



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



CONTENTS

A Statement by the Chief Officer, Galway City LCDC.....	4
Introduction & Background.....	6
Role and Functions of Galway City LCDC	6
Membership of Galway City LCDC 2020.....	8
Implementation Plan for Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2020-2021	10
Implementation, Management & Oversight of Public-Funded Programmes.....	12
• Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022.....	12
- SICAP 2020	
- Annual Planning for SICAP 2021	
- SICAP 2020 Case Study	
- Delivery of SICAP during COVID-19	
-SICAP ESF eCohesion	
• COVID-19 Community Response Forum.....	18
- Community Call Helpline	
- COVID-19 Emergency Funding	
- Keep Well in the Community	
• Healthy Galway City.....	21
• Funding Opportunities	29
- Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2020	
- Community Enhancement Programme 2020 fund for Community Centres and Community Buildings	
- AMACH! LGBT Galway	
• Public Participation Network (PPN) / Galway City Community Network (GCCN).....	31
Appendix 1 COVID-19 Emergency Funding approved under Phase1: Community Call	36

Appendix 2: COVID-19 Emergency Funding approved under Phase 2: Helping Our Communities and Individuals Maintain Wellbeing.....	37
Appendix 3: Community Enhancement Programme 2020.....	40
Appendix 4: Community Enhancement Programme 2020 for Community Centres and Community Buildings approved for Galway City.....	42
Appendix 5: Community Mental Health Fund (CMHF) Small Grants Scheme.....	44

A STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF OFFICER, GALWAY CITY LCDC

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2001, 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 2020, within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic including a review of progress generally, details of meetings held, implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan and details of the oversight, management and collaboration in relation to public-funded programmes under the LCDC's remit.

From the outset of the COVID-19 crisis, Galway City LCDC has played a role in supporting the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities. As a result of the important links, working relationships built up and partnership approach members were well placed to respond quickly and effectively to the challenges presented by the Covid-19 crisis. As we move and work through the levels of restrictions the LCDC also has an important part in our successful recovery.

Throughout the year, the LCDC managed, implemented and collaborated in relation to a number of public funded programmes under its remit which included SICAP, Healthy Ireland Funding, COVID-19 Emergency Funding, Community Resilience Funding and the Community Enhancement Programmes, all providing funding and support for many elements of the community response to COVID-19.

The LCDC ensured that programmes complied with and delivered on some of the actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). It has been acknowledged that resources from all partners will be required to continue to deliver on the actions of the LECP and all funding which will assist in the delivery is welcomed. Update reports and presentations on the delivery of LECP actions have been presented to the LCDC and this will continue during 2021.

During 2020 a number of changes in members of Galway City LCDC took place, resulting in changes in representatives from the Local Authority, the Galway City Community Network and from other sectors. In addition and in line with this Professor Terrence McDonough retired as Chairperson, with Elaine Harvey assuming this role from November 2020 onwards.

I would like to sincerely thank the outgoing members for their contribution to the LCDC during their tenure. I wish to also acknowledge the commitment of all members of the LCDC and support staff in what has been the most challenging of years on record due to the impact of COVID-19 and the major uncertainties this has caused, and I look forward to supporting the LCDC in carrying out its functions in 2021.

I set out below the draft report for 2020 for consideration and approval, with or without amendment, of the members of the Galway City LCDC.

Caitriona Morgan

CHIEF OFFICER
GALWAY CITY LCDC

Introduction & Background

The governing legislation underpinning the establishment of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) is set out in Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, which provides for the establishment of an LCDC in all local authority administrative areas.

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.

This draft report has been prepared under Section 128B of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 as the LCDC is required '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'.

This draft report constitutes the Annual Report for the Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ended 31st December 2020.

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 Section 128B of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 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.

Membership of Galway City LCDC 2020



The Galway City LCDC has 15 members drawn from the public and private sectors. 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 2020.

Statutory Interests (7)		
Sector	Name	Organisation / Nominating Body
Local Authority Elected Members	Cllr. Martina O'Connor	Galway City Council
	Cllr. Owen Hanley	Galway City Council
Local Authority Officials	Brian Barrett	Galway City Council (CE nominee)
	Breda Fox	Local Enterprise Office
State Agencies	Regina Higgins	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
	Anne O'Neill	Health Service Executive
	Eithne Ni Dhonnachadha	Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board
Non Statutory Interests (8)		
Sector	Name	Organisation
Community & Voluntary	Dr Lorraine Grimes	Galway City Community Network (GCCN)
	Niall Ó Brolcháin	Galway City Community Network (GCCN)
	James Coyne	Galway City Community Network (GCCN)
	Fiona Jennings	Galway City Community Network (GCCN)
	Maria Molloy	Galway City Community Network (GCCN)
Trade Union	Elaine Harvey (Chairperson)	Galway Council of Trade Unions
Employers / Business	Frank Greene	Galway Chamber
Local Development	Declan Brassil	Galway City Partnership

The LCDC appoints a Chairperson for a maximum term of 3 years, who consults with the Chief Officer on matters relating to the LCDC's administration and operation, and has an overall co-ordination role and responsibility for the effective functioning and management of meetings. Elaine Harvey, Galway Council of Trade Unions is the Chairperson of the LCDC since 4th November 2020.

Change in the Membership of Galway City LCDC

Mr. Tom Connell Director of Services, Galway City Council retired from Galway City Council in 2020 and was replaced by Mr. Brian Barrett, Acting Director of Services

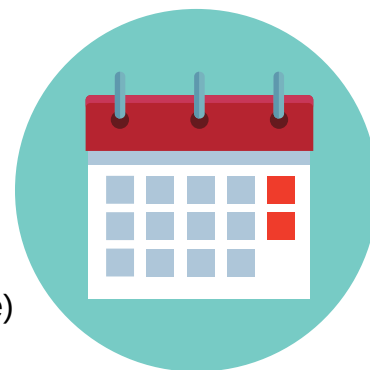
Mr. Terrence McDonough and Ms. Margaret O’Riada both representing the GCCN completed their term on the LCDC at the end of September 2020. Dr. Lorraine Grimes and Ms. Fiona Jennings, are the new representatives from GCCN representing the Community / Voluntary pillar and Social Inclusion pillar respectively, replacing Mr. Terrence McDonough and Ms. Margaret O’Riada.

As Mr. Terrence McDonough was Chairperson he was replaced by Ms. Elaine Harvey. Cllr. Martina O’Connor was made Vice Chairperson of Galway City LCDC which was the role formerly held by Ms. Elaine Harvey.

Ms. Regina Higgins, Acting Divisional Manager with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection returned to her position on 15th September 2020. Ms. Antoinette Ryan was in this position with the Department in a temporary capacity, replacing Ms. Regina Higgins who was on leave.

During 2020 Galway City LCDC convened a total of 6 meetings during the year:

- Meeting of Galway City LCDC held 12th February 2020
- Meeting of Galway City LCDC held 8th April 2020 (Online)
- Meeting of Galway City LCDC held 8th July 2020
- Meeting of Galway City LCDC held 9th September 2020 (Online)
- Meeting of Galway City LCDC held 4th November 2020 (Online)
- Meeting of Galway City LCDC held 16th December 2020 (Online)



As set out in the Standing Orders, the quorum for meetings of Galway City LCDC is 9 and all meetings in 2020 met the quorum.

Meeting supports are provided to Galway City LCDC by the Economic Development, Community & Culture Department of Galway City Council. Two LCDC support workers provide much needed support to the LCDC, in line with the part funding approved from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

Implementation Plan for Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2020-2021



In early January 2020 following the considerable amount of work done during Q4 2019 on the review of actions in the Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2015-2021 and the development of an implementation plan for 2020-2021 to build on the progress made, a draft implementation plan was presented to the Galway City LCDC Social Inclusion Group in order to consider and apply the Equality and Human Rights impact assessment tool developed with the LCDC. Following the application of the assessment tool, the draft was presented to the LECP Steering Group, the LCDC and the SPC at their February meetings and the Draft LECP implementation plan 2020 2021 was agreed by all. This two year implementation plan covers the final period of the Galway City LECP, organised around the five high level goals with nine flagship initiatives (actions) and ten seed initiatives (actions) identified.

Due to Covid-19, the LECP Steering Group were unable to meet until June timeframe, and discussed the approach to be taken with regard to the LECP implementation plan, particularly with regard to Covid-19 and the impact on organisations, groups and communities and their response to issues and challenges experienced as a result of lock down and restrictions. All lead partners were contacted for their update on the respective actions in order to gain a collective understanding on how their organisation / group were leading out on the implementation of their initiative (action) while also taking into account the difficulties and challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic created. This updated information would form the basis of a report to the LECP Steering Group on overall progress, in addition to identifying and highlighting gaps or issues occurring and what impact this was having on the overall delivery of the implementation plan.

During August, the LECP Steering Group met via Zoom and discussed the updates received from the lead partners, noting that further follow up was needed on milestones as highlighted. It was agreed at the LCDC meeting held in September that there would be a presentation given by each lead partner representing a flagship and seed initiative (action) at future LCDC meetings. During October, an updated progress report on the implementation plan was presented to the LECP Steering Group as requested and this was circulated to the LCDC in advance of their November meeting. The LECP Implementation Plan 2020-2021 Progress Report can be viewed at this link: <https://www.galwaycity.ie/lecp>

At the LCDC meeting held in November, two presentations were received from the lead partners representing **Flagship One**: Develop and implement a programme of cultural actions, based on collaborative practice, targeted on disadvantaged communities and **Seed Six**: Develop and implement a Galway Intercultural Strategy. These presentations focused on the collaborative work in implementing these action to date noting partners that were engaged with; milestones agreed and progress / update on these; the expected outcomes and the challenges that need to be addressed to ensure milestones are achieved and enabled a discussion and input from the LCDC members. At the LCDC meeting held in December a further three presentations were made by the lead partners representing **Flagship Five**: Develop and strengthen the support infrastructure for social economy enterprise, **Flagship Nine**: Strengthen implementation of the Healthy Galway City Strategy and **Seed Five**: Convene a LGBTI+ inter-agency group.

In line with the schedule of LCDC meetings noted for 2021 a schedule of presentations has been prepared, so that by the end of 2021, a presentation on the 9 flagship and 10 seed initiatives (actions) will be completed.

During December 2020 Galway City Council received a proposal from the Galway City Community Network on behalf of a number of organisations and networks - Galway City Community Network, Galway City Partnership, Galway Traveller Movement, AMACH! LGBTI+ and Access for All in line with their focus on five actions in particular:

- Flagship Four: Support the implementation of the public sector equality and human rights duty in Galway City.
- Flagship Six: Develop and monitor implementation of a rolling action plan for the city that achieves the relevant standards set in the UN CRPD.
- Seed Four: Reconvene the Galway City Traveller Inter-Agency Group.
- Seed Five: Convene a LGBTI+ Inter-Agency Group.
- Seed Nine: Advance capacity and commitment to drive implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

With support from Galway City Council, the consortium sought a suitably qualified person to co-ordinate the implementation of the five collaborative actions in accordance with the milestones set out in the LECP Implementation Plan. It is intended that the project co-ordinator will convene and provide support for the working groups associated with each action and develop and agree action plans with each working group that reflect and ensure progress on the milestones in the implementation plan.

Despite an extremely challenging year for all by the end of 2020 a number of working group meetings has taken place, as convened by the lead partners. There was a good level of engagement and support, allowing discussions to take place on the milestones as set out in the implementation plan.

All updates received from lead partners have been summarised in a progress report template which will be used for reporting going forward. The progress report is a living document and will be updated on a continuous basis as work across the range of actions develops. It has been acknowledged that resources from all partners will be required to continue to deliver on the actions of the LECP and all funding which will assist in the delivery is welcomed.

Implementation, Management & Oversight of Public-Funded Programmes

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2022 provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

Administered by Pobal and funded by the Irish

Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development, it also receives funding from the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020. The aim of SICAP is to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality in Ireland through supporting communities and individuals using community development approaches, engagement and collaboration. 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 (GCP).



SICAP 2020

In early 2021, the LCDC SICAP subgroup completed the annual performance review of SICAP 2020 which was approved at the LCDC meeting held on 24th February, 2021.

This review noted the satisfactory performance of GCP in the delivery of SICAP during 2020, highlighting the overachievement of key performance indicators (KPIs), a good level of targeting with all target groups with some levels exceeding national levels in addition to learnings that emerged during 2020.

Under the programme requirements for 2020, GCP commenced delivery of the programme at the beginning of the year in line with the total budget for 2020 which was €668,942. GCP carried out all of the actions in the 2020 plan under both SICAP goals which was reflective of the needs of the Galway city area, helping to deliver on the LECP actions.

In line with the monitoring framework as outlined in the SICAP programme requirements, this was regularly monitored and reviewed by the LCDC SICAP subgroup with the mid-year and the annual performance reviews approved by the LCDC during 2020. GCP exceeded the KPI 1 target for 2020 by 106%, with the total number of local community

groups supported being 53, the target set was 50. The total number of individuals engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis was also exceeded by 135% with 703 individuals supported, the target set was 520. In addition an analysis of the % of individuals engaged living in a disadvantaged area was also exceeded with 22.31% achieved, which was above the 22.00% that was set.

The annual performance review of SICAP 2020 was completed using the detailed annual progress report that was submitted in line with the template provided by Pobal, highlighting key achievements, the high level of engagement with the target groups in addition to learnings that emerged during 2020. The report also identified the challenges, barriers and needs which still need to be addressed. Among the challenges identified was the impact of COVID -19 on the SICAP programme and it was noted how Galway City Partnership had adapted to these challenges and met their targets in relation to KPI 1 Local Community Groups and KPI 2 Individuals for 2020.

Annual Planning for SICAP 2021

For SICAP 2021, the annual planning process commenced during October 2020, as per the timeline set out, with the LCDC setting the same key performance indicators for 2021 in line with the budget of €668,942, which was confirmed for 2021. The LCDC SICAP subgroup completed the review in December, 2020, in line with the timeline set out with the LCDC granting final approval at their February meeting.

During 2020 the LCDC SICAP subgroup met on two occasions and there has been very good engagement between the LCDC and GCP in raising issues that should be addressed. As in previous years and as part of Pobal's ongoing support to the LCDC, an annual engagement meeting with the SICAP subgroup took place in mid-September 2020 in Galway City Council. The purpose of the meeting was to engage with the SICAP subgroup on the LCDC oversight role of the programme, in addition to discussing the overall positive progress of SICAP at local level.

SICAP 2020 Case Study

In March 2018, the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) and Pobal convened a working group of representatives to review the experience to date of demonstrating the work of SICAP 2018 – 2022 through case studies. The purpose of the case studies is to showcase specific projects, practices and approaches to:

- Enhance the programme's performance by analysing and illustrating what has worked well and why, what has been achieved and what have the issues or challenges been.
- Support key programme stakeholders (e.g. DRCD, LCDC, LDCs, Pobal) in identifying and sharing best practice and cross-organisational learning.
- Support key programme stakeholders in decision making by contribution to the evidence base on the programme's performance.
- Enhance learning within the wider social inclusion sector.

Following discussion on the case study theme, Galway City LCDC selected a Goal 2 project, which focussed on the work done with individuals as the specific theme for 2020. In line with the guidance issued, which included format, timeline etc. Galway City Partnership were successful in funding from the DRCD as one of the pilot case studies to be presented in video format. The link to the video can be viewed on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iCPLINRElkg&t=95s>

Delivery of SICAP during COVID-19

SICAP is a national programme, funded by the DR&CD, and locally approved and monitored by the Galway City LCDC.

Galway City Partnership (GCP) has the contract to implement the programme in the city and in 2020, despite COVID-19 impact and restrictions, exceeded targets set for both individual and group support. Over 700 adults and 53 groups availed of SICAP supports; with an additional 700+ children engaging in activities.

We highlight here some of the work undertaken to give a flavour of our responses in 2020:

Individual clients, availing of employment supports are normally met in person. One to one in person meetings proved difficult due to the Covid-19 restrictions, so it required a new way of communicating through text, email and particularly on the phone. Initially there were a considerable number of requests from clients regarding the Pandemic Unemployment Payment.

The closure of schools from the 12th March 2020 and other disruptions during COVID-19 affected all sectors of society but it has been felt most acutely by disadvantaged children and their families. Challenges with distance learning, access to technology, re-engagement with learning, health and well-being have been reported from a range of agencies including Home School Liaison Teachers, Galway Traveller Movement and the Schools Completion Programme.

67 individuals have been supported to access accredited education. With the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020, there were limited numbers in terms of course participants, closure of venues due to government lockdowns and a general sense of anxiety which all contributed to an adverse effect on course completion. We refocused budgets to enable the purchase of IT equipment to go to disadvantaged and isolated individuals in the community.

Through community education we have supported a total of 145 individuals in 2020 through information and participation in unaccredited courses. Difficulties identified with the efficient delivery of online/virtual courses include not all individuals having the skills to use technology or not having access and / or training on technology. The pandemic has highlighted extreme social isolation in some cases,

identified through conversations over the phone. SICAP beneficiaries who registered to study English as a Second Language have, in many cases, struggled with maintaining their studies online. They have, in many cases, lacked adequate access to laptops and other devices on which to continue their studies. A number of students in Direct Provision were provided with laptops and tablets to assist them with their studies. Tutors have continued to support students who were able to access online courses by providing phone and email mentoring and feedback.

COVID-19 has impacted on all LCGs across the city. In 2020 groups were faced with the huge challenge of somehow continuing their work without being allowed to 'come together'. The Community Development staff team contacted LCGs across the city to find out what emerging needs each group had. They did this both over the phone or via email.

GCP staff volunteered on the Community Call Helpline - responded to queries and had a listening ear for worries expressed.

Some examples of GCPs work specifically responding to COVID-19 are detailed below;

Flower Window boxes for older and vulnerable people cocooning in Galway City.

Galway City Partnership in collaboration with local community groups such as Ballybane Community Resource Centre, Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre, Community Resource Centre, Ballybane Community Garden, Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden and Westside Community Garden and Resource Centre prepared 400 summer flower window boxes for older and vulnerable people living in our communities. The first 180 boxes were prepared by GCP staff and delivered by the GCP Tús team at the beginning of June.

The main objective was to cheer people up, to help combat isolation and loneliness and to foster old and new relationships with older and vulnerable people living in our communities. In August 2020 another 200 window boxes were prepared by members and volunteers of the Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden and 12 members of the Foróige Youth Project and their youth workers. This was a great success and the window boxes were delivered to 200 older people across the city by the Galway City Community guards.



Care Box Initiative

GCP developed Care Packs which were distributed to older people who were identified as a result of calls made into the Community Response Forum Helpline and also based on local knowledge within the communities, by PHN's, Cope and St Vincent de Paul. The packs contained instant porridge, pen & notebook, liquid soap, tea bags, playing cards, Magazines or Multi-activity books, water, mindful colouring book & colours, disinfectant spray, shampoo, hairbrush, toothbrush, toothpaste, Vaseline, facecloth, tissues, jigsaw, knitting needles and wool, Galway Age Friendly Programme board and marker, subway vouchers and information resources such as Healthy Galway exercise leaflet for older adults, Community Response Helpline number and booklet, HSE COVID-19 booklet in plain English, Minding your Mental Health leaflets, SICAP supports across the city and other relevant local resources depending on the need of the older person.

In total GCP staff delivered 100 bags to older people across the city. The feedback from recipients has been positive in the extreme. People were really, really delighted to receive the bags and commented on the thoughtful contents and useful information provided. The connections made by GCP staff and a large number of older people across the city has been fantastic and we hope to be able to build on this in the future.

Digital Support for Older People

With funding received from the LCDC Emergency Fund and GCP we have purchased 24 smart tablets which are being configured to support digital needs of older people. Digital adoption is a significant challenge for many older adults and SICAP staff identified this resource as a means of easing this transition. Loneliness and isolation are unfortunately very prevalent in our communities due to COVID- 19 and it is hoped that this initiative will enable older people to stay more connected with their families, friends and communities.



Galway City Partnership was involved in coordinating an Independent Living Programme for people with disabilities in conjunction with Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI), Parents group, Brothers of Charity, Ability West and GRETB. This course focused on nutrition and cooking skills for disabled people about to embark on living alone within the community.



My Journey – A Distance Travelled Tool

The Department of Rural & Community Development and Pobal have developed a Distance Travelled Tool specifically for SICAP 2018 – 2022 as a joint initiative. Called My Journey: A Distance Travelled Tool, the tool will support SICAP clients to identify priority areas for their personal and professional development and will improve the recording of soft outcomes.

Soft outcomes are capacities that an individual gains on the way to achieving a goal which can be objectively validated. The journey for an individual with multiple forms of disadvantage towards a goal such as completing formal education or getting a job can take years rather than months and often these gains go unrecorded. This tool will measure the successes accrued in areas relating to confidence, literacy and numeracy, communication skills, connecting with others and goal setting.

The process requires SICAP clients to answer a number of questions relating to where they are at a particular point in time in relation to certain soft skills, and can be completed multiple times to allow for changes to be recorded. The tool will be a practical means to support SICAP delivery and will also contribute to learning on how to record soft outcomes for more marginalised cohorts of people.

During the My Journey pilot phase, 15 LDCs around Ireland were invited to trial the toolkit. During 2020 the tool was rolled out nationally on the 30th January 2020. The positive impacts of the toolkit are already being reported.

SICAP ESF eCohesion

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 – 2022 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. As part of the requirements of our annual European Social Fund reporting, both the DRCD and LCDCs are required to complete a verification of data held on IRIS for a sample of SICAP participants, checking against a copy of the participant registration form in order to verify that the data held is complete, accurate and evidenced.

The ESF verification process was undertaken in 2020 with a complete verification of data held on Iris for a sample of SICAP participants checked against a copy of the participant registration forms

COVID-19 Community Response Forum

On March 27th 2020 strict public health measures were announced in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 in Ireland. This effectively resulted in a lockdown of our country and city, everyone was urged to stay at home and to exercise within 2km from their home, only essential business remained open and public transport was restricted to facilitate these essential workers. Those who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 were asked to 'cocoon'. Over the course of that weekend, following guidance from the Government, Galway City Council successfully put in place support structures for the community, particularly for those most vulnerable who had been asked to cocoon.

The Galway City COVID-19 Community Response Forum, which leads the coordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience and the Community Call Helpline were established, collectively referred to as the 'Community Call' initiative, an unprecedented mobilisation of national Government, local government and the community and voluntary sector to support vulnerable people in our community during the COVID-19 emergency. Our immediate focus was on the elderly and the most vulnerable, and mobilizing a rapid response across Galway City to make sure everyone was looked after. Following this, the focus of the call expanded to address wellbeing and how communities can work together to help through the on-going COVID-19 crisis.

The Community Response Forum continues to facilitate coordination and collaboration between a diverse range of stakeholders with a shared purpose who were and are required to work together to respond to the crisis. It should be noted and acknowledged that the importance of existing relationship and structures, such as the LCDC in addition to bringing on board other organisations with local expertise and knowledge or volunteer capacity was and is key to our local response to the pandemic.

Volunteers have been very much to the forefront of the community response. With the help and advice from Volunteer Galway many pressing issues in relation to the community response, such as safe volunteering, volunteer management and Garda vetting were dealt with efficiently and professionally. The attendance and participation by Forum members, which includes many members of the LCDC has been very supportive with positive engagement and the ongoing co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience as required and in line with local need.

An update was given to the LCDC at each of their meetings held from April 2020 onwards on the work of the Community Response Forum and a written report was circulated to include all updates after each meeting of the LCDC.



Galway City Council Community Call

We're here if you need practical support or someone to talk to.

We can help with:

- Delivery of food, medication, fuel or other household items
- Someone to talk to or keep in touch with
- Other practical supports
- Signposting and referral to reliable information and services

1800 400 150
covidsupport@galwaycity.ie

KEEP WELL
IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Galway City COVID-19 Community Call Helpline

The Galway City COVID-19 Community Call Helpline, led and coordinated by Galway City Council started operation on 30th March 2020, providing a dedicated community response helpline to ensure that all vulnerable members of our community are appropriately supported as we moved through the response to COVID-19.

A key purpose of the Helpline is to ensure that older people and those who are vulnerable in our community have access to very practical supports such as groceries, meals on wheels, transportation, medication collection and many others. The Helpline has dealt with over 1,000 requests to date and the importance of a local response in this regard was essential. The Helpline is operational from 8am – 8pm, 7 days a week by Freephone to 1800 400 150 and email to covidsupport@galwaycity.ie

COVID-19 Emergency Funding

Galway City Council approved 39 grants totalling €65,686 under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund across two phases. During May 2020 funding was approved to support a wide range of local community and voluntary groups and organisations operating throughout Galway City involved in the delivery of COVID-19 community response efforts. As part of the Community Call initiative, this gave financial assistance towards exceptional, once-off costs related to the response to COVID-19. As part of Phase 2 of the Galway City Community Call initiative, which focused on helping our communities and individuals maintain wellbeing as we moved through the pandemic projects were approved funding, once again providing financial assistance to a number and range of local projects supporting the Wellbeing campaign's three focus areas – Stay Connected, Stay Active and Looking after your Mental Health. In addition, Galway City Council in partnership with the Galway City COVID-19 Community Response Forum developed a very useful resource to highlight the range of services, projects and initiatives that were happening across the City with a focus on Wellbeing, this can be viewed on the 'Stay at Home' resources link on www.galwaycity.ie/stay-at-home-resources

During December 2020, Galway City LCDC were approved additional funding under this programme in the amount of €43,029 with a closing date for online applications of Friday 5th February 2021. This funding will provide grants to community groups to assist them to adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality, become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign, in particular with the three themes: staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood. The grants may also be provided to support groups (including those involved in the community call) with -to-day running costs if needed. The Department of Rural and Community Development provided this funding to Galway City Council to administer locally in order to provide immediate and urgently needed funding, targeted appropriately throughout the City.

#Keepwell Campaign - Government Resilience Campaign

The 'Keep Well' campaign is a cross-Government wellness campaign launched by An Taoiseach at the end of October 2020. The aim of this campaign is resilience in the months ahead, as we look towards living with COVID-19 in the winter months. It's important to mind yourself and your physical and mental well-being. This campaign, funded by Sláintecare and led on by Healthy Ireland, involves a wide range of supports for this time – across sports, creativity, connectedness, eating and community outreach. Visit gov.ie/healthyireland and galwaycity.ie/wellbeing for more information and resources.

Community Resilience Fund to Local Authorities (“Keep Well” campaign initiatives)

During November 2020 the Department of Health, through the support of Sláintecare approved an allocation of funding for specific actions for each local authority under the Community Resilience Fund. The allocation under this fund for Galway City is €67,225 to support the delivery of initiatives under a number of the themes in line with the National “Keep Well” campaign. Galway City Council, with key partners developed and will deliver a programme of activity under these themes to the period November 2020 – March 2021 inclusive.



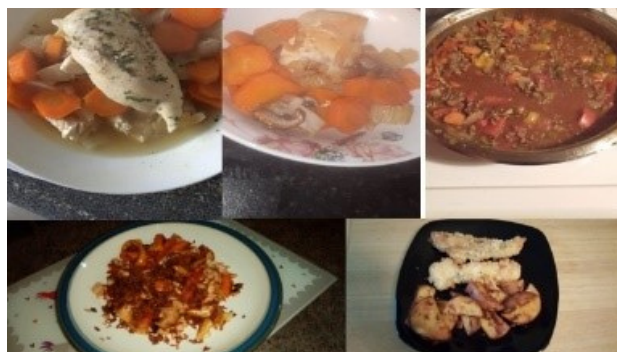
Healthy Galway City

Healthy Galway City 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 2020, Healthy Galway City worked in partnership with key stakeholders to implement actions funded under Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund.

Healthy Eating in the Community:

Healthy Food Made Easy (HFME) Leader Training was delivered in Ballybane Community Resource Centre in February 2020. The training was delivered in partnership with Healthy Galway County. A joint approach was taken to the planning and promotion of the two four-day training programmes. Applications were received from 46 people. In total, 20 participants completed the training. A panel of HFME Leaders was created for programme delivery in Galway City and County.

The first of the scheduled HFME Community Programmes for 2020 began in Westside Resource Centre on Wednesday 4th March but had to be postponed after the second week due to COVID-19. There were 10 participants registered for the programme, with 5 people on a waiting list. As it was not feasible for further HFME Community Programmes to be delivered during 2020, an online programme was developed to ensure communities could be supported to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for themselves and their families in the safety of their own homes.



Similar to the community programme, the online programme will run over 6 weeks and will consist of a combination of live sessions and recorded cooking demonstrations. The development of the online HFME programme was completed in November and was piloted with five trained HFME Leaders over three weeks in December. The pilot also served as a training for HFME Leaders. The programme will be rolled out to communities from Q1 2021.

The Melting Potluck recommenced cooking sessions for people living in direct provision in August, ensuring public health guidelines were adhered to. Four sessions took place each month, from August to December, for residents of the Eglinton and Great Western.

As part of the safefood Community Food Initiative, Galway City Partnership, in collaboration with Foróige Ballinfoile and GRETB, delivered a pilot project to support 17 families to cook and eat healthy meals together during the first lockdown in May. The project was delivered in a virtual manner, over four weeks. Families were provided with the recipes and links to the demonstration videos each week and are being supported via video call by trained



HFME Leaders with GRETB and Foróige. Ingredient packs were prepared by the local shop and collected by the families each week. Following the success of the pilot project, the family cooking project was expanded to more families and other areas of the city. In partnership with Foróige, GRETB and Tusla Family Services, 91 families were supported to cook and eat healthy meals together during 2020.

Action 2 – Addressing Barriers to Physical Activity:

In response to COVID-19, and to promote daily physical activity at home among older adults who were cocooning, an Exercise Leaflet developed by HSE Physio Services in Cork, was adapted for use in Galway. This was a joint initiative of Healthy Galway City and Healthy Galway County, in partnership with Galway Sports Partnership. During 2020, 3,000 leaflets were distributed to older people living in Galway City. Leaflets were distributed through a number of organisations/ groups.



In partnership with Galway City Council, Galway Sports Partnership and CYPSC Galway, 450 activity packs were prepared, and distributed to disadvantaged families across Galway City. The packs were distributed to coincide with National Play Day on Saturday 4th July with the view of encouraging physical activity during the summer months. Packs were distributed through a number of organisations





Of the 10 physical activity programmes which had started prior to COVID-19 restrictions came into effect in March, only four could be completed by the end of 2020. These included the Great Western Cricket programme, the Irish Wheelchair Association Chair Yoga programme, and Galway Sports Partnership's Community Sports Hub Come & Try Sports programmes in Ballybane and Doughiska. The Come & Try Sports programmes targeted children aged 7-10 years and included a range of activities including athletics, volleyball, soccer, and cricket. In total, 38 children participated. There were 8 sessions delivered in Doughiska over 5 weeks and an additional 16 sessions delivered in Ballybane over 8 weeks. The programmes linked with local sports clubs to promote sustainability.

Action 3 – Towards a Tobacco Free Galway City:

In partnership with CYPSC Galway, work progressed on the implementation of the Not Around Us initiative during 2020. Three Oversight Group meetings were held during the year. The Oversight Group is made up of representatives from Healthy Galway City, CYPSC Galway, HSE Health Promotion & Improvement, Galway Childcare Committee, Galway City Comhairle na nÓg, Croí, Galway City Partnership, Healthy Galway County, Galway City Council, Galway County Council and Galway Public Libraries.

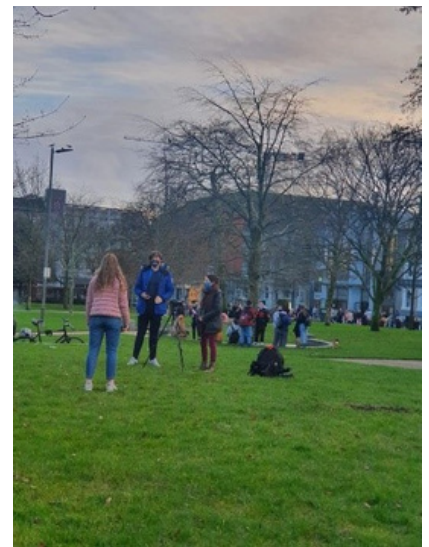
Four pilot sites were identified to lead the way in the implementation of the Not Around Us initiative in Galway, these included a Library, a Community Centre, an Early Years' Service and a Youth Project. A number of meetings were held with these sites to identify potential challenges and required supports.

The 1st April 2020 was identified as the date for the launch of Not Around Us in Galway City and County. A venue was organised, and plans were underway. However, the launch of the Not Around Us initiative was postponed as a result of COVID-19.

Despite COVID-19, work continued to progress on this action and a number of documents were developed to support organisations in the implementation of Not Around Us:

Not Around Us signage was also adapted for use in Galway, and the first batch of signs were ordered. Signage will be installed in pilot sites in early 2021, once COVID-19 restrictions are eased.

In November and December 2020, Galway City Comhairle na nÓg worked with a videographer to develop and film a promotional awareness video for the Not Around Us campaign. Video content will also be created to showcase the pilot sites. Both videos will be used as part of a virtual launch of the initiative in Q1 2021.



Action 4 – Community Sexual Health Education Programme:

In 2020, Sexual Health West focused on supporting a number of key groups facing significant issues regarding their sexual health. These included the Traveller Community, LGBT+ Community, those living in Direct Provision and the Disability Sector.

Planning and programme development began in January. Sexual Health West Education Facilitators met with a number of agencies to plan and timetable programmes to be delivered

Two sexual health education sessions were delivered to 10 participants through the National Learning Network in Ballybane, prior to COVID-19 restrictions. These sessions covered topics including Anatomy and Reproduction, and Contraception, Protection and STI's.

In light of COVID-19, Sexual Health West have restructured the programme and will now develop sexual health learning modules via video for target groups, in addition to the delivery of 20 community programmes. All online resources developed can be used on an ongoing basis and will add a multimedia dimension to community sessions once in-person delivery can recommence.

Action 5 – Towards a Healthy LGBT+ Community:

Throughout 2020, the Teach Solais Coordinator engaged with the LGBT+ Community to identify and deliver a range of Physical Activity programmes to meet their needs. A number of physical activity programmes were delivered during the year including Yoga, Beginner and Intermediate Running Groups, High Intensity Interval (HIIT) training session, Beginners Fitness classes and Advanced HIIT classes – streamed live via Teach Solais Instagram.

All programmes were advertised on social media and promoted by Healthy Galway City and Healthy Galway County, Galway Sports Partnership, Galway City Council, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion in GMIT, NUIG Students' Union, Sporting Pride (an LGBTQ focused organisation devoted to developing sports and well-being within the Irish LGBTQ community), NUIG LGBT+ Staff Network and Sexual Health West.

Community Mental Health Fund

Equality & Diversity Training Programme:

The Teach Solais Coordinator worked closely with Galway Traveller Movement and The Bridge Project in the development of an Equality and Diversity training programme for mental health professionals. The group held regular meetings during 2020 and progressed the following:

- Engaged with Intercultural officers with the FAI and with the University of Sanctuary.
- Applied for a grant from IHREC to contribute to the cost of engaging IT expertise in the development of an online training programme.
- Engaged with NUIG Community Knowledge Initiative about the delivery of a pilot training programme.
- Explored avenues of accreditation.

Developing Actions for LGBT+ Wellbeing:

Two mental health workshops entitled 'Delivering Actions for LGBT+ Wellbeing' were delivered by a health psychologist from NUIG prior to COVID-19 restrictions. The workshops were promoted on social media. Due to COVID-19, the mental health workshops were adapted for online delivery and commenced via Zoom on Wednesday 4th November. The workshops have been successful in engaging the LGBT+ community, with 15 people participating over the 6 weeks.

Stress Control Programme:

The Stress Control Programme began in ARD Family Resource Centre, Doughiska on Thursday 6th February. The programme was widely promoted through partner organisations, with a particular focus on disadvantaged communities and those at risk of health inequalities. 52 people signed up through bookwhen.com. However, only five of the six sessions were delivered due to COVID-19. Details of the online Stress Control programme were circulated to registered participants when it became available. The online programme was also actively promoted through Healthy Galway City social media platforms and Healthy Galway City stakeholders.

Nature for Health:

A Woodlands for Health working group was established to ensure the successful implementation of the programme in Galway. Working group members included Galway Sports Partnership, Healthy Galway City, Friends of Merlin Woods, Terryland Forest Park & Mental Health Ireland. The programme name was changed to Nature for Health on advice of the national Woodlands for Health Steering Group. 22 people registered their interest in attending the first programme. An information event was held in ARD Family Resource Centre, Doughiska, on Tuesday 3rd March. 14 people attended the event. Unfortunately, the first programme which was due to begin on Tuesday 24th March, was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.



This programme was rescheduled, when public health advice allowed, and it commenced on Tuesday 15th September in Merlin Woods, Doughiska. Bus trips to other woodlands were removed and replaced with additional art and mindfulness sessions. Numbers were limited to ensure social distancing guidelines could be adhered to and masks and hand sanitiser were provided. Six weeks of the programme were completed prior to Level 5 COVID-19 restrictions coming into effect in October. The remaining 4 weeks took place in December once restrictions eased.

Community Mental Health Fund (CMHF) Small Grants Scheme:

- The CMHF Small Grants Scheme was announced on Thursday 8th October. The closing date for applications was Friday 6th November. There were 34 applications received, totalling €112,369.28. The total allocated to Galway City LCDC under this grant scheme was €30,000. A further €10,000 in additional funding was also made available by Galway City Council in support of the grant scheme.
- The Assessment Team met on Wednesday 18th November to review applications submitted under the CMHF Small Grants Scheme. The total number of applications recommended for funding was 14, totalling the available allocation of €40,000.
- The recommendations from the assessment were approved by the Healthy Galway City Steering Committee at their meeting on Tuesday 1st December.
- The approved recommendations were then brought before the LCDC for discussion and final sign off at their meeting on Wednesday 16th December 2020. (See appendix 5 for successful applicants)

Community Engagement:

- A Communications Workshop was held on Wednesday 15th January. It was decided that one large, facilitated workshop with key stakeholders would be more effective than three smaller workshops. There were 31 key stakeholders in attendance. The workshop explored how we can collectively best promote each other's work in the area of health & wellbeing, in a coordinated manner, increasing our reach and effectively engaging target groups and communities. A communications plan will be developed in partnership with key stakeholders in 2021.
- The Healthy Galway City website, healthygalwaycity.ie, was launched on Monday 27th April. The website will act as an information hub, signposting people to reliable sources of health and wellbeing information and useful resources. It will also be used as a platform to showcase initiatives, programmes and events which aim to promote the health and wellbeing of the people of Galway City. The Healthy Galway City Coordinator did a news interview with Galway Bay FM to promote the launch and a social media campaign during the months of May and June promoted the use of the website.
- To promote positive mental health & wellbeing as we adapted to living with COVID-19, a 2-week radio campaign was run with Galway Bay FM from 29th June - 10th July. This was a joint initiative of Healthy Galway City & Healthy Galway County. The Wellbeing Campaign included radio ads from the InThisTogether campaign,

6 scheduled interviews on the Keith Finnegan Show and promotion on Galway Bay FM social media & website.

- As part of the Healthy Galway City Merchandise, pedometers and water bottles have been purchased in partnership with Healthy Galway County. Healthy Galway City bags and pens have also been purchased. A number of pedometers, bags and pens have already been distributed through the Community Sports Hub, Galway Traveller Movement community walking programmes and the safefood CFI family cooking projects.
- Healthy Galway City social media channels supported support partner organisations in the promotion of relevant messages in response to COVID-19, including the InThisTogether and KeepWell campaigns.

Creative Ireland Positive Ageing and Wellbeing Challenge – Creative Workshops for Older People

Through Galway City Partnership, and in collaboration with the Galway Age Friendly Programme and Galway City Culture and Creativity Team, we were successful in securing funding, to the value of €3,750, under the 'Creative Ireland Positive Ageing and Wellbeing Challenge Fund' to deliver a number of creative workshops. The workshops aimed to give older people the opportunity to engage with other people in a safe and welcoming space, to enhance their mental and physical wellbeing through the medium of the arts and to help to combat social isolation and loneliness during the winter months.

Due to Level 5 restrictions, it was not possible to deliver the Creative Workshops for Older People in-person as originally planned. To overcome this, Galway City Partnership engaged with a local artist who could facilitate Creative Workshops for Older People from the safety of their own home utilising technology. The workshops, which began in November, supported 12 older people impacted by isolation in Galway City to make their own self-expressive film and sound projects utilising Acorn Tablets provided by Galway City Partnership. The group even created a Christmas Greeting video (<https://vimeo.com/494340515>) which was shared on the Healthy Galway City Facebook page. The project will continue into Q1 2021 and will provide a supportive social outlet for people to learn basic online communication skills while engaging in creative practice.



Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2020

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2020 was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) with the application process administered by Galway City LCDC for the Galway city area. The CEP provided funding to a wide range of communities across Galway city to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas.

In July 2020, Galway City LCDC invited applications for funding from interested community groups / organisations under the CEP for 2020. Under the programme, grants could be provided towards capital projects to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas, noting that applications should relate to one or more key priority areas identified in the Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2015 – 2021. The programme could fund or partially fund larger scale projects to address disadvantage. Some funding was ring-fenced to provide small capital grants of €1,000 or less which was primarily aimed at assisting small grassroots community projects to get off the ground. Following a review and assessment of all applications received by the LCDC Subgroup to ensure eligibility and consistency with the ethos of the programme and the LECP, Galway City LCDC approved 25 projects, totalling €55,368 at their meeting held on 9th September 2020.

In total 25 projects totalling €55,368 from a wide range of local groups and organisations in Galway city have been approved funding that will enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas, targeted appropriately towards the areas that need it most. All of the projects funded relate to one or more of the key priority areas as identified in the Galway City LECP and the delivery of these projects in 2020 will be of great benefit to local communities throughout Galway city. Galway City LCDC would like acknowledge the funding received from the DRCD under the CEP 2020. For a full list of projects approved under the CEP 2020 please see Appendix 3.

Community Enhancement Programme 2020 for Community Centres and Community Buildings

The Community Enhancement Programme 2020 for Community Centres and Community Buildings was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) with the application process administered by Galway City LCDC for the Galway city area. This grant was targeted at measures that stimulate local economies, while enhancing facilities in disadvantaged areas across Galway City.

In August 2020, Galway City LCDC invited applications for funding from interested community centres and community buildings under the CEP 2020 for Community Centres and Community Buildings for 2020. Under the programme, grants could be provided towards the maintenance, improvement and upkeep of community centres and community buildings, noting that applications should relate to one or more key priority areas identified in the Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2015 – 2021. The programme could fund or partially fund larger scale projects to address disadvantage. Some funding was ring-fenced to provide small capital grants of €1,000 or less which was primarily aimed at assisting small grassroots community projects to get off the ground. Following a review and assessment of all applications received by the LCDC Subgroup to ensure eligibility and consistency with the ethos of the programme and the LECP, Galway City LCDC approved 20 projects, totalling €109,412 at their meeting held on 4th November 2020.

In total 20 projects totalling €109,412 from a wide range of local community centres and community buildings in Galway city have been approved funding that will enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas, targeted appropriately towards the areas that need it most. All of the projects funded relate to one or more of the key priority areas as identified in the Galway City LECP and the delivery of these projects in 2020 and 2021 will be of great benefit to local communities throughout Galway city. Galway City LCDC would like acknowledge the funding received from the DRCD under the CEP 2020 for Community Centres and Community Buildings. For a full list of projects approved under the CEP 2020 for Community Centres and Community Buildings please see Appendix 4

AMACH! LGBT Galway / Teach Solais LGBT+ Resource Centre

AMACH! LGBT Galway provides a range of supports that are constantly evolving according to the needs of the LGBT+ community in Galway city and county. 2020 was a challenging year for everyone and AMACH was no exception. A combination of COVID-19 and the lack of a sustainable funding stream meant we had to vacate Teach Solais in August.

However, funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development and Galway City Council meant we were able to move to Westside Resource Centre and provide “pop-up” services within restrictions. This funding also supported the transfer of physical activity classes online with additional funding from Healthy Ireland. These included free high intensity interval training and beginners’ keep fit classes.

AMACH! also purchased a Zoom licence which supported the delivery of free online mental health workshops facilitated by a clinical psychologist.

Our intergenerational Buddy Programme was given a boost with this funding by helping us to promote the programme to create an intergenerational network, aimed at tackling loneliness and isolation among the LGBT+ community.

Those looking for further information on any of the supports or services can get in touch by emailing Helen Mortimer: coordinatoramachgalway@gmail.com

Galway City Community Network / PPN

With over 145 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”*.

The role of Galway City Community Network is:

1. Advance the values of sustainability, equality, culture, community, empowerment and inclusivity and embed these in the policies, programmes and practice of local government, state organisations, national government and civil society.

- o Develop the GCCN as the 'go-to' network to support, empower and enable community participation in policy making and programme development through the environmental, social inclusion and voluntary sectors; the local authority; other relevant state agencies; initiatives emanating from state agencies.

- o Apply and bring forward the GCCN values: in evidence-based policy submissions; proofing and responding to policy proposals; developing GCCN policies to be promoted.

- o Create civil society alliances of interested organisations that share GCCN values to bring forward goals such as: sustainability in seeking a sustainable city; equality in seeking a city of equals; culture in seeking a city of community culture.

2. Develop and implement progressive models of and approaches to representation, participation and engagement for civil society in informing and shaping policy development and implementation.

- o Promote participatory forms of engagement: developing GCCN as an important part of local participatory democracy so communities influence decision-making, determine terms of engagement between GCCN and GCC; supporting representatives from the environmental, social inclusion, and voluntary sectors.

- o Promote and test out progressive models and approaches: bringing initiatives and policies to the decision makers to inform policy; bringing the policy making process into communities to build community engagement in policy development and implementation.

- o Engage existing and potential stakeholders to: highlight the role, importance and values of GCCN; engage new members; support capacity to participate of GCCN members; build solidarity across civil society; link with like-minded local and regional organisations.

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 other. GCCN supports and provides training and capacity building opportunities to the GCCN representatives and the wider membership. In 2020, for example, GCCN provided training to representatives and potential representatives in negotiation and representation skills and co-hosted with Galway City Council an Information Webinar on the Community Enhancement Programme 2020.



One of the key pieces of work for GCCN is to ensure that the views of its members are reflected in local policies. To that end, following several consultation meetings with members, GCCN made three submissions to Galway City Council on the Arts Strategy, the Proposed Variations to the City Development Plan 2017-2023 and the Galway City Speed Limits Review. GCCN also made several submissions to national government including a submission on the Department of Rural and Community Development Statement of Strategy 2021-2023, on the Draft Public Participation Handbook and a submission on the Public Consultation on Hate Speech.

Collaboration and partnership ways of working are key values that underpin GCCN work. In 2020, 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 2020 facilitated a process that elected two new GCCN representatives, Dr Lorraine Grimes and Fiona Jennings to replace Margaret Ó Riada and Professor Terrence McDonough, who finished their terms of office with the LCDC. Lorraine and Fiona join the other GCCN representatives, Maria Molloy, James Coyne and Niall Ó Brolcháin on the LCDC.

GCCN is also an active member of the LCDC Social Inclusion Subgroup and the LECP Advisory Group.

Equality and Human Rights Work – GCCN, together with Galway City Partnership and the Galway City Local Community Development Committee, have worked for several years as members of a consortium focused on embedding equality and human rights in Galway City. The consortium initially produced an Equality and Human Rights Statement and subsequently, with the support of the Irish Equality and Human Rights Commission (IHREC), in early 2020 produced the toolkit *Realising Potential: Public Sector Equality and Human rights Duty Implementation Manual*.



In what was the third initiative in this area in Galway City, GCCN in partnership with Galway City Partnership and with the support of the Galway City Community Development Committee were awarded funding from the Irish Equality and Human Rights Commission in November 2020 under the Human Rights and Equality Grants Scheme 2020 for the project *Building Collective Capacity and Engagement of Rights Holders in Galway City: Establishing and Enabling the Galway City Civil Society Panel* (see more below).

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 2020, GCCN continued to support the Healthy Galway Steering Committee and the progression of Round III of the project.

Review of the 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. Work to implement the agreed objectives is ongoing and GCCN is particularly active in a number of the projects as follows:

- **LECP Seed Nine action: Sustainable Development Goals** – GCCN is the lead partner in the LECP action on the Sustainable Development Goals. A Working Group, including City Councillors, statutory agencies and community, youth and arts organisations, has been convened and the working group has identified a set of actions to progress the ambition in the LECP.

ECP Flagship Four action: Public Sector Duty in Galway City – GCCN is the lead partner in the LECP action on the Public Sector Duty and has combined the work with the IHREC funded project that GCCN also leads, Building Collective Capacity and Engagement of Rights Holders in Galway City: Establishing and Enabling the Galway City Civil Society Panel. This work includes establishing a Project Steering Committee that

comprises a combination of Rights Holders and Duty Bearers and establishing and supporting the development of a Civil Society Panel that will be supported to assess progress by Duty Bearers in relation to the Public Sector Duty.



Galway City Community Network is also active in:

- o LECP Seed Five: LGBTI+ Interagency Group
- o LECP Flagship Six: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- o LECP Seed Four: Traveller Interagency Group

GCCN lead on the process to make a submission to Galway City Council to support the five LECP actions outlined above and is the contract holder for the project co-ordinator.



Galway City Community Network
Líonra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

Appendix 1



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

COVID-19 Emergency Funding approved by Galway City

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Funding	Amount Approved
Family Carer's Ireland	COVID-19 PPE pack for Family Carers	€1,500
Galway Centre for Independent Living	Purchase of PPE for personal assistants and home help personnel	€2,646.22
Ard Family Resource Centre	Purchase of care packs for ARD Women's Circle & ARD Parent's Support Group	€359.81
Domestic Violence Response	Increase front line service provision to provide practical and emotional support	€4,000
Enable Ireland	Purchase of ICT equipment for remote service provision	€3,513
Blood Bike West Ltd.	Funding to cover additional operating costs in line with increased service provision	€1,000
Irish Wheelchair Association	Purchase of ICT equipment for online / remote access with vulnerable members	€1,177.85
Galway Red Cross	Purchase of PPE for volunteers	€572.78
Galway City Community Network	Funding for production of return to activity guide for groups & organisations in Community, Voluntary & Environmental Sectors	€750
Galway City Partnership	COVID-19 Carebox for older people and people cocooning	€2,250
Galway City Partnership	Purchase 6 ACORN age friendly smart tablets	€3,180
COPE Galway	Increase production and service provision for Meals4Health	€5,000
Independent Living Movement Ireland (Galway Activism)	Develop and provide online workshops and peer support	€1,000
Croí Heart & Stroke Charity	Deliver specialist stroke exercise sessions	€980
Galway Traveller Movement	Funding for wrap around service provision for Traveller families in need	€1,000
		€28,180

Appendix 2



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

COVID-19 Emergency Funding approved by Galway City Council under Phase 2: Helping Our Communities and Individuals Maintain Wellbeing

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Funding	Amount Approved
Enable Ireland	Purchase of cleaning/sanitizing equipment and materials as required for transport provision.	€1,000
Helplink Mental Health	Purchase of protective screening and sanitizing items for use in counselling rooms.	€1,000
COPE Galway Homeless Services	Purchase of ICT equipment to develop and enhance supports and wellbeing programmes as provided by homeless service.	€978
Blue Teapot Theatre Company	Purchase of laptop and delivery of online drama and dance programme.	€1,000
Brothers of Charity (Fáilte Area Community Services)	Purchase of ICT equipment to enable delivery of physical activities, mental health supports and interaction / guidance.	€1,000
Domestic Violence Response (Salthill)	Increase frontline service provision at premises in Salthill which provides emotional & practical support to women who are impacted by domestic abuse.	€2,000
Galway Autism Partnership	Provide funding support to facilitate operation and delivery of Summer Camps programme for children and teenagers.	€1,000
Galway City Partnership	Purchase of 8 Acorn smart tablets to support the needs of older people, enabling them to stay connected.	€3,000
Galway City Partnership	Purchase of 10 laptops for training / supports for local community groups.	€5,000

Brothers of Charity (Fáilte Area Community Services)	Provide funding to develop garden and delivery of a garden programme.	€1,000
Galway Parkinson's Association	Provide dance, movement & relaxation classes to members in Galway City.	€500
Brothers of Charity Services (Arts Alive)	Purchase of training equipment for students.	€900
Galway Dance Project	Provide funding to develop a dance programme for older adults in Galway City to promote wellbeing.	€1,000
Galway Dance Project	Provide funding to develop a dance programme to support positive mental health in men in Galway City.	€700
Westside Resource Centre CLG	Provide funding for adaptations needed as a result of Covid-19.	€1,500
Let's Get Talking	Provide funding to support reopening costs to facilitate face to face counselling & psychotherapy sessions.	€986
Brothers of Charity (John Paul Services)	Funding to support the purchase and provision of wheelchair swing for people supported by the services.	€2,591
ARD Family Resource Centre	Provide funding to develop an Intergenerational project to support older people and teenagers in the local community.	€900
SCCUL Enterprises CLG	Provide access to online therapeutic support programme for isolated/vulnerable people in Galway City over 14 weeks.	€960
Galway Centre for Independent Living	Provide financial support for control measures for the safe recommencement of accessible transport club service in Galway City.	€3,500
Galway Cheshire	Provide funding to support further editions of magazine for local delivery, to include key messages on Mental Health.	€500

Galway Simon Community	Provide funding support towards the purchase of ICT and fitness equipment to support Health & Wellbeing projects in the homeless service.	€1,500
Brú Theatre	Provide funding support for the delivery of online theatre and wellbeing workshops.	€750
Galway Traveller Movement	Provide funding support for the delivery of a wraparound service for Traveller families in Galway City impacted negatively by Covid-19.	€5,000
		€38,265

Total		€38,265
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Appendix 3



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

Community Enhancement Programme 2020

Project Reference No.	Group / Organisation	Description	Grant Approved
CEP 7	Blue Teapot Theatre Company	Purchase of lockable interior door to upgrade day facility room for people with intellectual disabilities. Purchase of COVID-19 health and safety upgrades	€778
CEP 8	Merlin Woods Tennis Club	Purchase of Sports Equipment - Tennis scoreboard/Tennis balls	€450
CEP 24	Kara Short Mat Bowls Club	Purchase of Sports Equipment - Sets of Bowls and Lifters	€830
CEP 25	The Eglinton Community Organic Garden	Purchase of Garden Shed, shelves and garden bench to develop community facility	€798
CEP 29	Merlin Woods Sports Club	Purchase of Sports Equipment to develop and improve skills	€1,000
CEP 31	St. James Ladies Football Club	Purchase of Sports Equipment – Nets, flags and goal posts	€845
CEP 43	Walk The Talk Galway	Purchase of Sports Equipment to encourage participants to engage in activities	€930
CEP 53	Galway Community Circus	Purchase of signage to enhance facility used by the local community	€1,000
CEP 2	Ballybane Study Club Project - Galway City Partnership	Purchase of IT Equipment to support children's education	€2,957
CEP 3	Ballybane Afterschool Project - Galway City Partnership	Purchase of IT Equipment, educational games and COVID-19 equipment to support the service	€1,880
CEP 6	Ballybane & Doughiska Sports Hub	Purchase of storage equipment needed as a result of COVID-19	€2,977
CEP 9	Sexual Health West (Formerly AIDS West)	Purchase of IT, safety and COVID-19 equipment to allow Sexual Health West to reopen their office efficiently and safely	€4,169
CEP 14	Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre	Purchase of laptops/webcams and training equipment to facilitate courses and workshops in the community in line with COVID-19	€4,540
CEP 15	Westside Age Inclusion Ltd	Purchase of energy efficient machines for services provided to the community	€3,300
CEP 17	Galway City Partnership	Purchase of IT Equipment to support social inclusion services	€2,200

CEP 21	BRIDGE (Building a Receptive and Integrated Galway of Equals)	Purchase of IT Equipment and COVID-19 equipment to deliver training to the refugee and migrant community	€2,397
CEP 22	Westside Community Organic Garden	To purchase equipment - lawnmower and materials to build wheelchair accessible raised beds	€1,162
CEP 27	Teach Áthais Childcare Centre Ltd	Upgrade of play area needed as a result of COVID-19	€2,991
CEP 30	Access for All	Purchase of IT Equipment and COVID-19 adaptations for blind and visually impaired	€1,608
CEP 34	Galway African Diaspora Ireland	Purchase of sound equipment to promote afro music in the City	€1,500
CEP 39	Cumann na bhFear Sandy Road Galway	Purchase of blacksmith forge and wood lathe to facilitate the upskilling of the group	€3,000
CEP 44	Olympic Boxing Club	Purchase of locker system, separate training ring for juvenile boxers, COVID-19 safety and sanitation equipment, IT Equipment for COVID-19 signage	€2,500
CEP 45	Foróige Galway STEAM Project	Purchase of Laptops to support families to access IT Equipment	€5,000
CEP 49	Galway Centre for Independent Living Ltd.	Purchase of IT Equipment, Safety Equipment and Signage needed as a result of COVID-19 to support the service for Galway City	€5,000
CEP 54	Amdalah Africa Foundation - AMDAF	Purchase of IT Equipment and speaker system for use by the community group	€1,556
		Total Amount	€55,368



Appendix 4

Community Enhancement Programme 2020 for Community Centres and Community Buildings approved for Galway City

Project Reference No.	Group / Organisation	Description	Grant Approved
CEP 1	Westside Age Inclusion Ltd.	Upgrade of community facility to include electrical and heating system works for laundry service	€2,045
CEP 3	St. James GAA Club (Mervue Clubhouse)	Upgrade of clubhouse facility to include works required for kitchen and changing facilities in line with adaptations needed as a result of COVID-19	€2,855
CEP 4	Croí na Gaillimhe	Adaptations and equipment needed as a result of COVID-19 – maintenance works to public access area, upgrade works to toilet facility and meeting room	€4,490
CEP 5	Galway Autism Partnership	Adaptations and equipment needed as a result of COVID-19 - refurbishment of GAP sensory room and upgrade of furniture items for use	€12,000
CEP 6	Ballybane Community Organic Garden	Improvement and upkeep works to the garden area - re-roofing of outdoor structure and erect shelter belt around the garden area	€1,300
CEP 7	Galway City Partnership	Adaptations and equipment needed as a result of COVID-19 for Artisan Workshop space	€2,975
CEP 8	Fáilte Area Community Services, Brothers of Charity Galway	Installation of new outdoor structure in existing community space to enhance sensory garden, to include the purchase, delivery and associated building and installation works	€10,000
CEP 9	Galway Simon Community	Maintenance and improvement works required for community garden space in line with COVID-19 and accessibility improvements	€8,000

CEP 10	Shantalla Men's Shed	Upgrade and improvement works to community facility, to include energy efficiency works, upgrade kitchen facilities and outdoor maintenance for pathways / drainage	€8,415
CEP 11	Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden	Extend existing roof structure to create and improve permanent outdoor area for year round use	€2,850
CEP 12	COPE Galway Older People's Service	Adaptations and equipment needed as a result of COVID-19, to include purchase of gazebo and associated furniture / seating	€2,990
CEP 13	Ballybane Community Resource Centre	Adaptations and equipment needed as a result of COVID-19, to include installation of new flooring and purchase of protective screening	€4,510
CEP 14	The Melting Pot Luck	Upgrade of kitchen facilities to include modifications, improvement and purchase of equipment needed as a result of COVID-19	€5,210
CEP 15	Galway Cheshire House	Development of community facility to include the provision of a wheelchair accessible pathway and outdoor area	€2,430
CEP 16	St. James Ladies Gaelic Football Club	Safety equipment – purchase and installation of fire alarm at Renmore Clubhouse	€1,420
CEP 17	Westside Resource Centre CLG	Adaptations needed as a result of COVID-19, to include safety and adaptation works required for new larger meeting room in community facility	€6,755
CEP 18	Le Cheile Westside Co. Ltd.	Purchase of IT equipment and improvement works to training room in line with adaptations needed as a result of COVID-19	€2,200
CEP 19	DRA CDC CLG (Doughiska Roscam Ardaun Community Development Company)	Development of new outdoor communal area at Cumasu Centre, to include renovation, construction and associated works	€25,622
CEP 20	CAPE Youth Project, Youth Work Ireland Galway	Purchase and installation of new intercom system to improve access	€1,760
CEP 22	Westside Youth Project - Youth Work Ireland, Galway	Adaptations and equipment needed as a result of COVID-19, to include maintenance works to communal area and purchase of additional items of equipment for youth space	€1,585
		Total Amount Allocated	€109,412

Appendix 5: Community Mental Health Fund (CMHF) Small Grants Scheme:

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant Approved
Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre	Delivery of care packages along with a programme of events, which would take place once a week over a period of 12 weeks Programme activities to include, but not limited to; Chair Yoga, 5 Ways to Wellness Talk, Cooking Demonstration, Art.	€2,814.90
Galway Centre for Independent Living CLG	To get people singing. This project will see the people supported by GCIL join online singing events organised by GCIL. This will include singing lessons, sing-along sessions and the formation of a GCIL Choir.	€1,190.10
ARD Family Resource Centre	To run an interdisciplinary arts project, titled 'Happy Out' with a group of 12 young people between the ages of 8-12 years.	€2,920.00
Youth Work Ireland Galway	Participants are all young people from the Travelling community, they will receive instruction, support and education about wellness and nutrition	€2,330.00
ARD Family Resource Centre - Community Sports Hub	Our Sisters in Sport programme will begin from the age of 0 to 18 years. The first two parts of the programme will focus on mothers and babies: Mother & Baby Movement (0-2 years) and Mother & Toddler (2+years). Sisters in Sport programme to participate in a wide variety of sports such as: capoeira, rugby, volleyball, water sports, and basketball.	€3,000.00
Galway Traveller Movement (GTM)	Deliver a series of 3 workshops called: "Promoting Diversity and Equality in Mental Health Practice: The Traveller voice". This training programme will be delivered to mental health service providers working in Galway City	€3,000.00
Galway Community Circus	Run a workshop programme for young people using circus as a unique way to teach anxiety management techniques and improve mental health and wellbeing	€4,980.00
COPE Galway	A gardening project for individuals who use their service in their new Emergency accommodation at Glen Oaks Hotel	€2,865.00
ATMOS Collective	"Here Am I" is a community film initiative, which will support and facilitate older people impacted by isolation in Galway to make their own self-expressive film and sound projects	€2,900.00

Galway Sports Partnership	80 Community Health & Well Being Boards, interactive with social media The Boards will be strategically placed in 80 local (TBC) sports clubs	€4,000.00
	Total Amount Allocated	€30,000.00

Community Mental Health Fund (CMHF) Small Grants Scheme:

Funding of €10,000 from Galway City Council

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Grant Approved
Blue Teapot Theatre Company	For Blue Teapot Performing Arts School students: Provide 8 weeks of 1-hour physical exercise/fitness classes to 14 adults with intellectual disabilities. In addition, healthy eating & lifestyle education talks, provided by Train Station Gym personal trainers.	€1,280.00
Access for All	The grant will support a series of collective mapping workshops, facilitated by an experienced socially engaged artist.	€2,980.00
Galway Centre for Independent Living CLG	To get people singing. This project will see the people supported by GCIL join online singing events organised by GCIL. This will include singing lessons, sing-along sessions and the formation of a GCIL Choir.	€1,580.00
Galway Contact, Organisation for Older People	Provide older people with the easy-to-use Acorn age-friendly smart tablet including mobile data and Wi Fi and we will provide free training and help arrange follow-up support for them	€2,660.00
St Joseph's Training Centre, Ability West	Purchase a Poly-tunnel	€1,500.00
	Total Amount Allocated	€10,000.00

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

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