



OFFICE OF CHIEF CONSTABLE – Chief Constable’s Update	
REPORT TO:	Strategy and Performance Board
DATE OF MEETING:	5 th June 2019
REPORT OF:	The Chief Constable
REPORT AUTHOR:	Inspector Shane Underwood
PURPOSE:	To update members of the Strategy and Performance Board of significant events and work that has taken place since the previous update in March 2019.

1. HMICFRS Inspection

On 4th February Gwent Police received an unannounced thematic inspection from the HMICFRS relating to Child Protection. The inspection took place over a two week period.

From the inspection the following is a summary of the feedback to the force:

The force has good leadership in relation to Child Protection with an ACC Lead and in addition Child Cantered Policing and ACES oversight. There are good meeting structures in place around vulnerability. Daily Management Meetings have a good structure and focus on Child Protection and vulnerability.

The force realises the increase in demand and plans are in place to increase staff numbers by 30 to deal with Child Protection/ Vulnerability with the CID/ PPU review.

The relocation of DCI moves out to Local Policing Areas was a good decision to address gaps and focus on PPU matters and has had a positive response from staff.

File classification: SWYDDOGOL-DIM ANGEN MARC OFFICIAL - NO MARKING

The force has good evidence of partner engagement, attendance at boards at Superintendent level, and representatives at sub groups, although reciprocal understanding from partners not always evident. Training in force is good – Clear focus on Child Protection, Domestic Abuse and Missing people. Force Training Days are a very good practice, and there was evidence of additional specialist training.

First Point Of Contact (FPOC) - is a strong asset for assessing the risks in relation to vulnerability. Response grading's are good, the diary system has good oversight around not allocating Child Protection matters to these. Initial Q&A framework excellent. Women's Aid & Mental Health Practitioners are excellent initiatives.

Domestic Abuse - Initial response is good, FPOC question set includes child details, 'markers' for offenders and previous history.

Front Line Body Worn Video (BWV) use is evident but could be improved- There has been a decision that BWV will be used at all Domestic Violence/Domestic Abuse incidents and a clear rationale to be documented should it not be used. The policy will be amended to reflect this position. There is positive action to arrest suspected offenders and the involvement of Women's Aid/ Domestic Abuse Support Team involvement is good.

It was noted that children's demeanour on Public Protection Notices are required to be consistently captured and this is now being addressed by training completed by ACES team. It was highlighted that Operation Encompass use is very positive for the force.

Children in Custody - Further work is necessary regarding children being held in police custody overnight, working with partners to identify alternative sources of appropriate accommodation. Further training is also required for custody staff around vulnerability. These areas for improvement are in hand and action is progressing to put measures in place to rectify.

Response to missing children was good and good oversight at Local Policing Areas of children at risk.

Overall force effectiveness – It was established we are clearly committed to Child Protection and Vulnerability. There is good engagement with partners, including Child Centred Policing/Mini Police. The force

acknowledges it can make further improvements and has an action plan in place.

2. Appointment of Assistant Chief Constable

On 23rd April two applicants took part in a formal and comprehensive assessment process at Gwent Headquarters. We are delighted to announce the successful candidate and newly appointed substantive Assistant Chief Constable is Jonathan Edwards who has a wealth of operational experience. ACC Edwards took up the position on 29th April and will provide longer term stability within our Chief Officer Team.

I would like to thank our former temporary ACC Rhiannon Kirk for her superb work whilst covering this position and wish her well in her new role as Chief Superintendent working with Local Authorities and Health to further strengthen our partnerships.

3. Home Office Meeting

On 31st May the PCC and other key personnel attended the Home Office and provided a presentation to highlight the potential impact on Gwent Police in relation to the M4 Relief Road project (pending approval decision). A strong case was presented to seek further Central Government support should the need arise.

4. Sexual Harassment Implementation Plan

The 3rd June is the national launch of the sexual harassment implementation plan throughout all forces within Wales and England. The action plan is a culmination of that work following the UNISON joint report with the London School of Economics into Sexual Harassment within the police service, which was launched on 16 August 2018. This plan has been generated and developed by Gwent Police and will assist forces in tackling sexual harassment within the police service, wherever prevalent.

5. Superintendent Promotion Process

During the 1st and 2nd May, Gwent Police conducted a Superintendent promotion process with 13 of our Chief Inspectors taking part. As a result of that process the successful candidates were Carl Williams, Vicki Townsend and Alun Davies.

6. All Wales Serious Organised Crime Launch

On 9th May the Celtic Manor hosted the launch of the all Wales Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) Strategy. The purpose of this strategy is to ensure that SOC is treated a main priority within the four Welsh forces, and partnerships with other services and agencies are developed to deliver a single and cohesive response in tackling this area of criminality.

Within Gwent we have previously identified SOC as a priority area of policing and our localised response, entitled Operation Jigsaw, has already had a positive impact within our communities of Gwent.

The event was attended and supported by several key speakers including Lynne Owens – Director General National Crime Agency, Ben Wallace MP – Minister of State for Security and Economic Crime, Jane Hutt – Deputy Minister and Chief Whip, Debbie Wilcox – Leader of Newport City Council and Leader of Welsh Local Government Association, Jo Bakare – St. Giles Trust.

7. Serious Organised Crime Update

The latest update regarding tackling organised criminals is as below:

Cash seizures – in excess of £600k

- Drugs seized - 49 Kilos of Class A and 74.3 kilos of Class B
- Significant assets and in excess of 50 vehicles.
- In excess of a 240 years of prison sentences with Op Finch, Op Divide and Op Jackdaw sentences yet to be added.
- 163 people arrested.
- POCA process complete for op Avocet. £1.9M benefit figure with £87,000 in police possession for asset recovery dissemination.
- Op Chino. Arrest of 4 Newport males for class A drug supply. All remanded in custody with approx. 1.75KG of cocaine being seized.

We will continue to target SOC criminals who operate within Gwent.

8. Investigation Framework Training

Officers and Staff are now using an Investigations Framework (IF) to allow them to focus on crimes which cause the greatest threat, harm and risk to victims and the communities, with an emphasis on protecting the most vulnerable.

The framework has been utilised by staff working within First Point of Contact and officers within Local Policing Areas to ensure they provide a proportionate response to each crime on an individual basis and make decisions early in the investigation by considering a range of factors, whilst still delivering the best possible service to the public.

As a result we have now trained 1105 staff and officers. The project team have delivered the course repeatedly over the year with enthusiasm and vigour and tailored the training based on lessons learned about the process.

The project team have monitored how this training and new framework has been implemented by staff and the data shows that it has been an overwhelming success. Collectively all five shifts have utilised the IF on average for 1000 crimes over a monthly basis. This would account for 20.5 % of all reported crime being proportionately dealt with at the initial stages. There has also been a significant reduction in the amount of tasks generated thereby increasing operational efficiency. The IF template utilised to capture the rationale of officers has evolved into a standardised document used for all reported crimes whether investigated or not. This has led to improvements in the quality of investigations, investigative updates and supervisory oversight.

9. Probationer Training

Following the introduction of the new Police Educational Qualification Framework (PEQF) we have successfully commenced our latest probationer training in collaboration with South Wales Police. At the end of March, 15 new constables commenced the PEQF programme.

10. Criminal Justice Update as at 14th May 2019

Bail

Following the introduction of the bail legislation changes all forces including Gwent saw a significant reduction in the use of bail. The force has continued to drive the appropriate use of bail and has seen a steady increase in use of Police bail month on month with the figures now showing 22.4% for April 2019. Scrutiny of the data shows that bail continues to be used for the more serious offences and those of most threat, risk and harm.

	May-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19
%age of Records RUI	30.2%	30.5%	35.3%	31.7%	28.7%	29.1%	29.5%
%age of Record Bailed	9.7%	15.2%	13.1%	15.5%	21.2%	21.4%	22.4%
%age of Records Supt Ext	0.1%	3.6%	2.4%	2.0%	1.4%	3.4%	3.7%
%age of Records Court Ext	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%

Voluntary Attendance

Feedback on the new model introduced in force has been extremely positive from front line officers. A post implementation review has taken place during May and a number of small changes to the model have been made, however it is clear that there has been a significant improvement in the areas previously identified as weaknesses.

Digital Evidence

A business case has been completed jointly with South Wales Police and is being submitted to the joint Digital Services Board. Once approval is granted then this will allow us to progress to the procurement phase.

Diversion Model

The initial stages of the tendering exercise have been completed and we are on track for a go live of the new model from September 2019.

Magistrates Court Performance (Transforming Summary Justice)

The final quarter of 2018/19 data shows that Gwent ranks 2nd nationally in its overall performance in magistrates court cases. The measures in this data

include the timeliness to court of cases, discontinuance rates, guilty pleas at 1st hearing and also effective trials. The force is working closely with HMCTS and the CPS to review its effective trials and identify any areas of improvement.

11. National Police Dogs Trials

Gwent Police proudly hosted this year's 59th National Police Dogs Trails which took place between the 17th and 19th May at Tredegar House, Newport. This was a fantastic community engagement opportunity which attracted a great many visitors. From the previous Regional competition two Gwent Police dogs/handlers, qualified to represent Gwent Police in the National Trials.

12. Vulnerability

Our recognition of CSE has significantly improved with our partners. In March we dealt with the most joint visits we have ever experienced with over 100 completed. This has led to a number of children being safeguarded and offenders being identified for further action as necessary.

We have paid particular focus on 'adults at risk' including having this as a focus for operational uniform staff. Due to this focus our visits and investigations have increased. We are currently working with partners to agree a threshold document that can be shared across Gwent.

The Public Protection Unit (PPU) recently held a professional development day. Achieving Best Evidence and Child Sexual Exploitation matters were discussed which generated further ideas on how we can improve the service we provide to vulnerable people. The staff felt this was a positive experience and it will be repeated.