

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee

27th February 2020 @ 3.00pm
Council Chambers, County Hall

In Attendance	
Cllr. Ann Colgan	DLRCC
Cllr. Anna Grainger	DLRCC
Cllr. Carrie Smith	DLRCC
Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan	DLRCC
Cllr. Lettie McCarthy	DLRCC
Cllr. Mary Hanafin	DLRCC
Cllr. Michael Clark	DLRCC
Cllr. Séafra Ó Faoláin	DLRCC
Cllr. Shay Brennan	DLRCC
Commissioner Drew Harris	An Garda Síochána
Chief Superintendent Anne Marie Cagney	An Garda Síochána
Superintendent Martin McGonnell	An Garda Síochána
Superintendent Martin Creighton	An Garda Síochána
Superintendent Patrick Conlon	An Garda Síochána
Inspector Marilyn Brosnan	An Garda Síochána
Inspector John Dowling	An Garda Síochána
Senator Gerry Horkan	Member of the Oireachtas
Bébhinn Murphy	DLR Public Participation Network
Eimear McAuliffe	DLR Public Participation Network
Tony McCarthy	DLR Public Participation Network
David Bradshaw	DLR LDATF and LPF
Anne Harrington	DLR Public Participation Network
Liz Roche	Sandyford / Stepside LPF
Georgina Potts	Loughlinstown/Ballybrack/Shankill LPF
Mary Ruane	DLRCC
Ian Smalley	DLRCC
Apologies	
Cllr. John Kennedy	DLRCC
Cllr. Deirdre Ní Fhloinn	DLRCC
Cllr. Lorraine Hall	DLRCC
Cllr. Elizabeth Eva Dowling	DLRCC
Cllr. Barry Ward	DLRCC
Cllr. Frank McNamara	DLRCC
Rev Asa Bjork	DLR LPF
Catherine Martin T.D.	Member of the Oireachtas
Minister Josepha Madigan T.D.	Member of the Oireachtas

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Commissioner Harris, members of An Garda Síochána and the JPC members to the meeting.

The Chair informed Commissioner Harris of a number of issues raised by JPC members such as burglaries in the County, safety and security at Dart Stations, Abuse and Domestic Violence. The Chair praised Chief Superintendent Cagney for her continued dedication and work regarding Domestic Violence. The Chair also thanked Chief Superintendent Cagney and the Community Gardaí and highlighted the importance of Community Policing. The Chair also requested that when opening any new Garda Stations in the County they are not staffed by personnel taken from other Garda Stations. All Garda Stations are working to capacity and more Gardai are needed.

Chief Superintendent Cagney noted that Superintendent McGonnell is retiring this week and thanked him for his commitment to his role.

Chief Superintendent Cagney thanked Commissioner Harris for coming and presenting the new Policing Model "Keeping People Safe".

Apologies were noted.

2. Minutes from November 21st, 2019 JPC Committee Meeting

Eimear McAuliffe requested a change to the minutes of the last meeting to show she was not present at the November JPC meeting. The minutes were proposed by Tony McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. Séafra Ó Faoláin.

3. Presentation "Keeping People Safe" Commissioner Harris

Commissioner Harris noted that he will be visiting all the JPC's and this is his eighth JPC so far. Commissioner Harris noted that he is listening to local concerns and feedback from the JPC's, which is very helpful when applying resources to areas.

Commissioner Harris presented the new Policing Model "Keeping People Safe" which highlighted how to keep people safe from Cyber Crime, Trafficking/Slavery, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault. The current Garda Workforce stands at 17,000. It is hoped by 2021 the numbers will rise to approx. 19,000. This will be done on a phased basis. An Garda Síochána will be focusing on maintaining good standards, improvements, performance and how to make more efficient use of Garda personnel and trying to cut down administration.

The Chair thanked Commissioner Harris for his very informative presentation and agreed that Gardaí should be out in the community.

The Chair invited the JPC members to ask questions. The following issues were raised:

Commissioner Harris was thanked for retaining the Garda Band.

Funding was requested to create more private hatches in the public office of Dun Laoghaire Garda Station. The Commissioner advised that a submission had been made to upgrade the public hatches in the Garda Station.

The Commissioner was asked if there would be promotional opportunities for Community Gardaí that would help enhance the division and encourage Garda to join. He confirmed that there were opportunities for promotion within the Community Policing framework.

Garda personnel numbers were queried as numbers in Cabinteely and Shankill Garda stations had fallen by 30%. The Commissioner confirmed that the number of Gardaí assigned to the DMR unit was correct but agreed there is a lot of flux within the region. The majority of Garda coming to DMR East Division were new recruits. Other areas needed further resources and focuses were set around Community based policing, Gardaí and Sergeants.

The Commissioner noted that Stepside Garda Station would reopen in March 2020 with the Road Policing Unit based there along with 1 Sergeant and 15 Gardaí. These were not additional Gardai but were being deployed from elsewhere.

Adequate resources were still required in the Dundrum area. The Commissioner acknowledged that discussions were ongoing in relation to the setting up of a Dundrum Local Policing Forum.

The ongoing focus on Community Gardai was welcomed. The Commissioner noted that An Garda Síochána had had a lot success in reducing crime through Community Policing.

The sense of vulnerability and insecurity of many of those living in the County, and especially in the Dundrum area was emphasised. The Commissioner acknowledged the feedback regarding burglaries and had taken on board how vulnerable and worried people were feeling regarding burglaries. He also noted that several prolific offenders had been apprehended recently.

Issues around serial criminals being granted bail and tackling of insurance fraud were raised. The Commissioner noted that bail issues were up for review as prolific criminals were using bail to conduct more offenses. Alternatives were being explored and would be forwarded to Government for consideration. The National Economic Crime Bureau was responding to insurance fraud.

The Commissioner was asked whether the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology on Garda vehicles was working better. The Commissioner noted that there had already been a big impact with the fitting of ANPR to Garda vehicles and mobility units. All vehicles in the Traffic

Division had been fitted with ANPR and a further 2000 devices would be fitted shortly.

The response time to calls was queried. The Commissioner advised that all calls were triaged with the most important one being responded to first.

The Commissioner was asked whether he was confident that An Garda Síochána would be able to effect change as an organisation. He noted that changing demands on Garda resources required a change in the way resources were deployed. He was confident that this would happen.

The UN Safer Cities Programme and the safety of women on the streets was raised. The Commissioner noted that in Ireland, as in other countries, the majority of assaults are by someone in a relationship with or known to the victim and not by a stranger.

The Commissioner was asked to consider the submission of bicycle camera/dashcam footage for the use by the Gardai. The Commissioner undertook to have further research conducted into this.

The Chair thanked the Commissioner and members of the JPC and noted that the JPC will continue to support An Garda Síochána. The Chair also praised the Community Gardaí for all their hard work within the community and looks forward to seeing an updated report in a few years.

4. JPC Strategic Plan 2016-2021, 2020 Priorities – updates

The Chair presented the workplan priorities for 2020.

Item 2.3 was discussed.

2.3: Conduct an assessment and analysis of Domestic Violence incidents, approved risk Assessment Tool for domestic abuse cases and the Domestic Abuse Coordination Team (DACT), Significant support for Garda/Victim and all persons associated with it. DACT liaison will launch on the 2nd March 2020 upskilling all in the DRM East Division and ongoing commitment the two models will embed themselves into the community.

The Chair asked to highlight 2.3 for the next JPC meeting and to include family incidences as JPC members are interested in hearing more about this.

The workplan was proposed by Cllr. Michael Clarke and Seconded by Cllr. Carrie Smith.

5. DLR JPC Annual Report

The JPC 2019 Annual Report was proposed by Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan and seconded by Eimear McAuliffe.

6. Local Policing Fora Reports

The Chair read through the each of the Local Policing Forum Reports from Dun Laoghaire, Ballybrack/Loughlinstown/Shankill and Sandyford/Stepaside.

In relation to Ballybrack/Loughlinstown/Shankill LPF anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Shanganagh Terrace and concerns over a possible pattern of thefts from cars with intimidation were raised.

Chief Superintendent Cagney advised that these would be investigated.

She also advised that she had met with Irish Rail in relation to Shankill Dart station and that a joint initiative had been agreed.

7. Questions submitted

Questions received from JPC members and replies were circulated prior to the meeting and noted.

8. Proposed dates of 2020 JPC meetings

21st May 2020 at 6.00pm

30th September 2020 at 6.00pm

26th November 2020 at 6.00pm Public Meeting also taking place on 26th November at 7.00pm

9. AOB

Tony McCarthy thanked Commissioner Harris for the presentation and asked that a copy be forwarded to the JPC members.

Senator Gerry Horkan noted his absence from previous meetings was because he had not received notifications of the meetings due to an error with his email address which has now been rectified.

Chairperson Mary Hanafin concluded the meeting and thanked Commissioner Harris, Chief Superintendent Cagney, members of An Garda Síochána and JPC members for attending the meeting.