



**Policing Partnership Board for Wales**  
**Amroth Room, Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ and Microsoft Teams**  
**Thursday 5th March 2026 13:00 – 15:00**

**Minutes**

**Attendees**

Jane Hutt MS	Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip (Chair)
Sarah Jones MP	Minister for Policing and Crime, Home Office
Ifan Charles	Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police
Amanda Blakeman	Chief Constable, North Wales Police
Jeremy Vaughan	Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Nicola Brain	Deputy Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Nicholas Evans	T/Assistant Chief Constable, North Wales Police
Andrew Tuck	Detective Chief Superintendent, Gwent Police
Dafydd Llywelyn	Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys
Jane Mudd	Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent
Andy Dunbobbin	Police and Crime Commissioner, North Wales
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
Dave Holloway-Young	Chief Finance Officer, South Wales OPCC
Gemma Morris	Assistant Chief Constable, All-Wales Collaboration
Mike Connolly	Deputy Director, Community Safety Division, Welsh Government
Sasha Yilmaz	Head of Crime and Justice, Welsh Government
James Gerard	Deputy Director, Justice Policy, Welsh Government
Claire Russell-Griffiths	Senior Manager, Crime and Justice Team, Welsh Government
Leanne Lewis	Manager, Crime and Justice Team, Welsh Government
Victoria Martin	Justice Policy Division, Welsh Government
Joanne Hopkins	Public Health Wales
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
Andrew Morgan	Leader, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Mark Brace	Head of the Safer Communities Network, WLGA
Carys Morgans	Chief Executive, Dyfed Powys OPCC
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
Jake Watson	Private Secretary, Home Office
Sara Cogan	Visits Secretary, Home Office
Joanna Huddleston	Administrator, Police Liaison Unit

**Apologies**

Ian Barrow	Executive Director Wales, HM Prison and Probation Service
Tracy Cooper	Public Health Wales
Jenny Hopkins	Chief Crown Prosecutor, CPS

<b>Actions arising from the meeting</b>	
PLU to work with the Welsh Government Officials to secure the date of the next PPBfW.	PLU/WG Officials

## 1. Welcome and Chair's Address

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. She expressed her gratitude that the Minister for Policing and Crime, Sarah Jones MP was in attendance, stating that it is the last Policing Partnership Board for Wales meeting of the Sixth Senedd as well as the last meeting that she will be chairing due to her forthcoming retirement.

## 2. Introductory Remarks - Minister of State for Policing and Crime, Sarah Jones MP

The Policing Minister noted that the Chair is the longest serving female Senedd Member and thanked her for all of her work. She added that significant work is taking place with developing the proposed model for future policing governance in Wales and added that she observed exemplary work, that morning, in terms of new technology and professional policing during her visit to Cardiff.

## 3. Proposed Model for Future Governance of Policing in Wales – Update and Discussion

The Chair introduced the item and extended her thanks to all partners and Welsh Government Officials for the pace of their work and their professionalism, stating that the response has been remarkable particularly given the uncertainty OPCCs face.

Policing in Wales have developed high level governance options whilst Welsh Government and WLGA have needed longer to work through the implications for devolved services. A core strength of the Welsh approach to governance is to build through partnership and they have already identified areas of consensus alongside a number of areas that require further exploration.

Local Government has a crucial role in the new arrangements, as well as understanding the unique devolved context of Local Government in Wales and the complex legislation that underpins this, with a meeting between Local Council Leaders scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

The Chair stated that the preferred way of managing this would be the devolution of policing as it would allow Welsh Government to design the appropriate system but acknowledged UK Government's position on this matter.

Scrutiny, governance and reporting arrangements should be transparent and accessible to allow the public to have trust and confidence in policing and appreciate the Welsh context as well as preserving the strength of existing arrangements by building on the partnership approach in place. The system should bring together decision makers from policing and all key related services to help keep communities safe and prevent crime. The Chair noted some of those services operate on a regional basis within Wales, with some being local and others national and added that Wales doesn't have Mayors but it does have a National Government and Parliament which makes its own Laws and has its own arrangements and therefore there are pieces of primary and secondary legislation that may be impacted by any proposal being considered.

There is agreement that the system for Wales will require a regional tier as well as a national tier. There is also agreement that the Policing Partnership Board for Wales is a National Board that brings that partnership together and the view is that it should be a formalised part of the new arrangement. She stated that a significant amount of work has been achieved through the Policing Partnership Board for Wales. She also recognised that there is a weakness to the current approach to governance as it relies on goodwill and voluntary participation, so it is an opportunity to safeguard for the future.

**3.1.** PCC Wools explained that Lee Jones will describe the approach taken to the development of governance proposals by Policing in Wales in detail but echoed her thanks to those who have been involved in developing the proposed model. Following the announcement of the abolition of PCCs, Welsh PCCs have played a constructive role in developing future arrangements and bringing their experience into new arrangements.

Policing in Wales have seized the opportunity in trying to develop the future arrangements to fit a Welsh identity at pace. The model has received a significant amount of agreement but there are a few areas that require further work.

**3.2.** Lee Jones thanked the Chair for the points made and stated that they aligned with his update. He was grateful for the opportunity to show what the model for Wales could look like as there are differences in terms of how Wales operates as well as legal challenges. Policing in Wales relies heavily on devolved services and benefits from working jointly, so there is an opportunity to strengthen that via reform. The Policing Partnership Board for Wales is an example of that and highlights the need to have a national board, particularly given Welsh Government's role regarding devolved services such as health, education and substance misuse etc. as well as strengthening Wales's national voice through a more formal national forum and embedding partnership arrangements whilst maintaining the operational independence of policing.

Policing in Wales sought alignment to the asks of the White Paper. The proposal is not complex, it comprises a national board with regional boards on current force footprints with the ability to scale up when needed, whilst also being aligned to other partnerships such as the Criminal Justice Board for Wales etc. The aim has been not to lose focus on prevention and intervention and working within Welsh structures whilst respecting UK Government plans.

In terms of the Mayoral model, there should be parity in Wales with partners in England. Lee Jones noted that the regional boards would effectively replace PCCs, but there is a need to work with the WLGA in terms of demand on them, as well as ensuring scrutiny of performance of local forces is retained. The National Board, would establish Wales-wide strategic alignment with All-Wales partnership working and partnership system oversight which is already in place for the Policing Partnership Board for Wales. The National Board will also provide a coherent Welsh voice into UK Government but Policing in Wales are conscious that it would need to align with current views on devolution.

The model has to have a line of sight and be scalable to any potential future changes; the proposed model achieves that by working with partners in terms of establishing arrangements for support teams and hosting arrangements. A lot of work takes place through OPCCs that was not recognised, such as commissioning and in the partnership space. The proposed model retains the strengths and addresses existing weaknesses. Policing in Wales are keen to support the direction of the White Paper and to integrate it.

**3.3.** The Chair introduced Cllr Andrew Morgan, noting that is helpful to have the views of WLGA as they have a crucial role in the new arrangements. Cllr Morgan reiterated his support for the proposed model adding that they have a positive working relationship with Welsh Government, Local Government, PCCs and Forces through the many community safety boards that are in place. WLGA feel the localism in terms of Local Government being critical is important, stating that from discussions that have taken place, the view is shared but a meeting is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to discuss this position further.

**3.4.** The Policing Minister gave thanks for the work that has been achieved and the manner in which Welsh partners have engaged in the process since the announcement of the abolition of PCCs and the White Paper and also extended thanks to the Home Office for working collaboratively. She felt the proposed model sounds positive and that England can learn from the way work is carried out in Wales. The principles of the proposed model are helpful for the Home Office and she said she was grateful for the model and is keen for it to move to the next stage.

The Minister noted that the principles of Police Reform have been agreed so it is important to work effectively as there is a tight timeline. She stated that there is a need to get the key measures into legislation for the next King's Speech, but the longer-term detail will need to be finalised in due course. The next phase is looking at the National Board as mentioned, and to consider issues such as VAWG and Serious and Organised Crime and how to embed a high standard of policing across England and Wales.

**3.5.** PCC Llywelyn thanked the Chair for her leadership on the Policing Partnership Board for Wales and on the VAWG agenda for Wales. As the Policing Minister mentioned, she had opportunity to see the

work taking place in Cardiff but he feels the policing service in Wales has been somewhat safeguarded by decisions PCCs have made such as those around Precept and the additional funding received via Welsh Government with regards to retaining PCSOs so he is keen to strengthen this in terms of any changes with the development of the National Police Service. He noted that there are a number of points that are agreed on in the White Paper, such as concentration of Neighbourhood Policing Grant (NPG) but not at the detriment of the positive work that is taking place in Wales. The model presented is scalable in terms of governance of policing and providing a better service for communities.

#### **4. From Local to National: Police Reform White Paper – Implications for Wales**

The Chair advised that she published a written statement, setting out Welsh Government's position and noted that many of these issues had been addressed earlier in the meeting as many of the proposal are far reaching. She added that there is recognition of the potential advantages in terms of centralisation but it is important that funds raised in Wales are retained in Wales; it is also important that any revised targets and oversight arrangements are designed for the Welsh context.

She is aware of the appointment of Lord Hogan-Howe to lead the Independent Review of Police Force Structures. Welsh Government welcome the consideration around vetting processes and the maintenance of Professional Standards for Police Officers, as the majority of Wales' Police Officers are brave public servants dedicated to serving communities but issues of low trust and confidence in police need to be recognised. She stated that she is proud of what partnerships in Wales have achieved such as the VAWDASV Partnership Board in Wales which is an example of the way partners in Wales work together in the united purpose of keeping Wales safe.

**4.1.** CC Blakeman stated that policing had been involved in the production of the model and that there is a real strength in collaboration and co-production, something Chief Constables are keen not to lose as it benefits communities in Wales. Work going forward needs to have communities in Wales as its focus, particularly as precept is higher in Wales.

The proposals within the paper have varied levels of maturity, forensics being one area which has been under development for some time and is in a stronger position to progress than others which require substantial work to allow restructuring that is right for communities and the workforce.

In terms of the National Police Service, legislation needs to be prepared by Parliamentary Counsel to a tight timescale for the NPS to be introduced in 2027. It will potentially hold responsibility for Forensics, Fraud, NPAS, Finance, IT and commercial services etc. the Home Secretary having responsibility for holding the NPS to account for delivery. The NPS will have responsibility for four key areas; Strategic Leadership, Standard Setting which has previously sat with the College of Policing (CoP), Enabling Services including consolidating delivery of national oversight of IT and commercial services, as well as an element of Operational Law Enforcement including Counter Terrorism, National Crime Agency and Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) etc. As such, a significant amount of work is required for this to be achieved in the timescale given.

Policing in Wales has already started to consider potential future structures with the formation of the Welsh Force Structures Co-ordination Group, with senior leadership from each Welsh Force whilst the Terms of Reference for the Independent Review are being finalised. CC Blakeman advised that she has spoken to Lord Hogan-Howe to highlight that work has commenced and that there is a need to ensure that the

Home Secretary's position is clear in terms of the White Paper and that it is delivered in Wales in a meaningful way. Policing in Wales are clear that they want to show what they are doing in terms of an evidence base as it is important in bringing communities and partners together.

She noted that in terms of enhancing local delivery of policing, there is a challenge to ensure local policing can be responsive to local expectations whilst working to national priorities. In North Wales Police 53% of the budget is met by precept, so making communities aware of what they are contributing to is critical.

In terms of technology and data, CC Blakeman noted that Live Facial Recognition is an important area; she explained that 40 additional vans are being funded nationally with plans to develop a bespoke legal

framework on the use of technology such as AI. CC Vaughan has been at the forefront with the majority of this work which puts Wales in a good position.

**4.2.** PCC Wools stated that Policing in Wales are integrated on the Cross-System Reform Board and that in relation to policing governance, there is a dedicated Wales group which will continue to be resourced to ensure national work that is being taken forward can be influenced from within Wales.

She added that there is a need to consider the unique landscape in Wales and ensure Wales has a strong voice in the NPS from the beginning. A priority would be to advocate for an identifiable national voice within the tri-party governance arrangements and any suggestions of shadowing arrangements that may be set up should have Wales represented as a nation.

In terms of Welsh Culture and Language, any organisation that covers England and Wales needs to understand that Policing in Wales have continually put Welsh representation forward and that Wales should be included in the design from the outset, particularly as Welsh Language standards have not been considered previously.

Policing in Wales are working to set up a dedicated forum of Welsh PCCs and Chief Constables that can consider emerging evidence and be able to feed that into the Independent Review of Force Structures. Reform is an opportunity that should be seized to reflect needs, so they are engaging constructively to achieve the best police service for Wales.

**4.3.** CC Vaughan thanked PCC Wools and CC Blakeman, as well as the Home Office for the pace at which they are operating. He feels that the Terms of Reference for the Police Efficiencies and Collaboration Programme needs a revisit in the context of the White Paper which he hopes will include the determination of making clearer decisions for the benefit of local policing services. Policing in Wales is more advanced in discussions than elsewhere in England, so he wants to work with UK Government and Home Office to create a more unified system across policing in England and Wales.

**4.4.** Sarah Jones MP agreed and noted that NPG/Local Policing are vital to how the service is delivered and has to be the central focus. She added that one aspect of the White Paper is wellbeing and that a considerable amount of work is taking place in that area, stating that she is keen to look after individuals undertaking this difficult job.

**4.5.** CC Blakeman agreed and added that a great deal of work has been put into this area as the wellbeing element is important. She stated that this can be affected by factors such as equipment purchased for officers as there is a loss of job satisfaction if they are given equipment that doesn't function as it should.

**4.6.** PCC Llywelyn highlighted that a significant amount of work has taken place with regards to enhancing effectiveness. As such, it is important to understand the impact of matters such as the Sentencing Bill in terms of offender management which has placed a greater burden on policing and how this factors into reform work. For example if resources aren't allocated at a national level then how will this be funded as precept is already higher in Wales and funding allocations are expected to tighten further to fund the NPS. He gave Firearms training as an example as there is a £60m cost for the new range funded by the three southern Wales forces, a national capability funded by local taxpayer contributions. He queried whether there would be a reimbursement for forces on the capital investment, something that needs to be included in the review. Welsh forces are in the top quartile with 40-50% of funding being provided from local taxation when looking at all forces in England and Wales, which could result in problems if forces merge.

**4.7.** Sarah Jones MP commented that this was a useful discussion and that a large amount of work is taking place, with some areas progressing quicker than others but stressed that communities are at the heart of the work.

## **5. Issues for Update/Noting**

### **5.a. Collaboration between Policing in Wales and Education**

Paul Morris explained that there has been a long-standing history of collaboration between Policing and

Education in Wales, noting the previous Wales Police Schools Programme which was operating for roughly a decade before it ceased due to funding challenges. The Cabinet Secretary for Education in Wales convened a Violence in Schools Roundtable followed by an Education Behavioural Summit where leaders from across a number of sectors described the challenges they were facing and as a result of that, further discussions between Education and Policing took place. As a result, the Cabinet Secretary agreed to provide £500,000 in funding shared across the four forces for the current year and up to £1m for 2026/27. It was emphasised that this would not replace the previous programme but reflect the new challenges they are now facing. A working group meeting is taking place to agree a programme of work with regards to how the money can be spent effectively.

### **5.b. GoSafe Casualty Reduction Partnership**

ACC Gemma Morris advised Supt. Tom Moore has been appointed as the new Head of GoSafe and will work closely with the team in Welsh Government to develop a new refined approach for the GoSafe Partnership. This will complement the new Strategic Road Safety Plan that frames aspirations and intentions for road safety over the longer term. A new set of objectives will enhance output and improved outcomes and regular meetings have also been established with key partners and Welsh Government.

ACC Morris described the objectives; to support Welsh Government in the creation of the Road Safety Plan, support local and highway authorities transition into the CJC and to plan to work with partners to ensure they review the new national speed limits and road traffic light enforcement guidance in collaboration with Welsh Government. This would historically have focussed on the Fatal 5 (speeding, seatbelts, drink/drug driving, distraction (particularly mobile phones) and careless driving), but there is also localised delivery to support pedestrians and wheelchair users and could be targeted through a combination of education and enforcement. This would also allow policing to address neighbourhood concerns so it would be more holistic rather than purely sanctions based.

With regards to Operation Snap, data sharing is being reviewed to make this work more effective and efficient, in partnership with the team in the Police Liaison Unit and Welsh Government Officials.

**5.b.1** The Chair welcomed the positive update, noting that it demonstrates the partnership in Wales and that it is at the heart of local communities.

### **5.c. Senedd Elections: Issues of Note**

The Chair advised that Welsh Government Officials took part in an exercise with the Joint Elections and Security Preparedness Unit which helps identify how Governments, Policing and wider partners would interact if there was an incident. She expressed her gratitude to policing for their ongoing engagement with returning officers, the Electoral Management Board and Electoral Commission.

She noted the general position is positive and the consensus is that they are in a reasonable place with the upcoming elections, but there is a rapidly changing international position with events that can have a ripple effect. She gave the example of a media article with a candidate withdrawing from Council By-Elections in Pembrokeshire because of the abuse her child experienced, which demonstrates how widespread the impact of abuse can be.

**5.c.1.** CC Vaughan acknowledged the security of candidates and elected Ministers has been discussed in light of many narratives which have overlapped in recent years. As a result of this, ACC Belcher in South Wales Police has been supporting the WLGA etc. and has had engagement with various organisations advising them on security and what to do if they experience issues so relationships have been established.

**5.c.2.** Naomi Alleyne advised the WLGA are grateful for meeting with ACC Belcher and the work he had carried out in helping to prepare them. The WLGA will review how the Senedd Elections go and prepare for Local Government Elections but reiterated her thanks for ACC Belcher's work.

## **6. End of the Sixth Senedd: Reflections from Policing in Wales**

PCC Wools wanted to reflect on the Chair's remarkable contribution to public life in Wales, particularly

campaigning for social justice across society. She highlighted the Chair's career in Local and National Politics is notable both in terms of achievements and its longevity, having served in the former Glamorgan County Council for 12 years, being elected to the First Welsh Assembly in 1999 and then taking up a succession of Senior Ministerial roles covering a whole range of portfolios. PCC Wools noted that Jane Hutt MS holds the record for the longest serving Welsh Government Minister and that her commitment and energy in serving the public across Wales was reflected in being awarded a CBE in the 2023 Birthday Honours.

PCC Wools stated that Jane Hutt MS's passion for change has been at the heart of her political career, adding that she is one of the founding members of Welsh Women's Aid, the Co-Chair for the VAWDASV Board and led on implementation of the innovative VAWDASV Act in 2015 delivering a whole systems approach via the subsequent blueprint.

PCC Wools noted that the Chair also been an advocate against racism and that the cross-governmental Anti-Racism Wales Action Plan was as a result of her hard work which paved the way for the co-production of the Criminal Justice in Wales Anti-Racism Action Plan.

Jane Hutt MS's leadership has focussed on strengthening collaborations with policing and criminal justice partners as well as shifting the discussions from awareness to meaningful action.

**6.1.** CC Blakeman offered thanks to the Chair on behalf of the four Chief Constables for her leadership, openness to partnership and pragmatism in working alongside forces. Although policing is reserved, through the Policing Partnership Board for Wales, the relationship has been positive with the best interests of the people of Wales as its focus. She noted that some challenging issues were dealt with, such as the unprecedented nature of the covid pandemic, during which there were some difficult periods, but policing always felt engaged during the process.

She noted the Cabinet Secretary's ongoing commitment to funding PCSOs, ensuring communities are as safe as possible, which has been challenging in recent years when Welsh Government was forced to make some significant budget cuts. Although forces had to manage some reductions in the overall number of officers that Welsh Government funded, Jane Hutt MS was key to ensuring the funding continued.

She added that the Chair has worked tirelessly to tackle racism and discrimination in all forms and also worked with the Black Police Association to encourage more people from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities to become PCSOs to serve communities and drive towards a more representative workforce.

She had also supported the ride along scheme with officers in Barry and attended a passing out parade in Gwent as well as attending the National Police Memorial Ceremony and Annual Police Bravery Awards which demonstrates her support for policing.

**6.2.** The Chair thanked everyone for their comments and stressed that she wants to protect the work that has been achieved jointly and that she will remain a supportive observer.

## **7. Memorandum of Understanding between Welsh Government and Policing in Wales: Endorsement and Sign Off**

The Chair stated that she and the Permanent Secretary would sign the agreed MoU on behalf of Welsh Government alongside Policing in Wales. As mentioned in the meeting, safeguarding communities and preventing and addressing Anti-Social Behaviour in Wales requires trust between partners including Local Authorities and third sector organisations. The Memorandum of Understanding has been developed in partnership and has a trauma-informed and anti-racist approach to drive strategic decision and protect communities in Wales.

**7.1.** PCC Wools felt it was important to sign in this meeting to take the step towards formalising the partnership that has been forged. The Memorandum of Understanding has been co-produced and sets out priorities that should act as a platform to ensure a new government preserves the relationship.

**7.2.** The Chair thanked public servants in Welsh Government who worked tirelessly and also wanted to thank those on frontline operational policing.

**8. Minutes of the previous meeting (18/12/25)**

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were agreed as accurate.

**9. Any Other Business**

The Chair noted that she hopes to make an announcement in the next weeks around the developing Memorandum of Understanding with Probation Services. Work has taken place with HMPPS and officials have reviewed the work achieved by Greater Manchester Police. Many partners are involved and Welsh Government hope that PCCs and potentially Councils will commit to working in collaboration with Welsh Government and HMPPS to create the Memorandum of Understanding as it will provide greater local flexibility in terms of tailoring services to the needs of individuals under probation supervision.

**Date and time of next meeting**

The Chair asked for the PLU to work with Welsh Government Officials to secure a date to ensure the relationship is sustained.

**Action: PLU to work with the Welsh Government Officials to secure the date of the next PPBfW.**