



Policing Partnership Board for Wales

Virtual meeting

Thursday 17th March 2022

Minutes

Attendees

Mark Drakeford MS	First Minister (Chair)
Jeff Cuthbert	Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent (Co-chair)
Jane Hutt MS	Minister for Social Justice
Simon Hart MP	Secretary of State for Wales
Kit Malthouse MP	Minister for Crime and Policing
Asim Hafeez	Deputy Director International & Domestic Engagement & Strategy Directorate Home Office
Jeremy Vaughan	Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Pam Kelly	Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Carl Foulkes	Chief Constable, North Wales Police
Claire Parmenter	Deputy Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police
Amanda Blakeman	Deputy Chief Constable, Gwent Police
David Thorne	Assistant Chief Constable, South Wales Police
Oliver Petty	Staff Officer to the Deputy Chief Constable, Gwent Police
Andy Dunbobbin	Police and Crime Commissioner, North Wales
Alun Michael	Police and Crime Commissioner, South Wales
Eleri Thomas	Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent
Reg Kilpatrick	Director General Covid Response, Welsh Government
Jon Drake	Director, Violence Prevention Unit
Karin Phillips	Deputy Director, Community Safety Division WG
Tracey Breheny	Deputy Director, Mental Health, Substance Misuse & Vulnerable Groups WG
Lynne Neagle MS	Deputy Minister, Mental Health and Wellbeing
Judith Paget	Director General Health, Chief Executive NHS Wales, WG
Alun Davies	Police Liaison Unit
James Searle	Head of Crime & Justice Team
Siân Brown	Senior Manager Crime & Justice Team, WG
Jayne Phillips	Crime & Justice Team WG
Leanne Lewis	Crime & Justice Team WG
Alison Plant	Head of VAWDASV Team, WG
Paul Webb	Head of Childcare Offer Implementation, WG
Sarah Rhodes	Head of Homelessness Prevention
Carl Spiller	Senior Homelessness Prevention Officer
Chris Jennings	Executive Director Wales, HM Prison and Probation Service
Tracy Cooper	Public Health Wales
Joanne Hopkins	Public Health Wales
Sarah Capstick	Safer Communities Network WLGA
Naomi Alleyne	Director of Social Services and Housing, WLGA
Sian Curley	Chief Executive Gwent PCC
Kirsty Stevenson	Senior Portfolio Manager, Home Office Wales
Harry Gerrard	Devolution Support Officer, Home Office Wales
Joanna Huddleston	Administrator, Police Liaison Unit

Apologies

Richard Lewis	Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys
Dafydd Llywelyn	Police and Crime Commissioner, Dyfed Powys
Paul Morris	Head of Police Liaison Unit
Judith Paget	Director General Health, Chief Executive NHS Wales, WG (from 2pm onwards)
Julie James MS	Minister for Climate Change
Amy Rees	Director General of Probation in Wales

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Asim Hafeez	Deputy Director International & Domestic Engagement & Strategy Directorate Home Office (from 3pm onwards)
Emma Thomas	Head of Community Safety Network
Mick Antoniw MS	Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution
Chris Llewelyn	Chief Executive, WLGA
Naomi Alleyne	Director of Social Services and Housing, WLGA (from 2:45pm onwards)

Actions arising from the meeting

The Police Covenant to be discussed in June 2022	
Homelessness to be discussed in June 2022	
Substance Misuse to be discussed in June 2022	
The Single Unified Safeguarding Review to be escalated	
Andy Marsh from the College of Policing would like to attend the next meeting to discuss Policing and Local Government, particularly around 101 developments	
Public Services pressures to be escalated	

1. Welcome and Chair's Address

The First Minister for Wales, Mark Drakeford welcomed all members to the meeting of the Board, welcoming ministerial members from both Welsh Government and UK Government, in particular Kit Malthouse MP, Minister for Crime and Policing to his first Policing Partnership Board for Wales meeting. The First Minister mentioned that Policing continues to be discussed on the floor of The Senedd and expressed his gratitude to everyone for their commitment.

2. Joint update from the Minister for Crime and Policing, Kit Malthouse MP and Secretary of State for Wales, Simon Hart MP

2.1. Kit Malthouse MP, Minister for Crime and Policing opened by saying after attending the Home Office Partnership Event with Jane Hutt Minister for Social Justice, he feels it is important that meetings such as this continue to happen to discuss issues that members are equally focussed on. Kit Malthouse MP explained that he had just returned from a Safer Streets visit in Wellingborough and is aware that the Safer Streets funding has been used from Rhyl to Merthyr Tydfil with great impact across Wales. He highlighted how crucial it is to work together due to the inescapable nature of interlocked crime between Wales and England. Minister Malthouse stated that Welsh forces have been working extremely hard on County Lines but are only able to do so in conjunction with English forces, such as Merseyside and West Midlands. He gave the example of Bangor being the first part of Wales to declare themselves County Lines free which couldn't have been achieved without Merseyside Police.

Kit Malthouse MP wanted to highlight a couple of items:

- The UK Government published a 10 year drug strategy in December 2021 which is designed to attempt to reverse drug deaths and drug misuse across England and Wales. Minister Malthouse stated this will require meetings on a regular basis to discuss plans. The UK

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Government has secured significant extra funding for the Health Service for treatment and rehabilitation as there is a requirement to tackle demand as well as supply. He pointed out that South Wales have been leading the way with the ADDER project as this type of approach can make a huge difference.

- The Beating Crime Plan that was launched earlier in 2021 is about communicating the strategic and systemic priorities that are set through the National Policing Board. The UK Government are working closely with Policing with regards to how the plan should be implemented. Minister Malthouse stressed that it is critical for Welsh and UK Governments to work together with regards to the implementation of this plan. This would cover issues such as murder, County Lines, violence and neighbourhood crimes such as burglary and car crime as well as important areas that have been highlighted such as Violence Against Women and Girls particularly with regards to rape and serious sexual offending. Minister Malthouse noted he was particularly pleased that South Wales has been participating in Operation Soteria and understands that there is discussion across all four forces in Wales with regards to how Wales can participate as a whole.
- Minister Malthouse wanted to highlight that even though it is his first attendance at the Policing Partnership Board for Wales, he has noticed that the relationship between Police forces and Police and Crime Commissioners across Wales is extremely productive and constructive. He feels that the structure of partnership and constructive nature of the relationship is leading the way for England and hopes to make a good contribution to a high functioning organisation.

The First Minister thanked The Minister for his contribution and pointed out that he mentioned topics that will be discussed today. The First Minister reinforced Minister Malthouse's observation that neither Crime nor Public Services have any borders from a citizen's perspective.

2.2. Simon Hart MP, Secretary of State for Wales followed on from Minister Malthouse's observation by adding that members of the group have been striving for a high degree of collaboration and consultation on a range of issues. He highlighted that the priorities of the UK Government are aligned with the priorities of this group.

The Secretary of State emphasised the collaborative work carried out by the Police with regards to cross-border cooperation as administrative boundaries haven't hindered their progress. He is also happy that Minister Malthouse had joined this meeting as he is in a position to make a meaningful contribution to this meeting and hopes this will become a regular pattern for future meetings.

The First Minister thanked Minister Simon Hart for his input and attendance as always.

3. Introduction of Key Issues for the June 2022 Partnership Board Meeting

The First Minister explained that this item is to briefly look at a couple of key issues that will be discussed in more depth in the June 2022 Policing Partnership Board for Wales Meeting.

3.1. The Police Covenant

CC Vaughan advised that this is a short item to inform members of the meeting of the existence of the Police Covenant. He explained that Minister Malthouse is the chair of the working group that is leading on the Police Covenant.

CC Vaughan also raised the point that in the last couple of years, emergency services have been working together in a way like never before and coming together to help manage extraordinary circumstances. CC Vaughan currently chairs the Joint Emergency Services Group where they have raised the possibility of exploring an Emergency Services Covenant which CC Vaughan believes will broaden the Policing Covenant and build on the knowledge and work following the Armed Forces Covenant coming into power.

CC Vaughan reinforced that he only sought to introduce the Police Covenant at this meeting and with agreement from members, he would organise more work around the item and come back in June. He explained that there is lots of work to be done around the Police Covenant such as considering who may be captured by it, the implications on services and who to exclude and why.

The First Minister thanked CC Vaughan for his input and advised from the Welsh Government point of view, they are keen on the idea of an Emergency Services Covenant with a broader landscape which includes colleagues from other emergency services. The First Minister invited comment from Minister Malthouse as he chairs the Police Covenant Oversight Board.

Minister Malthouse explained that work is ongoing around the Police Covenant and hoped it will be signed into law in the next few weeks. He explained the intention is for the Police Covenant Oversight Board to become independent but he would continue to chair the board during the implementation stage. Minister Malthouse expressed concern with regards to ensuring the Welsh Emergency Services Covenant interlocks with the Police Covenant. He offered for his officials to liaise on how that may work. Minister Malthouse told members that they are currently moving forward carefully by speaking to Police Officers and families about what the covenant may mean for them.

3.2. Homelessness

The First Minister introduced the item explaining that the Minister for Climate Change, Julie James was due to present but unfortunately was unable to attend, therefore he would briefly discuss the item and handover to Welsh Government colleagues, Carl Spiller and Sarah Rhodes for further clarification. The First

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Minister reiterated that this is an introduction to a wider conversation in June but explained he is happy to take any views from members now.

It was noted by The First Minister that there has been an enormous effort to accommodate those who are otherwise street homeless in suitable accommodation during the pandemic in Wales. There are still large numbers of people in temporary accommodation, however local authorities aim to provide permanent accommodation for those people.

The First Minister pointed out that while this has been a hugely successful project, it has caused some community tensions around facilities that have been used to house people where they would have not normally been used for that purpose, which is where there has been an interaction between Police services, Homeless Services and Local Authority services. The First Minister also mentioned that when a high volume of people who have suffered challenging life experiences are brought together, such as refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine, this brings up issues that fall within a range of Public Services which inevitability means the services in Wales will need to be used for a variety of purposes. The reason for having this on the agenda in June is to ensure that views can be shared and find the points where services need to join and work alongside one another and review from a multidisciplinary perspective.

It was highlighted by The First Minister that there was a period during the pandemic where evictions were minimised but beyond the pandemic, it is inevitable that evictions will happen. The First Minister expressed his gratitude towards Police services in Wales for their work with Shelter Cymru to ensure Frontline Officers have the best understanding of the law.

The First Minister understood that Shelter Cymru is developing an e-learning module which will be another way that Frontline Officers have the best understanding. The First Minister thanked Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales for raising awareness regarding this issue and ensuring the resources available are utilised.

The First Minister handed over discussion to Welsh Government officials, Sarah Rhodes and Carl Spiller. Sarah Rhodes opened by stating she very much looked forward to the conversation in June where this can be discussed in more detail. She added that there are excellent examples of multiagency practice happening across Wales which Police Officers are part of.

The First Minister invited members to give their views.

3.3.PCC Michael raised the point that a complicating factor in dealing with homelessness and matters perceived as related is the way that issues are covered in social media. He explained by referring to a problem when the delivery of the Welsh Government pledge on additional PCSOs in Neath was launched, a picture was posted which was picked up by a mainstream leader that made Neath town centre look lawless.

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PCC Michael told the group that considerable blame was incorrectly placed on the use of hotel accommodation for people who are homeless. PCC Michael suggested having a discussion about how to tackle the destructive impact of social media.

3.4. Minister Malthouse advised that it may be worth considering the implications of the repeal of the Vagrancy Act during discussions in June. He pointed out that the repeal of the Vagrancy Act is one of the points the UK Government has committed to in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. Minister Malthouse explained that the UK Government is going to take a maximum of 18 months before commencing the repeal as they need to look at whether the Vagrancy Act has provided powers for the Police to deal with the connection between rough sleeping and crime and whether there is a need to replicate those powers in a different way, if they are necessary.

3.5. PCC Cuthbert agreed with Minister Malthouse's observation. He explained that homelessness has been raised as part of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' work which is linked into The Beating Crime Plan.

PCC Cuthbert explained that when this is discussed in June, he expects the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners will have more to report because homelessness is not a Police led issue but instead Police are partners with Local Government and Third Sector.

3.6. Chris Jennings advised the group that homelessness is very high on the agenda from a Prison and Probation perspective. He explained that HMPPS work closely with Welsh Government officials as unfortunately many people who are homeless come into contact with HMPPS due to either having come from Prison or are going into Prison. Chris Jennings also looked forward to this discussion in June, adding that the Prison service have additional funding coming in to ensure people leaving Prison aren't leaving without accommodation and he is keen to work with Welsh Government and Local Authorities to put this into effect.

3.7. Tracey Cooper reinforced the point regarding the phenomenal work that has gone on through Covid-19 to place homeless people in accommodation from a Public Health perspective.

She told the group that Public Health Wales are concerned about the arrival of refugees from Ukraine so are linking in with counterparts across Europe to try and take a proactive approach and would be happy to assist where appropriate for example where mental health or domestic issues are concerned. She suggested that in the partner update section, Joanne Hopkins could give an update on the public consultation that Public Health Wales launched earlier in the week around a Trauma Informed Wales.

3.8. Jane Hutt, Minister for Social Justice reassured Minister Malthouse that the Welsh Government did support the amendment to repeal the Vagrancy Act which has already gone through The Senedd.

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The First Minister thanked everyone for their contributions. He felt it was really useful and raised a series of additional threads which will help us all ensure the discussion in June covers a range of issues.

4. The Strength of Partnership Working Across Devolved and Non-Devolved Partners in Wales and Opportunities for Further Development

4.1. Substance Misuse

PCC Cuthbert gave PCC Llywelyn's apologies due to personal reasons. He advised that ACC Thorne will lead on this discussion.

CC Vaughan introduced the item and explained he brought a paper in December 2019 regarding the prevalence of drugs misuse and abuse in Wales including deaths as a result of drugs consumption. There was a discussion about seeking to challenge existing circumstances around drugs. CC Vaughan explained a great deal has happened since then, however the rest of the paper is much the same. With regards to the primary role in taking out organised criminals such as those involved with County Lines, this has to rest with the Police. CC Vaughan stated that the Police have made phenomenal progress in this regard over the last 12-18 months such as Bangor being County Lines free. However, it also hasn't changed that people who have significant drug dependencies need help but the levers aren't always available to the Police. CC Vaughan explained that they can do some good work with ADDER but the services need to be available for people that need them, therefore the intention is to introduce the item and come back for a full discussion in June.

4.2. ACC Thorne followed on from CC Vaughan's statement that Policing is looking to adopt a bold approach to address drug related deaths in Wales. ACC Thorne told the group that Policing have had numerous discussions around this and have been revisiting their drug market profile while also considering other strategies that already exist. Police Forces are in the process of producing an All Wales Policing Drugs Strategy which will tie into both the English and Welsh strategies.

ACC Thorne explained that Policing is looking to centre their approach on Dame Carol Black's review. The key point that came from her review is that she is advocating that the approach should be towards prevention, treatment and recovery and this is how Policing would like their strategy to be directed.

Policing in Wales will continue the relentless approach towards drug dealers but believes this needs to be done alongside the Public Health approach. Police Forces are looking to work with Area Planning Boards to consider the treatment that is offered, ensuring it is the most effective, which includes looking at the most advanced treatments such as diamorphine assisted treatment rooms as they have been extremely effective in North East England.

ACC Thorne also mentioned that Policing are looking at how they can use out of court disposals and diversions more innovatively to prevent overburdening the criminal justice system which doesn't always produce the best results for the people that are involved in substance misuse.

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ACC Thorne highlighted it has become apparent that data sharing is vital with regard to near miss drug deaths. Unfortunately it has become apparent that when interventions aren't put into place, it can lead to fatal overdoses within a few weeks. However it has been shown that if interventions are put in place soon after the event, it is possible to prevent the individual going on to fatally overdose.

Policing are also looking to update their problem profile regarding drugs deaths in Wales. The aim of this is to understand trends and gaps in service etc.

ACC Throne explained that Police Forces are looking to understand how the funding allocated to Health Boards and Area Planning Boards is best utilised. Policing would like to see some of this funding moved towards more innovative ways of treating substance misuse. He explained that there is Welsh Government and Area Planning Board guidance that states Police commissioning should be based on outcome, therefore Police Forces are looking to revisit this.

The proposal is to produce a more detailed approach and return in June.

The First Minister encouraged views from members of the group.

- 4.3.** Minister Malthouse agreed that this ties into the 10 year drug strategy. He added that he is pleased to hear that Policing is seen as part of the solution and reinforced the fact that there is a requirement to tackle demand as well as supply which is promoted through the ADDER project.

Minister Malthouse urged Police Forces to take a geographic approach to the problem as Scotland haven't taken part in the ADDER project and pursued a generalised approach, unfortunately their strategy has been criticised. He gave the example of Norfolk using the data gathered from County Lines drug dealers' phones to identify the location of their customers which has led them to identify clusters of drug users.

Minister Malthouse stated that Wales have a head start in this area which he believes will lead to a new way of approaching treatment as Welsh Government funded a programme of buprenorphine which was led by a medic in Wales who explained the impact that buprenorphine is having is remarkable. He described it as Opioid Replacement Therapy and urged members of the group to roll out the use of the drug. He explained it is expensive in comparison to morphine but it is cost effective due to the fact it is one long lasting injection per month and could potentially prevent people going to Prison or contracting Hepatitis.

The First Minister thanked Minister Malthouse for his informative discussion regarding Buvidal and stated he would be keen to learn more as Minister had suggested.

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- 4.4.** Joanne Hopkins pointed out that the Adverse Childhood Experiences Support Hub has been awarded funding from Welsh Government to plan how to develop a Trauma Informed Substance Misuse Sector which will involve looking at some of the cause elements of why people turn to substances as a coping mechanism and acknowledging the underlying trauma that could be the underlying cause for substance misuse.

Joanne Hopkins stressed the importance of addressing the underlying reason that people turn to substances when treating them.

- 4.5.** Lynne Neagle MS thanked ACC Thorne for his presentation and welcome the continued commitment to partnership working with Area Planning Boards. She noted that it was good to see a strong focus on innovation and gave examples of innovative working in Wales such as Naloxone and Buvidal. Deputy Minister Neagle announced that there is £3 million pounds in the budget in 2022-23 for Buvidal and explained the Welsh Government are also undertaking an evaluation into it. She acknowledged Joanne Hopkins' comments on treating the root causes of substance misuse and feels Buvidal treatment provides the opportunity to deal with some of the underlying trauma.

Deputy Minister Neagle pointed out that officials wrote to all Area Planning Boards copying the letter to Police and Crime Commissioners in March 2020. This letter set out the factual position on heroin assisted treatment rooms. She stated that all Area Planning Boards have been advised that any decision on the implementation would need to be informed by the partners including the Police. She highlighted that any proposal would need to balance the cost of trialling heroin assisted treatment against its potential effectiveness in the geographical area.

She mentioned that her officials met with two of the Chief Constables for Wales in January to discuss how they might progress alternative treatment options. She reinforced that the Welsh Government are very keen to support this.

The Deputy Minister said the Welsh Government are pleased to be involved in project ADDER and stated she would be keen to have discussions with the UK Government about the Welsh Government access to Health funding which has gone to parts of England that have participated, but Wales are not receiving this.

- 4.6.** PCC Michael agreed with Minister Malthouse's comment on the importance of Policing as part of the solution, not only in regards to County Lines but also Policing's role in prevention and understanding where problems arise in a community.

PCC Michael also welcomed Joanne Hopkins observations and mentioned that Police and Crime Commissioners have been driven by the Public Health Wales research on issues that end up requiring a Police response.

A discussion with the Swansea Community Safety Partnership was mentioned by PCC Michael where they discussed three elements;

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1. Prevention
2. Improving the impact and turn down the curve to reduce the seriousness of offending
3. Treatment

PCC Michael expanded on the treatment aspect by highlighting some issues as there are differences across some Health Boards. He explained that some seem disengaged with partnership work.

- 4.7.** CC Kelly remarked on how brilliant it was to have both the Welsh Government and the UK Government attending this meeting.

CC Kelly added when referring to the topic of substance misuse, it reaches all organisations and increases demand in each organisation. Additionally it links to Police Forces' Homicide Prevention and Serious Violence work.

The issue of funding was discussed by CC Kelly in relation to the Drugs Strategy; she explained that she is aware funding has been made available to England and questioned when it is likely to be made available in Wales.

CC Kelly asked the Welsh Government about Area Planning Boards. She explained that in order for this to work, it needed to involve partnership working and services need to be available on a local level.

- 4.8.** Tracey Cooper reinforced Joanne Hopkins and PCC Michael's points regarding the crossover between adverse childhood experiences and substance misuse. Public Health Wales have been working across South Wales but this has been hindered by the Covid-19 pandemic, therefore she is keen to identify a few areas in Wales where they can pilot this.

Tracey Cooper emphasised her offer to support the Public Health approach to Policing and would be eager to apply the same approach to substance misuse.

- 4.9.** Minister Malthouse was pleased to hear Lynne Neagle's comments and appreciated her views on treating the root cause of substance misuse. He explained that Buvidal helps to clear the individual's mind to allow them to process what the problem is.

Minister Malthouse addressed CC Kelly's statement regarding funding and explained that £780 million was given to the Health Service in England which will have had a Barnett consequential, therefore the Welsh Government should be in receipt of the uplift of that funding.

With regards to the Apprenticeship Levy, Kit Malthouse MP advised CC Kelly that he was under the impression that he had resolved this issue. A few members of the group advised Minister Kit Malthouse that it hasn't been fully resolved.

- 4.10.** Simon Hart MP read from the Official Note which states the publication of provisional Police grants for 22/23. He noted that within this we are able to

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confirm the allocation of £2.4 million to address the issue regarding Welsh Forces being unable to utilise their Apprenticeship Levy contribution, this allocation should address the issue in full. Members of the group advised him, the issue is not resolved and PCC Cuthbert advised Minister Hart that Police Forces have reviewed this and they believe it doesn't address the full issue. Minister Simon Hart advised the group that he will liaise with Minister Malthouse on this issue.

4.11.The First Minister thanked the group for their input. He explained he wanted to address the issue of partnership and commissioning of services via Area Planning Boards and advised that Tracey Breheny is the lead on this subject. The First Minister stated that the Welsh Government continued to invest heavily in substance misuse treatment services via APBs. The First Minister asked Tracey Breheny to discuss the issues raised by CC Kelly outside of this meeting.

4.12. Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

DCC Blakeman thanked everyone for the opportunity to discuss this issue and the ongoing work around it. DCC Blakeman explained that DPCC Wools was unable to attend the meeting today.

The VAWDASV Taskforce was set up by DPCC Wools from South Wales and DPCC Thomas from Gwent to create the structure needed to bring key partners together. DCC Blakeman explained that at the first part of the Taskforce, each of the forces in Wales report back from their Gold Group on VAWDASV, each of which is chaired by a Chief Officer. She added that each force has its own strategy built upon the national work.

There is work ongoing with Safer Streets with regards to how they are seeking to understand communities and how forces can use the Safer Streets funding to deliver real benefits.

The VAWDASV team are able to link into the Operational Standards Group that sits nationally which allows them to be able to feed into the Taskforce. The second part of the Taskforce facilitates effective work across partners and Welsh Government, with many partners effectively leading in this area.

This has enabled the VAWDASV team to look at the redevelopment of the strategy which had reached a five year point. There was a desire to make this a blueprint approach to ensure that agencies worked together collectively.

DCC Blakeman explained that VAWDASV is a priority for Policing in Wales. Therefore all Chief Constables have put additional funding towards a Chief Superintendent post, building on work initiated by DCI Amanda Venn, who worked successfully across Wales to deliver the tactical functionality that was needed. She pointed out that you can see the commitment through resourcing

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including resourcing within the Police Liaison Unit, Policing, Police and Crime Commissioners and Welsh Government.

DCC Blakeman has been liaising with DCC Maggie Blyth who had pointed out that Wales are able to move at pace due to bringing non-devolved and devolved partners together. DCC Blakeman feels this is important as the group can move quickly on items such as Everyone's Invited. DCC Blakeman and others provided evidence in The Senedd the previous week in relation to the Estyn report and Peer on Peer abuse which is a critical piece of work that links in with VAWG.

DCC Blakeman handed over to DPCC Thomas to discuss any points of note. DPCC Thomas thanked DCC Blakeman for her comprehensive overview but wanted to emphasise that the group welcomes the Welsh Government establishment of the new VAWDASV Partnership Board which will be jointly chaired by the Minister for Social Justice and by Policing in Wales, which will governance arrangements to embed and drive the new strategy.

DPCC Thomas explained that the group wanted to demonstrate that Policing in Wales was showing it's leadership role in this area, but recognised they need all partnerships working together.

4.13.Jane Hutt, Minister for Social Justice thanked DCC Blakeman and DPCC Thomas for their thorough presentation. She wanted to explain to Minister Malthouse that the blueprint approach has been utilised effectively within the Youth Justice Strategy and Female Offending Strategy. She mentioned Minister Malthouse's observation regarding working together and Operation Soteria rolling out and was very pleased with this.

4.14.Minister Malthouse noted the detailed presentation and commented that it was good to see all forces working together. He explained that it is critical to drive the Rape and Serious Sexual Offences conviction rate up across the whole of the UK. Minister Malthouse conveyed that in some circumstances difficult decisions have to be made such as victimless prosecutions where there are prosecutions being pursued where the victim doesn't support. Similarly with regards to Rape and Serious Sexual Offences there needs to be more courage with regards to bringing cases to court.

4.15.DPCC Thomas wanted to reassure Minister Malthouse that the Crown Prosecution Service are partners in this work. The CPS attend Part B of the VAWDASV Taskforce along with other Criminal Justice partners and Welsh Government. She wanted to highlight that Policing in Wales is working jointly, chairing the Rape and Serious Sexual Offences action plan with the CPS and Police.

4.16.DCC Blakeman wanted to highlight DCC Parmenter's input as she leads the work around the education setting and the Wales Police Schools Programme which is critical in terms of investing in the right start for young people.

4.17. Wider Policy and Strategy Development

The First Minister introduced the item and mentioned that there is a paper attached with this item from Policing in Wales which focusses on unauthorised encampment and the Bill that is being reviewed by the UK Government.

Jane Hutt, Minister for Social Justice raised concerns about managing the Bill as the Welsh Government fundamentally oppose the criminalisation of Gypsy Roma Traveller communities, but welcomed the approach suggested by Policing in Wales. She also expressed Welsh Government's desire to ensure there is no cause to use the powers in Wales. Minister Hutt explained that it is a fundamental priority within Welsh Government to ensure there is provision for Gypsy Roma Travellers and they will be working with Local Authorities to ensure this is the case. She expanded on the point by saying this is also a key part of the Welsh Government's Race Equality Plan.

4.18. Minister Malthouse explained that he has spoken to Minister Hutt regarding these issues. He added that the UK Government are addressing concerns about this Bill and clarified that the use of powers would be solely for the Police and land owners to act upon but the UK Government will be issuing guidelines shortly.

Minister Malthouse agreed with Minister Hutt's point regarding the importance of Local Authorities fulfilling their duties under the Housing Act.

Minister Malthouse explained that a minority of the Gypsy Roma Traveller community engaged in some unauthorised activity. The UK Government felt the need to respond to this via legislation but he stressed that the legislation will be reviewed at regular intervals.

4.19. CC Foulkes thanked Minister Hutt for her contribution to this topic. He explained that Policing in Wales is very keen to work with the Welsh Government on this. CC Foulkes explained that there are difficulties in setting up new transit sites which is a real challenge for all.

With regards to Policing powers on this topic, Policing in Wales is going to set up a working group which will be led by a senior officer to ensure there is a consistent approach.

The First Minister handed over the meeting to PCC Cuthbert explaining that the Welsh Government share the frustrations discussed in this meeting. The First Minister thanked the Secretary of State for Wales and Minister Malthouse who stayed for the duration of the meeting and raised some important issues.

5. Any issues to be escalated from the Policing in Wales meeting

PCC Cuthbert introduced the item and explained that a number of issues have already been raised here.

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5.1. Public Service pressures such as Winter pressures. PCC Cuthbert explained this follows on from the most recent Cross Party Group on Policing.

5.2. The Single Unified Safeguarding Review

5.3. Andy Marsh from the College of Policing would like to attend the next Policing Partnership Board to see the way the partnership works in Wales but also to discuss the issue of Policing and Local Government, particularly around 101 developments.

6. Partner Updates by Exception

PCC Cuthbert went through each update to ensure there were no issues to be escalated.

6a. PCC Cuthbert highlighted the Youth Question Time that Gwent participated in as he felt it was a worthwhile exercise.

PCC Michael voiced concerns regarding the leaflet that has been distributed to households communicating the implementation of the removal of the defence of reasonable punishment. He advised the group that the leaflet states to contact social services if there is an issue but in an emergency to contact the Police. PCC Michael added that the issue is there were no telephone numbers provided on the leaflet and states the public know how to contact the Police, therefore the Police are likely to be inundated.

A response has come through to PCC Michael from Julie Morgan MS which outlined the issues that have been agreed but didn't provide a response to this particular issue. PCC Michael expressed his interest to discuss this offline.

CC Foulkes wanted to bring to members' attention that North Wales has carried out one of its biggest drug seizures in history with 50kg of Class A and B drugs and 13 people arrested. North Wales have also had their first prosecution for Modern Day Slavery.

CC Foulkes also discussed the ACE Impact Labs which is sponsored by the Home Office. He explained that it was a North Wales case that went to the labs, it looked at how technology can improve the way that Police investigate rape and provide better outcomes for victims. CC Foulkes is currently reviewing this.

6d. Tracey Cooper stated there were no issues to escalate but wanted Joanne Hopkins to give an update on the public consultation that Public Health Wales had launched earlier in the week around a Trauma Informed Wales.

Joanne Hopkins advised that this is a framework to understand, prevent and support the impacts of trauma in adversity. She explained that this was a co-produced document with Adverse Childhood Experiences Support Hub and Traumatic Stress Wales alongside people with lived experiences and Public Services across Wales. Joanne Hopkins encouraged members of the group to have a look at the framework.

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6h. Jon Drake wanted to express his gratitude for the discussions that have taken place today. He added that these issues all support the Violence Prevention Unit's work.

6i. PCC Michael advised the group that he chairs the Safer Communities Board and explained they are waiting for the appointment of a co-chair from Local Government which will happen after the elections. He wanted to note that Emma Thomas has settled into her new role quickly and is doing exemplary work. PCC Michael is optimistic about the way this work is developing.

7. Any Other Business

None declared, however Minister Malthouse wanted to note that he felt the meeting had been beneficial and he hoped to be able to attend future meetings to continue working together.

Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 23rd June 2022 at 3pm