



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



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

Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Annual Report 2022



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Statement by the Chief Officer, Galway City Local Community Development Committee

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 2022, including a review of progress generally, details of meetings held, implementation and monitoring of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 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-committee structures continued to meet and deliver on the Community element of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) throughout 2022. The LCDC continued to provide the basis for a more coherent, streamlined and co-ordinated approach to local and community development programmes. The LCDC has primary responsibility for planning and oversight of local development spend. Public and non-public bodies from local government, state agencies, local communities, local development, social and economic interests are represented on the LCDC.

I wish to acknowledge the co-operation and ongoing commitment of all members and partners of Galway City LCDC over the past year which has seen benefits of real partnership arising from the existence of the valuable structure and programmes of the LCDC.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of staff in the section who have been supportive to the LCDC, for their extensive commitment and support in responding to community needs despite the challenges of 2022. In particular, I want to acknowledge the commitment and leadership of Ms. Caitriona Morgan who guided the work of the LCDC as Chief Officer for a number of years and was central to many of the positive outcomes achieved.

I look forward to working with and supporting the LCDC in 2023 in carrying out its functions and building on achievements to date.

I set out below the draft report for 2022 for consideration and approval of the members of the Galway City LCDC.

Dermot Mahon

Chief Officer

Galway City LCDC



1. Introduction & Background

This document constitutes the Annual Report for the Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ended 31st December 2022.

The report has been prepared in the context of Chapter 2 Section 128B (1)(i) of the 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 30th June 2014 for the purposes 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.

2. 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.

3. LCDC Membership & Meetings 2022

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 at 31st December 2022.

Statutory Interests (7)		
Sector	Name	Organisation
Local Authority Elected Members	Cllr. Martina O'Connor	Galway City Council
	Cllr. Owen Hanley	Galway City Council
Local Authority Officials	Brendan McGrath C.E	Galway City Council
	Breda Fox	Local Enterprise Office
State Agencies	Regina Higgins	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
	Anne O'Neill	Health Service Executive
	Sinead Morgan	Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board
Non Statutory Interests (8)		
Sector	Name	Organisation
Community & Voluntary	Joanne Laffey; Lorraine Lally; James Coyne; Anne Marie Stokes; Fiona McDonagh-Delaney	Galway City Community Network (GCCN)
Trade Union	Elaine Harvey (Chairperson)	Galway Council of Trade Unions
Employers/ Business	Oliver Daniels	Galway Chamber
Local Development	Declan Brassil	Galway City Partnership

During 2022 there was 4 changes in membership with Mr. Frank Greene, Galway Chamber, Ms. Maria Molloy, GCCN / PPN, Mr. Niall O'Brolcháin, GCCN / PPN and Ms. Aoibheann McCann, GCCN / PPN resigning their seats.

Replacements from each organisation were sought and Mr. Oliver Daniels, Galway Chamber, Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, GCCN / PPN, Lorraine Lally GCCN / PPN, and Joanne Laffey GCCN / PPN all attended their first meeting during 2022.

Galway City LCDC convened a total of six meetings (in person and online) on the following dates: 24th February 2022, 20th April 2022, 20th July 2022, 14th September 2022, 9th November 2022 and 14th December 2022.

As set out in the Standing Orders, the quorum for meetings of Galway City LCDC is 9 members and all meetings held during 2022 met the quorum.

The work of the LCDC is underpinned by the commitment of its members to sitting on Subgroups to consider matters in 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.

Ms. Caitriona Morgan served as Chief Officer for the LCDC during 2022. 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. Minutes of the LCDC meetings are available on the Community section of the Council's website at www.galwaycity.ie/lcdc

4. Local Economic & Community Plan

During 2022 Galway City Council commenced the preparation of the new Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) for Galway City. The LECP sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support economic and community development in Galway City over a six year period from 2023. As part of the LECP preparation process, a Draft Issues Paper for Galway City was developed. The Draft Issues Paper summarised the key opportunities for Galway City and identified a number of high-level goals for the city's future.

4.1 Plan Development Process and Guidelines

The LECP process consists of two parts; the development of an overall LECP framework detailing the high-level goals and sustainable community and economic objectives as well as consideration of outcomes and high-level indicators for the 6-year LECP period. (Strategic part of the LECP development process); and the development of Implementation Plans to detail the inputs, actions and resources required for that implementation plan period as well as relevant KPI's to facilitate evaluation. The initial Implementation Plan will be presented for approval along with the LECP framework in 2023.

The newly formed LECP Advisory Steering Group held their first meeting in February 2022. At that meeting the Advisory Group were presented with a summary and an outline of the new LECP guidelines which had been published in November 2021 by the Department of Rural & Community Development. They were advised that the new LECP plan will be adopted by Galway City Council based on recommendations of the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

A LECP workshop took place at the LCDC meeting held in February where an LECP briefing and discussion document was presented.

The members were advised that the existing high level goals were still considered relevant, noting that it had been agreed to retain these in the next LECP by the LECP Advisory Group as follows:

1. A world-class, creative city region
2. An innovative city
3. An equal and inclusive city
4. A sustainable, resilient urban environment that is the regional capital of the West
5. A city that promotes the health and well-being of all its people

Examples of proposed outcomes were outlined and members of the LCDC were given an opportunity to provide feedback into the LECP on the targets that should be included under each of the high level goals.

A Draft Issues Paper on the LECP 2023 - 2029 was prepared and presented to the Advisory Committee for their opinion and feedback. The Draft Issues Paper was also presented to the LCDC and the SPC. The Draft Issues Paper went on public consultation from Monday 20th June until Friday 26th August and an online consultation portal was developed for this purpose. During this process the public and stakeholders were invited to engage with the process to inform the preparation of a draft LECP that will see our city develop and grow. A total of 106 submissions / observations were received, 69 were from individuals and 37 were from organisations spread across the five goals.

A report was prepared outlining all the submissions received with a brief summary of each submission and highlighting the goal that the submission related to. This report was then presented to the LECP Advisory Group and the LCDC for their discussion. A draft Framework for the LECP will be prepared during 2023.

4.2 Dormant Accounts Fund – Engagement Project (DAFEP)

In April, the DRCD secured funding through the Dormant Accounts Fund and engaged Pobal to develop a pilot project on participation and engagement by marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Process. The project aimed to identify and share methodologies and tools to support the inclusion of those most marginalised in decision making processes at all levels. Galway City LCDC were successful with their application with the initiative being led out by Galway City Community Network (PPN Structure). Three other LCDCs were also selected to participate in the pilot project.

The DRCD organised an online event in May to bring together LCDCs to discuss how to enable inclusion of those most marginalised in decision making processes at all stages of LECP planning, implementation and monitoring. The event was launched by Minister Joe O'Brien with Galway City Council, Galway City Community Network and Galway Traveller Movement presenting at this event.

4.3 Public Sector Duty

The Dormant Accounts Fund Engagement Project is an important element of Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities, the five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland and supports Ireland's commitment to Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the principle of "Leave no one behind". As part of this project, Pobal organised a training event for LCDCs, local authorities and related bodies with further training events planned in 2023. The first of these was a workshop on How to integrate the Public Sector Duty into the Local Economic and Community Planning Process. The workshop was delivered by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC).

The Local Economic and Community Plans Guidelines 2021 request that Local Authorities and other relevant stakeholders fully consider their responsibilities with regard to Public Sector Duty and ensure that the objectives and actions detailed in the LECP are designed to support these responsibilities where appropriate. The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty ('the Duty') legally requires all public bodies in Ireland to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect the human rights of their staff, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans. This includes Local Economic and Community Plans.

This workshop covered the statutory obligations within the 'the Duty' in the context of the preparation of the LECP and examined sample LECP goals and actions through an equality and human rights lens. Members of the LECP Advisory Steering Committee and local authority staff responsible for ensuring the LECP is PSD compliant were invited to attend. As the workshop focused on application of the public sector duty, participants were required to have an existing knowledge of the topic. Participants were requested to complete the Public Sector Duty e-learning course in advance of the workshop:

<https://elearning.ihrec.ie/>

At the LECP Advisory Steering Group meeting in October, Mr. Niall Crowley, Values Lab presented a video clip on the Public Sector Duty. Mr. Niall Crowley also presented at the LCDC meeting in November where he presented two of his reports which were included as a submission to the LECP, 'Evidence Book for the assessment of Equality & Human Right Issues Undertaking for the purpose of Planning & Implementing the LECP' and 'Assessment of Equality and Human Right issues for the purpose of planning & implementing the Galway City LECP'.

Dormant Account Fund Engagement Project/SICAP Intercultural Awareness Training: Pobal organised a training workshop for members of Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and staff of Local Development Companies (LDCs) on Inter-Cultural Awareness. This workshop addressed topics including culture and identity, power dynamics, racism, and immigration status, and facilitated reflection on how to apply the knowledge gained in the workplace. The training initiative was jointly organised by the Dormant Accounts Funded Engagement Project (DAFEP) and the SICAP programme, with support from the Department of Rural Community and Development.

5. 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 2022 and key focus for the LCDC with regular reports and consideration of progress at LCDC meetings. The contract in 2022 was valued at €44 million for which a contribution comes from the European Social

Fund (ESF) Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020 and the Youth Employment Initiative.

In Galway City, the LCDC is the contracting authority, and its role is to manage and administer the programme, which is delivered at a local level 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 2022.

5.1 Progress under SICAP

The SICAP Annual Plan 2022 was approved at the LCDC meeting on the 24th February 2022 along with the SICAP 2021 Annual Progress Report. The SICAP Subgroup of the LCDC met four times in 2022 to conduct reviews of the mid-year and end of year processes for SICAP. The annual engagement meeting with the Pobal Development Coordinator took place in September 2022, and was attended by LCDC SICAP Subgroup members, the Chief Officer and LCDC support staff, with Galway City Partnership staff attending for part of the session.

The allocated Lot budget for 2022 was €702,389. Galway City Partnership once again exceeded the targets set for the programme in 2022. The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 1 target was exceeded by 9% with 47 local community groups assisted under SICAP, the target set was 43. In addition, KPI 2 target for 2022 was also exceeded by 19%, with a total number of disadvantaged individuals engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis being 528, the target set was 442. 52% of individuals were newly registered and 22.4% 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 82% of individuals identifying with one or more social inclusion barrier.

5.2 Key Achievements of SICAP

Social Enterprises supported by SICAP have a large impact in Galway City in the areas of employment for marginalised communities, generating community wealth, provision of services and environmental initiatives. GCP has a long-standing relationship with BounceBack Recycling who are a Galway based social enterprise. This social enterprise is Traveller led and provides sustainable employment for members of their community. BounceBack is developing another off shoot to address the lack of employment opportunities amongst young Traveller women. Galway City Council in conjunction with GCP has provided physical space for this newly formed social enterprise and mentoring in the form of supporting the enterprise to participate in radio shows and networking events. The invisibility of this group and negative perception through overt racism is an area that GCP has supported them to address through positive publicity.



Galway Deaf Centre was founded in 1970 as a



means of creating channels of communication for Deaf people in Galway city. The group currently meets once a week and is run by a committee of five individuals. A key focus of the group is ensuring access to sign language interpreters when engaging with hearing people and general community events. The group also receives support through CHIME, Galway. The GCP CD worker supported the group by engaging members in the Monitoring and Evaluation tool devised in collaboration with University of Galway.

The information gathered will feed into future discussions and evaluation. The group was also supported with the assistance of an interpreter in their grant application for the Community Activities Fund where they were successful in their application for a group iPad for improved communications. The group were also supported in applying for the

GRETB Community Education grant and participated in a Deafhood course. The group were also linked in with GCCN regarding a Pobal Pilot Research piece of work where key issues experienced by the Deaf Community in Galway were fed into the report.

Travellers: GCP have engaged with the Galway Boxing Club in the Westside of the city which is a volunteer led organisation run primarily by and for the Travelling Community. GCP supported them with Child Safeguarding certification and this will develop into 2023. Discussions for the provision of a series of local Boxing Coaching courses, in collaboration with the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA), began and included the Galway Sports Partnership. In addition, the Travelling Community have been supported specifically with Manual Handling, Safe Pass & Barista Courses. A considerable increase on previous years, with almost a third of all the individuals supported being Travellers.

Long Term Unemployed: GCP continued to reach the most marginalised from the labour market particularly those that are long term unemployed. Of the total number of individuals supported, 28% were long term unemployed and they were given extra support in navigating other avenues to further their education including referring to GRETB courses. Additionally, some others were referred to SICAP accredited courses such as SNA and HACCP, also the Personal Development Courses that were facilitated throughout the year

Mental Health and Wellbeing: GCP ran a series of wellbeing events and outings throughout the year. The picture below was taken in St Bridgit's gardens. This event was run in collaboration with Healthy Galway.



Over 120 Older People from across the city attended a wellbeing event in early December. Children from 3 primary schools across the city sang songs and made Christmas cards for older people at the Christmas wellbeing event.

Older People – Emerging Needs Group 2022: GCP continued to attend Age Friendly meetings and SICAP continues to focus on Older people as a designed and agreed local emerging need. A part-time worker has been employed to support the role employed by GCP and funded by Galway City Council. In collaboration with Age Friendly Galway, an Open Meeting was held in September to highlight the work of Older People's Councils and to recruit members to the new OPC for Galway City. Author Michael Harding attended as guest speaker for the event and a host of stalls featuring services available to older people in Galway city were on display. From there an AGM was held to elect the new Older People's Executive and the first meeting was held on 12th October. Age Friendly Ireland Training took place in November and a schedule of 6 meetings were arranged for 2023.



5.3 Response to the Ukrainian Crisis

SICAP received a budget of €113,643 from July to December 2022 to support their work with the Ukrainian Community. This allowed for the employment of two part-time workers and an increase in the offering of English classes as well as a host of other initiatives to meet the needs of this new community. With the arrival of the first groups of Ukrainian Refugees it was immediately obvious that urgent and targeted supports would be needed by parents seeking to navigate an unfamiliar school system. The Education Officer developed a suite of videos for parents which advises them on how to

navigate the process of preparing children for starting school and for securing secondary transfer places. These resources have been translated into Ukrainian.

During the summer several places were secured in GAA Cúl Camps for newly arrived Ukrainian children, these were provided in collaboration with the Eastside Schools Completion Programme. The camps were popular, and the children took great advantage of the opportunity to integrate. A one-day multi- sports and arts camp was organised with the collaboration of Galway Sports Partnership and Music Generation Galway. In collaboration with Youth Work Ireland Galway Art classes were organised across the summer during the school holidays.

Galway City Partnership provided English Language Tuition and Supports to members of the Ukrainian community from March. This required a doubling of the usual provision of classes and a nimble and flexible response to what has been an extremely high demand for classes. A bespoke Beginners class was developed for Ukrainians with materials in both English and Ukrainian which concentrates on providing people with simple 'Survival' English with an emphasis on how to access and use services such as schools, the Department of Social Protection and GP services. In addition, students with some English received assistance with more advanced tuition which was designed to assist them with securing employment.

This work has been very significantly enhanced by the specialised support offered by the Employment Supports officer who helped students with CV preparation, advice on local labour-market trends, job-searching, and job applications. Tuition and additional supports were provided to almost 200 individuals. There are currently 102 individuals from Ukraine attending classes, more than 30 have secured local employment in hospitality, retail, and medical device manufacture. As part of the work of the English Language Supports Action students were taken on field trips to venues of cultural significance across the city. This gentle social inclusion work was very much welcomed and enjoyed by both students and tutors and helped students to feel a sense of integration with and ownership of their host city.

The Community Development team continued to support, animate, develop and empower Ukrainian Community Groups. The following are a number of the groups they have worked with.

UA Mriya are a group made up of Ukrainians who have been living in Galway for many years. They formed in response to the Ukrainian war and the arrival of large numbers of Ukrainians to Galway. The group run English language classes through conversation circles, a chess club for both adults and young people, and ran a range of cultural programmes and celebrations throughout the year. GCP have supported this group to develop their capacity with committee skills training, policy development and children first training and awareness.

UA Drama Group were established in September responding to the cultural needs of young newly arrived Ukrainians. They run a weekly drama group for children from 8 to 14 years. GCP supported the group in accessing a suitable venue, development of their group policies and accessing training.

Ukrainians Helping Ukrainians Galway (UHUG) are a new community group of newly arrived Ukrainians. UHUG, was set up in July 2022 with the support of a Community Development Worker. The group holds regular meetings with the CD worker and work in collaboration with GCP and other local organisations to arrange English language classes for adults, activities for children as well as respond to the basic needs of incoming Ukrainian refugees. They also host a regular coffee morning for Ukrainians in the city. During the year they participated in a number of local community events including the Westside Arts Festival, Social Inclusion Week and the Eyre Square Christmas Market and the Westside Christmas Market. For the Westside Arts Festival and Social Inclusion Week, members of the community shared traditional Ukrainian craft skills with the local community and shared traditional Ukrainian food at a Cultural Cafe event.



Additional Funding Ukrainian Supports: Correspondence received from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) in June 2022 noted that additional funding of €113,643 had been allocated to Galway City LCDC in response to Ukrainian arrivals. Each LCDC was allocated baseline funding of €20,000 and additional funding of €93,643 was granted based on Ukrainian arrivals per CSO data. One of the main plans with the funding was to increase English language workshops to support Ukrainian refugees, to increase the current team in Westside resource centre using SICAP resources. There is also a high demand for summer camps and a potential to carry 5% of the funds into 2023 budget. Galway City Partnership hired two Ukrainian workers, a Project Leader and a Support Worker. Both posts are funded by Galway City Council. These workers are based in Westside Resource Centre. Funding from SICAP will also be used to recruit an Outreach worker who will be based in the Plaza on the Headford Road.

5.4 Annual Planning for SICAP 2023

The allocated budget for 2023 is €950,700, made up of the Lot Budget €723,461 and Ukrainian Budget €227,239 which represents a 3% increase on the 2022 Lot allocation. Targets for 2023 are outlined in the table below, noting no change to the KPIs for 2023, allowing more space for qualitative engagement and outcomes.

The LCDC SICAP subgroup completed the Annual Plan 2023 review in January 2023, in line with the timeline set out by Pobal with the LCDC to consider for final approval at their March meeting.

The LCDC will consider for their approval the 2023 Annual Plan for SICAP at their meeting held on 1st March 2023.

Ref	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual Target 2023
1.	Total number of local community groups engaged under SICAP	43
2.	Number of Individuals (aged 15 years upwards) assisted under SICAP on a one-to-one basis	442
	Individuals under KPI2 living in Disadvantaged areas	22%

During 2022 the LCDC SICAP subgroup met on three occasions to oversee the delivery of SICAP and to monitor progress. The Pobal annual engagement meeting took place in The Council Chamber in Galway City Council in October 2022, attended by Pobal, the LCDC SICAP subgroup and Galway City Partnership.

5.5 SICAP 2022 Case Study

SICAP 2022 Case Study Video was entitled 'Keeping an Eye on How I Am'. The focus of the case study was to address the core theme of Engagement strategies with SICAP Target Groups/Communities. In this instance the focus has been people needing Mental health and wellbeing supports and included young people, people with a disability, older persons, long-term unemployed and those experiencing social isolation.

The project consisted of a free online Personal Development Programme. Online classes ran for 6 weeks from the end of April 2022. The study contains testimony from 3 participants and illustrates the successes and learnings which may be taken for future iterations of this and similar wellbeing supports. The case study explicitly addresses engagement strategies with SICAP target groups, namely people with a disability, older persons, long term unemployed and people experiencing social isolation. This case study showed how SICAP continued to support individuals progress their goals and objectives using a person-centred collaborative approach which can be hard to achieve but done in this case. A video has been commissioned which can be viewed on www.youtube.com/watch?v=iE9hAe4rJD8&t=81s.

5.6 SICAP ESF eCohesion

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2023 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014 – 2020 which ended on 31st December 2020. LCDCs submitted the financial and non-financial information for SICAP to the ESF Managing Authority in 2021 and the final step in the process for the closure of PEIL was to provide exit data for all remaining individuals reported on eCohesion to date, which was completed during April 2022.

During 2022 updated EU Communications and Visibility Guidelines 2021-2027 were issued to all SICAP Programme Implementers and LCDCs in line with the co-funding under the European Social Fund (ESF+). As SICAP has been designated as an operation of strategic importance by the Commission, under the EIST Operational

Programme there will be a greater focus on promoting the Programme and the Communication and Visibility of SICAP activities.

It is a requirement under the regulation that the emblem of the EU is prominently featured on all communication materials relating to the implementation of a project, used for the general public or for participants; the statement 'Co-funded by the European Union' shall be spelled out in full and placed next to the emblem; the Government of Ireland Mark must be used to acknowledge the exchequer co-funding; the Government of Ireland Mark and the EU emblem must feature on all communication materials produced in relation to operations in receipt of EU funding.



Cómhaoinithe ag an
Aontas Eorpach

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5.7 SICAP Audits

During 2022, in line with the Internal Audit Plan agreed and approved by Galway City Council's Audit Committee for 2022, the Internal Audit Unit conducted a SICAP audit on Galway City Partnership for the financial year 2021. Galway City Council appointed Crowleys DFK to conduct the audit. The SICAP 2021 Internal Audit Report issued as required in line with procedure. This report presents the results of the review with responses received from Galway City Partnership listing agreed actions and timeframes addressing the recommendations made. As part of the follow up during 2023, details of progress with the implementation of the agreed actions and timeframes will be reviewed.

Also, in December 2022 the Local Government Audit Service (LGAS) completed an audit of the SIACP programme for 2021. This involved an Audit of Galway City Council and Galway City Partnership as Programme Implementer for SICAP in Galway City. The LGAS have recently provided their feedback from the Audit and have confirmed that there are no adverse findings being reported in respect of the audit of the SICAP programme.

5.8 Community Response Forums

Galway City COVID-19 Community Response

During Q1 2022 the Government continued to issue guidance to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, however the laws in force during the pandemic were no longer in place with all COVID-19 restrictions ending from 1st April 2022.

Galway City LCDC received updates and communication as relevant on the Community Call Helpline, led and co-ordinated by Galway City Council which continued throughout 2022 to provide a dedicated community response helpline to ensure that all vulnerable members of our community were appropriately supported through COVID-19.

Galway City Ukrainian Community Response

During Q1 2022 a meeting of the Ukrainian Community Response Forum was convened online in response to the refugee crisis emerging as a result of the war in Ukraine. Intensive work had been underway across Government preparing a humanitarian response to the needs of the thousands of Ukrainian people who had arrived here, as well as planning and preparing to receive and support the large numbers of additional people that arrived.

Throughout 2022 the Forum continued to meet to work together in the delivery of services for Ukrainian refugees relocating to 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.

6. Healthy Galway City Initiatives

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

In 2022, the Healthy Galway City Coordinator and Steering Committee continued to partner with key stakeholders in the implementation of actions under Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund. The end date for both the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Round 3 and Community Mental Health Fund (CMHF) was 31st March 2022, following a nine-month extension as result of the ongoing impact of COVID 19.

In June 2022, final reports for the Healthy Ireland Fund & Community Mental Health Fund Round 3 Returns were submitted. Both the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3 Progress and Financial Returns were approved in September 2022.

The Healthy Ireland Fund 2022-2025 Grant Agreement included an allocation of €40,000 for the period 1st June to 31st December 2022 to allow delivery of priority health and wellbeing initiatives, and to support the planning process relating to HIF Round 4 2023-2025.

The €40,000 allocated to Local Authorities for the period 1st June 2022 to 31st December 2022 was to allow for:

- capacity building and planning for the application process for 2023-2025
- the delivery of any activities in the health and wellbeing space that have been
- identified as a priority in 2022
- a contribution to community health and wellbeing initiatives in response to the arrival of Ukrainian refugees in the city/county

6.1 Healthy Galway City Coordinator & Actions

The County and City Management Association (CCMA) approved a new Healthy City Coordinator role at a Local Authority level to form part of HIF Round 4.

Recruitment for the Healthy Galway City Coordinator commenced in April 2022 and a HGC Coordinator was employed and positioned in Galway City Council in June 2022. The role of the HGC Coordinator is to promote the local health and wellbeing agenda through the implementation of Healthy Ireland Plan in the city and work in collaboration with health focussed services, charities, NGOs, interagency and community groups.

Action 1: Healthy Eating in the Community: Healthy Food Made Easy (HFME) is a HSE recognised six-week nutrition education programme to support participants to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for themselves and their families.



COMMUNITY FOOD INITIATIVES 2022 - 2024

A free 6-week introductory course on healthy eating Healthy Food Made Easy

Starting:
Westside Resource Centre Thursday 8th September 10 am - 12:30 pm
Ballybane Community Resource Centre: Wednesday 14th September 6:15 pm - 8:45 pm

Learn about:

- Healthy eating for your family
- Understanding food labels
- Budgeting and meal planning

Suitable for beginners

Places are limited. To register, or for more information, contact Aisling on 085 821 7547 or email aisling.colreavy@galwaycity.ie

Logos: hi Healthy Galway City, Galway City Partnership Comhpháirtíocht Chathair na Galíliníe, a tide for change, SECAD

Social Media Post for HFME in person courses, 2022

The programme is delivered by trained HFME leaders and is suitable for adults who would like to gain practical information on healthy eating and experiment with healthy dishes that are quick and easy to prepare. Included in the programme is a Week 5 visit from a dietician to discuss healthy eating and nutrition with participants and answer any questions they may have. In 2022, five in-person HFME courses were delivered; 2 in Ballybane, 1 in Westside, 1 in Ballinfoile and 1 with a Traveller Women's group. Approximately 50 individuals took part in the courses. In order to facilitate HFME courses in centres that did not have full kitchens, two portable HFME kitchen sets were purchased and have been put to great use in the community.



Social Media Post for HFME in person courses, 2022

As in 2021, HGC continued to fund the delivery of online HFME courses in partnership with Healthy Galway County and Galway CYPSC. 4 online courses were delivered in 2022. Based on the success of the delivery of HFME during Round 3, it was decided that HFME Leader Training be organised during 2022. This training allows learners to develop skills deliver the course in a workplace or community. Participants included community workers, volunteers from Men's Sheds, and people working with Disadvantaged communities. 8 Learners completed their HFME Leader Training in October 2022.

The Melting Potluck continued to offer cooking sessions for people living in direct provision and hosted a community event in September to share recipes and demonstrate cooking skills. Children and adults of all ages had the opportunity to cook their culturally significant meals and to connect with communities new and old in Galway City. Healthy Galway City partnered with Galway City Partnership to deliver “Cook with your Kids”, a monthly healthy cooking event aimed at parents and guardians, delivered in Westside from August to November.

The HGC Coordinator was also involved in the safefood Community Food Initiatives (CFI) in 2022. Galway City Partnership 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. As well as two courses of HFME, a Community Picnic was organised in Merlin Woods Community Garden in August and a Halloween Harvest event arranged in Ballinfoile Mor Community Garden in October.

Action 2: Addressing Barriers to Physical Activity: Healthy Galway partnered with Galway Sports Partnership, local sports clubs, community organisations, youth projects and resource centres to deliver a wide variety of physical activity programmes in 2022. These included targeted initiatives for women and girls, people with disabilities, people living in direct provision, members of the travelling community and older people.

These included self-defence classes for women living in Ballybane, yoga and relaxation classes for young people living in Westside, as well as the development and launch of the Eastside Urban Walking Routes (Ballybane / Merlin / Doughiska). Maps and signage were designed, highlighting local landmarks and four trails in the area. Brochures displaying the walking trails was also made available in the community. Further Physical Activity initiatives targeting people living in disadvantaged communities were funded in 2022. The Eastside Urban Walking Initiative programme involved 20 participants over 8-weeks and an organised walking outing. Two four week Pickle ball programmes targeted older adults and members of Men’s Sheds.



Launch of Eastside Urban Walking Trails

A Boys Be Well Health & Fitness Project to increase opportunities for participation in fitness, exercise and health eating for adolescent boys from disadvantaged and marginalised communities was delivered and very well attended.

HIF Round 2 funding was used to purchase equipment to increase levels of participations amongst older people and people living with disabilities. Galway Sports Partnership invested in equipment for sports and activities such as activator poles for walking, bocce, curling, scooch and more.



Snapshots from the "Boys Be Well" programme

In October 2022, Healthy Galway City and Galway Sports Partnership coordinated a nine-week Physical Activity LeaderS (PAL) course for older adults who wanted to lead exercise and physical activity programmes in their community.

Age and Opportunity tutors delivered workshops to provide information, ideas and skills to people who are interested in involving older people in physical activity. 20 participants registered for this very enjoyable and informative course; these included volunteers from Men's Sheds, Active Retirement Associations and crafting groups.

Towards the end of 2022, the Westside Walking Group was established in collaboration with Galway Sports Partnership and Galway City Partnership. The group is now meeting weekly and enjoys walking familiar and new routes.



Physical Activity LeaderS (PALS) participants

Action 3: Towards a Tobacco Free Galway City: The Not Around Us (NAU) initiative, delivered in partnership with CYPSC Galway and Healthy Galway County continued to be promoted in 2022. The NAU initiative helps to denormalise smoking for the next generation as part of a step towards a Tobacco Free Galway. It also aims to create an environment where it is easier for those who smoke to quit and stay quit.

NAU has now been successfully implemented in over 45 sites in city and county. Signage is made available free of charge to not for profit groups, schools, and early

years services. Interested parties are provided with signage, stickers and the NAU charter demonstrating a commitment to protecting young people from second-hand smoke exposure and denormalising smoking.

Healthy Galway city and county and CYPSC plan to coordinate further promotion and delivery of NAU initiative and signage in 2023.

CYSPC, Healthy Galway City and County Coordinators promoting "Not Around Us"



Action 4: Community Sexual Health Education Programme: In 2022, Sexual Health West continued to disseminate and display posters designed for target groups including people with disabilities, people seeking asylum and migrant communities, and young people. Leaflets were also distributed to key target populations. Due to the impact of COVID-19, Sexual Health West had to completely review planned programme delivery. The delivery of a reduced number of sessions of live engagement with community groups based on capacity and time available, prioritising marginalised groups was possible. The Sexual Health West and WISER Websites were updated to include resources available in 12 languages.

Action 5: Towards a Healthy LGBT+

Community: The role of Teach Solais

Coordinator continued to be funded until March 2022 through the HI Fund. The Coordinator was able to successfully create, plan and deliver an engaging and diverse range of activities for the LGBT+ community.

The continuation of the Teach Solais Coordinator role from Round 2 allowed AMACH! LGBT Galway to deliver a range of physical activities to meet the needs of the target group. A ten-week online fitness programme and a ten-week online yoga programme were delivered in Q1 of 2022.



6.2 Community Mental Health Fund

Equality & Diversity Training Programme: In 2022, Teach Solais, Galway Traveller Movement (GTM) and The Bridge project collaborated and continued to deliver the Equality and Training Programme for mental health professionals. A training toolkit was developed to accompany the Equality & Diversity Training programme.

Woodlands for Health: A ten-week “Woodlands for Health” programme was delivered in 2022, targeting people accessing mental health services; the group consists of around 20 participants who joined weekly walks in Merlin Woods. Two mindfulness sessions and two nature-based art sessions were included as part of the programme.

Oak Tree Group: The Oak Tree group was established as an expansion of the Acorn project promoting social connection and positive mental health amongst older adults experiencing isolation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The group met weekly in Ballinfoile between October and December 2022, and enjoyed art, photography, music and singing.

“Reconnecting Communities” project: The “Reconnecting Communities” project was funded through Galway City Creative Ireland funding, Joint Policing Committee funding and the Healthy Ireland 2022 funding. Healthy Galway City and Galway City Partnership (GCP), in partnership with Galway Contact, Cope Galway and Age Action Galway developed and delivered the “Reconnecting Communities” project between September and December 2022. The project targeted older people living in the community, specifically living in socially disadvantaged areas or those experiencing isolation. A specific effort was made to involve those who were not already engaged with existing community groups.



"Reconnecting Communities" Christmas lunch event

Healthy Galway City, Galway City Partnership and the partner organisations hosted a series of events for older adults living in Galway City experiencing isolation. These included:

- A day out to Brigit's Garden for 54 older adults from Westside, Ballybane and Ballinfoile
- Social Mornings in three community centres
- “Making Memories” arts and reminiscing project in Westside, Ballybane and Ballinfoile
- Christmas Lunch event in December for 100 older adults

Community Engagement: The Healthy Galway City website, healthygalwaycity.ie continues to act as an information hub, signposting people to reliable sources of health and wellbeing information and useful resources. The website also showcases initiatives, programmes, and events which aim to promote the health and wellbeing of the people of Galway city. Healthy Galway City branded merchandise were distributed to people living in Direct Provision, families experiencing homelessness, participants in the Woodlands for Health programmes, families involved in the Healthy Food Made Easy programmes, physical activity programmes and organisations that signed up to the Not Around Us initiative.

Healthy Galway City social media channels supported support partner organisations in the promotion of relevant messages in response to COVID-19, including the #InThisTogether, #LetsGetSet, #DropIn and #KeepWell campaigns. Healthy Galway City social media channels supported the promotion of campaigns such as Men's Health Week.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes (HAFH) phase 1 is a two-year pilot programme launched in mid-2021 which is a unique collaboration between Sláintecare and local government through Age Friendly Ireland which takes a "home first" approach to delivering on the Sláintecare goals of providing safe and timely access to care, improving patient and service user experience, and bringing care closer to home.

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme is a support coordination programme that aims to enable older people to age in place and reduce the need to transfer to long-term residential care. Healthy Age Friendly Homes Phase 1 has four key objectives:

- Enable older people to continue living in their homes or in a home more suited to their needs.
- Live with a sense of independence and autonomy.
- Be and feel part of their community.
- Support the avoidance of early or premature admission to long term residential care.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes launched in mid-2021 with 9 local coordinators across 10 local authority areas in Ireland, with individualised support provided directly by the local coordinator.

The 9 local co-ordinators liaise with a broad spectrum of agencies and services, including personnel in local government, health services, transport, community and voluntary groups, Gardaí, elected members and others.

Each of the local coordinators undertake home visits to older people living in the community, where a needs assessment is conducted aligned to four key domains/ supports: housing, health, community/ social supports and technology.

The co-ordinators agree a personal plan with each individual older participant and supports them to access a range of services which include housing adaptation grants, home energy improvements, health appointments, befriending or other community services, or technology supports.

Referrals to the programme come from a wide range of sources including self-referrals, family referrals, HSE primary care and integrated care referrals, local authority referrals, and referrals from the community and voluntary sector.



As of December 2022, there have been over:

- 2,500 home visits by the 9 local coordinators including over 170 in the Galway City Council area
- There have been over 140 referrals to the programme in the Galway City Council area with some participants requiring more than one visit.
- 5,100 supports provided by the 9 local coordinators including over 250 in the Galway City Council area.
- Supports are provided under four key themes of Health, Housing, Community, and Technology.

Following recommendations in the June 2022 Healthy Age Friendly Homes Interim Report, and a successful bid for funding in Budget 2023, the Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme was allocated funding for national rollout. The programme will be scaled up nationally, to ensure all older people in Ireland will have the opportunity to age in place and have access to the supports provided by the programme. The programme is currently preparing for this national rollout.

Using a population-based approach, with multi-annual funding provided by the Department of Health, each local authority in the country (31) will avail of the benefit of a HAFH local coordinator, with some areas having more than one coordinator based on their populations needs. Regional managers will be aligned to the incoming Regional Health Areas, to ensure alignment with health and social care services. Partnerships with key stakeholders will also be scaled to ensure service provision across the country.

6.3 Community Support Schemes

Community Resilience Fund: The Community Resilience Fund (CRF) focused on assisting individuals and communities to maintain their resilience and wellbeing in response to COVID-19 and was implemented by Local Authorities and CYPSCs via the Healthy Ireland Fund. The final Community Resilience Fund Report documents and showcases the creative and essential services implemented during the pandemic. Local

authorities played a fantastic role in supporting the rollout of a significant number of initiatives across the country, all achieved within a relatively short timeframe.

Community Mental Health Fund (CMHF) Small Grants Scheme: The CMHF Small Grants Scheme funded a total of 14 projects developed by community groups, charities and NGOs to support the positive mental health and wellbeing of target groups. S3 Solutions were commissioned by Pobal to undertake an evaluation of the Community Mental Health Fund, surveying partner organisations.

Ukrainian Refugee Health & 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 & Ukrainian Refugee Support Worker and Volunteer Galway Ukraine Support Worker completed the template for proposed activations in Galway City.

Residents in accommodation centres were consulted in person and through the use of Telegram channels. Activations were selected to promote health and wellbeing of Ukrainian refugees; including art and music therapy, physical activities, trauma-informed workshops with psychotherapists, Woodlands for Health and excursions / family days. The programme of activations will commence in January 2023 and run until March 2023.



7. Community Funding Schemes

7.1 Community Support Fund

A new scheme called The Community Support Fund was launched in November 2022 by the Minister for Rural and Community Development. This fund will 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 will support the carry out of necessary repairs and minor improvements to facilities. This once-off fund is allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme and in order to ensure there is sufficient flexibility to allow funding to be targeted to where it is needed in each area it will be administered locally by the LCDC. The allocation approved for Galway City was €274,070 and Galway City LCDC will administer this funding in early 2023.

Additionally, there is a ringfenced Women's Shed Fund under the Community Support Fund. This fund will support Women's Sheds particularly in disadvantaged areas with their non-pay running costs and non-pay operating costs. This fund will be administered in early 2023 by Galway City LCDC on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development, with the total funding allocated to Galway City under the scheme being €2,768.

7.2 Community Activities Fund

The Community Activities Fund was announced by the Department of Rural and Community Development in December 2021 and administered by Galway City LCDC in 2022. Funding of €264,910 was awarded to 83 local community and voluntary groups / organisations from across Galway City under the fund. The funding approved by Galway City LCDC provided groups with much needed support with non-paying costs such as utility bills, operational costs, the carry out of necessary repairs, purchase of equipment, safety upgrades concerned by Covid 19 and improvements to their 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 & Community Plan 2015 – 2021 and the delivery of

these projects in 2022 assisted the delivery of many of the collaborative actions were of great benefit to local communities in Galway City.

For a full list of funding under the Community Activities Fund see Appendix 1.

7.3 Dormant Accounts Fund Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme

In December 2021, the Department of Rural and Community Development formally approved grants totalling €19,806 to a range of Social Enterprises in Galway City to enable social enterprises to improve their service delivery. The scheme was supported by funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund. 8 Social Enterprises were approved funding for a variety of projects that will enhance their service delivery. The scheme supports one of the key commitments in the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022 – “Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise”.

For a full list of projects approved under the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme please see Appendix 2.

Amach! LGBTI+ Galway

2022 was a ground-breaking year for AMACH! LGBTI+ Galway as they secured significant funding from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth through their LGBTI+ Community Services Fund.

This allowed AMACH! LGBTI+ Galway the opportunity to employ full time staff members, Project Coordinator and Administration and Communications Officer with the aim of promoting inclusion, protect rights and improve quality of life and wellbeing for LGBTI+ people in Galway city and surrounds.



Dormant Accounts Fund Amach! LGBTI+ Galway

The additional funding received through the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2022 was very welcomed as it helped to support the new staffing roles through establishing essential office equipment, rental of office space and operating costs. The DRCD fund was also instrumental in re-engaging the LGBTI+ community in Galway through the provision of social groups and securing a series of mental health and wellbeing programmes including a Venture Out New Routes personal development programme and an Equine-assisted Wellbeing programme in collaboration with Horses Connect.

The 8-part Queer'Say podcast was successfully launched on Spotify, covering a range of LGBTI+ topical subjects, including Positive Vibes Only and the LGBTIQ+ & Traveller Community. AMACH! LGBTI+ Galway aims to further extend and grow their capacity to reach, engage and empower the LGBTI+ community in Galway and look forward to continued support and collaboration with the DRCD.

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



7.4 Public Participation Network (PPN) - Galway City Community Network (GCCN)

With +168 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”.



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 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 2022, GCCN provided three Induction Sessions for GCCN members and a GCCN Information Session for Galway City Council

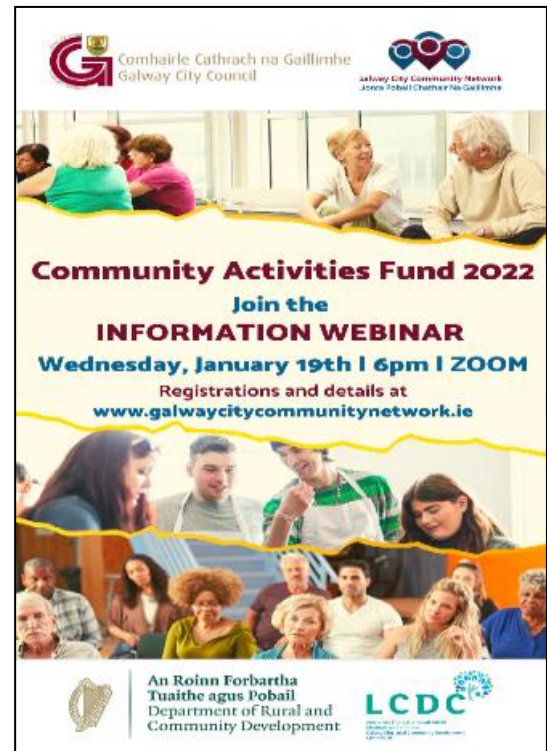
staff. GCCN also provided training to representatives and potential representatives in representation skills.

GCCN co-hosted with Galway City Council Information Webinars on the Community Activities Fund 2022 and hosted a number of other training sessions including Disability Awareness Training Session delivered by Independent Living Movement Ireland and Support the LGBTI+ Community Workshops delivered by Amach! LGBT+.

In 2022, GCCN and Galway County PPN held a series of meetings around Active Travel in Galway aimed at facilitating a collective voice for active travel and public transport users. One of the key pieces of work for GCCN is to ensure that the views of its members are reflected in local policies.

In 2022, 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.

GCCN held a Public Consultation meeting on the Draft River Basin Management Plan in January 2022 in collaboration with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO). Following this and other meetings held in collaboration with Galway Environmental Network (GEN), GCCN developed a joint submission with GEN on the



Draft River Basin Management Plan. In the first half of 2022, GCCN also welcomed the opportunity to develop a submission on the Salthill Cycleway and one on the Draft City Development Plan.

GCCN partnered with Galway City Partnership and Ukrainian communities, and the Older Peoples Council to produce a submission for the LECP consultation. Also, Access for All and the LGBT+ Interagency Group were facilitated to make submissions on the LECP in September 2022. A submission on the PPN Structural Review Submission was made in August 2022. GCCN collaborated with Planning, Transport, and Access for All representatives to develop a submission for the City Connects Plan in late 2022.

In June, GCCN supported and attended the 2022 PPN Climate Conversations as part of the national initiative led by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.



Collaboration and partnership ways of working are key values that underpin GCCN work. In 2022, 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 2022 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 2022, GCCN in collaboration with Galway Traveller Movement, Galway Anti Racism Network, Communities of Sanctuary and NUI Galway hosted the Galway Communities Against Racism – Dialogue Workshop on in March 2022.



Prior to this, GCCN, in collaboration with Access for All and Galway City Partnership held an event to mark the International Women's Day and Disability in Galway City through the lens of the UNCRPD. The event was opened by Mayor Cllr. Colette Connolly, guest speaker Dr. Shivaun Quinlivan (NUI Galway) and was attended by a number of City Councillors and members of the community. GCCN continues to attend the meetings of the Standing Together Against Direct Provision (STAD).

GCCN and other groups and organisations in Galway City attended an Anti-Racism Protest in October 2022 following racist and discriminatory remarks made during a Galway Bay FM interview.

A Solidarity Statement with the Traveller Community and any marginalised community was released following the interview and a complaint was filled in with the broadcaster.



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 2022, GCCN continued to support the Healthy Galway Steering Committee.

Pobal Pilot Project – In early 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. 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 will continue until the end of March 2023.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) – GCCN worked closely with the Local Community Development Committee to design the strategy for the review of the Local Economic and Community Plan and the development of the two-year LECP Implementation Plan, officially adopted in early 2020.

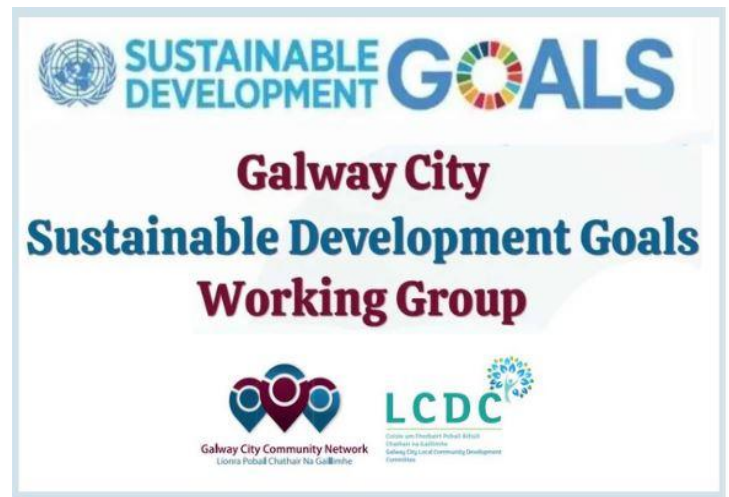
GCCN continues to work on the implementation of the LECP in collaboration with a range of partners and managed the LECP Action for Equality Project, supported by funding from Galway City Council. These are innovative initiatives that draw a range of partners together to collaborate on a number of themes, as follows:

LECP Flagship Four: Public Sector Duty Galway City is a frontrunner in relation to supporting the implementation of the Public Sector Duty, a legal obligation on all public bodies to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of their employees, customers and service users. A Steering Committee, comprising representatives of public bodies and civil society was established to implement the project. The Civil Society Panel, which is drawn from members of communities protected by the Irish Equality Legislation, continues to meet, and advance their work to assess the public body plans, a key element of the Public Sector Duty. Ongoing work will be needed to support the Panel particularly their engagement in assessment and policy proofing processes. In 2023 there will be further engagement with public bodies in relation to implementation of the Public Sector Duty. The Collaborative Forum will also be reconvened, as a space where agencies who are working to implement the Public Sector Duty can learn from one another.

LECP Seed Nine: Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) In what is an innovative, cross-sectoral approach to making the UN Sustainable Development Goals visible in Galway City, GCCN coordinates the LECP Sustainable Development Goals Working Group that includes members from civil society organisations, agencies and Galway City Councillors. The Working Group has submitted a shadow report on the inclusion of the SDGs in the City Development Plan and will follow up with the integration of recommendations into the Plan. The group also continues to promote the use of the Global Indicator Framework for SDGs in LECP planning processes. Work will continue to promote the SDG Accord to all relevant organisations and institutions and garner commitment from organisations to sign the Accord. It also intends to develop tools to

support organisations to use the SDGs as a framework for organisational planning. In June 2022, GCCN represented the SDG Working Group at the SDG National Stakeholder Forum.

GCCN also welcomed the opportunity to make a submission on the SDG National Implementation Plan in June. GCCN also participates in the newly reformed National SDG Stakeholder Forum.



LECP Seed Five: LGBTI+ Interagency Group: GCCN continues to engage with the LGBTI+ Interagency. A Public Recognition Marker and Resource Pack was launched and distributed to services and businesses in Galway. There is ongoing engagement with Galway Chamber on the roll-out of Public Recognition Marker (PRM).

The Interagency focused on the promotion of the PRM and Resource Pack throughout the year. Associated training was offered to support LGBTI+ friendly service provision in Galway. This was tailored towards both commercial and community needs.



The group have contributed to a mapping exercise of services and agencies in Galway that may support the LGBTI+ community in order to contribute to a national project that intends to contribute to improved pathways to care for the community.



The group is in an active planning phase in order to determine how best to ensure the integration of the National LGBTI+ Strategy at a local level, and how best to ensure access to services and support for the community in line with its goals through continued action in community service settings.

LECP Flagship Six: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

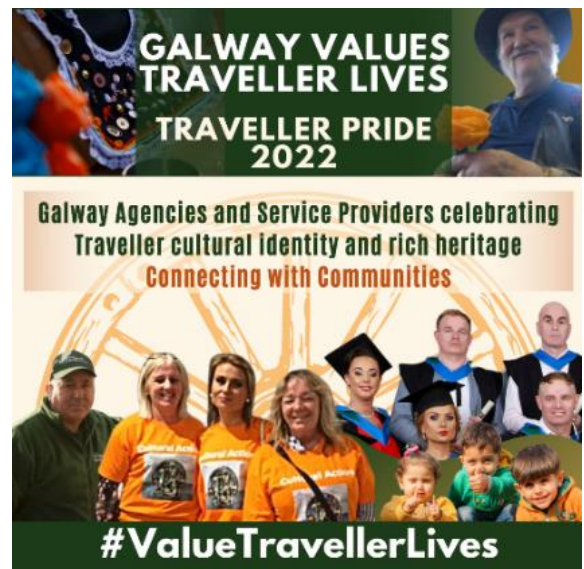
(UNCRPD) GCCN continues to support the work of Access for All and its work on the UN Convention of the Rights of People with Disabilities. GCCN provide supports for policy submissions, and for the Gold Star Initiative which aims to increase the accessibility of business and services in Galway.

The areas where ongoing work is required in relation to this initiative have been identified as: a coordination mechanism established within Galway City Council in line with requirements set out in UNCRPD to support integration of these rights into planning and policy at a local level; to establish the Gold Star project on a sustainable basis to promote physical access to the economic, social and retail spaces of Galway; development of Galway City Council Access Strategy to implement UNCRPD; a dedicated Access Officer to implement Access Strategy and Policy and Planning Submissions to further the goal of the integration of the UNCRPD at a local level.

LECP Seed Four: Traveller Interagency Group: The TIG continues to meet and is currently focusing on engagement with Galway City Council and relevant agencies in relation to undertaking Public Sector Duty assessments.

The TIG has reached out to all LECP leads in relation to Equality and Human Rights assessments and the need for engagement by all LECP leads with the TIG to report on how their initiatives consider the Traveller community.

A PR strategy relating to Public Sector Duty was developed for Traveller Pride week in July 2022, and again for Misleoir Festival of Nomadic Cultures. This action continued throughout 2022.



8. Collaboration/ Interagency

8.1 Minister Joe O'Brien's Galway Visit

The Minister of State for Communities and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, visited Galway on Monday, 5th and Tuesday 6th September 2022, primarily to visit the local development companies and some of the many projects and initiatives that received funding and support from the Department of Rural and Community Development including SICAP, Galway Volunteer Centre and Community Enhancement projects.

As part of his visit, Minister O'Brien also met with the the Mayor of Galway City, Cllr. Clodagh Higgins in addition to members of the Galway City Ukrainian Community Response Forum.



Minister O'Brien officially launched Values and Principles for collaboration and partnership working with Community and Voluntary Sector

During 2022, the Minister officially launched an agreed set of Values and Principles for collaboration and partnership with the Community and Voluntary Sector.

The publication of these Values and Principles copper-fastens the renewed relationship and partnership between Government and the Community and Voluntary sector, which has been central in addressing the crises of recent times.

Developed by the sector, in partnership with Government, the aim is to support values such as social justice, and active participation along with principles like respect, collaboration and value for money.

The Values and Principles will be used by central and local government, as well as state bodies, as a basis for their interactions with the community and voluntary sector in pursuit of the best outcomes for all communities.

The values and principles were warmly welcomed by all government departments and will now be championed by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The document is now available [here](#) and this initiative forms part of a range of measures being undertaken by the Department to support the community and voluntary sector, and to empower thriving, sustainable communities across Ireland.

8.2 Study Visit Delegation of Italian Cities Against Discrimination

In October, Galway City Council hosted a delegation from the Italian Intercultural Cities Network. The delegation are members of the Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe.

The objective of the visit was to promote an exchange of experiences with other European municipalities on the topic of intercultural and anti-discrimination policies.

The delegation met with the Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mike Cubbard and were given a presentation on the role of the Galway City LCDC, its purpose, functions and membership. They were also presented with the work that had been carried out by the LCDC Social Inclusion subgroup in relation to the Public Sector Duty and the production of the Equality and Human Rights Statement and Realising Potential Manual documents.

The delegation also visited Galway City Partnership, Galway City Community Network and Galway Traveller Movement.



Appendices



Appendix 1



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



Community Activities Fund 2022

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant Approved
AMACH! LGBT Galway	Funding towards running and operating costs	€16,000
Aras Pobail, Mionlach Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Rathaiochta	Funding towards running and operating costs	€4,625
Arts Alive Galway	Funding towards operating costs	€1,000
Bádóirí an Chladaigh	Funding towards operating costs	€5,220
Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden	Funding towards running costs	€1,000
Ballybane Community Resource Centre	Funding towards running and operating costs	€15,000
Ballybane Sport and Community Development Ltd	Funding towards operating costs	€1,000
Blood Bike West	Funding towards running and operating costs	€9,000
Celtic Eagles Boxing Club Galway	Funding towards running and operating costs	€11,898
Claddagh Residents Association	Funding towards running costs	€2,700
Club Shine Community Youth Variety Club	Funding towards operating costs	€1,000
Coogan Park Residents Association	Funding towards running and operating costs	€300
Corrib Rangers FC	Funding towards running and operating costs	€1,350

Cosáin CLG	Funding towards running and operating costs	€2,340
Croi na Gaillimhe A Resource Centre of SVP	Funding towards running and operating costs	€15,000
Croi na Tuath	Funding towards operating costs	€1,390
Fr Griffins Eire Og GFC	Funding towards running costs	€671
Galway and District Football League	Funding towards running costs	€2,700
Galway Bohemians AFC	Funding towards running costs	€300
Galway Civic Trust	Funding towards running costs	€392
Galway Hibernians	Funding towards running costs	€1,800
Galway Regional Youth Federation CLG t/a Youth Work Ireland Galway	Funding towards running and operating costs	€5,544
Galway Shotokan Karate Club	Funding towards operating costs	€2,680
Galway Simon Community	Funding towards running costs	€1,404
Hopespace CLG	Funding towards operating costs	€1,080
Horses Connect	Funding towards operating costs	€912
Irish Girl Guides - Joy House, Galway	Funding towards operating costs	€990
Is Maith e an Caint t/a Let's Get Talking	Funding towards operating costs	€15,000
Kara Bowls Club	Funding towards operating costs	€1,000
Knocknacarra Football Club	Funding towards operating costs	€5,000
Men's Shed City West Galway	Funding towards running and operating costs	€588
Merlin Woods Sports Club	Funding towards running and operating costs	€2,700
Merlin Woods Tennis Club	Funding towards operating costs	€800
Our Lady's Boys Club (OLBC) Youth Club	Funding towards running and operating costs	€2,700

Rahoon Newcastle GAA Club	Funding towards running costs	€1,000
Renmore Clubhouse	Funding towards running costs	€898
Row to Recovery Galway	Funding towards operating costs	€1,165
Russian Culture Club Alliance	Funding towards operating costs	€2,700
Salthill Menshed & Community Garden	Funding towards operating costs	€450
Shantalla Residents Association	Funding towards operating costs	€100
Shining Light Galway	Funding towards operating costs	€1,000
The Melting Pot Luck	Funding towards operating costs	€1,000
Theatre for Change Galway CLG	Funding towards operating costs	€492
Tirellan Heights Residents Association	Funding towards operating costs	€1,000
Titans Basketball Club	Funding towards operating costs	€11,000
West Karate Club Galway	Funding towards operating costs	€1,000
Westside Age Inclusion Ltd	Funding towards operating and running costs	€5,000
		€161,889

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant Approved
14 th Galway Scouts	Funding towards purchase of necessary equipment	€2,500
32 nd Galway - Menlo Scout Group	Funding towards purchase of safety equipment	€968
Amdalah Africa Foundation – AMDAF	Funding towards purchase of IT equipment	€939
Ballybane & Doughiska Sports Hub	Funding towards shelving units	€992
Ballybane Taskforce	Funding to purchase equipment to enhance Community Café Space	€852
Blue Teapot Theatre Company	Funding towards repair of building entrance	€2,900
Bohermore Community Project CLG	Funding towards purchase of air purifiers	€1,000
Carra Day Service, Brothers of Charity	Funding towards purchase of wheelchair accessible planting tables	€950
COPE Galway	Purchase and install fire safety equipment	€7,112
Failte Area Community Service, Brothers of Charity Services Ireland	Purchase canopy to enhance and facilitate outdoor activities	€4,800
Galway African Diaspora-Ireland	Purchase marquee to facilitate outdoor activities and events	€983
Galway City Partnership	Funding towards the upgrade of Galway City Social Enterprise Hub	€3,580
Galway City Partnership/ Ballybane Afterschool Programme	Purchase training equipment for new community based afterschool programme	€4,816
Galway Community Circus	Funding towards energy efficiency improvement works	€10,000
Galway Deaf Centre	Purchase of IT equipment for members	€909

Galway Simon Community	Funding towards renovation of kitchen and communal area in homeless service	€10,000
Galway Volunteer Centre	Funding towards purchase of IT equipment	€1,171
Helplink Mental Health	Funding towards purchase of equipment for service	€1,000
Independent Living Movement Ireland	Funding towards purchase of IT equipment	€910
Mervue Active Retirement Association	Funding towards purchase of IT and office equipment	€1,000
Mervue Community Crèche	Funding towards development of outside play area	€3,000
Olympic Boxing Club	Funding to purchase sports training and IT equipment	€2,881
Pernet CLG	Funding towards purchase of office equipment	€283
Roscam & Doughiska Men's Shed Galway	Funding towards purchase of tools	€265
Sexual Health West	Funding towards purchase of IT and office equipment	€2,998
Shantalla Community Allotments	Funding towards improvement of outdoor seating area and signage	€ 2,315
Society of St Vincent De Paul Galway Area	Purchase of equipment to enhance / expand Food Hub	€2,290
St James Ladies Football Club	Funding towards energy efficiency upgrade	€2,953
St Joseph's Training Centre, Ability West	Funding towards purchase of equipment to enhance the recreational area	€1,000
St. Michaels GAA Club	Purchase and install fire safety equipment	€2,452

Titans ABC Boxing Club	Funding towards purchase of sports equipment for people with disabilities and IT equipment	€5,000
Tuatha of Terryland Forest Park	Purchase and installation of signage	€2,468
Westside Arts Festival	Purchase canopies to enhance and facilitate outdoor activities / events	€3,000
Westside Community Organic Garden	Supply and installation of fencing to polytunnel area	€5,440
Westside Resource Centre CLG	Funding towards extension of children's play area and fire safety works	€6,500
Youth Work Ireland Galway - Westside Youth Project	Funding towards necessary repairs / maintenance works and purchase of equipment to develop service	€2,794
		€103,021

Appendix 2



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



Dormant Accounts Fund

Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021

Name of Social Enterprise	Brief Project Details	Grant Approved
Westside Resource Centre CLG	Purchase of IT equipment	€2822
Ballybane Community Centre CLG	Purchase and install CO2 detectors in meeting rooms	€2391
Le Cheile Westside Co Ltd	Upgrade of IT equipment	€1600
Galway Community Circus	Purchase of kitchen equipment, IT equipment and office furniture	€4532
Meals4Health	Purchase of blue box food transport container	€2079
Galway Co-Operative Housing Development Society Ltd (GCHDS)	Purchase of IT equipment for use in their service	€899
Simon Community Galway	Purchase and install new shelving equipment in their charity shop	€2860
An Mheitheal Comhshaol Cooperative Limited (trading as An Mheitheal Rothar)	Purchase tools for ReCycle your Cycle programme	€2622



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Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



LCD C

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

