

## Galway City Local Community Safety LCSP Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Galway City Local Community Safety LCSP	
<b>Date:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<b>Time:</b>	11:00 am – 13:00 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Radisson RED Galway

<b>Attendance</b>	Cllr. Alan Cheevers, Cllr. Helen Ogbu, Cllr. John McDonagh, Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe, Cllr. Josie Forde, Cllr. Mike Cubbard, Supt. Patrick O Shea, Chief Executive Leonard Cleary, Derek Pender, John Donnellan, Cllr Níall McNelis, Eavan Schmidt Bleek, Michéal Durkin, Cathy Connolly, Margaret O’Riada, Gillian McNamee, Donal Lynch, Nichola Tierney, David Greeley, Islammiyah Saudique-Kadejo, Irene Murphy, Karen Ronan, John Callanan, Cameron Keighron
<b>Quorum:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr. Eddie Hoare, Shannon Glynn, Tommy Flaherty, Linda Sice Brogan, Michael Patrick Swan

### 1. Welcome Message

The inaugural meeting of the Galway City Local Community Safety LCSP (LCSP) was formally opened today by Chief Executive Leonard Cleary, who welcomed representatives from Galway City Council, An Garda Síochána, Tusla, community and voluntary organisations, and local residents.

Leonard Cleary highlighted that the LCSP, established under the Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024, represents a new chapter in building a safer, more connected Galway through collaboration and evidence-based action. He acknowledged strong engagement to date, including the induction meeting in October and discussions with Minister Jim O’Callaghan during his recent visit.

Key priorities identified for the Galway City Community Safety Plan include:

- Youth engagement
- Domestic and gender-based violence
- Supporting marginalised communities
- Urban safety

The agenda for the inaugural meeting included the election of a Chair and Vice Chair, updates from An Gardaí and Galway City Council, and opportunities for members to shape the direction of the LCSP.

Leonard Cleary encouraged open and respectful dialogue as the LCSP begins its work, before introducing a welcome message from Minister Jim O’Callaghan.

## 2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Two nominations were received for the position of Chairperson:

Cllr. Níall McNelis

Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe

A secret ballot was conducted with the following results:

- 2 spoiled votes
- 7 votes for Cllr. Seoighthe
- 17 votes for Cllr. McNelis

Outcome: Cllr. Níall McNelis was duly elected Chairperson of the Galway City Local Community Safety LCSP.

One nomination was received for the position of Vice-Chairperson:

Mr. Tommy Flaherty nomination was proposed by Nicola Tierney and seconded by Cllr. Helen Ogbu. As no other nominations were received, Mr. Flaherty's nomination was ratified in accordance with the guidelines.

Outcome: Mr. Tommy Flaherty was confirmed as Vice-Chairperson of the Galway City Local Community Safety LCSP.

Chief Executive Leonard Cleary handed the meeting over to Cllr. Níall McNelis and congratulated him.

## 3. Schedule of Meetings

The Chairperson advised that the LCSP would meet in person for the initial meetings and the members agreed that the meetings would take place without media attendance until the LCSP is fully operational and performing effectively.

The community safety coordinator proposed that meetings should run for approximately three and a half hours, similar to the pilot model, with six meetings per year. Members noted that the National Office for Community Safety (NOCS) will hold a meeting with the Minister for Chairs, Coordinators, and Administrators in early February. It was therefore agreed to schedule the next LCSP meeting in advance of this, on 21 January 2026.

Concerns were raised regarding space and location, as hotels are too costly and the Galway City Council Chamber is too small to accommodate the LCSP. A discussion took place on alternatives, including holding meetings in community venues that are bus accessible.

The CEO of Galway Chamber proposed that the next meeting be held in the

Galway Chamber, which was agreed. It was further agreed to alternate meetings between morning and evening times. Accordingly, the next meeting will take place on 21 January 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in Galway Chamber, and the April meeting will be scheduled for the evening.

Members were asked to agree a date for the closed meeting (elected representatives, T.D.'s and Senators). A discussion took place here it was suggested to hold the meeting before budget discussions, prior to the summer season with a recommendation that meetings should be held on Mondays or Fridays, as Wednesdays do not suit Oireachtas members. The Chairperson proposed June as the most suitable time.

The community safety coordinator reminded members that a statement had recently been issued regarding media attendance. Media are not permitted to attend the LCSP at this stage, as the LCSP is in its forming and storming phase of group development. An undertaking was given that press reports will be released following meetings. The National Office for Community Safety recommends that media attendance be deferred for 12 months to allow the LCSPs time to develop.

Finally, the Chairperson asked members to indicate if anyone is proficient in Irish, so that the LCSP can engage with Raidió na Gaeltachta/TG4.

#### **4. Adopt/Amend Documents**

The Terms of Reference were circulated in advance of the meeting. Margaret O'Riada proposed an amendment to include the Equality Statement, using the Council-adopted version, and this was seconded by Cllr. Eibhlin Seoighthe. Once the amendment was made, the Terms of Reference were adopted by Cllr. Josie Forde and seconded by Irene Murphy.

The Standing Orders were also discussed. It was agreed to amend Point 4/5 so that meetings would run for a maximum of three and a half hours, commencing at either 11:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m. In addition, Item 2 was amended to specify that meetings should take place in a public space. These amendments were proposed by Cllr. Mike Cubbard and seconded by David Greeley.

The Code of Conduct was circulated for consideration by members. It was agreed that Margaret O'Riada, Cameron Keighron, Cllr. Helen Ogbu, and Gillian McNamee would collaborate on drafting the Equality Statement. This was proposed by Cllr. Níall McNelis and seconded by Cllr. Helen Ogbu. The Chairperson requested that the amended document be circulated prior to the next meeting, noting that it must be signed.

Members were advised that, in line with guidelines, a Conflict of Interest document is required. A log must be maintained and submitted to the National Office. It was noted that administration of the Community Safety Fund has now moved to the National Office for Community Safety and may be administered

differently in the future, with further clarification to follow. The Chairperson reminded members of the need to declare any conflicts and to raise questions if uncertain.

Members discussed media and communications. It was noted that, under the Terms of Reference, the Chairperson would act as the media representative, and consideration was given to how direct media contact should be managed. It was clarified that members are not restricted from speaking to the media. Guidance on media engagement will be circulated to members. Suggestions included incorporating a training element and appointing a PR representative to liaise with the media. It was further noted that Galway City Council will shortly appoint a Head of Communications who can support the LCSP in media engagement. Media will be included as an item on the next agenda.

## **5. An Garda Síochána Presentation**

Members received an update on policing and community safety activities. It was noted that crime data is not a standing item on the LCSP agenda, as the focus is on listening and supporting rather than solely on policing matters. Increased Garda visibility was highlighted as contributing to a reduction in shop theft, supported by strong collaboration with local businesses. The Night-Time Economy remains a significant aspect of the city. Serious assaults have decreased, while public order incidents have risen. Actions relating to e-scooter use were referenced, with emphasis on the need for an education component. The success of the Garda dog in public areas through the transport and hubs project was noted. Seasonal events, including the Christmas Jumper Day, were safely managed. Community wardens continue to address low-level issues such as begging and busking effectively. Two neighbourhood watch meetings have taken place in the past 24 months, both with strong attendance. Burglary has decreased by 60%, while investigations into drug dealing are ongoing. Road safety initiatives included events at Leisureland and the Galway Races, with Vision Zero targets aiming for no road fatalities. The importance of shared road space was reiterated, alongside the presence of Campus Watch and Hospital Watch programmes. Coordination with the Local Authority regarding vehicle migration at large events and the creation of safe spaces was also emphasised.

Members were informed of the launch of a road safety GAA poster, available in Loughgeorge. It was suggested that Garda representatives liaise with the subgroups and that the Crime Prevention Office and Community Safety Officer be invited to present at future meetings. Increased visibility and cooperation with Gardaí were acknowledged. Appreciation was expressed for proactive policing work, including efforts in the East of the city, and the reduction in theft was noted. Concerns were raised regarding road safety, particularly bicycles without lights, which pose risks to motorists, including delivery cyclists. A local campaign addressing e-scooter use on footpaths was proposed. Members were advised that while previous action was not possible, a cyclist awareness plan is now in place, pending approval to proceed. Feedback from a recent event with delivery drivers indicated support for winter training, which is currently being progressed.

Members discussed opportunities for increased Garda-led meetings, noting concerns that the business community has largely ceased reporting incidents. Observations were made regarding the classification of bicycles, with reference to pedal use. It was acknowledged that Galway is perceived as safer compared to other cities, while recognising that further work is required and the importance of highlighting positive developments. Members were advised that Community Safety Fora will fall within the remit of the Local Community Safety LCSP once Section 115 of the Act is commenced. Suggestions included community safety walkarounds in poorly lit areas, improvements to yellow box visibility, and the provision of hotline signage to enable faster crime reporting. These actions were confirmed as part of the existing work plan. An update on pilot schemes will be provided at a future meeting.

Members acknowledged the positive impact of Garda presence in the east of the city and commended proactive approaches to community safety. Suggestions included running a social media safety campaign as a cost-effective measure. The importance of supporting Pride events, such as the March to the Arch, was highlighted, alongside concerns regarding the rise of far-right activity. It was noted that protests cannot be policed as they are a protected right. Proactive work in addressing issues related to cyclists and delivery drivers was acknowledged. A proposal was made to hold a Youth Safety Event focused on cycling and scooters. The availability of parks across the city and the opportunities they provide for community safety initiatives were also noted.

## **6. Community Safety Coordinator Update**

The Community Safety Coordinator advised members that the National Office for Community Safety, LCSP Coordinators and Administrators meetings have been taking place regularly. At the next meeting, queries will be raised regarding PR training and the guidance document.

Members were asked to review the issue paper circulated and provide any additions or feedback. The paper must be submitted to the Chief Executive for approval and returned by Friday. It was noted that a National Safety Plan must be in place by April 2026. The National Office has already conducted four townhall sessions, which have provided valuable data for planning.

Members were also requested to email key dates for upcoming events that may require collaboration.

A proposal was made to establish an Education Subgroup to appoint an education representative to the LCSP. During the discussion, three mandatory subgroups were identified as priorities: Education, Youth, and Business, reflecting their significance as the largest sectors in the city. Additional subgroups considered included Water Safety and Interdepartmental collaboration.

Concerns were raised regarding the level of representation from the education sector, noting its scale and importance. It was agreed that this matter should be addressed at national level, and the Chairperson committed to raising the issue with the Minister at the forthcoming National meeting.

### 8. AOB

Members discussed representation and communication matters. Guidance was requested on representing residents of Galway City, and it was agreed that engagement with residents would be facilitated, including obtaining consent to share Residents' Association contact details. It was further agreed that future agendas will reflect the community LCSP focus of the LCSP and will not include multiple items from statutory members.

The proposal to develop a newsletter was raised, and members agreed that this item would be considered at a later date.

Members were informed that copies of the *Staying Safe Online* booklet, produced by Stryve and Cope Galway, would be made available at the meeting, with a digital version also to be shared.

Finally, members agreed that their contact details could be shared among the group to support communication.

### Next Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> January 2026
<b>Time:</b>	11:00am to 2:30pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Galway Chamber

<b>Prepared by</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chelsea McConn Joyce Local Community Safety LCSP Administrator	Kelly Slattery Local Community Safety LCSP Coordinator

<b>Adopted by Galway City Local Community Safety LCSP</b>	<b>21/01/26</b>
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<b>Chairperson Signature</b>	
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### MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE LOG

<b>NAME SURNAME</b>	<b>Representative Body</b>	<b>In Attendance Yes/No</b>
1. Cllr. Alan Cheevers	Galway City East Electoral Area	Yes
2. Cllr. Helen Ogbu	Galway City East Electoral Area	Yes
3. Cllr. John McDonagh	Galway City Central Electoral Area	Yes
4. Cllr. Eibhlín Seoighthe	Galway City Central Electoral Area	Yes

5. Cllr. Eddie Hoare	Galway City Central Electoral Area	No
6. Cllr. Josie Forde	Galway City Central Electoral Area	Yes
7. Cllr. Mike Cubbard	Galway City Central Electoral Area	Yes
8. Supt. Patrick O'Shea	An Garda Síochána	Yes
9. Derek Pender	Galway City Council	Yes
10. Shannon Glynn	Health Service Executive	No
11. Cllr Níall McNelis	Preferred candidate in the Galway City safety partnership Chair Expression of Interest campaign	Yes
12. John Donnellan	TUSLA	Yes
13. Eavan Schmidt Bleek	Galway City Older Peoples Council	Yes
14. Michéal Durkin	Western Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force	Yes
15. Linda Sice Brogan	Galway City Partnership	No
16. Cathy Connolly	Galway Rape Crisis Centre	Yes
17. Margaret O'Riada	Galway Traveller Movement	Yes
18. Gillian McNamee	Cope Galway	Yes
19. Donal Lynch	Resident	Yes
20. Nichola Tierney	Resident	Yes
21. David Greeley	Resident	Yes
22. Tommy Flaherty	Galway City Community Network (PPN)	No
23. Islammiyah Saudique-Kadejo	Amdalah Africa Foundation	Yes
24. Irene Murphy	Youth Work Ireland Galway	Yes
25. Karen Ronan	Galway Chamber	Yes
26. John Callanan	Galway City Vintners Association	Yes
27. Cameron Keighron	Amach LGBTQI+	Yes
28. Michael Patrick Swan	Water Safety Advocate	No

<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>28/30 filled</b>	<b>2 Vacancy</b>
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5 apologies</b>
<b>% of Members in Attendance</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>23/30</b>

**Also in attendance:**

Leonard Cleary, Chief Executive (Galway City Council)

Kelly Slattery, Community Safety Coordinator (Galway City Council)

Chelsea McConn Joyce, Community Safety Administrator (Galway City Council)

