

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT
STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD
2nd March 2022

Present: **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)**
Mr J Cuthbert - Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
Ms E Thomas – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC)
Mr D Garwood-Pask – Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
Mrs S Curley – Chief Executive (CEX)
Mr S Slater – Head of Strategy (HoS)
Ms R Davies – Principal Finance and Commissioning Manager (PFCM)
Mrs J Regan – Head of Assurance and Compliance (HoAC)
Mr R Guest - Head of Communications and Engagement (HoCE)
Mrs N Warren – Governance Officer (GO)

Office of the Chief Constable (OCC)

Ms P Kelly – Chief Constable (CC)
Mrs A Blakeman – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)
Mr N Stephens – Assistant Chief Officer, Resources (ACOR)
Mr N McLain – Chief Superintendent – Head of Continuous Improvement (HoCI)
Ms N Brain Det/Ch/Superintendent– Head of Crime and First Point of Contact (HoC&FPoC)
Ms L Brustad – Superintendent – Head of Professional Standards Department (HoPSD)
Ms N Wesson - Head of Corporate Communications (HoCC)
Mr M Edwards – Staff Officer (SO)
Mr M Richards – Superintendent – East LPA (ELPA)
Mrs N Brennan - Assistant Director and Head of Joint Legal Services (HoJLS)

Staff Associations

Mrs L Davies (Unison)
Mr S Thorpe (Police Federation)

The meeting commenced at 10:00am.

The PCC thanked all for attending given that the meeting had to be rearranged due to a Home Office partnership meeting having been announced for the original date of the meeting.

1. <u>APOLOGIES</u>	Action
Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Hobrough, Assistant Chief Constable, Mrs S Connolly, Head of People Services, Mrs A Kift, Police Federation, Ms J Everson, Unison, Chief Superintendent Ian Roberts, Local Policing Area West and Specialist Operations,	

Chief Superintendent T Harding, Local Policing Area East and First Point of Contact.	Action
2. <u>MINUTES</u>	
<p>We received and confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th November 2021.</p> <p>We noted the following amendment:</p> <p>Page 14, the Serious Assault Referral Centre (SARC) should read Sexual Assault Referral Centre.</p>	GO
3. <u>ACTIONS</u>	
<p>We received and noted the actions from the meeting held on the 29th November 2021.</p> <p>Action 1, 29th November 2021, Organisational Performance Report Against the Police And Crime Plan Priorities – Quarter One. The PCC advised us that work was underway in order to introduce a league table in relation to 999 emergency calls on a National basis and this was very likely to be introduced for 101 calls in the future.</p> <p>Action 2, 29th November 2021, Chief’s Budget Bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner 2022.23. Thanks were offered to all involved for their efforts in producing the Chief Constable’s budget bid. The PCC informed us that the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) had acknowledged their support for the Force and this was reflected in the positive response to the precept request. The DPCC advised us the public have also shown their support as this was demonstrated in their responses to the survey conducted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner’s (OPCC) Communication and Engagement team.</p> <p>Action 3, 29th November 2021, To Confirm Scrutiny Arrangements Around the following Reports It was confirmed that the PCP had recently received a briefing on the on going work in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) from the CEx and the DCC. It was well received.</p>	
4. <u>PRESENTATION OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2021-2025 TO THE CHIEF CONSTABLE</u>	
<p>The PCC presented his new key priorities and commitments within the Police and Crime Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep Neighbourhoods Safe; 2. Combat Serious Crime; 	

<p>3. Support Victims and Protect the Vulnerable; 4. Increase Community Confidence in Policing and 5. Drive Sustainable Policing.</p> <p>The CC thanked the PCC for his office’s engagement with the Force throughout the development of the plan and advised us that the Force Delivery Plan would be aligned to the Police and Crime Plan to deliver against these priorities. Work was being undertaken by the Force and the OPCC in order to streamline data in order to demonstrate that key commitments within the plan were being met and to highlight where improvements could be made. This streamlined information could be relayed to the PCP and various other Performance Boards throughout the Force.</p> <p>The CC explained that although the Force would be providing regular updates in relation to delivering on the priorities in the plan, it would be beneficial to be made aware in advance of any further specific pinch point reporting requirements from the OPCC and their frequency. The PCC advised us that work was ongoing to identify key areas of reporting and his office would continue to communicate these requirements to the Force.</p> <p>The CC had highlighted the new Police and Crime Plan to officers and staff during her roadshows and it had also been shared on the Force Intranet.</p>	Action
5. <u>FORCE DELIVERY PLAN 2022/2023</u>	
<p>We noted the Force Delivery Plan 2022/23 was unavailable for this meeting but would be shared with the OPCC shortly.</p>	CC
6. <u>ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES – QUARTER THREE 2021-22 AND QUARTERLY PROGRESS AGAINST THE CHIEF CONSTABLES DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
<p>We received the organisational performance report against the Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) Priorities for Quarter Three 2021-22 and quarterly progress against the Chief Constable’s Delivery Plan.</p> <p>The HoCI advised us on the governance of the reports. Individual performance reports were developed by the Performance Team for scrutiny by Chief Officers or the Heads of Department at various governance boards. An amalgamation of the reports was then presented to the Force Performance meeting for scrutiny and following that the DCC presented the information to the CC at the Chief Officer Team meeting prior to being presented at the Strategy Performance Board meeting.</p> <p>The Key Performance Indicators are drawn from various elements such as the Police and Crime Plan, the Beating Crime Plan, VAWAG and any other environmental scanning to ascertain what is expected of the Force both locally and nationally.</p>	

Over the past 21 months there has been a 7% decrease in overall crime. There was a big reduction in crime during Covid, however, there has been a slow increase this year due to an increase in violent crime, mostly related to public order offence type incidents. The increase is likely to be as a result of improved Crime Data Integrity (CDI), as more public order incidents are being recorded as crimes. The HoCI explained that there are some instances where offences may be recorded more than once for a crime, such as stalking and harassment and this also reflects as an increase in crime.

Action

It was stated that the Force are not an outlier in terms of its crime levels. It is anticipated that crime levels are expected to increase once covid restrictions have been lifted for all Forces. The HoCI assured us that all crime categories are monitored continually to capture any new trends. This ensures that appropriate plans are established at the earliest opportunity in order to mitigate any issues that may arise.

There has been a decrease in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) which also indicates an improvement in CDI, as more ASB incidents are being recorded as crimes.

There have been significant decreases in acquisitive crime at 8.8% in quarter 3. Burglaries were particularly low during covid. However, these decreases have been maintained. The We Don't Buy Crime (WDBC) initiative has been a contributory factor in the decrease since its launch at the beginning of this financial year. The Force have been 10th nationally out of 43 Forces and 4th out of 8 in their most similar group for density of crime in this area over the last 12 months. Overall acquisitive crime such as robbery, burglary and vehicle crime has reduced by almost 30% over the last 2 years.

The Force have been focussing on increasing crime reporting in areas of vulnerability such as VAWG particularly, Hate Crime and Modern Day Slavery (MDS), by encouraging victims to report these offences and to have the confidence to report repeat offences.

Although the Force are 37th out of 43 nationally in terms of the volume of Rape offences, reporting rates have increased by 50%, indicating that public confidence in increasing. Hate Crime reporting has also increased and this is not the consistent in other Forces. It was suggested that the increase is likely to be due the use of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) and a of network groups established during covid such as community dial in, which has helped to the Force to demonstrate to the community that they were there to support everyone within the community.

It was acknowledged that positive outcome rates in relation to Rape required improvement and this was not dissimilar to other Forces. Work is ongoing to improve the systemic issues within the Criminal Justice system in order to improve outcomes for victims. The Force are 10th out of 43 Forces in terms of positive outcomes in this area.

The CC referred to the increase in the number of Rape cases and informed us further investment was required and that it was hoped that the Force was to be an Operation Soteria Force. The Force requires specialist staff who can work with partner agencies to make sure that cases go to court much more swiftly. The PCC assured the CC that he would support her in the bid.

Action

There had been increases in reporting Domestic Abuse of over 11% over successive years and this indicates confidence in victims to report it and improvements in officers identifying and recording it. However, outcome rates require improvement, again this is not dissimilar to other Forces. Plans are in place to improve positive outcome rates in this area such as focussed training and the introduction of the Domestic Abuse File Build Team to try to ensure cases go to court much quicker. This should help to reduce the number of victims withdrawing from their cases.

The Force are also undertaking a substantial amount of work in relation to MDS to ensure officers are able to identify MDS with the use of awareness training, This has contributed to an increase in MDS reporting with a positive outcome rate of 11%. This type of offence is often difficult to detect and to achieve a positive outcome. Further improvements in CDI should also assist with this.

The Force will be focussing on increasing the use of community resolutions and community payback initiatives in order to improve outcomes such as public order crimes and crime against communities. A task and finish group has been established to progress this task.

The Arrest rate has remained relatively stable for this quarter, despite the custody units being closed for refurbishment. The Voluntary Attendance rate had decreased, which was expected, as the Force were conducting more arrests as opposed to waiting for offenders to attend custody voluntarily.

There has been significant 101 call demand into the Force Control Room (FCR), particularly since the onset of covid, seeing an increase of 15% in 2019-20 and 8.5% in 2020-21. The significant influx in calls has impacted on the abandonment rate and call answer times, particularly with the logistical challenges presented as a result of covid. The FCR had to split into different departments in order to ensure they were adhering to the social distancing guidelines and sickness levels also increased during this time.

The Force have recently invested in a new speech analysis product which will enable a quick analysis of call demand and how best to problem solve both in Force and with other emergency service organisations in order to reduce the demand. The Force are also considering investing in Goodsam software, which will enable a Virtual Response Team to interact with victims via a live link to any scene of crime or incident, which can be utilised as a multi-agency platform to support outcomes.

There were substantial increases in 999 calls at 5% in 2019/20 and 14% 2020/21. However, the Force has been able to remain within the threshold of

Superintendent Mike Richards (ELPA) presented the report and informed us that the Force had invested in the services of a former Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) associate to scrutinise and review Stop Search. The review has now been completed including an in depth review of over 400 stop searches, 200 being white searches and 200 ethnic minority searches. It was identified that some of the grounds for searching ethnic minorities were weaker than those for searches for white stop searches. However, the Force HMICFRS liaison lead had advised that Gwent were one of the only Forces conducting this level of analysis to understand the issues in relation to disproportionality to ascertain what the problems are and how they can be put right with the right training.

Action

The associate conducted an in depth analysis of stop and search data which has resulted in amendments to the data used in quarterly reports to scrutinise stop search at the relevant governance boards.

A survey has also been developed to ascertain the opinion of those who are stop searched. The survey will be hosted on the Race Council Cymru website and other similar websites where the public will have access the information.

Stop and Search training is also part of the Sergeant Development days where issues identified within the report are addressed.

The Race Disproportionality Rate remains low at 2.7% which is likely to be the lowest of the 43 Forces, with a find rate of 25% which is also lower than similar size Forces.

The PCC asked if Sergeants and their officers were aware of the role of the IAG on matters such as stop and search. The ELPA advised us the IAG is considered to be a very valuable forum for providing independent scrutiny of stop searches and the use of force. The ELPA and an Inspector attends every forum and the IAG also forms part of the training input by the ELPA at the Sergeants Development days. Awareness of the IAG has improved significantly and a prime example was the two recent bespoke events in East and West Local Policing Teams consisting of IAG members, neighbourhood Sergeants and Inspectors.

The PCC sought assurance that stop search encounters with children and the vulnerable were handled appropriately. The ELPA informed us that the average age of stop searches was 28 years in quarter 3. The ELPA assured us that the quarterly Coercive Powers Scrutiny Board monitors stop searches in great detail to identify those that require further exploration. The Inspectors also chair a Quality Improvement Group to identify these types of cases including children under 18 and the vulnerable.

It was noted that Monmouthshire continues to have the highest positive outcome rates. The PCC queried if there was a specific reason for this. The ELPA informed us that Monmouthshire was an affluent area that had suffered historically with dwelling house burglaries. Although the numbers were usually

<p>lower there is a high level intelligence led work that leads to higher positive outcomes.</p> <p>The PCC asked why there had been a decline in the number of positive outcomes resulting from stop searches in Blaenau Gwent. The ELPA advised us that it was likely to be a temporary dip as this decline was not reflected in the quarterly data published in the last week. The Force would continue to monitor these issues going forward through the relevant board.</p> <p>The CC informed us that she has been liaising with the HMICFRS in order for the recommended improvements within their stop search inspection to be signed off as they have been completed.</p> <p>The CC had also suggested that Black and Ethnic Minority members of our community be encouraged to participate in the ride along scheme to observe officers and to ask questions about the stop and search process.</p> <p>The CC informed us that Gwent were the 3rd lowest Force in the England and Wales in terms of knife crime and using stop search powers is essential as it is an important tool in the Force Violence Reduction Strategy.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p align="center"><u>8. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PERFORMANCE REPORT</u> <u>QUARTER THREE 2021-22</u></p>	
<p>We received and noted the Professional Standards Performance Report Quarter Three, 2021-22.</p> <p>The following key points were highlighted by Superintendent Brustad:</p> <p>It was explained that although the new complaints regulations had been in place for over 2 years, the Independent Office of Police Conduct (IOPC) had not yet published their quarterly National Police Complaints Data Bulletin. They have stated that this is in order to protect the integrity of the data. This does not allow comparisons to be made with other Forces. However, it is anticipated that the IOPC will produce a performance pack by the end of the next quarter.</p> <p>The majority of complaints are submitted by white complainants and for those with protected characteristics, the level of complaints is particularly low. Therefore, the Force are focussing on improving accessibility, engagement and raising awareness in this area.</p> <p>The Home Office have added 7 further requirements to the Specified Information Order which are to be published by the OPCC. These specifications are indicated within the report. The CEx and HoPSD have reviewed the requests and all have been fulfilled apart from point 1 'How the Force is measuring complainant satisfaction'. Therefore, the Professional Standards Department are liaising with other Forces who have satisfaction surveys in place, to assist with the collation and implementation of a complainant satisfaction survey in Gwent.</p>	

<p>The PCC referred to the increase in off duty conduct cases and asked if there was any rationale for this increase and what the Force has done to address the issue. The HoPSD advised us that the increase had occurred due to a number of reasons; the lifting of restrictions as officers and staff were out in the night time economy, resulting in further reports of off duty conduct and the Force have been focussing on raising awareness of key issues such as the VAWAG agenda which has also contributed to the increase.</p> <p>The PCC asked how this compared to pre-covid and the HoPSD confirmed that the majority of conduct cases related to off duty cases as was the case pre-covid.</p> <p>The DPCC commended the HoPSD and her team for the significant amount of work PSD are leading on, particularly in light of the challenging circumstances faced in policing across England and Wales.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p><u>9. FINANCE PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER THREE 2021-22</u></p> <p>We received the Professional Finance Performance Report Quarter Three, 2021-22 from the ACOR.</p> <p>Due primarily to the way the government fund Operation Uplift, there is a year end forecast of £5m surplus prior to the transfer to reserves. There had been a significant officer and staff intake in January and a further intake was expected in March to ensure the required establishment could be met, as stipulated by the Home Office.</p> <p>The forecast outturn position for supplies and services has increased from quarter two to quarter three. This is primarily due the impact of covid on services, many of which have subsequently resumed, such as external training, which had previously been postponed due to covid restrictions. The CFO acknowledged the robust budget setting approach had provided clarity with regards to the underspend regarding supplies and services in quarter two and quarter three.</p> <p>The overspend on the overtime budget continues to be a key area of focus for the Force. However, the implementation of the Electronic Time Management System is producing in depth data which will enable the Force to analyse overtime in further detail. This should ensure overtime is authorised in accordance with the operational code and will also assist with the planning of the overtime budget. Overtime is being scrutinised through various boards within the Force. However, it was noted that there had been a slight decrease in quarter three.</p> <p>The PCC asked how realistic the forecasted overtime costs were, given the current expenditure. The ACOR informed us there is an element of risk in terms of overtime costs. Covid has impacted on staffing levels due to absenteeism and therefore other staff members had to work overtime to ensure service continuity. There were also vacancies in some departments</p>	

including custody, which have subsequently been filled. Overtime was enabled to ensure sufficient staffing levels were maintained whilst officers and staff received training. The Force are focussing on ensuring budget holders are challenging overtime requests to ensure it is required to meet Force activity.

Action

The CC informed us that there are some officers and staff who have worked relentlessly since the onset of covid, many of whom are facing financial challenges and as the reduction in overtime opportunities will become less this will affect their incomes. They have also become physically exhausted as a result. The Force will be monitoring their wellbeing and also giving careful consideration to the complexities around allocation of overtime.

The ACOR advised us that the key performance indicator targets were being met in terms of creditors, debtors and cash management. The CFO reiterated the good work of procurement, officers and staff in relation to reducing the 30 day creditor target to an average 21 days with the introduction of the new purchase order process.

The CFO referred to the £5m surplus underspend from the 2021/22 financial year and suggested that further discussions needed to take place regarding the most efficient use of the underspend, taking into consideration previous discussions that operational needs should take priority. This position would not dissimilar to year three of Operation Uplift by virtue in the way it is funded and clarity in relation to the 2022/23 surplus at the earliest opportunity would assist the Service Improvement Board and operational delivery. The ACOR informed us that a draft position on the surplus for year three of Operation Uplift should be completed by the end of April 2022 which will be shared with CFO for discussion.

ACOR

The ACOR informed us that part of the surplus was being utilised this year to fund operational functions and priority support services. It was noted that an analysis of how the surplus is allocated to the reserves was due to be conducted by April 2022 for consideration by the PCC and CC in preparation for the draft accounts.

**ACOR/
CFO**

The CC reiterated that the surplus was a result of receiving funding in advance for some of the additional costs relating to the uplift in officer numbers 'Operation Uplift'. For every officer recruited, £17k is allocated for consequential costs such as technology, uniforms and training. This equates to £3.5m for the additional 203 officers and although it's a surplus, it is for supporting front line officers. Should the specified number of officers not be recruited to reach the required establishment in the following year, some of the allocated funding could be lost.

The CC emphasised that once Operation Uplift was complete, the surplus would decrease and therefore, it is of paramount importance that Mid Term Financial Planning and the Force Management Statement (FMS) focusses on savings but also ensures that it doesn't undermine performance,

<p>particularly given the large Estates Strategy and only a small capital grant of £200k from the UK Government.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p><u>10. RESERVES STRATEGY 2021/2022</u></p>	
<p>We received and noted the Reserves Strategy 2021/2022 report.</p> <p>The CFO informed us that report had been presented to the Joint Audit Committee in December 2021 for consideration and comment and no concerns were raised.</p> <p>The Strategy was written in the Autumn prior to receipt of the provisional settlement and the Chief Constable’s Budget Bid and confirmation of operational requirements. The document would be revised following completion of the accounts in June/July and the financial metrics would be published within the group accounts.</p> <p>The Autumn iteration indicates that there would be £18m reserves and committed funds by the end of the existing Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in 2026/2027. Consisting of £5m general reserves, £3m to underwrite future budgetary imbalances, £1.6m for commissioning initiatives, £3.6m for continuation of Emergency Services Network (ESN) transitioning, £3m workstream specific reserves, a further £1m provision for Operation Uplift consequential costs should funding not be sufficient; and the remainder relates to other financial liabilities such as tribunal cases. Therefore, there will be a borrowing requirement of approximately £50m by 2026/27 for the capital programme, as the capital reserves would have been exhausted by 2022/23.</p>	
<p><u>11. COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS 2022/23</u></p>	
<p>We received and noted the Commissioning Intentions 2022/23 report.</p> <p>The commissioning budget consists of several income streams as indicated within the report. The specified commissioning intentions could change going forward according to requirements. Discussions are being held with Force representatives in relation to vital core services and about what commissioned services could change in the future.</p> <p>The PFCM advised us that she would be working closely with the Force Funding and Partnership Lead on the Income Generation Strategy and how it links into commissioning services for the next financial year.</p> <p>We noted the applications received to date for funding from the £300k Police Community Fund for the next financial year.</p> <p>The CC suggested that commissioning services would benefit from stronger governance and transparency and that a joint meeting should take place bi-annually to enable the Force and the OPCC to discuss existing and future commissioned services, including ownership and any underspends. Capacity</p>	

<p>also needed to be considered as there are many senior leaders involved in this work as well as their usual role.</p> <p>The CFO advised us that he had met with the Force Chief Insp. of Governance and Assurance and a terms of reference had been drawn up for a Commissioning Group which links into the various commissioning forums. This will provide transparency around joint and timely decision making for each commissioning exercise. The Commissioning Group would commence in readiness for the 2022/23 financial year. The base model Commissioning Intentions document would also be reviewed by the Commissioning Group in accordance with the PCP priorities, FMS and Force Delivery Plan.</p> <p>The DPCC confirmed that many of the services were grant based services as opposed to commissioned based services and assured us that there was robust monitoring of grant services to ensure that service provision was meeting its objectives both in terms of outcome and spend.</p> <p>The DPCC acknowledged the capacity required by senior leaders but also emphasised that they play a vital role in ensuring service delivery. A prime example being policing input into the Police Community Fund and the Safer Streets Bids for which the DPCC offered her thanks to Chief Supt. T Harding, Chief Insp. S Greening and Chief Insp. A Thomas.</p> <p>The DPCC advised us that a number of the collaborative pieces of work had enabled match funding from the Welsh Government and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS).</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p><u>12. ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022-2025</u></p>	
<p>We received the Asset Management Strategy 2022-2025</p> <p>The PCC queried if the Sustainability Strategy noted within the report related to the Greener Gwent Strategy or if it was a new Strategy. The ACOR confirmed that it was the Greener Gwent Strategy in draft form and was expected to be finalised in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The ACOR informed us that there had been no significant changes to the Asset Management Strategy. The Strategy supports the planning process and demonstrates that assets are being used efficiently and effectively in order to meet the PCC's priorities. The Capital Strategy Group (CSG) also provides scrutiny in relation to planning and expenditure.</p> <p>Assets are only used for the purpose of Gwent and are properly accounted for with appropriate safeguarding measures.</p> <p>Governance of the Asset Management Strategy is provided for each asset type as indicated within the report.</p> <p>The ACOR advised that there would be a borrowing requirement to support delivery of the Assessment Management Strategy in the future and the CSG</p>	

<p>would assist with scrutiny and timeliness of the borrowing, to ensure it is undertaken at the appropriate time and cost in terms of value.</p> <p>The collaboration of services is supported when it is cost effective and when it will improve outcomes for the residents of Gwent such as the collaborative model that is already functioning via the Information Communication Technology (ICT) Strategy, with the integration between the Force, Torfaen County Borough Council, Newport City Council, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Monmouthshire County Council.</p>	Action
<u>13. ANNUAL REVIEW OF MANUAL OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE</u>	
<p>We received the Annual Review of the Manual of Corporate Governance (MoCG) for approval.</p> <p>We noted the proposed changes to the MoCG were indicated within the Annex provided, including terminology changes, changes to the Schemes of Delegation and updated legislation.</p> <p>The appropriate departments had been consulted to ensure the relevant changes could be incorporated within the review.</p> <p>The CEx reminded us that ordinarily the JAC would have received the amendments to the MoCG for approval prior to the SPB meeting and asked if the PCC and CC were content to agree the amendments in principle, subject to any amendments recommended by JAC.</p> <p>The PCC and CC agreed to approve the amendments to the MoCG, subject to any amendments by JAC on 9th March 2022.</p>	
<u>14. COVID19 EXCEPTION REPORT</u>	
<p>We received and noted the Covid Exception Report.</p> <p>The CC advised us that the relevant structures were in place to respond to covid in terms of leadership and learning the lessons and were also in alignment with other Forces as demonstrated within the report.</p> <p>The PCC asked that the following report be by exception only, noting any new changes, as much of the information contained within the report has been provided previously.</p> <p>The PCC asked if the Covid Community Dial in was still taking place on a weekly basis as referenced at 3.7 within the report. The HoCI confirmed that it has recently moved to a monthly dial in as the level of attendance has reduced since restrictions have been lifted. The Force are in the process of reviewing the process to ascertain if there are other reasons for the drop in attendance and to identify if other approaches could be taken to re-invigorate the process. The PCC welcomed the update and emphasised the importance</p>	CC

<p>on continuing with the regular lines of communication with the public, whether it be in the existing or a new format.</p> <p>The PCC asked if the Force anticipated any particular concerns due to the lifting of restrictions. The CC informed us that the increase in the night time economy could be an issue, although licence and premises holders were engaging with the Force, which would assist. The Force Control Room had also seen an increase in calls relating to loneliness and isolation, which is something the CC is monitoring closely as there appears to be a post covid link to the increase.</p> <p>The Force has also been conducting reviews in relation to child suicide. The DPCC suggested that there needs to be oversight of suicide rates, particularly suicide rates in relation to children, which had been reported to the Local and National Safeguarding Boards.</p> <p>The CC advised us the Force has been communicating with the Coroner and local partners in relation to identifying suicides and also near misses to ensure prevention initiatives could be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>There has also been an increase in cyber crime and on-line fraud particularly during covid, which the Force will continue to monitor.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p><u>15. CHIEF CONSTABLES UPDATE</u></p>	
<p>We received the Chief Constable's Update Report.</p> <p>The CC summarised key areas of her report.</p> <p>Operation Uplift has continued to progress with further successful recruitment, seeing an increase in ethnic minorities, however it remains a challenge in terms of reaching the full officer establishment by the third year of the uplift.</p> <p>The Professional Standards Department have undertaken a significant amount of work to promote the importance of professional standards and culture within the organisation and all staff have been briefed by their leaders with regard to Abuse of Power and Position for Sexual purpose. During her road shows the CC emphasised the importance of staff and officers reporting issues of concern. This approach has contributed to the increase in reporting of behavioural issues both on and off duty.</p> <p>The Force Digital Contact Desk continue to receive in excess of 11/12 thousand contacts via social media channels per month.</p> <p>The benefits of investment in Mental Health Practitioners (MHPs) within the FCR continue to be seen, with reductions in police deployments. The team has been also instrumental in the development of the practice to recognise and address incidents involving Acute Behavioural Disorder and are working with the Welsh Ambulance Service to develop their own form of mental health triage to ensure their roles complement one another.</p>	

<p>Joint partnership scrutiny meetings are conducted in relation to domestic abuse cases and rape investigation files and a case file pilot scheme has been established to ensure these case files are of high quality and submitted to court at the earliest opportunity.</p>	Action
<p>The Victim Care Unit had been up and running for over six months with over 30 thousand victims referred to the service and there has subsequently been a significant improvement in satisfaction rates as indicated in the victim's surveys. We noted on page 4 of the report stated there were 30,00 victims referred and the SO confirmed it should state 30,000.</p>	SO
<p>The CC referred to the Victim Reference Group (VRG) and informed us that one of attendees had taken the decision to become a volunteer for the Force in relation to Crime Prevention. The CC assured us the Head of Criminal Justice & Information Services and his team would be sharing the lessons learnt from VRG across the Force and progress would also be fed back to the VRG.</p>	
<p>The Force are taking a multi-agency approach to tackle the issue of rough sleeping in response to the Government's pledge to end rough sleeping by 2027. Operation Arreton would look to support people who are begging and rough sleeping through partnership working.</p>	
<p>Operation Utah continues to target illegal vehicles throughout the whole of Gwent. During National County Lines Intensification Week, one vehicle was stopped containing £36,000 in cash and designer clothes worth £10,000 and searches at associated addresses recovered significant quantities of drugs.</p>	
<p>There has also been significant seizures of cash and drugs through collaborative work with the Regional Organised Crime Units as indicated within the report.</p>	
<p>Operation Airbus resulted in 18 arrests, seizure of 40 kilos of amphetamine and £200,000 worth of jewellery which resulted in sentences of 12 years for the offenders. The Organised Crime Team were commended by the Judge for their work.</p>	
<p>The Force has consistently remained as one of the top experts in their field in tackling Financial Crime, as demonstrated in the report; particularly in relation the high number of civil detentions, civil forfeitures and safeguarding interventions. The team are approached by other Forces to share good practice on a regular basis.</p>	
<p>The CC informed us that further resources have been allocated to the Police Online Investigation Team (POLIT) to ensure they are in a position to continue with their proactive work as demonstrated within the report.</p>	
<p>It has been a challenging time for the Major Incident Team investigating complex murder investigations. The CC commended the Team for their work which was made even more complex during covid.</p>	

<p>The Corporate Communications team secured coverage in the media for many aspects of the Force including a film production for the Channel 5 series Pickpockets, Scammer and Thieves.</p> <p>The Force Positive Action programme provides supportive action for new recruits and mentors are provided to help retain the new recruits and to encourage progress.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Team have completed a number of key activities as indicated within the report including dyslexia screening for new starters and the introduction of a Men's Health Network.</p> <p>The CC expressed her gratitude to the Force for the work that was being undertaken, particularly as there is young workforce who are delivering an exceptional service and this is testament to strong leadership and training.</p>	Action
<u>16. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</u>	
<p>The information contained in the report(s) below has been subjected to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Data Protection Act 2018 and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent's public interest test and is deemed to be exempt from publication under section 7.</p>	
<u>17. JOINT STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER</u>	
<p>We received and noted the Joint Strategic Risk Register.</p> <p>We noted there were very few changes to the register. Two of the risks had been recommended for closure relating to supply chain issues and storage of digital evidence. There had been one new risk recommendation in relation to spiking of drinks.</p> <p>The Risk Register has been reviewed by the Force and the OPCC in conjunction with the JAC Risk Lead in order to make the report more strategic and easier to identify the risks, the expected outcome and what the plans are in order to achieve the outcome. The format of the Risk Register will change as will the way in which the risk is assessed and recorded.</p>	
<u>18. COLLABORATION UPDATE - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL AREAS</u>	
<p>We received and noted the Collaboration Update - Executive Summary of Operational Areas.</p> <p>The ACOR advised us the report was a summary of the report that was presented to the All Wales Collaboration Board and was also due to be presented to the All Wales Chief Officer Team this week.</p> <p>There is a new Assistant Chief Constable leading on Collaboration as well as the regional teams and he will be reviewing the governance arrangements</p>	

licencing Team review the system on a day to day basis, particularly for new licence holders or those re licencing. If an individual triggers on the Niche system overnight and they hold a firearms licence, a task is triggered by Niche to the Firearms licence Team for review. A review is conducted at the Daily Management Meeting on a daily basis and a Firearms Enquiry Officer is deployed to conduct further investigation or conducts a site visit if required.	Action
<u>20. MINUTES OF THE JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE, 8TH DECEMBER 2021</u>	
<p>We received and noted the Minutes of the Joint Audit Committee, 8TH December 2021.</p> <p>The CFO informed us that two of the JAC members were due to leave in November 2022 as their tenure was coming to an end. We agreed that their presence and expertise will be missed. We noted that the recruitment process has commenced.</p>	
<u>21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u>	
There was no other business raised	
<u>22. TO IDENTIFY ANY RISKS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING</u>	
There were no risks identified during the meeting.	
The meeting concluded at 15:21pm	