

**COUNTY MAYO  
JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE  
(JPC)**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2021**



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



## Message from the Chairman



As Chairperson of the County Mayo Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2021 Annual report. The Report details the key actions of the Committee in delivering on the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and is an important means of communicating the role and work of the Committee.

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation and co-operation on policing and crime issues between the Gardaí, the local authority, community representatives and elected public representatives. During 2021, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work while also addressing local issues.

The JPC held four meetings during 2021 and a list of the key actions achieved is set out in the Annual Report.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank the Garda Síochána team led by newly appointed Chief Superintendent Ray McMahon. I would also like to thank Mayo County Council team led by recently appointed Chief Executive Mr Kevin Kelly for their valued contributions to the work of the Committee. I would like to also take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Mr. Tony Healy, former Chief Superintendent for his valued contribution to this JPC and on behalf of the JPC wish him well in his retirement. I would like to place on record the excellent level of participation by the elected and community representatives on the Committee. I'd also like to acknowledge the contribution to the work of the committee of the following - The Garda Drugs Unit, Western Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force, Criminal Assets Bureau, Mayo Women's Support Services, the Road Safety Office of Mayo County Council and the Older Person's Council. Finally, I would like to thank meeting co-ordinators Maura Murphy and Michael Galvin for the work and support required for organising the JPC meetings.

Cllr. Al McDonnell  
Chairperson, Mayo JPC



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### **Chief Supt. Ray McMahon:**



As Chief Superintendent of the Roscommon/Longford (to include Mayo) Division, I wish to record my appreciation to Mayo County Council, community representatives and elected local representatives in the Mayo for 2021. 2020 and 2021 were challenging years with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The co-operation and participation of Mayo County Council, community representatives and elected representatives in the COVID-19 pandemic with An Garda Síochána is acknowledged in the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

An Garda Síochána are looking forward to working with the JPC in implementing our policing plans and our JPC Strategic Plan while continuing to adapt to our ever-changing environment in facing the challenges ahead.

Keeping people safe has been a major focus of An Garda Síochána and continues to be a priority for the year going forward.

### **Kevin Kelly - Chief Executive, MCC**



Mayo County Council works closely with An Garda Síochána on the Joint Policing Committee and in other forums - such as emergency management and road safety.

We share common objectives – to make and promote Mayo as a safe place to live in and a safe place to visit; to create a safe environment which contributes to the great quality of life we enjoy in Mayo and to contribute to the positive experiences of overseas visitors, who in turn contribute to our local economy and the vibrancy of our county.



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## Introduction

The Annual report 2021 sets out how the County Mayo Joint Policing Committee carried out its functions for this period in accordance with Section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and in accordance with the revised Joint Policing Committee Guidelines 2014.

## Role of the Joint Policing Committee

The legislative framework for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees is set out in Section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

Section 36(2) provides that the Joint Policing Committee is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area. The Act refers specifically to the following matters:

- Keep under review
  - (a) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs) and
  - (b) the underlying factors that contribute to these issues.
- Advise the local authority and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions and do everything feasibly possible to improve the safety and quality of life, to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- Arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authorities' administrative area.
- Establish in consultation with the local Garda Superintendent and specific neighbourhoods, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the JPC.
- Co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora.



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The Mayo Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was established in 2009 under the Garda Síochána Act 2005. The overall aim of the JPC is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of Mayo County Council's administrative area. The JPC also review levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and the factors contributing to such crime.

### **Members of Mayo JPC:**

<b>Local Authority Elected Members</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Al McDonnell (Chairperson)	Mayo County Council
Christy Hyland	Mayo County Council
Damien Ryan	Mayo County Council
Gerry Coyle	Mayo County Council
John O'Hara	Mayo County Council
Michael Kilcoyne	Mayo County Council
Michael Loftus	Mayo County Council
Neil Cruise	Mayo County Council
Sean Carey	Mayo County Council
John Caulfield	Mayo County Council
Mark Duffy	Mayo County Council
Michael Burke	Mayo County Council
Ger Deere	Mayo County Council
Tom Connolly	Mayo County Council



### JPC Membership (cont.)

<b>Oireachtas Members</b>	
Dara Calleary, T.D	Oireachtas
Alan Dillon, T.D	Oireachtas
Lisa Chambers,	Oireachtas
Michael Ring, T.D	Oireachtas
Senator Paddy Burke	Oireachtas
Rose Conway-Walsh, T.D	Oireachtas
<b>Mayo County Council</b>	
Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive	Mayo County Council
Deirdre Finnerty, Head of Community and Integrated Development	Mayo County Council
Maura Murphy, A.O.	Mayo County Council
Michael Galvin, C.O.	Mayo County Council
<b>Community &amp; Voluntary Section</b>	
Louise Glynn	3rd Mayo Scouts, Ballinrobe
Keelan Moran	Westport Youth Activities Club
Edith Geraghty	Mayo Travellers Support Group
Seamus Smyth	Blackrock Residents Association
Michael Larkin	Killawalla Community Council
Daniel Kabongo	Mayo Intercultural Action
<b>Garda Síochána</b>	
Ray McMahon Chief Superintendent	Garda Síochána
Joe McKenna, Superintendent	Garda Síochána
Thomas J Calvey, Superintendent	Garda Síochána
Gabriel Moran, Superintendent	Garda Síochána
Gary Walsh, Superintendent	Garda Síochána



## **GARDA REPORT:**

On December 20, 2020 the Mayo Garda Division expanded its Divisional Drugs Taskforce, and since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2020, **€2,196,109.68** worth of drugs have been seized, approximately €30,000 worth of counterfeit currency has been removed from circulation, and more than €136,800 in cash has been seized in Co Mayo.

Included in these seizures is the detection of five grow houses ranging in value from €10,000 to €432,000, which have been significant in disrupting the sale and supply of drugs in the Mayo Garda Division.

Mayo is operating to the new divisional policing model and the model has enabled the provision of more resources by the Divisional Officer, Raymond Mc Mahon, to tackle the sale and supply of drugs.

The policing model has created greater flexibility and has allowed us to take a county wide view of crime rather than a District focus. The new model has also enabled the expansion of the Divisional Drugs Taskforce, which now consists of two sergeants and seven Gardaí.

**Two additional members from uniform personnel are seconded to the Divisional Drugs Taskforce each three-month period.**

**The following statistics highlight the increase in drug offences and searches in 2020/2021:**

### **DRUG STATISTICS**

**Cultivation/ Manufacture = 23**

Cannabis Grow houses at Charlestown, Claremorris (2) and Attymass.

**Possession for Sale & Supply = 152**

**Simple Possession = 467**

### **SEARCHES**

Search Person = 94

Search Premises/Vehicle/Vessel with a warrant = 412

Search Premises/Vehicle/Vessel without a warrant = 115

Search under Drugs Act, 1977/84 = 1000.

## Annual Report of County Mayo Joint Policing Committee 2021

### Item 1: Summary of progress in implementing the JPC's work Programme.

Strategic Objectives	Summary of action taken and progress made during the year.	Summary of advice given by the JPC to the Local Authority and the Gardaí.	Results of advice. Identify the feedback received for the LA and the Gardaí.	
	<b>High Priority Objectives</b>			
1	Promoting the concept of the JPC's.	Four online meetings of the JPC were held in 2021.	Overarching job of the JPC is to promote public awareness of policing matters.	The JPC works closely with local media to promote the work of the Committee.
2	To monitor and review serious crime, drug supply and public order in Co Mayo.	An Garda Síochána provided detailed quarterly statistical reports which kept under review, and responded as appropriate, to the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Mayo (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs).	Ongoing collaboration.	Ongoing monitoring of and review of crime, drug and public order at each meeting of JPC.
3	To encourage collective community initiatives which nurture a sense of community and promote the role for the Gardaí in the community.	AGS and MCC to work collaboratively in agreeing procedures for accessing, maintaining and operating data from CCTV. AGS worked with MCC and a number of other organisations in 2021 on the Community Response Forum	Ongoing collaboration.	Ongoing collaboration.
4	To reduce the incidence of fatal and serious injuries from road collisions and to improve road safety in Co Mayo.	Promoting public awareness of safe driving and the far-reaching consequences of road accidents.	Ongoing collaboration.	Ongoing collaboration.



**Item 2: Please highlight three key achievements of the JPC during the year and give reasons why they are significant.**

**Achievement 1:**

Sgt Paul Maher gave a presentation of the Search and Rescue app and the Mobility app to the JPC meeting in September.

**Achievement 2:**

The establishment of sub-committees was discussed, and it was agreed to go ahead with the setting up of the following sub-committees -:

1. Community Engagement
2. Traffic and Road Safety
3. Crime and Drugs
4. Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour

Members of these sub-committees will comprise of members of the JPC, AGS and other relevant agencies. The sub-committee's will be aligned with the objectives of the new Strategic Plan; and tasked with delivering actions outlined in same. An update report from the sub-committee's will be included as an item on the JPC agenda.

**Achievement 3:**

**The establishment of Swinford Local Policing Forum**

The statutory basis for the formation of Local Policing Fora is set out in section 36(2) (d) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005. The JPC must:

*(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."*

The fora provide a mechanism through which the community, Gardaí and Mayo County Council can come together in a formal structured way with the community to consider issues of community safety.

The forum was set-up in January 2021 and is chaired by Cllr. Neil Cruise.



### The establishment of Swinford Local Policing Forum (cont.)

Topics of concern in Swinford for the group are:

- The requirement for a Family Resource Centre in Swinford and process involved in establishing same.
- The provision for CCTV in Swinford
- Anti- Social Behaviour
- Housing issue's

The group meets in advance of each JPC and an update of same is included in Supt. Gabriel Moran's report for the Claremorris / Swinford Area.

Members of Swinford Local Policing Forum are:

Agency	Name
<b>An Garda Síochána</b>	Supt. Gabriel Moran
	Sergeant Conor Drury
	Sergeant Greg Fleming
	Inspector Naomi De Rís
<b>Mayo County Council</b>	Padraig Flanagan, Head of Claremorris / Swinford Municipal District
	Paula Geraghty, A.O., Swinford Area
	Maura Murphy, A.O., Meeting Administrator
<b>Elected Members</b>	Cllr. Neil Cruise (Chair)
	Cllr. Michael Smyth (Vice Chair)
	Cllr. Gerry Murray
	Cllr. John Caulfield
<b>Túsla</b>	Kathy McGrath, Staff Officer
<b>HSE</b>	Seamus Egan
<b>HSE</b>	Eugene McCormack, Ass. Director of Nursing at Mayo Mental Health Services



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### **Item 3: Record of Members and Meetings held during the year.**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions it was not possible to hold a public meeting this year. Four JPC meetings were conducted online for 2021. Meetings were held on the following dates:

#### **JPC Meetings held in 2021:**

#### **4 JPC meetings took place (online) in 2021:**

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

\*30<sup>th</sup> July 2021

24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

*\*meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> July was adjourned and finalised at a follow-on meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> July*

Attendance at JPC meetings 2021		Meeting Date				
JPC Member	Organisation	Mar 12th	July 2nd	July 30th*	Sept 24th	Dec 10th
Cllr. Al McDonnell	Mayo County Council	√	√	√	√	√
Cllr Christy Hyland	Mayo County Council	√	√	√	√	
Cllr. Damien Ryan	Mayo County Council	√	√	√	√	√
Cllr Gerry Coyle	Mayo County Council	√	√			√
Cllr. John O'Hara	Mayo County Council				√	√
Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne	Mayo County Council	√	√	√	√	
Cllr. Michael Loftus	Mayo County Council	√	√	√	√	
Cllr. Neil Cruise	Mayo County Council	√	√	√	√	√
Cllr. Sean Carey	Mayo County Council	√		√	√	√
Cllr. John Caulfield	Mayo County Council					
Cllr. Mark Duffy	Mayo County Council	√	√		√	√
Cllr. Michael Burke	Mayo County Council	√	√	√	√	√
Cllr. Ger Deere	Mayo County Council		√		√	√
Cllr. Tom Connolly	Mayo County Council		√	√	√	√
Dara Calleary, T.D	Oireachtas	√	√	√	√	
Alan Dillon, T.D	Oireachtas	√	√		√	
Rose Conway Walsh, T.D	Oireachtas	√	√			
Michael Ring, T.D	Oireachtas					
Senator Lisa Chambers	Oireachtas					



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Name	Organisation	Mar. 12 <sup>th</sup>	July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	July 30 <sup>th</sup>	Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 10 <sup>th</sup>
Senator Paddy Burke	Oireachtas	√				
Peter Duggan, Interim Chief Executive	Mayo County Council	√				
Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive	Mayo County Council		√			√
Keelan Moran	Westport/Belmullet MD		√	√		√
Edith Geraghty	Mayo Travellers Support Group	√	√		√	√
JPC member	Organisation					
Seamus Smyth	Ballina MD					
Michael Larkin	Castlebar MD					√
Daniel Kabongo	SI (Migrant Rep)	√				
Chief Superintendent Ray Mahon	Garda Síochána			√	√	√
Acting Chief Superintendent Joe Doherty	Garda Síochána		√			
Tony Healy, Chief Superintendent	Garda Síochána	√				
Joe McKenna, Superintendent	Garda Síochána	√	√	√	√	√

**ENDS**

