

DÚN LAOGHAIRE - RATHDOWN JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

Six Year Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028



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Cllr Carrie Smyth
Chairperson of DLR
Joint Policing Committee



Frank Curran
Chief Executive DLR



Matthew Nyland
Chief Superintendent
Dublin Metropolitan Region East Division

Foreword

It is our great privilege to launch this six-year Strategic Plan. This is the second Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Strategic Plan and sets out our strategic objectives, taking into consideration key safety issues for the community in DLR for the period 2023-2028. It will form the basis of our annual work plans for implementation of the strategy.

During the process of developing this plan, consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders and members of the public to seek their views on the draft high-level objectives and associated actions, and we thank all who took part. This consultation focused on the 4 key areas below.

1. Supporting and promoting Crime Prevention in DLR
2. Enhancing safer communities in DLR
3. Supporting Victims and the Vulnerable
4. Facilitating Community Engagement and Collaboration on Safety Issues

We would like to sincerely thank everybody involved in the development of this DLR JPC Strategic Plan including the DLR JPC members, supported by the JPC Steering Committee of senior members of An Garda Síochána and dlrc's Community, Cultural Services and Parks Department. We look forward to seeing the implementation of the strategy and are confident that it will contribute to a safer DLR.

Background & Introduction

The legislative framework for the establishment of Joint Policing Committees is set out in Section 36 of An Garda Síochána Act 2005. Section 36(2) of the Act states that *'The JPC's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority administrative area and in particular to –*

***A:** Keep under review the levels and patterns crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in that area (including the patterns and levels of misuse of alcohol and drugs), and 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 within 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 Superintendents, 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 those matters affect their neighbourhoods,*

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

A JPC was formed in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown in April 2009 following the issuing of guidelines jointly by the Minister for Justice Equity & Law Reform and the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government in 2008. The Department of Justice and Equality, following a review of the operation of JPC's, issued revised guidelines governing the operation of the Joint Policing Committees in August 2014. Further guidelines were published by the Policing Authority in 2022 and they replace all previous guidelines which are now withdrawn.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown JPC membership

The dlr JPC consists of:

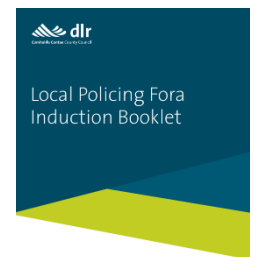
- 15 elected members
- 5 Oireachtas members
- 2 Local Authority Officials
- 3 Senior Garda members
- 9 Community and Voluntary members

A list of the current membership is in appendix 1.

Our progress: 2016-2021

Key achievements

- 4 Local Policing Fora successfully operating in the DLR area
- Local Policing Fora Induction Booklet
- Ongoing support for 3 Garda Youth Diversion Projects in the Division
- Hosted JPC and LPF public meetings
- Commissioned a Needs Assessment for Provision of a Domestic Violence Refuge in the DLR Area.
- Funding sought and approved by the Department of Justice for a ten unit Domestic Violence refuge for DLR area
- Review of Local Policing Fora in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown carried out
- Victim of Crime Support Office established in Dún Laoghaire
- Ongoing support in the implementation of the DLR Age Friendly Strategy
- JPC was addressed by Commissioner Harris at the February 2020 meeting.
- The plan was extended in 2022 and 2023 and annual work plans were put in place for each year.



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown



Local Policing Fora

Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 provides the legislative framework for the setting up of a Local Policing Forum.

LPF provides a mechanism through which the community, the Gardai, the local authority (and public representatives, other statutory agencies and other stakeholders as required) come together in a structured way to identify issues related to:

- Policing in your area
- Anti-social behaviour
- Estate Management

There are 4 Local Policing Fora operating in the Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown area:

- Ballybrack/Loughlinstown/Shankill
- Central Dun Laoghaire
- Dundrum/Stillorgan
- Sandyford/Stepaside

These Local Policing Fora can discuss and make recommendations to the JPC concerning crime and anti-social behaviour and those matters that impact on the ability of those living and working in the area to feel safe and to be safe

Operation of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee

While the Garda and DLRCC partnership is central to the JPC it is essential that there is a collective approach to assigning and accepting responsibility for the effective operation of the JPC and the implementation of the strategy.

- The JPC presents an opportunity for consultation and an exchange of views, but ultimately it must find ways to coordinate its resources and prioritise actions that deliver solutions for the community.
- A JPC is focused on improving the safety and quality of life within an area so that it can be a safe community in which to live and work. JPC members should indicate what they will contribute to its work. All stakeholders have a role to play.
- All members should promote the work, achievements and success of the JPC through all channels of communication.
- The current guidelines state that this JPC should be strategic. It should not be a forum for addressing matters of detail. It should set priorities and be action orientated.
- Each JPC must prepare a multi-year strategic plan. The Dún Laoghaire Rathdown JPC inaugural plan covered the period 2016-2021 (plan extended in 2022/2023) and this new plan will cover the period 2023-2028.

Garda Division covered by the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee

The area covered by the DLR Joint Policing Committee overlaps almost exactly with the Dublin Metropolitan Region East (**DMR East**) Division. Chief Superintendent Matthew Nyland is responsible for the Division. There are two Districts in this Division: Superintendent Fergal Harrington covers the Dún Laoghaire District and Superintendent Gordon Woulfe covers the Blackrock District. Superintendent Brian O' Keeffe has responsibility for the Detective Units in the Division.

There are three Garda stations in the Dún Laoghaire District '**F**': Cabinteely, Dún Laoghaire, and Shankill, and there are also three Garda stations in the Blackrock District '**W**': Blackrock, Dundrum and Stepside.



At the extremities of the Division there are areas which are covered by the DLR Joint Policing Committee which fall into other Divisions i.e. to the west of the Division, Marlay Park is in the DMR South and to the north of the Division, the Woodbine/Boosterstown areas are in the DMR South Central Division.

| Chief Superintendent Matthew Nyland DMR East | | |
|--|--|---|
| Superintendent Fergal Harrington (Dún Laoghaire District) | Superintendent Gordon Woulfe (Blackrock District) | Superintendent Brian O' Keeffe (Detective Units) |
| 1.Cabinteely Garda Station | 1.Blackrock Garda Station | |
| 2.Dún Laoghaire Garda Station | 2.Dundrum Garda Station | |
| 3.Shankill Garda Station | 3.Stepaside Garda Station | |

An Garda Síochána

The DMR East Division consists of Garda Members and Staff attached to the following Units:

| | |
|--|---|
| Regular Units | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frontline policing • Respond to calls • Investigate crime |
| District Detective Units | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate more serious & complex crimes |
| Drugs Unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the possession and sale & supply of drugs |
| Burglary Response Unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate & prevent burglaries |
| Divisional Protective Services Unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate sexual crimes & domestic abuse |
| Child Protection Unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safety & welfare concerns |
| Juvenile Liaison Officers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with juvenile offenders to prevent reoffending |
| Scenes of Crime Unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification & collection of forensic evidence at crime scenes |
| Warrants/Summons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service of warrants & summonses |
| Roads Policing Unit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring road traffic & road safety |
| Victim Services Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information and updates to victims |
| Court Presenters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation & presentation of prosecuting cases in the District Court |
| Community Policing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement |
| Crime Prevention Officer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime prevention & security advice |

Setting objectives for the multi-year Strategic plan

The current guidelines state that each JPC must make a multi-year strategic plan which links with other appropriate plans and strategies.

This Strategic Plan takes cognisance of the following documents:

- Draft DMR East Garda Policing Plan 2023
- The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Local Economic and Community Plan
- An Garda Síochána Policing Plan 2022
- An Garda Síochána Strategy Statement 2022-2024

In the development of this strategic plan, the following 4 themes were identified as the priorities for the next 6 six years: Crime Prevention, Safer communities, Victims and the Vulnerable and Community Engagement. High Level objectives and actions were identified under each of the themes and each action has been assigned a lead agency.

The 4 high level objectives are set out below:

- 1. Supporting and promoting Crime Prevention in DLR**
- 2. Enhancing safer communities in DLR**
- 3. Supporting Victims and the Vulnerable**
- 4. Facilitating Community Engagement and Collaboration on Safety Issues**

The plan outlines how, through the work of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee, both partners, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and the Garda Síochána, along with members have the opportunity to contribute to the improved safety and quality of life in the community.

The Consultation Process

As part of the consultation process in developing this plan, the following methods were used to gather comments/suggestions on the draft high level objective and actions in this plan:

1. Workshop

A facilitated workshop was held with dlr JPC members and took place online on the 9th March 2023.

2. Survey

An online survey was developed on dlrc public consultation hub and advertised through the following channels:

- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council website
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Facebook
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Twitter
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Instagram
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Press Release
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network

The survey ran for a period of 4 weeks from 20th April 2023 until the 19th May 2023.

Submissions via post were also facilitated.

3. Stakeholder engagement

Submissions were invited from key stakeholders in the County.

Implementation and Review of the Strategy

This strategy will be achieved across 6 years through implementing annual workplans. Each annual plan will be developed with the JPC members and will contain the priorities to be achieved during that year that will contribute to the achievement of the strategic outcomes set out in this document and drive the strategy forward.

DLR JPC Action plan for 2023-2028

Theme: Crime Prevention

Objective 1: Supporting and Promoting Crime Prevention in DLR

| | Action | Lead |
|-----|---|----------------------------|
| 1.1 | Continue the implementation of high visibility policing in the County | An Garda Síochána |
| 1.2 | Implement campaigns to communicate local crime prevention advice | An Garda Síochána |
| 1.3 | Continue to address the level of burglaries in the County through the implementation of Operation Thor | An Garda Síochána |
| 1.4 | Promote existing crime prevention initiatives (Business Watch, Campus Watch, Lock it Lose it campaign) | An Garda Síochána |
| 1.5 | Continue to address criminal anti-social behaviour in public spaces to keep people safe, and to develop inter-agency Steering Committee's Responses as required | An Garda Síochána DLRCC |

Theme: Safer communities

Objective 2: Enhancing Safer Communities in dlr

| | Action | Lead |
|-----|---|----------------------------|
| 2.1 | Continue to promote and enhance the existing Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Business Watch, Campus Watch, Hospital Watch, Text Alert Scheme and Pendant Alert Scheme and devise other ways of communicating with communities | An Garda Síochána DLRCC |
| 2.2 | Support the delivery of actions as partners in the dlr Age Friendly Strategy 2022-2026 | An Garda Síochána |
| 2.3 | Continue engagement with public transport agencies to tackle anti-social behaviour on public transport | An Garda Síochána |
| 2.4 | Continue to implement high visibility patrols on public transport services and in public areas in the County to tackle anti-social behaviour and improve public safety | An Garda Síochána |

| | | |
|-----|--|----------------------------|
| 2.5 | Consider the need for designing out crime and safety at planning stage of new developments for new and expanding communities and review established developments as required | DLRCC An Garda Síochána |
| 2.6 | Support DLRCC's Road Safety Plan 2022-2030 and road safety improvement plans in the County (including cyclist and pedestrian safety) through Garda enforcement, schools programmes and cycling infrastructure Development. | DLRCC An Garda Síochána |

Theme: Victims and the Vulnerable

Objective 3: Supporting Victims and the Vulnerable

| | Action | Lead |
|-----|---|----------------------------|
| 3.1 | Continue to support provision of Domestic Violence Refuge and related supports/services in the County | DLRCC An Garda Síochána |
| 3.2 | Deliver advice to victims of domestic abuse regarding associated services available to them | An Garda Síochána |
| 3.3 | Explore the establishment and implementation in the County of a multi-agency process that provides an effective support/service to vulnerable persons with mental health issues | An Garda Síochána DLRCC |
| 3.4 | Continue to support victims through the Victims of Crime Office | An Garda Síochána |

Theme: Community Engagement

Objective 4: Facilitating Community Engagement and Collaboration on Safety issues

| | Action | Lead |
|-----|--|----------------------------|
| 4.1 | Local Policing Fora to continue to facilitate engagement between Gardai, local authority and stakeholders to identify community policing and safety issues of concern and work together to find solutions to the issues raised | An Garda Síochána DLRCC |
| 4.2 | Host annual public meeting for the Joint Policing Committee and Local policing Fora operating in the County | An Garda Síochána DLRCC |

| | | |
|-----|---|----------------------------|
| 4.3 | Continue engagement with the DLR Drugs and Alcohol Task Force and seek updates on their work with regular presentations to JPC. | DLRCC An Garda Síochána |
| 4.4 | Continued support for diverse communities in the County. | DLRCC An Garda Síochána |
| 4.5 | Continued implementation of effective community policing to address reporting, policing and safety needs in communities | An Garda Síochána |
| 4.6 | Support and work with relevant organisations to provide support services in the county for young people issues. | DLRCC An Garda Síochána |
| 4.7 | JPC/LPF to engage with the youth in DLR | An Garda Síochána DLRCC |

Appendix 1

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Joint Policing Committee Membership (as at 31st May 2023)

| Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Cllr. Deirdre Donnelly | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Anna Grainger | Elected representative |
| Cllr Kazi Ahmed | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Carrie Smyth (Chairperson) | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Elizabeth Eva Dowling | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Frank McNamara | Elected representative |
| Cllr. John Kennedy | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Lettie McCarthy | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Lorraine Hall | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Mary Hanafin | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Michael Clark | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Oisín O'Connor | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Kate Ruddock | Elected representative |
| Cllr. Shay Brennan | Elected representative |
| Therese Langan | Director of Service, C&CD. |
| Mary Ruane | Senior Executive Officer, C&CD |
| An Garda Síochána | |
| Matthew Nyland | Chief Superintendent |
| Gordon Woulfe | Superintendent |
| Fergal Harrington | Superintendent |
| Community Representatives | |
| Eimear McAuliffe | DLR Public Participation Network |
| Anne Harrington | DLR Public Participation Network |
| Bébhinn Murphy | DLR Public Participation Network |
| Tony McCarthy | DLR Public Participation Network |
| Georgina Potts | Loughlinstown, Shankill LPF |
| Kay Gleeson | Central Dún Laoghaire LPF |
| Liz Roche | Sandyford / Stepside LPF |
| Geoffrey Corry | Dundrum/Stillorgan LPF |
| David Bradshaw | DLR Drugs & Alcohol Task Force |
| Members of the Oireachtas | |
| Deputy Cormac Devlin | Member of the Oireachtas |
| Deputy Jennifer Carroll MacNeill | Member of the Oireachtas |
| Deputy Josepha Madigan | Member of the Oireachtas |
| Deputy Neale Richmond | Member of the Oireachtas |
| Senator Barry Ward | Member of the Oireachtas |