Minutes of the Domestic & Gender Based Violence Working Group

Date:	**2nd March 2026**
Time:	**12-1pm**
Venue:	**Block A 1st Floor Meeting Room Wexford County Council.**
Minute Taker	**Denise Kehoe, Asst. Staff Officer, Community Dept.**
Attendance	**Cllr Aoife Rose O'Brien (co-chair), Clare Williams Chief Exe. Wexford Rape Crisis Centre (co-chair), Avril O'Sullivan, Chomhairle Na nÓg, Detective Inspector Paraic Roberts, An Garda Síochána, Brian McDonald, LCSP Administrator, Denise Kehoe, Asst. Staff Officer.**
Quorum:	**YES**
Apologies:	**Cllr Mary Farrell, Ann Lacey, Supt. David O'Sullivan.**

1. **Welcome and approval of minutes**

   Cllr O'Brien opened the meeting and proposed that the Group set a goal to be achieved in the next 12 months which would link into the overall goals of the Wex Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP).

   Clare provided an overview of the work of the Wexford Rape Crisis Centre. The referrals to the centre have tripled in the last 6 years. The WRC Centre is currently creating a strategic plan which will include, among other things, the extension of outreach centres to New Ross, followed by Gorey and Enniscorthy.

2. **The following issues were discussed:**

   - The provision of adolescent counselling services in New Ross. Raising awareness of counselling services in New Ross will be proposed as a key aim of the strategic plan.

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- Increasing engagement of young people in counselling services generally.
- Housing for victims of domestic violence and getting data on the number of tenants who left local authority housing for this reason.
- Offences being reported to the Gardaí in New Ross.
- Importance of local supports for victims to facilitate engagement with services.
- Need for increased work in education of young people on Internet Safety.
- Engagement of adolescents in the LCSP survey.
- How to engage hard-to-reach groups in the community with support services.

3. **Agreed actions:**

    1. Padraic Roberts will organise a meeting between Sergeants in the New Ross Garda station and Clare so that Gardaí going out to calls have information on the services provided by the Wexford Rape Crisis Centre.
    2. Padraic will get statistics on domestic & gender-based violence offences being reported to the gardaí in County Wexford and break them down by Municipal Districts.
    3. Clare will provide statistics of the work of the WRC Centre in 2025.

4. A.O.B.

No items.

5. Next Meeting

Date	18th May 2026
Time	12-1pm
Venue	To be confirmed
Co. Chair	signed
Wex LCSP Administrator **Brian McDonald**	signed

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