

<b>Water Safety Ireland Water Safety Guidance Note Number 7: Role of Water Safety Development Officer</b>	
<b>Name of Working Group</b>	Beach Safety Report Review Working Group
<b>Members</b>	John Leech, Michael Cuddihy, Tom Doyle , Clair McGrath, Paddy Drumgoole, Enda Hanniffy
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<b><u>Water Safety Development Officer (WSDO) Activities</u></b>	
<b>1. Water Safety Ireland Safety Guidelines</b>	
1.1	Water Safety Development Officer (WSDO) to advise Local Authority Management of the requirements of Water Safety Ireland (WSI) guidance notes.
1.2	Local Authority to ensure that their relevant departments implement the requirements of these guidance notes as required. WSDO shall offer advice to the relevant local authority departments on the implementation of these guidance notes (where required, the WSDO may also seek further advice from WSI as necessary).
<b>2. Local Authority Management of Water Safety</b>	
2.1	WSDO to report to their relevant line manager on an ongoing basis on all aspects of local water safety.
<b>3. Local Authority Annual Water Safety Budget</b>	
3.1	WSDO to ensure, with Line Manager support, the provision and management of the annual Local Authority Water Safety Budget.
<b>4. Inspection and maintenance of the Public Rescue Equipment (Ringbuoys)</b>	
4.1	Local Authority to ensure that their relevant departments have an annual programme in place regarding the ongoing inspection and maintenance of public rescue equipment and records of same are maintained (in accordance with WSI guidelines). WSDO shall ensure that an annual audit of the programme to ensure that standards are maintained in accordance Water Safety Guidance note No.1.
<b>5. Lifeguarding at Designated Bathing Areas (DBA's)</b>	
5.1	Where recommended by a risk assessment, the Local Authority to ensure that their relevant departments have an annual programme in place regarding the provision and supervision of a lifeguard service at designated bathing areas (in accordance with WSI guidelines).  The WSDO may offer advice as required to the relevant local authority department regarding the provision of this lifeguard service (where required, the WSDO may also seek further advice from WSI as necessary).
5.2	WSDO to arrange for the provision of all necessary equipment to allow lifeguards complete their duties.

5.3 WSDO to arrange for the annual Local Authority Lifeguard testing, induction training and seasonal competency professional development training where relevant.

5.4 WSDO to arrange for the provision of adequate pool and beach lifeguard courses where relevant.

## 6. Water Safety Signage

6.1 Where recommended by a risk assessment, the Local Authority are to ensure that their relevant departments have a programme in place regarding the provision and maintenance of water safety signage at required locations (in accordance with WSI guidance notes).

WSDO may offer advice as required to the relevant local authority departments regarding the provision of water safety signage (where required, the WSDO may also seek further advice from WSI as necessary).

## 7. Water Safety Promotion

7.1 The WSDO shall support WSI in the promotion of water safety locally by completion of the following activities as required:

- Provision of press releases to the Local Authority Media Officer for release to local media as required.
- Be the point of contact for all local third-party aquatic organisations in relation to the promotion of local water safety.
- Liaise with WSI and Water Safety Area Committee (WSAC) on behalf of a Local Authority as per the WSAC Rules and Regulations.
- Promote Water Safety Ireland educational programmes locally as required e.g. Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS); Summer/Winter programmes.
- Promote WSI National Drowning Prevention Plan locally as required.

## 8. Risk Assessments

8.1 WSDO to request from WSI for the completion of water safety risk assessments and reports on beaches and other aquatic locations as required.

## 9. Other Activities

9.2 WSDO may provide in-house water safety training as required and if competent to do so.