



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting of Policing Strategy and Performance Committee

Date: 8 March 2018

Venue: 90 North King Street, Smithfield,
Dublin 7

Attendance

Authority: Judith Gillespie (Chair), Noel Brett, Vicky Conway

Apologies: Maureen Lynott

Secretary: Richard O'Neill

Executive: Margaret Tumelty, Úna Ní Éigeartaigh, Gráinne Curtin, Andrea Lennon

Garda Síochána: Assistant Commissioner Orla McPartlin (Western Region with responsibility for Executive Support & Corporate Services), Mr David Gilbride (Executive Director for Strategy and Transformation), Ms Sara Parsons (Deputy Head of the Garda Síochána Analysis Service), Inspector Paul Franey (Strategic Planning).

1. The following matters were considered and discussed as set out in the agenda:

Part A

- 1.1. Policing Plan 2017 Performance Evaluation – Year-end review
- 1.2. Structure and content of biannual report on Policing Plan
- 1.3. Performance Evaluation 2018 – Schedule of Activity
- 1.4. Homicide Follow Up

Part B

- 1.5. Policing Plan Performance Evaluation – Year-end 2017, Policing Plan 2018
- 1.6. Structure and content of biannual report on Policing Plan
- 1.7. Homicide Follow Up
- 1.8. AOB

2. Part A - Actions and matters of note

- 2.1 Due to the late provision of the year-end review of the 2017 Policing Plan, Members were limited to relaying their first impressions of the document. It was agreed that Members would examine a few issues at the meeting and follow up in writing on other points through the Authority Executive, including the RAG status of a number of initiatives, in advance of the publication of the Garda Síochána Annual Report.
- 2.2 The Committee considered an Executive paper setting out a proposed schedule of site visits to support the evidencing of Garda Síochána performance against the Policing Plan 2018 and was satisfied that, subject to a small number of additions, the visits proposed were appropriate. The Executive will revert to Members with a schedule of dates and times.
- 2.3 The Committee considered an Executive paper setting out the proposed structure and content of the biannual reports on the Policing Plan and was satisfied that, subject to small modifications, the proposed document was suitable.

3. Part B – Meeting with Garda Síochána representatives

- 3.1 Members expressed their frustration at again receiving documents too late to consider them properly in advance of the meeting, the end of year performance report on the 2017 Policing Plan in particular. Members also emphasised that the Garda representatives attending at Committee should be vested with sufficient authority to speak definitively on the areas being discussed.
- 3.2 Members welcomed the sharing of a number of performance and statistical reports used by Garda management, and reiterated their preference that existing documents be shared with the Committee rather than new ones be written, where possible.
- 3.3 Regarding the end-of-year performance report on the 2017 Policing Plan: Members commended the achievements made in the area of roads policing, with 2017 showing the lowest number of roads fatalities since records began and a significant reduction in the number of serious injuries recorded. However, they expressed disappointment with the failure to meet the target to improve victim satisfaction as reported in the Public Attitudes Survey. Some possible reasons for the fall in victim satisfaction were explored with Members querying whether it may be linked to the fall in the number of detections; the Chair stated that this area would be monitored closely by the Committee. Members also informed Garda representatives of their intention to follow up on other points through the Authority Executive

- 3.4 Members informed Garda representatives that the Authority intended to publish a report on the progress on delivery of the Policing Plan, with the first report to be published in July 2018. The report will draw from evidence of delivery provided to the Committee by way of written papers and reports, statements made in Committee meetings, visits by the Executive and Committee, proxy indicators, and the views of stakeholder organisations.
- 3.5 The Committee reaffirmed the commitments made regarding the homicide review at the February meeting of the Authority with Garda representatives. It was agreed that these commitments would be set out in writing and forwarded to Garda representatives. Amongst other commitments made, Garda representatives again assured that the Authority would be informed at an early stage of any emerging issues arising from the review.
- 3.6 The Chair congratulated Garda Síochána on the community policing work carried out during the extreme weather events of the previous week and explored with Garda representatives both the lessons that had been learned from the experience, and the process generally for ensuring learning from such events is captured and used to inform future decision-making and policy.
- 3.7 Members explored the staffing and training arrangements for public order units and the equipment available to such units in both cities and in rural towns.
- 3.8 The Committee examined what progress had been made on the implementation of the detections improvement plan submitted to the Authority in July 2017. While Garda representatives were aware of a number of specific actions that were in place, Members expressed disquiet at the lack of awareness of the plan itself generally, which suggested it was not central to the focus of the Garda organisation. It was agreed that this area would be followed up by the Authority Executive.
- 3.9 Members indicated the Committee's intent to further explore the distribution of front and second line supervisors around the country and the training and distribution of detectives, in particular the training available to detective aides who had not been formally appointed; Members stated that the Committee would return to this topic in future
- 3.10 Garda representatives provided a detailed overview of the analytical work being carried out to support the development of a plan to tackle the rise in assaults in recent years. This included the identification of a number of environmental factors and problem areas, the partnership work being undertaken, and the finding that both repeat offending (3%) and repeat victimisation (0.6%) were low in comparison to other offences such as burglary. This analysis will be used to develop an implementation plan. There is a need to determine the metrics with which the effect of the plan could be measured. In the discussion there was also

reference to data available from the HSE to inform Garda strategy. Whilst the HSE has willingly shared aggregated, anonymised data in relation to assaults with the Garda Síochána, there are difficulties with regard to the lack of a centralised recording system for A&E and an inability to discern from the data if a person has been hospitalised more than once. With regard to there being no centralised recording system for Accident and Emergency, this is an area which the Committee will return to in the future. Members also asked how the Garda Síochána intended to balance the impetus to increase reporting of domestic violence incidents with the impetus to reduce assaults generally, and emphasised that the Committee would continue to approach the topic of assaults in a multi-faceted way, considering the impact of domestic violence as well as the night-time economy.

3.11 The Chair stated that the position and status of the Policing Plan within the Garda Síochána organisation would be a recurring theme for the Committee. Members noted that the Plan should be used to drive performance as well as strategic change, but that a lack of alignment between the performance reports provided suggested that it may not currently serve this purpose. Garda representatives noted the importance of presenting a single plan organisationally, and that performance reports should be suitably aligned.

4. Part C – Private Session Following the Committee Meeting

4.1 In the session following the meeting, Committee members agreed to move the date of the May Policing Strategy and Performance meeting from Thursday 10 May to Monday 14 May to facilitate the provision of information by Garda colleagues. This was to be communicated to the Garda Síochána through a formal letter by the Authority Executive.