

Longford Local Community Safety Partnership

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held at 11am 19 June 2023

Hybrid (Council Chamber/Ms Teams)

Attendance	26
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, Joe Murphy, Shauna Doherty

Also in attendance: Sgt Darran Conlon , Michael Murphy (Community Warden); Eimear Kelly (LEAP Youth Diversion Programme); Gráinne Reid (LW CYPSC)

Chairs Welcome- new members

The Chair welcomed all members to meeting, some who were attending online as well as in person

It was advised that there remains 2 vacancies from the PPN. There has been difficulty with selecting and ratifying PPN representatives due to staffing changes in the PPN.

1. 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.

2. Confirmation of minutes 20 June 2022

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 June 2023 were approved on the proposal of Kitty Hughes, seconded by Cllr. Gerry Warnock.

3. Matters Arising

The Chair gave an update on engagement with the Judiciary and advised that the Chairs of the 3 LCSPs were going to work together on engaging the Judiciary through policy groups. Further updates will issue in due course.

4. Presentation- Tusla and the LW Children & Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC)

Rita Culligan, Principal Social Worker, Tusla Midlands, gave a presentation providing an overview of Tusla Services in the Midlands region.

Main point included explanation of the referral process and duty social worker; residential care and work with young people up to 24 while in full time education; Longford has one of the highest referral rates in the country; the duty social workers can only deal with the most urgent of cases referred in and that there is a lack of Community based services in Longford that could support children and families (i.e Family Resources Centres or related services).

It was also noted that Tusla have been seeking a suitable property in Longford where they can base additional staff but this has been unsuccessful so far.

Gráinne Reid, Coordinator of the Longford Westmeath Children & Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC) then gave a quick update in respect of the work of the CYPSC. There are a number of areas of collaboration between the CYPSC and the LCSP.

Updates include progress with legislation to put CYPSCs on a statutory footing, the Longford Westmeath CYPSC is a 2 county structure which receives the same funding as a 1 county committee; initiatives around Domestic Violence support and awareness projects have been very successful with an Interagency Group on DV driving these (Go Purple Day, DV Leaflets, Resource Pack); the CYPSC is arranging a 2 day Trauma Informed Care Conference in May 2024 and is seeking some input and financial support.

It was also advised that the CYPSC had funded an early years music programme with Music Generation for the past 2 years- 12 creches received 1 hour of music education (and instrument packs) for a 38 week period. However this funding is not available for the year starting September 2023.

Cllr Peggy Nolan proposed that Longford LCSP look at its seed fund budget an if possible provide funding for the Music Generation Early Year Programme. This was seconded by Damien Ryan. It was agreed the Coordinator would link in with the relevant bodies and if possible arrange funding- an update to come to the next meeting.

Aneta Safiak requested some clarification on who could make referrals to Tusla and if it had to be a mandated person only. It was confirmed that anyone can make a referral. It was noted that language barriers can prevent some referrals and if Tusla had translators available this would be helpful to many new communities. This was noted by Rita Culligan.

Cllr Paul Ross had 3 points:

- He proposed that Longford County Council support Tusla Midlands in finding a suitable office location or look at acquiring a site. Barbara Heslin agreed that the item be passed onto the Council Asset Management team to see if any suitable existing buildings could be identified. The Coordinator will link Tusla into the relevant staff.
- He proposed that Longford LCSP support Tusla in recruiting Foster Carers, by advertising on its SM channels and also promoting it at all engagement events. This was agreed by consensus of all members
- He noted that the County has a high referral rate to Tusla and a noticeable lack of Community Services- specifically a lack of a Family Resource Centre in Longford Town. He asked if Tusla Midlands would support and advocate for the establishment of an FRC given that Tusla oversee the Programme. It was confirmed that the management and staff of Tusla Midlands fully support the establishment of an FRC in Longford Town , however it is a different Tusla team which oversees the FRC Programme. The views of the local team are taken into account when new FRCs are being established.

General Items:

4.1. Coordinators Update

The written update was circulated in advance of the meeting and outlined LCSP activity in Q2 2023 was noted by all members. The LCSP were represented at a number of engagement events.

The Children's Court Road Safety event was launched and held its first event at Cloontagh National School. A video of the event was shown. The Chair thanked An Garda Síochána for leading this great initiative with the support of Longford County Council and the LCSP Coordinator.

4.2. Community Safety Innovation Fund

- 2023 applications and 2022 project update

The Coordinator gave an update on the status of the 5 projects funded by CSIF 2022. It is expected the Exhibition Trailer will be delivered by mid September. The

procurement process for a video production company for the documentary project is underway.

The Coordinator confirmed that 2 applications for the CSIF 2023 were submitted and that decisions were due on funding in August:

- i) Family Link Worker (Consortium application with The Attic House and Lus na Greine FRC with Longford LCSP as lead)
- ii) All Island Community Safety Networking Events (Consortium application with Drogheda Implementation Board and Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP)

The Chair thanked the members of the LCSP who helped to prepare the applications and in particular to those partners and other stakeholders that submitted letter of support for the Family Link Worker application. It was noted that if successful, this post would help bridge the gap and support families in Longford Town where there is no Family Resource Centre.

4.3. Financial Update

The Financial update was circulated in advance and was noted. The Coordinator went through the proposed funding allocations projects/initiatives as suggested by WG1 & WG2

The funding proposals were approved on the proposal of Tony Headon, seconded by Kitty Hughes.

4.4. LCSP Public Meeting

The Chair proposed that the LCSP hold a showcase event to coincide with the Public Meeting, in order to publicise all that the LCSP and its partners and stakeholders have achieved over the last 2 years. There was some discussion on what this should look like- an expo event or information roadshow. It was suggested that the event be in September or October with the Public Meeting to be held immediately after the event.

It was agreed by consensus that the Coordinator would do some planning and link in with the Steering Group between now and the next meeting to come back with a firm plan and date

4.5. Training- Local Leadership Programme with UL

The Coordinator gave an update on progress. The Dept of Justice Research into Policy Programmes & Practice (REPPP) team and University of Limerick are leading the training. A number of LCSP members had been recruited to take part as well as some other stakeholders outside of the LCSP (including the CYPSC). There are 20 3 modules would take place (July, September and November).

The Chair welcomed the Department of Justice commitment and support in fully funding this training programme, that would help to bring better cohesion to the LCSP planning an implementing process as well as ideas for projects and initiatives.

4.6. To note An Garda Síochána data report

The Garda Data report for 2022 and report from Working Group 1 from detailed review of same was circulated in advance. The Chair advised that this was the template which had been agreed by the Department of Justice and An Garda Síochána for use for LCSPs.

The submission of data from An Garda Síochána was welcomed by all members, as it was the first data report viewed by the LCSP since its inception in September 2021. It was noted that there is no similar report from other members of the Partnership submitted for review and that the Garda data presents stats from a point in time from Pulse and not to lose sight of the fact Community Safety and the issues were are dealing with an influenced by much more than An Garda Síochána and Garda data.

In the absence of Cllr. Seamus Butler- Chair of Working Group 1- the Coordinator went though the WG1 report and Superintendent Seamus Boyle addressed some queries raised by members. it was acknowledged that despite a narrative of violence on the streets all the time in Longford, the data did not reflect that reality. The main point of surprise was the high level of Driving Under the Influence Detection in the Longford Division that 'Drug Driving' detections account for 4 out of 5 detections over the last year when previously the ratio would have been 7:2 in terms of drink related detections.

All members expressed frustration around the delays in having drug seizures tested, which impedes investigations and charges. This was noted to be national issue, and that the burden of proof is very high in these cases. Members noted that people who have been caught and arrested with ‘substances’ are often back out very quickly as charges cannot be brought until there is confirmation of what the substance is. On face value, this seems like they are getting away with it and this seriously damages the confidence and feeling of safety of people living in these communities. Members in attendance offered their support to members of An Garda Síochána in Longford who are doing the best they can despite numerous constraints .

Cllr Gerry Warnock made the point that a lot of the fear and worry of unsafety is also down to the lack of regeneration in Longford Town Centre. The Town Centre urgently needs a facelift and noted that there are gangs of people that hang around town all day , which can be a source of intimidation (intended or not), which leads tom some people taking the conducting of their business out of Longford. Cllr Warnock acknowledged that Longford County Council has a role to play in this, which he is following up in his role as an elected representative at Municipal District and County Council level. However he asked if this item can also be brought to each of the LCSP Working Groups for discussion in detail to see if any ideas or solutions can be generated. It was agreed by consensus to do this.

Tara Farrell again raised the issue around Family Court days in Longford, whereby women and children are often left waiting for long periods of time waiting for their hearing, and many times this is adjourned. This was also brought to the last meeting of the LCSP, and the issue is ongoing. There is no space for people with young children to sit an wait for these extended periods and often, they are in the same space as their perpetrator which impacts on mental wellbeing and safety. These are vulnerable people and she requested that Longford LCSP look at ways to support and advocate for these victims of crime. On the proposal of Cllr Peggy Nolan, seconded by Martina Moloney, it was agreed to bring this to WG2 to discuss and to identify some possible solutions.

Data for Q1 & Q2 2023 will be expected for the next meeting.

5. Community Safety Action Plan update

The update was circulated in advance of the meeting . It was welcomed that 65% of the actions are in progress or significantly complete. The Chair noted that a number of the actions would be ongoing over the medium to long term, but to keep the momentum up.

The Chair also suggested that the LCSP think about reviewing and undertaking a repeat survey to see if peoples perception of safety in the town and county has changed.

6. Members Interest Items

Tara Farrell- Update on Interagency Group work on CSIF Project- “Responding to the risk of Domestic Violence Homicide in Rural Ireland”

Tara gave an update on the successful 2 day workshop with Prof Jane Monkton Smith which took place in May around the Domestic Violence Homicide Timeline. The training has over 130 participants from 34 agencies and was well received by all in attendance. The project is continuing with workshops on stalking on surveillance to take place later in the year- information will circulate to members.

Cllr Seamus Butler: Query to MRDATF around the lack of CADS treatment facility in Longford

Antoinette Kinsella of the MRDATF gave an overview of the CADS treatment options for people living in Longford. Currently clients travel to Mullingar – in a bus provided by the service- to access their medication. She also gave on overview of the new Under 18 Service in place in the Midlands, which is now run directly by the HSE. It was agreed that the MRDATF would give a full presentation to the LCSP at the meeting in either September or December.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to note

8. Date of next meeting

It was confirmed that the next quarterly meeting will take place on 18 September 2023 at 11am in hybrid format.

The meeting concluded on this note.

Prepared by: Janine Bartley

Community Safety Coordinator- June 24 2023

Adopted by LCSP: Monday 18 September 2024

Chairperson Signature:

Martina Moloney

Appendix One-

Members Attendance Log- Monday 19 JUNE 2023

Name	Pillar	In Attendance?
Martina Moloney	Independent Chair	Yes
Kitty Hughes	Community	Yes
Karen Reilly	Community	Yes
Tony Headon	Community	Yes
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	No
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	Yes
Cllr. Seamus Butler	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Uruemu Adejinmi	Statutory	Yes
Rita Culligan	Statutory	Yes
Shauna Doherty	Statutory	No

Total Membership	32- 30 filled	2 vacancies (both Community)
Total in attendance	26	4 apologies
% attendance (of current membership)	86.66%	26 of 30
% Pillar representation in attendance	Community 46% (including Chair)	Statutory 54%