

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018-2023 (SICAP)

LDC Annual Progress Report 2022
LOT – Galway City (26-1)



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The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2023 is co-funded by the Government Ireland, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Union.

1. Please describe the needs of SICAP beneficiaries in 2022 and, where applicable, your responses to these needs. (3-5 pages)

Guidance: Please consider individuals, LCGs, SEs, children and families, non-caseload individuals, and complete the below table. **Please do not include details on Ukrainians in this section** as there is a dedicated Ukrainian section within this report. The following questions may be useful to reflect on:

- What types of supports did beneficiaries require during the year? What did these supports look like? Please consider **individuals, LCGs, SEs, children and families, and non-caseload individuals**, when providing your answer.
- Please bear in mind the programme's horizontal principles (i.e., promoting an equality framework, applying community development approaches, and developing collaborative approaches) when providing your answer.

Beneficiary type	Identified needs in 2022	LDC Responses to needs
<p>Individuals</p>	<p>There continues to be a great demand for English as a Second language (ESOL) tuition in Galway City. The acquisition of language proficiency is an imperative if social inclusion and integration is to be achieved for our new communities. In addition to formal tuition there is an identified need for supports around assistance with form-filling and access to services where such access is hampered by a lack of understanding of and fluency in English.</p> <p>Almost 1 in 5 residents of Galway City are from outside the state, among this group are many asylum-seekers and refugees. There is a highly significant need for assistance with applications for asylum, residency, work permits, family reunification etc. Much of this work is, of course, conducted with people who have limited English and few resources.</p> <p>With the gradual return to unrestricted work practice following the lifting of Restrictive Measures pertaining to Covid there has been a great demand for assistance with accessing Labour Market Training and CV supports.</p>	<p>In response to this identified need for ESOL provision Galway City Partnership provides English classes at all levels from pre-beginner to Advanced. There is currently 21.5 hours classroom tuition per week as well as the additional supports around form-filling and information provision.</p> <p>In response to the identified needs of Galway's new communities the Partnership provides the Galway Migrant service which seeks to address many of the concerns presented by Asylum seekers and refugees. This extremely complex and sensitive work is delivered by a dedicated worker who collaborates widely with all other sections of the SICAP programme to maximise delivery of supports, these include Community Education, Labour Market and Employment Supports, English Language classes and Enterprise. As with all work across the SICAP programme there is a valuable multiplier effect achieved by this coordination and consolidation of service delivery.</p> <p>In response to the evolving labour-market situation across the city our employment Supports officer has identified specific areas of demand from employers and has sought to provide timely and appropriate labour-market training to maximise opportunities for jobseekers many of whom may have been for a variety of reasons absent from the labour force for some time. These include Safe Pass and Manual handling Training and Barista Training. Many clients are supported with CV preparation and provision, job searching advice and interview preparation. Again, this wrap-around service is made available to a wide cohort of clients whose initial contact may have been regarding other supports.</p>

A key demand from citizens across the city is for non-accredited community delivered lifelong learning courses. There is always a significant demand for these courses from a very wide cohort of people, courses such as Yoga, Cookery, and Art are extremely popular. These courses are of extreme importance in reducing isolation and fostering return to learning, both key objectives of the programme.

There is a continuing and increasing demand for accredited courses which will allow clients to upskill and improve their employment prospects, these courses are also extremely valuable for clients who may have been absent from formal education for some considerable time.

Many people experiencing long-term unemployment or underemployment as well as people working outside their field of interest and expertise seek assistance in starting their own business.

In response to the demand from within the community Galway City Partnership delivers short (6-8 week) courses in community Resource Centres in 3 locations across the city. This is designed to maximise the reach of this provision. Courses are availed of by a wide cohort of people; single parents, the unemployed, the under-employed, retired people, carers, people in homeless services.

We continued to work with the Acorn group and the Ageing well programme in 2022 which provided targeted support through IT technology using the acorn tablets purchased through GCP and Galway City Council funds in 2021. Due to a definite need it was decided to set up a weekly group with older people to include the individuals of the Acorn devices and integrate with other older people in the Community. This group was called "The Oak Tree" group and was set up to meet in the new Ballinfoille Centre which is set up in a safe space for the weekly social gathering. A few the group were referred to other supports and are participating on community courses and the Personal Development course continues. The new group was set up as a social gathering for older people and has proved a great success. We will continue to keep in contact with the group including the Acorn individuals on a regular basis and continue to address their needs into 2023.

Galway City Partnership has in response to an identified need provided access to HAACP training, Special Needs Assistant Training, Child-Protection Safeguarding (1-3) and in addition has referred clients to Galway Executive SkillsNet for Training opportunities. Participants on each of these courses is offered wrap-around supports from the Community Education Officer from before starting the course all the way through to completion and graduation. This support plays a very considerable part in the achievement of excellent completion rates for these courses.

In response to this interest in self-employment and business development Galway City Partnership provides a bespoke service to assist individuals in starting their own business. Our Enterprise Officer provides a service which supports potential entrepreneurs at every stage of the process from the gestation of the initial idea through to the starting of the business and beyond. Assistance and advice is given with the generation of Business Plans, applications for BTWEA, training in Tax compliance, Start Your Own Business Courses. This highly individual and nuanced service contributes significantly to

	<p>It is important to highlight that many clients present to Galway City Partnership with a complex variety of needs, these needs are not always immediately highlighted or expressed when a client presents for supports. A client presenting for English Classes, Employment Supports or Community Courses may also be experiencing issues with housing needs, medical issues, domestic violence, problems with literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>In 2022 the issue of homelessness and precarious housing has been of significant and often urgent concern for many people seeking assistance from the Partnership.</p> <p>During the recent Public Health Emergency there was a considerable demand from clients for well-being supports, these of necessity were in the main in the form of phone conversations offering information on available services and a listening ear.</p>	<p>the successful culture of business innovation across the city, with many of these businesses growing and sustaining themselves across many years.</p> <p>The collaborative approach of the SICAP team working with individuals allows us to maximise supports for clients of the Partnership. It allows us to build in wrap-around supports and signpost individuals to a wide variety of bodies and agencies across the city with whom we collaborate in order ensure that we may address the needs of clients across all domains of life. This work can be extremely complex and requires an integrated and supportive working environment for staff and clients alike.</p> <p>The SICAP team has been aiding in whatever way possible to assist clients experiencing housing difficulties, this involves supporting clients with applications for Housing assistance from the Local authority, referrals to agencies such as Threshold, COPE, Peter Mcverry Trust, Simon, St Vincent de Paul.</p> <p>The SICAP team met to review the experience of staff supporting clients during Covid and in response to an obvious demand for targeted well-being supports it was decided to develop and deliver a Personal Development Course. This course was provided online for a duration of 6 weeks, 3 times across the year. The course proved extremely popular and allowed us to reach individuals who were reluctant to attend such a course in person. The course was attended by clients from 18 to 80 years of age, men, and women, clients from our new communities and groups who have previously proved hard to engage such as members of our Roma community. The course was the subject of our SICAP Goal 2 Case Study for 2022.</p>
<p>Local Community Groups</p>	<p>Post covid significant work was carried out by the CD Team to reconnect with our target groups. Many groups faced loneliness and isolation as a result of not being able to meet during covid.</p> <p>We focused on Community engagement and rebuilding capacity with groups during the first six months of the year.</p> <p>A number of groups experienced a falloff in membership and an imbalance of shared responsibilities as well as an increase in conflict within groups as a result of covid and groups not being able to come together. In response to these needs GCP and GRETB devised capacity building training.</p>	<p>GCP in collaboration with GRETB provided a suite of training workshops which helped groups to reengage and refocus as well as provided capacity building opportunities for these groups. Approximately 40 people from a wide cohort of community groups across the city engaged in the training. Topics included conflict management, funding opportunities and committee skills. These training workshops took place in the three geographical areas supported by the CD team. The response to this training was extremely positive with significant re-engagement and participation from groups members. The CD Team worked closely with LGCs to identify new participants for these workshops. A significant cross representation attended from each group.</p>

	<p>A key need identified in 2022 was an increase in anxiety and loneliness among group members. The promotion of positive Mental Health & Wellbeing has underpinned all the work of the CD Team.</p> <p>A gap in support for parents of children of all ages was identified as being key during the year.</p> <p>The need to develop a practice methodology that would support the reflection of the CDWs on their group support and development activities.</p>	<p>GCP organised a series of wellbeing events throughout the year. A range of our target groups were represented at these, there was significant engagement from older people who had experienced high levels of loneliness and isolation during covid. Approximately 250 people engaged in these events over the course of the year. The events included a trip to St Brigits Garden, a wellbeing and networking event in the Maldron Hotel, 3 social mornings in 3 Geographical locations across the city and a celebration event for members of the community groups in the Connacht Hotel in December.</p> <p>Weekly coffee mornings were held in Westside & Ballybane. These were open to all in the communities. Engagement levels were very high throughout the year- indicative of the need for social interaction and information sharing. Similarly, the gardens represented by Let's Get Galway Growing ran a series of workshops promoting engagement and positive mental health. These events were very well attended.</p> <p>A new Parent & Toddler Group was established in Ballinfoile, and groundwork has started for a Parenting Group of Teens in the area also. This was a collaboration between GRETB Music Generation, The City North Network and GCP. Approximately 15 parents attend each week. The Ballybane Afterschool Programme expanded its service to include more children in its service and also expanded its role to provide not just afterschool activities but also homework support.</p> <p>This programme of work emerged from a wish by GCP to reflect on its Community Development group-work activities and develop a practice methodology that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports ongoing reflection by Community Development Workers (CDWs) on their group support and development activities towards its improvement. 2. Aids supervision of CDWs in relation to their group support and development activities. 3. Offers a framework for the generation and collation of data on the quality and value of their group support and development activities to be used for organisation-wide reflection, review and planning. 4. Supports the provision of data to funders for advocacy and accountability purposes.
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	<p>Older people were identified as an emerging need group as a result of covid and its impact.</p> <p>Re-engagement with members of the Traveller community was seen as a priority during the year as this group experienced acute levels of isolation and exclusion during the pandemic.</p> <p>One of the legacies from covid has been the need to provide and develop opportunities for engagement in outdoor spaces & development of outdoor activity-based programmes.</p> <p>To raise awareness of supports available within GCP for members of our target groups.</p>	<p>An additional focus was what can be learned about how to reach and involve highly excluded individuals within the context of CD group support and development activities.</p> <p>The CD team engaged closely with Healthy Galway, COPE, Galway Contact and Age Action to develop a range of responses including 3 twelve-week programmes which were run in Westside, Ballinfoile and Ballybane titled Making Memories.</p> <p>The CD Team worked closely with the Local Traveller Action Groups in Westside, Ballinfoile and Ballybane as well as supporting local Traveller Groups in the outreach communities. GCP has also supported engagement with families living in halting sites within the city. The CD team also joined the Communities Against Racism Network lead by Galway Traveller Movement.</p> <p>Walking routes were developed in Ballinfoile and Ballybane and Walking Groups have been established in Ballybane, Westside and Ballinfoile as a result of these in partnership with Healthy Galway city and the Ballybane & Doughiska Sports Hub.</p> <p>A communications strategy was developed internally which included frequent updates on Facebook and Twitter and a consequent increased traffic across those platforms.</p>
<p>Social Enterprises</p>	<p>Social enterprises faced unique challenges in 2022 as they were coming out of lock down. In the early part of the year there were a number of COVID outbreaks which affected the most vulnerable in our communities and had implications for social enterprises who provide services to them e.g. older people and the Traveller community. By their nature many social enterprises produce services and/or goods and they faced challenges in relation to overall income generation and the repivoting of services to respond to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised communities. Existing Community Service Programmes (CSPs) faced the challenge of reapplying for this programme which required time, specific skills and additional resources. Community resource centres had bookings cancelled at the last minute which had an impact on income generation and there were further complications where staffing levels were reduced. The past number of years have been isolating for social enterprises and a need to meet in person and collectively was identified. Lack of knowledge</p>	<p>GCP responded to needs both on an individual basis and a wider sectoral basis. Information was given on training, funding and updates on a regular basis. Social enterprises had a contact point through the Social Enterprise Worker (SEW) for support and follow up. Individual supports were given in applying for grants, support in larger funding applications, strategic planning and report writing. Individual support was delivered to a number of social enterprises where lack of capacity and skills to develop their social enterprises was identified. Support was given to all social enterprises to access training in a number of areas including governance, marketing, income generation, use of social media, corporate social responsibility etc. On a wider basis GCP engaged in awareness raising initiatives that highlighted social enterprises and their social value to the public. This was through use of mainstream media in the form of newspaper articles, featuring on local radio, creation of videos and increased use of social media platforms. The SEW organised a joint networking</p>

	<p>about the specific role and value of social enterprises amongst the public and the value of using this model to respond to needs.</p>	<p>event with Galway Rural Development where social enterprises could meet in person with a focus on #BuySocial. Galway based social enterprises were also highlighted on a national stage at the Irish Local Development #SESummit. A number of SEs attended and An Mheitheal Rothar were key note speakers.</p>
<p>Children and families</p>	<p>The long-term impact of school closures and other disruptions are still being reported in schools by Principals and Home School Liaison Teachers. As schools return to normality evidence-based programmes which support children's wellbeing and emotional literacy such as the Incredible Years Dina in the Classroom and/or the DESTY Island programme have been requested.</p> <p>Participation by the SICAP Education Officer on a Post Primary Transfer meeting of the three tiers of TESS has highlighted the issues faced by parents since changes to the application process. The process itself is within a set time period, the dates for application vary from school to school and parent/guardians must complete all sections prior to and in acceptance of a place. The process results in lengthy waiting lists and for a time period young people can be without a place. An addition a small number do not complete or respond to an offer within the allocated time frame. HSCLs report increased anxiety for both young people and their parents.</p> <p>The designation of DEIS status was awarded on appeal to one post primary school (Merlin College) in Galway City. A second Colaiste Muire Mathair lost its appeal. This school is an amalgamation of three schools into a co-educational post primary. Colaiste Muire Mathair has a reported high level of need and students at risk of early school leaving.</p>	<p>In response to needs identified by schools SICAP has continued to work collaboratively with all DEIS schools, the Eastside and Westside School Completion Programmes and other agencies to support children/young people in Galway City. SICAP has supported schools across the city to re-engage the facilitation of the Incredible Years Programmes and collaborated with Westside SCP to support the DESTY Island programme.</p> <p>An informational video 'The When, Where and How of applying for a secondary school place for your child' was created by the SICAP Education Officer in collaboration with HSCL teachers from Radharc na Mara, Scoil Chaitriona Senior, Scoil San Phroinsias and Castlegar Primary School. The video was very well received, circulated and viewed widely. There is however currently (December 2022) a significant number of young people having completed the application process correctly still awaiting news of a secondary school place for 2023.</p> <p>The SICAP Education Officer has visited Colaiste Muire Mathair on a regular basis to meet the Principal and HSCL. The school has been supported by SICAP to deliver 'After School Study' and Study Skill Workshops to 5th and 6th Year students.</p>
<p>Non-caseload individuals</p>	<p>It emerged during the registration process for the online wellbeing course that a small number of people did not engage with the SICAP forms.</p>	<p>The third Personal Development Course was piloted as non-caseload event to reach the most difficult to engage.</p>

2. Please provide an overview of SICAP supports provided to the Ukrainian arrivals to your Lot. (1-2 pages)

With the arrival of the first groups of Ukrainian Refugees it was immediately obvious that urgent and targeted supports would be needed by parents seeking to navigate an unfamiliar school system. Our Education Officer has developed a suite of videos for parents which advises them on how to navigate the process of preparing children for starting school and for securing secondary transfer places. These resources have been translated into Ukrainian (see below).

Our Education Officer has collaborated with agencies across the city to ensure that Ukrainian children are granted opportunities to partake in activities with their peers from the host community. SICAP funding went to the support of a summer camp for Ukrainian children attending DEIS schools in the city, During the summer several places were secured in GAA Cúl Camps for newly arrived Ukrainian children, these were provided in collaboration with the Eastside Schools Completion Programme. The camps were popular, and the children took great advantage of the opportunity to integrate. A one-day multi- sports and arts camp was organised with the collaboration of Galway Sports Partnership and Music Generation Galway. In collaboration with Youth Work Ireland Galway Art classes were organised across the summer during the school holidays. Throughout the year GCP and Music Generation Galway have collaborated to provide places for Ukrainian children on musical programmes.

Our Information Officer has endeavoured wherever and whenever possible to provide timely and accurate translated materials to people seeking information about available services at both a local and national level. There has been an extremely high demand for information regarding access to GP and hospital care, as well as advice and information on local work practice

The following are links to School Readiness Videos with Ukrainian voice over

<https://youtu.be/YzPQ4hq3kQw>

https://youtu.be/kF_aRh0g_CI

Galway City Partnership has since March of 2022 been providing English Language Tuition and Supports to members of our recently arrived Ukrainian community. This has required a doubling of our usual provision of classes and a nimble and flexible response to what has been an extremely high demand for classes. We have developed a bespoke Beginners class for Ukrainians with materials in both English and Ukrainian which concentrates on providing people with simple 'Survival' English with an emphasis on how to access and use services such as schools, the Department of Social Protection and GP services. In addition, students with some English have been receiving assistance with more advanced tuition which has been designed to assist them with securing employment. This work has been very significantly enhanced by the specialised support offered by our Employment Supports officer who has been helping students with CV preparation, advice on local labour-market trends, job-searching, and job applications. Students have been grateful for this wrap-around support and often remark that the supports which the Partnership is able to offer under one roof is of great assistance to them and goes some way to reducing anxiety when trying to navigate their way in such an unfamiliar jurisdiction. To date we have provided tuition and additional supports to almost 200 unique individuals. There are currently 102 individuals from Ukraine attending Classes, more than 30 have secured local employment in hospitality, retail, and medical device manufacture. As part of the work of the English Language Supports Action students have been taken on field trips to venues of cultural significance across the city such as the University, the Museum, Local historic sites such as the Hall of the Red Earls, and St Nicholas's Collegiate Church. This gentle social inclusion work has been very much welcomed and enjoyed by both students and tutors and has we believe helped students to feel a sense of integration with and ownership of their host city.

The following is a link to

[English Language Classes at Galway City Partnership - YouTube](#)

GCP is an active participant on the Community Response forum focusing on the Ukrainian response. We have collaborated with City Council in recruiting staff to co-ordinate a city response to the crises and have also used the additional SICAP budget to take on staff - We currently have a co-ordinator and 3 part-time staff in place. In addition, we provide SICAP supported English Language classes to Ukrainians and refer for additional employment and training supports where needed.

From September the Education Officer liaised with DEIS schools with Ukrainian children/young people to identify need. The SICAP Ukrainian Project Officers visited primary and post primary schools to assist students and parents with information and induction processes. In addition, the Project Officers attended Parent-Teacher meetings for Ukrainian families when requested. Home School Liaison Teachers have reported that this support was invaluable. During the academic term the Education Officer continued to collaborate directly with DEIS schools and other agencies to ascertain the needs of Ukrainian children/young people. As a result, SICAP has provided a range of resources to schools in the form of Ukrainian dictionaries, textbooks and iPads for students in EAL classes. Moreover, therapeutic supports have been funded for Ukrainian post primary students and whole class drama sessions with an integration focus in two primary schools.

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

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

Ukrainians Helping Ukrainians Galway (UHUG)

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



3. Please briefly describe the cross-programme, integrated approach that SICAP utilised during 2022 to respond to the needs of SICAP target groups. (half a page)

The CDW in Westside worked closely with BRIDGE on a number of events throughout the year to engage people living in Direct Provision in events in the community. One of the events organised was a talk on March 8th for International Women's Day where guest speakers on Migrant Rights from University of Galway were invited to speak and an opportunity for interaction with a local disability group, Access For All, who were also celebrating International Women's Day was created.

SICAP supported the Music Generation Galway City to deliver music education programmes in disadvantaged communities in Galway City, this included music in Direct Provision, Ballybane Afterschool Programme, Ballinfoile Mother and Toddler Group and the expansion of summer provision. During the summer of 2022 a process was successfully trialled with GCP referring Ukrainian young people to summer camps provided by Music Generation Galway City. This outreach process was formalised in collaboration with Music Generation to include sponsored spaces for small group music lessons for children and young people in disadvantaged areas.

The SEW worked closely with the CDWs in identifying possible future social enterprises from marginalised groups. This was particularly the case for groups who came from ethnic minorities who in addition to experiencing racism and the undermining of their cultures can find employment difficult to access. Through an integrated approach an existing community group, United Women, who was supported by a CDW was identified as a possible future social enterprise. The SEW has met with this group and is currently working with them in looking at the possibilities to develop a social enterprise. This is inline with the overall aim of SICAP in that it both aims to tackle social exclusion and poverty by working with local groups in this case United Women.

To highlight the International 16 Days of Action opposing Violence Against Women which runs from November 25th to December 10th 2022 an important campaign was held which included the running of a powerful National Conference of learning, questioning, challenging and change and took place in Galway city's Harbour Hotel on Friday, November 18th.

The conference was organised by 'The Community Response to Domestic Abuse Western Regional Network'. This Network of twenty-one community-based organisations across counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon was marking 20 years of collaboration, activism and best practice in responding to the issue of Domestic Abuse in our communities. Galway City Partnership is an active member of the Network and also holds a seat on the Executive Management group of the Network.

To mark the closure of the 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women GCP shared a short snippet on Facebook of the opening address by Leanne Barrett the Chairperson of the Community Response to Domestic Abuse Western Region Network at our recent National Domestic Abuse Conference. https://youtu.be/-eeM0_1Y77Y



Members of the Conference organising committee.

This cross programme, integrated approach is demonstrated by the involvement of the CD Team from SICAP, the Coordinator of the Asylum Migration and Integration Funded programme BRIDGE as well as FRCs, Frontline Domestic Abuse organisations and other Local Development Companies in the Western region.

Another cross-cutting programme headed up by the CD team is the Ballybane Afterschool Programme. This programme targets children from 5 to 12 years of age, runs 4 days each week and combines activity based social and physical learning with practical homework supports. 48 children engaged with the Programme over a minimum of 2 days each week during 2022.

The CD Team and the Community Education Office under SICAP work throughout the year planning and delivering, in conjunction with GRETB, a range of community education courses across the city.

4. What type of work did LCGs and SEs (supported by SICAP in 2022) undertake in the community in response to the needs of SICAP target groups?

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

GCP have supported Go Com Community radio throughout 2022. This is a radio that primarily provides information on social inclusion initiatives with a targeted audience from ethnic minority communities. We have encouraged both internal services within GCP to reach Go Com's audience along with our wider community contacts.

Go Com radio is located in GCP Social Enterprise Space, 11A Sandy Road Galway, along with Bounceback Upcycling.



Social enterprises address environmental issues along with supporting the circular economy. GCP support An Mheitheal Rothar through access to training and capacity building to highlight their projects on a local and national stage. AMR presented at ILDN National Social Enterprise Summit on the social impact of their work

The Ballybane Women's Group – a group made up of Traveller & Settled Women – identified people across the community who were isolated and vulnerable socially and financially partly as a result of covid and also due to the cost of living increases. They created Fire Logs and Kindling Packs which they then hand delivered to people in Ballybane during Social Inclusion Week.

The Ballybane Mixed Craft Group responded to the needs of older people with dementia in the city by making fidget mats which they then delivered personally to people who would benefit from them as well as to Nursing homes in and around the city.

Galway African Diaspora is a community group in Galway which aims to showcase and promote Afro-Caribbean culture and diversity in Galway city, to increase understanding of African culture and to promote social inclusion and integration among the wider community. GCP supported the group this year in a number of grant applications including the Community Activities Fund, GRETB Community Education Grant and Culture Night grant. A key event for the group was co-organising a very successful Africa Day event in the city, celebrating the food, dance and music of Africa. Later, as the group began to explore the idea of working towards becoming a social enterprise, the CD worker linked with the Social Enterprise worker to support the group's participation in social enterprise activities, training and events.

Galway Deaf Centre was founded in 1970 as a means of creating channels of communication for Deaf people in Galway city. The group currently meets once a week and is run by a committee of five individuals. A key focus of the group is ensuring access to sign language interpreters when engaging with hearing people and general community events. The group also receives support through CHIME, Galway. The GCP CD worker supported the group this year by engaging members in the Monitoring and Evaluation tool devised in collaboration with University of Galway. The information gathered will feed into future discussions and evaluation. The group was also supported with the assistance of an interpreter in their grant application for the Community Activities Fund where they were successful in their application for a group iPad for improved communications. The group were also supported in applying for the GRETB Community Education grant and participated in a Deafhood course. The group were also linked in with GCCN regarding a Pobal Pilot Research piece of work where key issues experienced by the Deaf Community in Galway were fed into the report.

Westside Community Organic Garden is a community group made up of a wide variety of members from the Westside community. This year the group was supported to carry out key garden tasks such as erecting fencing around their polytunnel in order to protect it from anti-social behaviour and physical damage. The fencing was made accessible and made a significant difference to the work of the gardeners who reported a total reduction in damage to the polytunnel. The group were also supported in completing permanent compost bins for the garden. The CD worker facilitated a meeting early in the year and a new committee was elected, allowing the former chairperson of many years to step down. Regular meetings were held and a Mid-Year Evaluation meeting helped the group in its planning. The group actively participated in both the Westside Arts Festival and the Westside Christmas Market. They were also the proud winner of the Mayor's Environmental Sustainability Award this year.

Sliabh Rua Residents Association, a newly established group during 2022, were set up to respond to the lack of infrastructural supports in their estate. Following a door-to-door survey the group established other needs and set up a range of measures in response to these. GCP supported the group throughout the year with capacity building, development of committee skills, planning and funding supports and practical supports when organising events such as estate clean ups, family fun days, planting initiatives and mural painting.

The **Ballinfoile Parent & Toddler Group** were set up in 2022 following requests from Parents of young children. The group meet weekly and provide peer support for each other as parents as well as providing a safe, fun, learning environment for their children.

The CDW in Ballinfoile worked closely with the two local community gardens in Ballinfoile throughout 2022. Numerous events were held in both gardens throughout the year which all had a very strong social inclusion focus. In October Healthy Galway City and the CD worker in Galway City Partnership partnered with the volunteers of **Ballinfoile Mór Community Garden** and the local schools to host a very successful Halloween Harvest Event for local children and their parents. Students were treated to a tour of the garden and observed a bread and soup-making demo from Healthily Ever After and enjoyed fun activities like face painting, balloon animals, drumming and more. Young people were encouraged to get curious about the food they make and eat, where it comes from and how can locally grown produce be incorporated into their family meals. Fresh vegetable soup was served for lunch and every child went home with a pack containing all the ingredients to prepare their own soup at home with their family, as well as recipes for healthy Halloween harvest treats and activities.

The Doughiska & Roscam Men's Shed organised workshops during the year. The group is open to all men in the Ballybane, Doughiska & Roscam areas but strongly encourages engagement from unemployed, retired and socially isolated men. They provide opportunities for men to upskill, retrain and meet on a twice weekly basis.

The Ballybane Taskforce - Community Café space

As a result of funding received from Galway City Council in 2021 and 2022 the Ballybane Taskforce were able to set up a community cafe space in the Ballybane Community Resource Centre. The Taskforce members had identified a lack of a social meeting space in the Ballybane area which was compounded by covid and the isolation people were generally feeling since 2020. They opened this space on Thursday mornings during the year. The mornings were really well received by people from the local community. Many people attending said this was so important to them to have a place where they could meet other people, have a chat, a cappuccino, latte or tea and a scone. Support for this initiative was provided by SICAP staff.

5. Please provide a brief update on your progress with your Lot Priority groups which you selected in 2021 as part of the mid-programme review. (1 page)

The lot priority groups selected by GCP were Travellers, Mental Health & Wellbeing and Long Term Unemployed. The emerging needs groups was Older People.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Bean Deas Women’s Group in Ballybane pictured below, represented their groups needs at the National Social Inclusion Forum in Dublin in June. They represented issues relating to older people, mental health & wellbeing, physical access and Travellers.



The Ballybane Community Garden ran a number of events throughout the year promoting positive mental and physical health. They are an example of a group that expanded during and in the aftermath of covid due to their outdoor nature and their focus on the promotion of positive mental health.

The Eglinton Community Garden is based in a Direct Provision Centre in Salthill. This garden is being supported by GCP Community Development Worker (CDW) through a hands on approach. This is in recognition of the extra challenges the residents of this centre face through living in a direct provision centre in some cases for a considerable period. There have been considerable changes to the demographics of the centre in terms of resident population and the garden is reflective of this. The focus of work is currently on engagement as opposed to previously on participation. The garden provides a space for residents to go outside, and feedback has been that this has been invaluable in a time of increased mental health issues. The emphasis has been on generating a space for the health and wellbeing of the residents and encouraging them to come out and access the space. The CDW has ongoing issues re engagement but this is understandable in light of changing circumstances. This knowledge gives her the flexibility to support and respond to residents and acknowledge any engagement as positive.

Salthill Community Garden has traditionally been a garden who were made up of an older cohort of men who did not interact with the other gardens around the city. The CDW has built on work started by her in 2021 where Salthill Community Garden have looked outside of their own garden to support other communities. This has been evident in the support they have given to The Eglinton Community Garden and the Ukrainian Community in Salthill. The garden supported the former in building benches and providing a link to their own garden through open membership. They supported The Ukrainian Community in co-hosting cookery classes where they provided the vegetables, beetroot, and the community provided the skills in making Borsch Soup. The CDW focused work on building the capacity of Salthill Community Garden to host a Open day in their garden to which all community gardens in the city were invited along with Galway City Mayor. Salthill Community garden have also been attending other events out on by Let’s Get Galway Growing in community gardens. This opening up has had a focus on integration through supporting communities.

Merlin Woods Community Garden are based in Doughiska which is an area of the city which has the highest number of ethnicities and a large youth population. The garden has a strong focus on community participation through it’s inclusiveness of all members of the community. They have a strong link with the local Family Resource Centre and a number of activities of the FRC have taken place in the garden. Local Youth Groups have been involved in workshops involving crafts and the proximity to Merlin Woods allows for walks and outdoor activities. Merlin Woods Community Garden have developed links through placements for students in the local Community College Horticulture Course. The CDW provides ongoing support through engaging with the garden to participate in city wide structures and to input into the let’s Get Galway Growing Network.

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



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

In response to an identified need for well-being and mental health supports arising from the experience of clients during the recent Public Health Emergency an online Personal Development Course was developed and delivered 3 times across the year. The course proved popular with a wide cohort of people across the city, and because of the sensitivity of its delivery and the back up support offered by SICAP staff allowed us to reach clients who were previously hard to reach such as carers, retired citizens, people with disabilities, and members of our Roma community. Following an evaluation of the course it is anticipated that in 2023 similar initiatives will be developed to build upon the success of the course.

["Keeping an Eye on How I Am" SICAP Case Study 2022. - YouTube](#)

Travellers

We have engaged with the Galway Boxing Club in the Westside of the city which is a volunteer led organisation run primarily by and for the Travelling Community. A foundation of work has been completed in 2022, providing necessary Child Safeguarding certification and this will develop into 2023. Discussions for the provision of a series of local Boxing Coaching courses, in collaboration with the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA), began and included the Galway Sports Partnership.

In addition, the Travelling Community have been supported specifically with Manual Handling, Safe Pass & Barista Courses. A considerable increase on previous years, with almost a third of all the individuals supported being Travellers.

Long Term Unemployed

The priority groups in 2022 were significantly represented in Action 2.6 Employment Supports. We continued to reach the most marginalised from the Labour Market particularly those that are long term unemployed. Of the total number of individuals supported, 28% were long term unemployed and they were given extra support in navigating other avenues to further their education including referring to GRET courses. Additionally, some others were referred to SICAP accredited courses such as SNA and HACCP, also the Personal Development Courses that were facilitated throughout the year

Older People – Emerging Needs Group 2022

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



Pictures from our Older People AGM

6. Please outline the challenges faced and lessons learned in relation to the overall delivery of SICAP during 2022. Were you able to overcome any of the challenges? If so, please describe. (half a page - 1 page)

Covid continued to impact on our work during 2022. A number of initiatives had to be postponed and rescheduled one or more times. In some instances there was reduced engagement with initiatives as people continued to be cautious about Covid. Some activities that would traditionally have been held in local Community Centres or Community Halls were brought outdoors.

Significant work needed to be carried out around reengagement post-covid. Many people got used to remaining at home and found it difficult to motivate themselves out the door again. Staff were mindful of this and spent a significant amount of time phoning people and calling door to door when necessary.

SICAP staff were challenged with having to respond to the Ukrainian crisis even though none of this was (obviously) contained in 2022 workplans. They worked closely with Tusla to provide Ukrainian Contact Centres in 3 locations across the city over a period of 6-8 weeks. They set up summer camps in a number of locations with little lead in time and limited opportunity in some instances to link in with other organisations. The SICAP team liaised closely with GRETB to roll out English language classes.

7. Please describe an approach or project that worked well in 2022 that you think would be useful to share with other SICAP implementers. (half a page)

Access for All

Access for All Galway was established to highlight access issues for disabled people in Galway city. It has a membership made up of people with lived experiences of disabilities along with those who support them. GCP has been supporting this group to achieve its aims by supporting meetings, actively promoting the group to assist in recruiting new members, facilitating training, supporting events and more.

This year the group was supported to put a new organising structure in place. An independent facilitator was employed to carry out evaluation and discussion workshops whereby the group was facilitated to devise a new organising structure. A steering group with elected committee members was formed, a new Terms of Reference document was devised and Working Groups were solidified. This was a very positive development for the group as communications and group morale was greatly boosted following this. The group were the proud recipients of Mayor's Community Service & Social Inclusion Group Award in May and used some of their prize money to celebrate at a Christmas Lunch event for all of its members. The group also engaged successfully in Culture Night, producing a film on Disability and Culture which was showcased across three areas of the city.

Reconnecting Communities

SICAP staff were mindful throughout 2022 that many people had not engaged with many/any organisations since the outset of covid. Staff spent a significant amount of time rebuilding relationships with people in their communities. This approach paid off in the long run as people were supported to reengage at their own pace.

The CD Team created a project called “Reconnecting Communities” which was a series of reengagement and wellbeing initiatives which allowed people to reconnect slowly over time and re-establish relationships in their own communities initially and eventually branching out to larger citywide re-engagement initiatives.

ARISE

GCP secured funding from DRCD through DAF to deliver Awareness Raising Initiative for Social Enterprises (ARISE). The campaign delivered 6 full page features over 12 weeks in the Galway Advertiser which is a free local paper with a reach of 40,500 which has a diverse Galway City and County readership of 131,610. These articles promoted the individual social enterprises whilst delivering the collective key messages. Radio interviews took place on Galway Bay FM, Connemara Community Radio and six interviews on Go Com Radio who are also a member of the collective. A video was created which focused on the role of social enterprises, their individual stories in addition to the overarching key messages of the campaign. This video was a whole piece which in turn could be broken up into six individual components to be used by each social enterprise for their own purposes. These were made available on websites and the Facebook pages of the collective and on social media platforms including a strong promotional campaign on GCP Facebook and website. An in-depth feature on the collective was on ‘This is Galway’ social media platform which has a reach of 112,000 individuals. The primary aim of this campaign was to increase awareness of social enterprises in the city. This was achieved through all of the above in addition to increasing the name recognition, purpose and value and social impact of the participating social enterprises. The diversity of the social enterprises involved covered service delivery, culture, communication, employment of ethnic minorities and those on low incomes. The scope and reach of the campaign developed nationally as the collective featured in ILDN e-zine and were tweeted from organisations who have a national reach.

The video was shown at DRCD National Social Enterprise Conference in November 2022.

Choose Galway Social Enterprise (ARISE)

8. Please reflect on the programme supports that DRCD and/or Pobal provided to LDCs in 2022. Were they helpful? Would you recommend any changes in approach or content? (quarter of a page)

SICAP staff attended the Intercultural Awareness training in Athlone. This was a really useful workshop and we would love to see it run again in 2023 with an opportunity for more than 2 of the Team to be able to attend.

The IRIS training for superusers in the Company was very well received. It worked well as Pobal provided this training directly with the 2 superusers and provided great follow up supports afterwards.

Social Enterprise received considerable supports from DRCD through Pobal and Dormant Accounts Fund. These were the Social Inclusion Regeneration Programme (SERP) and Awareness Raising Initiative for Social Enterprises (ARISE). SERP started in 2021 and followed through to the first half of 2022. Support was administered in relation to delivery of reports and where applicable extension of deadlines. Online support was given to social enterprises through funding secured under SERP and led out by two regional partnerships headed by Roscommon Integrated Development Company Galway Rural Development. Areas included social media, income generation, ideas planning, strategic planning, governance and corporate social responsibility. GCP delivered an ARISE programme under strand 1 in the first half of 2022. Support in the form of an initial webinar and the designation of a support worker meant a clear knowledge of and a point of contact with Pobal. Communication in the form of deadlines and responses to queries and where applicable reallocation of budgets were clear and prompt. Suggested changes would be a clear indication of funding programmes at the start of each calendar year. This would allow for clearer planning and prevent the duplication and crossover of supports.

9 Please suggest potential programme supports that DRCD and/or Pobal could deliver to LDCs in 2023, including programme supports that could assist with working with Ukrainians and/or the programme priorities. (quarter of a page)

The need for support in the area of developing a clear communications strategy is becoming increasingly obvious. There exists a requirement for support in the delivery of clear messaging that covers both the remit of SICAP on a national basis and is adaptable to local circumstances.

As SICAP and LDCs are increasingly becoming responsive to emerging local and national needs there is the need to set this in a policy context.

A professional approach and support is needed in managing social media platforms that are becoming ever more complex and global in their reach. This is inclusive of the areas of traditional, social and digital media platforms.

Annex 1 – Updates to the IRIS database

Please confirm that you have completed the following end-of-year requirements:

✓	A narrative for each of the 2022 Actions has been input in the Update on Progress field under the End of Year report section of the action record. The <i>Action Progress Report</i> can be generated to view the updates for each action.
✓	2022 financial and beneficiary data input is complete.
✓	2022 data quality issues identified on system dashboards and views have been rectified.
✓	Potential duplicate records have been reviewed and deactivated if appropriate.
✓	2022 data follow-up has been carried out, as appropriate (e.g., LLL activity outcomes, still in employment/self-employment).
✓	ESF exit data has been recorded for Individuals who are no longer engaged with SICAP, in particular those who have not received any interventions in 2022.
✓	ESF 6 month follow-up has been recorded for Individuals who exited SICAP up to end May 2022.
✓	LDC contact information and staff member listing are up-to-date.
✓	2022 End of Year Financial and Monitoring report (including the signed costs charged report, Lot Summary Report and goal outcome reports) has been uploaded to IRIS.