



## **Galway City Joint Policing Subcommittee 4 - To Devise & Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City**

**Date:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
**In attendance:** Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Cllr. Owen Hanley, Cllr. Niall Murphy, Sgt. Darragh Browne, Ms. Nichola Tierney, Mr. Vusi Thabethe, Ms. Angela Breslin, Ms. Emma Johnston

**Apologies:** Mr. Cameron Keighron

Chairperson Mr. Tommy Flaherty welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Angela Breslin noted the above apologies.

### **1. Minutes of JPC Subcommittee 4 held on Wednesday 11th March 2021**

The minutes of the last meeting of subcommittee 4 - To Devise & Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 were approved on the proposal of Ms. Nichola Tierney and seconded by Cllr. Niall Murphy.

### **2. Review of JPC Subcommittee 4 Work plan 2021 within the context of COVID-19 & planning for strategic responses to COVID-19**

In relation to the strategic objectives from the above work plan the below points were noted;

- Objective 1) Initiative to support the elderly and vulnerable people with the Community Gardaí is still ongoing with more regular visits and calls. It is hoped that in September/October that a day trip can be organised.
- Objective 2) Mr. Vusi Thabethe & Sgt. Darragh Browne organised a soccer match which was very successful and welcomed by all members of the community involved.
- Objective 3) JPC meetings in each of the local communities is still dependent on COVID19 restrictions.
- Objective 4) Waiting invite from Claddagh Watch as it is not feasible to have members join at present due to safety reasons.

In relation to the strategic objectives from the above work plan the below idea's to be actioned throughout the year were noted;

- Clean up in areas where needed, with members of this group offering to get involved and help out with same.
- Sports Street League with the hope to make it an annual tradition liaising with various relevant groups and to secure sponsorship.
- Bike Safety Initiative to bring awareness to both road users and cyclists with the hope of teaming up with the RSA and Guards who use bikes to get the message across.

### **3. Update on the Galway City COVID-19 Community Response Forum**

Ms. Angela Breslin gave an update on the Galway City COVID-19 Community response, which noted that it continues to meet monthly to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience and to ensure that there is a coordinated community response, enabling all the voluntary and statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities and particularly our most vulnerable members.

Ms. Angela Breslin also gave an update on the Galway City COVID-19 Community Call Helpline, noting that it continues to provide a dedicated community response helpline to ensure that all vulnerable members of our community are appropriately supported as we move through the response to COVID-19. The Helpline is operational from 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday by Free phone 1800 400 150 and email to [covidsupport@galwaycity.ie](mailto:covidsupport@galwaycity.ie). Outside of normal working hours, including weekends, calls / requests will automatically route to our out of hours call service and are dealt with accordingly. A key purpose of the Helpline is to ensure that older people and those who are vulnerable in our community have access to very practical supports such as groceries, meals on wheels, medication collection and social supports / engagement. The Helpline has dealt with over 1,100 requests to date and the importance of a local response in this regard is essential.

### **4. Any other Business**

It was agreed by all that the next subcommittee meeting will take place on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 3.00pm.

It was noted and agreed that as Chair Mr. Tommy Flaherty would give a verbal report back to the Galway City JPC at their next meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.