



Policing Partnership Board for Wales

Virtual meeting: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Thursday 18th March 2021

Minutes

Attendees

Mark Drakeford MS	First Minister for Wales (Chair)
Jane Hutt MS	Deputy Minister & Chief Whip
Rt Hon Simon Hart MP	Secretary of State for Wales
Louise Parry	Office of SoSW
Dr Ann White	Office of SoSW
Amy Rees	Director General of Probation and Wales
Chris Jennings	Executive Director Wales, HM Prison and Probation Service
Asim Hafeez	Deputy Director, Better Regulation, Cross Cutting, Devolution and Wales Unit, Home Office
Reg Kilpatrick	Director General, Covid Crisis Coordination
Karin Phillips	Deputy Director Community Safety, WG
Siân Brown	Senior Manager Crime & Justice Team, WG
Catrin Dowling	Head of Crime & Justice, WG
James Gerard	Deputy Director Justice Transformation & Devolution
Chris Roberts	Head of Behavioural Science (Health Covid 19)
Jayne Phillips	Crime & Justice Team
Leanne Lewis	Crime & Justice Team
Hannah Packham-Smith	Crime & Justice Team
Carys Morgans	Chief Exec of OPCC Dyfed Powys
Jeff Cuthbert	Police and Crime Commissioner Gwent
Eleri Thomas	Deputy PCC Gwent
Siân Curley	Chief Exec of OPCC Gwent
Arfon Jones	Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales
Stephen Hughes	Chief Exec of OPCC North Wales
Alun Michael	Police and Crime Commissioner South Wales
Emma Wools	Deputy PCC South Wales
Lee Jones	Chief of Staff, OPCC South Wales
Cerith Thomas	Police and Crime Commissioners' Liaison Officer
Claire Parmenter	T/Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police
Pam Kelly	Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Carl Foulkes	Chief Constable, North Wales Police
Jeremy Vaughan	Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Tracy Cooper	Public Health Wales
Joanne Hopkins	Public Health Wales

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Jon Drake	Director of the Violence Prevention Unit
Chris Llewelyn	Chief Executive, WLGA
Naomi Alleyne	Director of Social Services and Housing, WLGA
Ella Rabaiotti	Head of Wales Safer Community Network, WLGA
Paul Morris	Head of the Police Liaison Unit
Steve Thomas	Temp Superintendent, PLU
Helen Hill	PLU Administrator

Apologies

Vaughan Gething MS	Minister for Health & Social Services
Andrew Goodall	Director General Health/NHS Chief Executive, Health & Social Services
Tracey Burke	Director General for Education and Public Services
Tracey Breheny	Deputy Director, Substance Misuse Policy, Corporate & Ministerial Business

Dafydd Llywelyn	Police and Crime Commissioner Dyfed Powys
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Action Table (Including historic and new actions)	
Themed presentation Asks:	
How as one public service are all partners in Wales going to deal with the broader challenges as we move out of the pandemic?	
Honest conversations about programme funding needs to takes place at the earliest opportunity in order to help Police and all other partners to take into account how any drop in budgets can best be managed.	
Actions from the meeting	
1) Chris Roberts to speak further with Jon Drake to look at the potential to develop analytical capacity and capability between the Violence Prevention Unit and Welsh Government's Knowledge Advisory Service linking also with the Community Safety Network and Criminal Justice in Wales.	
2) Chris Roberts to share presentation slides and share research on addressing misinformation with CC Vaughan.	Completed
3) Consideration to be given to how the migration from the Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG) arrangements to Public Service Boards can be achieved as part of a wider consideration of Local Resilience Forum arrangements	
4) The issue of substance misuse to be brought back before the Policing and Partnership Board following the Senedd and Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May.	

1. Welcome and Chair Address

- 1.1 The Deputy Minister and Chief Whip Jane Hutt welcomed all attendees and initiated the meeting until the First Minister for Wales Mark Drakeford joined shortly before Item 2 commenced.
- 1.2 Apologies were noted as above and it was agreed any actions raised in the briefing papers shared or captured during the meeting would be addressed between officials outside of the meeting and reported to the next meeting.

- 1.3 Commissioner Michael, on behalf of Policing in Wales, highlighted the increasing number of vigils and protests that have been taking place across the forces in recent months. These included protests in support of Black Lives Matter following the death of George Floyd and the more recent vigils for Sarah Everard and Wenjing Lin as part of the Reclaim These Streets movement.
 - 1.4 Commissioner Michael praised the way officers had dealt with the complex situation of managing gatherings that are unlawful under current public health regulations whilst respecting the public's need to share solidarity and support. Managing the protests in a pandemic have added an extra layer of complexity and CC Vaughan asked WG and all partners to work together in joint messaging.
 - 1.5 The First Minister noted the exemplary way in which Policing in Wales had policed these events and All Welsh forces had dealt with Black Lives Matters demonstrations and shared messaging.
- 2. Comments from Rt Hon Simon Hart MP, Secretary of State for Wales**
- 2.1 Simon Hart reported positive exchanges between Kit Malthouse, Minister for Policing and Gillian Keegan, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills have taken place with regard to the Apprenticeship Levy. It was stated that discussions remain live and are progressing and it was hoped that at the next Board meeting, or before if possible, the Secretary of State would be in a position to provide further clarity.
 - 2.2 Penally Camp in Pembrokeshire, which has been used to accommodate a large number of asylum seekers for a number of months is being closed for this purpose and handed back to the Ministry of Defence. Whilst it was recognised that it has not been an easy situation for anybody, praise was given to all partners for working together to offer reassurance to the local community and the care given to the individuals residing at the camp.
 - 2.3 The financial impasse between Dyfed- Powys Police and the Home Office was acknowledged in relation to unresolved police funding around Penally Camp and this matter will be progressed between the Home Office and Dyfed-Powys Police directly.
 - 2.4 The First Minister thanked the Secretary of State for his update and noted that the Board look forward to hearing further updates about the Apprenticeship Levy as and when it becomes available.
- 3. Police Resources in a Devolved Environment: Learning from the Pandemic - Themed Presentation (PCC Michael and CC Kelly)**
- 3.1 Commissioner Michael and Chief Constable Kelly delivered a presentation with a supporting paper having been shared ahead of the meeting to assist with a clearer understanding of the Commissioning contribution made by PCCs in relation to Welsh Government priorities.

- 3.2 It was acknowledged that the past 12 months have been exhausting on all partners and front line staff, but that from these continued efforts significant positives have arisen.
- 3.3 Criminal Justice in Wales was used as a positive example of partnership working during the pandemic. The Policing Minister joined the most recent meeting virtually and recognised the excellent work in Wales by partners.
- 3.4 The presentation aimed to celebrate good relationships between Welsh partners during a time of pressure and how clear and honest communication between different administrations meant that partners were able to work together, understanding far more clearly the challenges and resource issues in a way that had not been seen previously.
- 3.5 CC Kelly stated that the challenge is to maintain the momentum and develop the shared aspiration for one Public Service in Wales.
- 3.6 Police and Crime Commissioner elections will be held in May, under continued COVID restrictions. It was confirmed that a police Gold group has been set up to monitor and manage the elections working with Local Authorities.
- 3.7 The police anticipate there will be more protests in the coming months (with a combination of reasons and motives leading to action); increased spikes in crime as pubs and clubs reopen and the potential for violence as the drinking culture returns. More than ever the public will expect shared leadership.
- 3.8 As one public service, how are partners in Wales going to deal with the broader challenges including the increase in crime, unemployment, increase in mental ill health, increase in domestic abuse, continued restrictions on people's freedoms and do so fairly and in a cooperative way?
- 3.9 Through the pandemic all forces have found they are working more closely with devolved and non-devolved administrations, they are in constant contact with their Local authorities and local Councillors.
- 3.10 Positives from the pandemic included the work regarding representative workforces, and the discussions through this Board that led to real, meaningful change not only in the Police but in the Welsh Government too.
- 3.11 The Welsh Government was thanked for confirming ongoing full financial support for the additional 500 Police Community Support Officers. The programme was noted as making a huge positive impact on local policing and on engagement with communities.
- 3.12 Moving forward it was requested that honest conversations about programme funding should take place at the earliest opportunity in order to help Police and other partners to plan more effectively in the medium to long term.

- 3.13 From a policing perspective the Officer Uplift Programme means that the Home Office expects a 20% crime reduction, but real concerns for longevity exist with uncertainty about full funding of the additional number in future years and implications after the 3-year funding programme comes to an end.
- 3.14 The earlier forces are made aware of changes to budgets the more effectively they are able to plan. Forces are already actively engaged in discussions regarding the next Comprehensive Spending Review.
- 3.15 In terms of Operation Uplift, forces are recruiting at pace but it was stated that forces are also finding more experienced officers are leaving earlier than predicted, meaning a younger less experienced workforce and as such there is a real need and desire to continue innovative and partnership work.
- 3.16 Commissioner Michael drew attention to the commissioning work by PCCs and the investment put back into the community. This is explored further in the paper that was circulated in support of this item. The paper highlights the contribution that Policing in Wales is making to Welsh Government policy objectives.
- 3.17 Joint enforcement teams worked well during COVID and it was hoped similar schemes will continue moving forward.
- 3.18 The Wales School Police Officer Programme was highlighted as a programme that has a huge positive impact to the community. The programme engages with each school in Wales, has the ability to provide further support where pupils are at greater risk and also assists in offering school holiday provision.
- 3.19 Discussion focussed on the transparency of funding and the importance of dialogue. It was stated that by working together and through significant discussions progress was being made with respect of the Removal of the Defence of Reasonable Chastisement and the introduction of 20mph/ 50mph zones. It was acknowledged that neither the police nor WG wanted to criminalise people inadvertently in relation to either policy and that makes it essential for programme arrangements to be well in place before implementation.
- 3.20 During the presentation Chief Constable Kelly listed all the key areas that operational policing continued to tackle through the pandemic as front line policing has not stopped.
- 3.21 Funding for the central repository under the Single Unified Safeguarding Review Hub was welcomed. Policing in Wales support the necessity to learn from all reviews in a coordinated approach.
- 3.22 The presentation concluded summarising that honest conversations about funding need to take place at the earliest opportunity and that together as a single public service, partners need to capitalise on resources and delivery and to understand each other's challenges.

3.23 Commissioner Jeff Cuthbert supported the content of the presentation. He echoed the points made but added throughout the pandemic Gwent had been actively engaging with communities by means of remote contact. Moving forward, the force would look to continue with remote meetings in an attempt to reduce travelling, looking at a greener future.

3.24 The Deputy Minister thanked Commissioner Michael and CC Kelly for the presentation and for the direct contact with Policing in Wales leads and WCOG leads throughout the pandemic. It was recognised that whilst there are many lessons to learn as we move into a new normal, communication has been so valuable.

4. **Impact of COVID-19 on Community Safety (Chris Roberts)**

4.1 A PowerPoint presentation was delivered and has subsequently been shared with all members.

4.2 Chris explained that the analysis has been drawn primarily from SAGE papers and offered a number of reflections to the Board, including the importance of collectivism and that policing by consent had been instrumental in the public's response.

4.3 The board were reminded that COVID-19 had initially been referred to as a 'great leveller' but evidence clearly showed this was not the case, with certain cohorts in our communities being disproportionately impacted. As a Government, Ministers will need to continue to look at how this is addressed.

4.4 It was highlighted that as restrictions are lifted the focus of communications should be both on what is happening and crucially why these changes are being made. Improving public understanding is key to encouraging adherence.

4.5 This need for clarity and social support will be even more important as we move forward, with restrictions likely to be required to tackle localised outbreaks, potentially in areas with higher levels of socio-economic deprivation.

4.6 In support of the previous presentation Chris raised a number of longer term challenges including budget pressures, Criminal Justice delays and likely higher levels of unemployment which will be socially and geographically patterned.

4.7 Chris Roberts welcomed the opportunity to speak further with Jon Drake to look at the potential for further analysis.

Action 1: Chris Roberts to speak further with Jon Drake to look at the potential to develop analytical capacity and capability between the Violence Prevention Unit and Welsh Government's Knowledge Advisory Service linking also with the Community Safety Network and Criminal Justice in Wales

- 4.8 Chris highlighted a number of Webinars that will be running. Paul Morris confirmed he will be involved along with Chief Supt. Nigel Harrison and Professor Clifford Stott, Keele University, on March 31st when policing and justice issues will be considered
- 4.9 CC Vaughan asked whether any research had been conducted about countering misinformation. Chris confirmed that there has been significant research in this field and he would be happy to share further information with board members.
Action 2: Chris Roberts to share presentation slides and share research on addressing misinformation with CC Vaughan.

5 Issues to be escalated from the Policing in Wales meeting

- 5.1 Commissioner Michael stated that as well as demonstrations; CC Kelly, Commissioner Cuthbert and the Deputy Minister need to be thanked for their efforts and hard work in the ongoing discussions regarding the Removal of the Defence of Reasonable Chastisement within the Children's Act. It was essential for all arrangements to be fully in place well before the implementation of the change in the law.
- 5.2 WG funding for the repository Single Unified Safeguarding Review Hub was welcomed.
- 5.3 Looking ahead, Mr Michael stated that how partners move from a Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) to the Recovery Co-ordination Group (RCG) needed to be considered as part of a wider assessment of Local Resilience Forum arrangements on a future agenda
Action 3: Consideration to be given to how the migration from the Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG) arrangements to Regional Co-ordination Group (RCG) can be achieved as part of a wider consideration of Local Resilience Forum arrangements

6 Partner updates by exception:

6a. Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners

Dyfed Powys Police

- 6.1 T/CC Parmenter was grateful for the positive feedback on the handling of community safety issues at the Penally Camp and was keen to highlight that given the difficult circumstances, all officers involved worked collaboratively with partners to ensure the best care for service users and for the local community.
- 6.2 T/CC Parmenter stated that she was encouraged by officers being involved in the vaccination programme, with reserve vaccine being made available where possible.
- 6.3 The Deputy Minister thanked T/CC Parmenter for her update and stated that at the Refugee and Asylum Seeker meeting earlier that day it had been noted how

well the police had responded to the Penally Camp situation and how Pembrokeshire had placed itself as a place of sanctuary for those affected.

Gwent Police

- 6.4 Commissioner Jeff Cuthbert acknowledged that demonstrations and Vigils for Sarah Everard in the Gwent area had taken place without disruption.
- 6.5 It was stated that the Gwent precept increase had been agreed as 5.49% (typical band D dwelling paying £15 per annum extra)

North Wales Police

- 6.6 CC Foulkes thanked Public Health Wales for their support with the lateral flow testing for Police Officers which was proving successful and reassuring for staff. Hopefully this will be rolled out to all forces in Wales imminently.
- 6.7 CC Foulkes expressed the thanks to local partners following the recent floods in North Wales.
- 6.8 Commissioner Jones highlighted that officers in North Wales had successfully used Naloxone to save the lives of two individuals and hoped it would be introduced to other parts of Wales soon.
- 6.9 The Deputy Minister thanked the Commissioner for sharing this positive update.

South Wales Police

- 6.10 Dep Commissioner Emma Wools provided an update on the VAWDASV Task and Finish group which has helped to deliver, focus and provide common governance and shared funding for an integrated team consisting of Police, VPU and partners to support the synchronisation of the Strategy and a Blueprint approach as per a previous presentation to this Board.
- 6.11 The Deputy Minister thanked the forces for the updates contained in the reports, she also thanked all forces for the sensitive way in which demonstrations had been policed.

6b. WLGA

- 6.12 Ch Exec Chris Llewelyn highlighted the importance of the Community Safety Network, funded by the Welsh Government and led jointly by WLGA and Policing in Wales.
- 6.13 Mr Llewelyn echoed that communication with Welsh Ministers and the WLGA specifically on community safety issues had been much appreciated. It was recognised that the way partners have worked together has been very effective.

6.14 Moving forward Mr Llewelyn stated the necessity of learning lessons, how well joint enforcement teams (JETs) had worked together and the importance of local authority enforcement staff. He stressed that the resilience of trading standards and environmental health functions need to be reviewed as resources in these areas have been stretched.

6c. Criminal Justice in Wales

6.15 The Deputy Minister welcomed Amy Rees to the Board and it was explained that Amy would update in her capacity as the Chair of Criminal Justice in Wales

6.16 It was stated that Criminal Justice in Wales has evolved from being a meeting to air issues to becoming an active contributor in the oversight of Criminal Justice in Wales.

6.17 Jury trials in Wales are much further ahead than English counterparts.

6.18 Criminal Justice in Wales has agreed a Statement of Purpose which had been circulated to this Board and had also developed four areas of focus:

- Understand and address the vulnerability and/or multiple complex needs of people who offend.
- Understand and address the needs and vulnerabilities of victims and witnesses at all points within their criminal justice experience.
- Utilising evidence to understand the causes and drivers of offending behaviour and build onto existing prevention and early intervention approaches and influence policy that reduces crime and makes a positive change.
- Apply a 'one public service' approach in Wales to advance race equality on which Amy had written to Welsh Government on behalf of Criminal Justice in Wales.

6.19 Amy said that when the Policing Minister joined the meeting recently he had been very impressed by the Board and the progress made in Wales.

6d. Violence Prevention Unit

6.20 Jon Drake shared a supporting highlight report but drew attention to the three priorities:

- *Serious Youth Violence*
- *Violence linked to criminal exploitation and serious organised crime*
- *Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)*

6e. Public Health Wales

6.21 Jo Hopkins thanked all members of the partnership, stating close relationships had become deeper during this time.

6.22 The update circulated contains information on EAT and ACE Hubs. Jo explained that the following week further updates will be released on the wider Criminal Justice system including Prison and Probation, looking at the UK and beyond.

6f. Home Office

6.23 Asim Hafeez thanked T/CC Parmenter and CC Collins, PCC Llywelyn and numerous partners including Alyson Francis and Jo Hopkins for their help with the management of issues relating to Penally Camp.

6.24 It was stated that whilst it is understood that not everyone agrees with each other "it is different in Wales" and partners worked together for the benefit of service users and the local community.

6.25 Asim noted he attended a meeting with Liane James and Sarah Cooper regarding the Single Unified Safeguarding Review Hub and work is ongoing to see if Wales can be used as one of a number of pilots in the UK around Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews.

6.26 The 1 year anniversary of the publication of the Home Office Windrush review is approaching. A paper will be released looking at the progress made on Wendy Williams' recommendations and the cultural change as a result of the review.

6.27 A Postcards Event is taking place 19/03/21 where Paul Morris is speaking on behalf of Policing in Wales. The event looks at Policing across the devolved administrations, with around 100 Home Office officials attending in a hope to help broaden understanding about the varying complexities and challenges in the different administrations.

6.28 Tribute was paid to Commissioner Arfon Jones who will not be standing for PCC elections in May. Asim thanked Mr Jones for his engagement and support.

6.29 All Board members endorsed the thanks paid to Commissioner Jones and wished him well in his retirement.

6g. HMPPS

6.30 Chris Jennings explained that Wales was the first European country to offer the Vaccination to Prisoners in line with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), guidance and the vaccination programme is going well, with institutions starting to look at a reintroduction of programmes and relaxing of some measures.

- 6.31 Some face to face probation work is now starting to be reintroduced where possible.
- 6.32 Positive feedback in respect of sobriety tags have been received with thanks from service users claiming that it is assisting with them desisting from drinking.
- 6.33 Research into the site for the proposed Residential Women's Centre has been carried out. There is some push back locally but engagement is ongoing and it is hoped plans can be developed further in due course.
- 6.34 The Deputy Minister stated that she was pleased to hear the Public Health approach had had a positive impact.

6h. Welsh Government

- 6.35 The WG briefing paper was circulated ahead of the meeting.

7 Any Other Business

7a. Criminal Justice

- 7.1 Commissioner Michael thanked Amy Rees for her Criminal Justice update and on the Board's development. Mr Michael explained that Commissioners are aware that Welsh Government are looking at what would be required for devolving Criminal Justice going forward. Mr Michael stated that all four Commissioners in Wales would support the devolution of Criminal Justice whether this was in the short or longer term.
- 7.2 The Deputy Minister thanked the Commissioners for their support and stated that the Counsel General would be publishing a paper on this topic in the near future.

7b. Substance Misuse

- 7.4 CC Kelly asked that post elections substance misuse can be brought back to the Policing Board agenda so that the momentum is not lost.
Action 4: The issue of substance misuse to be brought back before the Policing and Partnership Board following the Senedd and Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May.

8 Action/ Issue Update (Chair)

- 8.1 The action list with updates was shared ahead of the meeting for information. Actions and issues will continue to be progressed outside of the meeting between WG Officials and the PLU and reported to the next meeting. No further matters were raised.
- 8.2 The Deputy Minister thanked everyone for their attendance and for their contribution.

9 Date and time of next meetings

Thursday 24th June- 14:30- 16:30
Thursday 23rd September- 13:30- 15:30
Thursday 2nd December- 13:30- 15:30