



## **Minutes of JPC Subcommittee No. 2 – To Enhance Community Safety responses in Galway City with a view to Crime Prevention (via Zoom)**

**Date:** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**In attendance:** Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Cllr. Donal Lyons, Sgt. Michael Walsh, Mr Tommy Flaherty, Ms Caitriona Morgan, Ms Emma Johnston

**Apologies:** Inspector Peter Conlon, Mr Cameron Keighron

Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Chairperson welcomed all to the Zoom meeting and noted the above apologies.

### **1. Review of JPC Subcommittee No. 2 priorities within the context of COVID-19 & planning for Strategic responses to COVID-19**

*Objective No. 1 - Cybercrime and Fraud scam awareness during COVID-19, the following updates were noted from Sgt. Mick Walsh:*

- European Cybersecurity Month is October so a number and range of events / initiatives are taking place in order to inform the public of the dangers of cybercrime. The events will be run nationwide by the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau in conjunction with Community Gardaí and Crime Prevention Officers and will initially focus on older and business communities.
- Newspaper, radio and social media campaigns continuing to bring awareness to the matter while the Campus Watch Programme is continuing.
- Community Alert meetings have rolled out and will take place via Zoom over the coming weeks and months. The GCCN Community Safety Linkage Group is also meeting in addition to active retirement associations and are a good forum / structure to share and promote key information.
- Research had identified non Irish Nationals are targeted victims of cybercrime and that they are currently trying to identify the nationalities to help bring awareness to them.
- National Cyber Office Bureau currently perusing what more can be done regarding scam calls and texts with Telecom companies / operators. Communication to issue from this Subcommittee to express concern towards the lack of progress on this matter.
- In conjunction with the National Garda Press Office a media campaign to be considered ahead of Christmas as DHL scam texts will become much higher.

*Objective No. 2 - Domestic Violence, Caitriona Morgan updated as follows:*

- It was agreed to receive a short / presentation and update from CYPSC on their Domestic Abuse resource pack at the next Subcommittee meeting, noting a presentation on same had circulated to the members in advance of the meeting which included an outline on the initiative, background and rationale, purpose of the pack / poster including contact details for the resource.

*Objective No. 3 – Community and Water Safety, the below was noted:*

- Sgt. Mick Walsh to continue to highlight the matter to students through the Campus Watch Programme.
- Mr. Tommy Flaherty noted the request from Claddagh Watch for a parking spot and base for members from Galway City Council.
- Ms. Caitriona Morgan made reference to the Galway Safe App, noting she is going to follow up with colleagues in the WRDATF on this before sharing/circulating. She also noted Water Safety Ireland and their Water Safety Area Committees as she understood they organise courses and other initiatives throughout Ireland as a means to get involved with water safety in the local area.
- Sgt. Mick Walsh advised that Galway City Council have installed a number of information kiosks around the city which have replaced the Eir phone boxes noting that he had been in contact with City Hall on a possible use going forward for crime prevention and safety messaging, noting their suitable and prime locations to have messages on display. He further noted that the National Crime Prevention Office had some great work in compiling new material which could be used once these are up and running.

*Objective No. 4 - Continue to support the existing and new safety networks with a view to crime prevention, updated as ongoing in line with and in tandem with the other objectives.*

- Ms. Caitriona Morgan to follow up with colleagues in the Planning Department on the engagement on designing out crime.
- Sgt. Mick Walsh to follow up on the *Crime Prevention Ambassador Programme* (led by older people who offer peer support).

## **2. Update on the Galway City Covid-19 Community Response**

Ms. Caitriona Morgan gave an update on the Galway City COVID-19 Community response which she circulated previously, which highlights that the Community Response Forums final meeting will take place in mid-October. She made reference to the third level student COVID-19 vaccination clinics, in addition to the number and range of HSE supports and programmes that are taking place during October 2021. She also made reference to Positive Ageing Week and the local exhibition in display in the Eyre Square Shopping Centre and Fire Safety Week 2021.

## **3. Any other Business**

It was agreed and noted that Cllr. Mike Cubbard would give a verbal update on the above to the JPC at their next meeting being held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021.