

Community Integration Forum

Update, June 2025

In introducing this latest newsletter, we would like to express our gratitude to those local authorities who have facilitated our attendance at various forums in recent weeks. It has been a great opportunity to experience the collaboration and positive initiatives happening around the country and we look forward to meeting more teams in the coming weeks.

ARP Reduction

The reduction in the monthly ARP payment from €800 to €600 was approved by Government, with the first reduced payment taking effect in July 2025.

- There are over 38,000 Ukrainians accommodated under ARP
- 10,370 of which are in Offer a Home
- SI 228 of 2025 was signed by the Minister on 30th May confirming this reduction.
- DSP are notifying homeowners of the change in payment.

Requests for additional payments

Where an owner pledges a property under Offer a Home, rent is not payable in respect of the property. Other than an agreed amount for utility bills, the only payment expected to be made to the homeowner is the ARP.

It is not possible to be in receipt of ARP and rent for the same property. Payments under the OAH scheme are in respect of the full property. Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is not available to BOTPs. A property for which an ARP payment is being received cannot also be in receipt of HAP.

Any payment received except those legitimately associated with utilities may create a landlord tenant arrangement.

If a tenancy has been created through additional payments the landlord /property owner can incur a tax liability.

A person who does not comply with their responsibility to register their tenancy / tenancies faces a criminal conviction and a fine of up to €4,000 and/ or 6 months imprisonment, if convicted.

Relocations

About 2,400 people are likely to be affected by a contract ending in 32 properties between now and early August.

Information is being updated on [gov.ie](https://gov.ie/en/department-of-justice/news/accommodation-centres-returning-to-original-or-alternative-use/) which will give details of centres affected gov.ie/en/department-of-justice/news/accommodation-centres-returning-to-original-or-alternative-use/



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration



Moves for those with status

Approx. 600 families living in IPAS accommodation, who have status for over a year, are receiving letters from the Department advising them that they can no longer be accommodated in their current location.

Key guidance:

- Those impacted are strongly encouraged to contact PMVT and Depaul for accommodation supports
- If residents are unable to source independent accommodation by the date advised, they need to notify IPAS and an offer of temporary emergency accommodation will be made.
- With the limitations on IPAS accommodation, this emergency accommodation is not likely to be in the area the residents are currently living in.

Sport 4 Empowerment

Sport Ireland has developed a new “Sport 4 Empowerment” (S4E) programme as part of Ireland’s EIST Programme for 2021 – 2027.

The S4E programme focuses on developing new social inclusion initiatives through sport and physical activity, supporting people at risk of social exclusion and poverty, including ethnic minorities, youth at risk, persons with disabilities and persons from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Officially launched in October 2023, the programme has seen the phased employment of newly created ESF + Social Innovation in Sport Officer positions within Sport Ireland's network of Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs). There are currently 15 officers in place across the country, with an aim to have an ESF+ officer in each LSP by the end of 2025. These officers are responsible for piloting and implementing a range of targeted and innovative initiatives designed to increase participation in sport and physical activity, enhance education and training opportunities, improve employment prospects, and promote social inclusion.

Sport Ireland and the LSPs will deliver the programme and work with additional stakeholders, at local, national, and international levels to ensure programme success.

We invite you to click on the attached link to view the full brochure issued by Sport Ireland introducing this programme

This is the [link](#) to our webpage, the ESF+ programme brochure can be found at the bottom. If anyone would like to reach out and learn more about the programme, please email [Ellen Byrne— EByrne@sportireland.ie](mailto:Ellen.Byrne@sportireland.ie)

Sports and Outdoor Activities have featured strongly in the responses gathered in the recent Community Integration Forum survey, with representation from local groups and specific events being organised by the LAITs. Local Authorities have been long playing a role in the promotion of sports in their areas through the work of the Local Sports Partnerships and we are delighted to be able to promote this new programme.

Designated Accommodation Centres

If your local authority has any potential pledged properties available to residents of the 90 Day Designated Accommodation Centres (DACs) located in Wallslough (Kilkenny), Punchestown (Kildare) and Fernbank (Limerick).

We are grateful to those who continue to support us with pledges of property and we are particularly grateful to the Relationship Managers in the local authorities who play a key role in this process.

We are aware that offers are limited and not everyone has the capacity to make a property available to the DACs so thank you again for offers already received particularly when considering the 90 day limit for state accommodation available.

Kilkenny Show Racism the Red Card

As part of ICI's Wear Red Day, the Kilkenny LAIT collaborated with Abdullah Al Jumaili, an Iraqi refugee who moved to Ireland with his family at age seven.

Abdullah led an online discussion for Kilkenny County Council Staff and local service-providers about how GAA changed his life and helped him build meaningful connections in his new home. He spoke passionately about the GAA, Ireland, cultural identity and diversity, equality and inclusion in sport and led a thought-provoking discussion on Diversity and Inclusion in the GAA.

Now living in Dubai, Abdullah is an advocate for promoting Gaelic Games in the Middle East.

His journey of promoting Gaelic games in the Middle East was a powerful example of how sport can unite people across cultures and communities.

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

Join us for an online discussion with Abdullah Al Jumaili on diversity and inclusion in the GAA.

Friday, 21st March, 2025

14:00

Teams - contact integration@kilkennycoco.ie to join

Dont forget to wear red on Friday!

Reminder—Refugee week is coming up!

Get involved. This year the theme is “Community as a Superpower”.

Find information online and use the resources available to support Refugee Week 16th to 22nd June.



Clonmel Together

The volunteer group “Clonmel Together” recently hosted a free multicultural event.

Funded mainly by South Tipperary Development Company with contributions from the Tipperary Volunteer Centre and the Local Authority Integration Team, the event was an outstanding success. Please click on the link below to a sense of the event.

<https://youtu.be/XhzJ1NPvsxY?si=nilXtV74i9MJ2f8o>

Waterford & Kilkenny Community Work

Waterford and Kilkenny LAITs teamed up for the Connecting Communities Roadshow recently.

The Connecting Communities Roadshows provide local communities with the opportunity to engage with the local authority and its associated partners. They also provide insight and guidance about setting up community groups, sourcing funding for developing community initiatives and how to build a stronger, inclusive, and vibrant place to live.

International Women’s Day

Cork City LAIT was invited by the Cork Migrant Centre to take part in a collaborative event celebrating International Women’s Day, in University College Cork. Catherine Kennedy, LAIT co-ordinator was the MC for the multi-faceted event.

The theme of the day was **Storybook** with an interpretive, insightful, and emotive playback theatre performance by Speak OUT! Theatre for Transformation, based on the experiences shared in the session by both the speakers and the attendees.

Contact us



Integration@lgma.ie