



## VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 21ST SEPTEMBER 2016

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

**REPORT BY: OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members with an items of interest report to the Voluntary Sector from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.

### 2. REPORT

#### 2.1 Strategic Direction for Gwent Police Force

Mr Cuthbert, the Commissioner, has said that his thoughts on the current direction of travel make it implicit that the following are key considerations:

- Improving further partnership working with other public services and the voluntary sector to support joint working with the work of Gwent Police in preventing crime;
- Building and maintaining cohesion and communication with all communities within Gwent so that people feel confident that the Police understand their varied needs;
- Examine police visibility and accessibility with the Chief Constable to ensure that uniformed presence is organised and deployed as effectively as possible;
- Getting the balance right between provision and reassurance, which includes having well located Police Stations and the utilisation of all modern forms of communication and transport to ensure officers can provide an efficient and effective service; and Building a strong and positive relationship with the Welsh Government to ensure that effective schemes which support policing, such as the numbers of PCSOs in Gwent, are maintained.

#### 2.2 Police and Crime Priorities Consultation 2016

Gwent Police Crime Commissioner Jeff Cuthbert is required to ensure that all the people who live in Gwent have an efficient and effective police service and he has a legal duty to set the police and crime priorities which will help shape and develop his Police and Crime Plan for Gwent 2017/21. With this in mind, Mr Cuthbert has officially launched his two month long 'Talk to Me about Your Policing Service' consultation and wants the views of residents, community groups, businesses and partners to inform his strategic policing priorities.

#### 2.3 The Proposed priorities are:

**Priority 1 Crime Prevention** - working with partner organisations and the communities to prevent people becoming victims of crime;

**Priority 2 Provide Support for Victims of Crime** - with a focus on preventing serious harm and providing excellent support to the victims of serious harm;

**Priority 3 Community Cohesion** - For the Police to continue to work closely with communities to tackle hate crime and to encourage more effective action and support from

local and national organisations to help communities work together better;

**Priority 4 Dealing with Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)** - ensuring the Police works closely with organisations to deal with ASB effectively;

**Priority 5 Effective Service Delivery** - ensuring the delivery of a good policing service that is easily accessible and meets victim's needs.

- 2.4 The police and crime priorities will help shape and develop the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan for Gwent. The PCC has a statutory duty to draw up a new Police and Crime Plan for the period 2017-20 by the end of March next year.

**The consultation will only take a few minutes to complete on the following link:**

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=147023653030>

## 2.5 **Safer Gwent**

Established by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Gwent last year, the Safer Gwent group works with key community safety partners across the five local authority areas and provides an organised and joined-up approach to achieve better outcomes in tackling issues such as anti-social behaviour (ASB), preventing reoffending and supporting victims.

- 2.6 Kate Williams, the Equalities, Cohesion and Community Safety Manager for Torfaen Council has been appointed as the new Chair of Safer Gwent and Chief Superintendent Emma Ackland, the Head of Neighbourhood Policing and Partnerships for Gwent Police, has been appointed as the Vice Chair for the next two years.
- 2.7 Safer Gwent meets bi-monthly and aims to work with member partners to collectively address regional safety issues that impact on local communities. Recent work has addressed our approach across the region for dealing with ASB. The review concentrated on being able to assist, support and resolve the issue for the victim whether that be through support, intervention, problem solving or investigation. Safer Gwent has developed a consistent approach to dealing with ASB across the region.
- 2.8 Through its agreed strategic priorities and by using existing funding opportunities, Safer Gwent also supports the commissioning of community safety services and to date has awarded over half a million pounds (£560,981) towards a range of projects including funding for Substance Misuse and Victim Worker posts for the three Youth Offending Services in Gwent; the provision of a regional Independent Domestic Violence Advisor for Gwent and money to continue the work of the Positive Futures sports inclusion programme throughout the region - part of which aims to prevent and divert young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- ## 2.9 **Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS)**
- Launched over a year ago, GDAS works with substance misusers who refer into treatment voluntarily or come into contact with the criminal justice system. The service is funded by the Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board with pooled funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Gwent, the Welsh Government, all of the Local Authorities in Gwent, the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the National Offender Management Service.
- 2.10 The criminal justice element of GDAS is called Gwent IRIS and was established to specifically engage with, support and manage individuals with substance misuse problems involved in the criminal justice system. This element of GDAS is provided by the security company G4S within a consortium led by the drug and alcohol prevention, support and recovery providers, Kaleidoscope. Over 400 offenders were referred to the programme for clinical treatment between May last year and March this year with 125 completing their treatment successfully whilst others were referred for additional support.

## 2.11 **Partnership Fund**

Gwent PCC Jeff Cuthbert's Partnership Fund was open for bids from charities, voluntary organisations and community groups involved in activities that have a positive impact on their communities in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour. The closing date for applications was Friday 22nd July 2016. The applications received are currently being assessed.

2.12 Since the Partnership Fund was launched by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner three and a half years ago, nearly £500,000 has been awarded to 150 community projects across Gwent. The money retrieved has usually been stolen or obtained through illegal means such as drug dealing.

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