

## **Donegal Joint Policing Committee** **Annual Report 2021**

### **Introduction**

Donegal Joint Policing Committee is a partnership between Government (as represented by Council members and executives, and Oireachtas members) our local communities (represented through Donegal PPN) and An Garda Siochana. The objective of the JPC is to attempt to allow the three pillars of the partnership to achieve more working together than they would working individually for the communities of our county.

Donegal Joint Policing Committee continued to meet the challenge of progressing our programmes and aims despite the impact of the COVID pandemic and restrictions.

The five themes that we have selected represent the major social and community safety issues that communities face in this county.

Attempting to address common issues along with communities that we share a border with is a logical thing to do and hopefully we can continue to work with Councils across the border to develop projects similar to the annual cross border drink driving campaign.

Donegal Joint Policing Committee 5 year Strategic Plan expired in 2020 and members of Donegal JPC drafted and adopted a new Strategic Plan 2021-2026 this year. Members made submissions for inclusion in the new plan and the Sub Groups met and conducted a review of the submissions relevant to their Sub Group. Input was also received from the Steering Group, An Garda Siochana and the Road Safety Working Group. The Strategic Plan was then considered and adopted by Donegal JPC. The five themes of the Donegal JPC Strategic Plan are:

- Rural Isolation, Community Policing and Cybercrime
- Public Order & Anti Social Behaviour
- Drugs
- Road Safety
- Cross Border Crime Prevention Initiatives

The Sub Groups of the Donegal JPC are Rural Isolation, Community Policing and Cyber Crime, Public Order & Anti Social Behaviour and Drugs. The role of the sub groups is to consider in detail the issues relating to these themes, along with sector experts, and revert to the JPC with proposed interventions. The three Sub Groups of Donegal JPC met regularly in 2021. The Sub Groups also played a major role in the review of the Strategic Plan.

Donegal Joint Policing Committee continued to meet on a regular basis throughout 2021 despite the challenges of COVID 19 restrictions. Crime trends and statistics are discussed at meetings which highlight issues that the JPC strive to respond to through its Strategic Plan. Local issues are continuously highlighted by elected members and PPN community representatives which allow them to be dealt with by the relevant stakeholders. The JPC has continue to try deliver initiatives that have a positive impact on our communities, such as discouraging anti social behaviour, promoting an anti drink driving message and developing a network of community alert and neighbourhood watch groups. A consistent message coming from all stakeholders continues to be the

lack of Garda resources and the JPC take every available opportunity to raise this issue nationally.

ITEM 1 – Summary of progress in implementing the JPC’s work programme.

	Strategic Objectives (please list in the same order as on JPC Annual Work Plan)	Summaries the actions taken and the progress achieved during the year and any significant difficulties which were encountered	Summarise the advice given by the local authority/ Gardaí – identify specific recommendations made	Results of advice / recommendations – identify the feedback received from the local authority / Gardaí
	High Priority Objectives			
1	Road Safety	<p>Donegal is fortunate to have an active and successful Road Safety Working Group in the county and it is beneficial to the work of that group that the JPC have identified road safety as one of our strategic themes.</p> <p>The Donegal Road Safety Working Group is an interagency group consisting of Donegal County Council, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, An Garda Síochána, Road Safety Authority, Donegal Youth Service, Donegal ETB, Pro Social Ireland, Foroige, and An Taisce. The group continue to meet on a monthly basis to develop and implement road safety initiatives and campaigns with the objective of improving road safety for all road users. The DRSWG is committed to working with local</p>	<p>Unfortunately in 2021 because of continued Covid restrictions the Donegal Road Safe Show was once again cancelled. With the continued uncertainty regarding this health crisis, the DRSWG have provisionally scheduled the show for 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2nd March 2022. All stakeholders will be notified well in advance if conditions exist to hold the show safely.</p> <p>A full calendar of road safety awareness campaigns is agreed at the start of each year by the group and these are rolled out consistently as education and awareness continues to be the key elements required for improving safety on the roads. The behaviours identified are impaired driving through alcohol, drugs or fatigue, speed, non wearing of</p>	<p>The Donegal Road Safety Working Group currently has partnerships in place with CLG Dhún na nGall, Ulster GAA Health &amp; Wellbeing Committee, Finn Harps FC, Donegal Daily website and Donegal Democrat in relation to the promotion of Road Safety in Donegal. Education is the central focus of the DRSWG, changing attitudes, behaviour and the culture of road users are key targets.</p> <p>The Government’s Road Safety Strategy – “Our Journey Towards Vision Zero” was launched in December 2021. Ireland’s latest Road Safety Strategy, will adopt a transformational and partnership based approach to road safety in Ireland to achieve a 50% reduction in deaths and serious injuries by 2030 and commits to achieving ‘Vision Zero’ – i.e. no deaths or serious injuries on the roads by 2050.</p>

		<p>communities and groups throughout the county so as they can work towards playing their part in reducing road collisions. Education is the central focus of the Donegal Road Safety Working Group who continues to work to improve the behaviour of road users and in turn reduce road deaths</p>	<p>seatbelts, distracted driving and the continued awareness campaigns focussing on cyclists and pedestrians.</p>	<p>The Donegal Road Safety Plan 2022-2029 will be published in 2022.</p> <p>The Your Life Your Choice programme was being delivered in secondary schools pre COVID restrictions. It is envisaged that when restrictions ease that the programme will continue to be delivered to secondary school and Youthreach students in Donegal.</p> <p>Pro Social Ireland has secured Leader funding to run the road safety initiative the Garage Project in 2022. The Garage Project is aimed at teenage boys and girls who have an interest in cars and who are at risk as a result of their behaviour on the road. They are taught the basics of car mechanics and panel beating and are also educated about the importance of good driving behaviour and the consequences of not doing the right thing. In essence, the programme emphasises the importance of good driving practice and behaviour before the young participants commence their driving career.</p> <p>Reducing the number of deaths and injuries on Donegal's roads is a responsibility we all share. There were a total of seven road fatalities in Donegal in 2021.</p>
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2	Public Order and Anti Social Behaviour	<p>The Public Order and Anti Social Behaviour sub group considers issues of public order and anti social behaviour and how the JPC can best respond to these issues. The Sub Group met twice in 2021. Members also attended a soft cap policing demonstration by Garda Unit</p>	<p>Donegal JPC continue to consider applications for Community Based CCTV Scheme for installation of CCTV in areas throughout the County. Letterkenny remains the only town in the County to have a CCTV System</p> <p>Two Property Marking Machines were purchased in late 2019 to allow for the roll out of a scheme where property can be marked using the Eircode of the owner which assists in recovering stolen goods and also acts as a deterrent to thieves. One machine was purchased by Donegal County Council on foot of petition by the JPC and the other was purchased by the PPN.</p> <p>Donegal JPC hosted the Donegal Garda Youth Awards again in 2021.</p>	<p>To date, Donegal JPC have approved two applications for Grant Assistance for installation of CCTV. Progressing the applications was delayed due to GDPR Compliance issues which were resolved in 2020 however further issues re Garda access and use of the CCTV footage arose and have further delayed the processing of the applications..</p> <p>Training Sessions on the use of the Property Marking Machines were arranged for late 2021 for nominated Gardai, JPC members and PPN Groups. Unfortunately this Training sessions scheduled and the formal launch of the Property Marking Machines Programme had to be postponed were been postponed due to the COVID 19 Pandemic restrictions. It is hoped to rearrange this training for the earliest possible date in 2022</p> <p>The Awards Ceremony was held virtually with four award winners selected. These winners went on to represent the Division at the National Garda Youth Awards, with three of the winners being awarded the National Award. The JPC will host the 2022 Awards. The Nomination process and evaluation</p>
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				of applications is ongoing and the Awards Ceremony will be held in early 2022.
3	Rural Isolation, Community Policing and Cyber Crime	<p>The Rural Isolation, Community Policing &amp; Cyber Crime Sub Committee considers all issues relating to rural isolation, community policy and cyber crime and how best the JPC can respond to these issues.</p> <p>This group met four times in 2021. A Sub Committee of this group set up to organise Cyber Awareness Week met on a number of occasions also.</p>	<p>The Rural Isolation and Community Policing &amp; Cyber Crime Sub Group, in conjunction with Muintir na Tíre continued to develop the network of Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch Groups in the county which has allowed sharing of information and practices to happen between the groups.</p> <p>The Garda Community Information Broadcasts, which had commenced in 2019 arising from petitions made by Donegal JPC Members to Gardai continued in 2021 on a weekly basis. The Garda Community Information Broadcasts on local Radio update people on local Crime Alerts, Security Tips etc</p> <p>The Rural Isolation, Community Policing &amp; Cybercrime Sub Committee ran a Cyber Crime Awareness</p>	<p>Information aimed specifically at older and safety in the home and in the community were a major theme at the online Social Inclusion Week online events in 2021</p> <p>The weekly Garda Community Information Broadcasts continued throughout 2021 and became a vital link and platform for providing advice and updates to citizens of the County, particularly those who were cocooning during the COVID 19 Pandemic in 2021.</p> <p>Cyber Crime Awareness Week consisted of a very successful Social Media &amp; Radio awareness campaign, with video and audio</p>

			Week in October 2021	adverts created in conjunction with Foroige, Donegal Youth Service and Donegal Youth Council, a poster campaign aimed at the elderly and the creation of a webpage hosted by Donegal County Council containing information and advise re Cyber Crime.
4	Cross Border Crime	Joint Gardaí and PSNI operations continue to target drink drivers and enforcement of the drink-driving legislation remains a major priority as part of the ongoing commitment to reducing road casualties. The campaign is supported by the Donegal Road Safety Working Group as part of their ongoing road safety awareness programme.	The development of cross border crime prevention initiatives remains a priority for Donegal JPC and the steering committee continue to seek potential collaborative actions with colleagues in Derry City and Strabane District Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.	The model of the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships that are part of the Council structures in Northern Ireland offer proof that a partnership approach to crime prevention and community safety work provided budget can be provided to allow collaborative initiatives to be implemented. Donegal JPC have made submissions to national policy consultations to highlight that fact that further funding is required to allow full implementation of JPC strategies. The Policing & Community Safety Partnership, Derry City & Strabane District Council will make a presentation to Donegal JPC as soon as Covid restrictions allow.
5	Drugs	The fifth theme of the Donegal JPC Strategic Plan is drugs, the Drugs sub group met twice in 2021 in relation to what initiatives could be developed	The sub group re-evaluated their role and to review and revise their section of the Strategic Plan and the value they can bring to it's	The JPC continued to support the Donegal Alcohol Forum in the roll out of their programmes and the Safer Socialising Initiative by CAAP LK.

		<p>to assist in the fight against drugs. The sub group is aware of the need to avoid duplication. The negative impact that alcohol and drug use has and the knock on effects of alcohol and drug abuse on individuals, families and wider society are regularly highlighted by JPC Members.</p>	<p>implementation.</p>	
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ITEM 2 - Please highlight three key achievements of the JPC during the year and give reasons why these are considered to be significant?

### **Achievement 1**

Donegal JPC members continued to be participants in the 'Community Call' and Covid Response Community Forum during the Covid 19 crisis. Community Gardai and PPN members provided invaluable support throughout with shop & drop, prescription collection, Chef Aid, meal delivery, check in services

### **Achievement 2**

The Garda Information Slots on local Radio, which had commenced following a request from Donegal JPC continued in 2021. They became an invaluable medium for informing people who were cocooning or self isolating of the supports and services available to them from An Garda Siochana and other agencies during the Covid 19 crisis.

### **Achievement 3**

Donegal JPC held a Cyber Crime Awareness Week in October 2021. This week consisted of the following:

Social Media & Radio awareness campaign funded by Healthy Ireland. This very successful campaign was made up of two video and one audio adverts created and recorded by Foroige, Donegal Youth Service and Donegal Youth Council. The social media adverts were aimed at young people and parents and the radio advert was aimed at older people.

Poster Campaign. This element of the campaign saw posters aimed at the elderly which were sponsored by Age Friendly Donegal distributed to Day Centres and locations throughout the Community by Community Gardai

Webpage. A webpage hosted by Donegal County Council containing information and advice on Cyber Crime was launched.

### ITEM 3

#### **Public meetings hosted by the JPC during the year.**

\*Please provide details of the public meeting that the JPC hosted during the year concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.

Donegal Joint Policing Committee did not hold a formal a public meeting in 2021 due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, however the JPC did participate in Social Inclusion Week 2021 which was delivered through a programme of online events and presentations. This event allowed members of groups to hear about current initiatives as well as potential projects that groups could undertake. The event took the format of online presentations. Among the topics discussed were road safety, cyber crime, fire safety and community supports available to groups and individuals.

## ITEM 4

### **Record of members and meetings held during the year.**

Please enter the total number of JPC meetings held in the Year **2021**

\*Date of each meeting

26 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2021
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The JPC Steering Group comprises of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, the Chief Executive of the local authority (or representative) and Senior Garda representative\*

Membership and attendance 2021 is as follows:-

<b>NAME OF MEMBERS (AND TITLE)</b>	<b>ORGANISATION REPRESENTED</b>	<b>NO OF MEETINGS ATTENDED</b>
<b>Steering Group Member</b>		
Chairperson Cllr Gerry McMonagle	Local Authority	4
Vice Chairperson Cllr Barry Sweeny	Local Authority	3
Chief Superintendent Terry McGinn (Or nominated rep)	An Garda Siochana	4
John McLaughlin, Chief Executive	DCC Executive	3
Liam Ward, DOS	DCC Executive	3
<b>Other Members</b>		
Pearse Doherty, TD	Oireachtas	
Charlie McConalogue, TD	Oireachtas	
Joe McHugh, TD	Oireachtas	
Padraig MacLochlainn	Oireachtas	
Thomas Pringle, TD	Oireachtas	
Marc McSharry, TD	Oireachtas	
Senator Niall Blaney	Oireachtas	1
Senator Eileen Flynn	Oireachtas	
Clr Kevin Bradley	DCC Member	4
Clr Paul Canning	DCC Member	4
Clr Donal Coyle	DCC Member	4
Clr Gerry Crawford	DCC Member	4
Clr Nicholas Crossan	DCC Member	4
Clr Terry Crossan	DCC Member	4
Clr Liam Doherty	DCC Member	4
Clr Niamh Kennedy	DCC Member	2
Clr Michael McBride	DCC Member	2
Clr Michael McClafferty	DCC Member	4
Clr Noreen McGarvey	DCC Member	4
Clr Michael McMahan	DCC Member	4
Clr Michael Naughton	DCC Member	3
Clr Rena Donaghey (Cathaoirleach DCC to June 2021)	Mayor Ex Officio Donegal Co Co	2
Clr Jack Murray (Cathaoirleach DCC) from June 2021	Mayor Ex Officio Donegal Co Co	

Sgt Patrick M Conway	Gardai	
Joe Boland	PPN	4
Mary McGowan	PPN	4
Dermott McLaughlin	PPN	2
James Trearty	PPN	4
Billy Banda	PPN	
Margaret Toner (joined Sept 21)	PPN	2
Declan Meehan (joined Sept 21)	PPN	