



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council



**Draft Minutes of the LCD C meeting on Thursday, 23rd April 2020
Teams Meeting**

In attendance:

Fergal Dennehy	Chairperson
Aaron O'Connell	Vice Chairperson
Joe Curtin	PPN
Laurence Owens	CBA
Denis Leamy	CETB
Eddie Mullins	ICTU
Catherine Kennedy	Cork Sexual Health Centre
Pricilla Lynch	HSE
Adrienne Rodgers	Cork City Council
Paul McGurk	LEO
Barry McPolin	Gardaí

Also in attendance: Tony Power, Rebecca Loughry, Ruth Lynch, Denis Barrett

Apologies: Ger Keohane, Fiona Finn, Nora O'Donovan, Siobhan Goulding

1. Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed the committee members. Round table introductions were made and apologies were noted.

2. Teleconference Etiquette

A Rodgers outlined teleconference etiquette.

3. Minutes

On the proposal of P Lynch, seconded by C Kennedy, the minutes of 20th February 2020 were approved.

4. Community Response Forum

T Power gave an update on the Community Response Forum. A Community Response Helpline has been set up which is open for calls from 8am to 8pm seven days a week. A framework document was published nationally to give guidance on how the forum should operate. Cork added other stakeholders to the already recommended groups. The response to the forum has been extremely positive with the Cork response being second to none.

A Food Poverty Committee has been established meeting once a week. The focus is to bring all the food distribution stakeholders e.g. Penny Dinners, Feed Cork, SVP etc together for discussions on how best to meet the current need to avoid duplication and to consider how the services can continue into the long term.

Phase 2 of the Community Call will be focussing on Wellbeing. A large section of the population have now been cocooning for weeks. The need has changed from essentials such as food and pension delivery to emotional support such as conversation. The Community Section are now publishing the Community Response Newsletter. This contains useful phone numbers and information on mental and physical health activities.

P Lynch noted that type of calls are more psycho social and wondered could the HSE do something to support that. Perhaps supporting individuals who are taking the calls. She will speak further about this to Denis Barrett.

E Mullins offered his staff supervisors who are prepared to help with any services needed eg Meals on Wheels etc.

5. Local Area Community Response Teams

D Barrett outlined the structure of the teams. City has been divided into 16 areas. Each area has a City Council Lead in conjunction with a HSE Lead and with local team of volunteers on the ground. Some areas are more familiar with accessing supports than others but strong connections have been made and needs to be maintained for the long term.

A Rodgers advised that Community Supports are available for businesses that are suffering.

6. DRCD Community Emergency Fund

A €92K Community Emergency Fund has granted to Cork City Council for the issuing of small grants to cover costs in a range of areas during the Covid Emergency. There are a number of categories that groups or organisations can apply under. The Application process will be on a rolling basis and the SICAP sub-group will sign off on recommendations of assessment team.

A O'Connell expressed thanks to the Community and to the Gardai for all the work being undertaken during the crisis.

R Loughry expects the HSE and City Council will match some funding and therefore there should be more than €92k available.

7. Public Participation Network Report

The Public Participation Network report was circulated and discussed.

F Dennehy acknowledged Nora O'Donovan for a wonderful piece at the end of the PPN report. It was agreed that the report should be forwarded to Minister for Health.

P Lynch acknowledged that Nora's comments were hard reading. However, the precautions are in place to protect our most precious and there are risks in breaching those precautions.

A O'Connell also acknowledged Nora's comments as reflective of the Age Friendly community. Suggested teaming cocooners up with younger people to form relationships. This problem is going to be a challenge for us for months ahead.

F Dennehy accepts the comments of the committee but suggested the blanket ban on over 70s being allowed out should be revised. People need an outlet. Suggested that everyone in the committee should make a phone call to Nora to keep in touch. Her permission should also be sought to forward her letter to the Minister.

8. Members Input

F Dennehy expressed thanks to Adrienne Rodgers and Cork City Council. The Community response has been incredible.

9. SICAP Delivery

Cork City Partnership submitted their SICAP Response plan for Covid-19 which was circulated for information.

10. AOB

A general discussion took place on pendant alarms for people cocooning and the operation of Meals on Wheels service.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Fergal Dennehy
Chairperson