



**Donegal Joint Policing Committee  
Annual Report**

# JPC Annual Report

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## **Background and legislative framework**

Section 36(5) of the Garda Síochána Act, 2005 requires each JPC to complete and submit an annual report to the local authority and supply a copy of the report to the Policing Authority, Minister for Justice, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Garda Commissioner no later than 3 months after the end of each year.

This is an important document as it provides transparency for the community on the work and achievements of the Committee against its annual and strategic plan. It can also provide valuable insights into successful initiatives or learning that might be adopted by other JPCs.

JPCs operate under revised guidelines issued by the Policing Authority in 2022 after consultation with the Minister for Justice, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Garda Commissioner.

The functions of the Joint Policing Committees are set out in Section 36 (2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states:

“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”

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

(i) or on which it is to advise under paragraph

(ii), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and

(e) Co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora established under paragraph (d) or other

Section 37(1) also provides:

“A local authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility.”

## **JPC 6-Year Strategic Plan**

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 Síochána. 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 and progress our programmes. 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 adopted a new Strategic Plan 2021-2026 with the five themes below:

1. Rural Isolation, Community Policing and Cybercrime
2. Public Order & Anti-Social Behaviour
3. Drugs
4. Road Safety
5. Cross Border Crime Prevention Initiatives

The role of the subgroups is to consider in detail the issues relating to these themes, along with sector experts, and revert to the JPC with proposed interventions.

Donegal Joint Policing Committee continued to meet on a regular basis throughout 2022. 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.

## JPC Membership

Donegal JPC members

<b>NAME OF MEMBERS</b>	<b>ORGANISATION REPRESENTED</b>
<b>Steering Group Member</b>	
Chairperson Cllr Gerry McMonagle	Local Authority
Vice Chairperson Cllr Barry Sweeny	Local Authority
Chief Superintendent Terry McGinn (Or nominated rep)	An Garda Siochana
John McLaughlin, Chief Executive	DCC Executive
Liam Ward, DOS	DCC Executive
<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
Senator Eileen Flynn	Oireachtas
Clr Kevin Bradley	DCC Member
Clr Paul Canning	DCC Member
Clr Donal Coyle	DCC Member
Clr Gerry Crawford	DCC Member
Clr Nicholas Crossan	DCC Member
Clr Terry Crossan	DCC Member
Clr Liam Doherty	DCC Member
Clr Niamh Kennedy	DCC Member
Clr Michael McBride	DCC Member
Clr Michael McClafferty	DCC Member
Clr Noreen McGarvey	DCC Member
Clr Michael McMahan	DCC Member
Clr Michael Naughton	DCC Member
Clr Liam Blaney (Cathaoirleach DCC from June 2022	Mayor Ex Officio Donegal Co
Clr Jack Murray (Cathaoirleach DCC) to June 2022	Mayor Ex Officio Donegal Co
Sgt Patrick M Conway (Retired)	Gardai
Joe Boland	PPN
Mary McGowan	PPN
Dermott McLaughlin RIP	PPN
Jimmy Scott (Replaced Dermot Sept 21)	PPN
James Trearty	PPN
Billy Banda	PPN
Margaret Toner (joined Sept 21)	PPN

## **Meetings of the JPC**

Donegal JPC held 4 public meetings throughout the year, with several subgroup meetings under the five themes also took place.

- 3 March 2022 meeting had a Presentation by Charles Sweeney on the work of Age Friendly Alliance. The Garda will continue to work with the Alliance to make people feel safe in their home. We all strive to make Donegal to be a safe place to be.
- 20 May 2022 meeting had a Presentation by Paul and Nolunga of Donegal Intercultural Platform giving an overview of their vision, mission, and actions for change. They outlined their work and the current work they are progressing with the Ukraine community.
- 23 September 2022 meeting had a Presentation by Paula Leonard from the Alcohol Forum on Building Safer indicating results of a survey carried out in Donegal.
- 23 September 2022 meeting also had a Presentation on Text Alert System by Garda Paul Wallace. The new SARA – Problem Solving through Partnership
- 2 December 2022 meeting had a Presentation from Detective Superintendent Sé McCormack from the Garda National Drugs & Organised Crime Bureau on Drug Related intimidation.

## **Key achievements**

### **Achievement 1**

Road Safety - The Donegal Road Safe Shows were held in October 2022. Two shows were held and almost 3,000 students from Secondary schools in Donegal, Derry and Tyrone attended. The show provides a platform to positively influence the driving behaviour of young students as they commence their driving careers or who travel as passengers in cars. 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

### **Achievement 2**

The Garda Information Slots on local Radio, which had commenced following a request from Donegal JPC continued in 2022. They became an invaluable medium for informing people of the supports and services available to them from An Garda Síochána and other agencies.

### **Achievement 3**

The 'Ask for Angela' campaign aimed at keeping people safe when socialising. 'Ask for Angela' is designed to assist people who find themselves in a vulnerable or unsafe situation to discreetly seek help by approaching venue staff and asking them for 'Angela'.

The code-phrase indicates to staff that they require help with their situation. A trained worker will then look to support and assist them by reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or by calling venue security and/or the police.

The Garda worked closely with the local Vintners Association, the Hotelier Association, the Joint Policing Committee and Donegal County Council to get the campaign launched in December 2022. Signs and posters will be placed in all participating licensed premises informing people of the project and what it is about.

#### **Achievement 4**

The Property Marking Machine 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 acts as a deterrent to thieves.

There are now approximately 30 members of An Garda Síochána trained to use these machines. There were numerous clinics held in various locations during the year with big uptake at agricultural shows and marts.

**Appendix 1: Meeting attendance 2022 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	4
Chief Superintendent Terry McGinn (Or nominated rep)	An Garda Siochana	4
John McLaughlin, Chief Executive	DCC Executive	4
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	1
Thomas Pringle, TD	Oireachtas	
Marc McSharry, TD	Oireachtas	
Senator Niall Blaney	Oireachtas	
Senator Eileen Flynn	Oireachtas	
Clr Kevin Bradley	DCC Member	3
Clr Paul Canning	DCC Member	2
Clr Donal Coyle	DCC Member	4
Clr Gerry Crawford	DCC Member	4
Clr Nicholas Crossan	DCC Member	3
Clr Terry Crossan	DCC Member	3
Clr Liam Doherty	DCC Member	2
Clr Niamh Kennedy	DCC Member	2
Clr Michael McBride	DCC Member	3
Clr Michael McClafferty	DCC Member	3
Clr Noreen McGarvey	DCC Member	3
Clr Michael McMahon	DCC Member	2
Clr Michael Naughton	DCC Member	3
Clr Liam Blaney (Cathaoirleach DCC from June 2022)	Mayor Ex Officio Donegal Co	
Clr Jack Murray (Cathaoirleach DCC) to June 2022	Mayor Ex Officio Donegal Co	
Sgt Patrick M Conway (Retired)	Gardai	
Joe Boland	PPN	4
Mary McGowan	PPN	2
Dermott McLaughlin RIP	PPN	
Jimmy Scott (Replaced Dermot Sept 21)	PPN	1
James Trearty	PPN	4
Billy Banda	PPN	
Margaret Toner (joined Sept 21)	PPN	2



Appendix 2: 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, Fóroige, and An Taisce. The group continue to meet monthly to develop and implement road safety initiatives and campaigns with</p>	<p>The Donegal Road Safe Show was held in October 2022, following Covid restrictions. Two shows were held and almost 3,000 students from Secondary schools in Donegal, Derry and Tyrone attended.</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</p>	<p>The Donegal Road Safety Working Group currently has partnerships in place with 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. The Donegal Road Safety Plan 2022-2029 has been finalised and due to be published.</p>

		<p>the objective of improving road safety for all road users. The DRSWG is committed to working with local 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>through alcohol, drugs, fatigue, speed, non-wearing of seatbelts, distracted driving and awareness campaigns focussing on cyclists and pedestrians.</p>	<p>The Your Life Your Choice programme was being delivered in secondary schools pre covid restrictions. It is envisaged that that the programme will recommence and 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 2022/2023. The Garage Project is aimed at teenage boys and girls who have an interest in cars and who are at risk because 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. The programme has been fully subscribed and due to finish in March 2023 when funding ends.</p> <p>For every driver and road user, road deaths and injuries are a personal responsibility. That responsibility should not and cannot be evaded and must be reaffirmed into 2023 and beyond. Eight people lost their lives on Donegal roads in 2022.</p>
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2	Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour	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 Subgroup met twice in 2022.	<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 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.</p> <p>Donegal JPC hosted the Donegal Garda Youth Awards again in 2022.</p>	<p>Donegal JPC re-approved two applications for Grant Assistance for installation of CCTV. Progressing the applications was delayed previously but will now progress</p> <p>The Property Marking Machine is available to all trained members of An Garda Síochána via a booking diary through the PPN- <a href="mailto:mary.clyde@donegalcoco.ie">mary.clyde@donegalcoco.ie</a> or <a href="mailto:donegalppn@donegalcoco.ie">donegalppn@donegalcoco.ie</a> There are now approximately 30 members of An Garda Síochána trained to use these machines. There were numerous clinics held in various locations during the year.</p> <p>The Awards Ceremony was held in Lifford Old Courthouse with four award winners selected. These winners went on to represent the Division at the National Garda Youth Awards, with two of the winners being awarded the National Award. The JPC will host the 2023 Awards. The Nomination process and evaluation of applications is ongoing, and the Awards Ceremony will be held in early 2023.</p>
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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 one times in 2022.</p>	<p>The Rural Isolation and Community Policing &amp; Cyber Crime Sub Group, continued to highlight 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 2022 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 Week in October 2022</p>	<p>The public awareness on crime prevention was highlighted on the radio show and in a number. With proposals spoke about for a Road show in 2023.</p> <p>The weekly Garda Community Information Broadcasts continued throughout 2022 and became a vital link and platform for providing advice and updates to citizens of the County.</p> <p>Cyber Crime Awareness Week was to run in conjunction with Social Inclusion Week and Unfortunately, this week was postponed due to Creeslough tragedy.</p>
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4	Cross Border Crime	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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. Further funding is required to allow full implementation of JPC strategies. The Policing &amp; Community Safety Partnership, Derry City &amp; Strabane District Council will make a presentation to Donegal JPC</p>
5	Drugs	<p>Drugs subgroup did not meet in 2022 but organised two presentation which were delivered at the full JPC meetings</p>	<p>Detective Superintendent Sé McCormack from the Garda National Drugs &amp; Organised Crime Bureau gave a presentation to full JPC on Drug Related intimidation.</p> <p>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>	<p>The Sub group will meet early in 2023 to discuss the new DRIVE campaign and in relation to what initiatives could be developed to assist in the fight against drugs</p> <p>The negative impact that alcohol and drug use have and the knock on effects of alcohol and drug abuse on individuals, families and wider society are regularly highlighted by JPC Members. Donegal Alcohol Forum gave a presentation on Building Safer Communities to the full JPC.</p>