

Minutes – Policing Strategy and Performance Committee Meeting

Date: 19 November 2018

Venue: 90 North King Street, Dublin 7.

Part A – Committee Meeting

Attendance

Authority: Judith Gillespie (Chair), Moling Ryan, Vicky Conway

Secretary: Fiona Larthwell

Executive: Margaret Tumelty, Gráinne Curtin

Apologies: Maureen Lynott, Noel Brett, Ronan Nolan, Helen Hall

1. Closed session – Committee Members only

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

2. Minutes of previous meeting 28 September

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

The Committee received an update from the Executive on the status of agreed actions from the previous meeting and briefly discussed the availability of statistics, policy and procedures on the use of force.

The Committee received a briefing on developments from Authority meetings. The Committee Chair is to check with the Authority Chairperson if the Policing Authority's submission on the Commission on the Future of Policing report can be shared with the external member of the Committee.

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 meeting of the homicide review team – the Committee noted that serious data quality issues have been highlighted;
- Executive attendance at a number of PAF meetings; and
- Overview of the changes to the Inspection and Review system.

The Committee discussed the approach to be taken to site visits and committee meetings in 2019. It was proposed that the Committee would return to a thematic approach to meetings, which would inform the site visit planning for 2019. It was agreed that the Executive would look at themes examined by the Committee previously, and identify possible themes for 2019.

It was agreed to invite the Interim Chief Data Officer to appear before the Committee for an introductory meeting in December. It was proposed that the December meeting would focus on data, and diversity and inclusion.

4. Meeting Dates 2019

The Committee reviewed the proposed schedule for 2019 meeting dates and discussed moving the December meeting to an earlier date. All other dates were agreed upon.

5. Committee Terms of Reference Review

The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference and discussed a minor change in wording. The Committee concluded that the current wording was acceptable, subject to a proposed change to make specific reference to the Code of Ethics in the document.

6. Policing Plan Performance Evaluation

The Committee noted that the monthly report was submitted on time and was of higher quality than previous reports. Data on burglaries and detections were noted as positive. The Committee noted that corrective actions are an issue overall. The Committee noted the delay in the development of a risk assessment tool for domestic abuse and sexual crime, and discussed the issue of duplicate records on PULSE. The Committee agreed to raise the issue at a public meeting of the Policing Authority and the Garda Commissioner. The Committee Chair is to brief the Authority Chairperson.

7. Data queries raised with the Garda Síochána

The Committee briefly discussed the data queries which had been raised with the Garda Síochána.

Part B – Meeting with Garda Síochána representatives

Attendance

Authority and Executive: As above

Garda Síochána: Joseph Nugent (Chief Administrative Officer), Orla McPartlin (Assistant Commissioner, Western Region), David Sheahan (Assistant Commissioner, Roads Policing), Kevin Daly (Superintendent), David Gilbride (Executive Director, Strategy and Transformation), Alan Mulligan (Acting Executive Director, HRPD), Paul Franey (Inspector, Strategic Planning Unit), Lois West (Garda Síochána Analysis Service), Catherine Heffernan (Policing Authority Liaison Office)

Apologies: John Twomey (Deputy Commissioner, Policing and Security), John O'Driscoll (Assistant Commissioner, Special Crime Operations)

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. The third report is currently being finalised and it is expected that it will be submitted shortly. Garda Síochána representatives stated that the classification of the final two cases in the batch have been agreed upon. Garda Síochána representatives agreed that there are a number of major issues regarding data quality and duplicate records, and noted that the Interim Chief Data Officer is looking at the matter. The Committee Chair stated that it is the Committee's intention to invite the Chief Data Officer to appear before the Committee to discuss the plan regarding same. The Committee reiterated that there is a need for an appreciation of the significance of data throughout the organisation and Garda Síochána representatives accepted this.

The Committee Chair stated that the Committee wishes to be made aware of any major investigative issues which may arise during the homicide review.

10. Action plan in response to the Crowe Horwath report

The action plan is to be reviewed and is expected to be submitted to the Policing Authority before the Authority meeting on the 22nd of November. Garda Síochána representatives proposed a meeting between the Executive and the Garda Síochána to discuss the detail of the plan. The Executive agreed to explore holding this meeting as soon as possible.

11. Policing Plan performance evaluation September/October

The Committee Chair welcomed the timely submission of the report and recognised the quality of the report. It was noted that there has been some very positive, tangible progress in some areas, including burglaries and PSUs.

Other key points to note include the following:-

Hate crime: Garda Síochána representatives stated that the new definition (which is based on the Macpherson definition) has gone to the Executive Team in recent days. A consultation day will take place on 17 December 2018 in Harcourt Square. It is expected that the definition will be approved in early 2019 and that a media campaign will follow in Q1 2019.

Integrated training strategy: Garda Síochána representatives stated that work had been done to refine a draft developed earlier this year. HRPD representatives are due to meet with the Strategic Transformation Office and the Garda College this week regarding the strategy. It is expected that the strategy will be submitted to the Executive team by the end of the month and will be ready for implementation in 2019.

Development of a risk assessment tool for domestic abuse and sexual crime: Garda Síochána representatives committed to providing a status update at the private meeting between the Policing Authority and the Garda Commissioner on 22 November 2018. The Committee Chair informed the Garda Síochána that this may form the basis for the thematic section of one of the 2019 meetings.

Organised crime risk matrix: Garda Síochána representatives committed to providing a status update at the private meeting between the Policing Authority and the Garda Commissioner on 22 November 2018.

Policing Plan: The Committee noted the improvement in the quality and quantity of information provided in progress updates. The Committee noted that any changes in initiatives resulting from changed circumstances and plans during the year should be discussed and agreed by both the Authority and the Garda Síochána. The Committee also noted the need to include in this year's planning for the Policing Plan specific consideration of how reasonable changes during the year could be captured.

Community policing framework: Garda Síochána representatives stated that the new community policing framework was discussed by the senior leadership team on Tuesday last and is due for further discussion on Wednesday next. It is expected that a pilot will take place in the four divisional model pilot areas in Q1 2019, and it was noted that the approach would be varied to take account of local circumstances. A review will follow the pilot.

Corrective actions: Garda Síochána representatives agreed to look at this area and include data in the next report. They indicated their intention to raise the issue of quality of corrective actions at the next senior leadership meeting.

12. Policing Plan 2019 development

Garda Síochána representatives stated that it is intended to roll over Policing Plan targets from 2018 to 2019. It is intended that both the national and local policing plans will publish on 1 April 2019. It is expected that the Policing Authority will receive a draft of the 2019 Policing Plan on 31 January 2019.

The Committee informed the Garda Síochána that there is a need for the whole organisation to be involved in the planning process, and there is a need for ownership of initiatives across the organisation at appropriate levels.

13. Data queries raised by the Policing Authority

Garda Síochána representatives stated that some anomalies in data regarding sexual offences and fraud offences could be accounted for by a data cleaning exercise undertaken by the Garda Síochána, which was previously undertaken by the Central Statistics Office.

Given the complexity of the reasons for apparent discrepancies in data it was agreed that the Garda Síochána Analysis Service would meet with the Policing Authority Executive to discuss the data queries.

14. Any other business

The Committee asked if data is available on use of force, and if such data can be made available to the Policing Authority. The Garda Síochána stated that data is available for use of firearms and use of pepper spray, and clarified the reporting relationship with GSOC on this data. Data is not available for use of handcuffs and use of baton. The Committee informed the Garda Síochána that it wishes to see the available data.

Part C – Private Meeting

15. Review of meeting and planning for subsequent Committee meeting

The Committee agreed that the issue of duplicate records on PULSE needs to be elevated to Authority level.

Actions

No.	Action Point	By Date	By Whom
PSP_029_01	Executive to follow up on use of force statistics	31 Dec	PA
PSP_029_02	Executive to review thematic areas for 2019, and review meeting dates, as discussed	6 Dec	PA
PSP_029_03	Executive to request the interim Chief Data Officer's attendance at the next PSP meeting, and include Data as the primary Agenda item for December	ASAP	PA / GS
PSP_029_04	Executive to amend the draft Terms of Reference to include reference to the Code of Ethics	6 Dec	PA
PSP_029_05	Executive to meet with A/C Roads Policing re the Crowe Horwath Implementation Plan	Before 6 Dec	PA / GS
PSP_029_06	Executive to attend the external consultation event on Hate Crime on the 17 th December	17 Dec	PA / GS
PSP_029_07	GS to provide the draft Training and Development Strategy	Jan 2019	GS
PSP_029_08	GS to provide more detailed update on the domestic violence risk assessment tool at the Nov 22 Authority meeting	Nov 22	GS
PSP_029_09	GS to provide an update on the organised crime risk matrix at the Nov 22 Authority meeting	Nov 22	GS
PSP_029_10	GS to raise the quality and consistency of 'Corrective Actions' listed in the Policing Plan report updates with the Senior Leadership Team	ASAP	GS
PSP_029_11	GS to engage with PA on the 2019 Policing Plan and the 2018 Plan rollover milestones for Q1 2019	Early Dec	GS / PA
PSP_029_12	Executive to meet with GS to discuss the data queries in detail and revert to the Committee	Dec 6	GS / PA
PSP_029_13	Committee Chair to raise the issue of duplicate records at the next Authority meeting	Nov 22	PA