

Commissioning Services Update

Position Statement – November 2020

1. Commissioning Strategy

1.1. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibilities Act 2011 and the Anti-social, Crime and Policing Act 2014 the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has a responsibility to 'provide or arrange for the provision of:

- Services to help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and anti-social behaviour;
- Services to secure crime and disorder reduction; and
- Services specified by the Secretary of State'.

The PCC can therefore allocate funding for activities including community safety and prevention, reducing offending and/or reoffending behaviour and local victims' services.

1.2. The PCC's Police and Crime Plan (PCP) is considered to be the high-level Commissioning Strategy. The commissioning intentions of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is intended to support delivery of the Priorities as outlined in the PCP. The Priorities are:

- Priority 1 - Crime Prevention;
- Priority 2 - Supporting Victims;
- Priority 3 - Community Cohesion;
- Priority 4 - Tackling ASB; and
- Priority 5 - Effective Service Delivery.

2. Competitive Grant Funding

2.1. The PCC makes funding available for three grant funding streams; each fund supports the Priorities 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the PCP.

Positive Impact Fund

2.2. The OPCC established its Positive Impact Fund (PIF) in 2013/14 as per Decision Log PCCG-2013-123. This fund was set up with an annual budget of £10,000. The Fund has continued on an annual basis every year since.

2.3. The aim of the Fund is to deliver short-term positive outcomes for the residents and communities of Gwent, whilst delivering against the PCC's Priorities.

2.4. The fund is designed to be light touch and un-bureaucratic. Applications are made via a written request and decisions are made by the PCC. Typically awards are less than £1,000 per organisation or group. Decision logs are published at the end of each financial year, detailing all the successful award recipients.

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- 2.5. A Positive Impact Fund of £10,000 is also set up annually for each Local Policing Area (LPA) to assist in the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan priorities. These budgets are distributed at the LPA Superintendents discretion in accordance with the same principles as the Commissioner's PIF run via the OPCC.
- 2.6. In 2019/20 £9,692.50 was awarded to 10 organisations from the Commissioner's PIF. A copy of the year-end decision log can be found on our website: <https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2020-011/>
- 2.7. The pandemic has impacted the number of requests which have been received in 2020/21, to date no organisations have requested funding via this avenue.
- 2.8. There are no planned changes to the fund for 2021/22.

Police Community Fund

- 2.9. The OPCC established its PCC Police Community Fund with decision log PCCG-2018-034, to target monies received through the Proceeds of Crime Act and from the sale of unclaimed, found property. The Police Community Fund launched in 2018/19, replacing the Partnership Fund which ran annually from 2013/2014.
- 2.10. The annual fund of £300,000 is available to support organisations seeking to help children and young people at risk of entering or are involved in the criminal justice system, or who have become victims of crime. The grants will have a particular focus on projects that identify needs and achieve positive outcomes for those living in some of the most disadvantaged areas of Gwent.
- 2.11. Bids of between £10,000 and £50,000 for grants lasting an initial period of 12 months are invited to apply and funding is available for up to 3 years. This is to encourage more meaningful engagement, outcomes and impact compared with previous funding available via the Partnership Fund.
- 2.12. The application process involves a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire, followed by the submission of an application form. Applications are assessed by OPCC Staff and the Neighbourhood Policing Team, and then reviewed by a Panel made up of staff from the OPCC, the Force and Third Sector Representatives. The Panel makes an overall Funding Recommendation to the PCC and decisions are then made by the PCC, in liaison with the Deputy PCC and the Chief Finance Officer (CFO). Decision logs are published once a year with details of the awards made to the successful applicants; this includes a description of the project and the amount awarded. Implementation of funding decisions and monitoring of the grant is undertaken by the OPCC in liaison with the Neighbourhood Policing Team / Local Inspector.

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- 2.13. Significant changes were made to the grant criteria, processes and documentation, in 2019 in order to strengthen the grant making and award processes; this included the fund moving from four grant making rounds per year to one in order to ensure that sufficient resources could be committed to the new process.
- 2.14. In 2020/21 £151,934.67 was awarded to 7 organisations. Additionally, four projects funded in 2019/20 were in principle awarded year 2 funding for the 2020/21 financial year; bringing the overall sum awarded for 2020/21 to £298,838.39. Each grant recipient is required to submit 6-monthly monitoring and financial reports, which are reviewed and signed off internally. Details of the funding awarded can be found on our website: <https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2019-074/>
- 2.15. The Principal Finance and Commissioning Manager (PFCM) and the Business and Finance Officer (BFO) have worked closely with the grant recipients during the pandemic, in order to understand the impact of the situation on their projects and to ensure that the OPCC is as supportive as possible in the management of their grant. As a result of the pandemic and restrictions on operation for many of the projects, some grants will be extended beyond their initial length in order to utilise the funding awarded.
- 2.16. In readiness for the launch of the 2021/22 Fund, further improvements have been made, including the strengthening of due-diligence checks and the internal review of applications.
- 2.17. The 2021/22 Fund is now currently processing the Pre-Qualification Questionnaires and the first submitted applications. Once the applications have been received the internal review process will begin, linking in with Local Inspectors and Chief Inspectors for their feedback and recommendations before submission of documentation to the Panel. The Panel will meet in February 2021 to review the applications which succeed in reaching that stage of the process and successful applicants will be notified in March with funding starting in April 2021.

Gwent High Sheriff's Community Fund (GHSCF)

- 2.18. The GHSCF undertakes an annual event, 'Your Voice, Your Choice', which provides grant funding to local people to prioritise the solutions that they think will best address local needs. This event has been run in partnership with the OPCC since 2013/14, when the PCC pledged to support the GHSCF with a grant of £25,000 p.a., which continued in 2014/15 and 2015/16.
- 2.19. Based upon the previous successes of the funding programme, it was decided in 2016/17 that, in addition to the base amount of £25,000 being awarded, additional match funding of up to £25,000 would be made available, if the GHSCF were able to attract further external funding.

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2.20. In 2019/20 the GHSCF launched an additional element to the annual event. One grant per year would be selected as a 'superbid' and would receive 3 year's funding of £5,000 per annum. The PCC agreed to contribute the £5,000 required to fund the 'superbids', as well as the £25,000 and further £25,000 available to match fund the money raised by the Gwent High Sheriff. The total contribution for 2020/21 is £60,000 with £65,000 earmarked for the 21/22 High Sheriff Fund.

3. Strategic Commissioned Services

3.1. A number of services are strategically commissioned over the medium to long-term in order to deliver against the PCC's priorities outlined in the PCP.

Connect Gwent

3.2. Victim Support are contracted until 31st March 2021 for a sum of £403,842 to provide victims referral, assessment and non-specialist support provision to victims of crime in Gwent., Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Age Cymru and Umbrella Cymru receive small grants to provide specialist support for victims with mental health needs, older victims and victims requiring support with gender – see decision log:

<https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2019-081/> .

A Children and Young People's Victims Service is temporarily being provided by Umbrella Cymru - see decision log:

<https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2020-007/> .

The total cost of these services is £122,242. Therefore, overall for both commissioned and contracted services which contribute towards delivery of PCP Priority 2 is £526,084.

3.3. All services currently provide regular monitoring in relation to performance and finance, which is reviewed by representatives from both the OPCC and Gwent Police. The OPCC also report bi-annually to the Ministry Of Justice (MOJ) on the use of the MOJ Victims Support Services Grant which provides the funding for Connect Gwent Services.

3.4. A review of the current model of support for victims is being undertaken by Gwent Police; with a Business Case expected to be presented to the Service Improvement Board in November 2020.

3.5. The model and budget for Connect Gwent Services in 2021/22 will be determined once the outcome of the Business Case is known.

Sexual Violence Services

3.6. New Pathways and Cyfannol provide sexual violence victim services in Gwent. A grant contribution of £367,409 has been made towards these services in 2020/21, which support delivery of the PCP Priority 2. The services provided by these organisations include Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVA) and counselling for both adult and child victims

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of sexual assault. Both organisations were required to submit proposals as to how the available funding would be utilised and both organisations provide regular reports on performance and expenditure, which is reviewed by representatives from the OPCC and Gwent Police. Decision Logs for reference:

<https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2020-004/>

<https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2020-024/> and

<https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2020-003/>

- 3.7. The OPCC secured £234,097 of additional ISVA funding from the MOJ for 2020/21 and 2021/22. This has been awarded to New Pathways to employ three additional ISVA's. The 2020/21 proportion of this allocation is included in the total funding awarded, noted above in 3.6.
- 3.8. New Pathways receive £48,148 in addition to the funding outlined above from Gwent Police, for the provision of services at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).
- 3.9. As part of the SARC Regionalisation Project, South Wales OPCC, Dyfed Powys OPCC and Gwent OPCC are jointly commissioning a review of ISVA provision in the three force areas which will determine and inform commissioning intentions in the future.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) Service

- 3.10. The Gwent IDVA service is managed by Newport City Council and funded by both the PCC and the Welsh Government's Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Grant. The PCC contributes £156,363 to the delivery of the service which meets priority 2 of the PCP. Reporting on performance and expenditure is received regularly and reviewed by both OPCC and force representatives. A copy of the decision log can be found here:
<https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2020-009/>
- 3.11. The service works to address the safety of people at high risk of domestic abuse from intimate partners, ex-partners and family members, to secure their safety and the safety of their children.
- 3.12. In May 2020 a decision was made by the VAWDASV Partnership Board that the service should be tendered in order to secure a model of service which meets current demand and provides a more sustainable and long-term agreement in relation to the funding of the service.
- 3.13. The commissioning process is underway with Newport City Council, the regional VAWDASV team and the OPCC working together to secure the required service, which is expected to be in place by October 2021.

MOJ Extraordinary COVID-19 Funding

- 3.14. During 2020, the OPCC has to date secured £201,553 of Extraordinary COVID-19 Funding from the MOJ to support organisations working with

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victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence in Gwent. Following a proposal process, the funding has been awarded to six organisations working in Gwent, who have incurred additional costs in delivering their services as a result of the pandemic. A copy of the decision log can be found here:

<https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2020-020/>

- 3.15. This funding was initially eligible to be spent between the 24th March 2020 and 31st October 2020, however, this was subsequently extended to the 31st March 2021. The OPCC has also submitted a second needs assessment to the MOJ, demonstrating continued need by domestic abuse and sexual violence service providers in Gwent. We are awaiting a decision by the MOJ.
- 3.16. Grant recipients report on expenditure and outcomes of funding bi-annually and the OPCC reports to the MOJ as part of the mid-year and end of year reports for the MOJ Victims Support Services Grant.

Community Safety and Youth Offending Funding

- 3.17. A multi-agency group 'Safer Gwent' was established in March 2015 to drive forward collaborative opportunities to inform and redesign the community safety landscape on a regional basis, in support of local delivery.
- 3.18. Between 2014/15 and 2018/19 community safety and youth offending funding was awarded via an application process open to Safer Gwent members, with Safer Gwent coordinating and overseeing the delivery of successful projects.
- 3.19. In 2018/19 Safer Gwent began a review of their purpose and undertook a strategic needs assessment. This followed the formation and implementation of Public Service Boards and associated groups. The review continued into 2019/20 and as such, the decision was made by the PCC to take the application process and management of the Safer Gwent grants in house. Applications in 2019/20 were invited for continuation of projects which were successful in gaining funding in 2018/19.
- 3.20. With the review of Safer Gwent ongoing, having no firm end date and the needs assessment not being expected in time to inform PCC decision making and commissioning intentions, in November 2019 a paper was presented to the PCC with options for allocating the Community Safety and Youth Offending funding and delivering against the PCP priorities.
- 3.21. After consultation with community safety and youth offending leads, the decision was made to allocate Local Authorities the community safety and youth offending funding using a formula which took into consideration population and crime data for the region. This new process was implemented from July 2020, with Local Authorities now being required to submit a proposal for the use of their allocation, to ensure that expenditure is in line with the purpose of the funding and the PCC's priorities, ahead of

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the final award being made. For the period April - June 2020, each Local Authority's 2019/20 funding was allocated on a pro rata basis, whilst agreement in relation to the new process was being finalised.

- 3.22. The new funding mechanism ensures that each area receives a fair and proportionate allocation of funding from the PCC to contribute towards community safety and youth offending.
- 3.23. In 2020/21, the five Local Authorities in Gwent have been awarded £417,940 to contribute towards community safety and youth offending. The funding is monitored through quarterly service delivery reports and six-monthly monitoring and financial reports; as well as through attendance at the Community Safety Partnership Board and Youth Offending Boards.
- 3.24. A portion of the Community Safety budget was also retained by the PCC to be awarded to other projects contributing to community safety. This included an award to South Wales Fire and Rescue Service of £28,000 and a contribution of £33,392 towards piloting a Regional Community Safety Coordinator post between July 2020 and June 2021.
- 3.25. Copies of the decision logs can be found here:
<https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2019-082/> and
<https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2020-005/>
- 3.26. There are no expected changes to the newly agreed process for awarding community safety and youth offending funding in 2021/22.

Children and Young People Diversionary Interventions

- 3.27. Newport Live's Positive Futures Programme delivers diversionary activity for young people in Gwent. Following a proposal process, the Programme has been awarded £181,000 to contribute towards its service in 2020/21, which supports delivery of PCP Priority 1 and 4. The decision log can be found at:
<https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2020-008/>
- 3.28. The PCC's contribution is utilised to specifically benefit children and young people who are at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system. Primarily, the funding supports community based one to one and group activity to divert young people away from crime and ASB.

Substance Misuse Services

- 3.29. The Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service Criminal Justice service (GDAS CJ), as part of the wider GDAS service commissioned by Newport City Council (NCC) on behalf of Gwent's Area Planning Board (APB), has been extended by the APB until March 2022. The service is delivered by a consortium, with the criminal justice element being delivered by G4S. The PCC makes an annual contribution of £820,279 to the GDAS CJ service which contributes to Priority 1 of the PCP.

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- 3.30. The service provides wide support for those in the criminal justice system, to address their substance misuse with the intention of reducing reoffending.
- 3.31. The current contract was due to end in March 2021, however, due to the impact of the pandemic on the service and the commissioning process, a further 1 year contract extension has been agreed by NCC until March 2022. Discussions are currently ongoing with the provider and commissioning partners, in relation to budget uplifts required for the 2021/22 financial year.
- 3.32. The re-commissioning process, in order to secure a new contract by April 2022, is being managed by the APB Team with the intention of having in place a new service by April 2022. The OPCC and Gwent Police are working with the APB Team and Probation on the re-commissioning exercise. Work is currently being undertaken to determine the need and demand for substance misuse services and the specification is being drafted to outline the requirements.
- 3.33. The contract will continue to be managed by the APB, with the OPCC and Gwent Police gaining assurance of the outcomes, quality and value for money being achieved.

Diversion Services

- 3.34. The service is commissioned by a partnership comprising of Gwent OPCC, South Wales OPCC, Welsh Government and HMPPS. Gwent is the contract lead and makes an annual investment of £308,726 to the service which meets PCP Priority 1. A two-year contract was awarded in October 2019 to the F4 consortium of agencies - G4S, Safer Wales, Include and Llamau.
- 3.35. The service provides a comprehensive approach to diversion including the assessment and triage service, as well as support services to reduce reoffending. The support services are also available to voluntarily access by those who are processed through the criminal justice system in order to provide an enhanced offer of support at the earliest opportunity. The service provides support for women from arrest to the post release custodial period as well as support services to 18-25 year olds.
- 3.36. A contract management group comprising of South Wales and Gwent OPCC's and Force representatives, as well as Probation representatives meet quarterly with F4 to review their performance and finance reports. This group reports into the Women's Pathfinder/18-25 Commissioning Group, where all commissioning partners are represented.
- 3.37. Discussions are currently taking place with commissioning partners around their commitment to the contract post September 2021, when the initial two-year period ends. Decisions around extensions will be made once commissioning partners intentions have been made clear.

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- 3.38. Commissioning partners have committed to an evaluation of the contract, which is currently in the early stages of procurement.

Serious Violence and Organised Crime

- 3.39. During 2020/21, the OPCC has been awarded further grant of £245,000 from the Home Office (HO), to continue to pilot a project on Serious Violence and Organised Crime. The PCC has contributed an additional £231,412 to the HO grant, in order to be able to fund the required pilot interventions and coordinator role which will contribute to PCP Priority 1. This takes the total investment in this area to £476,412. Of this, £372,145 has been made available to the pilot interventions commissioned as part of this project and £29,267 to fund the role of Serious Violence Coordinator. The remainder funds a dedicated Chief Inspector post.
- 3.40. As part of this project, three of the original pilot interventions were continued this year – these were St Giles Trust, Crimestoppers Trust and Barnado's.
- 3.41. There is no expectation that HO funding will be available next year and discussions are ongoing with Gwent Police in relation to future requirements and intentions for these pilot projects.

Early Action Together (EAT)

- 3.42. The EAT Project, originally set up and funded by a Home Office Police Transformation Funding bid, received no continuation funding in 2020/21. Following Business Case approval, continued delivery of the three pilot interventions was agreed for 2020/21.
- 3.43. Newport City Council and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council were in total awarded £267,761 and £72,000 of funding for a Safeguarding Senior Practitioner in the Force's Control Room was provided. The Local Authority grants are administered by the PCC, with project delivery and performance being overseen by Gwent Police. Copies of the decision log can be found at:
<https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2019-080/>
- 3.44. As above, discussions are ongoing with Gwent Police in relation to future requirements and intentions for these pilot projects.

Perpetrator Services

- 3.45. In August 2020, the HO announced their Perpetrator Fund. The OPCC has recently been notified that the submitted bid of £205,469 was successful. The grant will be awarded for the period 1st October 2020 to 31st March 2021 and as a condition of the grant, the PCC will be making £195,347 of match funding available to ensure 12 months of delivery to 30th September 2021.

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3.46. The Perpetrator services will be delivered by Pheonix Domestic Abuse Service, who will receive a grant of £378,466 for the 12 months delivery period. The services will increase existing adult and youth provision and support for victims and family.

Crime Prevention Panels

3.47. The Crime Prevention Panels (CPPs) model is currently being assessed by Gwent Police, as part of their review of their Operating Model. A decision will be made about whether the OPCC needs to allocate funding to support CPPs in the future, once the outcome of the review is known.

3.48. A funding pot of £10,000 was allocated for CPPs in 2020/21; however, due to the review and as a result of the pandemic this funding has not been taken up as yet.

Wings to Fly

3.49. The Wings to Fly production forms part of the Drugs and Substance Misuse strand of the All Wales School Liaison Programme (AWSLP). Year 6 pupils attend live performances and follow-up lessons related to drug education are provided by AWSLP Police Officers.

3.50. The Wings to Fly programme has been funded since 2014. In 2020/21, a budget of £15,000 was available for venue hire, technical support, refreshments and transport to enable respective schools across Gwent to attend. However, due to the pandemic, funding for 2020/21 has not been required as the events have not yet gone ahead.

3.51. Support for Wings to Fly is expected to continue to be available in 2021/22.

4. Commissioning – Next Steps

4.1. An updated Commissioning Framework has been drafted and will be consulted on for feedback, prior to being taken to the PCC for approval and sign-off. The new Commissioning Framework is expected to be in place by April 2021.

4.2. The new Commissioning Framework, is intended to provide the 'infrastructure' to guide 'how' commissioning activity is undertaken, including:

- Commissioning Principles;
- Commissioning Cycle;
- Roles and Responsibilities in the Commissioning process; and
- Governance and accountability in the commissioning process.

4.3. As part of the new Commissioning Framework, it is expected that annual Commissioning Intentions will also be developed in order to provide an overview of 'what' services will be commissioned and invested in each year.

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The Commissioning Intentions will sit firmly below the Police and Crime Plan in terms of hierarchy and will be developed taking into consideration the objectives of the OPCC Business Plan, OPCC Strategic Intentions and Gwent Police Strategic Intentions.

- 4.4. The Commissioning Intentions will outline the budgets being made available for each area of work, and commissioning activity which is expected to take place during that financial year in relation to each area.