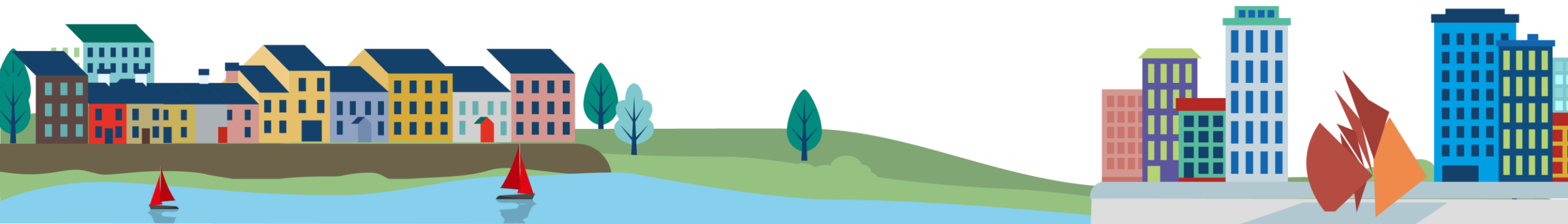


Galway City Council Integration Team

The Local Authority Integration Team is part of a national roll out across all local authorities currently being put in place to respond to needs of new members of our communities





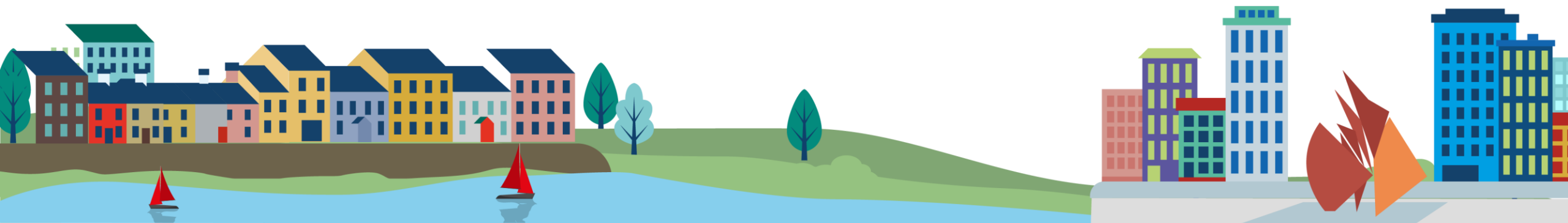
Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

Integration from day one...

The cornerstone of the new Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) is the guiding principle of 'integration from day one'. The overarching aim of the model is to empower individuals within our client groups to be supported to live independently in the community.

The new members of our communities that we will be working with in Galway city are:

- Applicants for International Protection (IP Applicants) – c.1,300
- Those with Refugee, Subsidiary Protection, or Permission to Remain status – c.250
- Programme Refugees - 0
- Beneficiaries of Temporary Accommodation (BOTPs) – c. 1.400



Effective integration

In the context of Irish migration policy, integration has been defined as: *"the ability to participate to the extent that a person needs and wishes in all major components of society without having to relinquish his or her own cultural identity."*

The following are key enablers that our team will be working on with our client group to ensure effective integration:

- Initial orientation to life in Ireland
- Support in acquiring English language proficiency
- Support in finding suitable employment
- Provision of support payments (for those not in paid employment)
- Support to access education and/or training
- Support to access health care in line with needs
- Support for cultural, social and political participation
- Support in living with and/or overcoming identified vulnerabilities



Our team:

Paul Fallon – Integration Support Coordinator
Keith Downey - Integration Support Worker
James Connaughton – Integration Support Worker
Jean Kennedy – Admin Support Worker

How we work:

Information clinics hosted by the team in centres throughout Galway city every week – 14 direct provision centres and 20 BOTP centres

- Staff assist the client group by assessing their individual needs and providing pathways into support and services relative to those needs
- Our clinics will be flexible to the needs of the client group operating both drop in and appointment based when necessary
- Our staff can prepare for an interpreter to be present when necessary
- Support workers liaise and engage with relevant agencies on a weekly basis to ensure positive client outcomes



Our remit extends to working with all persons living in the centres but priority is made for:

- New arrivals into centres
- New centres that open in the city
- Individual existing cases highlighted to us by centre managers

In setting up of the service our team has been working on:

1. Creating a directory of services and supports available to the client group – including mapping exercise of services in Galway city.
2. Meeting with services and groups working with the same client group to understand their engagement and current challenges
3. Engaging with centre managers and visiting centres to meet their staff teams.
4. Developing information packs that can be shared with our client group as they arrive.



What is not within our remit?

Providing accommodation support for client group. This remains the responsibility of the Department at national level.

Informing agencies when new centres open as this is within the remit of IPAS – however we will assist in providing an effective response when new centres open

Integration Response Forum

The LAIT team will host a regular forum with partner agencies so we can communicate efficiently on shared priorities and interests and keep one another informed as to our individual work updates

The Integration Response Forum can be used to discuss pressing issues/blocks or gaps in services or supports needed in order to find solutions for each of the target groups. (Ukrainian Response Forum will cease as it is currently constituted and those issues will be incorporated into the wider Integration Forum)



Practise Review

Our team will be reviewing practise on a regular basis and reporting back to LGMA on any issues arising. The team will be linking with partner agencies on a regular basis to ensure our collaborative efforts are producing results for the client group. The Support Workers will be checking in with the client group to assess whether their needs identified have been met at regular intervals.

Next steps...

The programme is currently in its pilot stage. In Quarter 1 we will:

- Complete recruitment of the Team
- Develop our directory of services
- Prepare tailored information brochures for each location
- Commence our needs assessments and information clinics with the client group
- Hold our first Integration Forum meeting

