

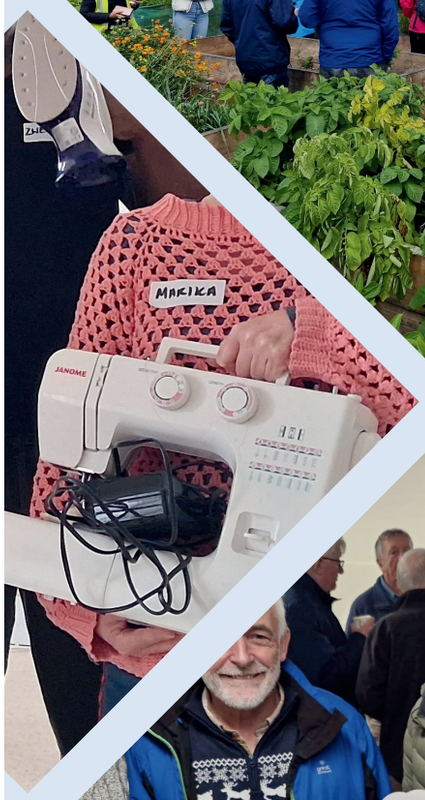

Buíon
Phort Láirge

ANNUAL OUTCOME REPORT 2025

Supporting
People and
Communities











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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Arna chomhchistiú ag an Aontas Eorpach

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Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

About Buíon Phort Láirge

Buíon Phort Láirge (trading name of Waterford Area Partnership) is a Local Development Company and registered charity that works with individuals and communities in Waterford to create opportunities for people to improve their quality of life and to contribute to thriving communities across the city and county.

Buíon Phort Láirge delivers lifelong learning, employment, enterprise, wellbeing and development programmes that are tailored to meet individual and community needs. It is governed by a Board of Directors made up of representatives from local community & voluntary organisations, social partners and public sector agencies.

Our Vision: A diverse and inclusive society that values everyone through promoting access, participation, equality and human rights

Our Mission: We work in collaboration with others to empower communities and individuals by implementing person-centred programmes and activities that support social inclusion and equality

Our Values: Innovation, Courage, Collaboration, Integrity, Empathy

In 2025 we undertook a rebranding process to update and modernise the brand identity to reflect the company's vision, mission & values and the organisation's re-energisation.



Board of Directors 2025

Eoin Ronayne	Appointed 2021
Margaret Bond	Appointed 2022
Eadoin Carrick	Appointed 2024
Eamonn Freeman	Appointed 2022
Jim Finn	Appointed 2021
Deirdre Garvey	Appointed 2021
Brendan McEvoy	Appointed 2022
Gerard Mooney	Appointed 2022
Anne Nolan	Appointed 2024





1,272 individuals supported by SICAP Staff
630 individuals engaged by the Local Area Employment Service
67 SICAP Employment training grants awarded
500 labour market-related courses completed successfully
98 Tus participants placed across 37 organisations



133 migrants supported by the IEM programme
70 Roma Families and 500 migrants supported through health projects
206 International Protection Applicants supported by the UNHCR project
174 individuals supported by SICAP New Arrivals staff
284 students attended Failte Isteach English classes



235 individuals received SICAP enterprise supports
24 Business Fundamentals training programmes delivered
22 individuals received SICAP business support grants
11 developing Social Enterprises were supported under SICAP



310 individuals attended SICAP education & lifelong learning courses
299 individuals attended SICAP soft skills & wellbeing activities
25 SICAP education grants awarded
50 Roma families were supported with training, education, health and integration progrqammes through the Atelier Roma Project



450 children supported to participate in the Summer Camp Access Programme
35 children with disabilities availed of SNA support to attend camps
63 were supported to participate in Easter Camps with Barnardos
734 children and 129 adults benefitted from collaborative family supports



80 community organisations supported
61 community organisations awarded grant support
18 networking and community events held
28 groups engaged in training and capacity build to support sustainability



428,112 meals provided in 2025 by Waterford Foodbank
250 families supported weekly with food parcels
3 Breakfast Clubs supported 210 school children daily
1,000 Christmas food parcels delivered, supporting 4,000 people
140,001 bottles & cans recycled generating €22,211.85 for food support



8 Repair Cafes were held in Lisduggan in 2025
91 items were presented for repair
73 items successfully repaired
358 gardening and DIY jobs were undertaken by the Tus Care & Repair team plus 76 jobs for Waterford City Council tenants.

Message from our Chairperson



Welcome to our Annual Report for 2025, a year of continued development for Waterford Area Partnership as we progress our work with individuals and communities to provide much needed services and support in Waterford city and its environs. For the last five years or so we have been on a journey to restructure and expand.

A critical element of that plan was realised during the year through a re-branding exercise which resulted in the launch of Buíon Phort Lárige - a new name for our day to day operations connecting the collective efforts of our staff and our interaction with individuals and communities to bring about positive and sustainable change.

The new name and logo were arrived at by a research and design process involving consultation with service users, staff, Board and the design company, TrueOutput. The Buíon Phort Láirge branding, through a more accessible and modern identity, seeks to align our strategic plan's priorities and our day to day relationships with those who turn to us looking for encouragement and support. It was a truly rewarding collective engagement and a most appropriate visualisation our ongoing development.

This Annual Report sets out in some detail the scale and range of the various programmes provided by our hard working team and volunteers. In particular, on behalf of the Board, I wish to expresses our deepest appreciation to our CEO, Liam Quinn and the staff of Buíon for that commitment. Without their continued loyalty and dedication we could not deliver our range of services. The effort put in is so clearly visible in the services they provide.

I also wish to express our gratitude to the various state and voluntary funders of our programmes. Your support is essential to the work of Buíon and its continued growth and expansion in providing a range of individual and community supports and services much needed in Waterford City and County.

To my fellow Board members, a thank you for your dedication, insight, and governance throughout the year. Huge strides have been made in ensuring Buíon stays focused, accountable, and forward-looking. The time and expertise you contribute are invaluable.

Finally, our appreciation to the service users, the individuals and communities who engaged with us in 2025 . We give our commitment that we will continue to work tirelessly to meet your needs in the coming years.

Together, we will continue to support and strengthen our communities. **Beir Bua!**

Eoin Ronayne

Message from our CEO



It is my pleasure to present the 2025 Annual Report of Buíon Phort Láirge, a year that has been both transformative and forward-looking for our organisation, our partners, and the communities we serve.

Whilst our name has evolved, our core mission remains steadfast: to support individuals, families, and communities to realise their potential through collaboration, innovation, and targeted local action.

Throughout 2025, we continued to deliver impactful programmes across social inclusion, employment supports, rural development, and community capacity-building. Our supports are aimed at people looking to upskill, make a connection or learn something new that will have an impact on their quality of life. Our supports are also aimed at community groups that have developed to deliver vital and thriving community services across our county in response to a gap or a need that is not filled by state or private services.

We specifically offer programmes and services to those who have been neglected or failed by other systems: those impacted by food poverty, those excluded from services such as people with a disability, people who are escaping war or trauma and those trying to rebuild a life after a criminal conviction. Our teams worked closely with local stakeholders to ensure that supports reached those most in need, particularly in a context of ongoing economic pressures and changing societal needs. The resilience and adaptability demonstrated by our staff, partners, and participants have been central to our success. This report seeks to paint a picture of the outcomes and impacts that these supports have had for individuals and communities in Waterford in 2025.

In 2025 we also used our social channels to highlight personal and community stories that demonstrated individual and groups successes in: building local businesses, securing employment, embarking on an educational journey, building a community garden, connecting with people and families who come from different landscapes to build a common future, learning a new skill that reduced harm to our planet or just finding the courage to get out there with a group of people who offer a community of shared place and values.

As we look ahead, we are focused on building on this momentum. Our priorities for 2026 include strengthening partnerships, impacting policy, enhancing service delivery, embracing innovation, and ensuring that our work continues to be shaped by the voices of local people whilst maintaining the highest standards of governance, transparency, and accountability.

Liam Quinn

Buíon Supports to Job Seekers

Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme

Waterford City Local Area Employment Service



Workability Programme

Atelier Roma Project

Tús Programme

Collaboration

CV preparation & job interview skills
Job coaching and on-the-job support
Referral to, and information on, other providers
Information on skills and education opportunities
Access to industry related training such as Safe Pass
Individual grants to access a course or learn a new skill
English language lessons and conversation classes
Information on employment rights and labour market access
Outreach to ensure inclusion of harder-to-reach individuals
Employer engagement and workplace mediation
Business development courses & workshops
Mentoring for career guidance & planning
Start Your Own Business mentoring
Social Enterprise mentoring & training
Digital Marketing Bootcamps

Referral

Progression

Integration & Employment of Migrants Programme

UNHCR + LinkedIn Employment Programme

Jobseeker Supports

Buíon's employability supports prepare people for sustainable employment and entrepreneurship.

In 2025 cients participated in activities designed to improve their employability, including 1:1 mentoring, workshops on CV and interview skills, small grant allocations for job specific training and access to general certification in areas like Safe Pass, HACCP, manual handling and barista skills.

Close liaison with stakeholders such as the Department of Social Protection, Disability Services, Community Employment Schemes, Probation Services, Support Groups, and Waterford & Wexford Education & Training Board helped to assess training needs and respond effectively.

Direct engagement with local employers identified key training gaps. Specific supports to people with a disability, long term job-seekers and migrant communities enabled wrap around service provision across a number of programmes.

SICAP Employment Supports

One-to-one meetings, career guidance, mentoring, entry level and job specific training, pre-start-up business advice, and new business aftercare made up the majority of SICAP supports to jobseekers.

A total of **67** individual grants were applied for, covering a diverse range of training from forklift driving to security and beauty courses.



Over **500** labour market-related courses were completed successfully, with participants gaining the skills and confidence needed to navigate the job market or launch their own ventures.

A total of **305** individuals benefited from **1,810** employment support interventions and outputs.

Local Area Employment Service (LAES)

630 individuals benefited from a total of **1700** consultations with LAES in 2025. Around **130** of those individuals started a job in 2025.

The majority of clients of the service were Irish and local, with 34 other nationalities forming the rest of the client base. **94%** of clients rated the service as good or excellent with **100%** feeling that their caseworker was actively supporting them to find employment.



There was a strong appreciation for the practical support provided, particularly around CV preparation and improvement, interview preparation and confidence building, job searching & applications and clear guidance on training and education options

Several clients also referenced increased confidence and motivation, even where a job outcome was not immediate.

UNHCR & Linked In Project

In 2025, LinkedIn provided funding to Buion, on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to deliver a targeted employment support programme for refugees, beneficiaries of temporary protection, and international protection applicants in Waterford City and County.

This holistic, person-centred model ensured that clients received tailored supports aligned with their skills, aspirations, and personal circumstances.

Individual Career / Employment Coaching: **206** clients registered and supported
Job Coaching (On-the-Job Support): **44** clients currently in employment
Collaborative training: (Safe Pass, Manual Handling, Healthcare, PSA) **134** participants
Information & Referral Support: **206** clients with **125** clients referred to Buíon English language provision



The programme has laid the foundation for sustainable, integrated employment supports for refugees and asylum seekers in Waterford and offers a scalable model for replication.



Tús Work Placement Programme

2025 was a year of real impact for TÚS, highlighting the strength and value of the programme across Waterford City. **98** participants were placed across **37** organisations reflecting the breadth and reach of TÚS within the community. These placements provided meaningful, hands-on experience across a wide range of sectors:

- Supporting local charities and community groups, strengthening services and enhancing community connections.
- The upkeep and day-to-day running of local sports clubs, supporting both facilities and community engagement.
- Placements in charity shops and retail environments provided valuable experience in customer service, sales, and workplace skills.

Beyond placements, TÚS placed a strong emphasis on upskilling, personal development, and higher education progression: One participant successfully completed a Level 7 BSc in Process Technologies, highlighting the programme's role in supporting long-term career advancement.

Participation in industry specific training also enhanced employability and opened doors to new career pathways for individuals

Care and Repair Programme

The Care and Repair Programme continued to make a meaningful difference by helping older people live safely and independently in their own homes. **358** gardening and DIY jobs were undertaken with households in 2025 plus **76** jobs for Waterford City Council tenants.

By delivering essential maintenance, minor repairs and garden clearance, the programme addressed real, everyday needs while improving quality of life. In 2025, **5** Tus participants were employed within the programme, gaining valuable experience whilst contributing to a trusted and impactful community service.



Workability Programme

2025 was a year of progress, partnership, and real impact for Buíon Phort Láirge's WorkAbility Programme. Through collaboration and person-centred supports, participants who had previously faced barriers to employment made meaningful steps towards independence, confidence, and paid work.

Participants have reflected on how the support received through the programme helped to rebuild confidence and re-enter the workplace after a period out of employment. They highlighted the importance of weekly check-ins, mock interviews, and one-to-one coaching in preparing for work and regaining self-belief.

Growing Inclusive Employment: Partnership remains central to the WorkAbility approach. In 2025, the WorkAbility team hosted a series of Disability Awareness Training sessions for local employers, with promotional support from Waterford Chamber. This collaboration strengthened links between local employers and the programme, directly leading to new opportunities for participants and greater awareness of inclusive employment practices in the region.

A highlight of the year was Hannah's journey from the SETU Certificate in Personal Development course into paid employment. With support from the WorkAbility team, Hannah undertook a short job trial at The Park Hotel, Dungarvan, following direct engagement between the programme and local employers. Her enthusiasm and commitment quickly stood out, leading to a part-time position in the hotel's food and beverage department — a role she continues to enjoy and excel in. Hannah's success was even featured on Waterford Local Radio's Big Breakfast Blaa, showcasing the value of inclusive employment in our local community.



Looking Ahead: The achievements of 2025 highlight how the WorkAbility Programme continues to make a lasting difference — by working closely with individuals, employers, and community partners to build confidence, skills, and opportunities for work. The belief that everyone has something valuable to contribute remains at the heart of everything we do, and we look forward to building on this progress in 2026 and beyond.

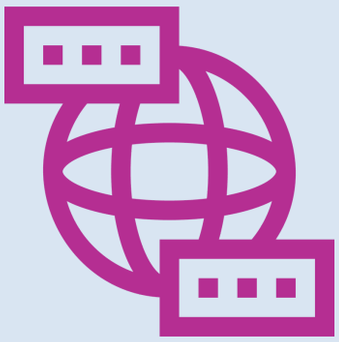
New Arrivals Supports

In 2025 the **Integration & Employment of Migrants** service registered **133** new clients, 61% had beginners level English at registration and 78% attended English classes with the service throughout the year.

By the end of 2025 **51%** of the participants were either in employment or education, **36%** still actively job searching and **4%** had been relocated to another part of Ireland.

9 people are now working as Healthcare Assistants after completing QQI Level 5 with WCFE support. **19** people moved into cleaning/hospitality roles after Conversational English + Safe Pass/Manual Handling. **12** people completed the Security Guard licensing pathway (Safe Pass + Manual Handling + Garda vetting support). Several clients enrolled in SETU/WCFE for Nursing, Social Care, and Business courses (CAO & spring-intake applications supported).

The **SICAP New Arrivals** programme provided essential support to **174** individuals settling in Waterford during 2025 including: career guidance, CV preparation labour market-related courses, intensive English language classes, literacy support, cultural orientation and confidence-building activities. **160** courses were completed successfully, contributing strongly to both labour market preparation and soft skills/wellbeing development.



A major pillar of the programme has been the continued delivery of the **BUÍON/Fáilte Isteach English Language Programme**, which offered beginner, intermediate, and advanced English classes with a strong emphasis on practical conversational skills, grammar, and vocabulary. In 2025, a total of 284 students attended classes across Waterford city, Tramore, and Dungarvan. The programme was delivered by 27 dedicated tutors who formed 32 separate groups across Waterford City, Dungarvan and Tramore.



Buíon also facilitated exam preparation courses in collaboration with English Lanugage Schools . A total of **30** students participated in these courses which enabled participants to enrole in third-level education, get qualification recognition for regulated professions and access employment opportunities requiring certified English proficiency. **76** students of our various language supports gained employment and **8** enrolled in college or professional courses in 2025.

Start Your Own Business Supports

SME/Sole Trader Supports

Buíon works with Intreo Case Officers and Waterford Local Enterprise Office to deliver business planning, mentoring, training, and networking opportunities to those that apply for the Back To Work Enterprise Allowance or are referred to Buíon for Business Supports.

235 individuals were given enterprise supports in 2025 which included 1:1 mentoring sessions, start your own business information sessions, support for business plan development and networking.

Over **24** training programmes in key business fundamentals were delivered including: Making a Ros Return, Social Media Bootcamp, Tiktok & Video Editing, Using Canva, Book-Keeping, Using AI tools, End of Year Accounting, Photography for Small Business and Content Creation.



22 individuals received Enterprise Grants totalling over €10,000 to support their business development.

Anna* wanted to set up a cleaning business specializing in commercial and domestic properties using eco-friendly products. She made contact with Buíon's business mentor and received the following business supports:

- **Ongoing business mentoring**
- **Basic First Aid Training**
- **Photography for Small Business Training**
- **Bookkeeping Training**
- **Digital Strategy training which included Tiktok/Reels and Video Editing, and using Canva for business. Anna also had a 2 hour mentoring session with a Digital Strategy Specialist to provide her with a social media overview and future planning.**

In 2026 Anna will continue with 1:1 business mentor and will receive additional training in: Content Creation, Using AI and Creating a business website. As Anna has recently registered with Revenue she will take on End of Year accounts and ROS training in 2027.

Social Enterprise Supports

A social enterprise is a business that is set up to achieve a social benefit rather than a profit for its owners or shareholders. This is sometimes called a 'Profit for Purpose Business'. All profits made are invested back into the business and its social objective.

This year saw the progression of SICAP actions with Local Community Groups, individuals and Networks towards an increased awareness of the social enterprise business model. The Social Enterprise Development Worker supported pre-development start ups, provided training and networking opportunities for groups already in or seeking to explore this space, and mentoring for engagement with other relevant supports.

11 social enterprises were registered with Buíon/SICAP in 2025. These social enterprises were diverse and at different stages of development.

A number of local group presentations and information sessions supported an increased awareness of the business model, including engagement with Waterford Local Enterprise Office's "Profit for Purpose" workshop held in Dungarvan.
We held our first "pitch" event in June, bringing together interested agencies and other community organisations to assist in exploring additional support pathways for one social enterprise.

Support for the development of Comhar Comaraigh Network is ongoing. The network is developing an innovative social enterprise model focused on rural regeneration. Buíon supported their Social Enterprise Conference held in August entitled 'The Unique Contribution of Social Enterprise to Rural and Urban Regeneration' which saw a turnout of over 70 people.

The Social Foundry is an 8 module, blended learning programme which was delivered to 9 participants in collaboration with Waterford Local Enterprise Office (WLEO). The course was designed to help people build resilient Social Enterprises and included modules on; business planning, social media marketing, governance, climate action, procurement and financial fitness. 6 of the programme participants registered for further supports with Buíon.



Buíon Lifelong Learning Supports



We work closely with local groups and schools to develop responses to the lifelong learning needs of individuals and to improve social connections, inclusion & wellbeing.

Programmes reach people of all ages and backgrounds, including people with disabilities, those who are long-term unemployed or economically inactive and members of new Irish communities.

In 2025 programmes were delivered in a range of locations across Waterford: Ardmore, Lismore, Dungarvan, Kilrossanty, Cappoquin, and Waterford City.

We also referred to, and collaborated with, Waterford & Wexford Education & Training Board to ensured individuals had access to a broad spectrum of progression pathways, including formal qualifications, non-accredited learning, and community-based education.

Education & Lifelong Learning Supports

People participated in a diverse range of Buíon's lifelong learning programmes and collaborations in 2025:

SICAP Lifelong Learning Supports

- Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative with Children's Group Link
- Conscious Crafting & Therapeutic Arts Programme
- Exploring Irish traditions & connecting identity with creativity
- Smartphone Photography
- Furniture Upcycling
- Digital Literacy
- Social Therapeutic Gardening
- Craft Sewing
- Cookery
- Yoga
- Driving Ambitions Programmes
- Drama
- Breathwork
- Holistic Self Care
- Chair Mobility
- Dance Fitness



2 International Women's Day 2025 events brought together women from different communities in Dungarvan and Waterford City for vibrant and participatory celebrations of resilience, diversity, and empowerment.





Education & Lifelong Learning Supports

The Atelier Roma Project

Staff engaged with over **50** Roma families in Waterford City and County in 2025. The project delivered a range of classes and workshops including: sewing, cookery and woodwork programmes as well as a Preparation for Work programme which explored the world of work, interview skills, C.V preparation and attitudes to work.

These programmes served as entry points to empowerment, community integration, and practical skill-building.





Roma Community Health Work

The Roma Community Health Worker delivered a range of collaborative supports to the community focused on improved health and social outcomes and increased awareness of health services. These included:

- A talk from Jeanne Walsh, Regional Liaison Nurse at which Health packs were distributed to all 25 attendees.
- Irish Heart Foundation heart health checks for **25** men and women
- A fun and friendly bingo session designed to build social connections and support numeracy skills. Health packs filled with hygiene products and essential women's health infornation were shared with all the women. This session was a collaboration with Buíon's SICAP New Arrivals staff.
- The Marie Keating Foundation mobile health unit provided confidential cancer information, advice and support directly to the community, helping to raise awareness and encourage early detection.
- A Christmas Hamper delivery supported around **78** families (approximately 483 men, women and children) with the added costs that Christmas can bring.



Supports to Children & Families

Easter Wellbeing Camps with Barnardos: Held in Knockanore, Lismore, and Clonea, these camps engaged **63** children and promoted emotional well-being, intercultural friendships, and self-confidence through yoga, crafts, and breathwork. **450** children participated in a **Summer Camp Access Programme,** designed to enable children from DEIS schools and eligible families—including New Arrivals—to integrate into mainstream summer activities. Additionally, **35** children with disabilities availed of Special Needs Assistance through the initiative.

Further support reached **734** children and **129** adults through eight collaborative initiatives delivered in partnership with Respond Housing, Autism Support Dungarvan, Waterford Sports Partnership, Foroige, SETU, Barnardo's, School Completion Programme, Tusla, and local summer camp providers.

Activities included mindfulness programmes, art programmes, Christmas events, summer camps, and a dedicated 3rd level Learning for Life Programme.

Learning for Life: 60 sixth-class students from DEIS schools participated in weekly sessions at SETU. This early exposure to third-level subjects inspired ambition and broadened educational horizons for children from underrepresented backgrounds.

ARTastic – Foroige (Lismore): 13 teenagers explored mental health, identity, and relationships through art, enabling meaningful dialogue in a non-clinical, youth-friendly environment.

SICAP Community & Integration Support to New Arrivals included events to introduce individuals and families to Irish traditions, promote local services, assess needs, provide information and integration events such as: Bridget's Day celebrations, multicultural sports days & games, walking tours, college orientation, group visits, beach cleans, chess tournaments, creativity workshops, community gardening workshops and seasonal events

"We are always happy to come to social events like this. It helps us to integrate through play and cooperative activities."



"With the group walk, I increased my confidence using English in public, stronger connection to Waterford, and understood application process to further education courses."

We also continue to collaborate with Waterford Red Cross for regular new arrivals drop in support.

Buíon Supports to Local Communities



During 2025, developmental support was focused on assisting community groups to; access and manage funding, ensure compliance and good governance, planning, capacity building and group development.

Groups were also supported to make grant applications to other bodies, and 61 community organisations applied for funding from Buíon's Social Inclusion Programme.

13 new organisations emerged during the year that required pre-development supports; guidance on establishing their committee, accessing insurance, and support to access relevant funding schemes to build the capacity of the group and ensure sustainability.

Community Collaborations & Networks

Buíon was contracted by the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI) to deliver on the Sustainable Energy Communities project within Waterford. This was a direct response to the People's Transition Project in Larchville & Lisduggan. The project staff worked with Waterford Council Climate Action Team and the South-East Energy Association.



Work progressed on Waterford's designation as a UNESCO Learning City, an ambitious project which positions lifelong learning as a central pillar of inclusive and sustainable development. Buíon is proud to collaborate on this initiative alongside Southeast Technological University (SETU), Waterford and Kilkenny Local Authorities, and the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB). This collaboration is helping to embed learning across all life stages and socioeconomic backgrounds, supporting the vision of Waterford as a truly inclusive and dynamic city of learning.

unesco
Global Network of Learning Cities

Dungarvan Community Centre Project

Buíon/SICAP Community Development Team worked with other groups in Dungarvan to undertaking a Feasibility Study into the need for a Community Centre in Dungarvan. Over **20** local community groups, organisations and agencies are involved, with a further **90** people completing an online survey.



The group had an opportunity to meet with the Minister of State for Rural & Community Development, Minister Buttimer TD in May to discuss the urgent need for a centre in Dungarvan.

Community Collaborations & Networks

Community Growers

Buíon Community Development Staff initiated a Community Growers Network. Planning meetings were held in close consultation with community leaders to ensure activities were locally relevant and responsive to community needs. They also facilitated access to funding to transform an underutilised garden into an accessible, welcoming space that will serve as a community hub for a newly forming Community Growers Network



Grow Together Programme

During 2025 one of the community garden projects developed into a strong, self-organising group and, with Buíon's support, progressed to delivering a structured 10-week "Grow Together" programme. Volunteers were actively involved in planning and facilitating weekly sessions, strengthening local leadership and community ownership. The programme engaged with participants accessing migrant supports through other Buíon Phort Láirge programmes.



Some of the positive outcomes included:

o Increased confidence, skills, and leadership capacity among community volunteers

o Improved social inclusion and integration for migrant participants

o Strengthened social connections, practical skills development, and wellbeing-focused engagement

o Foundations established for ongoing community-led programming



"It was lovely to know how to look after the soil here in Ireland. In Lebanon I used to do gardening a lot. It is a great community connection and (creates) wellbeing through seasonal activities."

"It's very important to raise awareness of biodiversity and pollination through hands-on environmental action.

Community Collaborations & Networks

We provided support to new and existing men's and women's sheds across the city & county including: pre-development support, guidance on governance, funding applications, and sourcing suitable premises to aid in their formal establishment. We also assisted in organising shed networks.

We partner others to co-fund projects like the Mincéirí Portlairge needs analysis project which engaged with families and individuals living in and around Dungarvan



A Community Mental Health and Wellness Event was held in Ballybeg in collaboration with HSE Connecting for Life to coincide with World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th 2025. This event brought together services, supports and the wider community to showcase available support services. The event included workshops from Mental Health Ireland, Connecting for Life HSE and SHINE and auricular acupuncture conducted by Waterford Community Based Drug Initiative.







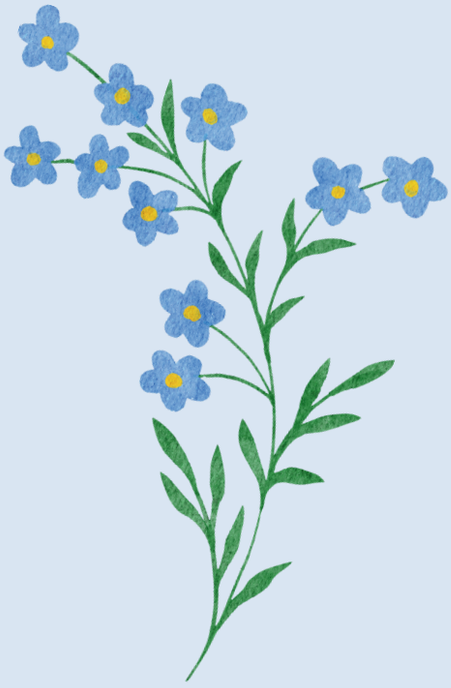
A Community Wellbeing Event took place in Dungarvan Sports Centre in collaboration with Healthy Waterford. The event brought together over 70 people from Women's Groups across Dungarvan & West Waterford to network and participate in activities such as breathwork, mindfulness, a nutritional talk and Art & Craft activity.

Sustainable Communities



In October 2025, Buíon supported the facilitation of a Workshop to aid the development of an Autism Town Plan for Dungarvan in collaboration with Autism Friendly Dungarvan. Over 30 people from a variety of agencies and organisations were in attendance on the night. A survey was also made available to the public after the event to ensure the inclusion of all in the community.

Buíon supported an event in collaboration with Friends of ASI Dungarvan and The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland to celebrate the 2nd Year of the voluntary effort in operation in Dungarvan which is aiming to make Dungarvan a Dementia Inclusive Town. Since its inception families and service users of the Alzheimers Society of Ireland have been provided with many services including; a Saturday day service, a monthly Memory Café and dementia awareness training for groups and businesses in Dungarvan. The Memory Café has now further expanded to Kilmacthomas and a day service in Cappoquin. The celebration day provided an opportunity for volunteers, carers, those with dementia and their families to reflect and celebrate the groups' achievements over the year.





Community Connection Project: This national project, funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development, aims to work with local communities to counter misinformation, discrimination and far-right rhetoric especially in communities with Direct Provision Centres. A Buíon project worker commenced in May to support community workers and volunteers to build skills and resilience in their local communities.

Waterford Foodbank

Location: Waterford City

Throughout 2025, Waterford Food Bank continued to respond to sustained and growing levels of food insecurity across the city. Operating without core funding the service focused on providing dignified, reliable food support while strengthening community connections and preventative responses.

Across all areas of work, demand for food support remained consistently high in 2025. Waterford Food Bank continued to act as a critical community safety net, using food as both an immediate support and a means of connection, stability and dignity for people across all stages of life.

Waterford Food Bank

FoodCloud

FEAD
Fund for European Aid



8,219 Food Parcels Distributed



33,600 Breakfasts for 210 children



Support to Revive Café. Providing free lunches for seniors.



428,112 Meals Provided

394,512 Meals through Parcels
33,600 Breakfasts for Schoolchildren
Free Lunches for Seniors

Waterford Foodbank



140,001 bottles and cans collected, raising **€22,211.85** which directly funds food support

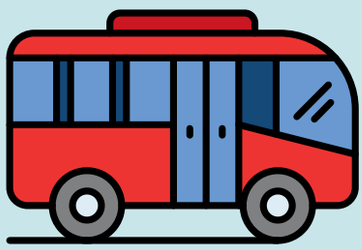


At Christmas, **1,000** food parcels were sourced, packed and delivered, supporting an estimated **4,000** individuals



Weekly food support to students through the SLL office on SETU campus via a food pantry stocked by Waterford Food Bank.

Waterford Food Bank



27,375 individual items collected for Fill a Bus Campaign

"Thank you for all your assistance with our breakfast club. As a result of your kind donations, we are able to ensure that between 50-70 children in our school go into school well fed and ready to learn every school day. This is enabling these children to get the best from their education. The impact is immeasurable."

"Thank you for the assistance provided to my clients over the last year through Waterford Foodbank. This service gave invaluable support to several MABS clients who were experiencing financial difficulty and allowed them some breathing space to address their debts. The food hampers provided immediate, practical relief at times of real need and were delivered with dignity, kindness and respect. Your service has made a genuine difference to individuals and families during very challenging periods and its positive impact cannot be overstated."

Repair Café Waterford

The Repair Café is a free, community-led initiative where people come together to repair broken or damaged items instead of throwing them away. Skilled volunteers help fix everyday household goods such as small household items, clothing, bicycles, toys, and diagnose digital or software issues, while sharing practical repair skills with visitors.

In 2025, Buíon Phort Láirge held **8** monthly Repair Cafés in association with the Larchville & Lisduggan Residents' Association at the Manor St John Community Centre, having been identified as a need within the community following The People's Transition Larchville & Lisduggan initiative. The events are supported by an average of **10** volunteers at each Cafe bringing a range of expertise, and attended by members of the local community who bring items to be repaired or fixed, or as a social space to meet neighbours or friends.

Made possible with sse Airtricity Generation Green **Community Fund**

In 2025, over **90 items** were repaired at the Repair Café Waterford and additional finance was secured for the initiative through the SSE Airtricity Generation Green Community Fund.



The Repair Café supports cost saving for communities, promotes sustainability, reduces waste, and strengthens community connections. Under the concept of 'Repair - Learn - Share', the aim of the Repair Café is to support volunteers and visitors to problem solve, learn new skills, and identify pathways to further learning & training.

Repair - Learn - Share







Policy Shaping

Buíon Phort Láirge staff participated in a range of fora to impact on policy development with; government agencies, the trades union sector, the business sector and other community & voluntary networks. This work covered areas such social inclusion, the circular economy, social/enterprise development, community develpment, learning neighbourhoods, human rights and many more.



Our Board, Management and staff regularly meet with other Local Development Companies across Ireland and attend events organised by the Local Development Companies Network.

Local Development Companies Network
Collective Vision, Fairer Society.





Thank you to our Partner Organisations

Thank you to all of our suppliers, local businesses, statutory partners, schools, local community groups, networks and individuals that collaborate with us to enable all of this work to happen.

To all of you that share our values of equality, participation, empathy and diversity we look forward to working with you into the future.

Find us on:



Buíon Phort Láirge

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