

Westside Resource Centre – Many Services Under One Roof

Galway City Partnership - Westside Project coordinate and support community work and participation in the Westside area and engage with numerous individuals, agencies and service providers to ensure the needs of the community are being met and to empower local people for positive change. (Contact 091-773466).

Big Brother Big Sister are an internationally renowned youth mentoring programme that forms friendships between a young person and an adult volunteer. This programme is operated in Ireland by Foróige, the national youth development organisation. The Galway regional office is based in the Westside Resource Centre. (Contact Kirsten on 087-7996268).

WorldWide Global Schools is Ireland's national Global Citizenship Education (GCE) programme for post-primary schools. The aim of the programme is to increase the number of post-primary schools engaging in quality global citizenship education by providing a comprehensive range of supports and training.

Galway City Community Network is a network of community, voluntary and environmental organisations active in Galway City. The GCCN is the main link through which the local authority connects with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors. (Contact Ann on 087-9326467).

Self Help Africa works with rural communities to help them improve their farms and their livelihoods. (Contact Ronan on 087-6189094).

National Advocacy Service aims to provide independent advocates to people with disabilities who find it difficult to speak for themselves. (Contact 076-1073000).

Westside Crèche & Pre School is a community based childcare service which aims to support and assist families and children in the Westside area through the provision of accessible, affordable, high quality childcare. (Contact Pauline on 091-581707).

AMACH! LGBT Galway aims to reflect equally the diversity within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community by encouraging positive participation from the community. We actively advocate to achieve a solid and safe support structure for the LGBT+ community in Galway. (Contact info@amachlgbt.com).

MEAS Garda Youth Diversion Project is a community based and supported youth development project which seeks to divert young people from becoming involved (or further involved) in anti-social or criminal behaviour. These projects facilitate personal development and promote civic responsibility. (Contact Anthony on 086-0479707 or 091-554421).

OBAIR – Local Employment Service Network If you are out of work and looking for employment, training or educational opportunities, we can help. Our service is free, respectful and client- focussed. All meetings are held in private. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE. Please Note: If you are in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance/Benefit, the Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection will send you to us if deemed appropriate. (Contact Marguerite or Pádraig on 091-581955)

Epilepsy Ireland provides a professional information service to support and empower people with epilepsy and their families, who have problems coming to terms with the condition and its implications. (Contact Edel on 091-587640).

EPIC – Empowering Young People in Care in Ireland is an independent association for young people in care and with care experience. We provide information, advice and support as well as an independent advocacy service for young people in care, aftercare or with care experience. (Contact Brenda on 091-395605 or 087-6249344).

RISE Service is the provider of choice of person-centred, health and social care services that facilitate people who are disadvantaged to participate in the life of their local community in ways that match their choices, aspirations and needs. (Contact Kim on 087-3811796 or kim.murphy@rehabcare.ie)



WESTSIDE NEWSLETTER

Supported by Westside Resource Centre and Galway City Partnership - Westside Project

Galway City Partnership
a side for change
in the heart of Galway
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Connected Hubs Network

Westside Resource Centre has become a member of the newly-established Connected Hubs network. This is an initiative by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The aim of the programme is to create an accessible network of broadband-enabled spaces throughout the country that will allow people to work closer to home by using local meeting facilities, offices and hot-desking.

The network offers a "one-stop shop" for finding and contacting hubs in your local area. You can visit our page on the Connected Hubs website to see more details at <https://connectedhubs.ie/hubs/profile/6>

Westside Resource Centre joined the network as a Community Hub and welcomes bookings from a wide range of community and voluntary organisations.

connectedhubs
#TransformYourWorkday

Free Energy Audit and BER

Spending too much on Energy Bills? Want to make your home more comfortable and sustainable?

Galway Energy Co-operative, are offering Galway City WEST homeowners a free energy audit and BER. We are particularly looking for TERRACED houses.

Get a full assessment of the energy use in your home and a detailed report on how to reduce your bills with a fully costed plan to move your home to a B2 BER.

THIS LIMITED OFFER CLOSSES August 22nd ... DON'T DELAY!!!

To avail of this offer, please visit <https://www.energyco-ops.ie/resources/galway-city-energy-audits>

Continued inside...



COVID-19

Galway City Council
Community Call Helpline

Freephone: 1800 400 150

Email: covidsupport@galwaycity.ie

Get A Vaccine, Give A Vaccine

Staff at Westside Resource Centre are supporting UNICEF Ireland's 'Get a Vaccine, Give a Vaccine' fundraising appeal. Many people in the community are now fully vaccinated and this initiative gives those who have received a vaccine the opportunity to help people in other communities around the world to get a vaccination.

Please support our local efforts by making a donation of €5 at Westside Resource Centre or using the Donate button on our website (this donation facility is provided by iDonate). We will continue to raise funds for this appeal until the end of August 2021 and then we will invite corporate sponsors to consider matching the amount we have raised. In this way, we may be able to double our donation and double our impact!

There is a donate button on our homepage: <http://www.westsidresourcecentre.ie>

All donations until the end of August 2021 will be passed on to the UNICEF appeal. For more information on UNICEF Ireland and the 'Get a Vaccine, Give a Vaccine' campaign, please see <https://www.unicef.ie>



Online Resources at Westside Public Library

Newspapers and Magazines online free through your library

During the past year we have all adapted to new routines and working from home. Communication through online platforms is now an essential part of our daily life.

Did you know that you can view your daily newspapers and weekly magazines through your library account? This is accessed by logging into www.galwaylibrary.ie and clicking on the link for online courses and resources. There you will find the available apps to download to your pc or smart device. This service is available for free to all users. For more information or to register an account please call into your local library or phone 091-509091.

Galway Energy Co-op offering Free Energy Audits & BERs

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Galway Energy Co-op are conducting a study with the aim of bringing together audited homes in an application for grant funding from the SEAI in a Better Energy Communities project.

What is an Energy Audit?

An Energy Audit is an assessment of the fabric (walls, roofs, windows, doors, etc) and energy use of a building, in this case a home. Normally these can cost between €300-€500, but successful applicants for this study will receive their energy audit free of charge.

How is an Energy Audit Different from a BER?

A BER is similar in that it looks at the fabric and energy use types in a home. However, BERs are based on average energy demands for each element of a home and not the actual energy use in a specific home. An energy Audit, although it includes all the elements of a BER, gives much more detail.

An Energy Audit contains a list of suggestions ('energy retrofits') for the homeowner to reduce the energy use of a home. It also estimates how much each suggestion to reduce energy use will cost, and what the payback for each measure is likely to be.

What will the study do?

Our study will take a sample of homes in Galway City to see what their energy use is, what contributes to that energy use and also how this can be reduced, at what cost, and what the value for money of these measures will be. We will be able to apply the information

learned from each audit to all the different kinds of houses in Galway, so that the whole community will be able to know how to reduce their own homes energy use. This will have long term and far-reaching sustainability benefits for the residents of the city as a whole.

How will I benefit?

You will be given a list of costed recommendations aimed at making your home healthier, more comfortable, more sustainable, and with lower energy bills in the future.

How do I take part?

Just fill in the CONFIDENTIAL quick survey at <https://www.energyco-ops.ie/resources/galway-city-energy-audits> and we will contact you about organising a FREE energy audit for your home. Doing the survey does not commit you to anything, all your information is kept secure and confidential. More information on Better Energy Communities (BEC) is available from the SEAI: <https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants>

Are there any Minimum Requirements?

To receive funding for BEC/Energy Improvement grants, homes need to reach a minimum B2 BER after all works are done. There are also value for money criteria that need to be met.

There are many benefits to the individual householder in taking part in a BEC. For example, preferential grant supports, reduced costs from savings through group purchase of materials and services and the fact that the retrofitting project is done at a group level.

Copies of the HSE information booklet "Keep Well" are available from Reception at Westside Resource Centre.



Colouring Competition Results



The Spring edition of Westside Newsletter contained a children's colouring competition. Thank you to all of the children who took part. Congratulations to the winners: Elisha Marie (age 4) and to Lana (age 8). Keep an eye on [facebook.com/westsideresourcecentre](https://www.facebook.com/westsideresourcecentre) to view the winning entries.

New Facilities at Westside Resource Centre

While restrictions have been in place, Westside Resource Centre has taken the opportunity to carry out some building works. A new emergency exit has been created towards the rear of the building and the reception area has seen the creation of a new multi-purpose space at one side. This room is ideal for small meetings and for hosting video conferences.

In order to better facilitate meetings in the Resource Centre, we have invested in video conferencing equipment. This allows people to participate in meetings held here without having to be physically present in the building. We predict that this equipment will be used to a greater and greater extent even in a post-COVID society.

Westside Resource Centre would like to acknowledge the support of Galway City Council, Galway City LCDC, the Western Development Commission and the Department of Rural and Community Development.

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author(s) of each individual piece and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Westside Resource Centre or Galway City Partnership.

Creative Gifts

Westside Resource Centre has a range of creative gifts for sale. Our popular Greeting Card Collection features work by artists in the local community. The cards are ideal for any occasion. A pack of 12 cards costs €10 and they are available at Reception.

Copies of the Westside Writers' Group's recent anthologies are also available from the Resource Centre. Each anthology is a collection of short stories, poems, songs and other writings and the 2021 edition even contains a COVID-19 section which captures in story and verse the reality of the pandemic. The anthologies cost between €10 and €12.50.

We have received a number of original paintings from a very generous anonymous donor. These beautiful artworks comprise a variety of landscapes and seascapes on canvas and board and are priced between €20 and €25, depending on size.

All proceeds from the sale of these creative gifts go to support the work of the Resource Centre, which is a registered charity working to support the local community.

New Digital Noticeboard

Westside Resource Centre is trialing a new "Digital Noticeboard" facility on its website for the display of notices from community and voluntary groups and organisations. The system was created in part as a response to the COVID-19 restrictions and serves as a means to bring information to people in the community who might not be in a position to come to the resource centre.

There is a link to the noticeboard on the Westside Resource Centre home page: www.westsideresourcecentre.ie We hope that this noticeboard will be a useful addition to our website and a handy tool for local people to see at a glance what events are taking place in the area.

If your community group would like to submit a notice for display on the noticeboard, please send us a soft copy by email to info@westsideresourcecentre.ie Our policy with regard to use of the noticeboard is available at www.westsideresourcecentre.ie/noticeboard



Rialtas na hÉireann
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