



CSP Priorities - Update

As everyone is very aware, 2020 was an extraordinary year with the pandemic which impacted upon crime and disorder as much as any other area of life. As this update is being written, we are still living with restrictions, albeit they are lessening.

Since March 2020, along with all departments of Powys Local Authority, the CSP has focused on critical business areas only (*Domestic Homicide Reviews; Serious Violence & Organised Crime; Channel*).

The CSP Co-ordinator has been assisting Powys Civil Contingencies since March 2020. There are several cross-cutting themes. The CSP Co-ordinator is on the Duty Emergency Planning rota and is Chairing a sub-group of the Dyfed-Powys Local Resilience Form, Recovery Group – the Intervention & Prevention Group which deals with the education and enforcement of the Covid regulations within the public protection realm.

The link between Powys CSP and Powys Civil Contingencies has been formally strengthened recently with a new position of Civil Contingencies and Community Safety Lead Officer.

The 2019/20 priorities were: -

- **Crime**

Crime patterns changed considerably during 2020, due to lockdowns. Crime reduced across the UK in all categories.

Extract from the Office for National Statistics - Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2020: - *“The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and related lockdown restrictions have resulted in fluctuations in the level of crime in England and Wales, for example, for police recorded crime: Total offences decreased by 7% between July to September 2020 and October to December 2020. Comparing October to December 2020 with the same period the previous year, total offences were 9% lower (1.4 million), theft offences were 27% lower (354,746) and knife-enabled crime was 16% lower (11,041).”*

However, there was an increase in reports of Anti-Social Behaviour – primarily noise issues.

Since the end of the last lock-down, crime levels have returned to those before the pandemic – police report “business as usual”, and ASB reporting also has returned to “normal” levels.

Tourism, especially stay-cations and the notable increase in number of Camper Vans is causing concern in parts of Dyfed, especially the seaside locations, but does not appear to be impacting Powys to the same degree.

Serious Organised Crime continues to be focussed upon. There has been nine months of multi-agency working and police intelligence gathering, resulting in a successful operation conducted at the end of June 2021 in Welshpool. There is also ongoing SVOC tactical work in another area of Powys, that too is heading towards a successful conclusion with several subjects now in custody.



CSP Priorities - Update

- **Road Safety**

The Road Safety Partnership met on 3 occasions during 2020. The group has not yet met in 2021.

The WG Road Safety Strategy ended in 2020, replaced by The Wales Transport Strategy 2021. Road Safety is incorporated under Section 7 – Mini Plans, within Plan 7.4, Roads, streets, and parking. The emphasis has moved towards Active Travel, and funding for Road Safety has reduced.

During 2020, traffic volumes, and in turn casualties reduced during lockdown period, especially the first National Lockdown which commenced in March 2020.

UK Gov, Department for Transport statistics: -

“Road casualties saw the greatest monthly percentage decrease of 68% in April 2020 compared to 3-year average for 2017 to 2019. This aligns with the first full month of national lockdown and the reduction in motor traffic (63%)”.

There were also changes to road layouts, partly due to Active Travel, and partly due to social distancing requirements. Some roads have been closed, some have changes to traffic flow or parking has been reduced.

When not in lockdown periods, traffic volumes quickly returned to normal levels, and we also saw an increase in ASB driving, with excessive speeding by all vehicle types following the first lockdown. This was especially difficult to manage as the main enforcing agencies (LA and Police) were fully committed monitoring and enforcing social distancing measures.

Statistics for **Dyfed-Powys** from Go Safe up to Nov 2020: -

- Sites visited 675.
- Offences detected - 5,309 (all vehicles) – 475=motorcyclists.
- 5 Fatalities
- 90 serious
- 420 slight injuries
- 2000 non injury
- Engagement on Darwin very difficult. Biggest complaint anti-social noise.

- **Substance Misuse**

Reducing Substance Misuse is a statutory responsibility of the CSP, which is discharged by the Area Planning Board.

The purpose of Powys' APB is to provide advice and support to responsible authorities to *‘plan, commission and monitor delivery of high-quality treatment and prevention services that are based on the need to improve the lives of substance misusers, families and communities.*

To deliver on Welsh Government priorities set out in National Substance Misuse strategy ‘Working together to Reduce Harm’ and the ‘Substance Misuse Delivery Plan 2019-2022’, associated treatment frameworks and following on from the Powys APB Substance Misuse Commissioning



CSP Priorities - Update

Strategy 2015-2020, the APB requires a new strategy to be produced and for current service provision to be recommissioned ready for new service delivery to go live from 1st April 2022.

To support effective review of services, an assessment of need and resultant strategy is being undertaken by required to ensure people within the region of Powys are in receipt of appropriate, holistic support and treatment to optimise their recovery and wellbeing.

The Needs assessment is currently underway led by Figure 8 Consultancy Services Ltd.

- **Reducing Re-offending**

Several methods in operation are:

- Integrated Offender Management (IOM)
- Youth Justice Service, YISP and Detached Youth Service
- Work led by Trading Standards in relation to Acquisitive Crime, Rogue Traders, Supply of illicit substances etc.
- VAWDA&SV – violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.

- **Community Cohesion**

The Welsh Government has not produced a new Community Cohesion plan, but rather four themes:

- Work at a strategic level to build community cohesion and inclusion.
- Work at a local level to break down barriers to inclusion and integration for groups and communities.
- Support for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and settled communities during the integration process.
- Support for communities to prevent and manage community tensions, hostility, and extremism.

There is a Community Cohesion team for Dyfed-Powys, a Co-ordinator, covering the whole of Dyfed-Powys and two Community Cohesion Officers.

The work of the Community Cohesion Team has been invaluable during 2020, areas which they have specifically focussed upon are:

- EU Exit and the Settlement Scheme.
- Hate Crime
- Community Tension Monitoring – the team were very active with the Penally Camp.

This concludes the Community Safety Partnership update.