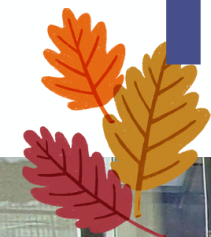


NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025 | Issue 4



This edition shines a spotlight on the work we've been doing across Galway city and county — from supporting vibrant arts festivals and community celebrations, to launching new learning opportunities, peer support initiatives, and wellbeing events. You'll also find updates on projects tackling food insecurity, promoting inclusion, and empowering individuals through education, training, and enterprise supports.

At the heart of all of these activities is our shared commitment to building strong, inclusive, and resilient communities where everyone has the opportunity to participate and thrive.

I also want to take this opportunity to welcome new members of staff: Stephen O'Connell working on the ALL Adult Literacy Project funded by SOLAS, Jamie Burke who works on the Saor Health Diversion Programme, Clive Rath, Sean Mac Dermott and Brenda Cormican working on SICAP, Marie Costello, Chief Financial Officer and Delia Clarke and Stiofán Mac Donncha who have joined us on the Local Area Employment Service.

Welcome!

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Galway City Partnership newsletter! Here you will find information on all of the services we have to offer the community and how to get in touch. We hope you enjoy it!

We also take this opportunity to welcome Tim Fitzgerald and all the participants on the CE Recovery Scheme. It is a great honour to support Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force by hosting this scheme.

We hope you enjoy reading about the achievements, collaborations, and stories from across our programmes, and we look forward to continuing this important work.

Warm regards,

Linda Sice Brogan
CEO, Galway City Partnership



COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



SICAP: Community Development Ballybane

SICAP Goal 1 works to contribute to building more sustainable, inclusive and empowered communities. It aims to empower communities to identify and respond to their own needs. The Community Development team works in our key areas of Ballybane, Ballinifoile and Westside.

Eastside Arts Festival 2025

Galway City Partnership together with Ballybane Library, ARD Family Resource Centre, Galway City Council, the Ballybane Taskforce, Foroige, and BCRC was delighted to once again serve on the Steering Committee for the Eastside Arts Festival 2025.

Building on last year's success, this year's festival presented an exciting new programme of art, dance, music, film, and theatre, celebrating the area's rich diversity and vibrant community spirit. Despite cancellations due to Storm Amy, Saturday 4th of October saw an exciting variety of events including performers and musicians from the Ignite Gospel Choir, to Galway Gati Laysa (Indian Dance), UA Mriya Ukrainian Children's Dance Group, Dave Kody, PJ Mongan, Samba Wave and much more!

The festival was officially launched on Tuesday 23rd of September at Ballybane Library by the Mayor of Galway City, Councillor Mike Cubbard.



If you would like to learn more about Community Development in Ballybane please contact Imelda Gormally on 086 0227821 or imelda@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



SICAP: Community Development Ballybane

Ballybane Taskforce Meet Cllr Helen Ogbu

The Ballybane Taskforce were delighted to meet with local councillor Helen Ogbu on Tuesday 16th September. The group shared with Helen their many achievements over the past 8 years including:

- The development of the Eastside Urban Walking Routes
- Weekly Community Coffee mornings
- Community Newsletters
- Promotion of Positive News Stories from across the community
- Advocacy work with Galway City Council focused on Derelict Buildings
- Painting of Buildings, Litter Management and Community Clean-Ups
- Research on the development of a sensory garden in Ballybane
- Support for the running of Community Harvest Days in the Community Garden
- Submissions on the City Development Plan, Local Economic and Community Plan
- Garden Competitions
- Sliabh Rua Estate Group support
- Mayoral Awards nominations from across the community
- Community Open Days, Community Consultations, Needs Analysis, Christmas Community Market, Eastside Arts Festival.

The group also spoke about their plans for the future which include continuing to provide the wider community with information on the supports and services currently existing as well as advocating for the provision of enhanced services and supports for the community.



If you would like to get involved in any of these groups or activities, please contact Imelda Gormally on 086 0227821 or imelda@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



SICAP: Community Development Ballinfoile

Ballinfoile Community Groups

We are delighted to be working with and supporting many different community groups in Ballinfoile. These include Men's Groups, Women's Groups, Community Gardens, Groups supporting parents including a Parent and Toddler Group and Parents of Teenagers Community Group, Active Retirement Groups, a Community Singing Group and a recently formed Community Art Group. There is something for everyone!



Music For Galway Event



We are delighted to be working in collaboration with Music For Galway and Galway City Council on a very exciting community music initiative. Together we will be bringing **DRAGONFLY** (Naomi Berrill/Danusha Waskiewicz) to the Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre on **November 19th**. These artists are established musicians on the world stage and have been involved in community projects in Ireland, Germany and Italy. In order to embed this concert into the community, a number of Community Singing Groups established and supported by Galway City Partnership will be participating in the performance. These include a Ukrainian Singing Group called Harmony as well as Community Singing Groups from Ballybane, Ballinfoile and Westside.

If you would like to learn more about Community Development in Ballinfoile, please contact Vernice Murray on 086 8392621 or vernice@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

SICAP: Community Development Ballinfoile

BALLINFOILE COMMUNITY WALKING GROUP

Group walks in the local area!
Followed by tea/coffee and a chat.
Suitable for all abilities and fitness levels
Come along and meet new people,
get moving in the fresh air
and boost your health

TIME & DAY:
Wednesday
9.30 to 11 am.

LOCATION
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Community Centre

CONTACT:
Vernice
Ph: 086 8392621
email: vernice@gcp.ie



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Union through the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021-2027.

Ballinfoile Community SINGING GROUP
Come Join Us!

Location:
Ballinfoile, Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre
Headford Rd.

Time/Day:
Wednesday
11:30 am to 1:30

**Sing your heart out,
make new friends and
have a cuppa.**

All Levels Welcome!

Contact:
Email: Vernice@gcp.ie
Ph: 086 8392621



This project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union.

If you would like to learn more about Community Development in Ballinfoile,
please contact Vernice Murray on 086 8392621 or vernice@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme

SICAP: Community Development Westside

Westside Arts Festival A Great Success

We are very proud to support the Westside Arts Festival (WAF) each year. The festival is a fantastic **celebration of the arts in Westside**, all provided free of charge to the community.

The focus of our Community Development staff is to ensure the festival is **inclusive, diverse and accessible** and we are happy to say we achieved this along with the committee this year.

Many thanks to all of the groups and volunteers who took part and to all those who came along and enjoyed the festival.



If you would like to learn more about Community Development in Westside, please contact Ciara Coy on 083 0234390 or ciara@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

SICAP: Community Development Westside

Westside Walking Group

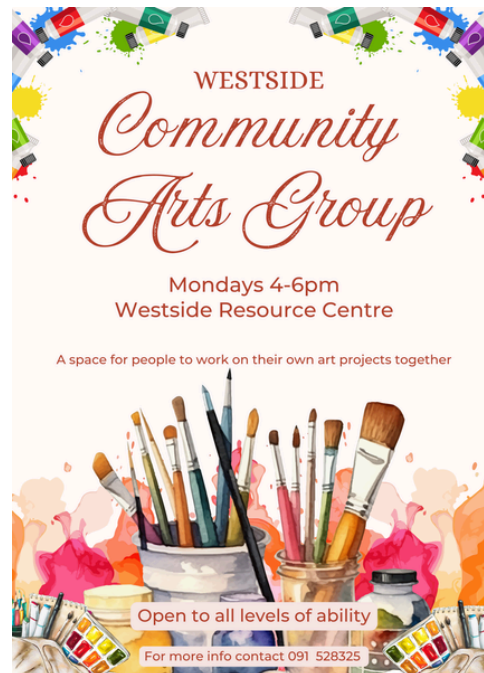


Westside Walking Group continue to meet each week and have adapted their walk to suit people of different paces. The group is open to all to pop along any week. Meets Thursdays at 11.15am outside Westside Library.

Westside Community Singing Group



Westside Community Singing Group performing at the recent Climate Festival in Westside Community Organic Garden with tutor Martina Flaherty. Meets Wednesdays at 2pm in Westside Library. All welcome!



Access For All

Access For All, a disability group who meet in Westside Resource Centre and are supported by our Community Development in Westside, recently marked Make Way Day by presenting their short film 'The Long Way Round' to Galway City Council CEO, councillors and staff.



If you would like to learn more about Community Development in Westside, please contact Ciara Coy on 083 0234390 or ciara@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



HSE: Let's Get Galway Growing

Let's Get Galway Growing is a dynamic network that connects seven community gardens across Galway city, fostering development through the exchange of information, knowledge, and capacity building. The network focuses its work on sharing learning in relation to climate change actions, sustainability and community engagement

Climate Action Festival

On September 12th, four of our community gardens from the network contributed vegetables, fruits, and herbs to the Climate Action Festival. These homegrown ingredients were prepared into a feast for around 100 people. The dinner was very lovely, celebrating sustainability, local food, and community spirit, while also highlighting the role of gardening in collective climate action and environmental awareness.

Climate Action Fair

On Saturday, September 13th, Let's Get Galway Growing participated in the Climate Action Fair with a stall representing the work of all community gardens in the network. Fresh produce from the gardens was displayed alongside craft activities for children and other interactive elements. The network also had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor and other local representatives, sharing more about their gardens' work and the positive impact on communities across Galway, while also highlighting the opportunities available for community members to volunteer and get involved in their local gardens.



Community Gardens Ireland Autumn Gathering

Let's Get Galway Growing Network will support the hosting of Community Gardens Ireland's Annual Autumn Gathering on October 12th at Ballybane Community Resource Centre. The theme for this year is "Growing Together", with around 60 participants expected to join for a panel discussion, lunch, garden visits, networking, and more. The event will bring together community gardeners from across Ireland to share knowledge and strengthen the national network. For tickets and more information, please visit: [Eventbrite Link](#)

If you would like to learn more about Let's Get Galway Growing, please contact Faazia on 0834708536 or faozia@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



SICAP: Social Enterprise Supports

A Social Enterprise is an enterprise whose objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact, rather than maximising profit for its owners or shareholders. Our Social Enterprise supports include one-to-one mentoring support, Training, grant information, networking opportunities and more.

Galway City Partnership supports a monthly gathering of Galway City Social Enterprises (SEs). This provides an opportunity for SEs to connect, share ideas, challenges and opportunities

Guidance and information sharing is provided to SEs on upcoming grant opportunities, the most recent being circular.ie which supports Circular Economy, Marketing and Communications work being undertaken by SEs.

GCP has recently linked SEs with the Local Enterprise Office, Galway for business mentoring support in developing business plans for 2026.



Brenda Cormican

New Social Enterprise Development Officer

We'd like to welcome Brenda Cormican to the team. Brenda has recently started working with Galway City Partnership as the Social Enterprise Development Officer & Social Prescribing Supporting Worker. Brenda brings with her a wealth of experience as a Business Coach and Strategist and we are delighted to welcome her on board!



If you would like to learn more about Social Enterprise, please contact Brenda on 083 3794136 or brenda@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



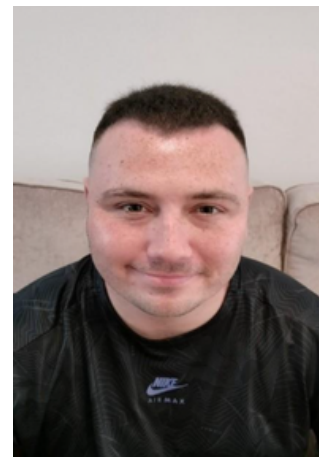
SICAP: Peer Support

Peer support is important in building connection and community by allowing individuals with shared experiences to provide understanding, guidance, and practical advice, thereby reducing feelings of isolation, promoting hope and increased resilience.

Welcome to New Peer Support Workers

Welcome to our new SICAP Peer Support Workers Sean Mac Dermott and Clive Rath.

Sean joined the SICAP team in August and he is active in the local recovery community. He brings lived experience and a compassionate approach to supporting people who are returning to education and employment. Now in his second year of the Child, Youth and Family: Policy & Practice degree at University of Galway, Sean is building professional skills and knowledge to complement his lived experience, strengthening his ability to help others create positive change in their own lives.



Sean Mac Dermott

Clive also joined the SICAP team in recently as a Peer Support Worker. He brings empathy and understanding around addiction to the role of Peer Support. Clive is also working in Knocknacarra Community Employment Scheme.



Clive Rath



If you would like to learn more about SICAP Peer Support email Sean on seanmacdermott@gcp.ie or Clive on clive@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Social Prescribing

Social Prescribing is a free service for adults aged 18+ which aims to reduce social isolation and improve people's health and wellbeing by linking them with activities in their local area. This is achieved through one-to-one support and some group activity work.

Creative Workshops

As part of its Creative Ireland project there were workshops in Pottery, Illustration and General Wellness.

Below are some of the participants of the pottery tasters and, right, an illustration by group facilitator Shane Cluskey.



Wellness Workshop

Below are some of the participants of a Wellness Workshop which explored a range of practical tools and tips to be used in everyday life to improve health and wellbeing.



If you would like to learn more about Social Prescribing, please contact Suzanne on 083 1969370 or suzanne@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Community Link Worker

The Community Link Worker's role is to engage with local residents to understand their experiences, concerns, and perspectives on migrant integration in Galway and to support inclusion in Galway City. The work aims to empower established community members, facilitate collaborative projects, and organise events that promote social cohesion, inclusion, and mutual understanding. Key activities include collecting information about the community, hosting workshops, inclusive events, and more.

Survey of Experiences of Racism and Discrimination

Since our last newsletter, we've made significant strides in supporting communities across Galway. We've worked with GCARD (Galway Communities Against Racism and Discrimination) to develop and launch a survey aimed at understanding experiences of racism and discrimination in Galway city and county, including how people find the process of reporting incidents to local services.

In the coming months, we will host a community event to launch the results of our GCARD survey, sharing insights into experiences of racism and discrimination across Galway to inform future projects and policy.

For All/Welcomes All Network

We also established a network of "For All/Welcomes All" groups across Galway City and County to facilitate information sharing, provide support in responding to conflict, and assist in hosting inclusive community events.

Community Pantry Project

Thanks to Safefood CFI funding, we've launched a community pantry project that supports those experiencing food insecurity, helping people build cooking skills, reduce food waste, learn about nutrition and budgeting, and enjoy social and wellbeing activities. With funding secured for the next four years, there's plenty more to come!



A recent feature on the Community Pantry Project in The Connacht Tribune

If you would like to learn more about Community Link, please contact Gráinne on 083 0586152 or grainne@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

SAOR Health Division Worker

Our SAOR Health Division worker provides health-focused support to individuals found with drugs for personal use under Ireland's Health Diversion Scheme. He delivers the SAOR (Support-Ask-Offer-Refer) intervention, which is a person-centered screening and brief intervention model designed to assess substance use, offer support, and provide referrals to specialist services when appropriate.

A New Service

This is a brand-new health lead initiative where a member of the Gardaí can decide to send adults they have caught in possession of personal use drugs to see a SAOR practitioner where they can get some help if needed. This should reduce the number of people getting convictions and hopefully reduce their substance use.



Jamie Burke



If you would like to learn more about SAOR please contact
Jamie Burke on jamie.burke@hse.ie or 0877436781.

EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING



Comhphairtíocht Chathair na Gaillimhe
Galway City Partnership
an taoide ag casadh
a tide for change

SICAP: Lifelong Learning

SICAP GOAL 2 works to support individuals, children, and families to progress their education both formal and through Lifelong Learning, to progress their employment/self-employment and to foster their wellbeing.

HACCP

A **Handling Food Hygienically course (HACCP)** was run over a two-week period at the Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre. This accommodated twelve learners, eleven of whom successfully completed the course and achieved a QQI Level 4 certificate qualifying them for employment within the food industry.

Online SNA Course

An **online SNA course QQI Level 6** started in March 2025 with eleven participants, of which nine were confirmed as successfully completed in late August. We are awaiting the issue of certificates towards the end of the year, at which time a small graduation gathering will be organised for the successful students in Galway City Partnership. The course takes ten weeks to complete and may require additional time due to the academic requirements of the assessments. Congratulations to all who completed their SNA QQI Level 6 course this year!

Funding for Individuals

Funding is ongoing for individuals who want to pursue an educational/lifelong learning goal. Prospective students are welcome to make an appointment with Donnacha to discuss options available for 2026.



Pictured is Billy Bakare receiving her certificate from SICAP Project Officer Donnacha Minton

Anyone interested in Lifelong Learning Courses, please contact donnacha@gcp.ie or alternatively, phone 0861424904 to arrange an appointment.

EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING



SICAP: Lifelong Learning



Presentation from University Access Centre

Galway City Partnership was delighted to welcome Elaine Ryan and Róisín Birch from the Access Centre University of Galway to the Headford Road Office recently when they presented to the Eastside School Completion Programme Local Management Committee on: The Access Centre: Student Lifecycle Supports. The presentation was highly informative on the range of educational programmes available in the city and county to address barriers to higher education.

Anyone interested in Lifelong Learning Courses, please contact donnacha@gcp.ie or alternatively, phone 0861424904 to arrange an appointment.

EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE



SICAP: Enterprise Supports

Tax Self-Assessment Workshop for Self-Employed

As October/November is the deadline for Self-Employed people to submit the Tax Self-Assessment to Revenue for the 2024 period we are organising a workshop to support people who will have to submit. Please email enterprise@gcp.ie if you wish to register your interest for this workshop.

Workshop:

- Submitting Your Annual Self-Assessment Tax Return
- Practical session for sole traders and self-employed individuals
- Guidance on filing requirements, deadlines, and Revenue online services



Please contact paul@gcp.ie if you would like further details and/or to reserve your place.

We would also be interested in hearing what kinds of supports self-employed people feel they would need, and we will work with other service providers to identify ways to meet the needs.



Self-Employed and in Need of Support?

We would appreciate the input of self-employed people in need of support through this questionnaire:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Twx01yFQAh>

If you would like to learn more about Enterprise Supports, please contact Paul on paul@gpcp.ie.

EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE



TÚS: Community Work Placement

The Tús community work placement initiative offers short-term, working opportunities for long-term jobseekers. Work experience includes retail, maintenance, clerical and environmental positions which are provided by local community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations. Tús employment contracts are part-time (19.5hrs/week) for 12 months.

Ukrainian Festival

The **Ukrainians in Galway Network**, supported by our SICAP colleagues, is a collective of Ukrainian community groups including UHUG, Harmony, UA Mriya and Kalyna and their most recent event was a wonderful celebration of **Ukrainian Independence Day on Sunday the 24th of August**. The celebration was held at St. Joseph's Community Centre and included Ukrainian national cuisine, a craft market, traditional straw workshops, and painting. A talent show from the Ukrainian community from all corners of the city and county was held in the large hall. Ukrainian seamstresses demonstrated a collection of Ukrainian traditional clothing and children had a special day enjoying face painting, chalk drawing, and treats. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

The **Ukrainians in Galway Network**, supported by our SICAP colleagues, is a collective of Ukrainian community groups including **UHUG, Harmony, UA Mriya and Kalyna** and their most recent event was a wonderful celebration of Ukrainian Independence Day on Sunday the 24th of August. The celebration was held at St. Joseph's Community Centre and included Ukrainian national cuisine, a craft market, traditional straw workshops, and painting. A talent show from the Ukrainian community from all corners of the city and county was held in the large hall. Ukrainian seamstresses demonstrated a collection of Ukrainian traditional clothing and children had a special day enjoying face painting, chalk drawing, and treats. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all!



Mayor Cllr Mike Cubbard and Cllr Helen Ogbu pictured at the event with members of Ukrainian choir Harmony

If you are interested in a Tús work placement with this or any other community organisation in Galway City and you have been a Jobseeker for 12 months, you can apply to participate with the Tús Initiative.

For more information on Tús, contact Sean at 086-7707430 or slynch@gcp.ie or Tina at 086-7707457 or tina@gcp.ie.

SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Ballinfoile Youth Activities Project

The Ballinfoile Youth Activities Project provides activities for children aged 5-16 years in the Ballinfoile/Castlegar area. The project is administered by Galway City Partnership and supported by Galway City Council LCDC, Tusla, GRETB, CYPSC, Healthy Galway City and the City North CFSN.

Since the last newsletter, we've enjoyed a jam-packed summer of activities that brought plenty of fun, learning, and creativity. Alongside our **summer camps**, the children had the chance to enjoy exciting **days out at Wildlands and St. Brigid's Garden**, where they explored the outdoors, built friendships, and made lasting memories.

A real highlight was a **special drama performance** delivered by the children who took part in our drama camp. Their energy and talent shone on stage, and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they shared their hard work with family and friends.



Looking ahead, we're excited to be working with Galway City Council and the local children on two new creative projects that will bring fresh energy to the community.

The first is a **Sustainable Fashion Workshop**, where young people will get the chance to learn about upcycling, explore their creativity, and design unique pieces with an eco-friendly focus. The second is the **creation of a community mural**, designed by the children themselves, which will brighten up the BCNC Community Centre and celebrate their voices and ideas.

Both projects will give young people a space to express themselves and feel proud of their contributions within their local communities.

For more information on the Ballinfoile Youth Activities Project, contact:

**Hannah Arosomade on 086 2005557 or hannah@gcp.ie
Milma Urroz on 086 2005558 or milma@gcp.ie**

SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Ballybane ACE Afterschool Project

The Ballybane ACE Afterschool Project is a free Homework Support and Activities-Based Club open to all children from Ballybane and surrounding areas from age 6-12 years. The club runs Monday to Thursday from 3-6pm during the school year.

Ballybane ACE Afterschool Project is delighted to have reopened our doors for another exciting school year. We are delighted to see so many of our children returning year after year to our ACE club and growing with us. We welcome all the new faces and look forward to creating exciting projects together.

We would like to thank Baboro Children's Theatre festival for their ongoing support to all the children in The Ballybane ACE Afterschool project. A big shout out to Bry the outreach officer. We are so looking forward to our trip to the festival this year and the excitement is building daily in our club.



Explore, Learn, and Grow! BALLYBANE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMME-

All students from 1st to 6th class are Welcome!

Monday to Thursday
3 PM to 6 PM **ACE Club**

Activities

- . Homework Support
- . Sport
- . Music, Drama
- . Cookery
- . Arts & Crafts
- . Podcasting

Sign up your child today and see them flourish in our after-school programme, where each day presents a chance to learn, discover and develop!



Baboró
International Arts Festival for Children

Another big shout out to the Eastside Arts festival for inviting and sponsoring our Afterschool Project to attend your festival. Lots of fun ahead for the month of October!

Location
Ballybane Community Resource Centre
Ballybane, Galway, H91 VP6D

 Comhpháirtíocht Chathair na Gaillimhe
Galway City Partnership
an taoide ag casadh
a tide for change

 **gretb**
Ioslí Oideachais agus Oiliúna
na Gaillimhe agus Bliain Comais
Galway and Education
Education and Training Board

 **TUSLA**
An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

#ballybanecommunityresourcecentre
#galwaycitypartnership
#gretb
#radharcnamara
#scoilcaltriona
#ballybanelibrary
#scoilenterprises



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Có-mhaoinithe ag an
Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Social Inclusion &
Community Activation
Programme



government supporting communities

This project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union.

**For more information on Ballybane Afterschool Club,
contact Sinead on 086 0332379 or sinead.hackett@gretb.ie.**

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



SICAP: Language Supports

ALL Adult Literacy Project

As of the 1st of September, the **English Language and Health project** has been underway in **three direct provision centres** in Galway. The goal of this ALL-Adult Literacy project is two-fold: to help participants understand the Irish healthcare system better and to improve their English to be able to access the healthcare system with more confidence.

To achieve these goals, a curriculum was built around target tasks such as talking about one's medical history, describing and answering questions about symptoms with a GP, and learning about healthy habits.

Five classes across the three centres were formed: two intermediate level, two beginner level, and one mixed level. All classes meet for three hours of instruction per week in the centres, and children are welcome. The **12-week program** runs until the end of November, and we are optimistic for its usefulness with the current participants, and hope that it can serve as a model of language instruction to be replicated elsewhere in Ireland.



English Classes

Since the last newsletter, we have continued to deliver regular English classes and conversation groups. We have supported **over one hundred students** during this time, providing a consistent space for learners to practise English, meet others, and build confidence. None of this would be possible without our dedicated volunteers, whose time, energy, and commitment make such a difference to our learners every week.

Our new timetable will begin on September 30th and run until December 11th. We look forward to welcoming new and returning learners to our autumn term. **Contact Rory on rory@gcp.ie to find out more information on English classes at Galway City Partnership. Please note places are limited to availability.**



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Cómhaoinithe ag an
Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Adult
Literacy
for Life

To find out more about SICAP Supports for New Arrivals, please contact Mary McHugh SICAP Programme Co-ordinator marymchugh@gcp.ie.

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



SICAP: Supports to New Arrivals

Empathy Bridges Wellbeing Event

On 8th and 15th September, Galway City Partnership hosted the **Empathy Bridges: Building Connection and Integration in Ireland** events at the Plaza Offices. This wellbeing initiative, designed especially for new arrivals in Ireland, created a warm and welcoming space for people from diverse backgrounds to come together, share experiences, and build connections.

The sessions combined open discussions, interactive activities, and opportunities to learn about local supports. Participants highlighted how important it is to have safe spaces where newcomers can feel heard, supported, and included in their new communities.



Employability Training

We recently held a series of employability-focused training sessions aimed at equipping new arrivals with practical skills and career-ready knowledge. Two additional **Barista Basics and Food Safety** courses were held at the Galway Barista School, welcoming a total of 29 participants. These courses combined fundamental coffee theory with hands-on barista practice and food safety instruction. Participants gained practical experience and the confidence needed to begin their careers in the coffee and hospitality industry.

Our four **Manual Handling** training sessions saw 39 participants take part. The course focused on safe lifting techniques, injury prevention, and workplace safety awareness. These sessions provide new arrivals with practical skills, hands-on experience, and the confidence needed to strengthen their career prospects and successfully build pathways into Irish industry.

To find out more about SICAP Supports for New Arrivals, please contact Mary McHugh SICAP Programme Co-ordinator marymchugh@gcp.ie.

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



SICAP: Supports to New Arrivals

Drawing Workshop for New Arrivals

The New Arrivals Drawing Workshop is a creative and welcoming initiative designed for newcomers to Galway. Taking place twice a month at the Westside Library, these inspiring sessions offer participants the chance to explore drawing as a form of self-expression, relaxation, and connection.

Whether you're passionate about art or simply looking for a new way to connect with people, the workshops offer a meaningful way to learn, relax, and grow in your new home.

Upcoming Workshops

We're delighted to share that from October we'll be back with our Drawing Workshops, taking place twice a month on **Tuesdays at Westside Library**.



To find out more about SICAP Supports for New Arrivals, please contact Mary McHugh SICAP Programme Co-ordinator marymchugh@gcp.ie.

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



SICAP: Supports to New Arrivals

Voices and Visions

Voices and Visions is a friendly space where people come to relax, share, and connect through language and creativity. Each session mixes conversation practice with art, giving everyone a chance to express themselves. In this session, participants painted national flags to show identity and culture. While painting, they practise English by talking about the colours, their journeys, and what home means to them. Everyone brings their own voice and vision, and together, they create a shared story of strength, creativity, and hope.



The Voices And Visions Group is excited to announce the creation of a community stories book, which will be completed by the end of November and officially launched in the winter. This special book will feature the voices of participants and members of the group, capturing their experiences as new arrivals and celebrating diverse perspectives, shared experiences, and the richness of community life, offering readers a unique window into the journeys of its contributors.



To find out more about SICAP Supports for New Arrivals, please contact Mary McHugh SICAP Programme Co-ordinator marymchugh@gcp.ie.

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



SICAP: Supports to New Arrivals

Multinational Creatives Celebrate International Day of Peace

On Sunday, 21st September 2025, the Multinational Creatives group came together at Salthill Park to celebrate the International Day of Peace. The group, made up of women of different nationalities and supported by Galway City Partnership, are event planners who use culture and creativity to connect people. This special evening brought members together for a picnic in the park, with refreshments, cake cutting, and songs from different countries.

The celebration ended with a peaceful art activity, where each participant hand-painted a mug to take home as a keepsake. The group's spirit of peace, friendship, and cultural exchange is a true reflection and a joyful reminder of the power of community.



To find out more about SICAP Supports for New Arrivals, please contact Mary McHugh SICAP Programme Co-ordinator marymchugh@gcp.ie.

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



SICAP: Supports to New Arrivals

Empowering Women Through Swimming with SheMoves



Thanks to the Supporting New Arrivals Communities team at Galway City Partnership, SheMoves group is enjoying a series of swimming sessions at the Kingfisher Club, University of Galway from 2nd September to 21st October. These sessions are an incredible opportunity for vulnerable women, including refugees, asylum seekers, and those under international protection, to build confidence, develop life-saving skills, and engage in movement they enjoy. Galway City Partnership is helping women gain independence, connect with others, and feel empowered by providing this safe, supportive space, that makes a positive difference in the community.

New Jogging Programme



SheMoves is excited to announce a six-week jogging program starting Thursday, 30th October, running once a week from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Open to both members and non-members, these sessions provide a safe and supportive environment for women to stay active, build fitness, and connect with others.

SheMoves Autumn Jogging Session

Join SheMoves for a 6-Week Jogging Program! Starting Thursday, 30th October | 8:00-9:00 p.m. Open to all women and members & non-members are welcome! Stay active, build fitness, and connect in a safe, supportive space.



Start location: Salthill
Black Rock Diving Tower

To find out more about SICAP Supports for New Arrivals, please contact Mary McHugh SICAP Programme Co-ordinator marymchugh@gcp.ie.

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



SICAP: Migrant Supports

Your Residency: What Next? Workshop

The SICAP Goal 2 Team led by Esther Osayimwen were delighted to hold an interactive workshop **"Your Residency: What Next?"** on the 29th of August in the Maldron Hotel. The event was very well attended with over forty participants taking part on the day.

The workshop offered **clear, practical guidance on residence permissions, rights, entitlements**, and next steps for asylum seekers, refugees, and new communities navigating life in Ireland. The session was highly interactive, with participants actively engaging, asking questions, and sharing experiences thus ensuring the discussion was open, practical, and responsive to the needs of those present.



To find out more about SICAP Migrant Supports contact Esther on esther@gcp.ie.

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



SICAP: Migrant Supports



The aim of this workshop was to empower individuals with knowledge on residence permits, work and study rights, renewals, family reunification, and more while also making valuable connections with key support services. The strong turnout highlighted both the demand for this type of information and the importance of creating a safe, inclusive space where open participation is encouraged and valued.



Please view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qz300TNPlqA> for a taste of this event.

A special thanks to our collaborators – Citizens Information Service (CIS), the Department of Social Protection, and Ioanna Negrello (Legal Case Worker) of the Immigrant Council of Ireland for their invaluable contributions, and to everyone who attended for making the event such a success.



To find out more about SICAP Migrant Supports contact Esther on esther@gcp.ie.

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



BRIDGE

The BRIDGE project seeks to promote the effective delivery of reception and integration supports (including advocacy and capacity building interventions) to asylum seekers, refugees and third country nationals living in Galway city and county.

Kayak Training

Migrants and locals participated in a 6-week kayak training programme, made possible by HSE National Lottery funding. The popular programme fostered community integration, outdoor water skills and cultural exchange through guided sessions on the city's scenic waterways and involved collaboration between the BRIDGE Project, Galway Kayak Club, Canoeing Ireland and Galway Sports Partnership.



Biodiversity in The Backyard

Children and parents living in the Dominick Street Centre undertook a 'Biodiversity in The Backyard' workshop in July, increasing awareness of ecosystems, conservation and human impact on nature. This workshop involved a collaboration between BRIDGE and Baboró International Children's Festival and the artwork created will be exhibited during Baboró in October.

Céad Míle Fáilte Programme

During the summer months, BRIDGE teamed with Conradh na Gaeilge to give New Arrivals an opportunity to learn 'Gaeilge'. This Céad Míle Fáilte programme also introduced cultural, heritage and creative experiences that are part of Irish history and Sean-nós singing ended the programme.

To find out more about the BRIDGE project please contact Tara on tara@gcp.ie/0833335659 or Cathy on cathy@gcp.ie/0860433376.

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



BRIDGE

What's Next

Intercultural and Anti-Racism Strategy

The **Intercultural and Anti-Racism Strategy** celebrates diversity, combats racism, forges community cohesion and seeks to develop Galway as a welcoming and equitable city. The Strategy is now complete and will be launched in the coming weeks.



Homework Club

A **Homework Club** for 40 children living in the Eglinton will recommence in September 2025 involving a partnership between the BRIDGE Project and Croí na Gaillimhe.



Music Classes

Free Weekly Music Generation Classes for 100 children will run from September to December 2025 in the Eglinton, Centrepont, Dominick Street and also in Arás Na nGael. This programme involves collaboration between CYPSC, GRETB, SICAP (GCP) and BRIDGE.



To find out more about the BRIDGE project please contact Tara on tara@gcp.ie/0833335659 or Cathy on cathy@gcp.ie/0860433376.

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS



HSE: Ukrainian Health Peer Support

The Ukrainian Health Peer Support Worker role within the Ukrainian Response (Galway) Project, HSE Social Inclusion, Community Healthcare West, supports Ukrainian nationals under Temporary Protection living in Galway city and county. The project promotes access to the Irish healthcare system and integration supports through:

- **Running Community Information Clinics to support healthcare access**
- **Assistance in GP clinics, vaccination clinics, and medical card applications**
- **Health awareness sessions, counselling and responding to health inquiries**
- **Sharing service information and social media outreach**
- **Advocacy for displaced Ukrainian individuals**
- **Supporting integration into community networks and employment**

Community Information Clinics

Community Information Clinics were organised each month in 12–13 different locations, providing guidance on medical card applications, GP registration, and navigating the Irish healthcare system. Support was offered both face-to-face and through phone and social media, ensuring broad accessibility. Each month, between 120 and 160 clients received direct advice on healthcare entitlements, with further referrals made to psychological and mental health supports, addiction counselling, STI services, family planning clinics, opticians, dental care, and sessional health clinics. Close cooperation with local health centres, schools, and community organisations has further enhanced integration opportunities. These actions highlight not only the project's ability to respond quickly to urgent health needs but also its contribution to building lasting resilience and stronger connections within the Ukrainian community in Galway.



Women's Health Event

Our team is currently developing the idea for a Women's Health Event, with strong enthusiasm from colleagues. We are exploring the possibility of partnering with Sexual Health West to deliver this event for the communities served by GCP. The event would be open to around 30–40 participants from diverse backgrounds and would cover key topics such as access to free healthcare supports during pregnancy, menopause, hormone replacement therapy, free feminine hygiene products, and available women's services in Ireland. The aim is to create a welcoming and informative space for women of different ages and needs.

To find out more about the Ukrainian Health Peer Support please contact OlgaOlga@gcp.ie or olga.tsivinska@hse.ie.

COMPANY INITIATIVES

Pride Week



Pride Visibility

At Galway City Partnership, we are always looking at ways we can demonstrate our inclusiveness to both staff and the wider community. As well as participating in AMACH's Community Hub as part of Galway Pride Festival, we also upped our visual representation in our offices across the city!

Our offices are welcoming spaces to all people in the LGBTQ+ community!



STAFF TRAINING

Sustainability

A Greener Workplace

Our colleague Paul O'Donnell (Enterprise Officer and Climate Justice Officer), provided staff with a very insightful and thought-provoking training session on Wed 1st Oct on Sustainability Practices in Galway City Partnership. In advance of the training, staff completed a survey on waste reduction, reusing and recycling in our office spaces which lent itself to a lively conversation on ways in which we can improve how sustainable and climate conscious we are. Many thanks to Paul for a great session and we look forward to the improvements to come!



Outreach Centres

Our community development workers are based in centres around the city. To find out about activities in each of the centres, see below or contact the community worker in that area.

Westside Resource Centre

A number of regular free activities are supported by the community development worker in Westside. Other activities also run throughout the year.

For more information you can contact Ciara on 083 0234390 or email ciara@gcp.ie. To contact the centre directly call 091 528325.



Ballybane Community Resource Centre

A number of regular free activities are supported by the community development worker in Ballybane. Other activities also run throughout the year. All activities below are run in Ballybane Community Resource Centre.

For more information you can contact Imelda on 086 0227821 or email imelda@gcp.ie. To contact the centre directly call 091 768300.



Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre

A number of regular free activities are supported by the community development worker in Ballinfoile Castlegar. Other activities also run throughout the year.

For more information you can contact Vernice on 086 8392621 or email vernice@gcp.ie. To contact the centre directly call 091 429620.





Comhpháirtíocht Chathair na Gaillimhe
Galway City Partnership
an taoide ag casadh
a tide for change

If it's an emergency, Dial 112 or 999

NUMBERS IF YOU NEED THEM



SAMARITANS

TALK IT THROUGH,
WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN

jo@samaritans.ie www.samaritans.org

116 123

pieta

1800 247 247

TEXT HELP TO 51444 info@pieta.ie

Pieta supports people and communities in crisis by providing freely accessible, professional services to all.

Galway Centre: 091 502921 Tuam Centre: 093 25586

Athlone Centre: 090 642 4111

www.pieta.ie

Childline

by ISPCC

Reach out for any reason, anytime.
Childline is always here
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1800 666 666

Instant messaging service
available on

www.childline.ie

spunout

text about it

SCAN ME

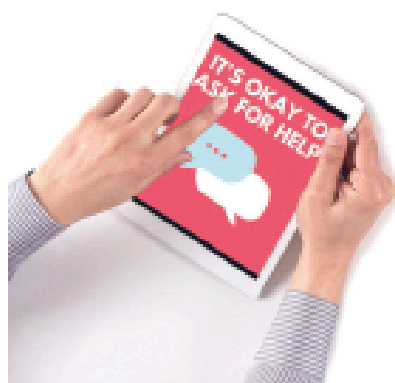


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Connecting for Life
Galway, Mayo and Roscommon



Comhphairtíocht Chathair na Gaillimhe
Galway City Partnership
an taoide ag casadh
a tide for change



hello Autumn



Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Adult
Literacy
for Life



Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin
Galway and Roscommon
Education and Training Board



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union



Social Inclusion &
Community Activation
Programme



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021 -2027.

Tá an Clár um Chuimsiú Sóisialta agus Gníomhachtú Pobail (SICAP) cómhaoinithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann, tríd an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta, agus Ciste Sóisialta na hEorpa Plus faoin gClár Fostaíochta, Cuimsiú, Scileanna agus Oiliúna (EIST) 2021 -2027.