



***Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on 3rd November 2021 at 3.00pm (MS Teams)***

Present:

Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive, Galway City Council
Mr. Declan Brassil, Galway City Partnership
Ms. Anne O' Neill, Health Service Executive West
Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Galway City Council
Cllr. Owen Hanley, Galway City Council
Mr. James Coyne, Galway City Community Network
Ms. Anne Marie Stokes, Galway City Community Network
Ms. Lorraine Grimes, Galway City Community Network
Mr. Frank Greene, Galway Chamber
Ms. Elaine Harvey (Chairperson), Trade Union

Apologies:

Ms. Breda Fox, Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Sinead Morgan, GRETB
Ms. Regina Higgins, Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms. Maria Molloy, Galway City Community Network

In attendance:

Ms. Ruth McNally, Director of Services
Ms. Caitriona Morgan (LCDC Chief Officer), Galway City Council
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council
Ms. Angela Breslin, Galway City Council
Ms. Orlaith Lawless, Galway City Council
Ms. Duana Tuite, Galway City Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Elaine Harvey, Chairperson welcomed all members to the meeting and apologies were noted as above. Ms. Elaine Harvey introduced and welcomed Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive, Galway City Council onto the LCDC. She noted that since the last meeting Mr. Brian Barrett had changed roles within Galway City Council and as a result is no longer a member of the LCDC. She thanked and acknowledged his contribution and input onto the LCDC over the last while. Ms. Elaine Harvey also advised that Ms. Lorraine Grimes would be resigning from the LCDC due to work commitments and that the Chief Officer had been in contact with the Galway City Community Network (GCCN) to seek their replacement onto the LCDC. She also thanked Ms. Lorraine Grimes for her contribution during the meetings over the last couple of months and wished her well.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Galway City LCDC meeting held on 15th September 2021

In terms of Matters Arising Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised that an application for funding had been submitted by a number of partners under Strand 2 of the DRCD ARISE fund, which had a closing date

of 20th October 2021. She noted that the proposed project aims to recognise and further enhance awareness of social enterprises in the West Region.

The minutes of the Meeting held on 15th September 2021 were:

Proposed: Cllr. Martina O'Connor

Seconded: Cllr. Owen Hanley

And agreed by members.

3. Implementation Plan for Galway City LECP 2020-2021

(i) Flagship Six: Develop and monitor implementation of a rolling action plan for the city that achieves the relevant standards set in the UN CRPD

Ms. Theresa Donohue introduced this item on the agenda and welcomed Ms. Fiona Neary to the meeting and advised members that Ms. Fiona Neary will give an update on Flagship Six. Ms. Fiona Neary updated members on this action and advised that since April 2021, she had attended a meeting with the Access for All Officer in Galway City Partnership, Disability Federation of Ireland and GCCN to consider how to progress this Flagship. It was hoped that, following communications training on *'Using the UNCRPD as an awareness raising tool'* members of Access for All could take up a lead role on this Flagship. The training was successful, with 15 participants attending and also highlighted the complexity of the convention. She noted other areas of focus, including a proposal to organise a seminar for members of the Flagship and Elected Members, noting that a survey has been prepared that could be used to identify awareness levels of the various members regarding UNCRPD. She noted the Access for All Officer for Galway City Council and the importance that this is a dedicated full time role with resources available. She also noted some models followed by some other local authorities in terms of access strategies. Finally she advised that following a meeting in September 2021 and discussion on a lead partner it was noted that it was not feasible for Access for All to lead on this Flagship, noting that the lead partner for this should be Galway City Council through the Access Officer. She advised that she would follow up with the Access Officer in Galway City Council.

Cllr. Owen Hanley asked if they had consulted with other organisations or local resident groups on how they might input, respond and engage with any issues they may face. Ms. Fiona Neary advised that local residents and people in Galway City who are having access issues are indeed members of Access for All and are positively engaging in multiple ways with various agencies.

Following a number of queries Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised that Galway City Council would be submitting an application for funding under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021 as recently announced, noting the purposes of the Fund and a focus to build awareness and capacity around the UNCRPD. In relation to staffing resources Ms. Ruth McNally advised that Galway City Council had recently developed a strategic workforce plan based on a model developed by DPER, noting that the model is extensive with a number of requirements to fulfil.

(ii) Seed Four: Reconvene the Galway City Traveller Inter-agency Group

Ms. Theresa Donohue introduced this item on the agenda and advised members that Mr. Declan Brassil would give an update on Seed Four. Mr. Declan Brassil updated the members on this action and advised that the Steering group had reconvened in November 2020 under the lead of Galway City Partnership, meeting five times since then. The core membership of the Galway City Traveller Interagency Group (TIG) was outlined and he advised that a working draft strategy had been prepared focussing on 3 key objectives as outlined to the meeting. In relation to Objective 1 Maintain Traveller focus in all working groups and committees within the LECP that can impact progress for Travellers in Galway City he advised that he had written to all LECP lead partners asking for their support in maintaining a Traveller focus in all LECP work and offering support where needed, noting no replies

had been received. In relation to Objective 2 Determine current level of practice within public services and based on data, develop initiative to support responding to Traveller Identity and Culture in Services Provision. (NTRIS Objective Anti-Discrimination and Equality) he noted that a survey was circulated to agencies in this regard advising that 11 replies from 8 agencies was being collated. Finally in relation to Objective 3 Advance new narratives about the Traveller Community, to address the pervasive negative public attitudes he noted that members were exploring how best to do this through social media campaign and getting advice and costing on same. Following some queries in relation to the social media campaign Ms. Morgan noted the SICAP Stories campaign that was held during May 2021 and advised to link in with Pobal to seek guidance and information on this as this might assist.

Following a query from Cllr. Martina O' Connor on membership of the TIG, Mr. Brassil advised that traveller representatives are on the group and actively engaging.

Ms. Theresa Donohue thanked all the members for their input into the LECP progress report for Q3 2021 as circulated. She also advised that a list of lead partners and their supporting partners had also been circulated as requested. Ms. Elaine Harvey noted that the status of Seed 2 in the LECP progress report needs to be changed as this committee are not meeting due to the lack of engagement from the Department of Social Protection.

4. Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

i. 2022 Annual Planning Guidance

Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised that since the last LCDC meeting guidance had been received from Pobal in relation to the above. She noted that the process as set out provides Galway City Partnership with an opportunity to reflect on their work and identify emerging trends to be addressed. She also noted that in light of the ongoing challenges of Covid-19 and the announcement by the Minister of a one year extension to SICAP earlier in the year, a mid-programme review & statement of priorities forms part of the process for this year. She further noted that 2022 targets should remain the same as the 2021 targets agreed in January of this year for the 2021 Annual Plan. She reminded the members of these targets, also noting that the 2022 budget was increased nationally by 10% and they were awaiting further clarity from the DRCD on this. Ms. Caitriona Morgan then outlined the timeline for uploading and reviewing the SICAP 2022 Annual Plan as set out, noting that following the approval in principle the LCDC must make a decision on the formal approval by 28th February 2022.

ii. SICAP Mid-Programme Review & Statement of Priorities

Cllr. Martina O'Connor, on behalf of the LCDC SICAP Subgroup gave a verbal update. She advised that the above was the focus of the annual engagement meeting with Pobal which was held online on 6th October 2021. She noted that the purpose of the meeting focused primarily on the SICAP Mid-Programme Review, in line with the guidance note that issued to the LCDC in advance seeking their input / feedback into the process, in particular on considering and identifying priorities for the Galway City Lot for 2022/2023. She advised that the Pobal Development Co-Ordinator facilitated the meeting and discussion, largely informed by the 2021 Social Inclusion Analysis Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr. Martina O'Connor again noted that the 2022 targets will remain the same as the 2021 targets and a detailed discussion followed on local priorities for 2022 and 2023. She advised that the following priorities were agreed for further discussion and review by Galway City Partnership in line with the timeframe as set out:

- Mental Health (including youth)
- Long Term Unemployed
- Travellers /Roma

She advised that Galway City Partnership will develop a statement of priorities for the remainder of SICAP on this basis, as agreed and this statement will inform the strategy and actions of the SICAP annual plan for 2022 and 2023. Finally and in addition following discussion on the emerging needs group for 2022 it was agreed that this would continue to focus on Older People.

iii. LCDC SICAP Subgroup - Appointment of One (1) Member

Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised that this was raised at a previous meeting of the LCDC, inviting one nominee to join the LCDC SCIAP Subgroup. Ms. Elaine Harvey put herself forward for this, which was seconded by Cllr. Martina O'Connor and agreed.

iv. SICAP 2021 Case Study Video entitled 'Here Am I' <https://youtu.be/qfpFddP2ssM>

Mr. Declan Brassil updated the members on the above as submitted to Pobal noting that the link to view the video had circulated in advance of the meeting. He reminded members that the focus of the case study video was older people, reflecting the collaborative nature of the work undertaken by the SICAP team. He referred to the personal testimonials in the video, illustrating very clearly how individuals benefited from the support and work. It was agreed by the members to watch the video under A.O.B.

5. Dormant Accounts Fund Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021

Ms. Caitriona Morgan reminded members that Galway City was allocated €19,805 under the Dormant Accounts Fund Social Enterprise Capital Grants scheme. She outlined the application process and approach as agreed at the last LCDC meeting in line with the timeline for same as set out by the DRCD. She referred to the report on funding recommendations from the LCDC Subcommittee submitted to the DRCD as required. She reminded members on conflict of interest on this item. At this stage the both Ms. Elaine Harvey and Mr. James Coyne declared a conflict of interest in this item.

Cllr. Owen Hanley, on behalf of the LCDC Subcommittee gave a verbal update to members following their meeting held online on 20th October 2021. He advised that 13 applications has been received, noting that one of these applications had withdrawn itself. He outlined the approach taken as part of the assessment which included using the definition of a social enterprise along with the DRCD assessment template with rankings as outlined. He advised that as outlined in the report the total number of applications recommended to the DRCD for funding is 8, totalling the allocation. The remaining 4 applications were also submitted with a note included alongside each one. On the proposal of Cllr. Owen Hanley and seconded by Mr. Declan Brassil the report on funding recommendations submitted to the DRCD for their approval was agreed.

Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised that the list as set out had been submitted to the DRCD in line with their timeframe, with approval from the DRCD due by 12th November 2021. Applicants will then be notified of their approval by the LCDC support staff and any unsuccessful applicant will also be advised, with advice / information on other funding / support that might be of relevance to them. With reference to some of the unsuccessful applications, Ms. Anne O'Neill noted that the HSE National Lottery Grants Scheme maybe a suitable funding support.

6. Healthy Galway City

Ms. Theresa Donohue referred to the Healthy Galway City report which had circulated in advance of the meeting, noting the following key updates since the last LCDC meeting. The new Healthy Galway City Coordinator has been appointed, with Aisling Colreavy taking up the role on Monday 8th November 2021. Recent correspondence received from Pobal advised that a further extension to the timeframe for delivery of activities under the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3/Community Mental

Health Fund (CMHF) from 31st December 2021 to 31st March 2022. The purpose of this 3 month extension is to provide additional time for the delivery of approved actions/activities and the achievement of full spend under HIF Round 3, and to facilitate planning for Healthy Ireland Round 4. She noted that the Department of Health had recently asked Pobal to assist with the design of a successor programme to HIF Round 3. This work will take place in Q4 2021, and there will be engagement with the LCDC and HI Co-ordinators to get input on the design of a new Round. Local planning to facilitate the introduction of the next programme is anticipated in Q1 2022. Once the design is complete, there will be further engagement with LCDCs to facilitate the introduction of the next programme during 2022. She referred to the written report which provides detailed updates in relation to the five actions. Finally she advised that Amach have recruited a new coordinator to support the completion of actions under Round 3, with Grace O'Shea starting in this role on 18th October 2021. Finally she noted details on a new campaign that had launched by Healthy Ireland called 'Let's Get Set Campaign' which encourages us all to set a healthier routine over the coming months.

7. COVID-19 Community Response / Community Department

Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised members that recent communication received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage noted no longer a need to continue the operation of the Community Response Forum. She advised that Galway City Council had recently commissioned an independent review of the Galway City COVID-19 Community Response Forum, noting the purpose and scope of this. Following a query from Ms. Elaine Harvey, Ms. Morgan advised that the report included other relevant updates from the Community Department in addition to the Community Call Helpline which continues to operate as outlined. She further noted that 12 projects were approved funding under the Local Community Festivals Grant Scheme for 2021 for a variety of events/festivals throughout the city organised by local residents. She also mentioned the upcoming launch of the 1st National Children's Awareness Week in addition to the approval of funding to Amach under the Dormant Accounts Fund 2021.

8. Any Other Business

Ms. Anne O'Neill advised that a HSE internal consultation in relation to the Healthy Ireland Fund, Round 4 had commenced.

Ms. Caitriona Morgan advised members of the Sports Club Grant Scheme which is open for applications and further details are on www.galwaycity.ie, noting the closing date is 7th November 2021. She also noted new training opportunities coming up in November and December in a new Creative Technologies project funded by Creative Ireland, details to circulate after the meeting.

Mr. Declan Brassil advised that GRET had run a course funded by the LCDC under the Covid-19 emergency funding and this had a beneficial impact for people on how to use the Acorn Tablets.

Members were advised that the date proposed for the next meeting of Galway City LCDC is Wednesday 15th December 2021 at 3.00pm.

The SICAP 2021 Case Study Video entitled 'Here Am I' was shown. The meeting then concluded.