

Western Traveller & Intercultural Development

Community Resource & Youth Service Provider



Annual Report 2018



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Introduction

Western Traveller and Intercultural Development (WTID) had an eventful year once again in 2018. WTID is now the largest community-based, community development organisation in Tuam and it is now recognised as such.

WTID has noticed that once again the numbers of people accessing the organisation for assistance and support has increased in 2018, and it can be seen that community members from all walks of life and background, be it Traveller, Settled or Non-Nationals are using the services which are provided at WTID.

WTID works from a community development approach using the core principles of empowerment, participation, collective action, equality and social justice. These are fundamental to the ethos of the organisation. A notable characteristic of WTID is a teamwork approach.

All members of the staff team work in an integrated way on many projects and initiatives, some of which may be additional to their direct roles. This team approach to the work adds value to the work of a small Organisation where difference skills are maximised for the benefit of the community. WTID maintains a focus on the needs of the community as its primary motivation for action. The organisation has developed and cultivated a range of mutually beneficial relationships with a variety of service providers that has ensured the leverage of funding and partnership approaches to work.

This Annual Report sets out the key accomplishments of the organisation in 2018.

Tom Reilly
Chairperson

Review of the year

National Traveller and Roma Integration Strategy (NTRIS)

A staff member of WTID staff sits on the national monitoring committee for this project. There are currently 2 sub-groups that WTID have representation on. They are Retention of Traveller in Education and employment. Through Collaboration in 2018 WTID were identified as one of the 4 pilot sites. The National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS), launched by the Department of Justice and Equality in June 2017, takes a whole of Government approach to improving the lives of Travellers and Roma in Ireland in practical and tangible ways and recognises that that Traveller and Roma communities need more focused interventions to drive improvements in education attainment. As part of the NTRIS, the Department, together with the Department of Justice and Equality and TUSLA have been engaging with Traveller representative groups to specifically identify and agree an approach to improving educational outcomes for Travellers and Roma. It has been agreed that an initiative will be piloted in four areas across the country to trial a new approach to addressing these issues in Traveller and Roma Communities. Tuam is one of the areas who will be taking part in the pilot.

A team of four personnel in each of the four pilot areas will work together with parents, children, young people, schools, Traveller and Roma communities and service providers to remove the barriers impacting on Traveller and Roma children's attendance, participation, retention and attainment in education. The pilots will provide information about the development of a sustainable programme to address the gap in educational outcomes for children and young people from the Travelling and Roma communities.

Public Participation network (PPN)

WTID have representation of this committee and keep the community informed of developments throughout the county. The PPN is a great vehicle for information for community groups throughout the county. A staff member from WTID currently sits on the National PPN committee.

Public Sector Duty

WTID Board of Management met and agreed that in 2018 we would look at implementing the public sector duty legalisation throughout the organisation and promoting the same in other forum's that Traveller's are involved in.

TUS

The Western Traveller and Intercultural Development provide work for a number of participants on Tus Schemes. The organisation apply to Galway Rural Development {GRD} annually for some workers to help out with various community projects. GRD have always been very accommodating in providing the organisation with workers. At the moment we have workers in maintenance and Kitchen duties.

Residents Associations

WTID work with a number of resident's associations in the town of Tuam. During 2018 it was instrumental in working with the council and the Gilmartin road residents on the future development of the houses and road. WTID continue to work with the Parkmore residents on maintaining the community house and common areas within the estate.

Parkmore Allotments

The allotment project is going from strength to strength. The Polly-tunnel is in use and will be a huge resource to all the people that use the allotments. Funding for a new poly-tunnel was applied for from the Galway county Council and this was built in October 2018. It is a great resource for the allotment holders.



Men's Shed

The shed has been used on a weekly basis by both settle and Traveller men. They have made shafts for a barrel top wagon as well as other cultural pieces. The men have begun a kindling project and have benefited from equipment for GRD and Galway County Council. The men have repaired to the barrell top wagon that was proudly displayed in the national Museum of Ireland in Castlebar for the whole of 2018.

Traveller Health Unit Strategy (THU)

During 2018 WTID representatives were involved with other Traveller Projects in the west and HSE representatives in putting together a three-year strategy for the THU. The Strategy was launched in the 3rd quarter of 2018. The event was a huge success. Staff members within WTID are involved in various different sub-groups and have responsibility for rolling out the plan in different specific areas with other THU members.

Shared Rearing and Foster Care

Western Traveller and Intercultural Development currently participates on the Shared Rearing Steering Group with Traveller projects from the region and Tusla and is prioritising the issue of Traveller children in care in an effort to improve outcomes for Travellers. The Western regional Traveller Health Network (WRTHN) have developed a regional forum to look specifically at the issue of Traveller children in care in our region and what we would hope to achieve through work with Tusla (The Child and Family agency) .

Traveller Interagency group

The county Galway Interagency group had come together in 2018 as an announcement by the minister gave new impetus on starting to develop a new plan for the county. Western Traveller and Intercultural Development along with Galway Traveller Movement and Galway County Council will be to the fore in insuring that Traveller Issues are identified and addressed by the Traveller Interagency Group and look forward to working with all agencies. A terms of reference has been agreed in 2018 by the group. There is a new independent chairperson that has brought a new focus to the Interagency and all services are progressing through the new strategy. Galway County Traveller Interagency Group seeks to promote and support adequate, appropriate and effective service provision to the Traveller community.

Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task force (WRDATF)

A member of staff from WTID sits on the regional Drugs task force. They keep WTID and all the Traveller projects informed of training, upcoming events and new initiatives. WTID in partnership with the Drugs Task force and the learning curve have organised the delivery of a community addiction course. Six people finished this course.

Speech and Language

The designated speech and Language service for Travellers is based in Tuam and is in regular contact with WTID and the Childcare service. The steering group meet twice yearly to review and plan.

Traveller Friendly Services Training and Intercultural Training

Staff from WTID worked with Tusla to deliver training to 20 Education Welfare Officers from the region.

Student placement

WTID provided placement for a number of Students in 2018. The students came from Tuam Community Training Centre, Youth Reach, Health Promotion, NUIG and schools.

Traveller Pride Week

Western Traveller and Intercultural Development took part in Traveller Pride week this year. The project celebrated a number of events that included, a concert by the music project for parents, street league soccer. There was a very successful cultural event held in the Parkmore Creche with the afterschool groups

Health and wellbeing workshop of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

This subcommittee was set up in to look at county wide initiatives that could be rolled out with an interagency approach. WTID received funding from the Healthy Ireland fund for the life-skills programme for young Traveller women that was rolled out in 2018. This programme include the following;

- Cookery Booklet production
- Traveller Culture enterprise
- Yoga therapy
- Cardio sessions
- Outdoor education centre
- Food sessions

County Childcare committee

A member of Staff from WTID is a board member on the county Childcare Committee. The childcare committee have been very supportive of the childcare facility WTID manages and are always on hand for advice.

Rapid

In 2018 WTID were successful in applying for and receiving funds under the rapid programme for new kitchen facilities. This has been of huge benefit to all the groups that use the facility.



GRETB

In 2018 WTID were successful in applying for and receiving funds under the youth programme for upgrading of facilities. This has been of huge benefit to all the young people that use the facility.

Staffing

WTID directly employed 23 people in 2018 and had a support staff from various schemes. This has help WTID continue to deliver the services to the community.

Primary Health Care



Health as an area of work is one of the most significant for WTID. The overall aim of WTID's Primary Healthcare Programme (PHC) is to improve the health status and quality of life for Travellers in Tuam and its environs by identifying the community's specific health requirements and the necessary health service provision. WTID implements one of the most successful PHC Programmes in the country and currently employs seven Community Health Workers (CHWs) on a part time basis. The work in 2018 was influenced by the findings of the All Ireland Traveller Health Study 2010. Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for this year focused on cardiovascular health, diabetes and mental health.



Back row: Bridie Ward (Community Health Worker (CHW)), Caroline Canny (Health Coordinator), Bridget Ward (CHW), Kathleen Ward (CHW) and Mag Ward (CHW).

Front Row: Sally Sweeny (CHW), Mag Ward (CHW) and Nora Ward (CHW).

Health Promotion

The mainstay of the PHC Programmes work continues to be health promotion, and signposting to relevant service/agencies, be it for health screening, support or intervention. Outreach work in 2018 was conducted about the importance of positive mental health; child development; child dental health; immunisation; Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme; heart health; asthma and wellness in pregnancy, to name but a few.

PHC made a presentation along with their colleagues from the Western Regional Traveller Health Network (WRTHN) at the National Health Promotion Conference: *Better Services - Better health* 2018 in NUIG. The title of PHC's presentation was Travellers Empowering and Engaging their Community through Peer Led Primary Health Care which was very well received by the delegation.

Traveller History Project

PHC has played an instrumental role in helping to bring about Traveller's Journey - a temporary exhibition exploring the rich culture, traditions and crafts of the Traveller community at the National Museum of Ireland- Country Life in Mayo.

The exhibition aims to showcase and encourage discussion and appreciation of the unique heritage of Travellers. The exhibition was curated in partnership with the WRTHN. The exhibition was launched by President Michael D. Higgins on July 10th and continues until May 2019.



Mag Ward, Kathleen Ward, Bridget Ward, Bridie Ward and Noralee Ward pictured on the grounds of Turlough House Castlebar, Co. Mayo.



Kathleen Ward with Rosa Meehan (Assistant Keeper) of the National Museum of Ireland-Country Life.



Kathleen Ward, pictured with **Sabina Higgins** and President of Ireland, **Michael D. Higgins**, giving a Key Note Speech at the launch of *Travellers' Journey*.



Sally Sweeney, Mag Ward, Bridie Ward, Caroline Canny and Kathleen Ward meeting President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins.



NAME, NAME, Julieanne McDonagh, Ellen McDonagh and **NAME** pictured with the model wagon on display in the exhibition which was made by a group exploring Traveller culture facilitated by PHC with YouthReach Tuam participants



WTIDs wagon which was on display in Travellers' Journey.



Group celebrations with President Michael D. Higgins and Sabina Higgins following the launch of *Travellers' Journey*.

Traveller Midwifery and Gynae Working Group

The Traveller Midwifery and Gynae Group continued to meet over 2018. The purpose of the group is to build links, share resources and information to improve the health outcomes for Traveller mothers and their babies using the Maternity Services at UHG. WRTHN planning and preparations got underway for the recording of a multi-media antenatal resource specifically for Travellers. This resource will be launched in 2019.

Information Sessions

PHC staff attended information sessions in 2018 on: Women and Alcohol Use, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Skin conditions and accommodation issues amongst others.



WRTHN members at the Women and Alcohol Use information session delivered by the Western Region Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

Food Policy Workshop

Galway Co. Council facilitated a workshop in Brú Bhríde to explore what food means and memories it conjures up to individuals, families and communities. This session was part of a wider project developing food policy.





Food Policy Workshop held in Brú Bhríde.

Launch of the new Primary Care Centre

PHC staff as members of the Traveller Health Unit were invited to the official opening of the new Primary Care Centre in Tuam by Minister for Health, Simon Harris.



Minister Simon Harris addressing the audience at the official launch of Tuam Primary Health Care Centre.

Wellness Morning

PHC held a Wellness Morning at Parkmore Community House in March. Croi and Marie Keating Foundation were in attendance to meet with members of the community. Blood Pressure, Weight, BMI and healthy lifestyle screening was offered.



Sally Sweeney, Nora Ward, Bridie Ward and Kathleen Ward pictured outside Parkmore Community House.

Lifeskills

Lifeskills group was delivered in 2018. Its aim being to equip Traveller girls/young women with the skills needed to navigate life as an adult such as money management, engaging with health and education service providers, healthy food purchasing/storage/ preparation and housing application. The group were successful in achieving a Tusla Investing in Children Award. Group members were encouraged to partake in new experience also such as abseiling, gorge walking and having a seaweed bath.



Tusla Investing in Children Award.



Abseiling at the Pigeon Hole Cave in Cong.



Bridget McDonagh, Mary Ward, Bridget Doherty, Marguerite McDonagh and Caitlyn Sweeney at Strandhill in Sligo.



Marguerite McDonagh after abseiling down the Pigeon Hole cave in Cong



Celebrations after achieving the Tusla Investing in Children Award.



Mariah Ward and Caitlyn Sweeney with John Connors after receiving their Tusla Investing in Children Award.

Youth Work



WTID Brú Bhríde Youth Project has had a very successful and exciting year during 2018. We the youth work team have decided in 2018 to continue doing quality and focused youth work activities. We completed year 3, of the NQSF. We are currently in limbo as we haven't started the new cycle due to the new funding stream coming on board. Funding has been a challenge this year to run programs. I am glad to say we got great support from the GRETB in developing our new kitchen and other works at Harmony youth hall.

Youth activities include:

Mondays: Afterschool's Group, Parkmore Community House 3.15 – 4.30

Tuesday: Healthy Eating & Cookery Group, Parkmore Community House 3.15 – 4.30

Wed: Being Active: Sports & Fitness group, St. Pat's Gym

Girls 9 – 13yrs: 3.30 – 4.30pm

Boys 9 – 13yrs: 4.30 – 5.30pm



Boxing Club

Monday, Wednesday and Friday boxing activities, physical exercise and wellbeing.

Girls 8-15yrs, Boys 8-15yrs



Summer Programs

Summer Programmes ran through out June and July last year. two weeks of Summer Camp activities, which included, Cookery Group, Outdoor Games and Adventure trips to Castle Hackett. Sporting activities at Tuam Celtic were successful as we had the Ballinasloe Involve youth project down for a sports day and BBQ.

Young people were introduced to traditional cookery skills, such as baking griddle bread and traditional tay. Presentation of achievements to young people and Leaders were made during the summer activities.





St Christopher's Youth Club

This ran for 2 terms during 2018.

Fishing Group

This group attended a workshop on fishing and how to keep safe at a river. They were taught how to fish, what was safe and what was not safe. They learned how to bait a hook, the different fish and what baits to use.

The group went on a trip to Moycullen and had a great fishing experience, what was supposed to be a 2-hour program lasted long. This was a very enjoyable and positive program, from the young people's perspective.

Girl's Skills Group

This project is a between the PHC program, and the youth project. The youth project proved support and encouraged young people to attend the group. The target group were aged 16-20 and an average of 16 young girls attended the program.

WTID Youth Programme Targets 2019

The youth work Committee have decided going forward that the template below is what programs possibly can be achieved during 2019.

WTID Youth Programme Targets 2019

Programme	Sessions	Attendants
Life skills	12	16
Afterschool	38	10
Boxing Club	32	30
St Christopher's Youth Club	18	15
Soccer & Sports	30	20
Fishing Group	10	10
Teenage Soccer	20	20
Young Men's Group	10	8
Summer Programme	18	60
Total	<u>188</u>	<u>189</u>

4.1 Sessions on average

Tuam Community Childcare Centre



The service is community based and is currently owned and managed by WTID. The Management Committee of WTID is responsible for the overall operation of the childcare service, ensuring that the service operates in a manner that is compliant with statutory regulations and with the ethos of the childcare service and WTID.

Tuam Community Childcare Centre is dedicated to provide an enriching and challenging educational environment, where each child is encouraged to grow to his or her fullest potential academically, socially and emotionally. We strive to provide a welcoming, calm and caring environment where children are able to play and learn at their own pace, making discoveries and choices for themselves along the way. Our ultimate aim is to provide a childcare programme, which promotes optimal development for each child, supports parents, upholds best practices of early childhood care and education and promote collaborations that help all children realise their potential.

To achieve this WTID works in partnership with parents, staff and children, by providing a secure learning environment, which enable children to be happy, confident and independent and to have positive and productive experiences during their time with the service.

Description of Service

The service is located in Parkmore Estate, Tuam, and caters for children between the ages of 1 year to 12 years. The service operates from Monday to Friday from 9a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

The service is affiliated to the Galway City and County Childcare Committee, is a member of Early Childhood Ireland and is also notified to the Health Service Executive and inspected by them. The service follows the principles of Siolta and Aistear.

Support services include the Early Intervention Team, Speech & Language Therapist, Psychologist, Public Health Nurse, Family Support Workers and the Pre-School Liaison worker. I would also work closely with the Presentation Primary School and the Mercy Primary School in meeting with their Home School Liaison Teachers regarding enrolling children who are eligible to attend primary schools.

Facilities:

Purpose built Childcare Centre

- Open 5 days a week
- ECCE Scheme – 38 weeks
- CCS Scheme – 46 weeks
- Secure entrance
- Outdoor play areas with hard and soft surfaces
- Full-time/part-time/sessional service
- Spacious rooms
- Fully equipped Pre-school rooms
- Afterschool care
- Bus collection and drop off service for children attending both morning and afternoon programmes
- Own Allotments and access to Tuam Community Allotments

Objectives

To provide a safe, secure, stimulating environment, which can embrace all children and values their race, language, gender, age, disability, culture, class and religion.

- To value all children as individuals and appreciate their uniqueness.
- To value parents and carers as the primary educators of the child.
- To ensure that all staff receives appropriate training and maintain high levels of practice.
- To develop practice that values the wider community as a means of adding to the richness of programmes.



Mission statement

Tuam Community Childcare Centre is committed to valuing and respecting all children in the service. The mission being to provide a safe, child-centered environment that promotes the development of each child. Tuam Community Childcare Centre working with parents and the local community ensuring quality, affordable childcare in response to the needs of the parents in the community.

Afterschool's Programme

The Afterschool's Programme caters for children between the ages of 5 years to 12 years. The service operates from Monday to Friday, from 2.40 p.m. to 6 p.m. A pickup service from all primary schools in Tuam town is provided on a daily basis with a drop home service between 5pm and 6pm.

The service provides supervised homework and planned activities to encourage and develop self-esteem, sociability, friendship and co-operation with others.

Various programs take place both within and outside of the center on a weekly basis with all afterschool

children. We ensure that children are continuously trying out new activities such as soccer, gymnastics, boxing, kickboxing, baking and art.

School Services Training

The Childcare Centre's manager and service manager completed Business Management Level 6. A staff member completed Pre-Hospital First Aid. One of our Childcare Workers completed training in LINC (Leadership for Inclusion) and is now a qualified Linc Coordinator. A childcare worker obtained qualification in Fetac Level 6.

Aistear & Siolta

The Aistear & Siolta curriculum is followed and practiced on a daily basis within our morning service. This curriculum is very innovative and impressive, with children benefiting from its contents continuously. This year has brought along advanced supports for the Aistear & Siolta programme, with an early year's specialist working closely with our childcare management and workers to develop and implement quality development goals and actions, prioritizing the needs and interests of children within the service. This has been a huge success to date and we look forward to continuing and improving our work within this programme throughout the year ahead.

Pre-school Graduation Ceremony

The pre-school graduation was held on Wednesday the 20th of June in the service with 21 children moving on to primary school. We are very proud of all the boys and girls who are starting their journeys in "Big School" in September.



ECCE Expansion

Thanks to yet another major emphasis being placed on the free preschool scheme known as the ECCE, this year children have been given the opportunity to avail of two years free pre – school services.

Due to the successful outcome of our outreach programme tool to raise awareness and inform parents of the ECCE programme and its criteria last year, we revisited this approach again this year. Our service was successful this year on our application for both Early Years Capital funding and School Age Capital funding. In 2018 we were given the opportunity through Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Early Years Capital funding to expand through the installation of a prefab unit which now provides space for 11 children to learn and grow in. We extended our service as a result of the increasing demand for our ECCE programme. Works were also completed on our outdoor space to provide all children attending our service with an enriched experience of learning including play. The capital grant has provided us with the opportunity to improve and grow our service, exceeding our expectations for 2018.



Outdoor Play Area

The childcare service was granted funding throughout the year under Galway County Council's Department of Rural and Community Development RAPID national capital grants. This funding provided the service with the opportunity to create an outdoor sensory garden and allotment area. According to Barnados "The best classroom and richest cupboard is roofed only by the sky." We at Tuam Community Childcare Centre place such emphasis and passion on our Siolta & Aistear curriculum, continuously ensuring that our service is in line with curricular development of Siolta & Aistear, we feel these modifications to our service have enhanced and supported our methodologies daily. We truly believe that outdoor experiences can lead to gains in social development.



Senior Citizen Christmas Party

This year the party was once again held in the Corralea Court Hotel. It was held on the 12th December was an outstanding success, with the Corralea Court Hotel providing an excellent lunch with music provide by local musicians afterwards

As all was this event could not have happened without the good will of the people and businesses of Tuam and the hard work and commitment of the staff of WTID along with the many volunteers that helped with fundraising. With out the kind support of these people this event would not be able to go ahead.

It has been decided that this will be the last senior citizen Christmas party, a barbecue may be held instead.

Congratulations to the raffle winners

1st Prize - €50 hamper – D Dawes

2nd Prize – Bottle of Bandy – Patsy Rice

3rd Prize – Bottle of Whiskey – Teresa Shaw



The Following Organisation are based in our premises: -

Citizen Information Services	Tuesday – Friday	11am – 4pm
Seetec Employment Services	Tuesday – Friday	9am – 5pm
Narcotics Anonymous	Monday and Friday	8pm – 9pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mon/Wed/Fri	1pm – 2pm
Al-Anon	Thursday	7:30pm – 9:30pm
Gamblers Anonymous	Wednesday	8pm – 9pm
Being Well Group	Monday – Saturday Sunday	9:15pm – 10:30pm 6pm – 7pm
Krava Mega Kick Boxing Club	Monday	4:30pm – 5:30pm
St Christopher’s Boxing Club (Runs from Oct – May)	Mon/Wed/Fri Sunday	7pm -9pm 12 noon – 3pm
St John’s Club (September - June)	Tuesday and Thursday Saturday	7pm - 9pm 5pm – 7pm
Guitar & music lessons (Harmony Hall) (School term times)	Monday – Friday	4pm – 7pm
I.C.A. (September – June)	Tuesday	7pm – 9pm

