



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt  
Department of Justice

# Supporting Community Safety: A Partnership Between Service Providers and Communities

# Community Safety: New Approach



## Background:

- 2018 report by Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland: policing not the responsibility of the police alone
- Development of new Community Safety policy: Consultations with Working Group in 2019
- Policy paper feeding into new Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill

## New Approach:

- Communities need a say in the safety issues that affect them.
- Safety issues are wide ranging: street lighting, anti-social behaviour associated with drugs and mental health issues, fear of crime, responsiveness of services.
- We need to bring together *all* relevant service providers in the community to deal with safety issues in partnership with those communities.
- We need national leadership and direction to ensure consistency in services working together.

# What is Community Safety?



People being safe and feeling safe in their community

Wide range of harm prevention areas and activities, incl.:

- responsiveness of emergency services
- educational work with young people
- alcohol and substance abuse
- youth crime
- hate crime
- mental health issues
- drug prevention
- domestic violence
- anti-social behaviour
- the built environment.

Improving community safety requires a **multi-sectoral approach, strong inter-agency collaboration and proactive dialogue with the community**

Primary goal of the community safety policy:

- Working together to foster **local communities that are safer for families, residents and businesses** and that **feel more secure**

# Local Community Safety Partnership – Structure



# Local Community Safety Partnership – Objectives



## Local Community Safety Partnership

Prioritise issues identified by the community as safety concerns

Improve multi-agency collaboration in the area

Increase community confidence in service providers

# How will the Partnership operate?



- Elected Chairperson, flexible and responsive
- Forum for engagement: bringing community and service providers together
  - *Strategic approach: Local Community Safety Plan*
- Working closely with other bodies and committees
  - *Building on what's working, rather than duplicating what's already being done*

# Resources for the Partnership



- Staffing: dedicated Community Safety coordinator
- Training and capacity-building
- Projects
- Oversight

# National Structure



- National strategy on community safety
- Designated Cabinet Committee
- National community safety steering group
- National Office for Community Safety
- Local Community Safety Partnerships



*Subject to pilot evaluation and Government approval*





# Pilots

- Dublin's North Inner City, Waterford and Longford
- Identify elements to improve the delivery of a national programme on community safety
- 24 months
- Independent evaluation
- Lessons learned will inform new national policy



Thank you.  
Questions?