



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

REPORT
on the
JOINT
POLICING
COMMITTEES



An Garda Síochána
Ireland's National Police Service

of County Louth
2018

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Address from An Cathaoirleach

As Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council and Chairperson of the Steering Committee of Louth Joint Policing Committee I am pleased to present the Joint Policing Committees Annual Report for 2018.

The report outlines the work and considerations of the Counties three Joint Policing Committees during 2018. The JPC structures are well embedded in the local democratic process and afford us the opportunity as elected members and community representatives, to engage with the practitioners and strategists in the Local Authority and the Garda Síochána in highlighting issues of policing and public safety that are a challenge in our local communities.

The Louth Joint Policing Community Safety Strategy 2016 – 2022 together with the local Policing Plans continue to be the central in structuring the work and reporting protocols of the local committees. The five key themes of the strategy were in 2018 the focus of the committees work in addressing the challenges experienced in communities across the county. Our vision – *“Louth will be a county where all of its citizens can lead safe, peaceful lives and experience a good quality of life and well-being”* was at the heart of the deliberations of the members during the year and I look forward to it continuing to inform the work of what will be newly constituted policing committees following the local elections in 2019.

Engaging the wider community in the work of the Joint Policing Committees is central to the successful delivery of the Community Safety Strategy objectives. The committee have with the support of the local authority and An Garda Síochána met the statutory requirements in respect of the hosting of Public meetings. This is an area that continues to be a challenge to the work of the committees and despite adopting new initiatives including the extensive use of social media to promote the public meeting programme attendances at these meetings continues to modest.

In concluding I thank the members of the respective Joint Policing Committees for their commitment to this important work and I that the Officials of Louth County Council lead by the Chief Executive and members of An Garda Síochána lead by the Chief Superintendent for their support during the year.

Cllr. Liam Reilly
Cathaoirleach
Comhairle Chondae Lú

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.

Louth JPC Goals



Building Safer Communities



Nurturing children & young people



Encouraging Integrated Communities



Tackling alcohol & substance misuse



Supporting Older & Vulnerable People



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council



An Garda Síochána

1. WORK PROGRAMME & OBJECTIVES

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.

Strategic Priorities

- 1 Work in partnership to ensure that young people engage positively with the justice system.
- 2 Support the provision of safe, friendly, alcohol and drug-free recreational spaces with adequate facilities and appropriate opening times, where children and young people can gather in an inclusive, safe and positive way.

Theme 4: Supporting older and vulnerable people

Goal: Older and vulnerable people will feel respected and safe within their communities and enabled to access necessary services.

Strategic Priorities

- 1 Support the implementation of the Louth Age Friendly strategy.
- 2 Continue to implement An Garda Síochána's Older People's safety strategy in collaboration with the relevant partners.

Theme 5: Encouraging integrated communities

Goal: We will foster and support peaceful and safe community co-existence, where new and existing residents adapt to one another and to their local areas, within a shared set of values and purpose.

Strategic Priorities

- 1 Work in partnership in a systemic way to build a peaceful, safe, inclusive and cohesive society that is tolerant and respectful of diversity.
- 2 Ensure that there is adequate representation of ethnic minority groupings and other PEACE III target groups within the JPC structure.
- 3 Continue to build cultural and attitudinal change through working with the relevant agencies to sustain the PEACE III initiatives and programmes where appropriate.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Garda & Local Authority reports to the committee meetings continue to be presented to reflect the aims and goals of the respective Policing Plans and Community Safety Strategy. This format provides a statistical basis to any developing trends.

Members of the Committees actively debate and discuss with senior Local Authority and Garda Officials issues that are specific to the Municipal District Areas and more general crime challenges faced by communities across the county. The key issues raised in the year reported are set out below.

Issue
Drug Intimidation
Anti-Social Behaviour
Alcohol Bye Laws
Opening Times of rural Garda Stations
Management of derelict properties
Street lighting as a deterrent to ASB
Water Safety awareness
Traffic calming measures to aid management of speeding vehicles
Halloween Preparations
JPC and engagement with drugs and alcohol forum
Migrant integration
Cyber Crime
Protection against drones
Eir-code marking system
Planning for Fleadh Cheoil 2018

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. The local knowledge and awareness of the challenges faced by local communities has assisted in informing responses and pro-active actions by both the local authority and An Garda Síochána.

3. JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETINGS

The committee have with the support of the local authority and An Garda Síochána met the statutory requirements in respect of the hosting of Public meetings. This is an important element in the work of Joint Policing Committees. Encouraging attendance at public meetings continues to be a challenge with committees having mixed success in regard to the numbers of members of the public attending these meetings. New initiatives were adopted in 2018 which included the extensive use of social media to promote the attendance at public meetings. Local Authority and Garda networks were also used to encourage attendance and engagement with the Committees. While there was some improvements further work is required to ensure the Public meeting schedule is more effective in reaching out to communities.

Public Meeting Schedule 2018	
Drogheda and South Louth JPC	1 st October
Dundalk and North Louth JPC	2 nd October
Ardee and Mid Louth JPC	4 th October

4. MEETING SCHEDULE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Meetings of the Local Policing Forum and the Agenda schedule are agreed at the Steering Group meetings. This approach ensures continuity in the business of the Committees and provides for best practice to be shared across the three committees. The meeting schedule is set out below. A joint meeting was hosted on the 30th April to facilitate a presentation by the Criminal Assets Bureau. A special meeting of the steering group was convened on 13th November at the request of the Chief Superintendent in order to expedite a special meeting of the Drogheda JPC to advise members on particular policing challenges that had presented.

<i>Meeting Schedule 2018</i>					
Steering Group	17 th January	-	-	29 th August	13 th November
Drogheda & South Louth JPC	29 th January	30 th April	25 th June	1 st October	12 th December
Dundalk & North Louth JPC	30 th January	Joint Meeting	26 th June	2 nd October	-
Ardee & Mid Louth JPC	1 st February		28 th June	4 th October	-

Steering Group Joint Policing Committee

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>
Cllr. Liam Reilly (Chairman)	LCC	Cathaoirleach LCC
Cllr. Kenneth Flood	Drogheda	Drogheda Local Policing Forum
Cllr. John McGahon	Dundalk	Dundalk Local Policing Forum
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	Ardee	Ardee Local Policing Forum
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
Gerard Curley	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Desmond McTiernan	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

Drogheda Local Policing Committee

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>
Cllr. Kenneth Flood	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor & Chairperson
Cllr. Paul Bell	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Tommy Byrne	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Joanna Byrne	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Kevin Callan	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Richard Culhane	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Frank Godfrey	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. David Saurin	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Pio Smith	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Oliver Tully	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.
Declan Breathnach	Oireachtas	T.D.
Gerry Adams	Oireachtas	T.D.
Fergus O' Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.
Tony Mullins	Comm. & Voluntary	
Flora Okobi	Comm. & Voluntary	
Nicholas Sullivan	Farming Pillar	
David McCloskey	Business Pillar	
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
Andrew Watters	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Paddy Donnelly	Louth County Council	Director of Services
Mary G Reilly	Louth County Council	Administrative Officer

Dundalk Local Policing Committee

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>
Cllr. John McGahon	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor & Chairperson
Cllr. Marianne Butler	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Anne Campbell	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Emma Coffee	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Edel Corrigan	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Mark Dearey	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Maria Doyle	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Conor Keelan	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Ruairi O'Murchu	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Tomás Sharkey	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Peter Savage	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Maeve Yore	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Antóin Watters	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Gerry Adams	Oireachtas	T.D.
Declan Breathnach	Oireachtas	T.D.
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.
Fergus O'Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.
Matthew McGreehan	Farming Pillar	
Frank Watters	Business Pillar	
John Temple	Comm. & Voluntary	
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
Gerard Curley	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Brendan Keane	An Garda Síochána	Sergeant
Pat McVeigh	Comm. & Voluntary	
Frank Pentony	Louth County Council	Director of Services
Mary G Reilly	Louth County Council	Administrative Officer

Ardee Local Joint Policing Committee

Member	Organisation	Title
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor & Chairperson
Cllr. Tom Cunningham	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Colm Markey	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Liam Reilly	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Jim Tenanty	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Gerry Adams	Oireachtas	T.D.
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.
Declan Breathnach	Oireachtas	T.D.
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.
Fergus O'Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.
Hugh Conlon	Comm. & Voluntary	
Denis Brennan	Farming Pillar	
David Ring	Business Pillar	
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
Andrew Watters	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Desmond McTiernan	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Joe McGuinness	Louth County Council	Director of Services
Mary G Reilly	Louth County Council	Administrative Officer

