



## **Policing Partnership Board for Wales**

### **Microsoft Teams**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 10:00 – 12:00**

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendees**

Jane Hutt MS	Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (Chair)
Ifan Charles	Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police
Mark Hobrough	Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Amanda Blakeman	Chief Constable, North Wales Police
Jeremy Vaughan	Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Dafydd Llywelyn	Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys
Emma Woolls	Police and Crime Commissioner, South Wales
Eleri Thomas	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent
Wayne Jones	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, North Wales
Umar Hussain	Chief Finance Officer, South Wales Police
Kate Jackson	Chief Finance Officer, North Wales OPCC
Mike Connolly	Deputy Director, Community Safety Division, 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
Kathryn Jenkins	Chief Security Officer, Welsh Government
Martyn Gunter	Head of Enrichment and Engagement, Welsh Government
Padraig McNamara	Head of Mental Health and Vulnerable Groups, Welsh Government
Joanne Hopkins	Public Health Wales
Ian Barrow	Executive Director Wales, HM Prison and Probation Service
Rachael Millar	Joint Police Reform Team, Home Office
Harry Gerrard	Devolution Officer, Home Office Wales Team
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
Sian Curley	Chief Executive, Gwent OPCC
Lee Jones	Chief Executive, South Wales OPCC
Stephen Hughes	Chief Executive, North Wales OPCC
Paul Morris	Head of Police Liaison Unit
Stacey Evans	APCC Wales Policy Manager, Policing in Wales
Joanna Huddleston	Administrator, Police Liaison Unit

#### **Apologies**

Jane Mudd	Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent
Judith Paget	Director General HSSG/Chief Executive NHS Wales, Welsh Government
Amy Rees	Chief Executive, HMPPS
Helen Hill	Business and Network Development Manager, Safer Communities Network, WLGA
Tracy Cooper	Public Health Wales
Jenny Hopkins	Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS
David Holloway-Young	Chief Finance Officer, South Wales OPCC

<b>Actions arising from the meeting</b>	
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip's office to arrange a meeting with Sarah Murphy MS and Dawn Bowden MS to discuss funding for WSAS.	CSSJTCW
Jane Hutt MS will consider future opportunities look to highlight the important role PCSOs play in our communities in Wales.	CSSJTCW

## **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 she was pleased to note that the newly appointed Minister for Policing, Sarah Jones MP has confirmed her attendance at the December 2025 meeting. She advised that she had recently met with her which resulted in a very constructive introductory meeting. The Chair also noted how important the National Police Memorial Service is to remember the courage and bravery of Police Officers and also to remember families who have lost loved ones as a result of their operational activities and the threats that they face.

She extended her congratulations to Ifan Charles on becoming Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys Police.

The Chair acknowledge the recent horrific attack at Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Manchester and stated that her thoughts are with the victims, their families and the entire Jewish Community at this time. She gave thanks to Policing in Wales for providing reassurance and patrols to Synagogues in Wales over recent weeks. She reinforced that the visible protection and solidarity creates an important message and that she has received positive feedback with regards to police presence, which is important for community safety for Jewish communities and congregations.

She also commented that she was grateful for the meeting that took place with Welsh Chief Constables following the Panorama Programme, 'Undercover in the Police'. She stressed that misogyny and excessive force have no place in policing and acknowledged that Policing in Wales remain committed to ensure they uphold the highest standards and that they continue to serve communities with respect and dignity. She stated Welsh Government are proud of the partnerships they have built with policing and will continue to work collaboratively with policing to keep Wales safe.

## **2. Police Landscape Reform: Latest Position from Policing in Wales**

The Chair noted that she raised this topic with the Policing Minister and the Home Secretary, who have responded to her letter to affirm their commitment to the distinct context for justice services in Wales.

**2.1.** PCC Wools advised that the White Paper is still awaited, which is anticipated to be published by the end of the year. Policing in Wales made a written submission to the Home Secretary on 19<sup>th</sup> September with a list of asks to ensure that the Wales position is better integrated into Police Landscape Reform. The letter outlined issues in relation to funding parity, recognition of distinct local needs in Wales and the formal recognition of Policing and Crime within Wales. She noted that in response to the letter, Policing in Wales have been invited to sit as members on a Cross-System Police Reform Board and advised that she will be attending as the Chair of Policing in Wales and that CC Blakeman will be supporting as the Chair of the Welsh Chief Officers Group. She has also been in contact with Home Office Officials who are keen to set up a meeting to discuss the asks that are mentioned in the letter and how they can be integrated into the wider programme.

**2.2.** From a Chief Constables' perspective, the funding position remains crucial so CC Blakeman is keen for a review of the funding formula and how funding is distributed across Wales. She commented on the ringfencing for local benefit and not top slicing of funding to central missions as being important as precept arrangements are different in Wales and communities in Wales pay more for policing here. As a result, Policing in Wales wants to ensure this is fed back into communities and that services are delivered for them in terms of local priorities which PCCs will take to their respective local Police and Crime Panel.

She added that with regard to representation of Welsh policing in national governance arrangements, Policing in Wales are looking to ensure that legislative standards and regulatory areas of business are comparable in terms of performance frameworks as there is a difference in Wales in terms of legislative requirements.

CC Blakeman advised that as the White Paper is being awaited, policing is in a difficult position in terms of being able to respond to matters that may or may not be included in the paper. The asks that have been included within the letter are a broad set of principles and requests to consider as they are critical in terms of delivering a good service to communities in Wales. She also wants to ensure that this will be available bilingually as it should be available for all communities in Wales.

**2.3.** The Chair noted that when she met with the Policing Minister, she was very much aware of the Welsh Landscape but she intends to write to her following this meeting, highlighting the points that have been made with regards to what reform means for Wales. This is especially important with regards to bilingual delivery as it should be guaranteed. She added that there is a need to ensure the reforms improve outcomes for Welsh communities as there are safeguards in place to ensure local priorities are not diluted in a regionalised model and how Wales retains value for money given the precept difference.

**2.4.** CC Blakeman pointed out that Wales is not a region in the way that other forces sit in regions, Wales is a country which needs to be understood in terms of the reform agenda as well as any reform proposals that are presented.

**2.5.** CC Vaughan feels that the fact that the situation is different in Wales needs to be constantly highlighted as Policing in Wales operates in a devolved landscape. He stated that Welsh forces are 4 out of 43 in England and Wales and are in danger of being considered as a minority, so there is a need to continue to stress the implications of the devolution strategy in England, its implications on policing governance and what it may mean for Wales.

**2.6.** PCC Llywelyn highlighted some of the work that Welsh Government Officials are carrying out around Justice Transformation, collaborating to discuss the potential devolution of Youth Justice and Probation. This work is developing in parallel with the reform agenda across England and Wales, so there is a need to be prepared for the devolution of Youth Justice and potentially probation in Wales. There are also discussions ongoing in relation to the MoU arrangements in Manchester which is signed off by the Deputy Mayor in Manchester who has responsibility for police and crime activity. This may be a matter for Welsh Government to consider in relation to how this is governed in the future and the role of PCCs alongside Welsh Government in the commissioning of services.

**2.7.** Rachael Millar addressed some of the points raised; with regards to the Cross-System Board that PCC Wools attended, she advised that was a quick response ahead of the formal response to the letter which is due imminently. She agreed that the impact on communities is an important factor with regards to reforms that are being worked on, adding that the National Centre for Policing will look at the delivery of some of the core central services that are present across all forces to ensure that the focus on local communities is the key priority for forces. The Joint Police Reform Team are committed to partnership with Wales, which she hopes is evident with the work that has taken place so far, highlighting that they may have already met many of those in attendance including Welsh Government Officials and the Police Liaison Unit and will continue to work with Wales.

**2.8.** The Chair thanked Rachael and commented that she was glad that she was able to attend and help to understand the agenda for Wales. She hopes that the White Paper will be available before the meeting in December but Policing in Wales will have the opportunity to engage with the Policing Minister at that meeting.

### **3. Funding of Policing in Wales: Pressures and Implication**

Mr Hussain noted that a detailed settlement would not be available until the middle-end of December 2025. The National Police Chiefs' Council Finance Committee have developed an assessment based on the Chancellor's announcement in June 2025. This information has been shared with the Home Office with the aim of hoping to influence how the envelope is distributed to PCCs.

He advised that there is a very small section for policing within the Treasury Red Book which refers to the next three years allocation of the envelope for policing which is £19.6bn rising to around £20.8bn. The understanding is that the position involves three aspects which are the Police Formula Grant, funding for Counter Terrorism Policing as well as Police Precept in terms of how much can be generated through local taxation. He added that for 2026/27, it is estimated that £1.2bn will be funded for CTP and approximately £6.3bn from Council Tax Precept income, which results in approximately £12bn for Police

Grant to be distributed to PCCs. This is a £528m increase from the current year's allocation and will result in £328m and £178m for the next two years, but this amount is reducing year on year. The full amount of £12bn will not be distributed to PCCs as a result of top slicing by the Home Office for areas such as the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee and National Insurance increases. In terms of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, £200m has been accounted for in terms of the first three thousand officers but to achieve the full target of 13,000 officers, another £500m would be needed. If this amount came from the envelope then the funding gap would increase. The Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee and Safer Streets Mission are unaffordable with the envelope that has been announced for policing. In addition, there is an additional cost of £300m as a result of additional demand such as additional calls and investigations due to the Sentencing Review with typical reoffending rates projected to increase by around 27%.

Mr Hussain explained that the Police Formula Grant has been frozen for almost two decades so it doesn't represent local demand and pressures, but he doesn't believe this will change over the next few years.

Police Pay has been settled at 4.2%, where the previous guidance to forces for budgeting was around 2.8%. Home Office have agreed to fund 7 months differential, so the rest of the Pay Award will need to come from within the police budget, therefore with the revised Pay Award and inflation, there is a £451m gap. There is a deficit of £681m for the next three years while maintaining services in their current form without reflecting any new burdens. There are multiple new burdens such as decarbonisation projects, technology, employers NI contributions and contract inflation etc. He gave the example of policing relying on tasers as a mode of legal intervention; the latest taser approved for use has a £4000 cost per device. There are approximately 45,000 devices in use across England and Wales and that if they were all replaced in one year it would cost around £180m. All these extra demands would result in around £1.5bn worth of additional costs on top of the £681m resulting in a £2bn deficit for policing over the next three years.

In terms of spending assumptions, forces were asked to submit their medium-term plans which gave a 3.8% increase impact, with 3% next year and 2.5% over the following two years. Mr. Hussain saw these as fairly conservative estimates for what pay inflation could look like. He noted that Police inflation tends to run at around 5% per annum due to specialist kit and contracts, but these are fairly low estimates of inflation. There are still some gaps in the survey undertaken by the NPCC Finance Committee, particularly in relation to the new burdens but the overall viewpoint of 43 forces can be relied upon.

Policing spends around £16bn on pay with the vast majority of that being on Police Officers and PCSOs; Police Staff tend to form a third of the costs with aspects such as goods or services, technology or buildings etc. costing around £3b. It is important to note that there is no funding in the envelope for capital expenditure so the infrastructure has to be funded entirely through revenue and as a result policing will have to resort to borrowing and that will increase over the next three years.

The Emergency Services Network (ESN) initiative is currently on track and work will commence in 2027; the estimates for Policing UK are £563m over four years and the current capital programmes in forces over four years are around £100m, so there is a minimum of a £400m gap to replace the current analogue radio system and deliver a new digital system for policing. This will result in a varied budget gap within police forces, with some forces having an 11% budget gap at present due to ringfenced funding. However, there are forces with less of a gap at present as a result of a combination of new burdens not being factored in, the funding formula has historically benefited those forces and a better tax base in wealthier areas so forces are using reserves to keep themselves afloat but this has an impact on long-term financial resilience.

**3.1.** Kate Jackson said the presentation brought focus to matters such as Police Pay Awards as when these changes are announced it affects all forces in a proportionate matter as pay is approximately 80% of forces' expenditure. Due to the way in which the grant is distributed it doesn't always affect forces on the income side, which results in an additional grant being required and increase to taxpayers. It is a matter for PCCs to decide how much to increase council tax by as they have a duty to balance their budget whilst also not putting too much of a burden on local taxpayers. She expressed concerns about the increasing reliance on borrowing to fund the capital programme as persistent borrowing affects the revenue budget for years to come.**3.2.** The Chair agreed and stated that it is worrying but she reassured that Welsh Government are committed to funding PCSOs in Wales. She added that she has raised the

matter of capital city funding with the Policing Minister who advised that she will follow up and respond to this.

**3.3.** PCC Wools queried if it would be beneficial for Mr Hussain and Ms Jackson to provide some information around the key issues mentioned as the Chair is intending to write to the Policing Minister following this meeting. The Chair agreed.

**3.4.** PCC Llywelyn highlighted the importance of Welsh Government grants and the work that Welsh Government do to support Policing in Wales. He stated that he is very grateful for this but the security of funding over a longer period would be very valuable to policing in terms of strategic planning.

**3.5.** The Chair advised that Welsh Government funding of PCSOs was discussed including the evaluation that is taking place; she feels there is a need to feedback more publicly in terms of the importance of PCSOs and advised that she will pick this up outside of the meeting.

**Action: Jane Hutt MS will consider future opportunities look to highlight the important role PCSOs play in our communities in Wales**

#### **4. Policing and Education Collaboration Proposals**

Martyn Gunter provided an update on the planned collaboration between Policing and Education which was an outcome from the Violence in Schools and Colleges Roundtable and the National Behaviour Summit held by the Cabinet Secretary for Education. There she committed to strengthening collaborative work between schools, Police Forces, PCCs and Local Authorities to make a positive difference to children and young people's lives. She believes that any new approach should be delivered through the ethos of Welsh Government's Community Focussed Schools Approach to help with building strong partnerships with families, responding to the needs of local communities and collaborating effectively with other services. She noted that work is currently being carried out with regards to any new collaborations and how any investment from Welsh Government should be prioritised.

Martyn explained the Cabinet Secretary for Education wants to enhance the visible and active relationships between schools, neighbourhood policing and the local community it serves with a particular focus on local issues and risks that matter to the children and young people in that community as well as emerging threats and issues that are being faced by schools. He stressed that the new approach is not a replacement for any existing relationships or activity between forces or schools, nor is it a replacement for the previous Wales Schools Programme and that the collaboration should be seen as a vital component in driving early intervention and prevention activity.

Martyn explained that some early thoughts have been exchanged with the Police Liaison Unit and representatives from OPCCs and that they hope to be able to return with some firm proposals soon.

**4.1.** PCC Wools expressed her gratitude to the Cabinet Secretary for Education for the positive response to the concerns being raised by the sector regarding the change in policing's relationship with schools. She is keen to approach the exercise with caution to ensure that all identified aspects in terms of deliverable options between now and the end of the financial year are matters that can be maintained in the longer term. She has recently undertaken a consultation with 5000 young people in the South Wales area which highlighted that policing is wanted in a schools environment, so she is keen to invigorate this partnership in a model that suits the current times.

**4.2.** Joanne Hopkins noted that a lot of work is being carried out in the Violence Prevention Team and the ACE Hub Wales in relation to schools currently, so asked that Public Health Wales be involved in discussions so that when an offer is made, it is Trauma Informed, ACE Informed and aligns to those pieces of work.

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

The Chair introduced the item, acknowledging continuing concerns regarding the interim arrangements to support the transition of SARCs to the NHS JCC. She believes the NHS has now provided dedicated resource to support the work and the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care and the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip have recently agreed a package of financial support to address short-term funding issues relating to

therapeutic support. She noted that assurance has been given that Welsh Government Officials will meet all Health Boards to provide a SARC service to ensure that local arrangements continue to be in place.

**5.1.** PCC Wools feels that a critical point had been reached in a complex programme which has brought a number of challenges, so she is pleased it has remained on the agenda to monitor risks and issues. She explained that whilst progress has been made, a number of concerns remain which she hopes the board will note.

**5.2.** DPCC Thomas reiterated PCC Wools' point, noting that significant progress has been made since the last meeting which is very welcomed but this is not without considerable continuous effort from policing, in particular the Police Collaboration Wales team from both T/ACC Guiney and Harri Evans-Mason. She noted the launch of the Aberystwyth SARC site and Paediatric SARC Unit in Swansea that have taken place. One of the key aspects that they are trying to achieve in the transformation programme is to ensure that children in the south west of Wales are able to access paediatric provision. Citizens of Wales should be able to access this service without having interaction with policing or criminal justice agencies. She stated this is a fundamental principle, however considerable work remains to ensure that the hub and spoke services can meet demand, that they have robust governance and that there is an understanding of the care and support pathways. The board was asked to seek assurance that work with Welsh Government, Policing in Wales and the NHS will continue to achieve the progress that is required.

She welcomed news that finance has been resolved for the provision of therapeutic and counselling services for 2025/26 but Policing in Wales would seek an urgent meeting with Welsh Government and the NHS prior to the December Policing Partnership Board for Wales meeting to ensure they are able to capitalise on arrangements for 2026/27. She recognised that they are not likely to be in a position to be able to undertake a full procurement exercise in the period of time that remains.

DPCC Thomas stated that a paper is being developed for the JCC Board which is due to meet in November but policing have not been engaged in developing the content of the paper, so Policing in Wales should be given sufficient time to contribute. She explained that the NHS JCC have also communicated their intention to develop service specifications for the WSAS on an All-Wales footprint and that this would include North Wales Police in developing specifications but noted that this has not taken place to date. NHS JCC have a number of upcoming workshops in December following approval at the November board and she queried if there could be appropriate Policing in Wales representation at these workshops.

**5.3.** PCC Wools highlighted two points of concern which continue to persist; concerns about the understanding, remit and scope of the programme, noting that in recent meetings health representatives referred to the programme as a SARC partnership which fails to recognise the wider community-based model which is vital to this. She previously advised of her intention to write to the Director General for Health and Social Services to reaffirm the commitment but she has not yet received a response. The second issue is in relation to finance: she is seeking assurance on this from health that the accountability and finance model will be co-designed between partners and that the process of financial decision making is made within time in terms of budget setting.

**5.4.** The Chair advised she met with Emma Williams, Director General in Welsh Government about WSAS and that she had met previously with Judith Paget, Amelia John and Matt Downton in August 2025. She is aware that there has been progress since this meeting took place but she advised she will feed this back to Welsh Government Officials and arrange to meet with Sarah Murphy MS and Dawn Bowden MS prior to the next Policing Partnership Board for Wales to look at the funding needs for next year.

**Action: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip's office to arrange a meeting with Sarah Murphy MS and Dawn Bowden MS to discuss funding for WSAS.**

**5.5.** Pdraig McNamara acknowledged the points that have been raised and advised that he will feed the concerns that have been made back to the JCC. However, he feels that there is commitment from health which is being worked through which they are looking to finalise in the JCC Board in November. He explained that the arrangements are being reviewed as regards the transfer of formal ownership of the area from PNI to JCC. He highlighted that WSAS is being included in the IQBD meetings that Health Boards hold as well as IQBD meetings that Welsh Government have with the JCC in addition to routine monthly performance and escalation meetings between Welsh Government and Health Boards. He emphasised that he will continue to monitor this as they move through the new governance arrangements.

## **6. Sentencing Bill and Review of the Criminal Courts: Potential Demands and Pressures on Policing in Wales**

The Chair introduced the item, noting that the Policing Minister wrote to her and advised that the Home Secretary has announced the intention for a Winter Initiative which will be focussed on tackling shoplifting and anti-social behaviour. Once the details have been finalised, they will be shared with her. The Chair also raised with the Policing Minister concerns that Policing in Wales have shared in relation to the Sentencing Bill. The Policing Minister confirmed that the Home Office are collaborating with the Ministry of Justice to consider the impact that is specific to policing.

**6.1.** CC Blakeman reiterated the concerns mentioned and noted that there are two reviews which are the Independent Sentencing Review and the Independent Review into Criminal Courts. In terms of the Independent Sentencing Review, in October 2024, the Lord Chancellor appointed David Gauke to lead on the review which was tasked around addressing the prison capacity crisis. The final report was published on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 with 44 recommendations across 9 chapters. The relevant chapters with regards to this are Revisiting the Statutory Purpose of Sentencing, Reducing the Reliance on Custody and Incentivising Progression from Custody to Community.

Some areas of concern in relation to this are short sentences which introduce a duty for courts to suspend custodial sentences of 1 year or less for an adult offender unless exceptional circumstances apply and moves towards an earned progression model. This is a three-part model which consists of prison, intensive supervision and the final part being served in the community and for all other offences a two-part sentence which is 50% custody and 50% intensive supervision. She noted that there are exceptions as well as additionalities such as breach of court order, VAWG offences and poor behaviour in custody etc.

Policing anticipates that those who would serve short sentences will be dealt with in communities and offending is likely to increase, therefore policing are anticipating an additional burden and impacts in terms of trust and confidence as well as added expenditure which will also decrease capacity for dealing with other matters.

CC Blakeman stated that policing have made good progress with regards to issues such as retail crime by utilising sentences, prevention orders and by managing offenders so this is a significant concern. She noted there is an ongoing discussion in NPCC, MoJ and the Home Office but she feels work is still progressing at a considerable pace.

**6.2.** Ian Barrow stated that there is still uncertainty in terms of final proposals but agreed that work is progressing at pace. He noted that the potential impacts were discussed at the Criminal Justice Board for Wales in October and a detailed impact assessment was circulated to Local Criminal Justice Board Chairs with a view to create local discussions. He feels there is a need to escalate a discussion for the next Criminal Justice Board for Wales when more detail should be available in terms of the impacts but acknowledged that there will be challenges and the best way to deal with them is working in partnership and ensuring that all partners are aware of the impact on each of their agencies.

**6.3.** Mike Connolly stated that in terms of strategic level engagement, Home Office and Ministry of Justice have established a Criminal Justice Operational Implementation Taskforce that meets on a weekly basis. This is considering the impact and implications of both the ISR and the Independent Review of Criminal Courts in due course. ACC Jason Devonport is the policing representative on the taskforce and has made representations, many of which that have been mentioned by CC Blakeman.

**6.4.** PCC Wools stressed the importance of interventions and rehabilitative services and the need to strengthen partnership and co-commissioning arrangements as a number of the services offenders will need to access in the community, are services within the devolved context. She feels there is a need for a stronger and more strategic approach to ensure there is enough capacity and capability across services for offenders.

**6.5.** CC Blakeman concluded by stating that policing are anticipating a significant increase in crime without the funding available to be able to respond to it, with an estimated cost to policing of £300m.

## **7. Issues for Update/Noting: GoSafe**

The Chair noted that CC Blakeman raised a number of issues with the Cabinet Secretary for North Wales and Transport in September and that a follow up meeting took place between GoSafe, Local Authorities and Welsh Government Officials to discuss their approach to the next steps but it is vital to ensure that discussions are ongoing.

### **7b.) Welsh Language Recruitment Funding**

CC Blakeman advised that she has carried out some work with the College of Policing to try and ensure that the online assessment element of police recruitment is available in Welsh. The College have identified a significant fee that they would want to deliver this which is in excess of £200,000 with substantial additional costs to follow.

She explained that Chief Constables are exploring whether there are other options available to policing. She has arranged a meeting with CC Stephens in the NPCC and Andy Marsh from the College of Policing to discuss this as she believes the option should be available for candidates and communities.

Any support that could be provided with regards to this would be welcomed as she feels it is an important provision. She mentioned that this was raised in First Ministers' Questions but is unsure whether there is any work planned on this in terms of scrutiny from the Welsh Language Commissioner, who is on board with this work and has written to the College of Policing.

**7.b.1.** The Chair advised she is pleased that the Welsh Language Commissioner's office is engaging with the College of Policing as she believes this will have an impact, so she will ensure that steps are taken to allow availability of assessments in Welsh and will continue to monitor this.

**7.b.2.** PCC Llywelyn stated that this is at the heart of why Policing in Wales have to continually highlight the nuanced differences in Wales. When describing the development of the proposed National Centre for Policing all of these factors are relevant, not just the Welsh Language implications and whether there will be a Welsh Language scheme in place for the National Centre for Policing. He noted that the Home Office also have a Welsh Language Scheme. With regards to procurement, the Welsh Government Procurement Act 2023 has elements of the social value and economic impact to Wales, so for the National Centre of Policing for England and Wales, Policing in Wales will need to raise these issues again in terms of the impact on communities and opportunities in Wales.

### **7c.) Community Tensions Update**

The Chair thanked CC Vaughan for his offer of support to further enhance existing arrangements, highlighting issues of online abuse, increased tensions and misinformation etc. are on an All-Wales basis across all political parties. She raised concerns in relation to a recent Threat Assessment from the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre that stated there is a lower risk to MSs than MPs.

CC Vaughan began by describing the impact of the incident in Manchester on Jewish communities. South Wales Police immediately dispatched armed response vehicles to the synagogues and noted that there is very good engagement with communities which he is keen for this to continue.

He stated that policing has a unique role in responding to hate which he believes is largely driven by social media. He explained that he is aware that other forces are doing similar work but stated that South Wales Police have brought together Chief Executives of Local Authorities in their area on two separate occasions and have now agreed to meet every six weeks for the foreseeable future. They are in the process of finalising a collaboration agreement which sets out governance and accountability in terms of information sharing, data insight, public confidence and communications.

In addition to representing Welsh Chief Constables in engagement with Welsh Government, he is also engaging with the WLGA and is due to run workshops with them with regard to safety and security as well as engaging with the Electoral Management Board. He noted that T/ACC Simon Belcher has been leading on this issue on his behalf and that there has been a lot of activity in this area but he wanted to ensure individuals understand what to do if they have specific concerns.

**7.c.1** Naomi Alleyne explained that the four Local Government Associations across the UK met recently and have released a statement reaffirming their commitment to work together to address the issues mentioned as well as working closely with policing with regards to how they can support councillors. In addition to this Welsh Government and the WLGA have arranged workshops around tackling

misinformation, disinformation and malinformation, and the focus is on working together and sharing information to address issues jointly.

**8. Minutes of the previous meeting (17/07/25)**

All were in agreement with the accuracy of the minutes from the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025. It was noted that Action 1 from the previous meeting is ongoing, the paper will be ready for the December 2025 meeting.

**9. Any Other Business**

None raised.

**Date and time of next meeting**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 13:30 to 15:30