

Longford Local Community Safety Partnership

Minutes of Quarterly Meeting held September 19 2022

Hybrid (Council Chamber/Ms Teams)

Attendance	18
Quorum met?	Yes
Representation Balance Requirements Met?	Yes

See Appendix 1 for full record of LCSP attendees

Apologies: Heather McKenna, Ndidi Idehen, Cllr PJ Reilly

Also in attendance: Ben Ryan (Dept Justice), Maeve Brett (Dept Justice), Chief Super. Ray McMahon, Sgt Darran Conlon, An Cathoirleach- Cllr Turlough McGovern, Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman, Anne Eustace (CES), Karl McGrath (CES), Rebecca Wade (CES)

1. Chairs Welcome- new members

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and participation with the launch of the Longford Community Safety Plan, immediately prior to the meeting. Thanks were also extended to the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD, for attending to formally launch this 1st Community Safety Plan.

The Chair also introduced Emer Smith as the new representative for the Probation Services and wished her well in her new role

2. 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.

3. Address by Department of Justice

Ben Ryan, Assistant Secretary General and Maeve Brett, Principle Officer congratulated the members of the LCSP on the launch of the Longford Community Safety Plan and noted that it was the first in the country. The support of the Department of Justice was reiterated to

the members and BR asked that members consider agreeing to take part in the evaluation process with the Centre for Effective Services (CES).

It was noted that while the outcome of the LCSPs application to the Community Safety Innovation Fund couldn't be advised at the meeting, correspondence would be issuing in the coming week.

4. Address by Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman- An Garda Síochána

Assistant Commissioner Paula Hilman (PH) thanked members for inviting An Garda Síochána to the launch and to speak on the Plan and Community Safety Model. PH then touched on a number of points

- AGS welcomes the preventative approach that Longford Community Safety Plan outlines
- Data- a template for ongoing data reporting to LCSPs is being finalised by AGS and the Department of Justice
- A 'Support Hub' Initiative whereby members of AGS work with frontline Health worker is being piloted in Limerick and it could be explored for a Longford context
- It has been agreed to roll out the 'See Something, Say Something' communication initiative in Longford

A number of members asked questions in respect of Garda visibility on the streets of Longford. Cllr Seamus Butler noted that foot patrols on the streets of Longford Town provide reassurance and psychological safety. Cllr Paul Ross asked if Longford would receive additional garda numbers. A number of members noted that they thought his would be a given as we were a pilot for the community safety partnership. Cllr Peggy Nolan noted gardaí on the streets is so important and commended the community gardaí for the work they do in engaging communities, attending sporting events. Barbara Heslin noted that while visibility is important, the building of relationships

with other agencies is paramount and the Partnership is key to this. Kitty Hughes agreed that increased visibility of gardaí would be welcomed by the rural community PH outlined the competing demands faced by AGS and noted how important it is for people to engage with AGS and report crimes or issues, as this is what is looked at when allocating resources. It was noted that there has been a lower number than would be preferred going through Templemore in 2022 and that recruitment and training would increase across 2023, but this wouldn't reflect in additional resources for another 12 months at least. AGS will endeavour to make best use of the resources it currently has in Longford It was also noted that initiatives like the Text Alert App (led by Longford County Council) and the engagement initiatives through the LCSP have already increased engagement with AGS and the public in Longford.

Chief Superintendent Ray McMahon advised that 4 new probationary gardaí had recently been assigned to Longford, which was welcomed by members.

The address finished by AC PH looking forward to attending the Community Safety Conference in Newry and Dundalk, in November which is being organised by the Longford LCSP and Newry Mourne & Down PCSP.

5. Confirmation of minutes of previous meetings: held on 31st May & 13th June 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2022 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Paul Ross, seconded by Tony Headon

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 were approved on the proposal of Aneta Safiak, seconded by Kitty Hughes

6. Matters Arising

None

7. Reports:

Update on ongoing initiatives: Community Safety Coordinator

Janine Bartley gave an overview of the projects and initiatives that have progressed since the last meeting. The renovations to the property in Ardnacassa which will be used as a community hub are now completed. the LCSP is to co-lead this initiative with the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme.

8. General Items:

8.1. Discussion in relation membership of Longford LCSP

The Chairperson outlined the gap identified in membership- namely a representative from the Traveller Community in Longford (Community Pillar) and a representative from the Longford Westmeath Education & Training Board (Statutory pillar). A number of the actions within the Community Safety Plan require input from these cohorts and it was asked if members would consider the provisional approval of adding 2 more members to the Partnership to ensure we have the relevant people at the table. It was noted that it would have to be brought the Department of Justice for final approval and revision of the Terms of Reference for the Pilot.

After discussion it was agreed to approve expansion of the membership to include a member of the traveller community (living or working in Longford) and an LWETB rep from the Adult & Community education department, on the proposal of Cllr Uruemu Adejemni, seconded by Adrian Greene.

It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce had not been able to provide a nomination. It was discussed and suggested that the Edgeworthstown Traders Association should be approached to provide a nominee for the business community. However, it was agreed on the proposal of Cllr Seamus Butler,

seconded by Joe Murphy that the Chamber of Commerce be provided with another opportunity to provide a nominee.

Cllr Uruemu Adejemni advised that she had been asked by Oireachtas Members to bring a request to the Partnership that all Oireachtas Members be provided with updates from the LCSP and be afforded the opportunity to attend meetings in an observation capacity going forward. This was agreed by all members present.

8.2. Discussion in relation to development of Programme of Work for next 6 months/12 months

It was agreed that the Partnership would devise a work programme based on the Plan just launched, through the working groups and a draft should be brought to the December meeting for consideration and approval.

8.3. Financial update

Janine Bartley went through the Financial update , circulated in advance. This was noted by all members.

3 proposals for funding were considered and agreed on the proposal of Cllr Peggy Nolan, seconded by Tony Headon as follows

- €3,000 contribution to the Operation Blue Light Santa fundraising appeal 2022 , for operational costs and printing of book, via the Public Participation Network
- €5,000 contribution to the Dead of Night Safer Halloween event, which the community safety coordinator is leading.
- €3,000 contribution to the Longford Intercultural Forum, for the development and implementation of a work programme , via the Public Participation Network

9. Members Interest Items

- Antoinette Kinsella (MRDATF) advised that a new national lead for the DRIVE initiative had been appointed and that there launch of the DRIVE initiative would take place in Athlone on 11 October, and all members were invited to attend. JB to circulate information
- Cllr Seamus Butler noted that the LCSP had set an ambitious target to have a Community Safety Plan developed within and adopted within its first year and we had exceeded this by completing it by June. It was great to have the Minister for Justice come to Longford to launch the plan and thanked everyone for the cooperation and support to get this done
- Super. Seamus Boyle advised that An Garda Siochana launch of the 100 years exhibition would take place on 29 September in Longford Library and all were invited

10. Correspondence

None

11. Date of next meeting

The next quarterly meeting will take place on 19 December 2022 at 11am

The meeting concluded on this note.

Prepared by: Janine Bartley

Community Safety Coordinator- September 30 2022

Adopted by LCSP: 19th December 2022

Chairperson Signature: Martina Moloney

Appendix One-

Members Attendance Log- Monday 20 September 2022

Name	Pillar	In Attendance?
Martina Moloney	Independent Chair	Yes
Kitty Hughes	Community	Yes
Karen Reilly	Community	Yes
Tony Headon	Community	Yes
Francis McGee	Community	No
Orla Egan	Community	Yes
Adrian Greene	Community	Yes
Angela Keaveney	Community	Yes
Heather McKenna	Community	No
Ndidi Idehen	Community	No
Karen Walsh	Community	Yes
Aneta Safiak	Community	Yes
Jim Belton	Community	Yes
Joseph Murphy	Community	Yes
VACANT	Community	-
Luke Casserly	Community	No
Irene Gilmore	Statutory	No
Séamus Boyle	Statutory	Yes
Grainne O'Donnell	Statutory	Yes
Antoinette Kinsella	Statutory	Yes
Anthony O Prey	Statutory	No
Barbara Heslin	Statutory	Yes
Cllr. Colin Dalton	Statutory	No
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
Steve Wrenn	Statutory	Yes

Total Membership	29 (+ 1 vacancy)	1 vacancy (Community)
Total in attendance	21	8 apologies
% attendance (of current membership)	72%	21 of 29
% Pillar representation	Community 52.3%	Statutory 47.6%