

Joint Policing Committee
ANNUAL REPORT
2016



An Garda Síochána



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE OPERATION OF THE WEXFORD JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE (JPC)

FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2016

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Message from the Chairman

As Chairperson of the County Wexford Joint Policing Committee, I welcome the publication of the 2016 Annual Report. The Report details the key actions of the Committee in delivering on the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2016- 2021 and is an important means of communicating the role and work of the Committee.

The Joint Policing Committee aims to develop greater consultation and co-operation on policing and crime issues between the Gardaí, the local authority, community representatives and elected public representatives. During 2016, the JPC continued to take a strategic approach to its work while also addressing local issues.

The JPC held four meetings during 2016 and a list of the key actions achieved is set out in the Annual Report. Three sub-committees were set up in 2016 to deal with

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs Related Crime
- Crime Prevention and Community Safety

In addition, a Local Policing Forum for Courtown/Riverchapel was established in 2016. I expect these sub-committees to progress the strategic objectives of the Six Year Strategic Plan during 2017.

I wish to record my appreciation to the Chief Superintendent and the local authority for their valued contributions to the work of the Committee. I also wish place on record the excellent level of participation by the elected and community representatives on the Committee.

I would like to thank outgoing members of the Committee for their participation and efforts over the past year. In particular, I would like to thank Jim Walsh, Declan Dunbar J.J. Kavanagh who all retired from the Committee in 2016.

Finally, I would also like to remember my colleague Cllr. Fergie Kehoe, who served on the Committee and passed away in 2016. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Cllr. Michael Whelan

Chairperson

County Wexford Joint Policing Committee

Introduction

The Annual Report 2016 sets out how the County Wexford Joint Policing Committee carried out its functions for this period in accordance with Section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 and in accordance with the revised Joint Policing Committee Guidelines 2014.

Role of Joint Policing Committee

The legislative framework for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees is set out in Section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005.

Section 36(2) provides that the Joint Policing Committee is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local authority's administrative area. The Act refers specifically to the following matters:

- Keep under review
 - (a) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs) and
 - (b) The underlying factors that contribute to these issues.
- Advise the local authority and the Garda Síochána on how they might best perform their functions and do everything feasibly possible to improve the safety and quality of life, to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- Arrange and host public meetings concerning matters affecting the policing of the local authorities administrative area.
- Establish in consultation with the local Garda Superintendent and specific neighbourhoods, local policing fora to discuss and make recommendations to the JPC.
- Co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora.

Key Actions 2016

Adoption of Code of Practice

Adoption of Strategic Six Year Plan

Adoption of Annual JPC Work Plan for 2016

Establishment of three sub-committees:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs Related Crime
- Crime Prevention and Community Safety

Establishment of Local Policing Forum for Courtown/Riverchapel

Chair of JPC, Councillor Michael Whelan met with the Garda Commissioner in New Ross to highlight the filling of Garda vacancies in the Wexford Division and other matters.

Submission to the Garda Inspectorate in relation to the review of Garda Divisions.

Chief Superintendent's Report

At each of the meetings, the Chief Superintendent presented a report to the members of Wexford JPC, setting out the detailed quarterly crime statistics for the Division.

He highlighted many issues including key crime statistics, resources available to the Gardaí, emerging trends and patterns of crime, public order, anti-social behaviour and the misuse of alcohol and drugs.

Members of the JPC regularly highlighted areas of local concern and issues raised were dealt with by the Chief Superintendent. The following is a synopsis of the progress achieved and significant actions taken by An Garda Síochána under the strategic objectives listed in the J.P.C. Annual Work Plan for 2016/2017.

1. Crime Prevention and Community Safety

A Divisional Steering committee was established in May 2016 to oversee the efficient operation and management of Text Alert schemes across the Wexford Division. This committee is chaired by Inspector Denis Whelan, Wexford Garda Station.

2. Planning of Major Events

Following ongoing complaints from residents in the vicinity of Wexford Park, a Major Event Plan was drawn up following consultation with An Garda Síochána, G.A.A., local residents, Wexford Town Council Officials and Wexford Councillors. The agreed plan has worked efficiently throughout National League and Championship games held at the venue in 2017.

3. JPC Communications Strategy

The local print and radio media attend all J.P.C. meetings and report in detail on the agenda items discussed and the decisions made at our quarterly meetings.

4. Working With Local Communities & P.P.N. to reduce Anti Social Behaviour

- a) Local Policing Forum has been established in the Courtown/Riverchapel area comprised of community representatives, Council officials, elected representatives and An Garda Síochána.
- b) As part of agreed actions by An Garda Síochána under the Wexford Age Friendly Alliance, local Garda Crime Prevention Officer and staff from the Divisional Victim Services Office have undertaken to visit all Post Offices in County Wexford to offer advice to the elderly/vulnerable people in our community on crime prevention in the home and when travelling or shopping. These visits will take place each Friday (Pension Day).
- c) As discussed at the steering committee meeting on 7th September, I set out below a list of some of the community projects undertaken by Probationer Gardaí in Co. Wexford as part of their two year training programme;
 - Crime Prevention Promotion – Cromwellsfort area, Wexford Town
 - Suicide Awareness and education in Secondary Schools in Enniscorthy
 - Tackling Boy Racer offences in Enniscorthy
 - Public Order issues in Moran Park, Enniscorthy and surrounding area
 - Engagement with the homeless in Wexford town and in Ozanam House
 - Engagement with Special Olympics Ireland, Wexford town
 - Engagement with 2nd Wexford Scout Group
 - Engagement with residents of Wygram Nursing Home
 - Engagement with the Roma Community, Enniscorthy
 - Engagement with Slaney Garda Youth Diversion Programme, Enniscorthy
 - Engagement with FAB Community Project, Wexford
 - Promotion of Community Text Alert, Enniscorthy
 - Engagement with the “Delightful Dollies” ladies group, Enniscorthy
 - Engagement with users of Community Workshop, Enniscorthy
 - Engagement with persons relocating to Wexford and Enniscorthy under the “Direct Provision Scheme” (Syrian Refugees)

Appendix 1 Joint Policing Meetings held in 2016

Meetings of the Joint Policing Committee were held on the following dates:

8th February 2016

9th May 2016

5th September 2016

20th December 2016

Appendix 2 JPC Membership at 31st December 2016

Name	Organisation/Sector
Cllr. M. Whelan, Chairman	Wexford County Council
Cllr. P. Breen	Wexford County Council
Cllr. G. Carthy	Wexford County Council
Cllr. A. Connick	Wexford County Council
Cllr. K. Codd Nolan	Wexford County Council
Cllr. W. Fitzharris	Wexford County Council
Cllr. J. Fleming	Wexford County Council
Cllr. D. Hynes	Wexford County Council
Cllr. R. Ireton	Wexford County Council
Cllr. A. Kelly	Wexford County Council
Cllr. G. Lawlor	Wexford County Council
Cllr. J. Moore	Wexford County Council
Cllr. B.A. Murphy	Wexford County Council
Cllr. M. Roche	Wexford County Council
Cllr. J. Sullivan	Wexford County Council
Cllr. O. Walsh	Wexford County Council
Mr. Tom Enright	Chief Executive, Wexford County Council
Mr. John Carley	Director of Services, Wexford County Council
Deputy James Browne	Oireachtas Member
Deputy Michael D'Arcy	Oireachtas Member
Vacant	Community & Voluntary Representative (PPN)
Ms. M. Mahon	Community & Voluntary Representative (PPN)
Mr. P. Redmond	Community & Voluntary Representative (PPN)
Mr. T. Byrne	Community & Voluntary Representative
Ms. A. Kehoe	Community & Voluntary Representative
Ms. M. Quinn	Community & Voluntary Representative
Mr. P. Walsh	Community & Voluntary Representative
Chief Superintendent John Roche	An Garda Síochána

Administrative Support to the Joint Policing Committee is provided by:

Mr. P. Collins, County Secretary.

Mr. G. Mackey, Administrative Officer.

Ms. Barbara Byrne, Asst. Staff Officer

Steering Group:

Cllr. Michael Whelan, Chairman of JPC

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive, Wexford County Council

Chief Superintendent John Roche

Mr. John Carley, Director of Services, Wexford County Council

Appendix 4 Code of Practice adopted on 8th February 2017

Joint Policing Committees – Code of Practice.

1. Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) are intended to be a forum for discussion and a means of building confidence and trust, thereby bringing communities together through a process with which all participants feel comfortable. A JPC should engage with local community groups to the greatest degree possible. Such groups are an important resource in tackling the issues addressed by the JPC.
2. Operation

It is recognised that JPCs should be allowed to develop their own agendas and approaches, since one size does not fit all. Nevertheless, JPCs should have regard to the following principles and approaches in their operation.

 - 2.1 A JPC should be strategic. It should not be a forum for addressing matters of detail. It should set priorities and be action oriented.
 - 2.2 It should draw up an annual work programme, which would include realistic targets and indicators to measure implementation. The work programme should set out tasks for each stakeholder in the JPC.
 - 2.3 It should not become a “talking shop”. Discussion of issues should be outcome focused and, in this context, should be of a constructive nature. An excessive amount of meeting time should not be spent on questions and speeches. An oral report or presentation and related questions should last for no longer than 15 minutes. (See paragraph 15.11 of the Guidelines).
 - 2.4 A JPC should aim at developing a cross sectoral strategy and building consensus. Meetings should focus on delivering a partnership approach and not on question and answer sessions directed particularly at any one set of participants. A JPC should not concentrate on presentations and crime statistics.
 - 2.5 While the Garda and local authority partnership is central to the effective operation of the JPC, it is essential that there is a collective approach to assigning and accepting responsibility. JPC members should indicate what they will contribute to its work. All stakeholders have a role to play.
 - 2.6 Possible issues a JPC could focus on are: illegal drugs; CCTV; public order; anti-social behaviour; underage drinking; drinking in public places; consideration of drink licensing applications; vandalism; safer neighbourhoods; estate management (including tenancy enforcement and public lighting); youth diversion; traffic management; planning of major events attracting large crowds, eg. fleadhanna; casual trading; litter; community-based crime prevention initiatives. Consideration of issues should be data and research based – it should not be emotion based.
 - 2.7 JPCs should be pro-active in making constructive inputs in relation to District and Divisional policing plans and relevant local authority plans and initiatives.

JPCs should also support local Garda management and local authority management in relation to any relevant consultation which may arise with respect to Garda or local authority plans.

- 2.8 A JPC should focus on outcomes. It should make recommendations, eg. suggest varying bye-laws or changes to policies and regulation, and set out the reasons for its recommendations.
- 2.9 Each item on the agenda of a meeting should have an action outcome. Provision should be made at an early point on the agenda of each meeting for a review of the status of implementation of recommendations made at the previous or earlier meetings.
- 2.10 The following is a template for JPC agendas:
1. Minutes of previous meeting
 2. Progress on implementation of JPC annual work plan and actions agreed at previous meetings
 3. Reports by An Garda Síochána and local authority representatives, followed by questions on reports
 4. Discussion on specific topics
 5. Actions agreed
 6. Date of next meeting
 7. Any other business
- 2.11 Minutes of each meeting shall be submitted for confirmation as an accurate record at the next following ordinary meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting. Responsibility for preparing the minutes should be assigned to a specified person.
- 2.12 Following each JPC meeting, information should be circulated to members, setting out the issues discussed; the actions to be taken and by whom; a target date for completion; and the date, time and place set for the following meeting (paragraph 15.6 of the Guidelines). This could be facilitated by circulating an updated version of the JPC work plan based on the template in Appendix 2.
- 2.13 JPC and local authority council meetings should not be held so close together that there is a risk of their agendas and consequent discussions becoming intertwined. When scheduling meetings of the JPC, regard should be had to scheduled meetings of other bodies in which members are involved.
- 2.14 While JPCs should have the flexibility to adapt to particular local circumstances (paragraph 1.7 of the Guidelines), it is desirable that they work as far as possible to similar standards.
3. Training
- 3.1 Training should be on a collective basis. It should give participants a thorough knowledge of the potential of the JPCs and the role and responsibilities of members, thereby enabling them to operate the JPCs to their full potential and in the spirit of partnership.

- 3.2 Training of chairpersons is particularly important, as they have a central role in the efficient and effective conduct of meetings. Training should be given inter alia in how to act effectively as facilitator of committees and smaller groups.

4. Joint Co-operation

JPCs are encouraged to bear in mind on an ongoing basis the provisions of section 13 of the Guidelines and, if they consider it appropriate to do so, co-operate and perform joint actions.

5. Communications

- 5.1 A communications strategy is an essential element of the work of JPCs, as indicated in the template in Appendix 2. This strategy must include communications with the public in relation to the work of the JPC and also communications with other local fora.
- 5.2 To raise awareness and support for the work of the JPC full use should be made of existing networks available to Garda and local authority members. Engagement with local community networks should also be maximised to increase the effectiveness of partnership approaches and to prevent duplication of efforts among the various local stakeholders.
- 5.3 This approach may include the production of a periodic JPC newsletter and JPCs should make full use of opportunities to publicise their work through local press and radio and through the use of on-line communications, including social networks.

Appendix 5 Strategic Six Year Plan adopted on 8th February 2016

Wexford JPC Six Year Strategic Plan

Strategic Objectives (Derived from the LECP and which the JPC considers that it can add significantly to achieve the objectives)	Summary of Strategy/Action to be pursued in relation to each Strategy/Action	Lead Agency/Key partners	Measurable outcomes
1	High Priority Objective		
1	Crime Prevention & Community Safety		
1.1	Sub Themes		
1.1	Rural Crime		
1.2	Community Gardai	Gardai Local Communities Text Alert PPN	Number of Community Text Alert Schemes in place. Reduction in Crime
1.3	Support for crime victims including those affected by domestic violence		
1.4	Community Resilience		
	Strategy/ Actions		
	Development of community text alert throughout Co Wexford.		
	Public Awareness Meetings.		
	Multi agency partnerships, planning and Responses.		
	Building Community Resilience		

Appendix 6 Annual JPC Workplan adopted on 8th February 2016

Draft JPC Annual Work plan 2016

Strategic Objectives		Origin	Action	Lead Agency & Key Partners	Timescale for action
High Priority Objectives					
1	Crime Prevention & Community Safety				
	Sub Theme	LECP Garda Policing Plan	Establish five community text alert schemes	Muintir na Tire Gardai	2016
1.1	Rural Crime	JPC Strategic Six year Plan	Traffic management & Road Safety	PPN	
1.2	Community Gardai	PPN Statement of Wellbeing	Planning of Major Events	Local Authority	
1.4	Community Resilience		JPC Communications Strategy		
2	Reduction in Anti Social Behaviour				
	Sub Theme	LECP	Establishment of Pilot Local Policing Fora in Courtown Riverchapel	Gardai	2016
2.2	Youth engagement and participation	Garda Policing Plan	Working with Local Communities and PPN to reduce Anti Social behaviour	Relevant local Agencies	
2.3	Community Engagement	JPC Strategic Six year Plan		Local Community	

3	Misuse of Alcohol & Drugs & related Crime					
3.1	Sub Theme Community & Agency Supports	LECP Garda Policing Plan JPC Strategic Six year Plan Regional Drug Task Force Strategy	Drafting comprehensive County Wide consumption and misuse of alcohol byelaws. Pilot Community Education Programme	Wexford County Council HSE Drug and Alcohol Task Force Gardai. PPN 2016	2016	