

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25th November, 2019

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Subject: Community Safety Partnership Update

REPORT FOR: INFORMATION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Community Safety Partnerships were formed following the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which made it a statutory duty for each local authority area to have a Community Safety Partnership.
 - 1.2 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the responsible authorities to: '*Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed upon it... exercise its functions with due regard to...the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.*'
 - 1.3 The responsible authorities of the Powys Community Safety Partnership are Dyfed/Powys Police; Local Authority; Wales & West Fire Service; Youth Justice Service; Powys teaching Health Board; National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Company.
 - 1.4 There are many legislative and cross-cutting issues which influence how Community Safety Partnerships operate, however priorities are determined annually via a Joint Strategic Assessment which draws on intelligence from all partner agencies, as well as service action plans or reports.
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2. DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 The Safer Communities Programme - ongoing:

The Welsh Government's [Safer Communities Programme](#) was established in December 2017 following the completion of the [Working Together for Safer Communities Review](#) – Welsh Government's response to the Auditor General's [Community Safety in Wales](#) report of the previous year. At the heart of the programme is a new shared vision for community safety in Wales in which:

- Every community is strong, safe and confident in a manner that provides equality of opportunity and social justice, resilience and sustainability for all;
- The shared responsibility of government, public and third sector agencies is to work together with the communities they serve and the private sector to address activity or behaviour that is unlawful, anti-social, harmful to individuals and society and to the environment;
- Sharing knowledge and ensuring early intervention with prompt, positive action tackles local issues and addresses vulnerabilities.

This vision is underpinned by six key principles and a set of 11 commitments from Welsh Government designed to support the refresh of local and regional community safety partnership working ensuring it is:

- Evidence-based and intelligence-led;
- Supported by appropriate skills & knowledge;
- Sustainably resourced and locally appropriate;
- Engaging and involving citizens;
- Preventative and intervening as early as possible;
- Focused on long-term improvements and benefits.

The programme commitments include:

- working with the Commission on Justice in Wales to identify options for the development of a distinct Welsh justice system;
- establishing a dialogue with the Home Office over the appropriateness of the original Crime & Disorder Act as it applies to Wales;
- developing a more clearly defined strategic leadership role for Welsh Government in community safety partnership working;
- establishing a community safety partnership policy & practice function within Welsh Government;
- developing new Welsh guidance for community safety partnership working;
- considering how to establish a Wales Community Safety Network and online resources library;
- exploring opportunities for joint thematic inspection around the ‘reducing reoffending’ theme;
- considering how to improve community safety funding programmes to achieve longer term approaches giving greater flexibility and focus on community safety outcomes;
- improving data sharing, data development and analysis arrangements for community safety partnership working.

The programme is being taken forward under the direction of a multi-agency programme board. Chaired by Jane Hutt AM, Deputy Minister & Chief Whip, with representatives from:

- Welsh Government;
- the Home Office;
- the Ministry of Justice;
- Welsh Police & Crime Commissioners and
- Chief Constables (Policing in Wales Group); the
- Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA);
- Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE);
- Her Majesty’s Prison & Probation Service (HMPPS);
- Youth Justice Board (YJB) Cymru;
- Welsh Fire & Rescue Services Chief Officers;
- Public Health Wales (PHW);
- Community Justice Cymru (CJC);
- Welsh Local Health Boards (LHBs).

Progress to Date

The Oversight Group which led the review of community safety in Wales became the Safer Communities Programme Board in early 2018. This retention of membership and expertise has provided continuity and consistent leadership.

Since moving from review to implementation and delivery stage in mid 2018, the group has:

- Embedded a “public health” approach at the heart of our programme, in keeping with the Public Health Wales partnership agreement with policing and criminal justice agencies across Wales, ensuring the recognition of ACEs and trauma-informed practice within community safety partnership working;
- Continued work to better align specific aspects of community safety working in Welsh Government including; substance misuse, VAWDASV, community cohesion and youth justice, safeguarding, housing and health (for example, by taking a joined up policy approach for development of the justice blueprints);
- Established a workstream to consider options and develop a case to overcome the various identified barriers and issues to partnership data sharing, data development and analysis – a paper has been prepared for the next meeting of the AWCJB and the next steps will be to develop a detailed business case for additional analytical support;
- Established a workstream to develop a community safety network for Wales, which will include an online portal, training and reference programmes and materials and guidance documents, by the end of this year;
- Refocused The Wales Association of Community Safety Officers (WACSO) group so that it is more strategically focused and driven.
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To review the full update please open the below document:-



Community Safety in
Wales Update from th

2.2 JUSTICE IN WALES FOR THE PEOPLE OF WALES – Commission for Justice in Wales Report

The political responsibility for policing in Wales should move to the Welsh Government and away from politicians in Westminster – replicating the situation in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

That is one of the recommendations of the Commission for Justice in Wales which was published on 24th October, its comprehensive review of the country’s justice system.

The Justice in Wales for the People of Wales Report – authored by the former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd – makes 78 recommendations about the future of the justice system in Wales in what it describes as an ‘ambitious plan for the future’.

They include backing for a fully devolved police service in Wales which would be governed by the Welsh Government rather than the one in Westminster.

Policing is one element of the wider justice system – which also includes the courts, prison and probation services – which the commission suggest should be devolved.

Lord Thomas said: "Justice should be determined and delivered in Wales so that it aligns with distinct and developing social policy and a growing body of Welsh law."

Continuing: "The way that responsibilities are split between Westminster and Cardiff has created pointless complexity, confusion and incoherence in justice and policing in Wales".

The summary report can be viewed via the below link:-



Justice Commission
Summary ENG DIGITA

Recommendation	Reason for Recommendation
The Committee notes the contents of the Report	For Information only

Relevant Policy (ies) :	n/a		
Within Policy	Y/N	Within Budget	Y/N n/a

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