

## **Donegal Joint Policing Committee** **Annual Report 2019**

### **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.

2019 was a productive year for Donegal Joint Policing Committee. We have agreed the five themes of our Strategic Plan for the remainder of the term of the committee and put structures in place to agree actions under each theme and continue to implement those actions.

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 cross border drink driving campaign that was launched in the run up to Christmas.

The five themes of the Donegal JPC Strategic Plan are:

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

The JPC identified that it was necessary to study each of the three themes in some detail and take advice from experts who deal with our communities in relation to these issues to allow the committee to determine what actions would have a positive impact. To this end, the work of the sub groups has been invaluable, and all the JPC members who have participated must be acknowledged for taking on an increased commitment, to ensure the work produced by the sub groups have a positive legacy.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan is facilitated through a number of committees and structures, including the secretariat, steering committee and the road safety working group. The three sub groups of the JPC consider the themes of Rural Isolation & Community Policing, 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.

Donegal Joint Policing Committee and its sub groups continued to meet on a regular basis throughout 2019. 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 been able to continue to 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 is 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 Drivers Programme and HSE Ambulance Service. The group 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 communities and groups</p>	<p>The Donegal Road Safety Working Group continues to organise the Road Safe Road Show as a direct approach to improving road safety and reducing the devastating impact of road traffic collisions on communities and families in the county. The show is attended annually by over 2,500 students and learners from post-primary schools, Youthreach and other training centres. The DRSWG maintains close links to relevant authorities in Northern Ireland to encourage safe driving through road safety campaigns such as anti drink driving campaigns, bank holiday road safety campaigns and cross border young driver safety campaigns.</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</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 we will continue to work to improve these and in turn save lives. The DRSWG with the assistance of An Garda and Pro Social Ireland has recently launched the Your Life Your Choice programme which is currently being delivered to secondary school students in Donegal. The DRSWG are also currently working with Pro Social Ireland in a Peace IV funded initiative. The Garage Project is aimed at teenage boys and girls who have an interest in cars and who may be at</p>

		<p>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>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 seatbelts, distracted driving and the continued awareness campaigns focussing on cyclists and pedestrians.</p>	<p>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, it's about instilling good driving practice as they start their life behind the wheel before they adopt bad practices. Reducing the number of deaths and injuries on Donegal's roads is a responsibility we all share.</p> <p>There was a total of eight road fatalities in Donegal in 2019.</p>
2	Public Order and Anti Social Behaviour	<p>The Public Order and Anti Social Behaviour sub group has considered issues of public order and anti social behaviour and how the JPC can best respond to these issues. The sub group received a number of presentations that outlined that the majority of issues for policing are related to the more urban areas and specifically to the night time economy.</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>Donegal JPC successfully petitioned Donegal County Council to provide funding for the purchase of a Property Marking Machine to allow for the roll out of a scheme where property can be marked using the eircode of the owner</p>	<p>To date, Donegal JPC have approved two applications for Grant Assistance for installation of CCTV. Progressing the applications is delayed due to GDPR Compliance issues.</p> <p>Two Property Marking Machines were purchased in 2019. Training will be delivered through the PPN Group and the scheme will roll out throughout the County in 2020. Some Members of the JPC will receive training in the use of the machine.</p>

			<p>which assists in recovering stolen goods and also acts as a deterrent to thieves. The PPN also agreed to purchase a machine.</p> <p>Donegal JPC hosted the inaugural Donegal Garda Youth Awards in 2019.</p>	<p>The Awards Ceremony was held in February 2019 with four award winners selected. These winners went on to represent the Division at the National Garda Youth Awards, with one of the winners being awarded the National Award. The JPC will host the 2019 Awards. The Nomination process and evaluation of applications is ongoing and the Awards Ceremony will be held in early 2020.</p>
3	Rural Isolation and Community Policing	<p>The Rural Isolation and Community Policing Group identified a number of key issues that are of importance to communities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure of Garda Stations,</li> <li>• Casual Transient Traders,</li> <li>• Increase in thefts of agricultural equipment</li> <li>• Lack of Street/Public lighting</li> <li>• Boy racers on country roads</li> <li>• and a lack of a Garda presence in Rural areas</li> </ul> <p>It has been accepted that although community alert and</p>	<p>Arising from the proposals of the Rural Isolation and Community Policing Sub Group, the JPC, in conjunction with Muintir na Tíre has proceeded to establish a 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>Arising from petitions made by Donegal JPC Members to Gardai to commence a regular Garda Community Information Broadcasts on local Radio to update people on</p>	<p>An information roadshow aimed specifically at older was held by social inclusion stakeholders in October this year and safety in the home and in the community was a major theme at the three Social Inclusion Week events</p> <p>Donegal JPC had requested that a regular Garda Information Programme be broadcast on the local radio stations to update people on local crime alerts, security tips etc. The</p>

		neighbourhood watch groups do vital work in their localities and liaise directly with An Garda Síochana in preventing crime they do so in very limited areas and in isolation of each other.	local Crime Alerts, Security Tips etc, the JPC facilitated a number of meetings between the Gardai and local broadcast and print media to explore the possibility of such a programme.	Following very successful meetings , Ocean fm provided media training to Garda Members and regular weekly broadcasts commenced in January 2019. These broadcasts continued throughout the year and have been very well received.
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.
5	Drugs	The fifth theme of the Donegal JPC Strategic Plan is drugs, the Drugs sub group have met on a number of occasions in relation to what initiatives could be developed 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,	The sub group has reported to the JPC the need to re-evaluate the role of this sub group and what value it can bring to the implementation of the Strategic Plan	The JPC supported the Donegal Alcohol Forum in the roll out of their NASA Project (No Alcohol or Substances Allowed) programme in Letterkenny, which will emphasise the socialising habits of young people and in particular underage discos. The JPC also supported the roll out of the Safer Socialising Initiative by CAAP LK.

		families and wider society are regularly highlighted by JPC Members.		
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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 facilitated meetings with the Gardai, local business people, driving event organisers/promoters and Donegal Rally Committee. These meetings were held to try to address the issue of the disruption being caused to local residents, business and road users due to the staging of additional driving events at venues during the Rally Weekend. The meetings resulted in a co-operative approach being taken by all which had a very positive effect during the Rally Weekend.

JPC also held an awareness raising campaign in June 2019 targeted at attendees of the Donegal Rally. The message was that of respectful attendance, to attend the rally and behave in a manner that is respectful to the local area.

**Achievement 2**

Donegal JPC requested that An Garda Siochana commence the broadcast of weekly Information Slots on the local Radio Stations. Following meetings with all stakeholders hosted by the JPC, the Garda Radio Slots commenced broadcasting in January 2019 and have been very well received by all.

**Achievement 3**

Donegal JPC successfully lobbied Donegal County Council and the PPN to agree to purchase Property Marking Machines. The procurement and purchase of the machines was completed during 2019. Training on the use of the machines has commenced and roll out of a Programme for delivery of the service to people in the County expected to take place in 2020.

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 2019, however the JPC did participate in Social Inclusion Week 2019. 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 presentations and an opportunity for groups to engage with experts and providers through an information stand setting. Among the topics discussed on the day were the, road safety, cyber crime, fire safety and potential funding sources for groups.

ITEM 4

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

Please enter the total number of JPC meetings held in the Year **2019**

\*Date of each meeting

21/01/19	01/04/19	30/10/19*	09/12/19
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The JPC Steering Group comprises of the Chairperson, the Chief Executive of the local authority (or representative) and Senior Garda representative\*

\*Membership of the JPC changed in 2019 arising from the Local Elections and PPN Elections.

Elected Members only were invited to attend the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October to select the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee. Membership up to June 2019 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	2
Vice Chairperson Cllr Niamh Kennedy*	Local Authority	2
Chief Superintendent Terry McGinn (Or nominated rep)	An Garda Síochána	2
Chief Executive Seamus Neely	Local Authority	2
Director of Service Liam Ward	Local Authority	2
<b>Other Members</b>		
Cllr Bernard McGuinness	Local Authority	1
Cllr Nicholas Crossan	Local Authority	1
Cllr Albert Doherty	Local Authority	2
Cllr Jack Murray	Local Authority	
Cllr Gerry Crawford	Local Authority	2
Cllr James Pat McDaid	Local Authority	
Cllr John O'Donnell	Local Authority	
Cllr Liam Doherty	Local Authority	1
Cllr Martin Farren	Local Authority	
Cllr Seamus O Domhnaill	Local Authority	1
Cllr Martin McDermott	Local Authority	1
Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh	Local Authority	1
Cllr John Campbell	Local Authority	
Mr James Trearty	PPN Representative	2
Mr Joe Boland	PPN Representative	2
Mr Lawrence McManus	PPN Representative	2
Ms Lorraine Thompson	PPN Representative	
Mr Seamus Rodgers	PPN Representative	2
Mr Gary Doggett	PPN Representative	
Ms Carmel Mulhern	PPN Representative	
Senator Brian O'Donnell	Oireachtas	
Deputy Pearse Doherty TD	Oireachtas	
Deputy Pdraig MacLochlainn TD	Oireachtas	
Deputy Thomas Pringle TD	Oireachtas	
Deputy Charlie McConalogue TD	Oireachtas	
Deputy Joe McHugh TD	Oireachtas	
Deputy Pat the Cope Gallagher	Oireachtas	
Deputy Tony McLaughlin	Oireachtas	
Deputy Marc McSharry	Oireachtas	

Membership and attendance post June 2019 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	2
Vice Chairperson Cllr Barry Sweeny	Local Authority	2

Chief Superintendent Terry McGinn (Or nominated rep)	An Garda Siochana	1
Seamus Neely, Chief Exec	DCC Executive	2
Liam Ward, DOS	DCC Executive	2
<b>Other Members</b>		
Pearse Doherty, TD	Oireachtas	
Pat the Cope Gallagher	Oireachtas	
Charlie McConalogue, TD	Oireachtas	
Joe McHugh, TD	Oireachtas	
Sen Padraig MacLochlainn	Oireachtas	
Sen Brian O Domhnaill	Oireachtas	
Thomas Pringle, TD	Oireachtas	
Tony McLaughlin, TD	Oireachtas	
Marc McSharry, TD	Oireachtas	
Clr Kevin Bradley	DCC Member	1
Clr Paul Canning	DCC Member	2
Clr Donal Coyle	DCC Member	2
Clr Gerry Crawford	DCC Member	2
Clr Nicholas Crossan	DCC Member	1
Clr Terry Crossan	DCC Member	2
Clr Liam Doherty	DCC Member	
Clr Michael McBride	DCC Member	1
Clr Michael McClafferty	DCC Member	1
Clr Noreen McGarvey	DCC Member	2
Clr Michael McMahan	DCC Member	2
Clr Michael Naughton	DCC Member	2
Sgt Patrick M Conway	Gardai	
Chief Supt Terry McGinn	Gardai	1
Joe Boland	PPN	1
Virginia McLoone	PPN	1
Mary McGowan	PPN	1
Dermott McLaughlin	PPN	1
James Trearty	PPN	1
Joleen Kuyper	PPN	1
Vacant	PPN	