Galway City Local Community Safety LCSP Meeting 08th April 2026.

Galway City Local Community Safety LCSP	
Date:	08th April 2026
Time:	11:00 am – 2:30 pm
Venue:	Tusla Office, 25 Newcastle Rd, Galway

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

1. Welcome & Introductions

The Chairperson welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Morgan Mee also extended a welcome on behalf of Tusla and conveyed a message from John Donnellan, who wished to greet members following his recent retirement and expressed his continued support for the work of the Partnership.

Apologies were noted by the Chairperson.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 21st January were approved, having been proposed by Tommy Flaherty and seconded by Islammiyah Saudique-Kadejo.

3. Matters Arising

A member raised a query regarding the red-light traffic enforcement initiative currently being piloted in Dublin and whether a similar approach could be introduced in Galway. The coordinator confirmed that this matter will be referred to the interdepartmental team once established.

An update was provided on the Galway Safe App, with apologies noted from Michéal, who continues to support the work in the background. Members were informed that drug-related intimidation posters and leaflets were distributed at the recent Community Safety Clinic. Work on the NTE/Community Section notice boards is progressing, including the installation of a digital notice board in the City Library.

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The Community Safety Cycle Safety Event took place in Ballybane on 19 March, followed by a Community Safety Clinic held in Ballybane Library on 1 April. Work to identify a disability representative for the Partnership remains ongoing. It was confirmed that road safety will be referred to the interdepartmental team, along with queries relating to improved street lighting. The establishment of a Mental Health Subgroup will be discussed under AOB.

The Chairperson provided an update on the recent meeting in Dublin with Minister Jim O'Callaghan, which included discussions on LCSP legislation, the Mental Health Act, and national updates. Members were informed of the confirmed 25% overhead payment and a minimum €25,000 allocation to support community safety projects and events. The coordinator encouraged members to reach out with project ideas that may benefit from this funding.

Members reflected positively on the recent media training, noting its value and relevance. The coordinator advised that if members wish to participate in a future session, they are welcome to express their interest.

4. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were presented at the meeting

5. Presentations

Cope Galway

The Head of Domestic Abuse Services from Cope Galway delivered a presentation outlining the breadth of supports provided across the service. This included an overview of demand levels, the number of individuals seeking refuge, and the significant volume of cases where people could not be accommodated due to limited bed capacity. The service also works extensively with children and young people in schools, operates without a cap on access to support, and provides a 24/7 helpline.

A discussion followed regarding what happens after an individual first reaches out for help. Cope Galway provided a detailed explanation of the referral and support pathways. Members also discussed Operation Compass, the domestic abuse pilot currently underway in Drogheda. It was agreed that the Partnership should await the findings of the pilot before considering any local implementation. The coordinator confirmed she would raise this with the National Office.

The CEO of Galway City Partnership highlighted ongoing collaboration with the Galway Rape Crisis Centre, including the provision of English classes and opportunities for further partnership. Members discussed the importance of culturally sensitive training for migrants and the need to ensure accessibility of services.

The Chairperson asked whether there were specific ways the Partnership could support Cope Galway's work. Cope Galway advised that they are hosting a 'Safe and Together' training event for 100 participants on 6 May, and that Partnership

support would be welcomed. The coordinator confirmed that the LCSP would cover attendance costs for members wishing to participate, with further details to issue by email.

A further discussion took place regarding challenges faced by victims seeking barring orders. The Superintendent outlined the Garda role and the legal process involved. Cope Galway noted that additional training opportunities for staff can be made available. Members were also informed that a student will be joining Cope Galway for a six-week project examining the use of animals as a means of coercive control.

The upcoming Go Purple Day on 15 May, delivered in partnership with An Garda Síochána, was noted. The Partnership agreed to support this initiative.

HSE – Adult Safeguarding

The HSE Safeguarding Practitioner delivered a presentation outlining the safeguarding service, including the policy framework, reporting processes, and the various ways in which concerns can be raised.

A discussion followed regarding the scope of safeguarding. Members queried whether the service applies only to nursing homes or also to the wider community. The Practitioner confirmed that safeguarding covers both residential and community settings, including cases involving adult children and domestic abuse such as financial control. The HSE also provides safeguarding training to nursing homes.

A member highlighted the upcoming Safeguarding Conference taking place on 15 June in the Connacht Hotel and referenced recent changes to Enduring Power of Attorney. Another member asked whether the safeguarding team links with Local Authority housing policy. The Practitioner confirmed that they work closely with housing social workers where appropriate.

Concerns were raised about the lack of awareness among young adults turning 18, with members noting the need for greater public understanding of safeguarding. Additional concerns were expressed regarding limited resources across services, particularly in mental health, and the need for increased investment in mediation supports for community and family feuds.

The coordinator proposed hosting a safeguarding presentation at the Community Safety Expo to help build awareness and provide accessible information to the public. The HSE representative welcomed this suggestion and highlighted two key awareness dates:

- 15 June – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- 7 November – Adult Safeguarding Day

A member encouraged all attendees to register with the Decision Support Service, noting that registration can be completed online.It was agreed that once the presentation slides are shared with the LCSP team, they will be circulated to all members.

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6. General Items – Coordinator Updates

The coordinator provided updates on the National Community Safety Plan, noting that the national launch is expected in Q4 2026. An update was also given on the Local Community Safety Plan, with the public survey due to go live this week and a consultation plan currently in development. The intention is to launch the Local Plan following the publication of the National Plan.

Updates were provided on the work of the subcommittees:

- Education Subcommittee: Engagement is ongoing. Representatives from ETB, ATU and UoG have been selected. An information session for primary and secondary schools will take place on 15 April, with the first subcommittee meeting scheduled for 20 April. A priority for this group is securing an education representative on the Partnership.
- Business Subcommittee: The first meeting is scheduled for 14 April.
- Interdepartmental Team: A meeting is planned for the week ending 17 April.
- Water Safety Subcommittee: A meeting date is to be confirmed. The Chairperson welcomed the progress to date and noted that a boat has been purchased; the coordinator will circulate the related report after the meeting.
- Steering Group: The next meeting date will be confirmed.
- Youth Subcommittee: To be established.
- Mental Health Subcommittee: Establishment work is ongoing with Tusla, HSE, AGS, UoG and ATU.

The coordinator also outlined a series of upcoming events:

- Community Safety Age Friendly Clinic – AGS, LCSP, OPC, HAFH (1 April)
- Bicycle Safety Initiative – E-scooters, E-bikes and stationary repair kit, delivered with AGS, LCSP and LAIT (14 April)
- Recovery Hub Launch – 17 April (Pride of Place nominee). A representative from the Hub can be invited to present at a future meeting.
- First International Inclusive Recovery Cities Conference – 9 June, to be held in Galway.
- National Federation of Voluntary Service Providers – Safeguarding Conference – 21 April
- WRDATF Alcohol Forum Presentation – 22 April
- CYPSC Meeting – 24 April
- UL Youth Justice Event – 29 April (Hidden Voices networking). Members queried whether a visit to the CAST team in Limerick could be arranged; the Superintendent agreed to raise this with colleagues.
- AGS/IPAS Meeting – 18 May (third meeting)
- Lifesaver Event – 15–16 October
- Community Safety Expo – 26 October, in partnership with Age Friendly City & County and the County LCSP (venue TBC)

Supports:

- Cope Galway – Safe and Together Model Event (6 May): €2,000 approved.
- AGS Property Marking Tool: Purchased and awaiting delivery; training is

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expected to take place on 28 April.

The Chairperson highlighted the need for increased awareness and engagement around hate speech, particularly through youth groups and the Sports Partnership. The coordinator noted recent engagement at the Munster Avenue Safer Community Meeting and will report back to members. Work is ongoing with Sallyann on the Galway Safe leaflet, and discussions are underway with the OPC on developing a "Passport for Older People", providing key service information for home visits.

8. Members Interest Items

A request from the Galway City Council Central Area Meeting of 26 February 2026 regarding speed checks was discussed. The Superintendent expressed concern that such queries were being held until LCSP meetings, noting that operational matters require specific times, locations and prompt reporting, rather than being raised weeks later. Members agreed that these types of requests should be directed straight to An Garda Síochána rather than through the LCSP. The coordinator will follow up to ensure this is communicated appropriately.

Separately, members were informed of the upcoming "Clean and Proud Ballybane" event taking place on Friday, 10 April from 10:00–13:00. Youth participation is being encouraged, and a request was made to consider a youth-focused Ballybane event in the future. A member noted the importance of highlighting positive aspects of Ballybane, not solely issues such as littering. The Chairperson emphasised the value of community involvement and referenced opportunities to work towards Gold Star Tidy Towns recognition. An email with workshop details will be circulated to members.

8. Correspondence

The coordinator informed members that ALONE had contacted the Partnership expressing an interest in engaging with the LCSP. ALONE outlined their willingness to deliver a short presentation to the full Partnership on their work, the supports they provide locally, and the community safety issues affecting older people. They also indicated their openness to exploring future collaboration, including participation in any working group or subcommittee focused on older persons' issues, should this be of benefit.

Members agreed that ALONE would be invited to present at a future meeting.

9. National Community Safety Plan

The coordinator provided an update on the National Community Safety Plan, noting that its publication has been delayed until the end of Q4 2026. Members were informed that over 7,000 people completed the national survey, reflecting strong public engagement. The coordinator confirmed that work on the Local Community Safety Plan will continue in the interim.

A member highlighted the importance of ensuring that the Plan fully reflects the requirements of human rights and equality act. It was agreed that this member

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would join the Safety Plan Steering Committee to support this work.
10. AOB
The coordinator provided an update on the work to establish a Mental Health Subgroup, noting that desktop research has been completed and a draft decision paper outlining gaps and findings will be circulated to members following the meeting. Members were asked to review the paper and provide their views within two weeks, including whether they are in favour of establishing the subgroup. The Chairperson suggested that members meet for one hour prior to the next LCSP meeting to discuss the decision in more detail. The HSE representative confirmed that she would share the information with the relevant mental health leads within the HSE. She also highlighted the importance of aligning with the Healthy Ireland programme and strengthening health promotion efforts. Galway City Partnership expressed support for promoting positive mental health and indicated their willingness to collaborate. Members discussed potential statutory presentations for upcoming meetings. Suggestions included CYPSC, Planning, Housing, and Community Policing, with agreement to explore these options further. The meeting concluded with confirmation that the next LCSP meeting will take place on 8 July, with the venue to be confirmed.

Next Meeting	
Date:	8th July 2026
Time:	11:00am – 2:30pm
Venue:	TBC

Prepared by	**Name**
Chelsea McConn Joyce Local Community Safety LCSP Administrator	Kelly Slattery Local Community Safety LCSP Coordinator

Adopted by Galway City Local Community Safety LCSP	**DD/MM/YY**
Chairperson Signature	

MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE LOG

NAME SURNAME	Representative Body	In Attendance Yes/No

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Total Membership	**29/30 filled**	**1 Vacancy**
Total Attendance	**XX**	**X**
% of Members in Attendance	**X%**	**X/30**

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