

Policing Partnership Board for Wales

**Hybrid meeting - via Microsoft Teams / Caerdydd 1 and 2, Cathays Park 2, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ
Thursday 22nd June 2023**

Minutes

Attendees

Jane Hutt MS	Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip (Chair)
Mick Antoniw MS	Counsel General for Wales, Welsh Government
Lee Waters MS	Deputy Minister for Climate Change
Lynne Neagle MS	Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Hannah Blythyn MS	Deputy Minister for Social Partnership
Dame Vera Baird	Specialist Advisor on Devolution, Welsh Government
Paula Williams	Director of Strategy and Planning, Youth Justice Board
Lord Davies of Gower	House of Lords, UK Parliament
Dr. Richard Lewis	Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police
Pam Kelly	Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Jeremy Vaughan	Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Amanda Blakeman	Chief Constable, North Wales Police
Dafydd Llywelyn	Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys
Jeff Cuthbert	Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent
Andy Dunbobbin	Police and Crime Commissioner, North Wales
Alun Michael	Police and Crime Commissioner, South Wales
Eleri Thomas	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent
Wayne Jones	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, North Wales
Emma Wools	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, South Wales
Rachel Bacon	Deputy Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Mark Travis	Assistant Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Nick Wood	Deputy Chief Executive, NHS Wales, Welsh Government
Liz Lalley	Director, Risk, Resilience and Community Safety, Welsh Government
Peter Kennedy	Director, People and Places, Welsh Government
Karin Phillips	Deputy Director, Community Safety Division, Welsh Government
Chris Warner	Deputy Director, Transport Strategy and Policy
James Searle	Head of Crime and Justice, Welsh Government
Leanne Lewis	Crime and Justice Team, Welsh Government
Jayne Phillips	Crime and Justice Team, Welsh Government
Jenny Hopkins	Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service
Tracy Cooper	Public Health Wales
Joanne Hopkins	Public Health Wales
Chris Batchelor	Deputy Director International and Domestic Engagement and Strategy Directorate, Home Office
Chris Jennings	Executive Director Wales, HM Prison and Probation Service
Naomi Alleyne	Director of Social Services and Housing, WLGA
Mark Brace	Interim Head of the Safer Communities Network, WLGA
Sian Curley	Chief Executive, Gwent PCC
Stephen Hughes	Chief Executive, North Wales PCC
Paul Morris	Head of Police Liaison Unit
Christina Fraser	Chief Inspector, Police Liaison Unit
Asif Afsar	All-Wales Business Co-Ordinator, Policing in Wales
Joanna Huddleston	Administrator, Police Liaison Unit

Apologies

Judith Paget	Director General HSSG/Chief Executive NHS Wales, Welsh Government
Amy Rees	Chief Executive, HMPPS
T/ACC Jason Davies	Assistant Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Reg Kilpatrick	Director General Covid Recovery, Welsh Government

Jo-Anne Daniels

Director General, Education, Social Justice & Welsh Language, Welsh Government

Actions arising from the meeting

Jane Hutt MS to engage with DPCC Wools on her three requests to the Policing Partnership Board for Wales in relation to Trust and Confidence.	Jane Hutt MS
Lynne Neagle MS to provide her contact details to the Policing Minister's office.	Lynne Neagle MS

1. Welcome and Chair's Address

The Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip welcomed members to the Policing Partnership Board for Wales.

She noted that it was PCC Dunbobbin's first meeting as Chair of Policing in Wales and thanked PCC Cuthbert for his previous work as Lead Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Chair extended a welcome to the various Ministers at the meeting, as well as welcoming Dame Vera Baird and Paula Williams, Director of Strategy and Planning (Observer), Youth Justice Board and thanked Mick Antoniw MS, Counsel General for Wales for his attendance.

She passed on her thanks and best wishes to Jayne Phillips, Crime & Justice Officer who is due to retire after 20 years of service in the in the Welsh Government.

2. Welcome and comments from Lord Byron Davies, House of Lords, UK Parliament

The Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip welcomed Lord Byron Davies, congratulating him on his new role and noted that he would provide an update on behalf of the Secretary of State for Wales' office.

2.1. Lord Davies opened by confirming that Welsh forces have exceeded their allocations under the Police Uplift Programme and noted that Wales saw the highest ever number of officers as of 31st March 2023.

He acknowledged that the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution is due to speak about the devolution of justice so felt it may be helpful to set out the UK Government's position. He stated that UK Government are clear that justice is best delivered in Wales via the England and Wales Justice System and commented that the current devolution settlement is the most efficient way to deliver justice in Wales as Wales gains many advantages from the economy of scale from shared resources using the example of larger prisons stating that Category A and Women's Prison facilities can be provided in England.

Lord Davies noted that Wales performs exceptionally well in relation to court and tribunals and outperforms England in managing case backlogs. He commented that with regards to Policing, the existing governance and partnership arrangements provide a significant level of integration and autonomy and stated that the establishment of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) has devolved policing to the public. Therefore, UK Government are keen to focus on how to drive down crime and make communities safer.

Lord Davies stated that he doesn't feel this is the appropriate forum to discuss devolution but advised he is delighted to attend and he is looking forward to working with the group in the future.

2.2. The Chair thanked Lord Davies for his contribution and confirmed that the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution would be providing an update on Welsh Government's work in relation to

devolution of justice in the next item. She added that the Policing Partnership Board for Wales is a long-standing meeting between devolved and non-devolved services addressing key issues that affect communities lives daily.

3. Update from the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution on Welsh Government's work on the devolution of justice

3.1. The Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution reassured Lord Davies that he had no intention of going into the politics of devolution, rather he would provide a technical report to update on the work taking place in Welsh Government. He acknowledged the difference in position between UK Government and Welsh Governments but explained that with the General election approaching, governments are starting to look ahead in terms of preparations for what the policy may be post-general election. He felt there was a need to consider the changes that may occur and the implications on Welsh Government policy. Welsh Government are working on the basis that if there is a change in Government or a change in the position of the UK Government, there are potential changes that may take place with regards to devolution of youth justice, probation and potentially policing. Welsh Government are working practically to prepare the ground should the situation arise such as what may be required in terms of structural or organisation matters around how youth justice is administered and what legislation may be necessary in order to achieve these changes etc. He advised that as part of this work, Welsh Government are pleased to be working alongside Dame Vera Baird and mentioned that if the board requires a further update as the work progresses, he is happy to engage with this.

3.2. Dame Vera Baird thanked the Counsel General and the Chair for the welcome and opened by explaining that the aim of the work is to be in a position of preparedness and to discuss what can be done when this is achieved, rather than promote the work. She stated she believes that those who are present today will be keen to assist with this work to ensure the elements of the Criminal Justice System are in their prime condition as well as reviewing the current situation and make improvements where necessary as this work is carried out.

4. Trust and Confidence in Policing

4a. Update from Police and Crime Commissioners

PCC Dunbobbin opened by stating that programmes to tackle Violence Against Women, Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse and Anti-Racism are at the heart of the work to enhance trust and confidence. He advised that Chief Supt. Ian Roberts has been appointed by Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure there is co-ordination across all four policing areas by working with all force leads in Wales to ensure their plan delivers on the seven commitments in the Criminal Justice in Wales Anti-Racism Action Plan.

He stated that Policing in Wales remain committed to the Criminal Justice Anti-Racism Action Plan for Wales having dedicated specific time at the Criminal Justice Board for Wales last week as well as the recent Policing in Wales meeting. He added that there is deliberate alignment between the Welsh Government and Criminal Justice in Wales plans in their development, intentions and how they are being delivered. An example of this was demonstrated in the recent Public Service Anti-Racism Summit which was a call for action for all and highlighted the need for all services in Wales to work positively to eradicate racism by 2030.

PCC Dunbobbin stated that there is significant innovative work taking place to understand the concerns of communities and to proactively tackle them, during the Policing in Wales meeting he set out his intentions namely celebrating success, building resilience and improving communication. He provided examples of the work in North Wales including surgeries where the public are invited to attend for policing to hear their concerns, particularly in under-represented areas.

4.a.1. PCC Michael suggested that the police response on the night of the recent incident in Ely should be commended and this had been reflected by views from the local community. He added that the speed of the response indicated that lessons from Swansea's Mayhill riot have been put into practice.

PCC Michael felt it important to highlight the strong partnership working between police and Local Authorities and he commended the Welsh Government response in the way that the partnership arrangement has been endorsed and used rather than duplicating arrangements and he feels this is an example of how partnership working should operate.

PCC Michael noted that forces have deliberated the issue of how to ensure lessons from Baroness Casey's Review are learnt where recommendations apply to other forces but he stressed that policing acknowledges that all forces have issues that need to be addressed. Therefore, when he met with Baroness Casey at a recent conference, he suggested the idea of a roundtable discussion with her to focus on areas within her review that she feels need to be addressed in Wales.

4.a.2. PCC Cuthbert echoed PCC Michael's comments, highlighting that although the Casey report was focussed on The Metropolitan Police, it has overshadowed the work of policing. He stressed that policing has acknowledged these issues and that the matter of examining the workforce including new recruits has been pursued with some vigour.

PCC Cuthbert highlighted that unfortunately these matters are societal as demonstrated with a number of organisations that have been shown to have similar issues, however policing acknowledges that it needs to be held to the highest standards. He mentioned that he is a member of the board for the College of Policing and stressed that this is taken very seriously at a national level as well as standards being put in place and developed to ensure it is part of ongoing training.

4.a.3. PCC Llywelyn noted that PCCs have a critical role in holding forces to account but he was also keen to ensure transparency for the public, so highlighted the need to ensure that policing are relaying messages to the public and providing open data sources. In terms of forces' criticism of the IOPC in relation to timeliness, PCC Llywelyn advised that this is also true for forces undertaking internal investigations and stated that Professional Standards Departments need to deliver the same level of service and standards that they expect of the IOPC. He felt there is a need to take action in Wales as he is aware from evidence-based research, positive psychology requires a minimum of 3:1 positive to negative ratio so he re-emphasised his earlier point regarding communication with the public.

4.a.4. DPCC Wools stated that she wanted to conclude the item with three proposals for the board; DPCC Wools advised that through both the Welsh Government and Criminal Justice in Wales Action Plans and engagement with community groups, police staff networks and from feedback from the recent anti-racism summit, there were three actions that can be taken forward that would contribute to supporting the trust and confidence agenda as discussed today.

The three asks of the Policing Partnership Board for Wales are:

- Seeking support from Welsh Government and partners to establish a new independent advocacy service for ethnic minority groups as these systems are complex to navigate. DPCC Wools suggested that public services could learn from ethnic minority groups and the wider community, so they are looking to establish the service collaboratively to examine existing and competing mechanisms.
- Exploring and establishing an independent systemic review model reinforcing the confidence that public services have in existing mechanisms across organisations with the ability to share learning back and then acting upon this. DPCC Wools felt there are models that public services can learn from while also signalling to communities that services have the independence and transparency to start achieving this.

- Obtaining Ministerial support in engaging with both Local Authority and Health colleagues in relation to the issue of unauthorised encampments. She explained that all four forces have been in discussion since the legislation came in. There is endorsement from Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables as they are very much agreed that they would like to take forward a collaborative approach, consistent with the application of legislation with partners engaging in that process, DPCC Wools highlighted that the Gypsy Roma Traveller community are one of the furthest away in terms of trust and confidence and response in that area.

4.a.5. The Chair responded to say that she would want to endorse those key points whilst highlighting that she is currently focussing on working group priorities with Gypsy Roma Traveller leads particularly in terms of the accommodation assessment that is being undertaken. She added that she has met with the leadership of the WLGA, noting there are regional outliers who are not abiding by the legislation put through The Senedd. The Chair gave her thanks and stated she will want to engage with DPCC Wools on those points. She also advised that PCC Dunbobbin highlighted in their monthly catch up, the issue regarding trust and confidence is not just about policing, it is rather the whole Welsh Public Sector and thanked him for raising that. She advised that Peter Kennedy was in attendance to provide an update on trust and confidence in relation to Welsh Government.

4.a.6. Peter Kennedy reflected on the work that Welsh Government are engaged in as an organisation. He advised that he wanted to touch on the comment about these being societal issues, highlighting that all Welsh public sector organisations have a key role to play as they are microcosms of society as organisations but acknowledged organisations are not as representative as they should be. He advised that Welsh Government's shadow board is comprised of colleagues from Black and Minority Ethnic communities as well as colleagues who have disabilities, stating that they have a seat at the table at board level in their executive committee, adding that he hopes it gives the opportunity for the voices of those with lived experience to be heard at the highest point of the organisation.

4b. Update from Chief Constables

CC Lewis mentioned that PCC Dunbobbin addressed the outward focussed work that police forces in Wales are undertaking to increase trust and confidence in communities. He added that a key part of this is addressing internal issues such as culture by positively setting the type of culture forces expect as opposed to focussing on the negative culture and therefore making it a more positive issue. CC Lewis advised that all four Chief Constables work collaboratively to ensure they are removing the minority that are creating a negative view of policing and dismissing officers as soon as they are able to. He referred to the last Policing Partnership Board for Wales when the Policing Minister was in attendance, where he reiterated some points from the National Policing Board in relation to those who fail vetting but forces are not yet able to dismiss them. Sir Mark Rowley has led on a piece of work to utilise other exit routes for those officers that have no vetting status, he explained this work is ongoing with the Home Office.

In addition to this, CC Lewis commented that the justice system doesn't work as fast as forces would like. He advised that he is due to meet with the IOPC over the next few weeks to discuss what can be done to increase the speed of some of the investigations that are carried out. He highlighted that the independence that the IOPC provide is vital as it increases trust and confidence but stressed that the speed with which investigations are carried out needs to improve.

CC Lewis advised the Home Secretary has recently written to all Chief Constables in England and Wales in relation to increasing the use of Stop and Search. He stated that policing recognises the importance of Stop and Search as a tactic to try and eliminate criminality in communities but highlighted that Stop and Search is mentioned in the Criminal Justice Anti-Racism Action Plan for Wales. He added that it is an issue that requires scrutiny from Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure that forces utilise the powers fairly as well as ensuring communities are reassured by this scrutiny.

4.b.1. CC Kelly felt it is important that policing acknowledges there is a lot of work to be carried out in relation to trust and confidence, however, she stated there is a need to look at how policing frames these discussions by encouraging the public to work with them and other public services. She commented that some of the work forces are carrying out is powerful and should be shared so that shared learning is taking place in Wales. She added that understanding culture and finding tools from universities and the College of Policing will help forces shape and understand culture.

CC Kelly echoed the point previously made regarding the IOPC and acknowledged that the concern is in relation to timing and pace but it is also about the impact that timing has on trust and confidence. As a result of this, she feels it is essential this is reviewed to enable communities to have the confidence to report, they need to show that investigations are done expeditiously.

4.b.2. CC Blakeman noted that in North Wales trust and confidence fits into four areas, which are misogynistic behaviour, racism, integrity and ineffectiveness; as a result of this the force is concentrating on those four areas with work taking place to transition from non-racist to anti-racist and non-misogynistic to anti-misogynistic. She added that there is a need to be really clear about how policing focuses on those rogue members of forces that cause issues and understand the complexity of culture and explained that a cultural audit is being undertaken with an independent agency that will fit into the culture and confidence strategy to tackle the issues together. CC Blakeman provided an update on the PND data wash, emphasising that policing employees have been subject to PND checks for a considerable amount of time. She highlighted that in Wales, the current wave of data washing is 92% complete and that there are no particular concerns at present.

4.b.3. CC Vaughan commented on the Ely incident following on from PCC Michael's comments regarding the operational response and the impact on officers as they were highly affected by the experience but they have not lost sight of the human tragedy resulting in the tragic death of two young people. He stated that there was an improved response compared to Mayhill and that the partnership response was strong. He advised in the short-term South Wales Police have significantly increased resources in the area in respect of both public engagement and response to the offences. CC Vaughan commented on neighbourhood policing in relation to trust and confidence stating that it was dependent on the area in Wales whether neighbourhood policing is the main source of public engagement. He highlighted that communities experience of how accessible forces are, the way they are treated and their perception of how they are treated are all relevant in this area. He believes that the public want to be able to have trust and confidence in policing and advised that the board would hear from DCC Bacon regarding how policing may have an opportunity in Wales to co-ordinate differently so that policing is focussed on community safety, preventing and responding to crime and disorder to achieve the right outcomes.

4.b.4. The Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip noted it is heartening to hear from Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables how committed they are to eradicating misogyny, racism and homophobia as well as any form of misconduct within policing. She feels neighbourhood policing is crucial and stated she was looking forward to attending the passing out ceremony for PCSOs in Gwent later in the week.

5. Right Care, Right Person

DCC Bacon introduced herself as the Deputy Chief Constable of South Wales Police as well as being the National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Mental Health. She commented that she is attending to provide an update on the development of the Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) national guidance that will be made available to Chief Constables via the College of Policing later in the year.

She explained that it will be a decision for each Chief Constable to decide whether they wish to implement RCRP within their force area. DCC Bacon has been advising forces against choosing to

implement this approach in one go as it will be a significant challenge, therefore a phased approach to implementation will be recommended.

Following the Metropolitan Police Commissioner's announcement to health partners about his intentions to implement RCRP, there were some concerns expressed in relation to which service would provide a mental health response if the police withdrew. DCC Bacon provided reassurance on concerns that have been previously made; she stated that although a reduction in demand may be a result of RCRP implementation, the aim is to get the right service to those in need in partnership, commenting that if we maintain that attitude it will make the progression alongside partners more straightforward. She stressed that policing will always continue to respond where life is at threat, but stated through RCRP there will be a focus on establishing when it is appropriate for police to be involved and in which situations it is more appropriate for a health or social care led response.

DCC Bacon explained that the Mental Health demand snapshot had taken place in both 2019 and 2022; in 2022 it revealed that there had been a 10% increase in the use of Section 136, of those who were subject to Section 136, 90% of those did not go on to be detained which implies that the power was not being used in a way that is effective and would be traumatising for the individual involved. In addition, between 3000-5000 people were held illegally in police cells yearly due to the fact there was no place for them to go within the Mental Health service. She emphasised that police had no legal power to hold them which is unacceptable. The basis of RCRP is to prevent unacceptable treatment of those with Mental Health conditions.

DCC Bacon advised that the Police Productivity Review was developed to review the operational efficiency of policing; one of the first areas they reviewed was mental health related incidents, the data collected highlighted the extent of policing's involvement in mental health and the impact it has on other areas of policing and the impact to core police functions in responding to victims of crime as well as highlighting some of the associated risks in the legal position of policing's involvement.

The concept of RCRP emerged from Humberside as action was required due to poor performance evidenced through inspections. She advised that as an National Police Chiefs Council portfolio, it explored a number of forces with good practice to understand the ways they had improved partnership structures to provide a better response to the community as well as reflecting on past learning recommendations from the IOPC where intervention by police in health and social care incidents had resulted in adverse outcomes. DCC Bacon stated that the approach ensures policing understands the legal duty to respond to vulnerability; she explained that the police have specific statutory duties in legislation, for example a constable is the only person who can detain under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. The legal basis for responding to these incidents is written into police forces' policies to provide a comprehensive understanding of when they should be responding and how policing should be working in partnership.

DCC Bacon stressed that the approach focusses on implementing alongside partners rather than pushing the approach on partners. Although a National Partnership Agreement (NPA) is already underway in England there remains scope to understand how a National Partnership Agreement can be shaped within Wales. She commented that a NPA would help to understand how this would deliver at a local level with regards to achieving consistency and that national legal guidance will underpin each of the RCRP modules, so that forces can defer to the national position. The NPA has been referenced recently by Ministers and will be a key tool for forces to instigate those initial strategic partnership engagements on RCRP particularly with health.

DCC Bacon summarised the next steps and stated that the national guidance is currently being developed by the RCRP Implementation Support Team led by ACC Gilmer. A phased approach is being recommended to policing through the guidance as previously mentioned. ACC Gunney as the lead for All-Wales Collaboration between the four Welsh police forces will ensure there is a

consistent approach regarding how RCRP will be incorporated into policies across the various police functions impacted by RCRP including implementation. This will allow the work to be carried out once collectively as an all-Wales region, before being passed onto a local Senior Responsible Officer.

DCC Bacon closed by stressing that the most important part of RCRP is that members of the public have the right to receive the right care from the right agency and policing understand that this is aligned with Welsh Government objectives and she hopes to continue discussions following this meeting.

5.1. Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Lynne Neagle MS (DMfMHWB) stated it is very encouraging to hear the repeated references to the importance of partnership working as she feels that is key, highlighting that Welsh Government already have a good collaborative working relationship with police and other services in Wales to support crisis care, which is built upon the understanding that a response to mental health crisis requires a multi-agency approach due to the range of issues that can cause escalation to crisis point. She suggested it is important that the detail is worked through with partners and that time be required to allow this. Lynne Neagle MS noted that she is conscious that the impact of this will be wider than her Mental Health and Wellbeing portfolio, therefore this will require discussions with other sectors of Welsh Government such as Social Care in relation to areas such as welfare checks.

She commented that there are already a range of approaches in Wales that support RCRP such as the 111, press 2 function and National Mental Health Conveyancing Service, as well as local partnerships that are in place to support implementation so she feels it is important that the framing of this is aligned to the current approach in Wales. She stated that she is keen to have a better understanding of possible impacts so would appreciate additional information on the work in Humberside, particularly the impact on Health and Social Care services. She closed by advising that she will be meeting with policing in relation to this on a one-to-one basis but would like reassurance that police forces won't start to unilaterally change their approach until alternative arrangements have been agreed.

5.2. PCC Michael advised that he has some concerns about the approach, however he believes the concept is correct, particularly the way DCC Bacon described it. He added that he has spoken to DCC Bacon and ACC Gilmer who have both emphasised that it requires a partnership approach as well as an investment of time and effort prior to implementation. However, there have been instances where there has been an investment of time with little progression from partners; he gave the example of the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat so he suggested the need to start with clarity, highlighting that this is going to be approached differently in Wales as a One Public Service Approach.

5.3. Joanne Hopkins reflected on the principles by stating they are familiar due to when the Early Action Together Programme was carried out, one of the key messages was an integrated Front Door 24/7 which is not unfamiliar within Wales. She mentioned that there are a number of approaches that can be drawn upon to have an evidence base. She gave examples of a couple of models where there was some research undertaken as part of the Early Action Together research portfolio, such as putting social workers into control rooms and she thinks there is a need to look at learning from these and their sustainability to develop a model in Wales.

5.4. CC Kelly saw this as an exciting opportunity, noting that the Home Office/HMICFRS are progressing this with English forces but feels there has been a lack of engagement in Wales, particularly with Welsh Government, however she feels there is an opportunity to review this carefully, respecting that One Public Service Approach in Wales on a potentially 18 month-2 year approach, stressing that it isn't something that can land overnight.

Lynne Neagle MS said that she wanted to pick up on PCC Michael's comments in relation to the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat stating that it led to some positive initiatives such as 24/7 111, press 2 for urgent Mental Health care in Wales as well as Mental Health Conveyancing on a national basis so she feels it is important to recognise the progress that has been made and the work that has taken place to ensure mental health and wellbeing needs are met.

5.5. Chris Batchelor acknowledged that it is important that the Welsh context is taken account of and that the Policing Minister is keen to engage on this. The Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip responded to say that the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing would follow up with direct contact.

5.6. DCC Bacon emphasised that Welsh Government officials have been involved in the discussions and have been invited to engage with the Home Office in terms of the partnership agreement, stressing that it would be different in Wales. She also wanted to highlight that a lot of RCRP is about the police doing things differently, stating that policing haven't changed the culture in control rooms, decision making, or in risk aversion and therefore colleagues are doing a lot of work to offer alternative services and access routes that aren't being used properly, so she wanted to re-emphasise that this is a collaborative programme where policing needs to make a change and operate differently.

6. Implementation of statutory 20mph zones across Wales

6.1. ACC Travis explained that he has been working with Welsh Government colleagues for approximately three years to bring together the support for the strategic aims within Wales to improve road safety and the environment for road users by reducing the average road speed as well as having wider benefits for society and the environment. The police have worked closely with a team in Welsh Government on both a strategic and tactical level to initiate and deliver 8 pilot sites where the reduction of speed from 30mph to 20mph has been trialled. He added that he has worked on a number of different tactics to be able to do that in collaboration, including briefing the community, being transparent throughout the activity, awareness for drivers, education and ultimately enforcement activity to test the concept of bringing the road speed down. He stated it has attracted mixed public perception. ACC Travis advised there has been some great success in relation to a number of trials around restorative approaches to educate and inform the public which includes the just one minute trial which is a non-enforcement activity with Fire and Rescue Services where drivers are stopped and advised about the way in which they are driving and the risks to the community then ultimately, when necessary, wider enforcement. He commented on the challenge of bringing this to an All-Wales solution in terms of logistics of signage, the management of media and communication and what it means in terms of operational delivery. ACC Travis was very appreciative of the resource that has been invested in supporting GoSafe which is the national Welsh body that delivers driver enforcement and strives to improve standards of safety within the road network.

6.2. The Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS echoed ACC Travis' statement and paid tribute to him for the work he has done. He added that he feels policing plays a constructive role in helping Welsh Government work through the practicalities of this such as increasing the communications campaign and handed over to Chris Warner to describe the work in more detail.

6.3. Chris Warner, Deputy Director of Transport Policy and Strategy also wanted to record his thanks to ACC Travis and welcomed the work of the dedicated Inspector, Jason Williams within the Police Liaison Unit. He stated that in terms of the communications campaign, Welsh Government have significantly invested in this including using behavioural science experts to obtain an in-depth view of the work required in relation to issues such as misinformation. Chris explained that although awareness of the policy has reached around 70%, support is at approximately 60% but Welsh Government are aware that there is a vocal minority that continue to spread misinformation about the

policy. Behavioural science experts are helping to take a sophisticated, nuanced approach at both local and national levels to ensure the communications campaign provides the correct framework for the engagement work that ACC Travis described.

6.4. CC Vaughan commented that it is a significant change for communities and stated that a lot of work has gone into this, particularly from ACC Travis who also managed events with regards to the incident in Ely. He added that the role of the police is to uphold the law, educate the public and take enforcement action where appropriate, adding that it is a matter for the Government to set the law which is understood. He stated that he appreciates the time that is going into the communication campaign as when an individual receives a speed camera activation letter from the Chief Constable, the result seems to be that policing are held responsible, regardless of how well this is communicated.

6.5. CC Blakeman echoed her thanks for the work and mentioned she has spoken to ACC Travis frequently as there is concern in North Wales around several aspects. She added that the public are experiencing a withdrawal of police presence and visibility, therefore there is a concern on how this impacts trust and confidence; she continued to say that if that visibility is applied in 20mph zones, it may reduce trust and confidence further so she is keen to ensure there is a balance, which is why the education programme is fundamental to this. CC Blakeman feels the communications need to be increased as it is not as visible as she would like it to be, whilst also focussing on what is relevant to local communities and where they are seeing most harm and to focus GoSafe and policing activity there, such as motorcyclists in North Wales.

6.7. Lee Waters MS addressed the issues raised and advised that a joint statement setting out the staged enforcement approach will be issued. He advised that he is aware from the research undertaken that one of the concerns the public have is that it won't be enforced or the police will not be seen to be enforcing it, therefore he agreed there is a need to have balance but stated that part of that balance is going to be enforcement which is being carried out with GoSafe and the Fire and Rescue Service reaffirming the education first approach. He stated there is strong support for this and based on the experience in the pilot sites, he advised that after approximately six weeks, people get used to it and speed reduces. He acknowledged there will be a reaction from the 40% that don't support this; the Deputy Minister referred to the seatbelt legislation as an example, stating he is keen not to be discouraged and commented that the police have an important role in ensuring that the public understand the need to change.

6.8. ACC Travis noted that a positive development over the last few months is the agreed position with Welsh Government in relation to the use of the NPCC guidance which is the national guidance on how policing enforces speed activity to allow consistency, which is key to legitimacy. He explained that activity is driven by risk, public concern and the need to keep people safe and is clear that this will not draw resource away from the enforcement as CC Blakeman mentioned regarding fast roads and motorcycles. ACC Travis advised that monitoring will be continued and the process will be adapted as necessary as the work progresses.

The Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip closed the discussion by noting that it is important that this item was included on the agenda to highlight the partnership work undertaken as well as the education.

7. Any issues to be escalated from the Policing in Wales meeting

PCC Dunbobbin advised that this item was covered during discussions within the substantive items.

8. Partner updates by exception

Reports noted.

