



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

REPORT
on the
JOINT
POLICING
COMMITTEES



An Garda Síochána
Ireland's National Police Service

of County Louth
2019

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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 2019.

The report outlines the work and considerations of the Counties three Joint Policing Committees during 2019. The JPC structures are well established in the local democratic process and provide us with 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 areas and communities.

The Louth Joint Policing Community Safety Strategy 2016 – 2022 together with the local Policing Plans continue to be the central element in structuring the work and reporting protocols of the local JPC committees. The five key themes of the strategy were the focus of the committees work in 2019 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 central to the consideration of the JPC members during 2019.

It is noted the membership of the JPC committees changed in 2019 following the local elections on 24th May 2019 and a number of new elected members and PPN members joined the newly constituted policing committees. The contribution of all former members and current members is acknowledged and noted.

In addition a number of changes in the local electoral boundaries has resulted in the realignment of a number of elected members to a new JPC area committee.

In conclusion, I therefore wish to express my thanks to all the members of the respective Joint Policing Committees for their commitment to this important work and 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
CCTV
Drug Intimidation
Anti-Social Behaviour in Council in Estates
Alcohol Bye Laws
Migrant Integration Strategy
Fly Tipping
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
Illegal Dumping
Cyber Crime
Age Friendly

Community Wardens
Planning for Fleadh Cheoil 2019

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

The local knowledge and awareness of the challenges faced by local communities has assisted in informing responses and positive 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 an ongoing challenge with committees having mixed success in regard to the numbers of members of the public attending these meetings. New initiatives were adopted in 2019 to encourage attendance at the public meetings and this included the use of different location to host the public meetings, this has resulted in significant improved attendance at the Dundalk JPC public meeting and is an initiative the committees will continue to deploy with regard to future public meetings.

In addition to the statutory requirements in respect of the hosting of public meetings a special public meeting was held in Ardee and Mid Louth JPC area on 9th May 2019. The purpose of this meeting was to address a specific policing issues which arose in the area. The special meeting was held to address the issue of drug related intimidation in this specific area. The special meeting was extremely well attended and the response from the public to the meeting and the themes and issues dealt with was very positive.

Public Meeting Schedule 2019	
Drogheda and South Louth JPC	25 th November 2019
Dundalk and North Louth JPC	26 th November 2019
Ardee and Mid Louth JPC	28 th November 2019

Special Public Meeting 2019	
Ardee and Mid Louth JPC	9 th May 2019

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.

A special meeting of the steering committee was convened on 12th April 2019 to address a specific policing issue which arose in Mid Louth and as a result a special public meeting was arranged to take place on 9th May 2019 to address this matter.

The local elections took place on 24th May 2019 and this resulted in a change in the membership of the newly constituted committees.

Three new chairpersons were nominated for each municipal district and towards the end of 2019 a number of PPN representatives had been nominated as representatives of the newly formed committees.

Meeting Schedule 2019				
Steering Group	10 th January 2019	12 th April 2019	14 th May 2019	1 st October 2019
Drogheda & South Louth JPC	26 th February 2019	4 th March 2019	4 th November 2019	25 th November 2019
Dundalk & North Louth JPC	10 th January 2019	5 th March 2019	5 th November 2019	26 th November 2019
Ardee & Mid Louth JPC	7 th March 2019	9 th May 2019	8 th November 2019	28 th November 2019

Steering Group Joint Policing Committee

The steering committee members listed below formed the newly constituted steering committee which was created following the local elections which took place on 24th May 2019.

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>
Cllr. Liam Reilly (Chairman)	LCC	Cathaoirleach LCC
Cllr. James Byrne	Drogheda	Drogheda Local Policing Forum
Cllr. Sean Kelly	Dundalk	Dundalk Local Policing Forum
Cllr. Jim Tenanty	Ardee	Ardee Local Policing Forum
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
James G. Curley	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Patrick O'Connell	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
Sinead McVerry	LCC	Administrative Officer

Drogheda Local Policing Committee

The Drogheda Local Policing Committee members listed below were put in place following the local elections on 24th May 2019.

Due to changes in the local electoral area boundaries Drogheda North, Drogheda South, Clogherhead, Termonfeckin & Tullyallen are now included as part of the Drogheda /South Louth LPF

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>
Cllr. James Byrne	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor & Chairperson
Cllr. Paul Bell	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Michelle Hall	Drogheda Local Policy Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Joanna Byrne	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Kevin Callan	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Paddy McQuillan	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Tom Cunningham	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Pio Smith	Drogheda Local	Councillor

	Policing Forum	
Cllr. Eileen Tully	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Declan Power	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	
Gerard Melia	Farming Pillar	
Shona McManus	Business Pillar	
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
Andrew Watters	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Paddy Donnelly	Louth County Council	Director of Services
Sinead McVerry	Louth County Council	Administrative Officer

Dundalk Local Policing Committee

The Dundalk Local Policing Committee members listed below were put in place following the local elections on 24th May 2019. Due to changes in the local electoral area boundaries Dundalk, Blackrock, Haggardstown, Dromiskin Carlingford, Greenore , Omeath and Knockbridge are now included as part of Dundalk/ North Louth LPF.

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>
Cllr. Sean Kelly	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor & Chairperson
Cllr. Marianne Butler	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. John McGahon	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Emma Coffee	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Edel Corrigan	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Liam Reilly	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. Erin McGreehan	Dundalk Local	Councillor

	Policing Forum	
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.
Gerard Melia	Farming Pillar	
Sean Farrell	Business Pillar	
John Temple	Comm. & Voluntary	
Pat McVeigh	Social Inclusion	
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
James G. Curley	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Frank Pentony	Louth County Council	Director of Services
Sinead McVerry	Louth County Council	Administrative Officer

Ardee Local Joint Policing Committee

The Ardee Local Policing Committee members listed below were put in place following the local elections on 24th May 2019.

Due to changes in the local electoral area boundaries Ardee, Castlebellingham, Kilsaran, Collon, Dunleer, Tinure, Louth Village and Tallanstown are now included as part of Ardee Mid Louth LPF.

Member	Organisation	Title
Cllr. Jim Tenanty	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor & Chairperson
Cllr. John Sheridan	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Colm Markey	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Hugh Conlon	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	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.

Damien McKenna	Comm. & Voluntary	
Gerard Melia	Farming Pillar	
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
Patrick O'Connell	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Joe McGuinness	Louth County Council	Director of Services
Sinead McVerry	Louth County Council	Administrative Officer