



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA



Áras an Chontae,

Cora Droma Ruisc.

1st February 2022

Re: Annual Report of Leitrim Joint Policing Committee 2021

Dear Member,

The Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is required to submit a report to the full Council on its activities for the previous year in accordance with Section 36(5) of the Garda Síochána Act no later than 3 months after the end of each year. A copy of the report must also be furnished to the Minister for Justice and Equality and the Garda Commissioner. Please find outlined summary of the progress achieved by the JPC in implementing the JPC Work Programme together with a summary of the key achievements of the JPC for 2021 and details of the public meeting of the JPC.

Item No. 1 – Summary of Progress implementing JPC's Work Programme.

- An update on the progress achieved in delivering the objectives of the JPC Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 was provided.
- The JPC Annual Work Programme for 2021 was agreed and progressed throughout 2021.
- Both Leitrim County Council and An Garda Síochána continued to be significant stakeholders in 2021 in the Leitrim COVID-19 Community Response Forum
- Approval was given by the JPC to progress with Phase 2 of Carrick-on-Shannon Community CCTV. The design of phase 2 is currently being considered.
- Both Leitrim County Council and An Garda Síochána promoted road safety both in the local media and through their own respective social media channels.
- The property marking initiative continues to be implemented. While no large-scale community events took place due to COVID-19 restrictions An Garda Síochána provided a number of one-to-one marking events particularly in farm settings.
- Discussions took place with relevant stakeholders with a view to implementing a county wide alert system to benefit both communities and individuals and cater for alerts such as Garda Alerts, Weather Alerts, Major Emergency Alerts, Council alerts and community alerts. Funding streams continue to be explored.
- At each meeting the JPC received updates on general policing issues and statistics in relation to reported crimes in the county.

Item No. 2: Three key achievements of the JPC during the year.

1. The “Use Your Brain Not Your Fist” campaign continued to be promoted locally and regionally through presentations to youth members in GAA clubs in adjoining counties. The campaign was widely promoted through cinema advertising and a social media advertising campaign. Following successful delivery in Leitrim the campaign has been established as part of the Garda programme delivered nationally in schools.
2. A very successfully youth engagement initiative was delivered to Transition Year students in all Secondary Schools in the county in 2021. The initiative with took the form of presentations followed by a quiz was delivered by the Gardai and supported by Leitrim County Council. Topics addressed in the initiative included:
 - Road Safety
 - Driver Theory Test
 - Drug and Alcohol prevention
 - Well Being and Health & Fitness,
 - Garda Fitness test
3. Leitrim County Council and An Garda Síochána continued to collaborate effectively to support the Leitrim COVID-19 Community Response Helpline and provide support to vulnerable or older persons during the ongoing pandemic. By working with Local Community groups, assistance was provided to vulnerable or older persons as required. In addition An Garda Síochána provided in excess of 278 welfare checks to vulnerable persons in the community in Leitrim

Item No. 3 – Public Meetings hosted by the JPC during the year.

Section 36(2) (c) of the Garda Síochána Act provides that the function of a JPC is, inter alia, to ‘arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority’s administrative area’. A Public Meeting of the JPC took place on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 at 7 p.m. in Áras Padriag, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim. The theme of the meeting was “**Financial and Technological Safeguards and Security in the Home**”. Public notification of the meeting issued in the local press, on Leitrim County Council’s website and on Leitrim County Council’s Facebook, Instagram and Twitter social media channels. The public were invited to attend and to submit questions for consideration at the meeting.

A number of presentations were delivered on the night:

Sergeant Cara Kiernan, Crime Prevention Officer with An Garda Síochána for County Leitrim addressed the meeting on the simple steps that communities and individuals can carry out to protect their property and belongings. The key message from the presentation being 'Light Up, Lock Up', with the recommendation being that property and homes are properly locked and secured and where possible timers should be used to turn on lights on occasions when homes are unoccupied. Once again the property marking system, as introduced through the JPC in 2019, was referenced as a means to deter theft and return recovered stolen goods to their rightful owners.

Detective Sergeant Brigid Buckley of the Garda National Cyber Crime Bureau delivered a very informative and interesting address to the meeting on how to stay safe online and how individuals should protect their assets and accounts from various forms of cyber, online and mobile phone text scams and crimes.

Item No. 4. – Attendance of Garda Commissioner at JPC meeting

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris attended the Leitrim JPC meeting of 29th March 2021 and informed the members of the new operating model being introduced by An Garda Síochána as part of the transformation programme for a better policing service. The Commissioner dealt with a number of questions and queries put forward by the members concerning policing matters in Leitrim and surrounding counties.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Quinn
Director of Services,
Housing, Corporate Services, Community
& Cultural Services