

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee

Annual Report 2011

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee was established on the 26th October 2007. The Committee continues to provide a forum for representatives from An Garda Síochána, South Dublin County Council, Oireachtas members and Community representatives, to make an important contribution to addressing issues relating to crime locally, to get together in a regular and structured way to consult with each other, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of South Dublin County. Working in partnership with local communities has proved to be an effective method of tackling local issues, and plays an important and significant role in developing strategy and policy for the reduction of crime.

South Dublin County has a long tradition of statutory agencies and voluntary and community organisations working together and sharing information and resources. The Joint Policing Committee is seen here in South Dublin County as another mechanism to further develop this work. Reports on the Joint Policing Committee meetings are circulated and discussed where necessary at the South Dublin County Council meetings, South Dublin County Development Board meetings, Social Inclusion Measures Sub-Committee Meetings and internal Staff meetings of South Dublin County Council

The commitment from the Elected Representatives, Community Organisations, Local Authority officials and the Gardai will also continue and it is fully recognised by all involved that one agency working alone cannot address the difficulties and challenges that are facing local communities. The work of the three Local Policing Fora and their role and reporting relationship to the JPC fully increases community involvement and trust in the work of the committee.

South Dublin County Council continues to provide the administrative backup needed to support the work of the Joint Policing Committee.

Section 1 – South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee Work Plan

	Priority Issue	Actions taken in relation to each priority issue	Persons Responsible (JCP or JPC Committee)	Timescale for Action	Summarise Progress Achieved
1	To carry out an audit of existing Community Safety Projects/ Initiatives in South Dublin	Map all Community safety projects /initiatives operating in the County including: Safety Forums Transport Safety Forums Garda Diversions Projects Drugs Task Forces Safety Initiatives	JPC	Draft Available Summer 2011	A list of all groups in the County is completed
2	To promote positive crime prevention and community safety initiatives through the media and the web page of South Dublin County JPC	To increase the activity on the existing webpage allowing members and organisations to include information on community safety initiatives/projects JPC Executive to contact organisations who may wish to forward items for inclusion on the site	JPC Executive (Supplied by SDCC) Support of local Community and statutory organisations	Ongoing	Website is in place Work is continuing to ensure content is up to date and relevant http://jpc.southdublin.ie/
3	Deter crime and anti-social behaviour in public parks Implementation of the recommendations included in “Reclaiming our Parks	Set up sub-group to implement the report Group to be set up early 2011 and formalise local arrangements in parks. Reports to be prepared for each Joint Policing Committee meeting	JPC Committee with support from Parks Department SDCC.	Ongoing	The Sub-group met throughout 2011 and recommendations have been acted on regarding safety teams and the LA is looking at signage. Contact has been made with the Minister for Justice on the sale of alcohol
4	To support Community CCTV Programs in South Dublin County	To provide ongoing support for the following Community CCTV schemes in South Dublin County	Gardai and Local Authority		CCTV is being monitored 24/7 in the Jobstown, Brookfield, Killinarden and Fettercairn areas of Tallaght at Tallaght Garda Station and complements the

		<p>North Clondalkin Jobstown Fettercairn and Brookfield Killinarden</p> <p>A reduction in the incidents of crime and vandalism in areas where CCTV schemes are in 9</p> <p>24/7 Monitoring of Community CCTV schemes in South Dublin County</p>			<p>Garda Scheme for the Town Centre area.</p> <p>CCTV in Clondalkin Community areas will be monitored in Ronanstown Garda Station following completion of the refurbishment of the station and the installation of the necessary IT Equipment.</p>
5	<p>To provide continued support for Pro-social initiatives in the County</p> <p>To support inter agency projects such as the Children Services Committee Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative Family Functional Therapy (CPLN Partnership) Drugs Task Forces Football night leagues Organised bonfires Social Integration projects</p> <p>To support pro-social projects by improved coordination between Gardai, SDCC and Community Representatives</p>	<p>To develop a close liaison between the JPC and its members and inter agency projects in the County. Regular reporting to the JPC on initiatives throughout the County</p>	<p>JPC members CSC Committee CDI Local Partnerships Community/Voluntary Sector Local Drugs Task Forces FAI</p>	Ongoing	<p>South Dublin County has a large number of pro-social initiatives which are managed and directed by inter-agency working groups. This has resulted in partnerships on Night-Time Leagues, Halloween events, social integration projects, Community Safety Initiatives, Traveller Focused Events. The JPC has allowed a closer liaison between the Gardai, Council and Community Organisations Reports are circulated on initiatives to the JPC</p> <p>This will continue into 2012</p>
6	<p>To identity unfinished Estates in the County which are currently a source of anti- social behaviour To reduce the</p>	<p>Two sites have been identified in the County where there have been incidents of anti- social behaviour and work will continue here</p>	<p>Local Authority, Gardai, Local Community Groups, Local Residents, CDI, HSE, Local Schools,</p>	Ongoing	<p>Two estates were identified in the County by JPC members as in need of particular intervention in 2009. An initiative was set up to target resources both financial and human to improve</p>

	<p>incidents of anti-social behaviour that are occurring around near or unfinished estates.</p> <p>To support the Mayors Initiative in identified areas.</p>		<p>Housing Agencies where appropriate, Area Partnerships</p>		<p>the situation.</p> <p>Both areas have improved physically with works by the Local Authority and cooperation from the local community. Community Development work has been intensive to build up the capacity of residents to identify and respond to problems. This work involved an interagency approach and has provided a model of community development and will continue into 2012. Learning gained will also assist in future projects.</p>
7	<p>To plan for events attracting large crowds</p> <p>To build on the good working relationship between the Gardai, South Dublin County Council, the Community and other stakeholders co-ordinating events</p>	<p>To ensure that events attracting large crowds are a safe and enjoyable experience for all those who live, work and visit South Dublin County</p>	<p>SDCC Gardai CPLN Partnership Partas Dodder Valley Partnership Gardai SDCC Public Transport providers Local Communities Local Businesses</p>		<p>Events have been held in Tallaght Stadium which have proved successful. A number of other events have been held throughout the County which attracted large crowds. The cooperation between the community, Gardai and LA has resulted in a safe and enjoyable experience for those attending. The experiences have resulted in improved cooperation.</p>
8	<p>To improve the process of engagement and interaction between local community reps. An Garda Siochana, Elected Representatives, South Dublin County Council, Local Drugs Task Forces on matters concerns concerning community safety.</p>	<p>Support the work of the three pilot local policing fora in the County</p> <p>Each local policing fora will report to the JPC meeting</p> <p>Consider recommendations of the Local Policing Fora</p> <p>Support for public and other meetings organised by the Local Policing Fora</p>	<p>Joint Policing Committee</p>		<p>Three Local Policing Forums have now been set up. The LA and the Gardai are committed to these groups and have provided representation at the highest level. This has allowed decisions to be made quickly and where necessary allowed resources be channelled to address problems. 8 Public meetings held in 2011</p>

9	<p>Support the recommendations contained in the National Commission on Restorative Justice by increasing relations with the Restorative Justice Service in Tallaght</p> <p>Build on relationship between the Restorative Justice Service and the JPC to work with the Restorative Justice Service located in South Dublin County on a pilot project</p>	<p>Presentation to JPC</p> <p>Establish relationship between JCP Committee and Restorative Justice Services as outlined in the National Commission on Restorative Justice</p> <p>Devise pilot project between the JPC and the Restorative Justice Services which will look at tackling anti-social behaviour using restorative practices</p>	<p>Gardai SDCC Restorative Justice Service - Tallaght Local Community</p>		<p>Restorative Justice Service has close contact with the Joint Policing Committee and has presented here. Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) has presented their school restorative practice initiative at the May JPC meeting. CDI have also conducted training in restorative practice. The Garda Siochana introduced a new Problem Solving Initiative in 2011 called SARA. (See Item 2 for more details)</p>
10	<p>Consultation with Young People</p> <p>Consult with Young People in the County regarding community safety</p>	<p>Contact is ongoing with South Dublin Comhairle na nÓg</p>	<p>Gardai SDCC Comhairle na nÓg Youth Services Local Community</p>	<p>Deferred to 2012</p>	<p>Contact is ongoing with South Dublin Comhairle na nÓg. The opportunity of addressing the JPC has been offered. The Comhairle have a number of projects ongoing and have agreed to look at this again particularly as part of the new Communications Initiative.</p>
11	<p>Anti-social behaviour in Private Rented Accommodation</p>	<p>Presentation from the Health Services Executive on its role in combating anti-social behaviour among a minority of tenants in Private Rented Accommodation</p>	<p>HSE, SDCC, Gardai and Safety Forums</p>		<p>Following representation from the Local Policing For a, a request has been made to the HSE for representation. Meanwhile, the Community Welfare Service has been transferred to the Dept. of Social Protection. It was agreed by the Steering Committee to place this item on the 2012 workplan once departmental changes are carried out. Contact will be also made with the Private Rental Tenancy Board .</p>

Section 2

Advice/Recommendations provided by the Joint Policing Committee to the local authority and the Gardai during the year

The JPC has discussed many different problems at the meetings, agreement was given in many cases to target problems areas and look at initiatives which would benefit the area. This has worked well in the past. In South Dublin County, the Gardai and the Local Authority have a good working relationship. Contact is made both at Senior Level, through the JPC and other inter-agency committees and also at operational level with the Community and Housing Departments and the Community Section and Juvenile Liaison Section of the Gardai. Details of the inter-agency approach work are contained in the work plan. The following is a sample:

Safety in Parks

The Joint Policing Committee set up a subgroup in 2010 to look at safety in public parks. This group provided a comprehensive report to the Joint Policing Committee which listed recommendations. Following consideration of the report, the JPC set up a small working group to monitor progress on the implementation of the recommendations which involve both the Gardai and the Local Authority. This group report to each meeting of the JPC.

Intimidation

Following reports from members of the JPC and recommendations from the South Dublin County Community Platform, the JPC has set up a small working group to look at this. The JPC requested that both the Gardai and Local Authority officials are involved.

CCTV

The Joint Policing Committee considers that CCTV is an important tool in combating crime and anti-social behaviour. Both the County Council and the Gardai are working closely together to ensure that the CCTV schemes in this County are successful in terms of prevention and intervention.

Areas experiencing difficulty

At some meetings, discussion takes place about problems in specific areas. These difficulties can be identified by community representatives, Gardai, elected representatives and the Local Authority. Following discussion, some opportunities or initiatives might be identified. In some cases, intensive monitoring or operations will be targeted at the area and a report brought back to the JPC. This has work to the benefit of the local community. Some areas were identified in the work plan and intensive work was carried out on an interagency basis.

SARA Training

During 2011 The Garda Siochana introduced a new problem solving initiative called SARA Training. This has been supported by the JPC and being rolled out as follows:

DMRS

6 SARA training sessions took place between November and December 2011 in Jobstown, Fettercairn, Killinarden, Tymon, and Ballyroan. The sessions were attended by residents, Community Gardaí, Council staff and Youth Workers along with staff from other agencies. There were 80 participants in total. Participants were encouraged to begin using the SARA model in their communities as soon as possible, and a record of SARA groups is being kept by Tallaght Gardaí. Consideration is currently being given to scheduling further sessions depending on demand.

DMRW

2 SARA training sessions took place on 5th and 12 December in Clondalkin Garda Station and Kilcronan Community Centre. There were in total 11 Community Participants, 4 SDCC staff and 9 Gardai involved in the training.

Review of Local Policing Fora

At the request of members, the JPC initiated a review of the workings of the local policing for a. A meeting was held with the Chair of the JPC, Senior Gardai, Local Authority and members of the Local Policing For a. Changes in the reporting structure was agreed between the JPC and the LPC and a better exchange of information between the committees and the public was also agreed as a plan for 2012.

Section 3

Public Meetings

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee set up three Local Policing Fora which are located in Tallaght, Clondalkin and North Clondalkin. The public meetings are organised by the Local Policing Fora and supported by the Joint Policing Committee. The relevant Superintendents/Chief Superintendents with Inspectors and Community Garda attend these meetings together with the County Council Director of Housing and staff in the Housing and Community Departments. This commitment by the most senior Gardai and Local Authority officials has been recognised by the local policing fora members and the local community. This also allows the most senior staff in both organisations to hear the difficulties, fears and concerns first hand from residents.

The following issues have been raised at public meetings and again at Local Policing Fora meetings in all three areas:

- Intimidation – residents continue to report high levels of fear, making it difficult to encourage people to report crime
- CAB seizures – a suggestion has been made that proceeds be channelled into positive activities in the community where the seizure has taken place
- There seems to be an increase in difficulties with tenants in private rented accommodation, or with private accommodation that has been left vacant and attracting anti social behaviour
- Currently there is no HSE representation on Local Policing Forum Management Committees. Following the initial LPF review it has been suggested that a letter be sent to the relevant Ministers requested support from the HSE.

The Local Policing Fora provide a report to each meeting of the Joint Policing Committee and the agenda allows for consideration and discussion. The Local Drugs Task Forces are represented on each of the Local Policing Fora.

Contact is ongoing with the Health Service Executive regarding representation on the Local Policing For a.

Following reports from the Local Policing Fora which expressed concern regarding intimidation, the Joint Policing Committee has recently established a working group to look at intimidation of residents in this County. The Chair of the JPC requested representation from both the Gardai and the County Council relevant departments and community representation. A report from this group will form part of the agenda for Joint Policing Committee Meetings in 2012.

Public meetings were held as follows in 2011

Area	Date
Tallaght - Fettercairn	18 th January
Clondalkin	10 th February
Tallaght- Brookfield	22 nd March
Clondalkin	9 th June
Tallaght - Brookfield	28 th June
Clondalkin	15 th September
North Clondalkin	11 th October
Tallaght - Jobstown	12 th October

Section 4 – Record of Meetings held in 2011 and list of members

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee held four meetings held in 2011.

13th May 2011 (8th July 2011	16th September 2011	2nd December 2011
Chairperson: Cllr. Gus O’Connell			
Name of Member	Organisation of which member	Title	No. Meetings attended
Mayor Cllr. Catriona Jones	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	2
Councillor Paddy Cosgrave	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	4
Councillor Máire Devine	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	4
Councillor Gino Kenny	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	2
Councillor Matthew Mc Donagh	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	3
Councillor Guss O’ Connell	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	4
Councillor Pamela Kearns	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	0
Councillor William Lavelle	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	2
Councillor Brian Lawlor	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	2
Councillor Colm Brophy	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	1
Councillor Emma Coburn	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	2
Councillor John Lahart	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	3
Councillor Eamonn Walsh	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	3
Councillor John Hannon	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	2
Councillor Breda Bonner	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	1
Robert Dowds T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.	1
Derek Keating T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Alex White T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Sean Crowe T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.	1
Eamon Maloney T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.	1
Chief Superintendent John Manley	Garda Siochana	Chief Superintendent	3
Chief Superintendent Declan Coburn	Garda Siochana	Chief Superintendent	2
County Manager - Joe Horan	South Dublin County Council	County Manager	2
Billy Coman SDCC	South Dublin County Council	Director of Housing and Community	3
Jim Lawlor	Community Forum		4
Tom Aspil	Community Forum		1
Michelle Kearns	Community Platform		3

Some changes were made to the Committee following the General Election in February.

The County Manager and the Chief Superintendents arrange for representation on their behalf if absent.