

Joint Policing Committee

Tuesday 23rd June 2015

Report of Assistant Commissioner John Twomey Dublin Metropolitan Region.

At this third meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2015 I intend to concentrate on the updates/ progress in the following areas,

- Crime
- Traffic
- Policing of International Qualifiers
- Community Engagement
- Strategic Partnership

During the months of May and June, An Garda Síochána was responsible for the policing of a number of events, including the Bloom Festival, and two Republic of Ireland International Matches against England and Scotland. I am happy to report that there were no major incidents and each of the events was policed successfully.

1. Crime

Up to the end of May 2015, Property Crime in DCC remained stable in comparison to the same period in 2014. Violent Property Crime continues to be below 2014 levels. Thefts from shop remains higher than 2014 levels, however this increase was offset by reductions in theft from the person and Theft of other property.

Despite initial increases experienced in Burglaries, this crime type is now on a par with the same period in 2014. Indications are that there has been a downward trend in Burglaries, which is greater than what would have been expected due to seasonal trends. This can be largely attributed to the work of the dedicated Burglary Response Units throughout the Region under the auspices of Operation Acer.

Public Order incidents have stabilised, within the DCC area. This is in contrast to the situation in non DCC areas, where public order offences within the DMR as a whole showed are down overall.

An increase in begging incidents has been seen in the DCC area. It is worth noting that that the detection of begging incidents is enforcement led, and an increase in incident volume is indicative of an increase in Garda activity in the area.

Comparing 2014 to 2015, there has been an increase in Crimes against the Person with the greatest increase in the category of Assaults. While this is however off the back of significant decreases in 2012, 2013 and the first quarter of 2014, it presents a challenge to An Garda Síochána to address this trend. As reported on at the last meeting Operation Irene has now commenced with a primary focus of addressing such anti-social behaviour.

A number of specific Operations are ongoing in 2015 to tackle various crime categories that were a cause of concern throughout the DCC area. These operations were

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.

On the 27th May 2015 when a national day of action took place in support of Operation Fiacla/ Acer. This operation was held in conjunction with a Europol led Day of Action. The overall objective of this day of action was the targeting of Inter Regional Travelling Criminal involved in the theft of metal and other associated forms of criminality. The operation involved 17 specific patrols and 10 checkpoints throughout Dublin, which resulted in the 16 searches being conducted and 12 targets being arrested, associated with theft of metal and other associated criminality.

Further operations will take place in 2015 to maintain a focus on the key challenges ahead.

2. Traffic

At the time of writing this report the number of people killed on the roads of the Capital in 2015 is six (6); compared with eight (8) for 2014 during the same period. This can be attributed to a number of focused operations run in this period, including:-

- Operation ‘Safer Roads for Dublin’ Initiative (1st April 2015 to 1st June 2015)
- Operation Pedestrian and Pedal Cycle (6th May 2015)
- Mobile Phone Enforcement Operation (29th and 30th April 2015)

Road Deaths is an issue which is the subject of ongoing discussion with my Senior Management Team.

3. Policing of International Qualifiers

Dublin hosted two International Soccer Matches in June 2015. These matches against England on 6/6/15 and Scotland on 13/6/15 were Category A type matches and required a significant policing commitment from Friday to Monday of each weekend. As with such significant events the policing plans were put in place with the assistance of our partners within Dublin City. I would like to thank all our partners in assisting to ensure the success of the policing operation.

The policing of two events proved very successful, with both events passing-off without incident, thus allowing all fans and visitors to enjoy their time in Dublin.

4. Community Engagement

Community Engagement forms a central part of the ethos of An Garda Síochána. We continue to take every opportunity to engage with the various communities throughout the Region. Recently, the Community Policing Unit Ballymun commenced the Garda Streetwise Programme with 10 members of St. Michael’s House from Northbrook, **Ballymun**, in March 2015.

Each participant attended the programme every Monday over an 8 week period. The aim of this course is to help familiarize the participants with local Gardaí and increase their awareness regarding personal safety. The course included weekly presentations by Community Policing members on the role of An Garda Síochána, Understanding the

Concept of Crime and its consequences, Personal Safety at Home and in the Community, and Road Safety.

On Monday 18th May, 2015 the participants were given a tour of Ballymun Garda Station where they had the opportunity to see the cell area, the interview room and the patrol cars. Superintendent Finbarr Murphy then presented each individual with a Certificate for completing the Garda Streetwise Programme. The Course was very well received and overall a great success.

In addition, the TAG (Teenagers and Gardaí) Programme, which continues to developed to promote positive engagement among Gardaí and Young People; recently presented TAG Certificates at a graduation in the Step Up Garda Youth Diversion Project in **Cabra** to two youths who received their certificates from An Garda Síochána. This is the eleventh TAG programme to be delivered in the DCC area. Previous programmes were delivered in Finglas, Raheny, Ballyfermot, Crumlin and City Centre. The programme run for six weeks and involved the facilitation of discussions between Teenagers Gardaí on topics selected by the students prior to the programme. The Programmes aims to engage with young people to create a space to facilitate dialogue between Young People and Gardaí, discuss issues that have arisen in relation to Garda engagement with Young People and discuss issues that have arisen in relation to Young People's engagement with Gardaí.

5. Strategic Partnership

Partnerships form a very important part of our policing strategy in 2015, through a variety of community and interagency initiatives. Of particular note is our Street Outreach initiative, and the Dublin City Centre Business Forum. These multi agency collaborative framework are at a strategic level and 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 2015. 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