

Annual Report of County Laois Joint Policing Committee 2022

A. Summary of progress in implementation of Laois County JPC Strategy Work Plan 2022

Strategic Objectives	Actions	Challenges/Barriers encountered	Actions taken and progress achieved during 2022
1 Community Engagement & Communication	<p>Develop a communications framework for the dissemination of information by the JPC within the public domain and to relevant interest Groups</p> <p>Identify priority areas for re-launching community crime prevention schemes or developing new ones</p>	<p>Underutilisation of existing Social Media platforms to convey crime prevention advice</p> <p>Covid</p> <p>The COVID pandemic resulted in changed patterns of activity for many community groups including Community Alert. Many groups have restarted but further collaboration with AGS will need to take place to assess the strength of various groups and to identify where gaps are present.</p>	<p>Social Media platforms utilised regularly by CPO to disseminate information into the public domain and to relevant interest Groups</p> <p>The CPO is active in this and is an area that is ongoing</p> <p>Main Focus was on supporting existing groups through participating in various fora including the JPC, the provision of information and advice including the text alert rebate and encouraging them to engage with An Garda Siochana and their communities.</p>
	<p>Make available relevant crime prevention information to groups and also in respect of community schemes available</p>	<p>Underutilisation of existing Social Media platforms to convey crime prevention advice</p>	<p>Social Media platforms utilised regularly by CPO to disseminate information into the public domain and to relevant interest Groups and CPO attends meeting of interested groups with Community Gardai to further this message.</p> <p>Continued to circulate relevant information to groups about crime prevention and funding opportunities which would be relevant to them.</p>

	<p>Maximise the efficiency of the JPC Municipal District Working Groups to address local issues of concern</p> <p>Support the development of Community based CCTV schemes, where all relevant criteria are met</p>	<p>Ongoing and awaiting legislative update</p> <p>Muintir na Tire has sought to support the groups who wish to avail of this scheme by advocating on their behalf but the long and complicated nature of the process has made it exceedingly difficult for the participating groups.</p>	<p>JPC Municipal District Working Groups met on four occasions during 2022 to address local issues of concern.</p> <p>The CPO is active in this and is an area that is ongoing.</p> <p>Muintir na Tire liaised with various groups regarding specific queries they had about the CCTV process and sought to provide a connection between groups, in order that they could be better informed. This also involved listening to and understanding their concerns about delays with various aspects of the process and bringing attention to these concerns, both locally and nationally as appropriate and seeking definitive answers where possible.</p>
	<p>Coordinate networking of community alert groups</p>	<p>Covid</p>	<p>The CPO & Community Gardai active in this and is an area that is ongoing.</p>
	<p>Convene District Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch meetings with An Garda Siochana and Local Authority at least once per annum</p>	<p>Covid</p>	<p>Ongoing post pandemic.</p>
	<p>Reintroduce and reinvigorate Community Gardai in strategic locations in the county</p> <p>Maintain the JPC web page/portal to disseminate crime prevention and other information to the public</p>		<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Social Media platforms utilised regularly by CPO to disseminate information into the public domain and to relevant interest Groups.</p>
2	<p>Crime Prevention & Education</p>	<p>Under utilisation of existing Social Media platforms to convey crime prevention advice</p>	<p>Ongoing. Social Media platforms utilised regularly by CPO to disseminate information into the public domain and to relevant interest Groups. CPO attends meeting of interested groups with Community Gardai to further this message.</p> <p>Continually liaising with individuals and groups to encourage them to identify and support vulnerable</p>


				members of their communities. In addition, provides specific detailed guidance and information on how to access the Seniors Alert Scheme. Crime Prevention talks convened online and in person.
	Promote supports for vulnerable people at home, through promotion of Seniors Alert and other schemes.	Underutilisation of existing Social Media platforms to convey crime prevention advice		Ongoing, Social Media platforms utilised regularly by CPO to disseminate information into the public domain and to relevant interest Groups and he attends meeting of interested groups with Community Gardai to further this message
	Support engagement of young people with Juvenile Liaison system, Youth Diversion Projects and/or miscellaneous diversion programmes operated by the Laois Sports Partnership.	Covid		4 Late Night Leagues in 2022 with over 80 participants in partnership with the FAI, BLOCK Project, An Garda Síochána Ongoing, with Community/Local Gardai & Juvenile Liaison Officer engaging.
	Support young people, vulnerable groups, diverse and/or marginalized communities to engage with and build positive relationships with policing authorities.	Covid		Ongoing, with Community/Local Gardai engaging.
	Develop educational awareness programmes for primary and secondary schools in respect of Crime Prevention and cybercrime/online bullying.	Covid		Ongoing, with Community/Local Gardai engaging.
	Collaborate with other agencies to develop proactive ways to heighten public awareness of potential harm of cyber crime			Laois PPN in collaboration with An Garda Síochána provided training on cyber crime and phishing scams.
3	Address Priority Crime Related Issues			Ongoing, Social Media platforms utilised regularly by CPO to disseminate information into the public domain and to relevant interest Groups. CPO attends meeting of interested groups with Community/Local Gardai to further this area. The procurement of a Property Marking Machine is being explored. CPO seeking out opportunities to work with planners and designers in the area of CPTED.

		Promote the 'Dial to Stop Drug Dealing' campaign and contact details.		Ongoing.
		Support and promote publicly the proper disposal of drug related waste and litter.		Ongoing.
		Encourage support for victims of crime and engage with victim support organisations.		Ongoing.
		Develop protocols to address anti-social behaviour and public order issues in public open spaces and housing estates		Ongoing.
		Support the roll out of the DRIVE (Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement) Initiative		Ongoing. National DRIVE Framework Documents launched Q4 2022. A National Co-ordinator has been appointed. MRDATS currently establishing a DRI working group and appointing a DRIVE Liaison for the midlands area.
4	Road Safety, Litter and Emergency Management	Encourage ongoing commitment of all parties to the Laois County Council Road Safety Committee		The Working Together Safely Group reconvened in 2022. A schedule of meetings will be put in place in 2023.
		Promotion of national and local Road Safety campaigns and educational initiatives		The local authority works annually with the Road Safety Authority to promote national road safety campaign, such as <i>check and fit</i> , <i>national slow down day</i> .
		Support Smarter Travel focused facilities with on-bike gardai and through enforcement of parking regulations on footpaths and cycle tracks and any other control measures.		The local authority and Gardai enforced parking regulations on footpaths and cycle tracks throughout the year. The local authority took part in the TikTok Mic Drop Road Safety campaign for a second year, in partnership with 12 local authorities and iRadio. The campaign encouraged all age groups to deliver a positive message to their peer and the community regarding safer road user behaviour, resulting in safety for all road users. The campaign

	<p>Work collaboratively to develop measures to address illegal dumping in the county, including use of available and appropriate technology, in compliance with all legislative requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No legal basis for the use of smart technology to carry out any illegal dumping surveillance operations. Illegal dumpers leave no evidence to identify them when waste is left behind. Illegal dumping usually takes place in remote locations. Difficult to prosecute illegal dumping in the absence of identifying the offender (i.e. need smart technology). 	<p>received a Special Recognition Award at the Road Safety Authority, Leading Lights Awards 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation of illegal dumping incidents begins once a complaint is received. LCC funded the clean-up and authorised disposal of approximately 650 tonnes of waste material. LCC organised 'Laois Clean-Up Week' and supported clean ups led by voluntary groups. Advised groups about measures taken in other communities to deal with illegal dumping, including the importance of being organised as a community group. 	<p>Engagement is ongoing.</p>
	<p>Engagement by all parties with Major Emergency initiatives including Severe Weather Inter-Agency Committee</p>			

B. Public Meetings of Laois County JPC

Laois County JPC hosted one public meeting last year, on 18th November 2022. All meetings of Laois County JPC are held in public. However, this meeting invited submissions from the public and allowed members of the public to participate in certain parts of the meeting.

Signed:  Date: 13/3/23

