

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, February 2021

Status as reported on 14 October 2020	Update as at 8 February 2021
<p>Securing Resources <i>Ensuring the Chief Constable has sufficient resources to respond to and recover from the emergency</i></p>	
<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>1. Force spending continues to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic with significant additional costs and losses in income being experienced throughout the year to date. There are some savings against headings such as photocopying, conferences, fuel, subsistence etc. linked to lockdown periods. Planned training requirements that have needed to be postponed as a result of the Pandemic have been built into the 2021/2 budget and a net underspend of £389K is anticipated at this stage against training headings.</p> <p>2. The budget for the current year assumed a £703K contribution from reserves. As part of the budget setting for next year - 2021/2 the Force is attempting to manage an under-spend in the current year which will mean that this transfer will not be needed and so that £750K can be carried forward as a reserve at</p>

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:
 - 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

year-end. This will be needed to offset one-off spending next year for Penally, Covid related income losses and training.

3. In addition to the reimbursement for all costs of Medical Grade PPE purchased, the Force has also received Surge Funding from the Home Office for additional enforcement activity of £212K which it has been assumed will be fully matched by additional spending. Based on current spending patterns, it is unlikely that the Force will utilise the full allocation and a carry-over of unspent monies may be required. This is obviously subject to change.
4. The projection also incorporates the grant available in respect of income losses suffered and an estimated sum of £180K has been estimated as the amount recoverable under the scheme by year end. For the first 4 months, all elements of the claim submitted were funded, including losses experienced in respect of the Speed Reduction Partnership – Go Safe cost recovery which was at risk. At present it has been assumed that the Partnership can absorb income losses through reserves and cost reductions with no loss in income falling on Forces – which at this stage would appear to be the case.
5. Force staffing levels remain consistent with an average of 3.71% of total duty time lost during the period April to December 2020, which is a decrease on the same period in 2019. A large number of those absences are as a result of needing to self-isolate following contact with individuals who have tested

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 working hard to modify spaces and carry out an array of moves to accommodate the operational need.
 - 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

positive for COVID. A pilot of lateral flow testing is currently being undertaken by South Wales Police. If successful, this will be rolled out to other force areas in Wales and should assist with this issue.

6. The FCC facility investment to provide segregation minimising cross contamination between teams has increased resilience. This project delivered by the Estates Team has provided a robust office environment for the FCC operation moving forward, accommodating future planned enhancements to the way the teams will operate.
7. Force Op Talla Gold meetings continue to take place on a fortnightly basis, with Silver meetings taking place weekly. The OPCC Chief of Staff sits on the Gold group and there is OPCC representation on the Silver group. The OPCC Executive Team are briefed on key elements. Furthermore, COVID-19 remains a standing agenda item on Policing Board and a briefing is provided on both the Force's response to the pandemic and their subsequent recovery plans.
8. The PCC continues to attend regular meetings with UK and Welsh Government ministers and officials, and has been proactively lobbying for the vaccination of police officers and frontline staff.

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.
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.
 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 updated 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 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

1. OPCC staff continue to monitor force performance data through access to live data.
2. In addition to the continuation of Policing Board and Accountability Board, the Force has recently undergone a review of its governance structure and re-established their regular rhythm of governance meetings. These provide the Commissioner's staff with vital insights into all aspects of the Force's business, enabling on-the-spot accountability, critical friend analysis and information gathering opportunities in order to keep the Commissioner informed of key risks and developments.
3. Work is ongoing to secure a research partner to support public consultation around the development of the next Police and Crime Plan. An initial scoping session has been held with a small cohort of Force personnel in order to discuss the proposed approach and key considerations for the new term.
4. Custody record reviewing has moved to monthly instead of fortnightly as of January 2021. The sample size reviewed remains the same, with a total of 54 records reviewed since the 14th of October. A mixed

introduced, with ICVs attending custody being provided with full PPE. 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.

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).

ICV rota of both calls and physical visits was introduced from the 5th of October, however this has reverted back to ICV calls only from the 21st of December on account of the current restrictions.

5. There has been an increase in the number of COVID-related correspondence received into the OPCC. A further 46 individual items of COVID-19 related correspondence have been received and responded to by the OPCC (15th October 2020 – 5th February 2021).

Enhancing Delivery

Facilitating effective partnership working among agencies and groups working in community safety and criminal justice

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.
2. The LCJB recovery group has met fortnightly and delivered positive outcomes for

1. The LCJB recently held a workshop to align priority areas with those of the Criminal Justice in Wales Board to strengthen working arrangements. Priority areas include Victims and Witnesses, People who offend and Early Intervention and Prevention.
2. The LCJB recovery group continues to meet monthly to discuss progress with both Magistrates and Crown Courts.
3. The PCC continues to meet quarterly with Community Safety Partnership managers and Youth Offending Team managers to address concerns arising due to

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.

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.

the pandemic and to receive updates on delivery of PCC funded projects.

4. The PCC continues to ensure a partnership approach to prevention and early intervention, including aligning the activities of the Area Planning Board with the Serious Violence and Organised Crime Coordinator to prevent duplication of funding.
5. Key recommendations from both the Deep Dive into victim withdrawal and the independent review of victim services have been addressed and incorporated into standing items within meeting structures.
6. Most Forces ceased statutory domestic abuse (DA) victim satisfaction surveys at some point during lockdown due to the increased risk in contacting DA victims with perpetrators potentially living at the same property. Some chose to re-establish the surveying for a short time when lockdown was lifted but all are now on hold again due to the latest restrictions. DPP's were halted in March 2020, and the OPCC authorised the movement of the PCC-funded telephone researcher to Goleudy due to the increased pressures on that service as a result of lockdown for victims and court backlogs for witness care teams. This arrangement has remained in place, ensuring that the funding provided by the PCC is being best utilised to deliver victim services in accordance with the current priorities. The situation remains under quarterly review and will be reassessed once surveying is able to recommence. In the meantime the OPCC have requested that the

<p>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.</p>	<p>Force, in line with other areas, explore the potential for email surveys with safe exit points embedded to be used for DA victims.</p> <p>7. The Terms of Reference for the Victim Engagement Forum (VEF) are now available on the PCC's website and 60 individuals are currently enlisted. As a result of the feedback received from the group and the Commissioner's Quality Assurance Panel regarding the Victim Information Pack, a number of recommendations were issued to the Force. This resulted in the establishment of a Working Group to revise the Pack. Members of the forum are increasingly being involved in the OPCC's work, including a similar exercise regarding Hate Crime and the Restorative Justice process, Policing Accountability Board and feedback to enhance training for officers and staff. Further opportunities being considered include the impact of Covid-19 on victim services and DPP's end-to-end project.</p>
<p>Community Safety and Crime Reduction <i>Commissioning services, particularly for victims of crime, and providing grants for policing and crime reduction purposes</i></p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>1. Commissioned services continue to provide fortnightly demand data to the OPCC. An additional investment of over £190,000 has been secured for services supporting victims of domestic and sexual violence.</p> <p>2. Some commissioned services have featured within the Commissioner in Conversation pieces, and all</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>services are scheduled into regular social media activity to raise awareness.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The MoJ uplift for Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) provision is currently providing a Community Engagement ISVA who is focussing specifically on older victims and those in rural areas. 4. Challenging levels of demand continue within commissioned services. 5. There is continued communication with grant recipients to ensure that delivery of their project fits around the current situation and any slippage from delivery is discussed and counteracted.
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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

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Following a recruitment drive in October, 7 new Youth Ambassadors joined the PCC's Youth Forum, bringing the total membership to 13. The Ambassadors are currently working to produce a short film to share young people's experiences of police contact. This will
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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 3.5k watching on demand. The next session will see the PCC in discussion with Superintendent Ifan Charles.

then be included in the training programmes for Police Officers. The Ambassadors are due to attend youth clubs and youth groups during February to hold focus groups and find participants for the film.

2. Community engagement days have continued virtually where the Commissioner focuses on different topics:
 - a. November - Mental Health, where the PCC met several organisations that provide mental health support.
 - b. January - Road Safety, which included the launch of the All Wales Fatal 5 Campaign in partnership with Go Safe.
 - c. February's focus will be on the Safer Streets crime prevention programme in the Llanelli area, where the PCC will meet with partners who are supporting the programme.
3. The Commissioner in Conversation continued on a fortnightly basis throughout October, November and December. Guest speakers included Chief Constable Mark Collins, DCC Claire Parmenter, ACC Emma Ackland, Superintendent Ifan Charles and Hywel Dda Health Board Chief Executive Steve Moore. Each conversation received thousands of views, which have led to an increase in followers of the OPCC Facebook page. Since January 2021, these sessions have taken place on a weekly basis, and will continue to do so up until the Purdah period. Guest speakers have included Teresa Ciano from Go Safe Wales, ACC Mark Travis of

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.

South Wales Police who is Wales Lead on Road Safety, Superintendent Robyn Mason, Adam Whitehouse of DDAS, and Force Chaplain, Tom Evans.

4. Following a constructive meeting between the PCC and the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) on 5th January 2021, and subsequent correspondence on 14th January 2021, an announcement was recently made that an inspection will take place into the use of hotels and barracks as contingency asylum accommodation, which includes the Penally Camp in Pembrokeshire. The Inspector has issued a call for evidence which will remain open until 19th February.
5. A volunteer recruitment drive continued throughout October, with 2 ICVs currently pending vetting clearance and 2 ICVs awaiting induction training, scheduled for 25th of February. The ICV scheme still remains low in numbers in the Ceredigion area and therefore a recruitment drive for this area will be launched in February 2021. The Commissioner's Quality Assurance Panel also has one individual currently awaiting vetting and a new Joint Audit Committee (JAC) member was successfully appointed in January 2021, due to commence once their JAC term of office ceases.
6. The Commissioner's Newsletter continues to provide updates on the PCC's and OPCC's work on a bi-monthly basis. This is published on the PCC's [website](#), promoted via social media, circulated to subscribers, and hard copies are available on request.