



# **Laois Joint Policing Committee**

## **DRAFT Strategic Plan 2022 - 2027**

Public Consultation



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### Introduction

Laois County Joint Policing Committee (JPC) completed its first 5 year Strategic Plan in 2016, which focussed on achieving coordinated objectives to support enhanced policing and crime prevention in County Laois.

The Laois Joint Policing Committee is a forum where the Council and local Gardaí responsible for the policing of the area, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area. The committee is co-operative in nature, giving all interested parties an opportunity to contribute to the improved safety and quality of life for the county.

The JPC focuses its work on addressing key issues affecting the public such as crime prevention, anti-social behaviour/public order, misuse of drugs and related crime, not forgetting support for those who have been affected by crime, including victims of domestic violence.

In co-operation with those authorities whose responsibility it is to maintain public safety and police the county, we all have a role to play in keeping our county safe and free from crime. With the expiry of the existing Plan, a new Plan must be prepared in accordance with the Joint Policing Committee Guidelines 2014, issued by the Dept. of Justice, Equality and Law Reform under the auspices of the An Garda Síochána Act 2005.

This Draft Strategic Plan 2022-2027, has been prepared with due regard to relevant national and local policies/plans, including the Laois Local Economic & Community Plan 2016-2021, An Garda Síochána Policing Plan (Laois/Offaly), Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery – A Health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025, and DRIVE (Drug Related Intimidation and Violence Engagement) - November 2021.

### Consultation

It is recognised that while specific areas of policing must be dealt with by An Garda Síochána, broadly, the main objective of this Draft Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan is the

promotion of crime prevention measures in our communities and ensuring the relevant authorities work together to deliver actions for the benefit of the people of Laois.

In this regard, Laois JPC engaged with a number of key sectoral and community stakeholders/organisations and sought their views. The JPC members also discussed and broadly agreed the key objectives of the Draft Strategic Plan.

The Draft Plan is now open for submissions from members of the public. You can make an observation or submission via the following options only;

- Online by registering on <https://consult.laois.ie/> where you can then make a submission on the Draft Laois County Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan or
- Via email to [dce@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:dce@laoiscoco.ie); or
- In writing marked “**Draft JPC Strategic Plan**” to the Administrative Officer, Community Section, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, James Fintan Lalor Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Submissions or observations with respect to the Draft Laois County Joint Policing Committee Strategic Plan are to be received **no later than 4.00 p.m. on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.**

# Draft Strategic Plan 2022-2027

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## Our Commitment

For the period of this Plan, Laois County Joint Policing Committee has committed to the following:

### **To work effectively as a Committee**

- Working effectively and learning from previous experience.
- Making a clear plan for enhanced policing and community crime prevention.
- Agreeing a Strategy that builds in measured outputs and outcomes and is implemented in line with National Guidelines.
- Establishing and maintaining good working relationships and good communication between all agencies; ensuring cohesiveness.
- Delivering realistic and tangible projects and crime prevention initiatives based on evidence.
- Giving a commitment to Partnership working (all relevant agencies), Gardaí and Community Alert/NH Watch, with local communities and public representatives and all other relevant partners.
- Building in mechanisms for review of JPC work.

### **To engage Effectively with the Community**

- Ensuring effective community engagement and involvement by the public and rural/urban communities in its work and in crime prevention generally
- Maximising the efficiency of the JPC Municipal District Working Groups to deal with local issues
- Collaborative working to tackle fear of crime
- Encouraging people to come forward with information; refined text alert and email systems
- Encouraging increased Community Alert/Community Safety and supports for people of all ages
- Support the development of Community based CCTV schemes, where all relevant criteria are met

### **To develop, support and promote Crime Prevention and Education Initiatives**

- Supporting and promoting crime prevention initiatives and schemes
- Investigating additional supports for young people, vulnerable groups,

diverse groups and marginalized communities

- Collaborating to develop and promote Educational initiatives

#### **To address Crime Related Issues**

- Promoting measures to reduce property crime
- Addressing the substance misuse issue
- Tackling Drug dealing and related intimidation
- Addressing anti-social behaviour, criminal activity and public order offences
- Examining potential for by-laws

#### **To ensure proper Road Safety, support Smarter Travel, and Litter and Emergency Management**

- Working with agencies to address road safety for all road users
- Supporting Smarter Travel facilities and initiatives
- Addressing illegal dumping and litter management offences
- Working with all agencies in respect of major emergency management

## Actions to be achieved during the period of this Strategic Plan

### Strategic Objective 1 - Community Engagement and Communication

- Ensuring effective community engagement and involvement by the public and rural/urban communities in its work and in crime prevention generally
- Maximising the efficiency of the JPC Municipal District Working Groups to deal with local issues
- Collaborative working to tackle fear of crime
- Encouraging people to come forward with information; refined text alert and email systems
- Encouraging increased Community Alert/Community Safety and supports for people of all ages
- Support the development of Community based CCTV schemes, where all relevant criteria are met

Summary of actions to be taken under this Objective	Lead Person/Agency/Committee	Key Partners/ JPC Sub Committee members	Timescale for action	Anticipated Outcome	Plan/Policy Reference
1. Develop a communications framework for the dissemination of information by the JPC within the public domain and to relevant interest Groups	Laois County Council	An Garda Síochána All JPC Member agencies/organisations	Ongoing	Strategy developed	Laois Local Economic & Community Plan 2016- 2021 (Goal Four)
2. Identify priority areas for re-launching community crime prevention schemes or developing new ones	An Garda Síochána	Muintir na Tíre	Annually	Safer Communities & reduced Crime	An Garda Síochána Policing Plan Laois Offaly (Priority Two)

<p>3. Make available relevant crime prevention information to groups and also in respect of community schemes available</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana</p>	<p>Laois County Council Muintir na Tire</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Information disseminated</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois Offaly (Priority Two)</p> <p>Laois Local Economic &amp; Community Plan 2016- 2021 (Goal Four)</p>
<p>4. Maximise the efficiency of the JPC Municipal District Working Groups to address local issues of concern</p>	<p>Laois County Council</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana JPC member agencies/organisations</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Interventions to address issues arising</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois Offaly (Priority One)</p> <p>Laois Local Economic &amp; Community Plan 2016- 2021 (Goal Four)</p>
<p>5. Support the development of Community based CCTV schemes, where all relevant criteria are met</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana/Laois County Council</p>	<p>LCC &amp; AGS in conjunction with applicant group</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Schemes operational</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois Offaly (Priority One)</p> <p>Laois Local Economic &amp; Community Plan 2016- 2021 (Goal Four)</p>
<p>6. Coordinate networking of community alert groups</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana</p>	<p>Laois County Council Muintir na Tire Laois Public Participation Network</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Shared learning of groups</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois Offaly (Priority Two)</p>
<p>7. Convene District Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch meetings with An Garda Síochana and Local Authority at least once per annum</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana</p>	<p>Laois County Council Muintir na Tire JPC member agencies/organisations</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>2 county networking meetings per annum</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois Offaly (Priority Two)</p>

8. Reintroduce and reinvigorate Community Gardai in strategic locations in the county	An Garda Síochana		Annually	Strategic community policing / Garda visibility prioritised	An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority One)
9. Maintain the JPC web page/portal to disseminate crime prevention and other information to the public	Laois County Council	An Garda Síochana JPC member agencies/organisations	Ongoing	Information made available online	Laois Local Economic & Community Plan 2016-2021 (Goal 4)



## Strategic Objective 2 - Crime Prevention and Education

- Supporting and promoting crime prevention initiatives
- Investigate additional supports for young people, vulnerable groups, diverse groups and marginalized communities
- Collaborating to develop and promote educational initiatives

Summary of actions to be taken under this Objective	Lead Person/Agency/Committee	Key Partners/ JPC Sub Committee members	Timescale for action	Anticipated Outcome	Plan/Policy Reference
1. Promote Crime Prevention initiatives in the county, including measures in relation to the rural/farming sector.	An Garda Síochana	Laois County Council All JPC member agencies/organisations Laois Public Participation Network	Ongoing	Information made widely available by the JPC	An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly. (Priority Two)
2. Promote supports for vulnerable people at home, through promotion of Seniors Alert and other schemes.	Laois County Council	An Garda Síochana Muintir na Tíre Laois Public Participation Network	Ongoing	Information disseminated to relevant interest groups	An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority Two)  Laois Local Economic & Community Plan 2016- 2021 (Goal 7)
3. Support engagement of young people with Juvenile Liaison system, Youth Diversion Projects and/or miscellaneous diversion programmes operated by the Laois Sports Partnership.	An Garda Síochana	Laois County Council Relevant support agencies Community/Voluntary Sector Laois Sports Partnership	Ongoing	JPC will be updated regularly re programmes /activities for engagement of young people at risk	An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority Two)  Laois Co Co Corporate Plan 2019-2024  Laois Local Economic & Community Plan 2016- 2021 (Goal 7)

<p>4. Support young people, vulnerable groups, diverse and/or marginalized communities to engage with and build positive relationships with policing authorities.</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana</p>	<p>Laois County Council Community/Voluntary Sector. Relevant support agencies</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>JPC will be updated regularly on engagement with groups by support agencies</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority One)  Laois Co Co Corporate Plan 2019-2024  Laois Local Economic &amp; Community Plan 2016- 2021 (Goal 7)</p>
<p>5. Develop educational awareness programmes for primary and secondary schools in respect of Crime Prevention and cybercrime/online bullying.</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana</p>	<p>Laois County Council Community/Voluntary Sector Laois Primary/ Second level schools</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Programmes developed for both levels</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority. One)  Laois Local Economic &amp; Community Plan 2016- 2021 (Goal 7)</p>
<p>6. Collaborate with other agencies to develop proactive ways to heighten public awareness of potential harm of cyber crime</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana</p>	<p>Laois County Council Community/Voluntary Sector Laois Primary/ Second level schools</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Initiatives developed and delivered</p>	<p>An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority Two)</p>

### Strategic Objective 3 - Address Priority Crime Related Issues

- Promoting measures to reduce property crime
- Addressing substance misuse issues
- Tackling Drug dealing and related intimidation
- Addressing anti-social behaviour, criminal activity and public order offences
- Examining potential for by-laws

Summary of actions to be taken under this Objective	Lead Person/Agency/Committee	Key Partners/ JPC Sub Committee members	Timescale for action	Anticipated Outcome	Plan/Policy Reference
1. Promote measures to reduce property crime.	An Garda Síochana	Laois County Council Community/Voluntary Sector Business Sector	Ongoing	Reduction in burglary rate	An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority 2)
2. Promote the 'Dial to Stop Drug Dealing' campaign and contact details.	An Garda Síochana	Midland Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Laois County Council All JPC member agencies/organisations	Ongoing	Campaign promoted	An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority 2)  Laois Local Economic & Community Plan 2016- 2021 (Goal 7)

3. Support and promote publicly the proper disposal of drug related waste and litter.	Midland Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force	An Garda Síochána HSE CADS Drug & Alcohol Service Providers	Ongoing	Promotion carried out	Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery – A Health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025.  Laois Local Economic & Community Plan 2016- 2021 (Goal 6)
4. Encourage support for victims of crime and engage with victim support organisations.	An Garda Síochána	Victim support organisations	Ongoing		An Garda Síochána Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority Two)
5. Develop protocols to address anti-social behaviour and public order issues in public open spaces and housing estates	An Garda Síochána	Laois County Council Community/Voluntary Sector Business Sector	2018	Plan developed	An Garda Síochána Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority One)
6. Support the roll out of the DRIVE (Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement) Initiative	Midland Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force	An Garda Síochána Laois County Council Community, Voluntary & Statutory Sectors	Ongoing	Initiatives developed and delivered	DRIVE - November 2021 A data-driven intervention model to respond effectively to drug-related intimidation & violence in communities in Ireland  An Garda Síochána Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority One)

## Strategic Objective 4 - Road Safety, Smarter Travel, Litter and Emergency Management

- Working with agencies to address road safety for all road users
- Supporting Smarter Travel facilities and initiatives
- Addressing illegal dumping and litter management offences
- Working with all agencies in respect of major emergency management

Summary of actions to be taken under this Objective	Lead Person/Agency/Committee	Key Partners/ JPC Sub Committee members	Timescale for action	Anticipated Outcome	Plan/Policy Reference
1. Encourage ongoing commitment of all parties to the Laois County Council Road Safety Committee	Laois County Council	An Garcia Síochana LCC Road Safety Committee members	Ongoing	Road Safety Committee working effectively	An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority_ Two)  Laois Co Co Corporate Plan 2019-2024
2. Promotion of national and local Road Safety campaigns and educational initiatives	An Garda Síochana	All JPC member agencies/organisations	Ongoing	Number and severity of road collisions reduced in Lao is	An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority. Two)  Laois Co Co Corporate Plan 2019-2024
3. Support Smarter Travel focused facilities with on-bike gardai and through enforcement of parking regulations on footpaths and cycle tracks and any other control measures.	An Garda Síochána	Laois County Council Active Travel Section	Ongoing	Improve safety for all road users	An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority. Four)  Laois Co Co Corporate Plan 2019-2024
4. Work collaboratively to develop measures to address illegal dumping in the county, including use of available and appropriate technology, in compliance with all legislative requirements.	Laois County Council	An Garda Síochana Community/Voluntary Sector, Business Sector	Ongoing	Incidents of illegal dumping reduced	An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Offaly (Priority. Two)  Laois Co Co Corporate Plan 2019-2024

5. Engagement by all parties with Major Emergency initiatives including Severe Weather Inter-Agency Committee	Laois County Council	An Garda Síochana Relevant support agencies	Ongoing	Effective cooperation of agencies when dealing with a major incident	An Garda Síochana National Policing Plan An Garda Síochana Policing Plan Laois/Wfaly.(Priority. One)  Laois Co Co Corporate Plan 2019-2024
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## Monitoring and Review of the Strategy

The objectives and actions contained in this Strategic Plan will be addressed within the Plan' s time frame .

In accordance with the Revised Joint Policing Committee Guidelines 2014, an Annual Work Plan will be prepared, and the Laois County Joint Policing Committee members will have collective responsibility with regard to its implementation. Each Annual Work Plan will include consideration of how the Joint Policing Committee can enhance overall efforts to address key issues affecting community life.

Where actions are not specifically the responsibility of the Laois County Joint Policing Committee, the lead agency will have the responsibility for driving these, with the Joint Policing Committee having a monitoring role.

In accordance with the Guidelines, Laois County Joint Policing Committee will provide an annual report on the achievement of actions/objectives in its Strategic Plan, to be published by 30<sup>th</sup> April each year.

This Strategic Plan will be subject to review during the Plan period as agreed by Laois County Joint Policing Committee.

