



Comhairle Contae Lú  
**Louth** County Council

**REPORT**

**on the**

**JOINT  
POLICING  
COMMITTEES**



An Garda Síochána  
Ireland's National Police Service

**of County Louth**  
**2021**



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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 2021.

The report outlines the work and considerations of the Counties three Joint Policing Committees during 2021. The JPC structures are firmly 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 2021.

The presence of Covid 19 throughout the year has once again proved uniquely challenging. Public health restrictions in place throughout 2021 has resulted in all JPC meetings being held virtually on the Zoom platform. However with the recent lifting of Covid 19 restrictions in early 2022 , it is anticipated that face to face meetings can resume again and the statutory requirement to hold a public meeting will be realised in a face to face public setting in 2022.

During 2021 there were a number of changes in Garda personnel and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Superintendent Michelle Baker from Dundalk & North Louth JPC Forum for her considered and valuable contributions to the Dundalk & North Louth JPC.

In addition I note that Chief Superintendent Christy Mangan will be retiring from his post shortly. Superintendent Mangan has served for many years in the Louth area and has led An Garda Síochána calmly and admirably in the Louth Division through some particularly challenging policing situations .On behalf of all the JPC Members from each respective area I wish to thank Christy for his many years of service and dedication and to wish him well in the next stage of his life.

In conclusion, I 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 what has been a uniquely challenging year.

**Cllr. Pío Smith**

**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
New Policing Model
CCTV
Drug Intimidation
Anti-Social Behaviour in Council 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 Louth Drug and Alcohol Forum
Illegal Dumping
Age Friendly Initiatives
Community Wardens

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.

Due to Covid 19 and in order to adhere to the public health advice the 3 statutory public meetings moved to a virtual online platform in 2021. Members of the public were invited to submit their questions in advance of the meeting and those who submitted questions were subsequently invited to attend the public meeting on the Zoom virtual online platform, this afforded them an opportunity to communicate directly with An Garda Síochána and local authority elected members and officials with regard to policing matters in their respective areas.

<b>Public Meeting Schedule 2021</b>	
Drogheda and South Louth JPC	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Dundalk and North Louth JPC	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Ardee and Mid Louth JPC	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2021

## 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 chairpersons of each forum welcomed a number of PPN representatives to the Local Policing Forum in 2021. PPN representatives had been nominated as representatives of the Joint Policing Fora. The JPC aims to develop greater consultation, cooperation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and elected local representatives. The JPC also facilitates the participation of the community and voluntary sector in this regard. It is also the role of the PPN elected representatives sitting on the JPC to keep the linkage group informed about the matters discussed at the JPC.

<b>Meeting Schedule 2021</b>				
Steering Group	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	
Drogheda & South Louth JPC	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2021	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 Public Meeting
Dundalk & North Louth JPC	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	11 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 Public Meeting
Ardee & Mid Louth JPC	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 Public Meeting

## Steering Group Joint Policing Committee

The steering committee members listed below formed the steering committee which was created following the local elections which took place on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

Cllr Pio Smith was elected Chairperson of Louth County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 prior to that date Cllr Dolores Minogue held the post.

<i>Member</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Title</i>
<i>Cllr Pio Smith (Chairperson)</i>	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
Michelle Baker	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Ronan Carey	An Garda Síochána	Acting Superintendent
Andrew Watters	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Joan Martin	LCC	Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness	LCC	Director of Services

Paddy Donnelly	LCC	Director of Services
Frank Pentony	LCC	Director of Services

## **Drogheda Local Policing Committee**

The Drogheda Local Policing Committee members listed below were put in place following the local elections on 24<sup>th</sup> 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. Fiachra MacRaghnaill	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 Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. EileenTully	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor



Cllr. Declan Power	Drogheda Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.
Ged Nash	Oireachtas	T.D.
Ruairi O Mhurchu	Oireachtas	T.D.
Fergus O' Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.
Colm Markey	Oireachtas	Senator
Erin McGreehan	Oireachtas	Senator
John McGahon	Oireachtas	Senator
Tony Mullins	Comm. & Voluntary	PPN
Flora Okobi	Comm. & Voluntary	PPN
Robert Murray	Business Pillar	PPN
Gerard Melia	Farming Pillar	PPN
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
Andrew Watters	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Mark McNulty	An Garda Síochána	Sergeant
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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 Reilly	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. Kevin Meenan	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Tomás Sharkey	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Maeve Yore	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Antóin Watters	Dundalk Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Ruairi O Mhurchu	Oireachtas	T.D.

Ged Nash	Oireachtas	T.D.
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.
Fergus O'Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.
Erin McGreehan	Oireachtas	Senator
John McGahon	Oireachtas	Senator
Colm Markey	Oireachtas	Senator
Gerard Melia	Farming Pillar	PPN
Sean Farrell	Business Pillar	PPN
John Temple	Comm. & Voluntary	PPN
Pat McVeigh	Social Inclusion	PPN
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
James G. Curley	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Mark McNulty	An Garda Síochána	Sergeant
Frank Pentony	Louth County Council	Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly	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 24<sup>th</sup> 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. Paula Butterly	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Dolores Minogue	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Bernie Conlon	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Cllr. Pearse McGeough	Ardee Local Policing Forum	Councillor
Ruairi O Mhurchu	Oireachtas	T.D.
Peter Fitzpatrick	Oireachtas	T.D.
Ged Nash	Oireachtas	T.D.
Imelda Munster	Oireachtas	T.D.
Fergus O'Dowd	Oireachtas	T.D.
Colm Markey	Oireachtas	Senator

John McGahon	Oireachtas	Senator
Erin McGreehan	Oireachtas	Senator
Damien McKenna	Comm. & Voluntary	PPN
Gerard Melia	Farming Pillar	PPN
Christopher Mangan	An Garda Síochána	Chief Superintendent
James O'Leary	An Garda Síochána	Superintendent
Mark McNulty	An Garda Síochána	Sergeant
Joe McGuinness	Louth County Council	Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly	Louth County Council	Director of Services
Sinead McVerry	Louth County Council	Administrative Officer