



AN TÚDARÁS PÓILÍNEACHTA
POLICING AUTHORITY

Minutes – Policing Strategy and Performance Committee Meeting

Date: 13 September 2018

Venue: 90 North King Street, Dublin 7.

Part A – Committee Meeting

Attendance

Authority: Judith Gillespie (Chair), Maureen Lynott, Ronan Nolan

Secretary: Fiona Larthwell

Executive: Margaret Tumelty, David Pasley, Gráinne Curtin, Karen Shelly

Apologies: Noel Brett, Vicky Conway

Garda Síochána: Commissioner Drew Harris, Supt. Marie Broderick – attended for the Introduction to the Committee only

1. Closed session – Committee Members only

The standing option to conduct a closed session was not exercised.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 16 July

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. There were no matters arising.

The Chair provided an Authority update for Committee members. It was noted that the broad areas of recruitment, diversity and human resources are areas of continuing concern. Potential approaches to address these areas were discussed.

3. Executive update on site visits and other work

The Committee received a briefing from the Executive on a number of engagements in the previous two months, including:

- Executive attendance at a number of PAF meetings;
- a site visit to the Crime Prevention Unit;
- a site visit to the Garda Risk Management Unit; and
- presentations received by the Executive on SAOR (Strategic Approach to Offender Recidivism) and J-ARC (Joint Agency Response to Crime).

4. Policing Priorities – consultation outcomes

The Committee received a presentation from the Executive on the outcomes of the recent consultation on draft Policing Priorities for 2019. A total of 20 submissions were received and these were summarised in the presentation. The Committee acknowledged the increased depth and detail of the submissions received and that significant material was provided relevant to the Policing Plan targets, which will be considered further in October.

The Committee agreed that there is a need to aggregate the Policing Priorities into fewer headings. The Committee agreed to bring this proposal for restructuring to the Authority at its September meeting, and that the Executive would engage with the Garda Síochána thereafter. It is expected that the final draft document would be ready for sign off at the October meeting of the Authority, after which the statutory consultation with the Garda Commissioner will commence.

Introduction of the Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris to the Committee (Non-Agenda Item)

The Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris was invited to attend before the Committee Meeting. The Committee Chair welcomed the Commissioner and outlined the functions of the Committee. The Chair also indicated that the Policing Plan is key to the Committee and made two points in this regard:

- the Committee would like to see the Policing Plan embedded in the Garda Síochána; and
- there is an ongoing issue with the late submission of papers and reports, which the Committee would like to see addressed.

The Committee and the Commissioner broadly discussed principles for the 2019 Policing Plan.

The recent incident at North Frederick Street was also discussed, and the Commissioner confirmed that a public statement had issued.

5. Policing Plan – performance evaluation, July/August 2018

The Committee noted an increase of incomplete items on recent reports. The Committee acknowledged that absences on leave during the summer months may make compilation of the report more challenging. An increase in 'green' RAG status items was noted, as well as general progress.

The Committee expressed some concerns regarding resourcing and capacity. It was noted that there have been very significant positive developments in the area of confronting crime, particularly in relation to tackling online child sexual exploitation.

The Committee was informed by the Executive that are some questions around the year to date detection figures, which will be explored further with GSAS.

6. Discussion of the Policing Plan 2019 process

The Committee discussed the timing of the workshop, particularly in the context of the need to ensure the Commissioner had sufficient time to develop his approach to the Plan.

It was agreed that the Executive will prepare a paper on targets and outputs ahead of the workshop.

7. Public Attitudes Survey Quarter 2

The Committee expressed concerns about the small sample size of victims and the impact of this on the reliability of the figures. It was also noted that there has been an increase in 'don't know' responses, and that this would be raised in Part B.

The Committee agreed that the Public Attitudes Survey should be linked to the Policing Plan.

Part B – Meeting with Garda Síochána representatives

Attendance

Authority and Executive: As above

Garda Síochána: John Twomey (Deputy Commissioner, Policing and Security), John O'Driscoll (Assistant Commissioner, Special Crime Operations), David Gilbride (Executive Director, Strategy and Transformation), Michael Finn (Assistant Commissioner South Eastern Region), Brian Sutton (Detective Superintendent, DMR South), Lois West (Assistant Principal, Garda Síochána Analysis Service).

8. Closed session

The standing option to conduct a closed session was not exercised. No comments were made with respect to the minutes.

9. Update on the progress of the Garda Síochána homicide review (standing item)

The Garda Síochána updated the Committee on the ongoing review, summarising the second report, which has been submitted to the Executive and would be reviewed by Authority Members prior to the September Authority meeting. The Garda Síochána addressed the issue of Article 2 compliance in relation to one of the cases, which was reviewed and explained. It was noted that 16 cases have now been through the review process. A further 8 have been processed but the Garda Síochána Analysis Service has yet to look at them.

The Committee was informed that the annual two-day course for Senior Investigating Officers would take place in November 2018. It was agreed that the Policing Authority would explore sending a representative to attend.

10. Response to the Half Year Report on the Policing Plan

The Chair invite Garda Síochána representatives to respond to the Policing Authority's Half Year report on the Policing Plan. In relation to detections, it was noted that, subsequent to the report, a directive regarding detections had gone out to the organisation on the 13th of September. Garda Síochána representatives stated that detections improvement plans are being developed specific to each region and discussed at PAFs at all levels.

11. Policing Plan Performance Evaluation July/August

The following items were discussed:

Delays in recruitment: The Committee was informed that a new Head of Talent Acquisition is now in place. It was informed that a Sergeant competition is to be finalised in late September and an Inspector competition in late October/early November. The Committee stated that recruitment and related areas are serious concerns for the Authority and will continue to be raised with the Garda Síochána.

Accommodation issues: The Committee was informed that while there are challenges in this area, there has been some progress and the next month is expected to see further progress.

Hate crime definition: Garda Síochána representatives confirmed that a definition has been agreed is to revert back to the Committee with the detail.

Crowe Horwath action plan: The Committee was informed that the Policing Authority is due to receive this by the 14th of September, with accompanying timelines, which are due on the 21st.

Garda Reserves strategy: The Garda Síochána is to revert back to the Committee.

Data Quality: the question of data quality was raised and the Garda Síochána confirmed that there is work ongoing on sexual offences and money laundering figures. It was confirmed that the issues of the time taken to record incidents on PULSE has been considered and is not a concern.

Other areas discussed included Brexit and recruitment to specialist units.

The Committee recognised positive progress in a number of areas, including tackling online child exploitation and the roll out of Protective Service Units.

The Committee and Garda Síochána representatives agreed that the Strategic Planning Unit and the Executive would liaise in relation to the Policing Plan 2019 in advance of the planned workshop.

12. Public Attitudes Survey Quarter 2

The Garda Síochána confirmed that from Q2 onwards, the public attitudes publication will explain that the figures for young people (16-18) are not included in the quarterly report because the figures are too small. The Committee was informed that Amárach Research are monitoring the increased rate of 'don't know' responses. The Committee was informed that the results of the PAS are broken down and given to each regional Commissioner.

The Chair stated that the Committee would like to see the increased use of the Public Attitudes Survey to inform Policing Plan targets.

13. Quarterly update – Organised Crime

The Garda Síochána updated the Committee on organised crime figures for the previous quarter. The Garda Síochána confirmed that it has use of force statistics and it has published a Public Order policy. The Garda Síochána agreed to revert to the Committee on its use of force statistics.

The Chair welcomed progress on the assessment of risk of organised crime and noted that the Committee would like to see it completed before the end of this reporting year.

Actions

No.	Action Point	By Date	By Whom
PSP_028_01	PALO and PA to liaise about sending a PA rep to the SIO training on the 14 th of November	ASAP	GS / PA
PSP_028_02	D/C Twomey to revert to the PA on the hate crime definition	28 Sept	GS
PSP_028_03	Crowe Horwath action plan to be sent ASAP, timelines to issue w/c 17 th September	21 Sept	GS
PSP_028_04	Revert to the Committee on how the Reserves Strategy is to be progressed	5 Oct	GS
PSP_028_05	GS and PS to work bilaterally on the Policing Plan in advance of the anticipated workshop	October	GS / PA
PSP_028_06	GS to confirm that statistics are retained on the use of force and explain how these are used	13 Nov	GS
PSP_028_07	Organised crime risk matrix to be followed up	20 Nov	GS



Judith Gillespie

Chair of Policing Strategy and Performance Committee

Tuesday, 20 November 2018