



Wexford CYPSC Newsletter

24 April 2026

For information on services and supports for children, young people and families see [Wexford CYPSC](#)

For information on parenting supports and programmes, see [Wexford Parents Hub](#) or access on [Facebook](#)



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DISABILITY PATHWAYS RESOURCE

► Disability Pathways Resource now available online!

SUPPORTS IN THE COMMUNITY

SUPPORT PATHWAYS



FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN WEXFORD
INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS



WEBINARS/TRAINING

► Parents Plus Early Years Programme New Edition launch June 18th 2-3pm



My name is Vicki Byrne and I'm the Impact Lead here in [Parents Plus](#). We are launching a new Edition of our Parents Plus Early Years Programme training for professionals in June and I was wondering if this is something you can share with CYPSC colleagues network or mailing lists?

Below is more information

📅 Save the date - On June 18th from 2-3pm We will launch the New Edition of the Parents Plus Early Years Programme 📅

The new programme materials have been updated to adopt a neurodiversity-affirming approach and to address the needs of Autistic, ADHD and neurodivergent children whether they have a formal diagnosis or not.

This online event is **free to attend** with all welcome to learn more about the updates.

New content includes

- ➡ 'Managing big emotions' and co-regulation with children.
- ➡ Parent self-care and self-regulation.
- ➡ Tuning in' to children's sensory needs.
- ➡ Adapting responses to meet the needs of individual children and parents

You can learn more and register to attend [here](#) or contact vicki@parentsplus.ie

► NVR Webinar – Possibilities & Adaptations

Save your place.
Register now!

**NVR
Ireland**
Non Violent Resistance

INVITES YOU TO A WEBINAR

NVR – Possibilities & Adaptations

Thursday 7th May , 9.30am – 12.30pm

With Speakers

Dr. John Sharry
Avril Murtagh , Social Care Leader, TUSLA DNC
Carers & Parent’s Voices

Click the link to book your place
→ [HERE](#)

WWW.NVRIRELAND.IE

► The National Conversation on Education: the First Five Years And School-Age Childcare- Consultations with City and County Childcare Committees



The **National Conversation on Education** is a massive, cross-departmental initiative aimed at redefining Ireland's education system for the next generation. Beyond the immediate local meetings, here is the broader context of the project:

1. The Consultation Structure

The conversation follows a five-stage process to capture diverse viewpoints across Ireland:

- **Stage 1 & 2:** National surveys of the public and representative households (completed March 2026).
- **Stage 3:** Direct consultation with children and young people.
- **Stage 4:** The current local and online events (20–30 April 2026) hosted by **City and County Childcare Committees**.
- **Stage 5:** The **Shaping the Future National Forum** in June 2026.

2. Strategic Impact (Early Years & Childcare)

Feedback from the "First Five Years" sessions specifically informs two major government plans led by the **Department of Children, Disability, and Equality**:

- **Early Years Action Plan (Phase 2):** This will outline reforms for **2027–2029**, building on Phase 1 actions like the [Nurturing Skills Learner Fund](#) and new NCS income thresholds.

- **First 5 Successor Strategy:** Shaping the next decade of support for babies and young children (2029 and beyond).

3. The Convention on Education

The outcomes of this nationwide conversation will set the agenda for a **150-person Convention on Education**, chaired by Professor Anne Looney.

- **Meetings:** The Convention meets over four weekends in **May, September, and November 2026**.
- **Representation:** Members include children, parents, educators, and education stakeholders.
- **Core Themes:** Participants will tackle long-term issues like **AI in the economy**, student wellbeing, inclusion of additional needs, and the transition from early years to secondary school.

4. Practical Takeaways for Participants

- **Accessibility:** All services will be required to publish their **admissions policies** starting in 2026.
- **Affordability Target:** The long-term goal is to reduce parental fees to a **maximum of €200 per month**.
- **Registration:** For upcoming local sessions, you can find your county's specific booking link on the gov.ie/LetsTalkEarlyYears portal.

Wednesday, 29 April, Woodlands Hotel, Waterford, 7.00pm-9.00pm

Register now: [Waterford - Event Registration Link](#)

Wednesday, 29 April, Riverside Hotel & Leisure Club, 6.30pm-8.30pm

Register now: [29 April - Event Registration Link](#)

SCHOOL TRANSPORT APPLICATIONS 2026/27

► Update from REALT

Urgent Notice: School Transport Changes 2026/2027

Please share this information urgently across your networks. Uptake for the upcoming school year is worryingly low, and families risk being without transport this September if they do not act now.

Deadline: 8 May 2026

The school bus portal will close on May 8th to process applications. Any applications made after it reopens in July will be treated as late, with no guarantee of a seat.

Key Changes & Requirements:

- **No Longer Automatic:** Applications for families in IPAS or Ukrainian accommodation are no longer managed by REALT. All families must now apply manually via the [Bus Éireann portal](#).
- **Costs:** Fees are **€100 per child**, with a maximum family charge of **€220**.
- **Medical Card Waivers:** If your child meets the distance criteria (see below) and you have a **valid medical card**, you are exempt from fees but **must still apply** by the deadline.
- **Distance Criteria:**
 - **Primary:** Must live over 3.2km from their nearest school.
 - **Post-Primary:** Must live over 4.8km from their nearest school.
- **Nearest School Rule:** If a child attends a school further away because the nearest school was full, the system may label them "concessionary" (requiring payment). In these cases, contact **REALT** to request an "eligible" status change so medical card details can be used.
-

Important Note:

Applying and paying does not guarantee a ticket. If no space or route is available, refunds will be issued (likely in August/September). Please check your accommodation centre for posters featuring the **QR application code**

ADULT HEALTH

► HSE Living Well Programmes

Living Well

A programme for adults with long-term health conditions



Living Well is a free group programme for adults living with any long-term or chronic condition. It takes place over six weekly workshops (6 x 2.5 hours) – either online or in-person. It is delivered by trained leaders, most of whom are also living with a long-term health condition. You will develop **Self-Management skills and confidence** to live well with your health conditions. You will also meet other people who live with long-term health conditions and learn from each other's experiences.

Upcoming HSE Living Well Programmes:

Venue	Day	Start date	Finish date	Time
South West Wexford Family Resource Centre, The Ramsgrange Centre, Ramsgrange , New Ross, Co. Wexford, Y34DP26	Thursday	28 th May 2026	2nd July 2026	10.30am – 1pm

*Long-term health conditions include (but are not limited to) COPD, asthma, diabetes, stroke, heart conditions, multiple sclerosis (MS), arthritis, cancer, Crohn's disease, chronic pain, anxiety, depression.

To book your place contact

Jennie or Sue
051 389418/ 087 0985706
sue@swwfrc.ie or read@swwfrc.ie




Self-management Support

Sláintecare.

Living Well is an SMRC Evidence Based Self-Management Programme originally developed at Stanford University.


EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

► We are inviting Expressions of Interest for Community Work and Youth Work Student Supervision



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: COMMUNITY WORK AND YOUTH WORK FIELDWORK SUPERVISION



We are inviting expressions of interest from practitioners who would like to become Fieldwork Supervisor for community work and youth work students.

Those expressing interest, if eligible, will be invited to attend an online Fieldwork Supervisor Training Session on Tuesday, 26th of May 2026, from 10.00 to 13.00

**Please fill out the expression of interest form [here](#).
Closing date 10th May.**

**Eligibility criteria are provided in the expression of interest form. Any other queries to:
DAPPSSplacements@mu.ie**

We are inviting expressions of interest from practitioners who would like to become Fieldwork Supervisors for Community Work and Youth Work students on the Bachelor/Masters of Social Science Community and Youth Work programmes at Maynooth University.

We would appreciate if you could share this with your network. We want to reach professionally qualified community workers and youth workers who are at least three years post qualification.

Expressions of interest can be completed here (closing date 10th May):

[Expression of Interest - Community Work and Youth Work Student Supervision \(MU\) – Fill in form](#)

Those expressing interest, **if eligible**, will be invited to attend an online Fieldwork Supervisor Training Session on **Tuesday, 26th of May 2026, from 10.00 to 13.00**.

To be eligible for professional supervision you must:

- hold a professionally endorsed qualification in community work and/or youth work
- have a minimum of three years professional community work or youth work experience
- be employed in an organisation using a community work or youth work approach and aligning with community work/youth work values
- have a high level of skill, knowledge and expertise suitable for professional supervision
- commit to providing regular supervision and fulfilling the supervisor role expectations

We look forward to hearing from you.



www.maynoothuniversity.ie/

FUNDING INITIATIVE

► Community Safety Fund



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration

Applications for the 2026 Community Safety Fund now open

- €4.75 million available for community safety improvement projects nationwide

Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O’Callaghan TD yesterday opened the Community Safety Fund for applications. See [press release here](#).

Grants range between €20,000 – €150,000.

Applications are invited from community safety initiatives as well as groups co-funded with local authorities, NGOs and community organisations working on issues relevant to community safety and youth justice.

Applications may be submitted by individual organisations, or by a consortium involving two or more organisations where the lead partner is a community organisation, not-for-profit, social enterprise or similar with a remit relevant to community safety and/or youth justice.

Applications with innovative approaches will be afforded particular consideration.

Completed application forms must be returned by 5pm on 18 May 2026 to CommunitySafetyFund@justice.ie

More information on Community Safety can be found at: www.gov.ie/communitysafety.

Supporting documentation, including the Application Form and Guidance Document are available at link below. Information on the previous allocation from last year’s Fund, by successful project and county, may also be found at the link.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-justice-home-affairs-and-migration/collections/community-safety-fund/>

► Great Island Power Station Community Fund Now Open for Applications



The SSE Thermal Great Island Community Fund is now open for applications.

Through this fund, SSE Thermal makes €25,000 available each year to support community and charitable projects local to our Great Island Power Station, and the wider Great Island area.

We are also very pleased to confirm that we've adapted the fund application process, with grant award guidelines being raised from €2000 per application to between €4000 and €6000. This change will enable us to support higher impact local projects.

You can find the fund guidance document, the application portal and full details at: [Great Island Community Fund | SSE Thermal](#)

Please note **the deadline for applications is 5pm on Tuesday 9th June 2026.**

You can also read more about the impact of our wider community support initiatives in our [2024/2025 Community Investment Fund Report](#).

Separately, we would like to note that Great Island Power Station will enter a planned outage period in early May, expected to last approximately 3-4 weeks, as part of routine operations.

We would be delighted also to **welcome you to Great Island Power Station for a site visit** at some point in the coming months, and to discuss with you SSE's activities in your constituency and our support for local communities.

We look forward to continuing to support the fantastic work taking place across the Great Island community.

► 2026-27 Human Rights and Equality Grants Scheme



The 2026-27 **Human Rights and Equality Grants Scheme** focuses on three core strands linked to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission’s (IHREC) [Strategy Statement 2025-27](#).

Funding Strands & Focus Areas

The scheme supports projects that gather evidence or build capacity in the following areas:

- **Strand A: Disability Rights** – Advancing rights under the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UNCRPD). This includes gathering evidence for Ireland's first review by the UN Committee in 2027 and focusing on issues like rights in institutional settings.
- **Strand B: Anti-Racism** – Tackling racial discrimination and advancing the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD). Themes include access to justice, political participation, and combating human trafficking.
- **Strand C: Digital Environment & AI** – Protecting rights in the digital world, specifically addressing potential harms from [Artificial Intelligence](#).
-

Eligibility & Financials

- **Total Fund:** €350,000.
- **Grant Tiers:** Small grants (up to **€7,000**) and general grants (up to **€22,000**).
- **Qualified Applicants:** Must be a non-profit registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) or a Charity.
- **Preferred Actions:** IHREC encourages [Capacity Building](#) through training, evidence-based research, and supporting engagement with international human rights monitoring processes.

Application Assessment

Proposals are scored out of 100 marks based on:

1. **Quality & Relevance (50 marks):** How well the project aligns with human rights and equality perspectives.
2. **Organisational Capacity (30 marks):** The applicant's ability to manage and deliver the project.
3. **Cost Effectiveness (20 marks):** The clarity and justification of the budget.

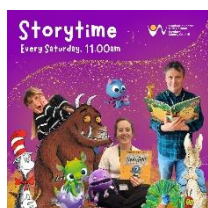
Applications must be submitted by **3pm, Tuesday 19 May 2026**. Detailed [Guidance Notes](#) are available on the IHREC website.

EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS

► Wexford Town Library Events



Lego Free Play every Saturday from 11:00am - 3:00pm. Suitable for ages 5yrs+
LEGO Free Play tables available on our Children's floor area from 11am to 3pm. Free to attend. LEGO will be made available for children and families to build their very own designs. Get Creative. Children should be supervised at all times when visiting Wexford Library. No booking required.



Story Time every Saturday, 11.00am-11:30am, Suitable for children aged 3–7 years.
Join us for Story Time in Wexford Library every Saturday morning. Children should be supervised at all times when visiting Wexford Library. **No booking required.**



Baby Tummy Time, Tuesday, 28 April, 11:00am - 11:45am.

Join us for a Baby Tummy Time session in Wexford Library. According to the HSE, Tummy time helps to strengthen baby's head, neck, and back muscles. Your baby can begin tummy time as a newborn and continue to do it throughout their first year. We will provide books for babies and there will also be books on parenting available to borrow. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and babies. **Booking is essential.** Free event.

Sensory Hour, Every Saturday from 4.00pm-5.00pm.

Sensory Hour supports library users who have sensory, extra, and/or additional needs. It offers a calm and sensory family friendly environment.



Rhyme Time, every Wednesday, 11.00am-11:30am. Suitable for children aged 0–3 years.

These fun, free and interactive Rhyme Time sessions are perfect for babies and toddlers. Children should be supervised at all times when visiting Wexford Library. No booking required.



Learning Stations Workshop for ages 4-6yrs, Saturday, April 25, 12pm -12:45pm also from 1pm - 1:45pm (second session).

Learn through play at Wexford Library! Join us for a fun hands-on workshop, where children can learn essential skills through play. Each of our five learning stations will have fun activities focused on essential early skills: Writing Numeracy Digital Skills Reading Speech and language. **Booking is essential.**



Teen Comics Club, Thursday, 30 April, 6:30pm - 7:30pm.

Join us in Wexford library on the last Thursday of the month for our teen comic book club, where stories come off the page! Each month we'll dive into a new graphic novel - from superhero sagas and fantasy adventures to slice of life tales and manga masterpieces! Suitable for 13 - 15 years. **Booking is essential.**

All events are FREE. Wexford Public Libraries App. Access your library 24/7. Online resources include eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, eNewspapers, eComics & Graphic Novels, music, take eLearning or language courses, business, education, and research databases and more. **Library membership is free.**

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/whats-on-in-my-library>

► Bunclody Library Events



Rhymetime for ages 0 to 5 years - every Wednesday at 11.15am

Join us for Rhymetime every Wednesday when we will have lots of fun nursery rhymes and stories suitable for babies and toddlers followed by a Duplo play session. No booking required.



Sensory Friendly Hour

Every Saturday from 4.00 to 5.00pm, Sensory Friendly hour will be observed in Bunclody Library. We encourage you to come along and relax in the calm environment of the library. **No booking required.** All welcome!

Sensory Basket

A sensory basket containing various sensory toys/books available for children to use while visiting the library. Just ask at the desk.



Young Adult Book Club for ages 13 to 15 years - Friday 1st May, 4.15 to 4.45pm

Join us for this month's YA book club! New members are always welcome.



Lego Free Play for ages 4+ - Saturday 25th April, 2.00 to 3.30pm

Join us for a Lego Free Play afternoon here in Bunclody Library. Perfect for ages 4+, we have Duplo and Lego to let the children's creativity shine! No need to book. All welcome.

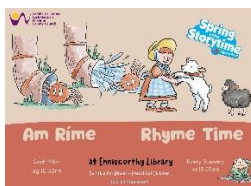
► Enniscorthy Library Events



Imagination Station at Enniscorthy Library

Join us at the library this Easter break for a series of free drop-in play sessions for children and families.

Each day offers something little different, with spaces design for children to relax, explore and create at their own pace.



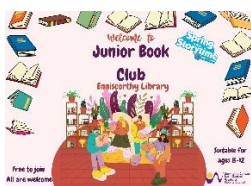
Interactive Spring into Story Time at Enniscorthy Library

Join us in Enniscorthy Library every Saturday at 11am for our Interactive Story Time! Perfect for 3-5 years old but fun for everyone!

Through the magic of storytelling, children are transported to far-off lands, introduced to diverse characters, and exposed to a rich tapestry of language, all while developing fundamental literacy skills such as vocabulary acquisition, comprehension, and phonological awareness.

All welcome and no booking required.

Please register here: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4528210>



Junior Book Club , Thursday, April 30th @3.30pm

Would your child like to join our free book club here at Enniscorthy Library?

Suitable for ages 8 - 12, the children get together monthly to talk about books in all genres and to share a love of books.

We explore new styles together to encourage reading and to develop a love for books.

This club is about reading for pleasure, making friends and doing some fun activities, drawing or writing too.

If you would like to know more, ask at the desk of the library or ring us on 053 9236055.

Please register here: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4524470>



Interactive Story Time at Enniscorthy Library

Join us in Enniscorthy Library every Saturday at 11am for our Interactive Story Time! Perfect for 3-5 years old but fun for everyone!

All welcome and no booking required.

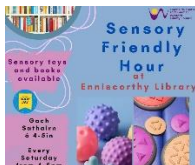


LEGO Free Play at Enniscorthy Library - every Saturday 11.30am-5pm.

Enniscorthy Library invites you and your family to join us for a session of LEGO Free Play, LEGO will be made available for children and families to build their very own designs. This session is suitable for ages 5+.

Please note we're closed for lunch from 1pm-2pm.

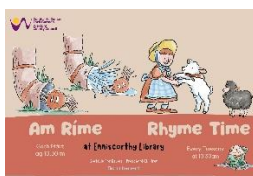
No Booking Required



Sensory Friendly Hour at Enniscorthy Library - Every Saturday from 4-5pm

Sensory Friendly Hour will be observed in Enniscorthy Library.

We encourage you to come along and relax in the calm environment of the library. No booking required. All welcome!



Baby and Toddler Rhyme Time at Enniscorthy Library - every Tuesday at 10.30am

Join us in Enniscorthy Library for songs, stories and rhymes!

Perfect for up to 3 years old but fun for everyone!

Through rhymes children naturally learn essential skills for communicating such as turn-taking and joining in.

All welcome and no booking required.

► New Ross Library Events



Join us in New Ross Library **every Thursday at 11.00am** for a fun-packed session with lots of stories, rhymes and songs! Just come along, no booking required

<https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4158186>

► Gorey Library Events

April Events at Gorey Library:

Adult Events for April:



Age Friendly Homes Talk: Thursday, April 30th at 1:30pm



How To Do a Storytime: Thursday, April 23rd at 7.00pm

Regular Adult Events



Lifting the Lid Public Piano: First Monday of the Month at 2:30pm



Ciorcal Comhrá: First Tuesday of the Month at 7:00pm



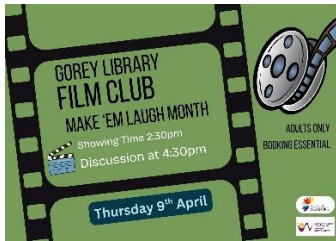
English Conversation Circle: First Saturday of the Month at 2:30pm



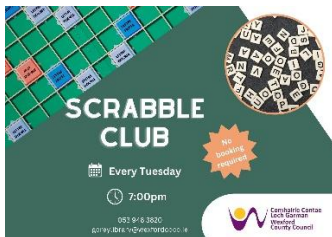
Happy to Chat Coffee Morning: Second Monday of the Month at 11:00am



La Leche League Breastfeeding Support: Second Wednesday of the Month at 10:30am



Gorey Library Film Club: Second Thursday of the Month at 2:30pm



Scrabble Club: Every Tuesday at 7:00pm



Knitting Circle: Every Friday at 11:00am



Wordsmiths Writing Group: Every Friday at 2:00pm

Regular Children's Events:



Children's Storytime: Every Tuesday at 11:00am

Age: 3-5

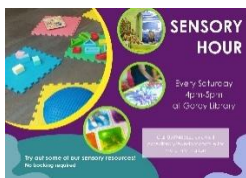


Baby Rhyme Time: Every Thursday at 10:30am

Age: 0-3



LEGO Freeplay: Every Saturday at 10:30am

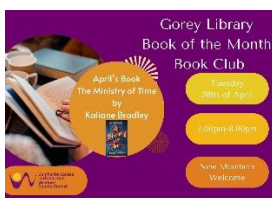


Sensory Hour: Every Saturday at 4:00pm

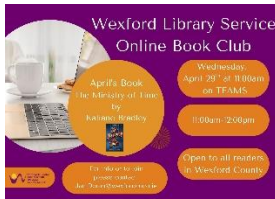
Adult Book Clubs and Reading Circles:



Short Story Reading Club: Third Thursday of the Month at 7:00pm

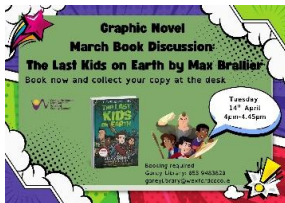


Book of the Month Book Club: Last Tuesday of the Month at 7:00pm



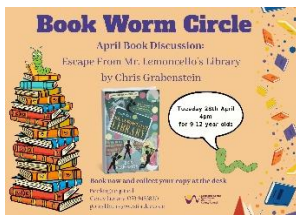
Wexford Library Service Online Book Club: Last Wednesday of the Month at 11:00am

Children’s Book Clubs and Discussion Groups:



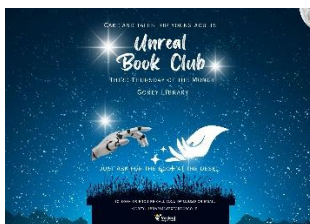
Graphic Novel Book Discussion: Second Tuesday of the Month at 4:00pm

Age: 9-12



Book Worm Book Circle: Last Tuesday of the Month at 4:00pm

Age: 9-12



YA Unreal Book Club: Third Thursday of the Month at 4:30pm

Age: 12-15

<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/whats-on-in-my-library>

► **Requesting details of parenting initiatives taking place in April for promotion under the Supporting Parents communications campaign**



**An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais
agus Combhionannais**
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality

We are now seeking details of any parenting initiatives which will be taking place in May. As with previous months, a selection of these events will be promoted across DCDE social media channels to raise awareness among parents of the supports available to them in their locality. **Details of upcoming events can be provided via a short survey by clicking [here](#).**

It would be appreciated if details of any upcoming events **could be provided by Thursday 30 April.**

You can check across DCDE social channels for your event and please feel free to like and share our social posts. We also encourage you to circulate this email to any service within your network that may have an upcoming parenting event which they wish to promote.

May we request that information on upcoming events is submitted through the survey link above. However, if you experience any issues using the survey or if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to email parentingsupport@dcde.gov.ie for assistance.

Kind regards

The Parenting Support Policy Unit

► **Public Meeting Community Safety Gorey Amber Springs Hotel 29th April 7 to 8:30pm**

Public Meeting on Community Safety

What makes our community a safer place?

From road safety issues, improved services, safe spaces, community initiatives, tackling anti-social behaviour and drugs.



We want to hear from you!



Help us develop a 3 year Local Community Safety Plan for County Wexford

29th April - Gorey
Amber Springs Hotel from 7:00 to 8:30pm

Spaces are limited so please confirm your attendance at our Town Hall events by scanning the QR code or contact: communitysafety@wexfordcoco.ie or 053 919 6000



Workshop and open discussion
Organised and facilitated by Wex LCSP Coordinator
Refreshments will be available.



**Comhairle Contae
Loch Garman
Wexford
County Council**



**Comhpháirtíocht Sábháilteachta
Pobail Áitiúil Loch Garman**

**Wexford Local Community
Safety Partnership**