

## Local Authority Networks

Each local authority has a community team of staff. Within this staff complement it will have a staff member whose responsibility is Age Friendly and another whose responsibility is for Healthy Ireland.

Note the Age Friendly budget for each local authority is a local discretionary budget and often quite limited and this supports delivery of the County Age Friendly Strategy. Healthy Ireland funding is ringfenced until the end of 2025 against specific thematic areas.

Within Age Friendly each local authority has an Age Friendly Alliance, which is an interagency alliance whose focus is on positive ageing in that county. Each Alliance works on actions identified in an Age Friendly Strategy or Age Friendly Plan across thematic areas collectively or individually addressing areas of relevance to older adults.

Each county has an Older Peoples Council (OPC). The older people's council is made of people, over the age of 55+ who are interested in Age Friendly.

Each county then has an Older Peoples Council Executive, comprised of ~ 15 people from the Older Peoples Council. There is an elected Chairperson and a working executive. The Chair of the Older Peoples Council sits on the Age Friendly Alliance with at least 1 other OPC Executive member.

The Age Friendly Programme staff from the local authority support the Alliance, Older Peoples Council and Executive.

More information on structures and your local councils contacts are on <https://agefriendlyireland.ie/>

In recent years Age Friendly introduced Age Friendly Healthy Homes Coordinators. The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme aims to support older people to live in their own home with dignity and independence, for as long as possible. Each local authority area has at least 1 staff fulfilling this role. The staff member can call to your house to meet you based on a self-referral or referral from a Public Health Nurse or other agency with your consent. For more information on Healthy Homes and for your local officer contact the National Office at 046 9248899 [Age Friendly Healthy Homes](#)

### Local Fire Service

Your County Fire Service conducts Fire Safety Week and other community engagement practices. To contact your local Fire Service community engagement team or arrange a talk to your community group please get in touch with your local authority.

### Local Sports Partnerships

Local Sports Partnerships undertake a wide range of actions and methods with the aim of increasing participation rates in their local communities. These actions

include: Promoting a sustainable local sporting infrastructure through support for clubs, coaches and volunteers.

Local Sports Partnerships run programmes, events, training for older adults.

<https://www.sportireland.ie/participation/lsp-contact-finder>

### **Local Enterprise Office**

Each Local Authority has a local enterprise office that provide support for small business <https://www.localenterprise.ie/>

### **Local Arts Office**

Each local authority has an Arts Officer who supports arts and culture programmes in each county. The Arts Office is pivotal in the Bealtaine Programme <https://localarts.ie/>

### **Local Heritage Office**

Local Authority Heritage Officers play a key role in promoting heritage awareness, developing policy and providing advice and information on local as well as national heritage issues

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/our-work-with-others/county-heritage-officers>

### **Local Climate Action Team**

Each local authority has a climate action officer and community engagement officer. Each local authority has formed climate action teams and governance structures to ensure the plans have the teams and structures in place to deliver the actions [Climate Action](#)

### **Local Library**

Your local library provides an invaluable local resource not just for traditional books lending but for the space it provides for community engagement, community programmes, healthy living, digital supports, magic tables, craft groups, yoga, music and a host of activities <https://www.librariesireland.ie/>

### **Creative Ireland**

In 2024 each local authority has appointed a Creative Ireland engagement officer. <https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-communities/>

### **Healthy Ireland Local Government**

The Healthy Ireland Local Government team operates across the 31 Local Authorities. The team consists of 31 Healthy Ireland City and County Co-ordinators employed to develop, co-ordinate and implement local wellbeing initiatives and 19 Sláintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officers whose goal is to address health inequalities in 19 designated areas of disadvantage <https://hilocalgov.ie/>

## **Local Community Safety Partnerships (new launching in 2024 in each local authority)**

Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) aim to combat anti-social behaviour by creating a tailored local community safety plan with input from the local community and public services. LCSPs aim to engage with the community to prioritise issues raised by its members as security concerns. They act as a forum to create dialogue between community representatives and agencies such as An Garda Síochána. They aim to grow local leadership and participation, strengthen trust between the community and service providers and identify specific areas where community safety work can be supported.

[Pilot Local Community Safety Partnerships](#)

**Local Authority Biodiversity Officers** work at city and county level collecting data on biodiversity, carrying out conservation projects, developing policy, providing advice and information and raising awareness.

[Biodiversity Officer Programme](#)

## **Local Community Development Committee**

LCDCs draw on the expertise and experience of public and private people and organisations in each local authority area. The LCDC have oversight of grants in some counties like LEADER Grants, Community Enhancement Grants and policy like the Local Economic and Community Plan

[Local Community Development Committee \(LCDC\)](#)

[Local Economic and Community Plans](#)

**Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs)**, funded by DCEDIY, to be located in each local authority. The role of the teams is to provide ongoing integration supports to International Protection applicants, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, and Programme Refugees and to better help them engage with existing local services.

Some local authorities will also have Migrant Integration Forums give a voice to migrant communities working towards achieving social inclusion, integration and participation in the local authority's decision-making process.

## **Some good contacts external to the Local Authority**

### **Public Participation Networks**

Each local authority area also has a Public Participation Network – this is the forum where the local authority and sector link with the PPN so that they can engage with the community and voluntary sector in the county. The PPN provide information to the community and voluntary sector, such as information on events, grants, and where the local authority seeks representation for various boards, committees and nominees.

[PPN Networks](#)

### **Local Volunteer Centres**

Volunteer Centres are at the hearts of communities across Ireland working to support, promote and celebrate volunteering. They help people who want to volunteer find suitable roles; and help organisations in need of volunteers to find suitable people to fill those roles. They provide support and advice to both volunteers and organisations; deliver training; process Garda vetting and run a range of other projects dedicated to facilitating and enhancing volunteering locally. <https://www.volunteer.ie/your-local-volunteer-centre/>

### **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028 provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. Contact list for your counties SICAP provider: [SICAP Providers](#)

### **LEADER Programme 2023-2027**

The LEADER programme accepts applications based on projects which improve: rural tourism, enterprise development, broadband, basic services targeted at hard-to-reach communities, rural youth, protection and sustainable use of water resources, local biodiversity, renewable energy. Contacts for your county [LEADER 2023-2027](#)

### **Local ETB's Community Education**

Community education refers to adult education and learning, generally outside the formal education sector, which aims to enhance learning, empower people and contribute to society. It promotes personalised learning and flexibility within the learning group. Participants are involved as equal partners in identifying needs, designing and implementing programmes, and adapting them on an ongoing basis.

<https://www.etbi.ie/etbs/directory-of-etbs/>

## Family Resource Centres

A central feature of the FRC programme is the involvement of local people in identifying needs and developing needs-led responses. FRCs are participative and empowering organisations that support families while building the capacity and leadership of local communities. <https://www.familyresource.ie/>

*Note there are also Community Resource Centres nationally, but they don't have a collective website. They have the same ethos as family resource centres, but offer different services and funding models.*

## Citizens Information

Provides comprehensive information on public services and on the entitlements of citizens in Ireland <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/>

## Local Link

TFI Local Link bus services connect communities throughout rural Ireland as part of the TFI Public Transport Network. They form a network of affordable bus services for everyone who wants to travel to or from local towns and villages. TFI Local Link operate two different types of services: **Regular Rural Bus Services** and **Door-to-Door Bus Services**. <https://www.transportforireland.ie/tfi-local-link/>

## Other resources

**Active link** provides weekly newsletters with vacancies, tenders, training, grants, job vacancies within the community and voluntary sector, you can sign up for free to receive this information <https://www.activelink.ie/>

The Wheel is Ireland's national association of charities, community groups and social enterprises. Provides email with content on the Community and Voluntary Sector, very strong on governance and supports <https://www.wheel.ie/about-us>