

# South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee

## Annual Report 2013

**Drug Related Intimidation?  
Support is available...**



Gardaí are operational 24 hours to assist you. Do not hesitate to contact us and request to speak in confidence to a Garda Drug Liaison Officer.  
Contact: Tallaght 01-6666000  
Garda Confidential Number: 1800 666 111

© 2013 Garda Síochána. All rights reserved. Garda Síochána is a registered trademark of the Garda Síochána. The Garda Síochána logo is a registered trademark of the Garda Síochána.



## **South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee**

### **Annual Report 2013**

#### Introduction

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee was established on the 26<sup>th</sup> 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 is a partnership between an Garda Síochána, South Dublin County Council and the residents of South Dublin County. Members of the Joint Policing Committee work together to help prevent crime and solve neighborhood problems. The Joint Policing Committee goes beyond traditional methods to build a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the Gardai, South Dublin County Council and the community by:

- Encouraging active citizen involvement in policing efforts.
- Focusing on issues of ongoing public concern.
- Providing continuity of service to the community
- Ensuring active involvement by the relevant staff in problem-solving
- Initiate creative responses to neighborhood problems.
- Developing the capacity of residents and affording them the opportunity to speak and act effectively on their own behalf
- Strengthening and building groups and organizations so residents can advocate for their own interests.

The commitment from the Elected Representatives, Community Organisations, Local Authority officials and the Gardai will 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. The work and public meetings of the three Local Policing Fora and their role and reporting relationship to the JPC fully increases community involvement and trust in the work of the committee.

South Dublin County Council continues to provide the administrative backup needed to support the work of the Joint Policing Committee, Local Policing Fora and Public meetings.

## Section 1 – South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee Work Plan

	Priority Issue	Actions taken in relation to each priority issue	Persons Responsible (JCP or JPC Committee)	Timescale for Action	Summarise Progress Achieved
1	<b>To promote positive crime prevention and community safety initiatives through the media and the web page of South Dublin County JPC</b>	To increase the activity by including information on community safety initiatives/projects	JPC Executive (Supplied by SDCC)	Ongoing	Available at <a href="http://www.sdcc.ie">www.sdcc.ie</a> The JPC website was developed as a stand alone site on the County Council server. It was reconfigured in 2013 and now forms part of the general Council site which will generate more traffic and unique visits.
2	<b>Deter crime and anti-social behaviour in public parks</b> Implementation of the recommendations included in “Reclaiming our Parks	Subgroup in place to implement the findings in the report ‘Reclaiming our Parks’	JPC Committee with support from Parks Department SDCC.	Ongoing	The Subgroup reported to each of the JPC meetings in 2013
3	<b>To support Community CCTV Programs in South Dublin County</b>	To provide ongoing support for the following Community CCTV schemes in South Dublin County North Clondalkin Jobstown Fettercairn and Brookfield Killinarden	Gardai and Local Authority	Ongoing	CCTV continues to be monitored 24/7 in the Jobstown, Brookfield, Killinarden and Fettercairn areas of Tallaght at Tallaght Garda Station and complements the Garda Scheme for the Town Centre area. CCTV in North Clondalkin Community areas is now also monitored in the North Clondalkin Garda Station.
4	<b>To provide continued support for Pro-social initiatives in the County</b> To support inter agency	To develop a close liaison between the JPC and its members and inter agency projects in the County. Regular reporting to the JPC	JPC members CSC Committee CDI Local Partnerships Community/Voluntary	Ongoing	South Dublin County continues to have a large number of pro-social initiatives which are managed and directed by inter-agency working groups. This has resulted in the continued partnerships on Night-Time Leagues, Halloween events, social integration

	projects such as the Drugs Task Forces, Football night leagues, Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative, Social Integration projects etc.	on initiatives throughout the County. Provide support for pro-social projects by improved coordination between Gardai, SDCC and Community Representatives	Sector Local Drugs Task Forces FAI		projects, and community safety initiatives.
5	<b>To plan for events attracting large crowds</b> To build on the good working relationship between the Gardai, South Dublin County Council, the Community and other stakeholders co-ordinating 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	SDCC Gardai Public Transport providers Local Communities Local Businesses	Ongoing	A number of other events have been held throughout the County which attracted large crowds. The cooperation between the community, Gardai and LA has resulted in a safe and enjoyable experience for those attending. The experiences have resulted in improved cooperation.
6	<b>To improve the process of engagement and interaction between local community reps. An Garda Síochaná, Elected Representatives, South Dublin County Council, Local Drugs Task Forces on matters concerns concerning community safety.</b>	Support the work of the three pilot local policing fora in the County Each local policing fora will report to the JPC meeting  Consider recommendations of the Local Policing Fora  Support for public and other meetings organised by the Local Policing Fora	Joint Policing Committee	Ongoing	The Three Local Policing Forum are now in operation for 3 years. The LA, the Gardai and Local Communities are committed to these groups and have provided representation at the highest level. This has allowed decisions to be made quickly and where necessary allowed resources be channelled to address problems.

7	<b>Support the recommendations contained in the National Commission on Restorative Justice by increasing relations with the Restorative Justice Service in Tallaght</b>	Establish relationship between JCP Committee and Restorative Justice Services as outlined in the National Commission on Restorative Justice	Gardai SDCC Restorative Justice Service CDI West Tallaght Community Mediation Local Community	Ongoing	Contact remains with restorative justice and community mediation services. The Garda Síochaná SARA continues to be available as a problem solving tool for local communities.. Work also continued with South Dublin County Council and Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative on the Community Safety Initiative.
8	<b>Consultation with Young People</b> Consult with Young People in the County regarding community safety	Contact is ongoing with South Dublin Comhairle na nÓg	Gardai SDCC Comhairle na nÓg Youth Services Local Community	Ongoing	Contact is ongoing with South Dublin Comhairle na nÓg and the JPC agreed to partner with the Comhairle on an anti-bully charter which will begin in 2014. Arrangements are in place for regular reporting and contact between the JPC and the Comhairle.
9	<b>Support South Dublin County becoming an Age Friendly County which is a safe place for older persons</b>	Continue to support the Age Friendly Network in work on any safety issues identified	SDCC, Gardai, Age Friendly Network	Ongoing	An Garda Síochaná is represented on the Steering Committee. Arrangements are in place for reporting to the JPC when necessary. Crime Prevention advice is available to older persons groups throughout the County.
10	<b>Support the implementation of the South Dublin County Integration Strategy</b>	Work on any actions identified that can improve the quality of life and safety of residents in the County	SDCC, Gardai, local community	Ongoing	Work has begun with organisations to encourage reporting of incidents. Local organisations are also aware of officials in various organisations who have special responsibility for integration.
11	<b>Support the work of the Intimidation Sub-group of the JPC</b>	Continue to provide support to the Group	SDCC, Gardai, JPC, Local Drugs Task Forces	Ongoing	Plans and projects identified by the subgroup have been implemented and they are working with the Family Support Network and the Gardai in the roll out of the national project to encourage reporting of intimidation as a result of drug debt. A poster campaign was developed during 2013 to highlight this difficult problem

## **Section 2**

### **Advice/Recommendations provided by the Joint Policing Committee to the local authority and the Gardai during the year**

The JPC has discussed many different problems at the meetings, agreement was given in many cases to target problems areas and look at initiatives which would benefit the area. In South Dublin County, the Gardai and the Local Authority have a good working relationship. Contact is made both at Senior Level, through the JPC and other inter-agency committees and also at operational level with the Community and Housing Departments and the Community and Juvenile Liaison Sections of the Gardai.

### **Intimidation**

Following repeated reports from members of the JPC and recommendations from the South Dublin County Community Platform, the JPC set up a small working group to consider with this topic. Both the Gardai and Local Authority officials are very involved together with members of the Drugs Task Forces. This group met a number of times during 2013.

The group concentrated their efforts in 2013 on the problem of drug debt related intimidation. Training events and information sessions were held throughout the County with the support of the Garda Siochana, The Family Support Network and the Local Drugs Task Force. A major poster campaign was rolled out in 2013. The working group continue to meet.

### **Age Friendly County**

There are currently a wide range of projects and initiatives in place which help to improve community safety and reduce levels of fear. These include attendance by Gardai at post offices on Friday and visibility at places of worship and community meetings. The Gardai are also committed to raising awareness with young people of the impacts of antisocial behaviour on older neighbours.

The establishment of the Older Person's Service Forum and the Gardai representation on the Age Friendly Alliance has increased opportunities for the Gardai and the Council to work together to ensure older people living in the County feel safe and secure in their homes and out and about in their communities.

### **Integration Strategy**

An integration strategy was prepared for South Dublin County. The JPC will support the implementation of the community safety actions contained in the strategy.

### **Safety in Parks**

The Joint Policing Committee set up a subgroup in 2010 to look at safety in public parks. This group provided a comprehensive report to the Joint Policing Committee which listed 52 recommendations. Following consideration of the report, the JPC set up a small working group to monitor progress on the implementation of the recommendations; this involves both the Gardai and the Local Authority. This group report to each meeting of the JPC and have advised the committee that work is progressing on over 40 of the actions.

### **CCTV**

The Joint Policing Committee considers that CCTV is an important tool in combating crime and anti-social behaviour. The Community CCTV schemes in Tallaght and Clondalkin are now monitored 24/7 in Tallaght and Ronanstown Garda Stations. Both the County Council and the Gardai are working closely together to ensure that the CCTV schemes in this County are successful in terms of safety, prevention and intervention.

### **Halloween 2013**

An interagency approach which included the Council, Gardai, Fire Brigade and Dublin Bus was put in place to promote a Safe Halloween through radio, school visits, and the early collection of bonfire material and co-operation from local communities.

## Late Night Leagues

The late night leagues continue to be successful throughout the County with new venues and age groups added in 2013.

	Target Area	Venue	Garda Station	Time	Dates	No. of teams per week
1	Clondalkin Village	Clondalkin Leisure Centre	Clondalkin Village	8pm – 10pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	14
2	Tallaght	Astro Park, Tallaght	Tallaght	9pm – 11pm	8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> November	12
3	Clondalkin	Collinstown Park	Ronanstown	8.00pm – 9.30pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	8
4	Clondalkin	Collinstown	Ronanstown	9.30 – 11pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	6
5	Lucan	Weston Hockey Pitch	Lucan	8pm – 10pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	5

In Collinstown due to the high attendance and range of age groups the organizing group had to divide the session into 2 ages groups with the younger age group playing in the earlier session

The Finals were held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December in Irishtown. Two teams from each venue went through giving a total of 8 from South Dublin County.

## Section 3

### Local Policing Fora and Public Meetings

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee set up three Local Policing Fora which are located in Tallaght, Clondalkin and North Clondalkin. The public meetings are organised by the Local Policing Fora and supported by the Joint Policing Committee. Each Local Policing Fora is made up of representatives of the Local Authority, Garda Síochána, Elected Representatives, Local Drugs Task Force and local residents. As part of the JPC Workplan, Action 10, each Local Policing Fora has a space for a representative of the migrant communities. The relevant Superintendents/Chief Superintendents with Inspectors and Community Garda attend these meetings together with the County Council Director of Housing and staff in the Housing and Community Departments. This commitment by the most senior Gardai and Local Authority officials has been recognised by the Local Policing Fora members and the local community. This also allows the most senior staff in both organisations to hear the difficulties, fears and concerns first hand from residents. The Local Policing Fora also allow for input and discussion with other local safety initiatives such as the Dublin Bus/LUAS Fora.

The management committees met regularly throughout 2013 and 6 public meetings were held. Reports from public and management meetings have been presented to all meetings of the JPC in 2013.

The following issues have been raised again in 2013 at public meetings and again at Local Policing Fora management meetings in the three areas:

- Intimidation – residents continue to report high levels of fear, making it difficult to encourage people to report crime
- Anti social behaviour by tenants in private rented accommodation, or with private vacant accommodation
- Drug related crime
- Budgetary cuts to Community Safety Projects
- Safety and vandalism in parks
- Parking and traffic difficulties
- Littering and Dumping
- Loose Horses
- Halloween
- Newlands Flyover
- Impact of cannabis use



The Local Policing Fora provide a report to each meeting of the Joint Policing Committee and the agenda allows for consideration and discussion on the items raised.

Public meetings were held on the following dates in 2013

Area	Date
Tallaght - Fettercairn	29 <sup>th</sup> January
Clondalkin	7 <sup>th</sup> March
Tallaght – Brookfield	23 <sup>rd</sup> April
Clondalkin	20 <sup>th</sup> June
Clondalkin	17 <sup>th</sup> October
Tallaght – Brookfield	23 October

#### Section 4 – Record of Meetings held in 2013 and list of members

<b>Meetings 2013</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> May 2013</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> September 2013</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>
----------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Organisation of which member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>No. Meetings attended</b>
<b>Councillor Guss O' Connell (Chair)</b>	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	4
Mayor Cllr. Dermot Looney replace Cllr. Cathal King	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	3
Councillor Paddy Cosgrave	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	4
Councillor Máire Devine	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	3
Councillor Gino Kenny	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	4
Councillor Eoin OBroin replaced Cllr. Mattie McDonagh	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	0
Councillor Pamela Kearns	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	2
Councillor William Lavelle	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	4
Councillor Brian Lawlor	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	1
Councillor Colm Brophy	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	3
Councillor Emma Coburn	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	0
Councillor John Lahart	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	3
Councillor Eamonn Walsh	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	4
Councillor John Hannon	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	3
Councillor Breda Bonner	South Dublin County Council	Councillor	1
Robert Dowds T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.	2
Derek Keating T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.	1
Alex White T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Sean Crowe T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.	1
Eamon Maloney T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.	0
Chief Superintendent Brendan Mangan	Garda Síochaná	Chief Superintendent	4
Chief Superintendent Declan Coburn	Garda Síochaná	Chief Superintendent	3
County Manager – Danny McLoughlin replaced Philomena Poole	South Dublin County Council	County Manager	2
Billy Coman SDCC	South Dublin County Council	Director of Housing and Community	4
Jim Lawlor	Community Forum		3
Michael Noonan	Community Forum		2
Michelle Kearns	Community Platform		3

The County Manager and the Chief Superintendents arrange for representation on their behalf if absent.