



2022 | ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED BY
Jane Byrne

PRESENTED TO
Wexford Volunteer Centre
Board of Management

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Company Number	676232
Charity Regulator Number	20206098
Registered Office	Iberius House Common Quay Street Co Wexford Y35K020
Auditor	Asple & Company Chartered Certified Accountants Crescent Quay Ferrybank South Wexford
Bankers	Bank of Ireland Common Quay Street Co Wexford

Introduction

In a world where communication is unceasing as a society we are yet more and more uncommunicative. Flickering screens, remote voices, endless texts may keep us informed but do not connect us as a community. Volunteers now more than ever are that connection. Volunteers know their communities intimately; they identify their needs and serve them without reserve. Volunteers are the conscience of a society. They exemplify the best a society can become.

In Wexford volunteers throughout 2022, have been engaged in everything from meals on wheels, youth clubs, park runs, tidy towns, befriending roles, and charity shop volunteers. Most notably volunteers were integral to the successful welcoming and support offered to those fleeing war in Ukraine. Volunteering needs support to ensure the coordination of effort and the effective, efficient use of resources. The purpose of Wexford Volunteer Centre (WVC) is to promote the value of volunteering in County Wexford; to aid in connecting volunteers and volunteer involving organisations through the development of a comprehensive database on IVOL; and to assist in helping volunteers to find satisfactory placements.

WVC intends to continue to grow in 2023 to provide training to volunteers and consultancy to organisations who wish to engage volunteers. WVC is a source for Garda Vetting as well as information and guidance in respect of volunteer opportunities. WVC is the link between the various volunteer communities throughout the County of Wexford.

Background

Wexford Volunteer Centre was formally launched in May 2021, with two full time staff and a board of 5. It now operates with a team of 5 staff and a board of 7. Wexford Volunteer Centre was established as a full time, county wide service after being a part-time, Volunteer Information Service. The service has expanded to reflect the more complex issues facing Wexford communities such as new non - English speaking migrants, mental health challenges, especially amongst the youth population, along with continuing issues such as isolation of the elderly, particularly in rural populations.

Our Vision (*i.e., what – our central purpose*)

Wexford Volunteer Centre will work to enhance the quality of volunteering in the County of Wexford by strengthening connections between volunteers, volunteer involving organisations and the community they wish to serve.

Our Mission (*i.e., the how – the way we can achieve our purpose*)

Wexford Volunteer Centre will establish and develop a vibrant and fully active service for its service users, staff, and the community at large through collaboration and empowerment while ensuring that all participants are supported, recognised and respected.

Our Governance

Wexford Volunteer Centre is an independent registered charity. The Board is made up of seven representatives from the local community, representing key stakeholders and the geographic divisions of the County. The board have responsibility for ensuring that the organisation fulfils its legal obligations and is properly financially managed; they are also responsible for the strategic development of the Centre and ensuring that it operates effectively and efficiently. A constitution, Memorandum of Articles of Association, vision statement and required policies have been adopted. A premises has been secured in Wexford Town and commitment set out in governance as required. In addition to being bound to regulatory and legislative governance requirements we are required to maintain national Quality Standards which were developed by the Volunteer Centre network and are externally evaluated by Volunteer Ireland.

Key Priorities

- Volunteers to access quality volunteer opportunities.
- Support volunteer involving organisations to involve and retain volunteers in quality volunteering opportunities. Engage organisations in surveys to assess needs.
- Provide quality volunteers to partner organisations engaging in the Community Volunteers.
- Provide a quality Garda Vetting service to relevant volunteers, community groups and organisations in the county.
- Promote and expand our marketing plan regarding work of Wexford Volunteer Centre and highlight the benefits of volunteering and involving volunteers.
- Provide VIO's and volunteers with quality training opportunities through Wexford Volunteer Centre and in collaboration with services and organisations.
- Develop and deliver leadership capacity in local organisations.
- Research and identify needs of County Wexford. Developing projects appropriate to those needs. E.G., projects to engage traveller and migrant groups from County Wexford in meaningful volunteering opportunities.
- Develop data and knowledge of volunteering in our catchment area of County Wexford.
- Working towards sustainable development goals by expansion of our services across the whole of County Wexford.

Stakeholders & Beneficiaries

The stakeholders & beneficiaries of Wexford Volunteer Centre are those organisations that are dependent on voluntary support and contributions to further their aims and objectives. So too are the volunteers that may already be members of organisations and will benefit from further training and support. However, WVC have, and will continue to advertise, promote, and recruit people in communities that may not already be affiliated to any organisation.

By identifying these people and their particular interests & skills, Wexford Volunteer Centre will match them to a suitable organisation, only after having completed the necessary steps and the agreement to engage in follow up supports.

Operations

Wexford Volunteer Centre is located in Wexford Town, ideally situated off the main street, near the quay front. The Manager was appointed on the 11th of January 2021 and is responsible to the BOD and meets with the Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer on a regular basis to review progress.

The Development & Placement Officer was appointed on the 5th of July 2021. Eva Law reports to the Manager. In November 2021, Bernadette Byrne was appointed to work 3 hours per week as an Accounts Administrator and Andrea Conroy was appointed to work 12 hours per week as an Administrative Assistant.

The BOD has a number of sub committees representing their specific skills sets, such as, Finance, Events, Human Resources and Governance.

Where relevant, the working groups report to the BOD at their monthly meetings which are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

The Manager presents progress reports to the BOD on a monthly basis. The Manager also supports the work of the sub committees.

Board of Management - 2022

Chairperson

Jonathan King

Company Treasurer

Connie Rochford

Company Secretary

Nuala Sheedy

Trustee

Andrew Maher

Trustee

Leonard Kelly

Trustee

Alice Hartigan

Trustee

George Lawlor

Our Team

In January 2021, there was one full time member of staff, the Centre Manager. Together with the support of the Board of Management in July 2021, one further full-time staff member, Eva Law, began working within the role of Development & Placement Officer. In November 2021, Andrea Conroy began working 12 hours per week in the Administrative Assistant and Bernadette Byrne began working 3 hours per week in the Accounts Administrator role. In May 2022, Ewa Juodis was taken on in the role Volunteer Development Officer to respond to the work Wexford Volunteer Centre was doing in response to the humanitarian crisis with those fleeing war in Ukraine.

The expansion of the team reflects the need for coverage and adequate staffing to support the large population, the coverage of the area and the social demographic breakdown. Despite the growth, it is very evident from the time and energy put into works, that we are still understaffed and cannot provide the basic services required, county wide to both volunteers and organisations.

Centre Manager & Garda Vetting Liaison Officer - Jane Byrne

Jane was appointed Centre Manager in January 2021. Jane is responsible for the operational management of the organisation, including financial and staff resourcing, and the delivery of our operational plan. Jane works closely with the Board of Management to ensure organisational compliance with regulatory requirements and quality assurance.

Jane is also the Garda Vetting Liaison Person, providing access to Garda vetting services for small organisations that cannot access a GVLP through their own organisational structures. In addition, Jane provides advice and support in relation to Garda Vetting to the wider community.

Jane represents Wexford Volunteer Centre and advocates on behalf of volunteers and volunteerism.

Development & Placement Officer and Garda Vetting Liaison Officer - Eva Law

Eva joined Wexford Volunteer Centre in July 2021. Eva has responsibility for volunteer & organisations communications as well as the design and development of our social media platforms. Eva's role involves developing Wexford Volunteers in the area, assisting and identifying volunteer opportunities.

Eva is also the Garda Vetting Liaison Person, providing access to Garda vetting services for small organisations that cannot access a GVLP through their own organisational structures. In addition, Eva provides advice and support in relation to Garda Vetting to the wider community.

Eva represents Wexford Volunteer Centre and advocates on behalf of volunteers and volunteerism.

Volunteer Development Officer – Ewa Juodis

Ewa Juodis (4 days P/W) joined the team in May 2022, as the Volunteer Development Officer. Ewa was taken on to directly support our response, supporting those fleeing the war in Ukraine. Ewa also supports those looking to learn how they can get involved in volunteering and supports staff with working to achieve goals within the National Volunteering Strategy.

Administrative Assistant

Andrea Conroy (PT 17 hours p/w – 12 hours contract, extra 5 hours per week with Ukraine response funding)

Accounts Administrator

Bernadette Byrne (PT 3 hours p/w)



Staff Team at Wexford Volunteer Centre



Staff & Board of Management at Wexford Volunteer Centre

Our Services

- Represent volunteers, volunteer involving organisations and volunteerism at every opportunity at both local and national level.
- Promotion of the societal and individual benefits of volunteering and volunteerism.
- Host events and coordinate awareness campaigns that celebrate, publicise, and showcase volunteers and volunteerism.

Services for Volunteers:

- We provide information on what, how, why and where of volunteering in county Wexford.
- Volunteers can get information about what volunteering roles are available across the county, and in their specific areas be it rural or urban.
- Volunteers can find out about volunteering opportunities without having to make a commitment.
- Volunteers can get information and ongoing support from our staff if they wish to receive it.

Services for Organisations:

- Wexford Volunteer Centre will advertise volunteering opportunities on our database and refer volunteers to organisations when they apply for a particular role.
- We offer information and consultation on all things related to volunteering and volunteer management.
- Support and information on policy issues for volunteer involving organisations.
- We provide a Garda Vetting Service for organisations who do not have access to their own Authorised Signatory.

Our Thanks

We would like to thank the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) for their continued support of Wexford Volunteer Centre and their backing of volunteering and volunteerism in Ireland. We would like to specifically thank them for their quick response in relation to funding our post to respond to the Ukraine crisis. Our thanks also to Wexford County Council for their support and backing of Wexford Volunteer Centre, they provided great assistance to Wexford Volunteer Centre to secure our offices and for their support via funding and grants.

We would like to thank the following organisations and individuals whose support and/or time has contributed to our success in 2022:

- Uniphar LTD
- Carmichael Ireland
- Volunteer Ireland
- Wexford Local Development
- Wexford Community Response Forum
- Irish Network Against Racism
- All the Friends of Ukraine groups based across County Wexford
- Our colleagues in the Volunteer Centre Network
- HSE National Lottery
- ESB Generation Fund
- Enniscorthy Red Cross
- South East Technological University
- Coca Cola
- The Pantry Wexford
- All our organisations, community groups and networks for trusting us to support you in your volunteer recruitment & engagement
- Citizens of county Wexford

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the following media outlets for their consistent support of our work throughout 2022 as well as giving excellent coverage of our events:

- Wexford People Newspaper
- South East Radio



Chairpersons Report

Having achieved a very successful first year we began 2022 with optimism and expectations for another year of finding organisations requiring volunteers and the volunteers to fill the positions. Then March arrived and so did the Ukrainians, situated as one of 2 entry points for the refugees the Wexford Volunteer Centre became swamped with calls for volunteers, advice and management expertise. Jane, the Centre manager, and Eva, our Development Officer, spent all of their working day resolving problems at Rosslare Harbour arrivals. Meanwhile, Andrea, our part time admin assistance and Bernie, our bookkeeper, spent all their time fielding calls from Ukraine support groups about how to set up and operate as a not-for-profit group.

The Board decided that the centre should take a step back and concentrate on finding the volunteers and ensuring that the groups working with the refugees had their governance in order. In April the DRCD released funding for a six month contract for a Development Officer dedicated to the Ukrainian situation and Ewa was appointed. She speaks Polish and Russian and was therefore able to communicate with a proportion of the refugees. At the same time funding was allocated to the Ukrainian support groups, and organisations involved in assisting with accommodation, transport and logistics. With Ewa in post and entirely dedicated to the Ukrainian refugees and assisting the Ukrainian support groups across the county Jane and Eva could return to their allotted duties.

In May, at the end of Volunteer week we celebrated our first birthday with an event on the Wexford Quays. Southeast radio covered the event, and it was supported by a large number of our Volunteers. This event was supported by Wexford County Council. On the same day we launched our rewards card which is given to Volunteers when they have clocked up 10 hours of volunteering and offers discounts on goods in over 35 business across the Wexford town and county.

The board would like to thank all our staff, Jane, Eva, Ewa, Andrea and Bernie for their hard work, professionalism and dedication in 2022, without which Wexford Volunteer Centre would not have achieved the total of 2,134 Volunteers in 2022 who in turn clocked in 42,500 voluntary hours.

Jonathan King

Chairperson of the Wexford Volunteer Centre Board of Management

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Treasurer's Report

2022, our second year in operation was nothing if not eventful. As the war broke out in Ukraine and Ireland began to receive large numbers of refugees Rosslare Europort became one of the main entry points for them. Wexford County Council called on Wexford Volunteer Centre to recruit volunteers who could provide welcome and support to the newly arrived families. The demands of this engagement meant our resources were thoroughly stretched both financially and staff wise. We are grateful to Wexford County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development both of which provided us with supplemental funds to allow us to employ an additional staff member who could focus directly on working with local communities to support their integration projects. Our work in this area continued throughout the year and will certainly continue next year as more people seek refuge in Ireland to from the devastation of the war.

We were fortunate this year to be the beneficiary of a number of grants and awards which strengthened our financial position relative to our operational costs. This allowed us to finish the year with a stronger reserve fund; to cover expenses such as larger than expected business rates; to reward staff for their extra hard work with the Ukrainian Refugee crisis and to set up a separate project fund to enable planning and delivery of our work for next year.

We are finishing the year in a reasonably secure financial position at least going into next year. However, even as we begin the year the cost of power and heating are soaring, and the overall cost of living is impacting our general operating costs and our staffing needs. While we welcome the assurance of continued funding from the DRCD for our Ukrainian support staff and some additional funds for cost of living increases, in a general sense our core funding remains considerably short of what is necessary to deliver much needed services to volunteers and organizations throughout the County of Wexford. In particular, recruiting and/or retaining staff is proving to be a particular challenge. This is due in no small part to the fact that we are unable to attract and support suitable staff because of the limitations of our salary ranges. Our staff are required to work hard to provide leadership and connection to our communities. To do this we require them to be competent, qualified and professional. Therefore, they have to be rewarded at least at the same level of their counterparts in local and national government departments. Our core funding does not reflect this necessity, and this will, in the long run, diminish our capacity to deliver the quality services Wexford Volunteer Centre have established as the norm from its inception.

Though our finances are in good shape for 2023 the longer outlook is not so rosy. We are still well short of the necessary six-month reserve fund, the cost of living challenges will eat into our operational and project funds and a successful staff recruitment will entail upward salary demands.

Our core funding increase this year is well short of what is necessary to move forward without having to rely on the hope and prayer of getting short term funding from other sources.

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Volunteering is the web that keeps a society together during good times and bad. Volunteers fill the gap that government agencies cannot. Their contribution builds resilience, integration, and cohesion. It is only through the connection of individuals to communities and through that to the larger society that we all can meet the challenges of our daily lives such as loneliness and isolation as well as the greater challenges such as the disasters of war and climate change. Wexford Volunteer Centre provides the organization, co-ordination and linkage that is necessary to build the social web, but we can only continue to accomplish this with a strong financial commitment that recognizes our value as a key factor in Wexford's social development.

In conclusion I would like to extend my thanks to Bernie for her careful bookkeeping, to our outgoing Manager for her leadership in our first years of operation and to all our staff for their diligence and commitment to our project.

Connie Rochford

Treasurer Wexford Volunteer Centre



Managers' Report

2022 was characterised by many highs, lows, fears, and excitement. We began the year, excited at the potential of a year without lockdowns and restrictions on our service delivery as we had experienced in 2021. We had spent the first few weeks planning for the year ahead and had great ambitions and ideas to share. Cut to March 15th, we received calls for help, support and assistance from the Local Authority, the Master of the Stena ship in Rosslare Europort and other local groups to provide help and support for the incoming Ukraine crisis. In the days, weeks and months that followed, Wexford Volunteer Centre became integral to the support of the countywide response to this crisis. Supporting over 380 volunteers, and thousands of displaced Ukrainians who were either placed in Wexford or passed through the county via Rosslare Europort. I, as manager am incredibly proud of the staff, the volunteers and the county of Wexford for responding so quickly and supportively to this crisis.

This change in plans did however mean we needed to change the direction of our work for the year ahead. This was done with great support, encouragement and advice from the Board of Management, the DRCD and our local organisations that were very understanding of the pressures the service was under.

The year also saw the return of our in person events such as Darkness into Light, Relay for Life, the Hope & Dream run, as well as numerous other events. It was wonderful to see so many volunteers donate their time and ensure the success of these events.

As a new service, a key priority for 2022 was to build the profile of the centre and increase engagement with local volunteer-involving organisations. However, with the time required by staff to support the Ukraine crisis response, many of these organisations were forced to “press pause” on their volunteer programmes and Wexford Volunteer Centre outreach opportunities were severely impacted for a period of time. Thankfully, in May 2022, we were able to hire a new staff member to work solely on the Ukraine response, allowing other staff to return to their role and focus on our ability to promote and embed a new service in the county. Yet despite all the obstacles and uncertainties that we faced, I can confidently say that Wexford Volunteer Centre had a successful and impactful 2022. Firstly, there was a considerable appetite within the community to assist post lockdown and restrictions. Volunteer registrations remained high and we began to bridge the gap and develop

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meaningful volunteering roles for those who wished to help. I as manager believed in the “Task before Ask” ethos and this has helped us to create numerous volunteering roles so that all volunteers whether they are interested in one off volunteering, long term roles or are curious to learn new skills, we have something for everyone.

One of the core values of our centre is that our work must be anchored in social inclusion principles and that we must strive to make volunteering accessible to underrepresented groups. Throughout the year, we facilitated various projects which enabled target groups to engage in impactful volunteering initiatives.

On completion of 2022, I would like to offer a few words of thanks to the board of Wexford Volunteer Centre who were a pillar of strength for me throughout the year. The support of my colleagues in national network, Volunteer Ireland and especially my colleagues in the other newly established Volunteer Centres was invaluable during 2022. We shared ideas, challenges, and accomplishments and offered much needed encouragement when it was needed most. Finally, I am incredibly thankful for the hard work, dedication and flexibility of our Development & Placement Officer Eva, and Volunteer Development Officer Ewa, I am proud of what we achieved together in 2022. I am also very grateful and thankful to our two other team members, Bernie & Andrea, who assist and aid us wherever we need them. Wexford Volunteer Centre staff and board work so well together as a team and I look forward to the wonderful work we will continue to do in 2023. It was certainly a tumultuous year with the ever-shifting Ukraine response situation around us, but we persevered with good spirits, determination, and enthusiasm.

Jane Byrne

Centre Manager, Wexford Volunteer Centre.

Operational Context

Challenges:

Wexford Volunteer Centre operates in a particularly challenging environment in so far as the County of Wexford is rated as one of the most deprived counties in the country. Unemployment especially youth unemployment is traditionally above the national average, while the nature of employment is mainly low paid service industry or agriculture based. Third level education attainment is particularly low. Rural isolation, especially regarding the elderly, is an ongoing issue in Wexford.

Population Profile:

- The Central Office of Statistics (CSO) analysis of the 2022 census show that Wexford has a population of 163,527. As we await further breakdown of these figures, prior to the increase in population, in 2016, our population represented 3.1% of the state total (4.76 million). Over a 20-year period (1996-2016) Wexford experienced a 43.4% (+43,353) increase in its population base, the fifth highest rate in the state.
- Wexford has a geographically varied population density. As a county Wexford is the 13th most densely populated county in the state. However, 43% of the county's population live on 3.3% of the county's total land area. Highest densities are found in the larger settlements and surrounding hinterland areas with a density figure of 63.12 persons per square km. In contrast, large parts of rural Wexford have very low levels of density with rates below 30 persons per square km. This has implications for tackling issues for the local communities, such as isolation and exclusion.
- Wexford 's Youth Dependency Rate of 34.8% is considerably higher than the State average of 32.3%. The larger the rate of child dependency the greater the burden those of working age have in supporting the young population.
- The '65 and over' age cohort now represents 14.7% of the total population living in the county. Since 2011 this cohort has increased by 19.7% and was the 10th highest rate of increase in the state. As such, this is a major increase in the older population across the county and will result in increased demand on older persons services.
- Wexford has higher than national and regional rates of members of the Irish Travelling community. There are 1,508 Travellers residing principally in the New Ross district of County Wexford. This is the 6th highest Traveller population of all Local Authorities in Ireland.

Social Disadvantage:

- Wexford is the fourth most disadvantaged local authority in the country. Most of Wexford's population (56%) live in areas classed as “marginally below average” with a significant percentage (16.4) in “Disadvantaged” and (4.4%) in “Very Disadvantaged” areas.
- “Lone parent” families represent 26.4% of the total families with children living in County Wexford, the 9th highest rate in the Country.

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- Wexford has a very high rate of early school leavers. 18.5% of people in Wexford who have completed education in Wexford did so with a highest level classed as “No formal/Primary and 20.7% with a highest attainment level classed as “Lower Secondary” (vs. State averages of 15.2% and 16.6% respectively).
- The level of third level attainment in Wexford is exceptionally low at approximately 21% - the 3rd lowest rate in the State and well below the state average of 29%

Employment Factors:

- Wexford has a traditionally weak manufacturing base with higher proportions of employment in low-end manufacturing jobs along with higher dependence on lower paid professions and industries (agriculture, wholesale and retail trade).
- The unemployment rate in Wexford is consistently high. The 2011 census showed that 24% of the total labour force was unemployed, significantly higher than the state average of 19%. In 2014 Wexford had the 3rd highest rate of unemployed people in all Local Authorities. The 2016 census showed that only 39% of the labour force was gainfully employed.

Operational Context – Strengths:

- While there are many challenges to overcome Wexford Volunteer Centre will draw on a number of strengths to support and promote volunteering in County Wexford. Not the least of these is the large cohort of existing volunteers and volunteer involving organisations presently engaged in a variety of communities throughout Wexford. As well, Wexford Local Authority are fully committed to supporting community development through volunteer activities.

Volunteering Culture:

- Wexford has a strong culture of supporting its communities' needs. Families as well as individuals participate in organizing recreational pursuits such as Youth Clubs, Scouting Groups and development to running high profile events such as the Wexford Festival Opera. Wexford Volunteer Centre is working with numerous organisations as well as Secondary schools, South East Technological University (where a large portion of Wexford's third level students attend in both Carlow & Waterford) in order to support the recruitment of students and teachers to engage in Wexford's volunteer community.
- The vibrant arts and music culture in County Wexford supports the emergence of young artists and performers and is operated almost entirely by volunteers. Wexford Volunteer Centre has engaged with the Arts community both in the large urban centres but also in smaller rural communities to help them in the development of their local projects.
- As a group, senior citizens are a major contributor to volunteering and Wexford's expanding population of 65+ inhabitants will considerably enhance the volunteering culture of County Wexford. Wexford Volunteer Centre has begun to provide assistance in connecting new residents to the organisations they wish to participate

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in. This group in particular has been impacted by Covid-19 but throughout 2022, we saw a spike in registrations from the 65+ age categories and spikes in expressions of interest via outreach.

Formal support:

County Wexford's Local Economic and Community 2016-2021 identified Six High Level Goals the second of which (HLG2) is to “Support and promote the development of socially inclusive, sustainable communities in County Wexford and to ensure that all citizens enjoy optimal health and well-being”. Some of the measurable indicators of improvement are listed as:

- amounts of voluntary activity.
- numbers of community groups and numbers of people involved in them.
- numbers of people benefiting from the activities of community groups.
- numbers of people who become skilled in local organising and representing community interests.

The plan also states that achieving successful outcomes will depend on (among other factors) “Empowerment – helping communities to help themselves, for example, by promoting volunteering”. Wexford Volunteer Centre has been and will continue to be supported by and work with Local Authorities and other political and local representatives to play its part in achieving these goals.

Volunteer Ireland

Volunteer Ireland is the national volunteer development organization and support body for all local Volunteer Centres. It has developed a wide range of resources such as factsheets and guides for volunteer involving organisations as well as research on volunteer impacts. In addition, it organises volunteer management conferences on an annual basis.



Eva Law & Jane Byrne of Wexford VC at the Volunteer Fair at SETU

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SWOT Analysis

Strengths



- Recruitment and expansion of Board of Management to encompass more community & social responsibility.
- Ability to deliver on projects and network with volunteers and organisations.
- Use of technology to support hybrid attendance at trainings and meetings.
- Very strong social media presence grown.

Weaknesses



- Ukraine crisis – change of workplan, delays to outreach and training plans.
- Need to change workplan for year ahead as staff were needed to respond to Ukraine crisis.
- Issues with IVOL surrounding mass emails, texts and logging of hours.
- Rejection of pre-budget submission to adequately fund WVC.
- Barriers to areas with social and community needs in County Wexford. E.G. New Ross.

Opportunities



- Outreach responses were exceptional when run, huge interest and desire for them to continue into 2023, especially in more rural areas.
- Garda Vetting service, ability to expand to groups and offer this to those who have no authorised signatory.
- Expansion of Wexford VC staff team to respond to Ukraine crisis and focus on Volunteer Development.
- Safe & secure office space in town centre where footfall is high and proves effective.

Threats



- Need for further growth on Board of Management.
- Change in workplan – possible negative impact long-term.
- Underfunded to operate and deliver service at basic level due to rising costs of living (light, heat etc.)

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Progress

Our Centre

In January 2022, Wexford Volunteer Centre saw a huge relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions and the return of in person events and fundraising. This was huge for the Centre as we operated on a very restricted, hybrid model throughout 2021. Wexford VC could also begin to facilitate drop ins, more regular appointments, larger meetings, and networking events as well as in person training opportunities. Wexford Volunteer Centre was also able to begin undertaking large numbers of volunteering roles, volunteer engagement and supporting of in person fundraising events. As a Centre that established itself during Covid-19, it was a year of learning, growth and development.

It was also great to continue to deliver the work set out in the strategic plan for Wexford VC and be able to focus on the mission and values the board of management set out when developing the service in 2020 during its conception stages. As you read through the projects and deliverance of services from 2022, you will see how important it is to Wexford VC to empower and support the county and citizens of Wexford. We feel we play an integral role in the development of the community and voluntary sector that supports so many.

We successfully undertook an incredible workload and level of responsibility when asked to support the Country's response to the humanitarian crisis that is, the war on Ukraine. We supported hundreds of volunteers in communities across all of Wexford to give back. We got involved in Rosslare Europort, the second highest entry point into Ireland in 2022, all while meeting the needs of hundreds of other groups and organisations that were relaunching and restarting post Covid.

The Centre saw significant growth in numbers of registered and placed volunteers as well as growth in our overall engagement. The social media channels for Wexford Volunteer Centre play an integral role in how we advertise and showcase our work. Eva Law, our Development & Placement Officer coordinates all of our social media channels and takes great pride in the work delivered.

If you are interested, you can view these channels here –



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Phone: +353 (0)87 149 0346

e: info@volunteerwexford.ie w: www.volunteerwexford.ie

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2022 Events and Projects

At the end of 2022, Wexford Volunteer Centre had a total registration of 2,134 volunteers. In 2022, there was 852 newly registered volunteers. They have gone on to fill volunteer opportunities with organisations such as Wexford Tidy Towns, Johnstown Castle, Relay for Life, Seal Rescue Ireland, Board Members with several groups and organisations, Fundraisers, Gardeners, Tour Guides, Befrienders, Rescue Network Volunteers, Website Designers and so many others.

Roles in mentoring, animal charities, committee members, befriending and the climate/environment sector have been particularly popular amongst our volunteers. The feedback from the organisations where volunteers have been successfully placed has been very positive, which speaks to our matching-ability.

Ukraine Response

Most notably for our volunteers, over 380 volunteers volunteered in roles relating to the response to the Ukraine crisis. These began with mainly calling upon the Ukrainian community of Wexford and those who spoke Ukrainian, Russian and Polish to assist Stena, IPAS, Department of Social Protection, and numerous other organisations based at Rosslare Europort. A welcome centre was established, and the volunteers began working on a rota so that there was support at the sailings every Monday, Thursday & Saturday.



Volunteers in Rosslare Europort

&

Eva Law dropping off donations given to Wexford Volunteer Centre

A donation point was created in Wexford Volunteer Centre offices and SuperValu in Rosslare. This required another cohort of volunteers to sort through items and restock the free shops. As more displaced Ukrainians arrived in county Wexford and got placed in accommodation, a requirement for Community Welcome Ambassadors, Befrienders, Accommodation Assistants, Translators, Drivers, and English Language classes came about. With the assistance of Wexford Volunteer Centre and Wexford Local Development, several “Friends of Ukraine” groups were formed, and they became the community link, these groups were solely made of and reliant on volunteers. These groups worked hundreds of hours each month to ensure

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that those who were being placed in Wexford received a warm welcome and knew they had safety, shelter, support, and friendships. Volunteers would often say that *“We only get one chance to welcome people into Wexford, we must do it right”*.

In May 2022, Wexford Volunteer Centre successfully secured funding from the Department of Rural & Community Development to continue and grow the work being done to support the volunteers required in Rosslare Europort as well as all of County Wexford. Ewa Juodis began working and immediately took on the role with great strength and passion for those who have been displaced by the war.

In the summer of 2022, Uniphar, reached out to Wexford Volunteer Centre and requested a funding submission with a proposal on how Wexford VC would benefit from a donation. The submission was sent after approval by the Board of Management and shortly after, we received confirmation that a donation of €20,000 would be made. Wexford VC hosted an event with Richard Mulcahy as well as others working with or supporting Uniphar and a cheque presentation took place. These funds were and will be used to support our response to the Ukraine Crisis and supported our employment of Ewa Juodis, Volunteer Development Officer.



Cheque Presentation by Uniphar €20k to Ukraine appeal Wexford Volunteer Centre. L/r; Connie Rochford, John King, Richard Mulcahy, Ewa Juodis, Jane Byrne, Brian Hassett and Lorcan O'Hanlon.



Rosslare Europort – Reception area with “free shop” for Ukrainians arriving in Ireland.

Throughout 2022, Wexford Volunteer Centre participated and was a key stakeholder at the Community Response Forum which took place every 2nd week. Multiple services, organisations and the Local Authority would meet to provide updates and information about their response to the Ukraine Crisis. In 2022, over 4,000 Ukrainians entered Ireland via Rosslare, over 2,200 Ukrainians were placed in the County of Wexford, and Wexford had the highest number of homes offered in the Share a Home project where people would host Ukrainians in their homes.

Wexford Volunteer Centre worked very closely with Wexford Local Development on a number of projects to support the community integration, these were projects such as Dumpling Making Lessons, Informal English Classes, Walking Groups, new local choirs, networking events and so much more. Thousands of Ukrainians were engaged to be made feel welcome due to the incredible volunteers, strong collaboration from community and voluntary groups, the Friends of Ukraine voluntary groups responding across the county, and of course, the Rosslare Europort volunteers who worked tirelessly, from the moment they were called upon in March 2022



Ukrainians with blanket made by volunteers and their new Grandpads to connect them to their loved ones in Ukraine.

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Ewa Juodis, Volunteer Development Officer with the donated Grandpads.

In the second half of 2022, Geoff Rochford, European Director of GrandPad USA, advised us that his company wished to donate ten thousand euros worth of communication pads and services (which are designed especially for older users) to Ukrainian senior citizens to help them connect with the families they have left behind in Ukraine or other countries such as Poland and Hungary. GrandPad USA were having difficulty getting the devices into the hands of the people who needed them and they reached out to us seeking assistance with the distribution of their communication technology to Ukrainian refugees in Wexford and surrounding areas.

Our Volunteers Development Officer Ewa Juodis got to work identifying suitable recipients, arranging for the distribution of the units and finding translators to set up the devices. Each individual received a computer pad with software in Ukrainian, internet access for one year and 24-hour online support from Client Support. As well as face to fact telephone connections, the device also provides interactive card games, music, radio, zoom and email. By the end of 2022 with the help of volunteers throughout County Wexford over 45 units were in the possession of Ukrainian pensioners who were extremely grateful to now be able connect with their children and grandchildren as frequently as they wished.



Ewa Juodis, Volunteer Development Officer with some Ukrainian Women making dumplings to thank volunteers.

National Volunteering Week (NVW)

In May 2022, Wexford Volunteer Centre celebrated National Volunteering Week. This week saw several in person networking events and sessions take place to support volunteers to engage with groups, services, and organisations as well as network with one another. This week also saw an event take place on Wexford town's quay front. This event was run in conjunction with the local authority to thank the hundreds of volunteers and services that operated and answered the call during Covid lockdowns and restrictions. It was a celebration and thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers from Meals on Wheels, Tidy Towns, Order of Malta & Red Cross to name a small few.



Group of Wexford Volunteers at our Thank You event in May 2022

This event also saw Wexford Volunteer Centre launch the “Volunteer Rewards Card”, this card entitled its holders to discounts varying from 10%-20% in over 35 shops, cafes, gyms, decorating centres, opticians across the county. This initiative came about as a way for Wexford Volunteer Centre to acknowledge the wonderful work being done by hundreds of dedicated volunteers all year around. Volunteers can apply for the card via our website and once we verify that they have completed over 10 hours voluntary work since May 2022, they can avail of the card. We are always adding new businesses to the discount card and aim to continue with this going into 2023.

<https://volunteerwexford.ie/discount-cards/>



Volunteer Reward Card

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The voluntary sector exhibited a range of reactions to Covid restrictions. Depending on the cohort of their members, their area of activity, or their modus operandi, the "third sector" either stopped, went virtual, went all out by directly helping their community- or maybe even a combination of the foregoing.

For National Volunteering Week in 2022, we wanted to focus on coming together with some of our groups and volunteers, so with that in mind, we ran a week of networking and workshops. Each day brought a new theme, for example, one of the days was focused around boards and committees, those who were part of these and those who wanted to learn more and possibly join. Wexford Volunteer Centre facilitated some learning and then allowed for discussion and idea sharing time. We hosted similar sessions for climate/environment, community centres, volunteer coffee mornings and outreach in shopping centres.



Board & Committee Networking Event NVW 2022

During NVW 2022, Wexford Volunteer Centre also collaborated with Wexford Rotary Club to run a successful Volunteer Expo that saw over 30 community & voluntary groups come together and hundreds of potential volunteers connect with these groups. It was a great evening where people of Wexford could come along and meet directly with the groups to chat all things volunteering. The speaker on the night was Dmytro Shchedrin, First Secretary at Embassy of Ukraine in Ireland, which was wonderful as we had a number of the "Friends of Ukraine" groups in attendance and they could share the great work being done with the Ukraine embassy.



Staff of Wexford Volunteer Centre with Dmytro Shchedrin. First Secretary at Embassy of Ukraine in Ireland

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Return of Events

Wexford Volunteer Centre was delighted to see the return of many events for fundraising that could only take place virtually, and some didn't take place at all during Covid-19. Some of the events we coordinated and or supported by way of recruiting and placing volunteers were:

- Daffodil Day 2022
- Darkness into Light 2022
- Relay for Life *over €177,000 raised for Irish Cancer Society
- Volunteer Fairs at South East Technological University, both Wexford & Carlow Campus
- Hope & Dream Run
- St. Patricks Day Parade
- Corporate Volunteering – connecting corporates to community & voluntary organisations
- Community Centres Connection Project – Connecting Community Centre leaders/chairs/managers by hosting events in each district for them to come and share ideas, supports and thoughts
- Coffee mornings, networking events, library talks, run by Wexford Volunteer Centre to support volunteers and volunteers involving organisations
- Schools Project – A series of workshops was developed and then delivered by the team here in Wexford Volunteer Centre with the title of “Engaging Youth in Volunteering”. This was to promote and encourage community involvement from young people. This series will be delivered in 2023 and grow to include our successful win of funds from Coca Cola
- Musicians project – Ewa Juodis successfully gathered volunteer musicians, from Ukraine to go and play music for nursing homes towards the end of 2022, this was a wonderful coming together of communities and sharing such great talents



Students from Wexford Town CBS Secondary School volunteering during Daffodil Day 2022

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Staff of Modern Hire (who travelled from USA) planting trees in Johnstown Castle as part of their Corporate Citizenship.

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

Wexford Volunteer Centre, in 2022, has played a key role in the pitch for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann to be brought to Wexford Town in 2024. This would require over 1,600 volunteers to support the coordination, implementation and successful running of an event that would see over 500,000 people visit the town. Wexford VC has worked alongside the Local Authority and Craobh Loch Garman to be a part of the branding, pitching and bid document. Wexford VC has also spoken to other Volunteer Centres and intends to do site visits in 2023, if Wexford Town are successful.



Jane Byrne, Centre Manager with Ambassador Akhilesh Mishra, the Indian Ambassador to Ireland.

Volunteer Toolkit Training

Wexford Volunteer Centre was successful in securing funding from grants through ESB Generation and National Lottery to be able to host and run “Volunteer Toolkit” trainings. These were manual handling training sessions and first aid training. We engaged two training companies, Allied Training Hub and Red Cross Enniscorthy to do these and successfully upskilled 122 volunteers and volunteer managers – these volunteers and volunteer managers ranged in ages from 15 – 80+. Wexford Volunteer Centre felt very passionate about the need for these skills as you could be volunteering on the side of a pitch, in a community garden, a charity shop, anywhere and someone could require you to perform first aid.



Training sessions taking place in Wexford Volunteer Centre

Wexford Volunteer Centre aims in 2023 to roll this out to more young people and coordinate further projects, this is possible due to being named the “People’s Choice” winners of the Coca Cola Thank You Fund in 2022. This fund was for the amount of €5,000.



Jane Byrne, centre Manager with Plaque for being named winners in the 2022 Coca Cola Thank You Fund

Good Governance Awards 2022

In 2022, Wexford Volunteer Centre submitted its annual report and accounts for review to the Good Governance Awards. As it was their first year delivering an annual report, this was submitted by way of learning and growing for future years. Wexford VC was delighted to have then been shortlisted for an award in Category 2. Jane Byrne, manager attended the awards alongside colleague from Laois VC. It was an honour to have had the annual report shortlisted and receive such important feedback that can be used going forward. As a newly established charity, it was great to receive recognition and reassurance regarding our work being done and how it is reported.



Caitriona Ryan, Laois VC Manager, Minister of State Joe O'Brien & Jane Byrne, Wexford VC Manager attending the Good Governance Awards 2022



Students participating in the "Engaging Youth in Volunteering" Workshops

Our Organisations & Volunteer Figures

After a busy initial year where we focused on developing the service, informing groups and volunteers of our existence and creating a space for volunteerism to flourish, Wexford Volunteer Centre began full networking and delivery of services to organisations without Covid-19 restrictions in place.

During 2022, the number of active organisations seeking volunteer related supports from Wexford Volunteer Centre grew by over 70. This was beyond our target of 50 and we successfully secured volunteers for over 85% of the roles advertised with us. Some volunteers accumulating hundreds of hours throughout the year.

A large body of work was required to contact these groups and introduce the new Wexford Volunteer Centre service, establish their current status and amend their details (contact number, email, addresses, about us section etc.) on the IVOL platform. As part of our quality standards, we aim to undertake a “data cleanse” exercise every 12 months.

Our Ukraine response did have a short-term impact on our ability to support groups in the initial stages back in March & April 2022, but once our new Volunteer Development Officer began working and focusing on that response, it ensured Eva Law could return to her own role.



Students of the NLN Wexford Town volunteering with Wexford Tidy Towns

Being consistent with opportunities to meet staff, network, hosting events across all of the county, ensured our engagement was always on the rise and the number of potential volunteer roles was growing. Wexford Volunteer Centre operates on a “Task before Ask” ethos whereby, we mustn’t contact volunteers, groups, students etc. for support unless we have something meaningful available to them at the time.

The organisations of Wexford are hugely supported by volunteers and the goodwill of the citizens, but also by the community and voluntary sector organisations that are working to support them reach full potential. There is a huge lack of supports and services on the ground at present, and due to restrictions from funding and staffing

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resources, the ability to continue delivering high level response is limited. Wexford Volunteer Centre is seeing an ongoing issue with community level Boards of Management and lack of persons available and/or willing to partake and commit. As a service, we are aiming to do our bit and are always recruiting volunteers, and offering training and education where possible. When the strategic plan review takes place, it will be something Wexford VC will consider placing focus on.



Service users can always access the objectives set out by the Board of Wexford Volunteer Centre when they are connecting with us -

- To support with recruitment and placement of volunteers, so that organisations can successfully engage with volunteers.
- Provide a Garda Vetting service when organisations, groups and/or services do not have an authorised signatory.
- Support with outreach.
- Support with CRA and training to support volunteer management and retention.

By end of 2022, there were 196 **active** organisations registered with Wexford Volunteer Centre and from this there were 152 advertised opportunities (please note, some opportunities require multiple volunteers E.G. Team Hope required over 80 volunteers, Relay for Life required 40 etc.) At the end of 2022, Wexford Volunteer Centre had logged a phenomenal **42,500** of completed volunteering hours.

Organisations were looking for volunteers for a number of activities i.e., charity shops, be-friending, committee members, website designers, event stewards, gardeners, administration, youth work and one-off events.

Going Forward

The cornerstone of a thriving society is strong healthy communities. The crisis of Covid-19 and then delving straight into supporting displaced Ukrainians has clearly demonstrated that volunteers hold communities together, whether that's shopping for neighbours, those who are fleeing war seeking safety and shelter, or children's home-made cards, to those who no longer reside in the homes they once did.



One of the many displaced persons who received a Christmas card from the hundreds made by children across Wexford.

Wexford Volunteer Centre through its volunteer Board members and professional staff are providing the leadership needed to support and develop our communities. Throughout 2022, Wexford Volunteer Centre advocated for further funding to continue to grow and develop its staffing and ability to deliver on the National Volunteer Strategy (2020 – 2025). Unfortunately, the recommendations from S3 Solutions were not accepted due to the disappointing report on what the core funding structure should look like. From this, the 29 Volunteer Centres have approached the Dept. of Rural & Community Development for core funding increases and to review the services being delivered and how to better deliver on the strategy. This meeting will take place in early 2023 and is eagerly anticipated by all.

Wexford Volunteer Centre has evolved from the dedication, energy, and enthusiasm of the volunteer Board of Management. The volunteers invested considerable time and effort into developing a Volunteer Centre for the County of Wexford in less than a year. With the assistance and knowledge of Jane Byrne, Centre Manager the Centre has grown to a team of 5 and delivered a high quality, professional service, meeting the need of hundreds of groups and thousands of volunteers.

In achieving our goal of establishing the Centre as a presence in Wexford we have also demonstrated the need for the Centre's services and supports to the community. The projects we have identified, that are in line with the National Volunteering Strategy, are the outcome of our professional knowledge and work on the ground with communities and real people. The goal of a Volunteer Centre in the

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county is to promote volunteerism, bring awareness and connections between volunteers and organisations and bring the concept of Volunteering in the county to a new level. We believe we are achieving this goal and will look to grow on the achievements made in 2022 into 2023 and beyond.

Our Financial Reports 2022

Company registration number 676232 (Republic of Ireland)

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	Andrew Maher Jonathan King Constance Rochford
Secretary	Constance Rochford
Company number	676232
Registered office	Molyneaux House 67/69 Bride Street Dublin8
Auditor	Asple & Co Chartered Certified Accountants Registered Auditors The Crescent Wexford Y35 YA49
Business address	Common Quay Street Wexford
Bankers	Bank of Ireland Custom House Quay Wexford
Solicitors	Ensor O'Connor 4 Court Place Enniscorthy Co. Wexford

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company continued to be that of the promotion of volunteering activities.

Wexford Volunteer Company Limited by Guarantee was formed on the 21st August 2020. The Company is Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and governed by a Board of Trustees. As it is a non-profit organisation there are no shareholders and any surplus is reinvested in the company.

Registered charity numbers: CRO 676232 / CHY 22794 / Charity Registration 20206098. We are registered and compliant with the Charities Regulatory Authority.

The company is also part of the network of 29 Volunteer Centres in Ireland and an affiliate of Volunteer Ireland.

Review of the business

The company's work is anchored on social inclusion principles and policies. Volunteering fits well within the social inclusion policy framework because volunteering is a way of encouraging and supporting members of society

on their journey towards reaching their full potential.

-We offer support, encouragement and guidance to organisations and individuals who have made a conscious decision to contribute to society through good practice volunteering.

- We support people seeking to volunteer their skills and time with non-profit organisations.

- We serve community and non-profit organisations by providing information, training, resources, matching, Garda vetting and support in all aspects of best practice volunteer management and leadership – ultimately helping them to fulfil their mission/objectives through volunteer engagement.

- We reach out to community and promote the value of volunteering through briefings, information sharing and hosting of volunteer-focused events.

Results and dividends

The results for the year are set out on page 8.

Directors and secretary

The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

Andrew Maher

Jonathan King

Constance Rochford

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Trustees

The following persons held the position of trustee during the period :

Michelle Cafferky (Appointed 4 September 2020)

Leonard Kelly (Appointed 5 September 2020)

The role of the Board and Directors

The Company's Board of Directors is responsible for the overall governance, legal and fiduciary obligations for the Company. It guides the mission, values and vision of the Company.

The Board ensures that the organisation is delivering a service in line with agreed work plans, in accordance with the contractual arrangements of funders, and above all, which is consistent with the best interests of those in the catchment area, in line with the Constitution.

The Board delegates responsibilities to Centre management in the following areas:

- Implementing the strategic plan, operational plan and policies approved by the Board.
- Keeping the Board updated, informing them of any new risks arising, and providing board support and administration.
- Overseeing the design, marketing, promotion, quality and delivery of programmes and services.
- Leading staff and volunteers to ensure they contribute directly to achieving the goals of the Volunteer Centre.

Supplier payment policy

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for ensuring compliance, in all material respects, with the provisions of the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2012. Procedures have been implemented to identify the dates upon which invoices fall due for payment and to ensure that payments are made by such dates. Such procedures provide reasonable assurance against material non-compliance with the Regulations. The payment policy during the year under review was to comply with the requirements of the Regulations.

Accounting records

The company's directors acknowledge their responsibilities under sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 to ensure that the company keeps adequate accounting records. The following measures have been taken:

- the implementation of appropriate policies and procedures for recording transactions;
- the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise;
- the provision of sufficient company resources for this purpose;
- liaison with the company's external professional advisers.

The accounting records are held at the company's business premises, Common Quay Street Wexford.

Auditor

In accordance with the Companies Act 2014, section 383(2), Asple & Co continue in office as auditor of the company.

Statement of disclosure to auditor

Each of the directors in office at the date of approval of this annual report confirms that:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the director has taken all the steps that he / she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself / herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

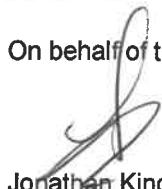
This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of section 330 of the Companies Act 2014.

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

On behalf of the board



Jonathan King
Director



Constance Rochford
Director

22 June 2023

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

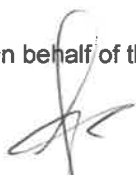
Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Generally accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland) issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board



Jonathan King
Director
22 June 2023



Constance Rochford
Director

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Wexford Volunteer Centre Company Limited by Guarantee ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2022, which comprise the income and expenditure account, the statement of comprehensive income, the balance sheet, the statement of changes in equity and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2022 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information in the annual report. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions, are not complied with by the company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the company's financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the company's financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: <https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing-standards/Standards-Guidance-for-Auditors-in-Ireland/Description-of-the-auditor-s-responsibilities-for>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE MEMBERS OF WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE



Stefan Asple
Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of Asple & Co
Chartered Certified Accountants
Registered Auditors
The Crescent
Wexford
Y35 YA49

22 June 2023

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		Year ended 31 December 2022 €	Period ended 31 December 2021 €
	Notes		
Income	3	235,234	112,245
Administrative expenses		(190,516)	(110,365)
Surplus before taxation		44,718	1,880
Tax on surplus	6	-	-
Surplus for the financial year		44,718	1,880

The income and expenditure account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Year ended 2022 €	Period ended 2021 €
Surplus for the year	44,718	1,880
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>44,718</u>	<u>1,880</u>

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

BALANCE SHEET

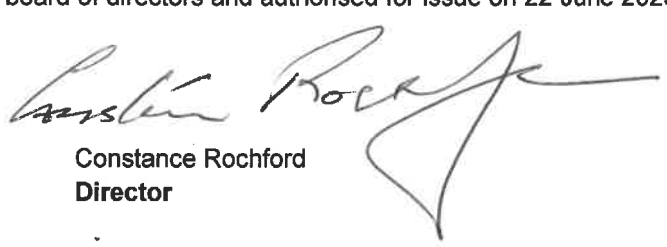
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 €	€	2021 €	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	7		7,670		12,367
Current assets					
Cash at bank and in hand		86,573		44,782	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(47,645)		(55,269)	
Net current assets/(liabilities)			38,928		(10,487)
Net assets			46,598		1,880
Reserves					
Income and expenditure account	12		46,598		1,880
Members' funds			46,598		1,880

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Statement Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 22 June 2023 and are signed on its behalf by:


Jonathan King
Director


Constance Rochford
Director

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Income and expenditure €
Balance at 20 August 2020	-
Period ended 31 December 2021:	
Profit and total comprehensive income for the period	1,880
Balance at 31 December 2021	1,880
Year ended 31 December 2022:	
Profit and total comprehensive income for the year	44,718
Balance at 31 December 2022	46,598

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

Company information

Wexford Volunteer Centre Company Limited by Guarantee is a limited company domiciled and incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office is Molyneaux House, 67/69 Bride Street, Dublin8 and its company registration number is 676232.

1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

The financial statements are prepared in euros, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest €.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income and expenditure

Income and expenses are included in the financial statements as they become receivable or due.

Expenses include VAT where applicable as the company cannot reclaim it.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures and fittings	25% Straight Line
-----------------------	-------------------

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to surplus or deficit.

1.5 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting period end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset (or cash-generating unit) in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.8 Taxation

The company has obtained exemption from the Revenue Commissioners in respect of corporation tax, it being a company not carrying on a business for the purposes of making a profit. DIRT tax is payable on any interest income received in excess of €32.

The company has obtained exemption from the Revenue Commissioners in respect of corporation tax, it being a company not carrying on a business for the purposes of making a profit. DIRT tax is payable on any interest income received in excess of €32.

1.9 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.10 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.11 Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is reasonable assurance that the grant conditions will be met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant received before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

1.12 Foreign exchange

Transactions in currencies other than euros are recorded at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At each reporting end date, monetary assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing on the reporting end date. Gains and losses arising on translation in the period are included in profit or loss.

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3 Income

The total turnover of the company for the year has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in the Republic of Ireland.

Government Grant's received during 2022

Name of grant agency:	Department of Rural and Community Development
Grant Programme name:	Strengthen and Support Volunteering
Purpose of Grant :	Payment of overheads associated with the operation of the programme
Total Grant awarded	€129,614
Deferred amount at start of year	€46,000
Fund taken to Income	€175,614
Deferred amount at year end	€0
Capital grants:	No
Restrictions on use:	Can only be used for the purposes as set out in the grant agreement

Name of grant agency:	Department of Rural and Community Development
Grant Programme name:	Ukraine
Purpose of Grant :	Payment of overheads associated with the operation of the programme
Total Grant awarded	€43,374
Fund taken to Income	€28,555
Deferred amount at year end	€8,236
Capital grants:	€6,583
Restrictions on use:	Can only be used for the purposes as set out in the grant agreement

Name of grant agency:	Wexford County Council
Grant Programme name:	2022 funding
Purpose of Grant :	Payment of overheads associated with the operation of the programme
Total Grant awarded	€17,553
Fund taken to Income	€17,553
Deferred amount at year end	€0
Capital grants:	€0
Restrictions on use:	Can only be used for the purposes as set out in the grant agreement

Name of grant agency:	Volunteer Ireland
Grant Programme name:	Community volunteer fund
Purpose of Grant :	Payment of costs associated with the operation of the programme
Total Grant awarded	€2,421
Fund taken to Income	€2,421
Deferred amount at year end	€0
Capital grants:	€0
Restrictions on use:	Can only be used for the purposes as set out in the grant agreement

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

4 Operating surplus

	2022	2021
	€	€
Operating surplus for the year is stated after charging:		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	3,075	3,075
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	4,697	6,422
	<u>7,772</u>	<u>9,497</u>

5 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (including directors) employed by the company during the year was:

2022	2021
Number	Number
4	2
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

Their aggregate remuneration comprised:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Wages and salaries	105,080	59,326
Social security costs	11,653	6,400
Pension costs	6,853	1,524
	<u>123,586</u>	<u>67,250</u>

There are no staff members earning over €60,000 per annum.

Directors remuneration of Nil was paid for the period ended 31st December 2022.

6 Taxation

No current or deferred taxation charge arises as the company has been awarded charitable status.

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

7 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings €
Cost	
At 1 January 2022	18,789
Additions	6,583
Grant Received	(6,583)
At 31 December 2022	18,789
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 January 2022	6,422
Depreciation charged in the year	4,697
At 31 December 2022	11,119
Carrying amount	
At 31 December 2022	7,670
At 31 December 2021	12,367

Grants received in the period totalling €6,583, relating to the acquisition cost of fixed assets, have being set against the cost of the relevant assets.

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 €	2021 €
Notes		
Trade creditors	6,721	-
PAYE and social security	4,426	2,788
Deferred income	33,423	46,000
Accruals	3,075	6,481
	47,645	55,269

9 Deferred Income

	2022 €	2021 €
Department of Rural and Community Affairs	8,236	46,000
Other deferred income	25,187	-
	33,423	46,000

Deferred Income from the Department of Community and Rural affairs relates to funding received in relation to Ukraine unspent at year end.

Other Deferred Income relates to non government funded grants and donations received in 2022 and unspent at year end.

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

10 Retirement benefit schemes

	2022	2021
	€	€
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	6,853	1,524

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

11 Members' liability

The company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding €1.

12 Income and expenditure account

	2022	2021
	€	€
At the beginning of the year	1,880	-
Surplus for the year	44,718	1,880
At the end of the year	46,598	1,880

The retained surplus arises from Restricted Income received that was not expended at the period end. This surplus can only be expended in line with the restrictions placed on its use when it was originally received.

13 Related party transactions

The company did not carry out any transactions in the year which are required to be disclosed as Related Party Transactions.

14 Approval of financial statements

The directors approved the financial statements on 22 June 2023.

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

WEXFORD VOLUNTEER CENTRE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Year ended 31 December 2022	Period ended 31 December 2021
	€	€
Income		
Wexford Co Council - Restricted Income	17,553	17,992
Department of Rural & Community Development - Restricted Income	204,170	88,845
Volunteer Ireland - Restricted Income	2,421	-
HSE - Restricted Income	-	5,024
Other Donations & Grants	9,343	-
Other Income	1,747	384
	<u>235,234</u>	<u>112,245</u>
 Administrative expenses		
Wages and salaries	105,080	58,526
Social security costs	11,653	6,400
Staff welfare	1,054	-
Staff training	5,554	-
Staff pension costs defined contribution	6,853	1,524
Uniforms	-	800
Rent	15,000	9,000
Rates	2,352	1,345
Security costs	954	406
Cleaning	301	-
Waste disposal	436	180
Light and Heat	2,413	2,061
Repairs and maintenance	295	1,843
Insurance	1,018	1,255
Computer running costs	1,341	232
Travelling expenses	7,803	3,867
Postage	641	75
Subscriptions	1,289	600
Legal and professional fees	40	3,407
Audit fees	3,075	3,075
Bank charges	25	28
Advertising	10,707	2,513
Telephone	2,556	1,680
Office supplies	3,730	3,826
Sundry expenses	1,649	1,300
Depreciation	4,697	6,422
	<u>(190,516)</u>	<u>(110,365)</u>
 Operating surplus	<u>44,718</u>	<u>1,880</u>