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Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin
*Galway and Roscommon
Education and Training Board*

Galway and Roscommon
Education & Training Board
Annual Report

2017



gretb

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na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin
*Galway and Roscommon
Education and Training Board*



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Message from the Cathaoirleach of Galway and Roscommon ETB



As Chairperson of the GRETB and a past student of VTOS in Roscommon I feel very proud and honoured to hold this position. I believe education at any age is very beneficial. The GRETB provides a great range of choice and support for people at all levels. Staff throughout the GRETB has to be commended for their work ethos by promoting mutual respect and encouraging students to reach their educational and personal potential in an enjoyable and safe learning environment.

Congratulations to Alison Jones ALO for her work on the literacy / numeracy which was submitted to the EU as part of the EU Vocational Skills Awards and was recommended for special mention under innovation. It was one of two European countries to receive this special recognition.

*Cllr. Kathleen Shanagher
Chairman, Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board*

Foreword from CE



Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board is pleased to bring to you the Annual Report of GRETB 2017.

Our objective is to provide high quality, sustainable education and training opportunities to post-primary, Post-Leaving Certificate, 2nd Chance Education and Training, Apprenticeships, Literacy Education, and all of the many other programme and services provided by GRETB. We also hope to join other ETBs in becoming the patron of a community national school in our region.

The service plan is designed to place learners at the centre of the services we provide and to help improve the overall educational and training wellbeing of those who seek our services, no matter where people live, what stage of life they are at, or what their education and training needs may be.

Whilst continuing our efforts to improve services and educational outcomes, we must also focus on the cost and sustainability of services and ensure that we are achieving the best value for money for both the public and our learners.

GRETB fully acknowledges the requirement to operate within the limits of the funding provided and we will ensure this receives the very significant management focus required in 2017. Given the scale of the geographical and demographical challenges involved, GRETB will strive to do the maximum we can with the resources provided.

GRETB works to enhance the educational opportunities and success of each of our learners, remaining ever cognizant of the empowering and transformative effect that a positive educational experience can have on our learners.

*Mr. David Leahy
Chief Executive*

Composition of Education and Training Boards as per the Education & Training Board Act 2013

The Board of Galway and Roscommon ETB consists of 21 members comprising twelve members elected by the local authority; two members who are members of staff of the Education and Training Board; two members each of whom are the parent of a child who has not reached eighteen years of age and is registered as a student in a centre for education or recognised school, or is the parent of a learner in a children detention school, prison, education or training facility or other facility maintained by any other public service body where the board provides education or training; and five members with interest or knowledge in education and training from persons nominated by (i) business/industry/employers, (ii) learners and (iii) management/leaders of recognised schools.

The Board of Galway and Roscommon ETB meet on 6 occasions during the year and in accordance with section 3.4 of the Code of Governance, the record of attendance of each Board Member is set out in the following table.

Title	Name	Surname	Record of Attendance
Cllr	Noel	Larkin	4 / 6
Cllr	Cathal	Ó Conchúir	3 / 6
Cllr	Terry	O'Flaherty	6 / 6
Cllr	Michael	Connolly	6 / 6
Cllr	Tom	Healy	5 / 6
Cllr	Michael	Moegie Maher	6 / 6
Cllr	Eileen	Mannion	2 / 6
Cllr	Karey	McHugh	4 / 6
Comh	Sean	Ó Tuairisig	6 / 6
<i>Cllr</i>	<i>Ivan</i>	<i>Connaughton</i>	Resigned
Cllr	Paddy	Kilduff <i>(replaced Ivan Connaughton)</i>	4 / 6
Cllr	Kathleen	Shanagher	6 / 6
Cllr	Michael	Mulligan	4 / 6
Mr	Liam	McDonagh	4 / 6
Ms	Olive	Kelly	6 / 6
<i>Ms</i>	<i>Mary</i>	<i>Murray</i>	Resigned
Ms	Deirdre	Leonard <i>(replaced Ms. Mary Murray)</i>	
Mr	Felim	McDonnell	2 / 6
Cllr	Niall	McNelis	3 / 6
Ms	Nora	Fahy	4 / 6
Mr	Pat	Gilmore	3 / 6
Ms	Mary	Reardon	6 / 6
Mr	James	O'Leary	4 / 6

Protected Disclosures Annual Report 2017

The Protected Disclosures Act, 2014, was enacted on 15th July, 2015. This Act provides a framework within which workers can raise concerns regarding potential wrongdoing that has come to their attention in the workplace. By so doing, they are protected under the Act from penalisation by their employer, or other detrimental treatment.

GRETB has a Protected Disclosures Policy, which in tandem with the legislation, acts to encourage workers to report potential wrongdoing in the knowledge that their concerns will be taken seriously and investigated, as is deemed necessary, and that their confidentiality will be respected.

In accordance with Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act, 2014, GRETB confirms that two (2) protected disclosures were received during the period from January to December, 2017.

These disclosures are subject to an ongoing investigation by GRETB.

Schools

Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board is patron to 20 post primary schools and will offer a range of services and support to these schools including programme development, human resource, financial, building and maintenance as well as improving teaching and learning for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Galway and Roscommon Education & Training Board's Community Colleges are an integral part of their local communities. They are inclusive and enable young people to meet their full potential in society. The board's Community Colleges empower students, teachers and parents to achieve educational progress in a positive and encouraging atmosphere.

Programmes being offered in our community colleges include:

- Junior Certificate
- Junior Certificate Schools
- Transition Year
- Leaving Certificate
- Leaving Certificate Applied Programme
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
- Post Leaving Certificate courses
- Fishing Skills Programme

A full range of subjects including languages, the humanities, arts, technologies and science is offered at both junior and senior cycle. Students are encouraged to take part in all aspects of school life including extra – curricular activities like drama, music, debating, sport, cultural and Irish Language activities.

In order to ensure the highest quality of teaching and learning and the best possible educational experience for our students, supports will be offered by GRETB to all school in Special Education and Learning Support, CPD for teachers and support staff, Numeracy and Literacy, Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning, oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge chomh maith le hoideachas Gaeltachta, and development programmes for GRETB's Principals, Deputy Principals and Middle Management post holders.

In addition to the above support will also offered in the areas of policy making and governance through ongoing work and training with Boards of Management and school management.

Tá 20 scoil ag GRETB agus 8 gcinn díobh seo ag múineadh trí mheán na Gaeilge, seacht (7) gcoláiste Gaeltachta ina measc. Is é GRETB an t-aon ETB sa tír le trí iarbhunscóil ar oileáin scoite amach ón gcósta. Tá fás leanúnach ar earnáil na scoileanna i GRETB ó 2013 i leith, agus leanfaidh an fás sin ar feadh roinnt bhlianta eile.

GRETB's island schools present a unique set of challenges regarding securing adequate and appropriate resources to support and sustain them. Notwithstanding the absence of any national education policy for island communities, GRETB has developed support strategies to resource our island schools, and will continue to engage with DES and other Government Departments and agencies in our attempts to secure DES and Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht, Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta assistance in sustaining vulnerable island post primary schools through the creation of national policy in this area.

GRETB is fortunate to have recently established two new schools, Coláiste Bhaile Chláir (2013) and Coláiste Mhuirlinne / Merlin College (2013). These schools will enter their 5th year of operation during 2017/18 academic year, and consequently they are approaching maturity by 2020, with long term projected enrolments of 1000 pupils and 650 pupils respectively. As GRETB's pupil cohort has increased by approximately 25% since 2013, the Board will continue to engage with DES to have this growth fully comprehended within the financial resourcing model in use since 2012, to allow 20 schools to be supported from GRETB's budget, where previously only 18 schools existed within our system.

Second-Level Schools:

School Name	Enrolment 2017
Coláiste Cholmcille, Indreabhán	210
Naomh Eoin, Inis Meáin (Aonad to Indreabhán)	0
Clárin College, Athenry	578
St Brigid's, Loughrea	603
Coláiste an Chreagáin, Mountbellew	127
Coláiste Naomh Einne, Cill Rónáin, Oileáin Árann	56
St Killians, New Inn	168
Coláiste Naomh Feichin, Corr na Móna	93
Coláiste na Coiribe, Galway City	574
Galway Technical Institute, Galway City	1107
Coláiste Ghobnait, Inis Oírr, Oileáin Árann	27
Coláiste na bPiarsach, Ros Muc	76
Archbishop Mchale College, Tuam	210
Galway Community College, Galway City	606
Elphin Community College, Roscommon	137
Roscommon Community College	427
Abbey Community College, Boyle	338
Coláiste Mhuirinne / Merlin College, Galway City	461
Coláiste an Eachréidh, Athenry	205
Coláiste Bhaile Chláir, Claregalway	973
Total	6,976

Organisational Support and Development

The Organisational Support and Development (OSD) team are located in our Head Office in Athenry and our sub-office in Roscommon Town. GRETB had a budget of approximately €93m in 2017, almost 1800 staff and over 20,000 learners and beneficiaries. The back office supports required to service this vast organisation are provided by the OSD team which includes the following administrative areas: HR, Finance, Corporate Services, IT and Buildings.

The OSD team's goals are to enhance the processes and procedures that underpin good corporate governance in GRETB and to ensure that human, financial and infrastructural resources, appropriate to the delivery of front line services are deployed efficiently and effectively across GRETB.

With the expansion of the scheme in GRETB, at a time of scarce resources in our head and sub office, we are constantly engaged in workforce planning and re-engineering processes to ensure our clients receive a quality service.

A number of new projects and initiatives undertaken by OSD in 2017 include:

- Developed the Strategy Statement 2017-2021 for GRETB
- Rolled out a new online receipt system for schools
- Assisted with the implementation of the Digital Strategy for schools
- Managing a significant number of capital projects (see details below)
- Supported three major devolved capital projects in non-ETB primary schools
- Introduced an online part-time claim and contract management system for part-time staff in our schools
- Worked on embedding good corporate governance and pro-active risk management
- Supported the introduction of the new Value of Money VfM projects in Youth Services
- Worked with ETBI and associated forums on national issues

Financial Information 2017

Galway and Roscommon ETB is funded primarily by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) for the delivery of its second level and SOLAS for further education and training programmes. In 2017 the total funding received was as follows:

Schools & Head Office	€ 49,759,325
Further Education and Training	€ 33,370,946
Student Support Services	€ 14, 717
Youth Services	€ 2,097,362
Agencies & Self-Financing Projects	€ 5,371,588
Capital	€ 2,854,471
Total:	93,468,409

Capital Projects 2017

Coláiste Ardeaspaig Mhic Eil. Tuaim, Co. na Gaillimhe.

First phase of a new school. Construction has commenced and is due for completion summer 2018.

Roscommon Community College, Lisnamult, Roscommon.

Electrical upgrade.

Abbey Community College, Boyle, Co. Roscommon

Electrical upgrade

Coláiste Naomh Bríd, Baile Locha Riach, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Upgrade of existing boiler room and associated plant
Upgrade of distribution boards under the summer works scheme.

Coláiste Naomh Éinne, Cill Ronáin, Inis Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Construction of a standalone Art room has commenced and is due completion mid-2018.

Coláiste Cholmcille, Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Disability access works have commenced and are due for completion early 2018.

Galway Community College, Moneenageisha, Galway.

Fire and disability access works at design stage.

Coláiste Bhaile Chláir, Claregalway Corporate Park, Co. Galway.

6 temporary prefabricated classrooms installed.

Coláiste Chilleán Naofa, New Inn, Beal Atha na Slua, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Partial electrical upgrade completed under the summer works scheme.

Elphin Community College, Elphin, Castlrea, Co. Roscommon

Partial electrical upgrade completed under the summer works scheme.

Coláiste an Eachréidh, Coiléar Bán, Baile Atha an Rí, Co. na Gaillimhe.

2 temporary prefabricated classrooms installed.

GRETB Training Centre, Mervue Business Park, Mervue, Galway.

Construction and fit out of existing area to provide 3 classrooms complete.
Construction and fit out of existing area to provide 2 no. electrical workshops and associated storage areas has commenced and is due for completion in February 2018.

St Brendan's FET Centre, Baile Locha Riach, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Refurbishment of existing workshop area.

Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre.

Replacement of windows and boiler.

VTOS Centre, Tuam Road, Galway

Upgrade of external drainage and resurfacing of carpark complete.

Adult and Further Education Centre, Old Vocational School, Portumna, Co. Galway.

Upgrade of drainage and resurfacing of carpark area.

Supporting three major devolved capital projects in the following non-ETB schools - Scoil Fhursa N.S, Nile Lodge, N.S Baile Clár na Gaillimhe, Scoil Mhuire N.S, Oranmore.

Further Education and Training Services

The SOLAS FET Strategy 2014-2019 reflects the principles articulated in the Action Plan for Jobs, Pathways to Work and broader education policy. The Strategy addresses the unique challenges faced in the sector and promotes targeted skills programmes to support job seekers to re-skill and up-skill in areas where suitable employment opportunities are emerging. In doing so, further education is developing and expanding to deliver higher quality, flexible, and progressive programmes of education and training.

Galway and Roscommon ETB specifically supports the principles of the FET Strategy in all planning and provision by continuing to align skills development and training with the enterprise needs of the region and by continuing to contribute to the primary objective of the Action Plan for Jobs in increasing employment in the region by 10-15% in the period up to 2020 (Action Plan for Jobs West 2015-2017)

GRETB will continue to maintain its leadership in FET provision in the region, across all sectors from basic education to specific skills and work-based training. As the provider of choice, GRETB will be at the heart of relevant and innovative partnerships with industry driving the development and delivery of quality programmes of education and training. This will be achieved whilst maintaining a community focus where the vulnerable and those on the margins of society are included. This will be the marker of the success of FET in the region.

The Action Plan for Education sets out the development of apprenticeships and traineeships as a key objective. GRETB has significant facilities infrastructure, skill, and competence for the delivery of Apprenticeship programmes and it will continue to deliver Craft Apprenticeships in line with increased demand. Apprenticeships in Electrical, Carpentry & Joinery, Metal Fabrication and Motor Mechanics will continue in 2017. GRETB collaborated in the development of a new Commis Chef apprenticeship with ETB colleagues in Kerry and will roll-out this programme in the autumn 2017.

Traineeships offer flexible, responsive, occupational skills development training programmes, tailored to the identified needs of a specific industry sector or sub-sector and lead to nationally recognised qualifications. GRETB is leading out on a Digital Sales & Marketing for SMEs traineeship which will commence in 2017 and the Castle Ceilings career traineeship, developed to meet specific requests of a local employer, is in its second year in 2017. GRETB is also leading out on the development of a skills-based traineeship this year to meet the demand of the Audio-Visual industry in the West of Ireland in collaboration with Screen Training Ireland

The GRETB Community Education Service (CES) Plan for 2017 will be focusing on engaging the most hard to reach learners in community settings to identify their learning needs, engage them in a short term and part-time programme and aid their progression into other accredited FET options.

The CES provides grants and tuition hours to local community and voluntary groups. The main target groups across Galway and Roscommon for Community Education include; people who are long term unemployed; early school leavers; people with a disability; disadvantaged Men and Women; Traveller community; homeless groups; older people; Migrants/Refugees/Asylum Seekers

Throughout 2017 GRETB will

- continue its work as an active member of the Regional Skills Forum
- maintain quarterly meetings with DSP throughout the region facilitating the identification of the training needs of the unemployed
- continue to work with Chamber of Commerce strengthening links with employers
- roll-out the first new apprenticeship in the ETB sector – Commis Chef Apprenticeship
- continue its work developing new apprenticeships in partnership with industry
- roll-out the new Digital Skills & Marketing traineeship

Youth Services

GRETB Youth Services will continue to administer the Department of Children and Youth Affairs funded Local Youth Club Grant Scheme to voluntary youth groups, and will roll out the new VfM Youth projects as sanctioned in 2017. GRETB Youth Officers are also responsible for implementing the National Quality Standards Framework (NQS) with staff led Youth Services.

Other Supports

GRETB also co-operates with agencies engaged with vulnerable groups such as those physically or intellectually disabled; prison services, providing 53,400 teaching hours through co-operation to support their work.



Eithne Nic Dhonnchadha and Alison Jones at the closing ceremony of the VET Skills week in Brussels. The certificate was awarded to GRETB for 'its excellent work done in the field of inclusion'.



Pictured left to right: Alison Jones, ALO GRETB, Nolette Dolan, Skills for Work Co-ordinator, CMETB, Eithne Nic Dhonnchadha, Director of FET, GRETB, Marian Lynch, National Co-ordinator, Skills for Work, Rosemary Gibney, An Post (Skills for Work).

GRETB are delighted to receive a special mention by the European Commission as part of 2017 European Vocational Skills week 20th to the 24th November 2017 in the category of 'Innovative VET provider' for the work done to Integrate literacy and numeracy within apprenticeships. The award stated that:

The jury considers the effective method of improving literacy and Math capabilities in apprenticeships a good practice. Remedying numeracy and language skills as soon as possible will foster participation in future schooling activities that are necessary for continued employability.

The support takes the form of tailored Maths assessments, Maths support classes, Study Skills using a dedicated Study and Learning Handbook for Apprentices, as well as individual study help in reading, comprehension and language as needed. Technology Enhanced Learning is also being used in the programme and new literacy friendly materials and resources developed. An 'Ideas for Integrating Literacy' book for craft instructors and tutors has also been produced which includes a section on TEL and Dyslexia.

With the programme in place, we have seen merits rise by 47% and theory exam referrals drop to 0%. All of this means that apprentices are able to carry on their chosen trade with more confidence and skills, and have the skills to study at a higher level when they move on to the later phases held in Institutes of Technology.

GRETB FET Department produced their Literacy & Numeracy Strategy in 2015 and this was in keeping with the aims and objectives of the National Literacy & Numeracy Strategy. The Director of Further Education and Training, Eithne Nic Dhonnchadha emphasised the importance of ensuring all programmes are learner focused and she paid particular compliments to Alison Jones, Adult Literacy Organiser who coordinated and designed the specifics of the curriculum with instructors and tutors from the Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Centre in Mervue. All the teaching material was created to support instruction in the motor technology, metal fabrication, carpentry and joinery and electrical apprenticeship programmes. Additional support material was created to support the new Commis Chef Apprenticeship.

GRETB is delighted that this ground breaking work has been recognised in this way, and look forward to developing the programme further.

GRETB Training Centre Mervue

Courses Offered: Apprenticeship, Community, Contracted, In Centre, Evening, On Line.

Number of staff and roles: 39 permanents and 4 temporaries (plus 2 permanent staff on career leave)

Highlights for 2016:

Ongoing promotion of our centre and the programmes throughout the year has resulted in 1526 followers on face-book and a 100% response rate. Our website has facilitated 2231 expressions of interest YTD on our programmes also In October the GRETB Training centre launched a new Traineeship in digital marketing, in this programme we have 19 host companies providing the training and 14 learners on the programme.

In September a new apprenticeship in Commis Chef commenced in conjunction with the GRETB, GMIT and local employers.

In November Alison Jones accepted a recognition on behalf of the GRETB from the European vocational skills agency for the achievements in the training centre to support apprentices with Literacy and numeracy difficulties. This initiative is being rolled out nation-wide with huge interest from other ETB'S.

In September the training centre held an open day with information available on all adult courses, supports available and the registration process. Over 250 potential learners came to visit us on that day

While in November there was an open day for parents, career guidance teachers and leaving cert students on apprenticeship. In what was a very busy day for the centre and staff, over 400 people showed up and were treated to a tour of the centre, talks on apprenticeships from employers and staff and given contact details on how to become an apprentice.

In December the GRETB received approval from the apprenticeship council to allow its proposed new arboriculture apprenticeship move to the next stage of the approval process. This is big milestone for the GRETB as only a handful of apprenticeship nationally out of the 100+ that applied were successful.

In March and September, the training centre continued to open the centre on Saturdays, making our programmes available to those in employment who cannot attend fulltime during the week

In November as part of the 5 year restructure plan of the training centre, work commenced on the addition of a new workshop for electrical apprentice's. When completed this will give the training centre capacity to train 56 electrical apprentices per year

In October the training centre received approval to purchase a CNC Machine. For the first time in over 10 years the training centre will now be able to train machine operators on CNC. This has been called for from local employers for a number of years and will lead to employment opportunities for numerous trainees

In November the training centre hosted the first ever show case event for trainees on a start your own business course. This was aimed at the weekend learners and was so successful it will be run again in the centre mid-week before the end of the year

In April the training centre held its first information session for Local Employment Service officers, this was hugely valuable for the officers and our staff and has led to numerous course referrals since

In May the training centre hosted a visit by Minister of state for training skills, innovation and development - John Halligan. This allowed the minister to see at first hand the work done by the training centre and also offered staff the opportunity to meet the minister.

In February for the first time the training centre opened a pop up shop in Roscommon to show case its programmes and the opportunities for the people of Roscommon.

Community Education

In Community Education, learners identify their own learning needs and learn in informal settings in their own communities. Courses usually run over 6-8 weeks, once a week. We do this by providing grants and tutors to community groups and these are advertised annually. We work in partnership with various agencies and organisations to promote education in Galway Roscommon including City and County Councils, Local Partnership Companies, HSE, TUSLA, Family Resource Centres and a large number of Disability organisations.

Key Fact for 2017:

- **3321** Learners
- **139** Community Groups Supported
- **278** Courses provided

Highlights of 2017 include:

- QQI Level 3 course in Health and Fitness for Traveller Men
- Facilitation Skills Training for people with disability and a course in Self Advocacy for people with disability.
- New Provision in Glenamaddy and Abbeyknockmoy
- Childcare Programme in Roscommon
- Community Leadership training in Tuam
- Train the Trainer for Community Educators in Loughrea and Dunmore
- Car Maintenance and DIY for Deaf Men
- Skills Taster Programme for under 25's in Tuam
- Hairdressing programme in Loughrea with learners progressing to Level 3
- Portumna Community Mural

Adult Guidance and Information Service

The GRETB Adult Guidance and Information Service offers our learners and potential learners free, impartial, confidential, information, advice and guidance on their educational options. We have 5 (4 full time and 1 half time) Guidance Counsellors and 2 (1 full time and 1 half time) Guidance Information officers who operate throughout the region.

In 2017, our Guidance and Information Service was able to meet with over 750 clients on a 1:1 basis and dealt with over 600 general public enquiries. We also provided group workshops to over 150 different groups to support the work in our various centres and in the community e.g. Inductions, Study Skills, CV and Interview Techniques, CAO Applications and Further Education, Training and Employment Progression Opportunities.

Our Guidance and Information Service is often the way that potential learners first learn about GRETB and its programmes. In 2017 we took part in numerous events to publicise GRETB some of these included: Open Days, Engage 17, Career Options West, Teagasc and the National Rural Network, Mind Your Mind, Castlerea and Boyle Options 2017. Staff from the service attended Intreo office in Galway City on a regular basis to provide information to job seekers.

Provision of Teaching Services to Other Institutions – 2017

GRETB provide teachers and tutors to 29 institutions across Galway and Roscommon under the Provision of Teaching Services to other institutions also known as Cooperation Hours. These teachers and tutors work within these institutions to provide a programme of education to the learners. The host institutions provide facilities, materials and resources and GRETB provide the teacher and tutor hours in return.

- 1514 learners were enrolled in this programme in 2017
- 29 institutions are supported with hours

Subjects include:

Cookery, Literacy, Numeracy, Art & Craft, Communications, Maths, Self-advocacy, Health & Fitness and Personal Development.

Centres include:

Brothers of Charity, Justice Workshops, Castlerea Prison, Ability West, Irish Wheelchair Association, Community Training Centre, Psychiatric Services HSE, Ballybane Social and Education Project, GTI and Traveller Halting Site Provision

Name & Address	Type (e.g.): Sec. School, Travellers, Training Centre (CTW), Service Provider, Charity Organisation, Voluntary Organisation, etc.	Teaching hours in 2016/2017
Bruach na Mara Training Unit, Casla, Co. Galway	Brothers of Charity	1,102
Community Training Workshop, Tuam Road, Galway	Community Training Workshop	1,500
Tuam Community Training Centre Vicorschoroland, Tuam, Co. Galway	Community Training Workshop	3,190
Carraroe Psychiatric Services, Carraroe:	Health Boards Training/ Day Centre	2,400
Cuan Mhuire Rehabilitation Centre, Coolarne, Turloughmore, Co. Galway	Special education and support	630
Deerpark Centre, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	Brothers of Charity Services	480
Clifden Psychiatric Services, Clifden – Elm Tree Centre, Clifden, Co. Galway	Health Service Executive Training/ Day Centre	3,200
Mountbellew Mental Health Association, Mountbellew, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	Health Service Executive Training/ Day Centre	800
Team Products, Tuam, Dunmore Road, Tuam.	Ability West	1,200
Tope Project, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway	Brothers of Charity Services	460
Caislean Gearr Centre, Carrowbrowne, Castlegar, Co. Galway.	Junior Traveller Training Programme	1,500
Ballybane Social & Education, Hillside, Galway City.	Traveller Education	3,200
Co. Galway Mentally Handicapped, Ballindereen, Co. Galway.	Brothers of Charity Services	3,200
Cois Cuain, Carraroe Mentally Handicapped, An Cheathru Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe.	Training Centre Intellectually Disabled	2,000
Galway Technical Institute, Fr. Griffin Road, Galway	Music School	1,000
Castlerea Prison, Harristown, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon	Education Unit	13,429
Canal House, Harbour Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.	Community Training Workshop	3,400

Dochas Don Oige, Unit 5 Liosban Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway	Probation & Welfare	2,205
St. Nathy's Ballaghadereen, Co. Roscommon	Secondary Schools Reciprocal	1,470
Clarenmore Centre, Special School,	Brothers of Charity Services	800
Holy Family Special School, Renmore	Special Education	1,400
Ivy House, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon	Brothers of Charity Services	220
John Paul Centre, Ballybane, (Mentally Handicapped)	Brothers of Charity Services	1,200
Literacy Provision, Orchard Centre, Gort, Co. Galway	Brothers of Charity Services	660
Renmore House, Woodlawn, Renmore, Galway	Special Education	400
Scoil Bhríde, Shantalla (Special School)	Special Education	185
St. Joseph's Special School, Snipe Avenue, Galway	Ability West	300
St. Michael's School for Handicapped Children, Castlerea	Brother of Charity Services	220
Irish Wheelchair Association, The Glebe, Tuam, Co. Galway.	Special Education Day Activity	1,656
Totals		53,407

Castlerea Education Unit – Castlerea

The Unit provides educational courses for a widely diverse population, from Basic Literacy to Open University access. We provide certification for QQI from level one to 5. We also have many In house accredited courses that students need, to address their offending behaviour: Mediation, Anger Management, Harm reduction, Pre-release, Regari mental health programme, Toe by toe reading scheme and ITABE. One of the most positive developments in 2017, was the successful roll out of Mediation, six students becoming recognised Peer to peer mediators with Mediation Ireland.

At a conference in Dublin Castle organised by Travellers in Prisons organisation, The mediation programme was highlighted and Minister Stanton approached the Governor with a request to visit the school and see a class for himself. This he did and the Department of Justice are now looking at ways to move this concept around Traveller feuding into the wider community. It is hoped that we will continue to grow this programme and there are discussions around enabling students on Temporary release programmes to facilitate around mediation and conflict to groups on the outside.

Adult Literacy

GRETB Literacy Service continued to go from strength to strength in 2017. The service delivered a wide variety of programmes whose focus was in improving reading, writing, numeracy and ICT skills for adults. Programmes range from 1:1 volunteer literacy support through uncertified and learners were facilitated to progress onto certified programmes at Levels 1-3 on the NFQ. Guidance continue to have a role with our literacy learners – helping them to identify opportunities for progression into employment or Further Education and training.

Our Literacy Service won an EU Award in 2017 for its work designing and implementing literacy support with learners on Apprenticeship programmes. They designed a range of handbooks and materials that are used to ensure all Apprentices have the necessary level of maths and English to enable them to complete programmes successfully. These materials and our approach have now been shared with other ETBs.

GRETB learners on BTEI and VTOS programmes continued to be supported throughout 2017 by our Literacy Service, supports have included help with academic writing, ESOL and literacy supports.

The GRETB Literacy Service is responsible for implementing the Skills For Work Programme across our area. Skills for Work is a national programme aimed at providing training opportunities to help employees deal with the basic skills demands of the workplace. The initiative is funded by the Irish Government under the Department of Education and Skills. In 2017, 243 learners took part in 47 SFW programmes across our ETB.

In 2017, 3,614 learners benefitted from participating in literacy courses run by GRETB.

B.T.E.I.

GRETBs BTEI programmes offer accreditation from Levels 3-6, on the National Framework of Qualifications. BTEI is a flexible programme that allows for a high level of innovation in course provision. It is a programme that can be built around the individuals needs and abilities.

We offer our BTEI programmes in Galway City, Galway County and Roscommon County. In the main programmes are offered in FET buildings but if there is a need for a programme and we don't have a building available we will use local premises.

A large number of existing learners, from ABE and Community Education programmes, progress onto BTEI provision. On completing BTEI programmes learners often progress onto FE, HE or employment.

Programmes are developed to meet local needs and we continued to consult regularly with the relevant stakeholders across our ETB area when planning programmes. BTEI learners continued throughout 2017 to receive supports from Literacy and Adult Guidance. Our learners were also supported by many employers across GRETB who facilitated their work placements.

In 2017 BTEI courses were accessed by 2,711 learners

V.T.O.S.

There are eight V.T.O.S. Centres, Castlerea, Roscommon, Elphin, Ros Muc, Letterfrack, Tuam, Ballinalsoe and Galway City across Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board. The Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme is an educational opportunities scheme for unemployed persons which is funded by the Department of Education and Science with assistance from the European Social Fund. The Scheme is operated through the Education and Training Boards and provides a special range of courses designed to meet the education and training needs of unemployed people. GRETB has 8 VTOS centres throughout the region.

In 2017, 622 learners benefitted from VTOS programmes which range in subject area from Horsemanship to Film and TV production. Many learners on completion of a VTOS programme progress on to further study both in PLC's and Higher Education. VTOS learners are supported throughout their programme with study skills/personal supports by the Adult Guidance and Information Service and also when making their progression choices.

Youthreach

There are eight Youthreach Centres, Roscommon, Ballaghaderreen, Ballinasloe, Tuam, Lettermore, Letterfrack, Portumna and Galway City across Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board. Programmes operate five days per week throughout the Youthreach academic year and a Summer Programme is provided focusing on the personal and social development of the student.

There is a policy of continuous enrolment allowing programmes to remain responsive to the needs of applicants. Centres are student-focussed, employing diverse teaching styles and pedagogical approaches to maximise the benefits for students.

The changing profile of Youthreach students is directly influencing modes of delivery and the resources needed to meet additional needs of students. Referrals continue to be made by schools but in much lesser numbers. Additional referrals are made by organisation such as Juvenile Liaison Officers; Probation Services; TUSLA; Residential Care; Ethnic Groups; DEASP.

Staff undergo regular continuous professional development training provided in-house and externally provided education and training on a needs basis. Youthreach centres are enhancing their teaching methodologies through the implementation of technology enhanced learning initiatives in line with GRETB's TEL strategy. Individual student needs continue to be the central focus with individual learning plans central to this approach.

Advocacy

The GRETB's County Galway Youth Advocacy Service operates in both North and East County Galway and in South County Galway. It is a community based service whose goal is to provide career path planning and support to young people between the ages of 16 – 21 years old who are at risk of leaving school or who have already fallen out of mainstream education with little or no qualifications. There are two Advocates based in County Galway, Conor Griffin (based in Tuam), who covers North and East County Galway, and Bartley Joyce (based in Gort), who covers the South County Galway.

Following a client referral, a one-to-one meeting is arranged with the person where previous education, training or work experience is discussed. All realistic options open to the client are explored along with potential barriers to progression. A tailored made career path plan is then put in place along with clear and attainable short term goals, with a view to motivating and progressing the young person to further education, training, or employment.

The Advocacy Service works with clients who are referred from a number of organisations. These clients, more often than not present with stumbling blocks or issues that prevents them from reengaging with education or progressing onwards. Using one-to-one meetings, the Advocate tries to identify where the client's strength and weaknesses lie and after this initial meeting, a career path plan, with specific goals is drawn up in order to provide both focus and motivation.

Running parallel to this approach, the Advocate must work through any barriers that might derail future progression. Examples of these barriers may include: literacy and numeracy weaknesses, family and social care problems, previously poor or negative educational experiences, drug or alcohol misuse and mental health issues. Linkages are made with the clients consent to engage with any supports where necessary. Constant and ongoing one to one support is the key to a positive result, while empowering the client to take on more responsibility when it comes to decision making.

Western Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force

Community Liaison Workers

The Community Liaison Workers are employed by the GRETB with funding from the Department of Health. Their role is focussed on the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy in the region and they provide additional support services to the GRETB as required.

Some key projects in 2017 included:

- Development of the SMART Recovery programme in the region.
- Coordination of QQI Level 4 Health-Related Fitness Course in Galway City
- Coordination of Foundations NEETS Course in Roscommon.
- Support of Regional Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week.
- Delivery of SAOR Brief Intervention training.
- Delivery of bespoke training.
- Provision of drop-in services for family members and people affected by someone else's substance use.
- Signposting and information provision.
- Running Drugs in Schools, Stay Safe – Stay Sober, and Pre-Teen Years campaigns.
- Ongoing support within GRETB (Youthreach, Youth and Community development course etc).
- Ongoing attendance at various fora (Connemara, Ballybane and Doughiska networks, Galway Alcohol Strategy etc)



BREACADH: PRÍOMHOBAIR NA BLIANA

Is tionscadal tras-Ghaeltachta é Breacadh a bunaíodh sa bhliain 2000 le hacmhainní aosoideachais trí Ghaeilge a chur ar fáil don fhoghlaiméir fásta ar cainteoir dúchais Gaeilge é. Díreann ar acmhainní tacaíochta foghlama agus teagaisc a fhorbairt do sheirbhísí agus do chlár éagsúla aosoideachais na mBord Oideachais & Oiliúna sna ceantair Ghaeltachta.

Mar a Déarfá!

An Focal Scríofa don Chainteoir Dúchais Gaeilge, Leagan Chonnacht

Is cur chuige agus áiseanna tacaíochta chun líofacht léitheoireachta agus cruinneas scríofa a mhúineadh don chainteoir dúchais Gaeilge é *Mar a Déarfá!* Rinne COGG agus Foras na Gaeilge comh-mhaoiniú ar fhorbairt an chlár litearthachta seo.

- Cuireadh i gcrích bunáiseanna do leagan Chonnacht de ***Mar a Déarfá!*** i 2017.
- Reáchtáladh 3 cheardlann in úsáid ***Mar a Déarfá!*** i gConamara, do bhunmhúinteoirí agus do chúntóirí teanga. Bhí an-éileamh ar na ceardlanna; san iomlán d'fhreastail 81 múinteoir as Conamara, Árainn agus Dúiche Seoige ar an tsraith. Chuir go leor rannpháirtithe in iúl gur chuir an méid a d'fhoghlaim siad go mór lena dtuiscint féin ar rialacha agus nósanna litríthe na Gaeilge, agus mar sin lena muinín sa scríobh agus sa litriú, agus gur forbairt ghairmiúil an-luachmhar a bhí ann dóibh.
- Fuarthas cuirthe ceardlanna oiliúna a thabhairt i gColáiste Phádraig Dhroim Chonrach agus i gColáiste Mhuire gan Smál sa bhliain nua.

Áiseanna Eile

- ***Bí san Áireamh: Uimhríocht don Saol Mór*** (modúl M2N09, Leibhéal 2, Méid & Uimhreacha). Cuireadh leagan den leabhar acmhainne seo i gcló i nGaeilge na Mumhan.
- ***Réiteach Fadhbanna Méide*** (modúl M2N05, Leibhéal 2)
D'fhorbair Audrey Byrne, Ionad Foghlama Aosaigh Iarthar na Gaillimhe, leabhar acmhainne ranga don mhodúl seo.
- ***Beatha Blasta***
Leagan Chonnacht de leabhar cócaireachta a thacóidh le modúil éagsúla i réiteach sábháilteacht bia srl.
- **SKILLS for Work (comhfhiontar)**
Coimisiúnaíodh aistriúcháin go Gaeilge na Mumhan & Chonnacht de dhá acmhainn Bhéarla de chuid Skills for Work.
Culinary Operations Tutor Manual
Nutrition for Healthy Eating: Tutor & Student Manual
Tá an dá acmhainn feiliúnach le húsáid mar ábhar tacaíochta do roinnt mhodúl QQI ar leibhéal 3 & 4 a phléann le roghanna & ullmhú bia, chomh maith le sábháilteacht bia agus sa chistin.
- **Foilsíú na hirise BREACADH: Eagrán 38, 39, 40**
Iris 20 lth., lán de scéalta áitiúla, náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta agus scéalta faoi réalta móra scannán agus ceoil. Bíonn ailt spóirt, oidis chócaireachta, nodanna garraíodóireachta, sláinte, airgeadais agus go leor eile le léamh inti chomh maith. Scríobhtar na scéalta i nGaeilge nádúrtha, shimplí agus in abairtí gonta le neart athrá.

GRETB Youth Services

Under the Education and Training Board Act 2013, GRETB has the following legislative functions: to support the provision, coordination, administration and assessment of youth work services in its functional area.

In this regard, GRETB administers and monitors funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) in respect of special out of school projects for disadvantaged young people. These schemes include Special Projects for Youth, Young People's Facilities and Services Fund, Youth Information Fund and Revised Youth Funding Scheme which aims to facilitate the personal and social development of participants.

In this regard, GRETB provided the following services in 2017:

Administration of funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) including:

- Special Projects for Youth, Young People's Facilities and Services Fund and Youth Information Funding to staff led youth service providers.
- Administration and co-ordination of the DCYA Youth Capital Grant Scheme.
- Administration of the Local Youth Club Grant Scheme to volunteer led youth clubs and groups.
- Administration of the DCYA Equipment Grant to volunteer led youth clubs and groups.
- Administration and co-ordination of the Revised Youth Funding Scheme across Roscommon county.
- Implementation of the National Quality Standards Framework for Youth Work.

Furthermore in 2017 GRETB:

- Conducted a comprehensive profile and needs analysis of youth service provision in county Roscommon, securing funding from DCYA to provide a youth service across Roscommon county.
- Conducted a demographic profile and needs analysis of youth service provision in Gort, County Galway, securing funding from DCYA to provide a youth service in Gort.
- In conjunction with Community Education, co-ordinated a Diploma in Youth and Community Development Practice, accredited by NUI Galway.

Music Generation

Music Generation is Ireland's National Music Education Programme which transforms the lives of children and young people through access to high-quality, subsidised performance music education. Established in 2010 by Music Network, Phase 1 of Music Generation was made possible by philanthropic donations by U2 and The Ireland Funds.

In January 2017, an open national call for applications to Phase 2 of Music Generation was announced. In May 2017, GRETB, as the lead partner of 3 Music Education Partnerships (MEPs) - Galway County, Galway City and Roscommon submitted 3 applications to Music Generation: one for each MEP area. In September 2017, the 9 new areas in Phase 2 were announced and Galway County, Galway City and Roscommon MEP areas are included.

As part of Music Generation 'Phase 2', Galway County MEP, Galway City MEP and Roscommon MEP will each receive €600,000 in philanthropic funding from U2 and The Ireland Funds over three years to establish the programme. This funding will be matched locally on a 50/50 basis. Matched-funding for each area will be sustained into the future by the Department of Education and Skills once the philanthropic donations cease.

Music Generation believes in every child and young person's musical potential and their innate artistry, that it is every child and young person's right to have the choice of access and the chance to participate as a musical citizen and that music doesn't just change lives, it transforms lives.

Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre – Clonbur

Petersburg continues to grow and progress with almost 16,000 user days. However it is increasingly clear that the current funding model for this educational strand is not fit for purpose. Centre Directors have made this clear to CEs who have proposed setting up a new structure at ETBI level to examine this issue.

Infrastructure:

Upgrade of buildings continued in 2017 with new doors and windows installed in the upper courtyard. A new boiler was installed for the heating system in the centre block.

Programmes:

The new Dúshlán Programme established in a collaborative way with Tusla aimed at rehabilitating young people who are engaging in anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse. This followed from a previous pilot programme run in 2016 with the 'Connemara Club' group.

Work has commenced on new programmes for the new Junior Cycle

- GRETB YouthReach Team Challenge Day hosted for all Youthreach trainees
- 2017 Winner - Letterfrack Youthreach
- GRETB Schools Orienteering Day.
- 2017 Winner - Coláiste Naomh Éinne, Árainn

Training:

9 students graduated from QQI Level 6 programmes in Regional Guiding and Inland Angling in 2017. Both of these programmes were the first time these programmes were run under the QQI system in Ireland.

