

**County Cavan
Joint Policing
Committee
Annual Report 2016**



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BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Garda Síochána Act 2005 makes provision for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees. The Guidelines issued subsequent to the Act set out to establish the committees based on the experience gained in the pilot areas and on lessons learned from an extensive consultation process commenced in 2007.

The functions of the Joint Policing Committee's are set out in Section 36 (2) of the Garda Síochána Act, which states:

“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”

- 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
 - (i) or on which it is to advise under paragraph
 - (ii), 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.

Key Achievements of the JPC During the Year

Achievement 1

The JPC supported Muintir na Tire to host a Community Networking Event for Community Alert Groups within the county in September and this was a very worthwhile event. Approximately 50 people turned up for the meeting and there was good engagement. The meeting was chaired by the Chairperson of the JPC John Paul Feeley.

The following topics were focused on:

- **Community Alert Project Updates** – Presentation by Vanessa Clarke, Regional Development Officer with Muintir na Tire.
- **Community Based Consultation** – Presentation by Sgt. Alan Roughneen National Community Policing.
- **Introduction to the JPC Strategic Plan and consultation session.** Cllr. John Paul Feely, Chairperson of the Co Cavan JPC.

Community representative groups/organisations and service providers were invited to have stands at the event also as a way of facilitating information sharing at the event. These included:

- The newly established Volunteer Information Service for the county.
- The Older People's Council
- A stand by a Home Security company
- A stand by a Personal Alarms company
- The National Policing Office also had a stand.

Achievement 2

There is a requirement for the Joint Policing Committee to develop a 6 year JPC Strategic Plan. The process for commencing the consultation process for the plan commenced in 2016. The County Cavan Joint Policing Committee contracted a consultant to facilitate two consultative workshops as follows:

- Friday 21st October – with JPC members to gather their priorities and input for the Strategic Plan – took place at the offices of Cavan County Council.
- Tuesday 6th December – with members of the public to get their input to the Strategic Plan – took place at JPC public meeting at Cavan Crystal Hotel.

A full report on all the feedback received at both workshops was forwarded to the JPC for its consideration.

All the Community Alert Groups within the county were given a further opportunity to have their say in the plan by being invited to put forward a written submission by the 23rd December 2017.

Public meetings hosted by the JPC during the year

Please provide details of the public meetings that the JPC hosted during the year concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area.

A public meeting took place on the 6th December 2016 in the Cavan Crystal Hotel. Approximately 60 people attended. This meeting focused on the following topics:

- **Victims of Crime** – Presentation by: Inspector Lorraine Stack, Garda Victim Liaison Officer, Specialised Crime Operations
- **Operation Thor** – Presentation by: Inspector Niall McKiernan, Cavan Garda Station

Each presentation was followed by a questions and answers session and there was good discussion and engagement from those in attendance.

The meeting was also used as an opportunity to hold a consultation workshop for the JPC strategic Plan as described earlier within this report.

Record of members and meetings held during the year

Only two meetings were held over 2016 as the JPC Members took the decision to hold off on meetings until there was a new permanent Chief Superintendent appointed to the jurisdiction.

The JPC Steering Committee also meet in October 2016 for the purpose of welcoming the newly appointed Chief Superintendent once he had been newly assigned to the jurisdiction in mid 2016 and also to discuss the development of the JPC Strategic Plan.

Agenda Items Covered over 2016

Date of Meeting: 22 June 2016
Agenda Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To confirm minutes of the County Cavan JPC meeting held on the 11 December 2015.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation from the Cavan District Crime/Drugs Unit by Garda James Mc Devitt.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cavan & Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Service – presentation by Project co-ordinator Tim Murphy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation on the newly established County Cavan Drugs & Alcohol Forum
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ‘Don’t Pour Your Dreams Away’ Initiative – Carol Lambe, Monaghan JPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Garda Report – Updated Crime Statistics for the County (January 2016 to May 2016)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AOB
Date of Meeting: 21 October 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To confirm minutes of the County Cavan JPC meeting held on the 22 June 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on the hosting of a JPC Public Meeting/Consultation Session
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• JPC Strategic Plan – Facilitated session
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date for next meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AOB

Membership of the County Cavan JPC

Name of Member	Organisation	Title	No. Of JPC Meeting attended
John Paul Feeley (Chairperson)	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	2
Peter Mc Vitty (Vice Chairperson)	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	2
Niamh Smyth* (Sarah O'Reilly)	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	1
Shane. P. O'Reilly	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	1
Clifford Kelly	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	2
Fergal Curtin	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	1
Winston Bennett	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	2
Carmel Brady	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	1
Paddy Smith	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	2
Madeline Argue	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	2
Damian Brady	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	0
Noel O'Connell	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	2
Paddy Mc Donald	Cavan Co. Co.	Cllr.	2
James Sheridan** (Christopher Mangan)	An Garda Siochana	Chief Supt.	1
James Coen	An Garda Siochana	Supt.	2
Brian Mc Dermott	Community Rep.	Mr.	2
Noleen Brady Smith	Community Rep.	Ms.	1
Frank Mc Dermott	Community Rep.	Mr.	0
Vanessa Clarke	Community Rep.	Ms.	2
Aisling Tobin	Community Rep.	Mr.	1
Bob Gilbert	Community Rep.	Mr.	2
Brendan Smith	Dail Eireann	Deputy	1
Diarmuid Wilson	Dail Eireann	Senator	1
Joe O'Reilly	Dail Eireann	Deputy	1
Tommy Ryan	Cavan Co.Co.	Chief Executive	2
Eoin Doyle	Cavan Co.Co.	Director of Services	2

*Niamh Smyth was elected as a TD and was replaced by Cllr. Sarah O'Reilly

**Replaced by Chief Supt. Christopher Mangan in June 2016

The JPC Steering Committee comprises of the Chairperson, the Chief Executive of the local authority (or representative) and the Chief Superintendent. Meeting held on the 11 October 2016.

Copies of the Minutes of JPC Meetings in 2016

Minutes of Meeting of Co. Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 22 June 2016 at 3pm.

Councillors: Cllr. Clifford Kelly, Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Cllr. Winston Bennett, Cllr. Carmel Brady, Cllr. Peter Mc Vitty, Cllr. P. Smith, Cllr. Madeline Argue, Cllr. N. Connell, Cllr. P. Mc Donald, Cllr Shane P. O' Reilly, Cllr. Fergal Curtin

Community Representatives: Vanessa Clarke, Brian Mc Dermott,

Bob Gilbert

Executive: Ger Finn (Chief Executive), Eoin Doyle, (Director of Services), Gráinne Boyle, (Social Inclusion Unit)

Garda Officers: Superintendent James Coen

Oireachtas Members: Deputy Brendan Smith

Apologies: Chief Superintendent Pdraig Rattigan, Deputy Joe O Reilly,

Noleen Brady Smith, Cllr. Damian Brady, Francis Mc Dermott

In Attendance: Emer Coveney, Tim Murphy, Carol Lambe, Gerard Callard, Garda James Mc Devitt

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

Cllr Feeley congratulated Cllr. F. Curtin on his appointment as Cathaoirleacht, replacing Cllr. P. Smith. He also congratulated Niamh Smyth on her appointment as TD.

Cllr. Curtin proposed the minutes and B. Mc Dermott seconded them. There were no matters arising.

Cllr. Feeley suggested that the following two agenda items should be dealt with together.

2. Presentation from the Cavan District Crime/Drugs Unit by Garda James Mc Devitt.

3. Presentation from the Cavan & Monaghan Drugs & Alcohol Service by Project Co-ordinator Tim Murphy

Garda J. Mc Devitt covered the following items in his presentation.

- Misuse of Drugs Act 1977-1984
- Psychoactive Substance Act 2010
- An overview of recent seizures made within the County
- The recent Operation Sarbo and the outcomes

Mr. Murphy of the Cavan & Monaghan Drugs & Alcohol Service provided some background information on his organisation, the services they provide, and the current issues they are seeing on the ground. He also referred to the need for additional resources and services, such as preventative education services within the county, in order to deal with the issue of drugs and alcohol effectively.

Mr. Murphy said that the numbers of presentations for heroine treatment has doubled over the past five years, with currently 73 weekly methadone users attending their clinic. There is a serious need for more services to be made available for young people in particular within the region as it is not suitable for them to be dealt with through adult services. The organisation itself is finding it difficult to meet the current demand for its services. It can take up to two to three months to clear their waiting list and in the meantime many of those go on to commit crime.

Deputy Smith proposed that two letters be written to the local area manager of the HSE and to the Department of Justice, Equality and Defence requesting an increase in funding for the Cavan and Monaghan Drugs & Alcohol Service so that it can strive to meet its current demand for services.

A number of councillors had queries and comments to make in relation to the presentations, specifically around:

- The effectiveness of current legislation within this area.
- The number of gardaí available within the region to tackle this issue.
- The work gardaí were doing at a local level in terms of preventative work with youth.
- The availability of drugs and particularly access to the psychoactive drugs over the internet.

Deputy Smith enquired if there were any current funding applications submitted by Cavan County Council under the CCTV Funding Scheme.

E. Doyle replied not currently as there is a review being carried out on the scheme. Cllr. Feeley said that a letter had been issued by County Cavan JPC earlier in the year to the Dept. to request priority be Cavan to County Cavan to extend the current CCTV system within the town.

V. Clake informed the committee that a follow up networking event has been scheduled for community alert groups within County Cavan. Chief Superintendent Rattigan has agreed to speak at it and she invited members of the Cavan JPC to attend also.

4. Presentation on the newly established County Cavan and Drugs & Alcohol Forum

Cllr. O'Reilly has been appointed chair of the newly established Drugs & Alcohol Forum. He provided an overview of the main aims of the forum, its membership and focus to date. He said that the forum will be an action focused group working from an evidence based background. Emer Coveney, Social Inclusion Unit, Cavan County Council, also provided an input on the forum. She said one of their first areas of focus is to carry out a mapping exercise of all the services available within the area of drugs and alcohol within the county. County Monaghan is also in the process of setting up a similar forum.

5. 'Don't Pour Your Dreams Away' Initiative – Carol Lambe, Monaghan JPC and Gerard Callen, Monaghan Integrated Development Ltd.

Carol Lambe provided background information on the 'Don't Poor Your Dreams Away' campaign and it's progression to date within County Monaghan. A recent review carried out on the campaign put forward the recommendation that the campaign should be rolled out on a cross county basis and extended to County Cavan. It had been initially run on a pilot basis within Cavan Town only.

A number of councillors congratulated Ms Lambe and Mr. Callen on the initiative.

Cllr. Feeley commented that this was a very worthwhile campaign to which the County Cavan JPC would give its full backing to. Cllr O'Reilly also indicated that the Drugs & Alcohol Forum would like to see this rolled out within the county also.

6. Garda Report – Updated Crime Statistics for the County (January 2016 to May 2016)

Superintendent Coen provided a breakdown of the crime statistics for the county over January to May 2016, broken down by the two policing districts, displaying the various types of crimes committed.

There was a discussion around the need for additional gardaí and resources within the county. Deputy Smith requested that a letter be issued on behalf of the JPC to the Minister of Justice, Equality & Defence requesting additional gardaí and resources for the county.

A number of councillors expressed their concerns to Superintendent Coen and he committed to pass these on to the Chief Superintendent Rattigan.

7. AOB

There was no AOB.

8. Next Meeting

It was agreed that no date would be set for the next meeting until the new Chief Superintendent is appointed.

Minutes of Meeting of Co. Cavan Joint Policing Committee held in the Council Chamber, Cavan on 21 October 2016 at 3pm.

Councillors: Cllr. C. Kelly, Cllr. J. P. Feeley, Cllr. W. Bennett, Cllr. P. Mc Vitty, Cllr. P. Smith, Cllr. Madeline Argue, Cllr. N. Connell, Cllr. P. Mc Donald, Cllr. F. Curtin, Cllr. S. O'Reilly, Cllr. P. Smith

Community Representatives: Vanessa Clarke, Brian Mc Dermott,

Bob Gilbert Noleen Brady Smith, Ashling Tobin

Executive: Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Eoin Doyle, (Director of Services), Gráinne Boyle, (Social Inclusion Unit)

Garda Officers: Chief Superintendent Christopher Mangan, Superintendent James Coen, Inspector Niall Mc Kiernan

Oireachtas Members: Deputy B. Smith, Senator J.O' Reilly, Senator D. Wilson

Apologies: Cllr. D. Brady, Cllr. C. Brady, F. Mc Dermott, Cllr Shane P. O' Reilly, Deputy N. Smyth

In Attendance: Colm Finnegan

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

Cllr Feeley welcomed Chief Superintendent Christopher Mangan to the division and wished him all the best in his new role. He expressed his gratitude to Superintendent James Coen for his input at the previous JPC meetings were there had been no Chief Superintendent in attendance. Inspector Niall Mc Kiernan was also congratulated on his appointment as Inspector to the Cavan division.

Bob Gilbert proposed the minutes and Cllr. Mc Vitty seconded them. There were no matters arising.

3. JPC Public Meeting & Consultation Event

Cllr. Feeley explained that the JPC steering committee had previously met to discuss hosting a JPC public meeting and consultation event. The consultation event will feed into the development of a six year Strategic Plan which the Cavan JPC is to develop. He invited Chief Superintendent Mangan to elaborate on topics which are to be covered at the public meeting.

Chief Superintendent Mangan proceeded by saying that he is delighted to have been appointed to this jurisdiction and is looking forward to working with the Cavan JPC in the future.

The Gardaí will present on the following topics at the public meeting, as agreed by the steering committee:

- Victims of Crime

- Operation Thor
- Could also discuss possibly the issue of drugs if time allows. He referred to a new Drugs Unit which is to be set up within the division in the near future.

J.P. Feeley welcomed the topics suggested and invited feedback in relation to them from the JPC members. Cllr. Mc Vitty said that he welcomed the establishment of the new drugs unit. It was agreed a date for this public meeting would be set at the end of the meeting.

4. JPC Six Year Strategic Plan

Cllr. Feeley talked about the context in which the strategic plan is set, referring to latest guidelines from the Dept. of Justice which stated that this is something all JPC's should now produce to provide an overview to their work. E. Doyle also referred to the recently developed Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) which has been developed through the Local Economic and Community Development Committee (LCDC) and how any plan developed by the JPC must link in with this plan also.

He introduced the independent facilitator Colm Finnegan who was asked to come to the meeting to run a consultation session with the JPC members so that some of the main issues and perhaps actions which should be included within the plan can be considered. The JPC were asked to consider:

- What are the main issues in relation to crime and community safety affecting the county
- What this committee can do, what practical realistic actions could be included within the plan to address these issues
- Funding available and who needs to be involved

Mr. Finnegan explained that the feedback on the main issues as identified by the JPC members will be used to consult further with at the public consultation event.

Chief Superintendent Mangan said that the plan offers a great opportunity for real collaborative work being carried out within the county. It will be important to ensure that the measure the outputs from the plan and it should not be just aspirational in nature.

The JPC broke off into groups to commence the workshop sessions.

9. AOB

The date for the public meeting and consultation event was agreed to place on the 6th December. Ms. Boyle will make arrangements and notify members of it's details.

10. Next Meeting

13 January 2017, 3pm in the council chamber.