



## **VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014**

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

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

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### **Community Remedy Consultation**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent (OPCC) ran a consultation exercise during July 2014 which asked the public to identify the key interventions suitable to be included in the Commissioner's Community Remedy Document. The Community Remedy document is designed to give victims more say in the punishment of anti-social behaviour incidents out of court. It is a list of options presented to a victim to indicate a preference for how an offender can be dealt with when they commit a minor crime or anti-social behaviour. The Community Remedy will be rolled out nationally in October 2014.

### **PCC Opens New Police Desk at Caerphilly Library**

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Gwent officially opened a brand new Police Customer Service Desk at Caerphilly town centre's Library as part of a partnership forged with Caerphilly County Borough Council. The new Police Customer Service Desk is now open every Monday between 12 noon and 2.00 p.m. and every Thursday between 3.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

The new customer service desk does not have the same functions as a police station but is a place where information is provided to the public on policing, crime prevention, etc. The public can also access information concerning low-level matters such as parking enforcement and information about local neighbourhood policing teams and informally chat to officers regarding local matters.

### **PCC Funds Wings to Fly**

The Commissioner has recently made the decision to again fund the 'Wings to Fly' youth play for another year to raise young people's awareness of substance misuse.

### **Show Racism the Card**

On 30th July the Commissioner answered questions from the anti-racism educational charity, Show Racism the Red Card Wales Newsletter, about racism in society, hate crime incidents and what can be done to help those affected by racism.

The Commissioner stated that his aim was that Gwent Police reflects the minority communities it serves and that he supports the Gwent Police Ethnic Minority Association (GEMA). The Commissioner highlighted the range of victims that come under the definition of hate crime and that he supports the Welsh Government's new 'Tackling Hate Crimes and Incidents' action framework. Both SEWREC and Victim Support can aid victims of hate crime across the Gwent area.

### **Funding to Tackle Rural Crime**

The Home Office announced an investment of £39,200 to establish the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN). The Commissioner is one of 28 Commissioners throughout England and Wales who has signed up to participate in and back up the scheme. Based online, the NRCN will provide information and support for rural communities by encouraging direct interaction between businesses, organisations and the police.

The appointment of a dedicated and award-winning Gwent Police Farm Watch Co-ordinator last year has helped increase Farm Watch membership on OWL from 300 to nearly 800 members in just five months. And by using Farm Watch to connect with farmers and by increasing face-to-face engagement with them, rural related crime in Gwent has been significantly reduced by 66% in one year (when comparing June 2014 with June 2013).

### **Innovation Fund Award**

The Commissioner has welcomed news that Gwent Police will share a slice of more than £2.2 million from a total of £50 million awarded by the Home Office for projects aimed at transforming policing through innovation and collaboration.

The Force will benefit from funding for the following projects:-

- a mobile data project to enable frontline officers to transmit and access information in remote and challenging terrains;
- enable officers to access intelligence at the point of need when attending incidents enabling them to be better prepared and informed before they arrive at the call - reducing the risk to officers and providing a better service to repeat and vulnerable victims;
- to divert women who have been arrested away from criminality and provide them with a new 'restorative' approach to their rehabilitation.

### **Stop and Search Dip Sampling**

The Commissioner requested a dip sampling exercise during July for stop and search activity by police officers in the Gwent force area. This involved setting up a working group representing different aspects of communities in Gwent and included a young person representative. The group queried the use of intelligence to effective targeting of stop and search activity. However, it did identify a significant number of stops where the officer had not issued a receipt which highlighted the need for greater scrutiny of officer's recording mechanisms.

### **Police and Crime Panel**

The Police and Crime Panel met on 11th August 2014 in Newport to examine the actions and decisions of Commissioner. The Panel makes sure information is available for you so that you can assess whether they are holding the Commissioner to account.

The Panel focuses on important strategic actions and decisions made by the Commissioner. The main focus of the meeting was the Commissioner's financial planning and covered:-

- 2013/14 Year End Financial Report
- Medium Term Financial Projections up to 2018/19
- Commissioning Update

Papers of this meeting can be accessed via the link:-

<http://www.gwentpcp.org.uk/content/meetings-gwent-police-and-crime-panel>

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