

Community Safety & Policing Linkage Group meeting summary - 19 May 2021

PRESENT: Shirley Johnston (Chair), John Nugent, Leona O'Callaghan, John Moyne, Dr. Breda Hayes, John D.A. Ryan, Shanti Corcoran

1. SJ went through Agenda items in sequence. Item 1 was noted and observed.
2. BH to take notes for meeting
3. Noted that at last LG meeting it was agreed that Linkage Group members would take it in turns to act as Facilitator. Members suggested a presentation on Suicide Prevention. It was noted that DD (Denise Dunne) had previously circulated a link to a related document
4. BH gave brief outline of March JPC meeting. SJ and BH had prepared Statements of Outcomes of previous JPC meetings
5. There was a brief video on Community Policing which referred to the priorities for the Policing Authority, online simulator, Garda time, resources, and the Policing Authority. This was followed by a wide-ranging discussion. LOC suggested a collaborative approach and referred to diverse groups , youth, elderly, those with mental health problems, parents etc. and referred to suicide prevention training. LOC referred to the Limerick Youth Group and expressed concern that there was a generation aspect and that people were brought up to fear Gardai etc. LOC considered compliance rates an issue and that different Gardai had different attitudes and expressed the need for consistency in support for people reporting trauma and abuse. LOC referred to the lack of consistency in Garda station expenses budget for victims of assault and witness expenses at trial.

JN referred to building confidence of ordinary volunteers and to a face to face survey. JN wished to raise a question at the JPC seeking a Garda Presentation on Exclusion Orders. BH referred to survey from a victim perspective. BH wished to raised JPC question on prosecutions against a category of uninsured drivers. SC referred to relationship building, how it is communicated, how people are interested in volunteering and emphasised the desire for volunteering before students commence clinical placement n psychology. SC raised the fundamental question of "Where is the public participation when two representatives had to seek permission to raise an issue?"
6. Next linkage group meeting - 18 August 2021 for JPC meeting on 3 September. LG meeting on 17 November for JPC on 3 December 2021

7. SJ agreed to act as facilitator for next linkage group meeting on 18 August 2021
8. Meeting closed.