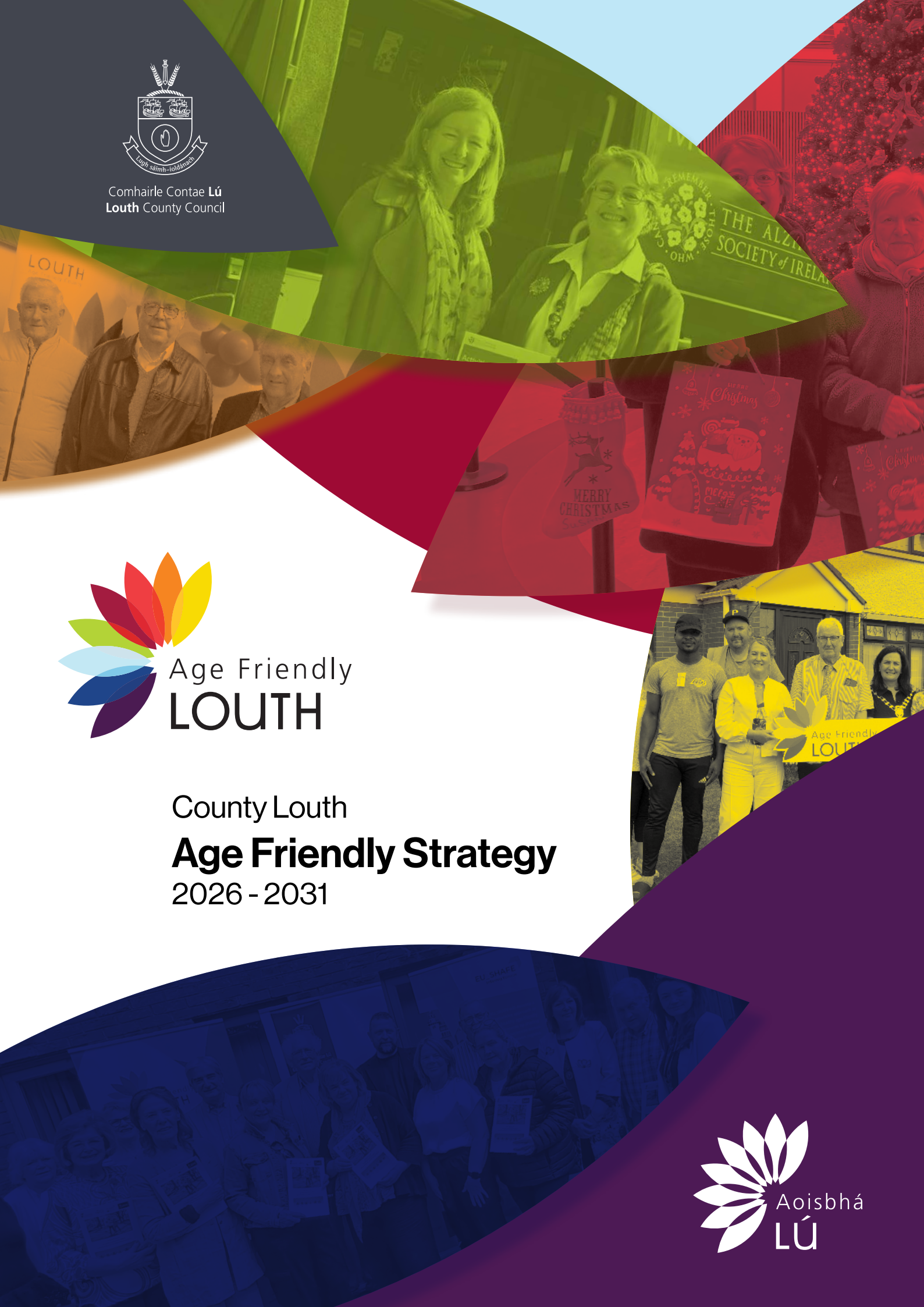




Comhairle Contae Lú  
Louth County Council



Age Friendly  
**LOUTH**

County Louth

# Age Friendly Strategy

2026 - 2031



Aoisbhá  
**LÚ**



Louth is a place where ageing is valued, life experience is celebrated, and the resources of society are designated to support the wellbeing and quality of life for people of all ages.

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**Sean Kelly**  
Cathaoirleach of  
Louth County  
Council

# Foreword

As Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council it is my great pleasure to present The Louth Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2031.

Louth's Age Friendly Programme holds a significant position as Ireland's pioneering Age Friendly Initiative first established in County Louth in 2008.

Louth has since led the way in many initiatives across the Age Friendly sector and developed many new responses. We have worked well with our communities on innovative response at local level. This experience provides a solid foundation to maintain our position of being a national leader in adopting and implementing Age Friendly principles and policies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Louth Older People's Council (OPC) and the Louth Age Friendly Alliance whose members have actively engaged in both the Review Process and the development of a new Louth Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2031.

Contributors gave of their time and their expertise, participating in workshops, surveys, face to face interviews, and focus groups. Sincere thanks also to all older people in County Louth who attended public events, completed the survey and who took part in public consultations across the county. We are grateful to you all for giving of your time and experiences.

The goals and actions outlined in this strategy reinforces the idea that an age friendly community benefits everybody from the young through to our older people. Age Friendly environments enable people to stay active, connected and able to contribute to the economic, social, and cultural life in their community.

This Age Friendly Strategy needs to cater for the needs of a very diverse and ever changing population in County Louth. As our population of older people continues to increase this Strategy is an opportunity to plan and deliver an Age Friendly County improving the quality of life for current and future generations to come.

Sean Kelly  
Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council



As Chief Executive of Louth County Council, and as a member of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance, I am delighted to present the new Louth Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2031. This strategy sets out a clear and ambitious vision: **“One where our county is a place where ageing is valued, life experience is celebrated, and the resources of society are designated to support wellbeing and quality of life for people of all ages.”**

Building on the strong foundations of our previous Age Friendly strategies, this new strategy aligns with relevant international, national and local policy frameworks. It aims to create an inclusive, sustainable, supportive community in County Louth, so that older people can remain effective, active and engaged for the future.

The strategy also builds on the existing strong collaboration between Louth County Council and the Louth Age Friendly Alliance, and its successful implementation will be dependent on strong collaboration across communities, agencies and sectors. A renewed emphasis has been placed on Age Friendly innovation and creativity. The strategy builds on existing projects and innovative initiatives that have promoted positive ageing in County Louth and challenged stereotypes around ageing, like the award-winning Ardee Garden Care & Repair Project.

It also promotes increased intergenerational support and cohesion in terms of social, environmental and economic development, whilst aligning with other elements of Louth’s economic and community planning. This holistic approach will help us create Age Friendly environments and communities that are available and accessible to all.

The development of this strategy would not have been possible without the commitment of many individuals and groups, including members of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance, members of the Louth Older People’s Council, Urban Mode Consultants and staff from Louth County Council’s Community section.

I extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved in shaping this ambitious strategy, and I look forward to working with all of you as we implement its actions over the coming years and continue to make County Louth an exceptional place in which to grow older.

David Conway

Chief Executive of Louth County Council



**David Conway**  
Chief Executive of  
Louth County Council

Back in 2006, Dundalk was one of 33 cities around the world that participated in the World Health Organisation's first global Age Friendly City research study. While the results of that study drove the development of the WHO's Guide and its global network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities, here in County Louth it ignited a rich vein of innovative and collaborative activity that propagated to a remarkable level, and where today, Ireland's national Age Friendly Programme is now an envied model of Age Friendly practice worldwide.

In those early days, several key principles were established, and it's wonderful to witness that they have held the test of time, and continue to underpin the development of this latest iteration of Louth's Age Friendly Strategy for the period from 2025 to 2030. At core, our strategies have been about deep collaboration between partners and agencies; empowered participation bringing the voices of older people to the heart of our decision-making and actions; and a holistic social, environmental and economic perspective that is guided by the WHO's framework. This ensures that we see, and address, the interwoven connections between housing, the public realm, transport and mobility, social and civic participation, social inclusion and ageism, emerging AI-based information and communication services, and the reach and quality of our community and health services.

Based upon these strong foundations, this new ambitious strategy will anchor some of the key capabilities that can strengthen both our resilience and sustainability, as we face a future full of potential and possibility, yet also uncertainty and hazard. Informed by a strong and informed evidence base and with wide consultation, this new strategy will create the space for increased Age Friendly innovation and creativity; it will challenge ageist stereotypes to liberate greater diversity and inclusion, it will promote and foster greater inter-generational co-operation and cohesion, and it will reinforce the social, environmental and ecological quality of our places while improving the energy performance and accessibility of our homes. But most importantly, this strategy is tightly aligned with other strands of Louth's economic and community planning so that it is integrated, coherent, and can be delivered effectively and efficiently.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for giving so generously of their time, effort, energy and creativity to bring forward this strategy, for driving its ambition, and for calibrating its achievability. We've set a powerful vision of a county where age is valued, experience is celebrated, and resources are channelled to support the wellbeing and quality of life for people of all ages. I'm confident that this strategy sets out a comprehensive roadmap to help us on our forward journey.

Rodd Bond,  
Chairperson of Louth Age Friendly Alliance



**Rodd Bond**  
Chairperson of  
Louth Age Friendly  
Alliance

As Chairperson of the Louth Older People's Council, I am delighted to present our new strategy that continues to place the voices of older people at its very heart.

This strategy reflects the ideas, interests, concerns, and aspirations of older adults right across County Louth gathered through surveys, conversations, and community events.

Over the past number of years our Older People's Council has worked hard to ensure that the lived experience of older people informs decisions that affect us all.

We have seen ongoing progress throughout County Louth as the Age Friendly programme is further embedded in our communities. We welcome additional Age Friendly parking spaces, Age Friendly housing developments improved Age Friendly public spaces, community services to address social isolation, new services to address concerns around safety and security and creative initiatives that bring people together.

Whilst we welcome these services and initiatives we also know there is lots more to do. We are a growing, ageing population, and we face ongoing challenges in terms of housing, health and transport in our county.

The Louth Older People's Council is committed to working with everyone to find solutions to these challenges.

On behalf of the Louth Older People's Council, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the Age Friendly programme in County Louth and look forward to working with all communities, agencies and stakeholders to deliver the Louth Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2031.

Joe Grogan,  
Chairperson of the Louth Older People's Council



**Joe Grogan**  
Chairperson of  
the Louth Older  
People's Council





## CHAPTER 1

# Introduction and Background

The County Louth Age Friendly Strategy 2026-2031 was developed by the Louth Age Friendly Alliance.

The strategy contains a number of policies and actions that will further enhance Louth as one of Ireland's foremost age friendly places to live, work and visit. It is part of a national Age Friendly Framework and builds on a well-established County Age Friendly Programme.

## 1 The Age Friendly Ireland Programme

The Age Friendly Ireland Programme has been in operation in Ireland since 2008. The National Age Friendly Programme is dedicated to preparing Ireland's infrastructure and services for an ageing population. Its core aim is to make communities more Age Friendly by addressing various environmental, economic, and social factors that impact older adults. The programme provides the structure for bringing relevant agencies together so that they can collaborate and work in partnership to best use their resources to improve the lives of older people. It is committed to ensuring that older people actively participate in decision-making processes.

This national programme is affiliated with, and aligns with, the World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities, with a focus on **eight key themes/ domains**:

- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Social Participation
- Communication and Information
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Community Support and Health Services

Age Friendly Ireland operates as a shared service of local government, hosted by Meath County Council, managing the national programme. The programme is implemented through 31 Age Friendly Programmes located within the relevant local authorities, supported by this shared service.

## Louth Age Friendly Programme Manager

The Age Friendly Programme is led by the Age Friendly Programme Manager. The Age Friendly Programme Manager plays a fundamental role in the implementation of the Age Friendly Programme in their local authority area. They work with their local Age Friendly Alliance to develop and implement an Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plans.

The Programme Manager adopts initiatives that respond to priorities raised at local level and supports the scaling up and replication of good practices across all participating Age Friendly programme areas. They support the local Older People's Council and are the primary contact for same. Across the network of 31 Age Friendly Programmes a strong cohesive network has developed underpinned by the role and functions of the Programme Managers. This network ensures that there is consistency in application and critical success factors are preserved in implementation.

## Age Friendly Technical Advisor

Each local authority has an assigned staff member as the local authority Age Friendly Technical Advisor. They provide specialist advice to the authority itself, to private sector organisations interested in providing age friendly housing and to the general public.

A key principle underpinning the Government housing policy is to support older people to live in their own home with dignity and independence for as long as possible. The aim is to ensure that older people will have greater choice by developing a range of housing options that are suited to their needs, so they can plan ahead and, insofar as possible, choose the right home for themselves.

*The role of the Age Friendly Technical Advisor is to:*

- Act as the key point of contact for matters relating to age friendly housing technical queries specifically around designing for life and universal design principles
- Respond to and progress referrals and queries from a range of sectors including in house staff (particularly across Planning & Housing), external stakeholders & agencies, private sector developers, Approved Housing Bodies and individuals
- Provide clients with information on key contacts within their local authority who can discuss issues and solutions around age friendly housing and public realm works
- Refer to models of good/best practice in other areas and sharing technical plans and development specification
- Provide contacts, as appropriate, of people outside the local authority who might be able to provide technical guidance and assistance particularly in relation to universal design principles and crime prevention through environmental design principles

## Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme and Coordinator

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. The programme's ambition is to enable everyone to live longer healthier lives by keeping care close to home and expanding the range of health and social care services in the community. It is about providing a range of alternatives for older people who may otherwise transition into long term residential care prematurely.

The programme is led by a Local Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator in all local authorities. Each Local Coordinator will case manage a support package for each person referred, linking the supports from the variety of public, voluntary, private and community agencies in the area.

The purpose of this referral is to identify an older person who could benefit from some extra help and support in order to continue living in their own home. The Local Coordinator will carry out a home-based assessment and, in partnership with the older person, will identify and design a range of supports to enable the older person to continue living independently. This will not affect any current home help, medical card, pension, or other services being received.

*These supports include but are not limited to:*

- Housing – adaptations, rightsizing, minor modifications, home sharing, decluttering etc.
- Medical/Health – GP Visits, illness specific supports, transport to hospital appointments, home help etc.
- Technology – Digital Training, connectivity supports, personal alarms, panic buttons, assistive technology etc.
- Climate/Energy – energy retrofits, grant information, BER Assessments, home heating advice etc.
- Financial – Bills advice, carer supports, pensions, LPT etc.
- Community – Meals on Wheels, Social Activities, Befriending, Community Groups, Libraries, Physical Activity etc

## 2 County Louth Age Friendly Programme

The County Louth Age Friendly Programme fosters a multi-agency approach to age-related planning and service provision. The programme aim is to ensure Louth is an Age Friendly county. This is done by implementing practical actions aimed at improving the quality of life of older people. These improvements will have a positive impact on society in general. Key to this are two crucial structures at county level: the Louth Age Friendly Alliance (AFA) and the Louth Older People's Council (OPC).



## Louth Age Friendly Alliance

The Louth Age Friendly Alliance is a high-level interagency structure bringing together service delivery agencies and representatives from the Louth Older People's Council. Its mandate includes developing and overseeing the implementation of the Age Friendly Strategy for County Louth, which contains an agreed set of actions derived from identified key priority areas. Members include Louth County Council, HSE, Local Link Transport, Healthy Louth, An Garda Síochána, ALONE, Louth Meath Education Training Board, SEAI, Dundalk Institute of Technology and Louth Local Development Company.

## Louth Older People's Council

The County Louth Older People's Council serves as the representative structure for older people in the county, bringing the voice of older people to decision-making processes by representation on relevant committees, and contributions to programmes aimed at improving their lives.

The County Louth Age Friendly Programme is a part of Louth County Council and is led by the Louth Age Friendly Programme Manager. The Manager oversees the implementation of the Age Friendly Strategy and provides services and supports to the Louth Age Friendly Alliance and the Louth Older Person's Council.

Louth's Age Friendly Programme holds a significant historical position as Ireland's pioneering Age Friendly initiative, first established in County Louth in 2008. Its innovative model has since been adopted across all 31 local authorities in the country. County Louth's programme is not only historic but remains deeply innovative, leveraging lived wisdom, creative solutions, and proactive policy-building. Its focus on intergenerational actions, combating ageism, embedding Positive Ageing in everyday culture, and influencing local planning establishes it as a national leader in Age Friendly community design. This innovation and leadership are crucial for the future of the Age Friendly Programme in County Louth.

## CHAPTER 2

# Context

The development of this strategy takes place within the context of a strong commitment to meeting the needs of a growing older population in Ireland. It also takes place in a post-COVID society within an environment of increased instability. A strong and robust Age Friendly Strategy is necessary, as an agreed way forward for the Age Friendly Programme in county Louth.

*To achieve this a three-step approach is being taken*

- establish the policy context,
- develop a socio-economic profile,
- consult with the key stakeholders and the citizens of the county.

This **three-pronged approach** gives a legitimacy and strength to the strategy and the actions contained within the strategy.

## 1 Policy Context

The development of the Age Friendly Strategy for County Louth is deeply embedded within a comprehensive framework of national and local plans and strategies, ensuring its alignment with broader objectives and facilitating collaborative implementation. Reviewing these plans, shows that future planning is key to identifying, resourcing and implementing priority actions based on the current and future needs of older people. Therefore a thorough literature review has informed this strategy, drawing from diverse sources including national frameworks, local development plans, and specific strategies covering areas such as housing, transport, health and well-being, and community engagement. This demonstrates the inherent complexity in crafting an effective Age Friendly strategy for County Louth.





*Key strategies that provide context and support include:*

### **National Positive Ageing Strategy**

This strategy advocates for a holistic, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to ageing well, covering policy changes in health, housing, employment, and social inclusion. It particularly emphasises combating ageism, which is a key priority for County Louth’s Age Friendly Programme.

### **National Planning Framework and National Development Plan First Revision April 2025 (Project Ireland 2040)**

This framework highlights the significant increase in the ageing population in Ireland and prioritises supporting independent living and creating Age Friendly communities.

### **Other Supporting National Strategies**

These include the Healthy Ireland Framework, Housing for All, Housing Options for Ireland’s Ageing Population, the National Transport Authority’s Strategy 2023-2025, Sláintecare Implementation Strategy, National Dementia Strategy, National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027.

### **Louth Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029**

This plan addresses economic and social development in County Louth, focusing on sustainability, inclusion, and age-friendliness. Key aspects include increasing housing options for older people, improving accessibility, supporting health and wellbeing, and community engagement, and specifically developing a new Age Friendly Strategy for County Louth.

### **Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027**

This plan supports age friendly initiatives by promoting housing near amenities and services, advocating for adaptable and accessible housing, and supporting universal design principles.

## Other Local Strategies

Other local strategies that can bolster the Age Friendly Strategy include the Louth Library Service Development Programme 2020-2025, Louth Arts Development Plan 2022-2026, Louth Climate Action Plan 2024 -2029 and the Louth Local Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2025- 2029.

The expanded literature review is available in **Addendum A** on the Louth County Council website.

## 2 Socio-Economic Profile of Older People's in County Louth

The Louth Older People's Socio-economic Profile is a crucial component of this strategy, providing an in-depth analysis of demographic factors for residents aged 65 and over in County Louth. Utilising data from the Census 2022, the Health Services Executive (HSE), and Pobal's HP Deprivation Index, the profile identifies specific Electoral Divisions (EDs) with high concentrations of older individuals, particularly those facing elevated risks related to social isolation, housing limitations, and healthcare needs.

*Key findings from the profile include:*

### Single Person Households

Approximately a quarter of all people aged 65 and older in Ireland live alone (24.4%). In County Louth, about a third of all older people aged 75 and over live alone (32.9%), with over half of female residents aged 85 and over (52.7%) living alone. Dundalk and Drogheda EDs show resemblance in areas of very/extreme disadvantage and a higher number of single-person households. Older people living alone face increased risks of social isolation and vulnerability during health emergencies.

**Therefore, EDs with an above-average proportion of single-person households and a high proportion of people aged 65 and older statistically have greater needs for support of older people.** Interventions should focus on reducing social isolation and providing robust support systems.





**1/3 of new housing** in County Louth was built in the last **25 years**



**Only 10%** of homes are **local authority-owned for subsidised rent**



Close to **50%** are rented in several urban EDs



**15%** privately rented, increasing the risk of market-based rent increases for older people on fixed incomes

## Housing

About a third of new housing in County Louth was built since 2001 (32.9%). EDs with lower new build output may have more **limited housing options for older people, such as rightsizing or moving to universally designed houses**. Dundalk and Drogheda EDs with higher single-person households also showed less building activity. There is significant variation in rented homes; rural areas have fewer, while close to 50% are rented in several urban EDs. Only 10% of homes are local authority-owned for subsidised rent, with 15% privately rented, increasing the risk of market-based rent increases for older people on fixed incomes. This indicates a **need for actions that address housing affordability and stability for older renters**. Notably, EDs with very or extreme disadvantage also showed much less building activity compared to other EDs in Dundalk and Drogheda.

## Retired Population

The retired population in County Louth is 15.6%, slightly lower than the national figure of 16% (CSO, 2022) EDs with a higher proportion of retirees experience a smaller working population, impacting local retail spend and increasing dependency on public services.

The highest proportions were:

**23.1% Ballymascanlan**

**20.4% Dundalk Urban No 1**


**22.1% Castlebellingham**

**20.3% Fair Gate**

## Disadvantaged Areas

Eight Small Statistical Areas (SSAs) in Louth with 20% or more of the population aged 65+ are classified as “Very” or “Extremely Disadvantaged” using the Pobal Deprivation Index. These areas, including parts of Dundalk No. 2 Urban, Castletown (North), Fair Gate, and West Gate, require specific strategic interventions due to the compounded challenges of age and disadvantage.

8 areas with over  
**20%** People  
over 65

**46.7%**  
People  
over 65  
in Louth  
have a  
disability

## Health Profile

The average proportion of the population aged 65 and older with a disability in County Louth is 46.7%, slightly higher than the State average (45%). EDs with significantly higher proportions, such as Castletown North (57.5%) and Dundalk Urban No 1 (55.1%), will have higher demand for healthcare. The county average for self-reported bad or very bad personal health is 2%. Most of the 18 selected EDs with higher-than-average proportions of self-reported bad health are in urban areas of Dundalk and Drogheda.

## Overall Impact and Strategic Interventions

Considering these factors, certain EDs are identified as areas where older people are more at risk regarding housing and health issues. It is recommended that these specific EDs be considered for pilots of future interventions and innovations aimed at improving the quality of life for older people in Co. Louth:

- **Ballymascanlan** in the Cooley Peninsula Area
- **Dundalk Urban No 1** in the Dundalk Area
- **Castlebellingham** in the Mid-Louth Area
- **Fair Gate** in the Drogheda Area

The Louth Older People Socio-Economic Profile is available in **Addendum B** on the Louth County Council website.



**CHAPTER 3**

# Consultations and Review of the Previous Louth Age Friendly Strategy



## 1 Consultations and workshops with key stakeholders

The third element in the development of this strategy is informed by a comprehensive consultation process that utilised three key methods:

### A. Workshops with Key Stakeholders and Review of Previous Strategy

Workshops were held with the Age Friendly Alliance (AFA) and the Older Person's Council (OPC) to review the previous strategy and discuss the strategic direction of the new strategy. Issues of concern, challenges and opportunities were also discussed. Following the workshops the members of the Age Friendly Alliance and the Older People's Council were invited to input via email any further feedback, to give the opportunity to input in a more detailed way.

The upcoming strategy was also discussed at the Community and Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee of Louth County Council. Feedback has been included in this strategy.

### B. One-to-One Interviews with Key Service Providers

One to one interviews were undertaken with key stakeholders and service deliverers through face-to-face meetings, telephone interviews and online meetings. These meetings identified issues facing the stakeholders, issues facing older people from the stakeholder's perspective and the identification of future challenges and opportunities. This process revealed a deep commitment to improving the lives of older people in the county and to the development and implementation of the new Age Friendly Strategy.

*Key themes and issues identified through this phase of the consultation include:*

- The importance of intergenerational projects
- Continuing the innovation which has been an integral part of the Age Friendly Programme in Louth since its inception

- Building on the collaboration and co-operation that has been a feature of the Age Friendly programme
- Placing resilience at the heart of the strategy, building the capacity of communities and of civil society
- Engaging those older people who are hard to reach and are at risk of marginalisation
- Improving transport options for older people
- Promoting universal design in housing and the public realm
- Addressing digital services exclusion of older people
- Integrating the Sláintecare structure and methodology into existing service provision of care for older people.

Participants highlighted challenges such as communication barriers, insufficient community infrastructure, and the need for more responsive services. Actionable steps proposed during the workshops included mapping services, creative solutions around involving marginalised people, developing clear communication strategies, and securing funding for community hubs and housing retrofits.

The consultation highlighted the importance of inclusivity and collaboration across various sectors to create integrated Age Friendly communities. There was agreement that the strategy must be evidence-based with clear methods for measuring impact, and significant collaboration and resources will be required to deliver tangible outcomes.

### c. Public Survey

A survey was disseminated both online and in hard copy to older people across the county. The responses received provided valuable data on the priorities and challenges facing older people in County Louth and helped to inform the strategy.



## Review of Previous Strategy

Often it is difficult to appreciate the value of policies and strategies and their impact on the quality of lives of people. For this reason, it was important in reviewing the previous strategy to identify its impact on the ground.

*Key achievements identified include:*

### Louth Ageism Awareness Campaign (EU-SHAfE Project)

A comprehensive survey in December 2022 gathered 712 responses, mapping ageism across various domains. Findings led to a submission to the Louth Local Economic & Community Plan 2023–2029, advocating formal action against ageism.





### Challenging Ageism Drama Project (May–Oct 2024)

Supported by Creative Ireland, this project involved over 50 participants in workshops across Drogheda, Ardee, and Dundalk to create a creative arts project addressing stereotypes and celebrating positive ageing. Funded with €15,000 total (€11,000 from Creative Ireland, €4,000 from Age Friendly Louth), the final creative pieces were performed and recorded, with a drama film premiered at the Age Friendly Expo in October 2024 and integrated into an ongoing wider campaign.



### Positive Ageing Expo (Ardee Parish Centre, 2 Oct 2024)

Attended by over 250 older people county-wide during Positive Ageing Week. Opened by Gavin Duffy (Age Friendly Ambassador and former Dragons' Den participant), it featured over 30 exhibitor booths providing services and practitioners in health, finance, technology, and community supports. Topics included combatting ageism, healthy ageing, diet, and staying socially active.



### Creative & Community-Based Projects

Collaboration with An Táin Arts Centre guides drama, film, and other arts-based efforts to challenge ageism and boost social participation among older residents. Community-led workshops in Drogheda (Nov 2024) co-designed projects around intergenerational collaboration, arts activities, and social inclusion, which will be formalised into future programmes.

### Age Friendly Town Model: Ardee & Dundalk

Ardee became the first Age Friendly Town in Ireland in 2010 under this programme. Louth County Council has since replicated key elements in Dundalk's redevelopment, aiming to support older residents through housing, mobility, and accessible amenities.

A list of achievements is available in **Addendum C** on the Louth County Council website.





## *Challenges Identified in the Review*



### **Funding and Resources**

There are many funding schemes available across a wide range of programmes that contribute to the Age Friendly Programme, but there are challenges for some services, including the expansion of rural transport, Meals on Wheels, and community-based services.



### **Interagency Collaboration**

The review revealed strong collaboration among agencies and a strong recognition of the added value that this collaboration results in. One challenge identified is that agencies often “still don’t know enough about each other”, suggesting possibilities for improved linkage between agencies and upgrading of service directories.



### **Climate Change & Sustainability**

The specific impacts of climate change on older people are often underestimated by agencies and there is a need for resilience and contingency planning, e.g., heat island effects in urban areas, increased local flooding risks with more heavy rainfall, and potential breakdown in electricity and other utility services with more intense and frequent storms. The contribution of older people to climate change mitigation measures is acknowledged but must be continued to be supported.



### *Opportunities identified in the Review*

*The challenges also present opportunities for:*

- Building on the established Age Friendly Alliance and Older Persons' Council structures.
- Building on Louth's pioneering and innovative leadership in Age Friendly community design.
- Enhanced interagency collaboration and communication to add value to service delivery.
- Empowering older adults through training, volunteer opportunities, age friendly employment practices and ensuring their representation in decision-making.
- Developing innovative approaches to reach vulnerable and hard-to-reach older adults.
- Conducting targeted campaigns for greater awareness and funding of community services.
- Ensuring access to services, especially for those outside the system.
- Resourcing initiatives such as Sláintecare to ensure that care in the community is a reality for older people, and ensuring optimum physical and mental health.
- Embedding age friendly principles and priorities in relevant plans, strategies and programmes in the county to harness their resources to achieve the aims and objectives of the Age Friendly Strategy for Louth.
- Including the needs and role of older people in climate action and major emergency planning in the county.



## 2 Survey of Older People in Louth

Older people and the wider public were given the opportunity to share their experiences and have their voices heard in the development of the strategy. Between May and July 2025 online and paper questionnaires were made available. The online survey was accessible through Louth County Council consultation hub, and to ensure digital literacy was not an obstacle, paper questionnaires were made available through community groups, agencies, libraries, credit unions and other outlets. Over 80 responses were received and analysed, providing feedback based on the personal experiences of older people in Louth.

*Main issues raised in the feedback include (but is not limited) to:*

### Social Engagement and Barriers to Participation

Regarding social participation, many respondents are involved in a wide variety of groups and activities on a regular basis. The main barrier identified was the lack of information about social events or that the available information does not reach older people.

**Over 80  
Responses  
to Survey  
included:**

*Reasons for Moving House or  
Rightsizing were given as:*

Move to a  
smaller home

Move to independent  
sheltered accommodation

Move closer  
to shops and  
services



## Information Access and Communication

The sources for information most preferred by respondents were named as the radio, family/friends, websites and social media.

## Housing and Home Support

There is a **strong desire to maintain independence at home**, but support and awareness of grants are inconsistent. A considerable number of houses "need work to make it more liveable", however, there are issues with the process, mainly delays in the delivery of the grant.

## Discrimination and Age-Friendliness of Businesses

Examples of experiences with age-related discrimination include "People thinking I can't make a decision or need to help me with things." "Job discrimination promotion etc". Suggestions include more 'age friendly' training for staff and "Don't put virtual barriers to employing older people who are usually bright, capable and experienced"

Regarding the age-friendliness of local businesses, ratings are generally "Good" or "Average", but "Poor" and "Fair" are also reported.



## Health and Wellbeing Services

Awareness of available health services is not universal, and there is a clear demand for certain provisions. Many respondents reported “No” or “Don’t Know” where to contact for health services like Home Care Support, Meals on Wheels, and Day Care Centre Activities.

The results of the Survey of Older People in Louth is available in Addendum D on the Louth County Council website.

## Infrastructure

Regarding access to outdoor spaces and public buildings, ratings for access vary, but “Good” is the most frequent response.

*However, the survey noted specific suggestions for improvement:*





### 3 Conclusion from the consultation and review process

In the wake of COVID-19 and amidst growing global instability, this three pronged process has given a legitimacy to an Age Friendly strategy that will prioritize resilience, inclusion, and equitable access for older adults.

The pandemic revealed both the vulnerability and adaptability of older populations, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen health systems, ensure continuity of care, and invest in community-based support that reduces isolation and enables older people to continue to contribute to society.

Digital inclusion should be a cornerstone of this strategy, enabling older people to access services and reliable information while bridging the digital divide. At the same time, the strategy must foster intergenerational solidarity, safe public spaces, and economic security to mitigate the impacts of crises—whether they stem from health emergencies, conflict, or climate change.

By integrating these findings, we can build a more robust, connected, and supportive environment where older adults can remain active participants in society, even during times of uncertainty.





## CHAPTER 4

# Vision and Values Age Friendly Louth

The shared vision for an Age Friendly county informs the narrative, policies and actions contained in this Strategy, namely:

Louth is a place where ageing is valued, life experience celebrated, and the resources of society are designated to support the wellbeing and quality of life for people of all ages.

The vision is furthermore underpinned by a set of values that are consistent across policies and initiatives in County Louth, namely:



### Citizen Focused

Policies and services are designed to prioritise the needs, wellbeing and rights of citizens.

*For the Louth Age Friendly Programme, this means that policies and services are evidence based and targets the voice of older people in their design, implementation and evaluation.*



### Democratic

Decision-making is participatory, transparent and representative, allowing citizens to have a say in how they are governed.

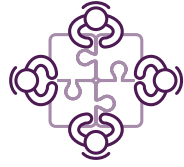
*For the Louth Age Friendly Programme this means the OPC is the recognised representative body of older people represented on various agency structures including the Local Authority, the HSE and the Age Friendly Alliance.*



### Good Governance

Leadership and administration are ethical, accountable and effective in using resources and making decisions.

*For the Louth Age Friendly Programme this means the Age Friendly Alliance and Older People's Council will pay particular attention to good governance and ways of working.*



### Inclusivity and Equality

Ensuring everyone, regardless of background or circumstance has access to rights, opportunities and participation in processes that affect their lives and livelihood.

*For the Louth Age Friendly Programme this involves targeting resources in geographical areas identified in the socio-economic profile, and developing a separate plan for the engagement of vulnerable, hard-to-reach older people, having regard to the Public Sector Duty.*



### Innovation

In Louth we champion innovation, adapt to change and are committed to continuous improvement.

*For the Louth Age Friendly Programme this means recognition nationally as an innovative leader in creating age friendly places and services. This can be continued with a number of flagship projects carried out in a sequential way i.e. a process of planning, piloting, evaluating, planning again and replicating or mainstreaming.*



### Sustainability

Louth will strive to meet our present needs **without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs**. Specifically we will aim for:

- **Environmental sustainability** – protecting ecosystems, reducing pollution, conserving natural resources, and maintaining biodiversity.
- **Economic sustainability** – using resources efficiently, supporting long-term economic health, and avoiding practices that cause future financial harm.
- **Social sustainability** – ensuring fairness, equity, and well-being for all people, now and in the future.

*For the Louth Age Friendly programme this means creating inclusive, sustainable, supportive communities for older people that remain effective and efficient for future generations.*

## CHAPTER 5

# Public Sector Duty Statement

This statement sets out how County Louth Age Friendly Alliance will fulfil their obligations under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, as provided for in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014.

Through the implementation of the County Louth Age Friendly Strategy, the public sector partners commit to eliminating discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity, and protecting the human rights of all older persons across the county.

## Scope

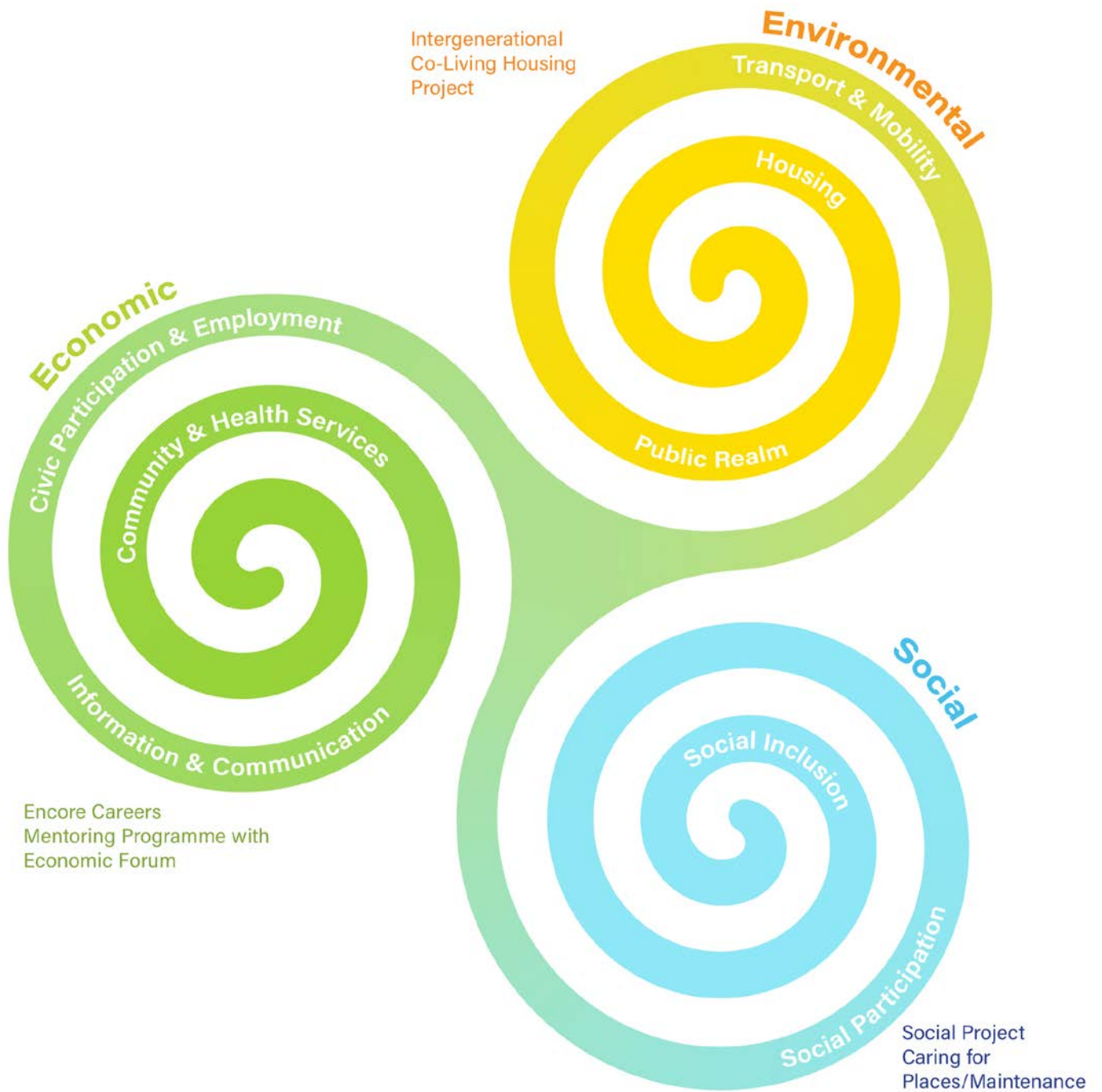
This duty applies to all services, policies, and activities of the members of the Age Friendly Alliance that impact the lives of older people.

*It covers (but is not limited to):*

- Outdoor Space & Buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Respect & Social Inclusion
- Social Participation
- Communication and Information
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Community Support and Health Services

Intrinsic to this is a commitment to actively involve older people through the Louth Older People's Council, the Public Participation Network, public consultation processes, and direct engagement in decision-making. The Age Friendly Alliance will ensure all engagement is physically, cognitively, and digitally accessible.

We commit to **Eliminate Discrimination, Promote Equality of Opportunity, and Protect the Human Rights of All Older Persons** across the county.



**CHAPTER 6**

# Louth Age Friendly County Themes

The Strategy is based on the **eight themes** of the World Health Organisation, namely:

- 
- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
  - Transportation
  - Housing
  - Respect and Social Inclusion
  - Social Participation
  - Communication and Information
  - Civic Participation and Employment
  - Community Support and Health Services

# 1 Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

**GOAL**

To provide for safe, accessible and clean public spaces and buildings in County Louth.

**DESCRIPTION**

Focus on safe, accessible, and clean public spaces, and Age Friendly buildings with ramps, elevators, seating, and good lighting.

Public spaces are generally owned by the community or local authority and are open for general public access and use, while private spaces are owned by individuals, groups, or corporations and are restricted to authorized use only.

**COMPLIANCE WITH UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AGE FRIENDLY CRITERIA FOR OUTDOOR SPACES AND BUILDINGS**

- Accessibility
- Comfortable and Safe Seating
- Good Lighting
- Clear and Accessible Pathways
- Safety and Security
- Access to Green Spaces and Amenities
- Well-Maintained Public Facilities

**SUPPORTING STRATEGIES**

- WHO Age Friendly Cities Framework,
- Town Centre First Policy,
- Our Rural Future schemes (Town & Village, CLAR, RRDF),
- Louth Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) 2024 - 2029,
- Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027,
- Louth PEACEPLUS Programme,
- The National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025 – 2030
- National Disability Authority Strategic Plan 2025 - 2027

### LOUTH LECP ASSOCIATED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **LECP Goal 3:** Louth will foster healthy, inclusive, diverse, creative and resilient neighbourhoods
- **LECP Objective 3.2:** Increase physical accessibility to all within Louth's towns and villages and rural communities

### KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The major challenge in the county is to improve accessibility and mobility in built environments including buildings, footpaths and transport infrastructure.

*In focusing on this challenge, many opportunities could be pursued, including:*

- Identification of more areas moving towards Age Friendly Town standards (as piloted in Ardee) to ensure real impact.
- The emphasis on using Universal Design in built environment developments.
- Placemaking initiatives in programmes such as Town Centre First, Town and Village Renewal, Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF), Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF), CLÁR schemes (Department of Rural & Community Development, DRCD) are Age Friendly and include older people in the co-design of these projects.
- The increased walkability of towns and villages and improvements to the public realm including Age Friendly seating where appropriate.
- Improved disability access to public and community buildings, including 'changing places' facilities.
- Crime prevention measures in the design of public spaces.
- More capacity building in community to initiate and support placemaking.
- Participation of older people in the planning and design of public spaces and buildings using the co-design model.

### ACTIONS

Based on the analysis in this strategy, the following table shows practical actions related to outdoor spaces and buildings to be implemented by members of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance:

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
1.1	Promote Universal Design as good building practice.	Promote and monitor the use and implementation of universal design principles in planning applications.	More buildings built or adapted using principles.	Louth County Council	Ongoing
		Host local training seminars in the practice of universal design.		Louth Age Friendly Alliance	Annually

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
1.2	Include older people in community-led placemaking initiatives.	Ensure placemaking initiatives such as Town Centre First projects and T&V, RRDF and CLAR schemes are co-designed with older people.	More older people who participate in local placemaking initiatives.	Louth County Council	Ongoing
		Provide placemaking training for the Louth Age Friendly Alliance and the Louth Older Persons' Council to include 'playful' and inclusive and environmental methods of placemaking.		Louth AFA	In 2026
1.3	Improve access to and improve safety of buildings and public spaces.	Audit disability access , by undertaking walkability audits and access audits to public spaces and community buildings in Louth.	A list of specific problem descriptions in pre-identified localities to prioritise remedial action.	Louth County Council	In 2026 and 2027
		Identify and address, in consultation with local older people, safety issues in local public spaces and parks.		Louth Community Safety Partnership	In 2026 and 2027
1.4	Create more Age Friendly public realm and walking paths in public spaces.	Conduct more walkability audits in towns and villages with the participation of older people.	More walking infrastructure in public spaces, especially in rural villages, that enable active lifestyles of older people.	Louth County Council	In 2026 and 2027
		Create more age friendly walking circuits around sports fields, especially in rural villages.		Louth GAA	In 2026, 2027 and 2028



## 2 Transportation

### GOAL

To provide affordable, accessible and flexible public transportation for older people in Louth.

### DESCRIPTION

Focus on affordable, accessible public transport options, with clear signage, priority seating, and driver courtesy. Pay specific attention to the transport options for hospital, medical and other public services appointments.

COMPLIANCE WITH UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AGE FRIENDLY CRITERIA FOR TRANSPORTATION

- Even Footpaths and Clearly Marked Crossings
- Accessible Public Transportation
- Consistency and Frequency of Public Transportation
- Easy to understand Route Information for Public Transportation
- Comfortable Seating on Public Transportation
- Age Friendly Parking

### SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

- National Transport Authority Statement of Strategy 2023-2025,
- National Planning Framework First Revision 2025 and National Development Plan updated 2025
- Vision Zero – Ireland’s Road Safety Strategy 2021 - 2030
- Local Link Rural Transport Policy Louth Meath Fingal 2018-2022,
- Louth County Development Plan 2021–2027 - Sustainable Transport Objectives,
- Louth Active Travel Strategy,
- Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024–2030 – Chapter 8,
- Westgate 2040 Regeneration – Access & Active Travel Management Strategy.

### LOUTH LECP ASSOCIATED GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

- **LECP Goal 3:** Louth will foster healthy, inclusive, diverse, creative and resilient neighbourhoods.
- **LECP Objective 3.2:** Increase physical accessibility to all within Louth’s towns and villages and rural communities.

### KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

In general there are limited transport options in most counties in Ireland with high levels of dependence on private vehicle travel. In Louth, improvements are needed to create more public transport options, particularly in rural areas as well as for navigating within towns compared to transport between towns.

Funding is a challenge for community-based transport services including for the replacement of ageing vehicles.

Bus transport infrastructure in the county is often not Age Friendly with the absence of seating, poor lighting, inadequate shelter and signage.

*In focusing on these challenges, many opportunities could be pursued, including:*

- Collaboration between public agencies and civic organisations to investigate more responsive transport solutions and increase collaborative co-funding options where there is synergy with the aims of agencies, and recognising that the rural transport programme is one that also fulfils a crucial social service to older people given its unique access to isolated areas.
- Increased awareness among all potential users of the available public transport services.
- Learning from the good practices in other places such as the improvements at Kilkenny train station to make it an Age Friendly station.
- Mechanisms for regular communication and consultation between public transport service providers, the Louth County Council Active Travel team and older people support groups to fully explain the rollout of the active travel scheme and its entailments.
- Exploring innovative ways to overcome barriers to implementing improved bus stop infrastructure.
- Positioning the Louth Age Friendly Alliance as a conduit for monitoring engagement and co-operation between older people support groups and local transport services.



**ACTIONS**

Based on the analysis in this strategy, the following table shows practical actions related to transportation for older people in the county to be implemented by members of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance:

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
2.1	Establish the Louth Age Friendly Transportation Forum.	Create a sub-group of the Age Friendly Alliance to focus on the transportation needs of older people and invite community groups and organisations to participate in the forum.	Increased capacity and trust among agencies and community groups to address the transport and mobility needs of older people in Louth.	Louth Age Friendly Alliance	In 2025
		Assess the place-based needs of older people to use public transport services and identify the gaps and opportunities for improvements.		Louth Age Friendly Transportation Forum	In 2026
		Initiate and support local community initiatives to assist older people with their mobility needs.		Louth Age Friendly Transportation Forum	Ongoing
2.2	Promote age friendly design of public transport infrastructure in Louth.	Engage with Iarnród Éireann to pilot the design of an age friendly train station in Louth similar to the Kilkenny train station.	Significant progress made with identifying ways to make Louth public transport more age friendly.	Louth Age Friendly Transportation Forum	In 2026
		Identify the barriers to overcome to make bus stops and other bus infrastructure in Louth more age friendly.		Louth Age Friendly Transportation Forum	In 2026 and 2027
2.3	Support transport and connectivity providers to improve their services for older people in Louth.	Promote better communication of initiatives such as Active Travel Programmes and local link bus services to older people in Louth.	Greater and widespread awareness of the means to enhance mobility of older people.	Louth County Council	Ongoing
		Convert existing car parking spaces to increase age friendly parking spaces.		Louth County Council	Ongoing
		Facilitate regular engagement of transport service providers with the Louth Older Peoples' Council.		Louth Age Friendly Transportation Forum	Quarterly

## 3 Housing

### GOAL

To provide affordable and appropriately located and modified housing for older people in Louth.

### DESCRIPTION

Focus on affordable, appropriately located housing, home modification supports, and Age Friendly design standards.

COMPLIANCE WITH UN SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AGE FRIENDLY CRITERIA FOR HOUSING

- Design for Single Level Living
- Adaptable Layouts for Changing Needs
- Energy Efficiency
- Support for Independent Living
- Affordability
- Community Integration

### SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

- National Planning Framework First Revision 2025, specifically:

#### ▶ NPO 40

Local planning, housing, health facilities and services, transport / accessibility and leisure policies will be developed with a focus on meeting the needs and opportunities of an ageing population, along with the inclusion of specific projections, supported by clear proposals in respect of ageing communities as part of the core strategy of city and county development plans.

#### ▶ NPO 42

To target the delivery of housing to accommodate approximately 50,000 additional homes per annum to 2040.

#### ▶ NPO 43

Prioritise the provision of new homes at locations that can support sustainable development and at an appropriate scale of provision relative to location. [cdn.npf.ie](https://cdn.npf.ie)

▶ **NPO 44**

Support the provision of lifetime adaptable homes that can accommodate the changing needs of a household over time

- Housing for All: A New Housing Plan for Ireland 2021-2030,
- Housing Options for Our Ageing Population – Irish Government Policy Statement 2019,
- Thinking Ahead – Supported Housing for Older People, Housing Agency 2020,
- Louth Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2024-2029.
- Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 - Key aspects of the plan supporting housing options:
  - ▶ Supporting housing located near amenities and services,
  - ▶ Promoting adaptable and accessible housing that can meet the changing needs of older people,
  - ▶ Encouraging the use of assistive technology in housing,
  - ▶ Facilitating opportunities for older people to right-size within their communities,
  - ▶ Supporting the provision of single-storey units in larger developments to allow older people to move to smaller houses.

**LOUTH LECP ASSOCIATED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- **LECP Goal 1:** Louth will work with all communities to help them reach their full economic and social potential.
- **LECP Objective 1.1:** Support the provision of housing where appropriate across the county.

**KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The main challenge is a lack of adequate and affordable housing for older people in the county and limited housing options with regard to moving into appropriate housing for independent living or assisted living or special care living.

In addition, the challenge is to create momentum and scale with the process of ‘rightsizing’ where older people are incentivised to move from their existing homes into more appropriately sized homes in Age Friendly and supportive environments.

Securing provision for Age Friendly housing with sufficient applications in the planning process remains a challenge.

There is also a challenge in supporting older people to access adaptation grants that will result in retrofitting homes.

*In focusing on these challenges, many opportunities could be pursued, including:*

- Scaling the impact of the Louth Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme specifically to further address issues around rightsizing and the availability of appropriate housing options.

- More widespread application of Universal Design Guidelines in the adaptation of existing homes and new homes to support older people to age in place.
- Larger uptake of housing grants for older people including the Housing Adaptation Grant, Mobility Aids Grant and Housing Aid for Older People Grant.
- Monitoring and evaluating any compromises between policy and developers’ requirements in the implementation of universal design principles for new housing.
- More innovative responses to the challenge of retrofitting existing older homes for accessibility, particularly given the limitations of the current SEAI scheme, which often only covers expensive full retrofits.
- Better Assessment of the housing needs of older people from vulnerable communities such as Traveller, Roma, asylum seekers and refugee communities, and those older people at risk of homelessness.
- Thinking outside the box to achieve integrated Age Friendly housing that goes beyond ‘bricks and mortar’ to one that builds communities, includes health supports, and is replicable in other areas in the county.

**ACTIONS**

Based on the analysis in this strategy, the following table shows practical actions related to affordable and appropriate housing for older people in the county to be implemented by members of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance:

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
3.1	Further develop the Louth Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme.	Coordinate between agencies to assess and support options for older people who choose to live independently.	More options for rightsizing and availability of appropriate housing for older people in Louth (i.e., Independent Living, Assisted Living and Special Care Living options).	Louth Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator.	Ongoing
		Increase awareness of and assist older people and their families with accessing housing grants including Housing Adaptation Grant, Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Aid for Older People Grant.		Louth Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator.	Ongoing
		Explore options to address housing insulation and energy needs given the limitations on funding for retrofitting of houses.		Louth Climate Action Office.	Ongoing

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
3.2	Develop an innovative inter-generational housing scheme.	Prepare an application for an EU project to explore practices and options for intergenerational housing across Europe.	A pathway for developing intergenerational housing in Louth and in the whole of Ireland.	Louth Age Friendly Alliance.	In 2026 and 2027
		Create a digital spatial model (i.e. a digital twin) for stakeholder engagement to identify challenges and opportunities for an intergenerational scheme in Louth.			In 2026 and 2027
		Based on the research into intergenerational housing good practice, prepare an application for funding and delivering a pilot scheme.			In 2027 and 2028
3.3	Promote the planning of inclusive communities in new Housing Schemes and promote inclusion of Universal Design Homes.	Consider elements such as the health and mobility needs of older people in the design of new housing schemes.	Better layout and facilities in new housing schemes to support the building of an Age Friendly community.	Louth County Council.	Ongoing
		Enforce Louth planning objectives that require inclusive 'community building' elements in planning applications for new housing schemes.			Louth County Council.
		Provide new Age Friendly Housing to enable older people in Co Louth to right size to a home to enable them to age in place.	More options for rightsizing and ageing in place.	Louth County Council.	Ongoing
3.4	Identify the needs of vulnerable older people in Traveller & Roma Communities and in Migrant and Refugee Communities.	Conduct interviews with older people from the Traveller and Roma Communities as well as Migrant and Refugee Communities to understand their specific needs.	Improved access to housing and improved housing conditions for marginalised groups.	Louth County Council  Louth Traveller Movement  LAIT  HSE	2027 - 2028

## 4 Respect and Social Inclusion

### GOAL

To value the contributions of older people and foster understanding and respect between generations in County Louth.

### DESCRIPTION

Focus on the recognition and respect for the contributions of older people, fostering intergenerational dialogue, and anti-ageism efforts.

COMPLIANCE WITH UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AGE FRIENDLY CRITERIA FOR RESPECT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Intergenerational Interaction
- Valuing Older People in their Community
- Consulting Older People
- Education about Ageing

### SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

- Sustainable Inclusive and Empowered Communities 2019-2024,
- Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making,
- Sláintecare Programme,
- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024–2028,
- LEADER Programme 2023-2027,
- Meath & Louth Joint Migrant Integration Strategy 2019-2023.

### LOUTH LECP ASSOCIATED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **LECP Goal 3:** Louth will foster healthy, inclusive, diverse, creative and resilient neighbourhoods.
- **LECP Objective 3.6:** Support and promote social inclusion within the county with a particular focus on including the marginalised within the community.

### KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The major challenge is to persistently dispel age-related stereotypes and promote positive views of ageing in the broader community in the county.

Simultaneously, a major challenge is to address the needs of older people in marginalised communities, specifically targeting interventions in geographical areas identified in the socio-economic profile.

*In focusing on these challenges, many opportunities could be pursued, including:*

- Public bodies in the county further promoting age equality, designing services around older people’s needs, supporting dignity and autonomy, reducing social isolation, and being accountable in accordance with their Public Sector Duty Statement.
- Increasing targeted resources and interventions aimed at the disadvantaged areas identified in the socio-economic profile.
- Development of an engagement plan for marginalised older people, specifically addressing the needs of very old people and those living in minority and vulnerable communities.
- Better integration and synergy of existing programmes coordinated under the SICAP, the OPC, and the PPN and the Louth Integration Team, to ensure the inclusion of the hard-to-reach older people in the county.
- More opportunities for intergenerational activities across the spectrum of housing, community, sports and recreation, and arts and culture.
- More communication and celebration of the positive image of older people in Louth.

**ACTIONS**

Based on the analysis in this strategy, the following table shows practical actions related to respect for older people and social inclusion in the county to be implemented by members of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance:

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
4.1	Combat negative and stereotypical views of ageing and continue to highlight the societal contributions of older people.	Encourage all groups and agencies to be proactive in combatting ageism in actions co-designed with the Louth Older People’s Council.	Greater appreciation of the role and societal contributions of older people.	Louth Local Development Company.	Ongoing
				Louth Age Friendly Alliance	Ongoing
		Capture the stories and wisdom of older people in Louth with podcasts and on other storytelling platforms.		Louth Arts Office.	In 2026 and 2027

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
4.2	Address the needs of marginalised older people in Louth.	Target resources to support older people in the disadvantaged areas in the county as per the socio-demographic profile at ED level.	More efficient use of resources to support older people in the disadvantaged areas of the county.	Louth Age Friendly Alliance.	Ongoing
		Research appropriate place-based interventions that will improve the lives of older people in the disadvantaged areas of the county.		Dundalk Institute of Technology.	In 2026 and 2027
			Pilot Social Engagement initiative to address needs of marginalised older people in Co Louth and roll out to other areas.	Louth Age Friendly Alliance HSE Louth Local Development	2027 - 2028
4.3	Support older people in migrant communities to address their integration challenges.	Identify the challenges particular for older people from migrant communities in Louth.	Effective means to help older people from migrant communities to integrate in Louth.	Louth Integration Team.	In 2026 and 2027
		Design specific interventions to help older people from migrant communities to access services and to socialise in the wider community.		Louth Local Development Company.	Ongoing
4.4	Support the Louth County Council Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme.	Do an assessment of the needs of vulnerable older people in the specific areas in the county designated for the Programme.	Improved quality of life as result of Sláintecare 'whole of services' approach to health and well-being.	Louth County Council	In 2026 and 2027

## 5 Social Participation

### GOAL

To create opportunities for older people in County Louth to participate in educational, cultural, leisure and community activities.

### DESCRIPTION

Focus on opportunities for older people to engage in educational, cultural, leisure, and community activities that are accessible and inclusive for varying ability levels. Directly addresses isolation and loneliness.

COMPLIANCE WITH UN SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AGE FRIENDLY CRITERIA FOR SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

- Range of Accessible and Affordable Activities
- Intergenerational Socialisation
- Lifelong Learning

### SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme,
- LEADER
- Healthy Louth Plan,
- Louth Local Sports Partnership Plan,
- Louth Library Service Delivery Programme 2020-2025,
- Louth Arts Development Plan 2022-2026,
- Louth Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027.

### LOUTH LECP ASSOCIATED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- LECP Goal 1: Louth will work with all communities to help them reach their full economic and social potential.
- LECP Objective 1.4: Facilitate the provision of a vibrant social life.

### KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Loneliness and social isolation are consistently identified as major priority issues for older people.

- Barriers to social participation range from personal health challenges, to spatial and locality restrictions, to limited transport options, to inadequate reach of community activities.
- In focusing on these challenges, many opportunities could be pursued, including:
- Obtaining more funding targeted at community hubs, particularly in rural regions.
- Building community capacity to apply for funding where grants are available for facilities and activities through training of skills to make quality applications to calls for grant funding.
- Developing targets and indicators for actions to combat isolation and loneliness, including measuring the expansion of befriending services and the integration of social elements into existing programmes like Meals on Wheels.
- Building on the commitment of libraries, Louth Local Sports Partnership, Healthy Louth, Creative Louth, the Arts Office, and community, sport and recreation groups to provide as many opportunities as possible for older people to participate in their activities.
- Continuing the support for Louth Local Development Company (LLD) through SICAP and LEADER funding to enable activities for older people and build on the partnership and added-value approach already in place.

## ACTIONS

Based on the analysis in this strategy, the following table shows practical actions related to social participation of older people in local activities in the county to be implemented by members of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance:

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
5.1	Support local services hubs and community organisations to engage older people in educational, cultural, leisure, and community activities.	Align local community activity grants including those funded by the Arts Council, Creative Ireland and Sports Ireland with the objective of increased participation by older people in such activities.	More participation of older people across all the towns and villages of Louth in locally organised educational, cultural, leisure and community activities.	Louth County Council	Ongoing
		Provide training to community organisations who serve older people to effectively apply for grant funding aligned with their activities.		Louth Local Development Company	Annual courses
		Promote lifelong learning initiatives for older people including U3A and lifelong learning courses offered in the county.		Louth and Meath Education & Training Board	Ongoing
5.2	Support charities and organisations that reach out to older people living alone.	Promote befriending actions of charities and community groups.	Increase in the scale and reach of befriending actions in the county.	Louth Older People's Council	Ongoing
		Give acknowledgement and show appreciation for the local volunteers who participate in activities to combat loneliness among older people.		Louth Older People's Council	Annual events

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
5.3	Engage with older people who experience loneliness and social isolation to find ways to increase their social participation in Louth.	Research the major factors that contribute to loneliness and social isolation among older people in Louth – including the differences between rural and urban areas.	Better understanding of the factors that contribute to loneliness and social isolation of older people in Louth.	Healthy Louth	In 2026 and 2027
		Use SICAP and LEADER funding to support innovative ways to address loneliness and social isolation among older people in Louth.		Louth Local Development Company	Ongoing

## 6 Communication and Information

### GOAL

To communicate information about policies and services in plain language making it accessible for older people in County Louth.

### DESCRIPTION

Focus on clear and accessible communication, addressing digital exclusion and ensuring information reaches older people effectively.

COMPLIANCE WITH UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AGE FRIENDLY CRITERIA FOR COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

- Using Appropriate Print and Broadcast Media
- Timely and Effective Communication of Policies
- Adaptation for Vision and Hearing Loss
- Technological Literacy

### SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

- National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) Plain English Guides,
- Ireland’s Digital Connectivity Strategy 2022.

### LOUTH LECP ASSOCIATED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- **LECP Goal 5:** Louth will have engaged, empowered, dynamic, resourced and connected communities.
- **LECP Objective 5.4:** Continue to support an Age Friendly society that embraces all people in County Louth.

### KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A major challenge is the tendency of policy makers and public services organisations to use complex language, jargon, and policy-specific terms that makes it difficult for many recipients (old and young) to understand programmes and concepts.

In addition, information on the range of services and activities for older people in the county, are rarely available 'at a glance' in one publication or at public information offices.

Another tendency by service organisations is to expect their beneficiaries and users to connect digitally online to access information. Although this has brought about greater efficiencies for the service organisations, it also has had negative consequences for getting information to people (in this case many older people) whose first port of call is not to click on websites.

Furthermore, the transition to digital services has left many older people stranded who are not familiar with digital applications. The assumptions that underpin the use of these digital applications do not come 'naturally' to the generations who for example used a phone as a means to talk to someone, not to type on apps to do business transactions.

The technical aspects of 'digitising services' also leave many older people in the cold. For example the prerequisite to have adequate broadband connectivity to access services and practical concerns such as the impact of the broadband switch to fibre on personal emergency alarms.

*In focusing on these challenges, many opportunities could be pursued, including:*

- Creating practical case studies for service organisations to use simple and clear language in all communications and presentations that impact on older people and for that matter all segments of the population in Louth.
- Discussing measures with the PPN and the OPC on helping service organisations to improve their communication with older people including capacity building of community organisations (e.g., to support older people with accessing digital information) and practical ways of increasing the spread and effectiveness of communication with older people.
- Expanding the programme of digital literacy training tailored to the specific needs of older adults, including addressing concerns related to technology use and addressing broader societal change due to the move to the digital society
- Upgrading the Directory of Services for Older People and exploit all avenues for dissemination.
- Utilising the Citizens Information Service, Public Participation Network (PPN) Newsletter and other newsletters to provide critical information on rights and entitlements and how to access them.

- Exploring other communication channels suitable for older people in Louth for example the possibility of a weekly/fortnightly local radio slot for an older person to give information targeted at older people.

**ACTIONS**

Based on the analysis in this strategy, the following table shows practical actions related to communicating information and listening to older people in the county to be implemented by members of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance:

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
6.1	Address the increasing digital exclusion of older people and other negative impacts (e.g., scams) as digitised services become ever present.	Conduct research with older people to determine the impacts of digital exclusion (for example services requiring the use of phone apps) and practical ways to assist and support older people in this regard.	Adequate local support for older people to safely access digitised services including a set of guidelines for service providers and app designers to ensure inclusivity.	Dundalk Institute of Technology	In 2025 and 2026
		Investigate the possibility of creating a central information point (help line) for older people to contact if they want to enquire about scams.		Louth Broadband Officer	In 2026.
		Support community organisations to create a system of trusted helpers at neighbourhood level to help older people in their communities use electronic devices (e.g., laptops and smart phones) and to help navigate online procedures to access digitised services.		Louth Local Development & Louth Library Service	Ongoing
6.2	Maintain and Update a Directory of Activities and Directory of Services for older people in the county.	Collect information from all community organisations with activities and services for older people in the county.	Up-to-date information on the activities and services available for older people in the county.	Louth Public Participation Network	Annually
		Collect information about services for older people from all service providers in Louth including information on accessing grants, subsidies and personal assistance.		Louth Local Development Company	Annually
				Louth Older People's Council	

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
6.3	Use creative ways to improve communication with and by older people in Louth.	Develop a communication strategy to consider the possibility of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a key support tool in information development, managed and supported by digital training for older people (to cover a wide range of issues e.g. safeguarding, interpretation etc)	Innovative ways to reach and hear older people in Louth.	Louth Age Friendly Alliance	In 2025 and 2026
6.4	Support private and public service organisations to physically connect with older people on a regular basis.	Advocate for local service providers such as An Post, local banks and credit unions to continue providing their services for older people in person and/or have a real person call service available for queries.	Maintaining a high level of personal interaction with older people by service providers in the county.	Louth Older People's Council	Ongoing
		Use SICAP and LEADER funding to incentivise service providers to extend their services to older people in marginalised communities who are harder to reach.		Louth Local Development Company	Ongoing

## 7 Civic Participation and Employment

### GOAL

To promote opportunities for older people to work, to volunteer and to be involved in civic life in County Louth.

### DESCRIPTION

Focus on opportunities for older adults to work, volunteer, and be involved in civic life, promoting flexible employment and inclusive decision-making structures.

COMPLIANCE WITH UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



#### **WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AGE FRIENDLY CRITERIA FOR CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

- Gainful Voluntary Activities
- Flexible Employment Opportunities for Older People
- Opportunities for Training and Development of Skills
- Participation in Local Political Decision-making

#### **SUPPORTING STRATEGIES**

- Louth Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029,
- National Positive Ageing Strategy 2013-2017,
- National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025,
- National Social Enterprise Policy 2019-2022.

#### **LOUTH LECP ASSOCIATED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- **LECP Goal 5:** Louth will have engaged, empowered, dynamic, resourced and connected communities.
- **LECP Objective 5.2:** Strengthen the leadership capacity of local communities.
- **LECP Objective 5.3:** Support the community and voluntary sector and build their capacity to deliver support to the people of County Louth.

#### **KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The challenge is to provide adequate and accessible information regarding employment and volunteering opportunities for older people.

Transportation to employment and volunteering opportunities for older people was also signalled as a barrier.

Concern was also expressed regarding ageism and a stereotypical perception of older people. This could for example limit the civic participation of older people in major local political issues including planning for future change for example to deal with the impacts of climate change and community resilience in anticipation of climate events.

*In focusing on these challenges, many opportunities could be pursued, including:*

- More local awareness-raising on the opportunity and value of people working into older age.
- Co-designing with older people an innovative and creative programme for utilising their skills and expertise in volunteering, social enterprise and work opportunities.

Leveraging the social enterprise ecosystem with its development and funding supports, to provide opportunities for older people to utilise their skills while also addressing social issues in the county.

Making more businesses in the county age friendly using the Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme and by helping small businesses to consider employment of older people with start-up and business growth grants provided by the Louth Local Enterprise Office.

**ACTIONS**

Based on the analysis in this strategy, the following table shows practical actions related to civic participation and employment of older people in the county to be implemented by members of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance:

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
7.1	Involve more older people in policy making consultation processes in the county.	Review the participation of older people in existing policy consultation platforms used by public service organisations in the county.	More and better participation of older people in local policy making processes.	Louth County Council	In 2026
		Co-design a shared learning project to visit and learn from other cities and regions in Europe with acknowledged good practice in the involvement of older people in policy making.		Louth County Council	In 2026 and 2027
		Design a training programme with older people to help them with skills development and participation in decision making.		Louth Local Development Company	In 2026 and 2027
7.2	Involve older people as mentors and tutors for younger generations.	Promote the volunteering of older people in civic education initiatives to play the role of facilitators in group learning activities and to be mentors for individual learners.	Greater value added to civic education initiatives through the participation of older people.	Louth Volunteer Centre	Ongoing
		Create innovative intergenerational activities and programmes where the knowledge and experience of older people are 'tapped' to create positive social impacts.		Louth Local Development	Ongoing
7.3	Expand the Age Friendly Business Programme in Louth.	Conduct workshops for businesses interested in achieving an Age Friendly Business Charter award and in designing age friendly employment practices.	A more age friendly business environment for older people in Louth.	Louth County Council	In 2025 and 2026
		Incentivise the employment of older people by small businesses with start-up and business growth grants.		Louth Local Enterprise Office	In 2026 and 2027

## 8 Community Support and Health Services

### GOAL

To promote the health and wellbeing of older people in County Louth.

### DESCRIPTION

Focus on access to essential health services, with the main objective to provide for care “at the right time and in the right place” i.e. with adequate access to primary care level teams as close to home as possible, hospital and medical appointments as needs increase, and with promotion of health and wellbeing through community-based opportunities and supports.

COMPLIANCE WITH UN SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION AGE FRIENDLY CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND HEALTH SERVICES

- Range of Health Services on the Continuum of Aged Care
- Remaining Connected to Familiar Surroundings
- Education on the Health System and the Availability of Services

### SUPPORTING STRATEGIES

- HSE Sláintecare Action Plan 2023,
- HSE Enhanced Community Care (ECC) programme
- Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme
- HSE Positive Ageing Programme
- National Dementia Strategy 2014
- National Disability Strategy
- Healthy Louth Plan

**LOUTH LECP ASSOCIATED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- **LECP Goal 3:** Louth will foster healthy, inclusive, diverse, creative and resilient neighbourhoods.
- **LECP Objective 3.3:** Work with national and local health agencies to support our people in improving their health and lifestyle.

**KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Many challenges relate to the access to health services and other services which promote health and wellbeing. Given the increase in our older people population and the increasing need for multidisciplinary team based health care provisions, commitment is required to fully implement the HSE's Enhanced Community Care (ECC) Programme and Sláintecare improvement plan. This is required in order to shift away from the hospital-centric model of care and bring services closer to where older persons live.

Staff recruitment and retention continues to be a challenge as for many localities, with lengthy waiting times for access to Primary Care teams (Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Home Support etc.), which in turn and due to the absence of earlier interventions at lower levels of complexities, for older adults can result in growing dependencies on our secondary care and hospital services.

Supports for the role of the GP as a key conduit in engaging the older person as a patient with health enhancing opportunities and local services has been identified, equally the importance of exploring ways to reach older persons who may traditionally and previously have accessed health care via private providers only, but in older age may require engagement with local and public services is acknowledged.

Transport to/from health care appointments and treatment programmes has also been identified consistently as a significant factor and stressor for persons/families, needing to attend either local or regional based services e.g. Dublin based larger hospital specialty centres.

The HSE's ECC and Sláintecare programmes, along with the above named strategies, represent unprecedented opportunities for all of the agencies involved – HSE, Local Authorities, AFAs, OPCs etc. – to work together in a collaborative manner, and effect real change in how residents in Louth will experience older age.

Given the diversity of matters covered by the health services and associated agencies, there is the challenge of the various providers lacking sufficient awareness, knowledge and understanding about the role and scope of each other, which can result in either gaps or indeed unnecessary overlaps and/or duplications in service provision.

*In focusing on these challenges, many opportunities could be pursued, including:*

- Continued commitment at government level to the full implementation of the HSE’s Sláintecare, ECC and Integrated Care Programme for Older People (ICPOP), to reach as widely as possible in and based on the known population profiles in Louth.
- Embedding the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in Louth County Council with a focus on the opportunities to address the social determinants of poor health in the most disadvantaged areas of the county.
- Innovative approaches to reach vulnerable and hard-to-reach older adults leveraging GPs and Primary Care.
- Ongoing commitment of the HSE ICPOP Lead and Louth Age Friendly Alliance & Older People’s Council to attend the respective collaborative and representative forums i.e. Age Friendly Alliance meetings, the “Living Well at Home Forum”, which allow for regular sharing of information on services and challenges at these forums.
- Continuing support and recognition of the significant value and benefits of the joint Local Authority & Department of Health “Healthy Age Friendly Homes” initiative.
- Continuing support and recognition of community initiatives like the Meals on Wheels service that are particularly helpful to older people.

## **ACTIONS**

Based on the analysis in this strategy, the following table shows practical actions related to community support and health services for older people in the county to be implemented by members of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance:

No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
8.1	Support community initiatives to help older people in Louth to stay healthy.	Promote initiatives like Meals on Wheels and Care & Repair to meet the needs of older people at their homes.	Continued community support for the wellbeing of older people living in Louth.	Louth Local Development Company	Ongoing
		Promote the Active Aging Programme through sport and physical activity in council facilities and in the community		Louth Local Sports Partnership	Ongoing
	Provide and support community initiatives to help older people in Louth to stay healthy.			Louth Local Sports Partnership  Healthy Age Friendly Homes	

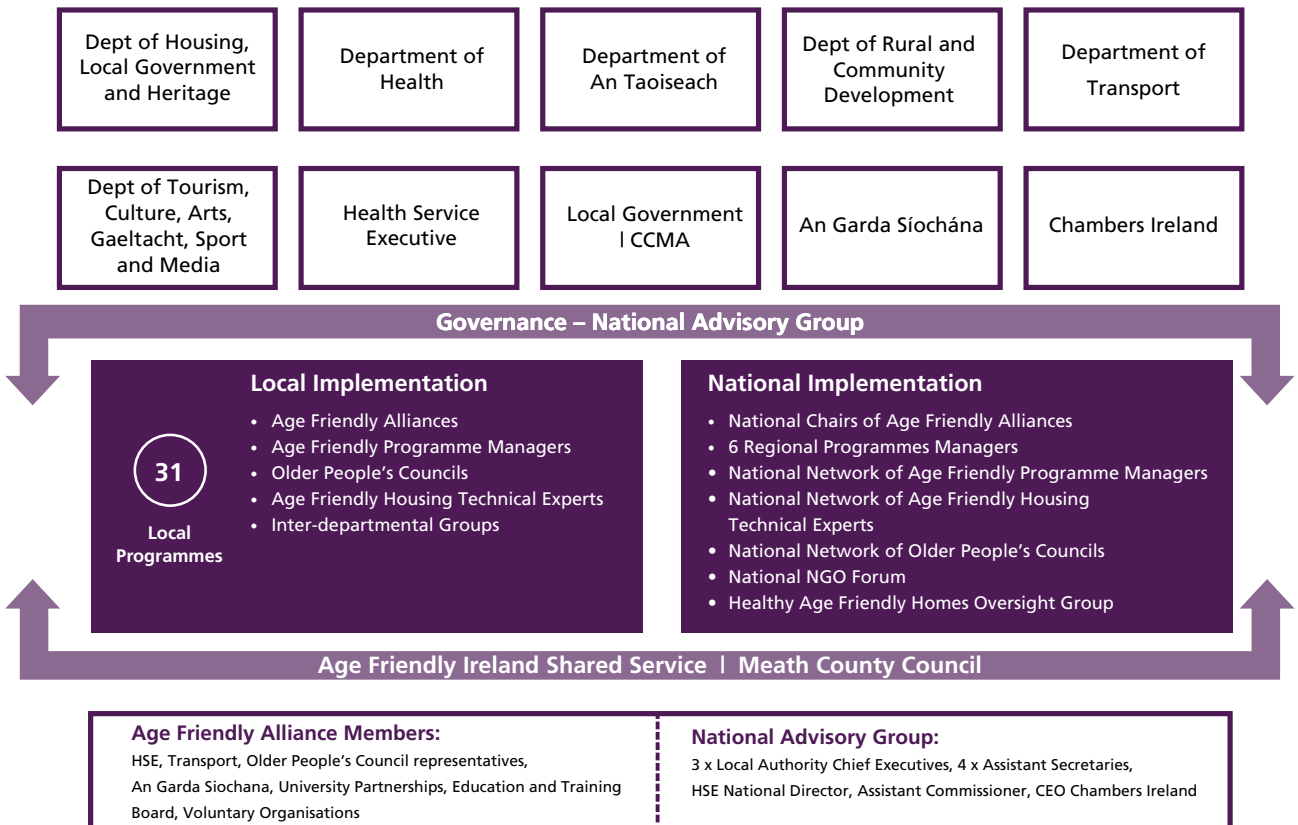
No	Action	Detail and Tasks	Impact	Coordinator	Time-frame
8.2	Support initiatives to promote mental health in Louth.	Involve more older people to support the CommUnity Connect programme in the county.	More mental health support for older people and their families in Louth.	Healthy Louth	Ongoing
		Research digital mental health interventions appropriate for older people in Louth.		Dundalk Institute of Technology	In 2026 and 2027
		Expand the Dementia Café network in Louth using the experience of the Dundalk Memory Café.		Healthy Louth	Ongoing
8.3	Support the full implementation of the HSE's Sláintecare and Enhanced Community Care/ECC Strategy/ICPOP Programmes	Participate in and commit to the full implementation of the HSE's ICPOP and ECC Programme.	Wider and better reach of health interventions for older people in Louth.	HSE and Age Friendly Alliance	Ongoing
		Build on the "Living Well at Home" forum to improve awareness and sharing of available services among older people in Louth.		HSE	Ongoing
		Build on the "Healthy Age Friendly Homes" initiative to maintain older persons living in their own homes.	Wider and better awareness and understanding across all agencies of each other's service.	HSE and Louth County Council	Ongoing
		Promote early engagement with older persons via community based fora, health & wellbeing services, particularly to also engage those whom previously may only have accessed private healthcare.		HSE	Ongoing
		Identify the social determinants of poor health in the disadvantaged areas of the county and the impact on older people.		Louth County Council	Ongoing
	Healthy Age Friendly Homes				

**CHAPTER 7**

# Governance and Accountability

Governance underpins all efforts, ensuring collaboration, accountability, and the effective delivery of the strategy.

**KEY STRUCTURES**



**COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP**

Collaboration is explicitly stated as a priority to add value to service delivery. Many interviewees highlighted existing successful collaborations (e.g., SICAP supporting networks, Meals on Wheels with Lions Club, HSE with ALONE, Public Participation Network with Louth Partnership). The CommUnity Connect initiative serves as a model for collaborative working, training Community Champions (including older adults) to signpost local supports.

Collaboration and partnership are the primary way of working for the Louth Older Person's Council and the Louth Age Friendly Alliance and therefore there should be a quarterly review of collaboration outcomes and partnership on the agenda of both structures (i.e., the AFA and OPC) which should also cover information on the contributions of the member organisations, identification of gaps and overlaps and a measurement of the level of working together. This should be adequately resourced including providing training if required.

For all the actions in this strategy a lead partner has been assigned. In working collaboratively, the lead partner can expect a partnership and the support of all the member organisations in the AFA, even if the particular action is not within the remit of such member organisations.

**FUNDING AND RESOURCES**

There are a significant number of funding schemes available to the Local Authority and member agencies of the Age Friendly Alliance for the implementation of this programme e.g. regarding housing there is the Capital Assistance Scheme, the Social Housing Investment Programme, and the Repair & Lease scheme. However, some member agencies referred to funding and resources as a challenge in order to be able to expand their services. This may not be addressable at county level, however, member organisations could support each other in advocating for more resources at a national level. Similarly, the Louth Age Friendly Alliance could research and apply for EU funding schemes, mainly to benefit from transnational learning opportunities and to support innovation in local services.

**IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The Louth Age Friendly Alliance is the key structure with responsibility for the implementation of this strategy, supported by the County Louth Age Friendly Programme Manager. The Alliance is a high level interagency group whose role is strategic and as such, can review progress and motivate the member agencies. The commitment of all members of the Alliance is critical. As the development of this strategy is part of government policy, as outlined in the policy review, and is part of national Age Friendly Programme, there is a mandate for the commitment of members.

Louth County Council is tasked with the leadership role for the Louth Age Friendly Programme. The Local Authority hosts the fulltime post of Louth Age Friendly Programme Manager and the Chief Executive supports the effective functioning of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance. The Louth Age Friendly Programme Manager liaises with lead partners and stakeholders to progress actions in a timely manner.

A large part of the business of the Age Friendly Alliance meetings will be concerned with the progress, challenges and opportunities regarding the implementation of the actions in this strategy. This includes regularly sharing of information between agencies and members, and facilitating collective responses to issues and challenges.

This modus operandi for monitoring of actions will also form the basis for reporting progress. The Louth Age Friendly Alliance will report on implementation to the Local Community Development Committee. The annual seminar of the Louth Older People's Council will include a presentation by the chair of the Louth Age Friendly Alliance on progress made with the implementation of the strategy and will be an opportunity for input into the process of monitoring actions.

The Louth Older People's Council's role is to be a voice of older people in the County. It forms a crucial part of the governance structure for this strategy as it provides a link between older people and the strategic and operational work of the County Louth Age Friendly Programme. Its role is also to regularly engage with older people and local community groups in the county to communicate the progress being made with the implementation of the strategy and to bring feedback from older people to the Louth Age Friendly Alliance.

The Louth Age Friendly Programme Manager will work with the Louth Older People's Council to improve the means of communication with older people and community groups in the county. This will include supporting the OPC to host local meetings in various locations in the county to discuss actions and especially to initiate local collaboration to support actions.

This is a five year strategy and it is accepted that not everything can be tackled or achieved straight away. Therefore the first step in implementation for the Louth Age Friendly Alliance is to prioritise the actions that should be addressed first and then to sequence implementation through annual work plans.



## CHAPTER 8

## Glossary

## Glossary of Terminology

<b>Ageism</b>	The stereotyping or generalisation of the limitations on and lack of capacity of older people to do or decide things that leads to the exclusion of older people and lack of recognition of their contributions to society.
<b>Age Friendly</b>	Environments, services and communities are age friendly if they are designed and changed to be inclusive, supportive and accessible for people of all ages, especially to promote the active participation, health, safety and autonomy throughout life of older people.
<b>Ageing in Place</b>	<b>Ageing in place</b> means that a person can <b>grow older while staying in their own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably</b> — rather than having to move into a care facility or a completely new environment as they age.
<b>Accountability</b>	To explain in public the decisions made and actions taken by an organisation. Usually a requirement for all public and community organisations. It should be done at least once a year at a minimum.
<b>Active Travel</b>	A programme funded by the National Transport Authority to support local councils to invest in infrastructure for walking and cycling.
<b>Assisted living</b>	The term refers to the level of assistance for older people who need help with daily tasks through housing and support services that offer a balance of independence and care without the need for institutional intensive care.
<b>Collaboration</b>	Organisations and/or communities who work together on a specific challenge or action with the realisation that they can do it better together than trying to work on their own.
<b>Digital inclusion</b>	Often people say we live in the digital age, thus making assumptions that everyone has the same access and skills to use digital applications like apps on their phones to avail of services such as online banking, online purchasing and paying bills online. This assumption leads to cases of exclusion in society, especially among generations who were used to analogue and manual paper systems. The challenge is to make online service providers aware of their responsibility/accountability for such exclusion and to urge them to develop alternatives or to assist with inclusion processes.

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<b>Governance</b>	The term captures the outcome of a combination of factors affecting the lives of people including the leadership shown by organisations, the way decisions are made and implemented, and the quality of public communication from organisations.
<b>Independent living</b>	The term refers to having the freedom to control your own life and make your own choices about housing, education, employment, and social participation, regardless of age or disability.
<b>Innovation</b>	The term means a new way of doing things and often is the result of learning good practices from others and testing ideas locally for new or better services.
<b>Intergenerational Housing</b>	This is a housing model where more inclusive, sustainable and multi-generational living is fostered and cherished and where human life-cycles are celebrated. The model can consist of co-housing, clustered housing or multi-unit buildings with shared spaces and with co-operative or participatory models of management.
<b>Public Space</b>	Public space is space that is owned and managed by the state (either local or national) for public use.
<b>Private Space</b>	Private space is space that is owned by individuals, groups or corporations, with access controlled by the owner.
<b>Special care living</b>	The term in Ireland refers to the housing, health and care needs of older people who require 24 hour assistance in an institutional setting.

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<b>Social enterprise</b>	Businesses that have a not-for-profit motive and a mission to achieve specific social, cultural, community and/or environmental goals. These enterprises trade in goods and services like any other business, but they reinvest their financial surpluses or profits back into their community or the business to further their social or environmental objectives. They are independent, transparent, and accountable entities that often create employment for disadvantaged groups and address societal issues.
<b>Social isolation</b>	The term refers to the lack of connection and contact with others with few social relationships leading to feelings of distress and loneliness.
<b>Stakeholders</b>	A way to describe a group of people in relation to a specific challenge or action in which they have a stake, for example 'young people aged 15 to 19' or 'residents who use public transport'. Sometimes organisations such as the local authority or the university are also called stakeholders, however individuals are rarely or ever called stakeholders.
<b>Synergy</b>	This term is often used by policy makers to signify an outcome for actions where partner organisations worked together achieving much more than if they did not do it.
<b>Universal Design</b>	A set of principles and practice to create environments, products, services, and systems that are usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialised design.
<b>Walkability</b>	Refers to the quality of a built environment where it is easy, safe and pleasant for people to walk to various destinations such as shops, parks, schools, public transport and work.
<b>Wellbeing</b>	The term refers to more than just the general health of a person or society and especially refers to how people feel about themselves and how the environment in which they live is supportative and not debilitating for them.

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## Glossary of Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>AFA</b>	<b>Age Friendly Alliance</b> Consisting of agencies, local organisations and community groups who are working together to address a range of challenges and opportunities for older people in the county, and specifically, who works together to implement this strategy.
<b>AI</b>	<b>Artificial Intelligence</b> The use of data available on a global scale to inform and address local challenges and to develop local digital applications for local innovations (i.e. improvement of services).
<b>CDP</b>	<b>County Development Plan</b> The principal medium-term plan of the local authority that determines the spatial development of a county including covering aspects like population growth, housing, amenities and related aspects of local development (e.g. social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects).
<b>CLÁR</b>	<b>Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais</b> Provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered significant levels of population decline.
<b>CSO</b>	<b>Central Statistics Office</b> Provides the statistics like population demographics and other social and economic data from the Census and other national surveys.
<b>ECC</b>	<b>Enhanced Community Care Programme</b> A national programme led by the HSE that aims to deliver more health services <b>in the community</b> instead of in hospitals. Teams made up of GPs, public health nurses, physiotherapists, social workers, and hospital specialists work together around the care of the patient. Its goal is to help people <b>stay well at home</b> , avoid unnecessary hospital visits, and get earlier interventions when needed.
<b>ED</b>	<b>Electoral Division</b> The localities in the county defined for statistical and election purposes to which a set of data can be collected and shown.
<b>ETB</b>	<b>Education and Training Board</b> Louth and Meath have one ETB that provides for a range of educational and training services.

<b>EU SHAFE Project</b>	<p><b>The Smart, Healthy, Age Friendly Environments Project</b></p> <p>An Interreg Europe project that aims to improve policies and practices by fostering co-operation and sharing of knowledge among seven regions of Europe, including Louth, to create Smart, Healthy, Age Friendly Environments.</p>
<b>ICPOP</b>	<p><b>Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons</b></p> <p>An instrument of ECC, it provides an interdisciplinary team based approach to integrated care for older people allowing them to avoid unnecessary hospital visits and stay longer in their home, receiving the right care, at the right time.</p>
<b>LEADER</b>	<p><b>An acronym in French meaning links between actions for the development of the rural economy</b></p> <p>It is a European Union programme to support rural development projects administered in Louth by Louth Local Development.</p>
<b>LECP</b>	<p><b>Local Economic and Community Plan</b></p> <p>A six year plan that is developed in each county that links community and economic development and guides agencies that deliver services in their plans and distribution of resources. The aim of the plan is to support economic growth, strengthen communities and align local priorities with national strategies.</p>
<b>LEO</b>	<p><b>Local Enterprise Office</b></p> <p>The Louth Local Enterprise Office provides support, including advice, information, mentoring, training, and financial assistance, to help small and medium-sized businesses develop and succeed.</p>
<b>NTA</b>	<p><b>National Transport Authority</b></p> <p>The Irish state agency that funds and supports local authorities to plan, promote and implement sustainable transport projects.</p>
<b>NDP</b>	<p><b>National Development Plan</b></p> <p>Is Ireland's <b>long-term capital investment plan</b> – basically the government's roadmap for what big infrastructure and public investment projects will be funded over the next decade.</p>
<b>PPN</b>	<p><b>Public Participation Network</b></p> <p>A network that brings together community and voluntary groups and social inclusion organisations in each county so that they can have a say in decision making of the local authority and agencies that deliver services, and bring the voice of communities into the development of the county.</p>

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<b>RRDF</b>	<b>Rural Regeneration and Development Fund</b> A national fund for capital projects (e.g. infrastructure and physical improvements) administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development to which Louth County Council can apply for local projects in towns and villages with a population of 10,000 or less.
<b>SICAP</b>	<b>Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme</b> This programme funds local actions that reduce poverty and social exclusion by supporting disadvantaged individuals and strengthening community partnerships. It is delivered in County Louth by Louth Local Development.
<b>Sláintecare</b>	The new Irish health and social care system with the goal to provide the right care, in the right place, at the right time, and moving services closer to home with the emphasis on prevention and community-based care. Key objectives include improving access, reducing waiting times, and fostering an integrated, equitable, and sustainable healthcare service for all citizens.
<b>SPC</b>	<b>Strategic Policy Committee</b> Committees made up of elected councillors and external representatives from business, the community (through the PPN), farming, trade unions, environmental groups etc. Their remit is to advise and assist the local authority in the making and implementation of policy and plans.
<b>URDF</b>	<b>Urban Regeneration and Development Fund</b> A national fund for capital projects (e.g. infrastructure and physical improvements) administered by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to which Louth County Council can apply for local projects in towns with a population of over 10,000.
<b>WHO</b>	<b>World Health Organisation</b> The United Nations Agency responsible for global public health

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Comhairle Contae **Lú**  
**Louth** County Council

**Louth County Council**  
County Hall,  
Millennium Centre,  
Dundalk,  
A91 KFW6