

**OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT**  
**STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

**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)  
Mrs J Regan - Head of Assurance and Compliance (HoAC)  
Ms J Robinson – Head of Strategy (HoS)  
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 Strategy Performance and Change (HoSPC)  
Ms N Brain - Chief Superintendent, Head of Crime and First Point of Contact (HoC&FPoC)  
Mr I Roberts - Chief Superintendent, Local Policing Area, East (LPAE)  
Mr S Corcoran – D/Chief Superintendent  
Mr J White – Chief Inspector – Covid Recovery (CV)  
Mr R Fuller – Staff Officer (SO)

**Staff Associations**

Ms J Everson (Unison)  
Ms N Ryan (Police Federation)

The meeting commenced at 10:00am.

**APOLOGIES**

**Action**

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Edwards – Assistant Chief Constable, Ms N Wesson – Head of Corporate Communications, Mrs N Brennan – Head of Joint Legal Services, Ms M Henry Police Federation and Ms Michelle Booth Superintendent – First Point of Contact.

**MINUTES**

2. We received and confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020.

## **ACTIONS**

## **Action**

3. We received and noted the actions from the meeting held on the 3rd June 2020.

The PCC thanked those involved for updating the actions and asked that all acronyms be expanded in all future reports.

### **Action 9, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Collaborative Projects – Gwent Performance**

The PCC requested an update on Collaborative Projects, particularly on SARCs (Sexual Assault Referral Centres).

The DCC thanked the DPCC for her assistance in progressing the SARC project and advised us that collaboration of Force SARCs was an area of concern as it had been delayed due to the impact of Covid19 and the departure of the SARC Collaborative Project Manager.

It was intended that the SARC in Risca be given priority in achieving the ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) SARC Accreditation as a deadline of 2023 had been set by the Forensic Science Regulator. If the accreditation process was not initiated as a priority the deadline could be missed as it could take up to three years to achieve.

An ISO Accreditation Report had been developed by the Force highlighting areas of concern and recommendations for presentation to the Welsh Chief Officer Group (COG) meeting. The HoC&FPoC agreed to provide a copy of the report to the Commissioner for review.

**CC**

The CC assured us that she would continue to monitor the issues in relation to SARC collaboration and accreditation through the various Governance Boards.

The CC suggested that collaborative reporting should be strengthened, particularly in relation to Gwent Police Collaboration with South Wales Police, estates and other partners in order to demonstrate areas of efficiency savings. The CFO assured us that work on the efficiency of the collaboration schemes was underway and this information would form part of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) process.

## **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

4. 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.

**PRESENTATION ON THE STRATEGIC POLICING REQUIREMENT/STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT**

**Action**

5. We received the presentation on the Strategic Policing Requirement/Strategic Assessment.

The following key areas were highlighted in relation Strategic Assessment (SA).

Some small changes had been made to the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) risk assessments as of May 2020, whereby the threat assessment had been simplified in alignment with Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) tasking, in order to improve management of risks.

A new Operational Control Strategy was in the process of being drafted, although we were informed very little had changed, Force focus was very much on Protect, Pursue and Prevent.

The following key areas were highlighted in relation to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR):

The current Terrorism threat level had been assessed as substantial.

A Counter Terrorism Advisor had been appointed locally and additional officers regionally. The number of Terrorism cases had decreased and there were no capacity issues with on-going investigations.

The SOC Co-ordinator role based in Newport was well embedded and due to conclude in March 2021. County lines numbers remained low in Force with around seven in the Country.

The Force Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) were heavily involved in the Venetic National Crime Agency (NCA) led operation where 42 arrests were made and a substantial amount of drugs and cash was seized.

The Force had secured Home Office funding for a Heroin/Crack Action Area Co-ordinator and a Detective Inspector commenced the role in July 2020, one of seven in the country. The purpose of the role was to reduce the use of the drug with the use of diversionary schemes. Although it's still in its infancy, the role had been very well received by partners.

There had been an increase in Cyber Crime and a substantial amount of Force activity was taking place in order to protect the public. The Force Cyber Community Support Officer was providing preventative online messaging which been well received by the public, particularly during the Covid19 lockdown period.

The Force had received positive feedback regarding the role of the dedicated Financial Abuse Development Officer who provided guidance, advice and signposting to support agencies for the victims of such crimes.

In order to provide assurance to the Police and Crime Panel, the PCC asked that the crime types relating to Cyber Crime be categorised in order to provide improved analysis, as the Force indicated that Cyber Crime levels were high but the performance data received indicated that the level of Cyber Crime was low which was very likely due to non- classification of the crime type. We were advised that the Home Office had recognised it was difficult to collect Cyber Crime data due to the way in which the crime recording system had been set up. Therefore, the Home Office were planning to collect the data through an Artificial Intelligence process by next year.

The Force had received positive feedback from the public for their management of protests relating to the Black Lives Matter over a period of ten days during the Covid19 lockdown.

All Public Protection Detectives were trained in achieving best evidence and working towards the Serious Child Abuse Investigation Development Programme. All new Officers attended the training when they commenced their role within the department.

A quarter of the reported Rape cases were historic in nature and very difficult to prove. However, the Force Rape conviction rate stood at 73.9% in May 2020 which was higher than the national rate of 70.4%. The PCC acknowledged the successful Rape conviction rates and emphasised the importance of supporting victims through the court process and explained that his office were undertaking a review on how Rape victims were being supported through the court process. The (HoC&FPoC) informed us that a substantial amount of work had been undertaken in this area over the past eighteen months during which time it had become evident there were delays in bringing the cases to court. However, the delay in process had subsequently been addressed, robust Supervisory checks had been put in place and a good working relationship had been established with the Rasso (Rape and Serious Sexual Offence Lawyers. Victim support was also provided throughout the process.

There were three safeguarding hubs up and running in Newport, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and a further two hubs were due to be implemented at Caerphilly and Monmouthshire.

The PCC thanked the Force for their hard work, particularly in the difficult circumstances brought about by Covid19.

The PCC asked if the Force were in a position to provide mutual aid without impacting service requirements. We were advised that the

Force had the necessary provisions to support mutual aid for public order matters but as there was a national shortage of Detectives, the numbers deployed would need to be carefully monitored in order to ensure there was no depletion of Detectives within Gwent.

The CC thanked all those involved for the work undertaken by the Force and clarified that providing mutual aid would not be an issue and should Gwent Police require mutual aid themselves, the relevant provisions were in place.

The CC referred to the large amount of training undertaken by front line officers in the use of Taser, to ensure the safety of the officers and the general public.

The CC and PCC were leading the introduction of a Cyber Resilience Centre across Wales based on a preventative agenda in alignment with the Police and Crime Plan. Funding for the project had been secured at a sum of £200,000 from the Home Office.

### **BLACK ASIAN MINORITY ETHNIC EQUALITY REVIEW WITHIN GWENT POLICE**

6. We received the BAME report for monitoring.

The report was commissioned to gather intelligence across the Force as disproportionality had been identified when issuing fixed penalty notices during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The following key areas were highlighted:

The BAME community were 3.4 times more likely to be Stopped and Searched compared to white individuals particularly in the Newport city council area. where approximately 60% of stop and search was undertaken.

Force wide, 22.9% of all stops conducted on a white person resulted in an item being found, or a positive outcome, but this figure fell to 16.9% when the stop involved a person from the BAME community. This has highlighted issues around the use of Stop Search, in that there was more stop search conducted on BAME members but fewer successful outcomes.

The use of force was not dissimilar, in that the BAME community were 2.7 times more likely to have force used upon them, particularly in the Newport borough. This disproportionality could be linked to the Stop Searches, as force was sometimes used in order to conduct the search.

Members of the BAME community were 10.6 times more likely to have a firearm aimed as a first tactic than individuals from a white background, although statistically the numbers were low.

## Action

Although there appeared to be disproportionality in the levels of arrests as a higher number of the BAME community were arrested than white people, the outcome/charging levels were similar so there was no disproportionality identified when looking at custody disposal types.

Around 15% of all Fixed Penalty Notices submitted during the Covid-19 period involved members of the BAME community.

The report had identified disproportionality that needed to be addressed to ensure that Gwent Police were exercising their powers fairly.

Some progress had already been made in addressing the issues. A Chief Superintendent had been appointed as lead for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), leading a force wide Gold group to address many of the issues including the use of force and disproportionality of stop search.

Superintendents were running tactical stop search meetings and an action plan had been developed to improve the process, involving community scrutiny of stop searches, enhanced supervision of records, reviews of stops involving people from a BAME background and dip sampling of body worn video from officers conducting stop searches in which the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) were involved. We were advised that the EDI lead also had oversight of the stop search action plan. IAG and community groups were engaged in these processes.

A quarterly report was produced by the Performance team to help interpret and analyse the number of stops being conducted.

The PCC thanked the HoSPC for the report and emphasised the importance of progressing the issues raised to ensure fairness and equality to all communities and the need for good community cohesion as indicated in his Police and Crime Plan.

The CC acknowledged that there was work to do in this area and welcomed feedback from the IAG and BAME communities in order to improve the service. The Force would continue to conduct webinars to engage with their communities and an action plan had been commissioned by the CC in order to tackle the issues raised expediently.

The Gold group was focussing on the immediate actions as a priority and six dedicated Community Support Officers had been appointed to work with the divisional Commanders to maintain engagement with the community to inform Force activity in terms of disproportionality. A member of the St Giles Trust had joined the Stop and Search Scrutiny

Panel providing invaluable expertise in this area.

The Force were focussing on instilling confidence across the organisation to encourage an inclusive workforce, developing systems to ensure data on protected characteristics was being captured, establishing a buddy and coaching mentoring scheme and ensuring Force representation was a key priority during the recruitment of officers in relation to Operation Uplift.

**Action**

## **JOINT STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER**

### 7. We received the Joint Risk Register.

The DCC advised us that new risks had been scrutinised through the relevant Governance Boards and actions were progressing in those areas.

Our attention was drawn to the Storage of Evidence which had been assessed as a critical risk. Work had been on-going regarding the location in which the evidence was stored and other locations were being considered.

Pathology services was also a critical risk as the issue round long term provision remained unresolved, However, a secure interim measure had been put in place to ensure the service was not lost.

The CEx assured us that the OPCC had been involved in updating the risks on the register during various Force Boards and acknowledged the process was working efficiently following the updates to the Risk Management procedures and policies at the previous meeting.

The PCC asked that the risk for the ongoing service provision and development of the SARCs be added to the risk register. The SARC regionalisation project was at risk of ending. These risks were further complicated by the ISO accreditation risk which had a deadline by which any SARC used by Gwent police would need to have met the accreditation requirements or evidence may become inadmissible in court proceedings. The DCC advised that there was an estates and finance issue in relation to the SARCs and the ISO accreditation was on the register.

**DCC**

The PCC sought clarification on the criteria for removal of risks from the register. The DCC confirmed that the risk should remain on the register until the risk was resolved.

The PCC asked if an issues register could be developed to capture issues that had not yet become risks but could do so in the future. The DCC informed us that SIB were introducing a lessons learnt element to their meeting which could include an issues register to address potential risks, this would provide the opportunity to remove the potential risks off the register.

**DCC**

## **GWENT ROADS POLICING REVIEW**

**Action**

8. We received the Gwent Roads Policing Review.

The PCC emphasised the importance of Road Safety and asked that the Force acknowledged the recommendations within Gwent Roads Policing review conducted by this office in order to provide a formal response of the actions to be taken as a result. The CC agreed to provide a response to the report within 3 weeks.

**CC**

We were informed that the Ministry of Justice had requested a national review of the arrangements for victims of Road Traffic Collisions and a number of the findings in Gwent had correlated with that of the HMI-CFRS Roads Policing Inspection which reinforced the need for further focus in this area.

One of the key recommendations within the report referred to an increase in the number of resources in the West Area Support Unit (ASU) in order to reduce the threat of harm and risk but it was also recognised that the Force were not solely responsible for Road Safety and partnership working played an essential role too.

The review also identified concerns regarding fatalities in involving young people which warranted assessment and appropriate action.

The CC explained although there was not a Roads Policing Unit within Gwent due to the cost implications as it had previously been disbanded, there were specialist Roads Policing Officers within ASU. The CC fully supported investing in a Roads Policing Unit but it would have to be a long term project with a phased approach to delivery as the recent fluctuation in Police funding meant that the Force would need to save approximately £2.4million in the following year.

## **THE MEETING WAS REOPENED TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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## **COVID19 UPDATE REPORT AND COVID19 PRESENTATION ON LESSONS LEARNT**

10. We noted the Covid19 Update Report and received the Covid19 Presentation.

The following key areas were highlighted:



The Force followed t thematic areas in line with national approach to capture the lessons learnt during the Covid19 pandemic.

**Action**

The Police response during the Covid19 pandemic was assessed by Heads of Department to ascertain what approaches would be maintained, adapted or discounted going forward.

Good practice and lessons learnt had been shared through weekly meetings with other Forces and Gwent had led of many of the approaches that were adopted by other Forces.

The Gold, Silver Business Support and Silver Operational Support meetings had provided the appropriate command structure to capture Force response policy and decision making throughout the Covid19 pandemic.

The logistics cell that was established during the initial stages of lockdown to manage Absence Management and the provision of Public Protective Equipment (PPE) had been disbanded and allocated to other departments to manage.

During the Covid19 pandemic there was a dedicated Covid19 page on the Force intranet, enhanced by Chief Officer blogs in order to share up to date information with staff members and officers.

A more efficient electronic timesheet facility was also adopted which had enabled efficiency savings and was to be maintained following the Covid19 pandemic.

Gwent were one of the first Forces to introduce Office 365 and used their experience to provide information on good practice to other Forces in the use of Microsoft Teams online meetings. Teams was also used to continue the Force recruitment process.

As of the end of June 2020, the total Covid19 costs to the organisation stood at £650,000, the majority of which related the provision of PPE and COVID19 testing. The Home Office had confirmed that £317,000 of the costs was to be reimbursed for medical graded PPE. In order to reduce costs, future PPE provisions would be purchased from national suppliers as opposed to local suppliers. However, contact with local suppliers had been maintained should their services be required in the future.

In order to safeguard the most vulnerable members of the community, the Force implemented a number of processes during the Covid19 pandemic in order to maintain a good service, particularly in the area of Domestic Abuse, such as Silent Solution, Signs of Life checks and the Operation Encompass process was adapted in line with school closures.

Community tension forums were established to engage with the IAG and community stakeholders to gauge the sentiments of the community in order to react appropriately. The Force had also appointed additional members of the IAG to sit within the new IAG model.

**Action**

In order for the Force to continue receiving calls whilst maintaining a safe environment during the Covid19 pandemic, the Force Control Room (FCR) was split across the organisation in a phased approach and now sits across four locations. At the initial onset of Covid19 some staff members were able to continue taking 101 calls from home. There was increased contact via the Social Media desk during the Covid19 pandemic but the service was not impacted as the role could be managed from home.

Despite the increase in the number of reported incidents, there was a significant drop in crime for the period of 26<sup>th</sup> March to 11<sup>th</sup> May of 19%. However, there were increases in certain crime types which was most likely due to the officers having more time to investigate problematic areas due to a drop in demand brought about by the lockdown.

Anti-Social Behaviour had risen significantly during lockdown, however, having categorised the incidents, it could be seen that the majority of the behaviour was related to Covid-19 incidents, such as members of the public congregating in groups.

The Force was an outlier in terms of the number of Domestic Abuse incidents reported with a 10% increase and this was likely to be due to be the approach taken by the Force with the use of Sign of Life and Silent Solution processes and the Communication Team encouraging victims of abuse to report incidents by running campaigns.

There was a dedicated landline managed by the Area Incident Sergeants within the FCR which ensured sickness was being monitored and recorded under the appropriate sickness category. Sickness levels had decreased significantly during lockdown and the challenge going forward was to maintain that level. It was likely that the rollout of the Wellbeing initiatives may have contributed to the reduction as reasonable adjustments were made for those who needed to work from home.

The DPCC requested a briefing on the absence management and sickness figures during the Covid19 pandemic and a review on the reasons behind the positive sickness management.

**CC**

Online operational safety training had been reintroduced in one hour skill refresher sessions to ensure officers training requirements were being met whilst being deployed to other areas of the Force.

Gwent were one of the first Forces to adopt safety measures within Custody units such as safety screens, additional hand washing facilities, dedicated phone lines and were one of the only Forces to equip all Force response vehicles with two PPE kits.

**Action**

During the Covid19 pandemic the voluntary Special Constabulary had increased their service to over 180 hours. The PCC and CC offered their thanks for their continued support.

The number of arrests increased during the and this level had been maintained. Outcome rates had also improved.

We were advised that should there be a significant rise in the number of infections equating to a 'second wave' the lessons learnt from the initial response to the Covid19 pandemic would stand the Force in good stead due to the processes that were in place. The primary concerns going forward was costs implications and to the backlog within the Criminal Justice System resulting from the Covid19 pandemic.

The PCC informed us that the Magistrates Courts had resumed their services and it was imperative that the Crown Courts did the same to clear their backlogs in order to support the victims of the crime that the situation would be monitored closely.

The PCC referred to the total Covid 19 costs of £650,000 and noted there were £504,000 costs for specialist equipment and £52,000 for overtime and asked what the remaining spend was for. The CFO advised us that the majority of the £94,000 was for additional ICT during the Covid19 pandemic and agreed to provide a full analysis of the costs to the PCC. The CC advised us that the presentation slides would be amended accordingly.

**CFO**

**CC**

The PCC thanked the CC and the Force for their hard work and their cohesive approach with other partners through the Covid19 pandemic.

**N Ryan left the meeting at 11.59am.**

### **ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES**

11. We received the organisational performance report against the Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) Priorities for Quarter One.

The PCC noted that the report been produced in a new format and explained that it required adjustment in order to provide the Police and Crime Panel with the necessary information. The DCC, DPCC, CEx, HoS agreed to meet to discuss the format.

**DCC**

The DCC advised that us that the Force were continuously monitoring the levels of overtime, and in particular managing the levels of casual overtime to ensure the Force were not reliant upon it and the review of the Operating Model would be a key factor in managing that.

The Force were aiming to reduce the level of crime by 20% over a four year period. Crime had reduced by 5.4% over the past twelve months, which was above both the Welsh 3.9% and national 4% average decrease. Gwent were the 5th out of the 8th in the highest reduction in crime and 14th nationally.

There had been a slight increase of 1.5% in the number of Domestic Abuse victims of crime when compared to the same period the previous year and the number of repeat victims had risen by 13.1% in areas where there were higher levels of crime. To combat this the Force were encouraging increased incident reporting in areas of Domestic Abuse, Rape or Sexual Violence and focus was on reducing number of repeat victims by reducing the level of repeat offending.

Neighbourhood Crime such as residential burglaries, theft of and from vehicles and shops and stalls, saw a reduction of 30.6% in this quarter when compared to the same period last year, which was on trend with the planned reduction of 20% over four years.

The Force were continually monitoring the level of repeat offenders which had remained consistent with the previous year at 30.8%.

The PCC referred to the level of repeat young offenders under 18 which stood at 11% (420) and asked what was being done to support them as that number of young offenders were not being supported by the youth offending service cohorts. The DCC advised us that a Children and Young Persons Panel had recently been established in Gwent and work was on-going with the support of the DPCC to gain a greater understanding around supporting young offenders.

The number of positive outcomes recorded across all crime had increased by 13.3% for the last twelve months to June 2020. This represented an increase in solving an additional 166 crimes in this period. Positive Outcomes for Domestic Abuse had fallen slightly by 0.4% which was being continuously monitoring. Nationally, the Force had improved from 34<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> in terms of the number of positive outcomes.

The numbers of persons released under investigation had increased over the last three years. Work was on-going in this area, particularly for those that those that had been released under investigation for a considerable amount of time.

The number of Arrests had increased significantly over the last two months. The Force had undertaken work in this areas and better

timeliness of investigations had contributed to the increase.

The PCC asked if the Force monitored persons that had gone missing and had never been found. We were advised that the Major Crime Team reviewed cases such as this and all lines of enquiry were exhausted prior to the case being filed. The information was also recorded on the Niche system, which was audited and subject to review.

**Action**

The CC informed us that there were no long term cases relating to missing children outstanding. However, there were long term cases where people have been missing for over a year. These cases were thoroughly reviewed annually for any signs of life over a 5 year period and following that, the Force made a request to the Coroner to confirm that the person was no longer alive. The CC agreed to provide the PCC with the statistics and policies relating to long term missing persons.

**CC**

Gender representation in the Force reflected positively against the national average at all ranks, however, the Force recognised there was more work to be done in the area of Chief Superintendent and Chief Inspector roles which was being monitored through the Women's network and People Strategy Board.

The DCC advised us that the Crime Survey of England and Wales had shown a decrease in public confidence. However, the Force had commissioned a number of local surveys in Gwent, aimed at providing increased scrutiny and to gain a greater understanding of public opinion and their concerns. This would enable the Force to provide the appropriate response in order to increase public confidence. The results of the local surveys were expected to be collated by October and it was intended for the information to be incorporated within the Performance Report.

The number of Public Protection Notices (PPN) had increased significantly in May and June 2020 providing vital safeguarding services, particularly to young people. We thanked Superintendent Mike Richards, Chief Inspector Andy Tuck and their teams for their good work in relation to the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) work and PPN improvement.

The PCC queried why the total 101 calls answered had decreased in June and the abandonment rate had increased. The DCC informed us that the matter was discussed in detail at the recent Scrutiny Executive Board (SEB) and overall demand was high with 999 calls taking priority but 82% of 101 calls were answered within 60 seconds. The abandonment rate had increased since January 2020 but this was likely to be due to a new menu option being implemented during that time. The DCC agreed to provide a report on FCR demand, particularly 101 calls, to include abandonment rates and the reasons

**DCC**

for the increase.

**THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 4**

**Action**

12. We received and noted the Professional Standards Performance Report Quarter 4.

The PCC acknowledged that the report had been adjusted to include the changes to the complaint regulations in 2020.

The DCC advised us that the vetting appeals process had changed in order to ensure there was greater scrutiny in relation to recruitment for those with protected characteristics. The DCC was responsible for chairing the vetting appeals panel, which included a member of the OPCC team. The panel conducted a review of all cases where applicants with protected characteristics had failed vetting processes which was welcomed by the OPCC.

**OPERATIONAL FORCE DELIVERY PLAN 2019/20**

13. We received the Operational Force Delivery Plan 2019/20 for monitoring.

The CC informed us that the delivery report referred to Force Performance from April 2019 up to March 2020 and a substantial amount of work had subsequently taken place. Work was progressing with regards to the next report and what it should entail for the following report up to March 2021. It was expected that the report would be streamlined and aligned to the Police and Crime Plan priorities in order demonstrate the improvements that had been made.

**COLLABORATION UPDATE – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL AREAS**

14. We received the Collaboration Update – executive summary of operational areas for monitoring.

The CC suggested separating the Collaboration into three areas of reporting; All Wales Collaboration; Collaboration in Gwent and the Operational Work Collaboration for public awareness and scrutiny. The CC and OPCC were to meet at and Away Day to discuss the best way forward in order to demonstrate the substantial amount of collaborative work undertaken and its resulting benefits.

**CC**

The PCC requested an update on the Joint Firearms Unit training facilities in terms of its maintenance. The CC agreed to forward a copy of the paper relating to the matter which she was due to discuss at the COG the following day. The ACOR agreed to provide an update

**ACOR**

on the Joint Firearms Unit training facilities following the COG meeting.

**THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL PEOPLE REPORT**

Action

15. We received the report on the Chief Constable's arrangements for engagement with local people.

The CC informed us that a significant amount of work had been conducted in terms of engagement and accessibility. However, as the usual engagements in person had ceased, there was more work to do to reach the wider audience as not all members of the public were accessing the digital arena, particularly as Covid19 could remain in our communities for some time.

The PCC requested clarity in relation to 101 call demand on page 13 of the Chief Constable's arrangements for engagement with local people report, as the graph indicated a sharp drop in demand in 2019/20. The CC agreed to provide an update.

CC

The HoCE welcomed the CC's approach to reaching a wider audience and thanked the Force for involving the OPCC in the community dial-in which was very successful.

We noted that, prior to Covid19, the PCC's Communication and Engagement team had received positive feedback from the public on the role of the Force Cyber Community Support Officer.

**DRAFT GWENT POLICE AND OPCC JOINT STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN 2020-2024**

16. We received the Draft Gwent Police and OPCC Joint Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024.

The DCC advised us that there was a necessity for the plan to be made more ambitious and to demonstrate the work that was taking place to better support the delivery of the equality objectives, with inclusion of initiatives such as the EDI Gold Group.

The DPCC confirmed that it was a joint commitment to focus on this area of work in order to raise their ambition in terms of collaboration and partnership. BAME and Race had received significant focus and further consideration would be given to other protected characteristics in order to form a comprehensive plan for delivery of services for both organisations.

The PCC agreed to accept the plan with the caveat that the work on the delivery plans continued as planned.

## **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN PRESENTATION**

**Action**

17. We received the Medium Term Financial Plan Presentation.

The CFO provided a comprehensive presentation and talked us through a variety of scenarios in relation to the impact of the Coronavirus on Council Tax and Grant Funding from the Home Office. A conservative scenario of the impact increased the currently forecast deficit in 2021/22 of £2.6m up to £4.9m. Due to the considerable variables at play at this stage, forecasting beyond 2021/22 was impractical.

We were advised that the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) had progressed at a pace with considerable information being gathered throughout the Summer months to evidence national and local policing pressures. It was crucial to capture and articulate this information to the Treasury (via the Home Office), as the CSR would set Government Departmental budgets up to March 2024. The CFO confirmed that the CSR was expected to conclude in early Autumn 2020, following which Forces would begin to obtain clarity on the likely 2021/22 funding levels.

The CFO was to meet with Superintendent Ian Roberts to discuss the CSR narrative.

**CFO**

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

18. **a) Officer and Staff Safety review**

The National Police Chief's Council and College of Policing Officer and Staff Safety review had been launched consisting of 28 recommendations for various agencies. The CC assured the PCC the recommendations for the Force were being addressed through the relevant Governance Boards. The recommendations would form part of the Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) Inspections.

The CC advised that she would be working closely with the OPCC to ensure the relevant joint messaging on Staff and Officer Safety.

### **b) Annual events**

There were two significant annual events planned in Gwent throughout the year; Gwent Conservatives Spring Conference and the Cyber UK Conference. The CC assured us that the Force were working closely with event organisers to make sure the events were



run safety and the OPCC and the general public would be kept updated during the planning process. As policing resources were required for the events, the Force were in dialogue with relevant government bodies to ensure the events would not be detrimental the policing budget in Gwent.

### **TO IDENTIFY ANY RISKS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

19. The ongoing service provision and development of the SARCs – to be added to the Joint Risk Register - action noted at item 7.

**The meeting concluded at 13.30**