



# Galway County Council

# Social Inclusion

# Newsletter



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<http://twitter.com/galwaycoco>

## Welcome...

March 2012 Edition

Welcome to the first social inclusion newsletter of 2012.

The Social Inclusion page on the County Council website had a new makeover. It contains many of the activities that we are involved in including our work plan for 2012. Click [here](#) to see the new page and a copy of our work plan.

This edition is jam packed with news. We hope you enjoy!

Caitriona and Valerie  
Social Inclusion Unit

## Bealtaine in Galway 2012

### 'What kind of old do you want to be?'

**bealtainefestival**  
celebrating creativity in older age



The month of May belongs to the Bealtaine festival, celebrating creativity in older age! From dance to cinema, painting to theatre, Bealtaine showcases the talents and creativity of both first-time and professional older artists. Each year, Age & Opportunity invites local authorities, arts centres, libraries, active retirement groups, care settings and community groups to run Bealtaine events that celebrate creativity in older age.

This year Galway County Council as part of its Galway Age Friendly Cultural Programme has again decided to produce a **County Galway Bealtaine Brochure** to highlight and create awareness of the many wonderful events and activities taking place throughout Galway. The theme for this year's festival is 'What kind of old do you want to be?' recognising that older people are not one homogeneous group; rather they are individuals with widely differing talents, interests and needs.

If you would like any event or activity to be included in the brochure visit [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie) to download a form. Forms should be completed and emailed to [bealtaine@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:bealtaine@galwaycoco.ie) before Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

# Young People will 'Speak Out' in Galway this March



**Young Social Innovators**  
**Speak Out!**

**INVITATION TO LISTEN!**

You are invited to attend one of the Young Social Innovators' Connacht Region Speak Out Fora 2012. Hundreds of young people will **SPEAK OUT** on social issues affecting communities throughout this region. Young people taking part this year will advocate on a range of issues such as mental health and suicide, poverty and exclusion, human rights, crime and violence etc and show what innovative responses they are taking to bring about positive change.

**Connacht Region Speak Out Fora 2012**

**Venue:** The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway  
**Date:** 8th March 2012  
**Time:** Speak Out Forum 1: 9.30am  
Speak Out Forum 2: 1.30pm

**Each event will last approximately 2.5 hours**  
To reserve your place, RSVP [emma.weaver@youngsocialinnovators.ie](mailto:emma.weaver@youngsocialinnovators.ie) and indicate which event you would like to attend.

Kindly co-hosted by:



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe  
Galway City Council



**Young Social Innovators**  
Believe in it. Act on it.

care co-operate change communicate

The Connacht 'Speak Out' event will take place in the Ardilaun Hotel on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012. This event is part of a nationwide series of events attended by the participants of the YSI Social Innovation Programme.

This annual event gives young people a platform to talk about social issues and showcase their project in a creative way. YSI Speak Outs are about promoting caring, communication, co-ordination and creating change.

This year, 10 projects from 5 schools in County Galway and 1 school in Galway City are taking part and will 'Speak Out'. Each project will have 2 minutes to present to an audience of local councils, special guests, community leaders and educators. A YSI panel will also be present to provide feedback to project teams on the day. The County Galway Dáil na nÓg representative for 2012 will sit on the YSI panel and give feedback to teams. The County Mayor Cllr. Michael Maher will also attend to welcome the young people and listen to their presentations.

Galway County Council is co-hosting this event. For more information see [www.youngsocialinnovators.ie](http://www.youngsocialinnovators.ie)

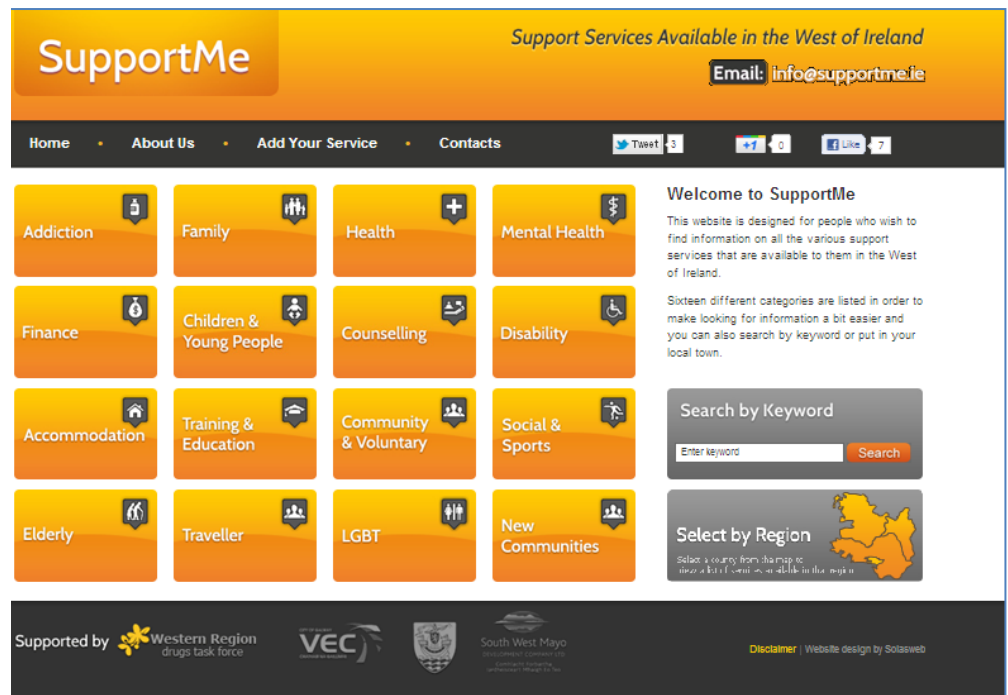


# Supportme.ie – Website Launched

The website is designed for people who want to find information on all the various support services that are available to them in the West of Ireland.

Support services under 16 different categories are listed and you can also search by keyword or put in your local town.

The website was developed through the work of the Community Liaison Workers funded by the Western Region Drugs Task Force.



## International women's day Connecting girls, inspiring futures

The **8<sup>th</sup> March** each year celebrates International Women's Day. Thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements.

Some example of events include political rallies, business conferences, government activities, networking events, local women's craft markets, theatrical performances, fashion parades and many more. Why not organise an event in your area to mark the day. Visit [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com) for more information.



## European Week Against Racism (EWAR) 17<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2012

The European Week Against Racism centres on the International Day Against Racism and is co-ordinated in Ireland by the Irish Network Against Racism (ENAR Ireland). This year the focus for the week is on Speaking Out Against Racism. March 21st is the International Day Against Racism, a day when the people across the globe show their opposition to racism.



European  
Network  
Against  
Racism  
Ireland

This annual event was declared as a memorial by the United Nations in response to the murder of 69 anti-apartheid demonstrators in Sharpeville South Africa in 1960. For further information on ENAR Ireland please log onto <http://enarireland.org>

## Galway County Intercultural Forum Up and Running!

The Galway County Intercultural Forum was set up in 2011. It gives members of the immigrant community in County Galway the opportunity to work and network together. Membership of the Forum is made up of community representatives from different parts of County Galway. The Intercultural Forum aims to serve as a platform to help develop an inclusive, supportive and intercultural community.



It provides information to all migrant communities in County Galway and provides a link between their communities and local people. It also promotes migrant views on policy matters within the County. It provides a space where organisations can present topics of interest and inform their communities on developments in the County.

The Forum meets in the Community, Enterprise & Economic Unit of Galway County Council every 2 months. All Intercultural groups in County Galway are welcome to attend. For further information on the Intercultural Forum please contact Denise Feeney on 091 476511 or email [dfeeney@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:dfeeney@galwaycoco.ie)



## Civic Reception for Michael D Higgins

President Michael D Higgins was honoured with a civic reception by Galway County Council on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The President was in the company of invited guests from the community and voluntary sector of which he has given so much of his time to over the years. During his visit to Galway the President also met with staff and trainees at Galway Training Centre, Merlin Park, which provides training for people with disabilities. He officially opened the newly refurbished Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at University Hospital Galway and launched the Irish Centre for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Research at NUI Galway.



## Social Inclusion page gets a makeover on [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)

The Social Inclusion page on the County Council website had a new makeover! It contains lots of information about some of the activities that the Social Inclusion Unit are involved in as well as useful links for other services. Log onto [www.galway.ie/en/Services/CommunityEnterpriseEconomicDevelopment/SocialInclusion/](http://www.galway.ie/en/Services/CommunityEnterpriseEconomicDevelopment/SocialInclusion/)

