



Policing Partnership Board for Wales

Virtual meeting

Thursday 24th June 2021

Minutes

Attendees

Mark Drakeford MS	First Minister for Wales (Chair)
Jane Hutt MS	Minister for Social Justice
Rt Hon Simon Hart MP	Secretary of State for Wales
Amy Rees	Director General of Probation in Wales
Chris Jennings	Executive Director Wales, HM Prison and Probation Service
Chris Batchelor	Deputy Head, Union, Devolution and Better Regulation Unit
Kirsty Stevenson	(Observer- Home Office)
Reg Kilpatrick	Director General, Covid Crisis Coordination
Karin Phillips	Deputy Director Community Safety Division, WG
Tracey Burke	Director General for Education and Public Services
Andrew Goodall	Director General Health/NHS Chief Executive, Health & Social Services
Sian Jones	Head of Supporting Achievement and Safeguarding
Catrin Dowling	Head of Crime & Justice, WG
Tracey Breheny	Deputy Director, Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Vulnerable Groups
Siân Brown	Senior Manager Crime & Justice Team, WG
Jayne Phillips	Crime & Justice Team
Leanne Lewis	Crime & Justice Team
Hannah Packham-Smith	Crime & Justice Team
Jeff Cuthbert	Police and Crime Commissioner Gwent
Eleri Thomas	Deputy PCC Gwent
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
Amanda Blakeman	Deputy Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Carl Foulkes	Chief Constable, North Wales Police
Rachel Bacon	Deputy Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Tracy Cooper	Public Health Wales
Joanne Hopkins	Public Health Wales
Lara Snowdon	Public Health Wales
Vicky Jones	(Observer- Public Health Wales)
Jon Drake	Director of the Violence Prevention Unit

Not protectively marked - Dim marciau diogelwch

Chris Llewelyn Chief Executive, WLGA
 Naomi Alleyne Director of Social Services and Housing, WLGA

Paul Morris Head of the Welsh Government Police Liaison Unit
 Helen Hill PLU Administrator

Apologies

Dafydd Llywelyn Police and Crime Commissioner Dyfed Powys
 Carys Morgans Chief Exec of OPCC Dyfed Powys
 Andrew Dunbobbin Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales
 Siân Curley Chief Exec of OPCC Gwent

Pam Kelly Chief Constable, Gwent Police
 Jeremy Vaughan Chief Constable, South Wales Police

Asim Hafeez Deputy Director, Better Regulation, Cross Cutting, Devolution and Wales
 Unit, Home Office

Cllr Neil Moore WLGA
 Ella Rabaiotti Head of Wales Safer Community Network, WLGA

Actions arising from the meeting	
1: Lord Chancellor Robert Buckland to be invited to a future meeting when dates are mutually convenient.	PM
2: Paul Morris and Karin Phillips to draft a programme of work to shape the themes of the Policing Partnership for Wales.	PM/KP
3: Violence Prevention to feature on the Programme for Work for the PPBfW	PM
4: Jane Hutt Minister for Social Justice and DPCC Wools to work with Jon Drake to look at additional content and a way forward for a Violence Prevention Blueprint.	JH/EW
5: DPCC Eleri Thomas to ensure WG officials are involved in the Rape and Sexual Assault Services review	ET

1. Welcome and Chair Address

- 1.1 The First Minister for Wales welcomed all members to the meeting of the Board, recognising this was the first meeting post the Welsh Senedd and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.
- 1.2 Congratulations were given to the re-elected Police and Crime Commissioners and to the newly elected Commissioner for North Wales, Andrew Dunbobbin, in his absence.
- 1.3 It was recognised also that MS Jane Hutt, now Minister for Social Justice, would continue to be the Minister responsible for the day-to-day liaison with Policing in Wales.

2. **Comments from Rt Hon Simon Hart MP, Secretary of State for Wales**

- 2.1 An update paper from the Home Office was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. The Secretary of State highlighted a few areas he wished to focus particular attention on:
- 2.1.1 Apprenticeship Levy: It was with regret that the Secretary of State confirmed this matter had not yet been resolved, but that there has been some movement in that direction. Regular contact with the lead Police and Crime Commissioner for Policing in Wales would continue as this matter progresses.
- 2.1.2 Police Officer Uplift: It was noted that the recruitment exercise in Wales was progressing well.
- 2.1.3 Inquiry into rape and violence against women and girls: Recent concerns raised in the media about the low prosecutions rates have been echoed across Parliament and Police forces. The Home Affairs Select Committee is looking into the matter and the Lord Chancellor has a leading role in addressing the issues identified.
- 2.1.4 Lord Chancellor Robert Buckland: It was stated that the Lord Chancellor is involved in looking at the difficulties surrounding prosecuting cases of rape and violence against women and girls and had shown an interest in attending a future meeting of the Board where an update on this matter could be given.
Action 1: Lord Chancellor Robert Buckland to be invited to a future meeting of the Board.
- 2.2 PCC for South Wales, Alun Michael recognised that while prosecution rates for rape are unsatisfactory across the whole of England and Wales, rates in Wales are better than in other regions of England.
- 2.3 The Chief Crown Prosecutor has responded positively about what can be done in Wales and it is an area of focus for wider Criminal Justice partners across Wales.
- 2.4 Policing in Wales welcomed the offer of the Lord Chancellor attending a future meeting and his interest in this matter was warmly received but it was stressed that Wales was already moving ahead proactively to address the many issues associated with low prosecution rates.
- 2.5 Minister for Social Justice, Jane Hutt, also welcomed the invitation for the Lord Chancellor to attend a future meeting and agreed the statistics are very worrying. She explained that VAWDASV are looking at the Blueprints for the next 5 years and would welcome engagement with all related strategies.

- 2.6 PCC for Gwent, Jeff Cuthbert, said he was pleased to hear that there had been some movement in respect of the Apprenticeship Levy funding but reiterated how pressing the issue now was.
- 2.7 The SoSfW welcomed an update from Amy Rees where she highlighted the four priorities identified through the Criminal Justice in Wales Board with a focus on Victims and Witnesses. She explained that Wales is leading the way and that there is regular engagement with the Ministry of Justice to ensure transparency and strong cooperation.
3. **Recent Elections have provided a fresh mandate for Ministers and on the same day a fresh mandate for Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales. That makes it timely to consider joint priorities and purpose for Policing in Wales and Welsh Government** – a discussion (Chair to introduce Programme for Government and PCC Michael and CC Foulkes to introduce Welsh policing priorities)
- 3.1 The First Minister reflected that this is the first Board meeting since the Welsh Government and PCC elections and congratulated returning PCCs and was pleased to confirm Jane Hutt as the continued Police and Criminal Justice lead in her new Ministerial post for Social Justice.
- 3.2 The Programme for Government has now been published and brings together manifesto commitments and priorities for the Welsh Government recognising the cross cutting nature of many issues.
- 3.3 Minister Jane Hutt highlighted the following three key priorities:
- Homelessness - with a specific link to making cities, towns and villages a better place to live and work
 - Mental Health - looking at intergenerational issues and how we tackle these
 - Substance Misuse - with a specific interest in the police role in the use of Naloxone
- 3.4 Commissioner Alun Michael thanked the First Minister for the return to full funding of the additional 500 Welsh Government PCSOs and the promise of 100 more. Mr Michael stated that forces are working on recruitment and with funding anticipate to have the numbers in place by early 2022.
- 3.5 Policing in Wales have tentatively drafted a Programme of key issues for consideration by Commissioners and Chief Officers before sharing more broadly with Board members as a proposal on how to shape future discussions at this board, taking into account the Programme for Government and Policing priorities.

- 3.6 Commissioner Michael used children in police custody as an example of how issues are so interconnected and cannot be tackled in isolation. All Board members accept and agree that children should not be kept in Police Custody but the answer to solving the issue is so cross cutting that to get an acceptable answer has taken many years, engagement and dedicated staff to push the agenda for change. It was noted that progress does appear to be happening now, but there is still a way to go and has demonstrated the necessity to work across departments in Welsh Government and with many stakeholders in order to find a solution.
- 3.7 Commissioner Michael agreed that amongst their priorities Commissioners continue to highlight were:
- Substance Misuse
 - Mental Health
- 3.8 Mr Michael also highlighted that in order to ensure across Wales there are safe and confident communities there needs to be:
- 3.8.1 Cooperation and Convergence- the relationship between the 8 Corporation soles was used as an example of where personal relationships meant that despite disagreements, there is a co-understanding for a need to make things better, leading to meaningful engagement and progress. More widely the pandemic has highlighted the need for and success of working more closely.
- 3.8.2 Ministerial Leadership- With the One Public Service agenda, Mr Michael applauded the leadership and willingness from WG Ministers to Chair Boards and set up Task and Finish Groups to ensure dialogue between partners that is accountable and based on driving change in a meaningful and sustainable way.
- 3.8.3 Enforcement teams- shared responsibility, shared expertise, shared resources is essential for successfully tackling issues that impact on all partners and building on the successes of the joint enforcement teams in other areas would be key.
- 3.8.4 Collaboration- The Criminal Justice in Wales Board now has a coordinator and her work highlights that by bringing together the energy and desire to work collaboratively, engaging in shared values and aspirations, the success of reducing court backlogs in Wales was an example of how difficulties can be overcome by working together in collaboration.
- 3.8.5 Shared values- A theme that runs throughout all of these points to make a real difference, and make the lives of people in Wales better and safer.

- 3.8.6 Dispersed Leadership- Highlighting the importance of all staff wherever they sit in an organisation to feel supported to make suggestions, be reactive and propose preventative measures to make change for the better.
- 3.9 Police forces are heavily involved with the Community Safety Network and School Liaison Officers recognise the importance of Neighbourhood policing and engagement at grass roots.
- 3.10 Chief Constable Carl Foulkes thanked the Minister and Commissioner Michael for their contributions and added the following priorities from an Operational Policing perspective:
- Substance Misuse – developing partnership arrangements
 - Mental Health - Assistance at the point of crisis. It was agreed great strides had been taken, but still so much more to be done.
 - Violent Crime/ Violence against Women and Girls - There is a need to work closer and better with partners, and a need for honest dialogue of where everyone wants to be and how we can get there together.
 - Prevention - there is a need to build on the excellent work of ACEs and Early Action Together and use a public health approach in areas where the cross cutting damage is impacting all partners.
 - Diversity, Inclusion and Equality - an area where significant work is ongoing, but where we can and must do more.
- 3.11 The use of nasal Naloxone was discussed in the chat bar during the meeting where it was confirmed that the North Wales pilot evaluation has been shared with other Welsh forces and there is now a move to roll it out across all forces.
- 3.12 Commissioner Cuthbert noted that there is a great need for joint working with Health, specifically in respect of Mental Health which accounts for such a high percentage of police callers.
- 3.13 Community Cohesion was recognised as the key to community safety and demands good working relationships.
- 3.14 Removal of the Defence of Reasonable Punishment, a piece of legislation that has demonstrated the need for partnership. It was noted that the public do not care if it is a reserved duty or not, rightly they just expect the people in charge to sort it out.
- 3.15 Changes to legislation on 20mph/ 50mph zones were used as examples of how Welsh Government engagement with the police is required at the earliest

opportunity as the legislative changes made by Government have the potential for large implications on the police.

- 3.16 Jo Hopkins thanked Mr Michael for recognising the importance of taking a Public Health approach within the Policing setting. Jo recognised the momentum built to date but felt there is a need now to pull together in an integrated way to make required changes moving forward.
- 3.17 Work on broader harms need to be considered; training on how to be more resilient and by bringing people together in the community, understanding what works and how to build on it.
- 3.18 Chris Llewelyn shared that Local Government colleagues have their first opportunity to discuss the Programme for Government with the First Minister the day after the meeting. However, feedback he had received to date had been positive. In terms of the priorities outlined by the Minister, whilst clearly not having spoken to colleagues, Mr Llewelyn stated that it is highly likely that Cllrs would wholly support the three areas that she listed:
- Homelessness
 - Mental Health
 - Substance Misuse
- 3.19 Mr Llewelyn quoted that “we deliver the best outcome for Wales when the different tiers of Government work effectively together”
- 3.20 Tracey Cooper echoed the importance of building on the relationships already established and how much of what has already been said feeds into the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.
- 3.21 Work surrounding a Welsh Health Equality Framework was discussed where groups most at risk have been recognised. The results were said to be disproportionate but not surprising and would be shown in experiences across dealings from all areas of the public sector.
- 3.22 Tracey highlighted that in the context of accrued harms, 42% of adults reported worse Mental Health now than pre-pandemic, illustrating the necessity for increased community resilience.
- 3.23 Public Health Wales have a number of priority areas:
- Children and Young People
 - Mental Health and Well Being
 - Access to care
 - Vulnerable Groups
 - Reducing health inequalities
- 3.24 Tracey explained that there is currently a re-structure to galvanise supporting partners.

- 3.25 Chris Jennings confirmed the priorities listed by the Minister would be the same key priorities for HMPPS also:
- Homelessness
 - Substance Misuse
 - Mental Health
- 3.26 First Minister of Wales thanked the Minister, Commissioner Michael and CC Foulkes for their updates and to all who contributed to the discussion.
- 3.27 The First Minister asked that officials pull together a programme of work that can be shaped to form the basis of a document to drive meaningful and proactive progress through this Board.
- Action 2: Paul Morris and Karin Phillips to draft a programme of work to shape the themes of the Policing Partnership Board for Wales.**
- 3.28 The First Minister reflected on the Thomas Commission and how with regret the publication landed just as COVID-19 arrived and as such it hasn't received the traction it deserved.
- 3.29 However, the Justice Transformation Team has been re-established and Counsel General Mick Antoniw MS will Chair a Justice Sub-Committee to oversee developments (First Minister and Minister for Social Justice will also attend).
- 3.30 The First Minister recognised that the Thomas Commission was clear that Criminal Justice in its entirety should be devolved in Wales; he welcomed what the Commissioner had identified in that there are many areas where partners can do more together within the current devolved/ non-devolved landscape.
- 3.31 Commissioner Michael stated that whilst the Chief Constables remain non-political, Commissioners in Wales are supportive of devolution and are happy to work with Welsh Government to ensure that should devolution of the Criminal Justice System happen both Policing and Welsh Government are in the best position for the transition, for the benefit of the Welsh people.
- 4. Violence Prevention Unit Update (Jon Drake and Lara Snowdon)**
- 4.1 Jon Drake, Director of the Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) and Lara Snowdon, Violence Prevention Programme Lead, Public Health Wales working for the VPU introduced themselves and thanked the First Minister for the invitation to speak at the meeting.

- 4.2 A presentation was delivered providing an overview of the development and progress of the unit since it was established. The mission “To prevent violence across Wales through the implementation of a public health approach.”
- 4.3 The key aspects of the presentation included the review of policies, the scale of violence, the importance of using a Public Health approach and partnership working.
- 4.4 It was acknowledged that the level of violence had greatly increased through the pandemic and whilst the VPU was restricted in commissioning initiatives in the South Wales area, that has not prevented the unit from looking at future opportunities Wales wide and speaking with relevant partners.
- 4.5 Members heard how the VPU work with two nurses who specifically look to engage with victims of violence and through their engagement there has been a significant reduction in repeat admissions.
- 4.6 It was stated that there is no one solution, no one agency that will be successful in tackling violence yet it impacts on all public services and impacts too many people. With the Criminal Justice in Wales Board the Safer Communities Network and the Violence Prevention Unit there is a real appetite to change the tide and change violent behaviours in Wales in partnership through a new preventative approach.
- 4.7 Commissioner Michael offered thanks for the presentation and stated that serious violence ought to be on the Programme of Work for this board moving forward.
- 4.8 DPCC Wools thanked the VPU for the significant work done to date and supported the Violence Prevention Blueprint suggested in the presentation stating it would align comfortably with VAWDASV Blueprint.
- 4.9 Jo Hopkins stated that it would be helpful moving forward if there was clarity across the board by what is meant by ‘prevention’.
- 4.10 PHW had a previous agreement to develop a prevention strategy for Wales (in principle) which had been being taken forward via a Task and Finish group chaired by Claire Bennett.
- 4.11 The significance of the VAWDASV strategy was discussed and agreed as being of interest to all parties present.
- 4.12 Three recommendations were raised during the presentation:
- 4.12.1 *Explicit commitment to prevent violence in partnership across devolved and non-devolved landscape.*
The First Minister stated that there is a shared purpose amongst all members of the Board. He welcomed the comments from Commissioner Michael that Violence Prevention should feature in the Work Programme for this Board.

The First Minister and Deputy Minister confirmed that the Welsh Government does give their explicit commitment to violence prevention, recognising the real opportunity to engage with substance misuse.

Action 3: Violence Prevention to feature on the Programme of Work for the PPBfW

4.12.2 *The authoring of a pan-Wales Violence Prevention Blueprint. VPU lead working with WG Officials and Partners.*

The First Minister asked for Jane Hutt MS and DPCC Wools to work with the VPU to look at additional content and a way forward for a Violence Prevention Blueprint.

Action 4: Jane Hutt MS and DPCC Wools to work with the Jon Drake to look at additional content and a way forward for a Violence Prevention Blueprint.

4.12.3 *The authoring of specific Welsh Guidance on preventing violence in partnership and authoring of local strategic needs assessments. VPU lead working with WG Officials and Partners.*

The First Minister stated that Welsh Government are keen to pick this up, but that there are so many facets to this work stream that it will need further consideration, through the programme of work and ongoing discussions. The First Minister stated that he looks forward to hearing more about proposals and progress in time.

5 Any issues to be escalated from the Policing in Wales meeting

- 5.1 Commissioner Michael stated the meeting had an emphasis on Community Safety and the benefits forces are witnessing as a result of the fresh energy in this area of work.
- 5.2 Discussions surrounding Police Air Support continue, building on previous engagement with Ken Skates MS. As a result, consideration is being given to what opportunities there are within Wales in relation to the future of air support provision.
- 5.3 It was announced that Commissioner Michael will relinquish the Chair of Policing in Wales and hand over to Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn after this meeting.
- 5.4 Following PCC Llywelyn's term the chair will move to Commissioner Cuthbert followed by Commissioner Dunbobbin.
- 5.5 Chief Constable Pam Kelly remains the Chair of the Welsh Chief Officer Group until January 2022 at which time she will hand over to Chief Constable Jeremy Vaughan.

- 5.6 The First Minister thanked Commissioner Michael for all of his help and leadership of Policing in Wales both on this Board and outside of the Board.

6 Partner updates by exception:

- 6.1 DPCC Thomas drew attention to the Rape and Sexual Assault Services live review and that there is now the opportunity to include Criminal Justice in Wales. It was stated that DPCC Thomas will ensure WG officials are included within these discussions.

Action 5: DPCC Eleri Thomas to ensure WG officials are involved in the Rape and Sexual Assault Services review

- 6.2 Chris Jennings wanted to put on record his thanks to Welsh Government officials for their engagement and discussions to assist with the progress at Hillside.

7 Any Other Business

- 7a. Actions from the 18th March 2021 were noted as having been completed or ongoing.
- 7b. It was noted and agreed that Substance Misuse and the Strategic Migration of LRFs would return to a future board meeting as captured in previous actions.
- 7c. T/CC Parmenter thanked the Welsh Government for the continued support with PCSOs and the support for Neighbourhood policing in Wales.

8 Date and time of next meetings

- Thursday 23rd September- 13:30- 15:30
Thursday 2nd December- 13:30- 15:30