

## Longford Local Community Safety Partnership

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

In Person (Longford Rugby Club)

<b>Attendance</b>	22
<b>Quorum met?</b>	Yes
<b>Representation Balance Met?</b>	59% Stat v 41%Comm

*See Appendix 1 for full record of LCSP attendees.*

**Apologies:** Luke Casserly, Adrian Greene, Tony Headon, Cllr P.J Reilly, Brigid Power, Aneta Safiak, Jim Belton, Gráinne O Donnell

**Also in attendance:** Sgt Darran Conlon, Michael Murphy (Community Warden); Jacqueline McKeon (LCSP Admin), Ciaran Murphy (Longford County Council), Inspector Paddy McGirl, Sadia Athar Butt (Longford PPN), Martina McGrath (Longford County Council)

### Chairs Welcome

The Chair welcomed Jacqueline McKeon 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 18 September 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 September 2023 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Seamus Butler, seconded by Cllr Paul Ross

### 2. Matters Arising

None

### 3. LA16 Status Report (Re Road Traffic Incident Fatalities)

The Chair advised that the Department of Transport are now requesting that all LA16 Status Reports re Road Traffic Incident Fatalities be a standing item on the Agenda for all Joint Policing Committees. As Longford LCSP has replaced the JPC in Longford, the Roads Management Office has requested that it be included on the LCSP agenda.

Martina McGrath- Road Safety Officer with Longford County Council gave an presentation outlining the role of the Road Safety Team in the Council and the LA16 reporting process.

In respect of the LA16 process the following was noted and accepted by the members as its role going forward:

Currently there is an obligation on Local Authorities for LA 16 Collision reports and evaluation Procedure Forms to be completed at fatal collision sites in each County. The Roads Management Office informs LA Senior Engineer of Fatal Collision (usually within 24 hours) and provides District Officer (Local Garda Superintendent) contact details. A Site meeting between the Investigating Garda and LA Area Engineer is arranged and a completed digital LA16 form must be submitted within 15 Days of the collision date. All counties have a National minimum set target of 70% completion rate annually. The LA 16 Collision Reporting is an Action on the National and Local Road Safety Plans which is monitored by the Road Safety Working Group Committee and reported on annually. Th LCSP is being asked to review this report quarterly to ensure compliance and to discuss and make comment back tot eh RMO as necessary.

The LCSP reviewed the LA16 report and noted that 2 incidents had occurred, and 2 reports had been completed in preceding quarter, and that this was 100% completion rate.

The members also noted the information in respect of the Roads Safety Working Group and welcomed that the Community Safety Coordinator had been invited to join the group and that the Road Safety Team would get involved int eh LCSPs Kids Court Initiative

#### **4. General Items:**

##### **4.1 Coordinator Update Report**

The coordinator's written update was circulated in advance and the members welcomed the progress made in Q4 which included the Dead of Night Halloween Festival which had 10,000 attendees over the various events and the Annual Public Meeting which had a huge turn out and attendees from many different community groups and minority communities.

Tara Farrell advised that the Longford Womens Link project mentioned in the report is going well with over 200 attendees over 2 workshops. It is hoped the Department of Justice will provide additional funding for this and LWL are in direct discussion with them.

In relation to Ardnacassa- Cllr Paul Ross asked about the funding of ramps- the coordinator advised they would look into it and come back with more information.

Cllr Seamus Butler commended all of the work done and asked if enough is being done to highlight all of the good progress and good press, as there is still a lot of negative press about Longford. It was noted that the LCSP had a presence on social media and shares information about all of its activities as well as other Partners. It was agreed by consensus that additional press releases- where appropriate should be scheduled by the LCSP.

#### 4.2 CSIF project updates

The coordinator gave an update on the CSIF projects. one remains uncommenced- this is in respect of training around Trauma Informed Practice. The Coordinator advised that training will be arranged following a Conference being held in May 2024. This Trauma Informed Care Conference is being led by the Longford Westmeath CYPSC with support from Longford LCSP and other partners.

#### 4.3 Update on the Pilot Programme and national roll out.

The Chair gave a brief update on the national plans for the LCSP rollout. The Policing, Security & Community Safety Bill has not yet passed all stages and is unlikely to do so until the new year. The Department of Justice are working on the final evaluation report on the pilots. Longford LCSP will continue as a pilot until further direction from the Department and will be allocated a budget for 2024.

#### 4.4 To note Garda Data Report for Q3 2023

Inspector Paddy McGirl went through the Garda Data Report and the Working Group overview for Q3 2023 which were circulated in advance. There were no questions, but it was noted that there is an ongoing increase in the numbers of drivers being detected under the influence of drugs.

#### 4.5 Local Leadership Programme with UL and Dept of Justice Presentations

The Chair gave an overview of the Local Leadership Programme, which had finished in November 2023. A number of members were in attendance and had great feedback about the course. 3 wicked issues were work shopped out over the 3 modules, and potential projects/initiatives to tackle these issues were developed. At the final module, each of the 3 groups had to present their problem and potential solution in a Dragons Den style presentation. The Dragons included senior managers and representatives from An Garda Síochána, HSE, the Department of Justice, Tusla and Local Government.

No funding has been committed to these projects, but they are shovel ready should funding be made available.

2 of the groups showcased their presentation at the meeting:

- **Smart Moves**- developing a resilience building project for young people transitioning from primary school to secondary school (issue/problem- use of drugs/substances as an unhealthy coping mechanism)
- **Engage, Unite, mobilise (EMU)**- a collaborative initiative to engage and mobilise community spirit and engagement in a small local area facing anti-social behaviour, social issues and high levels of dumping (issue problem: social inclusion/lack of engagement areas seen as 'problem/hotspot areas')

Both presentations were commended, and members noted the amount of work which had gone into them. Antoinette Kinsella (MRDATF) advised that the Drugs Task Force would be happy to support any project around building resilience and tackling drug use. A discussion ensued around the role of parents in supporting young people and it was noted that many parents need support (parenting programmes or family support workers) but there is a lack of services. Parenting programmes are available, but there can be stigma attached to attending these.

It was also noted that use of alcohol is actually a bigger problem than drug use and that young people are also 'vaping' at a young age and these substances are easily accessible and from anecdotal evidence some shops are serving them to underage people.

Orla McEntee (Primary Schools) as highlighted the high and increasing level of absenteeism in Longford and the fact the Educational Welfare Services are grossly understaffed in

Longford. Home-school and Community Liaison Officers are doing huge work, but it is not enough to support those most in need- young people and families falling through the cracks.

Rita Culligan (Tusla) advised that Education Welfare is under pressure everywhere but agreed that absenteeism is high. It was acknowledged that Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme is funding the Schools Completion Programme to run Homework Clubs in Longford and that Longford Community Resources (through SICAP, Youth Service & IScoil) and Family Resources Centres provide excellent supports, but again the issue of a Family Resource Centre in Longford was highlighted.

The Chair advised that work will be done to develop a Needs Assessment for a Family Resource Centre for Longford in 2024, but the issues of absenteeism, alcohol/substance use and vaping for young people should be kept on the agenda and asked if members could consider any potential projects.

Following this, a further discussion about the increase in anti-migrant sentiment, the Riots in Dublin in November and hate crime. While no major issues (such as arsons and rallies) have happened in Longford as has been seen in other areas, it could happen. It is a small minority in any community that would have these views, but it can quickly mushroom is not tackled. Early and open communication with communities is key. It was agreed that the LCSP needs to support integration and share positive messaging to counteract negative and incorrect information going out to communities.

## **Community Safety Small Grant Scheme**

### **7.1 Consideration and approval of Expressions of Interest**

The list of Expressions of Interest received under the Community Safety Small Grant Scheme and recommendations from the Steering Committee were circulated in advance of the meeting. 31 EOIs were received and of this 8 were deemed ineligible. The remaining 23 are recommended to invite to make a full application.

This recommendation was approved on the proposal of Karen Reilly, seconded by Cllr Paul Ross.

## 7.2 Membership of Evaluation Committee

The Chair asked for nominations from members to sit on the Evaluation Committee along with the Chair for the grant scheme. To take place in mid - February. Cllr Gerry Warnock, Cllr Seamus Butler (Vice Chair), Karen Reilly (Vice Chair), Barbara Heslin and Cllr Paul Ross volunteered.

The Chair asked that in the interest of expediting the granting of funding, that the Evaluation Committee be delegated to make decisions of granting of funding and funding amounts on behalf of the full LCSP, with a list of Grants awarded to be circulated for the next meeting. This request was approved on the proposal of Veronica Brennan, seconded by Kitty Hughes.

## 5 Members Interest Items

### Cllr Seamus Butler: Multi-faith Community Seminar

Cllr Butler advised that he has been approached by Fr Kiernan of Longford Cathedral and representatives of the Muslim Community about supporting a one-day event or synod for all faiths, to help build trust & respect and to create a small work programme around continued engagement going forward.

A brief discussion ensued, and all members presents were in favour of supporting such an event. There was some question about framing it as a religious event and if 'intercultural' was a better phrase. However, the proposal was unanimously supported. The Chair asked the coordinator to examine if there is funding in the interventions budget to support the event. The Coordinator confirmed that the Pakistani Community in Ireland (Longford Branch) has included it as part of their EOI and that Cllr Butler had declared his interest in this during the discussions on this at the Steering Group, but that a review of the interventions budget will also take place to see if it can be supported through that.

## 6 Correspondence

None

## **7 To confirm Schedule of Meetings for Q1 and Q2 2024**

The Chair noted that roll out of the LCSPs and the Local Elections will dictate when some meetings take place in 2024. It was agreed to schedule the Q1 meeting and review from there.

The next meeting will be Monday 18 March 2024, with a venue to be confirmed.

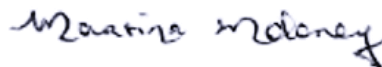
The meeting concluded on this note.

**Prepared by: Janine Bartley**

**Community Safety Coordinator- 16 January 2024**

**Adopted by LCSP: 25 March 2025**

**Chairperson Signature:**



## Appendix One-

### Members Attendance Log- Monday 18 December 2023

Name	Pillar	In Attendance?
Martina Moloney	Independent Chair	Yes
Kitty Hughes	Community	Yes
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	No
Karen Walsh	Community	Yes
Aneta Safiak	Community	No
Jim Belton	Community	No
Joseph Murphy	Community	Yes
Fiona Fenelon	Community	Yes
VACANT	Community	-
VACANT	Community	-
Laura Burke	Statutory	Yes
Séamus Boyle	Statutory	Yes
Grainne O'Donnell	Statutory	No
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

<b>Total Membership</b>	32- 30 filled	2 vacancies (both Community)
<b>Total in attendance</b>	22	8 apologies
<b>% attendance (of current membership)</b>	73%	22 of 30
<b>% Pillar representation in attendance</b>	Community 41% (including Chair)	Statutory 59%