

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, October 2020

| Status as reported on 14 July 2020 | Update as at 14 October 2020 |
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| <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. 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Force spending continues to be affected by the Covid-19 outbreak with significant additional costs and losses in income being experienced throughout April to September. The prospects of an enhanced lockdown period has necessitated more pessimistic assumptions around income losses. Expenditure in a number of areas such as training, Private Transport and Conferences continue to show some savings and given new working arrangements these seem set to continue for a longer period. 2. The Home Office have confirmed that the Department of Health and Social Care will be meeting all costs of Medical Grade PPE purchased by the Force and a claim for £347k has been submitted. Future supplies of PPE are being sourced via central procurement arrangements at no cost to the Force. 3. In a letter received on the 8th October the Policing Minister set out two new additional grants: |

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:
 - 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.

- a. £30m of surge funding for increased COVID-19 enforcement with an expectation of immediate, visible, and nationwide enhancement of police enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions. DPPs allocation is £212k and plans will be submitted by 23rd October.
- b. Income loss recovery scheme for PCCs for 2020/21 which recognises the lost income on expected sales, fees and charges as a result of the pandemic. This scheme will enable forces to recover 75p in every £1 of lost income once a 5% deductible has been absorbed by PCCs. Work is currently underway to assess eligible losses and resultant financial implications.

4. As per the previous update, 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.
5. Estates are working closely with the Force and Welsh Government guidelines to ensure that all of the necessary controls are in place. Non-operational staff continue to primarily work from home, unless their role does not allow, or as agreed with their line management. PPE and necessary material stock levels are being maintained / managed.
 - a. The HQ campus is being utilised for future staff intakes for training and the Estates Team have been

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| | <p>working hard to modify spaces and carry out an array of moves to accommodate the operational need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">b. Cleaning provision and deep cleans as required continue to be a priority for the OPCC Estates Team and we continue to audit and validate the standards throughout the pandemic.c. Custody provisions from a screening perspective and any additional controls have been supported further by the team, and additional resources allocated as required.d. The FCC facility is currently undergoing investment to future proof the ability to provide segregation minimising cross contamination between teams thereby increasing resilience. This project delivered by the Estates Team will provide a robust office environment for the FCC operation moving forward, accommodating future planned enhancements to the way the teams will operate.e. The OPCC office at HQ has been consolidated to allow a further office environment to be offered for WAST to allow their operation to achieve improvement social distancing in the office and increase their staffing capability. <p>6. During the Summer period and the then improved position in relation to COVID-19, governance arrangements were relaxed. However in recent weeks, the Force Op Talla Gold meeting has re-commenced on a fortnightly basis. The OPCC Chief of Staff sits onto this group and feeds into the OPCC Executive Team.</p> |
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7. The PCC has passed on the Chair of the Policing in Wales Group to the PCC of South Wales but remains heavily engaged with Welsh Government Officials, with fortnightly meetings scheduled and regular updates provided via the Police Liaison Unit. Regular meetings are also scheduled with UK Government ministers and Police and Crime Commissioners.

Holding to Account

Ensuring, on behalf of the public, that the police respond in ways that are necessary, sufficient, proportionate and ethical

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

1. The Force no longer produces the Weekly Crime and Incident Summary, but the OPCC staff have access to live-time crime data, COVID-19 Fixed Penalty Notice data and staff and officer sickness data to monitor trends and performance levels.
2. The PCC continues to maintain oversight of key force performance data through regular updates at Policing Board and Accountability Board meetings.
3. Public involvement in the development of the new Police and Crime priorities is being planned by OPCC staff and the Force recovery lead.
4. Custody record reviewing continues fortnightly, with 121 records reviewed since April. Independent Custody Visiting calls have been introduced from the 17th August, offering the opportunity for detainees to speak directly with ICVs on their treatment whilst in detention. As of 5th of October, a mix of calls and physical visits was introduced, with ICVs attending custody being provided with full PPE.

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| <p>responded to by the OPCC (22nd May to 14th July).</p> <p>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 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>This approach will be continuously reviewed as infection levels change. This statutory scheme now has the flexibility and resilience to continue despite any future restrictions.</p> <p>5. There has been a large decrease in the number of COVID-related correspondence received into the OPCC. A further 4 individual items of COVID-19 related correspondence have been received and responded to by the OPCC (15th July to 14th October).</p> |
| <p>Enhancing Delivery <i>Facilitating effective partnership working among agencies and groups working in community safety and criminal justice</i></p> | |
| <p>1. Virtual LCJB arrangements continue, with the meeting of 9th July focussing on performance information from partners and recovery planning.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>1. The LCJB continues to meet virtually with positive involvement from all partners. Following a series of COVID focussed meetings, the Board have returned to business as usual for the October meeting with a focus on Offender Management (youth prevention and Integrated Offender Management). There were very positive discussions and actions agreed to undertake further scrutiny work in this area.</p> <p>2. The LCJB recovery group has met fortnightly and delivered positive outcomes for Magistrates courts, with DP area being one of the first in Wales to deal with the COVID backlog. The group continues to meet monthly to discuss progress with Crown Courts.</p> |

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.
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.

3. The LCJB continues to escalate issues and highlight local progress to national CJ structures.
4. The OPCC continue to feed into a number of All Wales and national discussions, including female offending and continues to represent Welsh PCCs leading on governance of YOPS work at national level.
5. Following approval of the recommendations from the Victim Improvement Project at Policing Board in September, the OPCC will be working with Force representatives to take forward key actions required.
6. Discussions are ongoing with Community Safety leads, in particular to monitor and address community tensions following the introduction of asylum seekers at the Penally site.
7. The Chief of Staff now chairs an All Wales User Satisfaction Group which is focussing on developing a consistent approach to Victim surveying where appropriate. The focus will initially be on the mandatory Domestic Violence Victim survey and supporting processes.
8. A Terms of Reference for engaging with victims of crime has been approved by the LCJB and will be published online imminently. Engagement with those affected by crime has commenced, with the first engagement activity requesting feedback on the Force's updated Victim Information Pack. Plans are underway for further engagement activities and promotion of the Forum in order to attract additional participation.

Community Safety and Crime Reduction *Commissioning services, particularly for victims of crime, and providing grants for policing and crime reduction purposes*

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.

1. Commissioned services continue to provide fortnightly demand data via the OPCC for the MoJ. The Mid-year return was provided to MoJ in October reporting on all service delivery and what has been achieved via the additional £140,000 funding.
2. The Director of Commissioning continues regular liaison with commissioned service managers. The PCC has also delivered message of thanks to all frontline workers.
3. There has been confirmation received from the MoJ of uplift funding for Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) provision, which equates to £63,000 annually (pro rata for 2020/21) for a 2 year period.
4. Services are reporting challenging levels of demand throughout the local lockdowns. Goleudy in particular are experiencing a significant impact as a result of ongoing court delays. The Director of Commissioning continues to address this with service managers and partners.
5. The previously grant funded projects continue to be supported in ensuring the delivery of their project fits around the current situation.

Local Link

Ensuring residents served by Dyfed-Powys Police have the information they need to understand how their service is performing

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.

1. The Youth Forum last met in September. Several Youth Ambassadors have stood down to concentrate on education studies, so we are recruiting additional members during October, and updating the Youth Forum Handbook. The scheduled October forum meeting during Hate Crime Awareness Week was postponed, and instead a Webinar on Hate Crime was held in partnership with Victim Support and Race Council Cymru to raise awareness of Hate Crime amongst young people. A meeting of the 'Our Youth Our Future' working group is to be held in October to discuss OPCC youth engagement work with partners and youth organisations, and to discuss possible future collaboration work.
2. Community Engagement Days continue to take place, with the October day due to be a hybrid approach; part face-to-face and part undertaken virtually. However, the ongoing developments with COVID and localised lockdowns etc. has prevented the face-to-face element. Virtual Community Engagement Days will continue on a monthly basis.
3. The "Commissioner in Conversation" is a new fortnightly broadcast on Facebook Live with the PCC interviewing various individuals. The first session with the Chief Constable saw around 60 individuals tuning in live, with

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.

- 3.5k watching on demand. The next session will see the PCC in discussion with Superintendent Ifan Charles.
4. The PCC continues to raise local concerns with the Home Office regarding use of the Penally site for asylum seekers. OPCC staff are also linking in with Community Safety partners to monitor and address related community tensions in Penally.
5. A volunteer recruitment drive was launched throughout September, with 3 applications received for ICVs and 3 for Joint Audit Committee members. Despite this, ICV numbers remain low due to a number of resignations as a result of the pandemic. The ICV recruitment drive will be extended throughout October.
6. The Commissioner's Newsletter continues to provide an update on the office's work on a bi-monthly basis. This is published on the OPCC website, promoted via social media and circulated to subscribers.