

Longford Local Community Safety Partnership

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held at 11am on 18 September 2023

Hybrid (Council Chamber/Ms Teams)

Attendance	25
Quorum met?	Yes
Representation Balance Met?	56% Stat v 44%Comm

See Appendix 1 for full record of LCSP attendees

Apologies: Luke Casserly, Adrian Greene, Kitty Hughes, Tony Headon, Cllr P.J Reilly

Also in attendance: Sgt Darran Conlon , Michael Murphy (Community Warden); Tara Cunningham (LCSP Admin), Ciaran Murphy (Longford County Council), Inspector Paddy McGirl

Chairs Welcome

The Chair welcomed Tara Cunningham as the new LCSP Administrator and wished her well in the new role.

Declaration of Interests

No members declared an interest at the start of the meeting. The Chair advised that if any conflict of interest became apparent during the course meeting that members declare it and excuse themselves from the relevant discussion.

1. Confirmation of minutes 19 June 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 June 2023 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Gerry Warnock, seconded by Veronica Brennan.

2. Matters Arising

The Coordinator advised that following a request at the last quarterly meeting to look into funding for the Music Generation Early Years Programme, it had been agreed that Longford LCSP would co- fund this with the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. A Service Level Agreement has been drawn up and signed. The funding required is €7,000 to fund 12 early years services for 38 weeks of music lessons, which will be funded 50/50 by the two programmes. This was welcomed by the LCSP members.

3. General Items:

3.1. Annual Report update

The Coordinator gave a presentation to the LCSP members which constituted the annual reporting process. It was noted that of the 49 actions in the Community Safety Plan that were co designed based on the consultation- 65% are significantly complete.

The other 11 are actions included that respond to issues in the consultation, but are work programmes of partner organisations (e.g Deliver the Active Travel Programme of works in Longford).

The members also welcomed the achievements made around the establishment of the Community Houses, Kids Court Road Safety Initiative, Text Alert and that the LCSP has support over 28 initiatives and projects with the intervention budget. Veronica Brennan (HSE) noted there has been a noticeable improvement and strengthening of relationships across agencies and statutory services and Community Based Organisations in Longford over the last 12 months.

Cllr Gerry Warnock stated that the additional funding (€635,000) that has been leveraged by the LCSP by applying for funding from various grants has been great and welcomed in particular the collaboration that these projects will bring and the project for developing a safe and vibrant Night Time Economy. He also noted that the Local Authority has a significant role to play in tackling dereliction, which would help improve the image of Longford Town and a sense of safety. He agreed to follow up with his fellow elected representatives around enforcing the vacant sites levy.

Cllr Seamus Butler welcomed the progress , considering the structure is not yet on a statutory footing. He noted the cooperation with Gardaí has been great, but that on street incidents and nuisance behaviour is still happening, as it appears there is not enough resources. Garda presence and visibility on street is required. Additional resources have not materialised Longford sacrificed a good Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and he committed to resign from Longford LCSP

if the issue of garda resources is not addressed, as he feels the Longford LCSP would be deemed a failure.

Antoinette Kinsella (MRDATF) welcomed all of the progress and requested a meeting to discuss the Drug and Alcohol support workers using the Community Houses for engagements with families, and to arrange for relevant risk assessments to be undertaken by them and the Local Authority to facilitate this. It was clarified that the activity would be family support groups, where families can meet others in a community setting rather than a clinical or similar environment.

Cllr Peggy Nolan offered congratulations to all involved in the work undertaken to date but echoed comments made by Cllr Butler around a need for more Garda visibility on the streets, and more Garda resources. It would be preferable to have a Garda beat on the streets every day in Longford Town, as she feels the general public is not seeing any change despite the good work.

Following this discussion, the Chair thanked members for their inputs and noted the strong comments made in respect of Garda resources. She advised that An Garda Síochána in Longford have been very proactive in working with the LCSP and are doing the best with what resources they have. It was also noted that the ‘See Something, Say Something’ reporting system would be launched soon in Longford.

3.2. Community Safety Innovation Fund project update

An update was given on the progress of the 5 CSIF projects funded in 2022. Members were advised that the Community Safety Roadshow unit would be delivered next week. There is some additional equipment to purchase and the unit will need to be graphic wrapped.

It was requested that the Restorative Practice/Trauma Informed Training project be deferred until Q1 2024 due to staff constraints. This was agreed on the proposal of Antoinette Kinsella, seconded by Karen Walsh.

A video of the recent ‘Sporting Opportunities for Young People’ project with Longford Sports Partnership was shown, it was agreed to circulate this afterwards.

3.3. Community Safety & Wellbeing Expo Oct 5

Members were advised of the arrangements being made for the Community Safety & Wellbeing Expo. Due to the cross over in activities, this event is now being co funded and

supported by the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme and Healthy Longford Programmes. All Transition Years in the County have been invited as well as community groups.

It was agreed to provide a contribution of €5,000 to fund the event, on the proposal of Cllr Peggy Nolan, seconded by Rita Culligan.

3.4. Training update- Local Leadership Programme with UL

The Coordinator gave an update on the Local Leadership Programme with UL, with the 2nd block having taken place just before the meeting on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 September. LCSP members Veronica Brennan, Karen Walsh and Rita Culligan spoke of their experience to date and all agreed it was a hugely worthwhile piece that is helping to improve working relationships and interagency working

Sgt Darran Conlon and Micheal Murphy (Community Warden) are non- LCSP members who are taking part in the Programme and they also spoke of their participation on the course. The Chair welcomed their participation and advised that presentation from the 3 groups would come to the next meeting.

3.5. To note An Garda Síochána data report for Q1 & Q2 2023

The Garda Reports and a summary of pertinent points from Working Group 1 were circulated in advance. Inspector Paddy McGirl went through the headline data with the members.

Cllr Gerry Warnock asked if data on ‘feuding’ incidents were included in data on attempts/threats to life and it was confirmed they are not and there has been very few incidents relating to feuding in Longford in 2023 to date.

Cllr Gerry Warnock also noted to the meeting that there is a noticeable increase in the use of quads and scramblers on the Canal and asked if this was prohibited under law? It was confirmed that it was and that Sgt Conlon and the Community Policing Team have been doing a lot of work on this. Cllr Warnock noted that there was a role for Longford County Council here and that signage and an awareness campaign could be considered.

Some members brought up the issue of pan-handling outside major retailers, which can be intimidating to the general public, as the people in question are often intoxicated. Inspector McGirl took note of this and committed to following up.

Cllr Seamus Butler highlighted some of the figures, including an increase in the incidents of child neglect/abandonment and number of people detained under the Mental Health Act. While there has been great strides made, it is clear there needs to be further cooperation across the HSE and Tusla with An Garda Síochána. Inspector McGirl noted that Longford does have a high reporting rate to Tusla, as there are issues in this area but it is also down to positive and proactive policing in this area which has increased the incident numbers and this is also reflected in the area of Domestic Abuse.

Cllr Butler asked that it be put on the record that the reports show that statistically, Longford is a safe place, however we have a tarnished reputation that impacts the perception of safety and he called on the local press to help improve that perception by highlighting all the good happening.

Cllr Butler and Karen Walsh (LEAP Youth Diversion Project) also highlighted that increase in detections of driving under the influence, and the further information that detection of drug driving and now far outweighing drink driving. This is a worrying trend. Inspector McGirl advised that there are more checkpoints testing for drugs which has contributed to the increase in detections, but that there is an upwards trend and that a lot of people do not fully understand the impacts of drug taking and how long it can be detected in the body, and the risks to driver behaviour.

Antoinette Kinsella (MRDATF) agreed to follow up with the Coordinator to see if an awareness campaign could be devised.

Cllr Peggy Nolan raised the issues of the sentencing and the Courts role in tacking perception in Longford and it was acknowledged that this is difficult to address. However the number of suspended sentences, delays in hearing cases, striking out of cases etc does not help the sense of safety.

The Chair thanked the members for their questions and Inspector paddy McGirl for presenting to the meeting.

4. Members Interest Items

4.1 MRDATF/An Garda Síochána Sports Clubs talk 28 September

Antoinette Kinsella gave an update on the Midlands Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force activities which includes the launch of the HSE run under 18 service for the Midlands area. This includes family support services which is great to have.

She advised that they are undertaking a significant piece of research called 'Planet Youth' with all Transition Years. This will give important information on attitudes and behaviours of young people to not only substance and alcohol use, but mental health, hobbies etc.

The MRDATF along with An Garda Síochána are running an information session for sports clubs on 28 September 2023 in Longford Rugby Club and all are welcome to attend. The LCSP is supporting this by covering the costs of room hire and refreshments.

4.2 An Garda Síochána- ongoing projects

Sgt Darran Conlon and Inspector Paddy McGirl gave an overview on a wide range of projects An Garda Síochána are currently engaged in to support Community Safety:

- Community Policing engaging with businesses and retailers in Longford
- Youth Diversion- AGS engaged with a range of interventions over the summer with participants
- Drugs Related Intimidation & Violence Case- are investigating this and have had great support from Tusla on this
- Adult Safeguarding- setting up a working group with the HSE to improve communication and collaboration in this area
- Work with Minority Groups- ongoing engagement with Traveller Community, Ethnic Minority Hub, Pakistani Community and building good relationships. Ongoing engagement in the Direct Provision Centre.
- Probationer Gardaí Community Safety Projects

All of the probationer Gardaí have been assigned Community Safety Projects including Domestic Abuse Campaign ; Property Marking; Kids Court Road Safety; Ukrainian Engagement; Community Safety Ambassador Programme; Ardnacassa Joint Action Group

It was advised that the See Something, Say Something system is being prepared for Longford and that Longford would also be one of the first areas to trial a new Vulnerable Persons app which will help Gardaí link in with and check vulnerable people easier. This will hopefully be ready by November.

It was advised that An Garda Síochána Longford are interested in arranging a Crime Prevention meeting in Q4 and they have approached the Coordinator to support this and link in.

All of the members welcomed the work being undertaken by An Garda Síochána in Longford and their commitment to the Community Safety Partnership was commended.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to note

6. Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next quarterly meeting will take place on 18 December 2023 at 11am and that a Christmas Lunch will be provided, so the meeting will be in person, with the venue to be confirmed

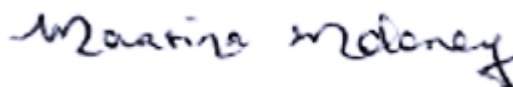
The meeting concluded on this note.

Prepared by: Janine Bartley

Community Safety Coordinator- 22 September 2023

Adopted by LCSP: Monday, 18 December 2023

Chairperson Signature:



Appendix One-

Members Attendance Log- Monday 18 September 2023

Name	Pillar	In Attendance?
Martina Moloney	Independent Chair	Yes
Kitty Hughes	Community	No
Karen Reilly	Community	Yes
Tony Headon	Community	No
Damien Ryan	Community	Yes
Orla Egan	Community	Yes
Adrian Greene	Community	No
Tara Farrell	Community	Yes
Luke Casserly	Community	No
Brigid Power	Community	Yes
Karen Walsh	Community	Yes
Aneta Safiak	Community	Yes
Jim Belton	Community	Yes
Joseph Murphy	Community	Yes
Fiona Fenelon	Community	Yes
VACANT	Community	-
VACANT	Community	-
Eimear Smith	Statutory	Yes
Séamus Boyle	Statutory	Yes
Grainne O'Donnell	Statutory	Yes
Antoinette Kinsella	Statutory	Yes
Veronica Brennan	Statutory	Yes
Barbara Heslin	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Colin Dalton	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Gerry Warnock	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Paul Ross	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Peggy Nolan	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. PJ Reilly	Statutory	No
Cllr. Seamus Butler	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Uruemu Adejinmi	Statutory	Yes
Rita Culligan	Statutory	Yes
Shauna Doherty	Statutory	Yes

Total Membership	32- 30 filled	2 vacancies (both Community)
Total in attendance	25	5 apologies
% attendance (of current membership)	83%	24 of 30
% Pillar representation in attendance	Community 44% (including Chair)	Statutory 56%