

# CORK COUNTY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, 26th November 2018

Vertigo Suite, Floor 17, County Hall, Cork





### Welcome Address and Introduction by Cllr. Frank O'Flynn Chairperson Cork County JPC

The Chairman of Cork County Joint Policing Committee Cllr Frank O'Flynn welcomed everyone to the annual public meeting of the Cork County Joint Policing Committee.

He informed the group that this was the 9<sup>th</sup> such Annual public meeting in Cork County since the establishment of the JPC's back in Spring 2009 and that the purpose of Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) is to develop greater consultation and cooperation on policing and crime issues between An Garda Síochána, Local Authorities and the Community and Voluntary sectors.

He then welcomed the Mayor, Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy, Members of an Garda Síochána, Members and staff of Cork County Council, Members of the Oireachtas, members of the PPN and particularly welcomed members of the public who were in attendance

He also welcomed Assistant Commissioner Anne Marie McMahon to County Hall and the Cork County Joint Policing Committee Public Meeting.

The Chair then welcomed Detective Garda Michael Lynch Electronic Crimes Investigation Unit, the key note speaker at this year's public meeting.

Cllr O'Flynn paid tribute to the ongoing work of the members of An Garda Siochana in Cork. He stated that the Gardai are the frontline service for policing and security and that we need to support their endeavours in whatever way we can in keeping our communities safe.

He then introduced the Panel; Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin, Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan, Superintendent Mick McGuire, Vice Chair Councillor Timmy Collins, Mr. Tim Lucey, Chief Executive, Ms. Nicola Radley Senior Executive Officer, Cork County Council.

He then outlined a number of Cork County JPC's Past Achievements:

- Adoption of a 6 year Strategic Plan 2016-2021, a subgroup has been established to monitor its implementation chaired by Councillor Timmy Collins. To date over 80% of the strategic actions have been achieved or are ongoing.
- Every issue submitted by the community is assigned to a garda or council staff member to be specifically addressed. This has resulted in new channels of communication opened between the community, the Local Authority and An Garda Siochana.

- Support for Local Policing Fora
- The Gardai Siochana provide quarterly Crime Statistic reports to the JPC and these statistical reports are an important to identifying underlying trends and patterns in crime across Cork County and respond accordingly.

Councillor O'Flynn then thanked all members of the Joint Policing Committee for their commitment to the JPC over the past 12 months.

He also thanked the staff of Cork County Council for their support and work with the JPC.

He stated that the JPC nationally are a success story and that the Cork County JPC has gone from strength to strength. It is a particularly good example of the success of an inter-agency collaboration.

#### Presentation to Chief Superintendent William Dillane

Chief Executive Tim Lucey informed the meeting that there have been approximately twenty five meetings of the JPC held since Chief Superintendent Ger Dillane became a member where he has always generously provided great insight and understanding regarding issues of concern to Cork community.

The Cork County JPC Six Year Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 was launched in 2016; Chief Superintendent Ger Dillane was involved in the development and has supported the subsequent implementation.

The Chair then called upon Chief Superintendent Ger Dillane to receive a presentation on the occasion of his retirement from An Garda Síochána and in recognition of his years as a member of the Joint Policing Committee. He stated that he would like to pay tribute to a great public servant on his retirement after forty years service with An Garda Síochána.

Chief Superintendent Ger Dillane thanked the Chair for the presentation and stated that enhanced collaboration has been achieved as a result of the JPC; it has made the County a safer place to live. He said that he hoped that the committee would keep up the good work and continue to do the right thing to benefit all the people of the County.

# <u>2018 Q3 Crime Statistical Overview, An Garda Síochána – presentation given by Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin</u> – Copy attached.

In response to queries raised Chief Superintendents Barry McPolin and Con Cadogan confirmed the following:

#### Purchase or consumption of Alcohol

Under 18s are generally dealt with under juvenile system and therefore do not usually appear in the statistics.

#### Reporting of Sexual Assault

The higher number of incidents reported may be due to the opening of the Protective Services Unit and access to trained personnel. The Cork City Pilot Unit has been in operation since 2016 and staff levels have now been increased to include a Detective Inspector, Detective Sergeants, and 10 Gardaí. The Unit works closely the HSE, Tusla, and support agencies.

It is hoped that the Protective Services Unit in North Cork will open during Q2 of 2019. A property in West Cork is currently being sourced.

#### **Traffic Collisions**

There is no breakdown of drink and drug related incidents within the statistics. There is mandatory testing at all accidents.

All road users need to be cognisant of their responsibilities when they drive, use a motor bike, or a pedal cycle; don't drink, don't speed, wear a seatbelt.

It's important to be aware heading into the Christmas Season.

A number of factors can contribute to an increase or decrease in incidents, including a lack of courtesy for other road users.

#### **Drunkenness Offences**

There are more Gardaí on the ground and this could be leading to increased detection and arrests. The increase could also be due to the improvement in people's economic circumstances.

#### **Drug Driving**

22 people have been arrested in West Cork for drug driving this year, an increase of 7 on last year. Gardaí have received training and have testing equipment available.

#### <u>Key-note address by Detective Garda Michael Lynch, Electronic Crime</u> Investigation Unit - Copy attached.

During the discussion after the presentation the following points were raised:

- There needs to be an increased awareness of the dangers of sharing personal information on Social Media
- A lot of crime now has digital elements
- Cyber crime is international and borderless
- Cyber crime training programmes for start-up businesses should be made available
- Personally addressed emails demanding money should be forwarded to the Gardaí
- Every member of An Garda Síochána is currently receiving cyber crime training
- Ireland is a leader in this area, the first MA in cyber crime was developed by UCD

#### IPC Notices of Motion Arising and Submission of Public Questions

#### Policing large scale athletic events

"To seek an update on the challenges of policing large scale athletic events held on public roads."

Sean Sherlock, TD

Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin responded as follows:

- There is currently no legislation covering these events, there are many policing challenges around safety, disruption and inconvenience.
- Runners are vulnerable and safety must be a priority in all cases.
- Stewarts must be properly trained and attired at these events.
- Organisers of events must have an event management plan, risk assessment and traffic management plan and they must liaise with An Garda Síochána and the Local Authority in advance.

#### Figures and latest updates for sexual and domestic abuse in the County

"I ask this committee to include in all future joint policing committee meetings the figures and latest updates for sexual and domestic abuse in the County and to call on the Minister to take action regarding the way victims of sexual & domestic abuse are treated through the court process."

Cllr June Murphy

Cllr Murphy thanked An Garda Síochána for providing the sexual assault figures in their report and asked that domestic violence figures be included from now on.

She further stated that a lot more assistance and support needs to be provided for victims of sexual and domestic abuse and training is needed in this area for all agencies involved.

She stated that it was very disappointing that sentencing in these types of cases is so inconsistent.

Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin responded that there is separation of powers and that the Gardaí have no role in sentencing or the courts. He further stated that support of victims by Gardaí is very important and that training is required across the board in this area.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Justice.

#### *Text alerts*

"That Cork County Council call on Mr Charles Flanagan TD, Minister for Justice that all community text alerts become a free service nationally to help prevent the spread of crime and to help people feel safer in their homes."

#### Cllr Frank OFlynn

During the discussion the following points were raised:

- Text Alert is a national scheme and the cost of messages is refunded by the Government and Muintir na Tire it is up to groups to claim this expenditure.
- The service is currently being upgraded and will include a smartphone app containing greater functionality and incorporating the property logbook. Individuals will also be able to personalise alerts.
- There are in excess of 100 text alert schemes in place and it is important that groups maintain their databases.
- Groups may need to be provided with information on claiming for expenditure.
- Further communication with people can be looked at in conjunction with Crime Prevention Officers and Muintir na Tire.
- People should call 999/112 or their local Garda station if they have any concerns or suspicions.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Justice.

#### 10-Year Smoke Alarms

"As a public safety issue can the JPC endorse a proposal that it be mandatory that homeowners install 10-year smoke alarms in all dwellings that don't have hardwired smoke detectors."

#### Diarmuid Cronin, PPN

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Planning Housing and Local Government.

#### AOB

#### Macroom Garda Station

It was agreed to write to the Minister for Justice for an update.

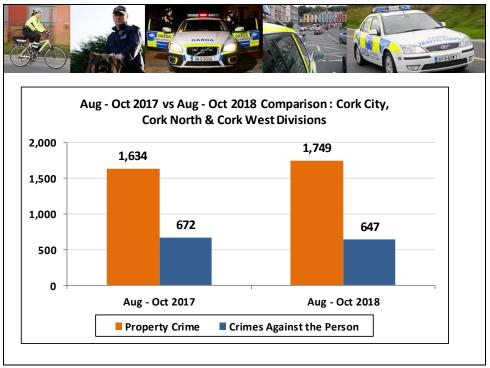
#### Other queries

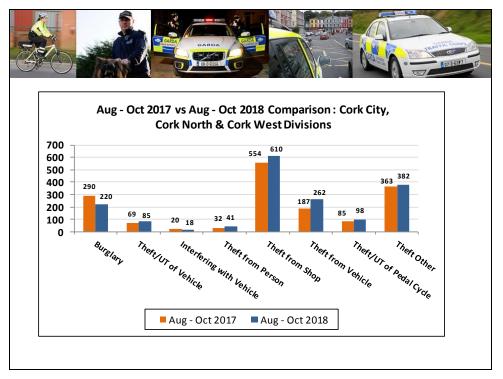
In response to members' queries Chief Superintendent Barry McPolin responded as follows:

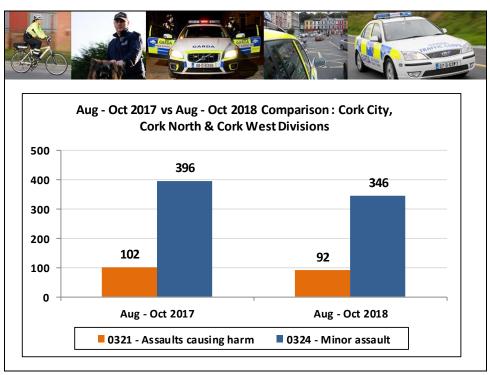
- The roads unit is moving to Ballincollig station, the station is currently underused.
- Resources are constantly under review in order to employ them in the best way possible.
- Every division has received probationary Gardaí and 24 more are coming in December to the Cork City division.
- Every effort is being made to increase Garda numbers and Garda visibility in Cork County.
- Members who are promoted or retire will be replaced.

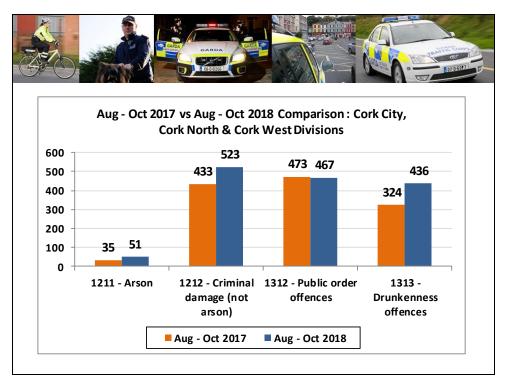
#### <u>2018 Q3 Crime Statistical Overview, An Garda Síochána -</u> Presentation

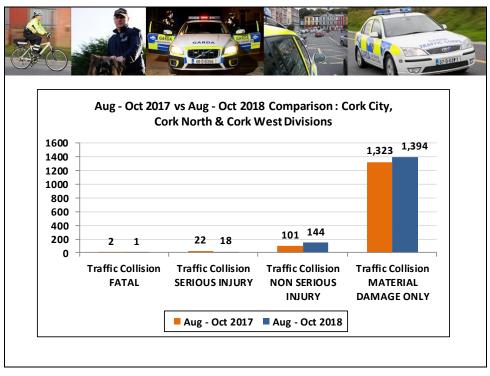


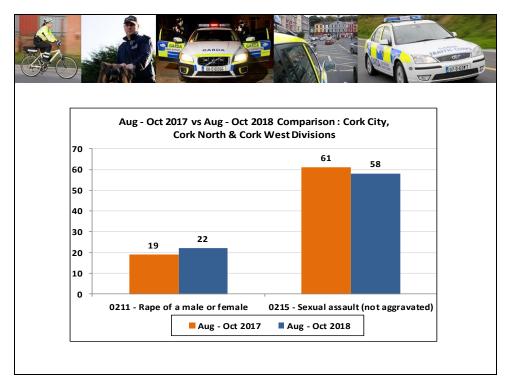


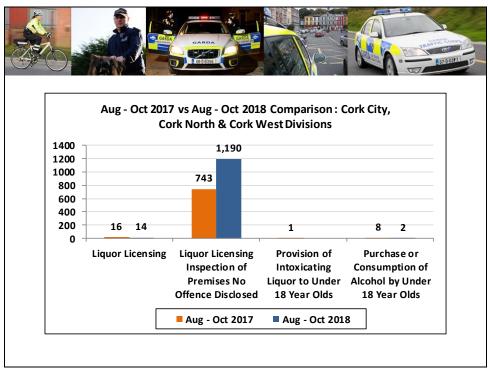


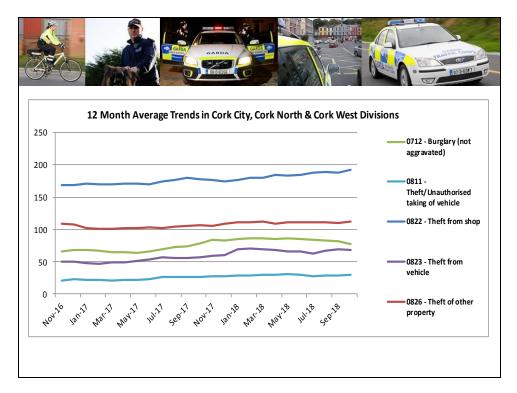


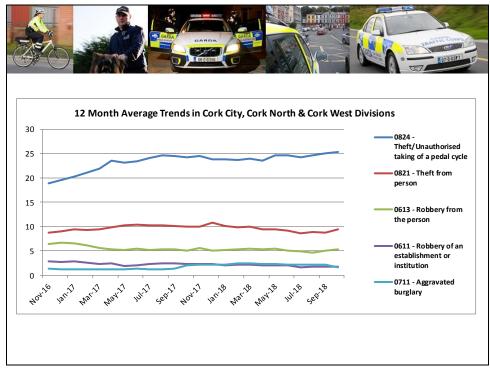


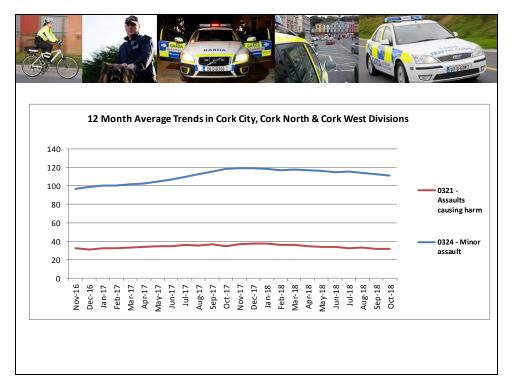


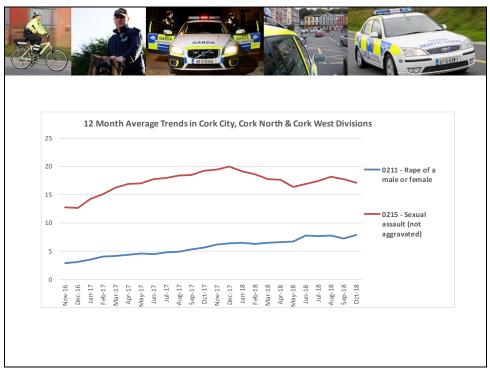




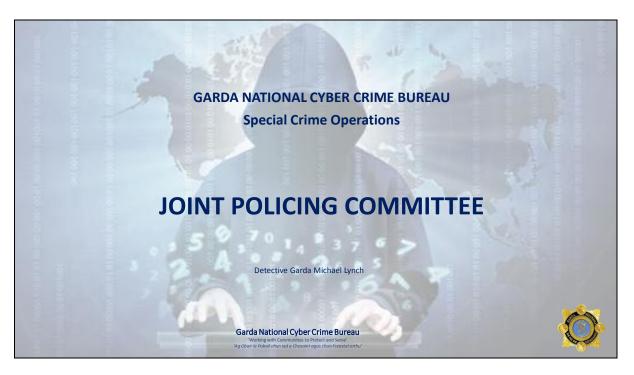


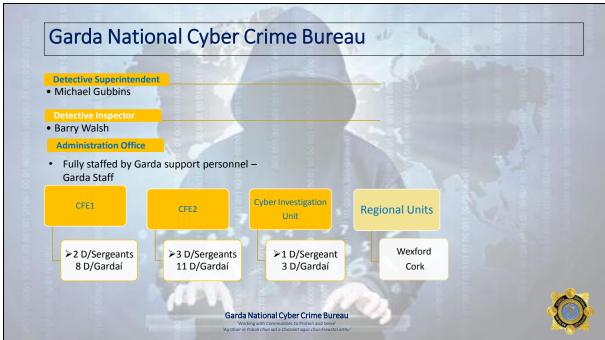


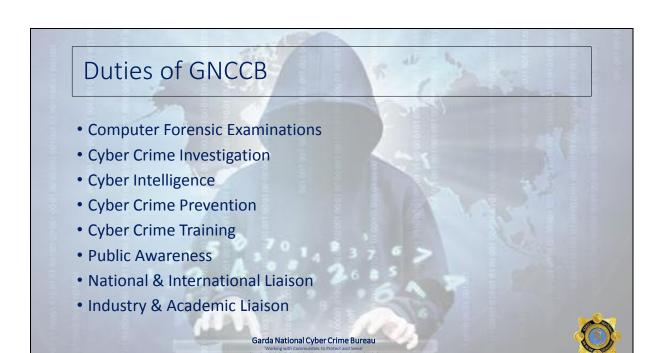




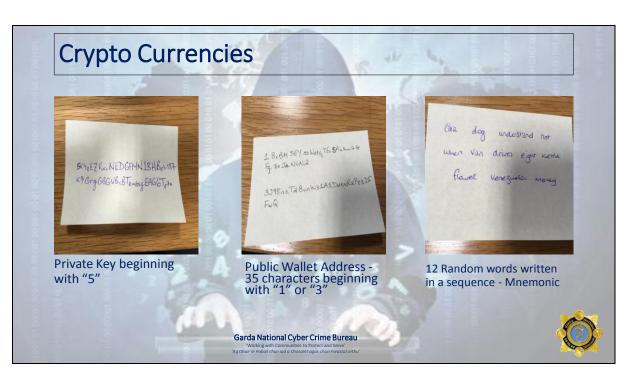
## <u>Key-note address by Detective Garda Michael Lynch, Electronic</u> <u>Crime Investigation Unit - Presentation</u>



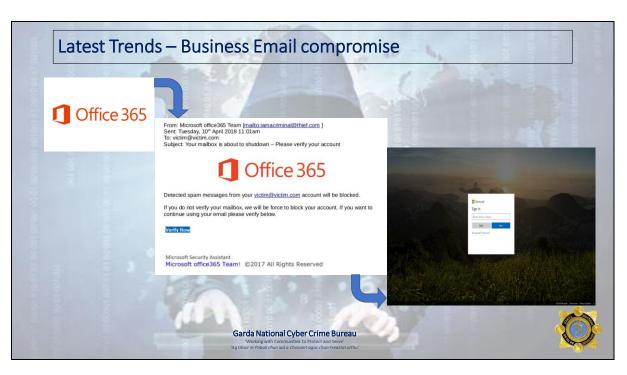
















## Advice?

- Strong and changed passwords
- · Work email for work. Personal email for personal
- 2Factor authentication (2FA)
- Policies re changing bank account details
- Network/device user accounts policy & permissions
- Mobile phones PIN & passcodes, short idle times and lock out when not in use
- · Email attachment/link policies
- Finance/bank emails SLOW down
- BYOD policy

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(An Obayla Behalf share and a Character source has Frontial active)



## Advice?

- Be cyber aware don't click on links: HOVER
- Use genuine logon pages not email links
- Be inquisitive Be sure If in Doubt
- Update software/antivirus
- Follow cyber network policy in use
- Don't use public Wi-Fi for business unless VPN secured
- Don't post on social media update privacy settings
- BACK-UP
- · Don't do online what you wouldn't do offline

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## **Current & Future Projects**

- Regionalisation Unit for Every Region Comprising 1 Sgt and 5 Gardaí
- First Responders to High Tech Crime
- GNCCB Accommodation Current & Future requirements
- Cyber Intelligence Unit
- Malware Analysis Team (With links to Europol)
- Capacity Building/Expansion



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# Keeping The Organisation Informed

- First Responder to High Tech Crime
- AGS Portal
- Best practice guide to conducting searches involving computers
- GNCCB advise/assist
- Garda College

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# Thank you

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# **Backlog Statistics**

• Jan 2014 1033 Cases

• Jan 2015 924

• Jan 2016 722

• Jan 2017 616

• Jan 2018 495

• August 2018 466

• Applications are increasing on an year by year basis

• All cases are Risk Assessed

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