



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
Chathair na Gaillimhe
Galway City Local Community Development
Committee



Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

Galway City

**Local Community Development
Committee (LCDC)**

Annual Report 2023



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Statement by the Chief Officer, Galway City LCDC

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is required to prepare and submit a report to the Local Authority on its activities in the previous year. This report outlines progress in respect of the various LCDC functions over 2023, including a review of progress generally, details of meetings held, development of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2024 - 2029 and details of the oversight, management, and collaboration in relation to public-funded programmes under the LCDC's remit.

Since the submission of the last report, Galway City LCDC and its sub-committees continued to meet and deliver on the Community element of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) throughout 2023. The LCDC continued to provide the basis for a more coherent, streamlined, and co-ordinated approach to local and community development programmes.

Highlights of the year include the preparation and finalisation of the new LECP 2024 – 2029 and Implementation Plan 2024 – 2025 and completion of the tender process for the new SICAP programme 2024 – 2028.

I wish to acknowledge the co-operation and ongoing commitment of all members and partners of Galway City LCDC which has seen benefits of real partnership arising from the existence of the valuable structures and programmes of the LCDC. I would like to acknowledge the work of staff in the Community section who have been supportive to the LCDC and for their support in responding to community needs in 2023.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the commitment of Ms. Elaine Harvey Chairperson Galway City LCDC who completed her 3-year term as Chairperson in December 2023. I look forward to working with and supporting the LCDC in 2024 in carrying out its functions and building on achievements to date.

I set out below the draft report for 2023 for consideration and approval of the members of the Galway City LCDC.



Dermot Mahon
Chief Officer, Galway City LCDC

1. Introduction and Background

This document constitutes the Annual Report for the Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ended 31 December 2023 prepared in accordance with S.128B (1)(i) Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which states that one of the functions of a Local Community Development Committee is “not later than 31 March in each year, to prepare, adopt and submit to the local authority a report in relation to the performance of its functions during the year immediately preceding the year in which the report is submitted”.

The Galway City LCDC was formally established by resolution of the local authority on 30 June 2014 for the purpose of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. The Committee is made up of representatives from the local government and local development sectors, public bodies and representatives of social, economic, environmental and community interests.

1.1 Role and Functions of Galway City LCDC

In accordance with the functions detailed in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the LCDC has primary responsibility for co-ordination, planning and oversight of local development spend, whether that spend is delivered by local authorities, or on behalf of the State or by other local development agencies and structures.

LCDCs are charged with bringing a more coherent approach to the implementation of local and community development programmes and interventions, seeking to ensure an integrated approach to the local community and local development services between providers and delivery structures. It is important that LCDCs drive meaningful citizen and community engagement in the scoping, planning, delivery and evaluation of local and community development programmes. Each LCDC will focus on learning and feedback, enhancing the links between service delivery and policy development and will pursue opportunities for additional funding resources for their areas, whether Exchequer, EU, private or other sources.

The functions of the LCDC are specified in the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 are as follows:

- To prepare and adopt the community elements of a 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (the Plan).
- To implement, or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the Plan.
- To review the community elements of the Plan at least once within the period of 6 calendar years and, if necessary, to amend the community elements of the Plan.
- To monitor and review on an on-going basis the implementation of the community elements of the Plan and, if appropriate, to revise the actions and strategies set to achieve the objectives of the Plan.
- To co-ordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes that have been approved either by the relevant local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and a relevant public authority (e.g. Government Department, State Agency)
- To seek to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between publicly funded local and community development programmes, in addition to pursuing co-ordination generally of all local and community development programmes within the functional area of the Committee.
- To consider and adopt a statement for consideration of the Council in respect of the economic elements of a draft of the Plan prepared by the local authority.
- To prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions.

1.2 LCDC Membership and Meetings

The Galway City LCDC comprises 15 members including representatives from the statutory (public) and non-statutory (private) sectors drawn from the Galway City administrative area. The membership brings together the skills of people actively working in local development and community development with local authority members, officials and state agencies to implement a joined up, cross sectional approach to local and community development in Galway City.

The Membership of the LCDC was as follows on 31 December 2023.

Statutory Interests (7)		
Sector	Name	Organisation
Local Authority Elected Members	Cllr. Martina O'Connor	Galway City Council
	Cllr. Alan Curran	Galway City Council
Local Authority Officials	Patricia Philbin Interim CE	Galway City Council
State Agencies	Valerie Kelly Regina Higgins Adrienne Lynam Sinead Morgan	Local Enterprise Office Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection Health Service Executive Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board
Non-Statutory Interests (8)		
Sector	Name	Organisation
Community and Voluntary	Joanne Laffey Lorraine Lally Anne Marie Stokes Fiona McDonagh-Delaney Charlotte May	Galway City Community Network (GCCN)
Trade Union	Elaine Harvey (Chairperson)	Galway Council of Trade Unions
Employers / Business	Vacant	Galway Chamber
Local Development	Linda Sice Brogan	Galway City Partnership

There were 6 changes in membership in 2023 with the following members resigning; Mr Brendan McGrath, Local Authority; Ms. Breda Fox, Local Authority Official / LEO; Cllr. Owen Hanley, Local Authority Elected Member; Ms. Anne O'Neill, HSE; Mr. James Coyne, GCCN / PPN and Mr. Oliver Daniels, Galway Chamber.

Replacements from each organisation were sought the following became members of the LCDC in 2023: Ms. Patricia Philbin, Local Authority; Ms. Valerie Kelly, Local Authority / LEO; Cllr. Alan Curran, Local Authority Elected Member; Ms. Adrienne Lynam, HSE and Ms. Charlotte May, GCCN/PPN.

Galway City LCDC convened a total of six meetings (in person and online) on the following dates: 1 March, 26 April, 19 July, 13 September, 8 November, and 13 December 2023. As set out in the Standing Orders, the quorum for meetings of Galway City LCDC is 9 members and all meetings held during 2023 met the quorum.

The work of the LCDC is underpinned by the commitment of its members to sitting on subgroups to consider matters in greater detail and prepare reports and recommendations for consideration at LCDC meetings. There are four subgroups of the LCDC: LECP Advisory Steering Group, SICAP Subgroup, Grants Subgroup and Healthy Galway City Steering Committee and each met as required in 2023.

Mr. Dermot Mahon served as Chief Officer for the LCDC during 2023. The Chief Officer's role is to support the establishment and development of the LCDC in line with national policy requirements and support the committee in the implementation of its role and functions. Meeting supports are provided to Galway City LCDC by the Community Section in Galway City Council. Agendas and minutes of the LCDC meetings are available on the Community section of the Council's website at www.GalwayCity.ie/LCDC

2. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

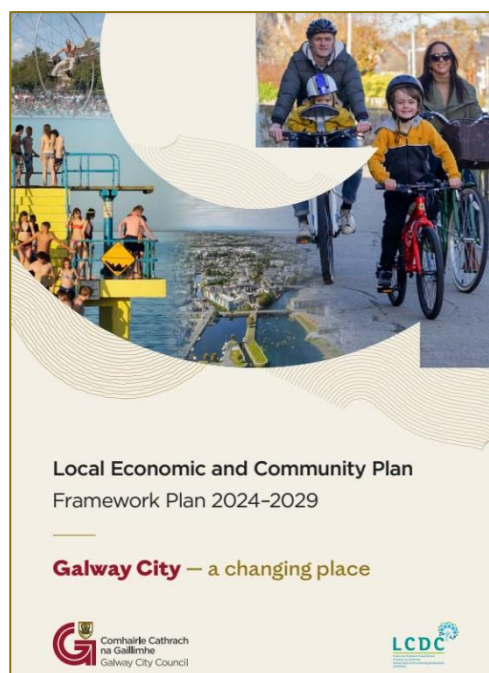
The primary aim of the LECP is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Galway City both by Galway City Council directly, and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

As the framework for the economic development and community development of Galway City, the LECP will be the primary mechanism at local level to bring forward relevant actions arising from national and regional strategies and policies that have a local remit.

Galway City Council has the primary responsibility for leading economic, social and community development in the city. The LECP was developed to reflect this responsibility under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Both economic and community elements are integrated into the LECP, and the overall process was guided by an Advisory Steering Group established in 2022 and who met in 2023 to guide the planning process.

The community element of the LECP was agreed by the Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) at their meeting on the 13 December 2023 and the economic element was agreed by Galway City Council, through the Economic Development, Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) at their meeting on 8 December 2023. Implementation Plans will be developed every two years, based on



the High-Level Objectives outlined in the LECP Framework 2024 – 2029. The first Implementation Plan will cover the years 2024 – 2025.

Five High Level Goals were agreed by LCDC / SPC to help achieve the overall Vision:

1. a world class creative city region
2. an innovative city
3. an equal and inclusive city
4. a sustainable and resilient city
5. a city that promotes health and wellbeing

The LECP Framework 2024 – 2029 details 5 High-Level Goals and 17 Sustainable Community and Economic Objectives as well as consideration of outcomes and high-level indicators for the 6-year LECP period. 63 actions are contained in the Implementation Plan 2024 - 2025 as well as relevant key outcomes to facilitate evaluation. c.75% of the actions will be delivered directly by Galway City Council while 25% will be delivered in partnership with other agencies / directly by other agencies.

The LECP is influenced by a hierarchy of international, national, regional, and local level plans, strategies and legislation. Consideration was given to these during the preparation of the LECP. In line with the legislation and following engagement with the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) it was noted that the NWRA at its meeting held on 17 November 2023, in accordance with the powers set out in Section 66C 2(c) and 3(c) of the Local Government Act 2001, and following consideration of the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan for Galway City, determined that the Plan generally consistent with the Core Strategy and Development Objectives of the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 (RSES) for the Northern and Western Region.

The NWRA also confirmed that the LECP demonstrates consistency between the economic and community objectives of the plan. The LECP has been subject to both Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) as required under legislation. The screening exercises examined the need to undertake full SEA and/or Stage 2 AA. Screening for SEA and Screening for AA reports accompany the Plan and have informed the Council's determinations that full SEA and Stage 2 AA are not required for the Plan.

The LECP also considered the potential impact of the plan across several cross cutting / horizontal priorities namely - sustainability, climate change, equality, poverty, age, and disability. Cross cutting priorities reflected throughout the plan include Climate Change / Action; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty and Public Consultation.

The elected members of Galway City Council adopted the LECP Framework Plan 2024 – 2029 and LECP Implementation Plan 2024 – 2025 at their January 2024 meeting following the comprehensive process undertaken in line with national guidelines and legislation and subject to the satisfactory completion of all necessary assessments, consents, and approvals.

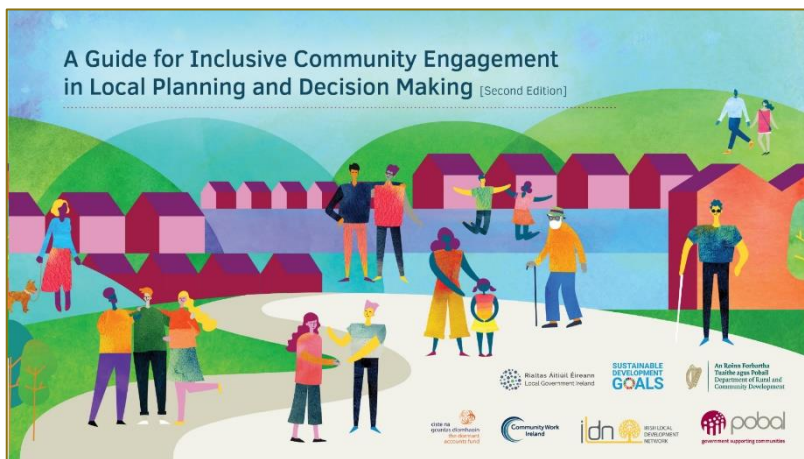
2.1 Dormant Accounts Fund – Community Engagement Project

Galway City LCDC was one of three local authorities to secure funding under the Dormant Accounts Fund to develop a pilot project on participation and engagement by marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) process. Galway City Community Network (GCCN) agreed to lead out on the project and engaged with the selected marginalised communities.

The engagement project sought the views from a number of panels and a LECP Actions Book was developed comprising the views and suggestions from a civil society panel, Travellers, LGBTI+ community, youth on the margins, migrant women, and the deaf community. The Actions Book together with the wider public consultation process was used to identify and formulate actions for inclusion in the first LECP Implementation Plan.

In October 2023, the Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making' was launched.

The handy 'how-to' reference guide is aimed at ensuring that the most marginalised and disadvantaged communities have opportunities to engage and participate in local planning and decision making. Such inclusive engagement will ensure that their



perspectives are reflected in the decisions which affect them and will facilitate more inclusive measures to support sustainable development at a local level.

The resource guide was developed in conjunction with Pobal and the community and voluntary sector, as part of a wider Dormant Accounts Funded project on the engagement of marginalised communities at local level. This initiative is just one of a wide variety of actions in train under Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities, the whole of Government Strategy to support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland 2019-2024 and led by The Department of Rural and Community Development.

[Access the Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making.](#)



3. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 - 2022 (as extended to 2023) was an important programme for 2023 and key focus for the LCDC with regular reports and consideration of progress at LCDC meetings. The Galway City LCDC is the contracting authority, and its role is to manage and administer the programme, which is delivered by Galway City Partnership. In addition to the target groups to be supported under SICAP as set out in the programme requirements, Galway City LCDC agreed on the inclusion of Older People under the emerging needs target group for 2023.

3.1 Progress under SICAP

The SICAP Annual Plan 2023 was approved at the LCDC meeting on 1 March 2023 along with the SICAP 2022 Annual Progress Report. The SICAP Subgroup of the LCDC met twice to conduct reviews of the 2022 SICAP Annual Performance review, the 2023 Annual Plan and 2023 mid-year review.

The budget for 2023 was €723,461 with additional Ukrainian funding of €227,239. Galway City Partnership once again exceeded the targets set for the programme in 2023. The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 1 target was exceeded by 19% with 51 local community groups assisted under SICAP, against a target set of 43. KPI 2 target for 2023 was also exceeded by 22%, with a total number of disadvantaged individuals engaged on a one-to-one basis at 540 against the target set of 442.

58% of individuals were newly registered and 22.62% were from disadvantaged areas in Galway City which exceeded the target set and agreed of 22% for %KPI 2 Living in Disadvantaged Areas. This targeted focus of support is further demonstrated by 86% of individuals identifying with one or more social inclusion barrier.

3.2 Key Achievements of SICAP 2023

Mental health and wellbeing - In response to an identified need for well-being and mental health supports arising from the experience of clients during the recent public health emergency an online Personal Development Course was delivered.

The course proved popular with a wide cohort of people across the city, and because of the sensitivity of its delivery and the back up support offered by SICAP staff allowed the programme to reach clients who were previously hard to reach such as carers, retired citizens, individuals living in Direct Provision Centres and members of the Ukrainian community.

Labour Market Training - The Traveller Community was prioritised with places for Manual Handling, Safe Pass and Barista Courses. This targeted approach led to significant engagement with and from the community allowing work with more than three times the national caseload average of individual beneficiaries from this identified target group.

Community Singing Groups - The SICAP Team provided support to three community based Singing Groups two of which are newly established in 2023, with the third in existence for over two years. Feedback from group members has been entirely positive with participants attesting to improved mental health, well-being, and social relationships as well as positive changes in self- and social identity, increased empowerment, and connectedness with others.



Galway Boxing Club - Further collaboration was developed between the Irish Amateur Boxing Association, Galway Sports Partnership, Galway City Partnership SICAP and the volunteer led primarily by and for the Traveller Community, Galway Boxing Club. Assistance was provided for local and national funding applications, Child Protection and Safeguarding courses and, in development of publicity and promotion of the club equality framework. This work has contributed significantly to the group and sustainability of the boxing club which is a vital contributor to the health and wellbeing of its community.

Traveller Groups - Significant support was provided to Traveller Groups including Pavee Beoirs, Pavee Lacken, Shining Stars and the Ballybane Traveller and Settled Women's groups on a weekly basis throughout the year. Staff supported the groups with capacity building, planning, securing funding and networking.

All of the Traveller based LCGs also engaged in workshops and training supporting their health and well-being such as Reflexology and Relaxation, Aromatherapy Oils, Women's Wellness, Healthy Bodies Healthy Minds and Tai Chi.



The Ballinfoile Community Garden Harvest Party

Walking Groups were established in Ballybane, Westside and Ballinfoile directly as a response to the Lot Priority Group Mental Health. These groups are an example of one type of outdoor therapeutic supports being provided by and with GCP, alongside supports provided to the Community Gardens, in local woods and in estates.

Social Enterprise - Thirteen Social Enterprises were supported during 2023. A key focus during the year was on developing links with potential new social enterprises in the area of disability, Link Café, and a local Community Centre, St Joseph's Community Centre. All four Community Service Programmes, CSPs, registered with GCP through SICAP had their funding renewed with DRCD. GCP has a strong focus through the Social Enterprise Worker in supporting ethnic minorities. A strong recognition exists of the double disadvantages that these groups experience. United Women has received considerable support in participating in Rethink Start A Social Enterprise Course from GCP.

Galway Migrant Service - Galway Migrant Service is dedicated to offering specialized tailored supports to those seeking International Protection, Asylum seekers, Refugees, and other non-native groups. In 2023 over 60 vulnerable individuals and their families were supported on this one-to-one basis with information provision, advocacy, and guidance in a bespoke sensitive, confidential and respectful manner. It continues to actively collaborate with the Bridge Project, the University of Sanctuary, and has represented GCP at the Integration Conference organised by Minister Joe O'Brien.

SICAP Supports to the Ukrainian Community - Galway City Partnership continued to support the Ukrainian Community through the SICAP Project Officer who facilitates English Language Classes in partnership with GRETB, and two Ukrainian Support Workers. In collaboration with the Ukrainian coordinator funded by Galway City Council, the Support

Workers have successfully established relationships and networks across different communities and services in Galway City to provide ongoing support, translation, information sharing, and signposting for the Ukrainian refugee community. Initiatives included:

Supporting Community Groups: UA Mriya UHUG Harmony Ukrainian Choir Kalyna	<p>Material supports for coffee mornings, workshops, and events (English lessons, children's dance and drama, yoga, sound healing, arts and crafts, painting, doll-making, coder dojo, drumming). Transportation support.</p> <p>Support in creating media and social media content. Support to find spaces for rehearsals, events, lessons, wellbeing support, educational and youth supports. (Westside Library, Ballybane Community Centre, NUIG, ATU, Shantalla Centre). Support and links to participate in community events (Westside Arts Festival, Westside Welcomes All, Ukrainian Independence Day, Intercultural week at Castlegar NS., Westside Christmas Market)</p>
National Choir Initiative	Supported singers from Harmony to participate in National Ukrainian Choir established by ILDN in collaboration with Phil Coulter.
Information Workshops and Wellbeing Supports	Cairde wellbeing workshops, Getting used to life in Ireland. Paying bills and bureaucracy in Ireland for OAH residents. AA community group. Music Therapy in ARD Resource Centre. Information YWI and Foróige Supports. Sexual Health West Information sessions with HSE
Lego Workshops	6 weeks of Lego workshops
Community Interpreter Training	Training for individuals working in the community
Employability Supports	Safe Pass Course (20 people)

	<p>3 Manual Handling Courses (39 people)</p> <p>Barista Training Course (with HACCP) (13 people)</p> <p>CV Workshops and one-to-one support, Links to Recruitment Agencies, Interview Skills, Referrals to Tus programme. Links to Employment Supports in GCP</p>
English Language Supports	<p>98 adults receiving tuition at GCP (pre-beginner to advanced). Students also participated in extra-curricular activities such as guided visits to the Museum, the University, the Druid theatre, conversation classes and the 'Walk and Talk' group with Healthy Ireland.</p>
School Supports / Supports for Ukrainian Children	<p>Primary and Post Primary DEIS schools were supported to deliver emergent Play and Art Therapies in-school for Ukrainian children/young people. Additional 'Wellbeing and Integration supports' such as Programmes with Music Generation, Drama, Drumming, Yoga and Dance across 8 schools. 15 children attending Judo classes from September to December 2023 (Judo 4 Peace)</p>
Summer Provision	<p>Summer camp places for 65 children to attend Power Soccer, GAA, Star Camp and Let's Go during the summer. Collaborated with the Volunteer Centre and the City Museum to run two weeks of Irish cultural camps for 40 children. 154 children from 5 DEIS schools and 142 adults attended a Summer School at the University of Galway, workshops included Lego Technic STEM and building, Dance and Drumming. In addition, GCP funded DEIS schools to support targeted Ukrainian children identified by HSCLs with Summer provision July to August 2023.</p>
Transport	<p>Taxis for schoolchildren with issues with school buses. Taxis to bring individuals to events / workshops / medical appointments with no access to public transport.</p>

3.3 SICAP 2023 Case Study

The SICAP 2023 case study video was titled 'Community Response to Domestic Abuse Western Regional Network: Interagency and Community Collaboration'.

It is long recognised and established that best practice in responding to domestic abuse involves adopting integrated, community-based approaches. The Community Response to Domestic Abuse Western Regional Network members work from community development principles to develop a collective response to tackle social injustice and inequalities in Irish society, in this case, in relation to women experiencing domestic abuse. The Case Study explicitly addresses the core theme of collaboration and demonstrates the ability of the SICAP programme to work successfully with other stakeholders, in this instance Family Resource Centres, other LDCs and Domestic Abuse Frontline Services across Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.

The Networks Mission is to “promote a collective, community-based response to domestic abuse by working collaboratively as a Network in solidarity with women and our communities to challenge all forms of domestic abuse and coercive control- raising awareness developing resources and promoting best practice”. The case study was presented by Galway City Partnership at the November 2023 LCDC Meeting. [Watch the Video on YouTube.](#)

3.4 SICAP Audit 2022

In November 2023 the Internal Audit Unit conducted a SICAP audit on Galway City Partnership for the financial year 2022. Galway City Council appointed Crowleys DFK to conduct the audit. A report is to be issued by Crowleys in Q1 2024 which will present the results of the review with responses received from Galway City Partnership listing agreed actions and timeframes addressing the recommendations made.

3.5 Annual Planning for SICAP 2024

The allocated SICAP budget for 2024 is €997,080, made up of the Lot Budget €772,258 and a ringfenced New Arrivals Budget €224,822. KPI targets for 2024 are outlined in the table below.

Ref	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual Target 2024
1.	Total number of local community groups engaged under SICAP	59
2.	Number of Individuals (aged 15 years upwards) assisted under SICAP on a one-to-one basis	483

3.6 SICAP 2024 – 2028

A rigorous tender procurement process for SICAP 2024 – 2028 took place over a 6 month period in 2023, commencing in July following publication on eTenders. Galway City Council on behalf of Galway City LCDC received one fully completed tender from Galway City Partnership.



Signing of Contracts for the SICAP programme

This tender submission was evaluated by an evaluation committee in September to ensure it met all the criteria. The tender submission from Galway City Partnership was successful and they were awarded the contract to operate the new SICAP 2024-2028 programme in Galway City. The contracts were signed in December 2023 with the successful tenderer, Galway City Partnership to deliver the new SICAP 2024-2028 programme worth €4.5m.

4. Humanitarian Response

4.1 Galway City Ukrainian Community Response

Throughout 2023, the Ukrainian Community Response Forum continued to meet to work together in the delivery of services for Ukrainian refugees in Galway City. The role of the Forum is to coordinate the community-led response in the provision of local assistance and support to Ukrainian refugees as they are accommodated in Galway City.



Supplementing the supports and services being provided by government agencies at a local level, the purpose of the Forum is to ensure effective communication and information sharing in the coordination of local community and voluntary actions in providing community supports to the new Ukrainian communities. Galway City LCDC received regular updates and communication as relevant on the ongoing work to coordinate local responses to the Ukraine crisis. Representatives from statutory and non- statutory organisations on the LCDC were included in the Ukrainian Community Response Forum.

4.2 Galway City Partnership Ukrainian Response Team

In facilitating the Ukrainian initiative under SICAP, the Galway City Partnership Ukraine Response Team supported Ukrainian community groups and individuals, such as Ukrainians Helping Ukrainians Galway (UHUG), UA MRIIYA, HARMONY – Ukrainian Choir, and KALINA to run activities and partake in different events in the community (events include the St. Patrick's Parade, Commemoration Day, International Women's Day, Westside Arts Festival).

In addition, they linked BOTPs to English classes and broader support for children and families while also running CV workshops, employability support initiatives, and training programmes such Barista, Safe Pass, Manual Handling. The GCP Ukraine Response Team also supported BOTPs who have been allocated a property under the Offer a Home

scheme, delivering several support initiatives including information workshops, and providing clinics including running a household and paying bills in Ireland.

4.3 Offer a Home Scheme

The Offer a Home Scheme was launched nationally in November 2022 and focuses on vacant properties suitable for non-shared accommodation for Displaced Ukrainians. Over 105 displaced Ukrainians have been accommodated in 28 OAH properties to date. Additional properties registered will be allocated in 2024.



4.4 Local Authority Integration Team

Funding was announced for the establishment in each local authority of a Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT). A cornerstone of this new model is a focus on supporting the principle of 'integration from day one' with the overarching aim of empowering applicants to live independently in the community.



To achieve this goal, applicants will require access to a network of assistance and supports. This will be delivered through the expansion of the model of interagency working groups and resettlement and intercultural workers currently in place for the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP).

The LAIT will commence operations in 2024 and will work with applicants for International Protection; those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status; Programme Refugees, and Beneficiaries of Temporary Accommodation (BOTPs).

5. Healthy Galway City

Healthy Ireland is a government-led initiative aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of everyone living in Ireland.



[The Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025](#) has 4 key goals:

Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life.

Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities.

Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing; and

Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland.

Healthy Galway City (HGC) is an initiative of Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) which seeks to create a city where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential. Previous rounds of HIF were primarily activity-led. An outcome-led approach has been introduced to Round 4 to:

- enable the implementation of more targeted and evidence-based activities;
- provide a more structured approach to the collection and reporting of relevant data and information which can be used for greater oversight and improved programme evaluation; and
- provide a clearer understanding of how the work of the funded organisations contributes to HIF programme objectives.

As part of the HIF Round 4 application process, local authorities were required to select outcome indicators from the [Healthy Ireland Outcomes Framework Indicator Set](#) that are appropriate for identified priority areas for their region.

The Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Local Strategy for Galway City 2023 – 2025 and the Healthy Galway City (HGC) Round 4 application were approved by Pobal and the Department of Health and grant agreement with Galway City Council was signed in May 2023. The Healthy Ireland Fund 2022-2025 Grant Agreement included an allocation of €78,122.42 for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023 to allow delivery of priority

health and wellbeing initiatives. Following a stakeholder consultation to identify the health priorities and areas of need in Galway City under the HIF Local Strategy for Galway City 2023 – 2025 and the HGC Round 4 in Q4 of 2022, the following Outcome Indicators were selected:

- Percentage of adults and children meeting physical activity guidelines;
- and Increase in individual's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index (EVI).

The selected Target Groups for prioritisation under Round 4 are: People living in Disadvantaged Communities; The Traveller Community; Older Adults and People with disabilities. In 2023, the Healthy Galway City Coordinator and Steering Committee continued to partner with key stakeholders in the design and implementation of actions under Round 4 of the HIF. HIF Round 4 2022 Progress and Financial reports were submitted to Pobal in February 2023 and approved in August 2023.

5.1 Healthy Galway City Coordinator

The Healthy Galway City Coordinator is central to the implementation of HIF Round 4 and is a key role in local authorities for the continuous advancement of the local health and wellbeing agenda. The role of the HGC Coordinator is to promote the local health and wellbeing agenda through the implementation of HIF Local Strategy in the city and work in collaboration with health focused services, charities, NGOs, interagency and community groups.

The HGC Coordinator represents the Northern and Western Regional Assembly Area HI Coordinators on the National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland Network. The aims of the Network are to improve the societal health and wellbeing of qualifying cities and counties through a process of political commitment and to build capacity with local stakeholders and the provision of support to innovative projects that improve the physical and social environment.

The HGC Coordinator, along with the National HI Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator and a team of HI Coordinators and Sláintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officers attended the WHO European Healthy Cities Annual Business Meeting and Technical Conference in November 2023. The Conference provided an opportunity to meet

with and learn from researchers, practitioners and policy-makers involved in the Healthy Cities movement.



Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare attendees at WHO European Healthy Cities Conference 2023

5.2 Outcome Indicators

Percentage of adults and children meeting physical activity guidelines - Partnership agreements with implementing partners Galway Sports Partnership (GSP) were agreed under the HIF Round 4 2023 – 2025. Agreements outline the activities to promote health and wellbeing in Galway City. A Healthy Galway City allocation of €39,220 was committed to GSP in 2023.

GSP delivered a range of projects to increase the levels of physical activity amongst people with disabilities, older adults and people living in disadvantaged communities.

In 2023, this included the refurbishment and transfer of ownership of a Beach Wheelchair from Ability West to Galway City Council to facilitate more people with physical disabilities or limited mobility to access the beach and water.



Accessible Beach Wheelchair

GSP partnered with Western Regional Drug and Alcohol Taskforce to deliver the HI-funded Recovery Fitness Group for people recovering from addiction HI and GSP delivered the Nature for Health programme in 2023.

This is a 10-week walking programme based in local woodlands that supports participant to enjoy gentle exercise, mindfulness, biodiversity, local history and therapeutic art.



Nature for Health, Recovery Fitness group

This programme runs in Merlin Woods, and targets people living in disadvantaged communities and people with disabilities.

5.3 Outcome Indicators

Increase in individual's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index

- Galway City Partnership (GCP) and Galway Traveller Movement (GTM) were selected as implementing partners under HIF Round 4 2022 – 2025 for their expertise and proven track records in including and empowering people living in disadvantaged communities and the Traveller Community, respectively. Healthy Galway City allocated €20,000 to GCP for the delivery of mental, social and physical wellbeing programmes to people living in disadvantaged communities in Galway City. The programmes are

evaluated to assess the increase in individual's levels of positive mental health as per the EVI.

These programmes include Community Singing Groups in Westside, Ballinfoile and Ballybane that have been well attended, particularly by older adults, and very popular in the areas. All three singing groups performed as part of the 'Cupán Ceoil' Christmas Lunch event in December 2023.

Other programmes targeting people living in Westside, Ballybane and Ballinfoile include Yoga Classes, Art and Creativity Classes, Wellness and Mindfulness Classes, and Physical Activity and Wellbeing classes.



Galway City Partnership health and wellbeing activities

These programmes are delivered in collaboration with the GCP Community Development Workers, who work to build the capacity and sustainability of groups and individuals. Healthy Galway City allocated €9,980.79 to GTM for the delivery of a 'Galway Traveller Movement Health and Wellbeing' programme. Actions including Equine Therapy,

Confidence Building Programmes, Dance Classes, and Fitness and Circuit Training are included as part of the programme.

In addition to programmes, GTM also planned a number of community events to promote positive mental health and wellbeing within the Traveller Community in Galway City. The GTM Mental Health Inquiry in November 2023 brought together services, supports and the Traveller community and the GTM 'Right to Mental Health' campaign was launched, calling for collaborative action on the continuing mental health crisis for Travellers in Ireland.

5.4 Projects Delivered

Healthy Galway City collaborated with a range of stakeholders, including the HSE, Local Authority, charities, NGOs, interagency and community group to provide programmes and opportunities to increase levels of positive mental health in the target groups. Smaller projects included:

- A community cooking group for people with lived experience of mental illness with Cosáin Wellness CLG
- 'Connecting Communities through Food and Culture' with Galway Melting Potluck
- 'Healthy Men, Happy Tribes' Men's Health Week event in June 2023
- 'Autumn Wellbeing Programme' and 'Winter Chill and Crafts' workshops with Merlin Woods Training Centre
- Community Foraging Workshops in August and September 2023
- Galway City and County 'Connect Café' event with Mental Health Ireland, Jigsaw and the HSE as part of Mental Health Awareness Month in October 2023
- 'Connect Café' for people living in Direct Provision in partnership with Galway Recovery College and Universities of Sanctuary in October 2023
- Halloween Harvest event in Ballinfoile Mor Community Garden, in partnership with local schools
- HGC contributed funding towards a Croi Connects Public Talk 'I know What to Do, So Why Can't I Do It?' in November 2023

Period Poverty Projects in Local Authorities - Galway City Council were allocated €10,000 by Department of Health under the Period Poverty Project to deliver a pilot project relating to the provision of free period products in certain locations managed by the LA. Free dispensers and period products were installed in the following venues managed or

supported by Galway City Council: Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre; Leisureland; Renmore Community Centre; Westside Community Centre; Knocknacarra Community Centre; Westside Resource Centre; Galway City Museum and City Hall.

safefood Community Food Initiatives - As in previous years, Heathy Galway City continued to deliver the safefood Community Food Initiatives on behalf of Galway City Partnership. GCP was awarded the CFI Leader role for 2022 – 2024. As part of this project, two community events and two smaller projects were arranged to promote healthy eating and nutrition in disadvantaged communities. Under this initiative, the following programmes and events took place:

- Westside Community Organic Garden Open Day (as part of Westside Arts Festival) in July 2023
- Ballybane Community Organic Garden Open Day in August 2023
- Westside Healthy Food Made Easy programme in November / December 2023
- Ballinfoile Castlegar Cooking on a Budget programme in November / December 2023

Creativity in Older Age 2023 - The HGC Coordinator applied successfully for funding under the Creative Ireland 'Creativity in Older Age Scheme' Schemes A and B. 'Ceol na Cuimhní / The Music of Memories' under Scheme A (€11,300) was delivered through Saolta Arts CLG hosted local musicians in live music workshops and performances for patients of Merlin Park University Hospital and University Hospital Galway, and for residents of residential healthcare settings.

"Cupán ceoil Tea Dances" (€19,550) incorporated art, live music, dancing, food and friendship to reduce the impact of isolation and loneliness on older adults living in Galway City. Galway City Partnership (GCP) were key partners in the delivery of the project.

This project targetted older adults experiencing social isolation in the Westside, Ballinfoile and Ballybane communities.

The project was launched in June 2023 with a group trip to Bunratty Castle in Limerick. Attendees looked forward to monthly Creative Arts and Tea Dance sessions throughout September, October and November 2023 and the project culminated in a Christmas Lunch event for over 110 older adults in December 2023.



Cupán Ceoil participants attending Bunratty Castle

Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support - In October 2022, the Department of Health issued an SLA for the Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support Fund to Galway City Council, for the amount of €28,575 Galway Sports Partnership, Healthy Galway City, the Galway City Council Arts Office, in partnership with Galway City Partnership Ukrainian Emergency Response Project Leader and Ukrainian Refugee Support Worker and Volunteer Galway Ukraine Support Worker completed the template for proposed activations in Galway City.

The Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support programme was completed in May 2023. Financial and progress reports have been submitted to the Department of Health. Feedback from participants and partner organisations has been extremely positive regarding this programme. Projects to promote positive mental health and wellbeing included:

- Drama and Dance for children with ARD Family Resource Centre
- Music Therapy for adults
- Family and Toddler Circus with Galway Community Circus
- MyMind Trauma-informed workshops
- Nature for Health for adults
- Art Therapy for Adults
- Family excursions to Brigit's Garden, Wildlands and a Community BBQ in Rinville Park

6. Age Friendly Programme

6.1 Age Friendly Homes Programme



Sláintecare



The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme is a unique cross-government collaboration between the Department of Health, HSE, and Local Government through Age Friendly Ireland. It provides an important, rounded model of care which supports older people to remain in their own homes where possible, to avoid hospital admission through the provision of care in the community, and to ultimately avoid early or unnecessary admission to residential care.

Participants are referred into the programme by family members, friends, healthcare providers, social prescribers, members of the community or can self-refer. Participants will receive a home visit from a Local Coordinator who is based in their local authority and has good links into statutory and non-statutory services in the community. The Local Coordinator will carry out an assessment of their needs across housing, health, technology, community, finance, and climate and energy.

Local Coordinators then design a personalised action plan under each of these areas to support the older person to live healthily and independently in their own home for as long as possible. Examples of interventions include access to primary care, public health nurse, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, meals on wheels, befriending services, local community supports, housing adaptation grants, home energy retrofits, and assistive technologies such as wearable devices, pendants and fall detectors.

Following a successful pilot programme in 9 counties the Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme was allocated funding for national rollout to ensure all older people have the opportunity to age in place and have access to the supports provided by the programme. Galway City Council will have a local coordinator working exclusively across the city in 2024 to deliver this innovative programme. This follows on the success of the phase 1 pilot which had one coordinator across both Galway City and County which resulted in over 250 visits to older people in 2023, with half of these visits to older people in Galway city. These

visits resulted in over 600 actions being identified to support these participants across the six domains of the Programme.

6.2 Age Friendly Programme Initiatives

Older people from across Galway attended an Information Day hosted by the Galway Age Friendly Alliance and the Older Persons Councils for the City and County in November. Guest speakers on the day included John Lonergan, the former Governor of Mountjoy Prison. There were also presentations on HSE Older Persons Services and on Crime Prevention. Information stands were on display from members of the Age Friendly Alliance committee.

The new Directory of Services for Older People was also launched at the event. The Directory provides information on health and other essential services. It provides useful information not only for older people, but for their families and carers as well as service providers themselves.



National Age Friendly Achievement Awards 2023 | Shortlisted Project - The Parks Department submitted an application under the National Age Friendly Achievement Award and O'Sullivan Park in Mervue was shortlisted under the Environment Category. A number of staff attended the awards ceremony including the Deputy Mayor. Unfortunately, the project did not win the overall award.



National Age Friendly Achievement Awards 2023

Positive Ageing Week - Positive Ageing Week is an opportunity every year to emphasise the positive aspects of aging and celebrate the invaluable contributions of older individuals in our communities. The theme of Positive Ageing Week 2023 was Challenging Ageism- Reframing How We Think, Feel and Act towards aging and older persons. Positive Ageing Week took place in October. Galway shone a light on 13 people who are wonderful examples of the positive aspects of ageing and the vast and varied contributions of older people who quietly improve our lives, neighbourhoods and communities all year round. This flagship event is the Local Heroes Exhibition which featured in various libraries across the city showcasing these amazing people who epitomise positive, healthy and active ageing. They represent the many older people who enrich our lives in so many ways. You can [see all 13 Galway City Heroes on this short video](#).



Positive Ageing Week event attended by Mayor Eddie Hoare

7. Community Funding Schemes

7.1 Community Recognition Fund 2023/2024

The Community Recognition Fund 2023/ 2024 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

A range of projects were proposed for each of Galway city's three Electoral Areas in proportion to the number of Ukrainian families accommodated in each area.

Each area will benefit from the provision and enhancement of sporting, recreational and cultural facilities including accessibility and community safety. The projects are spread across the city to achieve maximum benefit and impact.

Details of proposed projects were discussed at the Ukrainian Community Response in February and the list of potential projects was agreed with the Galway City LCDC on 1 March 2023. In May 2023, Galway City Council received funding of €1,911,918 from the Department of Rural and Community Development with €1,816,322 of this in respect of 15 projects submitted. An update on progress was presented at the November LCDC meeting.

A number of projects have been completed and funds drawn down in October 2023. These include Lighting Installation at Claddagh Pitches, South Park and purchase of audio-visual equipment for the Galway Museum and boxing ring refurbishment for the Westside Boxing Centre.





Audio visual equipment at Galway Museum



Lighting installation at South Park

The majority of projects are underway with completion required in 2024, including:

Saint Nicholas Collegiate Church were awarded a 50% advance grant payment for the new lighting system and wellness garden/oasis which is at design stage with architectural/conservation specialists. Works to commence Q1 2024.

Corrib Park – The lighting provision was completed in 2023 while the remainder of works are being scoped in terms of planning (Part 8) and assessment of current facilities with completion in 2024.

Sports Box-up Kits to be installed in 10 locations across the city. A Multi LA tender competition was held in 2023. Anticipated installation of the first kits in Q1 2024.

Galway Westend Access for All – Defibrillator procured in 2023 with balance of works to be complete in 2024. It was purchased in December 2023 and is to be installed at Apache Pizza on Dominick Street, which has the longest opening hours of businesses in the area.

Black Box Theatre installation of new accessible ramp. Design stage completed with procurement ongoing. Anticipated completion date Q2 2024.

Glen Oaks / Drom Chaoin Clean-up of old playground completed in 2023 (as illustrated below). Light landscaping planned for Spring 2024 with a scope of works review to be undertaken following community engagement.



O'Sullivan Park, Mervue Ongoing engagement took place with the service provider to agree design, scope of works and to investigate possible SMART technology options for bollard lighting. Part 8 planning procedure to commence in Q1 2024 and if approved, it is anticipated works will be complete by Q3 2024.

Westside Running Track lighting provision. Ecologist survey complete. Part 8 planning procedure to commence in Q1 2024 and if approved, it is anticipated works will be complete by Q3 2024.

Leisureland Refurbishment and Energy efficiency works - Project Management Consultants appointed in 2023. Anticipated start Q1 2024 with 9-month construction.

Crestwood upgrade and refurbishment of community facility and development of Astro pitch. A condition survey was undertaken to define scope of works and assess costs for upgrade to community facility. Project to commence in 2024.

The Manse, Nuns Island Refurbishment of the cultural centre. Project Management Consultants were appointed, and the tender procedure commenced in 2023. Tender procedure ongoing and project due to commence in Q1 2024.

Salthill Installation of power supply to facilitate community events to be completed. In 2023, a scoping exercise was completed following consultation with the Salthill Village. Installation works to be completed in Q1 2024.

All projects must be complete by November 2024. Should circumstances change over the course of the project delivery and some of the projects are no longer deliverable, the local authority can notify the Department and seek written approval of any amendments or reallocation of monies to another of the previously approved projects.

7.2 Community Support Fund

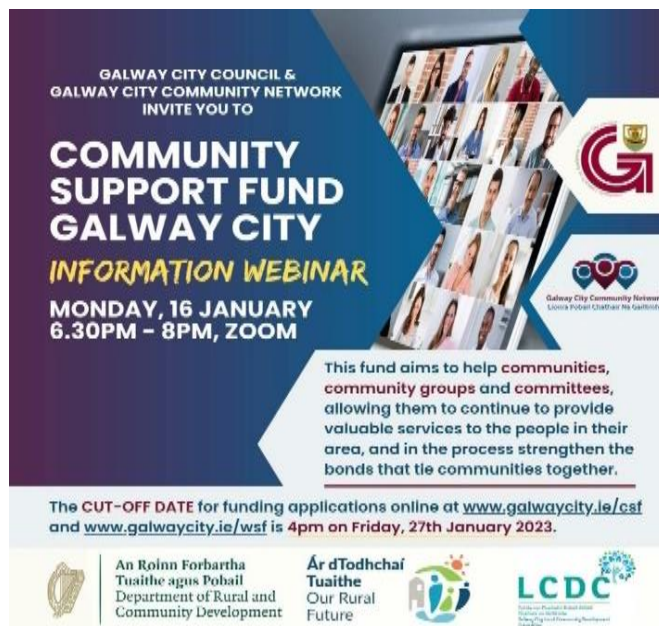
The Community Support Fund was announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development in November 2022 and administered by Galway City LCDC in 2023. A ringfenced Women's Shed Fund under the Community Support Fund was also available for allocation.

€276,838 was awarded to 73 local community and voluntary groups / organisations across Galway City under the fund. This funding helped to support groups particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their non-pay running costs, non-pay operating costs for example, energy costs, rental/lease costs, insurance bills etc. In addition, the funding helped support the purchase of equipment and necessary repairs and minor improvements to facilities.

All the projects that received funding relate to one or more of the key priority areas as identified in the Galway City Local Economic and Community Plan and the delivery of these projects in 2023 were of great benefit to local communities in Galway City. For a full list of funding under the Community Support Fund see Appendix 1.

7.3 Local Community Festivals

€15,000 was approved by Galway City Council in 2023 to support a range of community led festivals and events in recognition of the positive contribution that festivals and events can make to communities, giving the local community the opportunity to tailor festivals and events to the needs of their community, reaching more people. A total of 11 local community groups received funding which helped develop community cohesion, promote a sense of belonging, a sense of pride, encourage community participation through a sense of ownership and promote good relations.



7.4 Africa Day

Africa Day celebrates the richness of African cultures and the contribution of people of African descent to Irish life. Africa Day celebrations are organised by Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs in partnership with African embassies in Ireland and local authorities around the country.



This year's events included a cultural festival in Salthill Park, a symposium in the Institute of Lifecourse and Society (ILAS) building in the University of Galway and an Afro Music Night for all of the community featuring the best Afro DJs in Galway.

7.5 Galway City Street Feast

Street Feast took place on Sunday 25 June 2023. Street Feast is Ireland's national day of community celebrations and neighbourhood lunches. Street Feast aims to promote social inclusion and integration, tackle loneliness and build supportive and resilient neighbourhoods in new and older communities across Ireland. 36 street feasts took place across Galway City in 2023.



7.6 Local Enhancement Programme 2024

A new scheme called The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2024 was announced in December 2023 by the Department of Rural and Community Development. This funding is capital in nature with a particular focus on small capital works / improvements, and the purchase of equipment for community use. A ring-fenced amount of capital funding for Women's Groups is also included under the scheme. The allocation under the Local Enhancement Programme to Galway City LCDC is €134,322.62 of which the Women's Groups Allocation is €22,387.10. Galway City LCDC will administer this funding in early 2024.



8. Community Development Programme

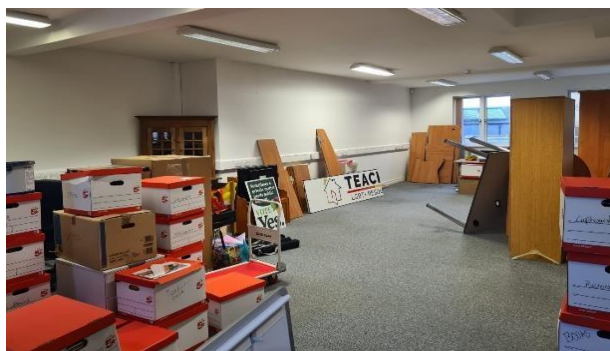
AMACH! LGBT+ AMACH! strives to promote inclusion, protect rights and to improve quality of life and wellbeing for LGBTI+ people enabling them to participate fully in Ireland's social, economic, cultural, and political life.

They respond to the needs as identified by the LGBT+ community and their families, with a particular focus on those that experience multiple forms of discrimination and associated marginalisation and those in rural, isolated areas.



In 2023 AMACH! LGBT+ Galway was successful in securing groundbreaking funding through the DRCD's Community Development Programme, providing the organisation with its most sustainable funding to date.

This milestone funding has allowed AMACH! to secure a premises to re-establish Teach Solais LGBT+ Resource Centre. AMACH! are looking forward to getting the new premises open and services in place and hope for continued support as a vital tool for supporting and empowering the LGBTI+ community of Galway.



Teach Solais LGBT+ Resource Centre: No 1 Courthouse Square

Community Support Fund - In 2023 the driving framework for AMACH!'s annual plan was informed by the core pillars of the National LGBTI+ Strategy. These core pillars were to promote visibility and inclusion, promote equality and the protection of rights, improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the LGBTI+ community and to ensure that LGBTI+ people feel safe and supported. While the continued DCEDIY LGBTI+ funding to support LGBTI+ organisations was a vital source of funding for core staff, AMACH! received

additional support from the LCDC through the Community Support Fund to help ensure their goals and objectives were successful in 2023. The combined funding allowed for a host of opportunities for the LGBTI+ community to be engaged, support their capacity through personal development programmes and a facilitate a range of LGBTI+ peer support opportunities.



Creative Ireland Programme Creative Communities Grant - AMACH! was successful in securing the Creative Communities Grant 2023, which allowed AMACH! to run multiple projects during and in the run up to the Galway Community Pride Festival 2023. The first

was a workshop series entitled 'The Power of Words and Symbols', in which participants made placards in preparation for the Pride march. The second was a week-long exhibition of Galway's Rainbow Archive during pride week. This exhibition took place in a Community Hub pop-up space for the week of Pride, where many community services were hosted such as GRCC, Galway City Partnership, Youth Work Ireland shOUT! LGBT Youth Project, LGBTI+ FRC Western Region Network, Active Consent, and Rapid HIV Testing with Sexual Health West.

Testimonial from Pride Placard Making Workshops Attendee: "The workshop was a very enjoyable and inspiring few weeks. I felt I learned a lot from Nuala and Sheila about the power of a placard. I especially loved the intergenerational aspect of the workshops as I got the chance to engage in conversation with people of all ages in the LGBT+ community in Galway, which does not happen often. I felt immense pride being able to bring the placard I had worked so hard on to the parade afterwards".

Testimonial from Galway's Rainbow Archive Exhibition: "I loved the Rainbow Archive Exhibition, me and my friend spent an hour walking around and enjoyed immersing ourselves in the history of the community in Galway. The video footage of the pride parade from the 90's was incredible to see, we were transfixed. It brought a tear to my eye to see all those who have come before us and all the work they did to pave the path that we now walk as LGBT+ people in Galway."



Power of Word and Symbols Workshop Series



Launch of Galway's Rainbow Archive Exhibition

For further information on supports and services available please contact AMACH! LGBTI+ Galway on info@amachlgbt.com

9. Galway City Community Network (GCCN / PPN)

With +160 members drawn from the community, voluntary and environmental sectors in Galway City, Galway City Community Network is the Public Participation Network in Galway City. The GCCN vision for Galway City is “Galway, a creative and inclusive city that respects and values its people and communities, their wellbeing and quality of life, that will develop a vibrant, sustainable, economy and environment and participative and transparent governance.”



GCCN members at the GCCN 2023 Winter Plenary

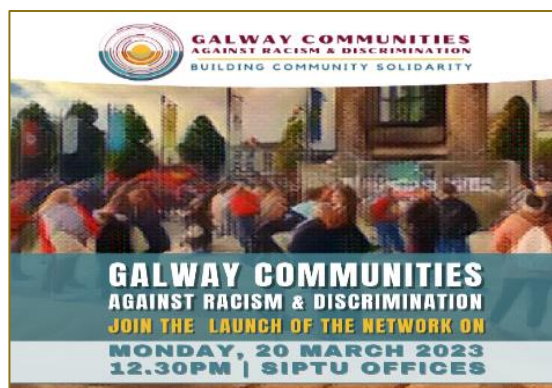
The role of Galway City Community Network is to:

- **Facilitate representation** of the community, voluntary and environmental sectors on relevant local government, local development bodies and any local, regional, national, or international structures deemed appropriate by GCCN.
- Act as a platform for the community, voluntary and environmental sectors to **develop policy and positions** on issues of common concern and to advocate for these policies and positions to be implemented.
- **Strengthen capacity** of the community, voluntary and environmental sectors, including to represent GCCN on all relevant structures.
- **Provide information** relevant to the environmental, social inclusion and voluntary sectors and act as a hub around which information is received and disseminated.

GCCN facilitates representation on to a wide variety of policy and decision-making structures in Galway City, including the Local Community Development Committee, Strategic Policy Committees, the Joint Policing Committee, Galway City Partnership, and others. GCCN supports and provides training and capacity building opportunities to the GCCN representatives and the wider membership. In 2023, GCCN provided an Induction Session for new members to GCCN. GCCN also provided ongoing support and training to all its representatives.

GCCN co-hosted with Galway City Council Information Webinars on the Community Support Fund for 2023 and co-hosted a number of other training sessions with the Galway Volunteer Centre as well as Anti Racism Training with the Hope and Courage Collective.

On the International Day Against Racism in March 2023, GCCN along with several other stakeholders launched Galway Communities Against Racism and Discrimination to counter the rise in far-right activity and racism and discrimination in Galway.



In 2023, GCCN continued to support its linkage groups and members to produce policy submissions on matters of relevance to them, including the LECP and the National SDG Implementation Plan through collaborative consultation and participation processes.

In line with its work around public participation and engaging marginalised groups in public consultations, GCCN held a number of consultations for various submissions including Bus Connects Dublin Road Project, The Sandy Quarter Development, DRCD Strategy for 2023 to 2025, Galway Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy, the Local Area Climate Action Plan, National Voluntary Review of the Implementation of the SDGs and a submission to the Seanad Public Consultation on the future of local democracy.



GCCN also worked with Access for All on creating a submission on the Green Paper on Disability Reform which will be finalised in early 2024. Collaboration and partnership ways of working are key values that underpin GCCN work. In 2023, GCCN continued to work closely and collaboratively with the Galway City LCDC in a number of areas including:

Membership of the Local Community Development Committee – GCCN has five representatives on the LCDC and in 2023 facilitated a process that elected/ratified three new GCCN representatives. GCCN is also an active member of the LCDC Social Inclusion Subgroup and the LECP Advisory Group.

Social Inclusion – Anti Racism Work –

To mark the International Day Against Racism 2023, GCCN in collaboration with Galway Traveller Movement, Galway Anti Racism Network, Communities of Sanctuary, Amach LGBT, Trades Council of Galway and other organisations launched Galway Communities Against Racism and Discrimination in the SIPTU offices in Galway City Centre which was attended by both local and national media.



Attendees at the launch of Galway Communities Against Racism and Discrimination, March 2023

Healthy Galway City – GCCN worked closely with the LCDC, Galway City Partnership and the HSE in the implementation of the Healthy Galway Strategy and in the development of a framework for the Healthy Ireland funding which aims to resource projects and initiatives that promote health and wellbeing in Galway City. Throughout 2023, GCCN continued to support the Healthy Galway Steering Committee.

Pobal Pilot Project – In 2022, an Expression of Interest was developed by GCCN, GCP and GCC for a pilot project on the new LECP funding by Pobal. The Eol was selected as one of four pilot projects. This pilot project seeks to engage the most marginalised groups in society in the LECP planning processes. This action will also contribute learning towards a National set of Guidelines for the Engagement of Marginalised Groups.



Speakers at the Inclusive Community Engagement DAFP Project Closing Event – May 2023

GCCN has met on different occasions with staff from Pobal and Galway City Council to discuss the format, content, and implementation of the project, to outline the progression of the same and to discuss timelines and expectations. At the end of 2022, work on the Pilot reached the active consultation phase.

This project continued until the end of May 2023 where a feedback and recognition event was held.



Attendees of the Pobal Pilot Project event held in May 2023

The Inclusive Community Engagement DAFP Project Closing Event took place in the Maldron Hotel on 31 May. The participating groups discussed the actions that are most needed for their community. Key decision makers in Galway City Council and supporting agencies attended the event to give

feedback on the ideas suggested and to examine how they could be integrated into the LECP.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) – Through the work of the Pobal Pilot Project and the Civil Society Panel, GCCN had influence over several actions presented in the final draft of the LECP implementation plan. Some of these actions include:

- Designating a Public Sector Duty Champion who can drive awareness of Public Sector Duty, and its integration into functions across all sections of Galway City Council.
- Engaging in public campaigns and awareness programmes to combat rising rates of discrimination and promote social harmony.
- The establishment of Community Safety Partnership for Galway City in partnership with the Policing Authority.
- Registry of LGBTI+ friendly health services and social supports established.
- The provision of training including public sector duty; intercultural competence; LGBTI+ cultural competence, Traveller awareness and anti-bias, anti-racism, disability awareness and trauma informed practice
- Increased opportunities for young people to engage in youth work and more effective service delivery to young people as services are on one site.
- Increased range of enterprise space available to social enterprises that address economic marginalisation.
- Provide opportunities for physical recreation, and social interaction in order to support the mental health of women and children living in direct provision.

10. Galway Volunteer Centre

In 2023, 928 members of the public living in Galway City registered to use our services for the first time, meaning we have 7,195 people registered with us in total.

51% of people registering identify as non-Irish. We promoted 192 volunteer roles, with 32 new organisations registering with us for the first time. We also processed 936 vetting applications for 75 organisations.

The Community Volunteers programme assisted with 27 once off events such as St. Patrick's Day Parade, Galway Mayors Awards, Culture Night, Streets of Galway, Africa Day, Luminosa, and COPE Galway Table Quiz.



222 people are now registered as Community Volunteers. 52% of volunteers are non-Irish. Ukraine Supports have been active with regular activities such as Breakthrough English, Women's Networking, Cultural Exchange.

A strong partnership developed with the Business Professional Women's Network. Partnership with Galway City Museum for summer activities for teenagers. Ukrainian support staff have also assisted with leadership of key events such as Invasion Anniversary, International Women's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Ukraine Independence Day.

Activities in addition to promoting volunteer roles have included regular Garda vetting and online networking workshops; partnership with Galway City Community Forum to deliver volunteer management training; partnership with Galway Sports Partnership to deliver training to sports clubs on volunteer and organisational management; adjudication support for Mayors Awards; survey of Volunteer Managers and Volunteer Managers Recognition Event.

Other work in 2023 included two Human Library Events, consultation, and research for Children in Hospital Ireland to strengthen their volunteer recruitment in Galway.

GCV also secured funding from Galway Culture Company to roll out an On-Street Ambassador programme in 2024 as a legacy of Galway 2020.

GVC have identified access to regular event space as a key challenge to expanding and growing its service and also require new office space to meet the demands of a growing service team.



11. Appendix 1



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

Community Support Fund 2023

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant Approved
1st Galway Scout Group	Operating costs	1,143
Africa United Galway	Purchase of equipment / Operating costs /Website Maintenance/Other	6,806
AMACH! LGBTI+ Galway	Purchase of equipment / Operating costs / Website Maintenance /Audit and Accountancy fees	10,593
Amdalah Africa Foundation – AMDAF	Energy costs/Operating costs	1,671
Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden	Purchase of equipment/Energy costs	1,000
Ballybane Community Centre CLG	Development /renovation of community centre / Community amenities / Purchase of equipment / Energy costs / Operating costs / Audit and Accountancy fees	14,942
Ballybane Community Garden	Community amenities /Purchase of equipment	581
Ballybane Taskforce	Community amenities	1,137
Blood Bike West	Purchase of equipment / Maintenance of premises / Operating costs	20,329
Blue Teapot Theatre Company	Energy efficiency type projects / Purchase of equipment / Other	2,169
Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant Approved

Bohermore "Time Out" Ladies Club (Bohermore Community Project CLG)	Operating costs	1,000
Bohermore Ladies Club (Bohermore Community Project CLG)	Operating costs	1,000
Bohermore Senior Citizens Club (Bohermore Community Project CLG)	Operating costs	1,000
Cancer Care West	Purchase of equipment/Adaptations or equipment needed as a result of COVID-19	4,259
Claddagh Residents Association	Streetscaping / Energy costs / Operating costs	2,858
COPE Galway	Development/renovation of community centres / Purchase of equipment	12,177
Croi na Gaillimhe (SVP)	Maintenance of premises / Operating costs	26,510
Croi na Tuath	Community amenities / Development of play /recreation spaces / Purchase of equipment	2,555
Cumann na Bhfear	Purchase of equipment / Energy costs / Operating costs	2,125
Eastside Community Drama	Purchase of equipment/Operating costs	1,956
Galway African Diaspora	Purchase of equipment	547
Galway Autism Partnership	Website Maintenance	7,116
Galway Centre for Independent Living	Purchase of equipment	2,436

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant Approved
Galway Cheshire House	Development / renovation of community centres /Community amenities/Development of play/recreation spaces/Purchase of equipment/Adaptations / Maintenance of premises	3,262
Galway City Red Cross	Energy costs /Operating costs	4,948
Galway City Sailing Club	Purchase of equipment /Energy costs / Operating costs	4,573
Galway Community Circus	Development/renovation of community centres / Development of youth clubs or facilities / Purchase of equipment / Maintenance of premises	4,014
Galway Deaf Centre –	Purchase of equipment	968
Galway Education Centre Bridge Club	Purchase of equipment	1,554
Galway Hooker Sailing Club	Purchase of equipment	1,903
Galway Kayak Club	Purchase of equipment / Maintenance of premises / Cleaning	1,000
Galway Volunteer Centre	Community amenities	4,763
Helplink Mental Health	Energy costs/Operating costs/Website Maintenance/Cleaning/Audit and Accountancy fees	16,195
HopeSpace CLG	Operating costs	2,571

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant Approved
Irish Girl Guides CLG Joy House	Development /renovation of community centres / Development of youth clubs or facilities/Energy efficiency type projects / Purchase of equipment /Adaptations or equipment needed as a result of COVID-19/Maintenance of premises/Energy costs/Operating costs	17,678
Irish Wheelchair Association - Day services	Operating costs	2,035
Irish Wheelchair Association - School Leaver Service	Development/renovation of community centres/Community amenities/Development of youth clubs or facilities / Development of sports / recreation facilities /Development of play / recreation spaces / Maintenance of premises	1,729
Kara Bowls Club	Operating costs	1,000
Mens Shed City West	Development / renovation of community centres / Purchase of equipment/Maintenance of premises / Energy costs / Operating costs / Cleaning	2,616
Merlin Neighbourhood Residence Association	Streetscaping /Operating costs	1,804
Merlin Woods Tennis Club	Purchase of equipment	1,000
Mervue Active Retirement Bowls Club	Purchase of equipment / Operating costs	1,346
No.4 Youth Service	Development of youth clubs or facilities / Purchase of equipment	944
OASIS Day Service – Rehabcare	Other	1,364

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant Approved
Olympic Boxing Club	Development of sports /recreation facilities / Purchase of equipment	999
Pernet CLG	Purchase of equipment / Operating costs	738
Rahoon Newcastle GAA Club	Development of sports / recreation facilities	11,058
Renmore Friendship Club	Operating Costs/Other	370
Ronah Corcoran T/A Carers Network Ireland	Audit and Accountancy fees	1,000
Roscam and Doughiska Men's Shed	Purchase of equipment	1,067
Row to Recovery Galway	Operating costs	1,772
Salthill Bowls Club	Development of play / recreation spaces / Purchase of equipment / Adaptations or equipment needed as a result of COVID-19 / Energy costs / Operating costs / Cleaning	1,804
Salthill Men's Shed	Community amenities / Purchase of equipment	3,407
SCCUL Enterprises CLG	Purchase of equipment	1,000
Sexual Health West	Purchase of equipment	2,554
Shantalla Community Allotments	Community amenities / Public realm improvements	1,946
Shantalla Residents Association	Public realm improvements / Website Maintenance	615
Shining Light	Community amenities / Energy costs /Operating costs / Website Maintenance /Audit and Accountancy fees / Other	615

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant Approved
Sliabh Rua Residents Association	Community amenities / Public realm improvements / Development of play / recreation spaces / Purchase of equipment	4,941
St James Cemetery Committee	Community amenities / Public realm improvements	10,738
St James Ladies Football Club	Operating costs	997
St Patricks Band (Galway) Ltd	Development /renovation of community centres / Development of youth clubs or facilities / Energy efficiency type projects / Maintenance of premises	2,555
St. Michaels GAA Club	Energy costs	1,000
Theatre for Change Galway CLG (TfCG) -	Operating costs /Audit and Accountancy fees	917
Tirellan Residents Association	Operating costs	391
Titans Basketball Club	Operating costs	1,000
Westside age Inclusion Ltd	Energy efficiency type projects	980
Westside Patchers	Purchase of equipment	888
Westside Resource Centre	Utility Bills	5,004
Youth Work Ireland Galway - Sauti Youth Project	Operating costs	2,805
Youth Work Ireland Galway (Westside)	Development of youth clubs or facilities / Purchase of equipment	2,858
Youth Work Ireland Galway CAPE and shOUT youth project	Energy costs /Operating costs	2,744

Women's Shed Fund

Name of Group:	Purpose of Grant:	Grant Approved
ARD Women's Circle - Doughiska	Workshops, Facilitators, Room hire	€2,768

For further information regarding Galway City LCDC and what it does, please contact the following:

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