

Annual Report of Monaghan Joint Policing Committee for year: 2017

ITEM 1 – Summary of progress in implementing the JPC’s work programme

	Strategic Objectives	Summary of actions taken & progress achieved during the year, and any significant difficulties which were encountered	Summary of advice given by the JPC to local authority/Gardai, specific recommendations made	Results of advice given – feedback received from LA/ Gardai
	High priority objectives			
1	Policing Communities	<p>Community CCTV scheme proposal for Monaghan town brought by An Garda Síochána before the April JPC meeting. Approved unanimously by JPC. Also approved by Garda Commissioner. Formal application to Community based CCTV Scheme planned for early 2018</p> <p>The only community CCTV scheme currently in operation in the county, on Mullaghmat housing estate in Monaghan town, made a submission in June to the JPC for an extension to the scheme, to respond to a rise in anti social behaviour on the estate. This was approved.</p> <p>Presentation by Immigrant Support Group to Policing Communities sub-committee, on how new communities might be better integrated into mainstream Monaghan society.</p>	<p>Advised that a CCTV scheme be set up</p> <p>Approved extension of existing scheme</p>	<p>Council and Gardai working together to carry out public consultation, in preparation to submit an application for funding in early 2018</p> <p>Application made to Dept for funding to extend scheme</p>

		<p>Presentations on the work of the following initiatives attached to the LCDC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County of Sanctuary project - Drug & Alcohol Forum <p>Links established with the JPC, to maximise synergies with these initiatives in the future.</p> <p>Work in the county to address teenage drinking continues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NASA (no Alcoholic Substances Allowed) involves working with the venues, bus drivers etc on the nights of youth discos - Don't Pour Your Dreams Away involves delivering a message directly into the schools in the week leading up to the release of the Junior Cert results <p>Both programmes are delivered via a collaborative approach, involving a large number of stakeholders and agencies. The DPYDA grew from a JPC initiative, and the NASA programme uses the relationships built through the DPYDA programme to deliver practical interventions on the ground.</p> <p>Funding accessed from the CLAR programme for Emergency Response groups in the county, helping us to strengthen the network of defibrillators and first responders in remote parts of the county</p>	<p>The inadequate number of in-patient places for addiction treatment programmes in the county was raised. Given the amount of misery caused by alcohol and drug misuse, and the financial cost to the Exchequer each year, the JPC feels that treatment facilities would be a wise investment.</p>	<p>It was agreed to keep this on the agenda.</p>
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		<p>Presentations were received by the JPC on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monaghan County Council's Housing Section presented information on homelessness in the county & how homeless people are accommodated - Monaghan County Council's new County of Sanctuary initiative 		
2	Crime Prevention	<p>Community alert groups highlighted a need for additional signage for text alert schemes.</p> <p>Gardai brought the innovative property marking scheme to the attention of the JPC. Council agreed to fund the purchase of a machine, and to manage the loaning out of the device to community groups to carry out property marking events.</p>	<p>JPC recommended the purchase of a property marking machine, for the use of the communities of the county.</p>	<p>€2,500 funding was allocated by Council and signage co-ordinated through the Municipal Districts</p> <p>Machine purchased December 2017. €5,000 has been allocated in 2018 budget for 'property marking scheme in operation' signage to be erected in areas which participate in the scheme.</p>
3	Road Safety	<p>As the Council's Road Safety Together Committee is now up and running, and is now putting in place a Strategy for Road Safety for the county, it is proposed that the work of the RSTC will supersede that of the Road Safety sub-committee, which was meant only as an interim measure pending the establishment of the RSTC.</p> <p>Road safety event aimed at Transition Year students run in Garage Theatre, led by Gardai & emergency services</p>		

		<p>A safety review of the N2 between Aclint and Castleblayney was carried out, following a number of motor and pedestrian fatalities.</p> <p>The Roads Section of Monaghan Co Co presented the Council's draft Road Safety Plan to the JPC at the June JPC meeting, as part of the consultation process on the draft Plan.</p>		<p>Gardai informed that speeding on the N2 is a priority for them, in view of recent accidents</p>
	Other Objectives			
	To use the high media profile of the JPC to raise public awareness of issues of high priority in the county	<p>The effectiveness of the Gardai in dealing with burglaries was highlighted in a number of reports throughout the year, helping to dispel the fear of crime, particularly amongst the elderly</p> <p>The need for more Garda resources was raised on more than one occasion, particularly the need for a dedicated drugs unit in the Cavan Monaghan district. The need for vigilance and home security was raised constantly throughout the year, generating many column inches in the local media and helping to get key crime prevention messages out into the public domain</p> <p>The work of CAMCAS in carrying out small repairs to the homes of older people, and the availability of grants for housing adaptation and for pendant alarms (Seniors Alert) was also given much publicity, helping to ensure good take-up of these schemes in the county.</p>		<p>A dedicated drugs unit has now been set up in Monaghan, and a number of new Garda recruits have been allocated to the county</p>

	<p>To be an effective voice</p>	<p>The issue of underage drinking and alcohol dependency was given a lot of air time, supporting the work of the NASA and DPYDA Programmes by getting the message across to parents that they bear a responsibility to know where their children are at all times.</p> <p>The issue of racism was also addressed by the JPC, and the spotlight was turned on the vulnerability of people living in direct provision in the county.</p>	<p>The weight of the JPC was put behind the Council's County of Sanctuary initiative, which seeks to continue the tradition of offering a place of safety to people fleeing conflict. This is something which many people in Co. Monaghan can readily identify, having been displaced from their homes during the Troubles less than a generation ago.</p>	
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ITEM 2 – Highlight 3 key achievements of the JPC during the year & explain why they are considered to be significant

Much effort was put into seeking a way to facilitate the migration of all existing Community Text Alert groups across to Monaghan County Council's online Monaghan Alert service, which allows anyone living in Monaghan to register their email or mobile phone number to receive alerts on issues affecting them such as road closures, severe weather alerts, flood warnings etc.

We hope that the system offers a solution to the issue of having parts of the county not covered by any Community Alert group, as individuals from any part of the county are free to sign up directly to the service. It also offers a solution to local groups, as once the person signs up once, they never have to be re-signed, and the Council is bearing the cost of the texts rather than the individual, so groups didn't have to go around collecting annual subscriptions. The Gardai also like the concept, as it is all done online, and one message can be issued to the whole county or narrowed down to within a certain km radius of a given location.

However, there are some contractual issues to be sorted with the service provider before the project can proceed. We are hopeful of concluding this project in 2018.

The Property Marking Scheme promises to be a game changer in the fight against rural crime. The scheme is simple: it operates by stamping a householder's postcode into any valuables they wish to have marked. The householder then displays posters at the entrance of their property to deter would-be thieves from targeting goods on the premises, as marked goods will be more difficult to sell on. Once a community group has carried out marking events at 50 households in their area, the Council will erect 'Property Marking Scheme in Operation in this Area' signage, similar to 'Community Alert Area' signage schemes.

The Scheme was put together by An Garda Síochána, who then brought it to the Community Dept of the Council, to find a way to roll it out into every community in the county. The Council had set up a network of Community Alert groups, on the recommendation of the JPC, and will be using this to roll out the initiative.

A number of Council staff will be trained to instruct community leaders in operating the machine. The machine will then be lent out around areas, with local groups organising property marking events. This will be the first county-wide property marking initiative in the country. The Council has already written to the Dept of Community & Rural Affairs to suggest that 'Response to Rural Crime' be added to any new CLAR programme, so that other counties might follow suit.

Cavan Monaghan Garda Division has set up a Facebook page, and have been getting great engagement with the public through it. They have been using it to promote road safety campaigns, etc. The Page was particularly successful in supporting the NASA campaign and the Don't Pour Your Dreams Away campaign, on one occasion showing a photo of the results of Garda searches of a bus on its way to a teen disco in Monaghan town. The message that alcohol will not be tolerated on buses was sent out loud and clear, and there have been no repeat incidents.

ITEM 3 –Details of public meetings held during the year

There were no public meetings held during 2017.

Due to disappointing attendances at past JPC public meetings, the JPC has decided to innovate with future public events. In order to achieve maximum engagement by the public in the JPC's meetings, the JPC will join up with Monaghan County Council's Public Participation Network, which has a database of over 400 community groups and runs well-attended, 4 county-wide plenary meetings per year. We are proposing that instead of trying to get a small group to come out to a policing-only themed meeting, we instead will host a table at PPN plenary events, at which policing issues can be discussed and debated.

ITEM 4 – Record of members and meetings held during the year

Total number of meetings held:

Ten

Meeting dates:

Five County JPC meetings: 17/1, 19/4, 27/6, 19/9, 28/11

Two Crime Prevention sub committee meetings: 8/2, 4/4

Three Policing Communities sub committee meetings: 31/1, 11/4, 12/9

Steering Group Membership:

Name	Organisation	Number of meetings attended
Cllr Raymond Aughey	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr Cathy Bennett	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr Aidan Campbell	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Paudge Connolly	Monaghan County Council	5
Cllr Seamus Coyle	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Jackie Crowe	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Sean Gilliland	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr Noel Keelan	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr David Maxwell	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Hugh McElvaney	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Brian McKenna	Monaghan County Council	5
Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr Pat Treanor	Monaghan County Council	5
Mr. P.J. Harte	Community Rep	4
Mr. Michael Watters	Community Rep	2
Mr. Eugene Treanor	Community Rep	3
Mr. Brendan McNally	Community Rep	3
Ms. Edel Fitzsimons	Community Rep	5
Chief Supt.	Garda	1 - Supt. Cunningham deputised for Chief Supt.
Supt. Noel Cunningham	Garda	3
Supt. Alan Cunningham	Garda	4
Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D.	Oireachtas	0
Mr. Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin, T.D.	Oireachtas	0
Mr. Adge King	Monaghan County Council	3
Ms. Carol Lambe	Monaghan County Council	5
Carmel Thornton	Monaghan County Council	4