

Services Available for Children and Teenagers with Disabilities in Co. Galway

An Information Booklet for Children and Teenagers with Disabilities and their Families



1st Edition

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What is the ECCE Programme?

Under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme, all eligible children in the Republic of Ireland are entitled to free early childhood care and education (otherwise known as 'free pre-school') in the period before they start primary school.

Who does the ECCE Programme support?

Pre-school children, within the eligible age range (all children who have turned 2 years and 8 months of age before September 1st as long they won't turn 5 years and 6 months of age on or before June 30th of the programme year). All children are entitled to 2 full academic years on the ECCE Programme.

How does the ECCE Programme provide support?

The ECCE programme provides children with their first formal experience of early learning prior to commencing primary school. The programme is provided for three hours per day, five days per week over 38 weeks per year and the programme year runs from September to June each year. The programme is offered in early years settings (i.e. pre-schools, Montessori, crèches, playgroups).

National Childcare Scheme:

What is the National Childcare Scheme?

The National Childcare Scheme (NCS) provides financial support to help parents meet the cost of quality childcare. It will replace all previous targeted childcare support programmes with a single, streamlined and user-friendly scheme. NCS is a Department of Children and Youth Affairs funded scheme which provides financial support towards the cost of childcare to eligible families with children aged between 24 weeks and 15 years who are attending any participating Túsla registered childcare service, including any Túsla registered childminder and school-age childcare services.

For more information:

Phone: 091-752039

Email: mail@galwaychildcare.com

Address: 9b, Liosbán Retail Centre, Tuam Road, Galway, H91 Y6D2

Website: www.galwaychildcare.com



What is AIM?

In order to support children with a disability to access and fully participate in the ECCE Programme, a major new programme of supports, the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) has been introduced.

Who does AIM support?

Pre-school children with a disability who are within the eligible age range for the ECCE programme.

How does AIM provide support?

AIM is a child-centred model, involving 7 levels of progressive support, moving from the universal to the targeted, based on the needs of the child and the pre-school service. The model is designed to be responsive to the needs of each individual child in the context of their pre-school setting. It offers tailored, practical supports based on need and does not require a formal diagnosis of disability.

AIM provides a suite of universal and targeted supports across 7 levels. The universal supports include: 1) an inclusive culture, 2) information for parents and providers and 3) a qualified and confident workforce. The targeted supports include: 4) expert early years educational advice and support, 5) equipment, 6) therapeutic intervention and 7) additional assistance in the pre-school room.

How to access AIM supports?

Applications for AIM remain open throughout the year. In the case of children with more complex disabilities, parents and pre-school providers are encouraged to apply early. To apply or seek guidance please visit the websites below or contact Galway Childcare Committee (contact details overleaf).

For more information:

Phone: 091-752039

Email: mail@galwaychildcare.com

Address: 9b, Liosbán Retail Centre, Tuam Road, Galway, H91 Y6D2

Websites: www.galwaychildcare.com or www.aim.gov.ie



Seirbhís Luath-Idirghabhála An Earraigh, Gaillimh
Springtime Early Intervention Service, Galway

Who are we?

We are a specialist service for children from birth to six years of age with complex developmental needs. We are part of the national 'Progressing Disability Services for Children & Young People' programme. We have five community based teams at various locations serving Galway City and County.

Who do we support?

Springtime Early Intervention Service (SEIS) provides specialised support and services for young children (aged from birth to 6 years who have a disability and/or developmental delay) and their families.

How do we support?

The EIS team supports a child's development, well-being and participation in family and community life.

We recognise that early childhood is a time when learning and development can flourish. The early experiences and opportunities provided early in life shape a child's development.



It is the role of the EIS team to share knowledge, information and skills with families so that they can further support their child's development. This will help children to develop, learn, and participate in everyday activities.

The support and services provided by the EIS team go beyond "therapy". Our aim is for every child to have a childhood of inclusive experiences where they can have fun, develop interests and form relationships with others wherever they are.

Springtime Early Intervention Service will work with your child and family in the clinic and everyday places: home, preschool and/or school. We focus on the things that are important to you.

We also hold workshops, training and coaching sessions for parents and carers and other people involved with your child.

For more information:

If you have a query, require further information or wish to request a referral form please contact:

Phone: 091-872 762

Address: Springtime Early Intervention Service, Manager's Office, St Brendan's Campus, Lake Road, Loughrea, Co. Galway,
H62 Y437



Who are we?

Ability West

Who do we support?

Ability West provides services and supports to over 145 children with an intellectual disability, autism and comorbidities across Galway City and County. Since our establishment in 1962 we have been to the forefront in developing community-based services for children and adults with intellectual disability and autism.

Ability West is patron of 4 special schools in Galway City and County:

- St Joseph's Special School, Newcastle, Galway City
- St Oliver's Special School, Tuam
- St Teresa's Special School, Ballinasloe
- Tigh Nan Dooley Special School, Carraroe

The schools provide specialist education for children with moderate to severe/profound intellectual disabilities.

How do we support?

Ability West provides supports at the school through:

1. Multidisciplinary Team: which comprises of Behaviour Support, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Social Work, and Speech and Language Therapy.

2. School Nurse: The organisation funds the employment of school nurses in each of the four schools to support children with complex medical needs.
3. Respite Services: Children attending the four schools can apply for respite services which include:
 - Centre-based respite at two centres in Salthill and Ballinasloe
 - Social groups and summer camps
 - Community/Family Support Worker
 - Home sharing
4. Support when transitioning from children's services onto adult services

The core values of Ability West include:

- Rights Based Approach
- Person-centeredness
- Independence
- Participation in community life
- Partnership
- Openness, integrity, accountability and transparency

Services and supports are provided on a needs basis and prioritisation system, as identified through the admission process.

For more information:

Phone: 091-540900

Email: enquiries@abilitywest.ie

Address: Ability West, Blackrock House, Salthill, Galway

Website: www.abilitywest.ie

Facebook: www.facebook.com/abilitywest



Who are we?

Galway School Age Service (GSAS) is a multi-disciplinary team. The multi-disciplinary supports provided include: clinical psychology, community nursing, occupational therapy, paediatrics, physiotherapy, social work and speech and language therapy.

Who do we support?

GSAS provides multi-disciplinary supports to children and teenagers (aged from 6 to 18 years) who have an intellectual disability and who attend either mainstream schools in Galway City and County or Lakeview School. These services can be provided at home, at school and/or from the team base in Galway City, as appropriate.

How do we support?

The team provides services by:

- Assessing each child or teenager's multi-disciplinary needs in collaboration with the young person and their parent(s)/carer(s)
- Providing the therapies listed above to children and teenagers with an intellectual disability, as appropriate
- Providing information and support to children/teenagers with an intellectual disability, their parent(s)/carer(s) and/or school staff, as appropriate

For more information:

Phone: 076-106 4375

Email: una.finn@bocsi.ie

Address: The Gables, Woodlands, Renmore, Galway

Website: www.brothersofcharity.ie/galway



Who are we?

The Rosedale Team is a multi-disciplinary team. The multi-disciplinary supports provided include: behaviour support, clinical psychology, community nursing, occupational therapy, paediatrics, physiotherapy, social work and speech and language therapy.

Who do we support?

The Rosedale Team provides multi-disciplinary supports to children and teenagers (aged from 6 to 18 years) who have a severe or profound intellectual disability and who attend Rosedale Special School. These services can be provided at home, at school and/or in respite settings (centre-based and/or home-based), as appropriate.

How do we support?

The team provides services by:

- Assessing each child or teenager's multi-disciplinary needs in collaboration with the young person (as much as possible) and their parent(s)/carer(s)
- Providing the therapies listed above to children and teenagers with severe or profound intellectual disability and who attend Rosedale School, as appropriate
- Providing information and support to children/teenagers with severe or profound intellectual disability and who attend Rosedale School, their parent(s)/carer(s), school staff and/or respite staff, as appropriate

For more information:

Website: www.brothersofcharity.ie/galway



Who are we?

Enable Ireland provides services to children with disabilities and their families from over 40 locations in 15 counties. Covering childhood to adulthood our teams work with the individual and their family on a plan for each life stage. The children's service in Galway offers a variety of programmes to children with physical disabilities within the age range of 0 – 18 years.

Who do we support?

- The Spring Time Early Intervention Services:
(See Page 7 for more information about this service)
- Rainbow Preschool:
Children within the age range of 3 to 6 years who have a diagnosed neurological physical disability such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy or spina bifida or have a diagnosed chronic orthopaedic condition such as brittle bone, juvenile arthritis or have a significant physical disability without a confirmed diagnosis. Also, children with epilepsy, speech and language delay or a developmental delay can avail of the preschool service
- Parent and Toddler Group runs one morning a week.
- Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD) Service:
For children age 5 to 12 years who meet the access criteria of Enable Ireland DCD service. The children who can access the DCD service do not have an intellectual disability as defined by the current DSM5 criteria

- **School Age Services:**
For children and young adults, age 6 to 18 years (or up to 19 years, if still attending school). Children age 6 to 18 years who have a diagnosed neurological physical disability such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy or spina bifida or have a diagnosed chronic orthopaedic condition such as brittle bone, juvenile arthritis or have a significant physical disability, without a confirmed diagnosis. They require a team intervention from multiple disciplines and the child's assessed needs can be met by Enable Ireland Galway Children's Services
- **Assessment of Need (AON):**
Any child born after June 1st 2002 is eligible to apply for an assessment under the Disability Act 2005, regardless of their age at the time of application. An AON is an assessment of the full range of your child's needs associated with his or her disability. After this, you will receive an Assessment Report detailing your child's needs and the services required to meet those needs. Children may be referred by the HSE for an AON and review of the AON
- **PA/Family Support Services:**
The PA/Family Support Service is available to children with a physical and sensory disability. The child should present with an identified need for support in social, educational and/or activities of daily living at home or in the community. The service is based on assessed need and available resources, and is reviewed annually
- **Assistive Technology Service:**
Assistive technology service is available for children with a physical and sensory disability. The child should present with an identified need for support with accessing high or low tech assistive technology to support their function in everyday life. They must also have a primary physical and/or sensory disability.

How do we support?

Enable Ireland offer assessment, intervention, review, consultation and family supports to children and adults who meet the access to service criteria. Over the years Enable Ireland have extended the service outwards to provide community-based activities such as horse riding, swimming, social, educational and field-based sports. They have a

hydrotherapy pool on site and also run a weekly spasticity clinic where children may receive Botox therapy injections.

For more information:

Phone: 091-545800

Email: mderrig@enableireland.ie

Address: Seamus Quirke Road, Newcastle, Co. Galway.

Website: www.enableireland.ie/services/service-centres/galway

TURAS FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Together Unity Respect
Accessible Services

Who we are?

TURAS Family and Community Service

Who do we support?

TURAS Family and Community Service provides services to children, young persons and adults with an intellectual disability in Galway City and County, supporting people to be valued citizens in their local community, to have ordinary life experiences and to be closely connected to family and friends.

How do we support?

TURAS Family and Community Service is a community-based model of service which recognises and acknowledges the need for short breaks and respite along with family and community-based support for families and individuals. TURAS services is committed to supporting people to make choices about their lives and to the provisions of quality services that meet people's needs. The service makes every effort to meet assessed needs of families and aims to offer appropriate supports led by the individual and their family in line with personal outcomes measures. TURAS family and community service is a flexible quality service managed, coordinated and delivered by qualified trained staff.

TURAS Family and Community Service:

A respite service which employs support workers to work on a one to one basis or in a group with the child/young person or adult either in their homes or the local community. Afterschool support, holiday projects along with drama are options of support offered by TURAS services.

Along with these, Home Sharing (a family-based service) is also offered through TURAS services.

Home Sharing:

Home Sharing has been an alternative option to the traditional respite care offered to people with intellectual disability and their families for over 35 years. This service is run jointly by the Brothers of Charity Service and Ability West Service. Home Sharing is offered in Galway under three strands: Short breaks, Contract Families and Shared Living.

- Home Sharing short breaks is a family-based service which involves a family in the community hosting a child or adult with an intellectual disability into their home for short breaks and caring for that person as a member of their family
- Contract Families is where a home sharing family offers breaks to individuals with an intellectual disability who have additional needs (such as physical or medical needs) by offering 10, 16 or 20 sessions per month
- Shared Living is where an adult with an intellectual disability shares a home sharing family's home on a full- time arrangement with scheduled breaks

Afterschool Groups:

Afterschool groups are held on a weekly basis. These include our teenage group (Little Mix), swimming groups and various other activities.

Holiday Projects:

Holiday projects generally run during the summer, Easter and Halloween breaks. They offer young people opportunities to enjoy various outings as well as participating in sports, arts and crafts activities.

For more information:

Phone: 076-1064382

Email: familysupport@bocsi.ie

Address: 5 Fána Buí, Ballymoneen Road, Knocknacarra, Galway, H91 NR02



Who are we?

Home Share Galway is a support service developed jointly by Ability West and the Brothers of Charity Galway Services providing much needed short breaks to adults and children with intellectual disabilities throughout Galway City and County. Both organisations also independently provide supports and services to people with an intellectual disability and their families throughout their lifecycle.

Who do we support?

Adults and children with an intellectual disability throughout Galway City and County.

How do we support?

The aim of home sharing for people with an intellectual disability is to have opportunities for self-expression in all aspects of their lives. Home Share Galway strives to empower people with an intellectual disability to have dignifying relationships and to be included meaningfully in the life of their communities. The uniqueness of the scheme is that support is provided for individuals by families in the community in their own homes. People enjoy the opportunity of developing new relationships and being part of new communities whilst enjoying a short break.

For more information:

Ability West

Contacts: Angharad Langford, Home Sharing Coordinator
or Head of Social Work

Telephone: Blackrock House; 091-540 900

Address: Ability West, Blackrock House, Salthill, Galway

Email: homesharing@abilitywest.ie
Website: www.abilitywest.ie
Facebook: www.facebook.com/abilitywest
Twitter: www.twitter.com/abilitywest

Brothers of Charity Services – West Region

Contacts: Tom Gilmartin, Home Sharing Coordinator
Or Audrey Reilly, Team Leader, Family Support Services
Telephone: Family Support Office; 076-106 4382
Website: nhsn.ie/find-a-service/galway

Who are we?

Túsla - The Child and Family Agency is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children.

Who do we support?

We support and promote the development, welfare and protection of children and the effective functioning of families.

How do we support?

The Child and Family Agency's services include a range of universal and targeted services:

- Child protection and welfare services
- Educational welfare services
- Psychological services
- Alternative care
- Family and locally-based community supports
- Early years services
- Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence services

For more information:

Phone: 091-546 228

Email: info@tusla.ie

Address: Túsla – The Child and Family Agency,
25 Newcastle Road,
Galway

Website: www.tusla.ie



Who are we?

Barnardos' vision is a country where no child has to suffer and every child is able to reach their full potential. Barnardos' mission is to deliver services and work with families, communities, and our partners to transform the lives of vulnerable children who are affected by adverse childhood experiences.

Who do we support?

- Working with children to build resilience with a focus on their social, emotional, physical and educational development
- Helping parents strengthen their parenting skills to help them meet the needs of their children
- Working with schools to support children in their social and emotional development, to help with their educational progress
- Working within communities connecting families with local supports

How do we support?

Over 700 staff and volunteers work in 40 centres across Ireland delivering vital services to children and families.

Barnardos Post Adoption Service Galway provides a specialist therapeutic service to children and teenagers who are adopted both internationally and domestically - and their parents.

Services that are provided:

- A therapeutic service for adopted children and teenagers and their families
- A national, confidential helpline and email advisory service available twice weekly and professionally staffed
- Advisory sessions for adoptive parents. Parents may have questions about attachment, school issues, sharing background information and identity development among many other issues.

Parenting consultations and support via Skype can also be arranged to assist parents who may be living at a distance from our centres

- Group work with children and teenagers
- Group support and training for adoptive parents
- Specialist training on adoption issues for professional groups such as teachers
- Support groups for adopted adults and birth mothers are available from our Dublin Post Adoption Centre (01-8134100)

For more information:

Phone: 091-454489

Email: adoption@barnardos.ie

Address: "The Sanctuary", 27 Chois Chláir, Claregalway,
Co.Galway, H91 DH29

Website: www.barnardos.ie



Who are we?

The National Council for Special Education (NCSE) is an independent statutory body established under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act (2004). The NCSE provides a wide range of supports with an overall focus on improving the delivery of education services to those with special educational needs resulting from disabilities, with particular emphasis on children and teenagers.

Who do we support?

Our supports are available to schools, educators, as well as the parents and guardians of children and teenagers with special educational needs arising from disabilities. The aim of NCSE supports is to improve the capacity of schools to meet the needs of students with special education needs and include them in the classroom and school life to the greatest extent possible.

How do we support?

NCSE support services are delivered through regional teams. Each regional team consists of: Special Educational Needs Organisers (SENOS) who interact with parents and schools and offer guidance on the facilities, services, and resources available; Advisors who provide in-school support; and Visiting Teachers who provide support to young people and their families who are deaf/hard of hearing or blind/visually impaired. Currently, a School Inclusion Model is running in two of the ten NCSE regional areas. This aims to build schools' capacity to include children with additional needs by providing in-school supports from Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Behaviour Support practitioners.

For more information:

Website: ncse.ie/contact-us



Who are we?

The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) is a section of the Department of Education. Established in 2000, NEPS is an educational psychological service that works in collaboration with school communities to improve outcomes for all children and young people. The purpose of NEPS is captured in our Mission Statement below:

“Our Mission is to support the personal, social and educational development of all children through the application of psychological theory and practice in education, having particular regard for children with special educational needs”

Who do we support?

NEPS psychologists work with both primary and post-primary schools and they are concerned with learning, behaviour and social and emotional development. Each psychologist is assigned to a group of schools.

How do we support?

In common with many other psychological services and best international practice, NEPS has adopted a consultative model of service. The focus is on empowering teachers to intervene effectively with pupils whose needs range from mild to severe and transient to enduring.

The achievement of this goal requires that NEPS psychologists are:

- Scientist-practitioners in the field of psychology in education
- Concerned with the totality of the child's development and experience
- Required to combine the provision of services for all children with more targeted support for pupils with SEN

Educational Psychologists use a problem-solving and solution-focused consultative approach to maximise positive outcomes when working with children and young people and their parents and teachers. NEPS encourages schools to use a continuum based assessment and intervention process whereby each school takes responsibility for initial assessment, educational planning and remedial intervention for pupils with learning, social, emotional or behavioural or learning difficulties.

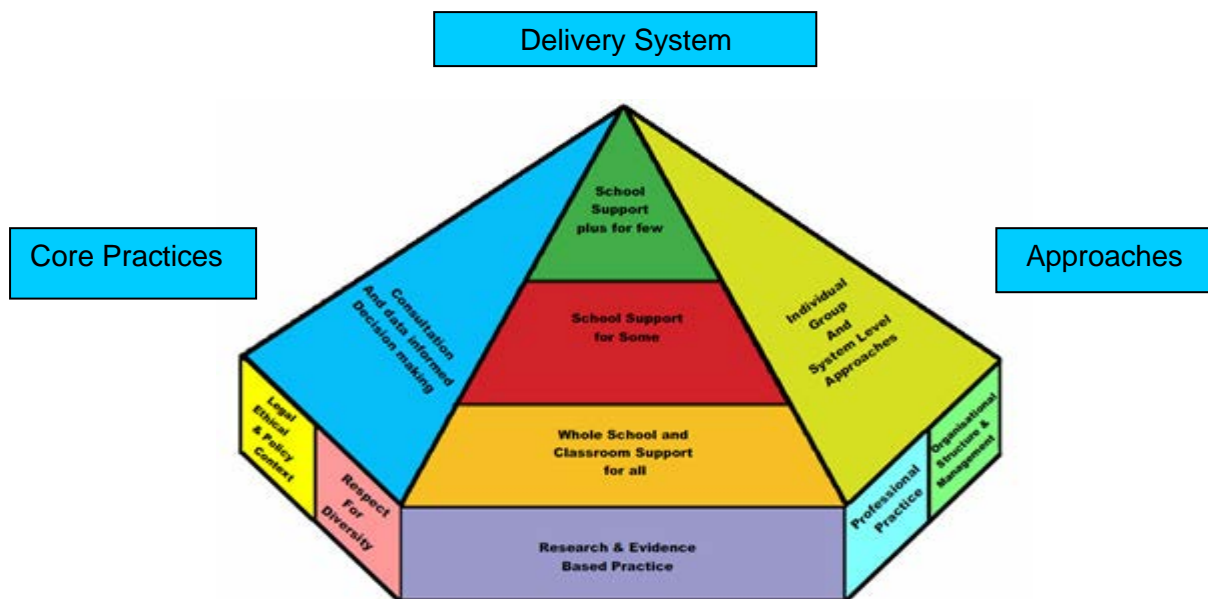
Teachers may consult their assigned Educational Psychologist should they need to at this stage in the process. Only in the event of a failure to make reasonable progress, in spite of the school's best efforts in consultation with NEPS, will the Educational Psychologist become directly involved with an individual child for a more intensive intervention.

The NEPS Model of Service describes the range of services that can be reasonably expected from a comprehensive educational psychology service. The core practices that permeate all aspects of service are outlined and describe how services will be delivered in schools and within the education system.

There are two key inter-related theoretical and conceptual models which inform the NEPS Model of Service delivery:

1. Ecological Systems Theory
2. Prevention Science

The model is illustrated below:



Promoting Academic and Social/Emotional Competence for all Children

Consultation

The processes of consultation and data-informed decision-making are central elements in NEPS practice. These processes enable and facilitate the Educational Psychologists to work collaboratively with others in applying psychology to solving problems of varying levels of complexity through comprehensive assessment, intervention planning and evaluation of outcomes. This process is used in working towards solutions and effecting change both at individual and system levels.

The basic consultation framework that is used by Educational Psychologists in NEPS involves four basic stages:

- 1 Problem identification – what is the problem?
- 2 Problem analysis – why is it happening?
- 3 Plan implementation (design a plan and implement it)

4 Evaluate and review if the plan worked

This four-step problem-solving framework is an integral part of the Continuum of Support used by Educational Psychologists working in NEPS (NEPS 2007, 2009, 2010).

Decision-making

Educational Psychologists have an important role in supporting and implementing sound data-informed decision-making processes. They do this by helping schools to develop robust screening procedures and reflective practices in using data to identify and evaluate appropriate evidence-based interventions and programmes. Psychologists have a role in expanding the skills of teachers in using a variety of standardised and curriculum-based measures to monitor progress and the effectiveness of curricular and mental health programmes.

The NEPS Continuum of Support:

The Continuum of Support (COS) framework developed by NEPS has its basis in public health models of prevention and tiered service delivery models. It is closely aligned with the Response to Intervention (RTI) tiered system and data-based approach as an effective process for building capacity in the school system. The NEPS Continuum of Support framework encompasses a graduated problem-solving process which ensures early intervention, assessment over time and in context, and promotes the matching of need with support. There are three levels on the COS:

1. School Support for all - Whole school and classroom
2. School support for some - advising parents and teachers in relation to children's and young people's difficulties
3. School support plus, for a few - working individually with children and young people to resolve difficulties relating to social, emotional, behavioural and academic difficulties

The Educational Psychologist may become involved at any point on the COS. This does not mean that a child or young person will need to have a formal assessment. The need for a formal assessment will be made by

the psychologist in consultation with the parents and school staff after a process of problem-solving has failed to resolve the difficulty for the child or young person.

What do you do if you think your child needs to be seen by an Educational Psychologist in NEPS?

1. You need to begin by discussing your child's needs with the class teacher and/or school principal
2. Not every child needs to meet the Educational Psychologist in person. Through a problem-solving approach, difficulties can be overcome without the need for an intervention from an Educational Psychologist
3. The school principal will make a referral to their assigned Educational Psychologist only in a situation where efforts to resolve the difficulty have failed
4. If your school does not have a NEPS psychologist please talk to your principal about local arrangements
5. If your school arranges an assessment through NEPS, there is no charge for this service

For more information:

Phone: 076-1108 831

Email: neps@education.gov.ie

Address: 1 Victoria Place, Eyre Square, Galway

Website: <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/National-Educational-Psychological-Service-NEPS-/NEPS-Home-Page.html>



Who are we?

Galway Autism Partnership (GAP) is a community-based charity supporting autistic people and their families living in Galway City and County. Started in 2011 by a group of parents and autistic adults, the charity has developed to offer a wide range of supports and services within the community.

Who do we support?

GAP supports autistic children and adults and their families.

How do we support?

GAP aims to 'Bridge the Gap' between the needs of our community and existing health and social services.

Our primary activities are:

- Social clubs and camps
- Special interest clubs and camps
- Autism acceptance education
- Peer-to-peer support for parents and carers
- Family fun and community days
- Training and organisational workshops

For more information:

Phone: 091-588 899

Email: info@galwayautismpartnership.com

Address: Tigh Ronain, 36 Laurel Park, Newcastle, Galway

Website: <https://www.galwayautismpartnership.com>



Who are we?

Middletown Centre for Autism (MCA). The Centre was established in 2007 by The Department of Education and Skills Ireland and the Department of Education Northern Ireland to: support the promotion of excellence throughout Northern Ireland and Ireland in the education of children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders.

Who do we support?

Children and young people with autism and their families and the professionals who work with them.

How do we support?

MCA supports through three service areas:

Learning Support and Assessment:

The Learning Support and Assessment Service delivers intensive assessment and learning support for children and young people referred to it, who despite specialist input continue to experience difficulties in their educational setting. It is a second level service aiming to provide further assessment, learning support and intervention for children and young people with autism. The service utilises a trans-disciplinary approach to service delivery. The team includes Teachers, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, and Autism Intervention Officers and Learning Support Officers. The service delivery is based on a capacity building model which provides:

- A detailed trans-disciplinary assessment and learning support plan
- Specific training for those working with the child and young person referred to the service
- Home support and advice for parents in relation to their child's education

- Support for children and young people for up to 10 months according to need

For information on the referral process for learning and support assessment please visit: www.middletownautism.com/lisa-home-page

Training:

Middletown Centre provides a comprehensive annual calendar of training for parents and Education professionals in locations throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland, including at Middletown Centre. In the past the Centre has hosted Dr Wenn Lawson, Dr Brenda Smith Myles, Dr Glenys Jones, Professor Rita Jordan, Ros Blackburn, Adam Harris and many other prominent professionals in the area of autism. The Centre also provides whole school training on a commissioned basis and in partnership with the Education Authority in Northern Ireland and the Special Educational Support Service in Ireland. Commissioned training application forms are available by emailing training@middletownautism.com. The Centre has provided almost 100,000 training places to parents and professionals all over Ireland and Northern Ireland since 2007.

Research:

The Centre provides a research function in relation to: follow-up for the children, young people, families and schools that we work with; research projects; and the development of practical resources based on the Centre's work. Research follow-up is conducted in the form of face-to-face interviews, telephone interviews and online feedback. The data collected is used to inform the Centre's practice and also to develop practical resources. Individual research projects have been conducted in the areas of working memory, sensory differences and the efficacy of anxiety management training. The research division also provides a free to download quarterly research bulletin. The research bulletin series provides summaries of peer-reviewed research conducted across a range of areas relevant to the Centre's work. The research division also maintains a research panel, which is a group of parents and educational professionals who have volunteered to participate in online focus groups, questionnaires and occasionally research projects.

For more information:

Phone: (0044) (0) 2837515750

Email: admin@middletownautism.com

Address: Middletown Centre for Autism, 35 Church Street, Middletown,
Northern Ireland, BT60 4HZ

Website: www.middletownautism.com



Who are we?

Irish Society for Autism

Who do we support?

Founded in 1963, we are the longest established dedicated organisation for people with autism in Ireland.

How do we support?

We offer a wide range of services and supports:

- Information services
- Training
- Education programmes
- Research
- Advocacy
- Conferences, seminars and meetings

For more information:

Phone: 01-8744684

Email: admin@autism.ie

Address: Unity Building, 16/17 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, Ireland

Website: www.autism.ie



Who are we?

AslAm.ie aims to provide a one-stop-shop for the autism community in Ireland.

Who do we support?

From providing the public and those with the condition, a portal of information about autism, to providing a platform for people affected by autism to share their stories and views, to providing a strong voice for the concerns of the community – AslAm.ie has it all!

How do we support?

Educate – We hope, through increasing and improving accessibility of information, to equip people with autism and their families to understand the condition better. Additionally we hope to articulate and effectively communicate issues of concern to the autism community to those working with people with the condition and the general public. Helping to build a more informed and understanding society.

Empower – We passionately believe in providing those in the autism community with the tools to reach their potential. We believe that for too long those with autism have been told what their needs are and what to do about them. We aim to be a user-led initiative, developing projects and campaigns based on the issues brought forward by our users, additionally we hope that through providing a platform we can help those affected by autism to speak up about their concerns and to raise attention of issues of concern in their own lives.

Advocate – Acting as a hub for the autism community in Ireland we hope to be able to draw on common areas of concern raised by our users and to develop public awareness and policy campaigns around these issues.

Community – We aim to provide a safe, pleasant space for the autism community to share experiences, concerns and ideas with others with similar experiences, breaking down the geographical and social isolation which has for so long plagued many people with autism and their families.

For more information:

Email: info@asiam.ie

Address: Rock House, Main Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, A94 V9P1

Website: asiam.ie

Facebook: www.facebook.com/asiamireland



Who are we?

Aspire envisions a world where people with Asperger syndrome and ASD have the same opportunities to work, socialise and participate as everyone else.

Who do we support?

We provide services and information to guide you and your family through all stages of the journey. We work to promote an understanding of Asperger syndrome in schools, colleges, workplaces and the wider community to ensure that your needs are met, wherever you choose to go in life.

How do we support?

Aspire provides the following supports and services:

- Information Service
- Residential Service
- Social Enterprise
- Education & Training
- Adult Social Group
- Career Development
- Conferences & Workshops
- Information Library

For more information:

Phone: 01-8780087

Email: info@aspireireland.ie

Address: Aspire, Carmichael Centre, Coleraine House, Coleraine Street,
Dublin 7

Website: www.aspireireland.ie



Who are we?

Down Syndrome Ireland, Galway Branch has over 300 members of all ages throughout the county. We are a voluntary organisation managed by a committee of parent members.

Who do we support?

Our mission is to provide information, support and friendship to people with Down syndrome and their families in County Galway, working towards an improved quality of life with respect and acceptance of people with Down syndrome as valued members of their communities.

How do we support?

We recognise the importance of early intervention and developing communication ability. We aim to create opportunities for social and personal inclusion and integration across the age spectrum. We employ a part-time regional resource officer, three speech and language therapists (two full-time and one part-time/consultancy) and a part-time administrator for our 'Voices for Down Syndrome Galway' and 'Little Owls' Speech and Language Therapy Projects. We have two centres in Galway, our east centre is located in Claregalway and our west centre is located in Moycullen.

For more information:

Phone: 087-186 1914

Email: info@downsyndromegalway.ie

Address: Down Syndrome Galway East Centre, Unit 7 Cois
Chláir, Claregalway, Co. Galway

Website: www.downsyndromegalway.ie



Who are we?

Voices for Down Syndrome Galway is a dedicated Speech and Language Therapy project within the Galway Branch of Down Syndrome Ireland. Established in 2005 by a group of parents of children with Down syndrome, the need arose from a chronic shortage of Government support for the provision of speech therapy services.

Our mission is to provide Speech and Language Therapy for our branch members (children and adults with Down syndrome in Galway City and County).

Who do we support?

1-3 year olds

The 'Little Owls' initiative is a joint approach in service of an early communication group of infants and young children with Down syndrome between 1-3yrs in Co. Galway. It has been developed in Galway City and has been running successfully since 2000. Little Owls is a partnership between Voices for Down Syndrome Galway and Brothers of Charity Services Ireland. It is a collaborative initiative between Community Nurses in early intervention services and a Speech and Language Therapist and this partnership has been the key to its success. The speech and language therapy element of the group sessions is funded by the Voices project.

3 years plus

Upon graduating from Little Owls, parents have the option for their child to avail of therapy with Voices for Down Syndrome Galway Speech and Language Therapist. Currently employing 2 full-time and 1 part-time/consultancy therapists, the project provides speech and language therapy to over 70 children and adults at any given time. As well as providing training sessions/courses for parents/families and professionals.

How do we support?

Voices for Down Syndrome Galway main clinic is based in NUIG, working in collaboration with their Speech & Language Therapy Dept, giving their students valuable clinical experience with us in exchange for use of their state of the art therapy rooms. The project also runs clinics in the Down Syndrome Galway centres in Claregalway and Moycullen.

Today, the project remains parent run by a small committee of volunteer parents, supported by a part-time Project Co-Ordinator. Requiring in the region of €150,000 to sustain itself annually, the project receives no government funding. With the generous help of our supporters and families, the annual running costs are raised through a mixture of: fundraising events, charitable donations, corporate and community partnerships and parent contributions.

For more information:

Contact: Carmel Hannon, Project Coordinator

Phone: 087-6448277

Email: info@voicesforgalway.org

Address: Voices for Down Syndrome Galway, Speech and Language Therapy Project, Unit 7 Cois Chláir, Claregalway, Co. Galway, H91 A2F4

Website: <https://downsyndromegalway.ie>



Who are we?

The Jack & Jill Children's Foundation was set up in 1997 by Jonathan Irwin and his wife Mary Ann O'Brien (founder Lily O'Brien's chocolates), in memory of their son Jack who suffered a brain trauma shortly after birth that left him developmentally delayed and shattered the dreams and hopes of his parents.

Who do we support?

The Jack and Jill Children's Foundation is a nationwide charity that offers support, advocacy and an in-home nursing service to help children and their families under the age of five years who have a significant neurodevelopmental delay involving severe learning difficulties. This may include infants whose developmental future is uncertain. Support is also offered to all families whose child is approaching end of life within our age limit regardless of their diagnosis.

How do we support?

The Jack and Jill Children's Foundation offer a child and family-centred care service and believes that families should be supported to care for their children in their own homes. The Specialist Children's Liaison Nurse (SCLN) in your area will make contact with you once a referral has been received. Our service offers the expert support of the SCLN who will advise, help and advocate for your family as well as overseeing the in-home nursing service. The service to families is reviewed on a six-monthly basis.

Our role includes listening to parents and seeking solutions which can sometimes mean making representations to other health care professionals and the government. The aim of our service is to reduce some of the worries/difficulties that come when caring for a child with additional needs while also allowing families to take a break.

For more information:

Phone: 045-894538

Email: familysupport@jackandjill.ie

Address: Johnstown Manor, Johnstown, Naas, Co Kildare

Website: www.jackandjill.ie



Who are we?

Our purpose is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their development and in the development of society.

Who do we support?

We work with over 50,000 young people aged 10-18 each year through volunteer-led Clubs and staff-led Youth Projects. Foróige currently operates in 26 counties in Ireland, with more than 600 Foróige Clubs, 150 Youth Projects, the Big Brother Big Sister mentoring programme, the Foróige Youth Entrepreneurship programme, our Youth Citizenship and Youth Leadership programmes.

How do we support?

Foróige works with all young people through our general services. Foróige Clubs, Foróige Juniors, Foróige Interest Clubs, Foróige Youth Cafés encourage young people to take responsibility for themselves and to be part of shaping the world around them while developing their talents, skills and abilities. We also work with vulnerable young people who require additional support through a full range of targeted services.

Targeted services such as Garda Youth Diversion Projects, Teen Parent Support Programmes and Neighbourhood Youth Projects, help young people to deal with issues associated with poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion, under-achievement at school, early school leaving, youth crime, substance abuse and family difficulties in a safe and friendly environment.

For more information regarding Foróige Clubs:

Phone: Gerry Prior, Regional Youth Officer – Galway; 086-247 8007

Email: info@foroige.ie (general) or gerry.prior@foroige.ie (Gerry Prior, Regional Youth Officer, Galway)

Website: <https://www.foroige.ie/>

For more information regarding Foróige Projects:

Phone: Noel Cronin Senior Youth Officer – Galway; 086-043 6784

Email: info@foroige.ie (general) or noel.cronin@foroige.ie
(Noel Cronin Senior Youth Officer, Galway)

Website: <https://www.foroige.ie>



Who are we?

Jigsaw's aim is to support young people in Galway who are struggling, to ensure they get the support they need. Jigsaw Galway is part of a national network of Jigsaw services supported by Jigsaw the National Centre for Youth Mental Health, all aiming to provide tailored community-based help for young people's mental health needs.

Who do we support?

We provide guidance and support for young people (age 15 – 25 years) who are going through a difficult or distressing time. We also provide advice and guidance for anyone is concerned about a young person in their life or work.

How do we support?

Direct support for young people:

Jigsaw Galway is a free, non-judgemental and confidential support service for young people (15-25 years of age) living in Galway City and County. Our staff are there to listen without making judgements, and to provide supportive guidance.

Jigsaw Online:

Young people, parents and others can access information, advice and guidance about youth mental health on our website, www.jigsawonline.ie. They can read information, watch webinars, ask an anonymous mental health question or chat to a trained Jigsaw staff member.

Working with young people:

At Jigsaw, we believe it's vital to make sure that young people's voices are heard. Our Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) represent us and take part in decision making at every level.

Working with the community:

As well as directly helping young people in tough times, we want to work towards a community that is supportive of mental health and wellbeing. Presentations and talks in schools, workplaces and community groups aim to open up a discussion on mental health and raise people's awareness of the support that Jigsaw Galway can offer. We also work to improve the support available to young people by connecting with the many organisations throughout the county.

For more information:

Phone: 091-549 252

Email: galway@jigsaw.ie

Address: Jigsaw Galway, Fairgreen Road, Galway, H91 AXK8
(across from the Coach Station)

Website: www.jigsaw.ie/galway



Who are we?

Helplink Mental Health's mission is to provide accessible, free or low cost mental health services; locally (West of Ireland), nationally and internationally, 7 days a week and out-of-hours. The three types of mental health services that Helplink provides are: Counselling, Information Provision and Education.

Who do we support?

We aim to provide accessible, free or low cost mental health services to those in need; locally (West of Ireland), nationally and internationally, 7 days a week and out-of-hours. Our services are available for children, young people and adults.

Counselling services we provide:

- General Counselling
- Play Therapy (Galway and Mayo only)
- Art Therapy (Galway and Mayo only)
- Couples Counselling
- Youth Counselling (including addiction)
- Addiction Counselling
- Bereavement Therapy
- School/Student Mentoring Service

How do we support?

Since its inception in 2012, our Counsellors and Therapists have provided over 9000 appointments to clients online nationally and also in person from our offices in Galway and Mayo (Roscommon in 2020)!

- *Employee Counselling Service*: we provide a national staff (EAP) counselling service that is available 7 days a week by phone and online nationwide. This is a pay-as-you-go service; which is perfect for companies small, medium and large.
- *Irish Abroad Counselling Service*: within our international service we provide our unique free, online Irish abroad counselling service for Irish citizens living abroad. The service is available to current Irish passport holders globally (time zone dependent). In 2019 Helplink expanded this service to support returning Irish emigrants as well, through self-referral directly to us or through our referral partners Crosscare Migrant Project, Safe Home Ireland and the Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO).
- *Alcohol Dependency Service for Túsla*: Since 2017 Helplink has been providing an alcohol dependency counselling service to clients over 18 referred to Helplink by Túsla – this service is available across Galway City and County.
- *National Gambling Counselling Service*: Helplink provides a free gambling problem counselling service, nationally by phone and online (video consultations); 7 days a week and out-of-hours; funded by the Gambling Awareness Trust.

Information Provision & Educational Services:

- *Mind Hacks.ie*: Mind Hacks is an online platform that provides video and podcast content, from national and international sources, around the topics of Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing.
 - It also provides information provision services such as live Webinars (currently under construction), where the public and professionals can learn useful information about the topics of mental health & emotional wellbeing. Furthermore, we have Continuing Professional Development (CPD) based training programmes (currently under construction) for healthcare workers, teachers, counsellors/therapists, social care workers/social workers, community workers and more!

- *School/Student Services (in person):* Beyond Mind Hacks, Helplink provides a suite of educational workshops to primary, post-primary and third level students. Over the past two academic years we have providing these evidence based workshops to 1,000+ students across Galway City and County; with over 95% teacher and student satisfaction rates
- *Employee/Leader Workshops:* Helplink also provides wellbeing workshops for leaders and employees on topics such as: safe communication, building resilience, stress and anxiety management and mindfulness at work
- *The Helplink Show:* we provide an award winning (Gold winner for ‘Social Benefit’ at the CRAOL Community Radio Awards 2019) monthly radio show and podcast that is hosted live on seven local, national and international community radio stations

For more information

Phone: 091-759887 (Galway office) or 0818998880

Email: helplinksupport@helplink.ie

Address: 1st Floor, The Plaza, Headford Road, Galway

Website: helplink.ie



Who are we?

Muscular Dystrophy Ireland (MDI) is a national, voluntary, member organisation. We envisage an Ireland that enables people with neuromuscular conditions to fully participate in society and reach their full potential.

Who do we support?

Our mission is to support people with muscular dystrophy. We do this, using a member-centred approach, by:

- Providing information and support to people with neuromuscular conditions and their families through a range of support services
- Advocating for services and entitlements for members and educating and informing society about neuromuscular conditions
- Supporting researchers and clinicians to carry out quality research into neuromuscular conditions

How do we support?

Our services to members include:

- Support Services
 - Respite Support Service
 - Family Support Service
 - Youth Support Service
- Information and advocacy
- Transport
- Home from home apartment (available to non-members also)
- Boardroom hire and training
- Equipment loan

Support Services

There are three elements to the Support Services MDI offers members:

1. Respite Support Service
2. Family Support Service
3. Youth Support Service

Respite Support Service

The main aim of our respite support service is to offer a personal assistant to members with muscular dystrophy in their homes and communities, facilitating their participation in the community, access to education, employment, and improved quality of life. Our respite service offers access to the following:

1. Short-term emergency relief, providing a personal assistant
2. Short-term counselling for adults and play therapy for children
3. Adult overnight holiday breaks and youth camps

Respite care can occur in the family home and or in a variety of out-of-home settings in the community depending on the needs of the family and resources available.

Family Support Service

MDI Family Support Workers provide a wide range of information and support to our members with muscular dystrophy and their extended families and carers. The Family Support Service provides an objective, non-judgmental, and supportive environment in which to discuss and explore issues of concern. All calls are held in strict confidence, but confidentiality may need to be waived in the event of a risk of harm to the person or another individual.

We currently have eight Family Support Workers covering different regions nationally, including a Family Support Worker for the Western Region and Midlands. Our Family Support Workers offer information and support on a variety of areas including:

- Offering emotional support and a listening ear
- Accessing counselling and play therapy services
- Social needs and peer-to-peer contact
- Advocacy on behalf of an individual member in relation to rights, entitlements and financial assistance such as accessing carer's allowance and/or medical card
- Education and employment
- Equipment
- Transport - such as, securing a primary medical cert and accessing transport
- Health – such as new diagnosis, treatments, health care packages, life-cycle transitions
- Housing needs such as securing accommodation, adjustments to home
- Support to parents
- Developing independence and confidence skills
- Pre and post bereavement support
- Referral to other agencies and services

Youth Service

MDI Youth Workers work directly with children and young people with muscular dystrophy and their families. MDI's youth work is purposeful, needs-led and outcomes-focused to support, encourage and enable our young members to grow, develop and achieve their full potential. Our young members have an opportunity to get together with their peers but also with friends in the wider community, form friendships, share experiences, have fun, and build confidence and self-esteem.

We have six Youth Workers covering different regions nationally, including a Youth Worker for the Western Region: Galway, Roscommon and Mayo.

Each Youth Worker receives GLUAIS minibus driver training and is equipped with a fully wheelchair-accessible van which can transport up to five people. This gives the Youth Worker the ability, where possible, to transport our young members to and from outings organised by MDI.

Home from Home Apartment

The 'Home from Home' Self Catering Apartment is located at MDI House, Chapelizod, Dublin 20. It is a self-contained fully wheelchair accessible apartment which is available for short term stays for people with a physical or sensory disability. This four-star approved self-catering apartment consists of four bedrooms, a kitchen and a lounge area. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the apartment.

Transport

MDI offers transport to members who arrive in Dublin from all over the country to attend hospitals and clinical appointments. We have one driver who carries out this role, collecting members from train stations, Bus Áras, as well as from their overnight stays at the MDI Home from Home Apartment and other accommodation, giving them confidence that their onward journey to appointments will be looked after by familiar friendly MDI staff.

Equipment Loan

MDI has a range of equipment that is loaned to members for short to medium terms. This is an essential service to members who are reliant on equipment such as hoists, ramps, powerchairs, manual wheelchairs and pavement scooters.

For more information:

Phone: 01-6236414

Email: mdiinfo@mdi.ie

Address: MDI National Office, 75 Lucan Road, Chapelizod, Dublin D20
DR77

Website: <https://www.mdi.ie>



Who are we?

Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland

Who do we support?

People affected by spina bifida and hydrocephalus

How do we support?

Through our actions we:

- We provide essential information, support and advice to everyone living with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus
- We believe in, and seek to realise, a socially inclusive and equal society for all people living with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus
- We enable our members to get the very best from health, education, and social services
- We lobby the Government to significantly improve services and all necessary access for people living with spina bifida and hydrocephalus

For more information:

Phone: 01-4572329

Email: info@sbhi.ie

Address: Old Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin D22 W5C1

Website: <https://www.sbhi.ie>



Who are we?

Chime

Who do we support?

Chime provides a range of specialist supports and services to deaf and hard of hearing people and their families. This also includes young people who need additional supports in the area of technology and communication.

How do we support?

We seek to support and work in partnership with other organisations and service providers to make their services fully accessible to deaf and hard of hearing people. Our qualified team can communicate through the preferred language of our service user: either Irish Sign Language or English.

We provide a range of supports to individuals, families and organisations. This includes family support, general information, advice services, assistive technology, hearing aid service and Deaf and Hearing Awareness Training (DAHAT). This is provided through one-to-one assessments, case work or group work.

For more information:

Address: Chime, 9a St. Francis Street, Galway

Phone: 091-564871 or 086-8648659

Fax: 091-564873

Email: galway@chime.ie

Website: www.chime.ie

**Who are we?**

Irish Deaf Society

Who do we support?

Deaf people in Ireland

How do we support?

The Irish Deaf Society seeks to achieve and promote the equality and rights of deaf people in Ireland. On the grounds of the Irish Constitution and Human Rights and international legislation, the ambition of full access to citizenship and society is sought through the empowerment and mobilisation of the deaf community. With an awareness of their identity and their rights as individuals, deaf people in Ireland are enabled to celebrate their culture and continue to ensure the upholding of Irish Sign Language recognition and break down the barriers of discrimination.

For more information:

Phone: 01-8601878

Email: info@irishdeafsociety.ie

Address: Irish Deaf Society (IDS), Deaf Village Ireland, Ratoath Road,
Cabra, Dublin 7

Website: www.irishdeafsociety.ie

Skype: irishdeafsociety

Text: 086-3807033

**Who are we?**

ChildVision – National Education Centre for Blind Children

Who do we support?

We look after children from all over Ireland with sight loss. We also work with children who have sight loss and additional disabilities, those with two or more additional needs we refer to as 'multi-disabled visually impaired'. We have a high population of MDVI children in our service including deaf-blind and those on the ASD spectrum.

How do we support?

Meeting the individual needs of each child in ChildVision is at the core of what we do. Our staff work together to realise the unique potential with each boy and girl no matter how severe the disability.

We provide a nationwide resource from our Dublin Campus and satellite centre in Cork. Our work is divided into four different service areas: Education, Clinical, National Network and Reading Services. Our interventions are wide ranging and cater for children from all over the country from birth to 23 years ranging from first initial assessment to residential lifelong learning programmes.

For more information:

Phone: 01-837 3635

Email: info@childvision.ie

Address: Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, Ireland.

Website: www.childvision.ie

**Who are we?**

NCBI – Working for People With Sight Loss

Who do we support?

Children and adults who are blind or visually impaired.

How do we support?

NCBI Working for People with Sight Loss, Ireland's national sight loss agency, is a not-for-profit charitable organisation which provides supports and services nationwide to children and adults who are blind or visually impaired.

Our office hours are: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

R

eferrals can be made through our website or our helpline (1850 33 43 53).

For more information:

Phone: 091-564 926

Address: NCBI Galway, Odeon House, Eyre Square, Galway

Website: www.ncbi.ie



Who are we?

Dogs for the Disabled is a national charity that was established in 2007 and is the only one of its kind in Ireland.

Who do we support?

We provide assistance dogs for children and adults who have varying degrees of physical disabilities. 85% of our clients are children between the ages of 6 – 12 years living with severe physical disabilities which affect every aspect of their lives from independence to social interaction.

How do we support?

Our mission is to provide fully trained assistance dogs for children and adults with physical disabilities to assist with everyday activities and in doing so improving the quality of life of our clients. Our assistance dogs are provided free of charge and our charity receives no government funding. We are successful at our work because we have in excess of 20 years' experience in assistance dog training globally and work closely with assistance dog schools all over the world. We have 200 dogs nationwide and a 5 year waiting list for our assistance dogs.

Our assistance dogs are specially trained to assist in many ways, some of which are: opening/closing doors; assisting with dressing/undressing; sending for help; retrieving dropped items like keys or telephones; emptying the washing machine; fetching the post; switching lights on/off; pressing pedestrian crossing buttons.

We are currently running a unique programme designed to assist children with cerebral palsy to walk with our stability assistance dogs. Huge progress has been made with helping these children to learn to walk and with increasing the possibilities of keeping them walking as they grow.

Dogs for the Disabled funds all its services through the effort of our loyal volunteers across the country. Each assistance dog costs the charity €15,000 to produce and they are provided free of charge to our applicants. Approximately 25 assistance dogs a year placed with a child or adult with a physical disability in Ireland.

For more information:

Phone: 021-4316627

Email: info@dogsfordisabled.ie

Address: Summerlea House, Togher Road, Togher, Cork

Website: www.dogsfordisabled.ie



Who are we?

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Who do we support?

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is Ireland's national charity dedicated to helping people who are vision impaired and families of children with autism to achieve improved mobility and independence.

How do we support?

For over 40 years we have provided life-changing services and support free of charge to people across Ireland. Our world-class programmes have been developed to deliver the best dog, at the right time, with the most suitable temperament to match our clients' needs.

For more information:

Phone: 021-4878200

Email: info@guidedogs.ie

Address: National Headquarters & Training Centre, Model Farm Road,
Cork, T12 WT4A

Website: guidedogs.ie

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/irishguidedogs>



Who are we?

My Canine Companion is an Irish charity that was founded on June 16th 2011. MyCC are internationally accredited by Assistance Dogs International and are Ireland's largest provider of service/assistance dogs to children and young adults with disabilities.

Who do we support?

Our main purpose is to provide highly trained and skilled service dogs to people with disabilities, particularly people with autism. MyCC now provide more than 60% of Ireland's total service dogs to children and young people with autism.

How do we support?

MyCC provide highly qualified service dogs to assist children and young adults living with autism. We are committed to helping children with autism and their families gain independence, companionship and safety through the provision of highly trained and skilled service dogs. MyCC provides an outstanding, customised and individualised service which meets needs of each individual client. MyCC also have an extensive awareness programme in schools and businesses, spreading awareness of autism and our programmes. MyCC also run a number of therapy services in schools and hospitals as well as working with the elderly in nursing homes.

For More Information:

Phone: 021-4288593

Email: info@mycaninecompanion.ie

Address: Unit 8 New Sunbeam Industrial Estate, Commons Road, Cork,
T23HX02

Website: www.mycaninecompanion.ie



Who are we?

Galway Centre for Independent Living

Who do we support?

Galway Centre for Independent Living provides supports to people with disabilities in Galway City and County.

How do we support?

Galway Centre for Independent Living (GCIL) is a not-for-profit organisation. For over 26 years, we have been successfully providing professional services which facilitate a person's choice to continue living independently in their own home and to participate in society. As part of our effort towards self-sustainability we offer the following services to the general public, the business community, organisations, local and central government:

- Access Consultancy Service
- Accessible Transport Service
- Education Support
- Personal Care Assistants
- PC Refurbishment
- Care for the Older Person & Home Care Services

For more information:

Phone: 091-773 910

Email: mail@gcil.ie

Address: Unit 53 Briarhill Business Park, Briarhill, Galway

Website: www.gcil.ie



Who are we?

Independent Living Ireland Ltd.

Who do we support?

People of all ages with physical and intellectual disabilities, the elderly and dementia sufferers.

How do we support?

We provide assistive technology and telecare services to enable people to live more independently. Modern technologies can improve mobility, health and well-being and provide safety and security in and around the home. Mobile systems encourage activity outside the home and also improve links to the wider community. We assess the property to ascertain what equipment or supports are needed along with the individual and their family. Once the assessment is complete a plan is drawn up and assistive technology is installed that will alert family/carers in the case of an emergency.

Alongside our technology supports, our Amicitia social hub provides a space for participatory initiatives to take place. This hub includes a community garden, markets, a plastics recycling centre and our new pottery workshop opened in partnership with the Vision Arch Club. Contact us to get involved in projects from the hub.

For more information:

Contact: Billy Mulvihill

Phone: 091-877 007 **Mobile:** 087-927 2308

Email: billy@independentlivingireland.ie

Address: Old Church Street, Athenry Co. Galway

Website: www.independentlivingireland.ie



Who are we?

The Independent Living Movement Ireland

Who do we support?

Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI) was established as CIL in 1992 by and for people with disabilities.

How do we support?

Our aim is to ensure that people with disabilities achieve independent living, choice and control over their lives and full participation in society as equal citizens. We are a campaigning, national representative organisation that promotes the philosophy of independent living and to build an inclusive society. Central to the way we work is to ensure that policy decisions that impact on the lives of people with disabilities have to be directly influenced by those whose lives are directly affected.

Our philosophy can be summed up as: 'Nothing about us without us!' and 'Rights Not Charity'.

For more information:

Phone: 01-8730455

Email: info@ilmi.ie

Address: Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7

Website: www.ilmi.ie

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ILMIreland/>

Twitter: @ILMIreland



INCLUSION IRELAND
National Association for People
with an Intellectual Disability

Who are we?

Inclusion Ireland is a national organisation that works to promote the rights of people with an intellectual disability. Our vision is people with intellectual disabilities living and participating in the community with equal rights as citizens, to live the life of their choice to their fullest potential.

Who do we support?

Inclusion Ireland campaigns for changes in services and legislation that will improve the quality of life and participation of people with an intellectual disability in Irish society. Membership is open to any individual with an intellectual disability, a family member or friend and supporting professionals and organisations.

How do we support?

- Build the capacity of people with intellectual disabilities to advocate for themselves and others
- Influence and monitor policy and legislation to ensure equality and human rights for people with intellectual disabilities
- Provide an information and advice service by phone, post and through the website
- Publish information leaflets/booklets and regular newsletters
- Organise seminars and conferences on intellectual disability
- Give information & training talks to a range of groups
- Represent the intellectual disability sector in Ireland at an international level by its membership of Inclusion International & Inclusion Europe

For more information:

Phone: 01-855 9891

Email: info@inclusionireland.ie

Address: Unit C2, The Steelworks, Foley Street, Dublin 1

Website: <https://www.inclusionireland.ie>



**DISABILITY FEDERATION
OF IRELAND**

Who are we?

Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) is the national support organisation for voluntary disability organisations in Ireland who provide services to people with disabilities and disabling conditions. There are 127 organisations within membership or as associates in DFI.

Who do we support?

DFI represents the interests and the expectations of people with disabilities to be fully included in Irish society. It comprises organisations that represent and support people with disabilities and disabling conditions.

How do we support?

We support by listening to the voice of the disability movement and strengthening the voice of people with disabilities.

We campaign for persons with disabilities to have an equal chance of:

- Getting an education
- Finding and keeping a job
- Having a sufficient income and staying out of poverty
- Choosing where to live and with who
- Accessing buildings, shops, sports and arts facilities
- Accessing transport
 - Accessing assistive technologies and healthcare that allow for the fullest lives possible

Disability is a societal issue and DFI works with Government, and across all the social and economic strands and interests of society.

For more information:

Contact: Cathy McGrath, Project Manager CHO1,2,3

Phone: 086-3847440

Email: cathymcgrath@disability-federation.ie

Or

Contact: Lisa Fenwick, Community Development Officer

Phone: 086-4670810

Email: lisafenwick@disability-federation.ie

Website: www.disability-federation.ie



Who are we?

Family Carers Ireland is a national charity dedicated to supporting an estimated 355,000 family carers in Ireland.

Who do we support?

The key objectives of the organisation are to benefit the community by: supporting and promoting the health, wellbeing and quality of life of family carers and those for whom they care; providing training and educational opportunities to family carers; providing peer support groups for family carers; providing information and advice on all aspects of caring.

How do we support?

We offer: a national free phone careline, respite opportunities, workshops, information sessions, courses, and support groups.

For more information:

Contact: Carer Supports Manager; Francis Kane

Phone: 1800 24 07 24 (Careline), or
093-30060 (County Galway Resource Centre, Tuam)

Email: galwaysupport@familycarers.ie

Address: Family Carers Ireland Resource Centre,
St. Jarlath's Court, The Glebe, Tuam, Co. Galway

Website: familycarers.ie

**Who are we?**

South Connacht Citizens Information Service – we offer citizens information services in counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.

Who do we support?

All members of the public.

How do we support?

We provide information, advice and advocacy to all members of the public on their rights and entitlements in relation to social welfare, health services entitlements, consumer, employment law, family law, education and a wide range of other topics.

Galway Locations:

Galway City CIC – main office, Tuam CIC, Clifden CIC, Rosmuc CIC – closed until further notice.

Outreaches:

Portumna, Loughrea, Oughterard, Gort, Headford, Letterfrack - closed until further notice.

COVID-19 Arrangements:

Phone and email service continue to operate as normal from the Galway City offices only. Contact the Galway Citizens Information Centre and one of our Information Officers will get back to you.

The Citizens Information Services has an appointment system in place and we are meeting clients on a very limited appointment basis. Please contact the Galway centre for more information.

The telephone and email service is available from 9.30am - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday.

For more information:

Phone: 076-1077600

Fax: 091-563 687

Email: galway@citinfo.ie

Website: www.citizensinformation.ie



Who are we?

Atlantic Prosthetic Orthotic Services (APOS) Ltd. is an Irish-owned, specialist prosthetics and orthotics services provider. We manufacture and fit custom made prosthetic and orthotic devices to clients with a wide range of pathologies. In addition, we offer a spinal, postural and gait analysis service that assists in scoliosis screening and improving performance across a range of activities such as running, field sports, and dance (amongst others).

Who do we support?

We support private and public patients with a referral from a doctor or other health professional in our centres in Kilcolgan and Dublin. We host clinics almost nationwide and aim to provide a local service wherever possible.

How do we support?

We manufacture and fit custom made prosthetic and orthotic devices using industry best standards to assist our clients in restoring their functional independence. In addition, we have successfully built strong relationships with the global specialists in orthotic and prosthetic services provision including the Hero Arm from Open Bionics. Situated at The Weir, Kilcolgan, APOS Ltd. is only a short drive from Galway City. The company employs internationally qualified and experienced clinicians qualified in the provision of both prosthetics and orthotics. We are currently open to receive appointments in line with all Department of Health safety guidelines.

For more information:

Phone: 091-796983

Email: enquiry@apos.ie

Address: The Weir, Kilcolgan, Co. Galway

Website: <https://www.apos.ie>

Who are we?

Ottobock Ireland is a specialist Prosthetic and Orthotic clinic providing a high quality service to our patients for over 30 years. We are based in National Orthopaedic Hospital, Cappagh, Dublin and provide a country-wide service through our satellite clinics to hospitals and health services throughout Ireland.

Who do we support?

Ottobock Ireland is happy to provide a service to all clients regardless of the funding source. The quality of the service is the same for all but HSE funding restrictions may have an effect in some HSE regions on the speed at which we are permitted to provide the service.

How do we support?

Since its founding in Berlin in 1919, Ottobock has pursued a vision to improve the mobility of people with disabilities through innovative products. In doing so, the company equates quality with 'quality for life': the quality of life enjoyed by the people who use Ottobock products every day. People at the centre, their individuality and requirements and needs with respect to functionality, quality as well as design form the basis for the company's enduring capability of innovation.

For more information:

Phone: 01-8348970

Email: ireland@ottobock.com

Address: National Orthopaedic Hospital, Cappagh, Finglas, Dublin 11

Website: <https://www.ottobock.ie>

**Who are we?**

Walker Healthcare specialise in the design and supply of orthotic devices and orthopaedic appliances.

Who do we support?

We offer a range of clinical services in areas of paediatrics, rheumatology, sports injury bracing, orthopaedic bracing, custom made AFO's, drop foot splints, prescription foot orthotics, diabetic/orthopaedic and surgical footwear as well as pressure relieving insoles.

How do we support?

Medical card holders are referred either by their GP, allied health professional, or via a hospital consultant to the orthotist who will assess and ultimately supply a suitable device. Private patients are welcome to make appointments.

For more information:

Phone: 091-767100

Email: walkerhealthcare@eircom.net

Address: Walker Healthcare Ltd., 14C Liosban Retail Park, Tuam Road,
Galway

Website: www.walkerhealthcare.ie/index.html



Who are we?

The Central Remedial Clinic

Who do we support?

We are one of the largest organisations in Ireland dedicated to supporting the achievements, wellbeing and health of people with physical disabilities.

How do we support?

We provide a range of services and supports for people with disabilities, whether they are babies and toddlers, school children, teenagers or adults. We also support their parents, carers and families.

Some of our services include:

- Assistive Technology and Specialised Seating
- Gait Laboratory
- Medical Neuro-disability Team
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Social Work, Speech and Language Therapy
- Schools
- Pobal Ability Programme
- Training and Development Centres
- Parents and Friends Association
- Transport

For more information:

Phone: 01-8542200

Email: accountsreceivable@crc.ie

Address: Central Remedial Clinic, Vernon Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin 3

Website: www.crc.ie



Who are we?

National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH)

Who do we support?

The NRH accepts medical referrals for adult and paediatric patients requiring complex specialist rehabilitation services in the following areas of specialty:

- Acquired brain injury, including stroke and other neurological conditions
- Spinal cord Injury (traumatic and non-traumatic)
- Limb absence (congenital and acquired limb loss)

How do we support?

The National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) is a publicly-funded hospital that provides a comprehensive range of specialist rehabilitation services to patients from throughout Ireland who, as a result of an accident, illness or injury have acquired a physical or cognitive disability and require specialist rehabilitation.

For more information:

Phone: 01-2355000

Email: enquiries@nrh.ie

Address: National Rehabilitation Hospital, Rochestown, Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co Dublin

Website: www.nrh.ie

**Who are we?**

Sparkle Youth Theatre Project from the Blue Teapot Theatre Company

Who do we support?

Sparkle is an outreach drama programme for intellectually disabled teenagers aged 12 – 17 years. The project originated from a direct response to demand from parents and participants.

How do we support?

Tutors focus on group work, concentration and memorisation exercises. As well as exploring imagination and creativity, integral to the workshops is the building of confidence.

For more information:

Phone: 091-520977

Email: outreach@blueteapot.ie

Address: Blue Teapot Theatre Company, Munster Avenue, Galway

Website: blueteapot.ie



Who are we?

Corinthians Mixed Ability Rugby

Who do we support?

Children (ages from 6 – 18 years) with intellectual disabilities, autism, Down syndrome and other additional needs. A parent/guardian has to stay during the class.

How do we support?

Rugby training incorporates drills and skills in a fun and social atmosphere. Every session ends with a match, where you can't leave until everyone scores a goal!

For more information:

Contact: Derek

Phone: 087-2457138

Email: admin@galwaycorinthians.com

Address: Corinthians Rugby Club, Tuam Road, Galway

Website: www.galwaycorinthians.com



Who are we?

Judo Assist Ireland

Who do we support?

We are a fully-inclusive adaptive judo organisation based in Portumna, Galway with classes also in Tipperary, Cork and Wexford. We support all children & adults with additional needs and of all abilities and disabilities.

How do we support?

Our adaptive programme includes: basic gymnastic skills, general exercise and of course the Olympic sport of judo. Our specially structured classes are designed to make learning and exercise fun as we teach using a game-based method for full enjoyment and safety.

For more information:

Contact: James

Phone: 086-0612544

Email: judoassist@gmail.com

Website: www.judoassit.ie



Who are we?

Power Soccer School of Excellence: John Power, Martin Quirke and a fantastic team of coaches.

Who do we support?

Children (ages 3 – 13 years) of all abilities including those with intellectual disabilities, autism, Down syndrome and other additional needs. A parent/caregiver must arrange support for the children during the training.

How do we support?

Power soccer provides an introduction to soccer in a fun and encouraging environment. The emphasis is taken off winning and put on having fun and learning new skills. The regular training sessions involve fun games, skill development and play in small sided games.

For more information:

Contact: John

Phone: 086-1956424

Email: info@powersoccer.ie

Website: www.powersoccer.ie

**Who are we?**

Special Olympics Connaught

Who do we support?

Children with intellectual disabilities aged 4-18 years.

How do we support?

Special Olympics Clubs offer a range of sporting activities including: swimming, gymnastics, golf, bowling and horse-riding.

For more information:

Phone: 071-9118320

Email: connaught.support@specialolympics.ie

Address: The Gateway Building, North West Business Park, Collooney,
Sligo, F91 W40H

Website: www.specialolympics.ie



Who are we?

Galway Speeders (affiliated and members of Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) Sport)

Who do we support?

Galway Speeders is a multi-sports club and we offer sporting opportunities to children and young adults with a physical disability from as young as six years of age up to young adults.

How do we support?

It can be difficult for children/young adults with a physical disability to participate in mainstream sports so we choose our sports carefully and adapt to the changing needs of our members. Our sports include:

1. Swimming, Wheelchair Basketball, Tabletennis and Powerchair Soccer (all regular sports organised by Galway Speeders)
2. Athletics with IWA
3. Sailing with Galway Bay Sailing Club
4. Para rowing with Galway Rowing Club (under development)
5. Recreational cycling
6. Other sports supported, depending on members interests (e.g. Boccia)

Location varies depending on sport but include: NUIG Kingfisher Club, Cappagh Park Community Centre and Renmore Community Centre

For more information:

Phone: Delia Boyce, Secretary: 087-7971454

Liz Gantly, Chairperson: 086-1730180

Email: delia.boyce@hotmail.com or gantlyliz@gmail.com

Website: www.galwayspeeders.ie

**Who are we?**

Horses Connect

Who do we support?

People of all ages with a range of physical, intellectual, mental health and other challenges.

How do we support?

- Equine-assisted personal development (individuals and groups/families)
- Therapeutic horse-riding (one-to-one)

For more information:

Contact: Eileen Bennett or Mary Mitchell

Phone: 089-4332922 or 087- 2023590

Email: horsesconnect@gmail.com

Address: Western Stables, Ballagh Rd, Bushypark, Co Galway
(strictly by appointment only)

Website: www.horsesconnect.com



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Who we are?

Occupational Guidance Service, Community Healthcare West, Galway

Who do we support?

People with disabilities

How do we support?

The role of the Occupational Guidance Service is to provide advice, support, information and direction in order to enable people with disabilities and their advocates make informed decisions regarding service requirements, training or education options and employment. For school leavers, the occupational guidance officer:

- a. meets the person and their family/advocate, as appropriate
- b. works closely with the school
- c. assists in identifying and clarifying personal goals and individual needs
- d. explores the training and development options most suited to their needs
- e. supports the individual in accessing their selected training, education or service options

For more information:

Contact: Anne Silke

Phone: 091-546267

Email: anne.silke@hse.ie

Address: Occupational Guidance Service,
Shantalla Health Centre,
25 Newcastle Road, Galway

**Who are we?**

Galway City Community Training Centre

Who do we support?

Early school leavers and lone/independent parents

How do we support?

Through the following ways:

- Practical and hands on experience of the work environment with highly experienced instructors
- A recognised qualification (Major Award)
- A training allowance and six weeks annual leave
- A progression plan which supports learners to access employment, further training and education
- Training within a supportive and structured environment
- Opportunities to sample real working situations through work experience
- Learner tracking for 6 months to provide support

For more information:

Contact: Blaze Aylmer / Eleanor O'Boyle

Phone: 091-753849

Email: galwayctc@gmail.com

Address: 3-4 Liosbán Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway

Website: www.galwayctc.ie



Who are we?

Forum Connemara is a community development organisation that delivers the Ability Programme | Cumas Chonamara.

Who do we support?

The Ability Programme | Cumas Chonamara supports the progression of young people (between 15-29 years of age), that have a disability and/or mental health condition and that are living in the Connemara municipal district. We support all disability types (e.g. physical, sensory, learning, intellectual, hidden and acquired disabilities, people on the autistic spectrum and/or people experiencing mental health difficulties).

How do we support?

The aim of the programme is to work with eligible participants to develop their potential and bring them closer to the employment market, further education and/or voluntary opportunities in their community. This is achieved through promoting positive pathways into training, education, social/voluntary opportunities and/or work experience. We use a person-centred approach to work with participants to put in place a progression plan that will assist with their development.

For more information:

Phone: 095-41116

Email: info@forumconnemara.ie

Address: Letterfrack, Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland

Website: www.forumconnemara.ie/ability

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Useful Publications:

- 'From Big Fish to Little Fish'; The Transition from Primary to Secondary School for Children with Special Needs - A Guide for Parents
- 'From Big Fish to Little Fish'; My Workbook About Moving From Primary to Secondary School - A Workbook for Children

Please contact Mary Delargey (076-1064375) if you would like a copy of the guide and/or workbook

- 'Transition to Adult Services in County Galway'; An Information Booklet for Young People with an Intellectual Disability and their Families

Please contact Anne Silke (contact information on page 87) for a paper copy or go to below link for a soft copy:

www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/lho/galway/disability-services/transition-to-adult-services-in-co-galway.pdf

Useful Websites:

- ADHD Ireland – support, education, awareness. **www.adhdireland.ie**
- Cope - for people affected by homelessness, women and children experiencing domestic abuse and older people. **www.copegalway.ie**
- Debra Ireland – 'For people whose skin doesn't work, we do'. **www.debraireland.org**
- Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland - approved companies for disability vehicles. **www.ddai.ie/nsai-approved-conversion-companies**
- Epilepsy Ireland - Our vision is to achieve a society where no person's life is limited by epilepsy. **www.epilepsy.ie**
- Galway Simon Community - providing services in Galway to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. **www.galwaysimon.ie**
- Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland. Provides support, information and advocacy for individuals and families living with Huntington's disease. **www.huntingtons.ie**

- Mental Health Ireland – support for all individuals and communities in Ireland with lived experience of mental health challenges. **www.mentalhealthireland.ie**
- Muscular Dystrophy Ireland - aims to provide information and support to people with neuromuscular conditions and their families through a range of support services. **www.mdi.ie**
- My Child - on health services and support, your guide to pregnancy, baby and toddler health, trusted information from experts. **www.mychild.ie**
- Neurofibromatosis Association of Ireland - we aim to inform sufferers and their families of the disorder, supporting them and letting them know they are not alone with the condition. **www.nfaireland.ie**
- Prader Willi Syndrome Association Ireland – aims to raise awareness and understanding of PWS and to improve the choice and quality of care, education and support for persons with PWS. **www.pwsai.ie**
- Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) - support with a practical approach to dealing with poverty. **www.svp.ie/home.aspx**
- Samaritans - offer listening and support to people and communities in times of need. Call us free, day or night, 365 days a year on 116 123. **www.samaritans.org/ireland/samaritans-ireland**
- The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC) - ISPCC is Ireland's national child protection charity. **www.ispcc.ie**
- Threshold - support to secure a right to housing, particularly for households experiencing the problems of poverty and exclusion. **www.threshold.ie**

Important Information: This booklet was compiled by Galway Community School Age Services in an attempt to offer as much information as possible to children and teenagers with disabilities and their families who live in County Galway about services that are potentially available to them locally and/or nationally. Every organisation/service included in the booklet has given their consent for the information about them to be printed in this booklet. The booklet does not necessarily contain an exhaustive list of all potential services available and there is no intention by the editors to endorse any particular service or organisation mentioned. The booklet was developed for information purposes only. If any reader would like to receive further information regarding any of the services mentioned in the booklet they should contact the service in question directly. The information contained in this booklet is accurate as of November 2020, and it is hoped that it will be updated periodically. If any service provider not currently included in the booklet would like to be included in the next edition of the booklet please contact Galway School Age Services on 076-1064375 for further information.

