

Annual Report of County Laois Joint Policing Committee 2016

A. Summary of progress in implementation of Laois County JPC Strategy Work Plan 2016

	Strategic Objectives	Actions	Challenges/Barriers encountered	Actions taken and progress achieved during 2016
1	Community Engagement & Communication	Identify priority areas for re-launching community crime prevention schemes or developing new ones.		It is planned to re-launch schemes at Ballyroan, Spink, Vicarstown and Fisherstown during 2017. New schemes planned for Killenard and areas of Portarlinton.
		Make available relevant crime prevention information to groups and also in respect of community schemes available		Ongoing through Local Media and via Community Alert/Neighbourhood Watch Schemes throughout the County.
		Coordinate networking of Community Alert Groups.		Community Alert Working Group is established and meetings will be held on a quarterly basis throughout 2017.
		Convene District Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch Meetings with An Garda Siochana and the Local Authority at least once per annum.		Annual gathering of Community Alerts took place in November 2016.
		Reintroduce and reinvigorate Community Gardaí in strategic locations in Laois.		Under constant review as resources become available.
		Establish a Joint Policing Committee web page / portal to disseminate crime prevention and other information to the public.		New version of Council website www.laois.ie launched at end of 2016. Dedicated page to Laois JPC.
2	Crime Prevention & Education	Promote Crime Prevention initiatives in the county		With local and national media assistance Community Gardaí within the Division are currently engaging with local schools on Anti-social behaviour & Drug prevention. For 2017 it is planned to hold a number seminars in multiple locations with the Local Authority & the HSE communicating Crime Prevention, Elder Abuse and Fire Safety.
		Promote supports for vulnerable people at home, through promotion of Seniors Alert and		Schemes promoted by all stakeholders. Information event hosted for older people by

		other schemes		Laois PPN in October and November 2016.
		Support engagement of young people with Juvenile Liaison system, Youth Diversion Projects and/or miscellaneous diversion programmes operated by the local Sports Partnership		Local Authority represented on Advisory committees of both Garda GYDP's in Laois. Community Coaching and Street Leagues programmes supported annually at local level by both An Garda Siochana and the local authority.
		Support vulnerable groups, diverse and/or marginalized communities to engage with policing authorities		Regular engagement with Laois Traveller Action Group (<i>Fire Safety programme and Traveller Conflict Mediation Initiative</i>) and local communities in marginalised areas in Laois by both An Garda Siochana and the local authority.
3	Address Priority Crime Related Issues	Promote the 'Dial to Stop Drug Dealing' campaign and contact details.		To be promoted by launching a campaign by mid 2017.
		Encourage support for victims of crime and engage with victim support organisations.		Victims Support Office in place in addition to engagement by both regular and Detective Branch personnel.
4	Road Safety, Litter and Emergency Management	Encourage ongoing commitment of all parties to the Working Together Safely Group.		Ongoing commitment of all stakeholders to the Working Together Safely Group.
		Promotion of national and local Road Safety campaigns and educational initiatives.		Promotion ongoing by An Garda Siochana
		Work collaboratively to commence development of measures to address illegal dumping in the county		Laois County Council is taking a comprehensive approach to tackling illegal dumping including awareness campaigns, education, enforcement, and the effective use of CCTV technology.
		Engagement by all parties with Major Emergency initiatives including Severe Weather Inter-Agency Committee		Regular engagement of the Major Emergency Management Committee at local and regional level. Severe Weather Committee meets at regular intervals, with promotion of severe weather messages online and through the PPN.

B. Key Achievements of Laois JPC in 2016

- Laois County JPC collaboratively prepared and adopted its first Strategy in 2016, containing a number of strategic objectives across several key areas of work:
 - Community Engagement and Communication
 - Crime Prevention
 - Address Crime related issues
 - Road Safety, Litter and Emergency Management

- Laois County JPC was the first nationally to approve the piloting of a Community CCTV scheme in Laois in 2016. This has influenced other Community Alert groups to investigate their potential to install and operate Community CCTV in their own areas.
- Laois County JPC was successful in jointly hosting a large gathering of Community Alert representatives on 23rd November 2016 at which much information sharing took place, most especially on the matters of CCTV and Text Alert systems. The effective collaboration and communication between An Garda Síochána, Laois County Council and the community is also shown in the establishment of a new Community Alert Working Group in 2016.

C. Public Meetings of Laois County JPC

Laois County JPC host one public meeting (in addition to the meeting Community Alerts) last year, on 19th September 2016. All meetings of Laois County JPC are held in public, however this meeting invited submissions from the public and allowed members of the public to participate in certain parts of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____