



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

REPORT

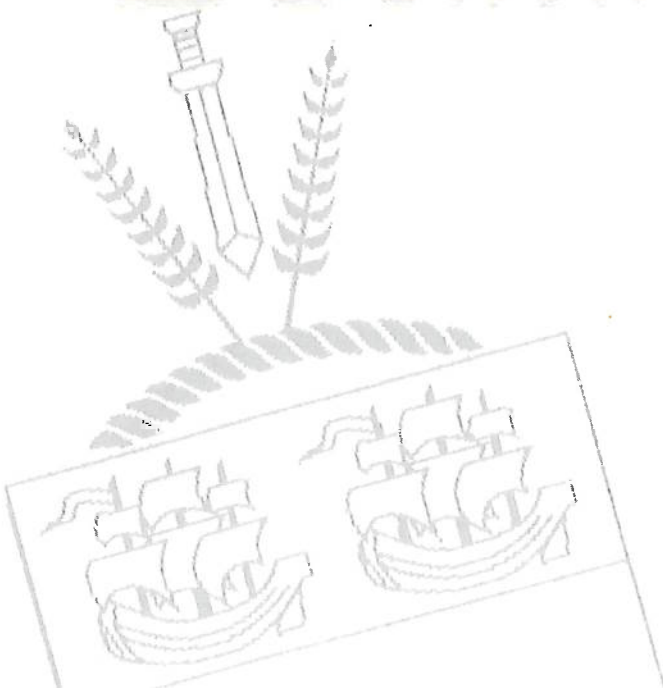
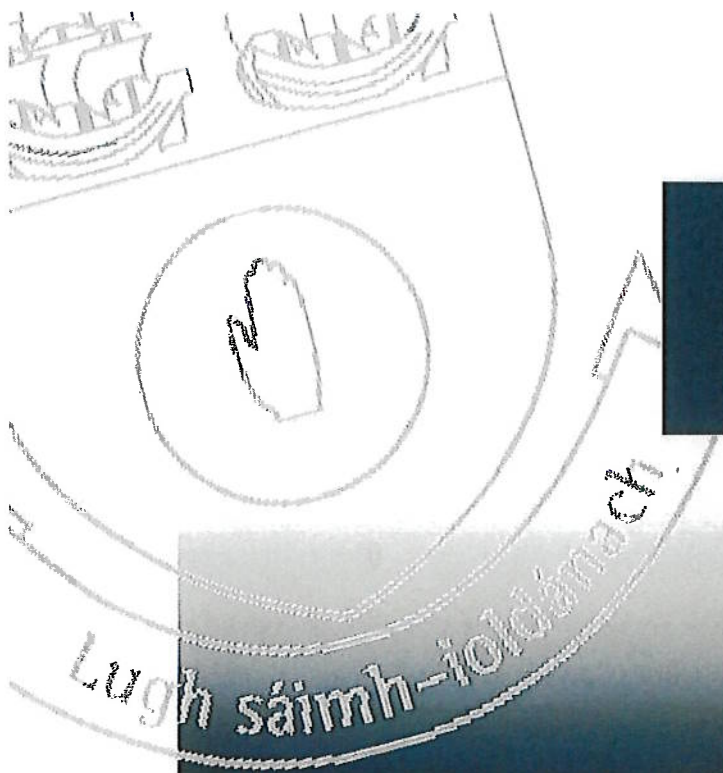
on the

**JOINT
POLICING
COMMITTEES**



An Garda Síochána
Ireland's National Police Service

**OF COUNTY LOUTH
2017**



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BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 makes provision for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees. The Guidelines issued subsequent to the Act set out to establish the committees based on the experience gained in the pilot areas and on lessons learned from an extensive consultation process commenced in 2007.

The functions of the Joint Policing Committee's are set out in Section 36 (2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states:

“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”

- (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.

1. STRATEGIC PLAN, COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

Theme 1: Building safer communities

Goal: Citizens in County Louth will live safely and peacefully in an inclusive environment and benefit from reduced levels of crime, intimidation, or anti-social behaviour.

The role of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC): What it can do Strategic Priorities

1. Ensure that adequate structures, appropriate representation and sufficient resources are in place to implement a county-wide community safety strategy
2. Work collaboratively to reduce serious crime and its impact across the county.
3. Reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhoods, rural communities and town centres, and particularly in PEACE III target areas and other areas of social disadvantage and deprivation.
4. Encourage a sense of community capital, ownership and civic participation in communities across the county with an emphasis on PEACE III target groups, non-Irish nationals and other ethnic minorities.

Theme 2: Tackling alcohol and substance misuse

Goal: We will work with existing agencies and their partners to reduce the impact of alcohol, substance misuse and drug-related crime on communities in Co Louth

Strategic Priorities

- 1 Consideration should be given in a revised JPC structure to reflect representation of the NERDATF, members of the Louth Drugs & Alcohol Forum and statutory and community and voluntary sector partners in County Louth
- 2 Develop a county-wide substance misuse and detoxification strategies in collaboration with other statutory organisations.

Theme 3: Nurturing children and young people

Goal: Children and young people will lead fulfilled lives in safe, peaceful and confident communities.

2. ADVICE / RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED BY THE JPC TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY AND GARDAÍ

During the course of 2017, the format of the Garda & Local Authority reports to the committee meetings have been changed to reflect the aims and goals of the respective Policing Plans and Community Safety Strategy.

A generic reporting template mechanism has now been developed and is in use in all forum meetings. In many instances there has followed debate and discussion on matters that are raised by the members or prompted by the presentations made. The table below illustrates some of these issues.

Issue	Local Policing Forum
Aggressive Begging	Dundalk and Drogheda
Vacant Property	Dundalk
Rural Crime	Ardee
Public Drinking	Drogheda
Break-in to vehicle at isolated locations	Dundalk & Ardee
Dumping of waste	Drogheda
Festivals and Diversionary activities	Drogheda
Voluntary code on alcohol sales	Drogheda
Integration with Minority Groups	Drogheda

The raising of such issues has allowed for a whole response to the issue to be formed by either the Garda or Local Authority Officer dealing with the specific issue.

Senior Gardaí and Local Authority officials have been proactive in ensuring that staff dealing with specific issues, are available to the JPC members. The attendance of such members has had a positive impact on the engagement with the committees, resulting in more wholesome and informed debate.

Recommendation from the committee in respect of distractive type events at Halloween and Bonfire Night have proven effective in reducing the number of anti social behaviour incidents.

Arising from the public meetings a number of initiatives were actioned by An Garda Síochána to deal with specific issues.

4. MEETING SCHEDULE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Steering Group	17 Jan			
Drogheda & South Louth JPC	22 Jan	23 Apr	25 Jun	8 Oct
Dundalk & North Louth JPC	23 Jan	24 Apr	26 Jun	9 Oct
Ardee & Mid Louth JPC	25 Jan	26 Apr	28 Jun	11 Oct

Steering Group Joint Policing Committee

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>
Cllr. C. Markey (Chairman)	LCC	Cathaoirleach LCC
Cllr. Kenneth Flood	Drogheda MD	Drogheda Local Policing Forum
Cllr. John McGahon	Dundalk MD	Dundalk Local Policing Forum
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	Ardee MD	Ardee Local Policing Forum
Sean Ward	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
Gerard Curley	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Fergus Treanor	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Andrew Watters	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Joan Martin	LCC	County Manager
Joe McGuinness	LCC	Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly	LCC	Director of Services
Frank Pentony	LCC	Director of Services
Mary G Reilly	LCC	Administrative Officer

Dundalk Local Policing Committee

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Attendance record</i>
Cllr. John McGahon (Chair)	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3
Cllr. Emma Coffey	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Mark Dearey	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	1
Cllr. Jennifer Green	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Conor Keelan	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3
Cllr. Maeve Yore	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3
Cllr. Marianne Butler	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Tomás Sharkey	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	2
Cllr. Maria Doyle	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3
Cllr. Edel Corrigan	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3
Cllr. Kevin Meenan	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	0
Cllr. Peter Savage	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	0
Cllr. Antoin Watters	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor	3
Gerry Adams	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Declan Breathnach	Oireachtas	T.D.	1
Fergus O'Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Gerard Curley	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent	1
Brendan Keane	An Garda Síochána	Sergeant	2
Martin Beggy	An Garda Síochána	Inspector	1
Matthew McGreehan	Farming Pillar		3
Frank Watters	Business Pillar		0
John Temple	Comm. & Voluntary		3
Pat McVeigh	Comm. & Voluntary		3
Frank Pentony	LCC	Director of Services	3
Joe McGuinness	LCC	Director of Service	2
Mary G Reilly	LCC	Administrative Officer	3
John Lawrence	LCC	Senior Executive Officer	1