



OFFICE OF CHIEF CONSTABLE – Chief Constable’s Update	
REPORT TO:	Strategy and Performance Board
DATE OF MEETING:	6 th March 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 November 2018.

1. Brexit

At the time of writing Brexit issues are still unresolved and as such all police forces have been required to review their local arrangements to ensure preparedness for all outcomes. The CC chairs the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), and also chairs the LRF chairs group. All Wales and local risks have been identified and an all Wales planning meeting took place with Welsh Government on the 7th of February.

2. Neighbourhood Policing Command Structure

From reviewing the Force Neighbourhood Policing command structure the Force has strengthened the excellent work which is already being achieved in the Local Police areas by supplementing this with two local area Chief Superintendents. This will allow for greater visibility amongst staff and also the opportunity for improved partnership work at strategic PSB level.

3. Serious Crime Operations

Operation Divide (Organised Crime Groups)

The Force continues its multi-partnership focus on tackling organised crime groups operating within Gwent with the following results being achieved:

23 People arrested, 29 premises searched

51 Kilos of Amphetamine seized

14 charged and remanded in custody

9 kilos of Class A drugs recovered

89 mobile phones seized

Designer goods and electrical items seized

Property and financial assets restrained

50 Kilos of drug 'cutting' agent recovered

£341,000 in cash seized

Vehicles seized valued at over £250,000

The partnership strategy is working well with safeguarding tactics appropriately being implemented as well as further interventions to prevent other potential groups forming and 'filling the void' of criminal opportunity due to the arrests of a previous group.

Strategic Communication

Operation Jigsaw was launched on the 14th November 2018. To support this we have commissioned Crimestoppers who will be working with the Force Corporate Communications team and Newport City Council communications team to increase the awareness of Serious Organised Crime (SOC) in the broadest sense across our communities. The Force will also be focusing on our younger members of society and delivering targeted messages to undermine the concept that being involved in SOC is 'The Way Forward'. Crimestoppers have employed an additional youth worker who will be again focusing on the school environment. The Force is aware of particular challenges in certain areas of the force with Crimestoppers geo-locating messages to ensure there is focus on those at most risk and also running roadshows/community presentations. Funding has just been awarded under the Early Intervention Youth Fund in relation to SOC and Serious Violence, and the intention is to recruit additional personnel to bolster the approach in Newport.

4. Parking offences

All five Local Authority areas have now provided dates for their respective areas, after which they will become the appropriate authority to deal with 'simple' parking offences. Gwent Police will still maintain ownership of all parking related offences up until these dates. After implementation, the Force will still assist Local Authorities, should there be any aggravating issues. The dates are as follows:

Caerphilly and Monmouthshire: 8th April 2019

Blaenau Gwent: 30th June 2019

Newport and Torfaen: 1st July 2019

5. Station Enquiry Officers

The changes to the new SEO provision and opening times within Gwent police stations was implemented on 1st January 2019. All key stakeholders were notified of these changes in the previous October. An engagement meeting was held by the CC & PCC at Gwent HQ on 5th November. On 22nd January 2019, the CC & PCC met with Gwent MP's in Westminster.

6. Digital Services

Laptop Devices

The 3F project continues with the rollout of devices to front line officers. Early indications have been extremely encouraging with officers being able to complete important administrative tasks such as obtaining digital statements, and completing Public Protection Notices whilst at the 'scene'. This has increased the efficiency in turnover of workload and will deliver other business benefits including a better victim/witness experience, earlier partnership engagement and safeguarding, as well as improved wellbeing for our staff.

Body cameras

Over 1100 personnel are now in possession of the latest generation of body cameras, which has improved durability and reliability, resulting in more video evidence being captured 'lifecycle'.

7. First Point of Contact

There is now a social media desk operating within the Force Control Room which extends the opportunity for the public to make contact with Gwent Police. This service was made available in January which has already resulted in almost 10,000 contacts made by members of the public. The concept of the social media desk is also having a positive effect in the area of vulnerability, as there have been a number of individuals (Including victims of domestic abuse) who have been able to make the necessary contact and disclosures through this service, which would not have normally been made.

8. Sexual Abuse Investigations

Gwent Police continues to focus on protecting the vulnerable including supporting victims of sexual abuse. Recent examples of this are as follows:

1. On 21st January 2019 a male was sentenced to imprisonment for 14 years and 8 months for attempting to engage children in sexual activity, following a lengthy investigation.
2. On 4th February 2019 a male was sentenced to imprisonment for 3 years and 6 months following a detailed investigation.

3. On 19th February 2019 a 17 year old male will be sentenced for the successful investigation into the rape of a 15 year old female.
4. In relation to two domestic violence related rape offences, a complex and protracted enquiry took place and the outcome was only possible due to the diligence and persistence demonstrated by the investigating officer in presenting the evidence. The court trial is listed for April 2019.
5. A 6 year custodial sentence of a male who was convicted of Trespass with Intent to Commit a Sexual Offence (namely rape). The case was one of a very concerning nature whereby the offender had entered his victim's insecure address in the middle of the night and was in the process of preparing to rape her. The offender and victim were not known to each other. Due to an extremely thorough investigation, the offender pleaded guilty to this offence.

9. Professional Standards

We are performing well on the number of appeals upheld by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), with only one investigation appeal and one non-recording appeal being upheld in the quarter.

Although we are an outlier for the % force Local Resolution appeals upheld in the same period for last year increased by 56%, which equates to only 5 appeals.

We are recording 95% of complaints within 10 days which is above the National and MSF average of 89%.

Our performance of timeliness in dealing with conduct cases, has improved to an average of 63 days compared to 107 days for the same period last year. The national average figure being 101 days.

The average number of days to locally resolve complaints (which is the route for the majority of matters) is 35 days, which is less than half the national average of 72 days.

10. Criminal Justice

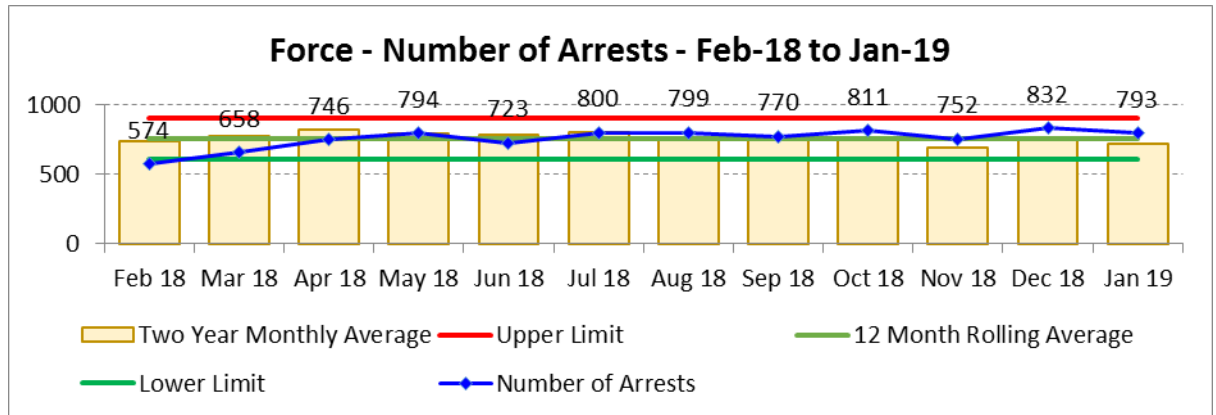
Digital Charging Pilot

The Force has been live since the 3rd December with the new national pilot jointly with SWP. We are the second area nationally to go live after Hampshire.

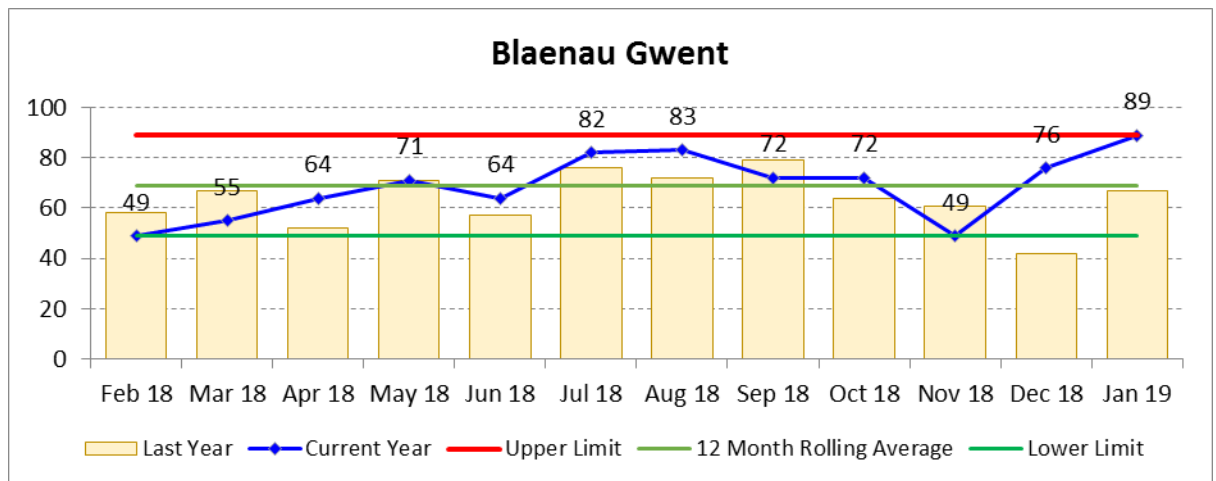
The force has seen an increase in charging outcomes following CPS advice and a decrease in action plans. The pilot has also seen significant benefits for officers as they do not have to wait on the phone to speak with the CPS. Last week for example there were delays of over an hour with CPSD for other forces to get charging decisions.

Custody Numbers

Overall the number of arrests has not increased since the opening of Ystrad Mynach, however January is typically a quieter month and the slight drop off is in line with the 2 year previous average.



The force has seen an increase in the number of arrests in Blaenau Gwent with us reaching our highest level in January 19 in the last 3 years.



Bail

Following the introduction of the bail legislation changes all forces including Gwent saw a significant reduction in the use of bail. The force has continued to drive the appropriate use of bail and has seen a steady increase in use from February 2018 through to January 2019 whereby the forces bail figures were at 15.5%.

	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19
%age of Records RUI	27.0%	29.3%	26.3%	30.2%	31.6%	27.0%	28.3%	28.4%	30.3%	30.5%	35.3%	31.7%
%age of Record Bailed	4.9%	6.1%	8.3%	9.7%	11.9%	10.9%	11.5%	12.3%	14.9%	15.2%	13.1%	15.5%

Voluntary Attendance

Feedback on the new model introduced in force has been extremely positive from front line officers. In addition the force has now mitigated the risks previously identified in its previous VA model. A business case is going to the

Service Improvement Board in March to firm up the arrangements for the management of VA and Bail in force.

Digital Interviewing

The force is progressing with the new Capita system jointly with SWP via DSD. This will mean that three of the Welsh forces are on the same interviewing equipment and will allow for easier use in sharing custody facilities. Implementation is scheduled for March 2019.

Disclosure

The force is taking part in further national training hosted by South Wales in March 2019 and scoping work has commenced regarding the use of the Virtual Reality training for disclosure scenarios.

Digital Evidence

A business case is being submitted to the Service Improvement Board in February 2019 for a "Proof of Concept" of NICE Investigate. This system will mitigate the risks currently identified in the sharing of digital evidence by the force with the CPS.

Custody Interim / Future Models

Work has commenced in force to scope the use of Merthyr custody unit as an interim solution and the longer term work regarding a new Bridewell has also commenced with a number of potential sites already identified.

Out of Court Disposals

Initial scoping meetings have taken place with SWP around implementing a joint approach to new national Out of Court two-tier model. The new model provides options of Restorative Justice or a Conditional Caution for an out of court disposal.