Cork City Local Community Safety Partnership

MEETING MINUTES

4.30pm, Tuesday 3rd March 2026, Council Chambers

Cork City Local Community Safety Partnership- Ordinary meeting	
Date:	Tuesday 3rd March 2026.
Time:	4.30pm.
Venue:	Cork City Council Chambers.
Media Present:	Cork Beo, Cork Independent

Attendance	16/30
Quorum:	Yes
Apologies:	Supt. John Deasy, Cllr Terry Shannon, Pat Kelleher, Cllr Damian Boylan, Denis Leamy, Lisa Murphy, Niamh O Mahony

As an apology has been received from Chair Cllr Terry Shannon the meeting will be chaired by Vice-Chair Cllr Ciara O'Connor.

a. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting – Proposed by Cllr Ciara O Connor Seconded by Cllr Joe Kavanagh

b. Matters Arising

Cllr Boyle noted he was marked as absent from the last meeting incorrectly. Minutes have been updated to reflect his attendance. It was noted that all responses to submitted questions appear as appendices in the minutes.

c. Declaration of Interest

None raised.

d. Reports

i. Neighbourhood Safety Fora.
Feedback was sought regarding the ongoing Safety Fora. A clash between the Mayfield and Glanmire Fora was raised as an issue for Councillors in the North East LEA to attend both. In order to avoid future clashes, Cork City Council agreed to publish dates for the coming year in the summer for the 8 Council-led Safety fora which will enable Gardai to avoid clashes when finalised their dates for their 5 garda-led Safety Fora. Sandy agreed to coordinate this internally with RAPID Coordinators and share dates with the three Superintendents who will circulate with their teams as well as Ballinlough Community Association who lead on their Safety Fora.

e. General Items

i. Updated Standing Orders to approve
Several updates to the Standing Orders were put forward to members for approval. A discussion was had over the number of questions Elected Members could submit at their annual closed meeting. It was agreed this would be capped at 2 questions per Elected Rep

with a maximum of 50 questions in total to be accepted for response. It was agreed to keep this number of questions under review. Several other updates were approved.

Approval proposed by Stephen Spillane and seconded by Joe Kavanagh.

Cllr Boyle requested a review of section 40 (g) 'Member's Interest Items' to outline in more detail the process by which members can submit items for inclusion on the agenda whereby a written response is sought. The Chair agreed this section would be reviewed and redrafted for approval by members at the next ordinary meeting in June 30th.

ii. Updates from National Office of Community Safety

Sandy McGroarty delivered some feedback from the National Office for Community Safety (NCOS) online meeting on Wednesday 25th February. Sandy was invited to present on the positives and learnings from the Elected Members Closed meeting.

Notice given of an upcoming in-person workshop, hosted by the National Office of Community Safety, for Chairs and Vice-Chairs and staff on Wednesday 27th May.

Sandy shared some of the preliminary findings from the National Office's National Community Safety Survey, which closed on Friday February 27th. She noted that a report on the full finding of the survey would be shared by the NCOS. A template public survey will also be shared with LCSPs to adapt and use during their public consultation phase of their Local Safety Plan.

Sandy noted Guidelines for the development of Local Safety Plans are again delayed and may not be published by the NOCS until the end of April. She has been informed by Gráinne Berrill that these will be very broad and 'light-touch' and that LCSPs can go ahead with their Local Safety Plans ahead of receiving these guidelines. Members agreed to do this as waiting for guidelines could jeopardise us publishing our plan before the end of the year.

iii. Updates from Regional Staff Network

Coordinator Sandy McGroarty gave an update from the recently formed LCSP Regional Staff Network for Munster. Sandy noted that this new regional staff monthly online meeting was set up by Cork City LCSP and was greatly valuable to all the staff involved. It was noted that many LCSPs across the country are querying the decision by An Garda Síochána to not allow LCSPs circulate presentations on Crime Trends.

f. 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. Fiona Hurley (NASC) highlighted the lack of awareness amongst minorities as to how to report a crime, and misconceptions that it may affect immigration status, and that this may be a barrier.
(Submitted by Fiona Hurley)
For Response by: An Garda Síochána

Response from Supt Deasy will revert with further information for the next Meeting as I need to do further Research on the matter to give a complete answer.

ii. Inclusion, Safety and Support for Ethnic Minority Communities in South Central. [- Given the growing number of international students and residents from ethnic minority backgrounds living in the South Central area, what measures are currently in place to support their overall safety and wellbeing? Additionally, are there plans for further engagement or initiatives to ensure they feel included, supported, and aware of how to access local community safety services? (Submitted by Dr Lekha Menon Margassery)

For Response by: Cork City Council, An Garda Síochána & NASC

Cork City Council Response:

The mission of the Community Team within Cork City Council is to support Inclusion, Safety and Support everyone in our city. The community team have an active programme of inclusion and integration. Programmes include the Local Authority Integration Team, our Ukrainian Response, as well as the Social Inclusion Team who support the delivery of Africa Day, various cultural events and a number of community development projects with new and migrant community groups across Cork City. In addition, the Local and Economic Community Plan names the development an Integration Strategy for the city. The Community Team chair the interagency Community Integration Forum in the city where we continue to work with our partners, including the Gardai and many of you on the partnership to ensure safety and well being of new and ethnic minority groups remain at the forefront of our community response.

Cork City Council's Community and Sports Section supported the following events/programmes financially and/or organisationally in 2025. The Community and Sports Section are very happy to support these events again in 2026 and any additional similar events into the future. Many of the events take place in Fitzgeralds Park or the city centre, which is easily accessible for students in Cork South Central.

- Ukrainian Concert (February)
- Holi Festival of Colour (March)
- Cork Lifelong Learning Festival (April) (These include a section on inclusion and Integration)
- Lord Mayors Civic and Community Awards (These include a section on inclusion and Integration) (May)
- Romanian Day (May)
- LGBTI+ Awareness Week (May)
- Volunteer Expo (These include a section on inclusion and integration)
- Africa Day (Weeklong series of events)
- Traveller Pride Week
- Street Fest (These include a section on inclusion and integration)
- Cork City Marathon (Sanctuary Runners feature highly in this) (June)
- HSE Migrant Health Hub Launch / World Refugee Day (June)
- Non Fire Night (Inclusive events across the city) June
- Pride Festival (July/August)
- India Independence Day (August)
- Pakistan Independence Day (August)

- Make Way Day (September)
- Multi-Cultural Day (October)
- Polish Independence Day (November)
- International Children's Day (November)
- Romanian Great Union Day (December)

An Garda Síochána Response:

From Supt. Deasy- An Garda Síochána is fully supportive of engagement with any Ethnic Minority Communities in South Central area and I believe they should be advised of the Community Fora meeting Schedule for that representative area. In relation to Students, we have Community Policing Personnel aligned with UCC and MTU who engage on an ongoing basis with the Student Bodies and Population. There is a Forum available within this engagement for Students from Ethnic Minority Communities. I am aware that there is specific engagement with foreign Students within both Colleges, particularly during Freshers Weeks at both Institutions. Should Dr. Lekha Menon Margassery wish to share my office email (cc.corkcitycentre.ce@garda.ie) with any Group she is free to do so and I will have the College Community Liaison engage directly with any interested party.

NASC response:

Fiona noted the Community Integration Forum's new Racism Sub-group.

iii. A lack of Neighbourhood/Local Safety Forum Representation for the South Parish Area (Submitted by- Dr Lekha Menon Margassery)

For Response by: Cork City Council, An Garda Síochána
Cork City Council's Community Team via RAPID and in collaboration with An Garda Síochána have supported the facilitation of a Turner's Cross Local Safety Forum for the past number of years. This has been paused for the last year due to the Chairperson John O'Rourke stepping down. In May, this safety Forum will recommence, supported by Karen Duke, the newly appointed RAPID co-ordinator for the area. This safety forum continues to include South Parish and the areas listed above. As was done, it will go back to alternating its venue between Turner's Cross and South Parish Community Centre.

iv. Protocol regarding the tricolour being attached to Cork City Council's infrastructure (Submitted by- Stephen Spillane)
For Response by: Cork City Council
A discussion took place about the recent erection of flags in areas across the city. This also came up from PPN and NASC at last week's Community Integration Forum. Praise for the removal of the flags in the city centre was given and clarification as to how the public and stakeholders should report these.

Cork City Council's response:

Rebecca Loughry noted that it is an offence to erect flags on public infrastructure and so the protocol within Cork City Council is to remove the flags as soon as resources allow. This is done by the Operations Directorate.

It was agreed that reports could be sent into the communitysafety@corkcity.ie mailbox and the Community Safety team would send all reports to the Operations Directorate.

Some further ideas were discussed to promote the reporting of these going up in real-time via 999 and also the potential of an action in the Local Safety Plan whereby we develop an agreed response in order to send a message of inclusion and support for all communities, maybe looking for some best practice elsewhere that we can apply.

g. Correspondence

i. National Policing Community Engagement Bureau

ii. National Office for Community Safety (x 2)

iii. Chief Superintendent Colm Noonan

Four letters of correspondence from the Cork City LCSP to three organisations were shared with members. Acknowledgments of receipt of letters were received by the National Office of Community Safety and Chief Supt. Noonan's office. No acknowledgement was received as yet from the office of Chief Supt. Padraig Jones. No letters of response have yet been received. It was noted that the National Policing Community Engagement Bureau are due to meet Cork City Superintendents in March to discuss the sharing of Crime Trends data. A further meeting is also set to take place with this Bureau and the National Office for Community Safety to discuss same. This has come about from numerous requests and complaints by LCSPs across the country.

h. Local Safety Plan

i. Sandy outlined the engagement plan for the Local Safety Plan. She will share this as soon as possible. It will be launched at the Public in-person engagement event on the 21st April and run for 6 weeks. It will feature a public survey, the invitation of written submissions and several bespoke stakeholders workshops (See below). Sandy also sought approval to hire the services of Sharron Kelliher for Facilitation of workshops. Sandy read out her biog and approval was given by members.

Stakeholder Engagement Events confirmed:

- **Tuesday 21st April, Millennium Hall (tentative time 3-6pm)- Community Safety Day** It was agreed to broaden out this public consultation event to include talks on Crime Prevention and panel discussions. Sandy will revert back with an outline asap.
- **Wednesday 13th May (4.30-7pm) (Venue TBC)- Workshop to Review Local/Neighbourhood Safety Fora** and to feed into the Local Safety Plan. This workshop will be for stakeholders/coordinators of Local Safety Fora ie An Garda Síochána, Cork City Councillors, Cork City Council including RAPID Coordinators, Independent Chairs, PPN Residents Reps, LCSP Review Working Group and other individuals from the community who organise Local Safety Fora.
- **Wednesday 20th May, 4.30-7pm (venue TBC)- Workshop for LCSP members** to discuss our Vision, Goals, Principals, Key priority areas and potential actions for the Local Safety Plan. All members encouraged to attend this opportunity to shape the Local Safety Plan and represent their respective communities.

LCSP members asked to keep these dates free and to try to attend as best they can.
i. AOB The business community would like to commend the Gardaí for the High Visibility Policing Strategy. Conor O'Toole (Cork Chamber & Clayton Hotel) noted the positive guest feedback as a result of the enhanced sense of safety felt in the city centre as a result. Further praise was given by members on the increased Garda visibility in the city centre. Concerns were however raised about the potential redeployment of Gardai from areas outside the city and the impact that might be having on those areas. Supt, Dillon and McPolin assured members that any redeployment was minimal and was not seen to be having any impact on services outside the City Centre. Sandy informed members that unfortunately Grace O'Driscoll (Dillon's Cross Project) has stepped down as a member. Rebecca raised the possibility of Cormac Ó Súilleabháin, Director of Services for the City Centre Development and Operations to replace her. It was agreed however that Cormac would be invited onto the LCSP as a non-voting member. The vacancy should remain unfilled until the findings of the Public Consultation at which time members would consider filing the vacancy with a representative based on need. It was also noted by members that this person should represent the community and voluntary sector so as to retain the ratio of public sector to voluntary sector reps.

Next Meeting Annual Public Meeting	
Date:	Tuesday 21st April
Time:	4.30pm (please note this event will likely take place from 3pm to enable exhibitors and crime prevention talks and demos ahead of the meeting. Members welcome to attend from 3pm)
Venue:	Millenium Hall
Prepared by	Aodhán Ó'Murchu Local Community Safety Partnership Administrator

Adopted by Cork Local Community Safety Partnership	
Chairperson Signature	Ciara O'Connor

MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE LOG

NAME SURNAME	Representative Body	In Attendance Yes/No
Cliona Barnes	Cork Business Association	Y
Cllr Damien Boylan	Cork City Council	N
Cllr Dan Boyle	Cork City Council	Y
Brenda Cahill	Cork City Partnership	N

Mary Cullinane	Cuanlee Refuge	N
Supt. John Deasy	An Garda Síochána	N
Supt. Conor Dillon	An Garda Síochána	Y
Cllr Tony Fitzgerald	Cork City Council	N
Kara Hosford	LGBTI+ Interagency	Y
Fiona Hurley	NASC	Y
Cllr Joe Kavanagh	Cork City Council	Y
Joe Kirby	HSE	N
David Lane	HSE	Y
Denis Leamy	Cork Education & Training Board	N
Rebecca Loughry	Cork City Council	Y
Dr. Lekha Menon Margassery	PPN	Y
Cllr Margaret McDonnell	Cork City Council	Y
Patrick Mulley	Older Persons Council	N
Pat Kelleher	TUSLA	N
Supt. Gary McPolin	An Garda Síochána	Y
Johnny Murphy	Cork Access Network	Y
Lisa Murphy	PPN	N
Laura O'Connell	PPN	Y
Cllr Ciara O'Connor	Cork City Council	Y
Grace O'Driscoll	Dillons Cross Project	N
John O Sullivan	Traveller Visibility Group	N
Niamh O'Mahony	Northside Youth Forum	N
Conor O'Toole	Cork Chamber	Y
Cllr Terry Shannon	Cork City Council	N
Stephen Spillane	PPN	Y

Total Membership	30 filled	Vacancies
Total Attendance	16 of 30	1
% of Members in Attendance	53 %	