



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 18TH JUNE 2014

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report builds on the Commissioner Ian Johnston's previous report which was published for the period November 2012 to June 2013 and updates the information contained within the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017.

Since July 2013, we have seen another very busy and productive period marked by a number of noteworthy activities and a number of changes in the way the police are delivering their service. This includes a move away from the emphasis on targets and numbers that has driven policing over the last few years, to refocus on the quality of service provided.

To view the progress made against the Police and Crime Priorities for the period April 2013 to March 2014 please access the full Annual Report on the link below:

http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Publications/Final_July_13_to_March_14_Annual_COVER.pdf

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER'S UPDATED POLICE & CRIME PLAN

As the duties and requirements placed on Police and Crime Commissioners continue to evolve, the Commissioner requested a review of the Police and Crime Plan. This was to ensure that it remains relevant and takes into consideration the statutory requirement for the Commissioner to have regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR).

The Strategic Policing Requirement has been issued in execution of the Home Secretary's statutory duty to set out what are, in her view, the national threats at the time of writing and the appropriate national policing capabilities required to counter those threats. The plan aims to ensure that key partners and stakeholders can identify where they can support the priorities and help deliver them in a joined up way which will benefit those living and working in the Force area. The updated Police and Crime Plan can be viewed on the link below:

http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Publications/14_04_29_V4_Revise_d_Plan_April_14.pdf

COMMISSIONER'S PUBLIC SURGERIES

A key new development has seen the introduction of public surgeries to ensure local people could get involved in holding the Commissioner to account for the delivery of their local policing. The Commissioner Ian Johnston has made himself available to the general public to give an outline of his role and priorities for policing, take questions from residents and listen to any issues raised regarding policing matters. For more personal and confidential matters there is also an opportunity for local residents to pre-book a 1-2-1 meeting. To date 9 surgeries have been held across Gwent, 3 in

Caerphilly County Borough. The following Caerphilly County Borough surgeries are scheduled for:

- 17/07/14 – Rhymney, 2pm – 4pm, St Davids Community Centre
- 10/11/14 – Aberbargoed, 6pm – 8pm, Hangar Youth & Community Centre

For full details of the surgeries please access via the link below:

http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/news/story/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=181&cHash=ad839035030a589916ae799b87f0f1c7

COMMISSIONER'S REOPENING OF KEY POLICE STATIONS

As a result of feedback from the public and following consultation with Local Authorities and the Chief Constable, several Gwent police stations which had previously been closed or had limited opening hours were fully reopened on 1st April 2014. The Commissioner believes this is in line with regards to delivering the best quality of service available for the people of Gwent. The additional stations approved for opening five days a week to the public are:

- Maindee Police Station in Newport;
- Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach and Risca Police Stations in Caerphilly County Borough;
- Pontypool Police Station in Torfaen;
- And both Chepstow and Monmouth Police Station's in Monmouthshire

The opening of these stations has been accommodated within the PCCs existing financial plans. The provision of these front counters will be reviewed after twelve months in consultation with both the public and staff members. Public attendance at the stations will also be assessed during the course of the year and the Commissioner has advised the public that "We are providing the service but it's now up to members of the public to make effective use of these stations."

NATO

Gwent Police is leading on the security for the NATO event which will be hosted by the Celtic Manor Resort between September 4th and 5th 2014. With Newport planning to welcome over 60 world leaders for the NATO summit in September, it is one of the biggest policing operations ever undertaken in the UK, extra officers and staff will be drafted in from all over Britain in the run up to and during the event. The Commissioner Ian Johnston, is confident and wishes to reassure local communities that Gwent will be ready and that any potential disruption to residents will be minimised where possible.

OWL – ONLINE WATCH LINK

The Online Watch Link (OWL) system is a web based Neighbourhood Watch led initiative which sends out targeted messages about crimes and problems to residents who have signed up in communities throughout Gwent. It enables local police officers, residents and volunteers to easily communicate with each other.

The Commissioner has been a big supporter of the system since being elected into office in 2012 and has announced that funding for the OWL system will continue for another year thanks to a £30,000 investment from Gwent Police Force to cover the annual license fee and service support for the initiative.

OWL enables residents to choose how they would like to be communicated with. The vast majority choose to receive messages via e-mail. But for residents who aren't online, they can choose to receive theirs via text messages, fax or their landline telephone number.

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