

COUNTY MAYO  
JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE (JPC)

ANNUAL REPORT  
2019



## **Message from the Chairman**

As Chairperson of the County Mayo Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2019 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 2019, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work while also addressing local issues.

The JPC held four meetings during 2019 and a list of the key actions achieved is set out in the Annual Report.

Local elections and PPN elections took place during the year which saw new elected members and new incoming community reps to our committee and I would like to thank all outgoing members - Cllr. Gerry Ginty, Cllr. Michael Holmes, Cllr. Blackie Gavin, Cllr Brendan Mulroy, Cllr. Patsy O'Brien, Cllr. Teresa Whelan, Mary G Duffy, David Tuomey and Adrienne Walker for all their contributions to the good work of this committee.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank Garda management and the garda team and also Mayo County Council's Chief Executive, officials and elected members for their valued contributions to the work of this Committee. I would also like to acknowledge the valuable collaboration with the Mayo Community Policing Section of An Garda Síochána in relation to the Community Engagement Policing Plan 2020.

Cllr. Al McDonnell  
Chairperson  
County Mayo Joint Policing Committee

## **Introduction**

The Annual report 2019 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.

# Annual Report of County Mayo Joint Policing Committee 2019

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

The strategic plan for 2016-2021 was adopted at the October Meeting in 2016:

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.	Members of the public attended the JPC Meeting in Breaffy House for the presentation by the Garda Commissioner Drew Harris.	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 Síochana 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.	Senior Gardaí from around the county came together to consult with the JPC committee on	Members of JPC to feed into this plan to promote Community co-operation in helping prevent crime and to	Ongoing collaboration.

		the Policing Plan 2020 for Community Engagement.	reduce anti-social behaviour.	
4	To reduce the incidence of fatal and serious injuries from road collisions and to improve road safety in Co Mayo.	Members of the JPC participated in the Axa Roadshow which is ran by the Road Safety Unit of Mayo County Council.	This is an annual event raising awareness of safe driving and the far reaching consequences of road accidents.	Ongoing collaboration.

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

**Achievement 1**

**Mayo County Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy**

At the February meeting of the JPC Committee the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy was circulated for consideration. Julie Ryan, Tenancy Sustainment Officer, Mayo County Council was present at the meeting to answer any questions.

Questions were raised in relation to income limits for admission to public housing and the basis of complaints the 'threat to life' being a very high bar to reach. All comments and observations were taken on board and the Strategy was adopted by the full Council on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**Achievement 2**

**Community Engagement - Policing Plan 2020**

Senior Gardai from around the county attended two meetings of the JPC in 2019 to consult with the members to formulate the Policing Plan 2020 for Community Engagement. As a result of this consultation process, this committee has fed into this plan and issues raised have been taken on board by the Community Policing Division of An Garda Síochána.

### **Achievement 3**

#### **Presentation by Garda Commissioner Drew Harris.**

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris was invited to address the committee to explain the impact the new Garda Organisational changes would have on policing in County Mayo.

The Commissioner attended the JPC meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and outlined the new Divisional Policing Plan which has resulted in Mayo, Roscommon and Longford all being restructured into one new division.

Members raised a number of serious concerns regarding the potential impact of this new plan on the county. Issues raised were:-

- The implications of the inclusion of Mayo with Longford and Roscommon given the vast size and complex geography of the area.
- Assurances were sought that there wouldn't be a reduction in the number of Gardai in Mayo as a result of this new model.
- Assurances were sought in relation to the support from An Garda Síochána in the provision of community CCTV.
- Given that there has been no increase in the resources servicing the drugs unit in Co Mayo in the past 5 years, confirmation was sought that more resources will be allocated to address rising drug related crime?
- Members sought details of the review mechanism for the plan and if it can be changed if its is not working.
- Members sought details of how many new garda would be appointed to Mayo under the new garda recruitment programme.
- Clarification was sought in relation to the role of the traffic core.
- Information was sought on whether additional resources will be allocated to policing coercive control under the new domestic violence legislation.

As a result of this meeting Mayo JPC have written to the Commissioner for an update on these issues and are currently awaiting a response.



*Commissioner Drew Harris at a meeting of the Mayo JPC 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019*



*Members of Mayo JPC*

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

Four meetings were held during 2019. Dates of the meetings: -

15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	6 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
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Name of Member	Organisation Represented	No of meetings attended
Cllr. Al McDonnell	MCC Elected Member	4
Chief Superintendent Pat Diskin,	An Garda Síochána	2
Superintendent Joe McKenna,	An Garda Síochána	4
Peter Hynes, Chief Executive	Local Authority official	3
Cllr. Teresa Whelan	MCC Elected Member	0
Cllr. Neil Cruise	MCC Elected Member	3
Cllr. Christy Hyland	MCC Elected Member	4
Cllr. Gerry Ginty	MCC Elected Member	1
Cllr. Michael Kilcoyne	MCC Elected Member	4
Cllr. Michael Holmes	MCC Elected Member	1
Cllr. Blackie K. Gavin	MCC Elected Member	1
Cllr. Brendan Mulroy	MCC Elected Member	0
Cllr. Michael Loftus	MCC Elected Member	3
Cllr. Damien Ryan	MCC Elected Member	4
Cllr. John O'Hara	MCC Elected Member	1
Cllr. Patsy O'Brien	MCC Elected Member	1
Cllr. Gerry Coyle	MCC Elected Member	3
Cllr. Sean Carey	MCC Elected Member	1
Cllr. John Caulfield	MCC Elected Member	0
Cllr. Mark Duffy	MCC Elected Member	2
Cllr. Michael Burke	MCC Elected Member	2
Cllr. Ger Deere	MCC Elected Member	3
Cllr. Tom Connolly	MCC Elected Member	1
Lisa Chambers T.D.	Oireachtas members	0
Senator Rose-Conway Walsh	Oireachtas members	1
Senator Michelle Mulhern	Oireachtas members	3
Enda Kenny T.D.	Oireachtas members	0
Senator Keith Swanick	Oireachtas members	0
Michael Ring T.D.	Oireachtas members	0
Dara Calleary T.D.	Oireachtas members	4
Senator Paddy Burke	Oireachtas members	1
Mary G Duffy	Community	3
Edith Geraghty	Community	3
David Tuomey	Community	3
Adrienne Walker	Community	0
Vacant		
Vacant		