



## **VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 2ND DECEMBER 2015**

**SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

**REPORT BY: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT**

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### **OPCC Third Sector Provider Fair**

Gwent PCC Ian Johnston provided funding for GAVO and TVA to employ a Third Sector Liaison Officer who is now responsible for establishing strong links between the voluntary and community sector and his office. The Liaison Officer is responsible for developing opportunities and services that meet the emerging needs of communities which are linked to Mr Johnston's priorities in his police and crime plan.

An event was held at the Christchurch Centre in Newport between on Tuesday October 13th, the Gwent-wide Third Sector Provider Fair was organised by the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations and the Torfaen Voluntary Alliance with support from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent, Ian Johnston. The event included presentations from the Welsh Government and Wales Cooperative centre to encourage greater third sector collaboration to tender for public service provision.

The event provided an opportunity for voluntary and community sector organisations to come together to network, showcase what they can offer and develop strong relationships with service providers and commissioners.

### **Gwent OPCC Scoops Award for Transparency**

There are 41 Police and Crime Commissioner offices throughout England and Wales and the Gwent OPCC is among 9 which have recently been presented with a new National Quality Mark for Transparency.

The Quality Mark has been awarded by CoPaCC (Compares Police and Crime Commissioners), an independent national body which monitors police governance. The CoPaCC award was presented for how the PCC and his office provide the public with key information in accessible format on their website including information about who they are and what they do, what they spend and how they spend it, what their priorities are, how they make their decisions and information around complaints, policies and procedures.

The PCC commented that "It has been important to me from day one as Commissioner to be as open and transparent as possible."

### **HMIC Report on Gwent Police**

The PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) assessment report published by HMIC in October is an annual inspection of day-to-day policing and reports on how well each force cuts crime, provides value for money and provides a service that is legitimate in the eyes of the public.

The inspection looked at three areas:

- How well does the force use its resources to meet demand?
- How sustainable and affordable is the workforce model?
- How sustainable is the force's financial position for the short and long term?

Gwent Police achieved 'Good' ratings in each of the three categories and HMIC highlighted that they were 'impressed with the quality of the work that has gone into planning' the new Force operating model with 'more police officers put into frontline roles'. The report also highlighted how:

- Gwent Police is well prepared to face its future financial challenges;
- has successfully reduced its spending over the last spending review period;
- improved its understanding of demand;
- and is effectively planning for future financial challenges

This year has also seen an increase in public confidence and overall victim satisfaction in the service they receive from Gwent Police and that direction of travel is continuing to improve. The accuracy of crime recording in Gwent is also among the best in England and Wales.

### **Building Bridges with Our Communities**

A valuable piece of engagement and research work is underway in Gwent which aims to build relationships and improve trust and confidence between the Police and some of the hardest to reach and least involved communities in the region.

Gwent Police Community Support Officer, Jenny Mullis, has been appointed by Race Council Cymru (RCC) as a part-time Development Worker to promote Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) inclusion throughout the region. In a project funded by Ian Johnston, the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Gwent, Jenny will be working part time on the task until March 2016.

The intention is to enhance trust and confidence in the Police and the OPCC, leading to better communication and understanding between the Police, OPCC and BAME communities across Gwent. There will be a specific focus on those perceived as the hardest to reach groups.

### **Dedicated Support for Older Victims of Crime**

Based next to Blackwood Police Station, Connect Gwent is a multi-agency service which aims to provide positive and lasting support to all victims of crime. The service was launched by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent, Ian Johnston, in May 2015.

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales visited the Connect Gwent victims' care hub to see how the first ever multi-agency service of its kind in Wales provided victims of crime, including older people, with a comprehensive package of support. The Commissioner was impressed that Age Cymru has established a presence at Connect Gwent in order to provide specific specialist support for older victims of crime.

If you have been a victim of crime, you are entitled to certain information and support from criminal justice organisations such as the police and the courts. The Victims' Code is a Government document which explains what you can expect from these organisations from the moment you report a crime until after a trial has finished.

Information is available to help victims understand their entitlements under the Code:

Follow this LINK:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/341367/adult-victims-code-leaflet.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/341367/adult-victims-code-leaflet.pdf)

## **Good Neighbours Stop Rogue Traders**

In October, The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent Police and Trading Standards officers joined forces in a crack-down on rogue trading and door step crime.

During the week officers worked closely with colleagues from local Trading Standards teams. They have been gathering intelligence, visiting businesses, carrying out patrols, and conducting vehicle checks across Gwent. Local Neighbourhood Policing teams were also out in their communities providing residents with advice and guidance on how they can keep themselves and members of their communities safe.

Results from the enforcement side of the week include:

- 28 vehicles stopped and checked
- 3 vehicles seized - 2 x no insurance and 1 x suspected to be stolen
- 1 caravan seized - suspected to be stolen
- 3 Traffic Offence Reports issued for vehicles not having MOTs
- 5 vehicles given temporary prohibitions by DVSA
- 10 vehicles dipped for red diesel
- 3 people arrested on suspicion of theft\*
- 2 people arrested on suspicion of Trading Standards offences\*\*
- 1 person being investigated by the Department of Work and Pensions
- 1 person reported for driving without a licence

## **New Multilingual Stop and Search Leaflets**

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent, Ian Johnston, monitors the use of stop and search powers used by Gwent Police. With a diverse population and with numerous languages spoken in Gwent across communities of varying sizes, Gwent PCC Ian Johnston's office has produced the Stop & Search: Know Your Rights leaflet. The leaflet outlines the rights of individuals if or when they are stopped and searched by the Police and has been translated into six different languages to represent some of the make-up of local communities.

The leaflet, which is also available online on the Commissioner's website, has been translated into Arabic, Bengali; Chinese, English, Polish and Welsh.

## **Hate Crime Awareness Week**

Gwent Police has a zero tolerance approach to hate crime: it can destroy lives; instil fear and break down the fabric of communities and neighbourhoods. Hate crime can affect anyone and, if not tackled, can lead to the isolation and victimisation of individuals and vulnerable groups along with the polarisation of communities.

During National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2015 (10th - 17th October), Gwent Police and Gwent PCC Ian Johnston will join other Commissioners and Police Forces in Wales, the Welsh Government and Victim Support in running a range of local and national initiatives to raise awareness about hate crime and to encourage more people to report them. Throughout the week there was a focus on each type of hate crime - religion, disability, sexual orientation, and race and gender identity.

In addition, Victim Support Cymru received funding from the four Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales to run a non-stop Hate Crime Roadshow around Wales aimed at informing residents what hate crime is; how they can report it and what support they are able to receive.

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