

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE GWENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

DATE: 30TH SEPTEMBER 2022

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report is made in accordance with the Gwent Police and Crime Panel's statutory duty contained in Paragraph 28(4) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

2.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the establishment of a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) within each police force area to support and challenge the local Police and Crime Commissioner.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner notified the Gwent Police and Crime Panel of his Annual Report for 2021/22 on the 23rd September 2022 and the Gwent Police and Crime Panel met on the 30th September 2022 to consider and make recommendations (if necessary).

4. Comments of the Police and Crime Panel

4.1 The Annual report was considered the annual report and made the following comments:

Members highlighted the issue of the rollout of the 20 mph speed limit across Wales featured in the Annual Report and sought views on the value of setting a speed limit across the board rather than on a site-by-site basis and questioned the impact in terms of pollution caused by vehicle emissions. The PCC outlined how ultimately this was a decision for the Welsh Government for urban areas of the country and explained how they would be assessing local government responses from pilot areas.

The sought further detail on the publications used by the OPCC to promote its work to a wider audience. And the PCC confirmed detail of local press used by the OPCC.

Comments on the Police Race Action Plan and outlined disappointment at comparatively high levels of Stop and Search actions against ethnic minorities. The PCC observed that this was a matter that was taken very seriously and outlined to members how "dip surveys" were regularly used to gauge any disproportionality. The DPCC outlined some of the independent scrutiny measures that were in place and stressed the importance of creating links with all communities and listening to what they say. The PCC also highlighted how Police and PCSO recruitment policies were designed to ensure that numbers reflected the communities served.

The priorities listed in the Annual Report were challenged and it was observed that generally public confidence in policing was low and the downturn in the wish to report crimes reflected

this trend. The PCC defended the priorities and outlined how they were aligned to the manifesto he produced during his election campaign. The PCC stressed the importance of reporting crime and highlighted how crime was constantly evolving and therefore the methods of tackling crimes also had to change accordingly.

There report states that the Victim Care Unit has an uptake figure of nearly 7,000 successfully contacted but members considered this was low when compared to the total figure of more than 44,000 victims referred to the unit. The DPCC suggested that the wording in the report was misleading and provided clarity by explaining that the 7,000 victims referred to had asked for the enhanced service. Members heard how the majority of cases referred to the unit had been satisfied with the information received and had therefore not requested the enhanced service. Another Member agreed that the paragraph was misleading. The DPCC advised that the paragraph would be updated and suggested that a future visit to the unit by Members or meeting discussion on the work of the Victim Care Unit might be appropriate.

The Chair commented that the Annual Report was quite “wordy” and suggested that more detail could have been provided in terms of how actions helped to deliver priorities in the PCC’s Plan. This was noted by the Chief Executive

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Panel is funded from grant funding provided by the Home Office to the lead authority.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in the recommendations of this report.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That Members note the discussion on the Annual Report and actions agreed.

8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To reflect the debate on the Annual report.

9. STATUTORY POWERS

9.1 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

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