

COVID-19 Community Response / Community Department Update for Galway City JPC, 8thOctober 2021

Galway City COVID-19 Community Response Forum

The COVID-19 Community Response Forum, co-ordinated by Galway City Council met during September 2021 to review and lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience and to ensure that there is a co-ordinated community response, enabling all the voluntary and statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities and particularly our most vulnerable members. The Forum have agreed to hold one final meeting during October 2021 to review its operation, processes and structures.

Galway City COVID-19 Community Call Helpline

The Galway City COVID-19 Community Call Helpline, which is being led and coordinated by Galway City Council continues to provide a dedicated community response helpline to ensure that all vulnerable members of our community are appropriately supported as we move through the response to COVID-19. The Helpline is operational from 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday by Freephone 1800 400 150 and email to covidsupport@galwaycity.ie. Outside of normal working hours, including weekend's calls / requests will automatically route to our out of hours call service and are dealt with accordingly. A key purpose of the Helpline is to continue 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, medication collection and social supports / engagement. The Helpline has dealt with over 1,180 requests to date and the importance of a local response in this regard is essential.



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

 Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

 Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

#Keepwell Campaign Metrics

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with the input of others have developed a data hub to show the extensive work being done as part of the Community Call, Keep Well and other national COVID-19 response initiatives. The data hub will capture Community Call data for 2021 in addition to data relating to Keep Well. The objective is to collect data so that we can capture a sense of the levels of awareness about the campaign across the community and levels of engagement in events and activities. The Keep Well/Community Call data hub is now publicly accessible: <https://keep-well-campaign-geohive.hub.arcgis.com/>, noting that it is best to access this hub using Google Chrome or MS Edge.

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

The vaccination programme continues to be rolled out nationwide. More than 3 million people have been fully vaccinated in Ireland. Over 91% of people aged 16+ are fully vaccinated, and over 90% of people aged 12+ have received at least 1 dose. For updates and information on each of the vaccine allocation groups, and when and where they'll be invited for their vaccine, please visit www.hse.ie/rollout. An additional COVID-19 vaccination dose for those who are immunocompromised is beginning to be offered. This is for people whose immune system is weak due to a health condition or a specific treatment. You can find information on [who may need an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose here](#). Hospitals will identify the people who need an additional dose. You do not need to register or contact anyone. People who need an additional dose will receive a text message with an appointment for their vaccine. These additional doses will be given through HSE vaccination centre near you, or your hospital if you're an inpatient. GPs may also vaccinate some people.

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose

If you have received a COVID-19 vaccine course, you will be offered a booster dose if you are:

- 80 or older, or
- 65 or older and living in a nursing home or long-term residential care facility

If you are aged 65 or over, and live in residential care, you will be vaccinated by the care team where you live.

If you are aged 80 or over and not living in residential care, you'll be invited for your vaccine by your GP during the next few weeks. Some GPs will refer patients to a vaccination centre.

If you are aged 65 to 79 and do not live in long-term residential care, you do not need a booster dose at this time.

You can find more [information about the COVID-19 vaccine booster dose here](#).

Third level student COVID-19 vaccination clinics

From 27TH September 2021, on selected dates, third level students who have not yet had their COVID-19 vaccine will be invited to walk in clinics either on or close to campuses all over Ireland. This special vaccination week aims to make it easy for any students who haven't had their vaccine yet to get it. It includes international students who have recently arrived in Ireland, staff, and also our wider community who may find it easier to access one of these temporary clinics than an existing COVID-19 vaccination centre. There will be at least 15 on-campus pop-up clinics set up, and in other colleges, students will be directed to our nearby COVID-19 vaccination clinics. You can [find details here](#).

Face covering exemption cards

The HSE National Disability Services team have developed a limited number of "face covering exemption cards" for individuals who have a condition that makes them unable to wear a face covering as per the Government guidelines (in retail and health centres and on public transport). An application to receive a card can be made by an individual or Provider Organisation by emailing disabilitiesqi@hse.ie. In the event of an application for an individual, validation will be sought regarding the condition that the applicant is using to apply for the card.

Find a pharmacy giving COVID-19 vaccines

Many pharmacies are now offering COVID-19 vaccines to people aged 12 and over. Find a pharmacy to book your vaccine appointment. You can find more information here. [Pharmacy Services \(hse.ie\)](#)

Vaccines are making a difference

Every vaccine helps reduce the amount of severe illness in our communities and we thank everyone who has already had their COVID-19 vaccine. If you haven't registered yet, or someone in your network has yet to do so, they can:

- Check hse.ie for answers they can trust about the COVID-19 vaccines
- Talk to a pharmacist or GP – many are now giving mRNA vaccines
- Call HSElive on 1800 700 700
- or Register online at hse.ie

Public Health Measures

You can find information here about the public health measures in place gov.ie - Public health measures in place right now ([www.gov.ie](#))

Pregnancy and getting a COVID-19 vaccine

You should get a COVID-19 vaccine to protect yourself from the virus if you're:

- pregnant
- trying for a baby or might get pregnant in the future
- breastfeeding

You will need 2 doses of your COVID-19 vaccine. It is safe to get your COVID-19 vaccine at any stage of your pregnancy. Guidance has changed on doses during pregnancy because there is more evidence available. You should get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is offered, following a discussion with your midwife, GP or obstetrician.

You can find more information here. [Pregnancy and getting a COVID-19 vaccine - HSE.ie](#)

COVID-19 Guidance for hospitality businesses (formerly guidance for food service businesses)

You can find this guidance for employers and employees here. [Hospitality guidance.pdf \(hpse.ie\)](#)

Guidance for places of worship (formerly religious services guidance)

You can find this guidance here. [COVID religious settings.pdf \(hpse.ie\)](#)

Flu Vaccine is now available for people aged 65 and over

Following the success of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout programme we are asking you to protect yourself again this year by getting the flu vaccine. If you are aged 65 and over you should contact your GP to get your flu vaccine. [Find more information on the vaccine for people aged 65 and over](#). Last year, we saw a significant increase in flu vaccine uptake rates and we want to see that continue this autumn. While it is not possible to know whether there will be a mild or severe flu season, we do know that the flu vaccine will give you the best protection against flu this flu season. Please remember the following important flu vaccine facts that you can share with others, especially vulnerable family members:

- Flu is a serious illness. Up to 500 people die from flu each year in Ireland.
- The flu vaccine does not contain any live viruses. This means it cannot give you the flu.
- The circulating influenza viruses change each year, so each year the composition of the flu vaccine changes to protect against the new strains of flu virus expected. This is why you need to have the flu vaccine every year.

- The flu vaccine is very safe. It has been given for more than 60 years to millions of people worldwide.
- You can get both the flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time if you have not yet had your COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine will not stop you from getting the flu.

Getting the flu vaccine is a simple way for us to help control the spread of flu in the community
[Click here for more information on Flu. Its#YourBestShot](#)

Free online Minding Your Wellbeing Programme

HSE Health & Wellbeing have a free, online mental health and wellbeing programme called Minding Your Wellbeing. This consists of a series of 5 video sessions of 20 minutes – click here or www.yourmentalhealth.ie



Free online Stress Control Programme

HSE Health and Wellbeing are offering the next free online Stress Control programme from Monday 6th September 2021 that teaches practical skills to deal with stress. The six sessions are 90 minutes each and cover different topics. Participants are encouraged to watch all sessions, but participants can join at any stage for one or more sessions. To register visit www.stresscontrol.ie

TAKE CONTROL WITH STRESS CONTROL		Starting Monday Oct 4 th
Each session will be available during the following times:		
	What is Stress?	9am Monday October 4 (available until 11pm Wednesday Oct 6)
	Controlling your Body	9am Thursday October 7 (available until 11pm Sunday Oct 10)
	Controlling your Thoughts	9am Monday October 11 (available until 11pm Wednesday Oct 13)
	Controlling your Actions	9am Thursday October 14 (available until 11pm Sunday Oct 17)
	Controlling Panicky Feelings and Getting a Good Night's Sleep	9am Monday October 18 (available until 11pm Wednesday Oct 20)
	Controlling your Future	9am Thursday October 21 (available until 11pm Sunday Oct 24)
www.stresscontrol.ie		

Free online course Managing Stress and Anxiety (40 mins)

A short course on managing stress and anxiety has been developed by the Department of Occupational Therapy in Mental Health in St James's Hospital. The course is 40 minutes long and broken down into four parts:

1. **Introduction**, what is occupational therapy, what is stress and anxiety <https://youtu.be/Gf7aTG2g3y4>
2. **Feelings** - identifying and coping with them <https://youtu.be/SwabTR5eH3Q>
3. **Thoughts** - identifying and coping with them <https://youtu.be/5o315FPgBj0>
4. **Behaviours** - identifying and coping with them and a note on goal setting <https://youtu.be/xzpR1uQgsml>

Exercise for Wellbeing Videos (Beginners Yoga and Pilates, Chair Yoga for Beginners)

HSE Health and Wellbeing have developed a free series of exercise videos. This includes beginner's videos for both Yoga and Pilates, (8 x 30 minute videos on each) and Chair Yoga for Beginners (4 short videos from 7-11 minutes each). These are available on the HSE Health and Wellbeing YouTube channel. [Click here](#)

Living Well

Supporting adults with long-term health conditions with skills to become effective self-managers of their own health - check out the Living Well Programme! Email triona.mcnamee@hse.ie or see <http://hse.ie/LivingWell>



Living Well
A programme for adults with long-term health conditions

Living Well is a free **online** group programme delivered over six workshops (2.5 hrs x 6). It is delivered by trained leaders, most of whom are also living with a long-term health condition.

You will develop self-management **skills and confidence** to live well with your health conditions.

September Programmes

Dublin South East, Dun Laoghaire & Wicklow				Contact
Day	Start date	Finish date	Time	
Wednesdays	8 th Sept 21	20 th October 21	10am - 12:30pm	Triona – 087 405 3880
Fridays	10 th Sept 21	22 nd October 21	10:30am - 1pm	
Saturdays	18 th Sept 21	30 th October 21	10:30am - 1pm	

'Let's Get Back' Campaign

'Let's Get Back', is a national awareness campaign encouraging the Irish public to get back involved in the sport and exercise that they love. 'Let's Get Back' has been created by Sport Ireland in partnership with Healthy Ireland to encourage members of the Irish public who are anxious or unsure about returning to sport and physical activity following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The campaign intends to reassure people that it is possible to do so in a safe and secure manner. The campaign will be supported by the National Governing Bodies of Sport in Ireland and the network of Local Sport Partnerships. Members of the public can get information on how to return to sport and activities in a safe way by visiting <https://www.sportireland.ie/letsgetback>. The campaign message is tailored to ensure that it reaches those most in need of support and encouragement and it is hoped that this campaign can touch the hearts and minds of every age, ethnicity, demographic, ability and more.

Community Volunteers Programme

The guiding principle of the new Community Volunteers Programme is that communities in Ireland are better placed to respond quickly and effectively in times of local and national need, through the creation of a diverse, trained and flexible Community Volunteers programme. Community Volunteers will provide urgent support in their localities, and may stay connected and engaged with their communities by also providing support for community events. As local authorities are at the heart of our communities we will be a key partner in the programme, which will be managed by the Galway Volunteer Centre. Galway Volunteer Centre will provide a full Volunteer Management service, where they will recruit, interview, train and manage the Galway Community Volunteers directly at each event. The Community Volunteers programme offers a new opportunity for people to connect with and support their neighbours and their wider community in times of challenge and in times of celebration. It provides meaningful short

term and episodic volunteer roles, allowing people to volunteer in a way that suits their lifestyle. The Department of Rural and Community Development has committed to providing funding towards this new programme, with a base level funding contribution from Galway City Council. The Community Volunteers Programme was launched nationally on the 14th September 2021 with a local launch to follow shortly. Galway Volunteer Centre will now begin recruiting a large team of people to support City Council and community organisations at relevant community events. Project Leader with Galway Volunteer Centre, Liz Wonnacott is beginning to engage with groups on events where volunteers may be needed. Galway Volunteer Centre is one of 10 Volunteer Centres developing the pilot programme that has the ultimate aim of having a national team of volunteers ready to help out in any future or local emergencies, where appropriate. This programme is being led at a national level by Volunteer Ireland.

Volunteer Centre launches Free Autumn Academy Workshops for Community Groups

Galway Volunteer Centre is inviting volunteers, staff and Board members of local community and not-for-profit groups to participate in a variety of free upskilling workshops that will be taking place in September, October and November 2021. With funding from Galway City Council, the Volunteer Centre will be offering a 2 hour online workshop on a different topic each week to help groups improve their governance, social media, IT, event management and group development skills.

Workshops	Date	Time
Financial Oversight for Board Members	September 21 st	10am to 12pm
Managing Online Events	September 28th	7pm to 9pm
Preparing a Social Media Strategy	October 5th	10am to 12pm
Excel Basic	October 12th	7pm to 9pm
Running Effective Meetings	October 19th	10am to 12pm
Excel Intermediate	October 26th	7pm to 9pm
Boards, Chairs and CEOs: Roles, Relationships & Boundaries	November 2nd	10am to 12pm
Strategic Planning for Community Organisations	November 9th	7pm to 9pm
Business and Organisational Development	November 16th	10am to 12pm
Facilitation Skills Workshop for Non-profits	November 30th	10am to 12pm

Age Friendly Housing Resources

Age Friendly Ireland have launched a new suite of resources to support the preparation of housing for the ageing population and a new website called www.agefriendlyhomes.ie. The website contains an array of information to support the development of Age Friendly Housing, such as case studies, research, funding information and design templates. This website was developed in collaboration with The Housing Agency and Age Friendly Ireland, the Department of Health and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This is a very unique web portal in an Irish context and will provide a one stop shop for all resources to support Age Friendly Housing. In addition a suite of resources was also launched and can be accessed at the links below, which include guidance of features to include in a lifetime adaptable and age friendly home including how to make it more accessible and a checklist to use in your own home.

- [Ten Universal Design Features to include in a Lifetime Adaptable and Age Friendly Home](#) which synopsis the most critical features that make homes Age friendly
- [Age Friendly Homes Rating Tool](#) a user-friendly checklist of features to include in your home to make it more accessible and Age Friendly

- [Rightsizing Research Report](#) research on older people's perceptions and experiences of going through a rightsizing process to future proof their home environment and living arrangements
- [Age Friendly Primary Care Centre Guidelines](#) guidance material on the inclusion of Age Friendly features in the development of new Primary Care Centres to meet the needs of the ageing population
- [Age Friendly Planning Guidelines & Recommendations](#) guidance for planning authorities on preparing development plans that consider all aspects of demands that will be generated by population ageing
- [Age Friendly Rightsizing Guide](#) information booklet for older people to explain their options regarding future proofing their homes, ranging from adapting the home, Homeshare or moving to more suitable accommodation
- [Age Friendly Parking Toolkit](#) schematic for developing Age Friendly car parking bays
- [Age Friendly Seating Toolkit](#) guidance on making public seating more Age Friendly using Universal Design features

Positive Ageing Week 2021 – 27th September 2021 – 1st October 2021

Positive Ageing Week 2021 is taking place from 27th September – 1st October 2021. This is annual opportunity to highlight the positive aspects of ageing and celebrate the contribution older people have made and continue to make in their communities. Its central aim is to dispel negative perceptions of ageing and transform attitudes towards ageing and older people. In addition the week is a great opportunity to shine a light on all the positive contributions of older people in our communities, and to create a buzz in the city which highlights positivity of older age. After the difficult year endured by older people due to cocooning and all its associated worries and anxieties and inability to take part in social activities, Galway's Age Friendly Alliance feel that it is more important than ever to showcase and celebrate our older people and the contribution they make to their communities. Inviting all to visit the Local Heroes Exhibition in Eyre Square in celebration of Positive Ageing Week 2021. (Exhibition is running from 22nd September 2021 – 8th October 2021 at the Eyre Square entrance to the shopping centre)



Planet Youth - New SPHE website, Parents Booklet and Videos

The Planet Youth 'Guidelines for Parents' booklet is being distributed over the next couple of weeks to incoming first year parents via the schools, together with the bedtimes / screen times sticker and magnet. <https://planetyouth.ie/resources/parent-resources/>. The new SPHE website was completed during the summer [The Facts SPHE website](https://planetyouth.ie/the-facts-sphe-website/). The website is designed

to give local and up to date information that will help inform the delivery of modules in SPHE. The website will be updated with the latest Planet Youth survey data and topics will be added / removed based on feedback and use of the site. Briefing meetings for teachers are being planned and it is hoped to do an official launch on 8th November 2021 during the West Regional Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week.

New WRDATF training courses available

The WRDATF have a number of new training courses available over the coming months. If you are interested in finding out more or booking a place on the course please click the following link to go to the training calendar on the WRDATF website <https://www.wrdatf.ie/training.php>. If you have any training queries please contact training@wrdatf.ie

Local Community Festivals Grant Scheme 2021

Galway City Council announced its Local Community Festivals Grant Scheme for 2021. Local communities planning festivals or events in their areas in the city in the coming months may be eligible for a small scale grant under this scheme. Galway City Council supports community festivals in local areas to encourage participation in community life. The Council will support festivals or events which are organised and run by local residents as a way to reconnect the local community in line with the next and final phase of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health measures, guidance and advice that will come into place during September and October must be followed to enable us to come together to protect ourselves and to live our lives to the fullest extent possible. <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3361b-public-health-updates/>

In previous years, a number and range of small scale local festivals and events at community level received small scale funding to encourage, support and celebrate participation by local residents in community life in neighbourhoods across Galway City. A total fund of €12,000 is available this year and interested local communities were invited to apply online with a closing date of Friday 1st October 2021. A total number of 14 applications were received by Galway City Council from a range of resident associations and community groups across the City. All applications will be assessed with successful applicants being advised on their approval week commencing Monday 11th October 2021.

Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021

Galway City Council through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) invites applications for funding from interested social enterprises within the Galway City administrative area under the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021. The scheme which is funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund is for social enterprises exclusively and will provide small capital grants for the purchase of equipment or the carrying out of repairs or refurbishments to enable social enterprises to improve their service delivery. The scheme supports one of the key commitments in the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022 – “Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise” which can be viewed online at National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022. Eligible social enterprises within the Galway City administrative area are invited to apply online at www.galwaycity.ie/daf2021. A copy of the guidance for applicants, including eligibility, terms and conditions are available on this link to assist with your online application. Successful applicants will have until mid-March 2022 to draw down the grant, based on evidence of completed purchases or works.

The scheme is being administered by Galway City LCDC on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development, with the total funding allocated to Galway City under the scheme is €19,805. Grants of between €1,500 to €3,500 are available to social enterprises

under this scheme for the purchase of equipment or the carrying out of repairs or refurbishments to enable social enterprises to improve service delivery. Amounts approved will ultimately be subject to the total number of applications received and the overall budget available to Galway City. Final decisions on funding approvals will be made by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The closing date for applications online under the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021 is Friday, 15th October 2021 at 4.00pm. For any enquires in relation to the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021 please email Angela Breslin at candc@galwaycity.ie

Minister Humphreys announces €500,000 Awareness Raising Initiative for Social Enterprise (ARISE) Scheme 2021

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD has announced a new €500,000 initiative designed to raise awareness of the positive role played by Social Enterprises. The Awareness Raising Initiative for Social Enterprise (ARISE) Scheme 2021 will provide grants to Social Enterprises to promote their role in communities across the country. The ARISE scheme, which is provided through the Dormant Accounts Fund, will be delivered in two strands.

- Strand One will provide grants of up to €10,000 to Social Enterprises to highlight how their work is improving the lives of our citizens.
- Strand Two will provide grants of up to €50,000 to Social Enterprise networks and support organisations to deliver more general or sectoral messages on what Social Enterprises are, as well as their potential to deliver sustainable and inclusive development and recovery.

Further information on the initiative and details of how to apply can be found at <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/4ddaf-awareness-raising-initiatives-for-social-enterprise-arise-scheme-2021/>

A message from Safeguarding Ireland: Public Awareness Campaign



This week we have launched a Public Awareness Campaign on Safeguarding and the Rights of Adults with Disabilities. This article is to inform you about the campaign and encourage you to share it. You can contact us at info@safeguardingireland.org.

KEY CAMPAIGN MESSAGES The below text, are key messages, and may be useful for social media posts – and the final point is a link to the campaign images. Call for better safeguarding of adults with disabilities:

- More than a third do not think people with disabilities have equal rights
- 40% say not enough support for decision making of people with disabilities

- 75% favour stronger laws to better safeguard people with disabilities
- Campaign images and radio ad [Public Awareness - Safeguarding Ireland](#)

National Safeguarding Day 2021 is planned for Friday 12th November 2021. We will be in touch in advance – to engage widely – with partners across the health, social, financial and justice sectors. Seven videos on safeguarding have been recorded this month covering safeguarding, types of adult abuse, planning ahead finances and healthcare, safeguarding for people with disabilities, institutional abuse and reporting adult abuse. These will come online over the coming months.

Annual Policing Authority Joint Policing Committee Meeting

The 6th annual Policing Authority meeting of the Chairpersons of the Joint Policing Committees and the Chief Executives of the Local Authorities took place virtually on Thursday 30th September 2021 at 10.00am. An overview and discussion on the draft JPC Guidelines in addition to a presentation on Policing Priorities 2022 took place. The Policing Authority has the following statutory functions in relation to JPCs including:

- Responsibility for issuing guidelines to local authorities and the Garda Commissioner concerning the establishment and maintenance of JPCs
- Convening meetings of JPC chairpersons for the purpose of coordinating or facilitating the performance of their functions

The Policing Authority also attends a number of JPC meetings around the country each year.

National Fire Safety Week

National Fire Safety Week, 4th - 11th October 2021 jointly run with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, is about enhancing fire safety, particularly in the home. [Fire and Rescue Galway](#) have recently completed an Online Home Fire Safety Checklist in both Irish and English.

These can be accessed from the following links:

- English Version: <https://bit.ly/2Uo2i1P>
- Irish version: <https://bit.ly/3AyTRRU>

This year's National Fire Safety Week theme is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives – Test Yours Weekly". As the country responded to COVID-19 we spent more time at home. It was more important than ever that we were all aware of the steps we can take to protect ourselves and our homes from fire. Now, as society begins to open back up, and we return to work and education, it is important we don't get complacent. The campaign focuses on fire safety in the home, encouraging all homes to have smoke alarms and to test them weekly. We hope to help the public build and maintain good Fire Safe habits as routines return to some sort of normality. [Read more here.](#)

Cybercrime Awareness Campaign - European Cybersecurity Month

The Minister for Justice, Heather Humphreys TD, and Assistant Garda Commissioner John O'Driscoll have announced that An Garda Síochána will organise events nationwide from October to inform the public of the dangers of cybercrime. The events will be run nationwide by the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau in conjunction with Community Gardaí and Crime Prevention Officers and will initially focus on our older and business communities. The move is one of a number of initiatives being taken by the Department and An Garda Síochána as part of European Cybersecurity Month. [Read more here.](#)

Social Inclusion Webinar

On Monday 18th October 2021 from 11am - 1pm join the ARD Family Resource Centre Social Inclusion Webinar held as part of Social Inclusion Week in October. The event aims to highlight different areas of discrimination - Workplace, Disability, LGBT, Traveller, Direct Provision. ARD

Family Resource Centre will have a panel of speakers from each of these backgrounds who will share about their own experiences. There will also be Breakout Rooms, which will focus on each area separately and look at collective actions for the community to agree on. Please find our [poster attached here](#) for more information. The event will be held on Zoom. To register, please contact Elske at elske@ardfrc.com or on 083 3217083

New Beginnings in Your Community – Workshops

GRETB and Galway City Partnership are rolling out training for members of community groups as follows:

- Resilience and Wellbeing - Ballinfoile, September 29th 2021
- Working in Harmony - Westside, October 6th 2021
- Group Work and Committee Skills - Ballybane, October 6th 2021
- Accessing Resources and Funding - Ballybane, October 13th 2021

To book a place on this series of workshops please contact Imelda on 091 768305 or 086 0227821. Please note:

- There will be a max of 16 participants at each workshop.
- Those attending are expected to attend all 4 sessions.
- A max of 2 people from each community group will be allowed participate in this face-to-face training.
- All attending will be requested to wear face masks and to follow COVID-19 protocols within each location.

The Older Persons' Fund – Open for Applications

The [Community Foundation for Ireland's Older Persons' Fund](#) is now open for applications. This is a long-term philanthropic fund that promotes the civic engagement of older people, as a means of working towards making a difference in their communities. The Fund builds on the Community Foundation for Ireland's long-standing engagement and commitment to supporting older people in their communities. The [Older Persons' Fund](#) has two separate categories this year, one each for Advocacy and Active Citizenship. This year you may apply for a grant under these two categories:

1. Inclusion of older people in active citizenship roles – Grants of up to €7,500 will be available to organisations working towards inclusion of older people in active citizenship roles
2. Supporting older peoples' voices at local & national level – Grants of up to €7,500 will available to organisations working towards supporting older peoples' engagement in advocacy.

Details on the application process are found [here](#). The deadline for applications will be strictly 4.30pm on Wednesday 20th October 2021.