

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee Annual Report 2019

Introduction

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was established in 2009 and is a partnership between Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, An Garda Síochána and the Community. The membership comprises of senior Garda Officers, elected Councillors and Oireachtas members and representatives of community & voluntary groups.

The DLR Joint Policing Committee is intended to be a forum for discussion and a means of building confidence, trust and safety in the County. In doing this, the DLR 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 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Role of the JPC

The legislative framework for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees is set out in [Section 36 of An Garda Síochána Act 2005](#) and the amendments to this Act in 2014. Section 36(2) of the Act provides that a JPC'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, and in particular to:-

36.—

(2) 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, and in particular to—

(a) keep under review—

(i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and

(ii) the factors underlying and contributing to the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area,

(b) advise the local authority concerned and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions having regard to the need to do everything feasible to improve the safety and quality of life and to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the area,

(c) arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area,

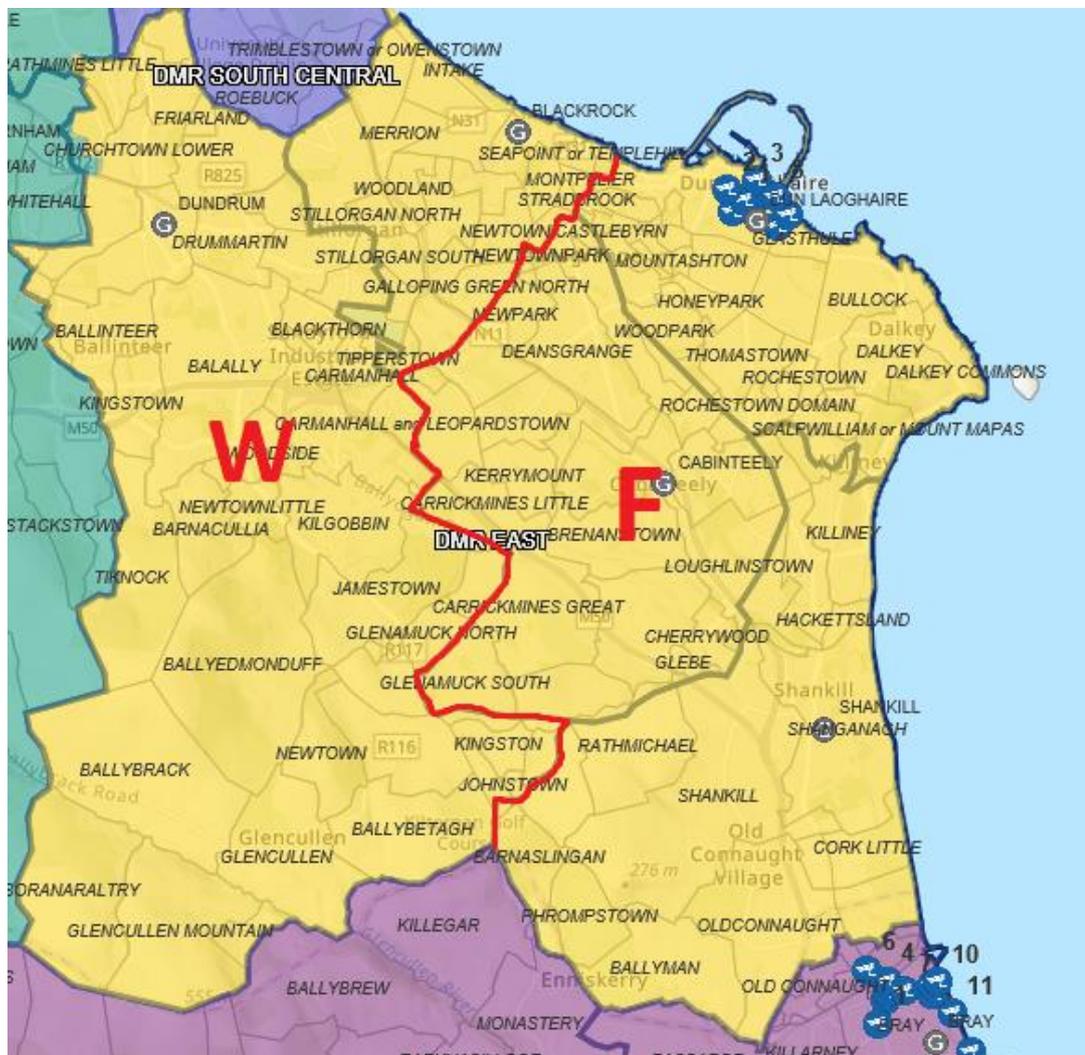
(d) establish, in consultation with the local Garda superintendent, as the committee considers necessary within specific neighbourhoods of the area, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the committee concerning matters that it is to keep under review under paragraph (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as those matters affect their neighbourhoods, and

(e) co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora established under paragraph (d) or otherwise.

Garda Districts Covered by the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee

The majority of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is located within the Dublin Metropolitan East District.

Within the DMR East District, there are two sub districts of "F" covering Dún Laoghaire, Shankill and Cabinteely and "W" covering Blackrock and Dundrum areas.



Joint Policing Committee Meetings in 2019

In 2019, the DLR Joint Policing Committee was chaired by Cllr Mary Hanafin, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. The JPC held four meetings in 2019 on 4th April 4th September and 21st November including a public meeting held on 21st November.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee Membership 2019

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	
Cllr. Ann Colgan	Elected representative
Cllr. Anna Grainger	Elected representative
Cllr. Barry Ward	Elected representative
Cllr. Carrie Smyth	Elected representative
Cllr. Deirdre NíFhloinn	Elected representative
Cllr. Dennis O'Callaghan	Elected representative
Cllr. Elizabeth Eva Dowling	Elected representative
Cllr. Jennifer Carroll MacNeill	Elected representative
Cllr. John Kennedy	Elected representative
Cllr. Lettie McCarthy	Elected representative
Cllr. Lorraine Hall	Elected representative
Cllr. Mary Hanafin	Elected representative
Cllr. Michael Clarke	Elected representative
Cllr. Séafra O'Faoláin	Elected representative
Cllr. Shay Brennan	Elected representative
Dearbhla Lawson	Director of Service, C&CD.
Mary Ruane	Senior Executive Officer, C&CD
An Garda Síochána	
Anne Marie Cagney	Chief Superintendent
Martin McGonnell	Superintendent
Martin Creighton	Superintendent
Community Representatives	
Eimear McAuliffe	DLR Public Participation Network
Anne Harrington	DLR Public Participation Network
Bébhinn Murphy	DLR Public Participation Network
Tony McCarthy	DLR Public Participation Network
Georgina Potts	Loughlinstown, Shankill LPF
Reverend Asa Bjork	Dún Laoghaire, LPF

Frank Cruise	Sandyford / Stepside LPF
David Bradshaw	DLR Drugs & Alcohol Task Force
Members of the Oireachtas	
Deputy Catherine Martin	Member of the Oireachtas
Senator Gerry Horkan	Member of the Oireachtas
Minister Josepha Madigan T.D.	Member of the Oireachtas

Changes in Membership in 2019

There were a number of membership changes in 2019 following the Local Elections in May. Cllr. Mary Hanafin, Cllr. Shay Brennan, Cllr. Ann Colgan and Cllr. Barry Ward have remained on the JPC together with eleven newly elected members.

Superintendent Martin Creighton replaced Superintendent Martin Fitzgerald in November. Georgina Potts was appointed to represent Ballybrack/Loughlinstown/Shankill LPF. Frank Cruise resigned in November as representative of the Sandyford/Stepaside LPF. A new representative will be appointed at the next Sandyford/Stepaside Local Policing Forum meeting. David Bradshaw was appointed to replace Barry Cullen as representative of the Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.

Joint Policing Committee work programme

A six year Strategic Plan was developed for the DLRJPC and adopted in June 2016.

The JPC Strategic Plan 2016-2021 contains 18 individual actions across three strategic Goals:

1. *Supporting and promoting Crime Prevention in DLR*
2. *Enhancing Community Safety & Security in DLR*
3. *Facilitating Community Engagement and Collaboration on Safety Issues*

The 2019 Work Plan was based on the current guidelines and code of practice which apply to JPCs and the Goals/Actions set out in the six-year Strategic Plan.



Monitoring of key safety/security issues in the County

The Chief Superintendent presented an overview of the key policing priorities for the DMR East District at each of the DLR JPC meetings, noting some of the key crime statistics and approaches proposed to address identified priorities.

Progress reports on the JPC Strategic Plan 2016-2021 were provided at each JPC Meeting as well as updates from each of the three Local Policing Fora. on the LPF Work Plans.

The JPC meetings also included presentations on key issues related to safety and security, diversity and domestic violence.

The key highlights and achievements under each Goal in 2019 are as follows:

1. Supporting and promoting Crime Prevention in DLR

Burglaries

An Garda Síochána reported a decrease in burglaries across the Division this year. This is a continuing trend since 2015, due to increased high visibility patrolling, stringent application of bail laws to put recidivists in custody, zero tolerance application of law about anti-social/public order and targeting of suspects via operation hybrid and other intelligence led operations.

Prolific Offender Reports:

A greater emphasis has been placed on targeting identified prolific offenders within the Division with notable results achieved.

All outstanding matters regarding prolific offenders are dealt with expeditiously and where these individuals are found to be committing crimes or in breach of current bail conditions, all efforts are made to bring them before the Courts and ensure, where applicable, Section 2 Bail applications are made.

Operation THOR target list:

The DMR East THOR target list was constantly reviewed to ensure identified persons who engage in criminality have assigned case managers. This results in a more proactive managerial approach, which represents an effective strategy for managing crime recidivism and preventing crime.

High Visibility Policing

The Performance & Accountability Framework, complemented by the latest analysis from the GSAS monthly KPI reports, elucidates the targeted 'hotspots' afforded high visibility policing.

Operation Crossover is in place to ensure maximum high visibility beats/patrols across the Division. All personnel (uniform, plain clothes etc.) are made available for the Operation. The crossover periods are being utilised effectively and efficiently to ensure a highly visible Garda presence in areas of public order hotspots within the Division.

The visible presence of Gardaí on these types of patrols provides a positive assurance to the public and acts as a deterrent to certain types of crime.

Operation Irene (launched 21st May 2019) involves An Garda Síochána working in conjunction with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, to counter anti-social behaviour by engaging directed patrolling in the County's public amenities, namely parks and seafronts. This involves the use of all available resources and will allow an opportunity for members to work Operation Crossover hours while working within the Division.

Operation Hybrid continues with joint patrolling/checkpoints with detective and uniform resources to deter & detect serious criminals in their endeavours.

Road Safety

The AXA Road Safety Show, supported by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, took place on the 7th & 8th October 2019 in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, with schools invited by the Council to attend.

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council also supported the Nutgrove Fire Station Open Day.

Education

The Community Policing Section of the DMR East Division provided regular talks to School Children as part of the School Programmes and these talks included advice on Road Safety.

All new Probationer Gardai, receive a talk on the following topics:

- Health and Safety while doing Traffic Stops and Checkpoints
- Advice on Court Procedures for Road Traffic Act Offences
- Information on how the Roads Policing Unit (RPU) DMR East is operated and the priority for the enforcement of lifesaver offences
- Advice on the Investigation of Personal Injury Traffic Collisions
- Advice on the detection of Road Traffic offences

Engineering

The Council arranged the repainting of road markings, the installation of bollards, and servicing of electronic traffic warning signs in the vicinity of Mount Anville National School, following a request from the RPU, in the interest of road safety.

The RPU and the Council have assessed issues at the Junction of Rock Road and Booterstown Avenue. This collaboration has produced a proposal to alter the traffic signalling at the junction in order to enhance safety.

Enforcement

Operations to identify speeding, non-wearing of seatbelts, use of mobile phones and driving under the influence have been ongoing since throughout the year.

Strategic Meetings

High level strategic meetings were held between An Garda Síochána and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to review anti-social behaviour policy implementation and enhance its effectiveness.

Meetings were also held between AGS, DLRCC and the major public transport providers in the County to identify and discuss on board and on-site safety issues – linking in with Operation Irene.

Neighbourhood Watch

A review was conducted of the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the DMR East to establish the efficacy and functionality of the 157 existing schemes in the Division.

The Community Alert Scheme was initiated to amalgamate the new and existing Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Mount Merrion area with additional multiagency support provided by Muintir na Tíre and local residents associations.

Business Watch continues to be deployed throughout the DMR East to apprise the business community in respect to crime reduction and prevention and emerging trends in crime related matters.

Campus Watch will continue to educate and empower the third-level student population at Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Technology, Smurfit Business campus and Blackrock Further Learning Institute through the delivery of relevant and cogent clinics addressing the pertinent concerns of the day.

Continued deployment of Hospital Watch at the National Rehabilitation Hospital, St Michael's Hospital and St Colmcilles Hospital, Loughlinstown to ensure the education and collective ownership of security issues related to all facets of Hospital tenure. This consists of monthly Garda Clinics and Quarterly meetings

2. Enhancing Community Safety & Security in DLR

Domestic Violence

A Divisional Protective Services Unit in DMR East was established in October 2019.

The JPC received a presentation on Domestic Violence from the Garda National Protective Services Bureau.

Domestic Violence Incidents are monitored consistently at daily and weekly Garda management meetings and by Divisional Inspector to ensure that Garda Policy in respect of Domestic Violence intervention is fully implemented across the Division and that the approach is victim centred at all times.

The objective is to ensure that each incident is thoroughly investigated, all available evidence is secured, and appropriate action taken when required.

The Victim of Crime Support Office was established in Dún Laoghaire in 2015. An Garda Síochána's policy is to refer all victims of crime to the Victim Support Office unless the victim specifically declines.

Presentations on Safety and Security were given to the public during the Council's Festival of Inclusion.

Age Friendly

The Age Well Expo, organised and funded by DLRCC in association with the dlr Age Friendly Alliance, was held on 9th June 2019. This event was an initiative of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Age Friendly Strategy 2016-2020 and celebrated and showcased services and supports for Positive Ageing available in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Presentations were made at the Expo by some of the Alliance partners, including An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and the Public Participation Network. These included an address by the Chief Superintendent, and the dissemination of crime prevention and safety knowledge to inform our vulnerable senior members of the community. The crime prevention officer delivered talks with advice on wellbeing and safety. Community Police members were present to engage with all queries and concerns and fortify the attendees understanding of maintaining their welfare.

Cuppa with a Cop is a Crime Prevention Workshop for the Older Person, involving tea, cake and practical crime prevention advice. *Cuppa Cocoa with a Cop* is also in development for youths.

The national award-winning Garda Mobile Support programme was launched recently in the Division and provides the older persons who would be unable to avail of such services due to incapacity with the provision of having documents (passports, pensions, travel papers) stamped and signed in their home/nursing home.

The DMR East Garda Youth Awards were celebrated at the inaugural event at the DLR Mill Theatre, Dundrum on the 31st January 2019 with music from the Garda Band under the baton of Inspector Pat Kenny. The awards celebrate outstanding young people aged between 13 and 21 and recognise the good work throughout the communities of DMR East.

Garda TY-Tecsperts have designed a programme to allow Transition Year students to teach older persons in nursing homes to be technologically savvy.

TAAR (Teenagers and Active Retirement) is a new initiative which brings transition year students and older persons together in a similar programme as the *TAG* (Teenager & Gardaí) project. The project has been piloted in St. Raphaela's Secondary School.

GOPA (Garda Older Persons Association) is a group involving Gardai, TUSLA, HSE Carers groups and older people's association with the assistance and support of DLRCC to develop schemes to aid the older person in the county. *GOPA* have organised Tea Parties for those in nursing homes who cannot attend regular older persons' dances. The Garda Band played to 300 people on two (2) dates in February.

GOPA have set up a scheme where personal alarm pendants are easily accessible through application to the association.

Members also participate in the annual Festival of Inclusion week, taking part in tea dances and fashion shows etc.

The Association also organise outings (Pearse Street Museum, the *ÁRAS* and the *Dáil*) for older persons associations and the Garda Community Bus is often employed as transport.

3. Community Engagement and Collaboration

Drug and Alcohol Task Force

Garda members are actively involved with the DLR Drug & Alcohol Task Force / Southside Partnership and participate in the Youth-At-Risk (YAR) series. Members are working closely with the Youth Prevention Coordinator employed by Southside Partnership who has a county-wide role, developing group-based preventive activities for young people, 15-24 years and working with the Youth-At-Risk network.

Members attended the "Knowledge into Action" meeting at the DLR – Lexicon on February 14th, 2019 which included workshops on overcoming the stigma and secrecy associated with long-term drug treatment, working collaboratively across both drug and alcohol and child, family and other services, and how young people view the use of mood-altering substances in their everyday lives

Following on from the previous workshops of 2017/18, the Youth-At-Risk series continued with four (4) events in 2019.

Garda Youth Diversion Programmes

Three Youth Diversion Projects are currently delivered in the Division:

- Castle Project – Ballyogan
- LAB (Loughlinstown & Ballybrack)
- SAY – Sandyford Area Youth Project

Young people continue to be referred to these projects with excellent results.

The Youth Justice Workers engaged in Summer Camps with the young people and Outdoor learning which covers Coast Steering, Mountain skills and Surf Water Rescue. The School Mentoring Programme is in action also whereby assistance is given with school work and classes.

The Work to Learn Programme funded by IYJS is in operation at present and aims to get employment within the community for young people who have dropped out of school and further learning.

Halloween Preparatory Work Educating young people to the dangers associated at this time of year.

Community Garda Drop-ins continue to be implemented. Under 12 Preparatory Work: the YJWs are speaking to and assisting young people under 12 who have not yet reached the age of criminal responsibility.

GYDPs are an over-arching success, within their respective communities, and they have yielded an extremely low rate of recidivism amongst the youths who engage with the programmes.

DMR East is engaging in the *Stay Safe Girls* pilot which was launched in Sion Hill School, Blackrock. The Community Policing Unit gave lectures on safety such as Cyber Safety, Street Smart, and crime prevention specifically targeting girls.

There was continued multiagency engagement with STAG (Southside Travellers Action Group) and development of the *TOGETHER* (Gardaí Engaging Travellers) programme to build trust and reciprocity.

The STREETWISE programme was implemented. This programme is to assist persons with an intellectual disability through a "Be safe in the Community" message.

There was continued engagement with *TAG* (Teenagers and Gardaí) programme. This Transition-Year programme is designed to ensure the growth of positive relations with children & young people. It has been successfully delivered in Newpark Comprehensive School and Oatlands High School.

There are established official protocols in place as per Children First between An Garda Síochána and the Tusla Agency in regard to the protection and safety of children. There is also full participation with the Children and Young Persons Services Committee (CYPSC) Subgroup

Garda Diversity Committee

The JPC received a presentation on Diversity in April.

Work is ongoing to maintain the endeavours of the Garda Diversity Committee. Expressions of interest have been received from the Integration Forum and from a newly established local group representing the Hindu community residing in this Division. Discussions were also held with the Islamic Community regarding joint initiatives going forward.

Gardaí continue to engage with and support our Traveller Community. Members of the Gardai attended S.T.A.G's annual celebration.

Development of Local Policing Forums in the County

There are three Local Policing Forums established in the County under the auspices of the Joint Policing Committee. These are:

1. Loughlinstown/Shankill & Ballybrack (Chaired by Inspector James Murphy)
2. Sandyford/Stepaside (Chaired by Inspector John O' Driscoll)
3. Central Dún Laoghaire (Chaired by Inspector John Dowling)

The role of these Policing Forums is to enhance the collaboration and communication between An Garda Síochána, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, the main Transport companies, and local Residents' Associations and organisations.

Each of the LPF's met 6 times in 2019, addressing local concerns and issues. Each held one additional public meeting gaining input and feedback directly from members of the public, Community and public representatives and elected officials.

In accordance with Section 36(5) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 this report will be submitted to the County Council and a copy supplied to the Minister for Justice and Equality, the Garda Commissioner and the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.