

**Minutes of Galway City Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on 19th July 2023 at 3.00pm (Held virtually on MS Teams platform and
in Council Chamber)**

Present:

Ms. Elaine Harvey (Chairperson), Trade Union
Ms. Sinead Morgan, Galway & Roscommon ETB
Ms. Linda Sice Brogan, Galway City Partnership
Ms. Lorraine Lally, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Fiona McDonagh-Delaney, Galway City Community Network / PPN
Ms. Anne Marie Stokes, Galway City Community Network / PPN

Present Virtually:

Cllr. Alan Curran, Galway City Council
Cllr. Martina O'Connor, Galway City Council
Mr. Jason Craughwell, Galway City Council

Apologies:

Ms. Patricia Philbin, Interim Chief Executive, Galway City Council
Ms. Anne O' Neill, Health Service Executive West
Ms. Valerie Kelly, Local Enterprise Office
Ms. Joanne Laffey, Galway City Community Network/ PPN
Mr. James Coyne, Galway City Community Network/ PPN
Mr. Dermot Mahon, LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council

In attendance:

Ms. Caitriona Morgan, Acting LCDC Chief Officer, Galway City Council
Mr. Brian Barrett, Galway City Council
Ms. Theresa Donohue, Galway City Council
Ms. Aisling Colreavy, Healthy Galway City Co-Ordinator, Galway City Council
Mr. Liam Kitterick, Galway City Council
Ms. Chelsea McConn Joyce, Galway City Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Elaine Harvey, Chairperson introduced and welcomed all members to the meeting. The Chair welcomed new member Ms. Patricia Philbin, Interim Chief Executive following the recent retirement of Mr. Brendan McGrath. A minute of silence was then taken on the recent passing of former colleague and former Chief Officer of the LCDC, Mr. Peter Salmon, R.I.P who will be sadly missed. The Chair noted apologies received from Ms. P. Philbin, Ms. Valerie Kelly, Ms. Joanne Laffey and Ms. Anne O'Neill. The Chair noted that a recent notification had been received from the HSE advising that Ms. A. O Neill is retiring mid-July timeframe, with well wishes from members on her retirement. A replacement nominee had been sought from the HSE. Finally, as apologies had been noted from Mr. Dermot Mahon it was noted that Ms. C. Morgan was Acting LCDC Chief Officer for this meeting. Introductions were provided from all present.

**2. Confirmation of the minutes of the Galway City LCDC meeting held on 26th
April 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2023 were:

Proposed: Ms. Sinead Morgan
Seconded: Cllr. Martina O' Connor
And agreed by all members.

Mr. Liam Kitterick provided an update on the Community Recognition Fund under Matters Arising, advising that since the last LCDC meeting, the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) approved the application submitted by Galway City Council under this fund. The funding which is capital in nature is specifically targeted at projects that are located in areas that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants. He confirmed that Galway City Council were allocated €1.9 million to support several projects located across the city, noting that work is ongoing by the relevant departments responsible for delivering the projects with some of the projects due for completion in 2023 and some in 2024.

Ms. Aisling Colreavy gave an update on the WHO European Healthy Cities Network. She advised that the Healthy Galway City (HGC) Coordinator was selected as a rep on the Healthy Ireland Cities and Counties National Network, alongside Healthy Ireland Coordinators for Meath and Waterford Councils. It was noted at the previous meeting of the LCDC that there would be an openness towards exploring an application under the WHO European Healthy Cities (phase VII). Ms. A. Colreavy advised that she is communicating with Mr. Vinnie O'Shea to explore the option of Galway applying for inclusion to the European Healthy City under this phase.

3.(i) Approval of SICAP Mid-Year Review for 2023 – Mid-Year Progress Report & Guidance documents

Mr. L. Kitterick advised members that communication had been received from Pobal since the last meeting to assist the LCDC on the process to be followed in relation to the above. He noted the timelines and steps followed as circulated in the guidance. With reference to the SICAP Mid-Year Progress Report 2023 which was circulated in advance of the meeting he noted that the LCDC SICAP Subgroup had convened to carry out the Mid-Year Review for 2023, asking Ms. L. Sice Brogan to give a verbal update of progress to date as outlined. Ms. L. Sice Brogan reported positive feedback on progress as outlined in this report, noting the levels of achievement of the KPI's to date and advising that actions have been more achievable this year with most programmes being delivered in person.

At this stage and in line with conflict of interest in relation to this item, Ms. C. Morgan asked members to declare this. Ms. L. Sice Brogan declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting.

Ms. S. Morgan, on behalf of the LCDC SICAP Subgroup briefed members on progress to date, noting that the subgroup met online on 26th June 2023 to carry out the Mid-Year review and completed the checklist as required. She advised members on the financial and non-financial reports that were examined in detail, with checks completed as required. She noted in particular the achievement of targets, with expected targets achieved by the end of May 2023 in KPI 1 (Supporting Groups) at 64% and exceeded in KPI 2 (Supporting Individuals) at 64%, with the percentage from disadvantaged communities at 9.28%. Finally, she noted the feedback received from Pobal following their high-level review which was very positive and there were no issues identified. Overall and in line with very positive progress to date, the LCDC SICAP Subgroup recommended the approval of the SICAP Mid-Year Review 2023, as follows:

Proposed: Ms. Anne Marie Stokes
Seconded: Cllr. Alan Curran

And agreed by all members.

In response to a query raised by Ms. Lorraine Lally, Ms. C. Morgan advised that guidelines had been circulated and that all relevant documents are uploaded to the IRIS system by Galway City Partnership in line with the timeframe as set out. Thereafter all relevant documentation is circulated to the LCDC SICAP Subgroup in advance of their meeting, with the task of completing the checklist for onwards submission to Pobal. Ms. L. Sice Brogan then returned to the meeting.

3 (ii) SICAP 2023 Case Study

Mr. L. Kitterick introduced this item in line with the Case Study guidelines received from Pobal and as circulated to members, noting the purpose, thematic focus, methodology, submission process and timelines. He noted that the specific themes for the case study remain unchanged and that the focus should be on deepening the analysis under each of the themes as outlined in the guidance.

He advised that an initial discussion on a theme / proposal had taken place with Galway City Partnership as required, which had been circulated to members. Ms. L. Sice Brogan went through the proposal which will take the form of a Video & Narrative Study of the work carried out by the Community Response to Domestic Abuse Network over the period of study from 2018 to 2023. Mr L. Kitterick advised that the deadline for submitting the case study directly to Pobal was Friday, 6th October 2023.

Mr. Brian Barrett welcomed the case study theme and advised that the JPC crime statistics in Galway City for domestic violence is above the national average and that it is positive to see this case study being presented.

The proposal for the SICAP Case Study 2023 was agreed by all members.

Ms. C. Morgan added if any members wished to collaborate and assist on the case study that they should liaise with Galway City Partnership directly.

4. Update on Local Economic and Community Plan

Mr. B. Barrett gave an update on the Local Economic and Community Plan. He referred to the last meeting where Mr. D. Mahon went through the five high level goals and objectives. He advised that work is progressing on drafting actions across the Implementation Plans for the initial two-year period (2024 – 2025) that will deliver on the objectives as per the guidelines. Staff are engaging with internal and external stakeholders seeking their priority actions across the five high level goals over the next two years. He hoped to bring a written report to the committee at the next LCDC meeting in September seeking approval of the draft LECP Plan.

Ms. L. Lally asked if the draft could be sent out two weeks in advance of the next meeting to consult with reps. In response, Ms. C. Morgan informed that all documentation is circulated a week in advance of all meetings in line with standing orders. Ms. L. Lally referred to submissions made on the consultation and asked when there would be an end date of the plan. In response Mr. B. Barrett said that at the start of the LECP process the timeframe had been discussed and that we are on track with the timeframe.

In response to query raised by Ms. F. Delaney, Mr. B. Barrett responded with the format of the plan adding that there will be more clarity when actions are put into the plan and funding

programmes identified. An effort will be made to match back actions and activities to reflect issues that are raised. However, he said that we won't get all issues raised in the first action plan.

Ms. F. Delaney enquired as to how the actions are decided and Mr. B. Barrett responded that it would depend on the resources available. He said from the data on crime statistics, we know that domestic violence is an issue that needs to be flagged as a priority and that resources are needed to address that. Ms. C. Morgan reminded members that the LECP Advisory Steering Group is in place and that GCCN have a rep on this. The method and approaches can be discussed at this committee, who are due to meet in early September in advance of the LCDC and SPC meeting. Ms. E. Harvey said that this LECP should try to be more focussed with outputs being measured.

5. Healthy Galway City update

Healthy Galway City Coordinator, Ms. Aisling Colreavy provided a detailed update in line with the report that has circulated in advance. She advised that since the last LCDC meeting the Healthy Ireland (HI) Fund Local Strategy for Galway City 2023 – 2025 and the Healthy Galway City (HGC) Round 4 application have been approved by both Pobal and the Department of Health, with grant agreement signed in May 2023. She confirmed that the final budget allocation for 2023 is €78,122. The Healthy Galway City Steering Committee, a subgroup of the LCDC met in June 2023 to initiate strategic planning and meetings have been taking place with implementing partners (Galway Sports Partnership, Galway Traveller Movement and Galway City Partnership) with the aim of signing partnership agreements. A number of events and programmes have been delivered or are underway relating to health and wellbeing in the community.

In addition, she confirmed that Galway City Council were approved €10,000 by the Department of Health under the Period Poverty Project to deliver a pilot project relating to the provision of free period products in certain locations managed by Galway City Council. Finally two applications under the Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age Scheme 2023 have been approved as outlined in the report.

Ms. L. Sice Brogan added that a lot of work has gone into Healthy Galway City and all the projects are worthwhile Ms. C. Morgan noted that while additional funding is always welcome, the input and engagement from all partners is key to the delivery on their very beneficial programmes.

6. Intercultural Strategy Update

Ms. L. Sice Brogan introduced Ms. Manon Hubert who is working on the Bridge Project which is coordinated by Galway City Partnership and funded under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). She outlined briefly work that had taken place on the Intercultural Strategy, in line with research and work undertaken by Dr Lucy Michael. Ms. M. Hubert gave a presentation to update on the Intercultural Anti-Racism Strategy, which was developed to ensure an appropriate response to intercultural issues, challenge racism and promote a culturally diverse city. She spoke about work done to date, circulating some draft recommendations at the meeting.

Mr. B. Barrett noted that Galway City Council are currently recruiting for an Integration Support Coordinator and Integration Support Worker who will form part of the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT), noting the closing date of 3rd August 2023. He advised that these positions, once filled will be beneficial to supporting this area of work as engagement with

local service providers on needs and supports required is key to this role, in addition to engaging with the Community Response Forum in place.

7. Voices of young people in Ballinfoile – Video

Ms. L. Sice Brogan introduced Ms. Vernice Murray, Galway City Partnership and Ms. Aine Shanahan, Tusla to present the project and introduce a video on the Voices of Young People in Ballinfoile. Ms. A. Shanahan provided a background to the project, developed through the City North Child and Family Support Network (CFSN), a large area that covers Carrowbrowne, Bohermore, Ballinfoile and Ballybane. She outlined the needs analysis that was undertaken for the area, highlighting key issues and needs. She referred to existing resources that are there, through a GRET initiative funding two Foróige workers, covering an area with a growing population in the under 10 age category and an extra youth worker is needed. She acknowledged funding from Galway City Council / LCDC towards a taster project for the area, based on need and introduced the video that was created. Finally, she advised that the video and discussion on needs had taken place at a recent CYPSC meeting, seeking additional support.

Ms. V. Murray provided more detail on the taster project, stating how beneficial it was and that children got to try things they would never have got the opportunity to try before. She acknowledged the funding and support from Galway City Council / LCDC and a number of other organisations within the Ballinfoile area towards the project, noting that approx. 200 children and teenagers have benefited. She also outlined the benefits of having an extra post created in the area for a Youth activity worker. She added that Galway City Partnership are willing to host this position, but funding would be required from all partners.

Mr. B. Barrett advised that support will be provided to help marginalised communities through a number of programmes, for example Creative Communities, Arts, Healthy Galway City and Sports Partnership. He referred to the recent public consultation being undertaken by Galway City Council on a Green Spaces Strategy. This strategy will be used by the council to make and shape decisions such as making new playgrounds and outdoor facilities, whilst enhancing the natural and built heritage of Galway City.

It was agreed that the video could be shared to all members of the LCDC for their information only on the project, and not for resharing or other purposes.

8. Any Other Business

Ms. Theresa Donohue advised members that a LCDC networking event will take place on Thursday 7th September 2023 in Athlone Springs Hotel with further details to follow.

Ms. T. Donohue noted that Tusla are holding an online information session for accommodation providers that host Ukrainians, taking place on Tuesday 25th July 2023 and that further details will be provided.

Ms. Fiona McDonagh Delaney advised that funding under the Community Development Project for AMACH! LGBTI+ has been approved for 2023. This core funding can be used to lease a building for AMACH!. Ms. C. Morgan advised that guidelines are due to issue from the DRCD to the LCDC within the next couple of weeks on this funding.

Ms. F. McDonagh Delaney also added that AMACH is applying for funding under the Community Services Funding Call 2023 for a community worker. The closing date is the 26th July 2023.

Ms. F. McDonagh Delaney advised that AMACH! are delighted to announce Galway's Rainbow Archive Exhibition which will be running throughout Galway Pride Week 2023. The exhibition will take place in the PorterShed, featuring archive materials from over the last 40 years of LGBTQ+ history in Galway. The exhibition will open from 8th August to the 11th August between 12 noon – 2 pm and 6 pm – 8 pm and to get in touch if you wish to register.

Mr. Jason Craughwell noted that the National Sport Capital Grants are soon to be active, and an online webinar will be held. Mr Brian Barrett added to make sure to register by the date which will be circulated.

The date for the next meeting of the LCDC was noted for Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 5:00pm online.

The meeting then concluded.