



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

Meeting held on Thursday 11th March 2021 at 2.30 pm online via MS Teams

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| In Attendance: | Sgt. Darragh Browne, An Garda Síochána Cllr. Owen Hanley, Galway City Council Ms. Nichola Tierney, Galway City Community Network Mr. Cameron Keighron, Galway City Community Network Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council Ms. Emma Johnston, Galway City Council |
| Apologies: | Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Galway City Community Network Cllr. Niall Murphy, Galway City Council |

Ms. T. Donohue noted the apologies from Cllr. Niall Murphy, Sgt. D Browne noted the apologies from Mr Tommy Flaherty and advised that he would act as Chairperson in Tommy's absence.

Chairperson Sgt. Darragh Browne invited attendees to introduce themselves and welcomed everyone.

1. Minutes of JPC Subcommittee 4 held on Wednesday 10th June 2020

The minutes of the last meeting of subcommittee 4 - To Devise & Support Community Engagement models of best practise in Galway City held on 10th June 2020 were approved on the proposal of Cllr. O. Hanley and seconded by Ms. N. Tierney.

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

Cllr. Hanley raised concern that the JPC Strategic Plan is out of date since 2020 and questioned what objectives the subcommittee could pursue.

Ms T. Donohue advised that we can focus on the work plan template that was used for 2020 and update the template with objectives that the subcommittee would like to achieve in 2021. She also noted that there has been no new guidelines received from the Department of Justice to date regarding the Strategic Plan and this would be followed up on. Ms. T. Donohue shared the Work Plan Template for 2020 with members and advised that the website continues to be updated with agendas and minutes. It was also agreed to use all social media platforms to promote community events as they occur.

Sgt. D. Browne advised that Garda Alan Regan is in regular contact with the elderly by phone and vulnerable members of the community and if there is no response that the Gardai on duty follow up and call to their homes. This is working very well and is a credit to the community response forum for bringing all agencies together. Ms N. Tierney stated it has been a life line and getting great feedback.

Sgt. D. Browne also stated that Community Gardai engage with residents in estates, neighbourhood watch, school talks, carry out checks in Ceannt Station, Terryland Forest Park, and engage with other outside agencies. If there are any issues, the Gardai help to resolve problems.

Sgt. D. Browne suggested that community events resume in Q3/Q4 if restrictions allow so, as they work extremely well. It was discussed that if an event calendar was circulated, the subcommittee could review and come back with specific dates they would like celebrated, and possibly leave 1 or 2 events per month to focus on so it could be received by the community fully.

It was agreed to follow up with GCCN to seek a nominee to represent Ethnic Minority Groups on the subcommittee. It was advised that there is a Garda Ethnic Liaison Officer based in the city.

Cllr. O. Hanley stated groups have reached out to him to express their deep concerns on the loss of life in the river and put it forward that this be something that the subcommittee could focus on for 2021. Sgt. D. Browne stated he would ask a representative from the Claddagh Watch group to join the next subcommittee meeting and give a presentation.

Ms N. Tierney asked if new Garda recruits receive training on suicide prevention, Sgt Browne stated they do but all training has been put on pause due to Covid19, but he would follow up on it for the next meeting.

Sgt. D. Browne also suggested that Sgt. Mick Walsh give a presentation at the next subcommittee meeting to discuss anti-Social Behaviour and to update the subcommittee on the work that is been done. This would answer concerns raised by Mr. C. Keighron on how the Gardai can support the community and how they can work together to provide a safe environment.

A public meeting is proposed for the end of the year if restrictions have eased and vaccinations go according to plan.

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

Ms T. Donohue noted that community response forum are still meeting every second Thursday and that the next meeting will be held next Thursday. The helpline is ongoing daily and being received very well.

Cllr. Hanley asked how the community response forum could be retained. Ms T. Donohue stated that the recent NESC report that was launched recently gave extremely positive feedback and stated that the cross agency approach was working very well. Ms T. Donohue said she would share the NEIC report with the subcommittee.

Ms. T. Donohue also made reference to the White Paper on Ending Direct Provision and its impact on Local Government and the Mayor's Awards for 2021 with the event taking place online.

Reference was also made to the recent funding initiatives that have been launched which includes HSE National Lottery Grant Scheme, €1m fund for Community Development Pilot Projects and Covid

19 Stability Funding for community and voluntary groups. Ms T. Donohue said she would share this information with the subcommittee.

Ms T. Donohue raised awareness on the Galway Age Friendly Programme and that Age Friendly Ireland have been working with Slaintecare in the Department of Health around a joint delivery programme 'Healthy Homes Programme - Phase 1' which involves 9 local Healthy Homes Coordinators and 1 National Manager Role. Galway has been selected for one of the local coordinator roles which is very welcome. It is hoped that the Co-ordinator will be in place in Q2. It was suggested that is Co-ordinator could be invited to present at this subcommittee later in the year.

4. Any other Business

Sgt. D. Browne highlighted the Garda Youth Awards and anyone with nominations to get in contact and the event will take place via Zoom.

The next subcommittee meeting was confirmed for Thursday 22nd April at 2.30pm (time to be confirmed to suit all parties closer to the meeting)