

MEETING MINUTES

Cork City Local Community Safety Partnership	
Date:	Tuesday 30 th June 2026.
Time:	4.30pm.
Venue:	Cork City Council Chambers.

Attendance	18/30 (see list at end)
Quorum:	YES
Chaired by:	Cllr Terry Shannon
Apologies:	Lisa Murphy, Brenda Cahill, Joe Kirby, Rebecca Loughry (sent proxy-Martha Halbert), Fiona Hurley, Cormac O'Suilleabhain, Dan Boyle

a. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the LCSP meeting on the 3rd March were approved.

Proposed by: Cllr Joe Kavanagh.

Seconded by: Cllr Tony Fitzgerald.

b. Matters arising

None raised

c. Declarations of Interest

None raised

d. Presentations

(i) Presentation by David Lane (DL) (General Manager for Social Inclusion, HSE South West Cork and Kerry).

DL outlined his role covering Drug and Alcohol Services, Homeless Services, Migrant Health, Traveller and Roma Health and Community Work. DL mentioned that the new National Drugs Strategy 2026-2029¹ has been drafted and the final strategy will be published this year. DL highlighted the severity of alcohol addiction with almost 1.5k in hospital for treatment every week. His presentation highlighted the HSE services in Cork City including Arbour house, Heron House, St Mary's Campus (HSE Clinic for Under 18s), Coolmine, Matt Talbot and residential centres. DL spoke about the opportunity for partnership working with the LCSP.

(ii) Presentation by HSE – Cork DRIVE Coordinator

The Cork DRIVE Coordinator gave members an overview of the DRIVE programme. DRIVE (Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement) is an interagency project launched in 2023 and funded by the Department of Health to respond to drug related intimidation and associated violence. 24 task forces were established, and each assigned a lead. The work primarily deals with signposting families/individuals who are experiencing DRIVE to supports. It is the first programme of its kind in the world. The first data report was published last year².

¹ [An integrated, equitable and evidence-based response to drug and problem alcohol use National Drugs Strategy 2026-2029 v2](#)

² [DRIVE-First-Data-Report-2026-with-online-ISSN.pdf](#)

The DRIVE Coordinator is contacted, it was noted, mostly by mothers, for support and the role is to provide support and signposting to services including the option to report to An Garda Síochaná via a nominated Garda DRIVE Inspector. There are six nominated Garda DRIVE Inspectors for Cork & Kerry.

Q&A

CO'T requested an update of the planned Homeless Hub.

DL responded that the tender process was completed before Christmas, a site has been found. It is expected that it could cost approximately €1 million a year to run, but he is hopeful that there will be good progress made before the end of the year.

Cllr JK queried if the DRIVE Programme works with the Garda Drugs Squads locally.

DRIVE Lead responded to say no, they only work with the nominated Garda DRIVE Inspectors.

CB commented that many businesses in the city centre are aware of individuals who are experiencing addiction and are often concerned for their wellbeing and safety. CB enquired how businesses can get help and support for those people.

DL told her of the great work done by the HSE Drugs Outreach Officer, Frank Horgan who will engage with those experiencing addiction and try to link them up with services. He will also remove any drug litter on the street. **SMG** agreed to share Frank Horgan's contact details with members.

KH asked how we can work to change the public perception regarding the delivery of a Medically Supervised Injection Facility in Cork City?

DL acknowledged that there is public backing for a Medically Supervised Injection Facility at the moment due to levels of public IV Drug use and litter but anticipates that there may be local push back once a site has been identified. DL referenced the Dublin pilot which had positive impacts on the local community by reducing public IV drug use in the area as well as reducing overdoses.

e. Reports

(i) Guidelines for developing Local Safety Plans

SMG noted the guidelines have been published and shared with members via email. The guidelines emphasise the need for all LCSP members to be involved in developing their Local Safety Plans.

(ii) National Community Safety Public Survey findings for Cork City and County

SMG delivered a presentation summarising the National Community Safety Public Survey findings for Cork City and County which was shared with members via email. SMG highlighted how the findings of the national survey greatly mirror those of the local survey delivered by the LCSP which gives confidence in both despite the low sample size.

(iii) PCSA Policing Priorities 2026-2028 Consultations Outcome Report

SMG highlighted the recently released findings from the PCSA Policing Priorities 2026-2028 Consultations Outcome Report which was shared with members via email and played a section of the Conversation event.

f. General Items

(i) Update from National meeting in Athlone for Chairs & Vice-Chairs

Cllr TS noted that it was a great experience to meet other LCSP members from around the country. **Cllr CO'C** noted the difference between rural and urban safety concerns and also just how far along Cork City LCSP is in comparison to other partnerships.

- **National Strategy for Improving Community Safety**

SMG reminded members that the National Strategy for Improving Community Safety was significantly delayed and was due to be published in April. The National Office for Community Safety (NOCS) gave an update at the Athlone meeting to say there is no current timeline for its completion and LCSPs should go ahead and publish their Local Safety Plans without waiting for the strategy.

NOTE: Since this meeting, the NOCS advised that LCSPs need to wait for the National Strategy to be published before they publish their Local Safety Plans as they need to have 'regard for the National Strategy'.

- **Crime Data Hub**

SMG gave a demonstration of the soon to be launched Crime Data Hub.

- **MOU 2026**

SMG informed members that the MOU for 2026 has just been signed between the NOCS and Cork City Council. It includes an allocation of €35k to each LCSP which will have to be spent before the end of the year.

SMG noted that the money is to be used for activation costs for the Safety Partnership to facilitate engagement amongst partners and with the local community. This funding is not to be used for open grant making calls. The funding can be used for the development, publication and promotion of their Local Safety Plan, to support the Safety Partnership in developing collaborative relationships – for example contracting facilitators to do workshops; hosting a Safety Partnership 'away day'; costs for hosting Safety Partnership meetings in community or other locations; meeting refreshments, etc.

The funding can be used for interventions or activities that the Safety Partnership themselves wish to deliver on. For example, supporting a family fun day in a targeted area; activities to generate engagement with specific communities; hosting a coffee morning; buying materials

to support a project around road safety for children. Such activities should be decided by the Partnership, perhaps informed by learnings from your consultations.

(ii) Standing Orders – review members interest items process

Following a query made at the last meeting by Cllr DB regarding the process of submitting and getting responses to members items at meetings, updated Standing Orders were presented to members for discussion.

Existing Standing Orders related to Members Interest Items:

‘When a member wishes to include an item under Members Interest Items, an outline of the matter plus any related questions must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson not less than 7 days in advance of any meeting of the Partnership. (LCSP Standing Orders)’

Proposed Re-wording:

*‘When a member wishes to include an item under Members Interest Items, an outline of the matter plus any related questions must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson not less than **14 days in advance** of any meeting of the Partnership. Each member will be permitted to submit a **maximum of one item per Ordinary Meeting**. Items should, where possible, be focused on **inter-agency working**. **Responses will be provided in writing at the meeting.**’ (LCSP Standing Orders)’*

A discussion was had by members around the proposed changes with members commenting the importance of items being focused on Partnership responses. Members will be given two weeks to send comments on the proposed changes to Standing Orders, after which, the Chairperson will agree a final version to be put forward for adoption at the next meeting.

(iii) Meeting dates, times, and locations for 2026 – 2027

A poll will be sent to all members to gauge availability for meetings to be held on different days, times, and possibly locations. It was generally agreed that Mondays and Fridays are not an option and that Tuesdays tend to work, but the option of hybrid meetings will also be explored.

g. Members Interest items.

(i) The lack of data on reporting of offences under the Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2024. There is a need to compare the number of reports and offences vs the anecdotal increase in hate offences locally reporting informally to NASC staff. (Submitted by FH)

Response: Supt JD responded to say that Hate Crimes are recorded under the Criminal Justice (Hate Offences) Act 2025 which ensures that crimes motivated by hatred, prejudice, or bias toward a victim’s protected characteristics (such as race, sexual orientation, gender or disability) attract higher prison sentences. Hate Crime Data is published nationally since 2021, with the most recent being for 2024 (published in April 2025³)

³ <https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/our-departments/office-of-corporate-communications/press-releases/2025/april/2024-hate-crime-data-and-related-discriminatory-motives.html>

Note: An Garda Síochána have an online form to report hate crime.⁴ They issue statistics based on these reports annually showing divisional breakdowns⁵.

ii. That concern be expressed about the growth of open drug dealing in the inner city/South Parish/Turner's Cross area and seek a co-ordinated inter agency approach to undermine its occurrence. (Submitted by Cllr DB)

Response: **Supt. JD and SMG** updated members of the success of a partnership response to this issue whereby AGS, HSE and CCC all worked together with the community and there is confidence within AGS that the Turners Cross anti-social peak has now passed. It was noted that the Turner's Cross Local Safety Forum played a key function in engaging with the community and following up with a community meeting with Frank Horgan (HSE), Gemma O'Leary (HSE), Karen Duke (RAPID Coordinator), Community Gardai and local Councillors. Members agreed this partnership local level response was a model to be applied in other areas.

(iii) What percentage of time from each Community Garda in each district is now allocated to the city centre and what plans are to ensure that the role of community gardai is returned to the communities to reactivate preventative programmes. (Submitted by Cllr TF)

Response: **Supt CD** emphasised that Gardai members are doing their best and while Community Gardai from the Northside of the City have been used for the HVP project in the city centre when it was first implemented, this number is now being reduced significantly.

(iv) How much Garda time is invested to address the current scrambler/e-scooter issue and what suggestions do the Gardai have to address the issue currently across the city.

(Submitted by Cllr TF)

(v) That Cork City LCSP supports and emphasises the dire need for additional budget, resources and supports to NW / NE of Cork City in order to tackle the issues of illegal scramblers, scooters and bikes. We wish to support our Gardai in their efforts and wish to advocate for increased supports including prioritisation of legislation and enforcements. I suggest we write to our Chief SI and Garda Commissioner. (submitted by LO'C)

Note: Items iv and v were grouped together for the purposes of responding.

Response to both items: **Supt CD** informed members in order to protect the scrambler and e-scooter users and by-standers as well as his team from litigation, they operate a no chase policy. He advised members that there are five patrols involving two Sergeants operating in the northside focusing, overtly and covertly, on scramblers and e-scooters. They are engaging with the public, identifying perpetrators and seizing vehicles.

Cllr TF commend the Gardai for this response and also asked if scope for part of the €35k activation fund to be used for a public awareness campaign. SMG will follow up with this.

(vi) The need for an inter-agency response to youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in City Centre public areas, retail spaces and on buses and the expectation that it would increase over the summer. (submitted by CB)

⁴ <https://www.garda.ie/en/reportahatecrime/>

⁵ <https://www.garda.ie/en/information-centre/statistics/hate-crime-statistics.html>

Supt GMP advised that for persistent issues there is a responsibility on retail to report to AGS for a robust response and that private security may be needed in some instances. SMG updated members that at a recent Children and Young Person's Committee (CYPSC) meeting the proposal for a detached youth team was made, and that it may be possible to redirect the Cork After Dark funding for two youth workers. **Cllr TF and DLy** both advised there already being lots of existing youth services operating in this area and highlighted the need to be mindful of duplication.

h. Correspondence

(i) National Garda Community Engagement Bureau

SMG noted a letter was sent to the LCSP from the National Bureau in response to our letter sent back in March. Their response to our letter relating to the sharing of crime data by the Superintendents on the LCSP was that it was a matter for the NOCS to respond to this query. **SMG** advised members that we have as yet not received any response from our letter sent in March to the NOCS.

i. LCSP Sub-Groups/Working-Groups

SMG reminded members that, at present, three sub-groups/working-groups have been established, as follows:

1. Review of Local Safety Fora Working-Group. Cllr Ciara O'Connor elect as Chairperson. (Cllr Kavanagh, Cllr Boylan, Lekha Menon-Margassery, Laura O'Connell, Stephen Spillane, Lisa Murphy, Karen Duke, Sgt. Jamie Sweeny)
2. Cork After Dark Working-Group: Fiona Collins elected as Chair. (Cliona Barnes, Lisa Murphy, Fiona Hurley, Supt. Deasy, Stephen Spillane, Johnny Murphy, Siubhan McCarthy)
3. Local Safety Plan Sub-Group, Chaired by Cllr Shannon. (Laura O'Connell, Cllr O'Connor, Johnny Murphy, Fiona Hurley). Will be meeting on July 16th.

Cllr TS asked members not on any of these groups to consider joining.

j. Local Safety Plan

(i) Public Consultation Findings

SMG was due to make a presentation on the findings from the Local Safety Plan Public Consultation but due to a lack of time, it was agreed that the presentation would instead be shared with members. The Local Safety Plan Sub-Group will be meeting on July 16th to approve the draft key priorities and to identify gaps in consultation. These will be shared with all LCSP members afterwards.

(ii) Next Steps

An action-planning workshop will take place at our next meeting.

k. AOB

(i) FH stepping down

The **Chair** extended his thanks to FH for her participation and wishes her the best for the future. **SMG** noted FH's replacement will be selected via her nominating inter-agency, the Community Response Forum at their next meeting in Sept.

(ii) Gilbert Baker flag Panel Discussion 'Safety and the LGBTI+ Community' Friday 21st August

SMG notified members of this event and that two members (KH & SS) have been invited to participate in the panel discussion.

(iii) Security Guard Awareness Event

SMG will share more information on this event once the date has been set.

(iv) CYPSC Safe and Protected Subgroup Training- Joint event on Dec 2nd

SMG will share more information on this event.

(v) The Culture and Terms of Reference of the LCSP (Submitted by SS)

This item was withdrawn as **SS** was unable to attend the meeting.

Next meeting	
Date:	8 th Sept
Time:	4.30pm (note: this will likely be a 3 hour meeting as we have an external presenter and a workshop)
Venue:	Council Chamber
Prepared by	Local Community Safety Partnership Coordinator and Administrator.

Decisions arising from the meeting.

Decision	Member

Action Items arising from the meeting.

Action	Member
Frank Horgan's contact details to be shared with members	SMG
Members to be asked for comment on draft updated Standing Orders in relation to Members Interest Items	SMG
A poll is to be circulated with members on the preferable future meeting days, times and locations.	AO'M
Investigate to option of rolling out a local public awareness campaign around scrambler and e-scooter use.	SMG

Adopted by Cork Local Community Safety Partnership		
Chairperson Signature		
MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE LOG		
NAME SURNAME	Representative Body	In Attendance Yes/No
Cliona Barnes	Cork Business Association	Y
Cllr Damian Boylan	Cork City Council	N
Cllr Dan Boyle	Cork City Council	Apol
Brenda Cahill	Cork City Partnership	Apol
Mary Cullinan	Cuanlee Refuge	N
Supt. John Deasy	An Garda Síochána	Y
Supt. Conor Dillon	An Garda Síochána	Y
Cllr Tony Fitzgerald	Cork City Council	Y
Kara Hosford	LGBTI+ Interagency	Y
Fiona Hurley	NASC	Apol
Cllr Joe Kavanagh	Cork City Council	Y
Pat Kelleher	TUSLA	Y
Joe Kirby	HSE	Apol
David Lane	HSE	Y
Denis Leamy	Cork Education & Training Board	Y
Rebecca Loughry	Cork City Council	N *see below
Dr. Lekha Menon Margassery	PPN	Y
Cllr Margaret McDonnell	Cork City Council	Y
Supt. Gary McPolin	An Garda Síochána	Y
Patrick Mulley	Older Persons Council	Y

Johnny Murphy	Cork Access Network	Y
Lisa Murphy	PPN	Apol
Laura O'Connell	PPN	Y
Cllr Ciara O'Connor	Cork City Council	Y
Niamh O'Mahony	Northside Youth Forum	N
Cormac O'Suilleabhain	City Centre Director	Apol
John O Sullivan	Traveller Visibility Group	N
Conor O'Toole	Cork Chamber	Y
Cllr Terry Shannon	Cork City Council	Y
Stephen Spillane	PPN	Apol
		*Martha Halbert proxy

Total Membership	29 filled	1 Vacancies
Total Attendance	18 of 30	
% of Members in Attendance	60%	