



Report from PPN Community Safety Linkage Group

Members circulated a report on the latest JPC meeting. It was agreed that there have been some improvements in format. However, there are members who felt that the reporting of Garda statistics would benefit from a review. The older template used allowed for better understanding from a non-garda perspective. There used to be a comments section that provided clarity on some issues that in the revised format is now missing. There is an understanding as to why a comparison of crime figures between this year and last year is required for data returns, but for the JPC, time would be better spent on issuing the statistics ahead of the JPC and noting the documents as read. On the day of JPC, superintendent Gardai can instead highlight issues of concern they feel are a priority and take specific questions about their document from the floor. This would allow the JPC to support the Gardai as a collective and devise collective strategies for addressing priorities in each district. This is what the JPC is supposed to be doing. It was also suggested that the JPC guidelines be circulated again to Gardai and Councillors and Reps to refresh their minds on the purpose of the JPC ahead of the training workshop proposed.

CCTV

CCTV is an ongoing matter for discussion. There are a number of projects up and running and others that are awaiting approval for a number of years. Questions about how to progress applications and GDPR implications are still unclear. The Linkage Group members are aware that a working group was established a number of years ago in Fingal County Council, but that there was no update or report from that group circulated. Is the group still in existence? Were there any documents to clarify where this is at? It was proposed that the Linkage Group submit a question to the JPC ahead of the next meeting to clarify. Proposed Question is:

Can Fingal County Council provide a report to the linkage group on the CCTV strategy for all of Fingal for the next 5-10 years?

The strategy document should address current guidelines for communities throughout Fingal on how are decisions made currently on installation (who signs off on priorities?), How are pilot schemes submitted and to whom? What funding grants available and what are the GDPR implications associated with installation?

Community Policing

Community policing throughout Fingal is not standardised in terms of engagement and visibility. Some representatives have noted that engagement is quite strong while others feel that there is no visibility at all. It was suggested that there be a presentation from the gardai specifically on community policing strategy. This could also be linked into the Garda divisional plan priorities. Again, if members know what the priorities are, we could work on a joint local strategy to support implementation.

JPC Collaboration and the role of Fingal

Members felt that the JPC is very Gardai focussed at present and that the County council and local councillors have a role to play other than asking questions of the gardai. If the JPC is to be effective, there is a need for joint efforts to be made on developing collaborative approaches to problems and working on gathering funding and supports for areas based on need. The JPC at present is based on reporting and listening rather than active participation.

Abandoned Cars

A major recurring issue is the need to understand what happens when abandoned cars are reported. This matter has been raised on a number of occasions at the JOC. While the legislation and Fingal strategy has been addressed, the Linkage Group would like to know what happens next? When a car has been identified and reported, who is responsible for dealing with the actual removal of the vehicle?