

## **Wexford Rape Crisis (WEXRC) Strategic Statement 2022-2024**

We are pleased to present Wexford Rape Crisis - Strategic Statement 2022-2024. This statement sets out the strategic priorities for our work over the coming years in service and support to those who have been affected by domestic, sexual or gender-based violence, including women, men, young people and all persons of different sexual or gender identities.

### **About WEXRC**

Wexford Rape Crisis began in 1995 providing a free counselling service for survivors of sexual violence and their families in the Co Wexford area. The service expanded as more and more survivors sought counselling and outreach services were developed in Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross. In 2019 the service expanded their remit further to provide counselling and support for those who experienced domestic and gender-based violence. The service has grown and expanded in response to rising needs and adapted well to the switch to telehealth and remote counselling during the Covid 19 Pandemic 2020/21.

### **WEXRC Vision**

Our vision is for a society free from sexual violence.

### **WEXRC Mission**

Our mission is to provide a client-centred support service for those who may have been affected by domestic, sexual or gender-based violence, including women, men, young people and all persons of different sexual or gender identities.

## **Highlights of WEXRC work under previous strategic plan 2017-2021**

In the review of our work in preparing for this strategic statement the following highlights were noted and celebrated:

- ▶ Completion of our state-of-the-art new building at the Rocks, Wexford town
- ▶ Rebranding and raised profile for WRC
- ▶ Continued provision of high-quality service to clients during Covid 19
- ▶ Child & Adolescent Counselling Service
- ▶ Consent and Education Worker
- ▶ Introduction of parent support of adolescents accessing the service
- ▶ Social media and awareness campaigns
- ▶ Continuous professional development and self care for the front-line team
- ▶ Team work and fundraising
- ▶ Governance, financial management, funding applications and administration

## **Strategic Priorities 2022-2024**

The following are the strategic priorities arising from the review and preparation for this strategic statement. These three high level priorities will strategically guide our work as we continue to innovate in the provision of counselling and support to people who have been affected by domestic, sexual or gender-based violence.

We will prepare an annual operational plan to advance the actions under each strategic priority over the next five years.

### **Strategic Priority One - Responding to the Demand for WEXRC Services**

We have experienced a significant surge in demand for our services in recent times and all the indications are that this growth will continue into the near future. We will continue to work to respond to the needs of those who seek our services. We will do this through the following actions:

- Continue to provide a high-quality client centred, quality counselling service

- Innovate in response to the complexity of cases and emerging issues
- Strengthen our digital response and competence in provision of telehealth
- Further develop our Adult Counselling Service.
- Further develop our Child & Adolescent Counselling Service
- Deliver information and education workshops to parents to complement our work with young people
- Link in with teachers and continuous professional development (CPD) to support the SPHE programme in schools
- Raise awareness of our work through careful management and use of all media channels, including social media

### **Strategic Priority Two - Creating and cultivating relationships**

Relationships matter and over the years we have built good working relationships that enhance collaborative capacity to respond to the needs of the people we serve. We are grateful for these relationships and we will continue to create and cultivate relationships and partnerships to advance our work in support of those who need our services. We will do this through the following actions:

- Continue to communicate our role and purpose with the public
- Nurture our relationships with all stakeholders including relevant government agencies, the national network of Rape Crisis Centres, funders, the community and the wider business community
- Collaborate in practical and innovative ways with relevant organisations including An Garda Síochána and the Women's Refuge, community organisations, schools and other relevant support services
- Create and cultivate strategic partnerships with specific organisations, such as third level colleges and private business, to draw on shared resources, research capacity and corporate social responsibility possibilities.

### **Strategic Priority Three - Organisational Structure and Systems**

The WEXRC Board, staff and volunteers have always been a strength of the organisation. We will continue to develop and strengthen our organisation over the next five years. We will do this through the following actions:

- Enhance WEXRC as a clear, cohesive, collegial and strategic organisation
- Sustain a strong Board, excellent governance and attend to succession planning
- Strengthen our organisational structure and staffing in response to the development and evolution of our service
- Attend to the ongoing training, self care and CPD needs of all our team
- Continue to attract and support volunteers appreciating the valuable contribution of volunteers to the work of our organisation
- Enhance systems for administration, finance, data gathering and management, monitoring and evaluation of our service provision
- Generate income through fundraising, philanthropy and other means to support our work.