

Minutes of Cavan Local Community Safety Partnership Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 15th April 2026

Time: 11 a.m.

Venue: TUSLA Child and Family Agency, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road Cavan.

Attendance

Present:

- Cllr John Paul Feeley (JPF) Chairperson,
- Cllr. TP O'Reilly (TPO'R) Vice-Chairperson,
- Cllr. Niall Smith (NS),
- Cllr. Carmel Brady (CB),
- Cllr. Niamh Brady (NB),
- Cllr. Brendan Fay (BF),
- Cllr. Damien Brady (DB)
- Brendan Jennings (BJ), Cavan County Council,
- Superintendent John Callanan (JC), An Garda Síochána,
- Aoife Bailey (AB), HSE,
- Patricia Walsh (PW), Resident,
- Anges McManus Dulake (AMcM), Social Inclusion,
- Niall McVeigh (NMcV), Education Rep,
- Tetiana Hrytsyk (TH), New Communities Rep,
- Aileen Connolly McGettigan (ACMcG), Youth Rep.
- Lisa Anderson (LA), TUSLA
- Damien Keaney (DK), Resident

Apologies:

- Michael Fitzpatrick (MF), Resident

Did not attend:

- Cllr. Clifford Kelly (CK)

Quorum:

Yes

In attendance:

- Amanda Murray, Local Community Safety Partnership Coordinator,
- Angela Fitzpatrick, A/Senior Executive Officer, Community Development, Cavan County Council.
- Aoife McCormick, Community Development, Cavan County Council

Press

- Gemma Good, Anglo Celt (Roisin Anglo Celt)

Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Chairperson, formally opened the meeting and thanked members for their attendance. He also acknowledged and apologised for the cancellation of the previous meeting scheduled for 26th March 2026.

The Chair presented Certificates, issued by the National Office for Community Safety, to members in recognition of their membership and participation on the Local Community Safety Partnership.

1. Minutes from previous meeting:

The minutes from the meeting 28th January 2026 were agreed on the proposal of Cllr. TP O'Reilly, and seconded by Cllr. Niall Smith.

There were no matters arising.

2. Declaration of Interest:

Noted - this will be a recurring item on the agenda.

3. Correspondence (circulated since last meeting):

- Draft Code of Practice (COP) on Public Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) - As mentioned at previous LCSP meeting, An Garda Síochána carried out a public consultation on the Draft COP on Public CCTV, via survey – a link to the survey was circulated to members on the 10th February 2026. The public consultation closed on the 24th of February 2026. The Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023 specifically repealed Section 38 of the 2005 Act and provides the current legal framework for the use of various recording devices, including Public CCTV. Part 8 of this Act stipulates a new Code of Practice on Public Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) is required. This COP applies to public CCTV only and does not include non-local authority CCTV live feeds or CCTV operated on Garda Premises. It aims to provide detail on the general operation of Public CCTV and to ensure Public CCTV is used only for policing purposes and the prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution of criminal offences.
- Health Ireland Framework – Department of Health is currently undertaking a public consultation on the new Healthy Ireland Framework, via public survey.

The survey was circulated to members on the 18th March 2026 - closing date is 24th April 2026. They are inviting organisations and their networks to share their views and help shape the future direction of health and wellbeing policy in Ireland.

- The Community Safety Fund - Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan opened the 2026 Fund to applications on Monday 13 April 2026. Deadline for submission of applications is 5p.m. on 18th May 2026. Applications are invited from community safety initiatives as well as groups co-funded with local authorities, NGOs and community organisations working on issues relevant to community safety and youth justice. Statutory agencies are ineligible to apply however they can form part of a community-based initiative. Members were advised that 127 groups have been allocated funding in previous rounds of the fund – a list of groups and successful projects is available on the National Office for Community Safety website.

4. Agency Updates:

Ms. Lisa Anderson, TUSLA and Ms. Aoife Bailey, HSE both indicated that restructuring had taken place within their respective organisations. They both agreed to provide details of this to the Partnership at their next meeting.

It was further agreed that statutory bodies would report issues relevant to the business of the Partnership at upcoming meetings.

5. Members Interest Items:

- i. Coco's Law (Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act 2020):

Superintendent John Callanan acknowledged the success of the Coco's Law Information Seminar held in the Hotel Kilmore on the 13th February 2026. He thanked members who attended the event. He said the event fostered strong inter-agency cooperation regarding Coco's Law and provide a collaborative commitment to ensuring that we bring awareness and support around these issues to our young people in order that they remain safe. He said building on that success, An Garda Síochána intend to roll out a targeted awareness

campaign for students on “Cocos law” and proposed that this initiative be formally taken under the umbrella of the Safety Partnership. Ms Patricia Walsh seconded the motion, stating that she attended this event and it was very informative and that it was great to see the willingness of everyone to get involved in rolling out this initiative.

ii. Vaping concerns:

Cllr. Brendan Fay raised concerns regarding the sale of single-use vapes in Cavan Town, particularly reports of sales to very young children. He queried responsibility for enforcement and proposed that a letter issue from the Partnership to the Minister for Health seeking stronger measures, including a potential ban.

Mr Brendan Jennings reiterated concerns previously raised regarding the lack of HSE cessation supports for young people using vapes and queried which authority is responsible for monitoring retailers. Ms Patricia Walsh highlighted significant community concern, noting that some premises appear targeted at children and referencing recent hospitalisations linked to vaping. She emphasised the need for education at primary school level and supported the proposal to write to the Minister. Cllrs. T.P. O'Reilly and Damien Brady also supported the proposal, with Cllr. Brady noting the need for increased parental awareness and referencing low attendance at previous engagement events. He further noted TUSLA's recognition of the issue within CYPSC planning.

Ms Aoife Bailey confirmed that the absence of cessation supports has now been raised at national level within the HSE. Superintendent John Callanan advised that a multi-agency approach is required, involving the Department of Health, TUSLA, and An Garda Síochána. He confirmed that prosecutions have taken place and that cases are currently under consideration by the DPP. He recommended allowing time to assess ongoing Garda actions before progressing correspondence and undertook to report back to the forum via the Chair.

Members acknowledged the need to focus particularly on the sale and accessibility of single-use vapes to young people. Cllr. John Paul Feeley referenced a related motion covering enforcement, education, and public health, with further updates anticipated.

iii. The need to roll out CCTV in our towns:

Cllr. Fay stated that there is a need to roll out CCTV in our towns. It is important to the safety of our communities and the need to help An Garda Síochána to catch criminals. He stated that this has been an ongoing issue for over 10 years.

Mr Brendan Jennings acknowledged the need for CCTV but noted that the new provisions for the the authorisation and operation of CCTV schemes under the Act [Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Act 2023] has not yet commenced. He further noted that the Code of Practice for CCTV mentioned earlier, once finalised will provide further detail on the operation of public CCTV schemes, including clarity around operation, maintenance and monitoring at local level.

Cllr. John Paul Feeley advised that the matter is progressing through the An Garda Síochána and the Oireachtas, including provisions for Garda use of CCTV and drones, with Garda involvement expected to support implementation locally. Superintendent John Callanan advised that responsibility for progressing the Code of Practice rests with An Garda Síochána and confirmed that work is continuing as a priority.

Concerns were raised regarding delays in areas such as Belturbet, Ballyconnell, and Ballyjamesduff who have raised the need for CCTV for number of years. Superintendent John Callanan confirmed that the new Code of Practice is the first step, this needs to be approved before implementation and any future applications for installations of CCTV can begin. He noted that the draft is available online and encouraged members to review it, including provisions relating to GDPR, existing infrastructure, and the use of current cameras.

Members welcomed progress on the initiative, with Cllr. Damien Brady noting its advanced stage and potential wider benefits. It was also acknowledged that GDPR considerations had contributed to delays.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the LCSP would prepare and issue a letter to the Department of Justice supporting the progression and finalisation of the CCTV Code of Practice. This was proposed by Cllr. Damien Brady and seconded by Cllr. Brendan Fay.

iv. Integration support:

Ms. Hrytsyk provided an overview of the Multicultural Women's Shed in Virginia, highlighting positive community engagement and its role in supporting individuals through information sharing, including access to employment. She noted challenges in reaching targeted groups and emphasised the need for increased information sessions and supports. She also raised concerns regarding bullying among young people and the need for greater engagement in youth programmes. While involvement with Foróige has commenced, further initiatives for younger children are being explored. Ms Hrytsyk stressed the importance of broader collaboration across communities to promote integration and address cultural barriers.

Members acknowledged the importance of inclusion and integration. Ms McManus Dulake referenced CYPSC's Building Stronger Communities plan, which aligns with these objectives. It was noted that supports should be inclusive of all nationalities. Mr Brendan Jennings referenced previous successful multicultural community events and indicated a willingness to support similar initiatives going forward. Cllr. Carmel Brady highlighted existing work through local sports clubs, including rugby, to promote inclusion.

Ms Angela Fitzpatrick outlined ongoing work by Cavan County Council and the Local Authority Integration Team, including the transition from an emergency response to the Community Integration Forum, providing a strong collaborative inter-agency network working on supporting new arrivals as well as integration support. She advised that a National Migrant and Integration

Strategy is currently being developed and that Cavan County Council will be developing a local Migrant and Integration Strategy. The LAIT and the integration staff employed under SICAP in the Local Development Company are currently working with a number of agencies on local initiatives, seeking funding opportunities, and running integration and community engagement initiatives to support integration.

Members emphasised the importance of communication, participation, and encouraging representation from new communities in local groups. Examples of successful integration initiatives were noted. It was agreed that Cavan County Council would continue to progress this area and report back to the Partnership.

v. Speeding/traffic issues:

Cllr. Carmel Brady raised ongoing concerns regarding traffic management issues, including traffic lights, road ramps, and the location of speed cameras. She queried whether speed cameras can be relocated for safety purposes and suggested that they may be more effective when positioned at the edges of towns and villages.

Cllr. John Paul Feeley noted that this is a recurring issue at Municipal District meeting and invited members' views.

Superintendent John Callanan advised that speed cameras can be moved within designated routes. He encouraged members and the public to make submissions through the Superintendent's office at Cavan Garda Station and confirmed that guidance on how to do so would be circulated. He noted that while there is often public resistance to changes in camera locations, decisions are based on road safety in line with directives from the National Roads Policing Bureau.

Cllr. Brendan Fay raised a specific query regarding the Belturbet roundabout and whether camera placement could be reviewed. The Superintendent confirmed that Gardaí would work with communities on submissions to assess safety needs.

It was agreed that, in future, members of the public should be directed to engage directly with An Garda Síochána regarding such queries.

vi. Storm readiness & supporting vulnerable people:

Ms Aoife Bailiey raised the need to ensure community hubs are quipped to respond to needs in the event of future storms, and in particular raised the need to ensure older and more vulnerable people are looked after in terms of provision of hot meals. She also noted the need to consider the best options for a vulnerable persons lists and whether it would be possible to cross reference HSE and Garda lists.

Mr Brendan Jennings highlighted the need for a multi-agency approach, noting that over 40 hubs were established during Storm Eowyn with strong local community and Garda support. Plans are in place to designate 20+ hubs across Cavan, equipped to receive generators, with three generators to be stored centrally. These hubs require significant investment, with funding being provided by the Department. Work is progressing in supporting communities to install electrical transfer switched necessary for connection to a generator. Support is also being progressed through schemes such as Municipal District Grants; however, no single community group can manage hubs alone.

Cllr. JP Feeley noted the success of the recent multi-agency response, including collaboration with groups such as the ICA and local sports clubs, particularly in identifying vulnerable individuals. Continued work is needed to maintain and update this information. Agnes McManus Dulake praised the reach of initiatives such as Meals on Wheels and highlighted strong local cooperation. However, she raised concerns about the ongoing cost of fuel for generators and the need for sustainable funding.

Cllr. Feeley queried whether a central register of vulnerable persons exists. Ms Aoife Bailey confirmed the HSE maintains a list but noted that combining data across agencies would be beneficial, a view supported by Superintendent John Callanan.

It was agreed that details of generator locations should be shared and made publicly available. Mr Jennings concluded by emphasising that, while progress has been made, ongoing community support is essential, and that generators will be centrally managed and deployed based on need.

6. County Cavan Local Community Safety Plan 2026-2028 update

Ms Amanda Murray advised that the baseline Local Community Safety Survey would open on Monday 20th April 2026 and close on Sunday 31st May 2026. The results of this survey will inform the development of the three-year County Local Community Safety Plan. The survey will be circulated as widely as possible, including through newspaper advertisements, social media, mailing lists, and community groups. Members of the Partnership are requested to support distribution by sharing the survey through their own networks and contact groups.

The findings will be presented at the next meeting, at which point members will consider the next steps in progressing the next steps in development of the Local Community Safety Plan.

7. Agree date of Next Meeting:

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday the 17th of June, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

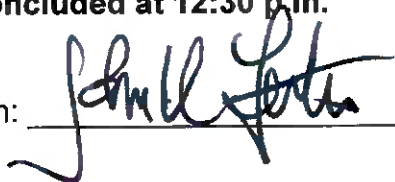
Conclusion

Superintendent John Callanan informed the meeting that he will be transferring from his current role, with Superintendent Gavin O'Reilly due to take up the position. He thanked the members for their engagement and support and confirmed that he will remain available for queries during the transition period.

The Chairperson, Cllr. John Paul Feeley and members thanked Superintendent Callanan for his work and wished him well in his new role.

Meeting concluded at 12:30 p.m.

Chairperson: _____



Date: _____

17th June 2026

