

Community Department Update

Economic, Community and Cultural Development SPC, 17th February 2022

Dormant Accounts Fund Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021

During December 2021, the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) formally approved grants totalling €19,806 to a range of Social Enterprises in Galway City under the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme for 2021. The funding approved by the Department ranges in support to a number of small-scale capital projects for repairs and renovations, new equipment and safety upgrades. In total 8 Social Enterprises were approved funding for a variety of projects that will enhance their service delivery. The Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021 is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, administered by Galway City LCDC and supports one of the key commitments in the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022 – Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise. For a full list of projects approved under the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021 please see www.galwaycity.ie

Community Activities Fund

A new scheme called The Community Activities Fund was launched during November 2021 by the Minister for Rural and Community Development. This fund is being provided to support community and voluntary groups impacted by Covid-19. This once-off fund is allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme and in order to ensure there is sufficient flexibility to allow funding to be targeted to where it is needed in each area it will be administered locally by the LCDC. The allocation approved for Galway City is €264,910 under this fund which is very much welcomed. The closing date for online applications was Friday 4th February 2022 with a large number of applications received, noting huge demand in the fund. The review and assessment of applications is ongoing, with the aim of approvals going before Galway City LCDC for their approval at their February 2022 meeting. Galway City LCDC will administer this funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

Africa Day 2022

In 2022, Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs is once again pleased to provide small scale financial support to local authority-led events for Africa Day 2022, aimed at promoting a positive image of Africa; highlighting the Irish Aid programme in Africa; and informing the Irish public about the relationship between Africa and Ireland.

Galway City Council is inviting expressions of interest from local community groups for events / activities for Africa Day 2022 in Galway City. Applications should give consideration to what events may be suitable for holding 'virtually' as well as in person. When applying for funding, applicants are encouraged to organise events as close as possible to Africa Day itself, and ideally no later than ten days either side of 25 May. Please note that small scale funding will only be considered, grants up to €1,500 may be available to support events / activities in your locality. If you have any queries in relation to the above please do not hesitate to contact Emma Johnston by email at candc@galwaycity.ie or by phone at 091 536538. The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 18th February 2022.

Once-Off Mental Health Grant scheme

Minister Butler secured a sum of €10m 'Once-Off' (end of year) funding in November 2021 and she is keen to support the work of smaller, local voluntary and community mental health

groups throughout Ireland. The Department of Health has approached Mental Health Ireland to assist in the distribution and dispersal of €1m of this funding through a new Once-Off Mental Health Grant scheme. Application conditions include:

- Grants of €5,000- €30,000 will only be available to Registered Charities
- Proposal must be aligned to a specific aspect of Sharing the Vision and/or Connecting for Life
- Applicants must acknowledge that these are Once-off funds, with no recurring revenue costs
- Evidence of Coproduction will be important
- Partnership proposals will be welcomed and encouraged
- One application per CHY number to a max value of €30,000
- This initiative is aimed at smaller groups operating within communities (i.e., turnover of <€2m pa).
- Successful applications are subject to Audit
- Projects must be delivered in 2022
- A report on funded projects to be submitted for sharing on MHI's website

No collaborations with Pharma, Alcohol or Gambling industries can be considered (MHI's Memo & Articles of association do not permit this).

- Application and details available at www.mentalhealthireland.ie/grants2022.
- For queries please email Grants2022@mentalhealthireland.ie

This grants scheme is intended for smaller local community and voluntary groups working within communities and all of the conditions are clearly set out on the website www.mentalhealthireland.ie. The deadline for online application is 28th February 2022.

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021

The Disability Participation and Awareness Fund is a new funding scheme of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). In late 2021, local authorities were invited to apply for this fund for their use and/or disbursement. The purpose of the fund is to provide funding for local authorities to support the participation of people with disabilities in local activities, to help remove barriers to community involvement and to support the promotion and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in communities. Following an application for funding in late 2021 Galway City Council were approved funding in the amount of €100,000 to support 4 projects in partnership with local community and voluntary organisations in line with the purpose of the fund.

Galway City Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The next meeting of the Galway City LCDC is taking place on Thursday 24th February 2022 starting at 3.00pm via MS Teams, in line with the schedule of meetings agreed. Items to be discussed at this meeting include the LECF process and approvals under the Community Activities Fund. Members will also receive updates on the SICAP Annual Plan 2022 & Annual Performance Review of SICAP 2021 & SICAP Annual Progress Report 2021, in addition to discussing a draft LCDC Annual Report 2021.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 - 2022 (as extended to 2023) was an important programme for 2021 especially given its valuable contribution during Covid-19, in addition to providing its standard contribution to tackling poverty and social exclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnerships between

disadvantaged individuals, community organisations, and public sector agencies. 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. Their task is to reflect the broad scope of the programme in their actions and use programme funding to strengthen communities and improve people's lives. There are 2 goals under the programme:

- Goal 1: Supporting Communities - To support communities and target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues, developing the capacity of local community groups and creating more sustainable communities.
- Goal 2: Supporting Individuals - To support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports.

In addition to the target groups to be supported under SICAP as set out in the programme requirements, Galway City LCDC agreed on the inclusion of Older People under the emerging needs target group for 2021. SICAP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development with co-funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.

Progress under SICAP 2021

The allocated budget for 2021 was €668,942. Galway City Partnership once again exceeded the targets set for the programme in 2021. The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 1 target was exceeded by 12% with 48 local community groups assisted under SICAP, the target set was 43. In addition, KPI 2 target for 2021 was also exceeded by 38%, with a total number of disadvantaged individuals engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis being 612, the target set was 442. 30% of individuals were newly registered and 32.58% were from disadvantaged areas in Galway City.

The majority of interventions with individuals through SICAP continued to be conducted by phone due to Covid-19 restrictions in 2021. However, staff did meet in person on a limited basis, particularly when there was urgent assistance needed. The offices were open throughout 2021 and all who attended for support were given assistance.

Significant support was given to local community groups across the city to enable them to respond to the additional needs they had as a result of Covid-19. SICAP staff supported groups to access and apply for funds to support these needs. The needs of local community groups across the city varied widely. For many their ability to meet and progress as 'normal' was dependent on their ability to use digital technology and embrace online meetings, for others where their activity was outdoor related, they were able to continue to meet albeit with certain restrictions. Galway City Partnership introduced a restart grant scheme under SICAP to assist a number of smaller community and voluntary groups restart and get back up and running as many were not in a position to continue with their vital work supporting their communities during Covid-19. Galway City Council provided match funding towards this initiative which resulted in 24 community and voluntary groups receiving small scale funding to assist with restart costs, with total funding approved in the amount of €8,000.

The Goal 2 SICAP team worked in collaboration at a local level with Galway City Council, COPE Galway and the Peter McVerry Trust to create educational opportunities for homeless families. A pilot 'Pathways Project' emerged from this collaboration, a needs analysis survey was carried out by homeless services and a referral system between the homeless services involved and Galway City Partnership was established. Intensive support was provided

through outreach, one-to-one and over Zoom to facilitate the referral process, individuals engaged in the longer term with SICAP through English classes, labour market training and community education.

Extensive collaborative work was conducted to support Children and Families during 2021. Representation on both School Completion Programme, Local Management Committee's was vital in accessing principals and HSCL teachers during school closures. It enabled targeted families to be provided with resources to access distance learning, both supporting children/young people with their education and personal development, and to remain within the education system.

Annual Planning for SICAP 2022

The allocated budget for 2022 is €702,389 which represents a minimum of 5% increase on the 2021 allocation. Targets for 2022 are outlined in the table below, noting no change to the KPIs for 2022, allowing more space for qualitative engagement and outcomes.

Ref	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Annual Target 2022
1.	Total number of local community groups engaged under SICAP	43
2.	Number of Individuals (aged 15 years upwards) assisted under SICAP on a one-to-one basis	442
	Individuals under KPI2 living in Disadvantaged areas	22%

Community Call Helpline

The Galway City Covid-19 Community Call Helpline, 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. 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, social support, information amongst others. 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 the out of hours call service and are dealt with accordingly.



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

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 7th February 2022 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



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 Yogo for Beginners (4 short videos from 7-11 minutes each). These are available on the HSE Health and Wellbeing YouTube channel. [Click here](#)

Galway City Comhairle na nÓg

The weekly committee meetings for 2022 resumed on 17th January 2022. The topic for 2022 is Invisible Disabilities and Accessibility, the committee will be focusing on accessible youth spaces for young people, looking at it from the viewpoint of physical as well as sensory accessibility. A focus group for young people with invisible disabilities is planned for late March 2022. The committee have expressed feeling unsafe in Galway City, we will look at developing a Safety Programme with Youth Work Ireland Galway, looking at different aspects

of safety, including in person and online safety. The Comhairle na nÓg coordinator has reached out to Michael Walsh, Crime Prevention Officer with An Garda Síochána on this issue. Committee members participated in an event on Saturday 29th January 2022 called “Youth Voices on Climate Action Policies” with City Councilors and PPN representatives. It was a fantastic opportunity for young people to discuss climate action policies with elected representatives. Members of the committee will participate in Dáil na nÓg which is planned for Saturday 26th March 2022. It will be an in-person event in Dublin, the theme for this year’s event will be Equality.

Next National Policy Framework for Children and Young People - Public Consultation

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O’Gorman, T.D. announced the launch of a consultation seeking the public’s views on the next national policy framework for children and young people. The next national policy will run from 2023 to 2028 and will build on the successes of previous strategies in improving outcomes for children and young people living in Ireland. It will involve Government Departments working collaboratively with statutory agencies and services, and the community and voluntary sectors to achieve the five national outcomes outlined in Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures.

This is the first of a range of consultations that will be carried out in the design and development of this new policy framework and will help identify the key issues for children, young people and their families. It will help to guide further consultations over the development of the new policy.

The sixth and final [Annual Report for the 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures \(BOBF\) National Policy Framework for Children and Young People'](#) was published on 20 January 2022. The design stage of the successor framework which will run from 2023-2028 has commenced and this consultation is the first of a series of consultations which will seek the views of all stakeholders in the development of the new framework. Guided by the responses to this consultation, as well as input from Government Departments, agencies and the Children and Young People’s National Advisory Council, more targeted consultations will take place over the next six months. Like BOBF, the new policy framework is intended to support those 0-24 years of age, and will focus on the five national outcomes previously identified. These are:

1. Active and healthy with physical and mental wellbeing
2. Achieving full potential in all areas of learning and development
3. Safe and protected from harm
4. Economic security and opportunity
5. Connected, respected and contributing to their world.

Further details on the consultation and the survey can be found [here](#).

Age Friendly Parking at Westside and Ballybane Libraries in Galway

Age Friendly parking spaces have been introduced to the Westside Library and Ballybane library community parking areas. The Age Friendly parking spaces are courtesy spaces (similar to parent and baby spaces). The public is being asked to respect these spaces and leave them free for older people to use. The Westside Library and Ballybane library hope that all drivers in Galway will get on board with this new initiative to make Galway a more age friendly and supportive place to live and visit.

Healthy Galway City

Work is continuing on the implementation of key actions funded under the Healthy Ireland Round 3 fund which was extended to 31st March 2022, with some summary activities as follows:

- Healthy Food Made Easy: 11 online Healthy Food Made Easy courses delivered to 86 participants in 2021, funded through HI and CYPSC, delivered in partnership with Healthy Galway County. Plans to deliver 2 further Face to Face HFME courses in Galway city and county in February – March 2022. Foróige Knocknacarra Cooking from Home programme running over 4 weeks January – March 2022. Galway City Partnership applied to be safe food Community Food Initiative leader 2022 – 2024; currently awaiting results.
- Addressing Barriers to Physical Activity: Youth Work Ireland hosting in-person “Yoga & Relaxation” for young people, starting 10th February 2022. Table tennis programme targeting people living in Direct Provision in the Eglinton, Dominick Street, Great Western, participating in the Table Tennis @ Home programme by Table Tennis Ireland. Bowls for older people living in Ballinfoile / Castlegar area to run in conjunction with lunch club from February to March 2022. Community Sports Hub in Doughiska / Ballybane considering physical activity for women /girls to run February & March 2022.
- Towards a Tobacco Free Galway City: Letters promoting the “Not Around Us” campaign sent to all school principals in Galway City. Irish language documentations and charters ordered. Signage continues to be distributed and displayed in organisations and schools in city and county.
- Community Sexual Health Education Programme: Printing of Sexual Health & WISER (West of Ireland Sexuality Education Resource) leaflets for distribution to key target populations i.e., Direct Provision, LGBT+, Traveller Community. Printing and distribution of professionally supported posters and marketing materials. Delivery of Sexual Health & Wellbeing programme.
- Towards a Healthy LGBT+ Community: AMACH! LGBT Galway running free online yoga and fitness classes January to March 2022, 10-week programmes with 16 participants getting involved regularly.
- Application made under “Creative Ireland: Creativity in Older Age” fund 2022 to fund a project to promote creativity and wellbeing amongst older people; awaiting results of application.

Visit www.healthygalwaycity.ie or follow Healthy Galway City on Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HealthyGalway/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/healthygalway>

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