



Galway County Council Social Inclusion Newsletter



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For more information on social
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visit www.galway.ie

Welcome

Spring 2011 Edition

Welcome to the Spring 2011 edition of the Social Inclusion Newsletter. We are all involved in social inclusion activities both through our work and in our communities. Social inclusion is about making sure that everyone in society has an equal chance at a good quality of life. For example, writing and talking in simple English, making sure people with a disability can still access our services, making the extra effort to help those that may need it and not discriminating against people because they might be different.

In this edition we have highlighted some of the initiatives that have happened in the last few months both locally and nationally and some more that will happen shortly. Please contact us if you would like more information on social inclusion. Enjoy!

Caitriona and Valerie
Social Inclusion Unit, Galway County Council.

Social Inclusion Week 2010 – A Success!



Social Inclusion Week for County Galway took place from 17th – 22nd October 2010. Over 55 events took place around the County to celebrate the week. The week was launched in County Hall by the Mayor of County Galway Cllr. Jimmy McClearn and the County Manager Martina Moloney. Literacy and plain English awareness sessions were held for Council staff on the day and a social inclusion cross word competition was also held where some sponsored prizes were up for grabs! While the week was a celebration of the good work that takes place around the County, exclusion issues that still remain were also highlighted.

Consultation with Children and Young People



Work has commenced in the Department of Children on drafting a new National Children's Strategy. The Minister for Children, Frances Fitzgerald, TD, would like to find out the issues of real importance to children and young people all over the country to help inform the strategy. The consultation process will take place during the week 4th to 8th April 2011. During this week children and young people are invited to complete questionnaires in all schools and Youthreach Centres throughout the country. County Galway Comhairle na nÓg are supporting this consultation process and will become 'ambassadors' to promote the consultation in their school or Youthreach Centre and other local schools.

census
2011 APRIL
10
MAKE YOUR MARK

The next Census will take place on Sunday 10th April 2011. The purpose of the Census is to collect specific information from the largest possible number of people. This will help the Government understand what Ireland's needs are into the future for example our transport needs, educational needs, medical needs, employment needs, housing needs and so on.

The Central Statistics Office has produced a 'Step by Step Guide to Filling in the Census 2011 Form' and NALA has put this into Plain English. Please see <http://www.census.ie/> to view the guide and for more information on census 2011.

County Council Launch Scheme to Give Free Smoke Alarms to the Most Vulnerable



On Monday 28th March 2011 the Mayor of County Galway launched this year's Community Smoke Alarm Scheme for 2011. This is where the County Council will work with communities, service providers and volunteers to distribute free smoke alarms to vulnerable households. On average 47 people die each year in domestic fires. Many of these deaths can be prevented by having a working smoke alarm.

This initiative is a combined effort of the Council, the Galway County Community and Voluntary Forum, the Galway Fire & Rescue Service and the communities, service providers and volunteers who give names and help to install the alarms. Alarms are funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

The alarms are lithium battery and have a life span of 10 years. If you know of vulnerable households in your community that need a smoke alarm contact the Community & Voluntary Forum on 093 45547 or email forumtuam@eircom.net

Galway County Council
2011 Community Smoke Alarm Scheme

On average 46 people die in fires each year in Ireland. Most of these can be prevented by a smoke alarm.
Do you know someone vulnerable in your community who doesn't have a smoke alarm?

Register them now for a **FREE** smoke alarm*

Contact:
Rita Cunnane
Tel: 093 45547
Email: forumtuam@eircom.net

*Name, address and phone number of person to receive the alarm is needed. Contact details of person to install the alarm is also needed. Alarms are 10 year lithium battery alarms and are subject to availability.

Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe
Scéim Pobail na nAláram Deataigh 2011

Ar an meán, faigheann 46 duine bás i ndóiteáin gach bliain in Éirinn. Is féidir cosc a chur ar an gcuid is mó acu le haláram deataigh.
An bhfuil aithe agat ar dhaoine leochaileacha i do phobal nach bhfuil aláram deataigh acu?

Cláirigh anois iad le haghaidh aláram deataigh **saor in aisce***

Deán teagmháil le:
Rita Cunnane
Guthán: 093 45547 R-phost: forumtuam@eircom.net

*Teastáil ainm, seoladh agus uimhir ghutháin an duine a gheobhaidh an aláram. Teastáil sonraí teagmhála an duine a dhéanfaidh an aláram feiceáil. Aláram na bhfuil coartál litiam deich mbliana atá i gcéist agus tá siad faoi réir infhaighteachta.

Human Library a great success event at Westside Library

On Wednesday 16th March 2011 Westside Library together with the Westside Community Development Project and Galway County Council's Social Inclusion Unit hosted Galway's first ever Human Library where the 'books' could literally speak. The human 'books' included an older person, a teenager, a traveller, a Muslim, a member of an Gardai Síochána and lots more. They represented groups of people who have experienced prejudice or stereotyping in their profession. There were many 'readers' in attendance who came to borrow a human 'book'. The aim of the Human Library is to promote an understanding and tolerance through dialogue and chat.



The evening finished with a choral recitation by the Westside Community choir. The conversations continued with refreshments and many new friendships were made on the night. The Human Library was begun by Ronnie Abergel in Denmark and it is now an international event with over 120 events in 45 countries. If anyone is interested in learning more about the Human Library please contact Caitriona on 091 476510.

Stand Up! LGBT Awareness Week 2011



Stand Up! LGBT Awareness Week is aimed at creating positive understanding of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people and their issues. This year's Stand Up! Week will be held from 4th to 15th April 2011, and will take place in schools and youth services around Ireland. During Stand Up! Week youth workers and teachers will offer all young people who participate in their centre or school the opportunity to participate in fun and educational activities. These will increase awareness, build supportive links among young people and reduce the incidence of bullying and name-calling. Other fun events will be organized to publicise Stand Up! Week and encourage young people to participate.

Integration Funding 2011 - Small Grants Scheme

The Office of the Minister for Integration has allocated funding to Galway County Council under the Integration Fund. Groups can apply for small grants to carry out activities and projects to help legally resident immigrants participate and integrate into community life. For the purpose of this funding legally resident immigrants are refugees, people with leave to remain, migrant workers and their families.

The total amount of funding available is €30,000 and we hope to get a reasonable distribution of projects and activities throughout County Galway. Proposals for project funding between €500 and €3,000 will be considered.

Applications are now invited from:

- Minority Ethnic Led Organisations
- Local Community and Voluntary Groups
- All groups and organisations that are engaged in organising and promoting events and activities aimed at integrating legally resident immigrants into the community.

Proposals should be sent to Caitriona McQuillan, Social Inclusion Unit by 5.00pm Friday 29th April 2011. Application form and further information is available on www.galway.ie or by contacting Caitriona on 091 476510.





European Year of Volunteering 2011



2011 has been designated the European Year of Volunteering. The purpose of the year is to celebrate the work of volunteers across Europe and to encourage those who do not currently volunteer, to get involved so they too can make a difference. Many events, exhibitions, live demonstrations and other activities will be taking place locally, nationally and throughout Europe.

'Volunteering Ireland' is the National Coordinating Body for Ireland. You can log onto www.eyv2011.ie to get more information on the year. If you want to find out more about volunteering log onto the Galway Volunteer Centre website at www.volunteergalway.ie

Celebrate Bealtaine 2011

bealtainefestival
celebrating creativity in older age

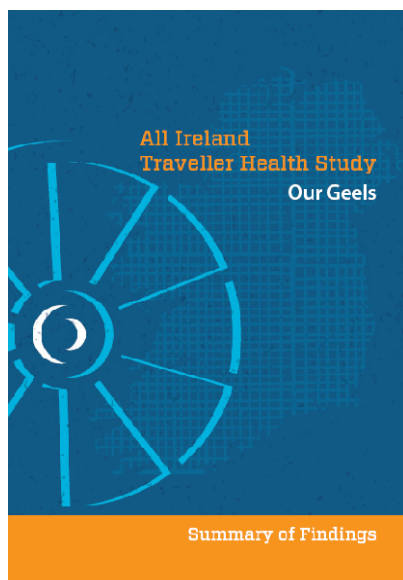
The month of May belongs to the Bealtaine festival, celebrating creativity in older age! Thousands of older people now take part in the Bealtaine festival. From dance to cinema, painting to theatre, Bealtaine showcases the talents and creativity of both first-time and professional older artists. The theme for this year's festival is 'Push the Boat out, whatever the Sea' and the Arts office & Social Inclusion Unit are putting together the Galway City & County Bealtaine Brochure to highlight and create awareness of the many wonderful events taking place throughout Galway. The programme of events will be formally launched in County Hall on Thursday April 28th 2011 and further details will be available on www.galway.ie nearer the time.

New County Traveller Strategy Prepared



The County Galway Traveller Interagency Group is a sub group of the CDB. The purpose of the Group is to improve the delivery of services to the Traveller Community by agencies, groups and Travellers working better together. The group met 7 times in 2010 to prepare a new Strategy for the period 2010 – 2013. The group is facilitated by Galway County Council and has received funding from Galway Rural Development. In 2010 the Group was also successful in obtaining funding from FÁS under their Special Initiative for Travellers. The funding is being used to employ two Development Workers to work with job ready Travellers helping them enter employment or set up their own enterprise. If you have any queries regarding the County Galway Traveller Interagency Group contact Valerie on 091 476512.

The All Ireland Traveller Health Study Released



In September 2010 the All Ireland Traveller Health Study was released. This was as result of collecting information on the Traveller Community over many years.

Some of the main findings were:

- Traveller men are living on average 15 years less than men in the general population
- Traveller women are living on average 11.5 years less than women in the general population.
- Deaths from respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases and suicides were more markedly increased in Travellers compared to the general population
- Suicide rates for Traveller men are 6.6 times that of general population,
- Education levels are very low with only about half of Traveller adults having completed at least primary school education. However, more than 90% of 14 year olds are now in school or training centres.