



OFFICE OF CHIEF CONSTABLE – Chief Constable’s Update	
REPORT TO:	Strategy and Performance Board
DATE OF MEETING:	4 th September 2019
REPORT OF:	The Chief Constable
REPORT AUTHOR:	Inspector Shane Underwood
PURPOSE:	To update members of the Strategy and Performance Board of significant events and work that has taken place since the previous update in June 2019.

1. HMICFRS PEEL Inspection

In July the Force was inspected by the HMICFRS as part of their ‘PEEL’ inspection programme. The inspection tested how the Force is performing in several key areas and whilst we await the official publication, initial feedback has been positive.

2. CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear) Capabilities

The College of Policing CBRN centre recently evaluated the pan Wales joint emergency services capabilities in relation to which tested the state of readiness to any form of CBRN attack. The College of Policing were impressed with the overall capacity and capability within Gwent Police.

3. Local Policing Areas

The following information highlight some recent successes in response to incidents throughout the Force area:

- a) On 26th June 2019, a male was arrested on suspicion of a non-dwelling burglary. As a result of interrogating our crime recording system, it was noted the male was the suspect/subject for a number of crimes over the previous 2-3 months all over the Gwent area (Including Cwmbran, Pontypool, Ebbw Vale, Ystrad Mynach and Newport). It was apparent that

over this time the offender had been on a crime spree, mainly targeting his former employee 'Timpsons'. Torfaen officers explored all these crimes which amounted to 11 crimes in total. Witness statements were obtained, relevant CCTV was seized from the various offence locations and a search of the offender's home address was completed where a number of items were seized. The case that the officers built against the offender was extremely strong and as a result of this, he admitted to 6 offences in interview. He was subsequently charged with these offences and received a 12 month prison sentence at court on 6th August 2019.

- b) 5th July 2019 - Officers attended Magor Services after reports a male was trying to use counterfeit currency to pay for fuel. The offender had left prior to arrival. Officers conducted further enquiries and located the suspect. A Further enquiry revealed the suspect was also wanted on an in connection with several burglaries. Officers arrested the suspect and completed a search of his address whereby stolen property was located from numerous burglaries.
- c) 12th July 2019 - A vehicle activated an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera in the Torfaen area. This vehicle was displaying false index plates. As this incident developed a call was received regarding the vehicle had committed a drive off in Pontypool for over £100 worth of petrol. Officers then sighted this vehicle in Cwmbran and used a pre-emptive 'sting' tactic on the vehicle which deflated all four tyres on the vehicle. Officers then conducted a two car box technique, stopping the vehicle and detaining the two offenders who had committed the drive off. The vehicle was recovered for further enquiries. The offenders are two Newport subjects with a previous similar offending history and the driver has now been charged with offences.
- d) 20th July. Officers were called to deal with a report of an unconscious male floating in the river Usk. Several officers attended and demonstrated extreme bravery in removing the male from the water. Immediate and sustained CPR was provided to the male who unfortunately was later pronounced deceased at the hospital. The officers deserve every credit for attempting to save this male's life.
- e) 6th August 2019. Officers at Magor dealt with a road traffic collision and showed significant team working skills in dealing with a critically injured member of the public at the scene of the collision and later at the Royal Gwent hospital. It was widely recognised by the medical professionals,

the actions of the officers kept the injured party alive and afforded them a fighting chance of survival.

- f) Operation Vision was set up following a series of Ram Raids Targeting various businesses across the West of the Force. The investigation spanned 18 months and involved complex investigative strategies such as cell site triangulation, mobile phone analysis, ANPR data, covert tactics and financial investigation as well as significant work with the Intelligence and Dedicated Source Units.

A number of Warrants were executed where significant value of stolen property was recovered and arrests made. The series was investigated by West IOMU officers at Blaenau Gwent.

In July 2019 following the investigation 10 charges were brought against 5 individuals involved. The charges included burglaries, thefts, handling stolen goods and pervert the course of justice offences.

In total 9 years of sentences were passed.

- g) Stalking Offences – A male subject from the Risca area was engaged in a campaign of abusive harassment which was persistent and intimidating to his ex-partner. He was jailed for 2 years and a restraining order put in place.
- h) Coercive Control – A male subject from Cwmbran was jailed for coercive control through a really impressive investigation from the uniformed officer who prosecuted this case without a complaint from the victim. It was described by the Judge as “gratuitously appalling” controlling coercive behaviour. Over a 3 month period he rang her 1,272 times. Jailed for 2 and half years and a restraining order was put in place.
- i) A male was jailed for raping his 8 year old brother. He filmed this act which was described by Hi-Tech Crime Unit as being one of the worst videos they have viewed. The officer in the case had to view this video repeatedly to try to identify the suspect. He was jailed for 14 years.
- j) Officers from Caerphilly Central attended a report of disorder, on attendance officers were threatened by a female with an iron bar and required first aid due to a head injury. The female was disarmed however whilst conducting first aid, the female jumped out of a window of the

address with a knife and tried to attend address of the alleged male offender. Further officers attended and gave chase along with members of the public. The female was again disarmed and arrested. The male was also arrested for an allegation of a sexual offence. This was an extremely volatile and challenging incident which was handled with professionalism and calmness.

k) There have been incidents where our staff have intervened whilst off duty,

In June DS 746 Carl Williams whilst off duty assisted security to apprehend a violent shoplifter, where he sustained a cut to his hand from broken glass whilst restraining the male.

Whilst on holiday SC 363 Jamie Hall with her partner and brother rescued 4 children who were drowning in the sea, when they on route back to their vehicle they noticed another male in difficulty in a kayak being swept out to sea so they rushed to his assistance and brought him safely to shore. Moments later they saw 2 children swimming off shore and in danger, they again entered the water and rescued the children.

4. Missing Person Management

We have introduced an improved system (missing person module) to manage the investigation into missing persons which is friendlier to the user and increases the overall efficiency in managing actions and tasks to locate missing people.

5. Office 365 Preparations

The National Home Office Team praised our Business Change team for the mapping undertaken to prepare us for Office 365. The Gwent team undertook the mapping for both Gwent and South Wales Police and have subsequently trained South Wales colleagues in the techniques the team utilised.

6. Forensic Collision Investigation Unit

Investment in staffing has been made to the unit which has resulted in Gwent being able to cover our own 'call out' demand. Previously Gwent has relied on South Wales Police to provide support, however this was through good will and was not sustainable in the long term.

7. Serious Organised Crime Developments

Operation Washington – 10 people arrested for trafficking heroin in the Newport area and 8 people remanded in custody dismantling the Organised Crime Group.

Operation Dynamic – Two early morning dawn raids on suspects' throughout the Force area, identified as supplying controlled drugs. 36 people arrested in the two phases and 33 remanded into custody. Multi agency support provided by partners in relation to safeguarding and support.

Financial Investigation - On Tuesday 5th April 2016, a male was charged with one count of conspiracy to produce cannabis. He was found guilty following trial at Cardiff Crown Court on 2nd August 2017. On 4th August 2017 he was sentenced to a custodial term of seven years. Following two years of contested hearings, on 1st August 2019 HHJ Bidder awarded a confiscation order in the sum of £599,623.79. The offender's benefit from conviction amounted to £599,623.79. He had assets which exceeded this value and as such, the full benefit figure could be satisfied.

Operation Pocket took place on the 20th June as part of the national operation Aidant intensifications. This was focused on County Lines utilising the rail network. This operation was run in conjunction with BTP and other agencies and resulted in one arrest.

In June we also saw the launch of 'Dewi the Dragon' on Police Vehicles to raise awareness of Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking.

8. Domestic Abuse/Stalking Training

We have received a grant from the Home Office to assist in funding for training delivered by 'DA Matters' scheduled to begin late this year. DA Matters will provide specific domestic abuse training to the entire force. This training has been delivered in a number of other forces around the country which has been well received.

Furthermore, in line with the Sussex Report, custody staff and sergeants throughout the Force will receive updated training in relation to Stalking offences. A three month deadline for this training to be delivered was set by the College of Policing and we anticipate no issues in achieving this.

9. Management of Sex/Violent Offenders

MOSOVO Monthly Homeless Meeting

We have introduced a monthly meeting which focusses purely on sex offenders who are homeless. Lack of permanent housing is identified as a risk factor, which could be a trigger to reoffending.

Each case explores the offending history, victim targets and if there are any other risk indicators such as substance misuse. Cases are reviewed with the offender manager, whereby risk levels are reviewed. We have identified good practise where we have been able to secure accommodation for other nominals and use this to influence cases within the meeting. All relevant partner agencies are engaged with the nominal and confirm enforcement where there is a lack of compliance.

ARMS Assessments

The MOSOVO team have worked with ARMS working groups, psychology groups and peer forces. The team have facilitated team days to update our staff to embrace a more flexible, streamlined and robust approach to completing the risk management tool with all our offenders. We have arranged a number of management meetings with our HMPPS colleagues to address to enhance our joint working practises. This has improved our information sharing, professional relationships and overall management of offenders.

10. Custody Related Activity

We have now established a dedicated single point of contact with the Local Authorities and Youth Offending Services, PS173 Nikki Hughes and represents the force at the monthly multi agency working group.

Since the last HMICFRS inspection PS Hughes has taken a lead on the recommendations that we received in custody and has developed new processes and procedures around Appropriate Adults, PPN's and accommodation issues.

In addition PS Hughes is delivering training to all front line officers around children in custody which includes the necessity for an arrest of a juvenile in line with Code G of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act Codes of Practice. Feedback from these sessions has already been very positive from those who have received the training.

Furthermore we are in the process of developing our understanding and response to dealing with people in police custody who suffer from Autism, where detainees will be given a 'social story' to help them understand the process of custody and what to expect. The benefits of this work will be to reduce the stress caused to detainees who have Autism, thereby reducing the risk of self-harm either whilst in police custody, or after being released from police custody.

11. Excellence in Recruitment

Our Human Resources department were the first Welsh Force to use a computerised recruitment programme called Oleo which has resulted in being nominated as finalists for this year's Team South Wales Police Awards in the Innovation Award category, as part of the All Wales Recruitment Collaboration Team.

Gwent Police have been the first force in Wales to go live with a Special Constable campaign using Oleo This was very successful with over 303 applicants and a class of 20 Specials to start very soon.

We have successfully recruited 20 CSO's in May this year, they have received their 8 week training and now on patrol in their local neighbourhoods

We have our second cohort of 30 PEQF students recruited and ready to start with Gwent Police on the 23rd September.