



**Kildare Interagency Integration Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 11.30 a.m. Boardroom (Level 7)**

---

**Attendance:** Attached

**1. Minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 were approved and adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Vanessa Liston, seconded by Gary Cogan (AGS). There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**2. Chairpersons Address:**

Cllr. Aoife Breslin welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies. Cllr. Breslin proposed that everyone introduce themselves as it was the first in person meeting of the committee for some time.

**3. Q2 2023 Implementation Report:**

Q2 report circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Mary Hennessy (CKLP) read through the actions and who is lead agency on each. Mary suggested that report updates would include the quarter and year so that actions were kept up to date.

1.4: Mary noted that item 1.4 resulted in some issues for some agencies. Justin Parkes (HSE) agreed that there were issues around item 1.4. Niamh Conaghan (CKLP) suggested that she would write letters of consent and make them specific to a purpose and that maybe this approach would work for other agencies. Mary Hennessy proposed amending item 1.4 to read 'as appropriate'. Both Justin Parkes and Gary Cogan stated that this would not work for either the HSE or An Garda Síochána respectively. Cllr. Breslin proposed that the wording of item 1.4 should be amended to read 'letter of advocacy'. Julie McNamara (KCCC) enquired about the purpose of item 1.4. Niamh Conaghan stated that to try and overcome the language barrier that makes it difficult at times for people to receive the documents or help that they need item 1.4 was included as a way for support workers to make enquiries on behalf of people with language difficulties. The committee agreed to change the terminology.

Cllr. Liston asked if there is funding allocated for integration workers. Mary Hennessy said there is none. Cllr. Breslin stated there is no assigned funding. Justin Parkes said there is a suggestion of paid support workers but he is waiting for more information. Anna McHugh stated that there has been issues with people going to doctors and other services not being able to pay for

*Aoife Breslin*

interpreters. Justin Parkes stated that the HSE doesn't charge for interpreters. Julie McNamara asked about getting funding for integration workers. Justin stated that South Dublin County Council received funding for four. Cllr. Breslin said Mary Hennessy, Lorraine Kennedy (KCC) and herself would have a discussion around this issue.

1.15 Grainne Fleming (PPN) stated that the PPN website has a number of helpful resources on it's website and if any agency wanted to add anything to that she can facilitate that.

1.16 Julie Mcnamara stated there has been some difficulties with this item due to a change in personnel but work is ongoing and KCCC are looking at setting up some parent and toddler groups.

1.17 Emma Berney (KCYPSC) stated that maternal mental health workbooks are now online and available to anyone who needs them.

1.18 Emma Berney stated there is a new post being created and funded through Healthy Ireland and CYPSC to focus on early years.

1.19 Emma Berney stated that work is ongoing but has been paused currently.

1.20 Emma Berney stated that an information night would take place in the Keadeen Hotel around fostering.

2.1 Brenda Lynch (KWETB) stated that work is continuing to support people with literacy issues and also support workers who are public facing in how to identify and assist people with language and literacy difficulties. Julie McNamara stated that language barriers had come up in relation to finding work and childcare. Julie said that a lot of men are accessing English classes but women are not taking up the classes due to childcaring issues. Brenda agreed this was the case.

2.7 Gary Cogan stated that An Garda Siochana has assessed and done some work around increasing representation in its membership. Justin Parkes stated that item 2.7 can only be achieved on an agency-by-agency basis. Emma Berney stated item 2.7 was established as a baseline to see if progress could be made and representation improved. Justin stated that language was once again a barrier to this and that the HSE has doctors trying to learn English in order to be able to register with the Medical Council. Cllr. Breslin asked about the feasibility of item 2.7 and stated if it's agreed to be feasible it should stay in the report. Brenda Lynch stated that there may be practices that could be identified and improved. Grainne Fleming stated item 2.7 should be simplified. Gary Cogan proposed dividing item 2.7 into subsections A,B,C and see if progress is possible in this way. The committee agreed this was a good approach.

2.9 Mary Hennessy stated that IPAS people would be coming to Maynooth over the summer. Emma Berney asked if the timescale for arrivals is known. Julie McNamara stated the timescale to be June to July for arrivals.



3.8 Gary Cogan stated that An Garda Síochána has done a piece with the UN and would forward report to Mary Hennessy.

4.9 Joint Policing Committees are to be replaced with Community Safety Partnerships. Gary Cogan said there will be space in partnerships to work on item 4.9.

4.13 Amye Quigley (Library Service) stated there is no progress on sanctuaries. Amye also stated that KLS is trying to get more Ukrainian language books and displays.

4.17 Mary Hennessy stated there's a variety of sports camps and funding is available for Ukrainian and Direct Provision children to attend camps.

After the report was reviewed Cllr. Breslin opened the floor to any additional questions arising from the report. There was none.

#### **4. AMIF Update:**

Niamh Conaghan circulated her report. Cllr. Breslin commended Niamh on the work that has been done and said behind the scenes work should be recognised. Cllr. Breslin stated that Kildare is open to anyone in need of refuge and that must continue. Cllr. Breslin thanked Niamh and CKLP for their work.

Cllr. Liston raised a query in relation to what other counties are doing. Cllr. Breslin stated that Kildare is at the forefront of rolling out services through the KIIC as a collective group. Cllr. Liston suggested that the KIIC could pass on and highlight the benefits of its approach to other counties. Cllr. Breslin stated that the KIIC model is working and a letter was circulated out but that other counties don't appear to be following suit.

Julie McNamara raised a query regarding children in Athy. Cllr. Breslin said the children in Athy have been enrolled in creche and in schools. Julie asked about children in Ballymore Eustace and requested she be linked up to offer support to young children there.

Brenda Lynch stated that there seems to be a problem with the response centred around communication. Resources are only finding out about arrivals after people show up and need access to resources. Julie McNamara stated that people need additional supports and supports for under 5s. Cllr. Breslin said now that everyone has met in person contact should be made between members regards information and access to relevant supports.

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

Mary Hennessy stated that 250 Ukrainians had been brought for a day out to the Zoo and that it was well received. Mary said that Niamh and Maria, who is Ukrainian herself, run English classes in Ballymore Eustace and in Kane's in Athy. Mary stated that in North Kildare there aren't many centres for people. Anna McHugh stated that Clane Parish is a sanctuary parish for Ukrainians.

Brenda Lynch asked about Bert House. Cllr. Breslin stated that Bert House has vacancies but is having difficulty filling the vacancies.

**6. Any Other Business:**

Gary Cogan stated that Naas was represented in Brussels recently at the Community Sponsorship Conference and hoped to present the model for community policing. Gary stated he is looking for the Department to come down and meet the KIIC to relay any issues or concerns.

The meeting concluded.

**7. Dates of Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on 13 September 2023, in Kildare County Council.