

# Cork City Joint Policing Committee

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

### 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.

### **2018**

2018 presaged a major change due to take place in Cork in 2019. In January 2019 legislation is likely to be passed by both houses of the Oireachtas which will result in the population of the city expanding by over 85,000 to over 210,000, and because the city's geographical footprint will quadruple, there will be changes to city council management and operational systems which also are being worked on.

Meetings were held to discuss the passing of responsibility for establishing structures similar to those presently in situ in the 4 city areas but no definitive resolution on how administration of any community safety forums or district management committees in the extended areas was reached. As the May 30<sup>th</sup> deadline approaches this is expected to become more of a priority.

Although the existing garda structure accommodates many of the areas within the new boundary, the re-organisation of garda resources and their deployment to be presented to Cork City JPC in 2019 will also have a profound effect on garda operations in the southern division going forward.

### **Cork City Joint Policing Strategy (2016-2021)**

Launched in 2017 activities reported and discussed at 2018 Joint policing committee meetings formed part of an annual work plan implementing the Cork City Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan (2016-2021)

### **Meetings**

The JPC met 4 times during 2018 in April, June, September and November.

Reflecting the priorities of attendees at the community safety forums and district management committees, a number of special presentations were made to the Cork City JPC in 2018.

These included a presentation on the work of the Criminal Assets Bureau (C.A.B.) and the Garda Protected Services Unit in Anglesea Street dealing with victims of sexual crimes. An invitation was also extended to the manager of the Cork Sexual Violence Centre who could not attend for health reasons but has been re-invited to attend in 2019.

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

- Anti-social behaviour in areas, particularly relating to drug use
- Crime statistics, particularly in the areas of sexual crimes
- Speeding controls in residential areas
- Ongoing works/ projects within the Council, particularly the City Centre movement Strategy
- The important of the local policing fora as a means of communication
- Bogus callers and burglaries, particularly from older citizens

In addition a change in format in presentations made regularly to the JPC, by the CE of the City Council and the Chief Superintendent of An Garda Síochána, were presented in a revamped format for in the second half of the year, to better reflect issues and in line with the ongoing

development of policing and community policing development in the Cork City JPC area. This change will become a feature of the presentations in the future.

## **Achievements**

Reflecting a shift in focus of the Cork South Central Community Safety forum a subsidiary south city forum was created to give voice to residents in that part of the region. Two meetings have already taken place and most issues are resolved before coming to the JPC.

Increased and improved communications, particularly on social media, has led to greater attendance at both the community safety forums, district management committees and the JPC itself,

An Garda Síochána has availed of the opportunity to raise awareness of personal responsibility and good practice by addressing meetings of Cork's Age Friendly City Forum

A perennial problem arising in the surrounds of University College Cork during the annual Raise and Give (RAG) week has let to associated antisocial behaviour being all but eliminated thanks to the close and effective cooperation between the University, its student council, An Garda Síochána and representatives of the Vintners Federation.

The forthcoming Boundary extension has become an agenda item for the JPC meetings to keep abreast of developments for the forthcoming expansion of Cork City Boundaries.