

***Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on 14th September 2022 at 3.00pm (Council Chamber & Virtually on
MS Teams)***

Present:

Mr. Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive, Galway City Council
Ms. Elaine Harvey, (Chairperson), Trade Union
Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Galway City Council
Cllr. Owen Hanley, Galway City Council
Ms. Anne O'Neill, Health Service Executive West
Ms. Breda Fox, Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Mr. James Coyne, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Joanne Laffey, Galway City Community Network / PPN

Apologies:

Mr. Declan Brassil, Galway City Partnership
Ms. Regina Higgins, Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms. Anne Marie Stokes, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Mr. Oliver Daniels, Galway Chamber

In attendance:

Ms. Caitriona Morgan, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council
Mr. Brian Barrett, Galway City Council
Mr. Gary McMahon, Galway City Council
Ms. Sheelagh Murray, Galway City Council
Ms. Aisling Colreavy, Healthy Galway City Co-Ordinator, Galway City Council
Ms. Michelle Lyons, Galway City Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Elaine Harvey, Chairperson welcomed all members to the meeting and apologies were noted as above. The Chair advised that since the last meeting Aoibheann McCann had resigned as a member of the LCDC, as a result of her recent resignation from SCCUL Enterprises. The Chair paid thanks to her for her work and contributions to the LCDC. She advised that the Chief Officer had been in contact with the GCCN, seeking their replacement representative onto the LCDC and welcomed Joanne Laffey to the LCDC meeting as an interim representative from the GCCN. In addition, and as previously noted the Chief Officer had been in contact with the GCCN, seeking their replacement Environmental representative onto the LCDC. The Chair reminded all members of the online meeting protocol regarding the use of teleconferencing and video conferencing.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Galway City LCDC meeting held on 20th July 2022

Under matters arising Fiona McDonagh-Delaney referred to Item 6, requesting that the point raised by Declan Brassil at the meeting on the LECP Assessment and evidence book to support the Public Sector Duty review required as part of the LECP process is noted. Following a query from Anne O'Neill under Item 7, it was noted that the new official title is the Local Area Employment Service.

Caitriona Morgan confirmed that the DRCD had carried out their internal audit as advised during August 2022, noting that the verification visit took place in City Hall with 4 grants reviewed. She advised that as this is an internal audit the LCDC will not receive a report on the visit but the relevant unit in the DRCD may subsequently make contact if there are any material findings. The minutes of the Meeting held on 20th July 2022 were:

Proposed: Cllr. Owen Hanley

Seconded: Elaine Harvey

And agreed by all members.

3. Galway City Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

Brian Barrett provided members with an update, giving an overview and detail on the public consultation process and timeframe. He noted that the LECP Issues Paper went on public display for an initial period of four weeks from Monday 20th June 2022 until Friday 15th July 2022. Following a number of requests it was agreed to extend the public consultation period until the 26th August 2022. He outlined the advertising and the broad consultation process with relevant stakeholders, which included linkages with other work areas of the local authority. He advised that following a request from the GCCN an extension was agreed to the 30th September 2022 to facilitate their submission to reflect the pilot engagement initiative that they are undertaking under the Dormant Accounts Fund Engagement Project. In relation to the public consultation he advised that a total of 106 submission had been received; 69 of these were from individuals and 37 were from organisations spread across the five goals. He noted that the next step is to review and prepare a summary report on the public consultation process, to include an alignment where possible against existing programmes that could address areas highlighted in the submissions in addition to areas where there are gaps. This report would be prepared and presented to the LECP Advisory Steering Group towards the end of October 2022. It was agreed that a written update as given by Brian Barrett at the meeting would circulate to members and this would also include the membership of the LECP Advisory Steering Group as requested. Brian Barrett advised he will be circulating a written report for the November LCDC meeting.

4. Healthy Galway City – To receive an update

Aisling Colreavy, Healthy Galway City Coordinator gave an update to members as circulated. She noted the approval by Pobal under Round 3. In relation to Round 4 she referred to the key areas under the themes as approved for delivery by the end of December 2022, advising that many programmes are starting in September and October with key start dates noted. She highlighted in particular the calendar of events for Mental Health Awareness month (October 2022), which includes a Connect Café; guided walks and library events. She also gave an update on the projects, social mornings and creative classes taking place through additional funding approved to further promote health and wellbeing in Galway City. She responded to a couple of queries in relation to the Woodlands for Health therapy programme, the Connect Café model, Healthy Food Made Easy (HFME) tutor training, 'Colour in your Community' project and the identification of communities to get involved in this. In relation to Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) Round 4 framework, Anne O'Neill advised that this was expected to launch in early October 2022 with a longer 3 year timeframe. She referred to a core group of services that are being established in each area to support people's wellbeing within that community which include Healthy Food Made Easy, parents plus programmes and social prescribing.

5. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) – To hear an update

i. SICAP 2021 audit of Galway City Partnership

Sheelagh Murray updated members on this advising that Crowley's DFK had been appointed to conduct the SICAP 2021 audit of Galway City Partnership on behalf of Galway

City Council's Internal Audit Unit. She outlined the objective of the audit, in addition to the approach being taken. She advised that the audit commenced during August 2022 and will take a number of weeks to complete. At the completion of the audit, a draft report presenting findings and recommendations will be issued to Galway City Partnership for their review and attention. Crowley's DFK will report the results of their audit directly to the Head of Internal Audit in Galway City Council. The final internal audit report will then be forwarded to the LCDC.

In relation to the SICAP Audit for the years 2019 and 2020, Caitriona Morgan advised that this had concluded and all recommendations had been implemented in order to address the agreed actions.

ii. Pobal Annual Engagement Meeting

Sheelagh Murray provided members with an update on the above, noting that the meeting is due to be held on the 6th October 2022, facilitated by the Pobal Development Coordinator with LCDC SICAP Subgroup members requested to attend, along with LCDC support staff and Galway City Partnership. She advised that this annual meeting is an opportunity to engage directly with the Pobal Development Coordinator and discuss any issues arising with the implementation of SICAP throughout the year. In addition it also enables an informed discussion at a local level in preparation for the annual planning process and agreeing priorities for the coming year.

6. Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme Update & Interim Report – To receive a presentation

Caitriona Morgan introduced Francis Kane, Coordinator Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme Galway who presented an overview of the programme to members, which includes programme objectives, range of supports available, and referrals process. He advised that 160 referrals have been received to date for Galway City and went through the type of information and assistance provided in line with the adopted holistic person centred approach of the programme. He referred to the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Interim Report that was recently launched as circulated, which included findings and data collated from the 9 pilot sites involved in the programme which included Galway (City and County), noting key findings on the referrals into the programme since it commenced including supports provided, impacts in line with prevention, intervention and reaction. He also referred to key recommendations as outlined in the interim report. Finally he advised members on the referral process for Galway City in line with the referral form as circulated. Following a query from Fiona McDonagh-Delaney on whether or not the participant's data would show if people were from marginalised communities and availing of the services, Francis advised that in line with the programme, participant's data is on needs and support and doesn't go into background beyond age and address. He further advised that he is available to meet with any groups and members to raise awareness of the programme and types of services. Francis also responded to queries asked on the referral process and links back to him on this, budget and links with home help and other agencies.

7. Update on Galway City Ukrainian Community Response Forum – To hear an update

Brian Barrett gave a verbal update, noting an estimated 48,000 people have arrived in Ireland from Ukraine since February, with approximately 3,340 in Galway City and County. Currently in excess of 37,000 people have sought assistance with accommodation which includes a range of accommodation types and approximately 8,000 Ukrainian children have enrolled in schools. He advised that total arrivals in the past week were 800 refugees and this figure is expected to increase by the end of September. He outlined some of the key issues in relation to accommodation supply and capacity which included student

accommodation. He further outlined summary national data to date on PPSN issued, employment and sector and medical cards issued. In relation to the current pledge process he advised that significant work was done and ongoing on pledges with 106 properties pledged (shared and vacant) in Galway City with ongoing engagement and work being done with the Irish Red Cross, as implementing partner in matching refugees to pledges. He advised on the role and work that was ongoing through the Ukrainian Community Response Forum who were meeting regularly to ensure that issues and needs arising can be addressed and resolved in a co-ordinated manner, which included the recruitment and appointment since the last meeting of the Ukrainian Emergency Response Project Leader and Ukrainian Refugee Support Workers, employed by Galway City Partnership with funding from Galway City Council and SICAP. Brian Barrett responded to a number of accommodation related queries that were raised in relation to social housing, HAP and rent supplement in addition to up to date data on the number of refugees currently in Galway City. Following a query in relation to the recent visit to Galway City by Minister Joe O'Brien, Caitriona Morgan confirmed that he did attend a meeting with the Ukrainian Community Response Forum and heard first-hand the issues and challenges in relation to community supports and services in particular, in addition to the importance of funding for SICAP and other community supports needed in response to people arriving from Ukraine. Caitriona Morgan advised members that she will circulate the contact details of the Ukrainian support team to members.

8. Any Other Business

Caitriona Morgan advised members that the Domestic Abuse Western Regional Network are hosting a conference entitled 'A Community Response to Domestic Abuse' which is taking place on Friday 18th November 2022 in the Harbour Hotel, Galway. She also noted details on Social Inclusion Week, which is taking place from 17th October 2022 – 23rd October 2022 with details to circulate on this in addition to Positive Ageing Week, which is taking place from 25th September 2022 – 1st October 2022. Gary McMahon reminded members that the seventeenth Culture Night will take place on Friday 23rd September 2022 with the support of Galway City Council. There will be a wide range of free activities and events taking place across the city, further details available on <https://culturenight.ie/>.

The date for the next meeting of Galway City LCDC was noted for Wednesday 9th November 2022 starting at 3.00pm. The meeting then concluded.