



WATERFORD
SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

*Supporting
Activity and Sport For All*

— SPORT IRELAND —

Annual Report 2023



SPORT IRELAND
LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

Name of the organisation: Waterford Sports Partnership CLG

Organisation Type: A company limited by guarantee

Sports Exemption Number : G.S. 001674

Company number: 378713

Registered Office: Civic Offices, Davitt's Quay, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

Auditor: M.K. Brazil, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Unit 1A, Cleaboy Business Park, Waterford.

Principal Bankers: Bank of Ireland, Grattan Square, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

Solicitors: Lanigan & Curran Solicitors, Cross Bridge St., Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

Directors: Mr. Terry Hayes – Chairperson
Mr. Mark Fitzgerald – Company Secretary
Mr. Neil O'Sullivan - Treasurer
Mr. Eoin Breathnach (resigned 04.08.2023)
Ms. Sinéad Breathnach
Mr. Austin Flavin
Ms. Anne Hennessy
Ms. Tish Holton
Cllr. Joe Kelly
Ms. Tricia McCarthy
Cllr. Pat Nugent
Mr. Michael O'Brien
Ms. Patricia Sheehan
Mr. Stephen Whelan

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Chairperson's Statement



Reflecting on and reviewing the work of Waterford Sports Partnership (WSP) during the past twelve months, it is clear that across all areas, significant goals and objectives were achieved. With 261 programmes delivered to 8,727 participants across a broad range of target groups right across the county, including young people and youth at risk, people with a disability, women, teenage girls, men, older adults and those from ethnic minorities and disadvantaged groups, it is safe to say that WSP is fulfilling its remit to promote participation in sport at a local level, as is evidenced throughout this report.

Thank you most sincerely to CEO Rosarie Kealy and all the WSP team for your contributions and commitment. The ongoing collaboration between the Board and WSP staff is most important. The sharing of information, presentations, and networking opportunities are key to the continuing success of the organisation.

In 2023, we broadened the WSP team to include a Physical Activity for Health Officer. The Physical Activity for Health Officer pilot programme, which is being piloted by six local sports partnerships (LSPs) and funded by Sláintecare via Sport Ireland, aims to address physical inactivity as a risk factor for chronic conditions. One of the primary risk factors for the development of chronic conditions is physical inactivity, while it has also been found that physical activity results in health benefits for those diagnosed with chronic conditions. Being at the forefront of this innovative project ideally positions WSP to inform and drive the strategies to be rolled out nationally to support those with chronic conditions long into the future. Additionally, the Active Cities role within WSP was extended to a full-time role. And we were also delighted to support the Sport Ireland ASPIRE Graduate Programme in 2023.

2023 also saw WSP selected by Sport Ireland in a highly competitive process as one of the six local sports partnerships to pilot the new Outdoor Recreation Officer role. The role of the Outdoor Recreation Officer is paramount in the realisation of *Embracing Ireland's Outdoors*, the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023 - 2027, and stands as a linchpin in driving its successful implementation at a county level. We look forward to welcoming our new Outdoor Recreation Officer to the team in 2024.

To my fellow Directors, thank you for your time, energy, and input to the work of Waterford Sports Partnership over the course of the year. In particular, I would like to express my thanks to Eoin Breathnach, who resigned from the Board in August, following more than seven years of service. I was delighted to welcome Tricia McCarthy and Tish Holton to the WSP Board during the year and look forward to working with them. However, despite our concerted efforts, the gender balance quota of 40% female membership of the Board was not fully achieved in 2023 (we are currently at 38%). We are committed to addressing this and will intensify our efforts in the coming months.

Also a priority for 2024 is the production of the new WSP Strategy. This will be dependent on progress on the Local Sports Plan pilots, which will influence planning for the Local Sports Plan development in Waterford.

Having now completed two years as Chairperson of WSP, I look forward to the coming year and all the learning, development and new possibilities it brings.

Comhghairdeas le gach éinne.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Hayes".

Terry Hayes
Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer's Statement



I am delighted to present the Waterford Sports Partnership Annual Report 2023.

Waterford Sports Partnership continues our mission to make Waterford a place that has a positive culture of people playing sport and being active. Our aim, broadly speaking, is to increase participation in sport and physical activity in Waterford city and county. We want people to enjoy participating and reap the many benefits it brings to their health, happiness and our community.

We focus our efforts on increasing the participation of those with low participation rates from a number of target groups, while also supporting those who promote participation in sport and physical activity, in many places. In 2023, WSP helped coordinate 261 different sport and physical activity initiatives across the city and county, with 8,727 people taking part. In so doing, we promoted and helped increase participation and inclusivity across a broad range of groups, including young people and youth at risk, people with a disability, women and teenage girls, men, older adults, disadvantaged people, and ethnic minority groups.

This Annual Report is a record of the broad, varied and quality work of the WSP team during 2023, encouraging those less active in our community to engage in sport and physical activity. It also outlines the highlights under each of our strategic goal areas, as set out in our Strategic Plan 2018-2022. And it underscores WSP's continued commitment to good governance and best practice, following on from the achievement of full compliance with the Governance Code for Sport in 2021.

We are extremely fortunate to enjoy the support of many partner agencies, organisations, schools and clubs, staff, volunteers and tutors, who contribute to the successful delivery and accessibility of sport and physical activity opportunities at a local community level. On behalf of Waterford Sports Partnership, I would like to acknowledge the vital work all of these individuals and organisations do in connecting people and communities through sport and physical activity and thank you all for your invaluable engagement in our work and vision, Waterford – Active People, Active Place.

I acknowledge Sport Ireland for its ongoing support, investment, leadership and guidance, as well as the network of Local Sports Partnerships around the country for their positive engagement during the year. And I would like to sincerely thank all our funders for their ongoing investment and support in 2023.

Thank you to the WSP Board members, the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, and the Safeguarding Committee members for their time, contribution and support in 2023. A sincere thank you to Eoin Breathnach, who left the WSP Board in 2023, for his valuable input for many years. And a warm welcome to Tish Holton (Waterford PPN Disability representative) and Tricia McCarthy (Waterford PPN Sports Club representative), who joined our Board during the year.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the WSP team for their creativity, dedication and valuable contribution during 2023. The achievements outlined in this report would not be possible without our wonderful, committed team.

We look forward to an active and healthy 2024!

Rosarie Kealy
Chief Executive Officer

SECTION 1

Governance & Structure



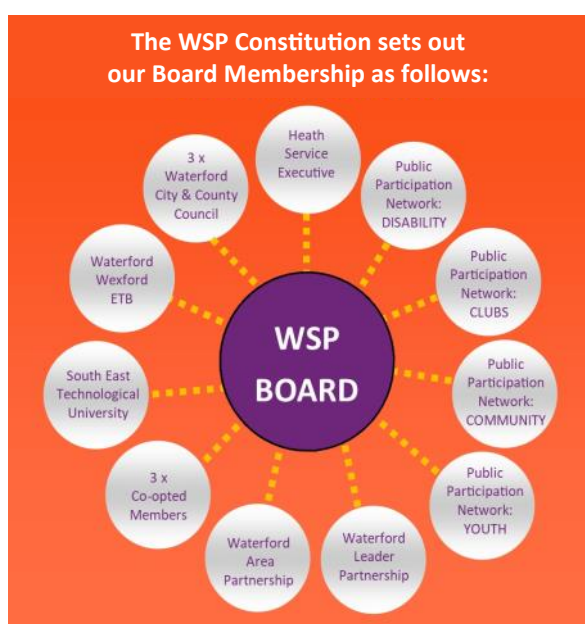
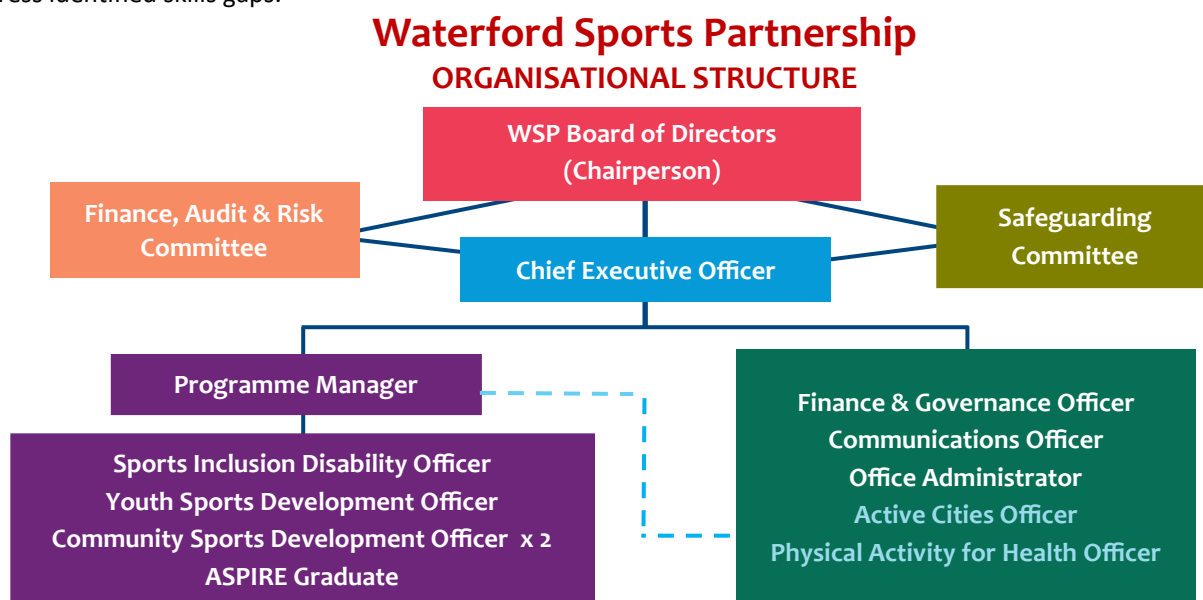
SECTION 1: GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE

Our Governance Structure

Waterford Sports Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee, commonly known as Waterford Sports Partnership (WSP), was incorporated in November 2003. In addition to the WSP Constitution, which primarily provides direction to WSP as a legal entity, WSP operations are guided by the Board of Directors Governance Framework (developed with support from the Institute of Public Administration in 2021) and associated policies. WSP’s Governance Framework is aligned with the Governance Code for Sport, which is overseen by Sport Ireland, and full compliance was achieved in December 2021.

Organisational Structure

WSP is governed by a **Board of Directors**, representing statutory agencies and community organisations, with representation and membership in line with the WSP Constitution. All Directors are non-executive and sit on the Board on a voluntary basis. The Board is made up of individuals with a diverse range of experience and skills including governance, human resources, finance, marketing, research, community development, strategic planning and community sport. Recruitment of Board members is conducted through nominations sought from statutory agencies, through the Public Participation Network for targeted representation and through co-opted positions to address identified skills gaps.



Board Recruitment and Term of Office

The Board, with oversight by the Chairperson, will oversee Board membership and representation, with a view to ensuring that the Board meets the following good practice guidelines:

- Membership is in line with the WSP Constitution
- There is an appropriate mix of experience and representation from both agency and community
- There is an appropriate gender balance (the Sport Ireland requirement is 40% gender diversity)
- There is an appropriate balance of skills including financial, human resources and governance.

The term of office for Board members is 5 years, which reflects the term of each new Local Authority Council, i.e., a five-year term, and is scheduled to ensure gradual renewal of various sectoral representations. A record of the precise start and end dates of Board members’ terms is maintained by the Company

Secretary. While there is no legal requirement specifying the maximum number of terms individual Board members should serve, good corporate governance practice suggests an upper limit of two full terms, with a term being five years.

SECTION 1: GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE

In the WSP context, an upper limit of two full terms will apply to non-agency representatives from community and voluntary sectors, whereby WSP manages and controls the Board renewal process. However, WSP recognises that in the case of agency nominations, the final decision lies with the relevant statutory body and exceptions to the limitation of two terms of office may arise.

The Directors who served during 2023 were as follows:

REPRESENTING	NAME	APPOINTED	SPECIFIC ROLE/COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP	KEY SKILLS & EXPERIENCE
Co-opted Member	Mark Fitzgerald	25/11/2016	Company Secretary Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	Human Resource Management Governance Communication
Co-opted Member	Neil O’Sullivan	05/02/2016	Company Treasurer Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	Human Resource Management Strategic Planning Change Management
Health Service Executive	Anne Hennessy	07/04/2022		Communication Service Integration Service & Community Linkage
South East Technological University	Patricia Sheehan	07/04/2022	Chairperson of Safeguarding Committee	Sports & Physical Activity Sector Sports Policy (Local & National) Community Development
Waterford PPN – Community	Terry Hayes	29/11/2019	WSP Chairperson Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee Member of Safeguarding Committee	Governance Quality Project Rollout & Management
Waterford PPN – Disability	Tish Holton	29/09/2023		Communication Health and Safety Safeguarding
Waterford PPN – Youth	Eoin Breathnach	15/04/2016 to 04/08/2023	Member of Safeguarding Committee	Sports & Physical Activity Sector Sports Policy (Local & National) Community Development
Waterford PPN – Sports Club	Tricia McCarthy	09/06/2023		Sports & Physical Activity Sector Sports Policy (Local & National) Community Development
Waterford Area Partnership	Stephen Whelan	27/09/2019	Member of Safeguarding Committee	Community Development Social Inclusion Communication & Media
Waterford City & County Council – CEO Nominee	Sinéad Breathnach	07/04/2022	Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	Strategic Management & Development Community Development Audit Compliance
Waterford City & County Council – Elected Member	Joe Kelly	25/09/2020		Board Experience Human Resource Management Project Management
Waterford City & County Council – Elected Member	Pat Nugent	27/09/2019		Sports Policy Community Development Strategic Planning
Waterford Leader Partnership	Austin Flavin	25/09/2020	Chairperson of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	Programme Monitoring Risk Management Financial Management
Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board	Michael O’Brien	05/06/2020		Knowledge of Individual Sport Change Management Governance

SECTION 1: GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE

The Role of the Board

The Board is collectively responsible for the strategic direction of WSP, overseeing the management of the organisation, and reporting on stewardship and performance. This collective responsibility is typically detailed in the Schedule of Matters, known as reserved functions, which the Board must perform, and is outlined in the Board of Directors Governance Framework.



The Chief Executive Officer is accountable to the Board for the delivery of its Strategic Plan, operational priorities and performance.

The duties of the WSP Board, as set out in the Board Terms of Reference, include:

- Establishing the strategic direction and reviewing progress
- Staying informed about strategic issues and changes impacting WSP
- Monitoring organisational performance
- Ensuring that legal, regulatory, and governance obligations are adhered to
- Monitoring and assessing its performance and that of its committees.

The Board is responsible for the oversight of the organisation's financial governance, financial management and internal control. As outlined in its Schedule of Matters, the Board makes key decisions around financial management. As a company, WSP is required to be audited annually. Our 2023 Financial Statements set out our financial position and are included in Section 5 of this report.

In particular, the Board has responsibility for:

- Approving the annual budget and operational plan and monitoring their implementation
- Approving the draft accounts of WSP, prepared after the end of the financial year, and engaging with the external auditor
- Determining annually the effectiveness of WSP's system of internal controls, including financial controls. For example, roles and responsibilities, cash and cheque procedures, recording of transactions, payments and direct debits, purchasing, wages, salaries, etc.
- Approving banking arrangements
- Approving delegated procurement levels
- Determining and approving procedures to monitor, report, and enforce the relevant rules and requirements as set by the different funding sources contributing to WSP.

Board Meetings and Attendance

The Board is required to meet a minimum of five times annually. In 2023, **five** meetings were convened: 27/01/23, 31/03/23 (including the AGM), 09/06/23, 29/09/23 and 24/11/23. The Board and staff also held its annual review/planning workshop on 01/12/23. Board meeting attendance details are provided in **Appendix 1**.

A quorum of six is required for a meeting of the Board, as per the WSP Constitution.

A Board Report is prepared and circulated in advance of each Board meeting, detailing activities and outcomes against the annual operational plan and current strategic plan. A financial report is also prepared for each meeting.

Responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the organisation is assigned to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Rosarie Kealy, who works with a team of staff to deliver the annual operational plan. The CEO, who is not a Director of the Company, attends Board meetings by invitation of the Board. Another member of staff attends the meetings to record the minutes.

The Company Secretary is a member of the Board.

SECTION 1: GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE

Board Member Induction Process

Induction to the Board of WSP occurs promptly after an individual has been nominated to join the Board and before attendance at their first meeting. Induction is the joint responsibility of the Chairperson, CEO and Company Secretary and includes a meeting in which the following are introduced: the role and aims of WSP, its governance structures, its core activities, history and successes, an introduction to how the Board functions, as well as the role and responsibilities of a member of the Board.

New Board members are booked onto appropriate training in governance as soon as is possible following their appointment to the Board.

New Board Member Induction Pack

New Board members or Directors receive an induction pack, which contains the following:

- WSP Board of Directors Governance Framework
- WSP Board Code of Conduct
- WSP Directors Declaration of Interest Form
- WSP Registration of Company Directors Forms
- WSP Strategic Plan
- WSP Constitution
- WSP Financial Statements (most recently audited)
- WSP Annual Report (most recent)
- WSP Board Reports (three most recent)

Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Loyalty

WSP has a Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Loyalty Policy. Board members or Directors are required to complete a Declaration of Interest Form when taking up their position on the Board and annually thereafter. Members are reminded at the beginning of each Board meeting to declare any conflicts which may arise before any agenda items are considered and if any events have arisen which may impact their independence/loyalty.

In addition, where conflicts arise, a Board member may be required to leave the meeting for the relevant item for discussion. Any instances of conflict which arise are recorded in the minutes, none of which occurred in 2023. Board members completed the Declaration of Interest/Loyalty Form in late 2022 and this process will be repeated in early 2024.

Committees

The Board is supported by two committees, that act in an advisory capacity to the Board, with clear Terms of Reference in place (available on the WSP website).

The **Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (FARC)** provides support to the Board and the CEO regarding policy initiation, monitoring of operational plans and matters relating to finance, risk management, human resources and governance. The committee met on **five** occasions in 2023: 24/01/23, 27/02/23, 24/03/23, 22/09/23 and 21/11/23. For membership and attendance, see **Appendix 2**.

The **Safeguarding Committee** reviews relevant policies and procedures in line with best practice and brings them to the WSP Board for consideration and approval. It considers and makes decisions with respect to child and vulnerable persons safeguarding concerns, including the outcomes of any child welfare and protection reports. It considers allegations of a general nature in regard to children and vulnerable persons, in addition to its role in considering vetting disclosures and/or returns referred to the WSP Designated Liaison Person by Sport Ireland and/or the National Vetting Bureau.

During 2023, significant time was given to the review and updating of all WSP Safeguarding policies, including the WSP Safeguarding Committee Terms of Reference, WSP Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment, WSP Child Safeguarding Policy, WSP Child Safeguarding Statement and WSP Garda Vetting Policy. The committee met on **four** occasions in 2023: 06/01/23, 23/01/23, 28/03/23 and 13/09/23. For membership and attendance, see **Appendix 3**.

Appendix 4 provides a Summary of Governance, Oversight and Key Decision Areas addressed by the WSP Board in 2023.

SECTION 1: GOVERNANCE & STRUCTURE



Waterford Sports Partnership Team 2023

The **WSP Team** is employed to deliver the annual operational plan and to work with our many partners to support and develop opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity in Waterford. We have two offices in Dungarvan, one in the Civic Offices and one in the Courthouse, and we also have an office in the Regional Sports Centre (RSC), Cork Road, Waterford. Our Sports Development Team is responsible for the development, delivery and promotion of sport and physical activity for the people of Waterford. They work to develop targeted initiatives with various community-based organisations to promote the participation of young people, older adults, women, teenage girls, people with a disability, men, youth at risk and disadvantaged and minority groups in sport and physical activity.

In 2023, we welcomed to the team Jordan Kelly, under the Sport Ireland ASPIRE Graduate Programme, and Natalia Pocelujko as Community Sports Development Officer. Liz McEnaney was appointed Community Sports Development Officer following completion of a maternity cover contract. We also welcomed Lauren Walsh Kett as our new full-time Active Cities Officer. And Sinéad Brannigan moved from her position as Community Sports Development Officer when she was appointed to the new post of Physical Activity for Health Officer. The following are the current roles of the WSP team. Dates represent period(s) employed by WSP, which may include previous roles.



Rosarie Kealy
Chief Executive Officer
September 2002 to date



Peter Jones
Programme Manager
April 2007 to date



Jenny Brookes
Finance & Governance Officer
August 2021 to date



Karen Phelan
Communications Officer
January 2004 to date



Sinéad Brannigan
Physical Activity
for Health Officer
August 2019 to November 2020
and August 2021 to date



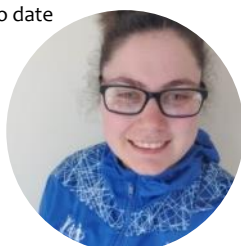
Lauren Walsh Kett
Active Cities Officer
July 2019 to July 2020
and July 2023 to date



Brian O'Neill
Youth Sports
Development Officer
October 2011 to date



Pauline Casey
Sports Inclusion
Disability Officer
October 2011 to date



Liz McEnaney
Community Sports
Development Officer
February 2022 to date



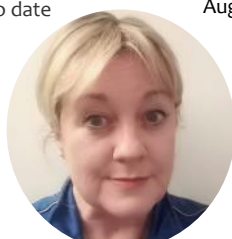
Natalia Pocelujko
Community Sports
Development Officer
August 2023 to date



Jordan Kelly
ASPIRE Graduate
March 2023 to date



Elaine Mullan
Active Cities Officer
September 2021 to June 2023



Sinéad Fahey
Office Administrator
October 2022 to November 2023

Thank you!

In 2023, we said goodbye to Elaine Mullan, WSP's first Active Cities Officer, and to Sinéad Fahey, our Office Administrator.

We would like to sincerely thank both Elaine and Sinéad for their valuable contribution to WSP in the last year or two.

SECTION 2

Our Purpose



SECTION 2: Our Vision, Mission and Goals

OUR VISION: “Waterford – Active People, Active Place”

OUR MISSION is that, together, we make Waterford a place that has a positive culture of people playing sport and being active. We want people to enjoy participating and the many benefits it brings to their health, happiness and our community.



Goal 1 - Active People

To support the provision of a wide range of opportunities for people to participate in sport and physical activity in a variety of places.

Goal 2 - Active Network

To support and strengthen the capacity of the network of people and organisations who facilitate sport and physical activity in Waterford.

Goal 3 - Active Engagement

To communicate clear and consistent messages and positively promote sport and physical activity opportunities.

Goal 4 - Active Management

To lead and influence a culture of participation, good governance and competent operations.

OUTCOME: More Waterford people participating in sport and physical activity and enjoying that participation.

SECTION 2: Our Values

Our Core Belief About Sport and Physical Activity . . .

Our core belief is that participation in sport and physical activity is good for the individual, families and the community. It brings people together. It is good for physical, mental, emotional and social health and wellbeing and contributes to a better quality of life. We want people to have opportunities to participate at their chosen level. We believe sport and physical activity enrich lives. We recognise that the manner in which we approach our work, internally and externally, is of critical importance in realising our goals and objectives. In December 2021, over two facilitated workshops, the WSP Board and staff reviewed WSP's Core Values and associated behaviours.

The following are the core values and associated behaviours that underpin our work:

RESPECT	TRUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > We will cultivate an awareness of the impact of words and actions on others and use words and actions to maximise positive and minimise negative impact. > We will seek to listen to others without having a pre-determined position and seek to understand and respond to their perspective. > We will respect the time of all by being punctual, prepared for each engagement and effective in how time is used. > We will recognise that others may have values and beliefs which are different to our own and are worthy of respect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > We will engage with collaborators and partner organisations in a spirit of trust while maintaining such checks and balances as are demanded by good governance. > We will take personal responsibility for our own decisions and actions and not seek to deflect the consequences away from us. > We will act in an ethical manner and provide an honest return for invested resources.
RELATIONSHIPS	INCLUSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > We will be conscious that our engagements require the establishment and maintenance of positive, effective and respectful relationships and will pursue those engagements in that context. > We will be transparent at all times in our dealings with individuals and groups within and external to WSP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > We will consciously consider the impact of our words and actions on excluded and marginalised groups and individuals and consider what actions are needed to maximise engagement and access to our services and activities. > We will approach our work in a spirit of embracing diversity and promoting equality of service. > We will monitor our behaviour towards socially excluded groups and individuals to eliminate unconscious bias and to achieve and maintain best practice in this regard.
FUN	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > In designing our programmes and activities, we will recognise the importance of a positive experience and prioritise enjoyment in the sporting and physical activity and in the environment and manner in which we work. > While we will address serious matters in a serious manner, we will seek to do so with a relaxed and positive attitude. > We will seek to engage with all stakeholders in a positive manner, which maximises positive returns to all. 	

SECTION 2: The Context in Which We Work

What we do . . .

We focus our efforts on increasing the participation of those with low participation rates from a number of target groups . . .

- Young people & youth at risk
- People with a disability
- Women and teenage girls
- Men
- Older adults
- Disadvantaged people
- Ethnic minority groups

while also supporting those who promote participation in sport and physical activity . . .

- Volunteers
- Sports coaches & instructors
- Club officials & administrators
- Physical activity leaders
- Community leaders
- Teachers
- Health workers

in many different places . . .

- Sports clubs
- Schools
- Communities
- Commercial & public facilities
- The natural environment

SECTION 2: The Context in Which We Work *(continued)*

The context in which we work . . .

We operate with the support, investment and leadership of Sport Ireland (SI) and we support SI to realise its sports participation objectives locally. We are also guided by the National Sports Policy 2018-2027, the National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland and the Healthy Ireland Framework. We are informed at local level by the WSP Strategic Plan 2018-2022, which was extended by the WSP Board to the end of 2024, and the relevant plans and strategies of our local partners, including the Waterford City & County Council Local Economic & Community Plan.

Local Sports Partnerships in the context of the National Sports Policy...

In 2018, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport launched the National Sports Policy 2018-2027. The Programme for Government has clearly set out new and ambitious objectives for sport to deliver on, most notably the sports participation goal, which increased from 50% of adults regularly playing sport, as set out in the 2018 National Sports Policy, to 60% of adults regularly playing sport by 2027. To achieve this, the policy highlights the need to tackle participation gradients by targeting groups in our society that participate significantly less than the overall average. These include people with a disability, people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, women and girls, and ethnic minority groups, such as the Traveller community.

The National Sports Policy recognises the key role played by the Local Sports Partnerships in sports participation and how they can assist in the delivery of the participation actions set out in this Policy. The National Sports Policy has a total of 57 actions, 26 of which have significance for Local Sports Partnerships. Fundamental to delivering on the participation actions of the National Sports Policy is increasing the capacity of the sports sector to deliver, especially the Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) and the smaller National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs).

“The LSP network plays a vital role and has been tasked, in particular, with increasing participation levels in sport and physical activity, especially among those sectors of society that are currently underrepresented in sport. Their capacity to remove barriers and ensure that opportunities for participation in sport are progressive, innovative and fully inclusive at a local level is a unique and valuable strength.”

– National Sports Policy 2018-2027

Local Sports Plan Development

The National Sports Policy 2018-2027 outlines, under action 8, the requirement to develop a Local Sports Plan in every Local Authority area:

Action 8: *We will establish, through Sport Ireland, an initiative to support Local Authorities in developing Local Sports Plans consistent with the overall vision and objectives of this National Sports Policy. The Local Sports Plan will review needs and set out actions to increase participation locally. It will be developed and implemented in cooperation with LSPs, clubs, communities, and partners within and beyond sport.*

Sport Ireland has been working closely with the County and City Management Association (CCMA) in recent years to design and develop a consistent approach to the development of Local Sports Plans across the country. A pilot is currently underway in four counties to develop their Local Sports Plans. Following completion of the pilot in 2024, templates will be provided to each Local Authority to support the plan development in the remaining counties. Local Sports Partnerships, including Waterford Sports Partnership, will be key stakeholders at local level in the development of the Local Sports Plans.

County Outdoor Recreation Plan Development

The National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027, *Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors*, seeks to achieve a more planned and coordinated approach between the many stakeholders, with the introduction of a County Outdoor Recreation Committee and the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan at county level. It is intended that the development of this plan in each county will be broadly completed in 2024.

Waterford Sports Partnership will be closely involved with and a key stakeholder in the processes to develop Waterford’s Local Sports Plan and Outdoor Recreation Plan in 2024. The process to develop these plans will also inform the development of Waterford Sports Partnership’s next strategy, which has been postponed until 2024 for this very reason to ensure alignment and mutual benefit.

SECTION 3

What We Achieved



With our partners, our key achievements for 2023 include:

8,727 people took part in **261** Programmes & Initiatives in **2023**

8,993 people took part in 260 Programmes & Initiatives in 2022

977 people took part in **59** Training & Education Courses in **2023**

859 people took part in 59 Training & Education Courses in 2022

WHO WE TARGET . . .

Young People & Youth at Risk | People with a Disability | Women & Girls | Men
Older Adults | Disadvantaged People | Ethnic Minorities | Sports Club Coaches & Volunteers.



633 girls/women
took part in **35** initiatives



162 men took
part in **15** initiatives



494 older adults took
part in **42** initiatives

PARTICIPATION

Schools/Young People:

1,584 students from **15** Primary Schools took part in Athletics Taster Sessions.

943 students from **14** schools took part in the Non-Contact Rugby initiative.

548 students from **9** schools took part in Marathon Kids.

18 schools took part in our Balance Bike Training Programme.

314 people took part in **6** Healthy Ireland Walking initiatives

20 people took part in **7** Positive Ageing Week events

88 women took part in **6** Women in Sport Week events

200 people took part in Waterford SportsAbility Day



890 young people/youth at risk
took part in **31** initiatives



828 people with a disability
took part in **46** initiatives

#WomenInSport IRE

57 women took part in **7**
HER OUTDOORS events

231 women took part in

12 Women on the Move programmes
in **5** locations

(Cappoquin, Carrickphierish, Cill Barra, Dungarvan & Kilmacthomas)



1,200 took part in **13** WSP
Waterford Bike Week Events

Capacity Building and/or collaboration with over 150 organisations

including providing Clubs/Groups with WSP funding supports and club development/grant application assistance, working with NGBs and local community organisations to develop, facilitate and support initiatives.

TRAINING

977 coaches, volunteers, community leaders and teachers supported in education and training, including:

239 attended **21** Safeguarding Courses

51 attended First Aid Training

38 attended our Sports Capital Grants Information Session

281 Primary School children attended Bike Maintenance Workshops

42 attended Sport Inclusion Disability Awareness Training

40 attended Learn to Cycle for People with a Disability

67 women attended our Menopause Workshops

26 women attended our women-only Bike Maintenance Workshop

See Appendix 5 for a full list of Training Courses.



24,747
visits to website



7,123
followers



1,880
followers



472
followers

ENGAGEMENT

Please note – 'Participant' figures may include individuals counted more than once where they have participated in more than one initiative.

GOAL 1: ACTIVE PEOPLE -

Many Opportunities, Many Places.

To support the provision of a wide range of opportunities for people to participate in sport and physical activity in a variety of places.



We aim to provide a wide range of sustainable physical activity opportunities for everyone at every stage of life in a variety of places across the city and county. In 2023, WSP played a central role in expanding the range of sports and physical activities available locally so that people can find their sport or activity.

We did this by:

- > Researching local areas, with an emphasis on promoting or providing a greater choice of physical activities and more sustainable opportunities for all target groups.
- > Working in partnership with sports clubs, communities, local stakeholders and commercial partners to offer sustainable activities across Waterford's six electoral districts.
- > Strengthening relationships with the places where sport and physical activities happen and giving infrastructure guidance to improve accessibility and increase opportunities to participate for all.
- > Continuing to use national trigger events and national media promotion to deliver and promote physical activity and empowering local clubs/organisations to initiate and sustain interest and participation.

2023 Highlights

- > We maintained the high number of initiatives delivered to a wide variety of target groups.
- > We continued our engagement with schools. During 2023, 43 schools engaged with WSP, including 19 DEIS schools, resulting in 4,863 school children taking part in 80 initiatives across 14 different sports, in partnership with 8 local clubs.
- > We identified the need to improve the spread of opportunities across the six electoral districts. This will see continued focus from the WSP team in 2024.
- > We developed several more outdoor sport and physical activity opportunities. This has resulted in more water sport offerings, including open water swimming, kayaking, rowing, dragon boating, sailing and surfing.
- > We continued to use trigger events as a platform for physical activity opportunities. We have altered the process for trigger events, with the whole team now engaging with identified events, linking with local clubs to establish a sustainable pathway. This improved in 2023, with 39 clubs/NGBs/partners taking part in trigger events, up from 31 in 2022.
- > Our response to the integration of migrants included the development of the Ukrainian Volleyball Club in Dungarvan (which is now taking part in the National league), Social Volleyball assistance in Waterford City, and the Integration Fund for Ukraine and IPAS centres, which subsidised 203 children seeking asylum or refuge in the Waterford area to take part in local summer camps.
- > We increased the number of programmes we evaluated using the M1 evaluation process to 20.
- > We introduced a variety of Grant Schemes to enable clubs/organisations to run activities in partnership with WSP. We coordinated four grant schemes: Healthy Ireland Walks, WSP Sports Club Grant, WSP Watersports Grant and Youth Migrant Club Membership Fund. Whilst we delivered fewer grant schemes than in 2022, in total, this provided much-needed funding to 47 clubs/organisations in the city and county. See **Appendix 6**.

GOAL 1: ACTIVE PEOPLE

Provide and support quality opportunities for *everyone* to participate in sport and physical activity, with a focus on low-participation groups.

We co-ordinate and support the development of a diverse range of quality programmes, events and initiatives to support engagement and participation in sport and physical activity. 2023 saw an increased focus on developing sustainable physical activity pathways when identifying and addressing needs among all target groups. We aimed to achieve this by developing the capacity and readiness of both partners and participants. Through this approach, we made the following sustained impacts on our target groups:

Men – We continued to re-evaluate our approach towards engaging men, in particular the Men on the Move Programme. This involved a focus on partnering with local clubs, engaging with two clubs for a Social Hurling project. We didn't develop our opportunities for men in 2023 as much as we would have hoped. However, we will aim to evolve our relationships with key stakeholders and look at different approaches for pathways for men in 2024.

Women – We focused on creating sustainable pathways, working with local clubs, for women to remain active. Women took part in nine different types of activity and working alongside local clubs and partners, we created several sustainable opportunities for women, including soccer, triathlon, swimming, cycling and yoga.

Disability – We increased the number of activities for people with a disability to 18, while also focusing on creating sustainable pathways. Importantly, WSP partnered with 13 different clubs/NGBs/partners in the delivery of these activities. We continued to develop our process of assisting mainstream clubs in setting up accessible clubs for GAA For All and Football For All.

Older Adults – We focused on creating pathways for activity for this group, resulting in 10 different types of activity being delivered in partnership with 10 clubs/partners. The development work in our partnerships with local libraries for the Activator Pole Borrow Scheme and Chair Yoga courses made a huge impact in 2023, setting a template for further opportunities.

Physical Activity for Health – In 2023, we had a greater focus on supporting people living with chronic conditions. Our initial work focused on stakeholder engagement and suitable training and upskilling for partners. We have seen participants involved in Men on the Move, Women on the Move and Chair Yoga and will continue to develop opportunities in 2024.

Overall, the total number of initiatives remained the same as in 2022, and there was a slight drop in the number of participants. In 2023, there was a greater emphasis on sustainability and developing partnerships for programme delivery.

	2023		2022		2021	
	Number of Participants	Number of Initiatives	Number of Participants	Number of Initiatives	Number of Participants	Number of Initiatives
Non-DEIS Pre-Schools/Schools	2,181	48	5,747	86	570	36
*DEIS Schools	2,682	32	*	*	*	*
Young People/Youth at Risk	890	31	502	18	527	11
Women/Teenage Girls	633	35	790	41	1,163	36
Men	162	15	256	17	149	13
Older Adults	494	42	563	42	278	20
Disability	828	46	616	40	316	30
Mixed target groups/other	824	10	474	11	574	22
Community Sports Hubs	**	**	**	**	588	56
Minority Groups	33	2	45	5		
TOTAL	8,727	261	8,993	260	4,165	224
% change on previous year	-3%	+0.3%	116%	16%		

* DEIS schools were included in Pre-school/Schools for 2021 and 2022 reporting.

** Community Sports Hubs included in other stats (2023: 215 people from 8 initiatives).

GOAL 1: ACTIVE PEOPLE

Develop and support quality opportunities for *children and young people* to participate in sport and physical activity.



DEIS schools/Youth at Risk – We focused on engagement with funded groups to identify needs and offer a pathway to physical activity. We continued to develop our leadership approach and piloted a Youth Mentorship programme. In schools and youth groups, we increased the number of relevant opportunities being offered to 14 different activities. 2,682 DEIS school students took part in 32 initiatives in 9 different sports/activities. And 890 young people/youth at risk took part in 31 initiatives in 6 different sports/activities.

Non-DEIS schools – We continued to deliver a range of opportunities to schools in Waterford, with a focus on the development of fundamental movement skills. 2,181 students from non-DEIS schools took part in 48 initiatives in 10 different sports/activities.

In total, we partnered with 8 different sports clubs to deliver these initiatives and provide pathways for the participants to continue to engage in sport and physical activity.

Support and enable the provision of opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity in *many places*.

Our main emphasis in 2023 was on collaboration with relevant partners to increase physical activity opportunities. This included partnering with stakeholders with the key objective of developing and activating new infrastructure and equipment-loaning opportunities. There were many examples of this throughout the year, including the following collaborations:

- > Launched BoxUp project in partnership with Waterford City & County Council (WCCC), as part of the Active Cities Waterford project.
- > Contributed to the funding of concrete teqball and table tennis tables in People's Park, Waterford. This was supported by the Active Cities Waterford project.
- > Developed dragon boating opportunities in partnership with Sláintecare and the Active Cities Waterford project.
- > Partnered with WCCC on the continued development of Fairlane Park, Dungarvan. In 2023, this saw the design and build of a BMX pump track and an outdoor exercise gym. We also worked on activating the park facilities through learn-to-cycle videos for parents/teachers, in partnership with Cycling Ireland and WCCC.
- > Partnered with SETU and *parkrun* Ireland on the relocation and launch of the Waterford *parkrun* at the SETU Arena Campus.
- > Developed orienteering infrastructure in partnership with local schools, WCCC and National Governing Bodies. This involved 6 public places, 21 national schools and 8 secondary schools.
- > Worked in partnership with Healthy Waterford to develop the Playful Streets concept for delivery to local communities.



GOAL 1: ACTIVE PEOPLE

Identify the activities, events and initiatives which have the capacity to trigger engagement in sport and physical activity and maximise the links to longer-term participation.

A key focus in 2023 was partnering with local clubs/stakeholders to utilise national trigger events to coordinate a more sustained, localised approach. We engaged with 28 clubs/NGBs for national trigger events in 2023 and delivered 33 follow-on initiatives as a direct result of our approach. This strengthened club capacity to make a sustained impact on people's levels of physical activity.

Trigger Event	2023		2022		2021	
	Number of Activities / Events	Number of Participants	Number of Activities / Events	Number of Participants	Number of Activities / Events	Number of Participants
National Bike Week	13	1,200	21	641	13	144
Positive Ageing Week	7	20	6	83	11	82
Men's Health Week	0	0	5	37	6	53
National Play Day	3	118	4	200	4	160
Healthy Ireland Walks (Operation Transformation)	6	314	7	364	1	210
SportsAbility Day	1	200	7	69	9	78
HER Outdoors Week	7	57	7	86	9	73
Women in Sport Week	6	88	9	138		
	43	1,997	66	1,618	53	800

In the absence of a national partner, we made a conscious decision not to offer activities around Men's Health Week, and instead to promote any relevant activities during that week. We will work on this for 2024.

Provide information on opportunities and places to participate in sport and physical activity.

We have continued to evolve our use of online platforms to provide information for people to increase their level of physical activity. This includes:

- > Online videos to support infrastructure development of outdoor gyms, learn-to-cycle park and BoxUp.
- > Online programmes for schools, including playground markings, skipping, bike maintenance, and balance bike programme.
- > Online booking systems for equipment-lending schemes, including activator poles and beach wheelchair.
- > Continued development of our online videos for cycling, orienteering and walking to provide more opportunities for more people to be more active.



GOAL 1: ACTIVE PEOPLE

Planned Actions for 2023 – WSP Response and Outcome

In our 2022 Annual Report, we identified a number of planned actions for 2023. While we were successful in some of these, others will require further development and a change of approach in 2024.

Planned Actions for 2023	WSP Response and Outcome
Work with water sports clubs and offer activities for all target groups.	Continued engagement with existing clubs. We offered our first Water Sports Grant, which enabled us to engage with more clubs.
Increase the number of cycling tutors/clubs to deliver cycling across the city and county.	Club engagement proved challenging, with only 1 of the 9 cycling clubs contacted engaging with WSP. We expanded our tutor database and now have 2 Cycle Right tutors, which increases our capacity.
Use the Grant Scheme framework to engage with clubs/organisations to deliver physical activity opportunities.	We delivered fewer grants, with 47 clubs/organisations benefitting in 2023 (down from 103 in 2022). This is something for us to look at in 2024.
Support accessible opportunities for people with a disability by working in partnership with disability organisations and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of sport.	Altering our approach to disability organisations to focus on establishing capacity-building pathways with clubs/organisations proved very successful. We delivered programmes in partnership with 13 clubs/NGBs/partners, creating clear pathways for those with a disability to get/stay active.
Develop our website as a resource for people to be active through online offerings and as a platform to build awareness of local sport/physical activity infrastructure and opportunities.	We now have several infrastructure activation videos on our website, e.g., for the learn-to-cycle park, outdoor gyms. We will continue to add relevant content in 2024.
Evaluate the West Waterford Rural Hub to support its continued development and future sustainability by engaging with sports clubs, community and commercial facility operators to promote sustainable opportunities.	This proved challenging in 2023 due to capacity issues internally. There are successes from clubs/organisations we have engaged with/funded, but conducting an effective hub evaluation is key and relevant activities then need to be promoted effectively. This will be a priority for 2024.
Develop partnership programmes with primary schools for relevant physical activity opportunities and measure the sustained impact.	We were very successful in terms of the number of children engaged. We partnered with 8 different sports clubs to deliver programmes to both DEIS and non-DEIS schools.
Target 5 primary schools that haven't engaged with WSP programmes in the last 5 years.	We engaged with 3 primary schools that had not engaged with us in the last five years. In the future, we may shorten the timeframe to the previous academic year.
Work with 15 clubs/NGBs to provide sustainable pathways for physical activity.	This was a real success. In total, we engaged with 22 NGBs and 28 local clubs.
Engage with all youth-at-risk services/groups to create sustainable opportunities for youths at risk with local clubs and NGBs in new locations.	We engaged with 7 clubs/NGBs in sustainable opportunities. This is an area for further focus in 2024.
Engage in a needs analysis to find out what is needed/wanted for men, in partnership with five relevant clubs/NGBs.	We delivered programmes with 3 clubs and 2 NGBs. But we did not complete our needs analysis for all groups. This will be a priority for 2024.
Continue to develop the use of trigger events and expand sustainable opportunities for women, in partnership with 10 local clubs. Deliver a needs-based programme of activities and create suitable and sustainable partnerships with clubs.	This was a huge success. We engaged with 14 local clubs to deliver trigger events.
Continue to engage with the local community to promote relevant activities hosted in the Carrickphierish Sports Hub. Clarify the role of WSP in relation to the Hub.	We worked in partnership with WCCC to promote the use of Carrickphierish Sports Hub to the local community. Our focus will be on facilitating/creating sustainable opportunities.
Engage with local and national partners to put in place a plan to focus on different outdoor activities and initiatives.	This will be an area of focus in 2024.
Seek support for a fulltime Active Cities Officer to support the ongoing development of Waterford as an Active City.	We achieved this goal – a fulltime Active Cities Officer was appointed in 2023. We also made great strides regarding effective stakeholder engagement to provide the platform for future sustainable activities.

Case Study: Waterford SportsAbility Day 2023



OVERVIEW

Waterford's SportsAbility Forum was established in 2016, with representatives from various Disability Organisations, Voluntary and Statutory Organisations and National Governing Bodies (NGBs). The aim of the forum is for organisations to meet quarterly and share information on physical activity opportunities available for people with a disability in Waterford. The forum's secondary aim is to increase awareness of the physical activity opportunities for people with a disability in Waterford. One of the key events on the Forum's calendar is the annual SportsAbility Day. We were delighted to be able to run a SportsAbility Day again in 2023 after a long gap due to the pandemic.



IMPLEMENTATION

- Local clubs and NGBs were contacted to ascertain their interest in taking part on the day. Once clubs and NGBs confirmed, a timetable was created detailing the taster sessions for the day.
- A promotional poster was designed and 200 FREE tickets were made available via eventbrite.ie. The event was promoted to our network of disability contacts and on our website, in local press and across our social media platforms.
- SETU Arena, M.C. Teresanne O'Reilly and guests Damien Vereker, Hayley Fitzsimons and Niall McVeigh were all booked, as well as a photographer to cover the event on the day.
- Teresanne guided the day by announcing regularly what was on. Short live interviews were also held with Hayley and Niall.
- Hayley, Niall and Damien circulated and joined in on taster sessions. Damien, whose sport is cycling, joined in at the cycling area. Niall, whose sport is badminton, joined in on the badminton taster session.
- We had volunteers on the day from SETU, Little Vikings Special Olympics Club and Waterford SportsAbility Forum as well as the WSP Team. SETU Arena staff were also a great help on the day.
- Fruit and water were provided along with personalised certificates of attendance, goodie bags and WSP hats.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- ⇒ Number of participants in attendance
- ⇒ Number of new club members

SPORTSABILITY DAY AT A GLANCE!

200+ participants from Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford & Dublin
11 NGBs/clubs held 40-minute taster sessions.

The following sports were on offer:

Table Tennis, Football for All, Athletics, Muay Thai, Pitch & Putt, Rugby, Hockey, Badminton, Powerchair Football, GAA for All, Wheelchair Basketball and Cycling.

There was also access all day to Footgolf, Archery, the High-Performance gym, and Sprinting Track.



OUTCOMES

We received fantastic feedback from the event. There was a very wide and diverse range of attendees in terms of age, nationality and ability. Many of the participants had never previously experienced many of the activities that were on offer on the day. This event gave them the opportunity to try out new activities and the information to go and join that club or pursue that activity.

'Fantastic - realising that we are not alone and there is a whole community of wheelchair users who deserve to be involved and active in whatever way they can'.

'Brilliant – it was great to see new abilities on the day'.



NEXT STEPS . . .

- > Two new clubs are currently being set up – Juvenile Athletics Club and an IWA Multisport Club, with plans to support the setup of Wheelchair Basketball, Hockey for All, Golf for All and Rugby for All clubs, for which there is a huge demand.
- > It is planned to run the event again next year.

Case Study: Dragon Boating Programmes for Over 50's



OVERVIEW

This initiative was delivered in collaboration with the Waterford Dragon Boat Club. The initiative started in June with a four-week Taster Programme, which was followed up by another two four-week programmes. The club took six new participants for each block of the programme and brought them out on the River Suir, paddling with them each Sunday morning. A total of 15 people over the age of 55 attended, all of whom thoroughly enjoyed the programme.

AIMS

- > Build a strong relationship with a club that we have not engaged with before.
- > Create an opportunity for older adults to try dragon boating.
- > Increase the use of Waterford's waterways and make them accessible for over 50's.



IMPLEMENTATION

- > WSP, along with Active Cities Waterford and Sláintecare Healthy Communities, met a number of times with the Waterford Dragon Boat Club to discuss options for working with the club.
- > During these meetings, a barrier to participation was identified that would limit the number of members the club could facilitate on the water in the coming months. The club only had one boat, which could facilitate 20 people on the water at a time. At this time, the club had over 50 members and a growing waiting list.
- > Active Cities Waterford and Sláintecare Healthy Communities discussed options to help fund a second boat for the club to allow more members to be on the water and to increase the member capacity. The club has since been looking for a boat to order, while still facilitating WSP's programmes wherever they can.

OUR PARTNERS

OUTCOMES/LEARNINGS

We got fantastic feedback from participants on all of the programmes we ran over the summer months. All the participants were given a reduced membership for the remainder of the season (March – October). They now paddle regularly with the club on one of the weekly sessions that they run!

'I didn't know that the Dragon Boat Club existed until I did the programme - I absolutely love it and can't wait to go out each week!'



NEXT STEPS ...

The club applied for WSP's Watersports Grant and received funding for a Helms course for three of their members to receive training to be able to take the boat out on the water as the instructor. Over the winter months, the new boat was ordered and shipped to the club in time for the 2024 season. This will hopefully see more WSP programmes being delivered in partnership with Waterford Dragon Boat Club in the coming year.

Case Study: Brickey Rangers GAA For All Camp



OVERVIEW

Brickey Rangers GAA club in Dungarvan held a 4-week GAA For All camp for primary school aged children with a mild-to-moderate intellectual and sensory disability. The initiative was run by volunteers in collaboration with WSP.



OUR PARTNERS

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Number of children attending the camp
- Number of participants joining the Brickey Rangers GAA For All.

IMPLEMENTATION

- > Brickey Rangers GAA Club reached out to us for support and to work in partnership with us to organise a GAA For All camp for primary school aged children with mild-to-moderate intellectual and sensory disabilities.
- > Together, we planned a four-week camp, which would be run by volunteers and take place each Sunday at the club.
- > The camp would consist of lots of fun games such as tug of war, soccer, hurling, bowling, and parachute circle. We provided equipment to Brickey Rangers GAA Club for use at the camp.
- > We designed a poster and set up an Eventbrite link with seventeen tickets available to book at €5 per person.
- > We promoted the camp through local schools and across our social media channels.
- > We organised special visits from Tadhg de Burca, members of the Waterford Camogie Team and Alva, a service dog from My Canine Companion.
- > The children were presented with certificates and goody bags on the final day.

OUTCOMES

13 children took part

We received fantastic feedback from all the participants and their parents. Among the participants, we saw a range of abilities. Several skills like catching, throwing, running, jumping as well as social skills were improved over the course of the four weeks.



'It was truly heart-warming to watch the joy, fun and interactions each Sunday morning. Children coming out of their comfort zone and trying new things was so lovely to see'

NEXT STEPS . . .

We plan to run the camp again in 2024.



GOAL 2: ACTIVE NETWORK –

Strengthening the Network, Connecting People.

To support and strengthen the capacity of the network of people and organisations who facilitate sport and physical activity in Waterford.



Quality training and education and capacity-building opportunities for the providers of sport and physical activity.

We ran a wide range of training and education courses in 2023. Some of the highlights are:-

- > We delivered 21 different training courses, including 8 new courses. In total, we ran 59 training sessions across the 21 courses.
- > Overall, there was an increase of 118 (14%) in the number of participants attending our training and education courses compared to 2022.
- > We continued to focus on coordinating Safeguarding courses, delivering 21 courses to 239 sports club coaches and volunteers.
- > We trained two dedicated Cycle Right tutors to increase WSP capacity to deliver Cycle Right to schools that were not being serviced by external Cycle Right providers. This led to 97 students completing the Cycle Right programme in 4 primary schools.
- > In 2023, we increased our capacity for cycling delivery for disability groups. We delivered 6 courses to 40 participants, an increase of 26 individuals and 5 courses compared to 2022.
- > We embarked on a new venture around engagement with secondary schools and local boxing clubs in the delivery of the GAISCE Award for 11 young people.
- > In 2023, we focused on upskilling coaches of young athletes, delivering 4 courses to a total of 54 coaches, 36 of whom received training specifically on coaching teenage girls.

See Appendix 5 for a full list of 2023 Training Courses.



GOAL 2: ACTIVE NETWORK

Support and enable a culture of shared and multipurpose quality facilities in the built and natural environment through engagement with relevant individuals and organisations

Throughout 2023, we worked with numerous partners and stakeholders to develop the sport and physical activity infrastructure within Waterford city and county. This involved the following:

- > We worked in partnership with Waterford City & County Council (WCCC) to install a Communication Board in all 27 playgrounds in Waterford city and county. A communication board is a sign that displays photos, symbols, or illustrations to help people with limited language skills express themselves. The users can gesture, point to, or blink at images to communicate with others. WCCC has agreed that all future playgrounds in the city and county will include a communication board, based on the WSP template.
- > Active Cities Waterford was a key player in the financial and strategic development and installation of equipment in People’s Park in Waterford City. This included the installation of BoxUp, the funding of a Pétanque court and the installation of Teqball and concrete Table Tennis tables. In 2023, we also recorded videos to show people how to use the Outdoor Gym in the People’s Park.
- > Our partnership with WCCC saw the continued development of Fairlane Park, Dungarvan. This included the creation of a bank of videos, in partnership with Cycling Ireland, to assist teachers and parents when using the ‘Learn to Cycle Park’. We also partnered with BMX Ireland, Cycling Ireland and WCCC to build a BMX Pump track on site. The final phase of the partnership project with WCCC was completed in October 2023, with the opening of an outdoor exercise station.
- > We are on a Steering Committee that was set up to evaluate the feasibility of a public swimming pool in the Dungarvan area.
- > We conducted discussions with relevant stakeholders about the development of water sports opportunities at Ballyscanlon Lake.
- > Our Actives Cities Officer partnered with Healthy Waterford to develop and launch the Playful Streets initiative.

Increase and strengthen relationships with local, regional and national sporting organisations

We are funded and governed by Sport Ireland. Sport Ireland has identified 107 partners that local sports partnerships could engage with to deliver physical activity opportunities to all. In 2023, WSP engaged with 76 of these, a slight decrease from 2022, as outlined below. In some cases, this engagement with NGBs led to a partnership for programme delivery or infrastructure development.

Organisation Type	TOTAL Number	Number WSP Engaged with in 2023	Number WSP Engaged with in 2022
National Governing Bodies of Sport	65	37	40
Disability National Governing Bodies	5	5	5
Other Sport Ireland-funded Partners	3	2	3
Other External Funded Partners	34	32	32
TOTAL	107	76	80



GOAL 2: ACTIVE NETWORK

In 2023, we placed more emphasis on ensuring that there were sustainable pathways for programme participants. Where possible, we delivered activities in partnership with a local club/National Governing Body (NGB). This helped to increase the opportunities for our programme participants to continue to be physically active. In 2023, we coordinated 261 physical activity initiatives. These were delivered in partnership with 32 tutors, 28 local clubs and 22 NGBs (see **Appendix 8**). We also aimed to increase capacity through club grant schemes (see **Appendix 6**). We provided funding to 47 clubs to help increase participation among our target groups within the clubs' local communities.

The following are some examples of how we linked with NGBs and other organisations in 2023:

FAI – Our partnership work with the FAI for Special Schools' Soccer led to four Football for All clubs being set up across the county. We also worked with the FAI on initiatives for youth-at-risk groups.

GAA/FAI/Kingfisher/SETU Arena – All are key partners in our Summer Camp Assistance programme. This provides children with a disability with a qualified SNA to ensure they can participate in a mainstream summer camp. We partnered with Waterford Area Partnership, Bausch & Lomb and UPMC to provide funding for 30 children with a disability to participate in a mainstream summer camp in 2023.

SportsAbility – We hosted a SportsAbility day, which was attended by 200 people with a disability. This day offered 19 different activities and was organised in partnership with 11 local clubs/NGBs.

Waterford City & County Council – We had discussions with WCCC on various beach accessibility audits. This led to the initiation of an accessibility audit for Tramore Beach, with further beaches identified to be audited in 2024.

Munster Rugby – In partnership with Munster Rugby and four local rugby clubs (Dungarvan RFC, Waterford City RFC, Tramore RFC and Waterpark RFC), we delivered a Non-Contact Rugby schools programme. Local club coaches taught participants the skills of rugby, with a particular focus on fun and participation. 943 children from 14 schools took part. The clubs involved reported an increase in their youth membership as a result.

Cycling Ireland – We engaged in multiple partnerships with Cycling Ireland. The delivery of Cycle Right training in schools was introduced in 2023, with 97 students from 4 schools availing of this. Learn to Cycle with a Disability was delivered to 40 people with a disability from 8 services. We also partnered with Dungarvan Cycling Club for the delivery of a Women on Wheels programme, which resulted in 12 women joining the club.

Table Tennis Ireland – Following on from development work in 2022, in partnership with Table Tennis Ireland and SETU, in 2023 we established a new table tennis club, which now meets twice a week.

Older Adults – WSP worked in partnership with Waterford Age Friendly Alliance, Waterford Older People's Council and Waterford Libraries to deliver a very successful Activator Pole Borrow Scheme in seven locations across the county. In addition, in partnership with Waterford Libraries and local providers, we coordinated Chair Yoga in three locations, which also incorporated people living with chronic conditions into mainstream activity.

Physical Activity for Health – In partnership with five other LSPs, WSP identified a need for greater education/training/awareness opportunities for fitness professionals to increase their knowledge of ways to support people living with chronic conditions. This collaboration involved a pilot training opportunity with the National Council for Exercise and Fitness (NCEF), which will be evaluated and hopefully rolled out further in 2024.

Women – During Women in Sport Week, we delivered 6 activities in partnership with six clubs, with 88 women taking part. In partnership with Swim Ireland, SETU, and Yoga Nua, we delivered three workshops/programmes to a total of 67 women highlighting the importance of exercise during menopause.

Active Cities – We continued our collaboration with WCCC to deliver active play spaces and Playful Streets to the local communities. We also recorded activation videos for outdoor gym equipment installed in the People's Park in 2022. This was also activated as part of BeActive Night in September, a partnership with local archery, pétanque, boxing, basketball and cycling clubs. Despite the inclement weather, 44 people attended.

Healthy Ireland Walks – We partnered with 6 local clubs for an 8-week walking initiative. 270 adults and 44 young people took part.

National Bike Week – In collaboration with WCCC, An Taisce's Green-Schools programme, and Cycling Ireland, 45 events were organised, with 3,545 people taking part. WSP organised 13 of these events, with 1,200 people taking part.

GOAL 2: ACTIVE NETWORK

Networking, Advocacy and Awareness Raising

Building alliances and relationships with local and national partners is an important area of work for WSP. We actively engage in committee work and networking activities at local and national level.

Local networks and committees bring together community and sports organisations, statutory and non-statutory agencies, volunteers and other working partners and provide opportunities for partnership endeavours that influence and resource sport and physical activity at county and national level.

These networking and awareness-raising activities result in an increase in the reach of WSP and awareness of our work. They are also a sounding board for advice and recommendations as to what we can do to assist others to promote physical activity opportunities.

Overview of the types of actions WSP was involved in

TYPES OF ACTIONS	2021	2022	2023
Local Networks or Committees participated in	14	16	19
Regional and National Networks participated in	12	18	18
Research projects involved in	1	1	3
Conferences Attended	11	2	9
Policy/Strategy submissions made	1	1	1

List of Committees & Boards with WSP Representation 2023

WSP was represented on 37 committees/boards in 2023. This enabled us to expand our reach in the delivery of physical activity opportunities to the people of Waterford.

LOCAL	REGIONAL/NATIONAL
Dungarvan Learn to Cycle Park Steering Group	Cycling Ireland Cycling Hub Steering Group
Fairlane Park Development Steering Group	Golf Ireland National Volunteer Award panel
Get Waterford Walking Stakeholder Group	Limited Company LSP Coordinator Network
Healthy Waterford Connecting Communities	National Bike Week Committee
Menopause Lifestyle Programme Working Group	National LSP Active Cities Network
Positive Ageing Week Steering Group	National Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDO) Network
Tramore Beach Accessibility Working Group	National Walking Week Steering Group
Waterford Age Friendly Alliance Committee	PACC Comms Working Group
Waterford Age Friendly Alliance - Health & Active Living Subgroup	PACC Core Stakeholder Group
Waterford BGI (Blueway, greenway infrastructure) Stakeholder Group	PACC Leads Working Group
Waterford Bike Week Steering Group	PACC Pilot 3 Working Group
Waterford Camogie/Ladies Football Women and Girls Participation Group	SI Innovation Project Network
Waterford Comhairle na nÓg	SI LSP Communications Network
Waterford Link-Up Group	SI Marketing, Communications & Sponsorship Network
Waterford Outdoor Recreation Working Group	SI National LSP Coordinator Network
Waterford SportsAbility Forum	SI National LSP Evaluation Working Group
Waterford Ukrainian response	SI PAFHO Co-ordinator Working Group
Well Waterford Implementation Committee	SI Physical Activity for Health Officer (PAFHO) Network
Well Waterford Strategic Committee	



GOAL 2: ACTIVE NETWORK

Plans for 2023 - WSP Response and Outcomes

In our 2022 Annual Report, we identified a number of planned actions for 2023. While we were successful in some of these, others will require further development and a change of approach in 2024.

Planned Actions for 2023	WSP Response and Outcome
Coordinate a sustainable approach to the final year of the West Waterford Rural Hub funding.	We did not make progress on this in 2023. This is a key priority for 2024.
Conduct a sports club volunteer training needs analysis and identify relevant partners.	This did not occur in 2023 and the approach needs further consideration. In 2023, we delivered 59 training sessions, the same as in 2022, and this was spread over 21 different initiatives in both years. Our training and education will be more focused in 2024.
Develop and roll out an effective Water Sports Grant Scheme.	We granted a total of €5,250 to 6 clubs under this grant scheme in 2023.
Connect with as many disability organisations as possible and gain an understanding of their needs, how they function, etc.	In 2023, we delivered activities to 14 local disability organisations and also hosted a very successful SportsAbility day. An area to improve is the effectiveness of the SportsAbility Forum. This will be a focus for 2024.
Active Cities – Outdoor infrastructure/ equipment installation in various locations around the city.	As a result of ongoing stakeholder engagement, and in partnership with Waterford City & County Council, we installed several pieces of equipment throughout the city during 2023, including a Pétanque Court, Outdoor Gym Equipment, a Table Tennis Table, a Teqball Table and a BoxUp unit in the People’s Park and walking/cycling paths within the green area in a social housing estate in Lisduggan. Along with Sláintecare Healthy Communities Fund, we also contributed funds towards Waterford Dragon Boat Club’s purchase of a new dragon boat.
PACC Pilot 3 – Implement project actions.	Significant progress has been made with the PACC 3 project and plans are underway to establish an evaluation, learning and development consultancy in 2024.



Case Study: Kick-Fit

OVERVIEW

In partnership with FAI Waterford, we developed a six-week pilot Social Soccer Programme for women. Kick-Fit is a fun, non-competitive social soccer programme with the primary aim of supporting women to improve their health and fitness through soccer. The programme included a mixture of skill development and small-sided games.

OUR PARTNERS



AIMS

- > To work in partnership with FAI Waterford to develop a social soccer programme for women that has proven successful in other counties.
- > To increase women's physical activity levels through soccer in a fun and social environment.
- > To use 'Women in Sport Week' to launch a new programme.



IMPLEMENTATION

- > Developing the pilot programme involved meeting with the FAI Development Officer to discuss their capacity to partner with WSP to create opportunities for women to increase their physical activity levels through soccer.
- > The WSP Community Sports Development Officer was responsible for providing funding for the programme, booking a suitable venue, developing promotional resources to recruit participants, and managing registrations.
- > The FAI Development Officer was responsible for identifying a coach that could facilitate the six Social Soccer sessions.

*'The best thing I have ever done.
I made new friends,
and we had great craic'.
'It was absolutely brilliant, I would
recommend it to everybody.'*

OUTCOMES

- > 13 women registered online for the programme in advance of the start date. By the end of the programme, 21 women had participated. This was due in part to the women that attended sharing their experience of the programme by word of mouth, along with additional social media promotion.
- > The women that participated were aged from 18 up to 60 years, which is testament to the fun and social session that was facilitated by the qualified coach.
- > Post programme, a WhatsApp group was set up to support the participants to arrange a weekly Social Soccer meet up.
- > The WSP Community Sports Development Officer continued to support participants post programme by assisting them to secure a venue to play weekly, booking a coach to facilitate the weekly meet up, and by providing equipment.

NEXT STEPS . . .

- Continue partnership with FAI Waterford to further expand the programme in the county and to create links with local soccer clubs that could support WSP and FAI Waterford to manage these types of programmes.
- Participants expressed an interest in developing their coaching skills so that they could lead elements of a session. This may have wider benefits for local soccer clubs too.



Case Study: Introduction to Triathlon for Teenage Girls



OVERVIEW

In partnership with Triathlon Ireland, we delivered a 3-day Introduction to Triathlon Programme for teenage girls in Clonea, Dungarvan, during HER Outdoors Week 2023. This was the first time we engaged with a partner to develop a *HER Moves* branded initiative. *HER Moves* is designed to inspire and support more teenage girls to be active. This initiative is about empowering all young women, building confidence, and providing motivation to find something that gets them moving.



AIMS

- To introduce the three triathlon disciplines (swimming, cycling and running) to teenage girls that have never participated in a triathlon.
- To increase teenage girls' physical activity levels whilst participating in the three triathlon elements in a fun, relaxed, non-competitive and non-judgemental environment.
- To utilise HER Outdoors Week to launch a new programme due to the increase in national promotion highlighting activities during that calendar week.

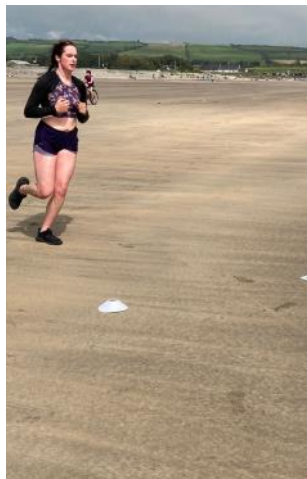
IMPLEMENTATION

- > Developing the pilot programme involved meeting with the Munster Triathlon Ireland Development Officer (DO) and the Triathlon Ireland Women in Sport Lead to discuss our capacities to partner to create opportunities for teenage girls to increase their physical activity levels through triathlon.
- > Our CSDO was responsible for developing promotional resources to recruit participants, managing registrations, and supporting participants throughout the duration of the programme.
- > The Triathlon Ireland DO was responsible for designing the 3-day timetable of events, leading each of the sessions (swim/bike/run) across the 3 days, identifying a lifeguard with triathlon experience that could provide safety cover for the swim element, and sourcing an experienced hair braider.



OUTCOMES

- 7 teenage girls, aged between 12 and 17, attended the programme. The coach-to-athlete ratio was 8 participants to 1 coach.
- The girls learned new skills and techniques for cycling, running, and swimming.
- The girls also had an opportunity to learn and practice hair braiding. The purpose of this was to help the teenage girls to bond and form a social connection.
- All the teenage girls successfully completed their first triathlon on the last day of the programme.
- The WSP CSDO continued to support participants post programme by sharing information about local triathlon club opportunities for teenage girls.



'There is nothing for teenage girls to participate in during the summer months. My daughter feels too old for the mainstream sports camps. I'm just delighted she had a chance to do something this summer.'

'The coaches were great.'

NEXT STEPS . . .

- > We will continue to partner with Triathlon Ireland to create programme opportunities for teenage girls and women.
- > Get to know the local Triathlon clubs with the support of the Triathlon Ireland Development Officer, to develop sustainable pathways to participation for teenage girls and women.
- > Repeat the programme during HER Outdoors Week 2024.

Case Study: Inclusive Surfing at Vitamin Sea Festival

OVERVIEW

In partnership with the Vitamin Sea Festival and Oceanics Surf School in Tramore, we ran two taster surfing sessions on Sunday 17th September for children and adults with an intellectual disability. The participants learned basic surfing skills and techniques such as position on the board, foot and body position and paddling.



OUR PARTNERS

VITAMIN SEA FESTIVAL
Celebrating Tramore's food & outdoors



IMPLEMENTATION

- > The organisers of the Vitamin Sea Festival in Tramore reached out to us to see if we would like to run an event during the festival.
- > We then worked with Oceanics Surf School to set up two taster sessions on Sunday 17th September.
- > A poster was designed and an Eventbrite link was set up so that people could register online for one of the twenty available spots.
- > We looked after the promotion of the sessions and contacted participants prior to the events with details of what to bring, what to wear, etc.
- > After the very successful sessions, we had a discussion with Oceanics Surf School about the potential to set up a 'Surf for All Club' for summer 2024, which would involve a session once a month then possibly once a week. Oceanics Surf School staff were very keen on the idea.

OUTCOMES

16 Children and 4 Adults took part in the sessions.

We got fantastic feedback from all of the participants. Within the group, we saw a diverse age range, and many nationalities and abilities. Many of the participants had never tried surfing before.



'Thank you so much for organising the surfing event today. Charlie loved it, he had great fun. We would love him to be able to do this again.'

NEXT STEPS . . .

We plan to set up a 'Surf for All' Club in Tramore for Summer 2024.

Case Study: Playful Streets



OVERVIEW

In 2023, Waterford Sports Partnership, Healthy Waterford and Waterford City & County Council rolled out a number of Playful Streets events in Waterford City. Playful Streets are a low-cost and easy way to turn streets into play spaces where children and neighbours can safely be active and socialise outside. The Playful Streets Initiative encourages children to play outside, making exercise fun and easy, while at the same time building stronger communities. A Playful Streets event was held in Ballybricken Green on 5th September 2023. Over fifty children took part in a number of different activities such as racquet games, soccer, balance bikes, dancing, storytelling and free play. A number of key stakeholders came on board to help out on the day, including Waterford Libraries, Waterford City & County Council Environments team, An Garda Síochána, Ready Steady Play and lots more!



OUR PARTNERS



OUTCOMES

As a result of the success of the 2023 events, we will be putting together a more structured roll out for the Playful Streets Initiative in 2024. A number of other stakeholders came onboard during 2023, including Sláintecare Healthy Communities, Waterford Libraries, Waterford PPN, Community Safety Partnership, Creative Waterford, Waterford Climate Action Team and Waterford Children & Young People Services Committee. We are looking forward to running events all across County Waterford from May to September 2024.

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

'Excellent initiative to get neighbours and kids interacting more.'

'It was a super event, all the games inspired the children and also highlighted to those driving into the estate to drive safely and allow for safe play in our estate.'

'It was an excellent event and very well organised. Not only did the children of the wider area enjoy the event but it gave adult neighbours the opportunity to meet and chat which is normally hard to do nowadays as life is so busy.'



NEXT STEPS

We hope to roll out a full calendar of events across Waterford city and county next year from May through to September. We will kick off this process by firstly sending out an expression of interest to the community early next year to gauge interest and get early buy in from local residents associations.



GOAL 3: ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT -

Clear Messages, Effective Communication.

To communicate clear and consistent messages and positively promote sport and physical activity opportunities.



Some of the highlights for 2023...

Effective channels and platforms for communication

Social Media: Continued to develop and manage WSP's presence on the following social media platforms:

- WSP Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- Waterford SportsAbility Facebook and Instagram
- CLV Community Sports Hub Facebook.

⇒ **Event-Specific Promotional Plans:** We devised and activated targeted promo plans for various National Trigger Events, National Campaigns and WSP Events over the course of the year. The plans covered both traditional and social media.

Some of the stand-out initiatives were:

- Healthy Ireland Community Walks
- Women in Sport Week
- National Bike Week
- BeActive Night & BoxUp Launch
- Waterford SportsAbility Day
- Volunteer in Sport Awards

2022 Annual Report: Our 2022 Annual Report was collated, designed, printed and distributed both online and in hard copy format. We had entered our 2021 Annual Report into the Good Governance Awards run by Carmichael Ireland and worked to improve the report for the 2022 submission, for which we received an excellent grade.

⇒ **Local Press & Local Radio:** Regular press releases published in local press. WSP staff held a number of interviews with our local radio station WLRFM during 2023 including interviews for the Beach Wheelchair in Tramore and Parkour at the Spraoi Festival. We worked with Beat 102 103 ahead of BeActive night; Radio ads were aired promoting the event and the Beat Fleet was at the event doing live interviews and entertaining event goers.

Engaging effectively with current and new partners

⇒ **Connection** – To keep connected with our participants and partners in the disability sector, personalised Christmas cards were designed and sent to all service users who engaged with us in 2023. We also designed and printed a bespoke WSP Calendar for 2024, which showcased our programmes and initiatives. The calendar was distributed to local GPs and health care professionals by our Physical Activity for Health Officer.

PROGRAMME/EVENT	DATE/TIME	VENUE	COST	DESCRIPTION
Women on the Move TASTER SESSION	Wednesday 8 th March 7 to 8pm	Causeway Tennis Club Abeyside Dungarvan	FREE TASTER	Women on the Move is a community based physical activity programme suitable for adult women (20+) that would like to take part in some form of moderate exercise. It is suitable for beginners and women returning to exercise. Sessions include cardio (walking/jogging) and upper and lower body weight exercises (squats, lunges, press-ups, shoulder presses, etc.)
KICKFIT Women Only Fitness Through Soccer	Wednesday 8 th March 8 to 9pm	Carrickgherish Community Campus	€10 for 10-week programme	We've teamed up with the FAI to pilot a Women's Six Week Social Soccer Programme in Waterford City Kick Fit is for women over 18 interested in improving their health & fitness through soccer in a fun & social environment. All sessions will be delivered by an experienced FAI Coach.
Swimmin' Women Midlife Programme	Thursday 9 th March @ 10.15am	Kingfisher Club Tramore Road Waterford	€50 for eight week programme	Join a community of women for a fun Aqua Aerobics & Swimming Programme (you do not need to be a confident swimmer). This eight week programme is specifically designed for middle women. The aim is to support and empower women through life's milestones.
Come & Try Activator Poles	Thursday 9 th March @ 11am	Meet at the Look Out in Dungarvan	FREE TASTER	JOIN US FOR A FREE TASTER SESSION! Activator Pole Walking is suitable for adults of different abilities. We will explore how Activator Poles can improve your: Aerobic Fitness Mobility Strength Balance
Coaching Teenage Girls in Sport Workshop For Coaches, Volunteers, Committee Members, or Teachers involved in strong female participation across all sport types.	Thursday 9 th March 6.30 to 9.30pm	ONLINE VIA ZOOM	€15	THIS 3-HOUR ONLINE WORKSHOP WILL COVER: • Involvement & Engagement by Girls in Sports & Physical Activity • Meeting the Psycho-Social Needs of Girls in Sport • Key Considerations for Coaching Girls: Body Image & Maturity • Preparing for the Challenges of Adolescence

BOOK NOW ON WWW.EVENTBRITE.IE

www.waterfordpartnership.ie | Waterford Sports Partnership - Supporting Activity and Sport for All

⇒ **WSP Website:** Our website was kept up to date with the latest news, details of upcoming programmes, grant schemes and job opportunities. An online booking system for the free hire of a beach wheelchair in Tramore was added to the website ahead of the summer season.



⇒ **Resources:** 50+ resources were developed and promoted for a range of in-person and online programmes.

⇒ **Publications:**
WSP Newsletter: Three editions of our Newsletter were produced and circulated.

⇒ **Grant Scheme Framework** - We ran a range of grant schemes for clubs/organisations. Part of the criteria was that the recipient clubs/organisations would name check and tag WSP across their social media platforms. We got great traction from this across socials.

⇒ **Sport Ireland Communications Network**
We continued to engage with the new LSP Comms Officers Network, attending regular in-person and online Network meet-ups and training sessions.

GOAL 3: ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

Some of the Sport Ireland and national initiatives we supported in 2023 . . .



Healthy Ireland Community Walks

In December 2022, we launched our Healthy Ireland Community Walks Grant Scheme, which was open to clubs, services and community groups to run a Walking Programme in their community. A requirement of the grant was that the groups would promote their events across social media, tagging WSP. Six clubs and groups delivered six-week walking programmes in January/February 2023 for people in their local communities across Waterford city and county. We got lots of traction from this initiative across social media and lots of new followers and engagements as a result.

Women in Sport 2023

Sport Ireland facilitated a number of webinars and panel discussions on various topics relating to women in sport. The webinars were aimed at women and girls and those who support them in sport. We supported this initiative through promotion across our social media platforms and attendance by the team.



HER Moves Initiative

HER Moves, a new national campaign in 2023, speaks to inactive teenage girls or those at risk of drop out, reframing what sport is, opening their eyes to more opportunities and encourages girls to embrace sport and physical activity – sharing their experiences with friends. The campaign is also aimed at those who influence teenage girls and who can support them in being more active – parents, teachers, coaches and service providers. We supported the launch of the *HER Moves* initiative on International Women's Day across our social media platforms. Members of the team attended the launch and associated workshops.

HER Outdoors Week

Following the success of the first Sport Ireland HER Outdoors Week in 2022, HER Outdoors Week 2023 took place from 14th to 20th August. It was an opportunity for us to introduce or re-introduce females to the power of outdoor sports and encourage them to try something new. We supported HER Outdoors Week by running a series of events across Waterford city and county, which were all fully booked. We also supported the national campaign across our social media platforms.



National Volunteer in Sport Awards

The Federation of Irish Sport (FIS) had been running the Volunteer in Sport awards for a number of years. In 2022, the network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships came on board to sponsor the awards. We worked with the FIS again in 2023 to promote the awards locally and generate awareness and interest in them. We encouraged local sports clubs to make nominations for the awards through our social media platforms, local press and mailshots to our database of clubs and volunteers.

WSP supported all of these national campaigns at local level through involvement in their development, promotion and/or building programmes around them.



Case Study: Active Cities BoxUp Launch

OVERVIEW

We were delighted to bring a new and innovative free equipment sharing solution to the People’s Park in Waterford City in 2023. The BoxUp locker, which was funded through the Dormant Accounts Active Cities Fund via Sport Ireland, was officially launched by the Mayor of Waterford City and County, Cllr. Joe Conway, on Saturday 23rd September 2023 and is now freely available for the public to use. Introducing BoxUp to the People’s Park could not have happened without the valuable support of Waterford City & County Council staff in the installation of this 6-locker unit, which compliments a number of new physical activity installations introduced in the People’s Park by Waterford City & County Council and Waterford Sports Partnership in recent months. The locker, which is solar powered, contains a variety of equipment based on the facilities and amenities in the People’s Park. The equipment includes a skateboard and helmet, balance bike and helmet, basketballs, frisbees, table tennis equipment and boules equipment. All equipment can be easily accessed through the use of a free app.



Aim of the Active Cities Waterford Project

The Active Cities project is focused on getting those who are least active in our society, active. In taking a multi-sectoral approach, the project seeks to reduce the barriers to participation in physical activity, increase access and enhance the choice and opportunities available for all to be active. BoxUp was one aspect of the national Active Cities collaboration and there are now BoxUp units in every big city in Ireland including Cork, Limerick, Dublin and Galway.

OUR PARTNERS



OUTCOMES

Eleven BoxUp stations were installed in Ireland in 2023 in Cork, Dublin, Limerick and Waterford. Since installation, over 1,700 people have downloaded the app and there has been over 5,000 uses country wide with over 2,500 hours of use.

WATERFORD STATS:

Users: 254 aged between 13-63
Total number of uses: 901
Total hours of use: 500 hours

IMPLEMENTATION

- Active Cities receives capital funding to support infrastructure projects (e.g. basketball courts, multi-games areas, playgrounds). Lack of access to equipment can limit the potential use of new infrastructure and act as a barrier to participation. The National Active Cities Officer (ACO) researched and reviewed potential options to store equipment, which can be easily accessed for free by the public.
- Following a review and subsequent discussion with the BoxUp CEO, the National ACO presented the concept of BoxUp to all 8 LSPs involved in the project.
- The WSP ACO then worked closely with the Environments and Parks Department of WCCC to identify the best location for installation of the unit in the People’s Park. It was decided it would be placed near the De La Salle entrance to the park in order to maximise visibility and for best proximity to the amenities in the park, such as the boules court, basketball hoop, table tennis table and skatepark.
- The BoxUp unit was officially opened on BeActive Night, which aligns with exactly what the Active Cities Waterford Project is trying to achieve. This is a part of European Week of Sport, which runs in September every year. We organised a number of activities and sports for the community to try out on the evening, including table tennis, archery and boules.
- We worked with a number of partners to promote the event, including WCCC, SETU Arena, Healthy Waterford, Sláintecare Healthy Communities and Waterford PPN. Beat 102 103 provided entertainment on the evening and promotion before and after the event.

NEXT STEPS

We will continue to promote the BoxUp unit with groups we are working with and with the wider public in order to increase usage. Nearby schools will be offered demos on how to use the app. The ACO will continue to monitor the usage through the BoxUp Dashboard and produce quarterly reports to track numbers and determine if a piece of equipment needs to be swapped for something else. If the unit is well received and addresses the lack of equipment barrier to participation, we would hope to apply for funding to install a second BoxUp unit somewhere in County Waterford, depending on upcoming funding streams and partners.

At the launch, Mayor of Waterford City & County, Cllr. Joe Conway, said ‘BoxUp is a wonderful addition to the People’s Park. It will help to make sport and activity accessible to all and will help to activate the many quality installations in the park. Well done to all involved.’





GOAL 4:

ACTIVE MANAGEMENT -

Sufficient Resources, Good Governance.

To lead and influence a culture of participation, good governance and competent operations.



The following are some of the key achievements and outputs delivered in 2023 under Goal 4 . . .

Strengthen the leadership and competency of the organisation through effective Board and staff support and development.

- Two new female members joined the Board and there was one resignation in 2023. Despite significant efforts, at year end we had not reached the 40% gender diversity requirement set by Sport Ireland. Efforts will continue in 2024 to meet this target as a priority.
- Board inductions were completed and the Induction Pack was provided for new members.
- A new, non-Board member, was co-opted onto the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee to enhance the financial expertise of the committee.
- Board/Staff Annual Review and Planning session – the annual WSP Board/staff workshop was held in December. Benny Cullen, Director of Research and Innovation, Sport Ireland was invited to make a presentation on relevant research to help inform our next strategy development.
- The WSP Chairperson attended Sport Ireland’s National Governance Conference in November.
- Board Training: The Organisational Development and Change Unit within Sport Ireland is primarily focused on providing support to the sports organisations which receive funding from Sport Ireland including Local Sports Partnerships. Board members were made aware of training opportunities via email alerts, with a number of members availing of this training.

STAFF RECRUITMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

- Human Resources - Voltedge Management Limited consultants were retained again in 2023 to provide ongoing support on all aspects of HR within WSP and each of the limited company LSPs as a shared service. The main focus in 2023 was in providing advice and expertise in relation to HR issues. Voltedge also provided training on relevant and new statutory changes in the employment area.
- Recruitment – There were six recruitment processes held during the year for the following positions: an ASPIRE Graduate, two Community Sports Development Officers, a full-time Active Cities Officer, a Physical Activity for Health Officer and a full-time Office Administrator.
- Staff meetings took place approximately every three weeks, alternating between online and hybrid, and there were two team planning meetings.

STAFF TRAINING

There continued to be a strong focus on staff training and development in 2023 (see **Appendix 9** for a list of courses).

Secure resources for effective operations consistent with WSP’s role and responsibilities.

STAFF RESOURCING

- In September 2023, the WSP Chairperson and CEO met with Sport Ireland for a comprehensive discussion on a number of matters impacting on staffing, relating to governance, grades, structure, resourcing and administration. This was a very constructive meeting in terms of communicating WSP’s needs and associated risks.
- During 2023, we sought and secured staffing-related funding as follows:
 - A full-time Active Cities Officer – this position was previously part time.
 - We were selected as one of the six LSPs to host a Physical Activity for Health Officer post.
 - We made the case to Sport Ireland for a full-time Office Administrator. To date, this has been a part-time position.
 - We were selected as one of the six LSPs to host the new Outdoor Recreation Officer post. The recruitment process will take place in 2024.
 - We applied for and were allocated funding for an ESF Social Inclusion Officer in 2023. On reflection, it was felt that there were already a number of new positions that needed to be established in 2023 and 2024 and it would be more effective to postpone another new position until 2025, with the added benefit of learning from the experience of other LSPs. The Board requested that our allocation be moved to the third phase of investment (Jan 2025). Sport Ireland agreed to this request.

OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

During 2023, we reorganised and upgraded our new office in the Courthouse building in Dungarvan, which can now accommodate up to four staff. This provides us with the potential to respond to anticipated opportunities to grow staff resources.

Appendix 4 provides a Summary of Governance, Oversight and Key Decision Areas addressed by the WSP Board in 2023, which outlines many of the actions under Goal 4: Active Management.

GOAL 4: ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

Secure resources for effective operations consistent with WSP's role and responsibilities (continued).

Funding Secured in 2023

A total of €885,458 was secured by WSP during 2023 from multiple sources, including: Sport Ireland, Dormant Accounts (via Sport Ireland), Waterford City & County Council, Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY)), the HSE and other relevant government departments.

The table below provides a full breakdown of grants and income secured by WSP during 2023, along with the 2022 comparison.

GRANTS & FUNDING SECURED BY WSP	2023	2022
Dormant Accounts Active Cities	€116,500	€100,000
Dormant Accounts CLV Rural Sports Hub Phase 5	n/a	€20,000
Dormant Accounts Innovation Fund	€54,000	€100,000
Dormant Accounts Outdoor Urban Adventure	n/a	€10,550
Dormant Accounts Volunteer Training & Supports Programme	n/a	€5,000
Dormant Accounts ASPIRE Graduate Funding	n/a	€26,620
Dormant Accounts HER Moves	€8,500	n/a
Get Ireland Walking	n/a	€1,000
Go for Life	€1,600	€2,300
Health Service Executive Programme Fund	€8,650	€7,650
Health Service Executive PAFHO Seed Funding	€20,000	n/a
Sport Ireland Core Funding	€404,787	€416,769
Sláintecare via Sport Ireland	€110,833	n/a
Sport Ireland HER Outdoors	€2,000	€2,500
Sport Ireland COVID Funding	n/a	€75,000
Waterford City & County Council – Annual	€54,800	€54,800
Waterford City & County Council – Bike Week	€6,500	€7,800
Waterford City & County Council – Rural Hub	€8,000	€8,000
Waterford City & County Council – SIDO/Disability	€16,000	€16,000
Waterford City & County Council – YSDO/Youth at Risk	€15,000	€15,000
Waterford & Wexford ETB/DCYA	€54,288	€52,200
Waterford & Wexford ETB/DCYA - Grant Scheme	€4,000	€1,490
TOTAL	€885,458	€922,679



GOAL 4: ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

Sport Ireland Funding



Core Investment

Sport Ireland supports the 29 Local Sports Partnerships to co-ordinate and promote the development of sport at local level and increase levels of participation in sport and physical activity. The core investment supports the core work of the LSP network, including the delivery of national programmes, Education & Training initiatives, Strategic Development, Community Sports Development Officers (CSDOs), the Sports Inclusion Disability programme, Women in Sport programmes and general participation programmes.

In 2023, WSP secured €404,787 (2022: €416,769) through Sport Ireland Core funding, which is approximately 80% Staff Salaries, 15% Non-Staff Administration and 5% Programmes, Club Development Grants and Training & Education.

Dormant Accounts Investment

Since 2015, Sport Ireland has worked with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media on developing a series of measures under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan. Under Dormant Accounts, Sport Ireland delivers on a range of sport and physical activity programme opportunities for LSPs and NGBs, which align with the National Sports Policy and the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP).



All projects funded by Sport Ireland through Dormant Accounts target:

1. The personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged;
2. The educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged;
3. Persons with a disability (within the meaning of the Equal Status Act 2000).

WSP secured a total of €179,000 in 2023 (2022: €262,170). The main drivers of the decrease in funding received in 2023 were WSP reaching the end of the Rural Sports Hub funding phases, the ASPIRE programme not being available and the reduction in Innovation Fund levels in 2023.

Summary of Dormant Accounts Funding Secured by WSP

Dormant Accounts Funding Secured	2023	2022
Active Cities	€116,500	€100,000
CLV Rural Sports Hub Phase 5/4	-	€20,000
Innovation Fund	€54,000	€100,000
Outdoor Urban Adventure – Capital	-	€10,550
Volunteer Training & Supports	-	€5,000
ASPIRE Graduate Programme	-	€26,620
HER Moves	€8,500	-
TOTAL	€179,000	€262,170

Benefit-in-Kind Investment by our Partners

We continue to have a considerable and extremely important benefit-in-kind investment from many of our stakeholders. In particular, Waterford City & County Council has supported WSP since its inception with office space for all our staff, IT support and other key administration support. In addition to the significant financial and practical benefits this brings to WSP, of equal importance has been the development and strengthening of relationships and understanding between WSP and Waterford City & County Council over the years due to the proximity of our operations.

We also acknowledge the investment of time by all our Board members and their representative organisations, NGBs and sports club partners, school and community partners, and all other stakeholders.

Strengthen and promote good governance and best practice and support meaningful oversight and direction.

Governance Code for Sport: In 2023, we continued to prioritise effective governance, procedures and policies. WSP achieved full compliance with the Governance Code for Sport in December 2021, and this remains in effect for three years. Throughout 2023, the Board monitored ongoing compliance with the code, with a review of policies and procedures undertaken where necessary. During 2023, the Board reviewed the Compliance Record and the Comply or Explain Form and updated and approved the Annual Assurance Statement.

GOAL 4: ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

Good Governance Awards: The Carmichael Good Governance Awards process was used again in 2023 to independently evaluate and benchmark the quality of WSP's 2022 Annual Report in terms of governance and accountability. We were delighted to have improved our score from 72% in 2021 to 87% in 2022.

WSP Strategy Review and Development: In June 2023, the Board decided to extend the term of the current WSP Strategy 2018 – 2022 by two years to 2024 to ensure alignment with the process for the development of Waterford's Local Sports Plan, which is now expected to commence in 2024 when the four pilot Local Sports Plan developments are completed nationally.

Review of Safeguarding Policies: A comprehensive review of WSP's Safeguarding policies was undertaken in 2023 and the following policies and documents were updated and approved:

WSP Safeguarding Committee Terms of Reference | WSP Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment |
WSP Child Safeguarding Policy | WSP Child Safeguarding Statement | WSP Garda Vetting Policy

Asset Management: A new asset management system was developed in 2022 using the Asset Tiger software. The system was fully implemented in 2023. This system provides support and assurance in the management of sports equipment.

New Auditor: In the interest of best practice, a decision was taken by the Board in 2023 to appoint a new auditor for the audit of the 2023 accounts. JBW Accountants had, at that point, been WSP's auditor for ten years. A tender process took place in late 2023 and a new auditor was appointed.

Influence the culture and attitude to participation in sport and physical activity for all through strong leadership.

Sport Ireland Innovation Project – PACC

The Sport Ireland Innovation project, Physical Activity for People with Chronic Conditions (PACC), continued to make good progress in 2023, with the following update on the three pilot projects:

Pilot Project 1: The provision of community-based clinically supervised exercise for people with chronic conditions in Carlow. Following a review, PACC's investment in this project was concluded in March 2023.

Pilot Project 2: Quality-assured education and training for exercise professionals working with people with chronic conditions. The South East Technological University (SETU) was commissioned in 2023 to lead this project on behalf of PACC. It is anticipated that the framework will be completed in June 2024.

Pilot Project 3: Waterford community-based information and signposting pilot project. Signposting of people with chronic conditions to WSP programmes began in the spring of 2023. The project involves a collaboration between health, social prescriber, physical activity and academic partners. The project will be evaluated in 2024.

A PACC Summary Progress Report is available at www.waterfordsportspartnership.ie/pacc

Develop and support a robust process to evaluate activities and gather evidence and research to support and guide our work.

Evaluation: During 2023, WSP actively contributed to the following Sport Ireland evaluations:

- Sport Ireland Active Cities Evaluation Process
- Sport Ireland Innovation Project Evaluation Process

In 2021, as a member of the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Postdoc Menopause Lifestyle Programme working group, WSP successfully applied under the Sport Ireland Research Funding measure for funding to research the effects of menopause on physical activity. This research project got underway in 2022 and continued in 2023.

SECTION 4

Reflecting on 2023 & Priorities for 2024



SECTION 4: REFLECTING ON 2023

Looking back at our priorities for 2023. How did we do?

The following are the organisational priorities we set at the start of 2023 and an assessment of the outcome at the end the year:

Goal 1 - Active People – Many Opportunities, Many Places

To support the provision of a wide range of opportunities for people to participate in sport and physical activity in a variety of places.

2023 PRIORITIES	OUTCOME
<p>Focus on Low-Participation Groups We will continue to have an ongoing commitment to establishing needs and supporting the target groups with the lowest participation rates to address the participation gradients in sport. Sport Ireland Core and Dormant Accounts funding streams which support initiatives targeting low-participation groups and disadvantaged communities will be actively pursued to support WSP in this area of work.</p>	<p>Achieved During 2023, we completed 261 programmes involving 8,727 individuals, similar to 2022 levels. See infograph on page 18.</p> <p>Our focus, where possible, has been on sustainability and creating pathways.</p>
<p>Promote Physical Activity in the Outdoors We will continue to maximise opportunities for physical activity in the outdoors, with a particular focus this year on water-based activities, by working with clubs and stakeholders to develop partnerships and build capacity.</p>	<p>Achieved In 2023, we promoted the following activities to various target groups: sailing, open water swimming, kayaking, canoeing, surfing, fishing, walking, cycling, orienteering, rowing, triathlon and activator poles. We continued to utilise trigger events, such as HER Outdoors, to promote outdoor activities and develop club partnership pathways. We successfully applied to be one of six pilot areas to appoint an Outdoor Recreation Officer. This appointment will be made in 2024.</p>
<p>Support the Implementation of the National Digital Database We will support Sport Ireland and Waterford City & County Council in the process to collate data for the new national database of facilities, which will provide up-to-date and relevant information on the spaces and places to be active in Ireland.</p>	<p>Achieved We worked with WCCC to support the provision of data to Sport Ireland in relation to Waterford’s public sport and physical activity facilities. The Get Ireland Active website was launched in October 2023. We will continue to be proactive in promoting the website.</p>
<p>Community Sports Hub Evaluation In consultation with the relevant clubs, partners and stakeholders, we will evaluate the Cappoquin, Lismore, Villierstown Community Sports Hub and capture the related impacts, outcomes and learnings, with a view to agreeing final priority actions and informing any future hub development.</p>	<p>In Progress (early stages) We started planning the evaluation of the Community Sports Hub in 2023 and held some early discussions with Sport Ireland in this regard. Completion of this evaluation is a priority for 2024 and will involve engagement with local people, clubs, schools and other stakeholders to assess the impact and shape our future involvement in this hub and provide learnings for future hub development.</p>

SECTION 4: REFLECTING ON 2023

Goal 2 - Active Network – Strengthening the Network, Connecting People

To support and strengthen the capacity of the network of people and organisations who facilitate sport and physical activity in Waterford.

2023 PRIORITIES	OUTCOME
<p>Strengthen our Tutor and Delivery Partner Team We will continue to strengthen and build the WSP Tutor and Delivery Partner team. WSP will review and update an effective system for maintaining records of qualifications, insurance, Garda Vetting, Safeguarding, First Aid and Continuous Professional Development training. New agreements will be put in place and training will be provided in line with WSP policies and procedure requirements.</p>	<p>In Progress (ongoing) A number of new tutors were appointed in 2023. However, attracting and retaining tutors remains a challenging area for WSP. In 2023, we used 32 tutors to deliver programmes. During the year, we reviewed our administration processes with respect to our tutor database. A comprehensive review of tutor recruitment, training and management is planned for 2024, which will be supported by the appointment of a fulltime Office Administrator, who takes up the position in early 2024.</p>
<p>Achieve the Active Disability Ireland Xcessible Bronze Award We have committed and are on the journey to achieving the Active Disability Ireland (previously known as CARA) Xcessible Bronze Award, a programme which aims to support and empower LSPs and other organisations to provide positive and meaningful participation opportunities for people with disabilities. The WSP Sports Inclusion Disability Programme will continue to encourage and facilitate more people with disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity and develop sustainable clubs and programmes in all settings.</p>	<p>In Progress (advanced stage) The full team was involved in this process in 2023. By year end, we were fully prepared and awaiting a date for assessment by Active Disability Ireland for the Xcessible Bronze Award.</p> <p>A presentation on the Xcessible Bronze Award process and submission is scheduled for the January 2024 WSP Board meeting.</p>
<p>Strengthen Relationships with NGBs and Sports Clubs We recognise the importance and value of engaging with NGBs and sports clubs with a view to partnering on the delivery of projects and building capacity where needed. We plan to continue to pursue opportunities to strengthen relationships and support relevant NGBs and clubs in 2023.</p>	<p>Achieved In 2023, WSP engaged with 28 local clubs and 22 NGBs in delivering programmes to our target groups. We plan to continue to work with local clubs and NGBs to ensure a sustainable pathway for physical activity.</p>
<p>Sports Club Support: We will engage with local sports clubs, NGBs and other relevant stakeholders to ascertain the training and education needs of sports club members and their volunteers, particularly in the post-pandemic context. This will help inform our planning and that of our key partners to offer a co-ordinated, relevant, and useful response.</p>	<p>In Progress While development officers have individually liaised with groups/certain sports to assess their training needs, a broader and more formal training needs assessment was not carried out in 2023. This will be included in the strategy consultation process in 2024.</p>

SECTION 4: REFLECTING ON 2023

Goal 3 - Active Engagement – Clear Messages, Effective Communication

To communicate clear and consistent messages and positively promote sport and physical activity opportunities.

2023 PRIORITIES	OUTCOME
<p>Communications Strategy: A WSP Communications Strategy will be developed in 2023. This strategy will consider the evolution of various communication methods, platforms and approaches in recent years, the increased communication demands on the WSP team, and best practice approaches.</p>	<p>In Progress Communication plans were put in place throughout the year for all project areas. The development of an overall WSP Communications Strategy was postponed in 2023 due to the decision to delay the WSP Strategy development. Changes in staffing in relation to the National and Regional Communications Officers for the LSP Network also affected progress in this area. This is a key priority for 2024.</p>
<p>Data Protection Gap Analysis: The recommendations of the Data Protection Gap Analysis completed in 2022 will be fully implemented in 2023 to ensure GDPR compliance and to reduce risk in this area.</p>	<p>In Progress While some progress was made in this area in 2023, the appointment of a fulltime Office Administrator in 2024 will support progress on this priority.</p>
<p>Data Management: In the context of changes in and additions to the WSP team over the last two years, we plan to review WSP's data management processes and address the training needs of staff to support and maximise the efficiency and functionality of our systems and processes.</p>	<p>In Progress There was progress in terms of training and procedures relating to Salesforce, WSP's CRM system. However, changes in administration staff presented challenges towards year end. The appointment of a fulltime Office Administrator will support progress on this priority in 2024.</p>
<p>Strengthening Strategic Partnerships and Relationships: We will continue to build on and develop key partnerships and relationships through initiatives of mutual benefit. Focused effort and collaboration at strategic and implementation levels to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Waterford will support WSP to deliver on its objectives of increasing participation in sport and physical activity where there is greatest need.</p>	<p>Achieved There has been significant strengthening of relationships in the wider health area during 2023. WSP is a key member of the Well Waterford Strategic Committee, in addition to being established as a key implementation partner. WSP's relationship with the Waterford Chronic Disease Hub and Social Prescribing team continues to develop through the PACC and Physical Activity for Health projects. Our relationship with Waterford City & County Council developed across new departments in 2023 through Active Cities and cycling infrastructure collaborations.</p>

SECTION 4: REFLECTING ON 2023

Goal 4 – Active Management – Sufficient Resources, Good Governance

To lead and influence a culture of participation, good governance and competent operations.

2023 PRIORITIES	OUTCOME
<p>New Strategy Development The current WSP strategic period ended in 2022. While we plan to develop WSP's next strategy in 2023, we await the launch of Sport Ireland's new strategy and ambition statement for the LSP network. We will also be informed by the direction to be given later in 2023 by Sport Ireland regarding the development of Local Sports Plans.</p>	<p>Deferred to 2024 In June 2023, the WSP Board made a decision to defer WSP's new strategy development until the Sport Ireland strategy is launched and until further direction is made available on the development of Local Sports Plans. The current WSP Strategy was extended until the end of 2024.</p>
<p>Local Sports Plan Development WSP will support and work closely with the lead partner, Waterford City & County Council, in its development of a Local Sports Plan for Waterford. We will take this opportunity to strengthen our working relationship with the Local Authority and continue to develop our collaboration with regard to infrastructure development and usage initiatives.</p>	<p>Deferred to 2024 A pilot process, led by Sport Ireland and the County and City Management Association, to develop four Local Sports Plans has commenced around the country. The outcome from these pilots will inform the approach WCCC takes in the development of Waterford's Local Sports Plan. WSP will be a key stakeholder in that process, which will be closely linked to the WSP Strategy development process.</p>
<p>Gender Diversity for WSP Board The plan to bring female representation on the WSP Board to a minimum of 40% by the end of 2023, in line with Sport Ireland's requirement for 40% gender diversity, will be a key focus in 2023.</p>	<p>In Progress Two female Board members were appointed to the Board in 2023. At the end of 2023, five of the thirteen Board members are female, resulting in a Board gender diversity of 38%. There are two vacant positions on the Board and significant efforts continue to reach the 40% target. We continue to liaise with Sport Ireland in this regard.</p>
<p>Staff Resourcing Opportunities It is likely that additional resourcing opportunities from Sport Ireland may arise in 2023. The WSP Board will consider and respond to any such opportunities in the context of WSP's overall plans for growth and development and for the effective support of WSP activities.</p>	<p>Achieved We were successful in 2023 in securing funding to appoint a full-time Active Cities Officer (July 2023). This position was previously part time. We also secured funding for and appointed a new Physical Activity for Health Officer (August 2023) as part of a six-county pilot. We secured funding to recruit a full-time Office Administrator (previously part time). The recruitment process is complete, and the appointment will commence in January 2024. Finally, we were successful in our application to be one of six pilot counties for the new Outdoor Recreation Officer position and will commence recruitment in early 2024.</p>

SECTION 4: REFLECTING ON 2023

Goal 4 – Active Management – Sufficient Resources, Good Governance *(continued)*

To lead and influence a culture of participation, good governance and competent operations.

2023 PRIORITIES	OUTCOME
<p>Safeguarding Policy and Procedure Review We will perform a comprehensive review of WSP’s policies and procedures in the area of Child Safeguarding and ensure we are operating in line with best practice and statutory requirements.</p>	<p>Achieved WSP’s Safeguarding and Garda Vetting Policies were updated and approved by the Board in 2023, following a collaborative review in partnership with Sligo and Kilkenny LSPs, with support from Sport Ireland. The Safeguarding Committee’s Terms of Reference were also reviewed and updated. We continue to review and update procedures in line with policy and best practice.</p>
<p>Asset Management We will review and update WSP’s asset management system and processes to mitigate our asset risk exposure. Capital investment and joint capital projects with other funding partners are a significant and growing aspect of our activity at WSP.</p>	<p>Achieved WSP’s asset management system was reviewed and updated, and a new system was put in place in 2023. A review of the operation of the system and stocktake/audit of assets will take place in early 2024.</p>
<p>Ongoing compliance with the Governance Code for Sport Full compliance with the Governance Code for Sport was achieved by WSP in 2021. A priority action for the WSP Board of Directors will be to continue to ensure ongoing compliance with the code and assurances regarding this will be monitored on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Achieved The WSP Board continues to review governance compliance on an ongoing basis. The Compliance Record and Comply or Explain form were reviewed and updated at the November Board meeting.</p>



SECTION 4: PRIORITIES FOR 2024

Goal 1 - Active People – Many Opportunities, Many Places

To support the provision of a wide range of opportunities for people to participate in sport and physical activity in a variety of places.

Partner with sports clubs and NGBs: We will continue to develop partnerships with sports clubs and NGBs to create pathways and support sustainability.

Promote sport and physical activity in the outdoors: We will continue to focus on opportunities to promote and develop sport and physical activity in the outdoors, with a particular focus on water-based activities, by working with clubs and stakeholders to develop partnerships and build capacity.

Increase participation of people with chronic conditions in physical activity: We will build a strong framework internally and externally to support engagement with and the participation of people with chronic conditions in physical activity.

Community Sports Hub evaluation: In consultation with the relevant clubs, partners and stakeholders, we will evaluate the Cappoquin, Lismore, Villierstown Community Sports Hub and capture the related impacts, outcomes and learnings, with a view to agreeing final priority actions and informing any future hub development.

Evaluation: Review and improve our participant feedback and programme evaluation processes.



Goal 2 - Active Network – Strengthening the Network, Connecting People

To support and strengthen the capacity of the network of people and organisations who facilitate sport and physical activity in Waterford.

Achieve Active Disability Ireland's Xcessible Bronze Award: We are committed to achieving Active Disability Ireland's Xcessible Bronze Award in 2024. We will continue to encourage and facilitate more people with disabilities and provide them with positive and meaningful opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity.

Sports club training and education needs: We will assess the training and education needs of sports clubs and agree an implementation plan.

Strengthen relationships: We will identify key partners and stakeholders to strengthen relationships with and create measurable outcomes with positive mutual benefits.

Strengthen WSP's tutor team and delivery partners and related procedures: We will continue to strengthen and build the WSP Tutor and Delivery Partner team. We will complete a comprehensive review of our tutor recruitment, training and management processes and ensure that procedures are standardised across the organisation.

SECTION 4: PRIORITIES FOR 2024

Goal 3 - Active Engagement – Clear Messages, Effective Communication

To communicate clear and consistent messages and positively promote sport and physical activity opportunities.

Stakeholder analysis: We will complete a broad, organisation-wide stakeholder analysis to inform the development of our Communications Strategy.

WSP's Communications Strategy: We will review and update WSP's Communications Strategy. This strategy will consider the evolution of various communication methods, platforms and approaches in recent years, the increased communication demands on the WSP team, and best practice approaches.

Strengthen collaboration: We will target current and identify new potential key stakeholders, including local and national networks, for enhanced collaboration and mutual benefit.

Website accessibility audit: We will complete a website accessibility audit.

Get Ireland Active website: We will support, enhance and promote the use and value of the new Get Ireland Active website internally and with our stakeholders.

Data management compliance: We will review WSP's data management compliance and processes to support best practice and maximise the efficiency and functionality of our systems.



Goal 4 – Active Management – Sufficient Resources, Good Governance

To lead and influence a culture of participation, good governance and competent operations.

Waterford's Local Sports Plan Development: We will support Waterford City & County Council in its development of Waterford's first Local Sports Plan. We will take this opportunity to strengthen our working relationship with the Local Authority and to further embed provision for sport and physical activity in policy and strategy.

WSP Strategy development: We will align the development of WSP's next strategy with the Local Sports Plan development process and with the development of Waterford's Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Funding review: We will complete a comprehensive review of WSP's approach to sourcing, managing and reporting on funding secured and held by WSP and implement any process improvements identified.

Gender diversity on WSP Board and sub-committees: We will bring gender diversity on the WSP Board and sub-committees to 40%, in line with Sport Ireland requirements, as early as possible in 2024.

Ongoing compliance with the Governance Code for Sport: Full compliance with the Governance Code for Sport was achieved by WSP in 2021. We will continue to ensure ongoing compliance with the code and assurances regarding this will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Sustainability: We will explore how we can play our part in operating in a manner, both internally and externally, that promotes environmental sustainability and how we can support others in the sport and physical activity sector to do the same.

SECTION 5

Waterford Sports Partnership
Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

for year ended 31st December 2023

Key comments on the 2023 Financial Statements:

- > Income has increased from €828,134 in 2022 to €913,178 in 2023, an increase of 10%. Income relates to 2023 and/or prior years' funding allocations that is matched to expenditure incurred on 2023 activities.
- > WSP is mainly funded through the various grants and funds outlined in these statements with less than 3% of income generated from programmes and events. Generated income increased to €24,431 from €23,156 in 2022 and broadly resulted in the 2023 surplus.
- > Direct Costs reduced from €223,131 to €201,102 in 2023. This was mainly due to a reduction in the level of grants allocated this year.
- > The increase in expenditure in 2023 is mainly due to the wages cost increasing by €66,754 due to two new positions, a salary review and a position moving from part time to full time.
- > There was an increase in administration expenditure (aside from wages detailed above) relating mainly to increased expenditure on promotional material, HR costs and CRM licence and training costs.
- > The Reserves Policy remains the same as 2022 (being equivalent to three months operating overheads and contingencies for payroll and wind-up costs) and calculates at a reserve of €155k. The unrestricted reserves held by the company at 31st December 2023 were €182,226 (2022: €158,217).
- > Fixed Assets have increased to €104,742 from €78,280 in 2022. This is mainly due to net Sports Equipment additions.
- > Debtors decreased significantly from €166,166 in 2022 to €21,510 in 2023. This was mainly due to the fact that 2022 debtors included €105,505 receivable from Sport Ireland at the end of 2022.
- > Creditors are broadly the same at €1,024,452 versus €1,037,721 in 2022. The slight decrease is mainly due to a decrease in deferred income through increased expenditure in 2023.

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DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Board of Directors

Sinéad Breathnach
Neil O’Sullivan
Eoin Breathnach (Resigned 4 August 2023)
Terry Hayes
Michael O’Brien
Austin Flavin
Patricia McCarthy (Appointed 9 June 2023)
Joe Kelly
Mark Fitzgerald
Patricia Holton (Appointed 29 September 2023)
Stephen Whelan
Patricia Sheehan
Pat Nugent
Anne Hennessy

Secretary

Mark Fitzgerald

Company Number

378713

GS Number

1674

Registered Office and Business Address

Civic Offices
Dungarvan
Co. Waterford

Statutory Auditors

M.K. Brazil
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Unit 1A,
Cleaboy Business Park,
Waterford

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
19, Grattan Square,
Dungarvan,
Co. Waterford.

Solicitors

Lanigan & Curran
Cross Bridge Street,
Dungarvan,
Co. Waterford.

DIRECTORS' REPORT for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The Directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Principal Activity and Review of the Business

The company was established to enhance opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity. The company provides a leadership role for the co-ordination, development and delivery of sport and physical activity opportunities in Waterford City and County within the framework of our strategic plan and the resources available. Our work includes the provision of information on sport and physical activity, the facilitation of education and training opportunities and supporting the development and implementation of programmes and events that encourage greater participation by all of society.

The main sources of financial assistance received by the company to assist in delivering services to support these objectives are :-

- Sport Ireland, Sponsoring body – Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (DTCAGSM)
- Dormant Accounts via Sport Ireland
- Health Service Executive (HSE)
- Sláintecare via Sport Ireland
- Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) via WWETB
- Go For Life
- Waterford City & County Council
- Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (DTCAGSM)

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

The Directors acknowledge the result for the year and consider it to be in line with expectations. The company will continue to promote, encourage and support participation in sport and physical activity in Waterford City and County. We will continue to work in collaboration with local agencies, partners and stakeholders in achieving our strategic objectives. We will continue to engage with those already working in harder to reach areas of our community to ensure that structures are in place to enable participation for all community members in a wide range of activities. The Directors are confident that the company will match its expenditure costs with appropriate income streams in the next financial year and that the company can continue to operate successfully for the foreseeable future.

Financial Results

The surplus for the financial year after providing for depreciation and taxation amounted to €24,009 (2022 - €22,862).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €1,311,516 (2022 - €1,274,315) and liabilities of €1,129,290 (2022 - €1,116,098). The net assets of the company have increased by €24,009.

Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Sinéad Breathnach
 Neil O'Sullivan
 Eoin Breathnach (resigned 4 August 2023)
 Terry Hayes
 Michael O'Brien
 Austin Flavin
 Patricia McCarthy (appointed 9 June 2023)
 Joe Kelly
 Mark Fitzgerald
 Patricia Holton (appointed 29 September 2023)
 Stephen Whelan
 Patricia Sheehan
 Pat Nugent
 Anne Hennessy

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Mark Fitzgerald.

DIRECTORS' REPORT for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The Directors are appointed to the Board as nominees of representative organisations and public bodies as laid down in the Constitution and remain as Directors until that nomination is rescinded. The Board may also co-opt up to three other Directors whose term of office is one year, which may be renewed on a year-by-year basis thereafter by the Board.

The company has granted an indemnity to one or more of its Directors against liability in respect of proceedings brought by third parties, subject to the conditions set out in the Companies Act, 2014. Such qualifying third party indemnity provision remains in force as at the date of approving the Directors' report. No claims have been made under this indemnity during the year.

Post Balance Sheet Events

No events have occurred subsequent to the Balance Sheet date, which require disclosure in the financial statements.

Political Contributions

The company did not make any disclosable political donations in the current financial year.

Auditors

The auditors, M.K. Brazil, (Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Governance

The company was incorporated, under Irish Company Law, as a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital, on 27th November 2003. The liability of the members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up, such amounts as may be required, not exceeding €1 each. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association (amended under Special Resolution dated 28th November 2014) which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed under the Articles of Association and managed by a Board of Directors.

The Company has a staff team based in Dungarvan and Waterford and is headed by a manager who reports directly to the Board through the Chairperson. Decisions reserved for the Board to make include:

- The Company's strategic plans and annual operating budgets;
- Projects outside the scope of the strategic plan;
- Litigation;
- Appointment / Removal of Auditors;
- Approval of Borrowing / Finance Facilities;
- Approval of Contracts with term exceeding one year or any financial liability on the Company;
- Annual Review of Risk and Internal Controls; and
- Approval of new staff positions.

Although the Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the Company and for the above list, certain duties and responsibilities are delegated from the Board of Directors to the manager and through her to the staff team. This includes leading and managing the Company's staff members, programmes, projects, and all other administrative aspects, so that the Company's ongoing mission, vision, and strategies are fulfilled within the context of the Company's values as approved by the Board of Directors. The manager and the Chairman are responsible for preparing materials for Board consideration and for preparing materials for any strategic planning process. The Board has approved the Governance Code for Sport, which was fully implemented by 31 December 2021.

Reserves Policy

The Board of the Company has set a reserves policy which requires:

- Reserves be maintained at a level which ensures that the Company's core activities could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty.
- A proportion of reserves be maintained in a readily realisable form.

DIRECTORS' REPORT for the financial year ended 31 December 2023**This takes into account:**

- Risks associated with income and expenditure being different from that budgeted
- Planned activity level and potential opportunities
- The organisation's contractual commitments
- The cost associated with potentially having to make staff redundant in an emergency situation

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the organisation's annual planning, budget and forecast cycle. The level of reserves is kept under constant review through ongoing financial reporting and production of annual audited accounts. As of the most recent review in 2023, the Directors have determined that, based on the above analysis, the total sum of reserves that the organisation should carry on an ongoing basis should be of the order of €155,313 - being equivalent to three months operating overheads and contingencies for payroll and wind-up costs. The unrestricted reserves held by the company at 31st December 2023 were €182,226 (2022: €158,217).

The Directors have examined the company's requirement to maintain an appropriate level of reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation and have reviewed its policy to generate unrestricted funds not committed or invested in specific programmes/initiatives, chiefly by way of maximising other income. The company has received unrestricted income from participant course fees during the year. The Directors continue to consider other activities / programmes that may contribute to the company's reserve.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Directors confirm that there is an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the significant risks faced by the company and that has been in place for the year under review and up to the date of approval of these financial statements. The principal risks and uncertainties identified by the Board are as follows:

Programme Funding Risks

Waterford Sports Partnership CLG is reliant on funding from the socio-economic schemes and would find it difficult to continue in existence in the event of this funding being withdrawn. The contracts under which the company secures the principal sources of funding are renewed as follows:-

SOURCE	SCHEME	FREQUENCY
Sport Ireland – Sponsoring body: Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media	Local Sports Partnership	Annual
Sport Ireland	Dormant Accounts	Annual
Health Service Executive	National Lottery / South East Grant	Annual
Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth via WWETB	UBU Your Place Your Space Scheme	Annual
Age & Opportunity	Go For Life National Grant Scheme	Annual
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media	Sports Capital Programme	2021/2023
Waterford City & County Council	Various	Annual

On the basis of existing contracts in place with the respective bodies, the Directors are hopeful of securing funding in the coming years. However, there is no certainty regarding how government policy will impact on the future administration of some schemes detailed above. A change in government policy may adversely affect the ability of the company to plan and resource its work. In particular reduced Programme Funding or match funding from Partner organisations would negatively impact on the Board's strategic plan. The Board of Directors is aware of these issues and continues to monitor and assess the impact of any changes. The ongoing scale of operations of the company is dependent on existing contracts being renewed at similar funding levels.

Asset Management Risks

The Board is aware of the need to safeguard the assets of the company and to put in place a robust internal control environment over assets and sports equipment owned by the company. The company maintains an up-to-date fixed asset register and undertakes an audit of same on an annual basis. The company is in the process of implementing an asset tagging system to further enhance the control measures in place.

DIRECTORS' REPORT for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Staff Skills & Safeguarding Risks

The company operates in an environment that requires skilled staff. There is an ongoing need to monitor staff performance and to put appropriate training plans in place. The protection of children and vulnerable persons is a key matter for the company. Sourcing skilled staff is becoming more challenging as staff mobility increases. Management continues to monitor the skills needs of the company and has in place the appropriate safeguarding and health & safety policies to mitigate any risks arising.

Cyber Security & Data Protection Risks

The company is dependent on robust information technology systems and infrastructure for most of its data recording and management reporting and partially in its delivery of services. An adverse event could result in significant reputational damage and a potential resultant loss in funding. Policies are in place for the protection of both business and personal data, as well as in the use of IT systems and applications by company staff. Regular monitoring of compliance and appropriate contracts with IT service providers are in place to mitigate these risks.

Going Concern

In the opinion of the Directors, the company has sufficient financial resources together with medium-term contracts with a number of grant bodies across different activities, and as a consequence, they believe that the company is well placed to manage its business risks successfully, despite the current economic uncertainties. After making enquiries, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. In reaching this conclusion, the Directors have had due regard to the available cash reserves and cash generation from operations which taken together provide confidence that the company will be able to meet its obligations as they fall due.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The Directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the Directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at Civic Offices, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.

On behalf of the Board

Terry Hayes
Chairperson / Director

Mark Fitzgerald
Secretary / Director

Date: 19th April 2024

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of Information to Auditor

Each person who is a Director at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the Directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

On behalf of the Board

Terry Hayes
Chairperson / Director

Mark Fitzgerald
Secretary / Director

Date: 19th April 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the members of Waterford Sports Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Waterford Sports Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee ('the company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2023 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and the Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities, in the circumstances set out in note 4 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the members of Waterford Sports Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 60, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is contained in the appendix to this report, located at **page 63**, which is to be read as an integral part of our report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

John Foley
for and on behalf of

M.K. BRAZIL

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Unit 1A, Cleaboy Business Park, Waterford

APPENDIX to INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the members of Waterford Sports Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Income	6	913,178	828,134
Expenditure		(889,180)	(805,293)
Surplus before interest		23,998	22,841
Interest receivable and similar income	8	11	31
Surplus before tax		24,009	22,872
Tax on surplus	11	-	(10)
Surplus for the financial year	20	24,009	22,862
Total comprehensive income		24,009	22,862

The notes on pages 68 to 75 form part of these Financial Statements

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	12	<u>104,742</u>	<u>78,280</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	13	21,510	166,166
Cash and cash equivalents		<u>1,185,264</u>	<u>1,029,869</u>
		<u>1,206,774</u>	<u>1,196,035</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	<u>(1,024,452)</u>	<u>(1,037,721)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>182,322</u>	<u>158,314</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		287,064	236,594
Government grants	18	<u>(104,838)</u>	<u>(78,377)</u>
Net Assets		<u>182,226</u>	<u>158,217</u>
Reserves			
Capital reserves and funds	20	203,117	203,117
Income and expenditure account	20	<u>(20,891)</u>	<u>(44,900)</u>
Members' Funds		<u>182,226</u>	<u>158,217</u>

Approved by the Board on 19 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Terry Hayes
Chairperson / Director

Mark Fitzgerald
Secretary / Director

Date: 19th April 2024

The notes on pages 68 to 75 form part of these Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY as at 31 December 2023

	Retained deficit	Capital Reserve	Total
	€	€	€
At 1 January 2022	(67,762)	203,117	135,355
Surplus for the financial year	22,862	-	22,862
At 31 December 2022	(44,900)	203,117	158,217
Surplus for the financial year	24,009	-	24,009
At 31 December 2023	(20,891)	203,117	182,226

The notes on pages 68 to 75 form part of these Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
		€	€
Cash flows from operating activities			
Surplus for the financial year		24,009	22,862
Adjustments for:			
Interest receivable and similar income		(11)	(31)
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities		-	10
Depreciation		29,258	28,496
Surplus/deficit on disposal of tangible assets		2,927	-
Amortisation of government grants		(32,185)	(28,399)
		<u>23,998</u>	<u>22,938</u>
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in debtors		144,656	(100,898)
Movement in creditors		(14,115)	43,873
		<u>154,539</u>	<u>(34,087)</u>
Cash generated from/(used in) operations		154,539	(34,087)
Tax paid		-	(10)
		<u>154,539</u>	<u>(34,097)</u>
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities		<u>154,539</u>	<u>(34,097)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		11	31
Payments to acquire tangible assets		(58,647)	(35,370)
		<u>(58,636)</u>	<u>(35,339)</u>
Net cash used in investment activities		<u>(58,636)</u>	<u>(35,339)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Government grants		58,646	35,370
		<u>58,646</u>	<u>35,370</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		154,549	(34,066)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		1,029,035	1,063,101
		<u>1,029,035</u>	<u>1,063,101</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	14	<u>1,183,584</u>	<u>1,029,035</u>

The notes on pages 68 to 75 form part of these Financial Statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

1. General Information

Waterford Sports Partnership Company Limited by Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee incorporated and registered in Ireland. The registered number of the company is 378713. The registered office of the company is Civic Offices, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford which is also the principal place of business of the company. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' Report. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102).

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Income

Funding Received – Restricted

Funds received from various funding agencies are credited to the Funding – Restricted Account in the year of receipt. Where funds received have not been distributed to Projects or allocated to administrative expenses they are included under creditors in the balance sheet as deferred income.

Funding Received – Unrestricted

Unrestricted funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes. Such funds may be held in order to finance working capital, capital expenditure or creation of Reserves under its Reserves Policy.

Interest income

Revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method.

Dividends

Revenue is recognised when the company's right to receive payment is established.

Related parties

For the purposes of these financial statements a party is considered to be related to the company if:

- the party has the ability, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries to control the company or exercise significant influence over the company in making financial and operating policy decisions or has joint control over the company;
- the company and the party are subject to common control;
- the party is an associate of the company or forms part of a joint venture with the company;
- the party is a member of key management personnel of the company or the company's parent, or a close family member of such as an individual, or is an entity under the control, joint control or significant influence of such individuals;
- the party is a close family member of a party referred to above or is an entity under the control or significant influence of such individuals; or
- the party is a post-employment benefit plan which is for the benefit of employees of the company or of any entity that is a related party of the company.

Close family members of an individual are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that individual in their dealings with the company.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a present legal or constructive obligation arising as a result of a past event and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made. Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the same value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as an interest expense.

Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Computers:	33% Straight line
Fixtures, fittings and equipment:	15% Straight line
Sports Equipment:	20% Straight line

Assets not carried at fair value are also reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. Value in use is defined as the present value of the future pre-tax and interest cash flows obtainable as a result of the asset's continued use. The pre-tax and interest cash flows are discounted using a pre-tax discount rate that represents the current market risk free rate and the risks inherent in the asset. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash-generating units).

If the recoverable amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is estimated to be lower than the carrying amount, the carrying amount is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised in the profit and loss account, unless the asset has been revalued when the amount is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation. Thereafter any excess is recognised in profit or loss.

If an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but only to the extent that the revised carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of depreciation) had no impairment loss been recognised in prior periods. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the profit and loss account.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price (including transaction costs) unless a financing arrangement exists in which case they are measured at the present value of future receipts discounted at a market rate. Subsequently these are measured at amortised cost less any provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. All movements in the level of provision required are recognised in the profit and loss.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Balance Sheet bank overdrafts are shown within Creditors.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Taxation and deferred taxation

The company has exemption under Section 235 TCA '97 from corporation tax on operating income.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised when it is reasonable to expect that the grants will be received and that all related conditions will be met, usually on submission of a valid claim for payment. Government grants in respect of capital expenditure are credited to a deferred income account and are released to profit over the expected useful lives of the relevant assets by equal annual instalments. Grants of a revenue nature are credited to income so as to match them with the expenditure to which they relate.

Foreign currencies

The accounts are expressed in Euro (€).

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the Balance Sheet date. Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined. The resulting exchange differences are dealt with in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company. Annual contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account in the period to which they relate.

3. Departure from Companies Act 2014 Presentation

The directors have elected to present an Income and Expenditure Account instead of a Profit and Loss Account in these financial statements as this company is a not-for-profit entity.

4. Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature, we use our auditors to prepare and submit tax returns to the Revenue and to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

5. Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The following judgements (apart from those involving estimates) have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements:-

Accruals

Accrual for costs incurred at the year-end date for which invoices had not been received at the time of approval of these financial statements are provided based on management's best estimate of the cost arising.

Long-lived assets useful lives

The annual depreciation charge depends primarily on the estimated lives of each type of asset class and their estimated residual values. The directors review these assumptions in light of prospective economic utilisation and physical condition for each asset. Changes in the assumptions can have a significant impact on depreciation and amortisation charges for a period.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

6. Income

The income for the financial year is analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	€	€
By Category:		
Sport Ireland LSP Grants	533,414	473,815
Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts Funding	171,519	125,124
WCCC Funding	71,086	91,809
HSE	14,452	22,836
WWETB Funding	58,346	54,769
Other Receipts	32,176	31,382
Amortisation of government grants	32,185	28,399
	<u>913,178</u>	<u>828,134</u>

7. Operating surplus**Operating surplus is stated after charging/(crediting):**

	2023	2022
	€	€
Depreciation of tangible assets	29,258	28,496
(Deficit)/surplus on disposal of tangible assets	2,927	-
Amortisation of Government grants	<u>(32,185)</u>	<u>(28,399)</u>

8. Interest receivable and similar income

	2023	2022
	€	€
Bank interest	<u>11</u>	<u>31</u>

9. Employees and remuneration**Number of employees**

The average number of persons employed (including executive directors) during the financial year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
Management	2	2
Administration / Sports Development Officers	9	8
	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>

The staff costs comprise:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Wages and salaries	485,841	432,331
Social welfare costs	53,379	46,939
Pension costs	30,228	23,424
	<u>569,448</u>	<u>502,694</u>

10. Salaries Paid**Salary Band** (excluding employer pension costs)

	Number of Employees 2023	Number of Employees 2022
€60,000 - €70,000	-	1
€70,001 - €80,000	-	-
€80,001 - €90,000	1	-
€90,001 - €100,000	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

11. Tax on surplus

	2023 €	2022 €
(a) Analysis of charge in the financial year		
Current tax:		
Tax credit	-	10

(b) Factors affecting tax charge for the financial year

The tax assessed for the financial year differs from the standard rate of corporation tax in the Republic of Ireland. The differences are explained below:

	2023 €	2022 €
Surplus	<u>24,009</u>	<u>22,872</u>
Effects of:		
Deposit Interest Retention Tax (DIRT)	-	10
Total tax charge for the financial year (Note 11 (a))	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>

Under Section 235 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, the income of the company is exempt from corporation tax.

The company is not exempt from DIRT taxes.

12. Tangible assets

	Computers €	Fixtures, fittings and equipment €	Sports Equipment €	Total €
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	15,348	51,644	136,531	203,523
Additions	1,903	7,643	49,101	58,647
Disposals	(1,679)	(2,961)	(36,265)	(40,905)
At 31 December 2023	<u>15,572</u>	<u>56,326</u>	<u>149,367</u>	<u>221,265</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	10,387	29,310	85,546	125,243
Charge for the financial year	2,519	6,721	20,018	29,258
On disposals	(1,108)	(2,961)	(33,909)	(37,978)
At 31 December 2023	<u>11,798</u>	<u>33,070</u>	<u>71,655</u>	<u>116,523</u>
Net book value				
At 31 December 2023	<u>3,774</u>	<u>23,256</u>	<u>77,712</u>	<u>104,742</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>4,961</u>	<u>22,334</u>	<u>50,985</u>	<u>78,280</u>

13. Debtors

	2023 €	2022 €
Trade debtors	1,697	22,125
Other debtors & Grants receivable	19,813	144,041
	<u>21,510</u>	<u>166,166</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

14. Cash and cash equivalents	2023	2022
	€	€
Cash and bank balances	1,007,781	852,396
Credit card balance	(1,680)	(834)
Cash equivalents	177,483	177,473
	<u>1,183,584</u>	<u>1,029,035</u>
15. Creditors	2023	2022
	€	€
Amounts falling due within one year		
Amounts owed to credit institutions	1,680	834
Trade creditors	12,449	2,953
Taxation (Note 16)	24,086	29,311
Waterford City and County Council	26,365	20,651
Pension accrual	1,794	3,972
Accruals	41,376	41,218
Deferred Income (Note 25)	916,702	938,782
	<u>1,024,452</u>	<u>1,037,721</u>
16. Taxation	2023	2022
	€	€
Creditors:		
PAYE	24,086	29,311
	<u>24,086</u>	<u>29,311</u>
17. Pension costs - defined contribution		
<p>When one year's service is completed, Waterford Sports Partnership CLG make pension contributions to a defined contribution scheme at the rate of 7.5% of gross salary on behalf of each employee for the full term of employment, should funding resources allow. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Pension costs amounted to €30,228 (2022 - €23,424).</p>		
18. Government Grants Deferred	2023	2022
	€	€
At 1 January 2023	196,832	161,462
Increase in financial year	58,646	35,370
At 31 December 2023	<u>255,478</u>	<u>196,832</u>
Amortisation		
At 1 January 2023	(118,455)	(90,056)
Amortised in financial year	(29,258)	(28,399)
Written off on disposal	(2,927)	-
	<u>(150,640)</u>	<u>(118,455)</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>(150,640)</u>	<u>(118,455)</u>
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	<u>104,838</u>	<u>78,377</u>
At 1 January 2023	<u>78,377</u>	<u>71,406</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

19. Status

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one financial year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding €1.

20. Reserves

	Income and expenditure account	Capital Reserve	Total
	€	€	€
At 1 January 2023	(44,900)	203,117	158,217
Surplus for the financial year	24,009	-	24,009
At 31 December 2023	<u>(20,891)</u>	<u>203,117</u>	<u>182,226</u>

21. Capital commitments

The company had no material capital commitments at the financial year-ended 31 December 2023.

22. Contingent liabilities

Funds received or receivable from funding agencies could be repayable if certain circumstances set out in the grant agreements occur. Under agreements between the Company and government funding agencies, various restrictions have been placed on the distribution of funds and non-compliance with the terms of agreements may result in the reimbursement to or withholding of funds by the various agencies.

23. Post-Balance Sheet Events

No events have occurred subsequent to the Balance Sheet date, which require disclosure in the financial statements.

24. Capital Grants

	2023	2022
	€	€
Opening Balance	78,377	71,406
Sport Ireland, Dormant Accounts	42,923	23,230
Sport Ireland, LSP	15,037	2,403
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth, Capital Programme	-	214
Waterford City & County Council, Healthy Ireland Programme	-	9,523
Go for Life	686	-
Amortised to the Profit & Loss Account	<u>(32,185)</u>	<u>(28,399)</u>
	<u>104,838</u>	<u>78,377</u>

The sponsoring body for Sport Ireland funding is the Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media and Dormant Account funding.

Grants are recognised at their fair value where there is a reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and the company will comply with all attached conditions. Capital grants are treated as deferred credits and are credited to the profit and loss account on the same basis as the related tangible assets are depreciated. The directors confirm that all grants receivable were expended for the purposes for which they were intended.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

25. Deferred Income	2023	2022
	€	€
SI Challenge Fund	35,465	37,870
SI HER Outdoors	-	458
SI Women in Sport	5,819	7,901
SI Core Funding	66,629	122,110
SI Covid Supports	61,134	106,853
SI Research	4,339	8,443
SI Beat the Street	413	413
SI Dormant Accounts – Community Hub	28,364	31,810
SI Dormant Accounts – Sport/ Youth Leader	12,407	12,571
SI Dormant Accounts – Community Coaching	-	4
SI Dormant Accounts – Urban Adventure	35,841	40,638
SI Dormant Accounts – Rural Hub	40,695	65,181
SI Dormant Accounts – Volunteering Training & Support	22,582	26,641
SI Dormant Accounts – SIDP Capital Supports	24,523	29,000
SI Dormant Accounts – Other	3,161	26,620
SI Dormant Accounts – Innovation	172,777	164,342
SI Dormant Accounts – Her Moves	8,016	-
SI Dormant Accounts – Active Cities	168,558	160,159
Partner Funding	133,415	90,444
Sláintecare via SI	84,749	-
Go For Life	1,032	1,532
DCEDIY – ICT Grant	348	348
DCEDIY (UBU Y.P.Y.S.)	6,435	5,444
	916,702	938,782

26. Security

Bank of Ireland holds an unspecified guarantee from the company in the amount of €40,000.

27. Tax Clearance Compliance

The company is compliant with Circular 44/2006 " Tax Clearance Procedures Grants, Subsidies and Similar Type Payments" as at the date of these financial statements having obtained tax clearance status from Revenue Commissioners.

28. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 19th April 2024.



APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - Board Meeting Attendance

Board Meeting Attendance

Organisation	Name	No. of Years on Board at 31/12/2023#	Board Meeting 27-Jan	Board Meeting & AGM 31-Mar	Board Meeting 09-Jun	Board Meeting 29-Sep	Board Meeting 24-Nov	TOTAL attended	Board & Staff Workshop 01-Dec	Specific Role/Committee Membership
Waterford PPN - Youth	Eoin Breathnach~	7.31	Yes	No	No	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	Member of Safeguarding Committee
Waterford City & County Council - CEO Nominee	Sin�ad Breathnach	1.73	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	2	No	Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
Co-opted Member	Mark Fitzgerald	7.10	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3	Yes	Company Secretary, Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
Waterford Leader Partnership	Austin Flavin	3.27	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5	No	Chairperson of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
Waterford PPN - Community	Terry Hayes	4.09	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5	No	WSP Chairperson, Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, Member of Safeguarding Committee
Health Service Executive	Anne Hennessy	1.73	Yes	Yes ²	Yes	Yes	Yes	5	Yes	
Waterford PPN - Disability	Tish Holton	0.25	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	No	1	No	
Waterford City & County Council - Elected Member	Joe Kelly	3.27	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4	Yes	
Waterford PPN - Sports Club	Tricia McCarthy	0.56	N/A	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	Yes	
Waterford City & County Council - Elected Member	Pat Nugent	4.26	Yes ²	Yes	No	No	Yes	3	No	
Waterford & Wexford Education and Training Board	Michael O'Brien	3.57	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	3	No	
Co-opted Member	Neil O'Sullivan	7.91	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5	Yes	Company Treasurer, Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
South East Technological University	Patricia Sheehan	1.73	Yes ²	Yes ²	No	No	No	2	Yes	Chairperson Safeguarding Committee
Waterford Area Partnership	Stephen Whelan	4.26	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	3	No	Member of Safeguarding Committee
<p>All 2023 Board meetings were held in person. 9 10 7 9 10 6</p>										

Number of years on Board is calculated from the first Board meeting attended.

² Unable to attend in person but attended via Zoom

~ Eoin Breathnach resigned from the Board and Safeguarding Committee on 04.08.2023

APPENDIX 2 - Finance, Audit & Risk Committee Attendance

Finance, Audit & Risk Committee Attendance

Organisation	Name	Date Appointed to Committee	No. of Years on Committee at 31/12/2023	24-Jan	27-Feb	24-Mar	22-Sep	21-Nov	TOTAL attended	Specific Role/Committee Membership
Waterford City & County Council	Sinéad Breathnach	07/04/2022	1.73	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5	WSP Board Member, Member of Finance Audit & Risk Committee.
Co-opted Board Member	Mark Fitzgerald	28/04/2017	6.68	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	WSP Board Member, Company Secretary, Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee.
Waterford Leader Partnership	Austin Flavin*	07/04/2022	1.73	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4	WSP Board Member, Chairperson of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee.
Waterford PPN - Community	Terry Hayes	25/09/2020	3.27	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5	WSP Chairperson and Board Member, Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee
Co-opted Board Member	Neil O'Sullivan	15/04/2016	7.72	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	4	WSP Board Member, Company Treasurer, Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee.
Co-opted FARC Member	Ann-Marie Casey	21/11/2023	0.11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes	1	Member of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee.
Total Attendees				4	5	4	5	5	5	

All 2023 Finance, Audit and Risk Committee meetings were held on Zoom.

*Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FARC) Chairperson.

Safeguarding Committee Attendance

Organisation	Name	Date Appointed to Committee	Resigned	No. of Years on Committee at 31/12/2023	06-Jan	23-Jan	28-Mar	13-Sep	TOTAL attended
Waterford PPN - Youth	Eoin Breathnach	01/12/2016	04/08/2023	6.67	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	2
Waterford PPN - Community	Terry Hayes	09/12/2022		1.06	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Waterford Sports Partnership	Rosarie Kealy	01/12/2016		7.08	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
South East Technological University	Patricia Sheehan*	07/04/2022		1.73	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3
Waterford Area Partnership	Stephen Whelan	25/09/2020		3.27	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	4
Total Attendees					5	4	4	4	4

All 2023 Safeguarding Committee meetings were held on Zoom.

*Safeguarding Committee Chairperson.

Summary of Governance, Oversight and Key Decision Areas addressed by the WSP Board in 2023

- > Provided leadership and oversight of WSP operations across a diverse range of sport and physical activity opportunities, including oversight of the implementation of WSP's Strategy under the various strategic goal areas.
- > Approved key funding applications to Sport Ireland for Core Funding, Dormant Accounts Funding and new pilot projects, including the Physical Activity for Health pilot (Sláintecare) and the Outdoor Recreation Officer pilot (Department of Rural and Community Development), while also overseeing the submission of applications to various agencies including the Health Service Executive (HSE), Waterford City & County Council (WCCC) and the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB).
- > Approved and monitored the 2023 WSP Budget and Operational Plan.
- > Undertook a strategic discussion regarding the importance of aligning the next WSP Strategic Plan with Waterford's Local Sports Plan (to be initiated by Waterford City & County Council in 2024). In this context, the WSP Board approved the extension of the current WSP strategic period to the end of 2024.
- > Ensured governance continued to be an ongoing agenda item at all Board meetings.
- > Monitored, on an ongoing basis, compliance with the Governance Code for Sport, and approved the Governance Compliance Record, the updated Comply or Explain Form and the Annual Assurance Statement.
- > Following a comprehensive review of WSP Child Safeguarding policies, approved the WSP Safeguarding Committee Terms of Reference, WSP Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment, WSP Child Safeguarding Policy, WSP Child Safeguarding Statement and WSP Garda Vetting Policy.
- > Oversaw human resource matters including, where relevant, discussion and/or approval of appointments, regrading decisions and other HR issues.
- > In light of key staff resourcing risks identified during strategic Risk Management discussions, the WSP Board sought and held a meeting with Sport Ireland to outline areas of concern and risk relating to staff governance, grades, structure, resourcing and administration.
- > Provided Board-level support for the preparation and process completed by WSP on the journey to achieve the Xcessible Bronze Award from Active Disability Ireland.
- > Following a strategic discussion, requested a postponement from Sport Ireland of the drawdown of funding allocated by Sport Ireland for a new ESF Social Inclusion Officer until early 2025 in order to prioritise the establishment of a number of new appointments and pilot projects.
- > Conducted ongoing discussions on Board and Board committee membership and vacancies and actions to be taken to meet gender diversity targets for Board membership.
- > Addressed the need to bring additional financial expertise onto the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and co-opted a qualified accountant onto the committee.
- > Decided, in the interest of best practice, to go to tender to appoint a new auditor after ten years working with the current auditor.

APPENDIX 5 - WSP Training and Education Courses 2023, 2022 & 2021

*New this year		2023	2023	2022	2022	2021	2021
TARGET GROUP	COURSE/TRAINING NAME	No. of Attendees	No. of Courses	No. of Attendees	No. of Courses	No. of Attendees	No. of Courses
Sports Clubs	Safeguarding 1	193	17	220	20	211	17
	Safeguarding 2	29	2	32	3	36	4
	Safeguarding 3	17	2	10	1	12	1
Disability	Sports Inclusion Disability Awareness	42	4	-	-	79	5
	Learn to Cycle for People with a Disability	40	6	14	1	15	1
	Autism in Sport Training			38	2		
	Get Autism Active (online)			-	-	88	4
Pre-Schools/ Schools	Junior Sport Leader/Youth Leadership	3	1	26	2	-	-
	Ready to Go Orienteering Teacher Training	-	-	12	1	-	-
	Startbox Teacher Training	-	-	7	1	-	-
	*Cycle Right Training for schools	97	4				
Club/ Community Training	Sports First Aid	40	4	69	6	11	1
	First Aid – REC 3	11	1				
	Mountain Skills Training	-		-	-	10	1
	Activator Pole Training			-	-	9	1
	Kayak Training Villierstown (2022 Level 2)			8	1	4	1
	Ride Leader Training			12	1	15	1
	Munster Rugby Workshops for adults who coach youth teams			-	-	23	1
	Maximizing Youth Soccer Sessions for adults who coach youth teams			-	-	28	1
	Ready to Restart Boxing Webinar for adults who coach young people			-	-	34	1
	FAI Youth PDP1 Coaching Course			-	-	13	1
	Trishaw Pilot Training	1	1	13	2	0	0
	Athletics Ireland Leader Level 1 Course			4	1	2	1
	Club Development Series - Sports Capital Grants Information	38	1	-	-	83	1
	Club Development Series - Grant Funding available locally & nationally for Waterford Clubs			-	-	63	1
	Club Development Series - How to Recruit Volunteers			-	-	20	1
	Club Development Series - Effective Fundraising & Sponsorship			-	-	14	1
	Club Development Series - Effective Communicating			-	-	21	1
	Understanding the Female Athlete			30	2	-	-
	Menopause Workshop	67	3	24	1	-	-
	Benefits of Exercise in Menopause			81	1	-	-
	Bike Maintenance for Primary School children	281	3	81	4	-	-
	Bike Maintenance for Female cyclists	26	1				
	Bike Maintenance for Adults			70	1	-	-
	Corner Care for Boxing Coaches			13	1	-	-
	iCoach Kids Conference			88	1	-	-
	Learn to Cycle in Traffic			7	1	-	-
	*Coaching Teenage Girls workshop	36	2				
	*Club Development – Introduction to Coaching & Considerations When Working with Young Athletes	18	2				
	*Gaisce Award for youth at risk (boxing)	11	1				
	*Online Info Session – Women Beginner Triathlon	9	1				
	*Athletics Leadership for TYs	15	1				
	*Youth mentoring programme Dungarvan CYP/ Horse Riding	1	1				
	*Youth mentoring programme Boxing	2	1				
TOTAL		977	59	859	59	791	47

APPENDIX 6 - WSP Grant Schemes 2023

GRANT SCHEME	2023		2022	
	AMOUNT AWARDED	NO. OF RECIPIENTS	AMOUNT AWARDED	NO. OF RECIPIENTS
HER Moves			€1,250	5
Healthy Ireland Community Walks	€1,800	6	€1,500	6
WSP Sports Club Grant	€11,867	27	€30,290	64
WSP Let's Get Movin'			€740	3
DEIS Schools			€5,100	17
UBU Youth			€1,800	6
Youth Migrant Club Membership fund	€2,000	8	€600	2
WSP Watersports Grant	€5,250	6		
TOTAL	€20,917	47	€41,280	103

2023 GRANT SCHEMES BREAKDOWN

WSP CLUB GRANT	
CLUB	AMOUNT
Lismore Tennis Club	€500.00
Waterford Greenway Joggers	€400.00
Ardmore Grange Ladies Football Club	€500.00
Waterford Crystal Football Club	€495.00
An Sean Phobal / Old Parish GAA	€500.00
De La Salle Football Club	€500.00
Dungarvan Camogie Club	€500.00
Dungarvan Gymnastics Club	€500.00
Dungarvan Rugby Club	€250.00
Dunhill GAA	€500.00
Erin's Own Ladies Gaelic Football Club	€500.00
Ferrybank GAA	€239.50
Gaultier GAA	€400.00
Kilrossanty Gaelic for Mothers and Others	€250.00
Kilrossanty GAA	€500.00
Lismore Cricket Club	€448.00
Metalman Paddlesports Club Waterford	€500.00
Portlawn Camogie	€250.00
Saint Mary's East GAA Club	€400.00
St. Anne's Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football Club	€250.00
St. Oliver's LGFA	€500.00
St. Saviours FC	€500.00
Tycor Athletic Football Club	€490.00
Villa FC	€500.00
Waterford City RFC	€500.00
Waterford Vikings	€500.00
Waterpark Rugby Club	€495.00
TOTAL	€11,867.50

HEALTHY IRELAND WALKS GRANT SCHEME	
CLUB/ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
Clashmore/Kinsalebeg	€300
Dunhill GAA	€300
Carbally Community Group	€300
Mount Sion GAA	€300
Carriglea Cairde Services	€300
Rehab Recovery	€300
TOTAL	€1,800

WSP WATERSPORTS GRANT SCHEME	
CLUB	AMOUNT
Metalman Paddlesports Club Waterford	€ 250
Waterford Boat Club	€ 1,000
Splashworld Sharks Swimming Club	€ 1,000
Cappoquin Rowing Club	€ 1,000
Red Iron Rowing Club	€ 1,000
Dungarvan Harbour Sailing Club	€ 1,000
TOTAL	€5,250

YOUTH MIGRANT CLUB MEMBERSHIP FUND	
CLUB/ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
Tramore AFC	€250
Camp Waterford	€250
Kingfisher Club	€250
SETU Arena	€250
GAA Cúl Camps	€250
Villa FC	€250
CSC Soccer Camps	€250
Elevate Yoga	€250
TOTAL	€2,000

APPENDIX 7 - WSP Programmes by Electoral Area

Programmes by Electoral Area*

	Dungarvan	Lismore	Portlaw - Kilmacthomas	Tramore - Waterford City West	Waterford City East	Waterford City South	Other	TOTAL
Pre Schools/schools	17	6	14	7	1	3		48
DEIS Schools	3	0	6	8	0	15		32
Young People/ Youth at Risk	2	1	2	10	1	15		31
Women and Teenage Girls	11	3	2	9	0	7	3	35
Men	6	0	0	3	4	1	1	15
Older Adults	13	8	6	3	9	3		42
Disability	9	1	4	7	4	15	6	46
Mixed Target Groups	5		2		2	1		10
Minority Groups				1	1			2
Total	66	19	36	48	22	60	10	261
% delivery	25.3	7.3	13.8	18.4	8.4	23.0	3.8	

*Based on where the event/activity took place.

APPENDIX 8 - Who We Worked With in 2023

CLUBS	
Bohemians FC	Oceanics Surf School
Brickey Rangers GAA Club	St Paul's Boxing Club
Cappoquin Railway AFC	St. Paul's Fishing Club
Cappoquin Rowing Club	Tallow Bowling Club
Dungarvan Cycling Club	South East Viking Orienteering
Dungarvan Golf Club	Tramore Rugby Club
Dungarvan Rugby Club	Tramore Surf School
Dungarvan Sailing Club	Waterford Badminton Club
Dunhill GAA Club	Waterford City Rugby Club
Dunmore East Swim Club	Waterford Dragonboat Club
Lismore Bowling Club	Waterford Harbour Sailing Club
Little Vikings	Waterford Muay Thai
Metalman Paddlesport Club	Waterford Road Runners
Mount Sion GAA Club	Waterpark Rugby Club

NGBs	
Active Disability Ireland	Paralympics Ireland
Athletics Ireland	Pickleball Ireland
Badminton Ireland	Special Olympics
Cycling Ireland	Swim Ireland
Football Association of Ireland	Table Tennis Ireland
GAA	Tennis Ireland
Get Ireland Walking	Triathlon Ireland
Golf Ireland	Vision Sport Ireland
Hockey Ireland	Water Safety Ireland
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	Waterford Camogie
Munster Rugby	Waterford GAA

LOCAL & NATIONAL PARTNERS		
2into3	Garda Siochana	SETU Arena
Active School Flag	Get Ireland Active	SETU Arena Parkrun
Adaption Therapies	Get Ireland Walking	Spirit Leisure Centre
Adult Community Health Service	Healthy Communities Waterford	TREO
Age and Opportunity	Healthy Waterford	Waterford Men's Shed
Altitude Bike Shop	HSE	Waterford PPN
Barnardos	Kingfisher Club	Waterford & Kilkenny Down Syndrome
Camphill community – Carrick on Suir	Lismore Heritage Centre	Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board
Camphill community - The Journeyman	Local Community Development Committees	Waterford Childrens Disability Network
Carbally Community Group	Local Sports Partnership Network	Waterford Chronic Disease Hub
Carriglea Ard Na Greine	Manor St. John Youth Project	Waterford City & County Council
Carriglea Anne Le Roy Centre	Marathon Kids Ireland	Waterford Leader Partnership
Carriglea Cairdre Services	Mediforce (first aid)	Waterford Library Service
Carriglea Gateway Service	Motiv8 Fitness	Waterford School Completion Programme
Carriglea Marquis Drive	National Youth Council	Waterford Social Prescribing Service
Clashmore/Kinsalebeg Community Group	Parkrun Ireland	Waterford Youth Service
Cycling Without Age	Premier First Aid	Waterford Children and Young People's Services Committee
Down Syndrome Waterford	Pure Adventure	Woodville
Dungarvan Men's Shed	Quest Brothers of Charity	Yoga Nua
Foroige	Rehab Mental Health Service	
Garda Diversion Project	Rehab Recovery Services	

APPENDIX 9 - WSP Staff Training

Sport Ireland Accelerate Management Training
Sport Ireland ASPIRE Graduate Training Programme
Sport Ireland Communications Training
Sport Ireland Innovation & Technology Summit
Sport Ireland Coaching Physical Literacy Tutor Training
Sport Ireland Grant Management Application (SIGMA) Training
Digital Marketing Training
Communicating to Stakeholders with Impact Training
Carmichael Training (minute taking, GDPR, etc.)
Designated Liaison Officer Training (Carmichael)
National Seminar for Inclusion
Numerous online Sport Ireland and NGB Sport Webinars
Salesforce CRM Training
Placemaking Tool Training
HSE Making Every Contact Count Training
Sport First Aid Training



ABBREVIATIONS

ACO	Active Cities Officer	LSP	Local Sports Partnership
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	NGB	National Governing Body
CLG	Company Limited by Guarantee	NCEF	National Council for Exercise and Fitness
CLV	Cappoquin, Lismore, Villierstown.	OT	Operation Transformation
COVID	Coronavirus Disease	PACC	Physical Activity for People with Chronic Conditions
CRM	Customer Relationship Management	PAFHO	Physical Activity for Health Officer
CSDO	Community Sports Development Officer	PPN	Public Participation Network
DCYA	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	SETU	South East Technological University
DCEDIY	Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	SDO	Sports Development Officer
DTCAGSM	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media	SIDO	Sports Inclusion Disability Officer
DA	Dormant Accounts	SI	Sport Ireland
FIS	Federation of Irish Sport	SIAC	Sport Ireland Active City
FARC	Finance, Audit & Risk Committee	WAP	Waterford Area Partnership
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation	WCCC	Waterford City & County Council
HI	Healthy Ireland	WLP	Waterford Leader Partnership
HW	Healthy Waterford	WSP	Waterford Sports Partnership
HSE	Health Service Executive	WWETB	Waterford and Wexford Education & Training Board
HR	Human Resources	YSDO	Youth Sports Development Officer
IPA	Institute of Public Administration		





WATERFORD SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

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