental health services
- ♣ Improve physical standards of some facilities

Representation

- ♣ Promote better inter-agency and group communication
- ♣ Promote wider co-operation between service providers and facilities

Youth Participation

- ♣ Age appropriate activities
- ♣ Meaningful programming
- ♣ Promote youth involvement
- ♣ Develop youth cafe facilities
- ♣ Strengthen supports for special projects
- ♣ Renewed awareness of disability issues
- ♣ Non-Irish integration
- ♣ More accessible modes of information
- ♣ Physical and mental health issues

Information

- ♣ Develop local youth information website
- ♣ Accessible service and facility information for non-Irish young people and their parents. Accessible also to those with intellectual and or physical disability
- ♣ Accessible service and facility information for those with intellectual and or physical disability
- ♣ Improved 'targeted' information for hard to reach groups
- ♣ Need for parental awareness of available youth services

Summary Overview

- ♣ To improve the physical standards of facilities for young people. This will require a detailed audit of existing premises and a projection of future needs.
- ♣ To ensure that facilities for older teenagers are needs appropriate and time relevant.
- ♣ To ensure provision and funding is sustainable and relative to the level and nature of need in each area.
- ♣ To improve structures to ensure that young people are involved and consulted in the planning, delivery and the ongoing development of services and facilities.
- ♣ To improve the information systems to support the planning, development, delivery and monitoring of services.
- ♣ To ensure that these information systems are aimed at young people via increased and creative use of new technologies to be adopted for information exchange, sharing and inclusion.
- ♣ To provide services that are relevant, challenging, developmental and appropriate to young people, particularly young people at risk.
- ♣ To revise and ensure that structures relating to all aspects of services and facilities are clear, communicated to and understood by all stakeholders.
- ♣ To make voluntary participation more attractive and sustainable; focused on recruitment, training and retention.
- ♣ To further develop and promote mechanisms of internal competencies, quality assurances, and transparent accountability across all providers of services and facilities.

9. Youth Strategy 2009-2012

Theme	Objective	Action	Lead Agency	Partners	Time Frame
Volunteers	To promote best practice in supporting volunteers.	Deliver local and city wide training and support programmes for volunteers.	WVYC	WYC WAP	
		Promote volunteerism in neighbourhood and city wide recruitment programmes on an ongoing basis.	WVYC	WAP WYC	
Youth Workers	To promote quality recruitment, training, retention and supports for youth project workers to up skill them as appropriate.		WYC	Youth projects	
	To ensure best practice in the delivery of services to young people.	To continue the work of implementing the WVYC Training Plan through the Waterford Youth Training Fund.	WVYC	WAP WYC	
	Ensure ongoing monitoring, evaluation and promotion of best practice among youth projects.	To raise awareness of the developing role of the Youth Work Assessor Unit and to facilitate where appropriate.	WYC		
	To periodically review youth services from a youth services receipt perspective.	To build on the model developed by Community Consultants in their report 'Waterford Youth Service Provision: Users' Perspective'.	WCDB	WYC	
Services & Facilities	Strengthen local level partnerships and links with statutory and voluntary bodies.	Fully implement the requirements of the Youth Work Act 2001 regarding the establishment of the Waterford Youth Committee.	WYC		
	To promote innovative programming with young people and deliver quality educational, cultural, social and sports programmes.	Continue to support youth service providers to deliver innovative programmes through provision of funding, training and development opportunities etc.,	WYC		
		To continue to foster and promote the partnership approach between the local statutory agencies and the voluntary bodies.	WYC	WAP	
	Ensure facilities are age appropriate and responsive to the actual needs of young people taking into account their cultural needs and identity.	To identify age appropriate activities and facilities locally and promote awareness of these.	WYC		

Theme	Objective	Action	Lead Agency	Partners	Time Frame
	To ensure that buildings are up to a standard that meets all legislative requirements regarding health and safety.	To support the youth organisations to meet these requirements.	WYC		
	To continue to support the implementation of the LDSIP through the Community Based Youth Initiative measures of WAP.	To maintain and enhance links with the CBYI Co-ordinator.	WAP		
Youth Participation	To promote and foster multi cultural and diversity in all youth service provision and ensure that these groups are empowered to participate.	Raise awareness of physically accessible youth facilities through the online database of facilities being produced by Waterford City Council.	WCC		
	Promote the integration of young people from new communities in existing service provision.	Promote multi cultural awareness and diversity in all youth service provision and ensure training is available if required.	MS ISU		
		Support the implementation of the Mount Sion ISU Youth Plan.	MS ISU	WAP WYC	
	To further develop structures which allow young people to actively participate in the decision making process on issues that affect them.	Support the full implementation of the Waterford Youth Committee structures in line with the requirements of the Youth Work Act 2001.	WYC	WVYC	
		To continue to support and promote structures which represent youth and on which youth are represented e.g. WVYC and Voice of the Young.	WCDB	WVYC Voice of the Young	
		To continue to host an annual youth conference.	WCDB	WVYC Voice of the Young WYC WAP	
		Build the capacity of young people to participate on relevant structures.	WCDB	WVYC Voice of the Young WYC WAP	
Develop opportunities for young people to participate in decision making processes.	WCDB	WVYC Voice of the Young WYC WAP			

Theme	Objective	Action	Lead Agency	Partners	Time Frame
	To support the implementation of the recommendations relating to youth mental health contained in the Waterford City Suicide Prevention Action Plan.	To ensure that one person within each youth and community group has completed the ASIST training programme			
		To focus attention upon the absence of crisis intervention services for young people			
		Liaise with the DES re the formulation of an SPHE module in bereavement and grief		DES	
Representation	To promote and foster partnership and co-operation across all youth service providers and statutory service providers.	To continue to promote youth service and statutory representation across all formal and informal structures locally.	WYC		
Information	To ensure clear, accessible, accountable and transparent avenues of funding and allocation.	Disseminate information regarding funding streams, opportunities and funding criteria and provide assistance where appropriate in sourcing funding.	WYC WAP	All local funding structures	
		To adopt innovative mechanisms of communication most likely to reach young people and which are accessible to all young people including new communities and people with disabilities.	To promote youth services and facilities which are available in the City.	WYC	
	To adopt innovative mechanisms of communication most likely to reach young people and which are accessible to all young people including new communities and people with disabilities.	Develop a dedicated Waterford City youth website which is youth friendly.	WVYC	Voice of the Young	
		Promote the adoption of innovative methods of communication with young people to reach the widest possible audience.	WVYC		

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