



Policing Partnership Board for Wales

Virtual meeting

Thursday 2nd December 2021

Minutes

Attendees

Jane Hutt MS	Minister for Social Justice (Chair)
Simon Hart MP	Secretary of State for Wales
Asim Hafeez	Deputy Director International & Domestic Engagement & Strategy Directorate Home Office
Jeremy Vaughan	Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Pam Kelly	Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Carl Foulkes	Chief Constable, North Wales Police
Claire Parmenter	T/Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police
Andy Dunbobbin	Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales
Alun Michael	Police and Crime Commissioner South Wales
Dafydd Llywelyn	Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys
Emma Wools	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner South Wales
Eleri Thomas	Deputy PCC Gwent
Lee Jones	Interim Chief Executive South Wales PCC
Jon Drake	Director, Violence Prevention Unit
Gary Haggaty	Deputy Director, Community Safety Division WG
Tracey Breheny	Deputy Director, Mental Health, Substance Misuse & Vulnerable Groups WG
Lynne Neagle MS	Deputy Minister, Mental Health and Wellbeing
Judith Paget	Director General Health, Chief Executive NHS Wales, WG
Emma Thomas	Head of Community Safety Network
Alun Davies	Police Liaison Unit
Jamie Kaijaks	Private Secretary, Office of the First Minister, WG
Peter Kellam	Senior Private Secretary, Office of the First Minister, WG
Gethin Jones	Police Liaison Unit
Siân Brown	Senior Manager Crime & Justice Team, WG
Jayne Phillips	Crime & Justice Team WG
Leanne Lewis	Crime & Justice Team WG
Chris Jennings	Executive Director Wales, HM Prison and Probation Service
Joanne Hopkins	Public Health Wales
Ruth Meadows	Deputy Director – Digital Learning Division
Sarah Capstick	Safer Communities Network WLGA
Naomi Alleyne	Director of Social Services and Housing, WLGA
Paul Morris	Head of Police Liaison Unit
Gaynor Maddox	Regional Collaboration Programme Manager (minutes)
Wayne Jones	Deputy PCC North Wales
Sian Curley	Chief Executive Gwent PCC,
Carys Morgans	Chief of Staff PCC Dyfed Powys

Apologies

Jeff Cuthbert	Police and Crime Commissioner Gwent
Tracy Cooper	Public Health Wales
Reg Kilpatrick	Director General Covid Response, Welsh Government
Amy Rees	Director General of Probation in Wales

Not protectively marked - Dim marciau diogelwch

Actions arising from the meeting
Homelessness to be added to the agenda for meeting in March
Naomi Alleyne to be involved in the Homelessness presentations to also include the Homeless Action Plan and approach (WG)
Minister for Climate Change to be invited to next meeting
Note to attendees to ensure inclusion and early site of papers and presentations (7 days before board)
Tracey Breheny to meet with PCC Dafydd Llywelyn to discuss the issue of a Heroin Assisted Treatment Room Pilot in the Dyfed Powys Police area

1. Welcome and Chair Address

- 1.1 The Minister for Social Justice, welcomed all members to the meeting of the Board, welcoming Simon Hart MP, Secretary of State for Wales to the meeting.
- 1.2 Simon Hart updated that Kit Malthouse MP, Minister of State for Crime and Policing at the Home Office would be attending the meeting due to take place on the 17th March 2022. The Board were invited to raise any issues before the meeting with the Minister adding that it was a desire of the Home Office and others to see the forum flourish.
- 1.3 Mr Hart updated that the apprenticeship levy was still in the same position but that some progress had been made and was confident that they would be in a position to move forward by the next meeting.
- 1.4 Mr Hart noted the agenda item on substance misuse highlighting the visit by the Home Secretary to Swansea to receive an update on Project ADDER that demonstrated the effectiveness of what is working in Wales to the Home Secretary and her team.
- 1.5 Mr Hart reported a positive meeting with PCC Dafydd Llywelyn that clearly demonstrated the success of collaboration in Wales and the PPBfW, adding that the Board was good at taking stock of the challenges.
- 1.6 Mr Hart updated on the Police grant adding that this is due to be finalised and announced in the Commons before the Christmas recess.

2. Improving the Safety of Women and Girls in Wales

- 2.1 CC Pam Kelly shared a presentation with the Board on the Blueprint approach for Wales adding that this was proposed at the meeting which took place in June and had received broad support from all those present. CC Kelly added that the Blueprint is a joint responsibility in terms of delivery across Wales.

- 2.2 Updating on Victims and Perpetrators, CC Kelly highlighted the societal issues and the need for public service buy-in.
- 2.3 The importance of public services working together to look at the prevention agenda was emphasised, along with societal issues currently at play, the importance of the blueprint approach and the impact on public trust and policing.
- 2.4 CC Kelly highlighted the safety of women and the tactics women have to employ to feel and keep safe, adding that whilst there is work underway to restore public confidence, more needs to be done and partners need to play an active role alongside the police. Public Service Boards in Wales have a key role to play.
- 2.5 CC Kelly highlighted the increased levels of scrutiny, referencing criminal justice outcomes and work with Criminal Justice Boards but that there is a determination in Wales to drive this work forward, with perpetrator programmes being looked at.
- 2.6 CC Kelly confirmed that DCC Maggie Blyth is looking at this nationally for the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC). The work in Wales is leading in this respect, and whilst broader, does dovetail into the national work being undertaken. Wales is not duplicating the national effort but is improving the pace.
- 2.7 DPCC Emma Wools continued the presentation adding that Policing in Wales had, in response to a number of contemporary issues established a task force to drive action and change that is fully supported by police and partners.
- 2.8 Ms Wools added that there is an enormous programme of change and a number of key priority areas following a commitment to a pan Wales approach. Ms Wools added that the task force enables greater sharing of best practice and learning, but the disparity between police and health data is an issue and different in terms of risk and the correct response.
- 2.9 Ms Wools stressed the importance of establishing agreement on a pan Wales data set, and also to give cognisance to wider data available as this would establish a more robust foundation on which to build the blueprint.
- 2.10 Updating on funding, Ms Wools added that some funding had been awarded, but there are a number of areas where funding has not been identified although vulnerability and risks exist.
- 2.11 Communications is a key factor with a need for a more strategic approach in communications campaigns and learning from key messaging. There are gaps in our collective understanding and the task force members are looking to improve this.
- 2.12 In summarising, Ms Wools added that this is a whole system approach and a close collaboration between Welsh Government officials, policing and partners. In addition, the work had resulted in a focus on children and young people and

how much violence is considered a normalised behaviour, with the work also considering race, diversity and culture.

- 2.13 In closing the presentation, Ms Wools demonstrated the next steps in slides to include governance, children and young people, communications and making best use of the tools and resources available, including the All Wales Schools Programme. Ms Wools added that there is a need for strong commitment and a pan Wales data sharing agreement along with longer term budget commitments.
- 2.14 The Minister thanked CC Kelly and DPCC Wools for the presentation adding that the Blueprint is a real step change in addressing the epidemic of violence against women and girls and hate crime.
- 2.15 Joanne Hopkins raised the diversity of communities in Wales adding that the support hub and the 'Uncharted Territory Review' report provides a good understanding of a number of issues but that there is nervousness around blueprints as a terminology and stressed the importance of how this is communicated. (Report linked for information below).

https://phwwhocc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Uncharted-Territory-Rapid-Review-19_08.pdf

- 2.16 Ms Hopkins added that one impact is that people take their own lives as a result of domestic abuse and this is part of the work in terms of the norms and culture too. There is a significant impact on children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse and not just witnessed it.
- 2.17 Chris Jennings confirmed that the concept has the full support of HMPPS and there is a lot of good work already being done such as the WISDOM project that can be built upon. Mr Jennings added that there was more that could be done and should look to influence others beyond our own roles to include staff and our own families. There is an ability through the group to influence and impact on society in a much bigger way.
- 2.18 Asim Hafeez added that there is an acceptability of this type of crime and there are swathes of society where these behaviours are accepted and normalised. Mr Hafeez confirmed that the media and schools have a big part to play in how [we] influence. There are those who migrate who have a different perception, a cultural nuance and how we identify that this is not a norm in our country.
- 2.19 CC Kelly thanked the group for all their support adding the worth of discussing where we are as a society and the importance of conversation and mindset in terms of misogyny. Its about finding a balance between pointing the finger and also about making ourselves vulnerable as well as brave in our actions.

- 2.20 The Minister confirmed she had met with Maggie Blyth, the appointed National Police Lead for Violence Against Women and Girls across England and Wales. Ms Hutt added that in conversations she was very reassured by the recognition as to what has already been achieved in Wales and that this is the start of a strong ongoing relationship working with all NPCC leads.
- 2.21 The Minister confirmed that the Blueprint is the right way forward and a statement would be made in the Senedd on Tuesday (07.12.2021) announcing the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy that will then be open for consultation for a period of 2 months.
- 2.22 The Minister summarised that the survivor voice, people with lived experiences are essential and that this is a cross governmental responsibility and that all areas across government know that they have a role to play in supporting the next five years of VAWDASV. MS Hutt added that Public Service Boards are important at a local level to ensure all partners are on board and grateful of the work that the taskforce has done.
- 2.23 DPCC Eleri Thomas confirmed that the presentation showed the determination of police leadership in Wales adding that a public service approach is really important and the need for all to understand inappropriate conduct. Ms Thomas welcomed the support and conversations to take place outside of the meeting around health data.
- 2.24 Judith Paget added that with regard to health data, the NHS stands with partners and is personally keen to be involved.
- 2.25 The Minister added that there is a need to engage with the Older Persons Commissioner about elder abuse as well, along with agencies and partners with a responsibility for asylum and refugees so that all representatives of society are included.

3. Enhancing the Partnership Approach to Preventing Harm from Substance Misuse

- 3.1 CC Jeremy Vaughan opened discussions confirming a revisit to a challenge put to the Board in December 2019.
- 3.2 CC Vaughan added that COVID had been difficult for all parties and he was grateful for the response to previous discussions and through the National Implementation Board for Drugs Related Deaths. He added that whilst the partnership is strong, the challenge has not gone away with data suggesting that harm and substance misuse is getting more challenging.

Simon Hart MP left the meeting at this stage.

- 3.3 ACC Dave Thorne opened the presentation.

- 3.4 ACC Thorne demonstrated that as a result of COVID there have been some changes to the drugs market highlighting the significant increase and levels of violence.
- 3.5 ACC Thorne confirmed that whilst there is a strategy in place, the police service is looking to refresh this along with partnership links across Wales. The increases in levels of violence mean that a more holistic approach is needed; enforcement is not the only approach with the pilot in Swansea demonstrating part of what is required.
- 3.6 ACC Thorne outlined the achievements in the last 2 years in slides as well as the increase in county lines, changing drugs profiles and the use of Niche, closer working with partners and agencies and the ability to utilise messaging from toxicology reports quickly. He added that the four forces in Wales are sharing local strategies.
- 3.7 PCC Dafydd Llywelyn added that there is a huge power from what was presented, and this represented the here and now. Forces and partners are in a position to present at government level and Mr Llywelyn thanked the group for all the effort that had gone into this work. He added that COVID has had an impact on everyone but that VAWDASV and substance misuse are critical not only in policing, but also on all partners.
- 3.8 PCC Dafydd Llywelyn asked if current governance was fit for purpose and in the wider context, have [we] got the messaging right, can more be done and is what [we] are doing far reaching enough?
- 3.9 PCC Llywelyn highlighted the progressive nature of the strategies in Wales and that context and understanding of the funding that goes into this, exemplifying Operation Adder. He added that there was a need not to lose sight of Dame Carol Black's Drugs Review and the new Drugs Strategy published by the Home Office.
- 3.10 The question was raised as to where the Board/Wales were with regard to injectable substances such as heroin and the appetite for initiatives such as Heroin Assisted Treatment.
- 3.11 A challenging article had been written by CC Richard Lewis (soon to take up the position of CC in Dyfed Powys) reflecting on the experience of Heroin Assisted Treatment in the Cleveland area where he has latterly served as Chief Constable.
- 3.12 The Minister invited comment.
- 3.13 The Deputy Minister for Mental Health & Well Being thanked ACC Thorne for the presentation adding that it was very helpful information, in particular the information on the markets that would be fed into the National Implementation

Board on Drug Related Deaths so that the information will be well utilised, adding the importance of continuing cross governmental work in this area.

- 3.14 Ms Neagle added that the approach in Wales is based on health and harm reduction and she was keen to continue this in Wales.
- 3.15 The Deputy Minister added that the Welsh Government work closely with the Home Office on Project ADDER but expressed disappointment that the Home Office didn't provide health funding in the same way that they did with other ADDER projects in England, particularly when this was additional resource from HMT..
- 3.16 The Deputy Minister added that the UK Drugs Summit stressed the harm reduction approach is essential and the Welsh Government are keen to have good engagement with the Home Office with the new Drugs Strategy adding that a request to be sighted on what the plans are has been submitted without response which was disappointing.
- 3.17 PCC Alun Michael referenced Project ADDER, noting that before the Home Office funding provision, Wales had tried to do things differently because of the high level of drugs deaths in the Swansea Bay area, referred to back in 2019. This was declared a critical incident at the time, but the position in the areas has improved since that time. PCC Michael praised the leadership shown in the Cardiff and Vale area from the Director, accelerating progress through joint design and recognition that this is a challenging area. Mr Michael added that this is not just about joining services but is how [we] work together to change people's behaviours and attitudes.
- 3.18 Emma Thomas (in chat comments) added that organised criminals are relentless in their pursuit of profit from the supply of drugs; as long as demand exists the organised crime groups will continue to adapt to avoid detection and continue to cause misery and high levels of harm. There is a need to address the demand issues and also a need to be open to explore activities with heroin assisted treatments and safe places for consumption.
- 3.19 Tracey Breheny added that she would pick up the issues with the Health Boards and will meet with PCC Dafydd Llywelyn outside of the meeting to discuss what can be done and the implications.

4. Policing in Wales Meeting

- 4.1 The areas covered in the previous morning's session included VAWDASV including links into Public Service Boards and their responsibilities.
- 4.2 Race Equality was discussed, with policing leading on much this work along with Criminal Justice in Wales, training with the Race Council Cymru and an ambition to conduct a Race Audit alongside a willingness to work with the Welsh Government on the Strategy.

- 4.3 Winter Pressures were discussed and this is seen as an ongoing issue with reports providing a greater understanding and clarity around what the issues are to include quantified reports demonstrating the spill from other agencies. In addition, the issue of the 101 number being used as a default number for out of hours services e.g., mental health.
- 4.4 CC Jeremy Vaughan thanked Judith Paget for their recent meeting to discuss the winter pressures and demonstrating some of the pre-escalation pathways which is a positive step forward.
- 4.5 Judith Paget responded that Health is conscious of the pressures across public services for both COVID and non-COVID demand and grateful for the police coming alongside and supporting. The particular pressures on WAST and the support from the Military were noted, adding that the hope is that as pressures continue, moves that have been made will help ease those pressures and that escalation at a local level is extremely important.
- 4.6 The Minister added that the Race Equality Plan due in the new year held high expectations.
- 4.7 Naomi Alleyne raised the issue of the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children, adding that some children go missing because they are not in appropriate placement and this is a risk to children. Ms Alleyne added that she had been in discussion with the Home Office regarding the use of hotels in Wales and concerns she had raised. The positive effect of the collective voice in Wales had been significant in ensuring our communities are protected and supported and the importance of Wales being a nation of sanctuary for those who are most vulnerable and at risk.
- 4.8 endorsed the points raised by Ms Alleyne and the Wales Migration Strategic Partnership and this is something that collectively [we] all have to work really hard at. Ms Hutt added that there is a voluntary arrangement in Wales and concerns have also been raised by the Scottish Government who are writing to the Home Office.
- 4.9 Asim Hafeez updated on the process of appointing a new post in the Home Office that will look at the wider system for asylum seekers. The post holder will work with the three devolved nations with a view to getting the process right in future immigration relationships.
- 5. Partner Updates by Exception**
- 5.1 PCC Alun Michael made reference to a pre-circulated paper adding that the Community Safety Network has done an excellent job in very challenging times and that this showed true leadership from policing, local government and partners.

5.2 The Minister referenced commentary from Plenary on the work of PCSOs and their contribution throughout COVID, adding they are extremely important.

5.3 With regard to the apprenticeship framework, The Minister confirmed that the Welsh Government are currently looking at this.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 None declared.

Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 17th March 2022 13:30- 15:30