

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025 | Issue 5



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As we come to the close of another busy and inspiring year, everyone at Galway City Partnership is delighted to share some of the highlights that have shaped our work and strengthened our connections across the community. This season, we were especially proud to celebrate the launch of our Rooftop Garden, a vibrant new space that brings people together, promotes wellbeing, and showcases what can be achieved through collaboration, creativity, and shared vision.

We were also honoured to participate in the LDCN Conference in Ballina, where we had the opportunity to engage with colleagues from across the country, exchange ideas, share learning, and contribute to important conversations on community development and inclusion. Events like these remind us of the value of connection, collaboration, and the collective effort needed to foster positive change in our communities.

As we approach Christmas, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our partners, participants, volunteers, and supporters. Everything we accomplish is made possible through your support and engagement.

Welcome!

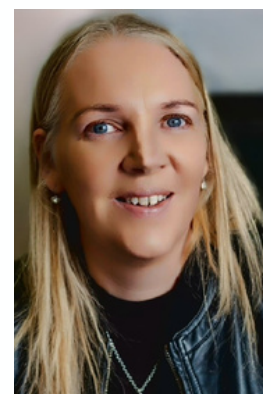
Welcome to the fifth edition of the Galway City Partnership newsletter! Here you will find information on all of the services we have to offer the community and how to get in touch. We hope you enjoy it!

I would like to take a special moment to thank our dedicated staff, whose passion, commitment, and hard work make everything we do possible. The community benefits every day from your creativity, hard work, and consistent support.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Thank you for your support over the past year, and we look forward to continuing our work together in 2026.

Warm regards,

Linda Sice Brogan
CEO, Galway City Partnership



LATEST NEWS



Local Development Companies Network Summit 2025

Galway City Partnership was proud to play a key role in the first-ever Local Development Conference – LDCN Summit 2030 – which took place on the 30th and 31st of October 2025 in Ballina, Co. Mayo. CEO, Linda Sice Brogan, was a member of the organising committee and moderated a discussion on the day: “ Breaking the Cycle: How Connection & Local Leadership can Reduce Poverty”. Our WorkAbility Coordinator, Maggie Woods also participated on a panel discussion. Proudly, our four community singing groups in Galway city (Westside, Ballybane, Ballinfoile & Ukrainian choir Harmony) also performed at the event and were given a standing ovation following their outstanding performance!

The two-day gathering brought together leaders of the Local Development Companies Network (formerly ILDN), policymakers, and community development practitioners from across Ireland to explore how communities, society, and the economy can thrive together through partnership and innovation. Speakers across government, academia, civil society and community organisations shared powerful insights, including remarks from Ministers Jerry Buttimer, Dara Calleary and Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, who emphasised the need for innovation and ambition in community-led development, along with investment in inclusive programmes that ensure no one is left behind.



Staff pictured with Minister of State Jerry Buttimer and Galway Councillor Eibhlín Seoighe.



COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



SICAP: Community Development

Our Community Development team works under Goal 1 of SICAP and aims to empower communities to identify and respond to their own needs. We work with community groups and the wider community in our key areas of Ballinfoile, Ballybane and Westside, with community workers based in each of those areas.

Community Voices Guiding Our Work

The Community Voice sub group of Galway City Partnership met on the 25th of November for a Review and Planning meeting. The group have focused on highlighting issues relating to Transportation, Older People, People with Disabilities and Young People during 2025. They have issued a report for the Board of Galway City Partnership on the work they've carried out during the year and have also provided valuable advice and feedback on the workplan for the SICAP Goal 1 team for 2026.



Collaborating Against Domestic Abuse

We recently participated in a Strategic Planning session of the Community Response to Domestic Abuse Western Region Network, of which GCP is one of the member organisations, alongside other Local Development Companies, Family Resource Centres and Frontline Services in the Western region.



If you would like to learn more about Community Development in Galway City Partnership, contact Imelda Gormally on 086 0227821 or imelda@gcp.ie

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme

SICAP: Community Development Ballinfoile

Vibrant Community Activities in Ballinfoile

Special thanks to all of the members of our community groups who have been actively involved in a wide range of activities in Ballinfoile over the past few months.

Two of the highlights included our community concert in Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre with Music For Galway and our wonderful Autumn gathering in the Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden and the children from Castlegar National School and from Scoil San Phronsias.

Special thanks to all of our funders including Galway City Council and GRETB and all our collaborative partners. Wishing everyone and peaceful and happy Christmas!



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 Ballybane

Festive Creativity in Ballybane

Ballybane Community Resource Centre was delighted to host two joyful Christmas workshops for our community this winter creating beautiful Christmas table centrepieces, traditional festive logs and making charming Christmas angels from recycled books. All the amazing pieces created will be showcased on Tuesday 16th December at 6:30pm in the Ballybane Community Resource Centre Hall. All welcome!



Eastside Arts Festival: Building Community Through Arts

There were some wonderful performances at this year's Eastside Arts Festival! Pictured below are Ignite Gospel Choir, the exhibition "What Home Means to Me" by Hugh Murphy, singer PJ Mongan and the organising committee. Plans are already underway for 2026, with a strengthened focus on community based workshops and local community groups leading out on the events!! The Festival will be held in May, earlier than the last few years in the hope of nicer weather!



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 or Faozia on 0834708536 or faozia@gcp.ie.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

SICAP: Community Development Westside

Westside Community Cheer!

Westside community groups supported by Galway City Partnership recently enjoyed a wonderful community event with the Westside Christmas Market and Family Day on Friday 5th Dec. There was a wonderful selection of handmade crafts for sale, singing, dancing and fun! Thank you to all of the groups who put so much work into taking part!



Inspiring Community Participation



We were delighted to have Roos Demol from International Community Dynamics CLG, Cork, visit the Westside Resource Centre recently to deliver a workshop on EU citizenship, inclusion, and political participation for new and existing communities. Cllr. Helen Ogbu also spoke at the event and inspired many into action!



Westside Men's Drop-In Club was officially launched in partnership with GTM and meets every Thurs evening in Westside Resource Centre 6.30pm-8pm. All welcome!



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



Community Garden Ireland Hosts

Let's Get Galway Growing recently hosted the annual Autumn Gathering for Community Garden Ireland in October, welcoming around 50 community gardens from Ireland and Northern Ireland. The event featured a panel on organic growing, a presentation from the Community Gardens, Allotments, and Climate Action Fund Officer, and lively discussions. The Deputy Mayor opened the Third National Week of Allotments and Community Gardens. Participants enjoyed a visit to Ballybane Community Garden followed by a biodiversity walk to Merlin Woods Community.



Enhancing Biodiversity Action in 2026

We recently completed our final network meeting of the year, marking the end of a full year of activities. Next year, plans for 2026 will include workshops, training, and funding applications to support community gardens. A biodiversity strategy action workshop, facilitated by Sarah Collins, engaged GCP Community Development team and community representatives from Ballinfoile, Westside, and Ballybane to explore potential biodiversity awareness community initiatives.



If you would like to learn more about Let's Get Galway Growing, please contact Faozia 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.

National Social Enterprise Conference

On Thurs 20th of November, our Social Enterprise office attended an insightful and informative National Social Enterprise Conference in the Shearwater Hotel Ballinasloe, where industry experts and social enterprises from across the country came together to explore key challenges in the sector including social procurement, AI technology, and the circular economy.



Brenda, SE Officer, and colleague, pictured at the National SE conference on 20th Nov in Ballinasloe.

A Shared Site for SEs



Our SE officer is working to secure a web developer to build a shared social enterprise website to elevate all Galway city enterprises together and to increase awareness of social enterprises. The site which will serve as a central hub to showcase each the work, impact, and stories from each social enterprise.

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



Brenda, SE Officer, and Pauline from Umbrella Le Chéile under GCP sign at Galway Christmas Market

Social Enterprises at Galway Christmas Market

We secured a full cabin with Milestone Inventive Ltd at the Christmas Market through GCC funding where Umbrella le Cheile and Stitch Together share on a weekly rotation basis showcasing unique crafts and homemade gifts. See picture attached of me and Pauline from Umbrella le Cheile

Marketing Support for SEs

Finally, we are delighted to have secured funding from Galway City Council to pilot a shared-services marketing model for our social enterprises. For the next 3 months we'll have a dedicated marketing person helping to maximise online profiles across our SEs.

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.



Advancing Peer Support

SICAP Peer Support Staff have been involved in various trainings and development, most notably completing the SAOR Brief Intervention training in early November. They have held discussions about linking up with service providers including Compass Recovery, Galway City Partnership Drug Recovery scheme, and Social Prescribing Galway.

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.

Enhancing Social Engagement

Galway City Social Prescribing in Continues to provide one-to-one support as well as supporting and hosting a number of events and activities that promote social engagement. A few participants were lucky to experience Horse Therapy with Horses Connect. Some participants joined the Dips for Health swims with Mental Health Ireland.



Christmas Workshop

This can be a special time of year but it can also be a challenging time for people for many reasons. This year Galway City Partnerships SICAP Goal 2 programme and Social Prescribing worked with Chris Place from Galway City Counselling to facilitate a one off workshop 'Managing Christmas' to explore ways to cope with different aspects of the season such as Family Dynamics, Stress and Loneliness.

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.

Community Pantry Project

We've wrapped up the Community Pantry Project, delivered with support from Safefood CFI. Over 7 weeks, we redirected 1,164.81kg of food from waste – roughly the weight of a small car! Eleven families engaged, with over 45 people benefiting from nutritious food, cooking workshops, budgeting sessions, and social activities. For just €364.62, the project delivered €5,149.60 worth of surplus food – more than fourteen times the investment! Beyond immediate impact, participants built skills, reduced household food waste, and strengthened community connections. We will explore a more sustainable model in 2026, along with several new CFI-supported projects.

For All/Welcomes All Network

Our "For All/Welcomes All" groups across Galway City and County continue to support information sharing, collaboration, and solidarity events! Keep an eye out for our events in 2026!

Galway Communities Against Racism and Discrimination Survey

GCARD recently hosted a well-attended survey results event, where participants engaged in meaningful discussions about experiences of racism and discrimination in Galway. The insights gathered will feed into our 2026 work, with a public meeting planned this December to share outcomes and shape future projects.



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

EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING



SICAP: Education Supports

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.

Thank You

As 2025 comes to a close, the Goal 2 Team (pictured here) would like to express our gratitude for the opportunity to work with and support the people of Galway City.



Supporting Access to Higher Education

We welcomed the University of Galway Access Centre Team to the Galway City Partnership recently to present to the Schools Completion Programme Coordinator and HSCLs from Primary and Post Primary Schools in Galway City on the role of the Access Office, entry routes, and educational supports.



To find out more information about the range of supports available through SICAP Goal 2 please contact Mary McHugh the SICAP Programme Co-ordinator on marymchugh@gcp.ie

EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING



SICAP: Education Supports

Connecting Theory and Practice

Staff from Galway City Partnership were delighted to meet students from the full-time degree programme in Child, Youth and Family Policy and Practice at the University of Galway, sharing a practitioner's perspective on Community Development. Building bridges between education and real-world experience is key to empowering future professionals!



Cancer Prevention Literacy

Kathryn Murphy from the Marie Keating Foundation gave an excellent talk recently in Galway City Partnership on Cancer Prevention with a focus on Screening Programmes available in Ireland as part of the ALL Adult Literacy Project and in collaboration with the SICAP programme.



Pictured here are some of the participants with Kathryn, Stephen O'Connell ALL Literacy Project, Mary McHugh SICAP Programme Coordinator and CEO Galway City Partnership Linda Sice Brogan.

Building Strength

We also partnered with GRCC on the Building Strength workshop—special thanks to John and Dervla, whose thoughtful facilitation left participants feeling encouraged and uplifted.



To find out more information about the range of supports available through SICAP Goal 2 please contact Mary McHugh the SICAP Programme Co-ordinator on marymchugh@gcp.ie

EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING



SICAP: Lifelong Learning

The SICAP programme strives to encourage people who are experiencing educational disadvantage so that they can return to or begin their Lifelong Learning Journey at any point in their lives. We provide support to access educational courses that enhance individual's personal development and employment opportunities.

Courses

We delivered 21 courses, including Manual Handling, Safe Pass, Barista, HACCP, SNA, First Aid (pictured), and English classes from beginner to advanced levels.



Pictured are David (Employment Support) Donnacha (Education Supports) with Clara and Fayaz

Empowering Individuals

We hosted several information sessions, resilience, and well-being workshops, and offered bespoke one-to-one supports such as form filling, advice for new arrivals, education grants, CV building, job searching, business supports, and peer support.



Anyone interested in Lifelong Learning Courses, please contact donnacha@gcp.ie or alternatively, phone 086 1424904 to arrange an appointment.

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.



CuriOcean

CuriOcean is an environmental charity focused on **delivering marine conservation workshops** to primary and secondary school students and engaging with local communities to **co-create sustainable solutions**.

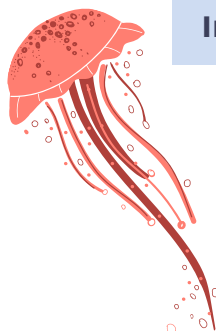
The team of marine and freshwater biologists **travel to schools to teach kids** about **Irish marine mammals**, the biodiversity in our oceans, and raise awareness of threats facing our coastal habitats.

The workshops aim to develop a sense of the wonder and importance of nature, helping to **inspire the scientists of the future**. CuriOcean also carries out field studies researching how people engage with their environment, and work with local councils to develop green initiatives to benefit local communities.

For further information please visit <https://curiocean.com>.

Tús at GCP is delighted to have recently placed a participant with CuriOcean. 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.

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.

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.

New CE Staff Member

In September we linked with one of our Community Employment Supervisors and are delighted to have recruited a new staff member, Brian, through this scheme. Brian is based with us here in Ballybane and is an administration support.



Regional Consultation Meeting

Our Mentor, Amy, attended the regional consultation meeting at the Connacht Hotel on 3rd of October for all community groups, facilitated by INTREO. The event provided a valuable opportunity for Workability to highlight both the strengths of our programme and the challenges we face, including issues around transport, the Work Placement Experience Programme (WPEP), CE schemes, and rates of pay.



Links with Café Link

Following a recent steering group meeting, we began collaboration with Shane Tuohy manager of Café Link, a social enterprise supporting inclusive employment. As a result, we are delighted that one of our participants have now joined their team following a successful job placement.



Maggie Woods Programme Co-ordinator: maggie@gcp.ie Tel: 083-0873213
Amy McGrath Programme Mentor: amy@gcp.ie Tel: 083-1080780

EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE



WorkAbility: Inclusive Pathways to Employment



Workshops and Training

We ran a variety of workshops including Resilience and Confidence Building, Interview Skills, Working Well with Others, Customer Service, Mindfulness and How to Keep Calm Under Pressure.

Our biggest achievement in relation to training was supporting 11 participants to take place on FETAC Level 4 HACCP training with some achieving merits and distinctions.

Disability Awareness Training continues to be high on our agenda and took place with Medtronic Penneys, Kingfisher Club, Connacht Hotel Group and Tesco.



Accessibility in the Workplace

Maggie continues to promote the importance of an accessible environment through the Gold Star assessments and believes this is a fundamental consideration when employing people with disabilities. Carmel and Yvonne continue to bring together their peer support groups and have begun to offer online support.



For more information on WorkAbility, contact Maggie Woods Programme Co-ordinator: maggie@gcp.ie Tel: 083-0873213

EMPLOYMENT & ENTERPRISE



Local Area Employment Service (LAES)

The Local Area Employment Service (LAES) works with clients that are referred to us by the Department of Social Protection. The service is managed by the Galway City Partnership. The LAES offers a client-centred career guidance service to support long-term unemployed clients into work, training, self-employment or options that would best suit their circumstances. Our service delivery is in line with Galway City Partnership's operational practices, services and supports, and is guided by the core ethos of tackling disadvantage and social exclusion.

Empowering Pathways to Employment

Galway City Partnership is now supporting over 1,500 clients across 16 locations, from the city to the islands. The service provides employment guidance, CV and interview support, access to training and direct funding, helping people progress into work experience schemes and part- or full-time jobs. Here are some recent success stories:

Galway City – A client found an ideal Community Employment Scheme placement: "It's perfect... I'd have never found a position like that on my own."

Tuam – A part-time worker received funding for a truck-driving licence and is now full-time: "Without your belief in me... I wouldn't be working full time today."

Clifden – After funded training, a client secured a full-time role: "Thank you for helping me along the way and keeping me on track!"

Ballinasloe – A client unemployed since Covid became full-time in security: "I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for the encouragement and support..."

Indreabhán – A fitness worker gained additional training and progressed to full-time coaching: "I have switched to a full working week as a coach! From today!"

Serbhís Fostaíochta Áitiúla Local Area Employment Service

AG TACÚ LEAT I DO CHEANTAR FÉIN SUPPORTING YOU IN YOUR LOCALITY



• Gort • Loughrea • Portumna • Ballinasloe • Tuam
• Oughterard • Clifden • Indreabhán • Carna • Rosmuc
• Leitir Móir

Islands- • Inis Mór • Inis Oírr
Galway City Centre- • Ballybane • City Centre • Westside

Contact – info@gcplaes.ie
Ph. 091 566 617

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.

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 ('NEET').**

The Galway City YAS is community based in 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.

New: Flexible Learning for Young People

Jump Start is an exciting, new digital initiative for young people from Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board launched in November 2025.

Jump Start is designed to engage 15–25 year-olds who have few (or no) qualifications, who are out of education and training, who are looking to increase their confidence levels and who want take their first tentative steps towards making a small, positive change in their lives.

Jump Start consists of short 'bite-sized' career focussed learning activities which take place through the Jump Start app, on a phone or tablet, at a time the learner chooses. The beauty of Jump Start is that it can be used at any-time, any-where and is available 24/7.

There is also a Jump Start Handbook to accompany the learning. On completion learners are awarded a Jump Start Digital Badge from the GRET and are offered further supports to suit individual needs.



For More information on the Jump Start app can be found on the FETCH Courses website at: www.fetchcourses.ie

John O'Donnell: 086 853 7533 / Email: john@gcp.ie

Mike Haines: 086 0461378 / Email: michael@gcp.ie

SUPPORTS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

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.

Autumn Gathering

Some photos of our Youth Activities workers and Community Development Officer with attendees at our wonderful Autumn gathering in the Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden with the children from Castlegar National School and from Scoil San Phronsias.



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.

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!



Contact: Sinead Hackett
Ph: 086 033 2379
Email: Sinead.hackett@gretb.ie



GCP



GRETB



TUSLA

Location

Ballybane Community Resource Centre
Ballybane, Galway, H91 VP6D



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



gretb
Boord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
na Gaillimhe agus Roinn Comáin
Galway and Roscommon
Education and Training Board

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

#ballybanecommunityresourcecentre
#galwaycitypartnership
#gretb
#radharcnamara
#scoilcaitrona
#ballybanelibrary
#sculenterprises



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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



Social Inclusion &
Community Activation
Programme



pobal
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: Supports to New Arrivals

The SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) Supporting New Arrivals service is designed to help individuals and families who are new to Galway City navigate life in Ireland and settle into the local community. The service provides practical support, information, and guidance tailored to the needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants.

GCP Supports SheMoves Memorial Event

Galway City Partnership (GCP) supported SheMoves, a women's physical and wellbeing group in Direct Provision, to organise a memorial for one of its founders, Nilay Atesoglu. This gathering was a meaningful moment for members, offering space to honour Nilay's contribution and acknowledge the positive impact she had on the group. The memorial helped participants process their grief in a supportive environment, strengthening their emotional resilience and sense of community. For many women facing displacement and uncertainty, the event created an opportunity to come together, share memories, and feel connected. It highlighted the importance of community solidarity during times of loss and transition.



Upcycling for Community and Creativity: GCP Brings Kalyna and Multinational Artists Together

GCP supported an upcycling course that brought together Kalyna members and multinational creatives to learn sustainable design skills while building meaningful connections. Participants explored ways to transform discarded materials into useful or artistic items, promoting environmental responsibility and creativity. Beyond skill-building, the course fostered community, strengthened resilience, and inspired everyone to embrace upcycling as an economic opportunity, a creative outlet, and a meaningful contribution to environmental sustainability.

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

Community Storytelling Milestone Achieved

Voices and Visions, supported by GCP, celebrated their final session before the winter break with warmth, creativity, and reflection. The group took this moment to acknowledge their progress, strengthen connections, and share hopes for the months ahead.

Excitement is building as they prepare for the release of their community story book at the end of December, a collection that highlights personal experiences, creative expression, and the shared spirit of the group.

This upcoming publication marks a significant milestone and reinforces their commitment to empowerment, storytelling, and community collaboration.



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.

Horses Connect Training

During November 2025, the BRIDGE Team linked with Horses Connect Galway to provide equine assisted personal development training for Asylum Seekers and Third Country Nationals. The inter-relationship with the horses enabled participants to build confidence, communication, and emotional strength. Asked about the benefits of this programme, one participant stated that: 'I had very low self-esteem. Just after the horse therapy, I managed to register for driving lessons which is something I was so scared to do and yet it's a requirement in my jobs for more hours at work.'



**Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe**
Galway City Council

SALTHILL DEVON FOOTBALL CLUB



DROM EAST, SALTHILL, GALWAY, H91 KP79

FREE FOOTBALL & COACHING PROGRAMME

Join Salthill Devon FC for:
FAI coaching courses
Support to join club coaching teams
All backgrounds & experience levels welcome

To register text Mika at: 087 9303468 or
mika@gcp.ie.



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

Soccer Coaching with Salthill Devon

To increase participation in sport, the BRIDGE Team has partnered with Salthill Devon Football Club to offer soccer-coach training for men and women living in IPAS Centres. The first group of trainees began in December 2025 and will continue for 30 weeks. A total of 25 training places are being offered on foot of the club receiving Department of Justice funding. All participants will receive a free football kit, and on successful completion of the course each trainee will be awarded FAI Soccer Coach certification.

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

Learning About Irish Language and Culture

New Arrivals to Galway have been participating in a second Irish Language programme, involving collaboration between Conradh na Gaeilge and the BRIDGE Project. This 6-week programme introduced a stronger emphasis on learning about Irish Culture too on foot of feedback received. Participants learned introductory Irish, sang traditional songs and engaged in Irish cultural activities including a Walking Tour of the City as Gaeilge.



Upcoming for 2026

- ✓ Working with Cafe Link, a new employment focussed programme will offer hospitality training to Asylum Seekers. Funded by the Department of Justice, this initiative will centre on food safety, manual handling, group cooking, CV development and interview preparation. Training will take place in Scdul Enterprise Centre, Ballybane in the New Year.
- ✓ Information sessions with Cllr. Helen Ogbu from the Galway Volunteer Centre aimed at increasing volunteering across a range of opportunities will continue throughout 2026.
- ✓ Information Sessions on Understanding the Irish Drivers License Process take place on December 17 and January 21, 2026

**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 Clinics

The Ukrainian Health Peer Support Service has continued to support over 4,000 Ukrainian individuals and families living across Galway City and County. Over the past 10 months of 2025, more than 1,500 people were directly assisted through clinics, outreach visits, and one-to-one support. We also shared translated health materials, facilitated referrals to the sessional clinic designated for refugees, and arranged interpreter bookings for medical appointments. A recent highlight was the successful Women's Health & Wellbeing Event, delivered in



Sustaining Health and Inclusion for Ukrainian BOTPs in Ireland

In the months ahead, we will continue:

- Weekly health clinics,
- Accommodation-centre outreach,
- Expand translated resources to improve access to Irish healthcare services.

In 2026, we intend to offer additional community-based health information sessions, focusing on mental health, harm reduction related to alcohol and substance use, vaccination guidance for adults and children, and supports around women's health and maternity care. Our goal remains to provide accessible, culturally sensitive guidance to all Ukrainian BOTPs as they continue their resettlement journey.

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

STAFF TRAINING

At Galway City Partnership, we ensure all of our staff are continually upskilling and engaging in professional development and learning. Here are some recent training and learning events staff have participated in.

Myth Busting in Islam

Staff attended a wonderful training session on 'Myth Busting in Islam' with Imam Ibrahim Noonan at Maryam Mosque, Ballybrit. Galway City Partnership's work is based on Equality, Inclusion and Social Justice, and we are constantly endeavouring to seek to understand our communities so that we can offer a more appropriate and inclusive service for everyone that we support. Many thanks to the Imam for creating a warm and open space for learning and discussion for our staff!



Disability Awareness

Staff members from our WorkAbility project, Maggie Woods and Yvonne Fahy, both with lived experience of disability provided hybrid training to GCP staff on Disability Awareness. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and thought-provoking session.



STAFF TRAINING

First Aid

A number of staff completed a full day's training on First Aid on the 3rd October with Total Safety Services receiving First Aid Certificates valid for two years.



Trafficking

On 12th November, staff attended Counter-Trafficking Training with IOM (International Organisation for Migration) where staff gained a deep insight into Human Trafficking legislation, how to identifying victims and how to refer when necessary.



 IOM UN MIGRATION IRELAND

10 HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS

Human trafficking is one of the most lucrative organized crimes, involving the exploitation of people through force, fraud, or coercion. Victims can be of any gender, age, or background. Indicators may vary from the below depending on the case. Report any signs or suspicions.

 No access to own money	 Unable to move freely and live or work in a locked premises
 Language or communication barriers	 Long working hours and forced to eat and sleep where they work
 No access to passport or other identity documents	 Physically unwell and/or showing signs of drug use
 No access to personal means of communication (mobile phones, laptops, etc.)	 Limited or inadequate clothing for the weather or work that they do
 Withdrawn, frightened or confused behaviour	 Forced to engage in criminal activity

Early identification can save lives
Report to An Garda Síochána - Irish Police

 bluebirdfield@garda.ie
Confidential line 1800 666 111
In an emergency call 999/112

SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.trafficking.org

For more information and support contact ICPE
protection@iom.ie

The PROTECT Project is supported by
 An Garda Síochána
Department of Justice

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 10am-12pm
Westside Resource Centre
H91 C1KX

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

Westside Community Singing Group
Wednesdays 2pm-3.30pm
Westside Library
H91 Y067

Westside Social Club
for older adults
Wednesdays 2pm-4pm
Westside Resource Centre
H91 C1KX
Delivered by Westside Age Inclusion

Westside Parent & Toddler Group
Thursdays 10am-11.30am
Westside Community
Centre, H91 R853

Westside Community Garden
Wednesdays 10am-12pm
Next to Westside Resource
Centre, H91 C1KX

Westside Community Arts Group
Mondays 4-6pm
Westside Resource Centre
H91 C1KX
For creatives to work on own art projects as part of a group

Westside Men's Drop-In Club
Thursdays 6.30pm-8.00pm
Westside Resource Centre
H91 C1KX

Social Steps Dancing
Mondays 9.30am-11am
Westside Community
Centre, H91 R853
Delivered by Healthy Galway City

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

FREE ACTIVITIES IN YOUR AREA
Community Development Service, Galway City Partnership

BALLINFOILE

Ballinfoile Walking Group
Wednesdays 10am-11.30am
Meet outside Ballinfoile
Castlegar Neighbourhood
Centre, H91 PN50

Ballinfoile Men's Walking Soccer
Wednesdays 6pm-7pm
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre, H91 PN50

Ballinfoile Parents of Teenagers Group
Tuesdays 7pm-9pm
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre
H91 PN50

Ballinfoile Parent, Baby & Toddler Group
Wednesdays 9.30am-11am
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre,
H91 PN50

Ballinfoile Community Singing Group
Wednesdays 11.30am-1.30pm
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre,
H91 PN50

Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden
Wednesdays 11am-2pm
Saturdays 11am-2pm
Lus Léana, Headford Rd, Galway

Ballinfoile Men's Boxercise Group
Tuesdays 6pm-7pm
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre,
H91 PN50

Castlegar Active Retirement Group
Tuesdays 10am-12pm
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre,
H91 PN50

Social Steps
Mondays 12.45pm-2.15pm
Ballinfoile Castlegar
Neighbourhood Centre,
H91 PN50
Delivered by Healthy Galway City

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

FREE ACTIVITIES IN YOUR AREA
Community Development Service, Galway City Partnership

BALLYBANE

Ballybane Coffee Morning
Thursdays 10.30am-12pm
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre, H91 VP6D

Older Person's Group
Wednesdays 11am-1pm
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre, H91 VP6D

Eastside Community Drama Group
Wednesdays 7.30pm-10pm
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre, H91 VP6D

Social Steps
Mondays 3.30pm-5pm
Main Hall, Ballybane Community
Resource Centre, H91 VP6D
Delivered by Healthy Galway City

Eastside Walking Group
Tuesdays 11.00am
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre, H91 VP6D

Ballybane Community Singing Group
Thursdays 7.30pm-9pm
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre, H91 VP6D

Ballybane Men's Group
Wednesdays 7.30pm-8.30pm
Ballybane Community
Resource Centre, H91 VP6D

Ballybane Community Garden
Thursdays 10am-1pm
Across from Ballybane
Library, H91 FX98

Games For All
Tuesdays 12pm-1pm
Main Hall, Ballybane Community
Resource Centre, H91 VP6D
Delivered by Galway Sports Partnership

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT :
FAOZIA 083 4708536/FAOZIA@GCP.IE OR
GRAINNE 083 0586152/GRAINNE@GCP.IE

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

Galway Recovery College will be running a workshop Coping

with Christmas, this is free and available both in person and online to everyone over 18. It will be repeated on

- Mon Dec 15th 2-4pm School of Psychology, Main Campus H91 PH2P rm G067
- Tues Dec 16th 4-6pm ILAS North Campus H91 C7DK rm G008
- Thurs Dec 18th 6-9pm ILAS North Campus H91 C7DK rm G008



galwayrecoverycollege@gmail.com / 087 340 1667



Better Together: A Peer-led recovery organisation

They offer daily online support for people with mental health and/or substance use challenges, facilitated by people with lived experience. Groups and workshops 365 days of the year, so even on Christmas day there will be groups and 1:1 support.

Visit www.better-together.ie for more information.



HSE online My Mental Health Plan Support of This Time of Year

This is a simple tool that offers practice ideas to ease some of the everyday challenges such as social demands, financial strain, low mood and more.

www2.hse.ie/mental-health/my-mental-health-plan/

SAMARITANS

TALK IT THROUGH,
WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN

jo@samaritans.ie

116 123

www.samaritans.org

If it's an emergency, Dial 112 or 999

Mental Health Ireland are running 2 free webinars offering practical

tips and supportive strategies to help you mind your mental health during the festive season. The sessions will be delivered by Dee Lynch, Education and Training Coordinator at Mental Health Ireland, and will finish with a short Q&A.

They also have free downloadable guides designed to be short, practical resources to help you and the people around you through the season.

Dec 10th 7-8pm & Dec 18th 1-2pm

For more information visit
Connectmas - Mental Health Ireland.



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



Mental Health
Ireland

How to Mind Your Mental Health at Christmas



The holiday season can be a wonderful time, but it often brings added demands, stress, and a change in routine that can impact your mental health. These tips are designed to help you protect your wellbeing by prioritising what matters, creating manageable plans, and setting realistic boundaries.

Plan and prioritise

Making lists can be a helpful tool that allows us to feel organised and in control in the run up to Christmas. This will allow you to prioritise what's important and schedule in some self-care time.

Plan in advance

Decide in advance which gatherings or events you'll attend and how long you'll stay. Aim for quality over quantity and communicate any limitations to family and friends. Don't be afraid to say no and to manage your time (and social battery) however you need.

Practice mindfulness

Start or end each day with a five-minute mindfulness activity, or write down what you're grateful for or feeling positive about.

Stick to a routine

Try to wake up and go to sleep at the same time every day, even though your routine is often challenged over the holidays.

Check on your loved ones

Plan to check in with friends or family before and/or after a stressful event. Also don't forget to check in on yourself, take some deep breaths and make some time for your own needs.

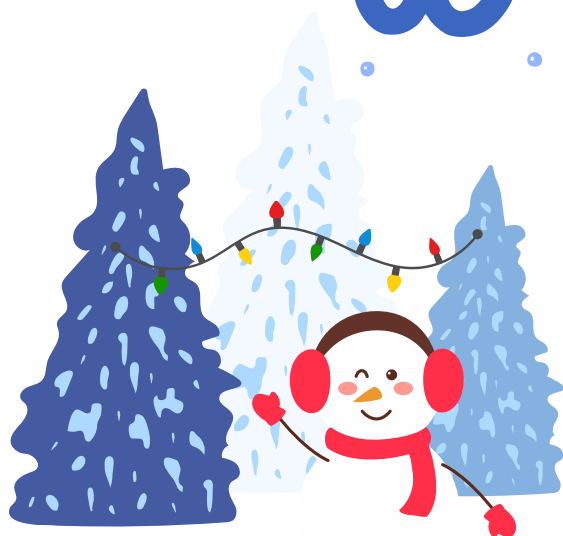
Prioritise self-care

Dedicate 10-15 minutes each day to self-care to help you recharge.





hello winter



If you would like to sign up to receive the quarterly GCP newsletter, email ciara@gcp.ie.



Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



TÚSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



Adult
Literacy
for Life



gretb
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.