**Wexford County Council and An Garda Siochana Wexford**

**Press Release 13th February 2024**

**Annual Wexford Garda Youth Awards 2024 launched by An Garda Siochana Wexford in association with Wexford County Council.**

An Garda Síochána are delighted to be working with Wexford County Council again in presenting these annual awards that acknowledge the brilliance of our young people in our local communities in County Wexford. The launch of these annual awards is to acknowledge the achievements of young people who are making a difference in their own lives and in their communities within the Wexford Garda Division. These Awards acknowledge the endeavours of young people who have faced and overcome challenges in their lives.

Cllr. Michael Whelan, Chairman of the Joint Policing Committee said “***Wexford County Council enjoys a very close and strong working relationship with An Garda Siochána, especially through the Joint Policing Committee.  These awards offer an opportunity to further strengthen these ties of interagency cooperation towards the betterment of the lives of all the citizens of County Wexford.  The Garda Youth awards is a very good initiative, it shows young people in a good light and I would encourage more groups and individuals to put forward more candidates for the awards.  The Awards are an important opportunity for Wexford County Council and An Garda Síochána to celebrate our exceptional young people and the contribution they make in their communities”.***

In launching this year’s Awards, Inspector Graham Rowley of Wexford Garda Station, ***“I'm pleased to announce the commencement of the Wexford Garda Youth Awards for 2024.  It is important that An Garda Siochana continue to recognise that a lot of good work is being done by young people in every community throughout county Wexford, and that we as a society are very proud of them. I encourage you to nominate any young person you feel is deserving of recognition for their positive contributions.***

***It's inspiring to see so many of our local young people previously succeed and have even represented County Wexford on a national stage, our young people continue to demonstrate their commitment to bettering our communities.***

***We are grateful to Wexford County Council for their ongoing support and their kind sponsorship of the Garda Youth Awards, as well as to South East Radio, including Mr. Alan Corcoran, and the Wexford People Newspapers for their assistance.”***

As heretofore, awards will be presented in four categories:

* Individual Award - Making a positive contribution to their community, making it a better place to live.
* Group Award - Group of two or more, making a positive contribution to their community, making it a better place to live.
* Special Achievement Award - Overcome difficult circumstances, defied all the odds and whose commitment deserves recognition.
* Community Safety Award - Through a crime prevention or safety initiative/innovation, have made their community a safer place to live.

Anyonecan nominate a young person between the age of 13 and 21 years for an award.    Nominations will be completed through an online process, available at:

[Garda Youth Awards | Wexford County Council (wexfordcoco.ie)](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/community/supports-grants-and-awards/garda-youth-awards)

Details of this process will be distributed to schools, youth groups and voluntary organisations right across Wexford in the coming days and will also be available upon request from your local Garda Station, the closing date for nominations will be **Tuesday 19th March 2024**.  A Judging Panel will decide upon the Divisional Winners, the Judging Panel will also nominate an individual/ group to represent Wexford for consideration at the National Garda Youth Awards. It is anticipated that the awards ceremony will take place in May 2024.

For further information please contact :

Inspector Graham Rowley at wexford\_ds@garda.ie 053 9165280,

 Garda Liam Kavanagh at liam.j.kavanagh@garda.ie 051 426037

 or your local Garda Station.

**ENDS**

**Image: Carolyne Godkin (Director of Service), Inspector Graham Rowley, Cllr. Michael Whelan (Chairperson of Joint Policing Committee) & Tom Enright (Chief Executive of Wexford County Council) with members of An Garda Siochana and staff of WCC at launch of the Garda Youth Awards 2024**