

COUNTY MAYO JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE (JPC)

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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 2022 Annual report. The Annual Report details the key actions of the Committee in delivering on the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2022-2027 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 2022, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work while also addressing local issues.

The JPC held four meetings during 2022, with the December meeting being the first Public meeting since the Covid 19 pandemic. A list of the key actions achieved is set out in this Annual Report.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank the Garda Síochána team led by Chief Superintendent Ray McMahon. I would also like to thank Mayo County Council team led by Chief Executive Mr Kevin Kelly for their valued contributions to the work of the Committee. I would like to place on record the excellent level of participation by the elected and community representatives on the Committee and would also like to acknowledge the contribution to the work of the committee of the following - The Garda Drugs Unit, Mayo Suicide Prevention Alliance (MSPA), Criminal Assets Bureau, 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



Chief Supt. Ray McMahon:



As Chief Superintendent of the Mayo/Roscommon/Longford Division, I would like to record my appreciation to Mayo County Council, community representatives and elected local representatives in Mayo for 2022.

The co-operation and participation of Mayo County Council, community representatives and elected representatives is acknowledged and valued by An Garda Síochána.

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.



Introduction

This Annual report 2022 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.

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.

Steering Committee

The Mayo JPC Steering Committee consists of the chairperson of the JPC, a representative of An Garda Síochána and the Chief Executive of the local authority or a person nominated by him or her. The function of the steering group is to facilitate the efficient functioning of the JPC and to ensure that it retains a clear focus on strategic and collaborative action. It will also arrange procedures for the appointment of any new or replacement members, draw up the agenda and arrange documentation for meetings, be the point of contact for co-operation and joint action with other JPCs and with any subcommittees of the JPC.

Membership of the Co Mayo JPC Steering Committee is:

- Cllr. Al McDonnell, Chairperson
- Superintendent Joseph McKenna
- Maura Murphy, Mayo County Council
- Michael Galvin, Mayo County Council

Members of Mayo JPC:

Local Authority Elected Members	Organisation
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



JPC Membership (cont.)

Local Authority Elected Members	Organisation
Tom Connolly	Mayo County Council
Ger Deere	Mayo County Council
Oireachtas Members	
Dara Calleary, T.D.	Oireachtas
Alan Dillon, T.D.	Oireachtas
Lisa Chambers,	Oireachtas
Michael Ring, T.D.	Oireachtas
Rose Conway-Walsh, T.D.	Oireachtas
Senator Paddy Burke	Oireachtas
Mayo County Council	
Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive	Mayo County Council
Community & Voluntary Section	
Louise Glynn	3rd Mayo Scouts, Ballinrobe
Keelan Moran	Westport Youth Activities Club
Edith Geraghty	Mayo Travellers Support Group
Seamus Smyth	Blackrock Residents Association
Micheal Larkin	Killawalla Community Council
Daniel Kabongo	Mayo Intercultural Action
Garda Síochána	
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 Area of Mayo/Roscommon/Longford Garda Division expanded its Divisional Drugs Taskforce, and since the 1st of January 2020, **€2,561,353.97** worth of drugs have been seized, approximately €30,000 worth of counterfeit currency has been removed from circulation, and more than €177,884 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 Area of Mayo/Roscommon/Longford 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- 2022:

DRUG STATISTICS

Cultivation/ Manufacture = **27**

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

Possession for Sale & Supply = **177**

Simple Possession = **572**

SEARCHES

Search Person = **124**

Search Premises/Vehicle/Vessel with a warrant = **515**

Search Premises/Vehicle/Vessel without a warrant = **115**

Search under Drugs Act, 1977 / 84 = **1360**

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.
	High Priority Objectives			
1	Promoting the concept of the JPC's.	Four online meetings of the JPC were held in 2022.	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 several other organisations in 2022 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.

Annual Report of County Mayo Joint Policing Committee 2022

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

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

Achievement 1:

At the March JPC meeting Siobhán McBrearty from the HSE, Mayo Suicide Prevention Alliance (MSPA) gave a presentation on “Connect for Life” - Ireland’s National Strategy to Reduce Suicide.

The focus of the presentation was on Goal 6 of strategy, i.e. - “Reduce Access to Means”, to reduce and restrict access to means of suicidal behaviour.

Achievement 2:

The Mayo JPC agreed to establish working groups to deliver on the objectives of the Strategic Plan. The following 4 sub-committees are being set-up under each priority theme identified in the plan.

- Crime and Drugs
- Community Engagement
- Road Safety and Traffic
- Crime and Drugs

In 2022, two sub-committees were fully established.

Crime and Drugs

Chair: Cllr Christy Hyland

Members: Supt. Joe McKenna, Sergeant Dennis Harrington, Cllr. Michael Burke, Cllr. Damien Ryan, Louise Glynn PPN Rep., Breda Ruane – Youth Officer with Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education Training Board, Michéal Durcan – Ordinator of Western Region Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

The **Crime and Drugs sub-committee** met once in 2022 and considered the following in line with the strategic goals and objectives of the 6-year Strategic Plan:

Objective	Outcome	Sub Committee/JPC
Engage with the WRDATF to highlight dangers of substance abuse to a youth audience	Micheál Durcan will present to the JPC on “Planet Youth and DRIVE programme”	Crime and Drugs
Support public awareness about crime prevention initiatives	Sub-committee will invite AGS to present to JPC on various community schemes. Also, possible collaboration with PPB and Age Friendly with this information	Crime and Drugs



Objective	Outcome	Sub Committee/JPC
Education on substance misuse into Secondary School curriculum.	This needs to be linked in with mental health, possible collaboration initiative – to be further explored	Crime and Drugs
Continue to target organised crime groups through targeted activities.	Report / presentation to JPC on many programmes operated by AGS to reduce crimes, e.g. Operation Thor	Crime and Drugs

The **Community Engagement sub-committee** met once in 2022 and considered the following in line with the strategic goals and objectives of the 6-year Strategic Plan:

Community Engagement

Chair: Cllr. Michael Loftus

Members: Supt. Garry Walsh, Insp. Naomí Dé Rís, Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne, Cllr. Gerry Coyle, Edith Geraghty – PPN Rep., Maura Murphy – Age Friendly Programme, Cora Maughan – Comhairle na nÓg

Objective	Outcome	Sub Committee/JPC
Community Safety Initiatives	Bring information to JPC on various community initiatives, e.g. Neighbourhood Watch, Coastal Watch	Community Engagement
Promote awareness of vulnerability of the elderly in community	Promote app., Digital Register and bring information on same to the JPC	Community Engagement
Consider initiatives to increase community interaction between elderly / vulnerable and AGS	Intergenerational project around cost of living / online scams and internet safety suggested (Age Friendly and Comhairle na nÓg)	Community Engagement
Collaborate with partner agencies to identify risk and vulnerable in area's	Mental Health in younger people – SC would like to work towards initiative / presentation in relation to this topic.	Community Engagement



- Road Safety and Traffic subcommittee
- Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour subcommittee

Are being progressed to full membership in 2023.

An update report from the sub-committee's will be included as an item on the JPC agenda.

Achievement 3:

Following a request to Deputy Commissioner Shawna Coxon to outline the proposal around the restructuring of JPC's, Ben Ryan, Department of Justice, gave a detailed presentation on the new Local Community Safety Partnerships to the JPC.

Ben Ryan acknowledged the good work of JPC's and reminded members that this is a pilot scheme. The assessment and evaluation from it will feed into legislation. He agreed that one size does not fit all but geographical size was taken into consideration when choosing the three pilot areas.

The structure of the new Local Community Safety Partnerships mirrors other fora such as LCDC's as it was felt that today's issues cannot be solved by AGS alone, input from other agencies, e.g. emergency services, HSE, Tusla etc. is required.

The purpose of the pilot is not to diminish the role of Councillors but to increase the role of a wider community of businesses, services and the public. There is a community innovation safety fund with a budget of €2 million available for innovative projects.

There would be one new forum per Local Authority and in the pilot regions of Waterford, Longford and North Inner-City Dublin the JPC's have been replaced.



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

There were four JPC meetings held in 2022, the December meeting was the first Public meeting held since the Covid 19 pandemic. The meetings were held on the following dates:

JPC Meetings held in 2022:

Four JPC meetings took place (online/blended format):

11th March 2022 at 11 a.m.

10th June 2022 at 11 a.m.

9th September 2022 at 11 a.m.

9th December 2022 (Public meeting) at 11 a.m.

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Attendance at JPC meetings in 2022:

Attendance at JPC meetings 2022		Meeting Date			
JPC Member	Organisation	Mar 11th	June 10th	Sept 9th	Dec 9th
Cllr.Ai 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				
Senator Paddy Burke	Oireachtas	√	√		√
Kevin Kelly, Chief Executive	Mayo County Council			√	√
Keelan Moran	Westport/Belmullet MD				
Edith Geraghty	MTSG	√			
Louise Glynn	Claremorris/Swinford MD			√	
Seamus Smyth	Ballina MD				
Michael Larkin	Castlebar MD				
Daniel Kabongo	SI (Migrant Rep)				
Chief Superintendent Ray Mahon	Garda Síochána		√	√	√
Superintendent Joe McKenna	Garda Síochána	√	√	√	



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