

Report of Assistant Commissioner Jack Nolan, Dublin Metropolitan Region

At this the second meeting of the Joint Policing Committee for 2017, I will provide updates in the following areas,

- Volume Crime
- Serious Crime
- Roads Policing
- St Patrick's Festival
- Community Engagement/ Safety
- Strategic Partnership

1. Volume Crime

Up to the 28th February 2017, Property Crime in Dublin City Council area is static (0%) and is down overall (-2%) in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. This is on top of a reduction in 2016 of -15%. Violent Property Crime is down (-33%). Thefts from shop is down -3%.

Burglaries in 2017 are currently at +16% in the DCC area and is (+2%) in the Dublin Metropolitan Region. This is coming on the back of a 24% reduction in burglaries in 2016. There have been 22 days of action in the DMR to-date in 2017. Indications are that this trend is currently reversing with figures up-to 5th March 2017, indicating -2% decreases in Burglaries on 2016. This will continue with further days of action planned under Operation Thor for the coming months to target these increases and every effort will be made to reverse this trend.

Public Order is at +7% and Begging offences are at -13% in the DCC area. Public Order activity is up slightly across the Region (+4%). An Garda Síochána will increase hi-visibility patrols in place to target key hotspot areas. Special Public Order patrols will continue in key areas particularly at the weekends to address matters of a public order nature. Criminal Damage incidents are up slightly at +2% in the DCC area.

There has been a reduction in Crimes against the Person (-6%). Similar decreases have been experienced in Minor Assaults (-1%) and Assaults causing harm -7%. Hi-visibility strategies, including dedicated public order patrols, will remain in place to address this problem. Operation Spire and Operation Pier remain in place in the City Centre to tackle these crime categories in the city.

Trends for firearms offences in the Dublin City Council area remain relatively static in the DCC area with two more incidents than in 2016. There was a notable decrease in possession of offence weapons at -15%.

Overall drug offences indicate a (-3%) decrease in the DCC area. Drug offences include Possession for sale or supply and Possession for personal use. Garda activity in this area indicates 4,179 incidents of searches in 2017 to-date. Some recent significant seizures include:-

- Joint Garda/ Revenue operation on 20/1/17 at Dublin Port – Seizure estimated €3.7 million herbal cannabis
- Seizure on 6/2/17 in Dublin 12 area – Estimated €500,000 Heroin
- Seizure on 17/2/17 in Ballymun – Estimated €140,000 Heroin.
- Seizure on the 24/2/17 in Dublin 10 area – Estimated €180,000 herbal cannabis

2. Serious Crime

There have been no murders within the DCC area in 2017. Overall there have been 3 murders in the Dublin Metropolitan Region in 2017.

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 murder investigations in 2016 and 2017 and to date have been

Arrests	Searches	Charges	Firearms Seized	Investigative tasks
68	197	11	24	10,892

In addition to the above, targeted intelligence led operations are ongoing. Some significant recent successes include:-

- Operation Thistle continues to focus on mid-level members of organised crime groupings in a specific area. To-date it has resulted in the seizure of €482,460 controlled substances, €90,000 cash seized as proceeds of crime, €93,850 jewellery/ watches, and a vehicle valued at €14,000.
- On 12/1/17 as part of investigation into serious criminal activity €120,000 in cash was seized from an individual in the Dublin 10 area believed to be proceeds of money laundering.
- On 24/1/17, Gardai seized fifteen (15) firearms and 1,300 rounds of ammunition as part of a targeted operation in West Dublin. In addition four persons were arrested in connection with the seizure.
- On 8/2/17, as a result of investigations into OCG activity in the Dublin North City Centre Gardai seized two vehicles, a firearm and ammunition.

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. The operation incorporates a number of hi-visibility armed checkpoints and patrols throughout the Region. Since February 2016, there has been 25,963 Checkpoints, 2,756 Patrols and 8,896 Searches conducted under the auspice of Operation Hybrid.

The DMR Armed Support Unit continue to provide a hi-visibility armed support throughout the Region and will provide a further support to front-line policing in our ongoing commitment to tackling serious crime in 2017.

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

3. Roads Policing

This is an area of concern for An Garda Síochána. The number of people killed on the roads of the Capital in 2017 was 4; compared with 3 for 2016. There have been 21 serious injury collisions; compared to 23 for the same period in 2016.

Reduction in Road Deaths and Serious Injury Collisions remains a focus for An Garda Síochána. To-date in 2017, detections for driving while intoxicated are up 3%. All Dangerous driving offences are down -53%. In Dublin in February 2017 there were 121 drunk driving detections.

Operations planned for March include:-

- Operation Bank Holiday – 17th – 20th March
- Operation Mobile Phone – 1st – 2nd March
- Operation Speed 29th – 30th March

In addition to the above, Operation Enable took place on the 4th – 5th March 2017. Operation Enable is a multi-agency initiative between An Garda Síochána, Dublin City Council, Dublin Street Parking Services, the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) and the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland (DDAI). The objective of the Operation is to remind motorists of the need to respect the Disabled Parking Bays in Dublin City Centre and to remind Disabled Parking Permit holders of the need to respect the conditions attached to the permits.

4. St Patrick's Day

Significant planning, preparation and logistical support measures are being implemented for the St Patricks Festival weekend. A significant number of Garda resources will be deployed throughout the Region for the period and An Garda Síochána will work closely with our partners in Dublin City Council to ensure a safe and secure environment for all.

The plans are similar to last year, which was seen by many as being a resounding success. The targeted deployment of hi-visibility uniform personnel will again prove very effective in the policing events and in particular the policing of Temple Bar which will be paramount to ensuring a safe environment for all to enjoy the events.

I wish to acknowledge the significant pre-event consultation with all stakeholders, including Dublin City Council and the Business Community, and I wish to thank all our partners for their assistance in the planning for these events.

5. Community Engagement/ Safety

- **Streetwise Campaign**

The Streetwise campaign is a major personal safety campaign targeting 18 to 39 year-olds. An Garda Síochána are advising people to #mindyourstuff. Two-thirds of all thefts and robberies involve mobile phones being stolen, according to new figures from An Garda Síochána.

The public awareness campaign will include advertising on digital media, outdoor advertising and in-pub advertising. On social media, An Garda Síochána is advising people to #mindyourstuff.

There will also be increased patrolling at night in locations identified as having high levels of robberies from the person and assaults.

The 'Streetwise' campaign aims to build on previous successful crime prevention campaigns by An Garda Síochána to further reduce thefts, robberies and assaults through crime prevention, law enforcement, education and awareness.

A similar crime prevention campaign highlighting mobile phone security last March saw a marked reduction in the number of handsets stolen from the previous year. There was a 22% reduction

in the number of incidents of theft or robbery, where a mobile phone was stolen, reported in March 2016 (498) compared to March 2015 (641).

6. Strategic Partnership

Partnerships continue to form a very important part of our policing strategy in 2017 through a variety of community and interagency initiatives.

On Thursday 18th February 2017 a presentation ceremony took place at Coláiste Eoin in Finglas for the 14 Transition Year Students who had just completed the TAG (“Teenagers and Gardaí”) Programme. This year the programme had an International dimension, with students on exchange from Germany being involved.

On Thursday 9th March 2017 a presentation ceremony took place at Kevin Street Garda Station for 5 young people who had just completed the TAG (“Teenagers and Gardaí”) Programme. These young people from the KRIB Garda Youth Diversion Project successfully completed the 6 week course, and were presented with their certificates at Kevin Street Garda Station.

The TAG Programme is aimed at promoting positive engagement among Gardaí and Teenagers in the community, is delivered by Juvenile Liaison Officers and Community Gardai in co-operation with the Teacher from the respective schools/ projects..

An Garda Síochána continue to work with the following initiatives:-

- Dublin Regional Homeless Executive in support of their Cold Weather Initiative.
- 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.

Conclusion

I have outlined above the position in respect of policing in 2017. I wish to thank this committee and other strategic partners for their input to our planning cycle. Our 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