

# Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2018

## 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 frame work 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, and in particular to:-

*(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,*

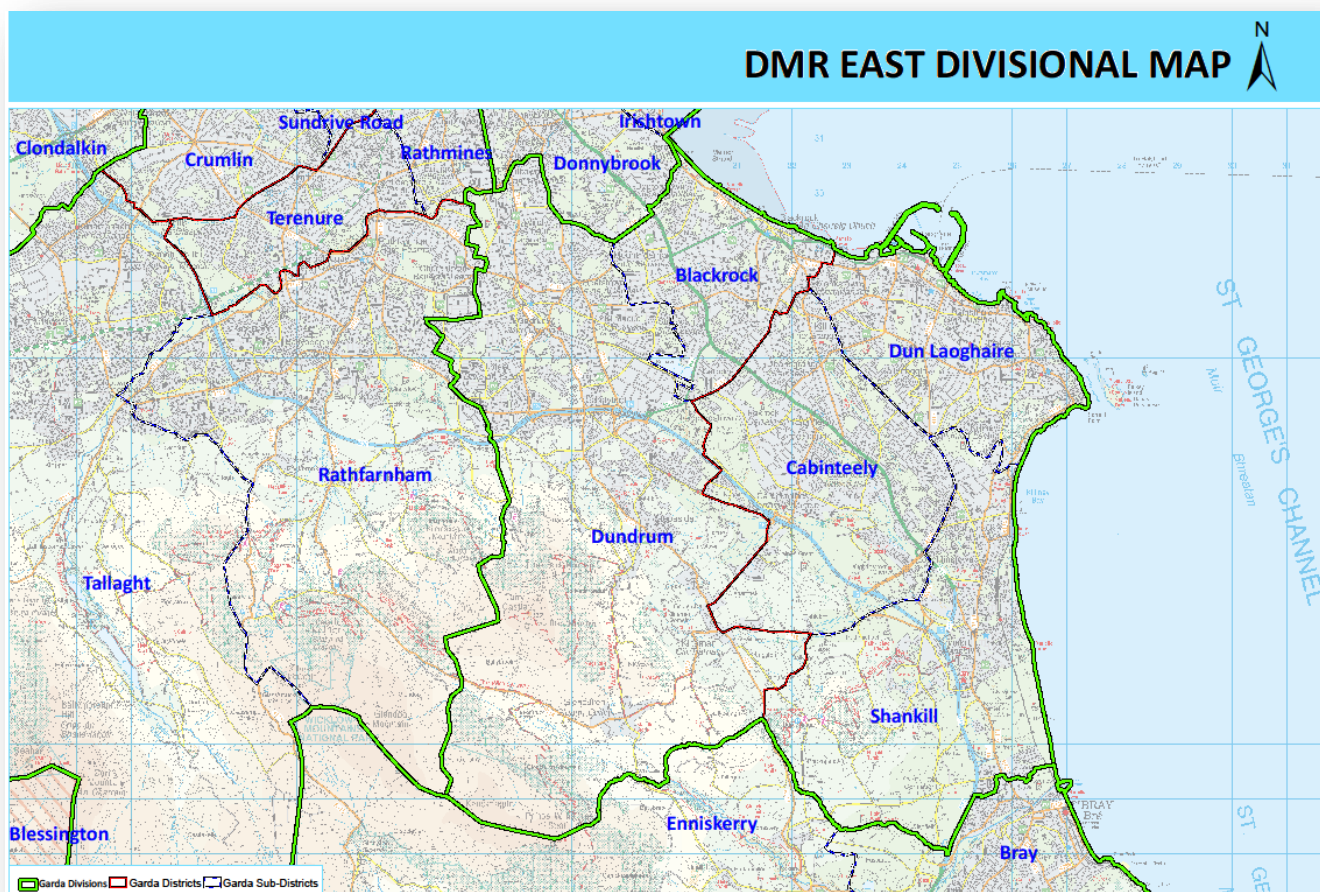
*(d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which 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 Districts Covered by the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee

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

Within the DMR East District, there are two sub districts of "F" covering Dún Laoghaire, Shankill and Cabinteely and "W" covering Blackrock and Dundrum areas.



## Joint Policing Committee Meetings in 2018

In 2018, the DLR Joint Policing Committee was chaired by Cllr Mary Hanafin, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. The JPC held three (3) meetings in 2018 on March 7th, June 14th and November 20th. There was also a public meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

There was attendance and input to a workshop in February 2018 by Local Policing Forum Committee members regarding the recommendations arising from the Review of Local Policing Forums. This review is an objective in the six-year Strategy 2016-2021 and its recommendations will be implemented in 2019 and going forward.

# Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee

## Membership 2018

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	
Cllr. Barry Saul	Elected representative
Cllr. Barry Ward	Elected representative
Cllr. Chris Curran	Elected representative
Cllr. Cormac Devlin	Elected representative
Cllr. Deirdre Donnelly	Elected representative
Cllr. Deirdre Kingston	Elected representative
Cllr. John Kennedy	Elected representative
Cllr. Liam Dockery	Elected representative
Cllr. Lynsey McGovern	Elected representative
Cllr. Mary Hanafin <i>Chairperson</i>	Elected representative
Cllr. Michael Merrigan	Elected representative
Cllr. Ossian Smyth	Elected representative
Cllr. Patricia Stewart <i>Vice Chair</i>	Elected representative
Cllr. Peter O' Brien	Elected representative
Cllr. Shay Brennan	Elected representative
Dearbhla Lawson	Director of Service, C&CD.
Mary Ruane	Senior Executive Officer, C&CD
Helen Griffin	Administrative Officer C&CD
An Garda Síochána	
Anne Marie Cagney	Chief Superintendent
Martin McGonnell	Superintendent
Martin Fitzgerald	Superintendent
Community Representatives	
Gay Wright	DLR Public Participation Network
Anne Harrington	DLR Public Participation Network
Richard Phillips	DLR Public Participation Network
Tony McCarthy	DLR Public Participation Network
Vacant	Loughlinstown, Shankill LPF
Reverend Asa Bjork	Dún Laoghaire, LPF
Frank Cruise	Sandyford / Stepside LPF
Barry Cullen	DLR Drugs & Alcohol Task Force
Members of the Oireachtas (5)	
Deputy Catherine Martin	Member of the Oireachtas
Senator Gerry Horkan	Member of the Oireachtas

## Changes in Membership in 2018

Chief Superintendent Ann Marie Cagney replaced Chief Superintendent Michael Daly as district officer for the DMR East in 2018 and attended the March, June and November meetings of the DLR JPC. Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's JPC coordinator, Helen Griffin was replaced by Mary Ruane in August 2018. Gina Hogan retired from the Joint Policing Committee as Loughlinstown LPF's representative and Frank Cruise now represents the Sandyford LPF.

# Joint Policing Committee work programme

A six year Strategic Plan was developed for the DLRJPC 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 2018 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 District 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 on the LPF Work Plans.

The key highlights and achievements under each Goal in 2018 are as follows:

### **1. Supporting and promoting Crime Prevention in DLR**

#### **Burglaries**

An Garda Síochána reported an overall decrease in the number of burglaries in the County by 29% in year-to-date. Operation Thor, involving the use of intelligence-led policing, aims to provide a focused, targeted and integrated approach to burglaries and related offences in the region. The decrease breaks down by sub-district as follows:

Blackrock	- 45%
Cabinteely	- 42%
Dundrum	- 8%
Dún Laoghaire	- 29%
Shankill	- 37%

## **High Visibility Policing**

Operation Crossover is in place to ensure maximum high visibility beats and patrols by An Garda Síochána across the County. All personnel (uniform, plain clothes etc.) are made available for the Operation.

Operation Irene involves AGS working in collaboration with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and Dublin transport service providers to counter anti-social behaviour by engaging in direct patrolling in the County's public amenities, namely parks and seafronts from May to October Annually.

Operation Tombola is implemented throughout the DMR East during the Halloween festivities. High visibility patrols are deployed to diminish anti-social behaviour and ensure an enjoyable and safe holiday can be observed throughout the Community.

The Community Policing Unit also conduct operations for special events such as the Leprechaun Chase, Safer Communities Week, etc.

## **Road Safety**

There have been no fatal collisions in the DMR East in year-to-date. Operation Artery was successfully deployed within the context of the DMR Roads Policing Operational Plan 2018 focusing on the key 'Lifesaver' offences. 'Safer Roads for Dublin' campaign took place between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November targeting improvements in behaviour by all road users. This campaign was followed by the annual 'Christmas and New Year Enforcement Campaign' during December 2018 and was to continue into January 2019.

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council provided Cycle Training and facilitated the 'Safer Routes to School' initiative throughout the schools network. Key Cycle Safety Events included:

- AXA Roadshow took place 8th and 9th October
- Street Velodrome, Dundrum in June
- Bike Fest Cabinteely Park in June
- Cycle Right Safety Programme has trained 700 students
- Speed Alert Signage rollout continues in residential estates

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

There are now 157 Neighbourhood Watch schemes (an increase of 16) being supported by the AGS and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, together with 14 Business Watch schemes. Campus Watch was introduced at Dun Laoghaire Institute Of Art Design & Technology, Smurfit Graduate Business School and Blackrock Flexible Learning Ireland in 2018. A new Hospital Watch scheme was launched in May at National Rehabilitation Hospital, Rochestown Avenue alongside those at St Michael's Dún Laoghaire and St Colmcille's, Loughlinstown.

Text Alert schemes continue to be rolled out by Residents Associations throughout the County.



## **2. Enhancing Community Safety & Security in DLR**

### **Domestic Violence**

An analysis of Domestic Violence incidents, for the years 2016—2018 has been conducted by An Garda Síochána. The Inter-Agency 'Safe Homes' Project continues to be run by Sonas in conjunction with An Garda Síochána, providing support for victims of Domestic Violence.

### **Age Friendly**

The Garda Older Persons Association continues to address the needs of older persons residing in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County. Following the success of June's 'Safety and Security' event in Loughlinstown Community Centre, a second event was held in October at the Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan as part of the Festival of Inclusion organised by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

The Pendant Alarm referral system is in place, allowing for efficient access to Pendant Alarms for older persons in this District. The Garda Older Persons Association also addresses loneliness/isolation through the organisation of Tea dances/dinners during the course of the year. Garda Clinics also continue to be held across the District for older persons who are unable to travel to their local station e.g. Dalkey Garda Clinic. Community Policing are also now involved in the "Living Well with Dementia Committee" aimed at developing an awareness of Dementia throughout the County.

## **3. Community Engagement and Collaboration**

### **Local Policing Forums Review**

The Joint Policing Committee undertook to review the operations of its three Local Policing Forums under Objective 3.1 of the JPC six-year strategy 2016-2021.

A meeting of LPF chairs was held in October 2018, at which agreements were made on all key recommendations, including:

- Working group has been established
- Key Principles Document under development
- Annual Work Plans prepared for 2019

## **Drug and Alcohol Task Force**

Through statistical analysis, a trend of cannabis consumption and supply has emerged as the predominant offence amongst Youth drug users. In relation to the number of incidents, as well as the number of youths linked to them, the figures have doubled during 2017 compared to 2016. A further analysis is being requested from Garda Síochána Analysis Service in November 2018 to determine the on-going trend.

The Drug and Alcohol Task Force, alongside Southside Partnership and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown organised a series of Large-Group Participation Workshops to facilitate a networking process for persons who work on the frontline with vulnerable young people. In all, 85 individual frontline personnel participated, encompassing 25 communities, voluntary and statutory organisations in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown. Additional events included an awareness campaign around Hepatitis C and the launch of 'Just Maintaining the Status Quo' Report.

## **Garda Youth Diversion Programmes**

Three Youth Diversion Projects currently exist in the Division:

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

The Youth Justice Workers (YTW's) completed Summer Camps concentrating on Outdoor learning which covers Coast Steering, Mountain skills and Surf Water Rescue. The School Mentoring Programme is in action also whereby assistance is given with school work and classes. The Work to Learn Programme funded by IYJS is in operation at present and aims to get employment within the community for young people who have dropped out of school and further learning. GYDP programmes yielded an extremely low rate of recidivism amongst the youths who engage with the programmes.

Community Garda Drop-ins continued in 2018, together with Under 12 Preparatory Work; the YJWs advised and assisted young people under 12 who have not yet reached the age of criminal responsibility.

Children and Young People's Services Committee's needs analysis was completed in July 2018. A 3 year plan is under development and focus groups have been established.

## **Garda Diversity Committee**

The Committee has drafted a Constitution for adoption at the next AGM in 2019, which has been with the intention of attracting new members across the spectrum of Diversity.



# Development of Local Policing Forums in the County

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

1. Loughlinstown/Shankill & Ballybrack (Chaired by Inspector James Murphy)
2. Sandyford/Stepaside (Chaired by Inspector John O' Driscoll)
3. Central Dún Laoghaire (Chaired by Inspector Tom Condon)

The role of these Policing Forums 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.

Each of the LPF's met 6 times in 2018, addressing local concerns and issues. Each held one additional public meeting gaining input and feedback directly from members of the public, Community and public representatives and elected officials.