



## Kildare Interagency Integration Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 11.30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

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**Attendance:** Attached

**1. Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of the 08th of September 2022 were approved and adopted on the proposal of Mary Hennessey, seconded by John Doran. Cllr. Breslin requested an update on the letter to the Department of Justice and IPASS about improving communication and providing supports for Asylum Seekers that was raised by Anne Daly during the previous meeting. Mary Hennessey stated that she will organise this letter to be sent.

**2. Chairperson's Business:**

Cllr. Breslin noted the apologies received and paid tribute and thanked the departing Anne Daly for her work on the Kildare Interagency Integration Committee and wished her luck in her new role.

**3. Q4 2022 Implementation Report:**

Q3 Report circulated to all members prior to meeting. As agreed, each individual action will not be reported on, but the floor will be open for questions or clarification. Each lead agency will take responsibility for responding to questions on their actions.

Mary Hennessey suggested that she will contact all the leads of each action in the early part of 2023.

In this way she will get to know each lead and how the implementation of the strategy is going.

Cllr. Breslin agreed to this action and suggested to organise a meeting to talk through the current status of the Implementation Report. Mary Hennessey agreed to this suggestion.

**4. International Protection Community Houses:**

Niamh Conaghan provided an update on the Ukrainian Emergency Response. She noted that there are currently 22 men living in four houses in Newbridge since June 2022. The men are currently awaiting work permits. County Kildare Leader Partnership are providing the men with workshops in preparation for employment. Niamh noted that John Doran are getting the men involved in

Kildare Sports Partnership activities. Mary Hennessey noted that some of the men have work permits and have manual handling certs and are waiting for SafePass certs but communication with the Department is still difficult. Justin Parkes of the HSE provided information that the men can be provided with Medical Cards if they can get three refusals from GPs as their address in Newbridge will allow them to be assigned to a GP. Niamh noted that gaining medical cards for the men has been difficult – Justin Parkes said that he will assist with this. Brenda Lynch noted that the men can avail of KWETB for services such as a guidance counsellors and information officers. Mary Hennessey noted that the men are currently attending English classes in Newbridge.

Cllr. Liston suggested creating a Kildare – Community Forum to discuss issues raised on the streets of the County. Cllr. Liston noted that this forum could look at issues and start having conversations with communities re – the housing of migrants/asylum seekers. The Community Forum would allow people to input their opinions and attempt to find the best solutions. Cllr. Breslin agreed to have a conversation with Cllr. Liston around the Community Forum.

#### **5. Ukrainian Emergency Response Update:**

Helen Mulhall presented an abridged version of the Ukrainian Emergency Response Coordinators Report (October and November) which included photos from Halloween and Mid-Term Family Fun Events at Bert House. Brenda Lynch requested an update of the current number of people staying at Liffey Lodge. Helen Mulhall responded that there are 35 people currently staying and the Peter McVerry Trust is linking in with the residents. Helen also noted that there will be a Christmas party organised on the site and that SICAP are providing support.

Cllr. Liston requested an update on Manor House in Celbridge and how the MD can help. Mary Hennessey provided the information that 409 people including 115 children are currently staying at Manor House. Mary stated that anyone can arrive on site to help. Mary stated that of the 409 people, 30 recently attended a welcome lunch at Celbridge Library that provided information to migrants.

Anna McHugh asked Helen if families are still waiting for Pledge Housing. Helen responded that there are currently 38 houses in Kildare providing Pledge Housing. Anna noted that there are still Ukrainian families waiting on Pledge Housing. Cllr. Breslin noted that as a committee, they should write to the Department regarding funding to all Asylum Seekers and not just funding towards the Ukrainian Emergency Response.

#### **6. Any Other Business:**

Cllr. Breslin thanked all the members of the Kildare Interagency Integration Committee for all the work done during 2022 and wished all members and their families a happy Christmas.

There was no other business.

#### **7. Dates of Next Meeting and Agree Dates for Meetings in 2023:**

The next meeting will be held on the 23rd of February 2023 at 11.30 a.m.

Cllr. Breslin stated that the 2023 KIIC meeting dates will be agreed during the next meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2023.

*John Breslin*  
27/2/2023