



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

MONAGHAN JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Presented for approval at Co Monaghan
JPC meeting on 26 February 2024

Message from the Chairperson of Co. Monaghan Joint Policing Committee

As Chairperson of the Co. Monaghan Joint Policing Committee (JPC), I welcome the publication of the Joint Policing Committee's Annual Report for 2023. The Report details the work that the Committee has undertaken throughout the year, and it is an important means of communicating the role and work of the Committee.

Throughout the past year, the Joint Policing Committee continued to play a valuable role in providing strategic linkages and strong channels of communication between An Garda Síochána, Monaghan County Council and the wider community in matters of policing and safety. The JPC provides a level of local democratic oversight of the Gardai's work within the County. It provides a forum for the elected members, community representatives and voluntary organisations to raise matters of concern in their areas.

The JPC is intended to be a forum for discussion and a means of building confidence, trust and safety in the county. In doing this, the JPC seeks to prioritise key community policing policy issues and identify initiatives which will contribute to improved community policing and prevention or reduction of future crime in Monaghan County.

County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee held four meetings during 2023, including 1 public meeting.

I would like to acknowledge the excellent level of participation by the elected and community representatives on the committee and to each member of the committee for their continuing support in fulfilling the role and purpose of the Joint Policing Committee. I also wish to thank the Gardai for their cooperation and openness with the committee and to Monaghan County Council staff for their administrative support.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the local press who attend all our meetings and continue to be a powerful ally in getting our message out to the public.

Cllr Brian McKenna
Chairperson, County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee

Background and legislative framework

The County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee was first established in 2009. It is made up of representatives from Monaghan County Council (elected members and officials), members of the Oireachtas in the county, An Garda Síochána and the Community and Voluntary sector.

The functions of the Joint Policing Committees are set out in Section 36 (2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states: 'The joint policing committee's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area'.

The Annual Report for 2023 outlines how County Monaghan Joint Policing Committee carried out its function for this period in compliance with section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and in accordance with the revised Joint Policing Committee guidelines.

The JPC continued to run the following initiatives during 2023:

Property Marking

Monaghan County Council was the first local authority in the country to set up this initiative; it is now running in every local authority in Ireland. An Garda Síochána, through their Community Policing Units, continued to carry out property marking events, marking for businesses around the county, throughout the year.

Community Alerts

Another first for Monaghan - the country's first county-wide text alert initiative. In early 2023, the JPC migrated the service across to Monaghan County Council's platform, where it has been amalgamated with the Council's existing alert service. This enhanced 'Monaghan Alerts' service now provides a one-stop-shop for weather alerts, Council alerts and Garda alerts. Users can receive alerts by text, email or app. The service is being funded by Monaghan County Council. Gardai can issue alerts to one or more local community area, or to the whole county.

RACE anti-racism toolkit

During 2023, work has continued on the production of the activities and support material which is to go into the schools anti-racism toolkit, for which funding was secured in 2022 from the Community Safety Innovation Fund. It is intended to complete the design and production of the toolkits in early 2024, so that they can be launched by the JPC before it is dissolved in preparation for the next Local Election.

It is intended to involve Transition Year students from all the secondary schools in the county in peer education training in September 2024 so that they can then deliver anti racism activities and workshops in their communities.

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
	High priority objectives	
1	Policing Communities	<p>Current status of Community CCTV Schemes in Co. Monaghan:</p> <p>Mullaghmatt Phase I Operational Mullaghmatt Phase II Approved by JPC With Garda HQ for approval Monaghan town Approved by Garda HQ Monaghan MD has commenced procurement</p> <p>Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Schemes: Following a presentation on both schemes to the National CCTV Advisory Committee on Friday, 19 May 2023, the Committee advised that they would be recommending the approval of both schemes to the Garda Commissioner's Office. The Executive are currently awaiting approval or otherwise from the Commissioner's Office.</p>
2	Crime Prevention	<p>Monaghan Alerts Monaghan Community Alerts, the stand-alone service which issued Garda alerts, was amalgamated with Monaghan County Council's Alerts, which provides alerts related to Council activity, such as road closures, flooding etc. The new service is known as 'Monaghan Alerts'. A promotional campaign ran earlier in the year, to inform the public of the move from Komeer and how to join the new service.</p> <p>To join, visit http://alerts.monaghan.ie or download the app 'Monaghan Alerts'</p>
3	<p>Crime Prevention Work towards eliminating violence and aggression in Monaghan society, particularly that related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic abuse 	<p>The JPC highlighted the issue of domestic abuse at its Public Meeting in December, with Detective Inspector Nial McKiernan, from the Divisional Protective Services Unit, giving a presentation on the topic.</p> <p>Monaghan County Council also gave a presentation on Building Safer Communities for Women in Monaghan.</p> <p>The Public Meeting followed a well-attended Women's Safety Conference, organised jointly by Monaghan PPN and the JPC and funded by the Community Safety Innovation Fund. Delegates at the conference were asked for suggestions as to what might the JPC do to improve women's safety, and these suggestions were brought forward to the JPC public meeting in the afternoon.</p>

		The JPC promoted the Orange the World global 16-day campaign against violence against women once again. This is the fourth year that it has done so in the county.
	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 meetings of Co. Monaghan JPC are well attended by the press and serve as a platform to give publicity to various issues which the JPC would like to get out into the public domain.</p> <p>Siobhan McKenna, Manager of Safe Ireland Monaghan (formerly known as Tearmann) sits on the JPC. We have used the presence of the media leading up to Christmas twice to give Siobhan a platform to speak about domestic violence in Monaghan, and also how it escalates around Christmas time, and how family and friends can help a person they suspect may be a victim of abuse. Thanks to the presence of the local media, at our meetings, the information is picked up and carried widely in the local press.</p>
	To be an effective voice	Adhering to Dept requirement that the JPC assumes responsibility for ensuring that LA16 fatal collision reports are returned to the Dept.

Key achievements of the JPC during 2023:

Largy College's Young Social Innovators 2021 class's RACE project

Largy College's Transition Year students visited the JPC to present their award-winning anti-racism work and ask the JPC to assist in keeping the work alive after the students move on. The JPC agreed to adopt the students' project, called RACE, and to work toward developing it into a toolkit which could be used to deliver anti-racism awareness workshops in schools throughout the county.

The toolkit is now at an advanced stage of development and will be launched in spring 2024.

Community Safety Innovation Funding

The Community Safety Innovation Fund funding which is covering the cost of developing the anti-racism toolkit also covered the cost of holding a Community Safety Seminar which focused on Women's Safety. This was organised to coincide with the 11 Days of Activism Against Violence against Women, which took place in December. Speakers included the CEO of Safe Ireland, a landscape designer who spoke about designing safe public spaces, and Monaghan County Council's senior horticulturalist, who presented a project that he carried out with the students from St Louis Secondary school on making Monaghan Greenway safer for women and girls.

Public Meeting held on Thursday 23 November 2023

To honour the United Nations' global 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women campaign, the theme of our public meeting was **'Improving Women's Safety'**.

We had presentations from:

- An Garda Síochána – Protective Services for Keeping People Safe
- Monaghan County Council – how Monaghan County Council is working to build safer communities for women in Monaghan

Record of Meetings held during the year

4 Meetings: 28 February, 24 April, 18 September, and 23 November (Public Meeting)

Members Attendance

Name	Organisation	No. of meetings attended
Cllr Raymond Aughey	Monaghan County Council	1
Cllr Cathy Bennett	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr Aidan Campbell	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Colm Carthy	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Aoife McCooey	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Richard Truell	Monaghan County Council	1
Cllr Sean Gilliland	Monaghan County Council	1
Cllr Noel Keelan	Monaghan County Council	4
Cllr David Maxwell	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Hugh McElvaney	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr Brian McKenna	Monaghan County Council	3
Cllr P.J. O'Hanlon	Monaghan County Council	2
Cllr Pat Treanor	Monaghan County Council	4
Edita Vaitkaitiene	Community Rep	2
P.J. Harte	Community Rep	1
Vacancy	Community Rep	
Linda Moore	Community Rep	3
Siobhan McKenna	Community Rep	4
Alan Johnston	Community Rep	1
Chief Supt. Alan McGovern	An Garda Síochána	2
Supt. Ronan Carey	An Garda Síochána	2
Supt. Pat O'Connell	An Garda Síochána	4
**Insp. Damien Martin	An Garda Síochána	2
Heather Humphreys, T.D.	Oireachtas	0
Senator Robbie Gallagher	Oireachtas	1
Matt Carthy, T.D.	Oireachtas	1
Carmel O'Hare, A/Director of Service	Monaghan County Council	4
Carol Lambe, CE's Representative	Monaghan County Council	4
Liz Brannigan, Meetings Administrator	Monaghan County Council	4

**replaced Supt Ronan Carey Sept 2023 onwards