



**National Healthy Cities
and Counties of Ireland
Network
Review 2019 - 2022
&
Work Programme
2023 - 2025**

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Glossary of Acronyms

Acronym

Definition

AILG	Association of Irish Local Government
CARO	Climate Action Regional Offices
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CCMA	County and City Management Association
CYPSC	Children and Young People's Services Committees
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
DFHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DRCD	Department of Rural and Community Development
DoJ	Department of Justice
EHCN	European Healthy Cities Network
EMRA	Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly
ETBI	Education and Training Boards Ireland
HEI	Higher Education Institute
HICCNN	Healthy Ireland Cities & Counties National Network
HILG	Healthy Ireland Local Government
HSE	Health Service Executive
ILDN	Irish Local Development Network
IPH	Institute of Public Health
LCDC	Local Community Development Committee
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
NOAC	National Oversight & Audit Commission
NWRA	Northern & Western Regional Assembly
ORIS	Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
RCSI	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
SHCP	Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme
SICAP	Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
SRA	Southern Regional Assembly
SPC	Strategic Policy Committees
TVRS	Town & Village Renewal Scheme
WHO	World Health Organisation

Introduction

The National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network is part of the World Health Organization (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network movement that supports European member cities to become healthier and more equitable places to live. In its 7th iteration, the concept of Healthy Cities is inspired and supported by the WHO European Health for All strategy and the Health21 targets and is fully aligned with the European policy framework Health2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2018, the WHO held a landmark event in Copenhagen, Denmark, in which Mayors and political leaders from across the European Region gathered for the WHO European Healthy Cities Network Summit of Mayors to consider and adopt the Copenhagen Consensus which provides a vision for the future of the European Healthy Cities Network, Phase VII marks the first part of this vision for the period 2019-2024.

The 6 phases thus far of the European Healthy Cities Network has served as a strong platform for shared learning and experience on how to improve wellbeing and strive for more sustainable outcomes for urban public health. Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network will prioritize the important role that local governments have in developing health and wellbeing through whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

The Copenhagen Consensus supports inclusive, sustainable and resilient urban environments and through over 20 national networks in Phase VII, Cities commit to lead by example, tackle inequalities and promote governance and leadership for health and wellbeing. Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network has a framework that is shaped around the themes presented at the Copenhagen Consensus of Mayors.

The direction of Phase VII has 3 goals based on the Copenhagen Consensus:

- **Goal 1:** *Fostering health and wellbeing for all and reducing health inequities*
- **Goal 2:** *Leading by example nationally, regionally, and globally*
- **Goal 3:** *Supporting implementation of WHO strategic priorities*

Similarly, The Copenhagen summit provided 6 core themes to be focused on within the Phase VII framework:

- *investing in the **people** who make up our cities*
- *designing urban **places** that improve health and wellbeing*
- *promoting greater **participation** and partnerships for health and wellbeing*
- *improving community **prosperity** and access to common goods and services*
- *promoting **peace** and security through inclusive societies*
- *protecting the **planet** from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production.*

National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network

The National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network was formally launched in 2016. The Network is a member of the European Healthy Cities Network and committed to the delivery of the Copenhagen Consensus at a National and local level. This strong commitment supports the implementation of the Healthy Ireland Framework (2013 - 2025). The aim of the Network is to develop the structures necessary to support Cities and Counties to commit to the Phase VII goals and identified themes and fulfil objectives identified within the Healthy Ireland Framework at the local level.

Healthy Ireland Framework

The Healthy Ireland Framework has four key goals:

- **Goal 1:** *increasing the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life*
- **Goal 2:** *reducing health inequalities*
- **Goal 3:** *protecting the public from threats to health and wellbeing*
- **Goal 4:** *creating an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland.*

A key focus within the Healthy Ireland framework is the building of relationships and strengthening partnerships with other government departments, local authorities, the education sector, and wider business, voluntary and community sectors.

The involvement of Local Authorities and in particular their Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) is critical in providing the appropriate ecosystem to deliver positive health outcomes at the local level. The National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network will play a significant enabling role in addressing the health and wellbeing futures of communities within each Local Authority. This will be achieved through leadership and facilitating place-based approaches to address wellbeing within Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs) to be undertaken across each of the 31 Local Authorities in Ireland.

The Network now stands at an important juncture whereby it must provide a work programme to ensure its sustainability into the future and provide a strategic roadmap for wellbeing across local government.

The following sections will outline current state of activity and review of progress since 2019 and what needs to happen to ensure the National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network is appropriately configured and resourced to develop and scale up to meet these requirements.

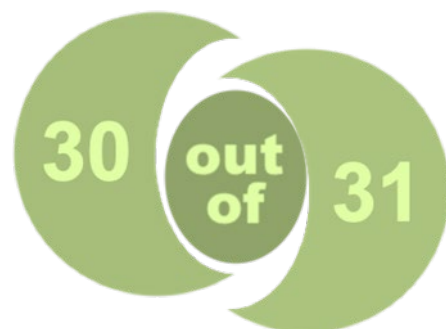
Review of Progress

The Healthy Cities project is a global WHO movement. The concept is based on the importance of local action and enabling the key role of local governments and local authorities in health and sustainable development. During the expansion of the WHO programme, National Networks were established to connect and support all cities and countries within their country. The National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network received WHO accreditation in 2016 in its Phase VI of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.

In November 2018, the Department of Health appointed Grant Thornton to support the production of a strategic development plan for the Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network. The approach included a desktop research and literature review; online survey; regional workshops; and one to one interviews with key stakeholders. Whilst there was much engagement in the process, progress was not what one would have hoped for with the Sláintecare health reform agenda taking precedence, the plan development timeline being nestled between Phases VI and VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network and most significantly the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact of necessary public health restrictions severely impacting on the Networks' plans.

However, much has still been achieved in driving the health and wellbeing agenda over the period including the progression of a dedicated Healthy Ireland City & Counties resource within each County/City and administering targeted calls of Healthy Ireland Funding to enable improved health outcomes across the country.

Within the 2019-2022 period, good transition has been seen in the in the governance arrangements of the Healthy Ireland Cities and Counties programmes at a local and national level with the HSE Health and Wellbeing unit supporting the delivery and transition where the function and coordination of activity now resides within local government- in keeping with the WHO phase VII objective.



**Healthy
Cities & Counties
Coordinators recruited**

**€9.78m
Round 3 Healthy
Ireland Funding
allocated to 53
grantees 2019-2021**

**National Healthy
Cities & Counties of
Ireland Network Phase
VII accreditation of
European Healthy
Cities Network**

**National
Healthy Ireland
Local
Government
Coordinator
within
Local
Government
Department of
Health funded
position with
Assistant
National
Coordinator
also recruited**



**Cork City designated
as European Healthy
City for Phase VII of
the European
Healthy Cities
Network**

**Round 4 Healthy
Ireland Fund 2022-
2025 in train with
greater outcomes
focus**

Our Strategic Goals

The National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network has sought to capitalize on the three strategic goals of the Phase VII framework of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network as a platform from which to work from and focus its activities. The pursuit of these goals will also strengthen coherence and collaboration effort across a number of sectors that include Government Departments, local agencies and most importantly with communities.



The strategy goals identified will see the work of the National Network concentrate its focus on the following:

-  **Fostering health and wellbeing for all and reducing health inequities**
-  **Leading by example locally, nationally, regionally, and globally**
-  **Supporting implementation of WHO strategic priorities**

By aligning activity and focus with the WHO framework, greater efficiency and effort can be had on inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral working on the health and wellbeing agenda whilst strategically connecting with other policy agendas including climate change.

The goals provide a practical framework for implementing actions, enabling leadership and give a solid platform for learning and sharing of expertise and experience between city and county programmes, at a regional level and with other countries.

The following will articulate what has been achieved thus far in these strategic goal areas and how it is intended to make progress on each of the strategic goals over the next three years, and the outcomes that the Network seek to achieve.

Goal One:

Fostering health and wellbeing for all and reducing health inequities



The National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network want to ensure better health outcomes and wellbeing for all. This requires strong alignment in health and wellbeing activity so that people have opportunity to flourish and access a range of options and pathways which allow for improved outcomes.

To achieve this, the Network will require adaptive and resilient approaches to create opportunities that tackle the inequities in health resulting from social, economic, environmental, and cultural situations.

The provision of evidence-based knowledge and data to inform decision making will be central to identifying the extent of health inequities, their causes and opportunity for possible solutions that could be produced with communities in response.

This goal calls for action to address health inequalities through **whole-of-local-government** approaches with strong political support and interventions within the life-course that address the wider determinants of health and wellbeing. The goal also requires Central Government focus on targeted provision of health enabling infrastructure within communities. It also seeks prioritisation of investment in places and people to be accorded based on identified need and data/knowledge.

Fostering health and wellbeing for all and reducing health inequities requires a strong emphasis on building capacity for change within communities and approaches that enable greater participation and empowerment of local communities will be imperative to reduce the widening gap in health inequalities.

Over the next three years the National Network will:

-  **Support the role of Local Government to promote Health For All**
-  **Empower and engage communities for sustainable health outcomes.**
-  **Develop capacity to reduce health inequities**

What has been achieved so far

Over the last three years the following have either directly or indirectly contributed to the delivery of a range of improvements, activities and services that provides a platform that can be built upon to foster health and wellbeing for all and attempt to reduce health inequities.



Roll-out of the pilot phase Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in 19 identified locations as part of Sláintecare Health Reform



Health and Wellbeing pushed as a high-level objective within each Local Economic and Community Plan by the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Public Participation Network (PPN) Community Wellbeing statements developed across Local Authority areas providing bottom-up vision of sustainable wellbeing



Health Services Healthy Ireland implementation plan with focus on prevention and reducing inequalities

Health & Wellbeing sub-committees of LCDCs established to provide coherence at a local level aligning activity of a range of programmes including Local Sports Partnerships, SICAP, Family & Children Services, CYPSC and Age Friendly



Dedicated Enabling Healthy Outcomes Funding measures across Government Departments introduced that can deliver health enabling infrastructure e.g ORIS, Healthy Ireland Fund, Active Travel, TVRS, Community Safety Fund, SHCP seed fund

Looking Forward

Building on the progress achieved, the Network will strive to develop and deliver practical actions to ensure that the promotion of health and the reduction of health inequities can be operationalised as a whole-of-local-government approach with supports from relevant Government Departments and health and wellbeing structures and public bodies.

The Network commits to demonstrate how coherent actions across the wider determinants of health and wellbeing can produce benefits across broader development objectives and for many other related policy areas.

The challenge lies in making implementation real and the Network will strive to influence how resource flows are distributed based on evidence of need and seek to align and maximise the impact of relevant funding arrangements that tackle the interdependencies and complexities of health inequities.

Shifting the focus to one of prevention will equally be challenging and requires placing much greater value on community participation. The Network will support the empowerment of local communities to ensure their sustainable involvement in the co-production of health equity solutions.

The use of qualitative and quantitative data to inform activity will be important and the Network will facilitate data-led decision making and encourage the collection and integration of localised population health and wellbeing data to help deliver better outcomes.



Support the role of Local Government to promote Health For All:

The Network will encourage a robust wellbeing governance framework within local government that helps join-up effort at a local level leading to improved sustainable health outcomes. The alignment of health and wellbeing activity alongside other local government initiatives with shared objectives is important and having this strongly supported by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) will assist in driving coherence and collaboration across local government.

Similarly, the Network will look to mirror such coherence and collaboration across relevant Government Departments in aligning agendas and approaches that focus on the wider determinants of health and that require active local government leadership.

The Healthy Ireland Cities & Counties programme having a formal governance arrangement within the LCDC structure gives it a strong platform from which to build collaborative effort and the Network will support and strengthen the diverse approaches taken within the 31 Local Authorities in their wellbeing high level goal efforts within the LECP development process.

The National Network will work with the LCDC stakeholders to influence resource flow towards the delivery of wellbeing objectives within the 31 LECPs.



Empower and engage communities for sustainable health outcomes:

Taking a longer-term view in achieving improvements in public health requires a shift towards community powered prevention and the Network are ideally placed to push this as it is a central theme in the Healthy Ireland Outcomes Framework. Within a Local Government context, the opportunity to have such a preventative focus and include the voice and representation of communities in decision making offers strong potential for improved health outcomes.

The Network promotes strong alignment with other local government initiatives that are quality of life outcome focused and participatory in their approach. The upskilling within local government and across other stakeholders in innovative engagement approaches e.g *Scottish Place Standard Tool* will be fully embraced and the carrying out of wellbeing/health impact assessments of activity will also offer opportunity to create further awareness of the wider determinants of health.

The Network will also explore community wellbeing social enterprise development to help drive sustainable health outcomes given the credibility and trust potential of such community-owned wellbeing interventions.



Develop capacity to reduce health inequities:

The National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network will play a significant role in increasing the availability of data relevant to local health and wellbeing through the gathering of new datasets. This data will be allied with existing wellbeing information provision including Census 2022, local agency, community and local government data.

The progression of a Healthy Ireland Local Government data portal to promote local data and performance information will offer good opportunity to better understand disparities in health outcomes among different population groups and within communities of place. The mapping and interpretation of these datasets will, when overlaid, provide a rich information resource to inform decision making.

The use of robust qualitative data will also be encouraged through academic partnerships and embracing citizen science will offer further knowledge to assist the Network in its effort in ascertain what works in tackling health inequities.

The Network will seek to develop strong academic partnerships at a local and regional level to highlight health inequities and ensure consistency of evaluation methodologies in any interventions. The provision of support from relevant experts in the public health space e.g. *Institute of Public Health*, RCSI will be important to guide the Network with this approach.

As a final consideration, the concept of upskilling and provision of accredited health inequity training e.g. *health disparities; health determinants* will be developed for use across local government to increase awareness amongst elected members and technical staff and in particular to furnish the Healthy City & County Coordinators with the necessary skillsets to deliver on the overall goal.

Goal Two: Leading by example locally, nationally, regionally, and globally



Ensuring compliance with the WHO Phase VII requirements will be an important consideration for the National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network. The leadership requirement of this goal places strong responsibility on local government to act as an enabler, provider and influencer on public health issues at local, regional, national (including all-island approaches) and European level. To deliver on this ambition, the Network will support the Healthy Cities & Counties programme capacity to create healthier places, setting positive precedent and influencing national policies aimed at improving public health on a larger scale.

The leadership example will be best shown in the accreditation of 5 Irish Cities (*Dublin, Galway, Limerick and Waterford to join Cork*) to the WHO Phase VII European Healthy Cities Network. The Network will strongly encourage participation in relevant strategic European transnational programmes within the 3 Regional Assembly areas and also where possible through liaison with associated partner Cities/Councils from Northern Ireland.

To achieve this strategic goal, the Network will require different approaches to create the range of opportunities and initiatives that can encourage local government to lead on the public health and wellbeing agenda as part of its annual core activity. This will require agility in programmes, innovation and focus on policy development and flexibility in approach to reflect urban and rural contexts. Working across a range of governance structures and in particular at Municipal District level will help drive this effort.

The requirement to measure and evaluate impact will be important and having wellbeing metrics recorded annually within local government will provide a good indication of progress made on this strategic goal.

Over the next three years the National Network will:

-  **Strengthen wellbeing leadership within local government.**
-  **Nurture intersectoral collaboration and maximise collective impact at a local and regional level.**
-  **Develop capacity within Local Government to integrate health and wellbeing into core activity.**

What has been achieved so far

Over the last three years the following have either directly or indirectly contributed to the delivery of a range of improvements, activities and services that provides a platform that can be built upon by local government to lead by example



Establishment of 4 Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO)
Coordinating and supporting local government to lead transformative change and measurable climate action across our cities and counties



Creative Ireland - Health & Wellbeing focus within Local Government to unlock creative potential of communities



Liaison and guidance provided by LGMA with Healthy Ireland Local Government reporting to Rural Development, Community, Culture & Heritage Committee of the CCMA



Age Friendly Ireland operating as a shared service across 31 Local Authorities and part of the WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Cities & communities. Ireland recognized as first Age Friendly country in the world by WHO in 2019



Dept. of An Taoiseach programme for Child Poverty & Child wellbeing

83 Staff working on Healthy Ireland Programmes within Local Government including
Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme Local Development Officers, Healthy Library Coordinators and Healthy Ireland Cities & Counties Coordinators



Dedicated Healthy Ireland Funding allocated to CYPSC by Department of Health in 2023.

POBAL involved in administration of a number of community-facing funding mechanisms including SICAP, Community Energy, EU Just Transition, Dormant Accounts

Looking Forward

This strategic goal is a significant opportunity to learn from the experience of global and European cities. Access to EU funding programmes will influence both national policy and local implementation with regard to public health and wellbeing activity.

The integration of the One Health Approach through the alignment of population health, environmental health and animal health as per Phase VII, offers the opportunity for Ireland to contribute to a global movement to reduce the burden of infectious disease.

Strong collaboration is essential. The National Network will convene and facilitate relevant public health stakeholders to build greater capacity for the alignment of activity and collaborative effort. This will be of particular significance to the local government sector and strategic wellbeing partners e.g., HSE and its delivery partners.

Training, capacity building and awareness raising opportunities will be promoted across all relevant sectors to lead by example. The sharing and appropriate use of knowledge and data to inform local action will be encouraged – particularly in areas where whole of local government responses can impact on wellbeing outcomes.

The Network will seek to influence policy arising from the innovative projects within the Healthy Cities and Counties programme that showcase the impact of local government leadership in delivering improved health outcomes.



Strengthen wellbeing leadership within local government:

Strengthening local government's leadership role in health & wellbeing requires alignment of the determinants of health activity within local government through connecting related structures or initiatives that share outcomes/intent – the Community Safety Partnerships to emerge in 2024, Climate Action Plans and SICAP/LEADER within the LECPs all offer significant opportunity for wellbeing coherence.

The National Network will seek to influence local government structures, initiatives and policy making bodies to the benefit of health. Liaison with Strategic Policy committees, PPN structures and bringing a concentrated wellbeing focus at Municipal District level within local government will ensure that the programme becomes embedded.

The Network will also encourage strong liaison with National Local Government management structures and will seek to create appropriate reporting of performance. This evidence will provide the platform that is needed to strengthen wellbeing leadership within local government.



Nurture intersectoral collaboration and maximise collective impact at a local and regional level:

Opportunities for awareness/training to embed wellbeing within local government core activity will be sought for local government staff (technical staff e.g. planners; engineers; etc.). Similar opportunities will be afforded to elected representatives who have significant influence on resource flows and local policy design.

The Network will encourage this within the LECP development process within the 31 LCDCs using a health and wellbeing lens to ensure an emphasis on the reduction of inequities.

The strategic networking sessions will form the basis for nurturing intersectoral collaboration to help align local government wellbeing activity with that of Healthy Ireland HSE work and to ensure coherence at a local level. These networks sessions will help place the Healthy Cities & Counties programme in a strong position to align activity with other local government initiatives and provide an informed context to the work of each LCDC wellbeing committee, thus ensuring their collective impact.

The networking will also be encouraged on a regional level with close alignment between the regional assembly areas where chief officers of LCDCs convene and the health promotion leads within the proposed regional health areas.

The Network will facilitate European stakeholder collaboration with research and development across the European Healthy Cities Network through active participation and leadership in EU funded programmes that tackle the wider determinants of wellbeing and health.



Develop capacity within Local Government to integrate health and wellbeing into core activity:

Capacity building for leadership will lever a better understanding of the determinants of health, helping to drive change through training and upskilling. This will require adaptive leadership and working with diverse partners at a local and regional level. The Network will encourage opportunities within the 31 Local Authorities to help build greater leadership capacity to effect change and increase awareness of Local Government responsibilities in improving wellbeing.

The development of engagement tools that espouse place-based thinking will be provided to create more green and blue infrastructure and planning measures or conditions that equally support better health outcomes.

As part of the data informed approach, the mapping of existing amenity and physical infrastructure will help inform resource allocation where gaps are evident.

Making the most of these levers for change within annual local government work programmes will have a sustainable impact on health outcomes and will help build the capacity required to create more livable and healthy environments.

Goal Three: Supporting implementation of WHO strategic priorities



WHO Phase VII offers considerable opportunity to explore a strategic approach for change to happen in tackling the wider determinants of health and wellbeing within local government.

It is important to build on what is known and what works to achieve real impact. Impact may only be seen in local communities when a range of combined interventions have impact over time. Implementation on the ground is key to help drive the leadership and momentum that is required to prevent poor health outcomes and prolong healthy life expectancy. This is central to the National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network approach in encouraging and adopting interventions that can be adapted to both population and place.

The WHO priorities that have greatest impact on health and wellbeing at a local level will be informed by the LECP and the National Healthy Ireland Outcomes Framework. This will require strong leadership of local government. The development of community wellbeing approaches where trust, credibility and ownership of initiatives coming from the community itself will be encouraged and supported.

Further to this, the learning from recent public health crises and the important role played in community response/resilience approaches requires the Network to build on such structures at local government level and help prepare for other global public health challenges when they occur.

Over the next three years the National Network will:

-  **Support local and national implementation of Healthy Cities & Counties Programme.**
-  **Build capacity at the local level to develop community wellbeing.**
-  **Build resilience measures for global public health challenges.**

What has been achieved so far

Over the last three years the following have either directly or indirectly contributed to the delivery of a range of improvements, activities and services that supports or will support the implementation of WHO priorities.



LEADER & SICAP plans being developed in 2023 and will tie-in with LECPs at a Local Authority level

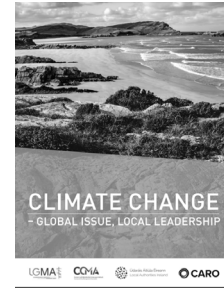


Significant funding opportunities to influence health and wellbeing across a number of different EU instruments



3 Pilot Community Safety Partnerships with roll-out expected across 31 Local Authorities in 2024

LGMA/CCMA/CARO publication outlining Local Government leadership to tackle climate change – 2020



Healthy Cities & Counties Coordinators and Healthy Ireland Round 4 Funding in place until 2025



In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, a "Local Authority Community Response Unit" was established in each Local Authority area. These Forums helped ensure all vulnerable members of our communities affected by COVID-19 restrictions were appropriately supported.

The forums transitioned to respond to the Ukrainian crisis in 2022



Significant contributions to the 2022 WHO European Healthy Cities Network Annual Business Meeting and hosted the WHO Political Committee in 2023

Looking Forward

The National Healthy Cities & Counties of Ireland Network will seek to influence the political choices that can be made through improved coherent policy design strategically placed upstream with an emphasis on prevention to maximise impact.

The alignment of a number of agendas within local government in the delivery of an intersectoral approach requires capacity to be built and sustained among all stakeholders. The Network will seek to ensure that community participation to identify need in implementing the relevant WHO global health challenges.

Strengthening capacity for managing change in communities and creating more resilient local wellbeing structures are central to the National Network ambitions within the Healthy Cities & Counties programme.

Communities of place and interest are the experts in their lives and challenges. Harnessing this understanding for better health and wellbeing outcomes is essential. The Network will put strong significance on the “local” as this is where social differences play out and where community assets may be best utilised. The concept of community-led wellbeing initiatives will be encouraged to help deliver on WHO priorities for Healthy Cities and places.



Support local and national implementation of Healthy Cities & Counties Programme

Supporting WHO Healthy City implementation at both local and national levels requires comprehensive collaboration involving government agencies, local authorities, HSE and delivery partners and in particular community groups and citizens.

At the national level, government establishes policies, allocates resources; develops regulatory legislation and sets national targets to align with international standards including the SDGs.

The Network will play a strong supportive role in enabling and supporting this activity acting as a broker to ensure delivery of the WHO strategic priorities.

At the local level – local government are at the forefront of implementing WHO priorities with their role in enabling environments, provision of community wellbeing infrastructure and regulatory functions through planning and development. The Network will seek to influence this through the Healthy Cities & Counties programme and strong connection with the LCDC structure.

Furthermore, the Network will seek to progress community participatory approaches in wellbeing initiatives as it is a key element in delivering sustainable health and wellbeing outcomes. The network will encourage citizen involvement in decision-making processes, citizen science approaches and community ownership of wellbeing initiatives to help implementation of WHO strategic priorities.



Build capacity at the local level to develop community wellbeing

Building wellbeing capacity at a local level involves empowering communities to take charge of their own health and wellbeing by providing resources, support, and opportunities for growth. This approach is key for the National Network as it fosters a sense of ownership and collaboration among community members, enabling them to create positive changes that promote wellbeing.

The Network will help build local wellbeing capacity through the development of training and skill-building programmes that can empower individuals and community leaders to take an active role in their community's wellbeing.

The concept of creating a pool of local champions for positive change across communities would have resonance for a number of place-based initiatives across Government Departments.

The development of community capacity in areas such as adaptive leadership, citizen engagement, place based working, advocacy, and wellbeing promotion can only enhance the reach and impact of wellbeing initiatives allowing for more accurate and targeted resource allocation and coordinated responses.

The Network wishes to build on this important element of local level wellbeing capacity in order to deliver on some of the WHO strategic priorities.



Build resilience measures for global public health challenges

Community resilience is at the heart of the response to community challenges and came to the fore in the Covid-19 pandemic. Building resilience measures for global public health concerns requires learning from previous health crises to improve preparedness for any future challenges.

The Network will strive to deliver on the “one health” WHO strategic priority and will be proactive in its approach with education and awareness raising to enhance understanding of the impact of global health challenges at a local level e.g. *climate action impact on public health webinar developed with CARO*.

The Network will seek to maintain the community resilience type structures at local authority level that were developed in response to Covid and since then in responding to the Ukrainian crisis.

Strong cross-sector collaboration to address emerging challenges effectively is significant and having community wellbeing resilience structures at Municipal District level can have significant immediate impact in having a ready response to global or local challenges should they arise.

The Network sees such local structures as prime spaces to help communities better protect themselves and respond effectively when faced with challenges – the challenge does not need to be global and having local responses to local challenges e.g. *extreme weather, tragedy etc.* can have a significant and sustainable impact.

Goal I Fostering health and wellbeing for all and reducing health inequities

Timeframe 2023 - 2025

Ref	Objective	Ref	Implementation Actions	Lead	Linked Partners	Reporting Metric
1.1	Support the role of Local Government to promote Health For All	1.1.1	Ensure Health and well-being is an integral part of LECPs as a high level objective tackling inequalities and addressing the wider determinants of health	HILG National Office	HICCNN; LCDC Chief Officers; DRCD; LGMA	Health & Wellbeing Strategy in each LECP
		1.1.2	Foster coherence within Local Government initiatives that have shared wellbeing outcomes e.g. <i>CSPs, LSPs, Active Cities etc.</i>	HILG National Office	HICCNN; LCDC Chief Officers; DRCD; LGMA	Report on coherent cross-departmental wellbeing approaches within local government through LCDC
		1.1.3	Engage and collaborate with relevant Government Departments to align policy, funding and prioritisation consideration e.g DRCD - <i>TVRS, ORIS, CLAR</i> ;	HICCNN	Chief Officers LCDC; Dept of an Taoiseach; DRCD	
1.2	Empower and engage communities for sustainable health outcomes	1.2.1	Explore innovative and participative engagement processes	HILG National Office; HICCNN	DRCD; LGMA; DECC; DHLGH,	Joined-up needs assessments and action planning reported
		1.2.2	Co-design and co-deliver innovative community wellbeing initiatives to promote health and wellbeing	HILG National Office; HICCNN	DRCD; LGMA; DFHERIS; PPN	Pilot programmes developed
		1.2.3	Progress Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Place Standard Tool (PST) skillsets within local government and opportunities for its use and application	HILG National Office; HICCNN	DHLGH; LCDC Chief Officers; DRCD; LGMA	Use of HIA & PST in local government
1.3	Develop capacity to reduce health inequities	1.3.1	Support and contribute to the Healthy Ireland local government data portal to develop capacity to reduce health inequities	HILG National Office	HICCNN; LGMA	Accessible wellbeing portal available for HILG stakeholders
		1.3.2	Build research capacity within local government including qualitative data, citizen science and citizen engagement approaches to increase awareness and nature of health inequities at a local level	HILG National Office; HICCNN	IPH; DRCD; LGMA; RCSI; HSE	Local government wellbeing data and information resource opportunities identified, developed and shared
		1.3.3	Develop accredited upskilling and training opportunities on health determinants and health inequalities for Healthy Ireland local government programme staff and upskilling and awareness opportunities for other key stakeholders within local government environment e.g <i>elected members, technical staff, planners etc</i>	HILG National Office; HICCNN	IPH; DRCD; LGMA; Dept of An Taoiseach	

Goal 2 Leading by example nationally, regionally, and globally

Timeframe 2023 - 2025

Ref	Objective	Ref	Implementation Actions	Lead	Linked Partners	Reporting Metric
2.1	Strengthen wellbeing leadership within Local Government	2.1.1	Encourage wellbeing planning at a Municipal District level or equivalent to maximise leadership and influencing impact of local government	HILG National Office; LGMA	LCDC Chief Officers; DRCD; DHLGH; IPH; RCSI;	Level of Municipal District reporting on wellbeing
		2.1.2	Capitalise on Local Government internal policy structures that brings together relevant stakeholders of influence including PPN representatives and elected members to progress wellbeing agenda e.g <i>SPCs, LCDCs</i>	HILG National Office; HICCNN	DHLGH; DRCD	Wellbeing content in Local authority performance reporting
		2.1.3	Develop strong relationship with LGMA/CCMA structures/committees to encourage whole of local government approaches being adopted within the 31 local authorities	HILG National Office; HICCNN	LGMA; DHLGH	Reporting regularity to CCMA/LGMA structures
2.2	Nurture intersectoral collaboration and maximise collective impact at a local and regional level	2.2.1	Deliver relevant webinars and training opportunities in conjunction with key stakeholders e.g <i>HSE, Safefood, CARO etc.</i> to enable wellbeing partnership working across the 31 local authorities.	HICCNN; IPH	LGMA; CARO; HSE; RCSI; DHLGH	Events/Webinars held
		2.2.2	Encourage strategic regional networking within Regional Assembly networks and Regional Health Areas, CAROs etc to help align local government wellbeing activity	HICCNN; LCDC Chief Officers	LCDC Chief Officers; HSE; ILDN; PPN	Regional Networking events held
		2.2.3	Encourage EU and all-island cross border collaboration through participation in wellbeing and public health related initiatives across the 31 Local Authorities and/or on a regional basis	HILG National Office; HICCNN	SERA; EMRA; NWRA; DRCD; DHLGH	Participation in all-island and EU programme activity
2.3	Develop capacity within Local Government to integrate health and wellbeing into core activity.	2.3.1	Build capacity and influence Local Government's role in addressing the determinants of health with elected members and across their relevant structures within and across local government e.g <i>SPCs, Municipal Districts etc</i> whilst also aligning health and wellbeing approaches into core local government delivery programmes e.g <i>Municipal District Engineers programmes, Active Travel, Open Spaces</i>	HILG National Office; HICCNN; LGMA	IPH; LCDC Chief Officers; DHLGH; DRCD	Local government wellbeing resource opportunities identified, developed and implemented
		2.3.2	Identify opportunity areas for infrastructure provision based on demographics and relevant planning/provision standards and adopt place based engagement approaches e.g <i>Place Standard</i> to help respond to identified needs or deficits in communities	HILG National Office; HICCNN	Sport Ireland; Safefood; LGMA; DRCD; DHLGH	
		2.3.3	Capitalise on Local Government governance structures that brings together relevant stakeholders of influence e.g <i>AILG, LAMA, CARO, SERA, EMRA, NWRA</i> in influencing health and wellbeing at a local level	HILG National Office; HICCNN;	LGMA; DRCD; DHLGH	

Goal 3 Supporting implementation of WHO strategic priorities

Ref	Objective	Ref	Implementation Actions	Lead	Linking Partners	Reporting Metric
3.1	Support local and national implementation of Healthy Cities & Counties Programme	3.1.1	Capitalise on local government's ability to influence health and wellbeing outcomes through regulatory functions, planning and policy implementation and delivery of health and wellbeing supporting infrastructure at a local level	HILG National Office; HICCNN	LGMA; DHLGH; DRCD; DECC	Report on extent of influencing wellbeing policy, regulation and infrastructure development
		3.1.2	Foster co-production of community health and wellbeing responses with communities of interest and communities of place	HILG National Office; HICCNN	HSE; ILDN; ETBI; DRCD	Co-produced responses reported
		3.1.3	Develop citizen science approaches and citizen led engagements to improve local wellbeing data and measure impact	HILG National Team; HICCNN	IPH; RCSI; ILDN; DRCD	Community data sets gathered for Healthy Ireland programme activity
3.2	Build capacity at the local level to develop community health and wellbeing	3.2.1	Work with strategic stakeholders e.g <i>primary care, HSE, GPs (Deep End)</i> to identify key opportunity areas for sustainable community health and wellbeing delivery	HILG National Team; HICCNN	HSE; ILDN; IPH; RCSI; DRCD	Level of Community wellbeing interventions reported
		3.2.2	Work with DFHERIS, DRCD and SOLAS/ETBI to co-produce sustainable opportunities for wellbeing champions/tutors/social enterprises within communities - to enable other Government initiatives to benefit from approach e.g <i>Community Safety/ Age Friendly/Childrens Poverty Strategy et c.</i>	HILG National Team; HICCNN	DRCD; DoJ; ETBI; SOLAS	
		3.2.3	Provide upskilling opportunities within communities to deliver their own citizen engagement and placed based engagement approaches	HILG National Team; HICCNN	DHLGH; DRCD; LGMA	No. of Communités supported
3.3.	Build resilience measures for global public health challenges	3.3.1	Work with WHO and relevant Government Departments to highlight awareness of 'one health' approach and development of community resilience responses for any potential challenges emerging	HILG National Team; HICCNN	DoH; DHLGH; DECC; LGMA; HSE	Community Resilience Structure concept developed
		3.3.2	Work with LGMA and related local government initiatives to ensure consistent use of GiS to maintain data on attributes and potential responses in event of any emerging challenges	HILG National Team; HICCNN	LGMA; DHLGH; DRCD; DECC; DAFM	Collection, sharing and interpretation of datasets reported
		3.3.3	Encourage establishment of cross sectoral community resilience networks at a Municipal District level and provide appropriate supports to enable community resilient responses to any adverse incidents/challenges	HILG National Team; HICCNN	LGMA; DHLGH; DRCD; DECC; DAFM	Support and training provision to community resilience networks reported

