

## **Explanation of what the different resources are on the refugee resources guide**

### **Healthcare**

Please refer to the Irish Primary Healthcare Guide for a full explanation of what the different health professionals and services are that work in the community.

### **Banks/Credit Unions/Post Offices**

#### **Banks and Credit Unions:**

Financial institutions such as banks, credit unions and building societies provide a range of accounts. There are generally 2 main categories of account; a current account and a deposit account:

-A current account allows you to make day-to-day transactions (for example, paying a bill or getting your salary paid directly to the account). These are offered only by banks and building societies.

-A deposit account allows you to build up savings and you may earn interest on this money. These are offered by most financial institutions.

Some accounts offer you free services, but this depends on the type of account you have. For example, with some banks, you may have to keep an amount of money in your account at all times.

A credit union is a member-owned financial cooperative providing its members loans at competitive rates as well as other financial services.

To open a bank account/credit union account at a branch you need to provide at least one form of photo ID and one proof of address. Please note the name on the photo ID must match the name on your proof of address.

#### **Post Offices:**

Post offices offer a variety of postal, financial and time saving services, including paying bills, getting a TV licence etc.

See [www.anpost.ie](http://www.anpost.ie)

## Public Transport Links

### **Bus:**

Bus Éireann is the main provider of public bus services in Ireland. In general, you can pay your fare with cash. You can also order your ticket online. There is information on the different types of tickets available, including tickets for schoolchildren and regional commuter tickets on Bus Éireann's website.

See: [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie)

### **Train:**

Irish Rail provides train services between many major towns and cities in Ireland. Tickets vary depending on the service you use and you can get full details of leisure fares, commuter travel fares and UK and European rail fares from the Iarnród Éireann web site. Prepaid tickets can be bought from ticket offices, ticket machines and online. Discounted fares are available with the correct identification card.

See: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

### **Taxis:**

What is the difference between a taxi and a hackney?

-A taxi can stand for hire at a taxi rank or on the street and must display a taxi sign on top of the car.

-A hackney should be hired on a private basis through a hackney office. It cannot be hailed down in a public place and the driver should agree the fare with the customer before the journey starts.

### **Be aware of:**

-Free Travel Scheme- anyone over 66 years of age can travel for free on most public transport services. Anyone who is under 66 years of age, with an incapacity may also be eligible for a free travel pass.

For more information search for 'Free Travel' on [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie) and complete the form FT1.

-Discount cards such as TFI (Travel for Ireland) Leap Cards can be used on Cork City bus services (operated by Bus Éireann) as well as Cork commuter rail services on the Cork-Cobh and Cork-Midleton lines. TFI Leap fares are **30% cheaper** than cash single fares on city bus

services, so commuters can pay as little as €1.68. And if you travel by train you get a great deal with Leap Card fares as low as €1.73.

See: [about.leapcard.ie/cork](http://about.leapcard.ie/cork)

## **Community Supports/Services**

### **Family Resource Centres:**

Support all members of the community by identifying and addressing needs of families and children, in particular those facing adversity. Information, education, training and childcare services are provided in a safe and friendly environment. They work under the 'community development' principles and challenge all forms of discrimination and promote fairness and equality within communities.

### **Libraries:**

Public libraries are open to everyone and most of their services are free. You can use some of the services in the library without becoming a member. In most libraries, you can read books, consult reference material, use the internet and study areas, and print and photocopy documents without being a member. However, you will need to join the library if you want to borrow books or other items, access online magazine and newspaper subscriptions or take online courses.

See: [www.corkcitylibraries.ie](http://www.corkcitylibraries.ie) or [www.corkcoco.ie/library-services](http://www.corkcoco.ie/library-services)

### **Department of Social Protection/Intreo Centres:**

The social welfare system in Ireland is divided into three main types of payments. These are:

- Social insurance payments
- Means-tested payments
- Universal payments

With all social welfare payments, you must satisfy specific personal circumstances that are set out in the rules for each scheme.

There is also a range of employment schemes and other supports which encourage long-term unemployed people to return to work.

You must be habitually resident to qualify for social assistance payments in Ireland. Find out more about the residency requirements for social assistance payments in Ireland.

Intreo is a single point of contact for all employment and income supports. It is designed to provide a more streamlined approach. Intreo offers practical tailored employment services and supports for jobseekers and employers alike.

See: [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

### **Gardaí (Police):**

The **Garda Síochána** (also commonly referred to as the Gardaí) is the national police force. The primary legislation under which it functions is the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

The Garda Síochána has responsibility for carrying out all policing duties in the Irish State. In addition, it provides State security services and carries out all criminal and traffic law enforcement.

### **What is Community Policing?**

Community policing in Ireland is a partnership based, pro-active, community-orientated style of policing. It is focused on crime prevention, problem-solving and law enforcement, with a view to building trust and enhancing the quality of life of the entire community.

### **Outdoor Recreation Spaces**

These are public spaces that are open and free (usually) for public use such as parks, playgrounds, beaches and countryside. Forest recreation areas are available and mostly free.

See [www.coillte.ie/our-forests/recreation-map](http://www.coillte.ie/our-forests/recreation-map)

### **Community Organisations/Facilities**

#### **Foroige (Youth Organisation):**

Foróige is the leading youth organisation in Ireland. Their purpose is to enable young people to involve themselves consciously and actively in their development and in the development of society. They work with over 50,000 young people aged 10-18 each year through volunteer-led Clubs and staff-led Youth Projects.

See: [www.foroige.ie](http://www.foroige.ie)

**Scouts:**

The aim of Scouting Ireland is to encourage the physical, intellectual, character, emotional, social and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, to improve society.

Involvement in outdoor adventures and challenges helps young people to achieve while enjoying the outdoors, making strong friendships, volunteering in the community, learning adventure skills, travelling, becoming leaders and team-members, and appreciating the importance of the outdoor environment.

See: [www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie)

**Ladybirds, Brownies, Guides:**

The **Irish Girl Guides (IGG)** are an organisation offering a varied and exciting programme for girls and young women aged 5-30. As a girl-only movement, girls are free to develop and express themselves in a safe, comfortable, supported setting.

Members learn new skills, grow in self-confidence, develop teamwork and leadership skills, experience new activities, and build lifelong friendships.

There is a strong emphasis on the outdoors, environment, community responsibility and global sisterhood. IGG actively promotes diversity and inclusion and welcomes girls and young women from all walks of life. Anyone who lives their life as female is welcome to join the organisation.

There are four different age brackets which are called 'Branches' and girls of each Branch meet in local groups called 'Units' around the country. Branches are Ladybirds, Brownies, Guides and Seniors. Adult volunteers are welcome as Leaders, Non-Unit Volunteers, Trefoil Guild members and Unit Helpers.

See: [swrdo@irishgirlguides.ie](mailto:swrdo@irishgirlguides.ie)

**ICA (Irish Countrywomen's Association):**

The aims of the ICA is to provide a welcoming and fun organisation for women and offers support, friendship, personal development, education and life-long learning. Members regularly learn new skills, participate in local charity initiatives and get involved in their local communities.

See: [www.ica.ie](http://www.ica.ie)

### **Men's Shed:**

A Men's Shed is any community-based, non-commercial organisation which is open to all men where the primary activity is the provision of a safe, friendly and inclusive environment. Men are able to gather and/or work on meaningful projects at their own pace and in their own time in the company of other men. The primary objective is to advance the health and wellbeing of the participating men.

See: [www.menssheds.ie](http://www.menssheds.ie)

### **Community Centre:**

Community Centres are public locations where members of a community tend to gather for group activities, social support, public information, and other purposes. They may sometimes be open for the whole community or for a specialised group within the greater community.

### **Education**

The Irish education system is made up of primary, secondary, third-level and further education. State-funded education is available at all levels, unless you choose to send your child to a private institution.

#### **Pre-school education (ages 3-4/5):**

This is usually provided by privately funded childcare facilities or providers. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme provides free early childhood care and education for children of pre-school age for up to 2 years.

#### **Primary (first-level) education (ages 4/5 to 12):**

Children do not have to attend school until the age of 6 but children may begin school the September following their fourth birthday. Certain children who come to live in Ireland may be exempted from learning Irish in school. Primary schools are generally privately owned by religious communities (or boards of governors) but are State-funded.

#### **Secondary (second-level) education (ages 12 to 16/17):**

Secondary education is provided by different types of post-primary schools. Second-level education consists of a 3-year junior cycle followed by a 2-year or 3-year senior cycle depending on whether an optional Transition Year is taken following the Junior Certificate examination. Students generally start the junior cycle at the age of 12. The Junior Certificate is taken after 3 years.

Transition Year follows the Junior Certificate examination. This year is free from formal examinations and allows students to experience a wide range of educational inputs, including work experience.

During their final 2 years in the senior cycle, students take one of 3 programmes, each leading to a State examination - the established Leaving Certificate, the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme or the Leaving Certificate Applied.

### **Third-level education (17 years +):**

Third-level education is made up of a number of sectors. The university sector, the technological sector and the colleges of education are substantially funded by the State. In addition there are a number of independent private colleges. There are universities which are autonomous and self-governing. They offer degree programmes at bachelor, masters and doctorate level.

### **Further and adult education (17 years +):**

Further education comprises of education and training which takes place after second-level schooling but which is not part of the third-level system. It includes programmes such as Post-Leaving Certificate courses, the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (second-chance education for the unemployed), programmes in Youthreach for early school-leavers, other literacy and basic education, and self-funded evening adult programmes in second-level schools.

### **Special needs education for students with disabilities:**

Educational provision for students with special educational needs ranges from additional support in mainstream schools to specialist support in special schools. A student with a disability may be enrolled in a:

- Mainstream class with additional support
- Special class in a mainstream school or
- Special school which caters for the student with his or her category of disability.