

Sligo Joint Policing Committee



Annual Report 2019

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 - 12 Elected Members of Sligo County 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 T.D.
- Deputy Tony McLoughlin T.D.

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

The Joint Policing Committee held their first public meeting on 10th January 2019 which was well attended by members of An Garda Síochána, Local Authority Elected Members and staff as well as members of the public. Addresses were delivered by Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken and Superintendent Ray McMahon on the subjects of general policing in Sligo and the challenges which are currently facing An Garda Síochána in terms of human and financial resources, Brexit etc. A representative from the Garda National Protective Services Bureau was present and delivered an informative presentation on child exploitation and human trafficking. Other items of business included an overview of the role of the JPC by Mr. John Moran, Senior Executive Officer and an update on the use of a recently purchased property marking machine by Chairperson of the JPC, Cllr. Rosaleen O'Grady. To conclude the evening's meeting, questions submitted by members of the public in advance of the meeting were answered by Chief Superintendent Aidan Glacken.

A JPC meeting took place on 29th March where the main business conducted at that meeting was the adoption of the 2018 Annual Report and the consideration of the 2019 Work Plan. The meeting also received a presentation from Sergeant Angela Cummins on Community Engagement.

A Joint Policing Committee Steering Group meeting was also held in advance of the above meeting on 12th March 2019 where arrangements for the meeting were discussed. The Group also put forward recommendations on the content of the 2019 Work Plan which included 12 no. new actions.

The term of the Joint Policing Committee ended with the term of the Council on 24th May 2019.

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 31st 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 lifetime of the Plan. It also identified lead agencies and key partners in respect of each of the deliverables, to be overseen 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
1.14	JPC to work closely with An Garda Síochána to support the Annual Divisional Policing Plan
1.15	Support victims of crime, including those affected by domestic violence

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
2.12	Ensure that communities will know their Community Garda by name

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	Develop protocols for addressing anti-social behaviour in public open space areas and parks
4.5	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
5.5	Work with Sligo PPN to raise awareness of the JPC

Annual Work Plan 2019

The amended Joint Policing Guidelines (August 2014) introduced a 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.).

At its meeting held on 29th March 2019, the Joint Policing Committee considered an Annual Work Plan for 2019 which included 12 no. additional actions in the areas of crime prevention, community policing and organisation and capacity improvement, a copy of which is attached. These actions further sought to engage with communities and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Joint Policing Committee Annual Work Plan 2019

REF	Priority	Origin	Action	Lead Agency / KeyPartners	Timeframe
1	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, [Chamber of Commerce , LEO, PPN, Muintir na Tíre, Sligo BID]	Ongoing
			Continue to explore funding opportunities to support communities to access CCTV		
2	Crime Prevention	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Visit all licensed premises and fast food premises and examine CCTV operating systems	An Garda Síochána, Sligo BID	By end of 2019
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. PPN, [Muintir na Tíre]	Ongoing
4	Crime Prevention	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Continued liaison with the North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force (NWRDTF) to address alcohol/substance related harm and crime	JPC Sub-Committee / NWRDTF	Ongoing

5	Crime Prevention	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Carry out high visibility patrols at amenity areas, engage with visitors and offer crime prevention advice. Look at the feasibility of erecting crime prevention signage	An Garda Síochána, SCC, [<i>& Muintir na Tíre</i>] JPC, Sligo BID	By end of 2019
6	Crime Prevention	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Continue to use / promote Telesis machine. Organise a retail safety day	An Garda Síochána [<i>Community Groups</i>]	By end of 2019
7	Crime Prevention	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Promote awareness of campaigns by external agencies specifically dealing with assault crime	An Garda Síochána, SCC, [<i>& Muintir na Tíre</i>] JPC	Ongoing
8	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 Tíre</i>]	Ongoing
9	Community Policing	JPC Strategic Plan 2017 -2022	Review the number of personnel allocated to Community Policing and City Policing and allocate additional resources where feasible / Continue to promote the use of Divisional Facebook page	An Garda Síochána	By end of 2019
10	Community Policing	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Holding of community engagement events with minority groups / Managerial engagement with ethnic minority groups / Appoint additional Ethnic Liaison Groups	An Garda Síochána	By end of 2019

11	Community Policing	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Targeted high visibility mountain bike and foot patrols in order to engage with communities and reduce anti-social behaviour	An Garda Síochána <i>[Community Groups]</i>	Ongoing
12	Community Policing	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Maximise the opportunities to engage with young people in primary and secondary schools through the deliverance of the Schools Programme and other community engagement events	An Garda Síochána	Ongoing
13	Road Safety	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Facilitate distribution of free RSA Hi-Viz vests and use text alerts to promote their usage	SCC, RSA, An Garda Síochána, <i>[Community groups, Muintir na Tíre local text alert groups]</i>	Ongoing
14	Road Safety	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Road Safety Authority - reports to JPC (invite RSA to make presentation)	RSA, JPC	By end of 2019
15	Public Safety	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Review the operation of derelict site laws (presentation by SCC)	SCC	By end 2019
16	Roads Policing	Sligo / Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2019	Increase road user compliance and Garda visibility in Sligo / Leitrim Division to enhance road safety	An Garda Síochána	Ongoing

17	Roads Policing	Sligo / Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2019	Work in partnership with other agencies having stakeholder role in road safety	An Garda Síochána	Ongoing
18	Organisation and Capacity Improvement	Sligo / Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2019	Improve accommodation capacity in Sligo / Leitrim Division to improve and enhance policing service delivery	An Garda Síochána	Ongoing
19	Organisation and Capacity Improvement	Sligo / Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2019	Review / increase of patrols in South Sligo due to allocation of additional resources to the Ballymote District	An Garda Síochána	By end of 2019
20	Community Engagement and Public Safety	Sligo / Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2019	Continue to identify and liaise with farming representative bodies to address issues surrounding rural crime	An Garda Síochána	Ongoing
21	Community Engagement and Public Safety	Sligo / Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2019	Enhance and further develop social media presence for An Garda Síochána in Sligo / Leitrim	An Garda Síochána	By end 2019
22	Community Engagement	Sligo / Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2019	Increase the Divisional capacity to deliver Schools Programme to primary and secondary schools in the Division	An Garda Síochána	End of 2019
23	Community Engagement and Public Safety	Sligo / Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2019	Targeted patrolling of geographic segmental community policing areas across the Sligo / Leitrim Division	An Garda Síochána	End of 2019

24	Organisation and Capacity Improvement	Sligo / Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2019	Establish the standard provision of an information pack by the attending Gardaí at domestic violence incidents, sexual crimes, suicide / attempted suicide incidents	An Garda Síochána	End of 2019
25	Organisation and Capacity Improvement	Sligo / Leitrim Divisional Policing Plan 2019	Training in online exploitation and cyber bullying awareness for Gardaí delivering school talks	An Garda Síochána	End of 2019
26	Community Policing	JPC Strategic Plan 2017-2022	Explore the potential for cross border collaboration in relation to Community Safety Initiatives	An Garda Síochána / PSNI / SCC	End of 2019