



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2021

Introduction

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was established in 2009 and is a partnership between Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, An Garda Síochána and the Community. The membership comprises of senior Garda Officers, elected Councillors and Oireachtas members and representatives of community & voluntary groups.

The DLR Joint Policing Committee is intended to be a forum for discussion and a means of building confidence, trust and safety in the County. In doing this, the DLR JPC seeks to prioritise key community policing policy issues and identify initiatives which will contribute to improved community policing and prevention or reduction of future crime in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Role of the JPC

The legislative framework for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees is set out in [Section 36 of An Garda Síochána Act 2005](#) and the amendments to this Act in 2014. Section 36(2) of the Act provides that a JPC's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area. Section 36(2) is set out below:-

36.—

(2) The joint policing committee's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area, and in particular to—

(a) keep under review—

(i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and

(ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,

(b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,

(c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area,

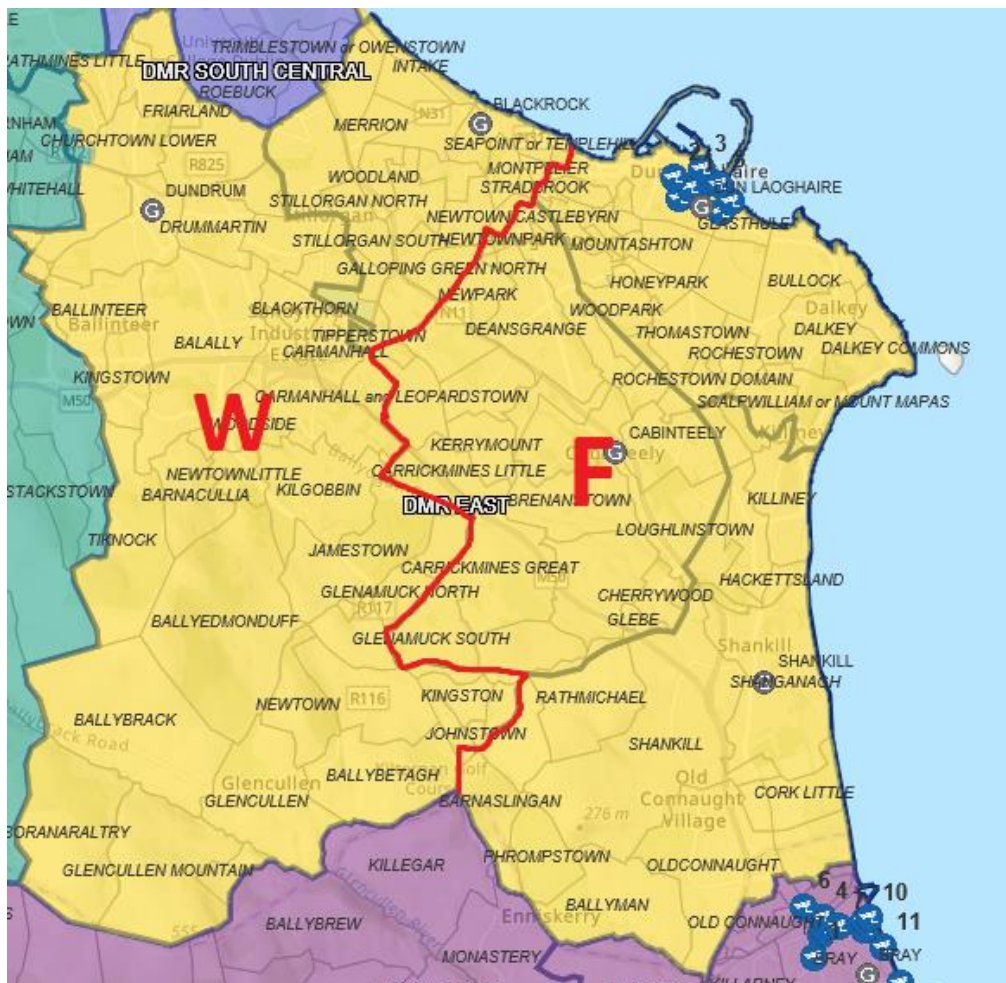
(d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and

(e) co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora established under paragraph (d) or otherwise.

Garda Division Covered by the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee

The majority of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is located within the Dublin Metropolitan East Division.

Within the DMR East Division, there are two districts, "F" covering Dún Laoghaire, Shankill & Cabinteely and "W" covering Blackrock, Dundrum & Stepside areas.



Joint Policing Committee Meetings in 2021

In 2021, the DLR Joint Policing Committee was chaired by Cllr Mary Hanafin, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. 4 meetings were held in 2021- on 24th February, 26th May, 22nd September and 23rd November. These meetings were held online. A public meeting was scheduled for 23rd November but had to be postponed due to the Covid 19 public health situation at the time.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee Membership 2021 (at 31st December 2021)

Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council	
Cllr. Ann Colgan	Elected representative
Cllr. Anna Grainger	Elected representative
Cllr. Carrie Smyth	Elected representative
Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan	Elected representative
Cllr. Elizabeth Eva Dowling	Elected representative
Cllr Frank McNamara	Elected representative
Cllr. John Kennedy	Elected representative
Cllr. Kazi Ahmed	Elected representative
Cllr. Lettie McCarthy	Elected representative
Cllr. Lorraine Hall	Elected representative
Cllr. Mary Hanafin	Elected representative
Cllr. Michael Clarke	Elected representative
Cllr. Oisin O' Connor	Elected representative
Cllr. Séafra O'Faoláin	Elected representative
Cllr. Shay Brennan	Elected representative
Therese Langan	Director of Service, Community & Cultural Development
Mary Ruane	Senior Executive Officer, Community & Cultural Development
An Garda Síochána	
Matthew Nyland	Chief Superintendent
Martin Creighton	Detective Superintendent
Brian O' Keeffe	Superintendent
Gordon Woulfe	Superintendent
Community Representatives	
Eimear McAuliffe	DLR Public Participation Network

Anne Harrington	DLR Public Participation Network
Bébhinn Murphy	DLR Public Participation Network
Tony McCarthy	DLR Public Participation Network
Georgina Potts	Ballybrack/Loughlinstown/Shankill LPF
Reverend Asa Bjork	Central Dún Laoghaire, LPF
Liz Roche	Sandyford / Stepside LPF
David Bradshaw	DLR Drugs & Alcohol Task Force
Members of the Oireachtas	
Deputy Cormac Devlin	Member of the Oireachtas
Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill	Member of the Oireachtas
Deputy Josepha Madigan	Member of the Oireachtas
Deputy Neale Richmond	Member of the Oireachtas
Senator Barry Ward	Member of the Oireachtas

Changes in Membership in 2021

Superintendent Gordon Woulfe replaced Superintendent Paul Reidy at the September JPC meeting. Superintendent Karen Duffy replaced Superintendent Ronan Barry at the September JPC meeting. Superintendent Brian O' Keeffe subsequently replaced Superintendent Karen Duffy at the November JPC meeting.

Joint Policing Committee Work Programme

A six year Strategic Plan was developed for the DLR JPC and adopted in June 2016.

The JPC Strategic Plan 2016-2021 contains 18 individual actions across three strategic Goals:

- 1. Supporting and promoting Crime Prevention in DLR*
- 2. Enhancing Community Safety & Security in DLR*
- 3. Facilitating Community Engagement and Collaboration on Safety Issues*

The 2021 Work Plan was based on the current guidelines and code of practice which apply to JPCs and the Goals/Actions set out in the six-year Strategic Plan.



Monitoring of key safety/security issues in the County

The Chief Superintendent presented an overview of the key policing priorities for the DMR East Division at each of the DLR JPC meetings, noting some of the key crime statistics and approaches proposed to address identified priorities.

Progress reports on the JPC Strategic Plan 2016-2021 were provided at each JPC Meeting as well as updates from each of the Local Policing Fora.

The JPC meetings also included the following presentations and one consultation:

- 1. Presentation on the study commissioned by DLRCC into the Assessment of Need for the Provision of a Domestic Violence Refuge in the DLR area**

Two update presentations were provided by the Consultant engaged to carry out the assessment of Need for the Provision of a Domestic Violence Refuge in the DLR area at the May and September JPC meetings. The presentations included the following areas:

- Past research
- Current services in the dlr area for domestic violence victims
- Statistics on the number of victims who attended the various domestic violence services in dlr
- Detailed needs assessment for refuge facilities requirement in dlr

2. Presentation on the Juvenile Liaison Programme

Sergeant Mark Clarke presented a report on the Diversion Programme & Juvenile Liaison Office Programme.

The presentation included the following areas:

- How the programme works
- The objectives of the programme
- Types of offences

3. Presentation on Crime Prevention

Sergeant James Malone, Crime Prevention Officer gave a presentation on Crime Prevention. The presentation included the following areas:

- Incidents in the dlr area
- Burglary prevention advice
- Tips to prevent bicycle and car theft
- Advice for safe online shopping
- Home crime prevention advice

4. Presentation on LA16 Fatal Collision Reporting

Gerry Flaherty, Senior Executive Engineer of the Traffic and Road Safety Section in DLRCC gave a presentation on the LA16 Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure which included the following areas:

- The purpose of the reporting
- Details of the new reporting procedure

5. Consultation on the Draft DLR Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2022-2028

Liam O' Donovan, Senior Inspector, Tenancy Management Section in DLRCC gave a presentation on the Draft DLR Anti- Social Behaviour Strategy 2022- 2028 which included the following areas:

- Definition of anti-social behaviour
- Legislation relating to anti-social behaviour
- Process for developing the strategy
- Consultation process
- Initiatives to combat anti- social behaviour

- Request for any submissions and observations from the JPC

4. Workplan highlights and achievements

The COVID-19 Pandemic continued in 2021 to drive changes in both the focus and methods of policing for An Garda Síochána. Whilst Statutory Instruments imposing public health measures were a consistent feature throughout the year, periods of restrictions easing also required a flexible and agile approach to policing as the demands and issues changed with these. An Garda Síochána maintained the approach of engaging, explaining, encouraging and the final resort of enforcement.

The interagency relationship between An Garda Síochána and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council continues to yield productive results on both sides and will hopefully continue to do so in the coming year.

The key highlights and achievements under each Goal in 2021 are as follows:

1. Supporting and promoting Crime Prevention in DLR

Burglaries

There continues to be a trending year on year decrease in burglaries across the Division. 2021 saw a 46% decrease within DMR East compared to 2020. Operation THOR has contributed to this decrease, as well as offender case management, which has led to the arrest and imprisonment of some prolific offenders.

Prolific Offender Reports:

A greater emphasis has been placed on targeting identified prolific offenders within the Division with notable results achieved.

All outstanding matters regarding prolific offenders are dealt with expeditiously and where these individuals are found to be committing crimes or in breach of current bail conditions, all efforts are made to bring them before the Courts and ensure, where applicable, Section 2 Bail applications are made.

Operation THOR target list:

The DMR East THOR target list was actively reviewed to ensure identified persons who engage in criminality have assigned case managers. This results in a more proactive managerial approach, which represents an effective strategy for managing crime recidivism and preventing crime.

High Visibility Policing

There continues to be a focused effort on maintaining high visibility patrolling within the Division. Throughout the year targeted high visibility patrols were conducted, both pro-actively and in response to repeated reports of anti-social behaviour in specific locations.

Operation Irene took place between June and September 2021 with the aim of mitigating anti-social behaviour by targeting local hotspots. The Divisional Mountain Bike Unit was established for the duration of the Operation. This provided a highly visible and accessible presence to the local community and was the recipient of very positive feedback.

Road Safety

Education

The Community Policing Units' usual schedule of face-to-face talks to school children continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. However, several school visits were achieved during the latter half of the year, which included talks in relation to Road Safety.

Cycle safety advice was also distributed by Community Policing members at several events held over the course of the summer.

Engineering

Cycle Schemes under construction/nearing completion 2021

- Blackglen Road/Harold's Grange Road Improvement Scheme
- Drummartin Link Road/Kilgobbin Road cycle route
- Stillorgan Road Cycle Scheme (UCD Nova)
- Johnstown Road and Sandyford cycle protection schemes

Traffic Cycle Schemes at Design Stage 2021

Dundrum area

- Clonskeagh Road (UCD to Clonskeagh)
- Sandyford Business District Cycle Routes
- Cherrywood Greenways Network and Linear Park Design
- Roebuck Road Cycle Scheme

Dún Laoghaire Area

- Stillorgan Park Road cycle scheme
- East Coast Trail (Merrion Gates to Blackrock)
- Wyattville Road Phase 2
- Glenageary Road Cycle scheme
- Rochestown Avenue transport scheme

Infrastructure and Climate Change Cycle Schemes

- Dundrum to Dún Laoghaire (Barton Road East to York Road)

- Dún Laoghaire area – Review of Rochestown Ave, Kill Ave, Mounttown Road, Glenageary Road Upper
- Cherrywood to Shankill Greenway
- Taney Road - Luas Bridge to the N11
- Rock Road – Blackrock Park to Merrion Gates
- Leopardstown Active Travel Routes
- Active Travels routes (24km) serving 65 schools

Bus Connects Schemes

- Bray to City Centre along Stillorgan Road
- Merrion Road to City Centre

Education

- Held Cycle Forum meetings in March, June and September
- Help Road Safety Working Together Group meetings in April and October
- 543 pupils received in cycle training in 10 schools (May and June)
- Cycle and Scooter parking- Delivery of 23 cycle toaster stands and 31 scooter parking stands (x10) to 23 schools

Enforcement

The main focus of DMR East Roads Policing Unit is to address the key factors that contributed most significantly to the causes of fatal and serious injury collisions. An Garda Síochána focus enforcement on a number of key 'Lifesaver' offences:

- Speeding
- Driving while intoxicated (DWI)
- The use of seat belts – front and rear
- The use of mobile phones while driving

Operations to identify speeding, non-wearing of seatbelts, use of mobile phones and driving under the influence have been ongoing throughout the year.

Neighbourhood Watch

The County hosts 157 existing Neighbourhood Watch schemes. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, many of these schemes have had to adopt new methods of conducting meetings.

Similarly, the pandemic impacted significantly upon the delivery of the hospital/campus/business watch initiatives. Liaison with businesses has been conducted to inform and direct on Health Act 1947 Regulations and the implications and responsibilities of business in the delivery of services during the pandemic.

Campus Watch continues with the express goal of educating and empowering the third-level student population through the delivery of relevant and cogent clinics addressing the pertinent concerns of the day.

2. Enhancing Community Safety & Security in DLR

Garda Bicycle Security Project in collaboration with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and An Garda Síochána collaborated on a joint bicycle security project in 2021. The Council assisted with the purchase of bicycle engraving machines. The Gardai intend to run roadshows at a number of venues throughout DLR in 2022 advising on bicycle security matters and offering cyclists the chance to have their bicycle engraved.

Domestic Violence

As the Covid-19 Pandemic continued An Garda Síochána have witnessed a dramatic increase in reported incidents of domestic abuse and domestic violence. These incidents are consistently reviewed and given high priority. A 7 Day Call Back policy has been implemented with respect to all victims. The Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment Tool is in use by all members in the Division when attending domestic incidents. The establishment of DACT has greatly enhanced the ability to govern, manage and support domestic violence victims.

A study was commissioned by DLRCC into the assessment of needs for a domestic violence refuge for the DLR area. Update presentations were provided at two JPC meetings and the report was presented at the November County Council meeting. The report was launched on 17th November 2021.

Age Friendly

In 2021, the COVID-19 Pandemic continued to impact on An Garda Síochána's usual schedule of events and outings for the older members of our community. However, our Community Policing members have continued to engage with them and provide assistance where required. Call backs and crime prevention advice continue to be offered to all older victims of crime. In addition, regular liaison with the HSE, the Safeguarding Team, Senior Alert Scheme and DLRCC facilitates working together to support and reassure our older community.

The Council commenced a review of the dlr Age Friendly Strategy involving a multi stakeholder engagement process. This will be completed in 2022.

3. Community Engagement and Collaboration

Drug and Alcohol Task Force

The DMR East Divisional Drugs Unit is actively involved with the DLR Drug & Alcohol Task Force / Southside Partnership / Community Action Network and participates in the Youth-At-Risk Network (YARN)

A Strategic Plan for 2022-25 is currently being developed, which will take account of the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on young people in relation to substance misuse.

Garda Youth Diversion Programmes

Three Youth Diversion Projects are currently delivered in the Division:

- Castle Project – Ballyogan
- LAB (Loughlinstown & Ballybrack)
- SAY – Sandyford Area Youth Project

These community-based youth development projects seek to divert young people from engaging or becoming further involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour.

Garda Youth Diversion Projects have proven to be an over-arching success, within their respective communities, and they have yielded an extremely low rate of recidivism amongst the youths who engage with the programmes.

Garda Diversity Committee

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on the ability to progress the re-establishment of the multi-agency Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Garda Diversity Committee. However, an Inspector has been designated the portfolio for diversity and nine Garda Diversity Officers were trained in 2021 with further training due to be scheduled for the coming year.

Development of Local Policing Fora in the County

There are four Local Policing Fora established in the County under the auspices of the Joint Policing Committee. These are:

1. Loughlinstown/Shankill & Ballybrack (Chaired by Inspector Adrian Kelly)
2. Sandyford/Stepaside (Chaired by Inspector Tara King)
3. Central Dún Laoghaire (Chaired by Inspector John Dowling)
4. Dundrum/Stillorgan (Chaired by Inspector Tara King)

The establishment of the Dundrum/Stillorgan LPF was approved at the May 2021 JPC meeting.

The role of these Policing Fora is to enhance the collaboration and communication between An Garda Síochána, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, the main transport companies, and local Residents' Associations and organisations.

Meetings held in 2021

- Loughlinstown/Shankill and Ballybrack LPF met on 27th January, 24th March, 2nd June, 1st September and 16th November.
- Sandyford/Stepaside met on 16th February, 13th April, 22nd June, 24th August, 26th October and 14th December.
- Central Dún Laoghaire LPF met on 15th February, 19th April, 24th August and 5th November.
- Dundrum/Stillorgan LPF met on 12th October and 7th December.

Submission of DLR JPC Annual Report 2021

In accordance with Section 36(5) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 this report will be submitted to the Minister for Justice and Equality, the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána and the Policing Authority.