

## Dublin City Joint Policing Committee

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016

### Report of Assistant Commissioner Jack Nolan Dublin Metropolitan Region

At this the fifth meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2016 I intend to concentrate on the updates/ progress in the following areas,

- Crime
- Serious Crime
- Traffic
- Community Engagement/ Safety
- Policing Plan 2017
- Strategic Partnership

#### 1. Crime

Up to the 31<sup>st</sup> August, Property Crime in Dublin City Council area is down (-14%) on same period in 2015 and is overall down (-22%) in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. Violent Property Crime is down (-25%) on 2015 levels. The category 'Thefts from shop' is indicating lower levels than in 2015 (-11%) and 'Thefts of a Pedal Cycle' is down (-3%) on levels in the DCC area. An increase has been experienced in thefts from persons in 2016 (+3%). This increase was offset by reductions in all other theft categories.

Burglaries in 2016 are well below average at -30% on 2015 levels in the DCC area and is overall down (-24%) in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. Indications are that there has been a significant downward trend in Burglaries. This can be largely attributed to the continued work of Operation Thor. In the period 1/1/16 to 31/8/16, there has been 5,743 Thor Patrols carried out and 3,786 Thor Checkpoints conducted.

Activity led incident types, such as Public Order (-27%) and Begging offences (-47%) have shown a marked decrease on 2015 levels in the DCC area. This type of activity has decreased across the whole Region (-11% / -38%). This can be largely attributed to An Garda Síochána increased hi-visibility patrols in place to target key hotspot areas. Special Public Order patrols are put in place in key areas particularly at the weekends to address matters of a public order nature. Criminal Damage incidents are down -15% on 2015 in the DCC area

Comparing 2015 to 2016, there has been a slight increase in Crimes against the Person (+1%) this increase is driven by Minor Assaults (+5%). Hi-visibility strategies will remain in place to address this problem, utilising mountain bike and foot patrols in key areas. Serious assaults have remained static on levels in 2015 at 479 serious assaults. Operation Spire and Operation Pier remain in place in the City Centre to tackle these crime categories, overall public order incidents are decreasing in the city.

Trends for firearms/ offensive weapon offences in the Dublin City Council area have decreased to (-19%) on levels in 2015. Possession of firearm is up slightly with 3 more incidents than in 2015. However, discharge of a firearm is currently running at 12 incidents less than 2015 in the DCC area.

Overall drug offences indicate a (-11%) decrease in the DCC area on same period in 2015. Drug offences include Possession of sale or supply and Possession for personal use. Garda activity in this area indicates 15,293 incidents of searches in 2016. Some significant seizures made in July/ August, include:-

- Seizure on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in York Street, Dublin 2 – Estimated €84,000 Heroin
- Seizure on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016 in Aston Quay, Dublin 2 – Estimated €24,000 Cocaine & €418,000 Ecstasy Tablets
- Seizure in Finglas on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016 – Cannabis estimated value €190,000

A significant number of initiatives will continue in 2016 to tackle various crime categories that continue to create challenges for An Garda Síochána and communities throughout the DCC area. These initiatives will be intelligence led and targeted at the areas of concern and included the optimal the use of technology; crime analysis and crime mapping strategies and close cooperation with the communities we serve.

## 2. Serious Crime

There has been 11 murders in the Dublin Metropolitan Region this year to date. For the same period in 2015, the Dublin Metropolitan Region experienced 9 murders also.

While I am constrained in discussing particulars of the cases for operational reasons, I wish to assure this committee that all investigations are fully resourced and are making progress. Each of which is being overseen by a dedicated Senior Investigating Officer.

Progress is being made in all investigations and to date have been

Arrests	Searches	Firearms Seized	Property Seized	Investigative Tasks
39	157	19	Circa €1.1 million	8,150

In addition to the above, targeted intelligence led operations are ongoing involving Local Gardai, Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau and Criminal Assets Bureau to target individuals. Some significant recent successes include:-

- On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2016 – Operation Thistle targeting criminals in the South Inner City seized an Audi A3, cash and stolen property valued €30,000 and Heroin valued €3,000.
- On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 – Intelligence Led Operation in place to combat the distribution of Stolen Vehicles Dublin/ Meath/ Wicklow – 6 high end vehicles seized, €80,000 cannabis herb & other high value items.
- On 27<sup>th</sup> August 2016 – Ongoing investigations into serious criminal activity resulted in a vehicle being stopped in Clondalkin with €200,000 in cash concealed in the vehicle.

In addition to this Operation Hybrid continues and is designed to provide an armed response to organised crime in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. This operation is reviewed on a weekly basis to maintain optimal impact. The operation incorporates a number of hi-visibility armed checkpoints and patrols throughout the Region. Since

February there has been 11,520 Checkpoints, 1,260 Patrols and 4,085 Searches conducted under the auspice of Operation Hybrid.

In addition to the above a significant policing operation has been put in place at Dublin Port. The operation involves an increased Garda presence at the port working closely with the other stakeholder to disrupt any potential criminal activity. The operation is also focussed on the improvement of immigration and security controls at the port.

### **3. Traffic**

At the time of writing this report the number of people killed on the roads of the Capital in 2016 is 10; compared with 10 for 2015.

For period up to end of August there was 50 serious injury collisions; this compares to 44 for the same period in 2015.

Reduction in Road Deaths and Serious Injury Collisions remains a focus for An Garda Síochána and during the month of June the following operations were ongoing:-

- Summer Enforcement Campaign - July and August 2016
- Operation Pedestrian/Pedal Cyclist – 7th July 2016
- TISPOL Truck/Bus/Commercial Vehicle –25th to 31st July 2016 inc.
- August Bank Holiday Enforcement Operation – Friday 29/7/2016 to Monday 1/8/2016, including Op. Lockdown (Friday evening) and Op. Surround (MATs) (Saturday night)
- Operation Taxi/PSV – 5th & 6th August 2016
- Operation Motorcyclist – 12th August 2016
- Operation Mobile Phone – 17th & 18th August 2016
- TISPOL Operation Speed – 22nd to 28th August 2016 inc.

An Garda Síochána will have an increased focus on such operations in October with a view to tackling key offences leading to both fatal and serious injury collisions.

On 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016, An Garda Síochána, the Road Safety Authority (RSA) and the TISPOL Organisation will participate in **Project EDWARD** at [TISPOL](#) European Traffic Police Network.

Project EDWARD, aims to be a European Day without a Road Death and takes place on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016. Project EDWARD will encourage all road users to reflect on their attitude and behaviour. The goal is that no one should die on the roads of Europe on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

### **4. Community Engagement/ Safety**

- **Use Your Brain not your Fist Campaign**

As part of the Education and Awareness strand of Operation Thor to prevent crimes against the person, An Garda Síochána will run a public awareness campaign targeting males between 18 and 39 from Monday, September 12th 2016.

The campaign, Use Your Brain Not Your Fists, focuses on the impact that being involved in an assault can have on the lives of victims and perpetrators. Analysis of the issues would indicate, 83% of offenders in assault cases are male. The majority of offenders are aged between 18 and 39. 70% of assaults are male-on-male and 75% of assault victims are male.

These assaults typically take place in and around public places (street, roads, pubs and hotels) between 8pm and 5am at the weekend. Approximately 25% of incidents linked to the night time economy involved intoxication of either, the suspect offender, the victim, or both.

There are a very low level of repeat offenders (approx 3%), and low level of repeat victimisation (0.6%). There is a low level of reporting of assaults with approximately 55% of assaults reported.

The campaign will appear on a variety of media most used by this age group including online and social media, bus/Luas stops, and outdoor advertising close to assault hotspots.

- **National Property Recovery Day 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016**

An Garda Síochána strives to reunite owners, some victims of crime, with property recovered. The above initiative will be taking place on a National level throughout Ireland on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016, at a number of localised venues throughout Dublin. The venues will be advertised via the media outlets and on social media in the coming weeks.

The aims of the initiative are threefold:-

1. Restoration of property in the custody of An Garda Síochána to its rightful owner;
2. Increase Community Engagement
3. Impart Crime Prevention Advice to members of the Public

I will report back to the JPC in the future on the outcome of the Day.

## **5. Policing Plan 2017**

An Garda Síochána has commenced a period of consultation regarding the formulation of the Policing Plan for 2017, both National and Regional. At the last meeting I briefly highlighted the Garda Síochána Modernisation and renewal Programme for 2016-2021. This five year programme is focused on delivering modernisation, professionalization and cultural renewal resulting in tangible benefits for the community, our people and the State.

The Policing Plan will be formulated under five policing and security priorities, which are National and International Security, Confronting Crime, Roads Policing, Community Engagement and Public Safety; and Modernisation and Renewal. As one of our valued stakeholders I would like to invite you to make a submission outlining your views and expectations of An Garda Síochána for the Year 2017.

## **6. Strategic Partnership**

Partnerships form a very important part of our policing strategy in 2016, through a variety of community and interagency initiatives.

There were no TAG (Teenagers and Gardaí) programme or Late Nigh League Programmes run for the summer break. These will again commence in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter with the return of schools.

An Garda Síochána continues to work with the following Fora/ Initiatives:-

- Dublin Regional Homeless Executive in support of their Cold Weather Initiative 2015-2016.
- Dublin City Centre Business Forum.
- Assertive Case Management Team (ACMT) – to date this initiative has had a number of positive results and has improved the level of communication between An Garda Síochána, Drug User Service Providers, HSE and Homeless Services.

These partnerships are a very important part of our policing strategy in 2016, through a variety of community and interagency initiatives. These multi agency collaborative frameworks at a strategic level are designed to enhance the various stakeholder/ agencies capabilities to work together to both improve public safety and break the cycle of crime. An Garda Síochána will continue to engage with these initiatives/ forums and feedback to-date has been positive.

### **Conclusion**

I have outlined above the current position in respect of policing and our plans going forward in 2016. These initiatives are primarily focused on addressing policing issues in a collaborative manner involving our strategic partners and I look forward to continuing to develop these initiatives throughout the year.

**Thank You**