

**Cross Party Group on Policing,**  
**Virtual Teams Meeting, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 12:30**

**1. Present**

**Senedd Cymru – Welsh Parliament**

John Griffiths – Chair Member of the Senedd (MS) (Labour)  
Ellie Richards – Office of Luke Fletcher MS (Plaid Cymru)  
Ioan Bellin – Office of Rhys Ab Owen MS (Plaid Cymru)  
Jack Harries - Office of Vikki Howells MS (Labour)  
Andrew Bettridge - Senior Communications Officer, Office of John Griffiths MS

**Police and Crime Commissioners and Staff**

Dafydd Llywelyn – Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys  
Jeff Cuthbert – Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent  
Andy Dunbobbin - Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales

**Chief Constables and Staff**

Jeremy Vaughan – Chief Constable, South Wales Police, and Chair of the Welsh Chief Officers Group  
Pam Kelly – Chief Constable, Gwent Police  
T/CI Alun Davies – Police Liaison Unit  
Lynda Young – Police Liaison Unit, Group Secretary

**Invited attendees**

Gary Haggaty – Deputy Director – Community Safety Division, Welsh Government

**2. John Griffiths MS, Chair**

John Griffiths the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Dafydd Llywelyn the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys and Jeremy Vaughan the Chief Constable for South Wales Police, explaining the meeting was to give Members of Senedd the opportunity to discuss a day in the life of a police officer in Wales.

**3. Dafydd Llywelyn – Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys**

Dafydd Llywelyn thanked the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting explaining the focus on the presentation is around what policing looks like today, looking at the pressures and demand on policing.

Dafydd Llywelyn stated the presentation will be looking at the polarity of policing explaining this will be looking at how policing is involved in so many other aspects of lives and communities in Wales other than just crime. Highlighting the importance within the presentation from a Police and Crime Commissioner's perspective is the

work Commissioners do to scrutinise and hold forces to account, emphasising how this is a critical function and role of Police and Crime Commissioners which very often gets overlooked. Stressing policing is now more than ever in the public domain with officers having to deal with complex situations and often with members of the public recording that interaction which can in turn result in policing being brought into question.

Dafydd Llywelyn introduced Jeremy Vaughan Chief Constable of South Wales Police, to discuss in more detail.

#### **4. Jeremy Vaughan – Chief Constable for South Wales Police**

Jeremy Vaughan echoed Dafydd Llywelyn points about how it was timely to discuss with attendees a day in the life of a police officer in Wales today.

Highlighting the Launch of the UK Government's Beating Crime Plan which puts a more specific focus on policing with the narrative on crime in particularly serious crime.

The mission is a lot broader than that, which the data within the presentation explains and as a consequence policing has to shift the investment to meet those demands. Highlighting people call the police for all sorts of things all the time, as often it is easier to access the police.

CC Vaughan reinforced the offer for Members of the Senedd to join police on their "Ride Along Schemes" stating officers will take you into the control room, custody suites and out on patrol with response officers which offers a greater understanding and feel for policing.

He explained that within the presentation whilst there are different graphics for all four forces they are broadly dealing with the same things, and follow the same standards of incident, and crime recording.

On the first slide CC Vaughan stated that 41% of South Wales Police demand is crime related. Confirming this is typically around 25% to 40% with demand being crime related highlighting there is a big percentage of incidents which aren't crime related. Stressing that overlaying this South Wales Police manage over 3 thousand offenders in the community which fall into multi-agency public protection arrangements dealing with released sex offenders, serious violent offenders and so on all of which take police resources to manage and visit.

Jeremy Vaughan confirmed South Wales Police deal with around 534 digital contacts a day highlighting the world of contact is changing to digital and that forces have moved with this change for example when using social media members of the public can now type @southwalespolice or @gwentpolice when reporting a crime and policing will find out what the individual wants to report, concluding how easy it is now to get hold of the police.

CC Vaughan discussed the next slide showing data from North Wales Police. Highlighting North Wales Police alone have almost 30 people a day being booked into custody emphasising this is every day, 365 days a year and that would be around a 100 people a day across Wales.

He discussed the next slide showing data from Gwent Police. Gwent Police like the other 3 Welsh forces are dealing with on average 42 incidents every day which are related to Mental Health issues. Gwent similar to other forces will deal with 3 vulnerable adult strategy discussions and 9 child protection strategy discussions every day.

CC Vaughan discussed the next slide showing data from Dyfed Powys Police, showing Dyfed Powys Police are recording around 120 crimes a day emphasising that not only do Dyfed Powys Police deal with those crimes, they have to deal with them across a vast area which spans around 4 hours vehicle traveling time from one corner to the other. Offering some real challenges for the force which represents the second largest geography policing areas in England and Wales, raising concerns around the funding formula that fails to recognise the challenges policing faces with the geography of Wales.

CC Vaughan gave an overall summary of policing demand across Wales stating recruitment in Wales is far more advanced than before, with South Wales Police to recruit 900 people this year, requiring a large training programme.

He emphasised the high level of expectation the public have on policing and stressed whilst this is justified and there is no criticism over the high level of scrutiny on policing, this is extremely significant and feels higher than other public sector organisations.

CC Vaughan pointed out the legislative landscape changed a lot during Covid which was extraordinary. However in the last 5 years the pace of change in the law has been significant, with different laws coming in to deal with different challenges. Policing needs to try and keep up with technology which takes a lot of investment.

He advised Policing is more than just crime and officers are often call upon to deal with Mental Health issues. Policing have been piloting Naloxone in Wales to tackle substance misuse issues. Discussions with the Children's Commissioner to tackle missing children from care homes and how running care homes might alleviate and mitigate that risk.

There is a very high level of scrutiny on policing stating there are a team of people everyday who review incidents and proactively refer to the Independent Office for Police Conduct as well as carry out investigations and deal with complaints. Highlighting HMICFRS (HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services) attended South Wales Police in 2021 during the busiest times of the year in terms of demand and spent 7 months looking over the organisation.

## **5. Dafydd Llywelyn – Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys**

Dafydd Llywelyn discussed the oversight and scrutiny on policing stating the public confidence has taken a hit with recent events in London, which is not isolated to the Met Police but has certainly been instrumental in the wider focus. Policing in Wales don't shy away from that oversight and scrutiny.

PCC Llywelyn explained Commissioners will hold performance meetings with their Chief Constables on a regular basis, these discussions can vary from crime data, incidents and activity as well as issues such as the organisational structure, and the pressures of the uplift programme. Recent discussions have focused on the cost of living crisis, with concerns around staff recently recruited over the last 3 or 4 years and young in service who are now finding it difficult to sustain being employed, working shifts under pressure when there are more attractive alternatives.

He made clear the governance the Commissioners undertake is both internal and external as they have public meetings such as Police Accountability meetings which are held on a quarterly basis

PCC Llywelyn stated Commissioners Chair Local Criminal Justice Boards which are held with CPS (Crown Prosecution Service), the Magistrates Courts, Tribunal Service, and Probation to make sure Criminal Justice Services are running efficiently and effectively locally which is then elevated up to an all Wales level collectively working together.

He explained there are independent volunteers who support the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner with independent custody visits, quality assurance panels and independent dog and animal welfare visits and they are able to provide a level of assurance and scrutiny to the public in relation to the day to day activity of police forces. Replicated across the Office for Police and Crime Commissioners and in line with the force Lead Officers or Specialist resources are in place who work to take a deep dive and unpick service delivery.

Policing in Wales is responding to 230 domestic violence incidents every day highlighting the adverse impact of domestic violence and the wider implications this can have on education and how this is a key priority in Wales linking in with the violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy the Welsh Government have.

Dafydd Llywelyn summarised by saying these all dovetail into the other bodies such as HMICFRS, IOPC, ICO who also publish regularly on individual forces and inform thematic reviews, which can be a burden for forces to undertake.

## **6. Jeremy Vaughan – Chief Constable for South Wales Police**

CC Vaughan emphasised the reality of the public sector system the police are working within stating policing work really hard together with partners and Wales has got the best opportunities to do something different to challenge the status quo. Giving an example on how policing have mental health nurses in control rooms paid by forces to help make better decision when dealing with mental health incidents.

He talked about substance misuse being a continuing conversation with Welsh Government around doing something different in Wales. Emphasising Policing does not question its responsibility in taking out drug dealers, the discussion is about support for people who have addictions, as these are public health issues.

#### **7. Pam Kelly – Chief Constable for Gwent Wales Police**

CC Kelly echoed previous comments highlighting Gwent police have 50 domestic abuse incidents a day with a dedicated team working on case file preparation to get cases into court and justice served as quickly as possible, stressing on average it is taking the dedicated team 12 days to submit and get cases heard in court.

She spoke of the importance of PCSOs and the Welsh Government funding of 600 PCSOs

CC Kelly raised concerns around agencies which are devolved to Welsh Government such as the Welsh Ambulance Service and NHS as Police officers are still finding themselves sitting in A&E departments for 6 to 8 hours or waiting on road sides for the Welsh Ambulance Services to arrive because these agencies are under pressure. She stressed she wanted these officers to be reducing violent crimes, targeting burglars and monitoring sex offenders. Emphasising policing will always work in partnership but for policing to keep communities safe policing needs to look at those hundreds of hours spent waiting in A&E or on roadsides, together with the impact this has on police staff in the view that if someone dies having been in contact with the police the incident has to be referred to the IOPC. This means officers are then under investigation because they have gone to a call instead of an ambulance to support the people in the community. This has an impact on the wellbeing and demand when policing have to step in and she hoped Senedd members continued to raise these concerns.

#### **8. John Griffiths MS – Chair**

John Griffiths thanked the speakers stressing the figures on domestic abuse are very concerning stating he is sure lots of work could be done to help.

He asked Jeremy Vaughan if the 900 recruited staff over the year in South Wales Police will be just police officers or a mix with Police staff. Asking how the Police officer figures are now due to cuts in the past.

#### **9. Jeremy Vaughan – Chief Constable for South Wales Police**

CC stated South Wales Police are recruiting 450 Police Officers but to note there are a number of Police officers retiring this year however they are on target with the uplift programme. In addition to this South Wales Police will be recruiting 200 PCSOs as many PCSO apply to become Police Officers so there is a turnover in numbers and in addition there are Police staff. At the end of the uplift programme South Wales Police will be back to policing numbers at the start of 2008/2009 but will still be

significantly lower in terms of police staff and the consequence of that is you will find Police officers in roles that could be covered by police staff.

**10. Ioan Bellin – Office of Rhys Ab Owen MS (Plaid Cymru)**

Ioan Bellin offered Rhys Ab Owen's apologies and posed the question that the Met Police get additional funding as they Police the capital and are Policing in Wales having conversations with the Home Office to get additional funding to Police Cardiff City as the capital of Wales.

**11. Dafydd Llywelyn – Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys**

Dafydd Llywelyn stated Policing are currently in a funding formula review and will be attending London to lobby Westminster MPs on the funding formula for Policing. In all of the responses to the funding formula review it has been highlighted Cardiff should get the capital city status it deserves and there are additional Policing pressures that come from Policing a capital city. This is one of the formula funding representations but there are others, one of which is the lack of capital investment in rural forces such as Dyfed Powys Police who need to have 7 custody facilities because of the geography, asking for Members of the Senedd as well as Constituency MPs in Westminster to support Policing in these endeavours.

**12. John Griffiths MS – Chair**

John Griffiths asked if someone would be coordinating activity so at the appropriate time Members of the Senedd were informed as to what they might usefully do?

**13. Dafydd Llywelyn – Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys**

Dafydd Llywelyn stated he would be happy to take an action that Members of the Senedd are informed perhaps in a short briefing note between now and the next session.

**14. Jeremy Vaughan – Chief Constable for South Wales Police**

CC Vaughan highlighted there is a debate to be had around if this should be dealt with via a funding formula or by way of a Grant so further discussions are to be had around the strategy in the approach.

**15. Jeff Cuthbert – Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent**

Jeff Cuthbert stated that often Cardiff gets compared to Bristol and although Bristol is a larger city than Cardiff, stressed that Bristol doesn't have an international sporting arena which holds regular international fixtures and Bristol doesn't hold a seat of Government within its boundaries, so there are very important reasons why Cardiff should have additional funding.

PCC Cuthbert pointed out that since 2010 the trajectory of Home Office grant funding has dropped considerably stating that in 2016 the ratio between Home Office grant and local precept paid by local council tax was roughly 70/30, now more like 50/50. Raised concerns due to the cost-of-living crisis for the next financial year.

#### **16. Closing remarks - John Griffiths MS – Chair**

John Griffiths the Chair thanked everyone for attending, stating that the presentation offered a great overview on pressures and demands on Policing.

Stressing as always if anyone wishing to get in touch before the next meeting with any follow up thoughts, ideas or comments from today or in relation to the Ride along Scheme please do.

John Griffiths added that once his office received the briefing note on the funding formula and timescales the office will circulate that to all Members of the Senedd.

**Action: Dafydd Llywelyn to forward a short briefing note between now and next session on the funding formula for Policing in Wales and the significant timescales for Members of the Senedd to offer their support.**