



Healthy Cities and Counties



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The Healthy Cities programme is a global World Health Organization (WHO) movement, set up initially in 1987 with eleven individual cities. The concept is based on the importance of local action and the key role of local governments and Local Authorities in health and sustainable development.

As the WHO Healthy Cities programme expanded, National Networks were established. National Networks connect and support all cities and counties within their country. Today, there are accredited National Networks in 20 countries in the WHO European Region, bringing together more than 1,100 cities, counties and towns. The National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network received accreditation from the WHO in 2016.

Healthy Cities and Counties approach to health and wellbeing

The Healthy Cities and Counties approach to health and wellbeing recognises the need to work in collaboration across public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations. Many factors affect our health – where we live, our environment, our genetics, our income and education level, our relationship with friends and family. These factors ('determinants of health') are often outside the direct influence of health and social services.

The Healthy Cities and Counties way of working and thinking includes involving local people in decision-making, requires political commitment, and focuses on organisational and community development.

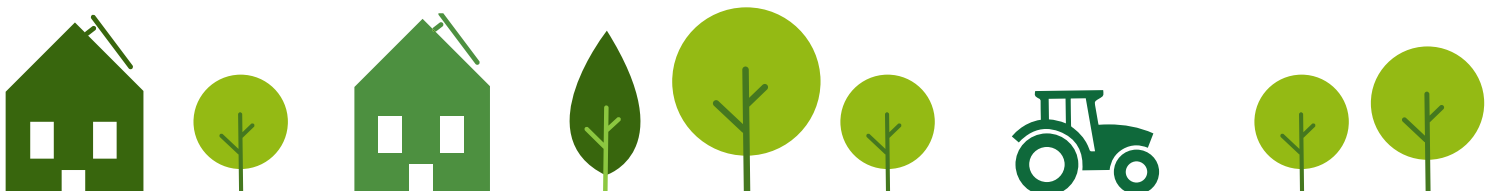
Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland, *A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025*, was launched in March 2013. It is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of the country over the coming generation. Healthy Ireland takes a 'whole of government' and 'whole of society' approach to tackling the major lifestyle issues which lead to negative health outcomes. The Healthy Ireland Framework aims to shift the focus to prevention, seeks to reduce health inequalities, and emphasises the need to empower people and communities to better look after their own health and wellbeing.

The vision of Healthy Ireland is an Ireland where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility.

A key focus of Healthy Ireland is on building relationships and strengthening partnerships with other Government Departments, Local Authorities, the education sector, and with the wider business, voluntary and community sectors. Structures supporting the work include a Cross Sectoral Group comprising senior officials from Government Departments and key agencies; and a Healthy Ireland Council comprising representation from a wide range of stakeholder sectors.

The approach taken in Healthy Ireland draws on the WHO Health 2020, the European health policy framework, and on Health in all Policies.



Local Authorities

Local Authorities have a significant role in protecting and promoting their citizens' health and wellbeing. Under the Local Government Reform Act (2014), as set out in Putting People First, each Local Authority has set up a Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to develop a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The purpose of the LCDC is to promote and support the economic, local and community development through greater integration in the planning of and delivery of local and community development services and interventions.

Working with a range of organisations and groups, the LCDCs are ideally placed to support and implement Healthy Ireland at the local level in response to local people's needs. LCDCs are key partners in realising a Healthy Ireland, and play a lead role in the development of the National Healthy Cities and Counties Network of Ireland.

The National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network

Under the guidance of National Policy, and working in collaboration with Government Departments and existing agencies, the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network aims to:

- work with and provide supports to LCDCs to progress the health and wellbeing elements and actions of their LECPs;
- provide a forum for exchanging views and encouraging best practice in promoting health and wellbeing;
- highlight issues impacting on health and wellbeing, and seek to influence national policy; and
- provide a representative voice for Ireland within the WHO Network of European National Healthy Cities Networks.

National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Committee

The National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network Committee has representatives from Government Departments, including the Department of Health and Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, the HSE, the Institute of Public Health, the Federation of Irish Sport and local political and community representatives. Minister of State for Health Promotion, Ms Marcella Corcoran Kennedy, T.D., is a member of the Committee. In addition there are representatives from accredited cities and counties of the National Network.

Joining the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network

Local Authorities, through their LCDC, can apply to join the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network using WHO criteria that are based on the European health policy framework - Health 2020. These criteria set an international standard.

To register your interest, or for further information on the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network, please contact:

Fiona Donovan
National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland
Network Coordinator
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Steps to join the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network



Step 1

Register your interest
www.healthyireland.ie/about/cities-and-counties



Step 2

Complete Healthy Cities and Counties Application

Essential elements to be included in the application:

- Demonstrate the connection with Local Community & Economic Committee (LCDC) incl. political and Council support
- Establish a multi-stakeholder sub group of LCDC
- Identify key contact person(s)
- Provide description and analysis of the local area (City or County)
- Identify key area(s) annually to focus on to improve health and wellbeing.

Approach taken needs to support and connect relevant actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), and other local strategies and plans



Step 3

Application Review by National Healthy Cities and Counties Committee



Step 4

Healthy City or County Accreditation to National Network



Step 5

Implementation of Healthy Ireland at a local level

www.healthyireland.ie/about/cities-and-counties

 @HealthyIreland #healthycities #healthycounties