Carlow County Council achieves Prestigious WHO European Healthy City Accreditation for Phase VIII (2026–2030)

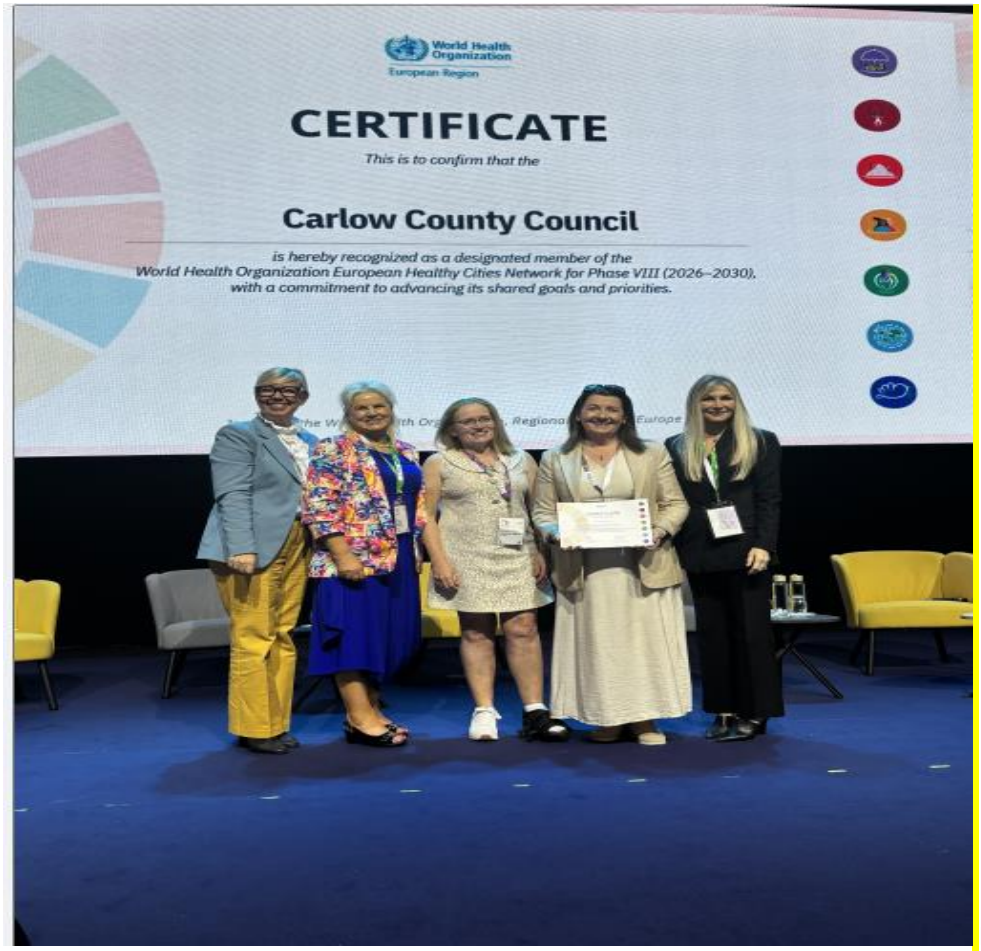


Photo Caption: Kira Fortune (Senior Technical Advisor -Regional WHO Office of Europe), Minister Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Alison Scanlon (Healthy Carlow Co-ordinator), Councillor Andrea Dalton (Carlow County Council), Chris Brown (Head of the WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development)

Carlow County Council is proud to announce that Carlow has been officially accredited as a **World Health Organisation's (WHO's) European Healthy City** for **Phase VIII (2026–2030)**, joining a prestigious network of cities across Europe recognised for their commitment to placing health, wellbeing, equity and sustainability at the centre of local governance and development.

The WHO Healthy Cities programme is a global movement that supports local authorities in prioritising health and wellbeing in all policies. It is not a reflection of health status, but rather an

endorsement of long-term political, institutional and community commitment to continual improvement in health and quality of life.

This significant achievement reflects Carlow's strong and ongoing commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of its citizens through collaborative, inclusive and sustainable initiatives. The accreditation recognises the collective efforts of Carlow County Council, the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), the HSE, community organisations, voluntary groups, and a wide range of stakeholders working together to create a healthier county for all.

As a newly accredited Healthy City in **Phase VIII (2026–2030)**, Carlow will contribute to and benefit from a Europe-wide network focused on building **resilient, inclusive and sustainable urban environments**.

Welcoming the announcement, Councillor Tommy Kinsella, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, stated:
"We are delighted that Carlow has been recognised as a WHO European Healthy City for Phase VIII. This prestigious accreditation is a testament to the dedication and collaboration of Carlow County Council, state agencies, local businesses, communities and voluntary organisations across the county. It affirms our shared commitment to creating a vibrant, inclusive and healthy place for all who live, work, study and visit our County."

Chief Executive of Carlow County Council, Coilín O'Reilly, added:
"This achievement highlights the strength of partnership working across County Carlow. Through our Local Community Development Committee and initiatives such as Healthy Carlow, we have demonstrated a strong commitment to improving health outcomes and tackling inequalities. We look forward to continuing this work as part of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network."

Participation in the WHO European Healthy Cities Network will enable Carlow to share best practice, learn from other leading cities, and strengthen local policies and initiatives that promote health, wellbeing and sustainable development.

Carlow County Council will continue to work closely with partners to deliver on the ambitions of Phase VIII, ensuring that health and wellbeing remain central to all policies and services.