



Wexford CYPSC Newsletter

20 February 2026

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

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



CONTENTS

CYPSC Showcase Event

P.: 4-6 Wexford CYPSC Showcase February 10, 2026

Youth Groups

P.: 7 Orbit Youth Group

P.: 8 Nova Youth Group

Webinars/Training

P.: 9-10 My Place to Play Upcoming Sessions

P.: 11-12 Human Trafficking Free Information Event

P.: 13-14 Community Volunteers Training Programme

Survey

P.: 15-16 National Community Safety Survey

P.: 17 National online survey on ELC and SAC available until 12th March

Supporting Parents

P.: 18 Requesting details of parenting initiatives taking place in March for promotion under the Supporting Parents communications campaign

Grant's Scheme

P.: 19 2026 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme Now Open

Events / Campaigns

P.: 20-23 Wexford Town Library Events

- P.: 24-25 Bunclody Library Events
- P.: 26-29 Enniscorthy Library Events
- P.: 29 New Ross Library Events
- P.: 30 Gorey Library Events
- P.: 31 Invitation to the Ukrainian Photo Exhibition in the Gorey Library
- P.: 32 Ireland Reads 2026: 'Get Lost in a Good Book'

Public Consultation

- P.: 33 Public Consultation on the National Policy Framework for Alternative Care

Literacy

- P.: 34-36 Wexford Library's new Reading Circle
- P.: 37 NALA's new reading, writing and spelling workbooks
- P.: 38 Family Literacy

CYPSC SHOWCASE EVENT

► Wexford CYPSC Showcase February 10, 2026

Wexford Children and Young People's Services Committee hosted a showcase event on Tuesday 10 February in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. The event provided Sub Groups with the opportunity to showcase some of their projects.



Proceedings were opened by Greg Mullan, Wexford CYPSC Chairperson who welcomed everyone and paid tribute to the vast amount of work being done to improve outcomes for children and young people in Co. Wexford.

Sheila Barrett, Wexford CYPSC Co-ordinator referenced the current [Wexford Children and Young People's Plan 2025-2027](#).

There were several informative presentations during the morning. Nicola Collins, Sports Active Local Sports Partnership presented the "Girls Get Active" project. This project targets teenage girls with the aim of increasing their levels of physical activity. This project was funded by the CYPSC Healthy Ireland Fund.



Avril O'Sullivan, Ferns Diocesan Youth Service (FDYS) presented on the "Disability Pathways Resource". This resource is for parents of children and young people under 18 years of age. It aims to provide information to parents in accessible formats. The resource will be launched soon and will be available in several formats. The resource was also funded under the CYPSC Healthy Ireland Fund.

Alison O'Brien, Tusla gave an overview of the vast number of supports being provided to children and young people in international accommodation, under the CYPSC International Protection Fund. Juliette Zmorrod from the [Doulab](#) also spoke about the contemporary circus and dance project delivered to two groups of young people in international accommodation in late 2025.



The Pre-Adolescent Traveller Holistic Programme ([PATH](#)) was presented by Kieran Donohoe and Robbie Sludds from FDYS. They outlined how this programme was recently evaluated. The findings demonstrated that participation in the programme has had a positive impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of young people from the Traveller and Roma communities and young people experiencing social exclusion.



Ger O'Connor (Bernardos) and Siobhán Cummins (Wexford County Childcare Committee) gave a presentation on the work of the EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) Implementation Group. Following the publication of the [Wexford EBSA Pack](#), a number of parent workshops and train the trainer courses have been delivered by this group.





Finally, Ger O'Connor (Barnardos) gave an overview of the [Wexford Parents Hub Video project](#). Developed with funding from the Parent Awareness Fund, a set of seven short videos showcase the supports available for parents in Co. Wexford.

The event was closed by Greg Mullan who thanked everyone for their participation in the event and their ongoing support for the CYPSC initiative in Co. Wexford.



YOUTH GROUPS

► **Orbit Youth Group**



ORBIT YOUTH GROUP

A large black graphic of a star with four points and a long, curved tail, resembling a comet or a shooting star, positioned to the right of the main title.

**A WEEKLY SPACE FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH
AND ALLIES AGED 14-18
IN WEXFORD TOWN**

CONTACT DYLAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

**DYLAN.HENNESSY@FDYS.IE
083 202 2713**





NOVA YOUTH GROUP



**A WEEKLY SPACE FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH
AND ALLIES AGED 14-18
IN ENNISCORTHY TOWN**

CONTACT DYLAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

**DYLAN.HENNESSY@FDYS.IE
083 202 2713**



WEBINARS/TRAINING

► My Place to Play Upcoming Sessions



We are delighted to announce we are able to provide a further 2 briefing sessions for My Place To Play on Friday February 27th and Monday March 9th.

MPTP is aimed at professionals working with families who have babies and toddlers living in emergency accommodation and cramped living conditions. There are two main parts of the programme;

a) Briefing sessions for professionals; A once off 90 minute session introducing MPTP concepts, materials, and guidance on how to support families using them.

b) Ordering packs; to provide families with the MPTP play mat and materials which promote language development, communication and play. The packs enable parents to create a dedicated space or time for play with their young children and support their development.

Expectations of Professionals taking part in the Programme:

- o Engage in online information session before distributing the materials to the families, thereby ensuring that they have:

Knowledge and practical skills around the importance of play in physical development

Skills to promote parental engagement in their baby's learning through the packs

Familiar with the materials and benefits of each toy.

- o Talk the families through the materials highlighting the use and benefits of each toy.
- o Check back in with the family after two weeks to assess the benefits of the materials for the children involved and see if additional support is needed
- o Complete an online survey and encourage the parent to do so if possible for them.

How can you register to take part?

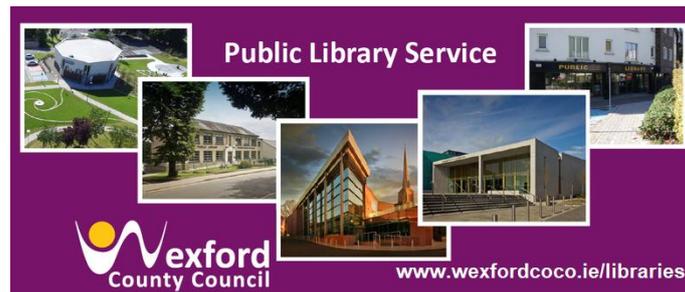
Here are the dates of the two briefing sessions planned.

Month	Date	Time	Zoom link to register
February	Friday 27th	10.30am- 12pm	Meeting Registration - Zoom
March	Monday 9th	2pm-3.30pm	Meeting Registration - Zoom

If you are working with families living in emergency accommodation, including International Protection, MPTP may be a good fit for your organisation and families you are working with.

If you have any questions please direct them to eli@ncirl.ie.

► Human Trafficking Free Information Event



Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes in Ireland—yet many signs remain unnoticed in everyday life.

Join us for **Hidden in Plain Sight**, an informative and eye-opening evening hosted by **Soroptimist International Wexford - Thursday 26th February 7-8pm**, where we will explore how trafficking affects communities across Ireland and what we can all do to help protect vulnerable people.

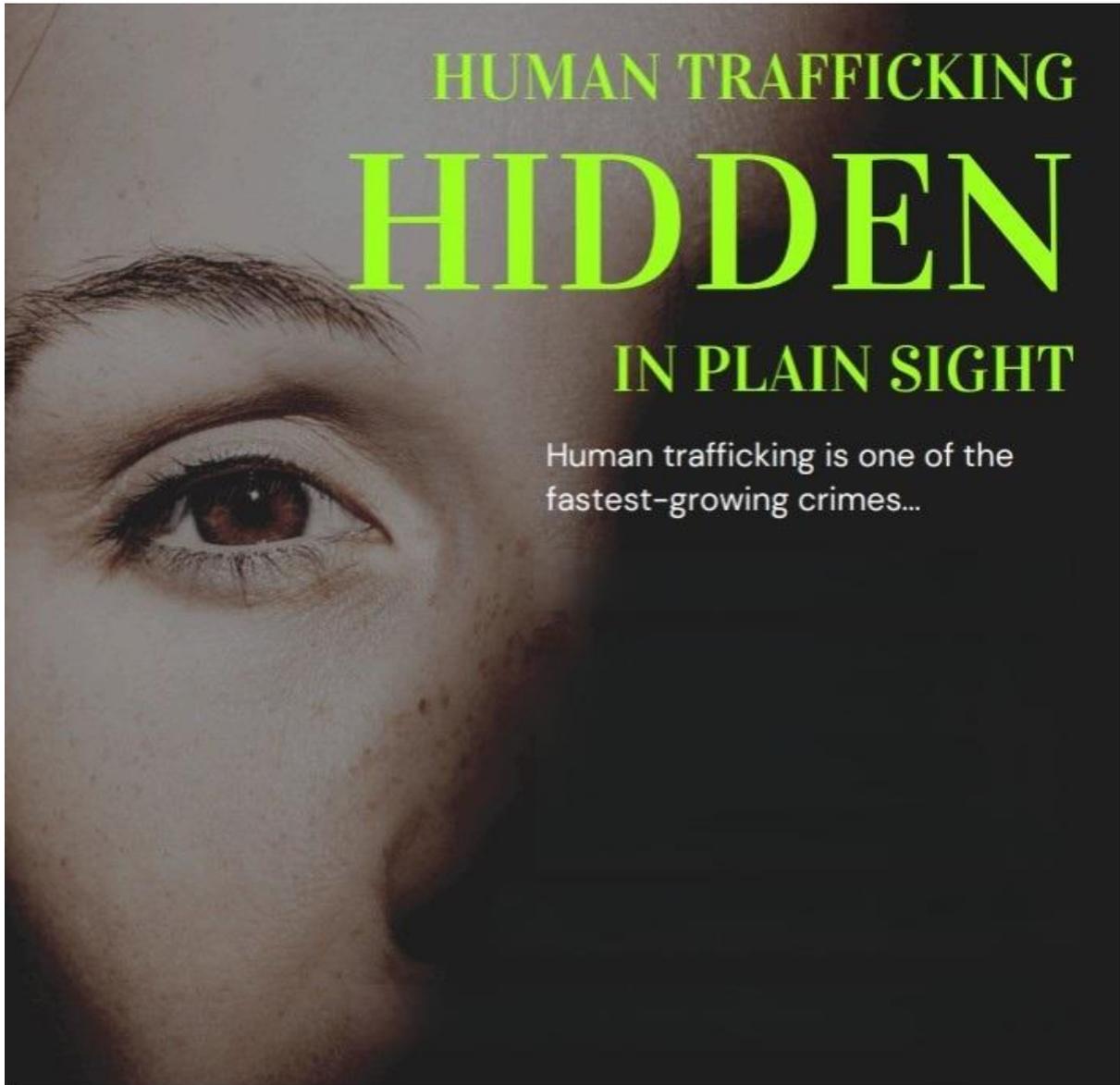
We are honoured to welcome an expert panel of speakers with extensive experience in combating human trafficking:

- **Professor Niamh Flanagan**, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University
- **Detective Garda Niall Stack**
- **Garda Karen Coghlan**
- **A representative from Ruhama**, supporting women affected by trafficking and exploitation

Together, they will shed light on the realities of sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, and other forms of trafficking occurring in Ireland today.

This is an important opportunity for the public to learn more about an issue often hidden in plain sight.

Join us at Wexford Library to learn, listen, and be part of raising awareness.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Human trafficking is one of the
fastest-growing crimes...



Comhairle Contae Loch Garman
Wexford County Council



► Community Volunteers Training Programme



Rialtas Áitúil Éireann
Local Government Ireland



Wexford County Council Community Section, through the Sláintecare Health Communities Programme, is delighted to invite you to take part in a **Community Volunteers Training Programme** taking place in Enniscorthy this spring.

This programme is aimed at volunteers involved in community groups, residents' associations and other local organisations who want practical skills to help their group run well, stay compliant and keep people engaged.

📍 Venue: Temple Shannon Community Centre, Enniscorthy

🕒 Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

📅 Dates:

- * Tuesday 24th February
- * Tuesday 3rd March
- * Tuesday 10th March
- * Wednesday 18th March (due to St. Patrick's Day)
- * Tuesday 25th March

The training will be delivered by experienced facilitator, Ann Gallagher in a very informal and practical way. Sessions will include real-life examples, group discussion and scenario-based learning, making it relevant and useful for anyone involved in running or supporting a community group.

Training will cover:

- * Effective leadership in the community
- * How to get and keep volunteers

- * How to get things done (meetings, agendas, action planning)
- * Managing communication, change and conflict
- * An overview of community development

There will also be a great opportunity to meet and link in with volunteers from other local groups, share experiences and build local connections.

Further details of the course and the facilitator are attached.

This training is ideal for:

- ✓ Residents' association members
- ✓ Community group volunteers
- ✓ Committee members
- ✓ Anyone involved in organising or supporting local activities

Places are limited, so early booking is recommended. (First come first served).

To register your interest or to book a place, please reply to Ann Marie Laffan at annmarie.laffan@wexfordcoco.ie with:

Your Name

Your Group

Your Email:

Your phone number

We would be delighted to see you there and to support you in your important work in your community.

If you know of other members of your group or other organisations that would like to attend please share this with them.

SURVEY

► National Community Safety Survey

The image shows two promotional posters for the National Community Safety Survey. The left poster is in English and the right is in Irish. Both posters feature a QR code and a clipboard icon. The English poster says "National Community Safety Survey" and "WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!". The Irish poster says "Suirbhé Náisiúnta ar Shábháilteacht Pobail" and "BA MHAITH LINN CLOISTEÁIL UAITSE!". Both posters include the text "SCAN QR CODE" and "SCAN AN CÓD MF" respectively, and the logo of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

The National Office for Community Safety is leading on the development of the first National Strategy for Improving Community Safety, on behalf of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. For more information on this Office [click here](#).

They are inviting the public to contribute to the development of this new National Strategy by taking part in our **National Community Safety Survey** which is open until 27 February 2026.

Click [here](#) for more information and to take part in the survey.

People have different experiences of community safety. The National Office want to hear from people of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences living in the Republic of Ireland today. It takes just 10 to 15 minutes and is your opportunity to share your experience and to help public service agencies and communities to work together to make communities safer.

The National Office have tried to make this survey accessible as possible. If you experience any difficulties and require accessibility assistance, please contact accessofficer@justice.ie or call 01 602 8632.

If you have any queries in relation to this process, contact the National Office for Community Safety at strategy@communitysafety.ie.

► National online survey on ELC and SAC available until 12th March



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

We wish to share information with you relating to a National online survey of ELC and SAC settings currently being conducted by the DCDE. We urge you to share this information within your networks.

On 4 February Minister Foley launched an online survey as part of the [National Conversation – the First 5 Years and School-Age Childcare](#). The survey can be accessed via gov.ie [here](#). It will run until March 12th.

This survey looks at the key priorities for early learning and care, school-age childcare and childminding, including what should change or stay the same, and how to make these settings better for babies, young children, and young people. This will form part of a broader public consultation process on the future of ELC and SAC being undertaken by the DCDE, as well as informing the developing of Phase 2 of the *Shaping the Future Action Plan* and the successor to the *First 5 Strategy*.

We want to hear from parents, early years educators, school age childcare practitioners, childminders, providers, and all those interested in the future of early learning and care and school age childcare. This National Conversation represents a rare opportunity to reshape the future of education, including early years education, in our country, and we want to ensure that as many voices as possible are included.

Thank you

Kind regards

The Parenting Support Policy Unit

SUPPORTING PARENTS

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



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

Thank you for continuing to support the Supporting Parents communications campaign by informing us of upcoming events in your area.

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

It would be appreciated if details of any upcoming events could be provided by Friday 27 February.

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

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

Kind regards

The Parenting Support Policy Unit

GRANT'S SCHEME

► 2026 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme Now Open

The 2026 Grants Programme is now open, and organisations are invited to apply.



The 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme, Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF), is a collaboration with [Community Foundation Ireland](#) (CFI) and the [Sunflower Charitable Foundation](#) (SCF), and aims to support organisations working with young children and their families in areas of high socio-economic need, who may not reach their potential due to the corrosive impact of poverty.

The 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme is a promise from KHF to provide financial and other supports to selected organisations, to support and develop the potential of the children engaged with the organisations.

The Programme will build on the powerful work taking place at community-level to address child poverty with funding of up to €1,500,000 in financial and non-financial supports over its duration 2026-30.

In the first three years of the 'Children's Promise' Grants Programme (2023 – 2025), **54 projects were supported** within organisations across Ireland based in communities most affected by social inequality. These organisations work with a wide range of complex issues, but all have a common objective: ***to harness the childhood potential in communities with high socio-economic need, through supports for pregnant mothers, young children, and their families.***

For further information and to apply please visit our website [here](#)

The closing date for all applications is 19 March 2026 at 1pm.

All queries should be made by email to info@khf.ie



EVENTS & CAMPAIGNS

► Wexford Town Library Events



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



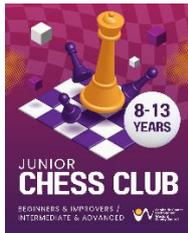
Story Time every Saturday, 11.00am-11:30am, Suitable for children aged 3–7 years.
Join us for Story Time in Wexford Library every Saturday morning. Children should be supervised at all times when visiting Wexford Library. **No booking required.**



Tabletop Roleplaying Club: Dungeons & Dragons, Tuesday, 24 February, 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

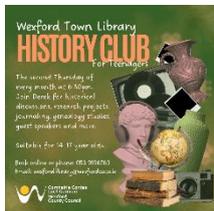
Are you ready to embark on an epic adventure? 🎲🐉 Well then, join us at Wexford Library for tabletop role-playing gaming and unleash your imagination. The sessions will take place the second Tuesday of every month from 6.30-8.30 pm. **Booking is essential.**

Suitable for ages 12–17 years.



Junior Chess Club at Wexford Town Library for 8-13 years, 14 January - 25 February, 3:30pm - 4:30pm.

Come along to our Junior Afterschool Chess Club. The club will run from Wednesday 14th of January to Wednesday 25th of February, 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Suitable for all player levels and strictly for ages 8-13 years. Booking is essential, as places are very limited. Only one booking is required, as this will reserve all 7 weekly sessions. Please note that parents/guardians must remain in the library building for the duration of this event.



History Club for Teenagers at Wexford Town Library, Thursday, 26 February, 6:30pm - 7:30pm.

Join Derek on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30pm for historical discussions, research projects, journaling, genealogy studies, guest speakers and more. The club is suitable for 14-17 year olds. Booking is essential.



Baby Tummy Time in Wexford Library, Tuesday, 24 February, 11:00am - 11:45am.

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



Teen Comics Club, Thursday, 26 February, 6:30pm - 7:30pm.

Join our new teen comics club! Suitable for 13 - 15 years. Booking is essential.
Regular Weekly Events

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

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



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

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



Book Clinic for Young Readers, Saturday, 28 February, 2:00pm - 3:30pm.

Looking for the perfect book for Ireland Reads day? Don't worry, we're here to help! Drop in to our book clinic for young readers to get some inspiration for your next read. No need to book, just drop in on the day. Perfect for young readers aged around 6-11 years. Please note that children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.



Ireland Reads: Draw-Along Workshop for ages 9-12 years, Thursday, 26 February, 3:30pm - 4:30pm.

Easy Drawing Tutorial - Learn to draw one of the most popular Gregs of all times in a few simple steps. Then help us create Wexford Library's own wimpy character! Suitable for children aged 9-12 years. Booking is essential.



Teddy Bear Arts and Crafts, Saturday, 21 February, 12:00pm - 1:00pm.

Join us for some fun teddy bear-themed arts and crafts in Wexford Library! Children can create their own bears during this fun, hands-on session. Bring your imagination—and your favourite teddy! Suitable for children aged 4-8 years. Booking is essential.

All events are FREE. Wexford Public Libraries App.

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

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

► Bunclody Library Events



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

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



Sensory Friendly Hour

Every Saturday from 4.00 to 5.00pm, Sensory Friendly hour will be observed in Bunclody Library.

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

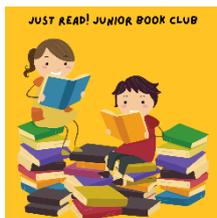
Sensory Basket

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



Saturday Storytime every Saturday at 11am

Join us every Saturday morning at 11am for stories and songs for ages 3-7 years. No need to book - all welcome!



Just Read! Junior Book Club – Friday 27th February, 3.30 to 4.00pm

Join Shane for our Just Read! Junior Book Club for ages 9-12 years. If you are interested in joining the book club, please telephone the library on 053 9375466.



Ireland Reads: Meet the Library Bookworms! - Saturday 28th February, 11.45 am to 12.45pm

Join the library bookworms (aka the librarians) to find the perfect book for you on Ireland Reads Day. Suitable for Ages 7+. Booking essential. To book please telephone 053 9375466 or book online at wexfordcoco.libcal.com.



Midterm Madness Lego Challenge for Ages 7+ - Saturday 21st February, 2.30 to 3.30pm

Do you love Lego? Do you think you can take on the challenge by the librarians to create some amazing Lego pieces? Sign up for our Midterm Madness Lego challenge suitable for ages 7+. The library staff have picked some fun challenges to see what you can create! Please book for the child only. Book online at wexfordcoco.libcal.com or telephone 053 9375466.

► Enniscorthy Library Events



Interactive Story Time at Enniscorthy Library

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

Through the magic of storytelling, children are transported to far-off lands, introduced to diverse characters, and exposed to a rich tapestry of language, all while developing fundamental literacy skills such as vocabulary acquisition, comprehension, and phonological awareness. **All welcome and no booking required.**

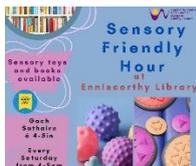


LEGO Free Play at Enniscorthy Library - every Saturday 11.30am-5pm.

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

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

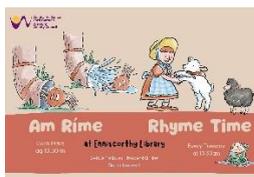
No Booking Required



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

Sensory Friendly Hour will be observed in Enniscorthy Library.

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



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

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

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

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

All welcome and no booking required.



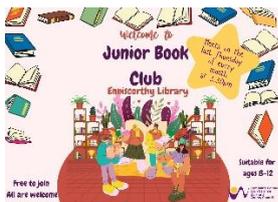
Free Play Lunar New Year Arts & Crafts, Saturday, February 21st @ 11.30am

Celebrate Lunar New Year at Enniscorthy Library with a free play arts and crafts! Drop in to create festive decorations, explore creativity and enjoy a fun, relaxing session marking this special time of the year.

All materials will be provided.

Suitable for children age 3+

No booking required



Junior Book Club, Thursday, February 26th @3.30pm

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

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

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

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

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

Please register here: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4508060>



Comic Club for Teens, Friday, February 27th @3.30pm

Love a good story told in both pictures and words? Want to meet like-minded people?

Join fellow comic book lovers for a discussion, board games and a chat.

If you are between the ages of 13 and 15 years, why not drop in and see for yourself! Take a friend with you.

The library is a relaxed environment where you will be able to chat and share views with no judgement, interesting conversation, and lots of chat & fun!

Please register here: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4508062>



Ireland Reads Story Time and Creation Station, Saturday, February 28th @11am

Join us in Enniscorthy Library for a special Ireland Reads Story Time and Creation Station.

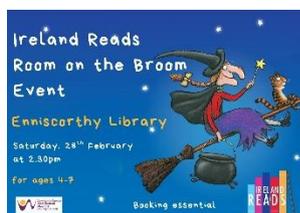
Perfect for 3-5 years old but fun for everyone!

Throughout February and especially on Ireland Reads Day, February 28th, we're calling on people across Ireland to get lost in a good book. It doesn't matter what you read, where you read or how well you read, as long as you read.

Because taking time to relax and do things you enjoy is important and reading is good for you. It relaxes your body by lowering your heart rate and easing the tension in your muscles. Studies have even shown that reading boosts your mental health by reducing stress by up to 68%. Ireland Reads is an initiative of the Government of Ireland to celebrate the joy of reading. It is funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by public libraries and many organisations that promote reading, literacy and the arts.

All you have to do is sit down for a read, for as long or as short a time as you can, and lose yourself in an adventure, a thriller, a romance, a comedy or all of the above.

All welcome and no booking required.



Ireland Reads Room on the Broom Event, Saturday, February 28th @2.30pm

Join us for a magical Ireland Reads celebration inspired by Julia Donaldson's book Room on the Broom. We'll be reading the beloved story together, then we'll set off on an exciting library scavenger hunt. Afterward, participants will create their very own wand with a fun craft activity and WOOSH we'll wrap the event with a movie screening.

This event is suitable for children aged 4-7.

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Booking essential.

Please register here: <https://wexfordcoco.libcal.com/event/4508279>

► New Ross Library Events



New Ross Library Rhymetime – Every Thursday, 11-11:30am

Join us in New Ross Library every Thursday at 11.00am for a fun-packed session with lots of stories, rhymes and songs!

Booking for this event is no longer required. A parent or guardian must stay for the duration of the event.

For more info or to book events, please telephone 051 421877 or book online at wexfordcoco.libcal.com.

► Gorey Library Events

Children's Storytime: Every Tuesday at 11am
Baby Rhyme Time: Every Thursday at 10:30am
LEGO Freeplay: Every Saturday from 10:30- 12:30
Saturday Sensory Hour: Every Saturday at 4pm
YA Unreal Bookclub: Thursday 19th at 4:30pm

Children/ Family Events



Graphic Novel Book Discussion (9-12)
Tuesday 10th February: 3:30-4pm



Valentines Day Creation Station
Saturday 14th February - All Day



Pancake prep Storytime and Craft
Friday 13th February 3:30-4:30pm



Lunar New Year: Year of the Horse Storytime and Craft
Tuesday 17th February 3:30-4:30pm



Bookworm Circle Book Discussion (9-12)
Tuesday 24th February 3:30-4:30pm



Gorey Book Clinic for children
Ireland Reads Day. Saturday 28th February from 10:30am

► Invitation to the Ukrainian Photo Exhibition in the Gorey Library

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
ANNUAL UKRAINIAN
PHOTO EXHIBITION &
COMMUNITY GATHERING



START AT
3:00 PM

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 26 TH

GOREY
LIBRARY

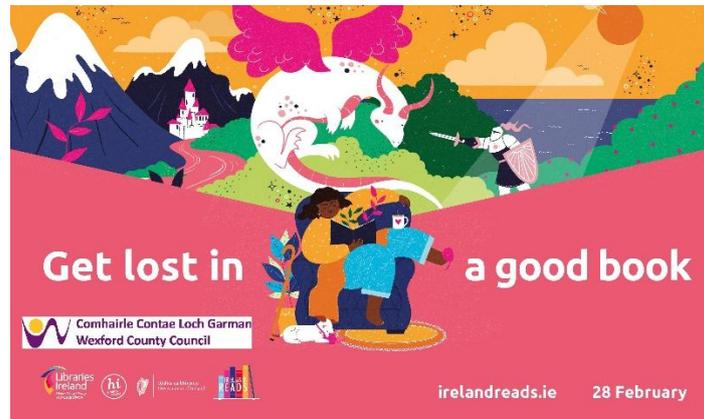
Join us for the second annual exhibition and community gathering, “Ireland – My Second Home”. Organised by Gorey Youth Needs Group in partnership with Wexford Local Development, this evening is a reflection on four years of life, resilience, and growth within the Ukrainian community in Gorey, and on the services and people who have supported this journey along the way.

Find More Information:

✉ marii.kolomiiets@gyng.ie

☎ 0894914493

► Ireland Reads 2026: ‘Get Lost in a Good Book’



Ireland Reads 2026 takes place on Saturday, 28 February. This national campaign, led by Libraries Ireland as part of Healthy Ireland, encourages everyone to “Get Lost in a Good Book.”

Ireland Reads is the national campaign to promote reading as a beneficial, accessible, and enjoyable activity for all, supporting wellbeing, sparking creativity, and connecting people. It is a campaign that highlights the role of libraries in supporting literacy, wellbeing, and community connection.

Libraries across Ireland will promote their services, host events and share book recommendations to help people rediscover the joy of reading.

Our library will play a key role in promoting reading as a powerful tool for wellbeing, creativity, and connection.

Here’s how you can help:

- Follow our social media and online activity and share our campaign messaging on your social media channels using #IrelandReads and #TellMeToGetLost.
- Highlight our events and book recommendations in branch and online.
- Encourage people to visit the local library as part of the Ireland Reads campaign.
- Participating in Ireland Reads events.

For those of you interested in actively promoting the campaign, bilingual social media video assets with template messaging are available.

Through Ireland Reads, we promote the benefits of reading and library services, encouraging library visits, people to take the opportunity to borrow reading material from a library, and to engage with library programmes. The campaign aims to increase awareness and visibility of our librarians, people in our communities who are friendly, approachable and knowledgeable in providing reading recommendations.

Thank you for helping us make Ireland Reads 2026 a success!

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

► Public Consultation on the National Policy Framework for Alternative Care



Today the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley, is launching a [public consultation](#) for the National Policy Framework on Alternative Care, which will run from the **6th of February 2026 to the 12th of March 2026**.

The views of members of the public, stakeholders, key workers and carers, and people with care experience will support the development of the National Policy Framework. Consequently, the Department would appreciate if you might share the details of this public consultation with your networks where appropriate.

The public consultation primarily seeks input through an online survey. Alternatively, people may share their views by submitting a completed template via email or post. Respondents are asked not include any personal data or special category personal data in their responses.

Persons aged under 18 may only respond via the email or postal options, as this will enable to the Department to consider and action any safeguarding issues that arise on account of their submissions.

Details on how to participate are set out on the [public consultation webpage](#).

This call for input is part of a broader process of consultation with children, young people, families, stakeholders and sectoral experts. Responses to the public consultation will be reviewed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality to inform the design and development of Ireland's first National Policy Framework for Alternative Care.

The National Policy Framework will aim to articulate a future and Whole of Government vision of alternative care in Ireland and will also deliver on a Programme for Government commitment in this regard.

LITERACY

► Wexford Library's new Reading Circle

Wexford Library Reading Circle



Is English your first language?

Would you like to:

- improve your reading skills?
- build confidence?
- read short stories and short pieces from books?
- and begin to read for enjoyment?

Then, Join Emilie for our friendly and relaxed Reading Circle

Where? Wexford Library

When? Tuesdays 7:00pm–8:00pm

- 3 February
- 17 February
- 3 March
- 31 March
- 14 April



Do you work with people in your community who might enjoy or benefit from **Wexford Library's new Reading Circle**?

We would really appreciate your help in sharing information about this new Reading Circle with your network. Please see the poster below and attached and help us to promote it.

Wexford Library Service now has four Reading Circles across the county, supporting people with unmet literacy and language needs.

Please note: **this new reading circle is for people whose first language is English.**

When and where

The new Reading Circle will meet in Wexford Library on the following dates:

- Tuesday, 17 February 2026 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
- Tuesday, 3 March 2026 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
- Tuesday, 31 March 2026 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm
- Tuesday, 14 April 2026 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm

The Reading Circle is a friendly and relaxed group where people will

- improve their reading skills
- build confidence
- read short texts, short stories and extracts from books
- and begin to read for enjoyment

Everyone is welcome, including

- people who are not confident readers
- people who are doing, or have completed, an Adult Literacy course
- people who are not currently library members

How to book a place

Please support individuals to book a place:

- **online:** [Wexford Library Reading Circle - LibCal Study Seat Booking and Events - Wexford County Council Public Library Service](#)
- **by telephone:** 053 919 6760

You can also:

- pass on Emilie's contact details to potential participants: Tel: 053 919 6760
- contact Emilie directly to arrange a visit, where **she can come and talk about the Reading Circle in person with your group** - Email: emilie.jost@wexfordcoco.ie

Wexford Library Service Adult Reading Circles



Are you new to reading?

Join one of our adult reading circles this February

Wexford Library Adult Reading Circle



Is English your first language?
Join Emilie to improve your confidence.

When: First and third Tuesdays of the month
Time: 7pm to 8pm
Phone: Emilie at 053 919 6760

Wexford Library Read and Chat Group



Join Emilie for the Read and Chat group where you will improve your English reading and speaking skills.

When: Second and last Tuesdays of the month
Time: 7pm to 8pm
Phone: Emilie at 053 919 6760

Free booking to all Adult Reading Circles at:
<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/whats-on-in-my-library>



Wexford Library Service Adult Reading Circles



Are you new to reading?

Join one of our adult reading circles this February

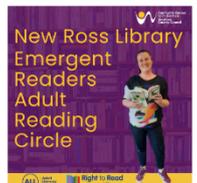
Gorey Library Short Story Reading Club



Join Mary to find the joy of reading.

When: Third Tuesday of every month
Time: 7pm to 8pm
Phone: Mary at 053 948 3820

New Ross Library Emergent Readers Adult Reading Circle:



Join Lucija and start reading together.
Perfect English not needed.

When: Second and fourth Thursdays of every month
Time: 3pm to 4pm
Phone: Lucija at 051 421 877

Free booking to all Adult Reading Circles at:
<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/libraries/whats-on-in-my-library>



► NALA's new reading, writing and spelling workbooks



wwetb
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman
Waterford and Wexford
Education and Training Board



**Adult
Literacy
for Life**

NALA's new reading, writing and spelling workbooks

- If you are working with adults who have unmet literacy or English language needs, you may find these resources useful.

NALA has four new Level 1 to 2 literacy workbooks for Adult literacy and ESOL learners:

- [Health and well-being - NALA](#)
- [Clothes and the weather - NALA](#)
- [Places in the town - NALA](#)
- [Free time activities - NALA](#)

The workbooks are for any adult who wants to improve their reading and writing skills at Level 1 to 2.

You can [order copies of the workbooks for free](#) or you can [download PDF versions](#) from our website.

You can learn new words and practice how to use them in sentences. Exercises in the workbooks help you practice reading, writing, and spelling skills. You can use the workbooks on their own or with the support of a tutor.

Please visit the [Adult Literacy for Life Workplace Calendar Resource here](#).

► Family Literacy



wwetb
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman
Waterford and Wexford
Education and Training Board



**Adult
Literacy
for Life**

#FamilyLiteracy

Hello everyone,

We are delighted to share with you the poster and link for the 2026 Family Literacy Community of Practice (FL CoP).

Please circulate to any of your networks who work with families and parents.

[Family Literacy Community of Practice – Fill in form](#)

NALA National Adult Literacy Agency | **SETU** South East Technological University | **ALL** Adult Literacy for Life

Family Literacy Community of Practice

Collaboration
Adult Literacy for Life (ALL), SETU and NALA have collaborated under the guidance and direction of Dr. Lána McCarthy, SETU, to develop a Family Literacy Community of Practice (FL CoP). The FL CoP will meet four times during 2026.

Who can attend?
The Family Literacy Community of Practice is open to all, family literacy practitioners, HSCLs, teachers, community organisations - anyone who has an interest in Family Literacy

Topic
Supporting practitioners to empower parents to protect children online
Lána will be joined by Jane McGarrigle, National Coordinator, Webwise

Next session
Wednesday 4 March 2026
1.15pm to 2.15pm
via Teams

Register here →