



# Waterford City Youth Strategy 2009-2012



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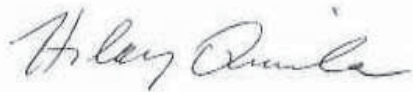
## Foreword

### Waterford City Development Board Chairperson

On behalf of the Waterford CDB, I welcome the completion of this Youth Strategy and the broad level of consultation undertaken during its development. I would like to express my thanks to both the young people and those working with youth who took the time to share their views and opinions which have formed the basis of this Strategy.

One of the key roles of the City Development Board is co-ordination and this new and unique model of working between Waterford CDB, Waterford Youth Committee and Waterford Area Partnership Board which has resulted in the production of this Youth Strategy for the City is an excellent practical example of agencies working together for the betterment of a target group.

This Strategy and previous work undertaken by the CDB have highlighted the need for greater co-ordination at a City and neighbourhood level and for the need to be more responsive to needs at a local level and this Strategy is a further step towards achieving these goals.



Councillor Hilary Quinlan  
Chairperson Waterford CDB  
March 2009



### Waterford Youth Committee Chairperson

As Chair of Waterford Youth Committee (City of Waterford VEC) I am very pleased to be associated with the Waterford City Youth Strategy 2009 - 2012. The approach that was taken to develop the Youth Strategy was unique, inclusive and co-ordinated. Having regard to the requirement of the Youth Work Act 2001 that each VEC Youth Work Committee prepare a Youth Work Plan, and the requirement of the City Development Board's Strategy for Economic Social and Cultural Development 2002– 2012 as well as Waterford Area Partnership Board's Youth Initiatives, this Youth Strategy was developed. This model is a practical demonstration of what can happen when the needs of young people are approached in an integrated way in Waterford City. It places a very important emphasis on consultation and partnership with young people, volunteers and service providers.

The Strategy underlines the need for greater planning, development and co-ordination of services at local level and emphasises the need to further roll out the Youth Work Act in order to meet those challenges. Waterford Youth Committee is happy to embrace those challenges and changes and will continue to do so in the spirit of partnership and inclusiveness and in the knowledge that future development in youth work will be planned, appropriately resourced, sustained and rewarded.



Councillor Mary Roche  
Chairperson Waterford Youth Committee  
March 2009



## **Executive Summary**

Having regard for the Waterford City Development Board's (CDB) Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2012, and the requirement of the Youth Work Act 2001, that each VEC Youth Work Committee prepare a Youth Work Development Plan to address the youth work requirements in its administrative area, this Youth Strategy for Waterford City was developed. This Youth Strategy has been informed by an assessment of the current needs of young people and the levels of service and facilities which currently exist. The strategy seeks to assist service providers in the delivery of a more co-ordinated and effective response in the support of young people over the period 2009-2012 and taking into consideration the findings of the pilot co-ordination of youth services initiatives. Conducted research both primary and secondary, have indicated a commendable level of existing services and facilities for young people in Waterford City. However, shortfalls in some areas of provision and related issues were identified. Accordingly, the strategy outlines these shortfalls and proposes a planned and staged response to achieve an improved and sustainable delivery of service and facility provision over the life of this Strategy.