



Policing Partnership Board for Wales

Microsoft Teams

Thursday 17th July 2025 10:00 – 12:00

Minutes

Attendees

Jane Hutt MS	Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (Chair)
Ifan Charles	T/Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police
Amanda Blakeman	Chief Constable, North Wales Police
Jeremy Vaughan	Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Nicola Brain	T/Deputy Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Dafydd Llywelyn	Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys
Jane Mudd	Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent
Emma Wools	Police and Crime Commissioner, South Wales
Eleri Thomas	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent
Wayne Jones	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, North Wales
Mike Connolly	Deputy Director, Community Safety Division, Welsh Government
Matt Downton	Deputy Director, Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Vulnerable Groups, Welsh Government
Sioned Lewis	Head of Supporting Access to Education, Welsh Government
Sasha Yilmaz	Head of Crime and Justice, Welsh Government
Claire Russell-Griffiths	Senior Manager, Crime and Justice Team, Welsh Government
Leanne Lewis	Manager, Crime and Justice Team, Welsh Government
James Gerard	Deputy Director, Justice Policy, Welsh Government
Kathryn Jenkins	Chief Security Officer, Welsh Government
Natalie Blakeborough	Public Health Wales
Ian Barrow	Executive Director Wales, HM Prison and Probation Service
Adam Gardner	Wales & England Team, UK Domestic and Overseas Territories, Home Office
Gregg Dyer	Head of Domestic Affairs, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales
Naomi Alleyne	Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director (Policy), WLGA
Mark Brace	Head of the Safer Communities Network, WLGA
Carys Morgans	Chief Executive, Dyfed Powys OPCC
Lee Jones	Chief Executive, South Wales OPCC
Stephen Hughes	Chief Executive, North Wales OPCC
David Holloway-Young	Chief Finance Officer, South Wales OPCC
Harri Evans-Mason	Programme Manager, Police Collaboration Wales
Gareth Morgan	Chief Inspector, Head of GoSafe, South Wales Police
Paul Morris	Head of Police Liaison Unit
Sarah Keefe	APCC Wales Policy Manager, Policing in Wales
Joanna Huddleston	Administrator, Police Liaison Unit

Apologies

Joanne Hopkins	Public Health Wales
Andy Dunbobbin	Police and Crime Commissioner, North Wales
Judith Paget	Director General HSSG/Chief Executive NHS Wales, Welsh Government
Dave Guiney	T/Assistant Chief Constable, Police Collaboration Wales
Amy Rees	Chief Executive, HMPPS
Helen Hill	Business and Network Development Manager, Safer Communities Network, WLGA
Paul Biggs	Chief Inspector, Police Liaison Unit
Tracy Cooper	Public Health Wales
Jenny Hopkins	Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS
Sian Curley	Chief Executive, Gwent OPCC

Actions arising from the meeting	
Paul Morris and Welsh Government Officials to liaise regarding impacts of reform and legislation on Wales and to develop a paper to ensure the Welsh voice is strong and clear for the October PPBfW meeting where the Policing Minister will be in attendance.	Paul Morris/Welsh Government Officials
CC Blakeman and Paul Morris to review Baroness Casey Review Recommendations to ensure those that sit within areas outside policing such as Welsh Government are highlighted.	Paul Morris/CC Blakeman
Community Tensions and Security Issues to be brought back to the board.	PLU

1. Welcome and Chair's Address

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. She noted that neither the Secretary of State for Wales nor Parliamentary-Under Secretary of State were able to join but stated that Gregg Dyer from Wales Office is in attendance.

2. Police Landscape Reform, Comprehensive Spending Review and Crime and Policing Bill: Progress and Reflections

PCC Wools explained that there wasn't a lot of information to update on in terms of Police Landscape Reform. The publication of the white paper has been delayed until Autumn 2025 and an eight week consultation period is expected, which is welcomed.

She believes the Comprehensive Spending Review has resulted in Officials needing to reassess the ambition and scope of reform. It is apparent that the UK Government's plans are to continue with a focus on the National Centre for Policing with the main aim of ensuring that Police Landscape Reform is centred on investing to save in terms of efficiencies and productivity, but details are still awaited.

PCC Wools added that from a Welsh perspective she is keen to ensure that every opportunity to shape the reform proposals is taken. Dedicated resources have been seconded via ACC Jenny Gilmer and Claire Bryant from the Dyfed Powys OPCC. She explained that since the last Policing Partnership Board for Wales (PPBfW) meeting, a number of workshops and sessions have taken place. She noted that national discussions are very much focussed on English devolution which has relevance in terms of future roles and powers of PCCs moving to more mayoral models within some parts of England so Welsh PCCs are very conscious of what that means for the traditional PCC model which will remain in Wales.

The Chair advised that she has discussed this during her meetings with PCC Llywelyn as the current Chair of Policing in Wales. She was concerned to hear that a sense of uncertainty remains, so she wrote to the Policing Minister in May to raise these concerns and seek reassurance that the Welsh context is being captured. She received a response advising there is a strong Welsh presence in the joint police reform team with senior representatives from South Wales Police and North Wales Police as well as Dyfed Powys OPCC and was reassured that work is ongoing to ensure continued engagement. In addition a Welsh Reference Group has been established to provide an opportunity to work collaboratively to assess the impact of police reform.

The Chair noted a range of areas and provisions within the Crime and Policing Bill so Welsh Government's Legal Team have undertaken a full analysis of the bill and have confirmed the majority is related to reserved matters with the exception of some areas relating to matters such as Anti-Social Behaviour which has engaged the Legislative Consent Motion (LCM) process. A LCM was laid in the Senedd on 28th March with a supplementary LCM also being laid on 2nd July following further amendments. Welsh Government Officials continue to liaise with UK Government as the bill progresses.

2.1. CC Vaughan feels the white paper may be delayed due to the CSR settlement as it wasn't as expected, therefore there is an imbalance between the appetite for reform across the system and the ability to fund it.

In addition to unfunded pressures on pay remaining, he is unsure what the pay settlement will be for policing currently. He stated Policing in Wales need to keep on scrutinising where they feel Wales may be disadvantaged as a result of change in England, particularly in relation to the Mayoral Model. He emphasised the need to look at what isn't able to be delivered in Wales as a consequence.

2.2. CC Blakeman feels there is a need to have a stronger position in Wales regarding what policing wants to put forward rather than waiting for the white paper to be presented then responding to aspects that wouldn't work here.

2.3. PCC Llywelyn agreed with the view that the ambition seems to have been scaled down by the funding settlement, adding that another nuance within the settlement is that it is predicated on a given precept level. In terms of Youth Futures development across Wales, there was a positive meeting recently but due to the quasi-devolved nature of youth justice activity within Wales, he feels it may be beneficial to look at what could be developed whilst observing the work taking place with pilots in England.

PCC Llywelyn raised concerns regarding the complexities of the Mayoral model as it develops such as what is devolved and what is non-devolved in addition to the funding that isn't given in Wales is likely to be even greater where Wales is already struggling from some of the existing complexities such as the Apprenticeship Levy.

2.4. Adam Gardner provided reassurance that Home Office Ministers are committed to ensuring that the views of Welsh Policing are listened to and the Welsh context is fully considered. He reiterated PCC Wools' point that the Joint Police Reform Team within the Home Office has two Welsh members which he feels is a positive. In terms of the Police Reform White Paper, he advised that the commitment made by UK Government is to publish the White Paper by the end of the year. He noted that they had hoped to publish it prior to the Summer Recess but as suggested, in light of the CSR outcome, they feel that more time is needed to look at affordability in the context of departmental allocations.

2.5. Dave Holloway-Young stated that Chief Finance Officers have been carrying out calculations since the CSR announcement and have been trying to work out the implications for forces. He added that whilst there currently isn't a lot of detail available, it is a really challenging position as even with a 5% precept across Wales every year, by 2028/29, there is likely to be a budget gap of approximately £50m which doesn't take any potential additional funding needs into consideration such as any additional tranche of officers needed to meet the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.

2.6. CC Blakeman feels a collective position is needed with regards to devolution for Policing in Wales as there is public interest in this.

2.7. PCC Wools noted that the Independent Sentencing Review has recently been published which is likely to have a significant impact for policing and is not being considered as part of Home Office or Policing Settlements. She wanted to emphasise the importance of considering the impact, both financially and structurally as this is critically important. She explained it was discussed at the most recent Criminal Justice Board for Wales (CJBFW) where it was agreed that an impact assessment was needed which she believes links in with others views so there is now a need to solidify the Welsh position on a number of different issues.

2.8. The Chair agreed, noting that she feels Welsh Government are now in a position where Wales needs a comprehensive holistic view, work is needed on this prior to the next PPBFW meeting where she hopes the Policing Minister will be in attendance.

2.9. James Gerard echoed the Chair's comments, adding that Welsh Government would be keen to be part of the collective view that is presented to the Home Office so that Wales can speak with one voice.

Action: Paul Morris and Welsh Government Officials to liaise regarding impacts of reform and

legislation on Wales and to develop a paper to ensure the Welsh voice is strong and clear for the October PPBfW meeting where the Policing Minister will be in attendance.

3. Group Based Sexual Exploitation of Children: Baroness Louise Casey Audit and Case Reviews

The Chair introduced the item, stating that Welsh Government welcome the decision by the Prime Minister to undertake a full inquiry into grooming gangs covering England and Wales. It has previously been agreed in the Senedd to analyse the findings of the Baroness Casey Review and what that would result in for Wales. She also mentioned that Welsh Government have published their 10 year National Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse for consultation. There will be a Victims and Survivor's Reference Group, and Welsh Government want to ensure these individuals receive engagement, they are keen to look at experiences in terms of how Criminal Justice in Wales can protect and support children and adult victim survivors in Wales.

3.1. PCC Llywelyn responded that PCCs and Chief Constables are united in their commitment to this endeavour. Forces in Wales were undertaking work following the Baroness Casey Review, while the recommendations also refer to the co-ordination of activity, there will still be a requirement for forces to have local leads and as a result, he feels PCCs have a responsibility to ensure that forces have sufficient governance and oversight of activity locally. He reiterated the points made to the First Minister, explaining that PCCs were quite clear that there can never be complacency that these types of offences have not and do not occur in Wales; he noted that ultimately it is Policing in Wales' endeavour to root out any incidences that may have occurred and need to be re-investigated as well as listening to victims to improve services for the future.

3.2. CC Blakeman highlighted that all forces have submitted returns to the National Crime Agency (NCA) and any occurrences that fall within the parameters for the review have been sent in. She has no particular concerns for North Wales at present, highlighting that she won't speak for all forces but believes that they have all gone through recommendations from the review to ensure they are detecting them at the earliest opportunity.

She acknowledged along with Paul Morris she would confirm the areas within the Baroness Casey Review that are not specifically for policing but sit within other areas such as the Department for Education, as they are keen to ensure devolved areas are being picked up and to ensure that other areas that fall within Welsh Government's remit are also highlighted.

Action: CC Blakeman and Paul Morris to review Baroness Casey Review Recommendations to ensure those that sit within areas outside policing such as Welsh Government are highlighted.

3.3. The Chair agreed, stating it is vital that this is a cross-Welsh Government responsibility, noting that the national strategy is led by Dawn Bowden MS as Minister for Children and Social Care. She stressed that Welsh Government are working on this as a team being led by the First Minister.

3.4. Paul Morris advised he has been commissioned by the Chief Constables to draw together the work that is taking place locally, on an All-Wales basis including all the submissions that have been made to the NCA CSE Taskforce. This will be reviewed in the context of the Baroness Casey Review recommendations, including those that aren't specifically for policing and will be reported back to the next Welsh Chief Officer Group (WCOG) meeting.

3.5. Adam Gardner provided an update on the National Inquiry; the Terms of Reference (ToR) are being drafted and there is a formal process in place around consultation which includes consultation with devolved governments so the draft ToR will be shared as soon as possible.

4. Community Tensions and Security Issues Prior to the Senedd Election 2026

The Chair explained this item links to Welsh Government's Community Cohesion Programme, which has a number of key objectives, one of which is to monitor community tensions and work with key partners including policing to mitigate them. She noted there have been a few serious incidents via social media in

the space of the last year where Senedd members have been under attack and expressed her gratitude to South Wales Police for the response to one particular incident.

She added that she was grateful that CC Vaughan wrote to the Permanent Secretary on 1st July, offering support in enhancing existing arrangements. Welsh Government are working with the UK Government as they develop legislative plans to counter harassment and intimidation but as these won't take effect until after the Senedd elections, Welsh Government are putting together engagement plans and would welcome police support.

4.1. CC Vaughan noted that the Chair described the matter well but added that policing's primary concern is community safety and keeping people as safe as they can be, so the letter to Officials is to discuss whether Wales is collectively content and to check if there are appropriate structures in place. Welsh Chief Constables are having separate discussions with local partners about community cohesion arrangements, so there is a need to keep this on the agenda to continue monitoring and discussions.

4.2. The Chair agreed that this should be kept on the agenda.

Action: Community Tensions and Security Issues to be brought back to the board.

5. Policing and Health Collaboration: Leadership and Governance of the Wales Sexual Assault Services Programme

The Chair thanked PCC Wools, DPCC Thomas and T/ACC Guiney for their work on this matter as it is a vital service and there is a need to ensure all that are involved are working together effectively to ensure that long-term arrangements following a difficult transition, are correct for the people that need the services.

5.1. PCC Wools described the background to the programme, the aim of which was to deliver Sexual Assault Services that meet the needs of all victims and survivors, a service that is person and patient centred, with health and wellbeing being the key and central priority. The aim is to ensure the best outcomes for victims of sexual assault by ensuring there is a health led aspect including integrated community services developed at a local level to ensure services are accessible to anyone in Wales, also allowing victims a pathway into services and support where policing don't need to be involved.

Since October 2023, policing has raised concerns of a gap in governance and oversight from a health perspective which presented a risk to the progress of the programme which was then escalated at the April 2025 PPBfW meeting. Since then, a lot of work has taken place primarily led by Health colleagues involving officials from the NHS in terms of resolution to the outstanding issues. PCC Wools explained that they have been able to resolve the funding gap for counselling services as mentioned in April 2025, however until the previous day it remained unclear as to governance and leadership as well as the scope of the programme. She met the previous day with the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services, noting it was a constructive meeting where Welsh Government reaffirmed the commitment to the delivery of the original intentions around the WSAS Programme Model. Officials gave a commitment to Ministers that the outstanding issues in terms of defining leadership and governance would be resolved by the end of July 2025.

5.2. Matt Downton pointed out that in terms of the commitment of July 2025, he understands it was a commitment that by that point, Welsh Government Officials would have reached out to the Health Boards through the IQPD process, to bring that information back to policing. He explained it is a requirement for it to go through the formal process.

5.3. PCC Llywelyn wanted to highlight the significant development of the paediatric facility in Swansea which has opened; he believes it is going to be a great service for victims. However, there is the continued delay with the Aberystwyth service. He thinks all forces would acknowledge the underreporting of sexual offending and as a result of that, he feels there is work that could be undertaken collectively in terms of the promotion for the Aberystwyth facility as the delivery would be a new service which may encourage people to use it. He

added that policing should be promoting the service's availability, especially for those who don't want to come forward to policing so he will explore that within Dyfed Powys OPCC.

5.4. DPCC Thomas responded to Matt Downton's point regarding the July deadline, as she understood it was in relation to securing the dedicated resource as this was the commitment and timescale policing were looking to progress so she asked for clarification. She feels it is disappointing that they have not been able to achieve the progress needed and feels there is a need to collectively commit to achieving that progress in a timely manner.

5.5. Matt Downton agreed with DPCC Thomas and confirmed that is what was agreed the previous day; he provided reassurance that he is meeting with the JCC and NHS performance and improvement directly after this meeting and stated that he would update on any progress.

5.6. PCC Wools acknowledged the clarity around dedicated resourcing as this will enable the progression and pace needed to resolve the governance design and move the work forward. She stressed that pace and grip is required as whilst there has been a gap, the programme has still had to deliver and there are interdependencies in terms of decisions that need to be made jointly and with full knowledge of each party's commitment to the partnership.

5.7. Harri Evans-Mason followed on from PCC Wools' update, stating that a number of remedial actions have been put in place and a number of the necessary milestones that need to be achieved have meant that both PCCs and CCs have had to take significant risk in managing some interim arrangements from a commercial perspective so they are keen to document that and ensure business continuity can be maintained.

5.8. The Chair concluded the item to note that Welsh Government remain committed to the collaborative and partnership approach which has been developed over the years. Welsh Government confirmed a commitment to the hub and spoke model with a focus on developing a more robust system of governance.

6. Behaviour in Schools: Actions Emerging from Round Table with Policing in Wales and Behaviour Summit

PCC Wools introduced the item and explained that in response to growing concerns from education colleagues and wider sector stakeholders, the Cabinet Secretary for Education organised two events: the Violence in Schools Round Table and the Behaviour Summit. Policing were fully involved in both discussions. She explained that schools are experiencing complex challenges in terms of the presentation of the behaviour of young people which is becoming more challenging for education colleagues who would welcome support from the wider sector and stakeholders in terms of being able to address that. PCC Wools felt the importance of policing's relationship with schools was repeated in both sessions by education staff who expressed their appreciation of the benefit seen from policing's relationship with schools; they also raised concerns around recent changes to arrangements following the closure of the Wales Police Schools Programme. Following this, the Cabinet Secretary for Education set an action to meet with policing, a date having been set for 6th August 2025. PCC Wools stated that whilst there have been changes to the arrangement, forces have sought to preserve the resource.

6.1. The Chair thanked PCC Wools for the update, noting it is positive that new forums have been established as well as a Behaviour Toolkit that is due to be published in July 2025 which will offer practical classroom strategies and research insights. She thanked policing for their engagement on this matter.

7. Issues for Update/Noting: GoSafe

7a.) Update on Enforcement on 20mph Roads Under Review

CC Blakeman advised this has been a difficult area to navigate due to so many changes taking place, therefore it has become quite challenging. There was a discussion during the most recent WCOG meeting with regards to enforcement; policing have been very clear that they would enforce to the markings and signs stated on

each road. Local Authorities are conducting their reviews of 20mph roads, but as soon as forces are notified that the Local Authority intends to change the speed limit, then the respective Chief Constable will take a view on whether or not any further enforcement should be carried out. CC Blakeman added that this has generated public views, particularly in North Wales, and explained that in the last Police and Crime Panel, the Head of Roads Policing in North Wales provided a comprehensive update on all issues in relation to the 20mph speed limit.

CC Blakeman stated she is due to meet with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales to discuss this but she wanted to highlight that GoSafe have managed this year due to some additional funding. However, the uncertain position remains with GoSafe receiving a flat cash settlement which has created an increasing pressure and until it is addressed, forces are going to be in a difficult position. There are various recommendations within the funding paper that is in the process of being drafted. She explained she hopes to work through the detail with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales as Road Safety Strategy sits within Welsh Government and policing are responsible for enforcement.

7b.) Brief Update on Funding Paper

Harri Evans-Mason advised that the funding paper is progressing through internal Police Collaboration governance. Whilst there are a number of opportunities to improve the partnership, it is in an untenable position and the ability to become financially stable is challenging which was also identified in the Welsh Government commissioned Mott MacDonald review. He stated that policing have also begun internal review activity to strengthen the options which will be presented to the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales. He explained policing's next steps are to conclude drafting the paper and its escalation through police governance in the coming weeks in readiness for CC Blakeman's meeting with Ken Skates MS.

He highlighted that policing welcome the support they had received from Transport and Road Safety Officials, particularly Welsh Government's approach to developing a new Strategic Road Safety Plan but investment is key in being able to deliver some of the objectives which are set out within the plan.

7c.) 'Power of the Partnership' presentation on Op Ugain/Atal

Chief Inspector Gareth Morgan explained that Welsh Government and Policing agreed the importance of a 3Es approach of Engage, Educate and Enforce when necessary, to assist in the implementation of Operation Ugain. This is a collaboration between Welsh Government, four Welsh Police Forces and three Fire and Rescue Services. The objective was to support behavioural change in order to make roads in Wales safer.

To date, the speed of just under 398,000 vehicles have been monitored, of those 95% were found to be within the enforcement threshold and of those that weren't within the enforcement threshold, 17,380 roadside engagement sessions were delivered.

He stated that in Summer 2025 Operation Ugain will become Operation Atal, covering additional areas of the Fatal 5 which is a vital tool in improving public trust and confidence in GoSafe. The fact that the partnership is in place to make roads safer was stressed, as opposed to simply issuing fines to members of the public. Deployment will be aimed at specific locations where policing are looking to prevent Killed and Serious Injury collisions by providing engagement and education in three key areas; seatbelts, speed across a wider range of limits and the correct use and installation of child safety seats.

Ch Insp. Morgan explained that an academic partner will be engaged to ensure there is an independent evaluation of the operation and the benefits to Road Safety in Wales.

7.1. The Chair gave thanks for the update and extended thanks to forces for their incredible work. She agreed that the review is important and acknowledged the financial paper is expected to be finalised by the end of July 2025.

7d.) Victims and Courts Bill

Mike Connolly explained that the bill will make provisions for victims and procedures related to Criminal Justice. An LCM was laid before the Senedd on 20th May 2025; the bill covers mainly reserved areas with the exception of one clause which was subject to the LCM process. He commented that Home Office Officials have been proactive in engaging with the Community Safety Division (CSD) within Welsh Government and they will continue to work closely with the Home Office as the bill progresses and will provide further updates to the PPBFW as required.

7e.) ASB Guidance

The Chair thanked the board for supporting the way guidance is developed; she believes that both the Victims and Courts Bill and the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Guidance, will require an LCM in the Senedd.

Mike Connolly explained that the UK Government have made ASB a key component of the Safer Streets Mission, one of the aims of which is the creation of safer communities where individuals can live, work and thrive without the fear of ASB impacting their daily lives. The ASB Action Plan Guidance from the Home Office is designed to support forces in developing and implementing those local ASB Action Plans and PCCs in providing effective oversight and scrutiny to ensure a consistent and robust response across England and Wales. He explained that the CSD have worked closely with the PLU to provide input into the development of the ASB Guidance to ensure it reflects the Welsh perspective.

8. Minutes of the previous meeting (02/04/25)

All were content with the accuracy of the minutes from 2nd April 2025. It was confirmed that:

- Action 1 was completed
- Action 2 is ongoing with Sasha Yilmaz taking this work forward
- Action 3 is ongoing as Paul advised that a specific piece of work has been commissioned by Welsh Chief Constables to understand the nature and extent of tensions across Wales which will be discussed at the next WCOG meeting.

9. Any Other Business

The Chair advised she met with PCC Llywelyn in relation to a question that was raised in the Senedd regarding Child Strip Searches; she was reassured that Strip Searches would be used as a last resort and she understands that the term Strip Search covers a wide range of activity, but it doesn't differentiate in someone being asked to remove an item of clothing such as a jacket as opposed to an intimate search. As a result the accurate capture of detail is vital to provide a comprehensive understanding of how searches are used and what action may be necessary to improve practice. The Chair stated the relationship between Policing and Welsh Government is important and added that she is able to respond quickly to questions such as this, clarifying the position.

The Chair closed the meeting and extended thanks to policing and the bravery of their teams; she attended the National Police Bravery Awards the previous week and commented that it was extraordinary to hear the courage and bravery of all of the nominees across England and Wales, adding that she would like to get that message back to all those that work in forces. CC Vaughan thanked the Chair for attending the Bravery Awards.

Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 23rd October 2025 -10:00 to 12:00