

DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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1. Chairman's foreword

I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report of Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel. Its purpose is to present the key highlights and challenges of the past year.

The Panel was formed in 2012 to challenge, scrutinise and support the work of the elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Dyfed Powys. This vision for the Panel remains, that is ensuring accountability of the PCC. The governance work of the Panel is often unsung, but not unappreciated. The information here will help readers understand the context and achievements of the Panel's work during the past year.

The year's key achievements include scrutiny of the Policing Precept proposed by the PCC and scrutiny of how well the PCC has performed his function of maintaining an efficient and effective police force. The Panel also scrutinised how the PCC holds the Chief Constable to account, as well as decisions the PCC has made and the PCC's performance against the Policing Protocol Order.

The Panel's goals for the coming year 2024-2025 are set out in the report and a schedule of formal meetings has been provisionally established.

The panel is supported by day-to-day work undertaken by officers of Carmarthenshire County Council and I should like to take this opportunity to thank them and recognise their important contribution.

At the time of writing this report the elections for Police and Crime Commissioner on the 2nd May 2024 are yet to take place. As such we do not know who the Police and Crime Commissioner will be for the coming year or what their plans will be. However, irrespective of the outcome of the election, the Panel will look to build a positive relationship with whoever is the Commissioner and continue to be their 'critical friend'.



Professor Ian Roffe (Panel Chairman)

2. Panel Membership

The Panel has 14 members in total. Of these 14 are County Councillors (3 from each County in the force area) and 2 are co-opted independent members, selected following a public recruitment exercise. Further information regarding the Panel Members for 2023-2024 can be found at Appendix 2. The

representation provides a range of different viewpoints from our communities that is important in recognising relevant factors affecting the work of the Commissioner and Dyfed-Powys Police.

3. Our role:

The functions of the Police and Crime Panel are set out in legislation and include;

1. Reviewing the Police and Crime Commissioner's police and crime plan.
2. Reviewing the Police and Crime Commissioner's annual draft budget, with the power to veto the level of precept.
3. Dealing with certain complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner or his deputy.
4. Scrutinising decisions and actions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
5. Reviewing the appointment or removal of the Chief Constable and the appointment of certain senior staff in the Police and Crime Commissioners office, namely any Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Commissioner's Chief of Staff and Chief Financial Officer.
6. Supporting the Commissioner in the performance of his statutory functions.
7. Making reports or recommendations to the Commissioner.
8. Reviewing the Commissioner's conduct.

The Panel has carried out a self-assessment of how it has performed these functions during the year. This can be seen in Appendix 1.

The statutory functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner are.

1. Setting the priorities for Dyfed-Powys Police.
2. Publishing a Police and Crime Plan.
3. Engaging with Communities and representing the public's voice on policing matters.

4. Working closely with community safety and criminal justice partners.
5. Supporting victims and bringing people to justice.
6. Commissioning services to make communities safer and to support the vulnerable.
7. Appointing and, if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable.
8. Dealing with complaints and disciplinary matters against the Chief Constable.
9. Holding the Chief Constable to account.
10. Setting the annual Police budget and precept level.

Neither the Panel, nor the Police and Crime Commissioner has any role in the management of operational policing by Dyfed-Powys Police. Operational Policing is the responsibility of the Chief Constable.

4. Review of the year:

The Panel held 5 formal meetings during the year in May 2023, July 2023, October 2023, January 2024 and February 2024. Sub-groups of panel members also met regularly during the year to undertake more detailed pieces of work.

More information about the formal panel meetings can be found on the Panel's website www.dppoliceandcrimepanel.wales by clicking on the 'meetings' tab, the 'please select' button and then selecting the year of the meeting that you wish to look for.

Meeting Summary

May 2023

This meeting considered the management of the police estate, external funding received by the Commissioner and how the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account.

July 2023

This meeting primarily focused on the Commissioner's Annual Report and changes that had been made to the Policing Protocol Order.

October 2023

This meeting considered issues of stalking and harassment, shoplifting and the new national 20mph speed limit.

January 2024

This meeting focused solely on reviewing the Police Precept proposed for 2024-2025.

February 2024

This meeting considered issues such as Fraud and Cybercrime and the most recent police efficiency and effectiveness report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services.

Complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Panel must record any complaint against the Commissioner that it receives. However, the Panel has only very limited powers to deal with these complaints and cannot 'investigate' any complaint that has been made. The Panel is obliged to refer any serious complaint (i.e. a complaint of criminal misconduct) to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and has no power to compel the Commissioner to take any remedial action in respect of a complaint. The most the Panel can do is try and achieve an informal resolution.

During the year the Panel recorded four complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner from members of the public. These were considered in accordance with the Panel’s complaints protocol, and it was resolved to take no further action in relation to any of them as they were not suitable for informal resolution by the Panel and no meaningful outcome was likely.

Panel priorities for 2023-2024

In its last annual report, the Panel identified 2 priorities for the following year, each of which related to a statutory function of the Panel. Our priorities for 2023-2024 were

PRIORITY 1	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE DID	OUTCOME
Scrutiny of the Police Precept	To ensure Police and Crime Commissioner’s finances are being properly managed and that the people of Dyfed-Powys are receiving value for money from the Police Precept	<p>Reviewed the end of year accounts.</p> <p>Publicly questioned the Commissioner about those accounts.</p> <p>Received a briefing from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Financial Officer regarding the financial status of Dyfed-Powys Police and the demands upon it.</p> <p>Received information regarding several key lines of enquiry relating to staffing, estates and commissioned services.</p> <p>Conducted independent research.</p> <p>Held a public hearing to consider the proposed precept</p>	The Panel endorsed the Commissioners proposed precept increase of 6.2% in the precept. The Panel was satisfied that this increase was fair and appropriate taking into account all the relevant circumstances

PRIORITY 2	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE DID	OUTCOME
<p>Scrutiny of how the Commissioner performs his statutory duty to maintain an efficient and effective Police Force (Paragraph 17(g) of the Policing Protocol Order 2011)</p> <p>The themes to receive particular consideration will be</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The impact of staff resources and wellbeing on performance 2. The impact of public engagement and accessibility on performance 3. How effectively the Police and Crime Plan Priority of preventing harm has been implemented and what has been achieved 	<p>To achieve an understanding of how the Commissioner has been able to influence how efficient and effective Dyfed-Powys is, what he could do to improve things further</p>	<p>Asked the Commissioner to provide the Panel with specific information regarding the 3 main themes to be considered.</p> <p>Carried out independent research Seek examples of best practice from elsewhere.</p>	<p>Panel concluded that the Commissioner had satisfied the requirement to maintain an efficient and effective police force</p>

These priorities were delivered by subgroups of Panel Members. The Priority one was delivered by the Finance Subgroup and Priority Two by the Performance Subgroup. Membership of the Subgroups can be found at Appendix 3.

5. OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2024-2025

The Panel has decided to focus its work on two priorities in 2024 – 2025 these will be.

PRIORITY 1	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE WILL DO	INTENDED OUTCOME
Scrutiny of the Police Precept	To ensure the Police and Crime Commissioner's finances are being properly managed and that the people of Dyfed-Powys are receiving value for money from the Police Precept	<p>Publicly question the Commissioner about these matters and request relevant information from him.</p> <p>Receive a briefing from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Financial Officer regarding the financial status of Dyfed-Powys Police and the demands upon it.</p> <p>Conduct independent research.</p> <p>Hold a hearing to consider the proposed precept</p>	<p>That the level of precept set for 2025-2026 is appropriate having regard to all the circumstances.</p> <p>Target Date – February 2025</p>

PRIORITY 2	OBJECTIVES	WHAT WE WILL DO	INTENDED OUTCOME
<p>Support the Police and Crime Commissioner to develop a Police and Crime Plan.</p>	<p>To support whoever is elected as Police and Crime Commissioner in May 2024 to develop a new Police and Crime Plan for Dyfed-Powys.</p>	<p>Promote any public consultation undertaken by the Commissioner and encourage public participation.</p> <p>Submit a response to any consultation setting out The Panel's views on what the Police and Crime plan should say.</p> <p>Review the Commissioner's final plan in accordance with statutory requirements.</p>	<p>That the Police and Crime Plan adopted by the Police and Crime Commissioner meets the needs of the people of Dyfed-Powys.</p>

In addition to these priorities the Panel also.

- Scrutinise all key decisions made by the Commissioner including those in relation to commissioned services.
- Monitor how the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account.
- Monitor the Commissioner's performance against the Policing Protocol Order

- Ask the Commissioner to provide detailed information regarding drugs, road safety and progress in addressing the recommendations in the latest HMICFRS inspection report.

6. CONCLUSION

2023-2024 has been another busy year and I am grateful to my fellow members, the Commissioner and his staff for the positive and co-operative approach that they all take.

By the time this report is published the results of the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2024 will be known and we will be at the start of a new 5-year cycle.

I sincerely hope, whatever the outcome of those elections, the positive and co-operative relationship between the Panel and whoever is the elected commissioner will continue.

Professor Ian Roffe (Chairman)

APPENDIX 1 – PANEL PERFORMANCE

The Panel has assigned a RAG (Red/Amber/Green) rating to each of its functions. Where the Panel has not been required to perform a particular function during the year it has not been given a RAG rating.

The ratings are applied as follows.

RED - Where the Panel has been required to perform a function but has not done so.

AMBER - Where the Panel has been required to perform a function and is in the process of doing so.

GREEN - Where the Panel has been required to perform a function and has done so.

FUNCTION	RATING	COMMENT
Consideration of the Precept	GREEN	The Panel considered the Precept in January 2024 and endorsed the increase proposed by the Commissioner
Reviewing specified appointments by the Commissioner	N/A	It has not been necessary for the Panel to perform this function during the year.
Consideration of the proposed dismissal of the Chief Constable	N/A	It has not been necessary for the Panel to perform this function during the year.
Review of the draft Police and Crime Plan	N/A	It has not been necessary for the Panel to perform this function during the year.
Review of the PCC's Annual Report	GREEN	This was done in July 2023

Receive Reports and Information from the Commissioner	GREEN	Reports were received at all five Panel meetings
Attendance of Commissioner at Panel meetings	Green	The Commissioner attended all five Panel meetings held during the year
Appointment of an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner	N/A	It has not been necessary for the Panel to perform this function during the year.
Dealing with complaints against the Commissioner	Green	The Panel considered and concluded 4 complaints against the Commissioner during the year.
Supporting the Commissioner to effectively exercise his functions	Green	The Panel has carried out 2 pieces of scrutiny work during the year and made recommendations to the Commissioner.

APPENDIX 2 – MEMBERS OF DYFED POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL FOR 2023 to 2024

Carmarthenshire County Council

Councillor Dot Jones

Councillor Karen Davies

Councillor Ken Howell

Ceredigion County Council

Councillor Elizabeth Evans

Councillor Wyn Thomas

Councillor Keith Evans (Vice Chairman)

Pembrokeshire County Council

Councillor Brian Hall

Councillor Jonathan Grimes

Councillor Dr Simon Hancock

Powys County Council

Councillor Liz Rijnenberg

Councillor Les George

Councillor William Powell

Independent Co-opted Members

Mrs. Helen Thomas

Professor Ian Roffe (Chairman)

APPENDIX 3 - POLICE AND CRIME PANEL SUB GROUPS 2023/24

FINANCE SUB GROUP	PERFORMANCE SUB GROUP
Cllr Keith Evans	Professor Ian Roffe
Cllr William Powell	Cllr William Powell
Cllr Dot Jones	Cllr Liz Rijnenberg
Cllr Les George	Mrs. Helen Thomas
Cllr Simon Hancock	Cllr Wyn Thomas
Professor Roffe	Cllr Jonathan Grimes
Cllr Elizabeth Evans	Cllr Simon Hancock
Cllr Karen Davies	Cllr Ken Howell