

Cork City Joint Policing Committee

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Introduction

In 2008, under the provisions of the *Garda Síochána Act 2005*, Cork City Joint Policing Committee was established. However in 2006, Cork City established and continues to run an effective Community Safety Framework. Cork City Council and An Garda Síochána came together through RAPID to develop a community safety framework for the City's RAPID areas. The primary purpose of this network is to -

- To cultivate a safe, quality environment for people to live in.
- To support agencies and communities to work together to make communities safer places to live and work in.

The membership of the committee comprises of An Garda Síochána, elected members, senior council officials and various public participation network members drawn from several societal pillars.

2016

Cork City Joint Policing Strategy was produced and launched in May 2016 (2016-2021), there are 8 strategic aims in this plan, these are to be delivered through annual work plans.

A public wide consultation process was undertaken and a number of submissions were made by various state agencies, community, business and voluntary groups. There were many stakeholders involved in the process. The issues identified during the consultative process were incorporated and informed the Strategy.

A significant number of Local Policing Fora and District Management meetings also took place around the city. Reports from the District Management Committees were presented to the JPC.

Launch of the Cork City Joint Policing Strategy (2016-2021)

This six year strategy was launched on Monday 20th June in Mahon Community Centre, the venue of the first Community Safety Fora meeting in Cork City. The launch was widely attended. In 2017, progress will be made on the objectives in this Strategy.

Meetings

The JPC met 9 times during 2016. A number of formal public meetings took place to discuss the Strategy, a thematic public meeting also took place to address the issue of suicide awareness/ prevention.

The following were some of the items raised during the JPC meetings:

- Speeding controls on roads
- Anti-social behaviour in areas
- Crime statistics
- Ongoing works/ projects within the Council
- The importance of the local policing fora as a means of communication
- The collaborative nature of the JPC

Cork City JPC made a submission to the new Policing Authority supporting its new Draft Code of Ethics for An Garda Síochána. This Code is to be included in the national 2017 Policing Plan.

Representations were also made to the Minister to advance the filling of vacancies at Senior Garda Level.

Annual Work Plan

A collaborative team will work to develop and implement the Cork City Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan (2016-2021).

Achievements

The production and launch of the Cork City Joint Policing Committee – Six Year Strategic Plan (2016-2021). This Strategy will “.. lead to outcomes which the public will see through improvements in the way they can connect with the JPC, there will be clear reporting and a clear focus on issues that need interagency consideration to resolve them”.

In 2017 an increased number of JPC meetings took place, this enabled and allowed for facilitation and the promotion of public consultation and open contribution to the strategy document and the workings of the JPC.

The Local Policing Fora was future enhanced by the re-establishment of the Mayfield District Management committee.

A public JPC meeting was held on the advancement/ education/awareness of the National Strategy ‘Connecting for life’. This Strategy is Ireland’s National Strategy to reduce suicide. A local area plan is currently being prepared, this public meeting enabled public input into framing this plan as part of the Strategy.

