



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

Meeting held on Wednesday 10th June 2020 at 12.00 pm online via Zoom

In Attendance: Mr. Tommy Flaherty, Galway City Community Network
Cllr. Owen Hanley,
Sen. Pauline O'Reilly,
Mr. Cameron Keighron, Galway City Community Network
Sgt. Darragh Browne, An Garda Síochána
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council
Ms. Máire Mortimer, Galway City Council

Apologies: Ms. Nichola Tierney, Galway City Community Network

Ms. Theresa Donohue reiterated the protocol agreed by the Procedures Committee at Galway City Council issued prior to the meeting.

Ms. Theresa Donohue noted the apologies from Ms. Nichola Tierney.

Mr. Tommy Flaherty was approved as chairperson of the subcommittee by the other committee members.

Chairperson Mr. Tommy Flaherty invited attendees to introduce themselves and welcomed everyone.

1. Review of JPC Subcommittee 4 Work plan 2020 within the context of COVID-19 & planning for strategic responses to COVID-19

In relation to the four Strategic Objectives highlighted in the JPC Subcommittee 4 Work plan 2020, the following points were noted:

- The updating of the Galway City Council – JPC website is ongoing – the agendas and minutes from each JPC meeting since 2019 are being collated. Galway City Community Network will also link to the page and share the information on their website.
- Galway City Council's social media platform has been a very useful tool during the Covid-19 pandemic in updating members of the public of important information.
- The National Age Friendly Alliance website has now gone live and includes a portal for the Galway Age Friendly Programme.

- A socially distanced meet up in libraries for older people who may have felt isolated during the Covid-19 pandemic has been proposed.
- An Garda Síochána have an Older Person's Register and they have been making contact with older people on this register on a continuous and regular basis during the pandemic.
- As the restrictions ease, it is intended that there will be more community initiatives for older people as the restrictions have had a big impact on them.
- Galway City Partnership also had an initiative to give computers to those who were cocooning and allowing them to have access to the internet.
- At the next subcommittee meeting once restrictions have hopefully eased even more, there will be more to be discussed in relation to the Strategic Objectives.
- Africa Day 2020 took place online on May 25th 2020.
- World Refugee Day is set to take place on June 20th 2020. An Garda Síochána are looking for suggestions as to what can be done to celebrate the day.
- In light of the Black Lives Matter movement taking place throughout the world at the moment, it would be prudent to reach out to organisations to see how they would like to mark the day.
- The subcommittee should show that they are actively pursuing anti-racist policies, as well as supporting World Refugee Day.
- It was suggested that external members from different ethnicities could join the subcommittee and it was agreed that Galway City Community Network would take the lead on this action.
- A cross community meeting could be planned in the future to ensure all the voices of the communities are being heard and involved in the decision making.
- Youth involvement in these meetings is very important.
- An Garda Síochána should take a register of the number of Gardai who are able to speak languages other than English and Irish.
- The number of instances of racist attacks in Galway City and County, the number of those who report these attacks and what can be done to help the victims is a priority for Galway City Community Network.
- A second public meeting is proposed for the end of the year if restrictions have eased.

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

Ms. Theresa Donohue gave an update on the Galway City COVID-19 Community Response Forum, co-ordinated and led out by Galway City Council as required, which was welcomed. The purpose and role of the Forum which includes over a twenty agencies, organisations and community and voluntary groups was highlighted which is to lead the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience and to ensure that there is a co-ordinated community response, enabling all the voluntary and statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities and particularly our most vulnerable members. She advised that the operating hours of the COVID-19 Community Call Helpline had been changed and the new times are from 9.00am to 5.00pm, 7 days a week by Freephone to 1800 400 150. She also gave a brief update on the Galway City Council Mobility Team who are considering and responding to requests for the allocation/re-allocation of road and other public spaces to facilitate social

distancing requirements associated with COVID-19 restrictions. She advised that submissions can be made online on the city council website.

Sgt. Darragh Browne noted that the forum has been very helpful to An Gardaí Síochana during the Covid-19 pandemic as regards delivery of essential items to members of the public.

3. Any other Business

It was noted that the new strategic plan is due to be drafted at the end of this year and the current restrictions would possibly change the approach to the plan.

Mr. Tommy Flaherty questioned how members of the public are being facilitated in observing the next JPC meeting on Monday 22nd June 2020 via zoom.

It was agreed that the next subcommittee meeting be on Wednesday 2nd September 2020.

It was agreed that work plan template be issued to the JPC before the next meeting on Monday 22nd June 2020.