



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT

Police and Crime Plan Annual Report

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Commissioner is required to produce, for each financial year, an Annual Report that highlights how the he has been carrying out his role and the progress that has been made in meeting the objectives as set out within the Police and Crime Plan for Gwent.

The Annual Report can be accessed by the link: <http://bit.ly/1NkKx7N>

Victim Satisfaction on the Up in Gwent

Gwent show a significant improvement in satisfaction amongst victims of crime in the region. Figures for the 12 months ending June 2015 which show a 3.1% increase in the 'overall satisfaction' of crime victims in the service they receive in comparison with the previous year (from 78.0% to 81.2%). Gwent Police's own internal figures also show that public confidence in the Force has increased by 4% in the last year.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was one of the first PCCs in the UK to launch a Victims Charter in 2013 which has been adopted by the Force and outlines the minimum standard of service victims in the criminal justice process in Gwent can expect.

The PCC launched Connect Gwent, a brand new multi-agency service which aims to provide positive and lasting support to victims of crime. He supported and endorsed the launch of Gwent Police's CARES service standard. CARES aims to ensure officers identify the level of support required by a victim of crime to ensure that the support provided meets the victims' needs and keeps them informed of progress.

The PCC also introduced the Community Remedy in October 2014 which is designed to give victims of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) more of a say in the punishment of offenders out of court. This has positively impacted on the satisfaction of victims.

Another likely contributing factor is the PCC and Chief Constable's drive to improve crime data integrity and ensure crime is recorded ethically and accurately.

Provision of a Women's Pathfinder Pan Wales Triage (Diversion Scheme)

In 2014 the Commissioner successfully submitted a bid to the Home Office Innovation Grant Fund for funding to support a pilot on behalf of the four Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in Wales and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in Wales. The Services required are to undertake a project to pilot the Diversion Scheme. The Project will include the Diversion Scheme at one triage pilot site in each of the Police Force areas at the following four Premises across Wales:

- Newport (Gwent)
- Merthyr Tydfil (South Wales)

- St Asaph (North Wales)
- Haverfordwest (Dyfed-Powys)

The Women's Pathfinder provides a whole system approach including support for women as an alternative to charging, during bail and pre-sentence and during resettlement from custody. Additional to this, women can self-refer to the Pathfinder if they have previously been involved with the Criminal Justice Service (CJS) or identify themselves as being at risk of committing offences. The majority of CJS involvement with female service users is related to violent and/or acquisitive offending behaviour, whilst prevailing presenting problems are deficits in thinking and behaviour, lifestyle and associates, substance misuse, accommodation, mental health issues and victimisation issues, these latter two most often not being directly related to offences but significant as responsiveness issues when engaging females with services.

Demand Reduction Project

Gwent (lead force), South Wales, Dyfed Powys and North Wales Police forces have a requirement to initiate a demand project to determine how to reduce end-user demand on police forces. The aim of this project is to learn more about the nature of the demand on the police service in Gwent and then to design an initiative to reduce it, taking into account service users perspectives and insights from behavioural sciences. This project has been primarily funded by the Home Office Innovation Fund.

The project will review the current situation, police processes, consider new designs and processes (policing model) to inform efficient and effective policing. An evaluation of the changes and their outcomes will be completed.

Positive Futures

Newport Positive Futures began in May 2002 and works with hard to reach young people aged 10-19 years old. It is a diversionary activity based social inclusion programme. It works with partner agencies to give young people a positive focus in life. It provides outreach programmes, volunteer opportunities, and opportunities to gain qualifications, mentoring and intervention.

The PCC provides funding to the programme and has invested additional funding of £100,000 to enable the programme to be expanded across Gwent. Many of the outcomes from the Positive Future's programme link to the PCC's priorities, especially in supporting hard to engage young people by facilitating opportunities for youth intervention in support of other partners, such as education, Youth Offending Services, to prevent offending and to reduce reoffending. This initiative has been embraced by Caerphilly CBC.

PCC's Funding of a Third Sector Development Officer

The PCC in partnership with Torfaen Voluntary Alliance and Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) agreed to fund a Third Sector Development Officer for 12 months to map the third sector that provide services aligned to the PCC's police and crime priorities. The initial focus would concentrate on the larger organisations which would be in a position to tender for public service provision and the next tier of services who would like to be involved.

Other activities would look to raise third sector awareness around the emerging commissioning landscape as existing grant funds are diminishing. With this in mind a OPCC Provider's Fair will be hosted in Christchurch Centre, Malpas, Newport on 13th October. Many organisations have been invited that provide services that can influence the PCC's Police and Crime priorities, as stated in his Police and Crime Plan - <http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/plan/>

Partnership Fund

A total of 51 projects have been awarded a slice of the £153,085 awarded by Gwent PCC Ian Johnston from his Partnership Fund. The Partnership Fund grant scheme is funded by the proceeds of crime awarded to the police and from the sale of unclaimed found property. This includes money seized from organised crime and convicted drug dealers who have been ordered to pay back some of their ill-gotten gains.

One recipient, the Lylac Ridge Centre established in 2008, provides animal assisted therapy and alternative education and wellbeing programmes for children, young adults, adults with learning difficulties, offenders and those excluded from schools.

The £7,988 awarded from the Gwent PCC Ian Johnston's Partnership Fund in September 2014 has been spent on working with volunteers and ex-offenders referred to the project as part of their community rehabilitation. The project also supported those not in training, education or employment and helped them to develop a range of transferable skills. The project provided a green area for use by all of the community.

With their award of £7,280 Changing Gearz employed a specialist tutor/mechanic for six months who will train and qualify six young people to become accredited trainers themselves. The project targets young people who have become disengaged from school or training and aims to improve their confidence, skills, education and employability by providing a range of accredited training in bike maintenance and repair, mountain bike leadership, cycle proficiency, administration, marketing and web development.

Once repaired, the bikes donated to or purchased by the project are sold in the community and any profits are pumped back into the social enterprise to provide more staff, apprentices and training opportunities. It is planned that the newly trained individuals will then teach other young people who are disengaged from education or training to undertake cycling training in schools and to educate children in the safe use of cycles.

The PCC believes that the Partnership fund is all about taking money from criminals and putting it to good use in our communities and is about putting resources back into the hands of the law-abiding majority. This year's funding adds to more than £300,000 retrieved from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act which has been put back into over 100 local community projects in Gwent over the last two years through via the Partnership Fund.

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