

# Sligo Joint Policing Committee



## Annual Report 2018

The Sligo Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was re-established in 2015 under the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and in accordance with the Joint Policing Committee Guidelines as amended in August 2014. The overall aim is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of Sligo County Council's administrative area and to keep under review the levels and patterns of, and the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area.

## Membership of County Sligo JPC

The Joint Policing Committee consists of 24 members (i.e.) 12 Elected Members of Sligo Co. Council, 2 Oireachtas Members, 2 Local Authority Officials, 2 nominees of the Garda Commissioner, and 6 community nominees.

### Local Authority Elected Members

- Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady, Chairperson
- Cllr Keith Henry
- Cllr Paul Taylor
- Cllr Jerry Lundy
- Cllr Martin Baker
- Cllr Hubert Keaney
- Cllr Dara Mulvey
- Cllr Marie Casserly
- Cllr Thomas Healy
- Cllr Gino O'Boyle
- Cllr Margaret Gormley
- Cllr Chris MacManus

### Oireachtas Elected Members

- Deputy Eamon Scanlon TD
- Deputy Tony McLoughlin TD

### Local Authority Officials

- Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive
- Margaret McConnell, Senior Executive Officer

### An Garda Síochána Members

- Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken
- Superintendent Ray McMahon

### Public Participation Network (PPN) Members

- Vanessa Clarke
- David Tuffy
- Patrick Benson
- Tom McGettrick
- Pat Conway
- Alan McMenamin



## Steering Group

Each JPC must establish a steering group, consisting of the Chairperson of the JPC, a representative of An Garda Síochána and the Chief Executive of the Local Authority or a person nominated by him or her. The function of the steering group is to facilitate the efficient functioning of the JPC and in particular to ensure that it retains a clear focus on strategic and collaborative action. It also arranges procedures for the appointment of any new or replacement members, draws up the agenda and arranges for documentation for meetings, and is the point of contact for co-operation and joint action with other JPC's and with any sub-committees of the JPC. The members of the Sligo Joint Policing Committee Steering Group are:

- Cllr Rosaleen O'Grady, Sligo JPC Chairperson
- Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken, An Garda Síochána
- Ciarán Hayes, Chief Executive, Sligo County Council

## Activities of the Committee & Steering Group

During 2018, the Sligo Joint Policing Committee Steering Group met on four occasions - 26<sup>th</sup> February, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The Joint Policing Committee held three meetings in 2018 which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 29<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> October respectively. (A December meeting did not take place as a Joint Policing Committee Public Meeting was scheduled for early January 2019).

The main business conducted at the meetings comprised of the adoption of the 2017 Annual Report, the adoption of an Annual Work Plan for 2018, the demonstration and subsequent purchase of a property marking machine as well as making arrangements for the convening of the first Joint Policing Committee Public Meeting. The meetings also received presentations from the Criminal Assets Bureau and Sligo Community Mediation Service with Superintendent Ray McMahon delivering an overview of Road Policing in the Sligo /Leitrim Division at the 29<sup>th</sup> June meeting.

## Sligo JPC Strategic Plan 2017 - 2022

The Sligo Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan 2017-2022 came into effect in 2017 following its adoption at the Joint Policing Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

The Plan identified five strategic Priority areas for actions:

- Crime Prevention
- Community Policing
- Road Safety
- Public Safety
- Communication & Promotion of JPC

Key objectives were identified under each of the priority areas, to be delivered over the life-time of the Plan. It also identified lead agencies and key partners in respect of each of the deliverables, to be over-seen by the Joint Policing Committee.

The following priorities / actions are included in the Strategic Plan:

### Priority Area 1: Crime Prevention

Priority	Action
1.1	Audit of current status of CCTV in Sligo Town and encourage the provision of CCTV in other towns
1.2	Encourage all businesses to install CCTV and/or engage in a Business Watch Scheme
1.3	Highlight through the media the key precautions & simple steps that should be taken by homeowners
1.4	Identify areas where additional public lighting is required.
1.5	Encourage the reporting of anti social behaviour
1.6	Ensure that there is a visible policing presence in areas associated with anti social behaviour
1.7	Target local crime reduction and prevention initiatives, working with communities and business groups
1.8	Implement measures to combat serious crime
1.9	Support public awareness campaign about crime prevention initiatives
1.10	Liaise with the North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NWRDTF)
1.11	Identify crime and trend patterns in relation to the farming sector and consider measures to address crime affecting the farming sector as appropriate
1.12	Examine initiatives to address fear of crime
1.13	Examine initiatives to address hate crime and sectarianism

## Priority Area 2: Community Policing

Priority	Action
2.1	Promote awareness within the farming community of new preventive activities to reduce farm thefts
2.2	Promote the establishment of Community Alert Groups throughout the County, energise existing groups and promote the use of Community Text Alerts.
2.3	Adopt the Crime Prevention Ambassador Programme, or similar alternative programme for Older people
2.4	Engage with Age Friendly Ireland and work towards alleviating the fear of crime amongst the elderly
2.5	Examine adopted Estate Management strategies and initiatives with a view to developing a co-ordinated approach between Sligo County Council, Garda Síochána and HSE
2.6	Hold a series of community meetings to raise awareness of anti social behaviour
2.7	Support the retention of a Garda presence in rural areas
2.8	Interagency networking with communities to respond to urban and rural community safety concerns
2.9	Research into the community safety concerns and crime to inform evidence-based planning
2.10	Set up youth engagement initiatives
2.11	Explore the potential of cross-border collaboration in relation to community safety initiatives.

## Priority Area 3: Road Safety

Priority	Action
3.1	Examine the enforcement of legislation with regards to double parking, parking in disabled parking areas and loading bays.
3.2	Implementation of Road Traffic legislation and enforcement
3.3	Continue to support Road Safety Education and Awareness Initiatives
3.4	Continue to review speed limits across the county with a particular emphasis on housing estates.
3.5	Review road accidents in the county for the last two years.
3.6	Road Safety Authority to make regular reports to JPC
3.7	Organise distribution points for free RSA Hi-Viz vests.

## Priority Area 4: Public Safety

Priority	Action
4.1	Review lighting in public areas
4.2	Examine the enforcement of legislation with regards to litter with the aim of creating a better environment for our citizens and those visiting the country
4.3	Enforce and review the operation of derelict site laws
4.4	Increase the number of Gardaí in rural areas
4.5	Develop protocols for addressing anti-social behaviour in public open space areas and parks
4.6	Develop protocols in respect of public events between An Garda Síochána and Sligo County Council

## Priority Area 5: Communication and Promotion of Joint Policy Committee

Priority	Action
5.1	Adopt, publish and launch the Strategic Work Plan
5.2	Host a public Joint Policing Committee meeting
5.3	Promotion of JPC through Sligo County Council website and the local media
5.4	Facilitate JPC input to policy submissions as appropriate

## Annual Work Plan 2018

The amended Joint Policing Guidelines (August 2014) introduced a new requirement which Committees, in addition to developing a Six Year Strategic Plan, must also develop an Annual Work Plan. Appendix 2 of the Guidelines outline suggested Annual Work Plan content and a template for the Plan.

The main points to note are that an Action Plan:

- Must include relevant objectives from the Garda Annual Policing Plan(s).
- Should link to the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), and reflect the adopted Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategic Plan.

- Should be confined to a limited number of strategic objectives (at least 3 no. high priority objectives plus a small number of other objectives).
- Should set realistic targets and indicators to measure implementation.
- Should set out tasks for each stakeholder.
- Consideration should be given to linking JPC plans to:
  - Appropriate elements of other Local Authority or Garda strategies (e.g. accommodation plans or particular crime prevention initiatives).
  - Drugs Task Force Plans relevant to the area.
  - Other issues which the Joint Policing Committee considers to be important for crime prevention, policing and public safety (including road safety) in the area.
  - Strategic actions to enhance communications with the public and to ensure adequate communication with other local fora (e.g. Drugs Task Forces, Community Alert, Neighbourhood Watch etc.).

The Joint Policing Committee adopted an Annual Work Plan for 2018 which included 4 no. new actions in the areas of community engagement and crime prevention, at its meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018, a copy of which is attached. An update on progress in implementing the Work Plan was considered by the Committee at its further two meetings on 29<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018. In relation to Action Ref. 18, following the presentation to the members of the Joint Policing Committee in April 2018, Sligo County Council in conjunction with the Sligo Joint Policing Committee acquired a '*Telesis Property Marking*' unit. The system works by engraving a unique identifier of the property item which provides traceability in the event of the item being stolen and recovered. Access to the unit has been made available free of charge to groups wishing to organise events in their areas and it has proven very popular with numerous property marking events taking place throughout the County.

## Joint Policing Committee Annual Work Plan 2018

REF	Priority	Origin	Action	Lead Agency / KeyPartners	Timeframe
1	Crime Prevention	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Support of current applications for CCTV in Sligo Town and encourage the provision of CCTV in other towns	An Garda Síochána, SCC.	By end 2018
2	Crime Prevention	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Continue to provide communities/businesses with information re: CCTV and encourage all businesses to install CCTV and/or engage in a Business Watch Scheme	An Garda Síochána, SCC., <i>[Chamber of Commerce , LEO, PPN, Muintir na tire]</i>	By end 2018
			Continue to explore funding opportunities to support communities to access CCTV		
3	Crime Prevention	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Continue to highlight the key precautions & simple steps that should be taken by homeowners	SCC, An Garda Síochána. <i>PPN, [Muintir na tire]</i>	By end 2018
4	Crime Prevention	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Liaise with the North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NWRDTF) to address alcohol/substance related harm and crime	JPC / NWRDTF	Ongoing
5	Community Policing	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Continue to promote the establishment of Community Alert Groups throughout the County, energise existing groups and promote the use of Community Text Alerts	An Garda Síochána, SCC [ & <i>Muintir na Tire ]</i>	By end 2018



6	Road Safety	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Organise distribution points for free RSA Hi-Viz vests and use text alerts to promote their usage	SCC, RSA, An Garda Síochána, [Community groups, Muintir na Tire Local text alert groups]	Ongoing
7	Road Safety	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Road Safety Authority to make regular reports to JPC	RSA, JPC	Ongoing
8	Public Safety	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Review the operation of derelict site laws	SCC	By end 2018
9	Roads Policing	Sligo/Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2018	Increase road user compliance and Garda visibility in Sligo / Leitrim Division to enhance road safety	An Garda Síochána	Ongoing
10	Roads Policing	Sligo/Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2018	Carry out review of collision prone zones, receive presentation from Sligo/Leitrim Traffic Inspector	An Garda Síochána	By end 2018
11	Roads Policing	Sligo/Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2018	Work in partnership with other agencies having stakeholder role in road safety	An Garda Síochána	Ongoing
12	Organisation and capacity improvement	Sligo/Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2018	Improve accommodation capacity in Sligo/Leitrim Division to improve and enhance policing service delivery	An Garda Síochána	Ongoing

<b>13</b>	Community Engagement and Public Safety	Sligo/Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2018	Identify and liaise with farming representative bodies to address issues surrounding rural crime	An Garda Síochána	Ongoing
<b>14</b>	Community Engagement and Public Safety	Sligo/Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2018	Develop social media presence for An Garda Síochána in Sligo/Leitrim	An Garda Síochána	By end 2018
<b>15</b>	Crime Prevention	Sligo/Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2018	Arrange presentation of Telesis Marking System to JPC	An Garda Síochána	By end 2018
<b>16</b>	Community Engagement	Sligo/Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2018	Increase the Divisional capacity to deliver Schools Programme to primary and secondary schools in the Division	An Garda Síochána	End of 2018
<b>17</b>	Community Engagement and Public Safety	Sligo/Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2018	Targeted patrolling of geographic segmental Community policing areas across the Sligo/Leitrim Division	An Garda Síochána	End of 2018