



Policing Partnership Board for Wales

Microsoft Teams

Thursday 24th October 2024 11:00 – 13:00

Minutes

Attendees

Jane Hutt MS	Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (Chair)
Dame Nia Griffith	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales
Dr. Richard Lewis	Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police
Mark Hobrough	T/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
Andy Dunbobbin	Police and Crime Commissioner, North Wales
Emma Wools	Police and Crime Commissioner, South Wales
Eleri Thomas	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent
Liz Lalley	Director, Risk, Resilience and Community Safety, Welsh Government
Mike Connolly	Deputy Director, Community Safety Division, Welsh Government
Emma Watkins	Deputy Director for Budget and Government Business in Welsh Treasury
James Gerard	Deputy Director, Justice Policy, Welsh Government
Alison Thomas	Head of Transport Behaviour Change, Welsh Government
Claire Russel-Griffiths	Senior Manager, Crime and Justice Team, Welsh Government
Leanne Lewis	Manager, Crime and Justice Team, Welsh Government
Joanne Hopkins	Public Health Wales
Grant Oliver	Wales & England Team, UK Domestic and Overseas Territories Unit, Home Office
Helen Evans	Deputy Director, Safer Streets Mission, Home Office
Gregg Dyer	Head of Domestic Affairs, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales
Ian Barrow	Executive Director Wales, HM Prison and Probation Service
Mark Brace	Head of the Safer Communities Network, WLGA
Carys Morgans	Chief Executive, Dyfed Powys PCC
Sian Curley	Chief Executive, Gwent PCC
Lee Jones	Chief Executive, South Wales PCC
Stephen Hughes	Chief Executive, North Wales PCC
Umar Hussain	Chief Financial Officer, South Wales Police
Paul Morris	Head of Police Liaison Unit
Paul Biggs	Chief Inspector, Police Liaison Unit
Laura Armitt	All-Wales Business Co-Ordinator, Policing in Wales
Wayne Jones	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, North Wales
Joanna Huddleston	Administrator, Police Liaison Unit

Apologies

Julie James MS	Counsel General for Wales, Welsh Government
Jane Mudd	Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent
Hannah Scarr	Deputy Director for UK Domestic, Overseas Territories, Americas and 5EYEs Unit
Naomi Alleyne	Director of Social Services and Housing, WLGA
Chris Llewelyn	Chief Executive, WLGA
Judith Paget	Director General HSSG/Chief Executive NHS Wales, Welsh Government
Amy Rees	Chief Executive, HMPPS
Tracy Cooper	Public Health Wales

Actions arising from the meeting	
Paul Morris to make amendments to the Policing Partnership Board for Wales ToR based on the feedback received in the meeting.	Paul Morris
CC Vaughan to co-ordinate a report for Welsh Government in relation to matters that are likely to create pressure for Policing in Wales.	CC Vaughan
Meeting between Policing in Wales and Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales to take place on 26 th November 2024	PLU
Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire to be invited to the next meeting	PLU

1. Welcome and Chair's Address

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip opened the meeting welcoming Dame Nia Griffith and Home Office Officials and added that she is looking to invite the Policing Minister Dame Diana Johnson to the next meeting to provide an opportunity to engage.

The Chair noted that there had been a lot of changes since the last meeting on 7th March 2024 as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner elections. She extended her congratulations to PCC Wools as the new PCC for South Wales and PCC Mudd as the new PCC for Gwent Police as well as PCC Dunbobbin and PCC Llywelyn on their re-elections and also highlighted that since the last meeting that Eluned Morgan has been appointed as the First Minister for Wales.

Jane Hutt MS acknowledged that Welsh Government have met with Policing in Wales during this period with the aim of strengthening the relationship between Welsh Government and Policing in Wales. As part of this there was an agreement to refresh the Terms of Reference for the Policing Partnership Board for Wales to ensure meetings focus on delivering shared priorities as well as a new Memorandum of Understanding between Welsh Government and Policing in Wales.

The Chair invited comments from Dame Nia Griffith who is attending on behalf of the Secretary of State for Wales. Dame Nia Griffith gave thanks for the invitation and referred to the UK Government's Safer Streets Mission, stating that this work would be unattainable without joint support and added that she is eager to start work on this. She expressed her gratitude to Police Officers for the work that they carry out on a daily basis to keep communities safe and highlighted the work of Dyfed Powys Police with regards to the Llanbrynmair incident.

2. Revised Terms of Reference for the Policing Partnership Board for Wales – A New Way of Working

Paul Morris explained the rationale behind the revision of the Policing Partnership Board for Wales Terms of Reference had been described within the Chair's opening remarks, adding that this had not been carried out for quite some time following the engagement between Welsh Government Ministers and Senior Leads from Policing in Wales. He explained that the aim has been to ensure the Policing Partnership Board for Wales focusses on problem-solving and delivery and progressing actions that can be signed up to collectively as opposed to a forum for providing updates.

The Terms of Reference can be reduced to five key purposes, which are:

- Working in partnership
- Looking at solution focussed approaches
- A clear understanding of respective priorities across the Policing Partnership Board for Wales membership
- Early identification of risks and issues
- Considering and dealing with respective legislative programmes of UK Government and Welsh Government

Paul Morris emphasised that it is important to recognise that the Terms of Reference do not impinge on the Statutory Duties, Elected Mandates or the Operational Independence of Welsh Government, Police and Crime Commissioners or Chief Constables.

He continued to say that should the Terms of Reference be agreed by Policing Partnership Board for Wales members, the next steps are to develop a Forward Work Programme for the Policing Partnership Board for Wales to work towards, stressing that this would still enable time for emerging issues and current risks to be considered at the board and advised that he hopes to bring this to the next meeting in December 2024.

2.1. Dame Griffith noted she feels the opening sentence of providing a bridge between Policing in Wales and the full range of devolved and non-devolved public service partners is appropriate but the devolved and non-devolved matters are mentioned in the majority of the paper, however these are not mentioned under item 1 so she queried if this could be amended to include UK Government and services. She advised that she has a rough draft of an amendment if that would be helpful.

2.2. PCC Llywelyn supported Dame Griffith's point, stating that he feels it is positive that UK Government are in attendance for the discussion as Policing in Wales are in a unique position with having to work between both devolved and non-devolved organisations but he believes this is not always a positive aspect which was highlighted in the meeting on 7th March 2024 in relation to issues around funding streams and Barnett consequentials etc. He added that he wanted to put his gratitude on record to Mike Connolly and Liz Lalley for their support at the PCC Fortnightly meetings as PCCs value the arrangement and opportunity to have direct contact with Ministers which allows Policing in Wales to ensure that the Policing and wider Criminal Justice perspective is brought into the Policing Partnership Board for Wales for discussion and with the aim of the Forward Work Programme focussing on solutions and delivery of services linking into the objectives of both the UK Government and the Welsh Government.

2.3. CC Blakeman thanked Dame Griffith for her suggestion and agreed it would be helpful to review her wording due to working between the two Governments operationally, with a clear mandate and direction from UK Government. HMICFRS inspect forces but Policing in Wales is keen to make progress on areas with Welsh Government, so it would be useful to revise the wording of this to ensure that this is carried out smoothly to achieve the best for communities across Wales with the funding and directions forces have from both devolved and non-devolved parties.

2.4. Joanne Hopkins queried if Public Health Wales should be included within the Policing Partnership Board for Wales Terms of Reference given the partnership agreement around taking a Public Health approach to numerous aspects of Criminal Justice and Policing. It was agreed that this was an oversight and would be amended in a revised document.

2.5. The Chair acknowledged that it is helpful to have these contributions as this provides an opportunity to review them but agreed Public Health Wales is crucial to the PPBW. She reassured that it is just a matter of final adjustments before going to the Cabinet in Welsh Government as well as sharing this with Dame Griffith.

Action: Paul Morris to make amendments to the Policing Partnership Board for Wales ToR based on the feedback received in the meeting.

3. Budget Development 2025/26: Emerging Pressures and Priorities

The Chair introduced the item and advised that Emma Watkins, Deputy Director for Budget and Government Business in Welsh Treasury will provide an update on Welsh Governments process later in the item.

3.1. PCC Llywelyn explained that PCCs have responsibility for finances from a policing perspective and he is aware that the budget is yet to be announced currently, however he noted that he had a document with the proposed revenue budget for Dyfed Powys Police for next year. There are significant gaps within the funding proposals but stated that there is also a need to understand the importance of the investment and position from Welsh Government for forces to include those within their planning prior to Precept being decided in January 2025. Any information in terms of Welsh Government positions, particularly with the GoSafe agenda item would be greatly appreciated.

3.2. CC Blakeman noted that many commitments have been made in relation to the way forward by the UK Government such as 13,000 new Police Officers but the funding is yet to be confirmed. There appears to be a lot of commitments within the UK Government announcements which include the Safer Streets Mission, Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, halving VAWG and Knife Crime as well as unfunded Pay Awards that forces need to include within their budgets. Welsh Forces are still working through the end of funding for the Wales Police Schools Programme and reduced numbers of PCSOs in Wales, many of which are vital to some of the issues that have been previously outlined. This is in addition to unfunded capital pressures with many forces considering borrowing, so forces are now in a position of trying to balance what they can afford to deliver and how they can afford it and where they can prioritise such as GoSafe which will be discussed later in the meeting.

3.3. The Chair acknowledged that both Welsh Government and Policing in Wales are awaiting the budget announcement. The matters mentioned by CC Blakeman are manifesto commitments so the funding is yet to be confirmed but recognised that these are challenging times and that there are issues for Welsh Government in terms of GoSafe, Schools Programme and PCSOs and reflected on partnership working in Wales.

3.4. Emma Watkins described the position in terms of preparation for the budget announcement, explaining that she wouldn't go into detail about the fiscal and economic context but stressed it is very challenging and as a result Welsh Government are working on negative planning assumptions for revenue funding for the next year. Welsh Government will be publishing a draft one year annual budget on 10th December as there will be a one year settlement from UK Government on 30th October, however UK Government are expected to conclude the second stage of their spending review in March 2025 at which point Welsh Government will likely have a two year settlement for revenue as well as a 3-4 year settlement for capital. Welsh Government Ministers will consider multi-year settlements which they know is important for partners in Wales.

She explained that engagement has taken place on a cross-government level and that the Cabinet Secretary for Finance has met with third-sector partners and Local Government etc. who are all expressing concerns with regards to the pressures they are facing.

3.5. PCC Llywelyn thanked Emma for her input and queried if there is a better way for Policing in Wales to support Welsh Government with that work to ensure that policing has a voice and gave the example of GoSafe fitting into Ken Skates' portfolio but other areas of funding are likely to fit into other Ministers' portfolios.

3.6. The chair responded to say that as the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip, she views this meeting as an opportunity as she works closely with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance. She will share the points of discussion with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance as well as the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales.

3.7. CC Vaughan reinforced PCC Llywelyn's point, adding that there are specific aspects that Policing in Wales are in the progress of carrying out such as Right Care Right Person. Through this policing are working towards not being the first point of call for nor transporting people in a mental health crisis but

despite these discussions taking place for over a year in other forums, he believes that it is not always clear that Health Boards are aware of the potential implications such as their transportation arrangements. He queried whether it would be possible to submit a separate report to Welsh Government regarding matters that Policing in Wales anticipate are likely to put pressure on Welsh Forces.

Action: CC Vaughan to co-ordinate a report for Welsh Government in relation to matters that are likely to create pressure for Policing in Wales.

3.8. The Chair acknowledged that forces will be under a range of budgetary pressures and agreed that it would be helpful to develop the report; as previously mentioned Liz Lalley and Mike Connolly would be happy to engage on this but she reinforced the point that they are still awaiting the budget announcement from UK Government. She added that in relation to PCSOs, it is a Welsh Government funded initiative of many years and that it was difficult in terms of this year's budget but the grant offer letters covering Welsh Government funding for PCSOs have now been issued. She reiterated her gratitude for the constructive joint working that has taken place but stated that Welsh Government are providing over £15m for PCSOs in the current financial year. She concluded by advising that Emma Watkins will relay this information to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance.

4. Financial Position of the GoSafe Casualty Reduction Partnership: An Update

PCC Llywelyn introduced the item and referred to the minutes of the previous meeting where he highlighted the issue with GoSafe funding and stressed that it has been running at a deficit for a number of years.

4.1. Mr Hussain explained as mentioned previously, the GoSafe financial challenges were identified some time ago but work has taken place to try and recognise the root causes. He advised that the last six years of data regarding deaths and serious injuries resulting from speed related collisions across Wales have been reviewed. He noted that on average there are 100 deaths on Welsh roads per annum and over 1,000 life changing collisions affecting individuals due to speed related events; 75% of the collisions occur on 60mph and 30mph roads with 30mph roads accounting for 51% of deaths and serious injuries across all roads in Wales which means it wouldn't be possible for the fixed camera infrastructure to be able to achieve that enforcement. As a result the mobile enforcement is a vital part of how policing delivers enforcement across Wales, with over 53,000 offences detected through mobile enforcement in the past 12 months in addition to tackling seatbelt and mobile 'phone use infringements.

He highlighted the positive impact of the GoSafe partnership which is reinforced by an independent study by the College of Policing which states that enforcement reduces offending by over 52%. Mr Hussain referred to the Burden of Injury Study that has shown the average cost of a fatal collision to be £2m which demonstrates the value received from having effective enforcement. Road Traffic Accidents are also the largest cause of serious injury to children as 51% of injuries occur on 30mph roads and enforcement would have a direct impact on the safety of children on Welsh roads.

In terms of income for GoSafe, initially it was funded predominantly via Welsh Government funding as Welsh Government has Statutory Responsibility for Road Safety in Wales and then UK ROED Funding resulted in a referral fee for every offence that is suitable for driver education. This has held the partnership in a balanced position but as the referral fee is fixed and has been since 2019, enforcement on its own hasn't been sufficient due to inflation affecting wages, goods and services etc. and flat cash settlement from both principal sources of income but in 2023/2024 due to the lack of reserves, Policing in Wales had to use their own funding to ensure there was a balanced position. He further noted that there is a severe funding gap for 2024/2025.

A number of options have been identified to try and address the gap:

- Increase enforcement activity but this has a law of diminishing returns; evaluation has found that through greater efficiencies, potential to increase offences from 154,000 to 180,000 a year as well as seeking to insource Driver Education Courses to Wales.
- An increase in grant funding
- Increased funding by all partners
- Welsh Government identified the opportunity to look at the hypothecation of Fixed Penalty Revenue from Treasury. Policing in Wales contribute £3.7m per annum to the Treasury through activity from GoSafe so there is a negotiation opportunity to see if it would be possible for some of that to be returned.
- Reducing costs by being more efficient going forward or a combination of all options; but he believes through better technology, efficiencies and some automation of processes, could work towards reducing costs by £0.5m but this would require an initial investment.

Mr Hussain summarised noting that there is a £44m deficit over the next 10 years; proceeding with the options outlined such as increased activity would contribute £5m, increased funding from policing would contribute £30m, cost reduction measures would reduce the amount by £4m. Through some active measures from the enforcement side from policing, around £22m could be sourced to make the unit sustainable but that would still require a contribution from Welsh Government as well. However, if this isn't agreed, the GoSafe partnership is at risk so Policing in Wales would need Welsh Government to be involved in seeking alternatives in the absence of the partnership but Policing in Wales would very much welcome discussions with Welsh Government Treasury.

4.2. The Chair thanked Mr Hussain and noted that she believes that the presentation was given to Welsh Government Officials earlier in October, so they are very much aware of this. She noted that she is conscious that a meeting has been arranged between GoSafe and the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales with Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables on the 26th November 2024.

4.3. PCC Llywelyn advised that he would circulate a House of Commons briefing paper as he feels it is a good summary document of all the issues in relation to Road Safety and the provision through an endeavour such as the GoSafe partnership. As Mr Hussain mentioned, Welsh Government have a Statutory Responsibility so he queried whether a discussion with UK Government Treasury is needed in relation to the hypothecation of funding through the Barnett consequential population share perspective because there have also been changes as a result of the Police, Crime and Sentencing Act 2022 in relation to how the funding can be used including speed reduction and Road Safety initiatives.

4.4. CC Blakeman advised that she would welcome an earlier discussion with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales as this is a critical position as Policing in Wales have contributed this year but will not be able to do the same next year. She expressed her disappointment with the discussions on this matter with Welsh Government Officials to date as she has not been given any reassurance that the position is going to change with regards to flat cash which is causing significant concern. The implementation of the 20mph speed limit has exacerbated the position due to the subsequent reviews which has meant policing have not been able to enforce and this has severely impacted on the anticipated budget.

4.5. Alison Thomas confirmed that she saw a version of the presentation the week before so they have more information, but it will take some time to work through the information and create some advice from it due to the different options for the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales, so she suggested the meeting remain on the 26th November 2024.

5. UK Government Proposals for Policing and Criminal Justice – Potential Impacts on Devolved Services

5.1. PCC Llywelyn mentioned that he believes this has been discussed earlier in the meeting but added that he feels that the NPCC have been more forthcoming with their opinion to the Home Office with the way in which they see policing and the way in which the police reform agenda is being developed. He added that the APCC will also be putting their views into the Home Office and he is keen to see the detail such as how it will be delivered and funding.

5.2. CC Blakeman added that discussions have taken place at Chief Constables' Council and individual forces as they are looking through the detail to see how forces can deliver matters that feature in policing plans but they are conscious that there is pressure, particularly in relation to grant funding such as the ambition to halve the amount of VAWG offending and the requirement to have Domestic Violence Specialists within control rooms, but they are awaiting detail currently.

5.3. Helen Evans acknowledged the need to establish what resources will be available for forces, adding that the aim of the mission is to drive delivery of the key priorities across the system. She advised that the SRO, Richard Clarke is keen to engage directly with devolved authorities to understand the situation in Wales, especially as these outcomes are dependent on Public Services working together such as halving knife crime, which won't be possible through just command and control, it is also about education and prevention work.

5.4. The Chair echoed CC Blakeman's point and is keen to engage as Wales is more advanced on delivering some of the tackling Violence Against Women and Girls mission but we want to engage and be part of the mission delivery.

5.5. PCC Wools noted it is encouraging to know that the UK Government is taking a system-wide approach and the specific context in Wales is being considered as demand is being placed across all services as mentioned by CC Blakeman. PCC Wools suggested that if possible, she believes it would be beneficial for Officials to visit Wales to gain an understanding of the system-wide approach that has been taking place in Wales for some time.

5.6. CC Lewis queried if there is greater collaboration between the UK Government and Welsh Government, whether there could be an increased alignment on Drugs Policy as well. He queried if there are going to be changes to the policy, could both Governments discuss what the changes may be and whether a stronger alignment is created between the two strategies as it closely links with the Safer Streets Mission due to anti-social behaviour being significantly impacted by drug abuse and in relation to knife crime, half of all homicides in the UK are drug related.

5.8. Ian Barrow advised that he wanted to update on some Ministry of Justice changes. He explained there may be an extension of Home Detention Curfews eligibility from 6 months to 12 months as well as some changes about processes for recall in prisons to focus more on risk assessment as opposed to a default position, acknowledging there are implications for both Welsh Government and Policing, so he will ensure all are kept up to date.

6. Police and Crime Plan Development and Emerging Priorities

6.1. PCC Llywelyn advised that the work is ongoing at the current time. He explained that consultations of the majority of PCCs in Wales have been completed, noting all PCCs are under the statutory requirement to publish their plans while in office within the first 12 months in office but he believes that he will publish his plan at the beginning of 2025. He believes that there will be shared actions at a Welsh level as certain matters that will have synergy with Welsh Government, for example working towards an Anti-Racist Wales and Trust and Confidence matters.

6.2. PCC Wools confirmed PCC Llywelyn's points and noted that the consultation in South Wales OPCC was launched in Summer 2024 and is now closed; she advised that there was a positive and high response rate and that she will be aiming to publish the Police and Crime Plan by the end of the financial year.

6.3. PCC Dunbobbinn commented that he also had a good response rate to the consultation, with an over 100% increase in the response achieved in 2021. He will be looking to attend the Police and Crime Panel in January 2025 to secure endorsement for his Plan.

6.4. DPCC Thomas provided an update on behalf of PCC Mudd, noting that she also had an effective consultation period and engagement with the public. She added that PCC Mudd is keen to engage with the public with the intention of improving trust and confidence. She is now entering the second phase of consultation by starting to have more detailed discussions with a series of focus groups to check feedback from community consultation.

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

PCC Llywelyn stated that the main issues have been discussed within the agenda of the meeting.

8. Minutes of the previous meeting (07/03/24)

The Chair confirmed that the notes were confirmed as accurate and it was noted actions have been completed from the last meeting on 7th March 2024.

9. Any Other Business

None raised.

Date and time of next meeting

Monday 16th December 2024 10:00-12:00