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The Social Inclusion of Older People at Local Level. Profiles of CDBs' Activities Addressing Older People

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The Social Inclusion of Older People at Local Level

Profiles of CDBs' Activities Addressing Older People

Sarah Delaney, Kevin Cullen and Petrina Duff
Work Research Centre

A companion resource to *The Social Inclusion of Older People at Local Level: The Role and Contribution of CDBs*

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1. Carlow

Within Carlow's CDB strategy, *A Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of County Carlow 2002-2012*, a strategy for older people is included under the health and well-being theme: to enhance the health and well-being of older people in Co. Carlow, by providing the supports necessary to live full and active lives. Ten social actions are outlined under this objective.

Table 1.1: Actions under the strategic objective for older people, health and well-being theme

Actions
Establish, support and maintain an older people's network
Develop and put forward a long-term plan for the future development of activities and services for older people, taking into account the increasing elderly population
Provide transport for senior citizens so that they can access public services; link with Rural Transport Initiative, Finestra Study and Audit of Rural Transport
Develop a range of programmes to meet the social and recreational needs of older people in partnership with local communities
Develop appropriate methods of involving marginalised older people in programmes, especially those aged 65 and over living alone in both urban and rural areas
Provide appropriate sheltered housing for older people so that they can live independently and identify land suitable for these developments
Create opportunities where young and older people can meet and mingle in their own community, by organising intergenerational activities at community level
Provide preparation for retirement courses throughout the county and outline opportunities for voluntary activity/part-time work for retired people
Investigate the best method of researching the extent of elder abuse and neglect in Co. Carlow and identify models of best practice which could respond to needs identified
Seek funding to employ a development worker to develop appropriate responses to work with older people

A strategic objective for older people was also included under the education theme: to outreach education and training opportunities to older people thereby enhancing the quality of their lives. Seven social actions are outlined under this objective.

Table 1.2: Actions under the strategic objective for older people, education theme

Actions
Develop an older people's network in the county to identify the needs of older people and to develop appropriate responses to these needs
Outreach information and training to all in rural areas, specifically target older people for inclusion in community classes
Develop and pilot a number of taster training programme in community facilities throughout the county for older people
Explore the possibility of establishing a degree course specifically for older people to meet new emerging needs in today's society
Investigate the potential for a pilot initiative between the library and older people to promote the library as a valuable resource in the community, and develop and implement an action plan
Develop and implement a programme under the Volunteer Resource Centre to recruit older people as volunteers to assist with community projects
Develop good practice guidelines on the prevention of age discrimination for mainstream service providers and promote these guidelines to service providers for implementation within their organisations

Older people are also identified as a direct target group in the strategy as summarised in Table 1.3.

Table 1.3: Other actions for older people in the Carlow strategy

Theme	Objective	Action(s)
Health and well-being	To encourage people to adopt a healthy lifestyle and to engage in a wide variety of leisure activities	Research the needs of older people re physical activity; identify models of good practice and implement a programme of activities based on the needs identified
	To enhance the well-being of people with disabilities in Co. Carlow, by ensuring that they have access to quality health services and to the support necessary for independent living	Ensure that all future housing schemes planned for the elderly are disability-friendly
		Assess the need for additional day care services for people with disabilities and older people; develop and implement a plan of action based on the needs identified.
		Develop a five-year plan to look at the area of retirement services for older people with disabilities
Community development	To enhance and improve the capacity of the community and voluntary sector in Co. Carlow to reach their full potential	Develop and pilot an integrated training programme for older and younger people to reduce age barriers within the community
Agriculture	To ensure that a coordinated, accessible rural transport service is provided in Co. Carlow	Develop a holistic rural transport service designed to meet the needs identified, including transport for the elderly to access services
Gender equality	To create awareness and disseminate information across all sectors on gender equality	Research the issues specifically affecting men and in particular older men living alone and investigate how family breakdowns are affecting men and children. Develop and implement a plan of action based on needs identified
		Provide additional supports to encourage younger mothers, older women, rural women and women in poverty so that they can participate in ICT training

Other themes include older people as a target group in what are described as ‘catch-all’ actions, e.g., older people would be considered a significant target group in relation to actions to improve access to quality health services for the people of Co. Carlow under the health and well-being theme, although they are not specifically mentioned.

2. Cavan

Older people are not mentioned specifically under the strategic objectives of any of the key themes in the CDB *Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of County Cavan*. However, older people are mentioned under certain actions and form a distinct target group for health and care objectives (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Direct actions for older people, social development theme

Theme	Objective	Action(s)
Social development	To ensure that the county is a safe and secure place in which to live and work	Provide socially monitored alarms for all vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, those discharged from hospital and those with disabilities
	To ensure that all people in the county have access to an effective, efficient and sustainable means of transport	Lobby for the extension of free bus passes to all private transport ventures including hackney vehicles
	To provide a quality, accessible and person-centred health and social care service to all people in Co. Cavan	Services for the elderly: Continue to support community groups in the provision of support services, such as shopping, visiting and transport
	To ensure equality of opportunity for all to access employment, such as those with disabilities, the long-term unemployed and those that are poor, in such a way as to generate an adequate level of income for everyone	Continue to develop and implement innovative projects for disadvantaged women and women over 50 years old, in line with the NDP

3. Clare

The Clare CDB strategy, *Shaping the Future: Integrated Strategy for the Social, Economic and Cultural Development of County Clare*, is structured slightly differently from the previous two CDB strategies outlined. It sets out its themes and under each theme there is one strategic aim followed by a number of objectives. It then sets out the specific actions. Under the health and social services theme, one objective is dedicated to older people: to ensure that all elderly persons in Clare have access to a range of services that meet their social and health needs. Six actions are outlined under this objective (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Direct actions under the strategic objective for older people in the Clare strategy

Actions
Increase the provision of the following services as part of the community care plan with specific focus on the needs of the elderly:
– public health nursing
– GP services
– home help services
– paramedical
– social work services
– day care services.
Provide a range of support to carers
Develop an accessible transport programme for the elderly
Develop affordable and appropriate residential care options
Develop networks for the elderly
Promote mutual understanding between older and young people through joint activities and examples of good practice

Other objectives also list actions that directly address older people. Table 3.2 lists all actions under the various themes and objectives that directly address older people.

Table 3.2: Other direct actions for older people in the Clare strategy

Theme	Strategic aim	Objective	Action(s)
Equality, poverty reduction and community development	To combat poverty, tackle inequality, promote community development, eliminate social exclusion and promote and attain an inclusive society in Co. Clare	Ensure equality of access for all to public services including the elderly and persons with disabilities	Identify requirements of persons with disabilities and elderly persons to ensure equal access to public services in Co. Clare
Health and social services	The development and coordination of quality health and social services in the county with equality of access for all	Provide a community care service that empowers people to remain in their community, regardless of where they live through developing a comprehensive primary care service in line with the recommendations of the National Health Strategy	Develop an integrated Community Care Plan for Clare focusing on the healthcare needs of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the elderly – persons with learning disabilities – persons with physical disabilities – children – minority groups – sufferers from mental illness

			– ethnic minority groups
		Support and encourage the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle	Develop an integrated programme to promote a healthy lifestyle by building upon existing strategies with respect to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – mental health – elderly care – child health – health promotion programmes
Infrastructure, planning, spatial development and the environment	To ensure that all policies relating to planning, infrastructure and the environment are sustainable and that they contribute to the optimal welfare of the people of Co. Clare	Provide accessible and efficient public transport in all parts of Co. Clare via improved road and rail infrastructure	Meet the needs of persons with disabilities and the elderly
			Ensure the maximum number of vehicles for licensed public hire are accessible to the elderly and persons with disabilities
			Grants to support the provision in areas where there is lack of services

Objective three under the improving access to social welfare theme has one action to put in place a coordinated programme to maximise the dissemination of information on benefits and entitlements in all parts of the county. Although this action does not specifically mention older people, they are considered a target group.

4. Cork City

The Cork City CDB strategy, *Imagine Our Future: Integrated Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development*, sets out 26 strategic issues, one of which is the older population. These 26 issues are then condensed to form seven strategic themes with a set of goals, objective and actions to achieve each.

With regard to older people, the strategy states that “Cork will be a city in which the full range of older people’s needs, including their social, psychological and developmental needs, will be met”. To achieve this, four distinct objectives are set out with 21 actions outlined to achieve these objectives (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1: Objectives and actions for older people

Objectives	Actions
Cork will be a city in which older people feel safe	Community Gardaí will visit older people’s groups to discuss safety and security issues
	Fall prevention training and initiatives targeting older people in the community will be coordinated
	Fire prevention training initiatives targeting older people in the community will be coordinated
	A scheme assisting older people with home security will be continued
Public service providers will ensure that services are accessible by older people	Improve availability of information on entitlements to older people and provide assistance in the completion of forms when requested
	Awareness training on the needs of older people will be given to relevant people working in public agencies
	In preparing the new City Development Plan, appropriate policies and development control standards will be considered, which will promote all new developments to take account of the specific access requirements and needs of older people
	Older people will be consulted in the design of services aimed at them
Older people will have access to a wide range of social, education and training opportunities	There will be an audit on the needs of older people’s groups
	A pilot programme will be developed using art forms to promote the creativity and self-esteem of older people
	A room will be made available in libraries that will act as a meeting place for older people
	Information technology training will be developed for older people
	Older people will be encouraged to participate in education and training courses
	Community buses will be made available to older people to enable them to participate in social activities
	Lobby Dept of Education and Science to include visiting older people in their homes as part of Transition Year curriculum
Initiatives to promote healthy lifestyles among older people will be developed and implemented	Smoking cessation programmes targeting older people will be provided
	Training courses on Nutrition for Older People will be provided for health professionals working within the community
	Nutrition training will be provided for voluntary groups preparing community meals (meals-on-wheels), home helps and carers
	‘Being well’ courses will be delivered to older people’s groups in the community
	Lobby for the review of the regulations concerning nursing homes, taking account of the social and psychological needs of older people
	New streamlined procedures and structures for access to aids and appliances will be implemented

Older people are also identified as a target group in an action under Cork’s Image theme (Table 4.2).

Table 4.2: Other direct actions for older people in the Cork City strategy

Objective	Action
Public convenience facilities will be improved and expanded	Public conveniences will be available on a 24-hour basis at key locations throughout the city, suitable for use by people with disabilities, older people and children

5. Cork County

The Co. Cork CDB strategy, *Integrated Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of County Cork 2002-2011*, is framed around four key themes: infrastructure; balanced and sustainable development; quality of life; and education and training. Each of the key themes has a number of sub-themes, each of which have a number of goals, objectives and subsequent actions. Actions for older people were evident under two out of the four key themes (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1: Direct actions for older people in the Co. Cork strategy

Theme	Goals	Objectives	Actions
Infrastructure: public transport policy	To upgrade provision, increase usage and access to public transport	To provide effective rural transport	Pilot new transport initiatives with regard to the specific needs of people with disabilities, the elderly and young people
Quality of life: housing	To enable the people of Cork, now and in the future, to have a place to live, suited to their needs, at a price they can afford	To provide a diverse range of housing	Support the development of housing for people with special housing needs, e.g., the homeless, Travellers, people with disabilities, the elderly and refugees/ asylum seekers
Quality of life: social inclusion /equality and community empowerment	To address social deprivation in Co. Cork. To strive towards an inclusive society for all persons in Co. Cork. To raise awareness and improve access for all citizens	To assist the most vulnerable groupings by ensuring they become the beneficiaries of specific actions	Provide equal access through provision of childcare/elderly care for marginalised groups/ volunteers

6. Donegal

The Donegal CDB strategy, *An Straitéis. Donegal County Strategy 2002-2012*, sets out an overall vision statement for the county and objectives which are divided according to three development sectors: the productive sector; the human resources, culture and social inclusion sector; and the social and economic infrastructure. Each sector incorporates a set of sub-sectors, for each of which a vision statement is included. Each vision statement has a number of goals and for each goal, there are a number of objectives. The direct actions for older people are set out in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Direct actions for older people in the Donegal strategy

Sector	Sub-sector	Vision	Goal	Objectives
Human resources, culture and social inclusion	Social inclusion	A community where those who are socially excluded, or at risk of experiencing social exclusion, have equality of opportunity, participation and outcomes	To work towards the inclusion of all those who are experiencing, or who are at risk of experiencing, social exclusion, in all aspects of social, cultural, political and economic life	To identify and implement a number of key actions for target groups, such as the homeless, women, early school leavers, Travellers, young people at risk and the elderly, at local and county level
	Sport	A well-developed and supported sport, recreation and leisure sector in Donegal, which is inclusive, accessible and enhances the lives of all	To remove barriers to participation in sports, recreation and leisure activities	To broaden non-competitive participation by increasing the range of sport and leisure activities available to target groups, such as early school leavers, Travellers, the elderly, etc.
Social and economic infrastructure	Housing	Where housing, accommodation and associated infrastructure provision for all people in Donegal is appropriate, sustainable and adaptable	To ensure that suitable /appropriate/affordable housing is available for people who wish to live permanently in Donegal	To ensure that adequate grant aid is available and promoted in relation to housing for target groups, e.g., people with disabilities, the elderly, Travellers, etc.
				To support and develop shared housing or accommodation in response to the needs of specific groups; to enable persons such as Travellers, the elderly, those with disabilities and the homeless to live independently but with necessary support

Older people are not mentioned specifically at the higher levels (i.e., vision or goal level), but are mentioned within certain objectives.

7. Dublin City

The Dublin City CDB strategy, *Dublin: A City of Possibilities 2002-2012*, is structured along key themes, subsequent strategic objectives and a set of priority actions for each strategic objective. Under the theme a family friendly city, the strategic objective on inclusive support and facilities to “increase the range of, access to and viability of services and supports for young people, children, older adults, carers and dependants”, outlines two priority actions specifically addressing older people (Table 7.1).

Table 7.1: Direct actions for older people, a family friendly city theme

Actions
Provide new and alternative care services to replace the decrease in care traditionally provided by family members
Address independent living for the older community through the implementation of the National Health Strategy and by facilitating cooperation between statutory agencies and community organisations

A number of other priority actions also specifically mention older people as follows (Table 7.2).

Table 7.2: Other direct actions for older people in the Dublin City strategy

Theme	Strategic objective	Priority actions
A city of neighbourhoods	Create inclusive neighbourhood spaces, places and structures that empower everyone to get involved in neighbourhood planning, decision-making and activity	Ensure neighbourhood civic fora involve and welcome everyone, particularly groups and communities of interest that need to be reached out to, e.g. older people, ethnic minorities, children, people with disabilities, etc.
A connected and informed city	Empower all people in the city to access and utilise information to improve their quality of life	Develop community-based skill interventions for key groups, such as older people and ethnic minorities
A safe city	Enable people to create safer and more caring communities by addressing the causes of crime and violence and reducing the opportunities for crime to occur. People at risk of becoming involved in crime such as youth should be especially targeted with preventative supports	Enable older people to protect themselves against property crimes (including fraud) and violence
A healthy and active city	Create an accessible and people-centred community healthcare system, which will adapt to the diverse and changing health needs of the city	Develop targeted and community-based initiatives for older people and people with disabilities so that they can choose to live in their own homes with appropriate personal care and other supports
A city of homes	Building on existing strategies, ensure that the accommodation needs of all are met	Ensure the provision of accessible homes for people with disabilities and older people

		through the development of lifelong homes, adapted housing, support services, incentives, etc.
A community friendly city	Develop a comprehensive and sustainable range of community facilities and supports to meet the needs of the community	Support community and voluntary organisations in providing core services (eldercare, childcare, etc.) when possible thus implementing the principle of subsidiarity

Several of the key themes in the Dublin City strategy link across all target groups and although older people may not be specifically mentioned in priority actions, they are included as a target group in the set of catch-all actions. For example, under the moving and accessible city theme, there is a strategic objective that deals with accessibility and inclusiveness. Within the strategy, the reason for the strategic objective is outlined as follows: “to create a city that is accessible to everyone and addresses the needs of those with difficulties accessing transport as a consequence of factors of social exclusion and/or using transport e.g., people with disabilities, elderly, children, etc.”. None of the priority actions attached to the objective specifically mention older people, but it is a given that they are included as a target group.

8. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

The objectives and actions outlined in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown strategy, *An Integrated Strategy for Social, Economic and Cultural Development 2002-2012*, are divided according to three strands: the social development strand; the economic development strand; and the cultural development strand. Under the social development strand, two strategic objectives have actions that directly address older people. Under the family support theme, the strategic objective “to enhance the longevity, quality of life and care provision for the older citizen and to recognise the contribution of older citizens in communities and the society of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown” has ten direct actions. Under this objective, actions, some of which are very practical in nature, directly address older people as a target group, (Table 8.1).

Table 8.1: Direct actions under the strategic objective for older people, family support theme 1

Actions
Community care units for older people: influence all stakeholders including private enterprise to ensure the realisation of the ECAHB’s objective of establishing three community-based units similar to the Dalkey unit to serve the needs of care provision for older people in the county
Accident prevention programme: replicate and expand the pilot accident prevention programme
Personal alarms: develop a uniform county-wide system for the use of personal alarms by older people
Benches: place more benches at critical and safe locations throughout the county to create an environment where older people especially can be more active
Seats in shops: work with businesses to create seats in shops reserved for older people and people with disabilities
Pedestrian crossings: publish a plan to improve and increase pedestrian crossings in the county
Retirement planning courses: increase the offering of retirement planning courses in the county and specifically engage employers to plan such courses as part of Human Resources allocation of staff development time
IT training for older persons: implement a training of trainers programme to develop the capacity of older people to train other older people in IT skills
Dissemination of information on services for older people: Put together a network of organisations and businesses that will assist with the dissemination of information to older people, specifically information pertaining to the activities of older people’s organisations
Annual exhibition for older people: host an annual exhibition event of projects and services for older people in the county

Under the family support theme, the strategic objective to ensure that all family support services will be provided across the county by agencies in a coherent, integrated manner at a local level has three actions that directly target older people (Table 8.2).

Table 8.2: Direct actions under the strategic objective for older people, family support theme 2

Actions
Establish a county-wide interagency forum on services for older people as a sub-group of the healthy county forum
Establish a network of older persons’ organisations/voluntary groups
Update and produce a county-specific older persons information pack, and facilitate presentations and discussions of information contained in the pack

Under the living space theme of the economic development strand, the strategic objective to increase awareness of and ensure providers deliver inclusive and innovative approaches to

the living space needs of everyone in the county, there are three actions that directly target older people as (Table 8.3).

Table 8.3: Direct actions for older people, living space theme

Actions
Best practice and accommodation for older people and people with disabilities: analyse existing best practices in the public and private sectors with a view to improving living space facilities with particular emphasis on older people and people with disabilities
Upgrade accommodation facilities for older people and people with disabilities: identify the requirements for the upgrading of existing local authority accommodation facilities for older people and people with disabilities
Source funding for upgrading local authority accommodation facilities: source funding to facilitate the development of a programme for the upgrading of existing local authority accommodation facilities and services for older people and people with disabilities

Direct actions for older people are also evident in a number of other themes of the strategy (Table 8.4).

Table 8.4: Other direct actions for older people in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown strategy

Strand	Theme	Strategic objective	Actions
Social development	Education	To work with all providers of and stakeholders in the county's education system to ensure that anyone disadvantaged by social exclusion, marginalisation, location or disability has access to education	Educational needs of targets groups: focus on the target groups which are vulnerable to social exclusion, e.g. people with disabilities, young early school leavers, Travellers, ethnic minorities, older people, lone parents, long-term unemployed, etc., with regard to their educational needs
	Rural communities	To reduce the problem of isolation experienced by many residents of rural areas through the provision of a rural transport system	Access for older people in rural areas: develop a programme to improve access to services for older people in rural areas
Cultural development	Arts	To harness the potential of the county for artistic expression and appreciation with the focus on the role of Arts as a medium for inclusion of people and the celebration of diversity	Accessible Arts programme: bring theatre into local schools and local residential areas, and to those who wouldn't normally be able to access theatre, e.g. young offenders, senior citizens, persons with impaired mobility
	Sports, recreation and leisure	To encourage access by all and for all to sports, recreation and leisure activities and facilities, particularly those funded or supported through public funds	Older persons participation: work with existing organisations/bodies to increase participation by older people in sport, recreation and leisure, and promote awareness about the benefits of participation in exercise

9. Fingal

The Fingal CDB strategy, *A Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development in Fingal 2002-2011*, identifies eight strategic issues with a vision, goals and actions for each strategic issue. Under the health and social services issue, older people are identified as a key target group with the goal that primary health services and community supports for older people are strengthened (Table 9.1).

Table 9.1: Direct actions for older people, health and social services issue

Actions
To conduct a study of service provision for the elderly in Fingal by 2004, based on 2002 census data, in order to identify the need for the provision of necessary facilities such as respite centres, Alzheimer's units and nursing homes
To facilitate the creation of strategic alliances between all agencies and organisations providing services for older people by 2004, in order to bring about the development of cohesive packages of care
To provide qualitative and accessible information on a range of issues for carers by 2003, and to conduct research in order to establish the level of relief services needed in Fingal

Older people are also identified in direct actions in other strategic areas (Table 9.2).

Table 9.2: Other direct actions for older people in the Fingal strategy

Strategic issue	Vision	Goal	Actions
Housing	Fingal will have socially cohesive and sustainable communities	That housing and planning policies in Co. Fingal will promote social cohesion, integration and inclusion	To establish housing mechanisms and related policies and programmes from 2002, that prevent the occurrence of racism and discrimination against ethnic minorities or other vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and people with disabilities
Lifelong learning	Fingal will foster and promote a culture of lifelong learning	That Fingal residents will participate in the social, cultural and economic life of the county as active citizens furthering the goals of participative democracy	The promotion from 2002 of the Meitheal concept by supporting initiatives such as Reach Out – Be a Better Neighbour, with a specific focus on older citizens of the county. This is in order to ensure that the national average mortality rate among older people in winter (currently the highest in Europe) is reduced in the Fingal area through greater community awareness and monitoring

10. Galway City

The Galway City CDB strategy, *Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2012*, does not specifically mention older people under any of the objectives or strategic actions. However, this does not mean that older people have been ignored or excluded from the strategy. In fact, the majority of the goals, objectives and actions are outlined in such a way that they address everyone and do not mention one target group above another. The strategy has taken a different approach to its goals, objectives and actions by assigning them to various work groups to oversee their implementation and it is at this level that actions for older people become more visible, as Table 10.1 illustrates.

Table 10.1: Direct actions for older people in the Galway City strategy

Work group	Issue identified
Health forum	Consider the needs of older people as a specific target group in terms of improving health services
Sports and recreation forum	Establish a forum to advance a sports and recreation strategy focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– the needs of various target groups, e.g. older people and marginalised groups etc.– the development of formal input structures, thereby enabling people of all ages to participate in the creation and management of community facilities

11. Galway County

The Co. Galway CDB strategy, *Working Together – Shaping our Future. Galway County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2012*, is structured around eight key themes. Each theme has a range of sub-themes that include specific goals, objectives and actions. Under the investing in communities theme and its safer communities sub-theme, one objective and four actions specifically target older people, as outlined in Table 11.1.

Table 11.1: Direct actions for older people, investing in communities theme and its safer communities sub-theme

Goal	Objective	Actions
To develop safer communities in which to live and work by increasing community awareness and involvement in crime prevention and the promotion of safety	To develop a coordinated strategy in the county to increase security in rural areas in particular for older persons living alone	Increase cooperation between An Garda Síochána, WHB, agencies and voluntary groups at community level, to improve security in the home for older persons
		Improve security in the homes of older people through the expansion of the Special Housing Aid for Older People programme throughout the county
		Install increased security devices in housing programmes for the elderly
		Promote the expansion of voluntary older person home visiting initiatives in remote geographical communities

Older people are also targeted under the investing in communities sub-theme of community health and well-being where one objective and five actions specifically target older people as outlined in the Table 11.2.

Table 11.2: Direct actions for older people, community health and well-being

Goal	Objective	Actions
To ensure high quality healthcare service for communities in Co. Galway, irrespective of their location, culture, language or resources	To expand services at home and in the community that cater for the needs of the older person, people with disabilities and key target groups with particular health needs	Work in partnership to expand support and services for carers in the home
		Extend the availability of home services and respite care services throughout the county
		Ensure that older people remain in their own homes for as long as possible
		Expand the number of day care centres for older persons, and integrate day care services with other community services throughout the county
		Develop multi-disciplinary stroke

		care teams to operate at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe; expand this service to other regional and local healthcare facilities
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Older people are targeted under the living Gaeltacht theme and its preserving and nurturing the language sub-theme, where one objective and two actions include older people as a target group, as outlined in Table 11.3.

Table 11.3: Direct actions for older people, living Gaeltacht

Goal	Objective	Actions
To retain and strengthen Irish as a vibrant community language of everyday use in the Gaeltacht regions	To ensure that there is a full range of opportunities for Gaeltacht people, both young and old, to pursue a range of studies at all levels through the medium of Irish and where feasible without having to move out of Gaeltacht communities	Establish third-level facilities in the Gaeltacht so students can study at third-level in the Gaeltacht
		Develop lifelong learning opportunities for all ages within the Gaeltacht

Finally, older people are identified at the direct action level under a number of other themes and objectives as indicated in Table 11.4:

Table 11.4: Other direct actions for older people in the Galway County strategy

Theme	Sub-theme	Goal	Objective	Action
Investing in communities	Building community assets	To strengthen and revitalise communities, so they will become centres where all adults, young people and children have a choice of accessible and affordable homes, leisure facilities, learning and community spaces, which enhance personal well-being and contribute to a positive and healthy community environment	To strive to meet people's housing choice in relation to type, location and tenure	Deliver awareness training for housing providers on lifetime adaptable accommodation to cater for people with disabilities and older people
A living Gaeltacht	Acknowledging a sense of place	To acknowledge the sense of place and community that is part of the language community of the Gaeltacht, and to acknowledge and	To facilitate the development of an appropriate pattern and scale of housing to meet the needs of native Gaeltacht communities	Develop flexible housing settlements for older people, allowing them to remain in their native community within an adaptable and supported

		facilitate the maintenance of traditional settlement patterns		environment
				Develop a coordinated scheme to improve the quality, insulation, energy efficiency and accessibility of the non-local-authority housing stock, particularly that occupied by elderly people

12. Kerry

The Kerry CDB strategy, *Meitheal Chiarraí. Working Together for Our Future 2002-2012*, includes older people as a main theme under the social and health sector with one strategic objective as follows:

The Board endorses the recommendations in the Ageing with Confidence Strategy prepared by the Southern Health Board

- *keeping older people well*
- *supporting the older person at home*
- *acute care*
- *continuing care.*

The following actions were subsequently identified in order to achieve this objective.

Table 12.1: Direct actions under strategic objective for older people in the Kerry strategy

Actions
Provide the support required to enable the SHB to implement its strategy
Develop a range of supports for pre-retirement planning
Encourage the development of active retirement clubs throughout the county utilising existing community resource centres/family resource centres etc.

Other strategic objectives directly addressing older people are also found under other themes, as listed in the following table.

Table 12.2: Other objectives for older people in the Kerry strategy

Themes	Objectives
Housing and accommodation	To review annually the social housing waiting lists to determine the housing needs of people with special needs including people with disabilities, Travellers, homeless persons, older people, single parent families, refugees and asylum seekers
Roads and transportation	Having regard to the countywide audit of rural transport services (Department of Environment and Local Government, July 2001), to develop a rural transport service which meets the needs of commuters in the county with particular reference to the following target groups: older people; people who are ill or have disabilities; people on low incomes; and young people

Although many other strategic objectives do not specifically mention older people, they are considered a target group for the catch-all objectives.

13. Kildare

The Kildare CDB strategy, *Kildare 2012. An Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy*, has six key themes with the goals and actions for each set out in an action plan. Direct actions for older people are evident in four themes of the strategy and in one cross-cutting action, as listed in Table 13.1.

Table 13.1: Direct actions for older people in the Kildare strategy

Themes	Goals	Actions
Transport and communications	To provide an integrated public and private transport system	Introduce an awareness programme for service providers to enable them to cater for the needs of people with reduced mobility (older people)
Housing and physical infrastructures	To provide for housing needs	Research and consult on the specific housing requirements of all sectors of the community with a view to influencing policy and promoting socially integrated developments which are commercially viable, beginning with the needs of travellers, people with disabilities, older people, one parent families, refugees and asylum seekers
Community needs	To foster social inclusion	Facilitate older people to maintain good health and continue involvement in community action Explore new ways of providing health and social care to older people and to support carers/families in their responsibilities of caring
Economic progress, skills and regional development	To share prosperity	Establish an integrated service that links current services providing support for establishing and running childcare, afterschools and oldercare services through the stages involved in business start-up, facilities, planning and legal requirements, and the training and provision of qualified personnel
Cross cutting action		Devise a programme of events/activities within local urban and rural areas to build community spirit and encourage family and community interaction, particularly among long-established and new residents. First steps might be: – devising a welcome pack for new residents detailing local services and activities – hosting a series of multi-cultural events to celebrate all cultures in the county – surveying new and old residents as to their needs, perceptions etc. of the communities they live in – devising an education and community development programme to teach children and new residents about rural ways of life – devising programmes for older people including ‘reminiscence finders’ to be included in a county museum

14. Kilkenny

The Kilkenny CDB strategy, *Kilkenny 2002-2012. A Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development*, sets out its aim through the integration of three overarching strategies: an information strategy; an equality strategy; and a cultural strategy. Each of these strategies has an action plan with one key objective and a set of actions. In addition, four other key strategic areas were identified as follows: citizen and community well-being; income, wealth generation and employment; education and training; and initiatives targeted at identified groups. Each strategic area has an overall vision and outlines a strategic approach to a set of issues. These issues are then set out in a number of vision statements, objectives and actions.

The vision for older people was to enhance the health and well-being of this target group so that they can live full and independent lives in their own communities. Two distinct objectives and several actions are set out, as outlined in Table 14.1.

Table 14.1: Direct actions under the strategic objective for older people in the Kilkenny strategy

Objectives	Actions
To develop mechanisms for effective cross-agency coordination of services for older people to ensure that they get the best possible range of services, given available resources	An Older People's Advisory Committee will be established at county level to develop improved coordination between both statutory and voluntary providers. This committee will have representation from statutory providers, voluntary sector providers and older people's representative organisations
To develop models of good practice for the design and delivery of independent living units for older people	Develop a working group with representation from Kilkenny Co. Council, the South Eastern Health Board and other support agencies to identify areas of need for independent living units in Co. Kilkenny. Deliver these units with necessary ancillary supports, such as caretakers, etc., within an agreed time-frame over the next five years

In addition to these objectives and actions, it was stated that other areas of the strategy will target the needs of older people, such as:

- the development of community-based services in rural areas should include services for older people and incorporate day care centres
- the information strategy will incorporate information for older people as a key element
- the rural transport strategy will incorporate older people as a priority target group

However, reference to older people was only found in relation to the development of community-based services, as outlined in Table 14.2.

Table 14.2: Other direct actions for older people in the Kilkenny strategy

Key Strategic Area	Vision	Objectives	Actions
Citizen and community well-being	To develop a partnership approach aimed at creating a nurturing environment to enable all people to reach their full potential	Public and community service delivery: to improve access to key public services by marginalised groups (e.g. Travellers, refugees, elderly individuals isolated at community level) in order to promote equality of access within these community units	Engage in an exercise to identify opportunities for joint development of community-based units for service delivery
			Pilot Callan as one location for community-based services with a view to rolling out in other areas

15. Laois

The Laois CDB strategy, *Realising our Potential. Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy for County Laois 2002-2012*, has six strategic themes. The themes are divided into sub-themes or goals. Each goal has a set of objectives, and each of these objectives has a set of actions. Under the inclusive and sustainable county theme, “people will be supported at all stages of life” and older people are identified as a distinct target group (Table 15.1).

Table 15.1: Direct actions under the strategic objective for older people in the Laois strategy

Objective	Action
The needs of senior citizens in the community will be addressed	Identify and meet the needs of senior citizens

Older people were also addressed under two other thematic areas, as outlined in Table 15.2.

Table 15.2: Other direct actions for older people in the Laois strategy

Theme	Goal	Objective	Action
A county of excellent services and infrastructure	To make available and accessible the best possible level of services in the county	To provide convenient off-street parking in towns throughout the county	Adequately cater for the elderly, people with disabilities and people with children
	To provide everyone in the county with access to appropriate and affordable accommodation set in a suitable environment	To provide sustainable and affordable accommodation for those who need it	Develop a special strategy to provide appropriate accommodation for elderly people living in isolated areas
An educated and innovative society	To offer the people of Laois a full range of training and educational opportunities throughout their lives	To create a culture of lifelong learning	Utilise the experience of senior citizens (mentoring) as a resource in the development of education/training programmes

16. Leitrim

The Leitrim CDB strategy, *Social, Economic and Cultural Strategy for County Leitrim 2002-2012. Leitrim - A Place to Live and Work*, identifies economic development, social inclusion and cultural development as three key thematic areas. Under these areas, nineteen priority areas are identified with a vision, set of aims, objectives and subsequent actions developed for each priority area. Older people are identified as a priority within the social inclusion thematic area with the vision that “the contribution of older people to all aspects of development in Leitrim will be valued and supported through improved facilities and opportunities”. Table 16.1 outlines the two aims set out for older people under this vision and the objectives and actions to achieve these aims.

Table 16.1: Aims, objectives and actions for older people, social inclusion theme

Aim	Objectives	Actions
<p>To ensure there is increased coordination in delivery of services to older people in Co. Leitrim</p>	<p>To ensure that all agencies working with older people in Co. Leitrim have a better knowledge of the services each is providing and, where possible, work jointly on projects</p> <p>To support the development of a Working with Older People Forum in Co. Leitrim whereby all agencies and groups working with older people can meet and update each other on a regular basis</p> <p>To support the work of developing a network of older people groups in the county</p> <p>To encourage the participation and voice of older people in particular through the Community Forum</p> <p>To enrich older people's lives through the arts</p>	<p>To develop a Working with Older People Forum in Co. Leitrim</p> <p>To encourage and increase the participation of older people in various community activities through day care centres and active age groups</p> <p>To facilitate the inclusion of older people in the Community Forum</p> <p>To develop a programme of creative/community arts activity with older people</p>
<p>To promote the development of rurally based services to meet the needs of older people in the county</p>	<p>To develop sheltered housing facilities in older people's own areas, which would allow them independence yet provide back-up support when needed</p> <p>To encourage greater interaction between youth and older people in the county to the mutual benefit of both groups</p> <p>To improve the provision of transport for older people in rural areas in the county</p> <p>To increase the awareness of services available to benefit older people among agency staff meeting them in the course of their work and continue to encourage visits to older people as part of the work of people such as the Gardaí, community wardens, etc.</p>	<p>To examine the potential of developing a pilot community development independent living facility (along the lines of Mulranny Village in Mayo)</p> <p>To develop a model of good practice on the provision of repairs to housing for older people through a social economy project</p> <p>To develop a project with youth and older people groups which would involve a sharing of skills and talents of both youth and the older people</p> <p>To provide support for the work of the rural lift in the provision of rural transport services</p> <p>To develop a social inclusion unit among agencies of the CDB which would promote social inclusion policies among the staff in addition to developing pilot projects with groups such as older people</p>

Aim	Objectives	Actions
	To incorporate the older age profile of the county into planning development	<p>To incorporate services for older people in the new County Development Plan</p> <p>To create and operationalise links between older people, agencies and community-based groups/projects, ensuring consultation with older people as equal participants</p> <p>To develop and implement schemes around safety in the community, ensuring consultation with older people as equal participants</p>

Older people were also addressed under the key thematic area of tourism (Table 16.2).

Table 16.2: Other direct actions for older people in the Leitrim strategy

Theme	Area	Action
Tourism	Training	<p>Provide training to encourage less advantaged groups to work in the tourism industry, e.g. long-term unemployed, people over 55 years and women working in the home</p> <p>Provide support such as: childcare, eldercare and transport</p>

17. Limerick City

The Limerick City CDB strategy, *Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2012*, identifies eight themes, under which all issues affecting the city are addressed. Each theme is underpinned by a number of goals and objectives. Older people are identified as a distinct target group experiencing disadvantage under the city of equality theme and, as such, are included in those goals and objectives that address all residents of Limerick city. However, one direct action exists that addresses older people specifically, as outlined in Table 17.1.

Table 17.1: Direct actions for older people in the Limerick City strategy

Theme	Goal	Objective
A city of equality	The needs of all specific groups will be addressed	The coordination of suitable and targeted resources, supports and services to enhance the well-being of older people in the city

18. Limerick County

The Co. Limerick CDB strategy, *Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2012. Working Together for a Better Future*, is structured around two key themes: balanced geographic development and quality of life. Each of these themes has a number of sub-themes. Under the sub-themes, goals are outlined with objectives to achieve the goals and actions to achieve the objectives.

Under the family support sub-theme of the quality of life strategic theme, the goal to “provide support to families to enable their full participation in the economic, social and cultural life of the county” is specified. Older people are identified as a distinct target group with one specific objective and action to address this (Table 18.1):

Table 18.1: Direct actions under the strategic objective for older people in the Co. Limerick strategy

Objective	Action
To enable older people to live in dignity and independence at home and to provide high quality affordable residential care options	Consider the following in relation to older people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – community care services – residential care – respite care – coordination of housing aid for the elderly

Older people were also addressed under thematic areas of the balanced geographic development theme (Table 18.2).

Table 18.2: Other direct actions for older people in the Co. Limerick strategy

Sub-theme	Goal	Objective	Action
Large towns	To develop the four large towns in the county to become stronger centres for residential, commercial and industrial development	To reinvigorate the town of Rathkeale	Develop a new senior Traveller education and resource centre

19. Longford

The Longford CDB strategy, *The Way Forward. Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of County Longford*, identifies eleven sectoral headings. A goal and a number of key issues are identified under each sectoral heading, with a set of objectives to achieve the key issues and a set of actions to achieve each objective. Under the sectoral heading of promoting equality, older people are identified as a target group and a vision is set out stating that “County Longford is a place which promotes independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity for older people”. Ten issues are identified as key to achieving this vision. Each issue has a goal and a number of objectives. Practical and detailed actions are listed for each objective (Table 19.1).

Table 19.1: Direct actions addressing older people in the Longford strategy

Key issue and goal	Objective	Action
Health Provide high quality accessible health services to older people in Co. Longford	To put in place the necessary support structures to ensure that integration occurs	Provide a mobile chiropody service and employ additional opticians, occupational therapists and physiotherapists to reduce the present waiting list
		Provide home helps for older people on discharge from hospitals to cover convalescence period
		Provide additional day care units with transport services, paramedical and shower facilities
		Provide an activities nurse or trained staff to stimulate the long-term residents
		Provide physiotherapy services in the long-stay ward of St Joseph’s hospital
		Extend the hours allocated to older people through the home help service with additional hours allocated at evenings and weekends
		Re-examine the criteria for applying for the home help service, as the means test often prevents people from applying
		Review the role and duties of the home help services. They may be able to include some domestic duties or essential duties, such as transport to the doctor or shopping
		Review the system of evening and weekend cover by GPs
		Provide additional resources to ensure that the home help services are supplemented with the home support service of the Alzheimer Society
		Increase the levels of home support to enable individuals with Alzheimer’s Disease to remain in the community for longer periods
		Provide support for the Longford branch of the Alzheimer’s Society to apply for a Social Economy project for their home support service
		Increase the number of day care facilities for older people with dementia
Increase the number of long-term and respite beds for individuals with Alzheimer’s Disease in Co. Longford		

Key issue and goal	Objective	Action
Support for Carers To recognise the valuable work undertaken by carers in Co. Longford	To adequately resource and develop the support services for carers	Establish and resource a support group for carers in Co. Longford.
		Increase the number of respite facilities and short-term respite services including day care and night sitting, particularly at the weekends
Isolation To ensure that older people do not suffer isolation	To put sufficient measures and actions in place to prevent older people living in isolation	Coordinate people visiting older people in their homes, thereby increasing social contact and alleviating loneliness
		Develop programmes that target older men at risk in rural communities
		Develop clubs in suitable local venues with transport provided
		Implement visitation or befriending services to create regular contact for older people who are housebound
Security To protect life and property of older people	To reduce the number of crimes committed against older people in Co. Longford	Provide training to voluntary and community groups that provide security devices to older people to make them aware of the needs and concerns of older people
		Subsidise the monitoring charge for alarm systems
		Involve communities in preventing crime in their local areas by becoming actively involved in neighbourhood watch and community alert schemes
Information To address the wide range of information needs of older people in Co. Longford	To ensure the information needs of older people are adequately and innovatively addressed	Hold information sessions in communities on the rights of older people, health, and to publicise local clubs and their activities
		Establish practical workshops on the Euro through the local club structure
		Provide all home helps and carers with information in relation to the rights and entitlements of older people
		Hold a seminar on ageing actively with particular emphasis on attitude and health promotion
		Provide pre-retirement programmes for those within five years of retirement
		Provide information to older people and those approaching retirement on the opportunities for volunteering or returning to work or education
Housing Maintain older people in dignity and independence at home in accordance with their wishes and restore independence at home to those older people who become ill or dependant	To put in place the necessary supports and resources for older people to upgrade their homes	Publicise the Essential Repairs Grant and the Special Housing Aid for Older People so as to increase the uptake of these grants
		Provide voluntary housing schemes for older people in Co. Longford. They should include or be located near a day centre with social and medical services, which may be provided in conjunction with the Midland Health Board
		In the design of older people's dwellings, consideration should be given to solutions to problems caused by mobility impairment in old age, i.e., the height of switches and sockets, ramps for easy access, showers, water taps etc.

Key issue and goal	Objective	Action
Specific accommodation needs Co. Longford will have high quality accommodation for older people suffering from Alzheimer's Disease who can no longer be maintained in dignity and independence at home	To provide high quality hospital and residential care accommodation	Provide a dedicated unit for residential and respite care for Alzheimer's patients
		Support the provision of occupational therapy and physiotherapy services during clients' stay in respite
		Provide a day care unit for individuals with Alzheimer's Disease in St Joseph's in addition to the current general day care unit
Transport Older people in Co. Longford will have access to transport services when needed	To provide a variety of transport services at a reasonable cost and appropriate to the needs of older people	Provide supervised transport to and from day care units for older people with dementia and Alzheimer's Disease
		Encourage Bus Eireann to consider those who have mobility difficulties when replacing the existing fleet
		Support the extension of the public transport services in rural areas through the provision of minibuses
		Support the extension of the Free Taxi scheme to cover all modes of transport
Support for voluntary groups Co. Longford is a place which encourages and supports the work of voluntary organisations caring for older people in their own communities	To provide necessary support for family members, neighbours and voluntary bodies to care for older people locally	Explore the possibility of some of the services of voluntary groups being developed under the social economy programme
		Establish a network of older people's groups
Recreational activities Develop stimulating recreational activities for older people in Co. Longford	To provide older people with meaningful activities based on their needs	Provide activity clubs for older people in centres of population in Co. Longford
		Encourage groups to affiliate with Age and Opportunity or the Federation of Active Retirement Associations, to avail of ongoing ideas, information, advice and support
		Pilot an older men's group to address the issue of male isolation
		Compile and distribute a directory of services for older people
		Employ a development worker to coordinate and implement activities
		Provide training to older people's clubs in relation to running a group, e.g. committee roles, constitution, funding and insurance
		Pilot an intergenerational arts programme undertaken in both institutional and non-institutional settings to measure the positive impact on both older people and young people
		Carry out Age and Opportunity's physical activity project Go For Life in local clubs in collaboration with the Irish Sports Council

Older people are also addressed in the other sectoral areas with specific actions addressing their particular needs, as outlined in Table 19.2.

Table 19.2: Other direct actions for older people in the Longford strategy

Sectoral heading	Goal	Objective	Action
Agriculture and rural development	To promote sustainable rural development practices in the county which contribute to the economic, social and cultural well-being of all	To promote models of best practice in relation to the security issues experienced by rural dwellers, particularly the elderly	Encourage the establishment of active neighbourhood watch schemes
			Support the provision of smoke detection and security systems in all rural dwellings occupied by older persons
Infrastructure	To sustain vibrant town and village communities	To provide and maintain basic services in smaller towns and villages	Encourage the expansion of neighbourhood watch schemes, particularly in rural areas with high concentrations of older people living alone
Promoting equality	To improve women's health	To recognise that women have distinctive health needs and require special consideration in the health service	Support the provision of funding to specific groups working with older women, refugee/asylum seekers and women with disabilities to carry out research on their health needs
	To improve the housing choices for people with dementia, which will allow them to live with dignity and independence in accordance with their wishes	To provide a variety of housing services at a reasonable cost and appropriate to the needs of older people	Provide suitable accommodation for deaf/hard of hearing adults with mental health /behavioural problems, i.e., transition unit, medium-term assessment centre for deaf people with additional problems, and a high support unit for elderly deaf people Provide retirement homes for older adults with disabilities
Culture	To have an active and participative community arts programme throughout the county	Increase local communities participation in community arts programmes and implement a year round artistic programme	Carry out a study on art therapy for older people and marginalised groups

20. Louth

The Louth CDB strategy, *An Integrated County Development Strategy – Working Together for Our Future*, sets out ten strategic areas, each with a set of themes, strategic objectives and subsequent actions. Actions for older people are identified under the quality of life and social inclusion strategic areas as outlined in Table 20.1.

Table 20.1: Direct actions for older people in the Louth strategy

Area	Theme	Strategic objective	Actions
Quality of life	Crime reduction and civic responsibility	To make Louth the safest place to live, work and play in Ireland	Develop initiatives to increase the security of vulnerable groups, such as older people and children
Social inclusion	Coordination and integration	To ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to tackling social exclusion in Louth	<p>Strengthen linkages and information exchange between statutory agencies and voluntary organisations involved in the provision of accommodation, health, education, access and services to older people, Travellers, ethnic minorities and ex-prisoners</p> <p>Develop targeted training programmes to allow older people to continue to enjoy a fulfilling life</p>

21. Mayo

The Mayo CDB strategy, *Maigh Eo. Le Cheile le Neart. Ten year Integrated Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of Mayo*, is structured around a three-part vision, which provides a framework for the direction of the overall strategy. The vision centres on making Mayo “a great place in which to work, invest and visit; a great place to live”, and to make the county “a model of sustainable development”. Each vision has a number of strategic themes which have a number of goals, objectives, strategic actions and operational actions. All the actions related to older people are found under the vision of “a great place to live”. Under the inclusive society theme, which has one strategic action and four operational actions, there is an objective which addresses older people directly, as outlined in Table 21.1.

Table 21.1: Direct actions of the objective for older people in the Mayo strategy

Objective	Strategic action	Operational actions
Ensure high quality of life for older people	Coordinate the work of all relevant agencies in relation to programmes for older people	Develop and strengthen the Mayo Forum for Older People
		Develop a programme to improve safety and security measures for older people
		Further develop and coordinate activity and creativity programmes for older people
		Further develop the network of older people’s groups in the county

The needs of older people are also addressed in the other key strategic themes with operational actions as outlined in Table 21.2

Table 21.2: Other direct actions for older people in the Mayo strategy

Strategic theme	Goal	Objective	Strategic action	Operational action
An inclusive society	To ensure that all people living in Mayo feel valued, are respected as individuals and feel part of an inclusive community and county	To ensure that people living in Mayo are appropriately housed	Provide appropriate specialist accommodation to those that need it	Provide additional specialist housing for the elderly
A healthy and caring society	To build a people-centred health service which is responsive to the health and social service needs of everyone in the county	To promote the health and well-being of people in Mayo	Respond in an appropriate and sensitive manner to the needs of particularly vulnerable groups of people	Develop a programme to target the elderly who are at risk of not accessing services

22. Meath

The Meath CDB strategy, *Le Cheile. An Integrated Strategy for Meath to 2012*, is structured around four overlapping sectoral strategies. While each sector is treated separately in the strategy document, there is a strong overlap between the sectors and, therefore, many of the proposed measures and actions are mutually reinforcing. For each sector, an introduction to the sectoral issues is outlined, followed by a number of objectives with a set of actions relevant only to the CDB; there is another set of actions to be implemented by the support agencies. The two sets of actions mirror each other.

Under the social, cultural and environmental sector, older people are addressed under one main objective: to achieve social inclusion and parity of access to services and facilities. Older people are identified as a group with a distinct objective and two subsequent actions to be implemented by the CDB and support agencies. Older people are also identified as a target group in two other objectives dealing with housing, and safety and security (Table 22.1).

Table 22.1: Direct actions of the objectives for older people in the Meath strategy

Objective	CDB actions	Agency actions
Older people To integrate older people in the community through integration of delivery of social services and improved access to public and commercial services (including safety and security) in rural and urban areas	Establish a working group to coordinate delivery of social services and public transport by bringing together agencies with responsibilities in different sectors, based on the model piloted by Summerhill Active Retirement Group	Establish a working group to coordinate delivery of services based on the model piloted by Summerhill Active Retirement Group
	Facilitate networking of active retired groups	Networking of Active Retirement Groups
Housing and shelter To provide affordable and accessible accommodation for all citizens including those who are currently homeless, those with a disability, lone parents, older people requiring sheltered accommodation, Travellers and young people	Monitor and review implementation of the Meath Housing Strategy	–
	Promote links between county council and social housing organisations and others involved in the provision of accommodation and shelter	–
Safety and security To improve safety in urban and rural areas through the provision of an enhanced partnership/multi-agency approach incorporating ICT to crime prevention; road safety; reducing isolation and vulnerability especially for older people; and creating a sense of belonging	Develop a range of actions to reduce accidents and fires at home, in conjunction with the National Safety Council, e.g., install smoke alarms and safety equipment for children, older people and other vulnerable groups	Multi-agency security plan for older people

23. Monaghan

The Monaghan CDB strategy sets out goals, objectives and actions under eleven key themes. Older people are identified as a target group by four of the main thematic areas which encompass seven direct actions, as set out in Table 23.1.

Table 23.1: Direct actions for older people in the Monaghan strategy

Theme	Goals	Objectives	Actions
Environment	To ensure inclusive and sensitive planning within the county	To secure an integrated, planned and holistic approach to the development and planning of towns, villages and the countryside	Ensure building design and planning takes into account the needs of everyone, including those with disabilities and older people
Social Inclusion	To minimise poverty, exclusion and disadvantage in Co. Monaghan	To break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and address hidden poverty	<p>Improve and review initiatives to meet the needs of families on low incomes and older people, and to address child and gender-specific poverty</p> <p>Set up more educational, recreational and personal development initiatives for disadvantaged families and older people</p>
A healthy and safe community	To ensure that all people in Monaghan have equal access to a high quality range of health and social services in accordance with their needs	To ensure provision of services and supports relevant to the needs of the community	Implementation of the regional strategy for older people <i>A Secure Future – NEHB</i>
		To ensure that services not locally available are as easily accessible as possible	Maximise the potential for cross-border cooperation in the provision of hospital, emergency and community services, relative to the health and social gain of older people and people with disabilities
		To maximise the personal security of individuals and communities	Lobby for the use of modern technology to provide more security, particularly for the most vulnerable members of society, i.e., security systems for the elderly and community support schemes for older people
Sports and leisure	To increase the participation in leisure and sports activities at all levels	To encourage adult participation in recreational sports and leisure activities	Encourage women, the elderly, social groups and people with disabilities in the use of swimming and leisure facilities

24. Offaly

The Offaly CDB strategy, *Bringing the Future into Focus. A Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development*, identifies twelve key strategic themes. Under each of the themes, the CDB identifies a vision statement, objectives, and actions. Under the social inclusion theme, younger and older people are identified as distinct target groups with specific vision statements and subsequent objectives and goals. Those pertaining to older people are outlined in Table 24.1.

Table 24.1: Visions for older people in the Offaly strategy

Vision	Objective	Action
Older people will be supported to enable them to undertake lifelong learning activities, particularly in relation to the use of technology and new skills to enhance their lives	To target older people with information on training opportunities	Information initiatives to be put in place
	To meet the needs of older adults with technology initiatives	Deliver and evaluate the CAIT programme with a view to extending it throughout the county
	To make websites accessible to people with disabilities and older adults	Website developers in the county will be offered assistance to incorporate national and international guidelines in their work
Older people will be afforded the opportunity to contribute to their communities through paid work and volunteering opportunities which value their life experiences	To facilitate the contribution of older adults to the community and voluntary sector	Establish a volunteer resource centre in the county
	To promote awareness of ageism within the workplace	Develop and deliver an ageism awareness programme

Older people are also addressed in the other key strategic themes with specific objectives, as outlined in Table 24.2

Table 24.2: Direct actions of the strategic objectives for older people in the Offaly strategy

Theme	Vision	Objective	Action
Information and communication technologies	ICT networks and facilities will be available throughout the county	To develop the potential of older people and retired employers /employees	Assess usage by working with the Forum for the Elderly and other groups. Outline technology options and summarise experience to date
Rural development – agriculture	The maximum number of viable farm households will be maintained and alternatives for the development of viable and rural communities which consist of farm and farm households will be in place	To provide older farmers on non-viable farms with the necessary support to leave farming with dignity	Provide comprehensive information on the Farm Retirement Scheme to older farmers

Older people were also considered under a direct action in the housing and accommodation theme; a further section within the strategy identified other issues of relevance to older people (Table 24.3).

Table 24.3: Other direct actions for older people in the Offaly strategy

Theme	Vision	Objective	Action
Housing and accommodation	Offaly will consolidate the rights of residents by drafting a Charter of Rights relating to housing and accommodation in consultation with interested parties, thus ensuring that housing and accommodation policy and provision is fair, accessible, affordable and meets quality standards	To provide different housing styles, sizes and designs as appropriate to deal with differing demands	Begin pilot actions in new estates to include lifetime adaptable homes for older adults and people with disabilities

25. Roscommon

The Roscommon CDB strategy, *Roscommon Common Vision – a Ten-Year Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development*, contained three key themes. A number of goals, key issues, objectives, strategic actions and practical actions are outlined for each theme. Older people were identified as a distinct target group under two of the key themes, as outlined in Table 25.1.

Table 25.1: Direct actions of the strategic objectives for older people in the Roscommon strategy

Theme	Key Issue	Objective	Strategic action
A vibrant economy	Roads and transport	To ensure that the transport system is developed and upgraded to a level that can support increased economic, social and cultural development of the county	Implement the recommendations of the rural transport audit with particular regard to people with disabilities, older people and women
An active, inclusive and welcoming society	Accommodation	To ensure the provision of quality accommodation for every person in the county suitable to his or her needs, in a pleasant environment and at a price or rent they can afford	Increase the availability of sheltered and supported housing for older people and people with disabilities
	Health	To improve the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities so that everyone can reach his or her full potential	<p>Maximise opportunities for older people to live in dignity and independence at home in accordance with their wishes.</p> <p>Practical actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - commence intermediate care team 2002 - provide ongoing support for home help services, Special Housing Aid for Older People, Disabled Persons Grant, Essential Repairs Grant and other such services - establish a county consultation group for older people - provide targeted information for older people to maximise uptake on services <hr/> <p>Encourage and support the care of dependent people in their community by family and neighbours, and by other practical actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - undertake research into the particular needs of older people to allow for their care within their own communities - coordinate resources, supports and services to enhance the well-being of older people in the county and to encourage their independence and participation

Theme	Key Issue	Objective	Strategic action
			Improve the quality and increase the availability of hospital, day hospital and residential care for older people and provide it as near as possible to their own homes or communities
	Social inclusion	To ensure that inclusion is an integral part of the design and delivery of programmes and services and ensure effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of social inclusion work	Seek to ensure that those at risk of exclusion, e.g., women, people with disabilities, older people, rural dwellers, men and ethnic minority groups are not overlooked in the planning of initiatives, including in the ICT sector
	Safety	To endeavour to improve the safety of all people in the community	Increase awareness of public safety issues particularly those affecting women, the elderly, young people, racial and other minorities

26. Sligo

The Sligo CDB strategy, *County Sligo Integrated Strategy – The Sectoral Plans (2002-2012) Making a Difference*, has three thematic areas. Each of the thematic areas contains a set of priority issues or areas important for Sligo’s economic, social and cultural development. Each issue is addressed by a vision and goal(s) which encompass a key strategic objective with a number of objectives and subsequent actions. Older people are identified as a distinct group under the living culture theme in relation to sports and recreational activity; the objective is to “ensure access to active and enjoyable recreational activities for the older adult, thereby providing physical exercise, mental stimulation and social participation”. There are seven subsequent direct actions, as outlined in Table 26.1.

Table 26.1: Direct actions of the strategic objective for older people in the Sligo strategy

Actions
Work closely with Active Age groups to encourage them to include regular physical activity on their agenda
Encourage sports clubs and leisure centres to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - include an older adult representative on their committees - provide improved access for the older adult to participate in sports and recreational activity
Develop and support the Age and Opportunity Go For Life programme
Organise events such as a sports festival aimed at introducing older adults to a range of recreational sports
Develop and implement an integrated promotional campaign to communicate the benefits of regular physical activity for the older adult highlighting opportunities for participation
Support groups in their applications for grant aid towards the purchase of equipment for physical activity
Establish a partnership approach to the development of physical activity for the older adult involving Sligo’s Local Sport and Recreation Partnership, statutory agencies, clubs, leisure centres, active age groups, etc.

Older people are also addressed under other thematic areas with other direct actions (Table 26.2)

Table 26.2: Other direct actions for older people in the Sligo strategy

Thematic area	Priority issue	Objectives	Actions
Social inclusion	Housing/ accommodation	Provide appropriate accommodation for people with disabilities in Co. Sligo	Ensure that a percentage of new housing is set aside to provide for people with disabilities and the elderly population
	Health	Encourage the health-promoting homes concept by implementing universal design guidelines with the state sector partners leading by example	Promote knowledge and use of safety features for preventing accidents in the home. Target especially children under five years of age and older people
Living culture	Sporting and recreational life	Ensure the availability of accessible and affordable facilities in Co. Sligo irrespective of location, social or ethnic group, gender or disability	Actively seek to provide new areas of minority activity and pilot three local programmes engaging young, middle-aged and older persons in dance, hill-walking, computers, photography and music/sound.

27. South Dublin County

Older people are not mentioned specifically within any the strategic goals of the South Dublin County CDB strategy, *A place for People*. However, older people are mentioned within certain objectives that are linked to the strategic goals, as outlined in Table 27.1.

Table 27.1: Direct actions for older people in the South Dublin strategy

Theme	Key priority theme	Strategic goal	Objective
A learning place	Creating second chances: improve the number and choice of adult education opportunities within the county	To identify and develop programmes for adults which are flexible and accessible	To create programmes for older people to address education needs including ICT
A healthier place	Integrated services: develop better relationships to improve information and services	To develop an integrated response to health needs	To adopt a multi-agency approach to the care of specific groups including, for example, the provision of appropriate accommodation for older people, people with disabilities, and Travellers
A place to live	Meeting housing needs: develop access to accommodation that is appropriate to needs	To improve the living environment for people with specific needs	To adopt a multi-agency and community-based approach to planning housing for older people and people with disabilities, taking into account the accommodation needs of carers and personal assistants

As with other strategies, older people are included within the catch-all goals and objectives which include all target groups.

28. Tipperary North

The Tipperary North CDB strategy, *Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy 2002-2012*, identifies fourteen strategic themes. Each theme has a vision, subsequent strategic objectives and a set of actions. Under the health theme, older people are identified as a distinct target group under one strategic objective and three actions, as outlined in Table 28.1.

Table 28.1: Direct actions of the strategic objectives for older people in the North Tipperary strategy

Theme	Vision	Strategic objective	Actions
Health	Every citizen will be able to live a fulfilled and content life to its maximum natural span, in good mental and physical health	To ensure that appropriate care services for older people are available in North Tipperary	Carry out an audit of existing nursing home facilities and home help care within the county
			Assess the current and projected future demand levels
			Develop a county plan for care of the elderly

Older people are also identified in two other direct actions under the health theme, as outlined in Table 28.2.

Table 28.2: Other direct actions for older people in the North Tipperary strategy

Theme	Vision	Strategic objective	Actions
Health	Good health will be widespread and proactive prevention of ill health will have high priority	To develop programmes of health awareness within the county	Develop programmes to highlight the signs and symptoms of abuse amongst the elderly, children and substance abusers
	No member of the community will live in fear or insecurity	To use modern technologies to provide security systems for the most vulnerable members of the community	Lobby for change in current policy regarding alarms for the elderly

29. Tipperary South

The South Tipperary CDB strategy, *South Tipperary County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development*, identifies eight strategic themes combined into four programmes: economic; social; cultural; and local Agenda 21. Each programme has a set of objectives followed by strategic measures and actions. Older people are addressed in one strategic measure and one subsequent action (Table 29.1).

Table 29.1: Direct action for older people in the South Tipperary strategy

Programme	Measure	Action
Social	Targeted holistic approach: specific target groups in particular sub-county areas	Set up a strategic plan to meet the needs of elderly people in the Tipperary town catchment area

30. Waterford City

The Waterford City CDB strategy, *Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of Waterford City 2002-2012*, is structured according to three key sectors: sustainable community living and social inclusion; education and lifelong learning; and economic development. Under each of these sectors is a key vision with a number of goals, objectives, indicative actions and indicative sub-actions. Older people are identified as a target group in indicative sub-actions for two out of the three sectoral areas. Table 30.1 outlines those actions identified under the sustainable community living and social inclusion sector where older people are a target group.

Table 30.1: Social inclusion actions for older people in the Waterford City strategy

Goal	Objective	Indicative action	Indicative sub-action
To have an integrated planning process to meet the social, cultural and economic needs of communities	To have a planning process which supports social integration	Implement existing strategies and plans: Housing Strategy; Childcare Strategy; Traveller Accommodation Plan, Homeless Strategy and Homeless Youth Strategy	Enable people, particularly older people, people with disabilities and those with mental illness to live in their homes for as long as possible
To ensure the health and well-being of all our people	To work in partnership to make Waterford a safe city	Ensure people feel safe through the development of community policing	Implement programmes targeting the safety of the older person
	To reduce the instances of substance abuse	Develop a coordinated approach to prevention and harm reduction	Establish a respite centre for young and older current drug users; a safe environment where a realistic appraisal of current behaviour can be achieved, and support and on-site counselling provided

Goal	Objective	Indicative action	Indicative sub-action
	To provide access to quality health services	Develop strategies to overcome barriers to access	Target the elderly as a group at risk of not accessing services and develop a coordinated response
		Development of the Regional Hospital to provide full health services	Develop facilities to meet the needs of the older person, i.e., step-down facilities, elderly day hospital and day centre
To have all participate in sport and active recreation at a level that respects their needs, abilities and ambitions	To increase participation in sport and active recreation	Develop programmes to meet the needs of target groups utilising sports as a means of tackling social exclusion	Develop older persons' programmes in partnership with existing agencies

An indicative sub-action for older people is also included under the education and lifelong learning sector of the strategy (Table 30.2).

Table 30.2: Sub-action for older people under the education and lifelong learning sector of the Waterford City strategy

Goal	Objective	Indicative action	Indicative sub-action
To have equal access to all levels of education and lifelong learning	To increase participation and retention in third-level education	Develop a strategy for Waterford to become a city of learning with support from existing providers	Develop and deliver programmes to meet the educational needs of the older person

31. Waterford County

The Waterford Co. CDB strategy, *Waterford County – A Monument of the Future. Waterford County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2012*, chose, as a basis, seven themes of strategic importance to the county. Each theme identifies a number of goals, objectives and actions. Under the quality of life theme, under the health and well-being priority area, older people were identified as a target group with the goal “that health and well-being of all people will be actively promoted” (Table 31.1).

Table 31.1: Direct actions of the objective for older people in the Waterford Co. strategy

Objective	Actions
To ensure that older people feel safe and secure in their homes/places of residence	Develop and implement a programme to increase the number and effectiveness of community alert schemes

32. Westmeath

The Westmeath CDB strategy, *Bringing Quality to Life. A Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of County Wexford 2002-2012*, has nine strategic themes. Each theme has a number of goals and consequent objectives, and a set of actions to achieve each objective. Older people are identified as a distinct target group for two goals. Under the social inclusion theme, it is stated that “Westmeath will provide suitable and targeted resources, supports and services to enhance the well-being of older people in the county”. Six objectives are identified with related direct actions, as outlined in Table 32.1.

Table 32.1: Objectives and direct actions for older people at the goal level in the Westmeath strategy

Objective	Action
To put in place mechanisms to ensure that older people are consulted with regard to their needs	Westmeath CDB will request that the Westmeath Community and Voluntary Forum explore ways of achieving this objective and make recommendations to the Board
To improve the health and quality of life of older people in Co. Westmeath	Provide a range of interventions for older people in the home, the community, acute hospitals and care centres (as per actions outlined under goal 12 in MHB submission)
To support and encourage the continued provision of housing for older people by the local authorities in the county	Implement building programmes (categories for older persons' dwellings) Maximise the number of Essential Repairs Grants
To put in place mechanisms which ensure the timely and full disclosure of relevant entitlements for older people	To ensure information and application forms are available through a wide range of outlets, and ensure information officers are available to give presentations whenever required
To support and encourage representation from the Community and Voluntary Forum on the Regional Consultative Forum for Older People	Westmeath CDB representative on the Regional Consultative Forum for Older People will ask this regional group to consider inviting a nominee from the Westmeath Community and Voluntary Forum
To support independent living and ensure good quality and affordable residential care is provided for all older people in need of such care	Provide a range of interventions for older people in the home, the community, acute hospitals and care centres (as per actions outlined under goal 12 in MHB submission)

Older people are also included in the transport and access theme: “young people, older people, people with a disability and lower income groups will have access to suitable transport, especially in rural areas”. Here, two objectives are identified with direct actions to achieve the objectives, as outlined in Table 32.2.

Table 32.2: Other objectives and direct actions for older people at the goal level in the Westmeath strategy

Objective	Action
To ensure the provision of suitable transport services to meet the specific needs of young people, older people, people with a disability and lower income groups	Provide a passenger waiting facility in Athlone
To ensure the provision of adequate public transport services in rural areas	Provide transport services for older people in rural areas subject to consultation with various agencies
	Westmeath CDB will request that the Transport and Infrastructure SPC considers this objective and reports back to the Board

Older people are also identified in two other strategic objectives (Table 32.3).

Table 32.3: Other direct actions of strategic objectives for older people in the Westmeath strategy

Theme	Goal	Objective	Action
To ensure social inclusion	All agencies in Westmeath will work together proactively; cooperating and sharing information to meet the goal of social inclusion	To facilitate the participation of older people in conjunction with the voluntary and statutory social care providers by reviewing existing services with a view to developing suitable and effective social care provision	Complete service review and identify suitable and effective opportunities for social care provision
To promote health, education and security	Westmeath will be a safe place to live	Provide security for people with special needs	Increase agency liaison amongst relevant agencies in respect to security for older people
			Target patrolling of areas where older people are particularly vulnerable

33. Wexford

The Wexford CDB strategy, *Remodelling the Model County. A Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of County Wexford 2002-2012*, is built on the basis of a vision for Wexford in 2012. Fifteen themes were identified under the broad headings: economic; social; and cultural. Each theme specifies a set of goals with a set of strategic objectives to achieve the goals. Actions that directly address older people are evident in two of these themes, as outlined in Table 33.1.

Table 33.1: Direct actions for older people in the Wexford strategy

Theme	Goal	Strategic objective
Improve the quality of life of the people of Co. Wexford	Improve the health and well-being of the people of Wexford	To improve the access of key target groups and residents of certain geographical areas to mainstream health and social care facilities, prioritising the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – older people – children and young people – people with disabilities – Travellers – asylum seekers – lone parents – homeless people – unemployed people
Promote social inclusion	To tackle the consequences of social exclusion through the provision of appropriate needs-based services	Improve access of key target groups and residents of certain geographical areas to mainstream public and state services and facilities, prioritising the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – older people – children and young people – people with disabilities – Travellers – asylum seekers – lone parents – homeless people – unemployed people

34. Wicklow

The Wicklow CDB strategy, *Outlook. The Ten Year Strategic Plan for County Wicklow*, identifies nine themes, which were subsequently weaved into integrated themes to ensure coordination, partnership and added value. Three key themes emerge: urban shadow; sustainable communities; and social inclusion. For each of these themes, strategic objectives are outlined based on the original nine thematic areas, with subsequent actions to achieve these objectives. Actions for older people are evident under two of the three thematic areas. In the urban shadow theme, older people are a target group in an action under the broad strategic objectives for housing and infrastructure, and in the area of access design and estate management. In the social inclusion theme, an action for older people is included under the broad strategic objectives for social inclusion and equality (Table 34.1).

Table 34.1: Direct actions for older people in the Wicklow strategy

Theme	Strategic objectives	Area	Actions
Urban shadow	To create a safe, accessible, quality living environment for all members of the community	Access design and estate management	Eliminate access barriers for all through good road layout and design practices for footpaths, etc., especially for older people, people with disabilities and young families. In the long term, create an accessible environment in all developments including good access to amenities, businesses, shops, restaurants and toilet facilities.
Social inclusion	To promote the equality of opportunity and outcome on the nine grounds covered in the Equal Status Act 2000 regarding gender, marital status, age, disability, race, sexual orientation, religious belief and membership of the Traveller community	Equality	Ensure that, in terms of service delivery, specific emphasis is placed on the needs of marginalised men in Co. Wicklow including long-term unemployed older men and single men, who have particular accommodation needs