



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LIATROMA



Áras an Chontae,

Cora Droma Ruisc.

15th February 2021

Re: Annual Report of Leitrim Joint Policing Committee 2020

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 2020 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 2020 was agreed and progressed throughout 2020.
- Both Leitrim County Council and An Garda Síochána were significant stakeholders in the Leitrim COVID-19 Community Response Forum
- A number of initiatives to support older people during the COVID-19 campaign were rolled out:
 - Provision of a 24 hour Community Call Help line
 - Christmas Message of Hope - Christmas Cards for older persons
 - Light up/Keep Well Campaign – provision of rechargeable torches for older persons.
 - Provision and distribution 3000 COVID Well Being packs to older persons
- Although hampered by the COVID-19 Pandemic, An Garda Síochána held a small number of property marking events throughout the county as public health restrictions allowed.
- Both Leitrim County Council and An Garda Síochána promoted road safety both in the local media and through their own respective social media channels.
- At each meeting the JPC received updates on general policing issues and statistics in relation to reported crimes in the county.
- In December, the JPC received a presentation from Komeer on a software application messaging system that can replace and improve on the existing Community Text Alerts Schemes

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

1. The JPC Public Meeting on the theme of **“Assisting Families and Communities in dealing with the misuse of drugs”** proved to be an exceptionally informative meeting.
Donegal ETB delivered a presentation on the affects and myths associated with alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs. The presentation was targeted at young adults and their parents and gave an insight into how drugs affect the human body and brain and the long-lasting effects that abuse of these stimulants can cause.
Sligo/Leitrim Garda division drugs unit gave a presentation on recognising if a family member is becoming involved in drugs and the disruption that this involvement can have on regular family life. The informative presentation described new and emerging drugs and gave an insight into the coded language and terminology used by youths and drug dealers for various types of drugs and associated activities.
2. The JPC Strategic Plan was prepared in September, October & November 2020 in consultation with An Garda Siochana and was made available for public consultation before being adopted by the members of the JPC at its meeting on 10th December 2020.
3. Leitrim County Council and An Garda Siochana collaborated effectively to provide 24 hour, 7 days per week cover for the Leitrim CCOVID-19 Community Response Helpline. Leitrim County Council provided a telephone support service for persons that needed assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic from 8 am through to 8pm, with An Garda Siochana providing telephone support from 8pm through to 8am. This collaboration meant that the citizens of Leitrim were served by a 24 hour helpline during the COVID-19 pandemic

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

Section 36(2) (c) of the Garda Siochana 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 4th 2020 at 7 p.m. in The Bush Hotel Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim. The theme of the meeting was **“Assisting Families and Communities in dealing with the misuse of drugs”**. Public notification of the meeting issued in the local press and on Leitrim County Council’s website and social media channels. The public were invited to submit questions for consideration at the meeting.

A number of presentations were delivered on the night by the Gardai and invited speakers on the following topics:

- Community Policing in Leitrim
- Public Order & Crime Statistics for Leitrim for 2019

- The affects and myths associated with alcohol, cannabis and other drugs.
- Recognising if a family member is becoming involved in drugs.

Yours sincerely,

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