

Annual Report of Monaghan Joint Policing Committee for year: 2016

ITEM 1 – Summary of progress in implementing the JPC’s work programme

	Strategic Objectives	Summary of actions taken & progress achieved during the year, and any significant difficulties which were encountered	Summary of advice given by the JPC to local authority/ Gardai, specific recommendations made	Results of advice given – feedback received from LA/ Gardai
	High priority objectives			
1	Policing Communities	<p>Vandalism on largest local authority housing estate in county raised by youth workers on sub-committee</p> <p>Issue around busloads of youngsters coming to youth disco in Monaghan town & culture of drinking on buses</p> <p>The need for a youth centre in Monaghan town is urgent</p> <p>Integration of new communities: JPC teamed up with PPN to encourage communities to get involved with ‘Street Feast’ initiative</p>	<p>Gardai reported similar issue in Blayney had been greatly improved by working with venues and bus operators</p>	<p>Specific requests made by workers brought back by sub-committee members to Gardai and Council MD, where they were acted upon</p> <p>Approach to venue owner successful. Detached youthwork team now attend, as well as Garda inspections of buses for alcohol</p> <p>Monaghan Co Co put a team together to work on identifying a suitable premises in the town</p> <p>4 communities ran events to welcome new people into their communities. Hope this will grow in 2017</p>
2	Crime Prevention	Mapping of all community alert and text alert groups in the county		Increased coverage of the county. Areas with no coverage identified and a plan in place to address this in 2017

		Don't Pour Your Dreams Away teen anti alcohol misuse campaign rolled out		NO incidents involving teenage anti social behaviour on the night of Junior Cert results
3	Road Safety	Appointment of Road Safety Officer - Officer took up position in August Hi viz vests: awareness campaign & photocall carried out Sept.		This is the first time the county has had a RSO. A full plan will now be developed, and integrated with the JPC's Strategic Plan All Council Members issued with a kit of vests of various sizes in October, to carry in their cars, for distribution to members of the public
	Other Objectives			
	To use the high media profile of the JPC to raise public awareness of issues of high priority in the county	Domestic Abuse spotlighted Success in reducing illegal fuel laundering incidents highlighted Publicity given to Council's review of Speed limits encouraged the public to have their say Muintir na Tire & Community Alert presentation highlighted the need for vigilance against crime in the home and rural crime		
	To be an effective voice	The JPC considered the Policing Authority's draft Strategy Statement and made a written submission Discussion at JPC level around the role that alcohol plays as a		

		factor in crime, especially anti social behaviour highlighted contributed to the LCDC prioritising the establishment of a Drug & Alcohol Abuse Forum in Monaghan for the first time in 2016.		
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ITEM 2 – Highlight 3 key achievements of the JPC during the year & explain why they are considered to be significant

- In response to the revelation in national press in early 2016 that Co Monaghan has the highest incidence of reported domestic abuse incidents in the country, the JPC invited the CEO of Tearmann Domestic Violence Services to address the Committee’s March meeting. This was followed up by a collaboration between the JPC and Tearmann on the production of a small, business card-sized information card giving emergency numbers which a victim of domestic abuse might need in a crisis. These are being carried in Garda squad cars, where they can be easily slipped to an abuse victim when Garda are called out to a domestic dispute. This is a very practical collaboration which gets help directly to those most in need in a very innovative and low cost way.

- Cavan JPC invited us to make a presentation on our ‘Don’t Pour Your Dreams Away’ campaign which has proven very successful in curbing antisocial behaviour on the night of the Junior Cert results in Sept, as well as having a positive effect on teen alcohol misuse throughout the year.
- We broadened the scheme itself this year, and ran it throughout the summer, partnering up with local businesses to offer a range of activities as giveaways via social media to incentivise young people to celebrate with friends in settings which didn’t involve alcohol. The campaign was phenomenally successful, garnering a tremendous amount of positive publicity locally, not just for the JPC but for young people in general. Many of the activities on offer appealed to an age cohort which are notoriously hard to reach with an anti-drink message – the 18-24 year old male – which gave us particular satisfaction. One giveaway reached over 90,000 people, who not only saw the giveaway but were exposed to our regular messages regarding facts around alcohol, myths, young people and the law etc.
- We consider that there is scope to nationalise the scheme

- We were invited to Donegal to a meeting organised by their JPC of all the community alert groups in the county. They wished to hear about our experience in mapping the county’s community alert groups, and co-operation between groups to adjust boundaries to maximise the coverage of the county, also to hear other initiatives that have sprung from the groups coming together as a Network, and the benefits the groups have realised from networking.

- Our Monaghan Community Safety Network continues to gather pace. This year, they secured €2,500 from Monaghan Co Co towards signage for groups, have collaborated to pool their collective memberships and seek a better deal from the text service providers, and are working to roll out the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme and distribute hi viz vests on behalf of Monaghan Co Co. They are also participating in a new Crime Prevention Ambassadors programme being rolled out by Muintir na Tire.
- The Community Safety Network is an initiative of the JPC, started by the JPC as a means of linking with the community sector. It enables us to ensure we have effective and truly representative participation from the community sector on the JPC via the PPN, to which the Network is affiliated. Building a structure which links in to the PPN is important, and we are proud to have achieved it in a meaningful, non-tokenistic way.

ITEM 3 –Details of public meetings held during the year

No public meeting was held during 2016

ITEM 4 – Record of members and meetings held during the year

Total number of meetings held:

JPC meetings: 3
Sub-Committee meetings:
Crime Prevention: 3
Policing Communities: 3
Road Safety: 2

Meeting dates:

JPC: 15th March, 14th June, 6th October
Crime Prevention Sub Ctee: 11/4, 7/6, 25/10
Policing Communities Sub Ctee: 20/4, 13/9, 15/11
Road Safety Sub Ctee: 28/6, 14/9