**PRESS RELEASE 21 May 2024**

 **Community First Responder Group Launched in Enniscorthy Town**

Yesterday (20th May) marked the coming together of Enniscorthy Civil Defence and Enniscorthy Red Cross volunteers to establish a Community First Responder (CFR) Group within Enniscorthy Town. The group consists of trained volunteers from both organisations who will respond to cardiac arrest and choking incidents within Enniscorthy Town.

The group is made up of volunteers who are first aid trained and is a joint initiative of the two organisations who are working closely with the National Ambulance Service (NAS). The group has been fully supported by the National Ambulance Service, who provide scenario training of events they may encounter while responding.

Jonathan Lynch National Ambulance service said “*The National Ambulance Service is delighted to work with Wexford Civil Defence and Enniscorthy Red Cross to bring a community first responder scheme to the town. We are grateful to the volunteer members who have given so freely of their time in preparation for this and upon activation will join over 260 other first responder schemes nationwide in responding to cardiac emergencies within the community in support of the Ambulance Service*”.

The volunteers will be alerted to calls by National Ambulance Service (NAS) via a mobile application, once two volunteers are available, they will respond utilising the existing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) which are located around Enniscorthy Town. These AEDs where installed by the Enniscorthy defibrillator initiative group. The volunteers will respond to calls within the Enniscorthy area, to include the town and immediate surrounding areas.

Speaking at the Launch Cathaoirleach of Enniscorthy Municipal District Cllr. John O’ Rourke said: *‘I am delighted to see the launch of the Enniscorthy Town CFR group. It is a welcome step towards helping communities to take immediate action in emergency situations. This early attendance could literally be the difference between life and death where every minute counts. I would encourage members of the community to join the group to help save more lives and foster a sense of community resilience’*

The CFR group will utilise existing AEDs which have been located at various locations around Enniscorthy town. The group will go live as from Monday 27th May and will respond to calls received from the National Ambulance Service.

If anyone is interested in joining the Group, please contact Peter O’Connor, Civil Defence Officer, email cdo@wexfordcoco.ie or Paddy Redmond, Enniscorthy Red Cross, email adu.wexford@irishredcross.com.

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