Minutes of Meeting of Policing Strategy and Performance Committee

Date: 12 October 2017

Venue: 90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7

Attendance

Authority: Judith Gillespie (Chair), Noel Brett, Maureen Lynott (by conference call), Josephine Feehily

Secretary: Richard O'Neill

Executive: Margaret Tumelty, Karen Shelly, Úna Ní Éigeartaigh

Garda Síochána:

- Assistant Commissioner Michael Finn, Roads Policing and Major Event/Emergency Management
- Mr. David Gilbride, Executive Director for Strategy and Transformation (Item 1.1)
- Dr. Gurchand Singh, Head of the Garda Síochána Analysis Service
- Superintendent Tony O'Donnell
- Ms. Elaine Greene, Assistant Principal, Strategic Transformation Office
- Inspector Paul Franey, Strategic Planning (Item 1.1)

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

    1.1. Policing Plan 2018

    1.2. Homicide Report

    1.3. Policing Plan performance evaluation

    1.4. Follow up to Roads Policing questions

2. **Actions and matter of note**

2.1 Due to the late provision of the draft Policing Plan 2018, Members were limited to relaying their first impressions of the draft document. The Committee welcomed the inclusion of the Code of Ethics at the beginning of the Policing Plan and welcomed the inclusion of key deliverables at the start of each chapter. The Members identified a number of the measures listed as insufficiently specific in terms of the lack of a numeric target or timeframe for delivery. In particular Members highlighted the need for interim targets for those initiatives and actions with a Q4 deadline.

2.2 Additional key areas of feedback included:

- The need to include a measure relating to the views of 16-18 year olds as now provided for in the Public Attitudes Survey
- The need for a target relating to the work commenced but not concluded in 2017 on an evidence based framework for organisation crime
- The need to ensure that the new Policing Priorities for 2018, ex. Brexit, have targets within the plan
- The need for crisper, unambiguous language as to what will actually be achieved under each initiative/action in 2018

2.3 Owing to the limited time available to study the document, Members agreed that they would relay their feedback to the Policing Authority Executive who in turn would liaise with the Garda Síochána representatives on the draft Policing Plan 2018.

2.4 The Committee discussed the Homicide Report with the Garda Representatives. Members stressed that this issue was critical to public confidence in policing. The Committee again sought assurance that an effective investigation was conducted into each of the 41 cases, commensurate with the final classification of each death. The Committee also asked the Garda Representatives to clarify the process used to determine the final classification and the process used to review and assure itself that the investigations into each of the cases in question were compliant with Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Garda Representatives present confirmed that all investigations were Article 2 compliant. The Committee raised concerns regarding other incidents requiring reclassification. Concern about the Garda Síochána communications strategy regarding all of these cases was raised and the implications for the integrity of data generally on Garda Síochána databases was also questioned by the Committee. The Committee expressed the view that the report raises a number of questions, which required to be further discussed and it was agreed that a separate meeting between Committee Members and Garda representatives centrally involved in the review of the classification and investigation of the 41 cases would be required.

2.5 The Committee discussed the responses received to the Roads Policing questions, which arose out of the Authority's public meeting held in April 2017. The Committee was of the view that a number of the responses received did not adequately address the questions raised and it was agreed that the Executive would liaise with the Garda Síochána to identify the specific questions which require further response.