



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025 | Issue 3



Celebrating Exciting Projects in GCP

As we move into the long, bright days of summer, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past few months and share a heartfelt thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

This year has already brought a great deal of energy, change and progress. From new projects getting off the ground to the deepening of our work with communities, through dedicated support from our staff, volunteers, board members and partners.

I am especially proud of our work supporting **Children and Young People** both in formal and informal settings, our new and ongoing initiatives in the area of **Just Transition and Circular Economy**, the continued focus on **Employment and Education** across all the communities we serve and our ongoing support to **Older People**, ensuring everyone has a voice. Our **Community Voice** sub committee of the board is going from strength to strength ensuring our work remains focused on the areas of highest need.

We continue to have successes across all our programmes including a very successful launch of our Employers Toolkit by the WorkAbility Programme, and a wonderful **Climate Action**

Welcome!



Welcome to the third 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!

showcase by the SICAP team in the last number of months.

I had the privilege of sharing the needs of our communities with the **REGI Committee** meeting to Ireland, and also as part of a recent delegation to meet MEPs in Brussels. It is vitally important we continue to be the voice of our communities, at local, national and European levels.

I'm especially proud of the work being done to promote inclusion, health and wellbeing. Whether it's through our integration supports, community education, health initiatives or local partnerships, we continue to strive to build connections, and making a difference. Wishing you all an enjoyable summer.

Warm regards,

Linda Sice Brogan
CEO, Galway City Partnership



COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

SICAP: Supporting Community Organisations & Social Enterprises

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.

Local Development Week: Our Community, Our Climate

Local Development Week took place across the country from 12th-16th May 2025 and our Goal 1 team marked it with a very special event in The Harbour Hotel on Friday 16th May.

The event '**Our Community, Our Climate**' shone a light on all of the work being done by groups and social enterprises that we support to promote positive climate action. We were thrilled to have Mayor Peter Keane launch our short **video** showcasing this work and to hear from some fantastic guest speakers. Our speakers included Community Climate Action Officer in Galway City Council, Tiernan McCusker and Friends of Merlin

Woods member Caroline Stanley. Our key note speaker was none other than broadcaster and environmental advocate **Duncan Stewart!**

We had songs from the **Westside Community Singing Group** and **Ballinfoile Community Singing Group** who came together to give an incredible performance of climate-themed songs and incredible stalls from groups and social enterprises we support demonstrating the ways in which they recycle, reuse and repair. The event closed with a fashion show of upcycled clothes with Ukrainian social enterprise **Stitch Together**.



COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

SICAP: Community Development Ballinfoile



Summer Gathering in Ballinfoile

Community groups in Ballinfoile recently came together for a wonderful summer gathering in the peaceful surrounds of the **Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden**. Members of the **Ballinfoile Community Singing Group**, the **Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden**, the **Castlegar Active Retirement Group** and the **Ballinfoile Walking Group** enjoyed a fabulous morning of sunshine and fun where they were given a tour of the garden showcasing all the different types of vegetables and fruit that are being grown in this oasis in the heart of the local community.

Members of the garden group provided refreshments, and everyone was entertained by some lovely music from the **Ballinfoile Community Singing Group**.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the morning. This get-together was an opportunity for local people to meet and share ideas in a warm, inviting and relaxed atmosphere and to connect with nature. We all know community connection is so important for our well-being.

Special thanks also to our funding partners **GRET** and **Galway City Council**.

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 Westside



World Elder Abuse Day Event



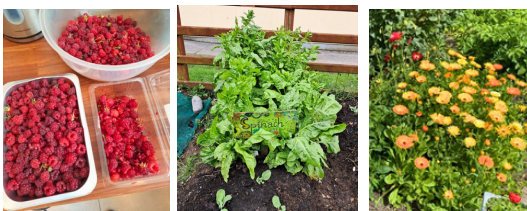
Westside Community Arts Group celebrating their 1st birthday!



Westside Walking Group out and active!



Westside Community Organic Garden in bloom!



Warmer Days in Westside

Westside has been a hive of activity both indoors and outdoors over the past few months. Outdoors, **Westside Community Organic Garden** have been busy growing and harvesting and **Westside Walking Group** have been enjoying the warmer weather on their weekly walks.

Indoors, **Westside Community Arts Group** recently celebrated their first birthday and on Friday 13th of June, we marked **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** with a talk to the Westside Coffee Morning and Westside Social Club groups.

Our Community Development officer has also been busy supporting the participation of community groups in the upcoming **Westside Arts Festival** (Tues 8th-Sat 12th July). The festival will provide a host of free, fun activities for the whole community! For more information see [Westside Arts Festival Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/westsideartsfestival).

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 Ballybane

Ballybane Update

Plans are currently underway for the second year of the **Eastside Arts Festival**. The Festival encompasses Ballybane, Doughiska, Mervue and surrounding areas and will be held on the 3rd and 4th of October. We would love to hear from anyone from the community interested in volunteering in the festival!

We were delighted to see two sets of local leaders in Ballybane nominated for **Mayor's Awards**: Louie Maguire, a leading member of Eastside Community Drama and mental health advocate and the Ballybane Contenders Group. The Ballybane Contenders meet every week in the Ballybane Community Resource Centre and are open to all older people. To find out more please contact Faozia on 083 4708536.



Louie Maguire



Representatives of The Ballybane Contenders



Our Ballybane staff recently engaged with Food Cloud on a series of workshops to explore the possibility of establishing a **Community Food Project** in the city. We are currently planning a Healthy Food Made Easy Programme in Ballybane and hope to pilot a Community Food Pantry. To find out more contact grainne@gcp.ie.



Participants at Food Cloud workshop

The Community Development & SICAP Coordinator was also delighted to recently welcome volunteers from **Westmeath Community Development (WCD)** to Ballybane Community Resource Centre. The visiting team enjoyed a visit to **Ballybane Community Coffee Morning**, **Ballybane Community Garden** and the Community Hub in Beal Srutha.



WCD visit to Ballybane (left and above)

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: Social Enterprise Supports



Deirdre Cunningham (centre) and attendees at the Women in Social Enterprise event

Social Enterprise Update

Our Social Enterprise Officer Deirdre Cunningham was delighted to support an event for **Women in Social Enterprise** on Wednesday 18th June at SCCUL Sanctuary in Clarinbridge.

The workshop was carried out in conjunction with **SCCUL, Galway Rural Development and bizmentors** and focussed on resilience, reflection and recharging as women in business.

The women in attendance also enjoyed a beautiful music therapy session and learned about the **8 pillars of self-care**.



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

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

HSE: Let's Get Galway Growing

Let's Get Galway Growing (LGGG) 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.

Outing for Community Gardens

On the 16th of June, 25 participants from 6 community gardens in Galway City visited **Brigit's Garden** for a Biodiversity Awareness Workshop delivered by Kay Synott and a garden tour led by Jenny Beale.

The workshop was a wonderful opportunity for the garden volunteers to learn more about conserving nature, protecting habitats, and enhancing the rich diversity of plant and wildlife species in their own community spaces. It provided a valuable insight into the crucial role that native species and pollinators play in a healthy ecosystem, and how small, local actions can collectively make a huge difference for conserving Ireland's rich natural heritage.



Members of LGGG at Brigit's Garden



Members of LGGG at Brigit's Garden

September Festival

Five of seven community gardens will contribute vegetables, fruits, and herbs to the **Climate Action Festival** in September. These homegrown ingredients will be used in a feast for around 100 people, celebrating sustainability, local food, and community spirit, while highlighting the role of gardening in collective climate action and environmental awareness.

Community Gardens Ireland Gathering

Let's Get Galway Growing Network, will support the hosting of **Community Gardens Ireland** annual in-person gathering this October. Around 50-60 people will join for training, garden visits, and networking, bringing together community gardeners from across Ireland to share knowledge and strengthen the national network.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Community Link Worker



Gráinne Ní Eidhin



Community Connection: A new role for Galway City Partnership

Hi, I'm Gráinne, and I recently joined Galway City Partnership as a **Community Link Worker** under the Community Connection Project.

My role focuses on **supporting local communities to engage positively and constructively around the topic of migrant integration**. I work directly with residents to help build understanding, counter misinformation, and support inclusive community responses—especially in areas where International Protection Applicants are arriving or already living.

I'm passionate about community development and believe in the strength and resilience of local people coming together to create welcoming, informed spaces for everyone!

Keep an eye out for upcoming events, workshops, and opportunities to get involved— I'd love to connect with you and hear your thoughts on what matters most in your community!

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

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Galway City Older People's Council



Galway City OPC members and supporting staff with Age Friendly Ambassador Keith Finnegan

Supporting Older People's Initiatives in Galway City

The Galway City Older People's Council (OPC) is supported by one of our Community Development Project Officers. The OPC is a representative group of older people in Galway city and is a key stakeholder group of the **Galway City Age Friendly Programme**. It aims to ensure consistency of services, supports and outcomes of the **Galway Age-Friendly Strategy**.

The group recently met with **Age Friendly Ambassador** Keith Finnegan who expressed enthusiasm for representing the needs of older people in Galway.

A quarterly newsletter is issued for both Galway city and county OPCs. Contact agefriendly@galwaycity.ie if you wish to avail of this.

Age Friendly Awards

The 2025 National **Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards** will take place in Galway for the first time later this year. The event will be jointly hosted by Galway City and County Council in The Galmont Hotel, Galway on Thursday, October 23rd, 2025. The awards celebrate innovative projects from across a range of areas that have real impact on the lives of older people and have the potential to be showcased and replicated.

Positive Role Models

Positive Ageing Week will take place from 29th Sept – 5th Oct 2025. Keep an eye out that week for the Local Heroes Campaign celebrating older people in our communities!

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Social Prescribing

Social Activities Throughout the City

It has been a busy few months for Galway City Social Prescribing. In addition to **one-to-one support**, there were events across the city to celebrate **Social Prescribing Day** in March.

A number of events took place during **Men's Health Week** in June including the Health Fair in Westside and an Information talk on **Getting Active in your Community** with Rehab Enterprises Galway.

Social Prescribing will continue to host a number of social events as part of its Creative Ireland project including Pottery workshops in July.



Participants at Social Prescribing Day at Westside Library and Westside Resource Centre



Social Prescribing Day at Ballybane Community Resource Centre



Men's Health Week at Rehab Enterprises

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

EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

SICAP: Supporting Individuals, Children & Families



Roisin McGarry HSCL with Mercy Primary students and Mary McHugh SICAP Coordinator

Preparation for Primary

In the **Mercy Primary School** two very happy Junior Infant volunteers with Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Roisin Garry were delighted to prepare for the new enrolment for Summer 2025.

All new children receive a pack to support their transition to Primary school.

Inclusive Activity Day

We were delighted to recently support under SICAP the **Galway Bay League** Inclusive Activity Day which was held in *Coláiste Muire Matháir*. Schools represented from Galway City and the Gaeltacht took part in events such as wheelchair basketball, football, cornhole and much more. Well done to all the young people and school staff who were part of this amazing event and in particular Claire Mac Loughlin Principal of **Coláiste Muire Matháir** pictured here with Linda Sice Brogan CEO and Mary McHugh SICAP Programme Coordinator with Galway City Partnership and Anne Marie Curran Disability Outreach Coordinator/Project Officer **Access Centre, University of Galway**.



Mary McHugh, Claire Mac Loughlin, Anne Marie Curran, Linda Sice Brogan

If you would like to learn more about SICAP Goal 2, please contact Mary McHugh SICAP Programme Co-ordinator marymchugh@gcp.ie

EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

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 into employment/self-employment and to foster their wellbeing.

Lifelong Learning

Congratulations to Adijat Afolabi who received her QQI **Level 6 SNA** qualification (Distinction) recently. Other SICAP beneficiaries have included those who took part in **HACCP** (Handling Food Hygienically) courses.

In addition, SICAP provided funding for several individuals to take part in educational courses of their choosing to include **Art, Healthcare, Security and Childcare**.



Student Adijat Afolabi and Donnacha Minton
SICAP Officer



SNA Class of 2025

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

EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

SICAP: Community Education

SICAP Goal 1 supports the delivery of Community Education by supporting community groups to apply for funding for courses for their own development and delivering courses to the wider community through funders such as the GRETB Community Education Service and HSE National Lottery.

Community Education

A number of courses were provided for the wider community across the city over the past few months. Courses included Sewing Machine Skills, Tai Chi, Cookery, Flower Arranging and lots more!



Westside Shining Stars' Traditional Traveller Cooking Course



Sewing Machine Skills Course, Westside



Tai Chi classes in Ballinfoile and Shantalla



In addition, over 20 community groups across the city were supported to apply for GRETB Community Education funding. The groups have been completing courses in many areas of interest



Men's Wellbeing Group Ballinfoile



Flower Arranging Ballinfoile

For more information on Community Education, please contact Imelda Gormally on 086 0227821 or imelda@gcp.ie.

EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE

SICAP: Enterprise Supports



Paul O'Donnell



New Enterprise Officer for Galway City Partnership

In November, Paul O'Donnell started as the Galway City Partnership **Enterprise Officer**. As a community worker he went into social enterprise and led the growth of the Award Winning social enterprise An Mheitheal Rothar as well as managing another social enterprise at The Rediscovery Centre, the National Centre for the Circular Economy in Ballymun.

He now brings his qualifications in business enterprise and community development and background as well as his wealth of experience in **business planning and development** to support people who want to set up business and become self-employed. With a passion for sustainability, innovative solutions to economic challenges within communities and challenging wealth inequality Paul is a valued addition to the GCP team.

He said "I am delighted to join Galway City Partnership and contribute to the great work it does in Galway City. I look forward to working with people from communities around the city to take advantage of economic opportunity and support people to have the freedom that being self-employed can offer."

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

EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE

SICAP: Enterprise Supports



Amina Abdirizak Mohamoud, Paul O'Donnell, Faozia Moqbel



Mika Hennessy, Tara Dawson, Iryna Pososhyna, Paul O'Donnell, Mary McHugh

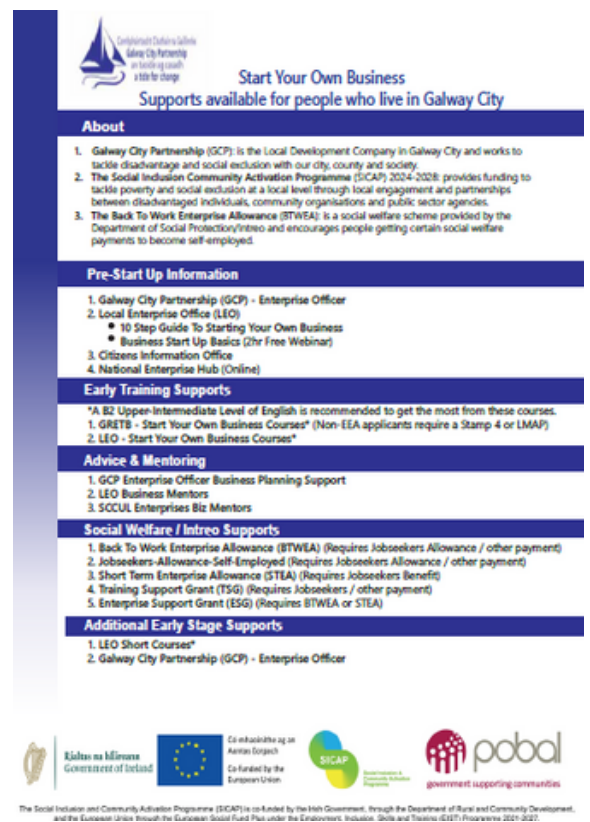
New Start Your Own Business Supports Flyer

Have a business idea and don't know where to start? Our new supports flyer can help you! With support and encouragement from the Local Community Development Committee and Linda Sice Brogan, CEO of GCP, a broad team of GCP staff collaborated to create an information flyer outlining the main **supports available for anyone interested in starting their own business** in Galway City.

Over the past 3 months the Enterprise Officer researched and prepared a one page flyer, staff **translated the flyer into 7 languages** (Arabic, Pashtu, Persian, Russian, Somali, Ukrainian and Urdu) to make the information as accessible and inclusive as possible.

The final flyers were designed in-house by our information officer to be clear, welcoming, and easy to use and reflects our commitment to supporting inclusive entrepreneurship and reducing barriers for people from all backgrounds. The flyer will be distributed in local community centres, events, and online, ensuring it reaches those who may benefit most from early-stage enterprise support.

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.

Giving Wings to People and Wildlife

Tús at GCP is currently supporting the **Galway & Claddagh Swan & Wild Bird Sanctuary**. The organisation was founded in 2001 after an oil spill near the Claddagh area. The principal aim is to save and rehabilitate wildlife, primarily birds such as swans, pigeons, garden birds, ducks and gulls. The group also educates the public on wildlife, for example, by visiting schools.

As well as the sanctuary, a rescue helpline is in operation. If there is an injured or sick bird and the person reporting the case is not able to help, a volunteer will retrieve the animal and take it to the sanctuary or a vet if necessary. Some birds only need short-term protective care before they can be released back into the wild. Others might need to be cared for until they are healed.



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.



If you are not eligible to work with Tús, you can volunteer with Galway & Claddagh Swan & Wild Bird Sanctuary by contacting their group directly:
claddaghswanrescue@gmail.com
or call 086-3826741.

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

EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE

Local Area Employment Service (LAES)

Tá ionadaíocht ag an tSeirbhís Fostaíochta Áitiúil (LAES) in go leor áiteanna ar fud Chonamara, le hoifigí i nIndreabhán, Leitir Móir, Rosmuc, Carna, Oughterard, Oileáin Árann, agus Clifden. I gConamara, tá and tseirbhís á tabhairt ag duine a labhraíonn Gaeilge go líofa. Oibríonn an LAES go dlúth le raon eagraíochtaí pobal agus deonach i gConamara chun dul chun cinn oideachasúil agus gairmiúil a chothú do chliaint, agus chun forbairt na réigiúin a chur chun cinn, chomh maith. De réir phrionsabail bhunúsacha Chomhpháirtíochta Chathair na Gaillimhe, tá an LAES ag obair chun cur le hionchuimilt shóisialta agus chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na míbhuntáistí agus na bacainní atá ann maidir le hoibrithe a bhfuil cónaí orthu i gConamara. Baineadh sé seo amach trí sholáthar tacaíochtaí fostaíochta leanúnacha ag Oifigigh Treorach, agus trí mhaoiniú a thairiscint do thraenáil atá riachtanach chun fostaíocht a fháil sa réigiún.



The Local Area Employment Service (LAES) is represented in multiple locations across Connemara, with offices in Indreabhán, Leitir Móir, Rosmuc, Carna, Oughterard, The Aran Islands, and Clifden. In Connemara, all services are delivered by a fluent speaker of the Irish language. The LAES works closely with a range of organisations across the community and voluntary sector in Connemara in order to promote the educational and professional progression of clients, and to facilitate the development of the region, more broadly. In keeping with the primary principles of Galway City Partnership, the LAES has worked to promote social inclusion and to tackle disadvantages and barriers to employment facing those living in Connemara. This has been achieved through the provision of ongoing employment supports by Guidance Officers, and by offering funding for training necessary to secure employment in the region.

Chun tuilleadh eolas a fháil ar an LAES, dessí le do thoil gortaigh muid ar 091-566617.
For more information on the LAES, please contact us on 091-566617.

EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE

WorkAbility: Inclusive Pathways to Employment

The WorkAbility: Inclusive Pathway to Employment programme is a comprehensive initiative that provides progressive pathways into employment, including self-employment, for people living with disabilities in Galway City. Our goal is to establish a barrier-free environment for hiring individuals with disabilities. Our aim is to support people with disabilities in securing and sustaining employment, we also ensure that organisations employing our participants receive the necessary assistance to foster successful employment outcomes.

Launch of Employer Toolkit

On March 28th Minister Naughton launched our **Employer Toolkit** in the Galmont Hotel. To say 'we were over the moon' with the attendance would be an understatement.

In her speech, Minister Naughton noted that projects funded under the WorkAbility Programme incorporate a **strong focus on employer engagement**, raising employers' awareness and building their capacity to recruit, retain and progress people with disabilities in their workforce. She also added: *"Galway City Partnership, people with disabilities, the city's employers and the programme partners have risen to the challenge of the programme in a very relevant and unique way and I commend them for what they have achieved."*

We had **panel discussions** with stakeholders and the highlight was personal testimonials from our participants who we depend on to make our programme a success.

A big thank you to all who attended and supported this event!

For more information on WorkAbility, contact: Maggie Woods on 083 0873213 or maggie@gcp.ie or Amy McGrath on 083 1080780 or amy@gcp.ie.



Minister Hildegard Naughton



People supported by WorkAbility with Maggie Woods



Tommy Flaherty, Mayor Cllr. Peter Keane, Linda Sice Brogan, Maggie Woods, Minister Hildegard Naughton

SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

HSE: Early Years

Our Early Years Programme is designed to support parents and caregivers of children aged 0 to 3 years from disadvantaged communities. It is funded by the HSE and administered by Galway City Partnership.

The Early Years Program delivered a range of engaging and supportive workshops for parents of children aged 0–3, including **Active Play, Baby Bonding, Infant First Aid, and Weaning and Healthy Feeding**. These sessions provided practical tools and guidance to support early development and positive parenting.

A major highlight was the program's participation in the **Annual Parents Connect Event** on June 10th, 2025, at the Radisson Red Hotel. Organized by the Early Years Committee—including HSE, GCP, GSP, TUSLA, Galway Childcare Committee, CYPSC, Healthy Ireland Galway City, Ard Family Resource Centre, and UG—the event focused on infant mental health as part of **Infant Mental Health Week**. It welcomed 65 parents and many young children, offering information stands, play packs, fun activities, and useful resources.



Members of the Early Years Committee

SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Ballybane Afterschool Programme

The Ballybane Afterschool Club is open to all children from Ballybane from age 6–12 years and runs Monday to Thursday from 3–6pm during the school year.

The Ballybane Afterschools Club was delighted to receive funding from the Galway City Council **Crinniú na nÓg** fund. This title of their project was “**We Built This Club – A Threads of Home Showcase**”. We Built This Club is a collaborative art, storytelling, and construction project by children aged 6–12 at **Ballybane ACE Club**.

Over six weeks, the children explored identity, belonging, and what “**home**” means to them through drawing, collage, storytelling, dance and music. During the Cruinniú na nÓg Festival on June 7th, the children presented small, individual models and artistic expressions of what 'home' means to them.

In addition, the children participated in a '**Plug & Play**' **Vox Pop** installation. Dressed in costumes of their choice, they interviewed each other and community members, capturing spontaneous reflections and festival reactions. In collaboration with a community radio facilitator, these recordings were professionally edited into a short **podcast** that highlights the vibrant voices of the Ballybane youth.

Every voice matters and every story belongs!



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.

Our **Youth Activity Workers** Hannah Arosomade and Milma Urroz have been extremely busy for the past few months in Ballinfoile/Castlegar. Together, they have hosted a variety of engaging and impactful weekly events designed to support and inspire the young people in the area.

From **creative workshops** to **sports** activities, **cooking** sessions and **community outings** including the International Arts Festival for Children with **Baboró**, each activity has been a step towards fostering connection, skill-building, and fun among the youth of Ballinfoile and the Castlegar area.



As we move into a summer full of fun, we'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the ongoing support of the **Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre (BCNC)** team and the many young people, families, and community members who have engaged with our programs. Your participation and commitment have been key to our progress!

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

Youth Advocacy Service

The Galway City Youth Advocacy Service (YAS) provides a tailor-made approach to career path planning for young people in Galway City. We work primarily (although not exclusively) with young people who:

- Are between 16–20 years of age,
- Have left 'mainstream' education early (early school leavers),
- Have few, or no, formal qualifications,
- Are not in education, employment or training.

The Galway City YAS adopts a **community based** approach. This means we are able to meet the young people using our service in a venue/setting that best suits them – in school, at their home, in a training centre or some other agreed and appropriate setting.



We work with around 170 young people every year and our service is delivered through the **M.A.G.I.C.** methodology, based on the premise that the young people we work with will require a mixture of **Mentoring, Advocacy, Guidance, Information and Counselling**.

Galway City Youth Advocacy Service also offers a range of **personal assessments** ('psychometrics') covering areas such as basic skills, motivation, personality and career interests which may be used to assist an individual on their journey towards deeper self-awareness and ultimately towards appropriate education, employment or training.

What to Expect:

- A **confidential, friendly** service.
- A **one-to-one meeting** with our YAS worker where the young person's previous education, training or work experience is discussed.
- All realistic **options** open to the young person are explored.
- The young person's **strengths** are acknowledged with the aim of providing a positive future direction.
- A **tailored made career-path plan** is agreed, along with clear and attainable short-term goals.

SUPPORTS FOR NEW ARRIVALS

SICAP: Supports to New Arrivals

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

Barista School Training

We recently held a one-day **Barista Basics** and **Food Safety** training in the Galway Barista School. This one-day training course combined basic coffee theory, practical barista training and food safety training which gave the participants an opportunity to learn the necessary skills and knowledge to kickstart their career in the coffee industry.



Workshop with GRCC

Congratulations to all the participants of the **Male Resilience Workshop** that took place recently in the Galway City Partnership. Many thanks to GRCC who facilitated this inspirational workshop with such positive feedback from the attendees.



Some of the participants with Deirdre Ronan and John Halloran from GRCC and Mary McHugh GCP

English for Employment

We would also like to give a huge thank you to our amazing students who completed the **English for Employment workshop** at GCP, with special thanks to tutor Stephen O'Connell for his support and guidance throughout their journey. We're so proud of each of you and wish you all the very best as you take the next step toward employment



Some of the participants with tutor Stephen

Summer English Classes

At GCP we will be continuing our **Free ESOL Tuition** over the summer period starting from the 15th of July.

Cookery Programme in Westside

The **Healthy Food Made Easy** course was successfully delivered to support individuals and families newly arrived in the Westside Resource Centre. The 6-week course helped improve people's health by teaching them useful skills in a fun and practical way.



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



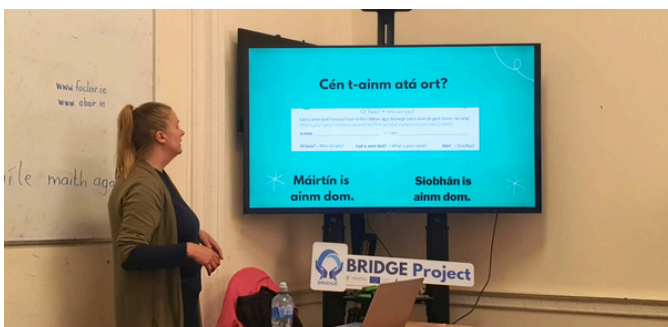
BRIDGE

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.

Since March, the BRIDGE project has registered over 350 new participants, offering them vital support to access employment, education, and integrate more confidently into the local community.

Irish Language and Culture Classes

BRIDGE recently launched Irish language and culture classes in collaboration with **Conradh na Gaeilge**, giving participants a fun and interactive way to explore the Irish language and traditions. In addition, we hosted a certified **Wellness Workshop** in partnership with Suicide or Survive, which focused on mental health, self-care, and personal resilience.



Irish language and culture class

Biodiversity Workshop

In July, we're excited to host the 'Biodiversity in Our Backyard' workshop in collaboration with Baboró. This is a fun, free art and science event designed to spark curiosity about the natural world.

Applying for a Driver's License

BRIDGE partnered with **An Garda Síochána** to deliver a practical information session focused on how to apply for an Irish driver's licence, understand the role of the Gardaí, and learn how to report crime. The session encouraged open dialogue and helped build trust between residents and local law enforcement.



Garda Alma Maughan and Sgt. Val McCormack delivering an information session to BRIDGE participants



BRIDGE participants enjoying a day out to Renville Park in Oranmore in partnership with WalktheTalk

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

STAFF TRAINING

Understanding the Asylum Process

An Insightful Session with Doras

As Galway City Partnership, we were pleased to take part in an insightful and educational training session with Doras, Limerick, on the asylum process in Ireland.

The session offered **valuable knowledge** about the **complex challenges** faced by individuals seeking international protection and gave our team a clearer understanding of the system they must navigate.

This training has strengthened our ability to provide **informed, empathetic, and effective support** to new communities settling in Galway city. It also reinforced our commitment to promoting inclusion, dignity, and equal access to services for all. As a local development organisation, we are proud to be part of efforts that contribute to a more welcoming and supportive environment for people from diverse backgrounds.



Tahereh Fardin Tabrizi and Sue Windle from Doras delivering training to staff

Manual Handling

Manual Handling

Staff regularly update their Manual Handling training and recently attended a great session with tutor John McCullough. We all agreed it's great to be reminded of good technique when lifting to protect our backs in the workplace!



Staff during and after their recent Manual Handling training session

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.



Free Activities In Your Area



FREE ACTIVITIES IN YOUR AREA

Community Development Service, Galway City Partnership

WESTSIDE

Westside Coffee Morning



Fridays
10.00am - 12.00pm
Westside Resource Centre
H91 C1KX

Westside Walking Group



Thursdays
11.15am - 12.30pm
Meet outside Westside
Library, H91 Y067

Westside Community Singing Group



Wednesdays
2.00pm - 3.30pm
Westside Library
H91 Y067

Westside Social Club for older adults



Call 091 589861 to book
Wednesdays
2.00pm - 4.00pm
Westside Resource Centre
H91 C1KX

Westside Parent & Toddler Group



Thursdays
10.00am - 11.30am
Westside Community
Centre, H91 R853

Westside Community Organic Garden



Volunteer roles re-start early March
Wednesdays
10.00am - 12.00pm
Next to Westside Resource
Centre, H91 C1KX

Westside Arts Group



Mondays
4.00 - 6.00pm
Westside Resource Centre
H91 C1KX

For artists to work on own art projects as part of a group

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CIARA ON CIARA@GCP.IE OR 083 0234390



FREE ACTIVITIES IN YOUR AREA

Community Development Service, Galway City Partnership

BALLINFOILE

Baile An Chóiste Women's Group



Monday 10am to 12 noon
50 Baile An Chóiste

Ballinfoile Walking Group



Wednesdays 10.00am - 11.30am
Meet outside Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre, H91 PN50

Ballinfoile Parents of Teenagers Group



Tuesday 7pm to 9pm
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre
H91 PN50

Ballinfoile Parent, Baby & Toddler Group



Wednesdays 9.30am - 11.00am
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre, H91 PN50

Ballinfoile Community Singing Group



Wednesdays 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre,
H91 PN50

Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden



Wednesday 11am to 2pm
Saturday 11am to 2pm
Lus Leana, Headford Rd, Galway

Ballinfoile Men's Activities Programme



Thursdays 6.30PM - 8.30pm
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre,
H91 PN50

Castlegar Active Retirement Group



Tuesday 10am to 12pm
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre,
H91 PN50

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT VERNICE ON
VERNICE@GCP.IE OR 086 8392621



FREE ACTIVITIES IN YOUR AREA

Community Development, Galway City Partnership

BALLYBANE

Ballybane Coffee Morning



Thursdays
10.30am - 12.00pm
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre

Older Person's Group



Wednesdays
11.00am - 1.00pm
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre

Eastside Community Drama Group



Wednesdays
7.30 - 10.00pm
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre

Eastside Walking Group



Tuesdays
11.00am
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre

Ballybane Community Singing Group



Thursdays
7.30 - 9.00pm
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre

Ballybane Men's Group



Wednesdays
7.30 - 8.30pm
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT IMELDA ON
IMELDA@GCP.IE OR 086 0227821



Westside

For more information contact Ciara on
ciara@gcp.ie or 083 0234390.

Ballinfoile

For more information contact Vernice on
vernice@gcp.ie or 086 8392621.

Ballybane

For more information contact Imelda on
imelda@gcp.ie or 086 0227821.

NUMBERS IF YOU NEED THEM



If it's an emergency, Dial 112 or 999

SAMARITANS

TALK IT THROUGH,
WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN

jo@samaritans.ie www.samaritans.org

116 123



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
for every child and young person.

1800 666 666

Instant messaging service
available on
www.childline.ie

spunout

text about it

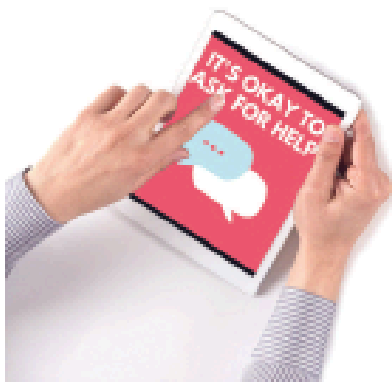


A free, anonymous, 24/7 messaging service
providing everything from a calming chat
to immediate support
for people's mental health
and emotional wellbeing.

www.textaboutit.ie



For more information:
www.westbewell.ie



SCAN ME



Connecting for Life
Galway, Mayo and Roscommon



HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER
FROM ALL OF US IN
GALWAY CITY PARTNERSHIP

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection
Helping you build a better life



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 European Union through the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021-2027