



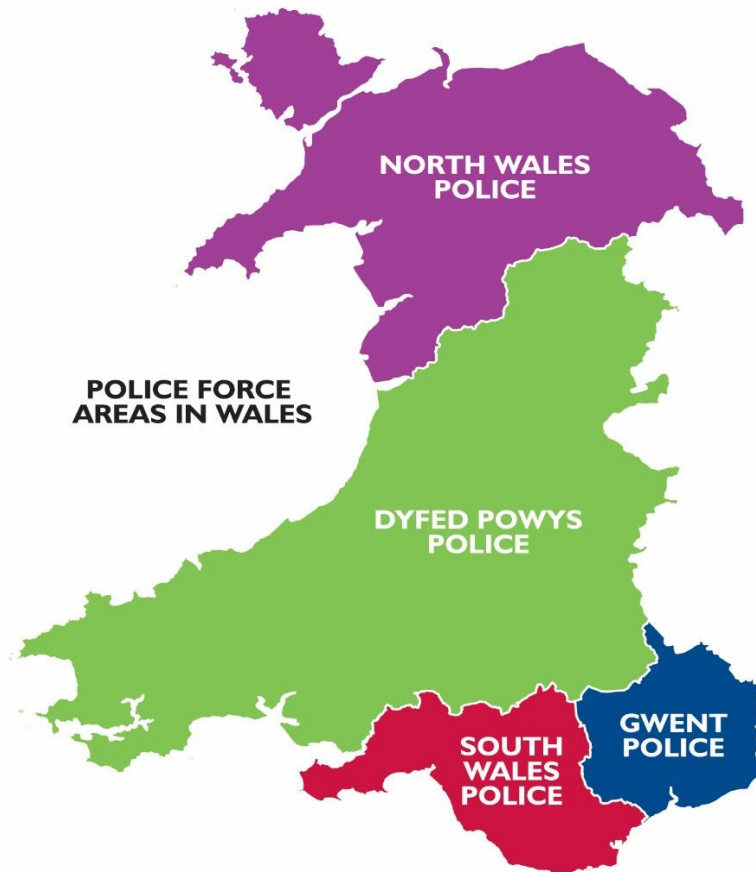
Cross Party Group 10 July 2018, Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay

Policing in Wales

Structure

There are four Police forces in Wales and they each have an elected Police and Crime Commissioner and an operationally focused Chief Constable.

| Police Force | Police and Crime Commissioner | Chief Constable |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dyfed-Powys | Dafydd Llywelyn | Mark Collins |
| Gwent | Jeff Cuthbert | Julian Williams |
| North Wales | Arfon Jones | Mark Polin |
| South Wales | Alun Michael | Matt Jukes |



Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables are Corporations Sole, i.e. separate legal entities who have distinct responsibilities.

Police and Crime Commissioners

Police and Crime Commissioners were first elected in England and Wales in November 2012. Commissioners are elected to serve a term of four years and the second round of elections took place in May 2016.

Commissioners are responsible for the totality of policing within their respective areas and must ensure the service is both effective and efficient. Commissioners are responsible for appointing Chief Constables and to hold them to account for the exercise of -

- Their functions as Chief Constables; and
- The functions of persons under the direction and control of the Chief Constable.

Commissioners provide Chief Constables with financial and other resources in order for them to exercise their functions. They are responsible for the policing fund which includes setting the local precept rate for policing.

They also have responsibilities relating to the strategic policing requirement, as introduced in July 2012, which seeks to ensure that sufficient capabilities are in place to respond to serious and cross-boundary threats. Commissioners must also make arrangements, with criminal justice bodies within their area, to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system (see APCC Brief in Appendix).

As their title suggests they also commission a range of services including -

- The Victim Help Centre-Support for Victims of Crime
- IDVA/ISVA/Perpetrator Provision – VAWDASV Agenda
- Youth Justice Provision
- Target Hardening
- Children Affected by Parents in Prison in collaboration with the LA's
- CSA
- Women's Pathfinder
- Drug Intervention Programme in collaboration with HMPPS
- Modern Slavery
- Early Intervention Fund New Scheme

Policing and Crime Plans

Each Commissioner must issue a Police and Crime Plan which sets out their police and crime objectives and priorities for their respective areas. The Plans are published on their websites which are available via the following links:

<http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/>

<http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/>

<http://www.northwales-pcc.gov.uk/en/home.aspx>

<http://commissioner.south-wales.police.uk/en/>

Police and Crime Panels

Since November 2012, Police and Crime Panels have had a vital role in challenging and supporting each Police and Crime Commissioner, by scrutinising their precepts and police and crime plans, conducting confirmation hearings for the two statutory roles, and dealing with complaints against the Commissioner. Membership of the Panels are comprised of elected members drawn from the local authorities within their area and independent members. The local authority representation on the Panel should be politically proportionate i.e. reflecting the total number of councillors in the force area.

Chief Constables

Chief Constables are appointed by Commissioners and are responsible for all operational matters within their Police force areas. They make operational decisions independently of the Police and Crime Commissioner. They also produce a delivery plan which sets out how they will deliver the objectives set out in the Commissioner's police and crime plan. Chief Constables have also formed a Wales Chief Officer Group and the Current Chair is Matt Jukes, Chief Constable of South Wales Police.

All Wales Policing Group

The All Wales Policing Group was established to enable Commissioners and Chief Constables to co-ordinate policing and collaboration activity on a regional basis. The Group meets on a quarterly basis and the Chair rotates annually between the four Commissioners. The current Chair is Jeff Cuthbert.

Policing in Wales is different - A non-devolved service operating in a predominantly devolved environment

The police service in Wales remains under the responsibility of the Home Office and despite requests from Welsh Government for policing to be devolved, the UK government has steadfastly said that it will not do so.

The four Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales have stated that it is their collective wish for policing to be devolved to Welsh Government. In the meantime they will seek to work constructively with Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales in order to provide a holistic service to the people of Wales.

The need to work closely with Welsh Government is unavoidable given the extent of responsibilities which have been devolved, including:

- Community Safety
- Health and Social Services
- Local Government
- Fire Authorities
- Natural Resources Wales which has responsibilities for flood defences, waste management, forestries, protected areas of land and seas, the environment.
- Transport
- Housing
- Regeneration
- Economic development and a sustainable economy
- Apprenticeships
- The Welsh Language

These are clearly key partnership areas and it is vital that the police service works closely with the Departments and agencies who deliver these services given their interdependency with each other.

Commissioners and Chief Constables are fully engaged with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 given its aim to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables are also committed to the Public Service Boards and have accepted the statutory invitation to become fully participating members of each Board across Wales.

These are clear illustrations to highlight why “policing in Wales is different” and why Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables must have regard to both the Home Office position, Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales. The UK Government cannot insist that Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables in Wales follow its directions if they impact on a service that has been devolved to Welsh Government.

Given the broad extent of devolved responsibilities the significance of this context cannot be understated and it is important that this is fully understood.

Current working arrangements

Strong working links have already been formed between Commissioners, Chief Constables and Welsh Government. This is essential given their respective responsibilities and the need for key partnership working, in particular within local government, community safety and health collaboration across Wales.

The Police Liaison Unit based in, the Welsh Government Offices, Cathays Park, Cardiff, already provides a bridge between the police service and Welsh Government.

There is also the added dimension linked to police funding in that Welsh Government (under statutory instrument) has the power to both cap precept levels in Wales which can have a direct impact on the police fund available to Commissioners and Chief Constables. Welsh Government also currently fund PCSO posts across the four forces, which is greatly appreciated by forces and communities alike. Cross government funding arrangements have also caused impeding issues nevertheless, such as that being experienced over the ‘Apprenticeship levy’.

In terms of the overall relationship between the UK and Welsh Government on policing issues, there is a significant and frequent knowledge gap around devolved matters. Policy and strategy communicated from Whitehall often shows a lack of awareness and understanding in respect of Welsh policing matters and has caused some tension and frustration to say the least. Examples include the ‘Mental Health Concordat’ (issued jointly by the Home Office and College of Policing), guidelines for the treatment of juveniles in police custody / secure accommodation, the MOJ prisons strategy on rehabilitation and a raft of joint inspection matters, all of which have failed to understand the unique nature of policing alongside devolved functions in Wales.

It is important that there is a strong working relationship between all parties given the considerable areas of mutual interest and interdependency and the need to deliver sustainable, efficient and effective public services to the people of Wales.

Current Challenges facing Policing in Wales

Since the Silk Commission was published in 2014, the demands upon policing within Wales have changed significantly. This evolving and expanding need presents a key challenge for the four Welsh police forces. Some “traditional” crimes such as burglary and car crime have reduced over the last few decades however complaints of rape and serious sexual offences have more than doubled. There has also been an increase in terrorism threats, as well as internet enabled crime and cyber-crime.

Digital evidence is also becoming a significant challenge and this will only increase, having an impact both in terms of criminal investigations and in respect of the disclosure of evidence - a relatively straightforward case can now have evidence that includes thousands of text messages or posts on social media.

To illustrate current demand, Dyfed Powys Police has seen a 29% increase in recorded crime since 2014, at a time when its civilian employee numbers have fallen from 713 to 649. Similarly, South Wales Police receive over one million calls each year with only approximately 100,000 of those resulting in a reported crime. In 2017/18, the force dealt with 188,251 emergency (999) calls, 518,883 non-emergency (101 calls), recorded 358,922 occurrences, and carried out 27,810 arrests making it the 13th busiest force in England and Wales (outside of London) in terms of crimes per 1000 population.

Welsh police forces are currently dealing with the emerging threat presented by cross border criminality – the term ‘county lines’ refers to organised crime groups from outside a force area, travelling into the force areas to expand their criminal enterprises. This is generally characterised by the dealing of drugs in local communities and the exploitation of the vulnerable. It also presages an increase in violent crime and, of note, instances of knife crime are escalating. There is engrained local drug misuse in our communities, and this is exacerbated with drug gangs coming into communities from London, Merseyside, Manchester and Birmingham which has increased significantly since 2013. Whilst the sexual exploitation of children is not the primary focus of these gangs, this is often used as part of the grooming or control methodology exercised. In North Wales, this threat is exacerbated by its link to the motorway infrastructure of England by the A55 Expressway which feeds the port of Holyhead (the second busiest in the UK). Within the South Wales area alone, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea are now within the top ten locations for drug deaths in the United Kingdom. This issue emphasises that crime does not recognise national borders or

administrative boundaries, and underlines the need for a cooperative and cohesive approach to address the same.

Our capital city, Cardiff, is one of the fastest growing cities in Europe and attracts over 18 million visitors per year. The city is home to the Principality Stadium, Cardiff International Airport, a Premier League football team, the SWALEC cricket stadium and over 94,000 students.

As the home of Welsh Government it necessitates the provision of a dedicated policing unit from the forces to support the same.

Despite these demands, Cardiff is not recognised for capital city funding, unlike London and Edinburgh. It is estimated to cost an additional £3.5 million to police a capital city but these are currently unfunded costs.

Reference should also be made to the strategic assets held by South Wales Police - delivering not only a local service but also providing support for major national events outside the force area. The force polices approximately 500 events each year including national and international sporting events, royal visits and demonstrations. In 2017, Cardiff successfully hosted the UEFA Champions League, the largest single sporting event in the year. This aspect is not expected to decrease with the Welsh Government's continued drive to encourage more large-scale events to come to Wales.

This evolving picture in terms of demand comes against a background of austerity in the public sector generally. Since 2011 police resources have been reduced by 20% e.g. North Wales Police has already made savings of £29.625m with a further £8.85m required over the next five years (before 2022/23). Since the 2010 comprehensive spending review, central grant funding to Dyfed Powys Police has reduced by 22 percent (or £14.16million) and the force has been required to make savings of £24.7million. South Wales Police has reduced its staff by one thousand people and has had its budget reduced by £50 million. The impacts of such austerity measures upon the wider Criminal Justice system also need to be considered due to the interrelated nature of our service provision.

There is an increasing need to work together. Police forces are forming ever closer partnerships to protect vulnerable people through multi agency hubs. Gwent South Wales and North Wales Police forces have established tri-service centres with the Fire and Rescue Services and the Wales Ambulance Service Trust. All four Welsh forces are working with the other forces and partners (both within and outside the justice sector) to deliver services collaboratively to their communities.

Future Working Arrangements

We hope to build on the existing working relationship with Welsh Government and also to form a new way of engaging with the National Assembly for Wales through the Cross Party Group. Policing is complex and, because it is non-devolved, Assembly Members may not be familiar with the issues impacting on the service and to what extent they are interconnected with other devolved services in Wales.

This forum will provide an opportunity to be inclusive and to develop an understanding of these issues on a cross party basis. We look forward to engaging with you and hope that we can develop a common understanding of policing in Wales and how we can identify holistic approaches for the benefit of our communities.