



Galway City Alcohol Strategy 2019-2023





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INTRODUCTION

Galway City Alcohol Forum has developed this strategy to prevent and reduce alcohol related harm, thereby making Galway City a more pleasant and safer place enabling a better quality of life for everyone. This strategy recognises that there are a multitude of problems associated with Ireland's relationship with alcohol. In addition to the serious health consequences, the harmful use of alcohol has a significant impact on our families, communities, hospitals and health services, economy and society.

The research evidence shows that public policies at a local level need to be implemented to reduce alcohol related problems and address issues such as price, availability and marketing. This strategy builds on the work undertaken as part of the first strategy and adopts a community action approach informed by research on effective approaches to tackling alcohol related harm. Community action is based on the premise that changes in public policies (regulation, enforcement, laws, systems change) are necessary to prevent and reduce alcohol related problems rather than just focus on individual change.

BACKGROUND

In 2013, Galway was the first city in Ireland to develop a strategy to prevent and reduce alcohol related harm as part of Galway Healthy Cities Programme. The Galway City Strategy to Prevent and Reduce Alcohol Related harm (2013-2017) involved a multiagency approach, both in the development and implementation across key areas of prevention, alcohol availability, treatment and support services, monitoring and evaluation.

Some of the successes from the first strategy included an increased awareness of alcohol harm, tracking alcohol availability in Galway City and young people's assessment of alcohol marketing. An external evaluation of the Galway City alcohol strategy in 2017 recommended that a second strategy should be developed. The assessment identified the most successful outcomes as: i) raising awareness and agenda setting, ii) linking of actions with the research evidence and iii) valuable progress in linkages between agencies and the development of a sense of shared responsibility.

CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPING A NEW STRATEGY

Galway City Alcohol Forum undertook a consultation process in April/May 2019 to inform the development of a second alcohol strategy. This involved an online survey which asked about key issues of concern for individuals or organisations in relation to alcohol in Galway City and priority actions to reduce alcohol related harm. 350 people completed the survey which provided a wealth of information and demonstrated that people in Galway City have a really good understanding of the issues. The consultation identified that actions are required to address the availability of alcohol and people being intoxicated, reduce advertising and promotion of alcohol, protect children and young people from exposure to alcohol related harm and address gaps in support and treatment services.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS STRATEGY

Galway City Alcohol Forum will have primary responsibility to oversee and drive the implementation of the strategy and is committed to

- Develop an annual action plan in consultation with forum members and other stakeholders
- Organise an annual planning and review meeting of stakeholders to track progress and impact
- Participate in meetings and support carrying out of actions

GALWAY CITY ALCOHOL FORUM

Galway City Alcohol Forum is a multiagency group led by HSE Health Promotion and Improvement, Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force, Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board, and Dr Ann Hope with other representatives from An Garda Síochána, Galway City Partnership, Galway City Community Network, Galway City Council, Galway City Council elected representative, Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, HSE - Addiction Services, Environmental Health and Public Health, NUI Galway Health Promotion, NUI Galway Student Union, and No 4 Youth Service.

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1



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Goal – Strengthen community engagement to support implementation of alcohol strategy and reduce alcohol harm

1. Link with organisations, agencies and community groups to **develop pathways** to promote two way communication and ensure that alcohol related harm is on the agenda.
2. Develop **workshops** to promote a broader understanding of alcohol harm issues, effective strategies and key national messages such as www.askaboutalcohol.ie.
3. Create a **Community Charter** which sets out evidence based actions to prevent and reduce alcohol related harm at local level.

2



ALCOHOL POLICY

Goal – Promote implementation of effective alcohol policies

1. Empower local communities to advocate for **implementation of alcohol related laws and policies**.
2. Identify and **monitor alcohol related trends** in Galway City.
3. Map the number, type and density of **outlets selling alcohol** in Galway City on an annual basis.

3



PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Goal – Reduce exposure of children to alcohol related harm

1. Support the enactment of the Public Health Alcohol Act and **capture the changes that take place in the city** during the roll out of the measures in the Act.
2. Advocate for increased **alcohol-free events** and social occasions, especially those aimed at families and communities.
3. Promote the message that protecting children and young people from alcohol related harm is a **shared responsibility**.

4



SUPPORT AND TREATMENT

Goal – Promote and advocate for support and treatment services for those affected by alcohol

1. Support the implementation of **Screening and Brief Intervention** :
 - Provide SAOR training and
 - Review SAOR implementation in key settings e.g. Primary Care, Acute Hospital, Allied Health and Third Level Colleges.
2. **Advocate** for an increase in alcohol support and treatment services.
3. **Inform** the public about alcohol support and treatment services.

For further information contact
HSE Health Promotion and Improvement
Email: healthpromotion@hse.ie
Tel: 091 737251



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council



Galway City Community Network
Líonra Pobail Chathair na Gaillimhe



a tide for change
an taoide ag casa

Galway City Partnership
Comhpháirtíocht Chathair na Gaillimhe



GMIT
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA NA GAILLIMHE-MAIGH EÓ
GALWAY-MAYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



gretb
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin
Galway and Roscommon
Education and Training Board



HPRC
Health Promotion Research Centre



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



WESTERN REGION
Drug & Alcohol Task Force
Meitheal Drugaí an Iarthair