

**Leitrim Local Community Safety Partnership Minutes,****2:30 PM, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026, The Junction, Ballinamore.**

Attendance:	17 of 26 members.
Quorum:	Yes
Representation Balance Requirements Met?	Yes

**See Appendix 1 for full record of LCSP attendees**

**Apologies:** Enda Stenson, Brendan Barry, Cara O'Neill, Marie Richardson, Brendan Kieran, Charlotte McCloat, Hazel Humphreys, Gerry McGarry, Mick O'Rourke.

**Also in attendance:** Jacqueline McKeon (Community Safety Administrator), Angela Waldron (Leitrim County Council), Maria Hall (Facilitator)

The Chairperson, Pat Forde, opened the meeting and welcomed the Partnership members. He advised that the Community Safety Coordinator, Aisling Dunne, has left the role and has taken up a new position in another county. The Chairperson thanked Ms Dunne for her work and informed members that a new Community Safety Coordinator will be appointed shortly.

**1) Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 February 2026 were confirmed and approved.

Proposed by: Maeve Reynolds  
Seconded by: Sean McGowan

**2) Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**3) Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest raised at the meeting. The Chairperson reminded Partnership Members to submit their completed Declarations of Interest and signed Codes of Conduct, as some remain outstanding. Members were advised to return the signed documents to the LCSP Administrator as soon as possible.

**4) Facilitation and Consultation on Local Safety Priorities by HUB Planning**

The Chairperson introduced Maria Hall from HUB Planning, who facilitated a consultation session with members on the identification of key Local Safety Priorities for inclusion in the Community Safety Plan.

**5) Presentation from An Garda Síochána**

Superintendent Carla Curry provided an update to the Partnership Members on the 2025 Q4 Garda Crime Statistics for County Leitrim. Superintendent Curry advised that An Garda Síochána are taking a proactive approach to tackling drugs and organised crime groups. She also highlighted that incidents of drug- and alcohol-related driving are on the increase.

## 6) Members Interest Items

*Received from Mick O'Rourke, Leitrim Sports Partnership.*

### 1. Reimbursement Arrangements

“Consideration was requested in relation to the position of voluntary attendees, noting that members of statutory agencies may claim expenses through their organisations, and the potential for recoupment of expenses for volunteers, particularly in the context of increasing travel and fuel costs.”

This was acknowledged by the Membership as a valid consideration. It was agreed that the matter would be raised with the NOCS Office to enquire whether provision could be made in the next Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses for community members attending meetings. It was noted that the Partnership meets six times per year and that this would apply to a limited number of members. It was also noted that the use of hybrid meetings could alleviate this issue for volunteer members.

### 2. Multiple Vetting of Volunteers

“The Leitrim Sports Partnership has raised concerns regarding the requirement for volunteers to undergo multiple vetting processes across different organisations, which has been highlighted to Sport Ireland through existing channels. Given that Local Community Safety Partnerships now fall under the remit of the Department of Justice, it is proposed that the LCSP consider this issue and any potential role it may have in addressing the matter in County Leitrim.”

This item was discussed by the Partnership, and it was agreed that this issue does not fall within the remit of the LCSP. Members noted that the matter had already been considered at a recent Leitrim County Council meeting, following which a letter issued to the Department of Justice highlighting the issue. It was also noted that this concern is regularly raised at local GAA club level, where calls have similarly been made for a more streamlined Garda vetting system.

*Received from Tracey Mitchell, North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force.*

### 3. Safer Nightlife / Harm Reduction Initiative

“The North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force has been running a pilot initiative delivered in partnership with Sligo County Council and BIDS, providing a harm-reduction presence at festivals and busy night-time settings in Sligo town. The initiative involved the provision of drug and alcohol harm-reduction information and safety materials and has demonstrated positive outcomes in reducing A&E presentations and low-level public order issues.

The service is provided by the NWRDATF without additional funding requirements; however, associated partners such as BIDS and Code Blue medical teams may require funding.

It was suggested that the LCSP consider requesting that Leitrim County Council include a recommendation within festival planning processes to engage with the NWRDATF to identify opportunities to support event safety.

This action around safer night life is part of the National Drug Strategy around reducing the harm.”

Following discussion, it was agreed that a recommendation would be brought back to Leitrim County Council to consider inclusion of engagement with the NWRDATF within festival planning processes, potentially as a condition of outdoor entertainment licences. It was also suggested that the NWRDATF could be invited to attend other busy night-time settings in Carrick-on-Shannon.

### 7) Correspondence

The Chairperson noted correspondence received from ALONE. The letter outlined ALONE’s interest in engaging with the Community Safety Partnership, including a proposal to deliver a short presentation on its work, local supports for older people, and community safety issues affecting older people, as well as exploring potential involvement in relevant Partnership work.

Following discussion, the Partnership agreed to invite ALONE to deliver a presentation at the next meeting.

### 8) Any Other Business

The Chairperson drew the attention of Partnership Members to an email circulated that morning regarding the announcement of the 2026 Community Safety Fund. He advised that the Leitrim LCSP intends to submit a project application under the fund. An update on the submission will be provided to Partnership Members in due course.

### 9) Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Leitrim Local Community Safety Partnership will take place on Tuesday, 9th June at 2:30pm, the location TBC.

**Prepared by:** Jacqueline McKeon

Community Safety Administrator

**Adopted by Leitrim Local Community Safety Partnership:** 9 / 6 / 26.

**Chairperson Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Pat Forde

## Appendix One –

### Members Attendance Log - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Name	Representative Body	In Attendance?
Sean McGowan	County Councillor	Yes
Maeve Reynolds	County Councillor	Yes
Enda Stenson	County Councillor	No
Brendan Barry	County Councillor	No
Gary Prior	County Councillor	Yes
Mary Bohan	County Councillor	Yes
Padraig Fallon	County Councillor	Yes
Vincent Dwyer	Local Authority Executive	Yes
Carla Curry	Policing & Security	Yes
Cara O'Neill	Health Service	No
Marie Richardson	Child & Family	No
Tracey Mitchell	Drug Services	Yes
Osazuwa Peter-Olabiyi	Local Resident Representative	Yes
Kathleen Flanagan	Local Resident Representative	Yes
Bernie Mulligan Dolan	Local Resident Representative	Yes
Matthew Conlon	Local Resident Representative	Yes
Joe Rynn	Youth Representative	Yes
Meryl McGowan	Minority	Yes
Chris Gonley	Social Inclusion Sector	Yes
Linda Halstead	Education Representative	Yes
Brendan Kieran	Business Representative	No
Pat Forde (Chairperson)	Ministerial Nominee	Yes
Hazel Humphreys	Older Person Representative	No
Gerry McGarry	Rural Interest Representative	No
Charlotte McCloat	Victims Of Crime	No
Mick O'Rourke	Sports Representative	No
<b>Total Membership</b>	26 (+4 vacancies)	4 Vacancies
<b>Total Attendance</b>	17	9 Apologies
<b>% of Members in Attendance</b>	65.38%	17/26