

## **Dublin City Joint Policing Committee**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

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

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

- Crime
- Serious Crime
- Traffic
- Modernisation and Renewal Programme 2016- 2021
- Strategic Partnership

#### **1. Crime**

Up to the end of June, Property Crime in Dublin City Council CC area is down (-17%) on same period in 2015 and is overall down (-24%) in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. Violent Property Crime is down (-30%) on 2015 levels. The category 'Thefts from shop' is indicating lower levels than in 2015 (-14%) and 'Thefts of a Pedal Cycle' is down (-13%) on levels in the DCC area. An increase has been experienced in thefts from persons in 2016. This increase was offset by reductions in all other theft categories. An Garda Síochána will analyse any increase in such categories and put policing plans in place to address same.

Burglaries in 2016 incidents also remained below average at -30% on 2015 levels in the DCC area and is overall down (-33%) 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 on Operation Thor. There were 63 individuals arrested for Burglary, Aggravated Burglary and Possession of an Article in DMR between 1<sup>st</sup> – 30th June 2016; 8471 Thor Patrols carried out and 5609 Thor Checkpoints carried out since the commencement of the Operation.

Activity led incident types, such as Public Order (-23%) and Begging offences (-53%) have shown a marked decrease on 2015 levels in the DCC area. This type of activity has decreased across the whole Region (-18% / -52%). 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 -17% on 2015 in the DCC area

Comparing 2015 to 2016, there has been a decrease in Crimes against the Person (-1%) however there is an in the category of Minor Assaults (+7%). This continues to present a challenge to An Garda Síochána to address this trend. Hi-visibility strategies will remain in place to address this problem, utilising mountain bike and foot patrols in key areas. Serious assaults have decreased to (-4%) on levels in 2015. 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 (-22%) on levels in 2015. Possession of firearm remains stable. Discharge of a firearm is currently running at 8 incidents less than 2015 in the DCC area.

Overall drug offences indicate a (-15%) 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 13,993 incidents of searches in 2016. Some significant seizures made in June to wit:-

- Seizure on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 in Dublin 8 - €1,350,000 estimated value of Heroin
- Seizure in Dublin 22 on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016 – Cocaine estimated value €210,000
- Seizure on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in Dublin 10 – Heroin estimated value €40,000

A 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 10 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. Such investigations are complex and protracted by their very nature; however An Garda Síochána is fully committed to identifying the individuals and their associates. 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
36	129	17	Circa €1 million	7,626

There is intelligence driven operations currently ongoing in the DMR, which provides both a proactive and re-active response to serious crime to wit:-

**Operation Hybrid** 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 6221 Checkpoints, 872 Patrols and 2196 Searches conducted under the auspice of Operation Hybrid.

There have been a number of very significant stops, searches and arrests in relation to the movements of armed criminals in this period.

### **3. Traffic**

At the time of writing this report the number of people killed on the roads of the Capital in 2016 is 8; compared with 8 for 2015.

Arising from the March meeting it was requested that figures would be supplied on serious injury collisions. For period up to end of June there was 37 serious injury collisions; this compares to 35 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:-

- **Operation Artery – (ongoing 1<sup>st</sup> June – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016)**
- **June Bank Holiday Enforcement Operation – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016**
- **TISPOL Alcohol / Drugs – 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016**
- **Operation Motorcyclist – 17th June 2016**

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

### **4. Modernisation and Renewal Programme 2016- 2021**

On June 9<sup>th</sup> 2016, An Garda Síochána launched the Modernisation and Renewal Programme to the public. This is a major event for the organisation and marks the progress we are making on our largest Modernisation and Renewal Programme since the establishment of the organisation.

The programme will focus on improvements in areas such as supports for our people; our processes, our technology and our structures to deliver a better service across our core areas of prevention, response, investigation, security and intelligence. It will also see a renewal of our culture, a focus on living up to our values and listening to and learning from the experience and expertise of our partners

### **5. Strategic Partnership**

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

In the first two quarters of 2016, there were seven TAG (Teenagers and Gardaí) programmes run in Dublin in Kevin Street, Blackrock, Finglas (x2), Ballbriggan, Cabra and Crumlin. These programmes give young people an opportunity to get an insight into life as a Garda and helps break down barriers and gives young people a chance to share their views.

I have attended some of these presentations myself and I wish to acknowledge the work of the community workers, AGS and families involved.

An Garda Síochána continue 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.
  - DMR South Central has 25 participants involved in this programme who engage with the team on a daily basis while many participants have ceased their involvement by improving their personal situation.
  - DMR North Central has 30 participants being case managed by the ACMT and the team expects this number to increase in the coming months due to the forthcoming closure of a number of beds in the BRU Hostel (100 beds down to 40).

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 framework 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**