

Report from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys to the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel

Update on the Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, July 2020

Status as reported on 26 May 2020	Update as at 14 July 2020
<p>Securing Resources <i>Ensuring the Chief Constable has sufficient resources to respond to and recover from the emergency</i></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All COVID-19 associated costs and savings reported nationally to inform future funding negotiations. 2. Established an earmarked COVID-19 reserve fund. 3. Daily dialogue with Chief Officers about the demands on the Force. 4. Weekly meetings with Welsh Parliament and UK Government. 5. Deep cleaning of buildings, physical reorganisation and delivering essential supplies to keep the frontline operating. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As detailed in the financial update to Panel Members in June, the Commissioner established an earmarked reserve of £650k at the end of 2019/20 to assist with the partial mitigation of the financial implications whilst the national picture on potential funding becomes clearer. At this stage, it should be noted that the year-end position is still subject to statutory audit by Audit Wales. The costs of Operation Talla are being recorded and reported to the Home Office on a monthly basis, with £798k being incurred during March, April and May. 2. Force staffing levels have remained consistent throughout with abstraction levels maintaining a green status for the period. Policing services are classed as normal, but there are plans in place to deal with any fluctuation. Crime levels and custody throughput are returning to 'normal' i.e. comparable with the same period last year. 3. The Estates team have been extremely active throughout the response. They have:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. worked with partners to ensure safety of those using joint buildings and provision of alternative sites where services have been affected by COVID-19; b. worked with the custody team to enhance the environment to best aid social distancing and protective screening where deemed necessary; c. supported the recovery team and worked to aid the delivery of appropriate COVID-19 signage across the Force estate as required; and d. continued to be fully involved with planning future estate usage and moves for the coming period.
<p>Holding to Account <i>Ensuring, on behalf of the public, that the police respond in ways that are necessary, sufficient, proportionate and ethical</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weekly monitoring of Force performance and crime trends. 2. Virtual accountability meetings. 3. Remote custody record reviewing in place of physical visits. 4. Supporting the Force's organisational learning and recovery from the crisis. 5. Continuing to respond to correspondence and complaints from the public, escalating to the Chief Officer Team when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Force produces weekly statistical summaries and OPCC has access to live-time crime data and COVID-19 Fixed Penalty Notice data. 2. The PCC has continued to hold virtual Policing Board and Accountability Board meetings and OPCC representatives continue to attend Gold & Silver Op Talla meetings. 3. The PCC's Quality Assurance Panel and Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panels are sitting remotely. 4. Custody record reviewing continues, with discussions ongoing on the process of reintroducing custody visits in a staged approach. 5. A further 48 individual items of COVID-19 related correspondence received and responded to by the OPCC (22nd May to 14th July). 6. The Force has reported to Policing Board on the response and recovery so far, and a member of the OPCC staff is working closely

<p>appropriate to address issues as they arise.</p> <p>6. 160 individual items of COVID-19 related correspondence received and responded to by the OPCC (as at 21st May).</p>	<p>with the Force recovery team on planning for the long term reform, including a new contact and confidence strategy. This work will support and influence the development of the Police and Crime Plan.</p>
<p>Enhancing Delivery <i>Facilitating effective partnership working among agencies and groups working in community safety and criminal justice</i></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Virtual Local Criminal Justice Board meeting to discuss collective arrangements to keep the criminal justice system running in our area. 2. Calling for an extraordinary All-Wales Criminal Justice Board meeting early to understand the impact the crisis would have on delivering swift justice. 3. Weekly meetings with the Home Office. 4. Continuing funding for and dialogue with community safety partners. 5. Support the Force's project on improving the victim experience. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Virtual LCJB arrangements continue, with the meeting of 9th July focussing on performance information from partners and recovery planning. 2. A recovery cell has been established under the LCJB focussing particularly on victim and witness issues. The first meeting on 3rd July discussed the courts backlog. 3. Dyfed-Powys updates are provided to the All Wales Criminal Justice Board and the PCC continues to influence discussions at All Wales and national (England and Wales) levels. 4. The OPCC are representing Wales PCCs on a national board discussing governance of Youth Offending and Prevention Services. 5. The OPCC continues to work closely with Force on the Victim Improvement Project, including informal review and formal scrutiny at Policing Board. 6. Communication channels continue with Community Safety leads to maintain a partnership approach. 7. Work is progressing in the development of a partnership approach to engage with victims through a Victim Engagement Forum.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The OPCC is linked into All Wales discussions on support and service provision for female offenders. 9. The Engagement team ensure that the PCC continues to meet with commissioned service providers and partners during his virtual Community Engagement Days. This provides an opportunity for them to bring any matters or concerns to the PCC.
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Community Safety and Crime Reduction
Commissioning services, particularly for victims of crime, and providing grants for policing and crime reduction purposes

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weekly monitoring of PCC commissioned services' demand, capacity and risks. 2. Weekly dialogue with the Ministry of Justice. 3. Secured services' funding throughout the crisis. 4. Assured crime and antisocial behaviour prevention projects that funding will be carried forward. 5. Preparing for the anticipated change in demand for support services as lockdown eases. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dialogue with services and the MOJ continues, now fortnightly as the situation develops. 2. The APCC victims lead group meets fortnightly to discuss key issues and escalate concerns. 3. Over £140,000 has been secured for services providing support to sexual and domestic abuse victims. The OPCC is also awaiting final confirmation of additional £63,000 for rural sexual abuse provision. 4. Ongoing communication with grant recipients to ensure continued delivery of projects into this financial year. 5. Recovery planning is in place with all service providers, including variable levels of increased demand. 6. The PCC has facilitated an open conversation at Commissioning Advisory Board with service providers regarding experiences, lessons learned and challenges during COVID-19.
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Local Link
Ensuring residents served by Dyfed-Powys Police have the information they need to understand how their service is performing

1. Press interviews, statements and podcasts supporting the Force's message urging people to stay home and protect the NHS.
2. Lobbied Welsh Ministers for access to testing for frontline officers and staff.
3. Written and virtual briefings for all local Assembly Members and Members of Parliament.
4. Virtual public meeting for residents to have their say, to be repeated regularly for each of our four counties.
5. Newsletter informing residents of our response to COVID-19 and the support services available to you.

1. The PCC's Youth Forum has continued to meet virtually every 3-4 weeks.
2. Virtual Community Engagement Days have taken place for all counties. These have included public meetings where participants have been able to discuss COVID-19 related concerns with both the PCC and the local operational Superintendent.
3. The PCC has held a public consultation on the new Carmarthenshire Policing Hub and Custody Suite. As part of this consultation a virtual public meeting was arranged by the OPCC and attended by community representatives.
4. Public information has been reiterated via OPCC social media platforms that services are still open and accessible.
5. The local provision of information via social media regarding national support helplines and the importance of victims seeking support is ongoing.
6. The July Newsletter has been published and is available on the OPCC website, providing updates on the PCC's work.
7. The PCC has continued to do several interviews in the media linked to the police response to COVID-19.