

Report of the

South Dublin County

Joint Policing Committee

2009





Community Safety is one of the most important issues facing society today. In South Dublin County we wish to actively promote, enhance and maintain the safety and security of all those who live, work and visit the County, through the provision of a range of quality services and initiatives delivered on an integrated and partnership basis. The Joint Policing Committee seeks to combine the expertise of the Local Authority, the Gardai and the Community/Voluntary sector with the knowledge and expertise of those who are elected to represent South Dublin County. I would like to thank the Garda Siochana, in partnership with the local community, South Dublin County and other government agencies who continue to provide an effective and efficient policing service across South Dublin County to drive down crime and make South Dublin a safer County.

Throughout 2009 the Committee and sub-committees met on a regular basis and a workplan was prepared during the year which represented the ongoing commitment to crime prevention and community safety by the different sectors represented and going forward into 2010 these partnerships will be further strengthened.

I would like to commend the members for their support and commitment to the work of South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee.

Councillor Robert Dowds

Chairperson, South Dublin Joint Policing Committee

Introduction:

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.

South Dublin Joint Policing Committee continues to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of South Dublin County and in particular to the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

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

This report will give an overview of the membership, meetings and work of the sub-groups throughout 2009.



**South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee
November 2009**

Membership:

In June 2009 Elections were held to select members to South Dublin County Council. This also resulted in a change in the membership of the Joint Policing Committee.

Elected Local Authority Members

January – June 2009	September – December 2009
Cllr Robert Dowds, Lab (Chairperson)	Councillor Robert Dowds (LAB),
Cllr. Therese Ridge, FG	Mayor Cllr. Mick Duff (Lab)
Cllr. Shane O'Connor, SF	Councillor Paddy Cosgrave (LAB),
Cllr. Guss O'Connell, Ind	Councillor Sean Crowe (SF),
Cllr. Joe Neville, FF	Councillor Gino Kenny (PBPA),
Cllr. Karen Warren, FG	Councillor Matthew Mc Donagh (SF),
Cllr. Mick Murphy, Soc	Councillor Guss O' Connell (IND),
Cllr. Jim Daly, FF	Councillor Pamela Kearns (Lab)
Cllr. Marie Corr, Lab	Councillor William Lavelle (FG),
Cllr. Cathal King, SF	Councillor Brian Lawlor (FG),
Cllr. John Lahart, FF	Councillor Cait Keane (FG),
Cllr. Tony McDermott, Green	Councillor Emma Coburn (FG),
Cllr. Eamonn Walsh, Lab	Councillor John Lahart (FF),
Cllr. Cait Keane, PD	Councillor Eamonn Walsh (FF),
	Councillor John Hannon (FF),

Oireachtas Members (5)

Paul Gogarty TD	Green
Joanne Tuffy TD	Lab
Charlie O'Connor TD	FF
Alan Shatter TD	FG
Pat Rabbitte TD	Lab

Garda Officers (2)

John Manley	Chief Superintendent
Declan Coburn replaced John Twomey	Chief Superintendent

Local Authority Officers (2)

Joe Horan	County Manager
Billy Coman replaced Frank Nevin	Director of Housing

Community/Voluntary Sector (3)

Michelle Kearns	Community Platform
Tom Aspil	Community Forum
Jim Lawlor	Community Forum

Meetings

The South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee met four times during 2009.

- 6 February
- 15 May
- 11 September
- 20 November

The Chief Superintendents provided a comprehensive report to each meeting giving details of crime, detection, community policing and general information on the issues affecting the County. The Chief Superintendents were accompanied by the Superintendents for the County. The County Manager also provided reports and presentations on the work the Council is involved with which has an impact on safety and crime in the community. A number of detailed presentations were also made during the course of the year which resulted in further discussion by the Committee such as:

- South Dublin County Inter-agency approach
- Childhood Development Initiative – Tallaght West
- Local Drugs Task Force
- Community Policing Model – Tallaght
- Estate management - Balgaddy – McUilliam Estates

Sub-Committees

A number of sub-committees were set up during the year. The JPC agreed that any sub-group set up would be task based and asked to report within an agreed time frame.

Workplan

One sub-committee was set up early to prepare a work-plan for the JPC for the remainder of 2009. This group prepared a comprehensive plan which is included as appendix 1.

White Paper on Crime

The Government advertised looking for submissions to the White Paper on Crime – Crime Prevention and Community Safety
A subgroup of the JPC was formed and met in November 2009 and prepared a submission for consideration in the preparation of the White Paper on Crime. This submission is attached as Appendix 2

Local Policing Fora

Guidelines were issued regarding the establishment of local policing fora in Drug Task Force areas. A sub-group was established which reported to the November meeting and will report again to the first meeting in 2010

Safety in Public Parks

Arising from an action included in the work plan a sub-group was set up to identify the levels of anti-social behaviour in two public parks and open spaces and to pilot a initiative to improve co-ordination between Gardai, SDCC and community representatives. This group were asked by the JPC to identify causes/ problems associated with anti-social 'hot spots' in public parks and open spaces and to identify solutions to reduce these incidents.

Membership of the group includes:

Cllr. William Lavelle

Michelle Keairns

Michael Hannon

Inspector Mel Smyth



(Safety in Parks subgroup meeting in Clondalkin)

Active Citizenship Week 2009

The first ever Active Citizenship in Ireland was held in South Dublin County in September. A number of events were held throughout the County. Contact was made with the Garda Síochána and they agreed to hold information stands in both the Square and Liffey Valley Shopping Centres which provided information on the Garda Reserve Force. A large number of interested individuals visited the stands.



Inter-Agency Work

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

Website

South Dublin County Development Board has developed a website which provides information on the CDB itself and also on the many inter-agency committees working throughout South Dublin County. The Joint Policing Committee is included in this website and information on meetings, presentations; guidelines, membership etc. are available here. In 2009 there was an increase in the amount of information available for access and the site now includes details of the local Garda stations, Garda projects and community information. It is intended to further increase the information available throughout 2010 and allow organisations to use this to provide information of community safety initiatives etc. The JPC area can be accessed at:

http://cdb.southdublin.ie/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=228&Itemid=227

Conclusion

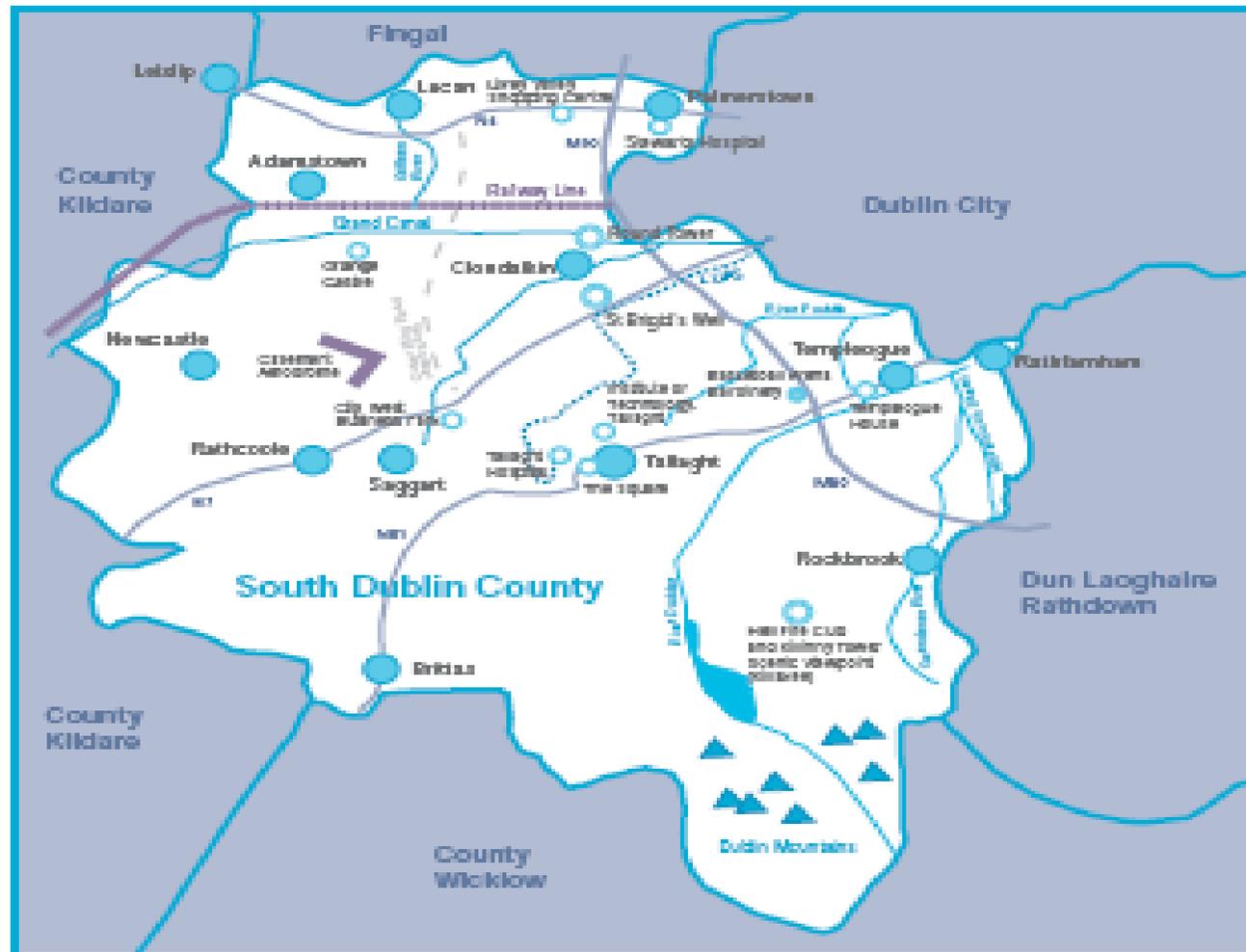
The Joint Policing Committee will continue to meet for 2010 which will also see the establishment of the Local Policing Fora. The good working relationship built up over 2009 and 2010 will continue over the coming months. The commitment from the Elected Representatives, Community Organisations, Local 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.



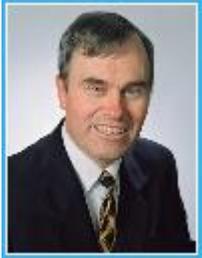
A Safe Place

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee Annual Work Programme 2009

Map of South Dublin County



Foreword by the Chairperson:



Community Safety is one of the most important issues facing society today. In South Dublin County we wish to actively promote, enhance and maintain the safety and security of all those who live, work and visit the County, through the provision of a range of quality services and initiatives delivered on an integrated and partnership basis. The Joint Policing Committee seeks to combine the expertise of the Local Authority, the Gardai and the Community/Voluntary sector with the knowledge and expertise of those who are elected to represent South Dublin County.

This Annual Work Programme represents ongoing commitment to crime prevention and community safety. It is through this plan, that South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee can strengthen the partnerships between the Local Authority, Local Gardai and the Community Stakeholders.

I am very pleased to present South Dublin County's Joint Policing Committee's Annual Work Programme for 2009 and thank all those who have contributed.

Councillor Robert Dowds
Chairperson, South Dublin Joint Policing Committee

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee Members (April 2009)

Local Government

Cllr. Robert Dowds- Chairperson

Cllr. Guss O'Connell- Vice Chairperson

Cllr Marie Corr- Mayor

Cllr. Shane O'Connor

Cllr. Joe Neville

Cllr. Mick Murphy

Cllr. Cait Keane

Cllr. Jim Daly

Cllr. John Lahart

Cllr. Therese Ridge

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Karen Warren

Cllr Tony McDermott

Oireachtas Members

Alan Shatter T.D.

Joanna Tuffy T.D

Charlie O'Connor T.D.

Pat Rabbitte T.D.

Paul Gogarty T.D.

Garda Officers

John Manley, Chief Superintendent, DMR South

Declan Coburn, Chief Superintendent, DMR West

Local Authority Officers

Joe Horan, County Manager

Billy Coman, Director of Housing and Social

Community/Voluntary Representatives

Michelle Keairns, Community Platform

Tom Aspil, Community Forum

Jim Lawlor, Community Forum

Introduction:

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee was established on the 26th October 2007. This Committee provides 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.

The Joint Policing Committee's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of South Dublin County and in particular to the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. The matters to be considered by the Committee and subcommittees might include traffic, vandalism, anti-social behaviour, underage drinking, casual trading, litter, planning for events attracting large crowds, community-based crime prevention initiatives, Garda Divisional and District annual policing plans and local authority initiatives.

In accordance with the Joint Policing Committee Guidelines issued jointly by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform, each JPC has been requested to draw up an annual work programme

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee Annual Work Programme 2009

Priority Area 1 – To carry out an audit of existing Community Safety Projects/ Initiatives in South Dublin County

Action	Target	Time-scale	Stakeholders
<p>Establish a small working group to map all Community safety projects /initiatives operating in the County including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Forums • Transport Safety Forums • Garda Diversions Projects • Drugs Task Forces • Safety Initiatives • Neighbourhood Watch Schemes etc... 	<p>To produce a report and detailed map of the county indicating the location of projects and providing contact details</p>	<p>To produce a report and geographical mapping of projects/initiatives in the County by end of 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Forum • Community Platform • Community Representatives • Gardai • South Dublin County Council • Elected Representatives

Priority Area 2- To promote positive crime prevention and community safety initiatives through the media and the web page of South Dublin County JPC

Action	Target	Time-scale	Stakeholders
<p>To increase the activity on the existing webpage allowing members and organisations to include information on community safety initiatives/projects</p> <p>JPC Executive to contact organisations who may wish to forward items for inclusion on the site</p>	<p>Redesign the existing JPC webpage on CDB website</p> <p>To increase usage on the site by Gardai, Council and members of the public</p> <p>To advertise national/local crime prevention initiatives</p>	<p>Redesign of web page by the end of 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardai • SDCC • Elected Representatives • Residents of South Dublin County • Local Community Safety Projects/Initiatives

Priority Area 3- To deter crime and anti- social behaviour in public parks

Action	Target	Time-scale	Stakeholders
<p>To establish small working group comprising of Community Gardaí, SDCC Parks Department and local community representatives</p> <p>To identify the levels of anti-social behaviour in two public parks and open spaces and to pilot a initiative to improve co-ordination between Gardaí ,SDCC and community representatives</p>	<p>To identify causes/ problems associated with anti-social 'hot spots' in public parks and open spaces and to identify solutions to reduce these incidents</p>	<p>To report back to JPC with its findings and recommendations by the end of 2009</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Gardaí • SDCC Parks Department • Local community representatives

Priority Area 4- To support Community CCTV Programs in South Dublin County

Action	Target	Time-scale	Stakeholders
<p>To provide ongoing support for the following Community CCTV schemes in South Dublin County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Clondalkin • Jobstown • Fettercairn and Brookfield • Killinarden 	<p>A reduction in the incidents of crime and vandalism in areas where CCTV schemes are in operation</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SDCC ▪ Gardaí ▪ CPLN Partnership ▪ Partas ▪ Jobstown CDP

Priority Area 5- To provide continued support for Children and Young People's Pro-social initiatives in the County

Action	Target	Time-scale	Stakeholders
To support inter agency projects such as the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Services Committee • Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative • Family Functional Therapy (CPLN Partnership) • Drugs Task Forces 	To develop a close liaison between the JPC and inter agency projects in the County	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JPC members • CSC Committee • CDI • Local Partnerships • Community/Voluntary Sector • Local Drugs Task Forces

Priority Area 6- To identify unsecured construction sites in the County which are currently a source of anti- social behaviour

Action	Target	Time-scale	Stakeholders
To reduce the incidents of anti-social behaviour that are occurring around near or unfinished construction sites where unsecured building materials are being used for anti- social activities	To establish a protocol between the Community Gardai and Council Officials regarding unsecured construction sites Identify two sites in the County where there have been incidents of anti-social behaviour and work with the owners and or developers regarding these issues	By the end of 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardai • SDCC • Dublin Bus Forums • Luas • Local Communities • Landowners/Developers

Priority Area 7- To plan for events attracting large crowds

Action	Target	Time-scale	Stakeholders
To build on the good working relationship between the Gardai, South Dublin County Council, the Community and other stakeholders in co-ordinating a variety of events	To ensure that events attracting large crowds are a safe and enjoyable experience for all those who live, work and visit South Dublin County	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gardai• SDCC• Public Transport providers• Local Communities• Local Businesses

Appendix 2

Submission to Government White Paper – Crime prevention and community safety

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee

Submission on the White Paper on Crime

Crime Prevention and Community Safety

The following issues have been identified by the South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee for inclusion in a submission:

- The need to reduce the opportunities for crime
- Evictions of tenants from local authority housing leads to further anti social behaviour in new location
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Empty Housing Units
- Preventing Involvement in Crime
- Parental Accountability for children engaging in anti social and criminal behaviour
- Drug crime
- Use of pre pay mobile phones for criminal activity
- The effectiveness CCTV
- Massive increase in empty new commercial and residential developments
- Garda involvement in Planning
- Anti social behaviour associated with building works

Several Recommendations to address the above issues have been proposed:

Developing Community Spirit as a means of preventing crime at local level

Community development processes that ensure ownership of initiatives are the most effective mechanism to ensure community spirit is developed in relation to crime prevention

The community working in partnership with agencies to respond to the needs identified by the community

Strengthening the links between the community and the Gardaí

This may be achieved through the proposed Local Policing For a (LPF). In order for the LPFs to be successful adequate resourcing is essential, and community buy will be vital. Communities should take the lead in identifying the priorities for the LPFs.

Increasing the numbers of Community Gardaí

The JPC acknowledges that building successful relationships with communities is best achieved through community policing

Increasing Garda understanding of the communities they are policing

Link between crime levels and socio economic deprivation and poverty should continue to be highlighted in Garda training. Efforts to recruit people from disadvantaged communities into the Gardaí should be made to increase understanding.

Eviction does not solve problems, merely moves them elsewhere

Tenancy sustainment initiatives suggested as a means of challenging the behaviour of tenants and reducing the risk of anti social behaviour continuing in new location

Community consultation in advance of works through LPF

Increased levels of anti social behaviour associated with building works may be addressed with increased community consultation

Management of re-allocation of empty housing units by the Local Authority

Reallocation needs to be managed more efficiently by Local Authority as empty units attract increased levels of anti social behaviour

Improve the degree of early intervention and support to families at risk

The wide range of supports that are in place have proven effective. The long term costs benefits of family support programmes are clear.

Increase the numbers of Garda Youth Diversion Programmes and increase the levels of support to existing programmes

Introduce a red flag system to challenge anti social behaviour amongst young children immediately. Children should be redirected to positive activities.

Garda diversion programmes for younger children

Very young children are engaged in peer driven and learned behaviour, such as throwing stones, interfering with property and setting refuse on fire. Garda diversion projects for young people are proving effective and should be extended to younger children.

Support parents in developing skills to bring about change in established norms of behaviour

Children from disadvantaged areas are at increased risk of being drawn into anti social/criminal behaviour. That needs to be recognised and more supports for parents need to be put in place.

Strengthen bail laws to deny bail to those importing drugs

Stronger deterrents for council tenants engaged in anti social behaviour

Compulsory user registration for all purchases of pre pay mobile phones

Continue to support CCTV schemes

A strategy to address the issue of empty commercial and residential units should be developed.

Electronic tagging for offenders should be explored where appropriate.

Reduce opportunities for anti social behaviour through planning

Develop a mechanism for liaison between the Local Authority planning department and the Gardaí where relevant in advance of new planning permissions being granted

Mapping Anti Social Behaviour

It may be useful to classify types of anti social behaviour to assist relevant agencies to deal effectively with the different types of problems that occur as a result.

For further detail on any of these recommendations

please contact Sarah O Gorman in South Dublin County Council on

sogorman@sdublincoco.ie