

## Annual Report of County Laois Joint Policing Committee 2018

### A. Summary of progress in implementation of Laois County JPC Strategy Work Plan 2018

	Strategic Objectives	Actions	Challenges/Barriers encountered	Actions taken and progress achieved during 2018
1	<b>Community Engagement &amp; Communication</b>	Continue to promote Crime Prevention initiatives in the county.		New Crime Prevention Officer in place and processes being developed.
		Identify priority areas for re-launching community crime prevention schemes or developing new ones.		Crime Prevention Officer in place and processes being developed.
		Make available relevant crime prevention information to groups and also in respect of community schemes available		Crime Prevention Officer in place. Ongoing through Local Media and via Community Alert/Neighbourhood Watch Schemes throughout the County.
		Coordinate networking of Community Alert Groups.		Community Alert Working Group established and meetings held on a quarterly basis.
		Convene District Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch Meetings with An Garda Siochana and the Local Authority at least once per annum.		Working Group meetings ongoing.
		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.		Dedicated page to Laois JPC on <a href="http://www.laois.ie">www.laois.ie</a> Laois Co. Co. in regular contact with Garda Press Office in relation to keeping up to date links on Council's website – JPC page. Information available in relation current issues, including property marking, fraud, cyber safety and protection of vulnerable citizens.
2	<b>Crime Prevention &amp; Education</b>	Promote Crime Prevention initiatives in the county		Crime Prevention Officer now in place.

		Promote supports for vulnerable people at home, through promotion of Seniors Alert and other schemes		Schemes promoted by all stakeholders. Information event hosted for older people by Laois PPN in September 2018. Community Alert meetings – Muintir na Tire
		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. Child Protection Unit and Crime Prevention Office in place and involved.
		Commence development of education awareness programmes for primary and secondary schools in respect of crime prevention		Schools programme in place.
		Collaborate with other agencies to develop proactive ways to heighten public awareness of the potential harm of cyber crime		Crime Prevention Officer in place to progress this.
<b>3</b>	<b>Address Priority Crime Related Issues</b>	Promote the 'Dial to Stop Drug Dealing' campaign and contact details.		An Inspector appointed to the Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force and process in place.
		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.
<b>4</b>	<b>Road Safety, Litter and Emergency Management</b>	Encourage ongoing commitment of all parties to the Working Together Safely Group.		Ongoing commitment of all stakeholders to the Working Together Safely Group. 2 meetings held in 2018.
		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		Action Plan in relation to tackling illegal dumping adopted by Laois County Council March 2018. Plan currently being implemented
	Engagement by all parties with Major Emergency initiatives including Severe Weather Inter-Agency Committee		Engagement ongoing.

**B. Key Achievements of Laois JPC in 2018**

- 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
  - Community CCTV
  
- During 2018 Laois County Council and Laois Public Participation Network worked with An Garda Siochana to engage with the community through information events and community alert meetings.

**C. Public Meetings of Laois County JPC**

Laois County JPC hosted one public meeting last year, on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018. 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: \_\_\_\_\_