



LDC Name	Bray Area Partnership
Lot number	15-1
Title of Case Study	From Home to Home Engaging Ukrainian Refugees in Bray and North Wicklow
Thematic Area	Engagement Strategies with SICAP Target Groups
Target Group	New Communities
Annual Plan Actions	G1.3 Building Healthy Communities G2.5 Supporting New Communities



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The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027.

Context:

The Bray and North Wicklow area is home to over 1,000 Ukrainian Refugees seeking shelter in Ireland since the war broke out in Ukraine in February 2022 with 768 living in emergency accommodation centres (August 2023). Bray Area Partnership has responded to the needs of Ukrainians living in the community by providing individual one to one support and establishing the Ukrainian Community Centre for Bray and North Wicklow in July 2022.

In June 2023, the Centre celebrated one year of opening and was officially launched by Minister Joe O’Brien. The event captured Ukrainian culture through singing, dancing, food and a community-based art project with children. Children created a drawing in the shape of their own region of Ukraine depicting their personal experience in Ireland and illustrating their first year in Ireland and their journey from a home in Ukraine to finding a new one here in Ireland.

There were up to 200 people in attendance at the event from our Ukrainian community and a wide range of stakeholders representing all area in our communities, from local schools, Public Representative, HSE, Tusla, Family Resource Centres, Local Authority etc. This demonstrates SICAPs extensive engagement and positive collaboration in working with a variety of community/ voluntary/ statutory agencies to effectively work together to support the needs of Ukrainian community living in Bray and North Wicklow.

Responding to Locally Identified Needs:

Development work undertaken by SICAP workers identified a number of needs and issues including; early intervention supports for children and families, English language, social, recreational, educational, employment and self-employment supports along with opportunities for the Ukrainian community to gather and celebrate Ukrainian culture while also providing opportunities for integration with the host community. The need for a central venue for the Ukrainian community to provides a safe space for people to avail of information, advice and support from SICAP Development Workers and participate in a variety of programmes was identified in addition to outreach to Emergency Accommodation Centres.



Ukrainian Community Centre Bray & North Wicklow Launch June 2023

Actions and Interventions:

A number of actions were delivered through SICAP and in many instances in collaboration with LCGs and statutory agencies. Some of these actions include:

Activity	Female	Male	Children Female	Children Male
Eyelash / Eyebrow Technician (Feb 2023)	13			
Failte Isteach (Coolnagreine) (Jan-Mar 2023)	25	3		
Failte Isteach (Coolnagreine) (Apr-Jun 2023)	24	3		
Failte Isteach (UCC) (Jan-Mar 2023)	24	8		
Failte Isteach (UCC) (Apr-Jun 2023)	49	12		
Lady Dance (Mar-Jun 2023)	12			
Manual Handling (May 2023)	21	17		
Safepass (Mar 2023)	1	15		
Psychological Group (Feb-Mar 2023)	5			
Psychological Group (May-Jun 2023)	6			
Singlish	12	2		
Kids Club Cool Kids Coolnagreine (Mar-Jun 2023)	16		5	11
Kids Club Cool Kids UCC (Mar-Jun 2023)	22	8	15	17
Plast Kids UCC (Apr-Jun 2023)	7		3	4
Easter Prep Event	7		3	4
School Coffee Mornings	15	1		
Vshyvanka Day	14		5	3
Commemoration Walk (Feb 2023)	110	30		
Independence Day (Aug 2023)	55	10		
Summer Camp 2023	51	7	33	25
Summer Family Day (Aug 2023)	40	9	28	20
Child Speech Therapy (Aug 2023)	12	2	9	5
English for Dummies Summer Project	8	2		
	549	126	101	89

- Early Intervention/Family support: SICAP Ukrainian Support Team engaged with SPECS, HSE Clinical Psychology and Community Public Health Nurses to signpost accordingly for parental supports, parenting programmes, psychological interventions and developmental checks for children. Having initially coordinated the placement of children from Ukraine in local schools in 2022, SICAP team worked with local schools to facilitate coffee mornings for parents aimed at enhancing parental engagement and improving communication between school and families.
- Parent and toddler groups: SICAP worked with Wicklow County Childcare Committee to set-up Parent & Toddler Group operating twice weekly in the Ukrainian Community Centre.
- SICAP support staff also collaborated with Music Generation Wicklow to provide music therapy for babies and toddlers.



Early intervention and Family Support Activity

- English language classes: In addition to the regular Failte Isteach classes with new communities in multiple sites in Bray and Greystones, SICAP staff have expanded provision to a further two English Classes in the Ukrainian Community Centre on Monday and Thursday afternoon; and one class on Tuesday evening in Coolnagreine.
- Recreational Supports: BAP received funding from Healthy Ireland (Health and Wellbeing Supports for Ukrainian Refugees) matching resources from SICAP. One of the activities funded through this action was a 10-week Lady Dance course, and 10 week Yoga Programme.
- Coffee mornings/drop in: SICAP held weekly drop-in Coffee morning at the Ukrainian Community Centre and later in 2023 within our Resource Room, whereby Ukrainian's who have recently arrived and those already living in the area could avail of support from the SICAP team. The SICAP team worked with individuals to support with translation of documents/forms, Intreo and HSE engagement, information about education and training progression opportunities and sign posting to statutory services.

- A wide range social, recreational and educational programmes were delivered in the Ukrainian Community Centre through the SICAP Programme including; Emotional Resilience Programme: Singlish classes; Psychological/well-being groups;



Fáilte Isteach Conversational English Classes

- Summer Projects for children: The SICAP team collaborated with Tusla and Greystones Family Resource Centre to fund and deliver a three-week Summer Project at our Ukrainian Community Centre during July and August. During the three weeks there was a buzz of excitement with art, sport, dance, fun quests, popcorn and movies etc.
- The need for industry certified training was identified by the SICAP team when working with individuals developing Personal Action Plans and identifying training needs. A number of training programmes were delivered to individuals through SICAP including; Safepass and Manual Handling, Brow Design / Eyelash Extension industry certified training and Considering Self-Employment Workshops. The celebration of Ukrainian cultural events and commemoration of important festivals/dates along with Irish customs and celebrations has been at the heart of the work to foster community integration and cohesion
- BAP worked with a Local Community Group, Bray for love to promote activities that would foster closer integration with the host community. The community development work undertaken through SICAP has encouraged positive opportunities to promote cohesion such as Bray for Love Street Fest Day in June for all communities to come together.

Challenges and Lessons learnt:

- Language was a significant barrier to engagement. The employment of Ukrainian speaking SICAP Development Workers has been critical to the delivery of services to Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection under SICAP.
- The demand for Fáilte Isteach English language classes far outweighs our capacity to deliver with 7 sites in the local community dependent on a pool of highly committed volunteers with a more formal enrolment and waiting list approach adopted for allocation of places. The programme also works closely with KWETB for referrals into English language
- Communication and collaboration with IPAS and Local Authority in terms of what type of supports they can provide to residents in Provision Centres is important e.g. general works to improve living conditions; cooking facilities; conflict management; mixed hostel living. SICAP Ukrainian Support Staff receive many queries on a weekly basis in relation to their

accommodation; and it is difficult to understand who can make positive change in this regard for the Ukrainian's living in the provision centres.

- Appropriate school placement remains an issue especially for children and young people with special needs as they navigate a health system that is new to them and gain an understanding of the Irish system of assessments and support.
- The large number of Beneficiaries of international Protection (BOTP) and International Protection Applicants (IPA's) living in the Bray and Greystones areas and associated allocation of premises for emergency accommodation has led to occasional anti-migration action in the area. Local community work undertaken through SICAP continues to affirm positive and solidarity-based values in fostering integration.



Bray for Love Street Fest Day July 2023

Concluding Comments:

- The Ukrainian Community Centre and actions delivered to Ukrainian population across Goals 1 and 2 could not operate without human resourcing made available through the SICAP Programme Development Team and the employment of Ukrainian speaking support staff which was made possible with additional funding from SICAP in 2022 and 2023.
- It was fortunate that a local community hall located centrally in the Bray area was made available by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church to Bray Area Partnership to provide supports and services to the Ukrainian community.
- Locating all services delivered to Ukrainian refugees under SICAP in the Ukrainian Community Centre and Ukrainian Resource Room has meant that there is a full timetable of activities for people to participate in through out the week. The Ukrainian Community

Centre has a strong identity associated with the Ukrainian community and this has been really important in fostering a sense of belonging in the community as well as acting as a hub for people to access immediately on arrival into the Bray and Greystones areas.

- The location of the centre is good with the majority of Ukrainian refugees located in the Bray area. However, transport and access to services remains an issue for some Ukrainians living in more rural areas. SICAP Development Workers provide outreach to emergency accommodation centres in these areas.
- Supporting school placements and providing family support to children and parents attending local primary and secondary schools is supported through our SICAP Development team staff. They have coordinated school placements for children arriving into the area in 2022 and now work with KWETB REALT Coordinator to support school placements for new arrivals. The SICAP Development Workers also work with local primary and secondary schools to provide opportunities for parental engagement with the school.
- Collaboration with other agencies to deliver early intervention actions with Ukrainian community has been very effective with successful interagency delivery taking place with Wicklow County Childcare committee for parent and toddler groups, out of school and holiday activities for children and young people through Tusla and health and well-being supports through Wicklow County Council Healthy Ireland programme.
- Failte Isteach / Conversational English Language Support delivered with the support of local volunteers has been very effective not only in terms of providing conversational English language support but also in offering opportunities to meet with people from the Bray and Greystones communities and encourage integration opportunities (FI students and FI Volunteer)



Commemoration Day February 2023



Arts and Crafts Group