**Minutes of Meeting of County Cavan Joint Policing Committee held on-line over Microsoft Teams, Cavan on 3rd December 2021 at 3pm.**

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**Present:**

**Councillors:** Cllr Sarah O’ Reilly, Cllr C. Brady, Cllr John Paul Feeley, Cllr Paddy Mc Donald, Cllr Madeleine Argue, Cllr. Trevor Smith, Cllr. Patricia Walsh, Cllr. Aiden Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Peter Mc Vitty

**Community Representatives:** John Magee, Stanley Nwaneri, Elizabeth Ormiston, Tony Mc Govern

**Executive**: Brendan Jennings (Director of Services, CCC)

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

**Oireachtas Members:** Diarmuid Wilson, Deputy Brendan Smith

**Apologies:** Vanessa Clarke, Deputy Pauline Tully, Cllr Clifford Kelly, Deputy Joe O’Reilly, Senator Diarmuid Wilson

**In Attendance:** Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan (An Garda Síochána), G. Boyle (CCC), Eddie Butler (Anglo Celt), Diarmuid Pepper (Northern Sound), Niamh Mc Daid (MaCYSS), Gemma Mc Cabe (MaCYSS), Bridie Mc Brearty (CCC – Housing)

Chair Cllr. Feeley opened the meeting welcomed the new Chief Superintendent A. Mc Govern to his first meeting of the Cavam JPC and wished him well in his new role.

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

**Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. C Brady and seconded by Cllr. P. Walsh.

**Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

**Monaghan and Cavan Youth Substance Support (MaCYSS) Alcohol Forum Ireland. Niamh Mc Daid, Development Officer & Gemma Mc Cabe, Therapeutic Practitioner**

Both Ms Daid & MS Mc Cabe thanked the Chair for the invitation to present at the meeting.

Their presentation covered the following areas:

* Overview of the service & the team
* MaCYSS Youth and Family AOD Service Offer
* Rapid Assessment/Consultation
* Key findings from recent survey with young people and service providers
* Recommendations
* Next Steps

Ms Daid finished her presentation by inviting members to keep her formed about issues that they are coming across as it will help to inform their Development Plan for 2022. Chair Cllr. Feeley said that the issue of drugs and alcohol misuse come up at every JPC meeting, there is huge concern around this and welcomed their presentation to the meeting.

Cllr C. Brady requested that a copy of the presentation is forwarded to all JPC members after the meeting.

Cllr. P. Walsh congratulated the staff members of MaCYSS on all the work they have completed to date. She also encouraged JPC members to support and help promote the service.

T. Mc Govern asked how do they find young people are coping with the COVID restrictions. Ms Daid explained that the service is only established one year and this was during the pandemic so it is hard for them to measure this. However she said that while the pandemic is affecting all of society it does seem to be particularly hard on young people, especially around their mental health and this will have knock on effects in the long-term.

Cllr. J.P Feeley said that he hoped there would be opportunities for future collaboration between members of the JPC and MaCYSS.

**Cavan County Council Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. Bridie Mc Brearty, Senior Executive Officer, Housing, Cavan County Council**

Ms Brearty thanked the JPC members for offering her the opportunity to present to them on the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Policy (ASB). She explained that she will not go into the full details on the policy but will provide a general overview.

* It is a requirement that the JPC is consulted with on the drafting of the policy as well as the Council’s Housing SPC.
* The Housing Miscellaneous Act 2022 – 2027 governs the drawing up and adoption of the ASB policy.
* The full ASB policy will be presented for adoption by Cavan County Council at their January 2022 meeting.
* The policy applies to all properties owned by Cavan County Council and Approved Housing Bodies are not governed by this document, as they would have their own.
* The policy operates under Cavan County Council’s Mission and Policy Statement. They now have a new procedure for dealing with complaints.
* Anti-social behaviour has escalated over the pandemic. The Council now have additional Estate Liaison Officers (x3) in place and the policy framework will help to direct them in their work. An Garda Síochána’s new Community Engagement Unit is also welcomed and the additional gardaí will be of great service. Ms Brearty hopes to strengthen links between the Council Housing Section and the Community Engagement over the coming period.

Cllr. P. Walsh thanked Ms. Brearty for her work on the development of the document. She also agreed that Community Policing will have a great impact in helping to reduce anti-social behaviour within the county.

Cllr. C. Brady asked if dog breeding came under the ASB area. Ms Brearty responded that the noise and control of dogs is exempt from the ASB policy.

Cllr. M. Argue welcomed the document.

Deputy B. Smith welcomed the document and the establishment of the new Community Engagement Unit. He stated that drugs are tearing communities apart and is having a detrimental impact on rural communities now as well as urban areas. He believes there needs to be more deterrents, suggesting an increase in sanctions perhaps. An Garda Síochána are doing the best they can under the situation.

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern said that three Community Gardaí have been allocated to Bailieborough, bringing the total number to seven. He complemented MaCYSS’s on their work and said a good working relationship had already been established between An Garda Síochána and the service. He believes education is key in tackling the issue on drugs misuse.

Cllr. P. Mc Vitty complemented the Gardaí on their work in the Ballyconnell area. He said it is so important to have Gardaí back on foot patrol, it helps to build a trusting relationship with the community. People are more willing to pass on information to the Gardaí once trust is established. Cllr. P. Mc Donald also agreed with these comments. He thanked Ms Brearty on her work to develop the ASB Policy.

Superintendent Jones thanked Cllr. Mc Vitty for his comments and said that two Sergeants are temporarily covering duties in the Ballyconnell area after the retirement of the local Sergeant in recent months. They are committed to providing additional supervision to the area. A replacement Sergeant is currently being sought and he hopes will be in place before the end of 2021 or early 2022. They also have, in the meantime, a Detective posted to the area on a temporary basis.

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

B. Jennings provided members with an update on developments to the LA16 reporting requirements following a new circular issued to County Councils from the Department of Transport. It recommends that a LA16 report is added as an ongoing agenda item for all JPC meetings. B. Jennings stated this will now be done so on an going forward.

The LA16 – Collision Reporting and Evaluation Procedure is a protocol set up between Local Authorities and An Garda Síochána with support from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, the CCMA, the LGMA and TII for the collection of data at fatal collision sites. B. Jennings explained that the data collected is for statistical purposes only and does not form any part of the Forensic Collision Investigation.

He said that this is not a new requirement, the County Council has always collected data at sites where fatalities occur and will continue to do so. The recent circular is however a way for the Department of Transport to remind all partners of their responsibilities under this process.

**Crime Figures for County Cavan – YTD 2020 vs YTD 2021**

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern talked through An Garda Síochána’s crime figures for YTD 2020 vs YTD 2021.

There was a sharp increase in the number of sexual offences reported in Cavan over the last year, with 49 offences being investigated so far this year, up from 30 over the same period in 2020.

The numbers for drugs possession fell. 39 cases were reported in the year to date, down from 57 in the same period last year. Two grow houses were discovered in County Cavan over the period of the crime figures and he commended both Superintendents Jones and Englishby on their work relating to this.

Burglary offences have also fallen over the last 12 months. The number of serious assaults and minor assaults were also down. Three men have been convicted of false imprisonment and assault over this period and he acknowledged the work of the investigation team involved, commenting that it was a very difficult process.

Drink and drug driving offences detected have also fallen.

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern said many categories of crime this year were being compared with a low base in the previous year due to the pandemic and lockdowns.

Chair Cllr. Feeley congratulated the Gardaí on their investigative work on the grow houses. He asked if the increase in numbers around sex offences was due to the growing confidence amongst victims to report. Chief Superintendent Mc Govern agreed that a large proportion would be, there have also been awareness raising campaigns run both locally and nationally. The establishment of the Divisional Protective Services would have also helped to increase a sense of trust and An Garda Síochána also work very closely with Tearmann.

Cllr. P. Mc Donald complemented the Divisonal Drugs Unit on their detection work on the grow houses. The Emergency Department in Cavan General Hospital are increasingly having to deal with issues due to drug misuse and he wanted to make the case that they should not have to. People who need to be treated due to drugs misuse should be dealt with under another section of the hospital as they often cause disruption within the Emergency Department.

**AOB**

Chief Superintendent Mc Govern informed members that the Community Engagement Unit will be running a Christmas Campaign targeting vulnerable members of the community on the 17 & 18th December. Inspector Nial Mc Kiernan will lead out on the initiative. Christmas treats will be provided to children living within disadvantaged families/ communities. This aim of the initiative is to establish trust between families and the Gardaí within the new Community Engagement Units and also help to raise awareness on the support services available to them and the importance of knowing your Eircode.

Cllr. P. Walsh welcomed this initiative, agreeing it is a great way to build trust within young people in particular.

J. Magee wanted to acknowledge the work of the new Community Engagement Unit. He has seen first-hand the added value it is bringing through his work in the ETB.

Deputy B. Smith welcomed the recent announcement that development works would soon commence on the new Bailieborough Garda Station. Cllr P. Mc Donald agreed with Deputy’s B. Smiths comments and asked when will works commence. Superintendent Englishby said that contracts were signed two weeks ago and he was hopeful that works will commence before Christmas. Deputy B. Smith said that he has been informed by both Minister Mc Grath along with the Minister Patrick O’ Donovan that works would begin this month.

**Next Meeting**

As agreed prior to the meeting by the JPC Steering Committee the JPC will meet on the following dates during 2022.

- 4th March

- 3rd June

- 2nd September

- 2nd December

All meetings will take place at 3pm.

Chair Cllr. Feeley was hopeful that physical meetings can take place once again for the JPC in the new year but will be dependent on the recommended pandemic restrictions for the time.