

# **COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS** **SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



## **Report of Meeting of South Dublin Joint Policing Committee** **Meeting on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 10.00 a.m. Hybrid Meeting** **hosted in the Council Chamber and facilitating remote access via** **Microsoft Teams.**

### **In attendance:**

**Committee Members:** Cllr. Shane Moynihan (Chair), Cllr. Emma Murphy (Mayor), Cllr. Yvonne Collins, Cllr Louise Dunne, Cllr. Lynn McCrave, Cllr. Derren Ó Brádaigh, Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin, Cllr. Shirley O'Hara, Cllr. Liona O'Toole, Cllr. Baby Pereppadan, Cllr. Mick Duff, Sean Crowe, TD, Emer Higgins, TD, Paul Murphy TD, Chief Superintendent Peter Duff (An Garda Síochána), Superintendent Thomas Gormley (An Garda Síochána), Inspector Liam Casey (An Garda Síochána) Inspector John Coughlan (An Garda Síochána), Inspector Paul Mayock (An Garda Síochána) and Sarah Middleton (An Garda Síochána) Noreen Byrne, Anna Whyte, John Conroy, Sue Dorgan, and Rita Harte (all South Dublin Public Participation Network representatives), Trevor Bissett (Clondalkin Drugs and Alcohol Task Force representative), Colm Ward (South Dublin County Council), Maria Nugent (JPC Coordinator, South Dublin County Council)

**Presenter:** Hilda O'Riain, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

**In attendance Council Staff:** Fionnuala Keane (Senior Staff Officer), Marian Travers (Assistant Staff Officer) and Rachel Keogh (Clerical Officer).

**Press:** Maurice Garvey and William O'Connor (both The Echo)

**Apologies:** Grace Hill (Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force)

Cllr Shane Moynihan Vice Chair opened the meeting at 10 a.m. Cllr. Moynihan welcomed Anna Whyte from the Public Participation Network and Superintendent Steven Mullen from An Garda Síochána to their first meeting of the Joint Policing Committee.

Cllr Moynihan also welcomed Hilda O’Riain, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

### **1. Election of JPC Chairperson**

Cllr. Moynihan thanked Cllr. McCrave for her services as the Chairperson of the JPC and sought nominations for a new Chairperson. Cllr. Moynihan was proposed by Cllr. Collins and seconded by Cllr. Dunne. There were no other nominations received. Cllr. Moynihan was elected as Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee.

Cllr. Moynihan invited nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee. Cllr. Duff was proposed by Cllr. Moynihan and seconded by the Mayor, Cllr. Murphy. There were no other nominations. Cllr. Duff was elected as Vice Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee.

### **2. Presentations: Hilda O Riain (Principal Officer, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth) – Placement and Integration of New Arrivals in South Dublin County**

H. O Riain delivered a presentation focused on the integration of Ukrainians in Ireland since their arrival in 2022. She gave an overview of the current situation with the Ukraine Crisis Temporary Accommodation Team:

- The DCEDIY were tasked by government to provide short term emergency accommodation to arrivals from Ukraine in early 2022.
- Over 80,000 people from Ukraine have arrived in Ireland, with over 60,000 seeking accommodation from the state. There are also approx. 20,000 applicants of International Protection. Provision of accommodation on this scale has presented the Department with a significant challenge.
- The Department have contracted more than 47,000 beds to accommodate beneficiaries of temporary accommodation in over 750 settings. This includes hotels, hostels, guesthouses, as well as commercial settings such as repurposed office spaces and warehouses.
- Over 8,000 people are now placed in pledged/‘offer a home’ properties.
- New arrivals coming into Citywest are met by the Department of Justice to check their eligibility for temporary protection, as well as the Department of Social Protection and HSE to look at provision of PPS numbers and healthcare, respectively.
- Eligible applicants are assigned to suitable emergency accommodation. This can be anywhere in the country depending on availability.

- The procurement process for properties is driven by commercial providers who apply to the Department directly to accommodate beneficiaries of temporary protection. Applicants upload their offer of accommodation on an online portal which is reviewed and agreed.
- The government are currently developing plans for medium to long-term solutions to deal with the high numbers of arrivals. A recent survey indicated that over 40% of new arrivals plan to stay longer term in Ireland, and 32% are unsure of their plans.

Questions and comments were received from Cllr. Duff, Cllr. Dunne, Cllr. Ó Broin, and Cllr. O Brádaigh. Questions asked were in relation to the differences in legislation and treatment of Ukrainians and International Protection Applicants, the Sudanese conflict, repurposed commercial buildings, acquisition of suitable accommodation, location of accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection, and the medium to long-term plan for new arrivals. Questions were answered by H O'Riain, and the presentation was noted.

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were proposed by Cllr. O'Hara, seconded by Cllr. O'Broin and noted and agreed as a true record of the previous meeting.

## **3. Matters Arising**

No matters arising

## **4. Correspondence**

The relevant correspondence was circulated to members prior to the meeting and noted.

## **5. Local Policing Fora Reports**

Maria Nugent presented a report from the West Tallaght Community Safety Fora regarding the public meeting held in The Plaza Hotel, Tallaght on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Noreen Byrne presented a report from the North Clondalkin Community Safety Forum and acknowledged the work of South Dublin County Council and An Garda Síochána.

Local Policing Fora reports were circulated to members prior to the meeting and noted.

## **6. Garda Síochána Reports**

The report outlining the responses by An Garda Síochána to issues raised in advance by JPC members was noted.

**DMR South:** Chief Supt. Duff gave a report on the current crime statistics, significant crime and community engagement in the area.

Cllr. Dunne enquired about legislation to protect victims of domestic abuse and their extended families. CSI Duff responded, and the report was noted.

**DMR West (Lucan):** Inspector Casey gave a report on current crime statistics, significant crime and community engagement in the Lucan area.

Questions and comments were received from Cllr. Moynihan and Cllr. O'Toole in relation to population growth, summer patrols in parks and community policing. Inspector Casey responded and the report was noted.

**DMR West (Clondalkin/Rathcoole):** Superintendent Steven Mullen gave a report on the current crime statistics, significant crimes and community engagement in the Clondalkin/Rathcoole area.

Questions and Comments were received from A Whyte (PPN), Cllr. O Brádaigh, Cllr. Ó Broin, Cllr. Dunne, and Cllr. O Hara in relation to the legislation for domestic violence and the breach of protection orders, community engagement, drug dealing in the Cherrywood area, property damage and anti-social behaviour, and speeding and parking violations. Superintendent S Mullen and Chief Superintendent P Duff responded to the queries and will pass on the relevant information to the Community Policing and Roads Policing Units.

All Garda reports were noted.

## **7. Governance**

The JPC Annual Report 2022 was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Annual Report was proposed by Cllr. Dunne and seconded by Cllr. Duff.

## **8. Drugs Sub-Committee**

A report from the JPC Drugs Sub-Committee was circulated to members prior to the meeting and noted.

## **9. 2023 Schedule of Meetings**

The proposed schedule of meetings was noted.

The next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023. This will be a hybrid meeting.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Cllr. S Moynihan thanked Chief Superintendent F Murphy on behalf of the Joint Policing Committee for his work with An Garda Síochána and the Joint Policing Committee and wished him well in his retirement.

Cllr. S Moynihan acknowledged '*Go Purple Day*' in support of victims of domestic abuse.

Superintendent S Mullen thanked the JPC members for supporting Go Purple Day and highlighted that there would be a stand in the Mill shopping centre and Clondalkin Garda station for anyone looking for more information.

The meeting concluded at 11.20 a.m.