



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Minutes – Policing Strategy and Performance Committee Meeting

Date: 21 March 2019

Venue: 90 North King Street, Dublin 7

Part A – Committee Meeting

Attendance

- Authority:** Judith Gillespie (Chair), Vicky Conway, Ronan Nolan, Moling Ryan
- Secretary:** Fiona Larthwell
- Executive:** Helen Hall, Margaret Tumelty, Mark Nother, Úna Ní Éigearthaigh (Part A only)
- Apologies:** Maureen Lynott

1. Closed session – Committee members

The standing option to conduct a closed session was not exercised.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 6 February

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved, subject to minor amendments. There were no matters arising.

The Chair led a brief discussion on issues arising from the Authority Meetings that had occurred since the Committee last met, covering updates on the Government Policing Reform Programme, Youth Diversion and the impending publication of the year-end report on policing performance.

3. Executive Updates on Site Visits and Other Work

The Executive provided the Committee members with an update on key visits and meetings that had taken place since the last committee meeting including those on the topics of Adult Cautions, Youth Diversion, Critical Firearms Incident Command, Crime Statistics, and with Amárach Research on the Public Attitudes Survey.

The Committee also noted that a calendar of meetings/site visits would be developed by the Executive following the finalisation of the Policing Plan 2019.

4. Preparation for Garda Síochána updates

Crowe Horwath report: The Committee noted that due to the late provision of materials from the Garda Síochána there was insufficient time to consider the documents and as such there would not be a discussion on this topic at this meeting.

Homicide review: The Committee considered the 4th report on the review of homicides referred to it by the Authority. It was agreed to raise certain issues around classification and inclusion of third party reports/recommendation on case files, which were highlighted in the report, with the Garda Síochána.

5. Draft Strategy Statement 2019-2021 and Draft Policing Plan 2019

The Committee discussed the updated draft of the 2019 Policing Plan ('the Plan') provided by the Garda Síochána and noted issues raised in its previous meeting had been addressed. However, it was noted that there were still some areas of concern for the Committee regarding the Plan in relation to the specificity of the targets, the consistency with other metrics, and the positioning of Ethics and Human Rights. The updated draft of the Strategy Statement 2019-2021 ('the Strategy') was also reviewed and similar comments made.

It was agreed that the Committee's queries and comments on the Plan and the Strategy would be discussed with Garda Síochána representatives in Part B of this meeting.

Part B – Meeting with Garda Síochána representatives

Attendance

Authority: As previous

Executive: As previous

Garda Síochána: John Twomey (Deputy Commissioner), John O'Driscoll (Assistant Commissioner), David Gilbride (Executive Director, Strategy and Transformation), Brian Sutton (Chief Superintendent, Homicide Investigation Review Team), Catherine Heffernan (Policing Authority Liaison Office)

6. Closed session

The standing option to conduct a closed session was not exercised. It was noted that comments on the minutes of the previous meeting had been provided and incorporated.

7. Garda Síochána updates

Homicide review:

Garda Síochána representatives advised that 32 of the 41 homicides have now been subject to review and from these 20 recommendations have arisen; a policy owner and supervisor have been assigned for each of these. Garda Síochána representatives confirmed that they are satisfied that the appropriate lessons have been learned from the review process and that implementation of the recommendations will address all of these. It was stated that the Garda College and the training governance board have agreed updates for training, which will be made available to current Senior Investigating Officers.

The Committee also sought clarity on the extent to which third party recommendations, such as those from the Coroners Court and the Director of Public Prosecutions, are considered by the Garda Síochána. In response the Garda Síochána confirmed to the Committee that any such recommendations would have been included in the notes on the outcomes. It was also noted that types of recommendations would be communicated directly to the Commissioner.

The Committee raised its serious concerns about one individual case in the latest batch of reviews and a detailed discussion was held. The Committee sought assurance on a range of issues including organisational learning and sharing information with the families as appropriate, which Garda Síochána representatives responded to.

The Committee was notified that the a 5th report is underway covering the remaining 9 cases and that following completion it will be followed by 6th report that will provide a summary of the full review process.

Crowe Horwath report

This topic was not discussed, as noted in the minutes of Part A of the meeting.

Follow-up on the Garda Inspectorate Report on Child Sexual Abuse

The Garda Síochána provided an update for Committee on the work ongoing following the recent meeting between the Authority and the Chair of the Implementation Group for the Garda Inspectorate Report on Child Sexual Abuse.

Organised Crime

The Garda Síochána provided the Committee with its quarterly update on organised crime.

Draft Strategy Statement 2019-2021 and Draft Policing Plan 2019

The Authority received a verbal update on progress towards submitting the final draft of the Policing Plan 2019 for approval by the Authority at its upcoming March meeting. The areas of concern identified by the Committee in Part A of this meeting were discussed with the Garda Síochána and a number of actions or amendments were agreed, subject to review by the Garda Commissioner.

- Consideration of the position of Ethics and Human Rights within the Plan
- Review of the language around the level of commitment to achieve targets
- Selection of at least 3 or 4 SMART metrics intended to produce improvement in behaviours in key priority areas, as defined by the Garda Síochána
- Consideration of the change in measurement from numbers of crimes reported or detected to rates per 100,000 of crimes reported or detected
- Inclusion of a baseline measurement relating to coercive control
- Inclusion of reference to upcoming international inspections, e.g. GRECO
- Ensuring consistency between the Public Attitudes Survey measures and those in the plan
- Review of the spread of responsibility between business owners and the timing of projects

In relation to the draft Strategy Statement the following actions or amendments were agreed, subject to review by the Garda Commissioner.

- Inclusion of an evaluation of the Community Policing Framework within the three year term of the Strategy
- Inclusion of diversity in the *Our People – Our Greatest Resource* chapter of the Strategy;
- Review of the consistency of wording around targets, as with the Plan
- Consideration of the inclusion of directional targets
- Consideration of the position of the Code of Ethics and Human Rights, as with the Plan

The Committee indicated that, subject to these issues being addressed, it was satisfied to recommend the draft Strategy and the draft Plan to the Authority for approval. The Garda Síochána committed to liaising with the Authority's Executive on these issues before submitting final copies for approval at the Authority meeting on the 28 March.

8. Any other business

No other business was discussed.