

**Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held on-line over Microsoft Teams, Cavan on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 at 3pm.**

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**Present:**

**Councillors:** Cllr C. Brady, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr Madeleine Argue, Cllr. Trevor Smith, Cllr. Peter Mc Vitty, Cllr. T.P.O' Reilly, Cllr. Craig Lovett, Cllr Patricia Walshe, Cllr. S.P. O'Reilly, Cllr. Brendan Fay, Cllr. Sarah O. Reilly

**Community Representatives:** John Magee, Stanley Nwaneri, Elizabeth Ormiston, Vanessa Clarke

**Executive:** John Donohue (CCC)

**Garda Officers:** Chief Superintendent A. Mc Govern, Superintendent Padraic Jones, Superintendent Gordon Englishby

**Oireachtas Members:** Senator Diarmuid Wilson, Deputy Pauline Tully, Senator Joe O'Reilly

**Apologies:** John Magee, Peter Mc Vitty, Brendan Jennings, Deputy Brendan Smith, Tony Mc Govern

**In Attendance:** G. Boyle (CCC), Karen Coughlan (An Garda Síochána), Andy Ogle (NERDTF)

Chair Cllr. Feeley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

He reminded members that it would not be possible to go 'in committee' due to the meeting taking place on-line. No discussions of a personal nature were to take place.

## **Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes were proposed by Senator D. Wilson and seconded by Cllr. S. P. O'Reilly.

## **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement (DRIVE) project & Overview on the Planet Youth Initiative: Andy Ogle, Coordinator, NE-RDATF**

Andy Ogle informed members that the DRIVE Initiative is a data driven intervention model to respond effectively to drug related intimidation and violence in communities in Ireland. His presentation covered:

- Background to the setting up of the initiative
- Members of the oversight committee
- The 6 Pillars of the DRIVE Model
- Proposed membership of the local DRIVE committee to be set up
- Draft Agenda for the committee
- Priorities 2022
- DRIVE reporting structure

Andy Ogle went on to provide a verbal report on the Planet Youth Initiative which is being delivered on a cross county basis across Cavan and Monaghan. The Planet Youth mission is to lead a process of transformation change by embedding primary prevention approaches which enhance young people's health, relationships, environments and wellbeing. A. Ogle explained it is a five-year pilot programme developed by an Implementation Committee, made up of representatives who have a remit for Children and Young People. Some 2,000 post Junior-Cycle students across every second level

school and Youthreach Centre throughout Cavan and Monaghan have participated in a Planet Youth Survey and the results were used to produce both county and school reports. The Planet Youth data provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to hear and learn directly from young people about what it is like to grow up in Counties Cavan and Monaghan. This will support organisations to become more alert to current trends/issues and encourage a responsiveness in the way they think about prevention and their role in it. He explained that the initiative was first piloted in Iceland where alcohol was the primary substance misused amongst the youth. The initiative really made an impact and Iceland now has one of the lowest levels of alcohol use amongst young people in Europe.

Senator D. Wilson thanked A. Ogle for his presentations, he suggested that Youthreach should be included in the local DRIVE committee membership and enquired into funding for the DRIVE initiative. A. Ogle agreed Youthreach would be a good addition to the membership. A. Ogle replied that the initiative is being co-ordinated at the national level through the HSE and funding for the initiative comes from within their budgets, there may be not that much funding to utilise at the local level. He informed members there will be a one day workshop organised for the local DRIVE committee members once they are appointed.

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern appealed to members of the public to come forward with any relevant information they may have regarding drugs & alcohol, An Garda Síochána have a confidential helpline to use. A community approach is needed to tackle this issue.

Chair Cllr. J.P. Feeley congratulated A. Ogle for his informative presentations and asked if the Planet Youth reports are available to view. A. Ogle informed him they can be downloaded from the CMETB Website:

[www.cmetb.ie/planet-youth/](http://www.cmetb.ie/planet-youth/). He said there is valuable information coming from the survey findings. There will be a need to work with parents so that they can get involved in supporting the initiative. The findings are also providing some valuable information on young people's mental health which has been particularly affected over the pandemic. The clinical threshold for

when young people can get support is so high in Cavan and this is leading to problems with young people not being able to access supports. Creating linkages between organisations to support young people around their mental health is key. Information is also coming out around young people and the impact of social media on them, girls seem to be particularly affected by this. A. Ogle said the schools will receive their own individual reports and Planet Youth stakeholders will be linking in with each school to see where there are opportunities to support the parents. They are also working closely with the CYPSC Co-ordinator and An Garda Síochána to see where there are opportunities to provide alternative socialising opportunities for youths which do not involve alcohol. The process will be slow, but it will be reviewed regularly to assess its impact.

Deputy P. Tully commended A. Ogle on both initiatives. She said it was interesting to note that alcohol use is still the major area of concern and agreed that parents definitely have a responsibility in tackling this also. A. Ogle agreed and said that thankfully Cavan isn't the worse county compared to others. Crack cocaine usage isn't highly used here wither compared to elsewhere. Young people have reported drug related intimidation however which is concerning.

Cllr. P. Walsh congratulated A.Ogle on his work. She suggested that vaping is also an issue which needs to be addressed. A. Ogle agreed saying that the long term impacts of vaping is still unknown and a large number of young people are vaping, some who never even smoked are going straight to vaping. It believes it is definitely being marketed towards them. Cllr. B. Fay enquired if there are currently any laws regarding vaping. Superintendent P. Jones said that there is robust legislation around tobacco use, unfortunately however there is not on vaping. He will look into the current legislation that is in place and report back on this at the next meeting. Chief Superintendent Mc Govern said that he is aware that legislation is currently being considered.

Chair Cllr. Feeley commented that emergency legislation was introduced to deal with Head Shops at the time and he would hope that this could be carried

out for vaping also. He thanked A. Ogle and his colleagues for the work they are doing.

### **Crime Figures for County Cavan – Q. 1 2021 vs Q.1 2022**

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern went through the crime figures covering Quarter. 1 2021 vs Quarter.1 2022

Burglary levels are down from pre-covid times. They are tackling burglary on an ongoing basis through preventative measures such as Crime Prevention Talks provided. Most burglaries take place through front doors and windows being left open.

Sexual Assaults are up 13 from last year. The Divisional Protection Unit is doing great work on addressing this issue.

Theft is down by 7 from last year. The advice is not to leave valuables in the car over the summer months as this will help in preventing theft from cars. The Crime Prevention Officer is linking in with the business community regarding preventing thefts from shops.

Drink driving is up by 21. An Garda Síochána are continuously tackling this.

Chief Superintendent provided members with an update on upcoming events and activities.

- There will be high visibility of gardaí on foot patrol over the summer months. There will be a Roads Policing operation this weekend with a focus on making the roads safer.
- Upcoming Community Safety Engagement events will be taking place, one event in Bailieborough on the 24<sup>th</sup> July, one will also take place in Cavan, the date for which has yet to be confirmed. Invitations will be issued to members.
- A memorial event will take place for Garda Samuel Donovan on the 6<sup>th</sup> June.
- An event will take place in Ballyjamesduff for Cavan Culture Night
- A centenary event will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November to mark 100 years of An Garda Síochána

Chair Cllr. J.P Feeley commended Chief Superintendent Mc Govern on the figures and upcoming community events. He said it is good to see a memorial event being organised for Garda Donovan. He asked in future if perhaps the crime statistics could be compared with a year earlier to the COVID times, as comparing the current figures with these times is unrealistic as it was a very different time which impacted on the figures.

Senator D. Wilson asked if all Garda Patrol cars are equipped with car identifying technology.

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern said that all cars are equipped with this technology, technology plays a big part in policing now. He agreed that pre-covid figures will be used in future crime statistics comparisons.

### **The LA16 – Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure. Director of Service, Brendan Jennings, Cavan County Council**

John Donohoe reported that LA16 reports have been completed and submitted for the following incidents in 2022.

- N3 Derrygarra Upper 02-03-2022
- L3023 09-04-2022 (Munterconnaught)

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern reported that in terms of road collisions there have been 7 serious collisions, 13 minor collisions and 205 material damages.

Chair Cllr. Feeley noted the fatalities and extended sympathises to the families.

### **Correspondence**

A letter from County Cork JPC was read to members. It referred to a motion

“That this JPC would write to the chairperson of each JPC in the country asking them to consider issuing a co-ordinated media release/ campaign on the dangers of increasing incidents of phishing and cybercrime. This motion makes particular reference to older and more vulnerable people”

Chair Cllr. Feeley said a presentation would be provided on this topic at the next JPC meeting.

### **AOB**

Cllr. S. O. Reilly asked if there were any further updates in relation to new cars added to the patrol fleet or on the Sniffer Dog Unit.

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern replied that two separate applications have been submitted for these and he is awaiting a decision.

Cllr. S. O'Reilly said that she recently attended Africa Day and congratulated An Garda Síochána on the stand they had at it. Chair Cllr. Feeley was also at this event and said that it was a great success. There are many people living in County Cavan at the moment who are from countries which may have a distrustful relationship with the policing authorities. This is a great idea way for the Gardaí to create positive relationships with these new communities. He also congratulated the gardaí on the work they are currently doing in supporting the Ukraine community.

Superintendent Jones reported that there will be an open day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July at both the Cavan Garda Station and the Bailieborough Garda Station.

### **Next Meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup> September at 3pm. This will take place in the Council Chamber.