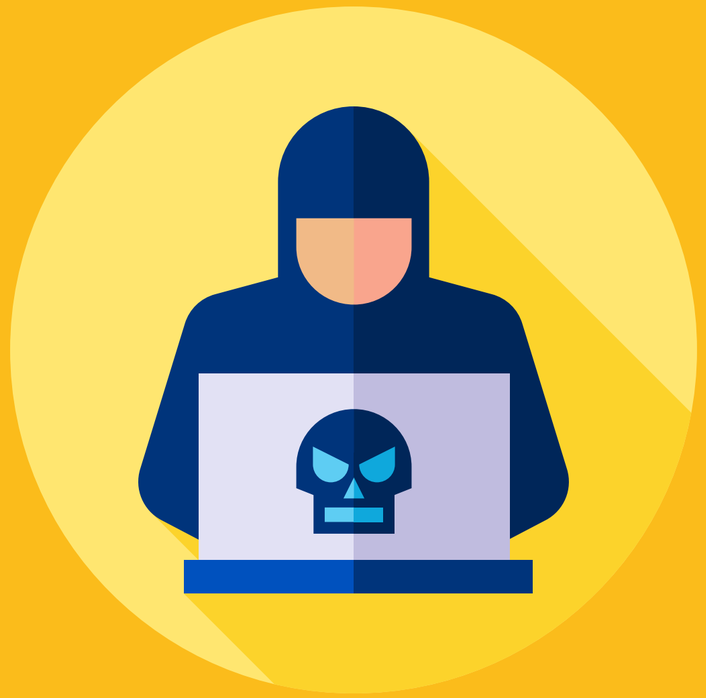
HEDDLU GWENT POLICE

# Cyber Crime Overview


Detective Chief Superintendent

Nicola Brain



# What is Cybercrime?

**Once the preserve of the sophisticated hacker, stealing data; Cybercrime is now mainstream and impacts all of our Gwent Communities in different ways. Gwent Police tailors its response accordingly.**

# Cyber Dependent

Crimes specifically targeting a Computer to access its content or impair its operation- Offences Under the Computer Misuse Act 1990

Hacking-For example, using the internet to unlawfully access a company's network to steal or destroy data.

Accessing the Mobile Phone or Social Media Account of an ex-Partner  without their permission (for whatever reason).

# Cyber Enabled

Existing Crimes that are facilitated using a Computer or device

Phishing-For example, a victim will receive an email purporting to be from a supplier stating that payments need to be made to a new bank account. This is fraud.

Grooming or coercing a child or young person into taking indecent images of themselves for the purpose of sexual gratification.

# Blurred Lines

Email implying that they have the victims password and devices and have been monitoring them browsing pornography. Unless they pay them in Bitcoin they will share their secret with the world. It's a Cyber Enabled Blackmail, but who has the right skills to investigate if a payment is made?

# What is happening in Gwent?

**In common with other Force Areas across England & Wales, Gwent is experiencing growing volumes of Cybercrime.**

For the period April 2020 to 15th January 2021 Gwent Police has recorded 1,793 Cybercrimes, an average of 179 per month or 4.6% of all recorded crime. However, for several reasons these figures are believed to be significantly lower than the true impact of Cybercrime on Gwent Communities. These reasons include:

- Underreporting
- The cross-cutting nature of Cybercrime and the limitations of Niche means that often only a primary offence can be recorded/tagged e.g. blackmail.
- Fraud & Online Child Abuse offences are principally recorded nationally and reported into Gwent via Partner Agencies e.g. National Fraud Intelligence
- Bureau & National Crime Agency.

HEDDLU GWENT POLICE

# How is Gwent Police responding to Cybercrime & protecting the Public?

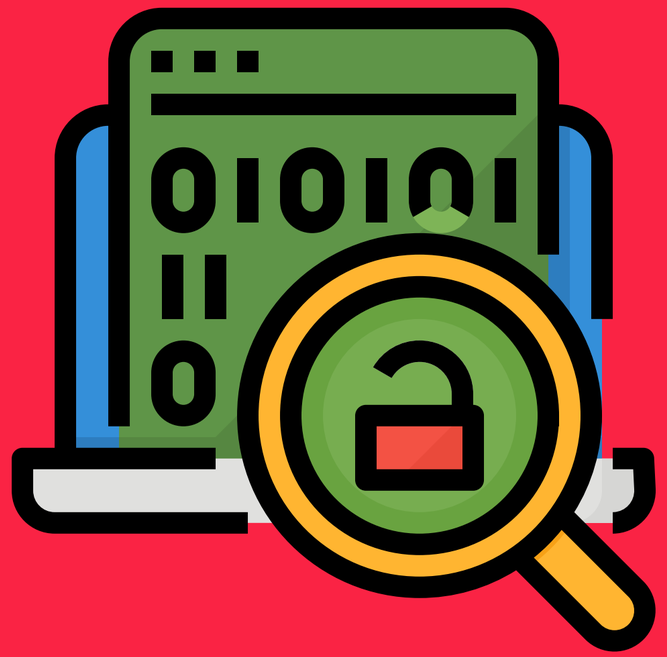
**The PCC's Police & Crime Plan has identified that Cybercrime in all its forms is a priority.**

Cybercrime is too big for one team or department to deal with by themselves. It encompasses offences both old and new, local & international, straightforward & complex, low & high risk.

**Gwent Police have adopted a whole Force approach.**

Specialist teams with bespoke training investigate and respond to the most serious and complex incidents working with Regional and National partners on a regular basis. They share their knowledge to upskill and assist colleagues force wide.

HEDDLU GWENT POLICE



# The Specialists

## The Cyber Crime Unit

Work in accordance with the 4P's

- Prepare- Preparing our staff for and improving our response to Cyber Crime through improved training and resources.
- Prevent- Stopping children and young people crossing the line into Cyber Crime in partnership with Tarian and the National Crime Agency.
- Protect- Providing help advice and guidance to our communities to stop them becoming victims of Cyber Crime.
- Pursue- Prosecuting and disrupting those engaged in Cyber Crime.

## The Police Online Investigation Team (POLIT)

Work to identify and prosecute offenders who use the internet to sexually exploit children; and safeguard children who have been victimised or are at risk of harm.

HEDDLU GWENT POLICE

# The Cybercrime Unit (CCU)

**Focused on investigating Cyber Dependent Crime, complex Cyber Enabled Crimes and protecting the Public.**

## Prepare-

**In the last year, Gwent Police have steadily recruited a number of new officers. Part of their basic training now includes an input from the Cybercrime Unit; which includes legislation, how to identify offences, evidential requirements and investigative plans. An enhanced and more detailed version of this training is due to be rolled out CID in the new financial year. This training is essential to ensure that Gwent Police continues to keep pace as Cybercrimes steadily move into the mainstream.**

## Prevent-

**Caerphilly County. Two 14-year-old schoolboys gained unauthorised access to multiple parts of their school's network and copied material. The CCU investigated and found that Computer Misuse Act Offences had been committed. However, working in partnership with the school and our Tarian colleagues; we agreed that it was not in the public interest to criminalise them. We instead enrolled them on a nationally recognised diversion pathway that will allow them to develop their skills in a safe and constructive way. This approach will allow them to enhance their skills, not ruin their prospects.**

HEDDLU GWENT POLICE

# The Cybercrime Unit Cont'd

## Protect-

Covid-19 has prevented business as usual for our Cyber Protect Officer & Cyber CSO, but it has not slowed them down. Every week they are providing advice and guidance to the public, schools, colleges & businesses as to how they can protect themselves online. This it not limited to Social Media @GPCyberCrime (where they reach thousands); but in the last Quarter (Oct-Dec 2020) they have delivered 18 separate campaigns reaching 125 individuals directly via webinars and direct engagement.

## Pursue-

100% of the referrals made to the Cyber Crime Unit are investigated; with each and every victim receiving advice and guidance as to how they make changes that will prevent them from becoming a victim again in future. Unfortunately, not all offenders can be identified and brought to justice as they often reside beyond our jurisdiction (China, Russia etc.) However, this is not always the case. A Newport School identified that material on their network had been unlawfully accessed. Working with the School our investigators were able to identify the culprit, the extent and nature of their access and gather sufficient evidence to secure a conviction for Computer Misuse Act & Indecent Images of Children Offences

HEDDLU GWENT POLICE

# POLIT

**Develop intelligence from partner agencies and through their own software to identify those who have accessed, uploaded or distributed Indecent Images of Children.**

**In 2020, Gwent POLIT received 238 referrals that required intelligence development. An increase of 35% in comparison to 2019. The increased accessibility of mobile phones, social media and websites facilitate ever more opportunities for offending which increases the risk posed to children in Gwent.**

**POLIT work closely with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub's (MASH) across Gwent and promote the sharing of information during the planning stage of any actionable intelligence. This ensures that collectively, we can provide a tailored and improved safeguarding approach to each situation. The sharing of information during the planning stage means that POLIT are made aware of any child concerns early in the development of intelligence. This may include the identification of a child that is on the child protection register or concerns or sexual abuse/behaviour raised by a professional. This information significantly impacts how the intelligence is risk assessed and assists in prioritising each case**

HEDDLU GWENT POLICE

# POLIT Cont'd

**There are numerous examples of  the excellent work completed by POLIT, here are just two.**

**In April 2020, POLIT received five separate 'high priority' investigations that involved children aged between 7 and 11 years old who had uploaded an indecent image of themselves to the internet.  In each situation, Social Services and the Police held a meeting referred to as a 'strategy meeting' to discuss the options available. In each case, a section 47 joint visit was agreed where an officer from POLIT would visit the child in the company of a social worker. The intention was to identify any disclosures from the child and whether they were coerced to perform acts or send the indecent images which would establish lines of enquiry for POLIT to investigate and identify the person concerned. Social services provide a safeguarding role, ensuring the child resides within a safe environment and educate the child and family to use the internet safely.**

**In each of the five incidents about, no evidence of coercion was found. In each case, the child referred to mimicking social media trends including dances of an inappropriate nature and inadvertently displaying their body in such a way that amounted to an indecent image.**

HEDDLU GWENT POLICE

# POLIT Cont’d

**In October 2020, Gwent POLIT actioned a warrant at an address in Newport in relation to a Child Exploitation Online Protection-National Crime Agency referral. The intelligence stated that a Category C indecent image of a child had been uploaded via a social media platform.**

**The primary suspect and his partner, were present at the address when POLIT executed the search warrant. Initial examinations of seized devices identified the presence of Indecent Images of Children on devices linked to the male and female at the address. There were also conversations of relating to the access and sexual abuse of children. Images displaying the sexual abuse of a 2-year-old child were then discovered. The investigation progressed and the child seen in the images was identified and visited following a strategy discussion with social services. This ensured that the child was safeguarded and provided an opportunity to obtain further evidence. The investigation identified the male in custody as the abuser of the identified child. Examination of the communications between the male and female provided evidence of collusion and planning between them to obtain the access to the child. With this information, the female was arrested, and both were charged and remanded to prison.**

HEDDLU GWENT POLICE

HEDDLU GWENT POLICE

# Questions?