



## **Policing Partnership Board for Wales**

### **Virtual meeting**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendees**

Jane Hutt MS	Minister for Social Justice (Chair)
David T C Davies MP	Under 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, Home Office
Nicola Davies	Regional Probation Director
Dr Andrew Goodall	Director General Health/NHS Chief Executive, Health & Social Services, WG
Gary Haggaty	Deputy Director, Community Safety Division WG
Catrin Dowling	Head of Crime & Justice, WG
Siân Brown	Senior Manager Crime & Justice Team, WG
Jayne Phillips	Crime & Justice Team WG
Leanne Lewis	Crime & Justice Team WG
Hannah Packham-Smith	Crime & Justice Team WG
Dafydd Llywelyn	Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys
Eleri Thomas	Deputy PCC Gwent
Andy Dunbobbin	Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales
Wayne Jones	Deputy PCC North Wales
Sian Curley	Chief Executive Gwent PCC,
Alun Michael	Police and Crime Commissioner South Wales
Cerith Thomas	Police and Crime Commissioners' Liaison Officer
Carys Morgans	Chief of Staff PCC Dyfed Powys
Claire Parmenter	T/Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police
Amanda Blakeman	Deputy Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Carl Foulkes	Chief Constable, North Wales Police
Jeremy Vaughan	Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Joanne Hopkins	Public Health Wales
Jon Drake	Director, Violence Prevention Unit
Chris Llewelyn	Chief Executive, WLGA
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)

#### **Apologies**

Jeff Cuthbert	Police and Crime Commissioner Gwent
Pam Kelly	Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Asim Hafeez	Deputy Director, Better Regulation, Cross Cutting, Devolution and Wales
Ella Rabaiotti	Head of Wales Safer Community Network, WLGA
Simon Hart MP	Secretary of State for Wales
Emma Wools	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner South Wales

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Tracy Cooper	Public Health Wales
Reg Kilpatrick	Director General Covid Response, Welsh Government
Tracey Burke	Director General, Education and Public Services, Welsh Government
Lee Jones	Interim Chief Executive South Wales PCC
Asim Hafeez	Deputy Director International & Domestic Engagement & Strategy Directorate Home Office

### Actions from Meeting

1: Task group to be set up by JESG (2.3)
2: Domestic abuse to be added to agenda at next meeting (4.1)

#### 1. Welcome and Chair Address

- 1.1 Jane Hutt MS, Minister for Social Justice, welcomed all members to the meeting of the Board introducing David Davies MP, representing the Secretary of State for Wales.
- 1.2 David Davies thanked the board for the opportunity to attend adding his personal and close interest in policing having been a Special Constable for 9 years.
- 1.3 Mr Davies updated on a meeting with the Home Secretary on Monday (20.09.2021) with Policing in Wales very much at the forefront of the mind of the Home Office and the commitment to the Police Uplift Programme with further discussions on the Apprenticeship Levy taking place. The MACA request for Ambulance had been signed (22.09.2021) and other pressures on devolved public services were raised in discussions.
- 1.4 CC Carl Foulkes acting as lead Chief Constable at the meeting thanked Mr Davies on behalf of the Wales forces for his support in discussions.
- 1.5 Dr Andrew Goodall confirmed receipt of the formal MACA request and that this needed to be set in the context of other actions taking place to relieve pressures on services. Dr Goodall added that the Military had been embedded with NHS/Health throughout the pandemic in both the first and second wave, and there were good relationships and understanding between the partners. Whilst there are other actions needed by Ambulance the final approval process was now underway.
- 1.6 Jane Hutt MS highlighted the timeliness and the importance of the Policing Partnership Board bringing key partners together to deal with actions and pressures on services.
- 1.7 PCC Dafydd Llywelyn raised the Apprenticeship Levy that forces had been lobbying for, for quite some time. Mr Llywelyn had received confirmation from the Home Office [this week] that a Cabinet Committee had been scheduled to take place in October, chaired by Michael Gove to discuss the matter.

## **2. Winter Demand Pressures in Welsh Public Services**

2.1 CC Carl Foulkes opened discussions adding that Dr Andrew Goodall had been pivotal with discussions to date, with discussions feeding into the JESG (Joint Emergency Services Group) that was chaired by CC Jeremy Vaughan the previous week. CC Foulkes added that policing is experiencing a significant increase in levels of demand as communities move out of lockdown. Recognising that this is not just policing, but the whole system that is experiencing high levels of demand.

CC Foulkes added that it is important to recognise these challenges to all services across Wales and to work together. Using deployment of defibrillators and officer training as an example, Mr Foulkes added that whilst forces are always available to help, there are greater and stricter scrutiny levels in policing compared to other services. Whilst forces agree that they are part of the solution, it is important that the right services with the right training and skills are deployed and that services can resolve demand pressures by working in partnership.

2.2 CC Vaughan thanked Dr Goodall and partners, adding that there are concerns across the system and [we] are in exceptional times. The key is in understanding the whole system and assembling the leaders who have control over resources and policy is what is needed. There is a lot of pressure on services elsewhere and morale is low, and all need to work hard at the leadership response.

2.3 Jane Hutt MS confirmed the pressure on all public services and ability to prepare for winter pressures. The group agreed that a small task group be set up by JESG.

2.4 Dr Andrew Goodall added that the group has used open relationships and contacts in Wales for some time and it is about drawing this out on an all Wales basis in an anticipatory way to ensure a full understanding over the coming weeks and months. The strength is in [our] ability to approach collectively. Whilst it is important to articulate to emergency services the concerns already happening, there is a need to also consider the wider demand on services and the need to develop resilient plans for dealing with these areas. Whilst there is a clear framework in place for appropriate actions, there are permissions included in the system for NHS and Trusts to use that supports the local choices, decisions and actions that can be taken.

Confirming patient numbers for COVID related reasons, Dr Goodall added that the same staff in place will be trying to re-gather themselves and there is a need to recognise the wellbeing of staff in all settings to include medical and police. Domiciliary care, having people available to support people in the home environment, impacts and demand on mental health are also concerns. Whilst [we] always have a winter plan that includes for example autumn booster campaigns the MACA request is a real example of how we support this, however this is a health board action.

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- 2.5 PCC Alun Michael raised the question as to how we affect public behaviour, not just the communications and messaging but how people behave in certain ways. Adding that Wales in a better position in the way the pandemic has been approached but that it is about people understanding the nature of the demand. Mr Michael added that there are problems with 101 in that a lot of contact is nothing to do with policing, but this demand is being put on policing.

Mr Michael added that partnership working in Wales has been excellent and has made a real difference. This includes the re-opening of courts and community safety work that is continuing to develop, but that at the back of this is how [we] get people to behave in more positive ways.

- 2.6 Minister Jane Hutt noting the update on the pressures on social care updated that the Deputy Minister had announced a £40M social care recovery fund. The fund is important for local government and supports a whole system approach.

- 2.7 Dr Andrew Goodall agreed that there is a need to look at public behaviour and that the perspective and tolerance of the public is very different now. The way the police have discharged their duties and responsibilities and the way we have had to comply helped the public understand this and there are lessons to be learned from this. The support and understanding we have experienced in the early stages are different now and this includes how the public access our services. The help us to help you campaign is focussing on communications this winter however, the public is not understanding where and who they can go to for help. [We] should not underestimate the impact that COVID still has on us all.

Intense pressure on one part of the service generates pressure on other parts of the service, not just funding but workforce. Meetings with the Health Minister throughout the summer months were happening on a weekly basis on the position with all partners working together, identifying the issues and sharing best practice.

- 2.8 DCC Amanda Blakeman added that the pressures are more critical for the police service during the Christmas period highlighting the night-time economy adding that the police service is looking at the problems now and working with licensees. There is an increasing number of presentations at A&E with concerns regarding police officers having to attend when they don't have the skills to do this.

- 2.9 CC Vaughan added that there is a permanent state of crisis because of the volume of 999 calls and that what is needed is a sense of accountability and grip.

### **3. Beating Crime Plan – Reflections and Implications for Wales**

- 3.1 PCC Dafydd Llywelyn updated that the PCCs had an audience at 10 Downing Street, the key from that being the way in which [we] reflect and digest the plan and decipher the output. This includes what will become the key priorities and what this means for Wales and the Welsh Government.

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Mr Llywelyn added that the focus on the plan included early intervention and prevention and the next steps are working out how the plan is dovetailed into local police and crime plans that each of the PCCs produce. Following this the wider strategic requirements on a national level and local delivery.

Mr Llywelyn added that some of the consultation had been questioned and fed back to the Home Office and the Prime Minister, in particular the articulation of some of the performance measures looking to be developed as part of the plan. Critically, how the plan links into the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), cost implications and financial planning. The unique position in Wales is that over 50% of Welsh policing is paid through taxation and there is a need to fully understand the financial impacts from the plan.

- 3.2 CC Carl Foulkes added that the clear focus around prevention is really welcome. Highlighting the Wales Schools Programme and Criminal Justice work and the support received from the Welsh Government. However, Mr Foulkes raised concerns over the increasing level of priorities, what the key priorities are and the expectations on policing.

With regard to league tables and performance there is a lot of work with the NPCC (National Police Chiefs Council) and performance metrics and the importance of using these in the right way. One system is difficult and whilst we want to be able to improve performance, we don't want to go back to the past. CSR and funding is important and this all links to local plans and we need to be clear with our staff that we are good at this and want to maintain this.

- 3.3 Ms Amy Rees added that there are a number of schemes in Wales including electronic tagging with a pilot in November monitoring release on license with IOM (integrated Offender Management) and unpaid work. Noting that there is currently a 370,000 hours backlog in Wales of community sentence unpaid work, but Wales is very advanced with regard to this agenda.

- 3.4 Mr Chris Jennings confirmed a bid for money for substance misuse that will contribute to the prevention agenda but asked if there was more that could be done from a probation perspective with policing colleagues to get the prevention message out more jointly.

- 3.5 PCC Alun Michael pointed to the joint funding of the Criminal Justice in Wales Co-ordinator role which enabled acceleration of a lot of prevention work. The addition of the analyst role has developed a dashboard for reporting where local demand is shown, and this is making a big difference to our understanding.

- 3.6 CC Jeremy Vaughan added that successful programmes such as Early Action Together (EAT), ACEs task and finish and other work with Criminal Justice has had a positive impact but stressed the importance of keeping the momentum going. Whilst partners build tangible schemes, the ability to maintain them is key.

## **4. AOB – Policing in Wales Meeting**

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- 4.1 Dafydd Llywelyn gave a brief update.
- a. Continuation of the substance misuse pre-covid presentation. There were a number of concerns and issues that have not gone away, and these will be discussed at the next board meeting. Substance misuse is not just a police matter but has wider impacts on communities and partners and there was a need to explore further public attitudes to substance misuse and, the need to fully engage with the public.
  - b. Work is ongoing around misogyny and violence against women and girls, with this area also being given a renewed focus through the Welsh Government VAWDASV Strategy and the Blueprint approach being supported by Policing in Wales
- 4.2 Minister Jane Hutt requested that these areas be factored into the next meeting and updated that meetings had taken place regarding the issue of sexual harassment in education settings and the 'Everyone's Invited' website. Ms Hutt added that there was a lot that can be taken forward from this and that Welsh Government is extending the VAWDASV Strategy for the next 5 years. The focus will not only be on domestic abuse in the home but also in the workplace and on our streets.

### **5. Partner Updates by Exception**

- 5.1 Jane Hutt updated the group regarding Afghan refugees made welcome in Wales noting 50 families, 230 individuals have been accommodated to date with all local authorities playing their part and supporting.
- 5.2 PCC Alun Michael updated that there was a lot of richness in the reports received into the board which draw attention to the Wales Safer Communities Board. Whilst police lead on community safety there is an appetite for the network to develop further and for partnership working to expand.
- 5.3 Ms Joanne Hopkins raised a point picked up from the Afghan resettlement team around violence against women and girls noting that the information raised the perception of women in Afghanistan where over 70% view this as "normal". Ms Hopkins added that there is a need to better understand the experiences of Afghan women, the impact of any trauma they experience and in doing so gain real experience of gender based violence.

At a meeting of the Race Equality Forum on women connect first, other organisations will be engaging and there will be a gender based focus on how [we] can integrate and engage.

- 5.4 Ms Naomi Alleyne thanked South Wales Police, and Kevin Jones for the role played in supporting Afghan refugees and highlighting the border issues of asylum seekers moving forward. Community Cohesion and where families are

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being located is very much a team Wales approach and there are continuing commitments that are benefitting from everyone continuing to work together.

- 5.5 Mr Chris Jennings updated that there is a change of ministerial team and Ministry of Justice with junior minister portfolios still being settled.
- 5.6 Ms Amy Rees highlighted the pressures on the ambulance service and questioned other pressures and if there was anything else that could be done to get ahead of the curve.
- 5.7 CC Foulkes responded that all Wales demand work is being developed and that this would feed into JESG.
- 5.8 Mr Chris Batchelor updated that Minister Atkins is no longer in the Home Office.

### **6. Any Other Business**

- 6.1 Mr Gary Haggaty highlighted an actions prioritisation matrix that was being developed to put stronger and more robust programme management principles around the Board's work. He asked if there were any areas to be prioritised and what shape this should take going forward.
- 6.2 PCC Alun Michael responded that it was important to recognise that the group doesn't exist constitutionally but that its value is in providing a space for non-devolved policing and partners to engage and that the Police Liaison Unit is key in supporting the meeting.

### **Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 2nd December- 13:30- 15:30