

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT
STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD
30th NOVEMBER 2018

Present: **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)**
Ms E Thomas – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC)
Mrs S Curley – Chief Executive (CEX)
Mr D Garwood-Pask – Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
Ms J Robinson – Head of Strategy (HoS)
Mr R Guest – Head of Communications and Engagement (HoCE)
Mrs E Lionel – Principal Finance & Commissioning Manager (PFCM)
Mrs N Warren – Public Response Co-ordinator

Office of the Chief Constable (OCC)

Mr J Williams – Chief Constable (CC)
Mrs P Kelly – Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)
Mrs R Kirk – Assistant Chief Constable (ACC)
Mr N Stephens – Assistant Chief Officer, Resources (ACOR)
Mr S Corcoran – Temporary Chief Superintendent, Head of Crime and First Point of Contact (HoC&FPoC)

Staff Associations

Ms V Day (Police Federation)
Ms J Everson (Unison)

The meeting commenced at 10:00am chaired by the DPCC in the absence of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) who had been taken ill before the meeting. Representations were made on behalf of the (PCC) in accordance with the terms of reference.

APOLOGIES

Action

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Cuthbert – Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Mrs J Regan, Head of Assurance and Compliance (HoAC), Mr M Budden – Temporary Chief Superintendent, Head of Local Area Policing (HoLAP), Mrs E Ackland – Chief Superintendent, Head of Strategy, Performance and Change (HoSPC), Mr R Jones – Communications and Engagement Manager (CEM), Mrs L Davies (Unison) and Ms M Henry (Police Federation)

MINUTES

2. We received and confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on the 31st August 2018.

The DPCC requested an update on the evaluation of the Mental Health services within custody. We were advised there had initially been a delay in the start of the assessment process which was now being progressed; a further update would be provided at the next meeting. The DPCC requested an update on the use of Domestic Violence

ACC

Protection Notices and whether Supervisors had received the necessary training to ensure they were familiar with their use. We were informed the use of Domestic Violence Protection Notices had increased, details of which would be incorporated within a future Force Performance Report. **Action**
HoSPC

We noted the good work of Detective Chief Inspector Maloney in relation to his work in the field of Domestic Violence which had recently been broadcast on BBC News.

ACTIONS

3. We received and noted the actions from the meeting held on the 31st August 2018. The following updates were provided:

Action 2, Chief Constables Update Report

We were informed that the Gwent funding arrangement had now been finalised in relation to the proposed police memorial at the National Arboretum.

Action 3, Update on the Introduction of a Social Media Desk

We were advised the social media training programme was almost complete and expected implementation to be within the next week. We noted the original go live date had been delayed to ensure the necessary training had been completed. We were informed that performance and the impact on demand would be reviewed and fed back to the Strategy and Performance Board. **HoC&FPoC**

Action 4, Update on WISDOM project

We queried whether the Welsh Integrated Serious and Dangerous Offender (WISDOM) project review had been completed and we were informed Nottingham University were yet to provide the final evaluation of the Report. **ACC**

Action 5, Update on Performance of Collaborative Units Joint Legal Services and Joint Firearms

We were advised a single template would be developed to ensure all relevant data would be captured from within the various departments in place of four individual reports. This would then be shared with all OPCCs and forces. We were informed a further update would be provided in January 2019 **DCC**

Action 8, Collaborative Procurement Outturn Report Update

We were informed that the Head of Procurement would be leaving the organisation on the 21st December 2018. There was a three month collaborative arrangement in place and a temporary Head of Procurement had commenced a secondment in order to manage the hand over arrangements. We were advised that there was a forthcoming meeting with other forces in Wales to assess the possibility of working collaboratively in this area.

Outstanding Actions, 21st May 2018

Action

Action 1, Update on Evaluation of Mental Health Practitioners

A large amount of work had been completed by Swansea University in terms of evaluating the service provided by the Mental Health Practitioners. Going forward the HoSPC would be reviewing service demand and linking in with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB).

The CEx queried if there was a specific timeframe within the contract for Swansea University to deliver their evaluation report. We were advised the HoSPC would be collating the necessary information and would then be in a position to provide a formal update to the OPCC.

HoSPC

The CC highlighted the necessity for the completion of the evaluation going forward as other forces may wish to implement a similar service.

The DPCC made reference to the positive comments made by the Victims' Commissioner during her visit to Connect Gwent in terms of how the force had made significant progress in relation to mental health support in comparison to other organisations.

The DCC stated the force would be reviewing the issues raised around mental health within Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspection Report and would also be considering a secondment opportunity at a senior level in order to work in partnership with a Local Authority within Gwent and ABUHB to further improve mental health support services as well as other areas.

Action 2, Voluntary Attendance Update

We confirmed a written update had been circulated prior to the meeting. We were informed that the new voluntary model had been successful and resulted in a decrease of voluntary attendance and an increase in arrests. Going forward there was an expectation that arrests would increase further. Bail stood at 14.9% which was a significant increase from 6%, and release and investigation was being scrutinised by the force. We were also informed that the Custody Unit would be re-opening in Ystrad Mynach as of the 7th January 2019 due to demand.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S BUDGET BID 2019/20

4. We received and noted the CC's Budget Bid for 2019/2020.

We discussed the Police and Crime Panel meeting to be held on the 14th of December 2018 at which discussions would take place in relation to the PCC's budget requirements for 2019/20.

We were reminded that the precept had remained consistent at 3.99% in Gwent over the last few years which had required the force to make

savings of approximately £50 million to achieve a balanced budget. This was partly achieved by reducing the police officer establishment from 1,450 to 1,179, which had impacted on the service provided. Although the force was now currently over its establishment with 1,342 officers, the CC emphasised his reluctance to fall below that level due to increasing force demand.

The CC drew attention to the Public Protection Unit (PPU) where there had been a significant rise in the number of serious sexual assaults and rapes recorded. The CC stated the challenge going forward would be the recruitment of staff into the department to ensure it was fully resourced.

The CC advised that other forces in Wales were requesting a precept increase between 6.99% and 12%.

The ACOR presented the Chief Constable's future financial requirements.

We were advised that there had been significant cuts to funding grants over the last 10 years as a result of austerity and reducing crime figures. It had since been identified nationally that a large number of hidden crimes had not been addressed and it had become clear that that demand had come to the forefront particularly around threat, risk and harm of the vulnerable.

Due to recognition of the increase in demand on the police service the Home Office had confirmed they would support a flat cash grant position rather than the expected minus 2% reduction for 2018/19.

We were advised revenue had been transferred from reserves in order to fund the significant capital programme consisting of the estate strategy, advanced digital information communication technology programme and fleet replacement programme.

For 2019/20, the Policing Minister had previously made his intentions clear that he would maintain a flat cash Policing Settlement so long as the service could overcome:

- Collaborative working on shared services;
- Real progress in delivering digital technology; and
- Transparency on reserve strategies.

We were informed that demand was constantly shifting and further work was required to be undertaken via the force improvement programme. The force was part way through implementing the new investigative framework, with a pilot being rolled out in Newport and Monmouthshire, which would help to identify any benefits of the model or improvements required.

We were advised there were service cost pressures amounting to £7.5 million, a particular area of concern being the policing requirement for

the potential M4 relief road development with an estimated cost of £3.4 million a year for four to five years once the project commenced.

Action

We were advised that the recruitment of officers had concluded for 2018/19 although funding had been included in the budget for an additional 30 officers per year which would enable the force to continue to meet their budgeted establishments. However, there was a possibility that this could change due to other factors, such as officers retiring later than expected.

The ACOR advised that there were unknown cost pressures, such as funding issues relating to police officer pensions, pay awards, risk around partnership funding from the Welsh Government, borrowing to fund national ICT programmes, unknown implications of Brexit and the possibility of a revised funding formula.

We were advised that the Medium Term Financial Plan indicated an increase in the savings required from £10 million to £15 million as a result of the re-valuation of Police Pensions and other cost pressures.

In terms of future requirements there was a significant net financial gap of £12.8 million pounds which would be resourced from savings made through the change programme. There was also a substantial capital requirement of £81 million over the next four years and £14.2 million pounds of non-capital investment for collaborative spending.

We were advised that a discussion had taken place at the Service Improvement Board regarding the revisions to the change programme and that areas of focus had now been agreed.

With regard to the financial gap for 2019/2020 it is proposed to fund £4.016 million using identified savings, reserves, new efficiencies and the precept at 6.99%.

We were advised that if the force needed to manage on a reduced budget, staff and officer cuts would be required, which would be a cause for concern given the high level of demand being experienced.

With regard to new efficiencies the Fully Integrated Resource Management System (FIRMS) was now in place; we noted that four new policing systems were also planned for implementation in order to provide a more efficient and effective service.

In terms of collaboration and the custody model alignment, we were advised that Gwent Police would be replacing their old system and sharing a digital interviewing system with South Wales Police in March 2019. Further collaboration was also being considered in relation to the sharing of a clinical model with South Wales which would assist in the delivery of custody services.

We were advised the Value for Money profiles included a higher level of detail this year which had provided the force with the opportunity to compare themselves against the performance of other forces. Gwent had above the expected levels of resources in neighbourhood policing and community liaison however, it was noted the Welsh Government provided £3 million of funding for Community Support Officers.

We noted the overtime level within the force was still high due to increasing demand but this was usually within the specialist departments.

The CC raised concerns around the funding gap next year in relation to Tarian and the Joint Firearms Service. We agreed the funding grant allocation in December 2018 would provide clarity with regards as to who would be responsible for funding these services.

The ACOR provided an analysis of the budget spreadsheets and advised that if the CC's requested precept was not accepted or if there were gaps in funding next year, challenging decisions would need to be made with regards to the sustainability of current services and the maintenance of the Neighbourhood Policing Model and Partnership support.

We were informed further risks had been identified within the budget report regarding on-going service reviews, the implementation of new services and how those services would be resourced.

We were advised there was an additional risk in relation to funding the Human Trafficking Team of £200,000.

In terms of the current police officer establishment of 1,342, the CC raised concern as to whether this would be an adequate number of officers to meet the challenges ahead. The CC made reference to various elements of the potential M4 relief road development, the new conference centre at the Celtic Manor and Brexit, all of which could have a substantial impact on force resources.

We were advised there was a requirement for new custody arrangements to be put in place and that there was also a significant digital plan to implement.

The DCC suggested focussing on the precept level and financial planning for the next few years rather than on an annual basis in order to prevent issues arising the following year. The ACC also drew attention to the importance of planning in the long term and advised if funding was reduced, neighbourhood policing would be affected which would have a detrimental impact on the local communities.

Unison advised that staff members were feeling overworked so the rationale for further staff cuts needed to be clearly communicated as to

why the efficiency savings need to be made.

Action

The Police Federation drew attention to the loss of experience as a result of previous cuts and voluntary exit schemes. We were informed that other forces had reviewed their injury pension awards procedures and suggested that Gwent may wish to consider doing the same as it may help to retain officers.

CC

The DPCC acknowledged the significant amount of work that had been undertaken to produce the budget proposal and thanked all those involved in its development.

The DPCC advised the PCC would give particular consideration to force resource requirements to ensure the effective delivery of services by Gwent Police, but would also bear in mind the financial strain some members of the public were under. It was acknowledged that policing demand was changing and that the PCC would be advised of the benefits of long term budget planning with regards to the financial viability of the force.

In terms of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) the DPCC made reference to the Home Office recognising the Welsh contribution to its development. As the PCC was involved in the strategic element of the CSR, he was in a position to articulate the case for both policing and financial demand nationally, the operational impact on both officers and staff and to highlight improvements that have already been made.

The DPCC informed us that it was the intention of the Association of the Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) to challenge both the UK Government and the Treasury with regards to the changes in police officer pensions.

The DPCC thanked the CC for achieving the increase in police numbers as recommended by the PCC and reiterated the importance of placing the resources in the relevant areas, particularly within the PPU.

We acknowledged the requirement to inform all employees about the economical challenges faced by the force and suggested the opportunity should be used to engage with the staff in order to make further efficiency savings through innovation.

CC

We were advised that a public consultation on the precept was taking place and that a decision on the precept proposal would not be finalised until the consultation had concluded and would be presented to the Police and Crime Panel in January 2019.

The CFO requested assurance that the £1.5 million underspend within the development fund had been utilised in order ensure the precept proposal was accurate. The CC confirmed the underspend would be spent by 31st March 2019.

The DPCC thanked the CC and his team for their efforts in presenting the CC's bid and also reiterated to Unison and the Police Federation the board's understanding of the pressures placed on officers and staff.

Ms J Everson left the meeting at 12:30pm

ORGANISATIONAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES

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

We were advised that, although the number of recorded crimes had risen, this was partially due to crime recording practices; we were informed that crime survey results indicated public perception of crime being relatively stable. We were also advised that Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) was now being recorded under the 'other offence' category which evidenced why the numbers recorded in the 'other offence' category had risen and those within the ASB category had fallen.

We were informed that the main crime trend increases in September were in relation to burglary non-dwelling and burglary dwelling. Burglaries had been prevalent in Torfaen but arrests had been made and resources were being targeted in the area. We were advised drug offences had increased as a result of police focus in that area.

The ACC advised that community resolutions had not increased and further research was required to ascertain the reasons behind that. The DPCC enquired about the force targets in relation to community resolutions. The ACC explained the force had work to do with regards to community resolutions and would review how other forces were performing in the area going forward.

ACC

We queried what crimes the force would be targeting. The ACC explained the violence without injury offence is under review as some of the offences recorded should sit under domestic abuse offences.

The DPCC queried the rise in public order offences. The ACC explained the increase was due to low level offences being recorded differently.

The HoS queried if there had been an increase related to historic or non-historic rape cases. The ACC confirmed there had been an increase in rapes reported but in terms of the type of rape reported there had not been a significant change. The DCC advised approximately 15-20% of overall rape crimes are usually historic relating to incidents over 12 months old but there had recently been a small decrease. The HoC&FPOC explained that there had been an

increase when the national media were focussing on the issue but it had since decreased. We were however informed that there had been an increase in rape incidents within the last week. The HoS queried whether it was believed that the increase was linked to increased confidence of victims reporting incidents or an increase in rape offences taking place. The DCC stated there had been an increase in the level of violence of rape incidents and sexual assaults rather than domestic incidents which could be linked to the increase in reports as victims are more likely to report violence but there was no evidence to confirm that was the case.

Action

The ACC explained there had been some positive increases in the use of stop and search due to increased confidence in its use amongst officers, particularly in relation to the knife crime operation, Operation Sceptre. We were informed that the number of positive outcomes had increased to 24%. The DPCC sought clarification regarding the purpose of stop and search indicated in the report as it was not clear if the stops were drug or knife related. The ACC confirmed that it was unclear and would provide clarity to the OPCC.

ACC

We were advised there had been an improvement regarding the assessment of Management of Sex Offenders and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO). We were advised the scrutiny rate had now risen to 80% after HMICFRS had identified issues in this area. The DPCC stated the Force Performance Report did not reflect as positive a performance as those illustrated to the Board. The ACC advised Quarter 3 would include those improvements. The DPCC suggested a schedule of reporting that would align to the performance framework in order to clarify the timeframe of individual performance reports. The ACC confirmed the report had been completed and would be provided to the OPCC.

ACC

Clarification was sought in relation to the Active Risk Management System (ARMS) assessment completion rates as the dates appeared to be random. The CEx confirmed the report dates indicated when the audits took place as they were not carried out monthly. We asked if such issues could be made clear within the report in order to avoid confusion. It was agreed that using differing audit dates could prevent comparison with previous performance in future.

HoSPC

The ACC informed us that the force was increasing the use of Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO) issued by the Magistrates Court to a person who poses a risk of sexual harm to the public or an individual. SHPOs were being used proactively by officers and five individuals had been arrested for breaching the order between Quarter 1 and 2.

The ACC provided an update in relation to the First Point of Contact (FPoC). The number of calls from the public was high and peaked in July and then decreased again in August and September; this increase was due to a system outage. We asked that explanations such as this

HoSPC

be included within the text of the report in future. We were advised there had been a significant improvement within 101 as 50% of calls were being answered in under 60 seconds. We noted the force was waiting for new software in order to provide further details in relation to abandoned calls. It was stated that abandonment of a call prior to the call being answered could be seen as a positive outcome, as the initial answerphone message identified the appropriate authority to deal with certain types of calls. The length of time before abandonment of a call was monitored closely through the Investigative Framework Gold Group to ascertain whether operators are taking longer to deal with calls. There was an expectation that there would be an initial increase due to the implementation of the investigative framework as calls may take longer to conclude.

Action

The DPPC queried the FPoC call figures as they didn't appear to correlate. The ACC confirmed the first set of figures related to 101 calls only and the second to both 101 and 999 calls.

The CEx stressed the importance of providing further context in the Force Performance Report in order that the OPCC were in a position to relay the information to the Police and Crime Panel which would eradicate the need for further questions being asked during the meeting.

HoSPC

The ACC advised that satisfaction levels had not been affected in relation to crimes investigated at the FPoC.

The ACC informed us that between October 2017 and September 2018, 835 telephone interviews were completed by Connect Gwent across a broad spectrum of residents which provided a clearer indication of victim satisfaction.

The ACC emphasised there was a 93% satisfaction rate in relation to ease of contact from victims of crime which coincided with FPoC. There is an overall improvement in the service when taking into consideration ease of contact, time of arrival and treatment and action at the scene but further work was required with regards to keeping victims updated. The DPCC asked what improvements could be made with regards to keeping victims updated. The ACC explained it was a recurrent problem and FPoC were focussing on managing the victims expectations by ensuring they were fully informed that no further action would be taken at the time of the call if there were no lines of enquiry. Officers were also being reminded to ensure the preferred method of contact was obtained from the victims at the initial incident.

The DCC advised us that efforts were being made to provide clearer communication in relation to victim updates. Cards and posters detailing who to contact would be distributed, with officers providing their direct telephone numbers to victims, but further improvement was required. The ACC stated 79% of victims were happy with the service

overall and 89% of victims would be very likely to report a crime again. The ACC informed us that Connect Gwent interacted with victims of crime to assess treatment received and had found an improvement in relation to how the victims had been treated with the exception of some victims of domestic abuse, which involved significant trauma.

Action

In relation to Community Cohesion the ACC confirmed some of the workforce absence figures in the Force Performance Report were incorrect. We were assured the relevant department had been advised and the relevant amendments will be made and a revised report forwarded to the OPCC. The DPCC noted comparative data was not included in the report year on year and suggested that it would be beneficial to have that detail in order to make a comparison in future reports.

ACC

HoSPC

We were advised the Force Equality Meeting undertook a three year analysis of workforce representation which focussed on Race, Gender, Sexual Orientation and Disability. There had been positive developments in the recruitment of officers from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds but there were concerns that progression was slow; this was currently being reviewed. In relation to gender, the top quartile of police staff consisted of women from Chief Inspector and above but there was a lower number at Sergeant and Inspector level. In terms of disability, 14% of the workforce had not disclosed if they had a disability but the number of disabled employees had been sustained.

We were advised by the ACC that support was being provided to BAME officers with the use of buddying systems and other practical interventions. An outreach officer had been recruited and would be visiting schools and deprived areas to build relationships to support recruitment in the long term.

The ACC informed us the force was scoping opportunities to work with disability organisations in order to improve inclusivity and provide further opportunities for disabled people to join Gwent Police.

Preparation of a staff promotion survey was underway in order to understand the promotion barriers for officers of a BAME background and also the under representation of Sergeants and Inspectors. A 12 month talent management course specifically aimed at BAME officers would be concluding shortly.

The ACC stated that the force had been successful in recruiting BAME officers and welsh speakers into key roles, including the Force Communication Suite, in order to support the delivery of a bilingual service.

The DPCC congratulated the force on the progress that had been made in relation to representation in the workforce.

We were advised overall hate crime had increased by 14% which was lower than the 17% increase nationally. It was likely that the increase was due to improved public confidence as more incidents were being reported. It was noted that HMICFRS had made positive comments in relation to how Gwent Police responded to hate crime. Victim satisfaction had reduced slightly but was still 80%, significantly better than other forces satisfaction levels in relation to hate crime. We were advised that other forces had contacted Gwent Police for information regarding hate crime procedures to determine how they were able to improve their performance in this area. An audit was undertaken to understand the high attrition rates for disability hate crime and a pattern was identified around domestic abuse related incidents involving disabled people. It was identified that officers were not considering issues around disability, and as a result a Disability Hate Crime Working Group had been established to review all disability hate crimes identified in the last 12 months.

Action

The DPCC referred to comments made by the head of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) who had expressed concerns about Misogyny being treated as a Hate Crime when forces were being overstretched. The CC advised that the comments made should be taken in context and if a crime had been committed it would be recorded accordingly.

The ACC informed us that there was work being undertaken in relation to ASB and advised that Durham Police had recently visited Gwent to gain an understanding of how Gwent deal with ASB; positive feedback was received from the visitors. Neighbourhood officers were also being trained in problem orientated policing in order to tackle ASB.

The CEx suggested that future performance reports should state the actual performance data as opposed to forthcoming data in relation to change management. The CFO stated it would also be beneficial to include positive audit outcomes.

HoSPC

Ms V Day left the meeting at 1.00pm

The ACC advised us that all front line officers had been issued with mobile phones and laptop devices, with 7,000 phones being distributed across both Gwent and South Wales. The CFO enquired as to how the force would be capturing the time benefits of the new technology and stated it would be useful to include in the performance report. The DCC explained that would be determined by Digital Services Division project. We were informed that officers benefited from the technology by accessing the information and intelligence more quickly and when used in conjunction with body worn cameras, a further benefit would be the acceleration of the Court process and bringing offenders to justice. The distribution of body worn cameras was ongoing but was expected to conclude before Christmas.

When asked by the DPCC, the CC stated he was confident that the report provided him with assurances of the performance of Gwent Police within the resources allocated to him. We acknowledged that this report would be used to help demonstrate the OPCC scrutiny of the Force and the CC suggested any questions the Police and Crime Panel may have in relation to the report should not be about the performance itself but about the Police and Crime Commissioner's scrutiny of that performance. The CEx stressed the importance of including the relevant performance information in context in order that it could be relayed in a way that provides clarity to the Police and Crime Panel.

Action

SAFEGUARDING COMPLIANCE

6. We received a presentation from the HoC&FPoC on Compliance with Safeguarding of Children.

The DPPC advised us that the PCC had a statutory duty to scrutinise and consider effectiveness of safeguarding children but not safeguarding as a whole.

Our attention was drawn to the safeguarding regulations in particular the Children's Act 2004 and the All Wales Child Protection procedures being reviewed nationally due to not being updated since 2008. Monitoring of safeguarding was undertaken by the South East Wales Children's Safeguarding Board, of which Gwent Police and OPCC were key members. The Criminal Investigation Department and PPU review had clearly indicated a gap between demand for child abuse and serious sex abuse investigations involving children and the resources allocated to it. We were however assured that safeguarding arrangements were in place and that there was also a dedicated resource that can be utilised within the force when particular allegations were reported concerning children.

In terms of performance data we were informed the force was collating information in order to produce a specific performance pack which would be included at the next meeting. There were issues relating to children being placed in custody but we were assured the custody officers had been fully trained to fulfill obligations in relation to the safeguarding of these children. A full assessment was undertaken on every child in custody which was monitored by the custody Inspector and the Head of the Criminal Justice Department.

**HoC&FP
OC**

We queried whether Gwent Police had considered charging for placement of children in custody. The HoC&FPoC advised he would raise the issue with the Head of Criminal Justice and provide feedback.

**HoC&FP
OC**

We were informed that information sharing via the Multi-Agency and Safeguarding Hub (MASH) had a positive effect for the force as

demand had been reduced and the force was working more efficiently. The DCC advised should the budget be condensed and the workforce reduced, the MASH would not be able to expand its services or may even need to be disbanded.

Action

We were advised Multi-Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) meetings had taken place across the five local policing areas which had provided the opportunity to share information regarding individuals who were being exploited and required protection. There was work being undertaken with the Operation Quartz team to produce performance outcomes to enable a better understanding as to whether the force was making a positive difference to children's lives.

We were informed the Missing Children's Team was fully established and that the level of repeat reports of missing children had reduced. The intervention of support workers and other agencies was also making a positive difference.

In terms of child protection demand, referrals were made to social services if there was any element of risk or harm to a child. Approximately 80% of the referrals result in no further action, as a result the force were reviewing the process to ensure the referrals are necessary in the first instance. All incidents in relation to domestic incidents are referred to social services.

Due to the lack of resources within the PPU department, officers do not attend case conference meetings when a child was placed on the risk register but always ensure a case report was produced and forwarded to the conference.

We were informed that in order to investigate child abuse cases and safeguarding within the PPU, a Specialist Child Abuse Investigation Programme (SCADIP) had to be undertaken by all members of staff within the team. The majority of staff have now received the training and the remaining members will receive their training shortly.

We were advised that the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) programme was ongoing. The DPPC stated it was the intention of the OPCC to request that the force provide a briefing to the PCC.

CC

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

7. 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.

The meeting concluded at 1.20pm