

2016-2021

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategy

2016-



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Goal –“Safe Communities” - To Facilitate and Support Kildare as a Safer Place to Live and Work In

Joint Policing Committee Six Year Strategic Plan Kildare County Council 2016- 2021

Goal - Safe Communities – To Facilitate and Support Kildare as a safer place to live and work in

1. Introduction

The Joint Policing Committee (JPC) aims to develop greater consultation, co-operation and synergy on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and elected local representatives and also with the collaboration of the community and voluntary sectors in this regard

Functions of the JPC:

The function of the JPC is set out in section 36(2) of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, 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, and in particular to –

- (a) Keep under review – (i) the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social 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 in 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 (a) or on which it is to advise under paragraph (b), in so far as these matters affect their neighbourhoods,

(e) Co-ordinate the activities of local policing fora established under paragraph (d) or otherwise.

(f) A local authority shall, in performing its functions, have regard to the importance of taking steps to prevent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within its area of responsibility.

County Kildare Joint Policing Committee

County Kildare JPC Committee is made up of 33 members:

- Garda Officers nominated by the Garda Commissioner (2)*
- Local Authority Members (15)*
- Members of the Oireachtas for the Area (7)*
- Local Authority Officials (2)*
- Community Representatives (7)*

Formal JPC meetings are set at 4 times per year. The public can attend all meetings, but one of the meetings is specifically targeted for active participation by the public.

There is a separate commitment to holding local meetings with Municipal District members, these are informal and help facilitate the familiarisation between elected members and local Gardaí to identify and resolve local engagement outside the formal structure of the County JPC.

The Five Municipal Districts in Kildare are;

- *Naas Municipal District*
- *Athy Municipal District*
- *Newbridge-Kildare Municipal District*
- *Maynooth Municipal District*
- *Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District*

2. Background to County Kildare – Statistical Overview - Profile of County Kildare

The JPC received presentations from Garda Authorities and these were combined with statistics from the AIRO (All Ireland Research Observatory, Maynooth University). Baseline data revealed important facts emerging which underpin and inform the Kildare Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) which is the overriding plan covering the economic and social development of the county over the next 6 years.

The plan includes:

- **Population Profile**
- **Urban Rural Mix**
- **Economy and Employment**
- **Sustainable Transport**
- **Housing**
- **Education**

- **Health and Well-being**
- **Safe Communities**
- **Children and Young People**
- **Community, Recreation, Heritage, Arts & Culture**
- **Environmental Quality**

3. **Strategy Development Process**

The LECP plan includes 12 high level goals. Goal 8 states that “Safe Communities” is to facilitate and support Kildare as a safer place to live and work in, because no community or business can function properly in a persistently unsafe environment. Kildare County Council, in partnership with the LCDC, local communities, civil society and the business community will plan and work to ensure that people living in Kildare continue to live and work in a safe environment.

Under the current guidelines each Joint Policing Committee must put in place a six year plan linked to the relevant objectives in the Local Economic and Community Plan of the Local Authority – “The Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2021 (LECP)”. The Annual Policing Plan – “An Garda Síochána Policing Plan 2016, Kildare Division” represents the first instalment of the Garda Operational Plan to deliver the 6 Year Plan.

The consultation process for the County Kildare JPC 6 Year Strategy consisted of two workshops; the first took place in October 2015 consisting of the JPC committee members and the second was conducted as part of the annual public meeting in December 2015 when sixty members of the public attended on the night.

These workshops focused on the following areas:

- (a) Crime
- (b) Community & Policing _
- (c) Activities – Traffic Control, Urban CCTV, Text Alert, Neighbourhood Watch, and Protection of Wildlife
- (d) What can the community itself do?
- (e) What can public bodies do? e.g. Local Authorities, Health Service Executive, Schools, Education Training Board and the Courts Service etc.
- (f) What can the Garda Authorities do?

4. **Strategic Context**

An Garda Síochána in its Policing Plan 2016, for the Kildare Division have high level priorities under:

- National Security and Intelligence – To protect our national interest, mitigate the threat posed by terrorism and contribute to international security.
- National Policing – Deliver a policing service focused on crime prevention, victim orientation and professional investigations.
- Community Safety – Improve public safety through enhanced community engagement and high visibility roads policing.
- Cross Organisation Services – Deliver a professional policing and security service using resources effectively and efficiently.

Kildare County Council, through its planning, environmental and regulatory functions plays a leading role in ensuring public safety, and accordingly the theme of “Safe Communities” is considered an integral element in the LECP planning framework. The JPC plays a central role in determining the priority policing objectives for the county in conjunction with local communities. This is to ensure that local needs are central to future policing plans. **However, the implementation of these plans will largely rest on the ability to redress service provision and increase policing levels.**

Acronyms:

JPC – Joint Policing Committee

AGS – An Garda Síochána

KCC – Kildare County Council

LCDC – Local Community Development Committee

KPPN – Kildare Public Participation Network

SWRDATF – South Western Regional Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce

CYPSC – Children & Young –People’s Services Committees

NEPS – National Educational Psychological Service

KWETB – Kildare and Wicklow Education Training Board

The Plan:

The plan is laid out below in table format and includes a list of 'Strategic Objectives' which are derived from the Local Economic and Community Plan and include relevant objectives from 'An Garda Síochána Annual Policing Plan 2016 for the Kildare Division'.

Strategic Objectives	Summary of Strategy pursued in relation to each Objective	Lead Agency	Key Partners	Anticipated Outcomes
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<p>1 Garda Resources – To increase the numbers of An Garda Síochána in Kildare in line with national and regional levels.</p>	<p><u>1.1. Garda Resources</u> Marshall the arguments for creating the priority for Kildare to be assigned more Garda resources.</p>	<p>JPC</p>	<p>An Garda Síochána, KCC, LCDC, Kildare Public Participation Network (KPPN)</p>	<p>Greater awareness of the service deficit with progress to redress the imbalance.</p>
<p>2. Crime Prevention</p>	<p><u>2.1. Assignment of Gardaí</u> Assignment of Gardaí to specialist posts such as Community Gardaí, Drugs Specialists</p> <p><u>2.2. Garda Visibility</u> Promote high visibility policing including beat duty / bicycle duty and continue to tackle public disorder and anti-social behaviour and increase the visibility and presence of Gardaí across Kildare, particularly areas that are isolated and are particularly vulnerable to crime.</p> <p><u>2.3 Muintir na Tire – Text Alert</u> The existing collaborative approach by Muintir na Tire and Garda Liaison Officer to be enhanced by more meetings of the groups to take place for feedback and discussion. To consider availing of the PPN Network to</p>	<p>An Garda Síochána, JPC, An Garda Síochána</p>	<p>JPC, KCC KCC – Housing Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2016, JPC, Kildare County Council</p>	<p>Community Gardaí in place to increase visibility and experience of community safety</p> <p>Greater access by rural residents to ongoing Garda presence</p> <p>Local communities actively engaged with An Garda Síochána in promoting</p>

	<p>encourage the setting up of text alert systems. MD meetings to organise text alerts to all/any areas that would like to set up a text alert system.</p> <p><u>2.4 Implement the New Garda Communications Strategy to improve communications to the public</u> More use of social media to alert the public to online community to cyber crimes and scams.</p>	<p>Muintir na Tíre, An Garda Síochána,</p> <p>An Garda Síochána</p>		<p>community based actions.</p> <p>Improved communications to the public</p>
<p>3. Anti Social Behaviour and Street Crime – Making our streets and town centres safer through CCTV</p>	<p><u>3.1 CCTV</u> Examine the National CCTV Guidelines in a local context to endeavour to identify priority actions and operational arrangements</p>	<p>JPC, Kildare County Council,</p>	<p>An Garda Síochána ,</p>	<p>Optimise the opportunity of getting national funding, having first examined the requirements of how the guidelines fit under the local needs.</p>

4. Misuse of Drugs, Alcohol and Related Crime	<p><u>4.1 Community Based Projects</u> Promote and support community based projects that target efforts against drugs and alcohol misuse. Engage with the SWRDATF on the roll out of any programme.</p> <p><u>4.2 Nomination to SWRDATF Sub-Group</u> Nomination of Representatives to SWRDATF Alcohol Sub Group in order to lead out community Action on Alcohol Programme for each local area. (Sub group established in Celbridge in May 2016)</p>	<p>SWR DATF ,</p> <p>SWR DATF ,</p>	<p>JPC , An Garda Síochána</p> <p>KCC, JPC</p>	<p>Establishment of pilot projects that have meaningful impacts locally</p> <p>JPC to receive regular updates from the subgroup</p>
5. Wildlife Protection and Cruelty to Animals	<p><u>5.1 Wildlife Protection & Cruelty to Animals.</u> Support the ongoing joint intelligence driven operations and initiatives between An Garda Síochána and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Increase initiatives to respond to Cruelty to Animals.</p>	<p>JPC, An Gard a Síoch ána,</p>	<p>Kildare County Council Schools and KWETB</p>	<p>Increased public awareness of Wildlife Crime Prevention measures and increased initiatives to respond to cruelty to animals. “Children are the conscience of our community”</p>
6. To increase public safety of newly designed roads and developments across Kildare	<p><u>6. 1 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design</u> An Garda Síochána and KCC working in partnership to use the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) to inform the layout and lighting design for new housing developments in Kildare and to consider when and where CCTV use is appropriate. Regular engagement/discussion between AGS and KCC in</p>	<p>KCC (Plan ning, Road s and Housi ng)</p>	<p>.</p>	<p>Increased safety in Kildare by design for passive surveillance.</p>

	planning and design of housing.	An Garda Síochána, JPC		
7. To Liaise with Older People in the county through the Kildare Older Persons Council	<p><u>7.1 Older Persons</u> To facilitate active engagement of Older People in County Kildare through representation from the Kildare Older Persons Council on the JPC . To help older persons in Kildare protect themselves from crime by increasing engagement with the Crime Prevention Unit. Assignment of a Garda Officer to engage with the Older Persons Council.</p>	An Garda Síochána, JPC , Older Persons Council , Kildare County Council		Improved public satisfaction amongst older persons and reduced fear of crime.
8.To strengthen the relationship between An Garda Síochána and the local community, with a particular focus on children	<p><u>8.1 Engagement with Children and Young People</u> Consolidate the delivery of the Garda schools programme in the county. Interaction with new Garda Youth Diversion Contracts in Kildare Division. Engagement with children and young people through</p>	An Garda Síoch	Local Schools, KWETB, Kildare Youth Services (KYS)	More positive perception of role of An Garda Síochána in the community, especially among children & young people.

and young people	a variety of initiatives within the community working with schools, sports clubs, Comhairle na Nóg and other agencies working with children and young people.	ána, JPC,	Kildare Public Participation Network	
	<u>8.2 Community Based Activities</u> Engage in relevant community-based activities e.g. late night leagues, family fun days, community festivals, Mens Sheds and events.	An Gard a Síochána with community partners, FAI, Kildare County Council		
To strengthen inter-agency relationships and the inter-agency response to identified issues.	<u>8.3 Interagency Initiatives</u> Continued participation in a range of relevant inter-agency structures and initiatives including Kildare Children & Young People’s Services Committee (CYPSC), Multi-agency Adolescent Forum (MAAF),	An Gard a Síochána,	Teach Tearmainn, Kildare Youth Services, others	Enhanced communication within and between organisations. More effective, coordinated and responsive service to

	<p>Community Response to death by suspected suicide, Critical Incident policy, Meitheal. To aim to facilitate the collaborative approach in identifying joint and shared actions that would identify where children are at risk by holding a Children & Young Peoples' "Forum" as part of the JPC Annual Public Meeting.</p>	<p>JPC, KCC, Tusla , HSE, NEPS ,</p>		<p>children, young people and the wider community. Enhanced continuous professional development opportunities for staff. Enhanced quality of service provision.</p>
	<p><u>8.5 Interagency Training</u> Support for the development and delivery of inter-agency training on common themes e.g. Child protection, domestic violence, mental health/suicide awareness.</p>	<p>As above</p>		
<p>9. To support the local implementation of the National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual & Gender-based Violence</p>	<p><u>9.1 Training</u> Development and support of training (including inter-agency).</p>	<p>An Garda Síochána, Teach Tairmainn, Tusla & other relevant partners</p>		<p>Enhanced quality of response to victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. Enhanced understanding of best practice in relation to responding to victims of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.</p>
	<p><u>9.2 Referral Protocols</u> Development of referral protocols.</p>	<p>An Garda</p>		

		a Síochána, Teach Tearmainn, Tusla & other relevant partners		
	<u>9.3 Interagency Co-operation</u> Promote inter-agency co-operation.	An Garda a Síochána, Teach Tearmainn, Tusla & other relevant partners		

