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**Gwent Police  
and Crime Panel**

**Panel Heddlu  
a Throseddu Gwent**

Am bob ymholiad sy'n ymwneud â'r agenda hon, cysylltwch Mark Jacques  
(Ffôn: 01443 864267 E-bost: jacqum@caerphilly.gov.uk)

**Dyddiad: Dydd Gwener, 8 Mawrth 2024**

Annwyl Syr/Fadam,

Cynhelir cyfarfod o **Banel Heddlu a Throseddu Gwent** yn **Ystafell Syrhowy, Tŷ Penallta, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** ar **Dydd Gwener, 15fed Mawrth, 2024** am **9.30 am**) I ystyried y materion a gynhwysir yn yr agenda ganlynol.

## A G E N D A

Tudalennau

- 1 Datganiadau o Ddiddordeb.
- 2 I dderbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.

### Cymeradwyo a llofnodi'r cofnodion canlynol: -

3	Panel Heddlu a Throseddu Gwent wedi'i gynnal ar 26 Ionawr 2024	1 - 4
4	Trosolwg o Gyflawniadau	5 - 14
5	Diweddariad gan Gomisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu Gwent.	15 - 18
6	Adroddiad Perfformiad Chwarter 3 - Cyflwyniad	19 - 50
7	Cronfa Gymunedol yr Heddlu - Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu	51 - 58
8	Blaenraglen Waith.	59 - 60

### AELODAETH:

Cynghorydd Gareth A. Davies, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Cynghorydd Jacqueline Thomas, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Cynghorydd Marina Chacon-Dawson, Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Cynghorydd Mrs Christine Forehead, Caerphilly County Borough Council

Cynghorydd Colin Peter Mann, Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Cynghorydd Tony Easson, Monmouthshire County Council  
Cynghorydd Tony Kear, Monmouthshire County Borough Council  
Cynghorydd Farzina Hussain, Newport City Council  
Cynghorydd Debbie Jenkins, Newport City Council  
Cynghorydd Mark Spencer, Newport City Council  
Cynghorydd Lynda Clarkson, Torfaen County Borough Council  
Cynghorydd Nick Horler, Torfaen County Borough Council

Aelodau Cyfetholedig- Mrs G. Howells a Ms. R. Jones

### **Drwy Wahoddiad**

Mr J. Cuthbert, Swyddfa Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu Gwent  
Ms E. Thomas, Swyddfa Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu Gwent  
Mrs S. Curley, Swyddfa Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu Gwent  
Mr D. Garwood-Pask, Swyddfa Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu Gwent

A Swyddogion Addas.

Gwent Police  
and Crime Panel

Panel Heddlu  
Gwent a Throseddu

## **GWENT POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE ON FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024 AT 10.00AM**

Present:

Mrs G. Howells – Chair

Councillors G. Davies and J. Thomas – Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council  
Councillors M. Chacon-Dawson, C. Forehead and C. Mann – Caerphilly County Borough Council  
Councillors A. Easson and T. Kear – Monmouthshire County Council  
Councillors F. Hussain, D. Jenkins and M. Spencer - Newport County Borough Council  
Councillor N. Horler – Torfaen County Borough Council

Ms R. Jones – Co-opted Member

By invitation:

Ms E. Thomas - Acting Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent  
Mrs S. Curley - Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent  
Mr S. Slater - Head of Strategy, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent  
Ms P. Kelly – Chief Constable of Gwent Police  
Ms R. Williams – Deputy Chief Constable of Gwent Police  
Mr M. Coe – Acting S151 Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent  
Mr R. Guest - Head of Communications, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

Together with:

Mrs C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager - CCBC) and Mr M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer - CCBC).

#### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were declared by Members.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr L. Clarkson and Mr J. Cuthbert and Mr D. Garwood-Pask - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.

**3. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING MINUTES: Gwent Police and Crime Panel held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Gwent Police and Crime Panel meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (minute no. 1 - 6) be approved as a correct record.

**4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING MINUTES: Special Meeting of the Gwent Police and Crime Panel held on 12th January 2024**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Gwent Police and Crime Panel special meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (minute no. 7 - 8) be approved as a correct record.

**5. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR GWENT'S BUDGET REQUIREMENT AND COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT PROPOSAL 2024/25**

In introduction the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner (APCC) outlined how setting the budget every year was one of the most important responsibilities for the PCC. Members heard how the budget settlement process for the 2024/25 proposal had been challenging due to reduced funding, the cost-of-living crisis and increased demand on the Police service. During the initial slides of a presentation to Members the APCC outlined the scrutiny stages that had taken place. The APCC highlighted the presentation made by the Chief Constable in December which proposed a Precept increase of 6.82% and advised Members that the financial situation had changed significantly since this bid from the Chief Constable. Due to a reduction in funding settlements from Central Government and the Welsh Government the OPCC was now proposing a Council Tax Precept increase of 7.7% which the APCC advised was a genuine reflection of the resources required by Gwent Police. Members were advised that the Precept was the only variable funding stream for Policing. The importance of the engagement process with communities was highlighted by the APCC. A dual approach of both digital and face-to-face engagement had taken place on setting the budget. The Panel heard how thirty-five events had been attended, 1,663 surveys had been returned, 668 face-to-face encounters had taken place, and that analysis of the results of this engagement showed that 58% were in favour of an increase in the Precept.

In terms of context for the Precept Proposal the APCC outlined how austerity measures and the Covid-19 pandemic had contributed to the current situation. There had been a real-term reduction in funding of 23.6% over the last 13 years. The Central Government settlement had been as anticipated but it was stressed to Members that the 2% increase in the core grant (£1.9M) was negated by inflation of 5% and the pay award of 3.5%. There was also no capital grant or progress on a new funding formula. Members were shown a slide showing how a reduction in Welsh Government funding for school liaison and Community Support Officers and provisional settlement changes had created an additional pressure of £0.9M which was a significant factor in the increase between the Chief Constable's bid made in December 2023 and the proposal currently under discussion. Members heard how a Precept of 7.7% would provide a £0.8M increase but still leave a revised deficit of £2.8M. It was highlighted how net revenue expenditure was £173M. The Acting S151 Officer provided greater clarity on revenue expenditure. Reserves and committed funds were outlined. A total of £14.1M was made up from a general reserve of £5M for emergency events and working capital and £9.1M committed and earmarked reserves for programmes such as the Airwave replacement. No capital reserves were in place. The APCC outlined how £1.1M of savings had been expected for 2023/24 and that the current budget (2024/25) included savings already achieved of £4.4M. Members were then advised that the Precept Proposal was in line with the proposals put forward by Police and Crime Commissioners in the other Welsh Police regions.

The Acting S151 Officer provided assurances on the scrutiny process followed and advised Members that he was satisfied with the budgetary assumptions used. The Chief Constable

thanked the finance officers and reiterated the challenge of meeting an increased demand for services. The savings already made of £4.4M were highlighted to Members along with the revised deficit of £2.8M which would need to be addressed even if the proposed precept were accepted. The complexity of the Policing service provided was then outlined to Panel Members by the Chief Constable.

Following the presentation the Chair invited questions from Members. One Member had concerns about any potential cut to the number of Community Support Officers within the Gwent region as a result of budgetary decisions made by the Welsh Government. The APCC outlined her commitment and value for the role performed by Community Support Officers but a response would be needed for financial changes made by funding partners. Members heard how operationally the Chief Constable would have to manage any reduction in CSO numbers. The Chief Constable advised that the ambition was to retain current numbers but the financial challenges meant that she could not commit to this at the current time.

A Member observed that a very compelling case had been made by the OPCC and the Chief Constable in the face of a challenging budget. The Member outlined his concerns over depleting reserves and the impact of a 7.7% increase on the general public in the current economic climate. The Member queried if the general reserve of £5M for emergency events would be refunded once the incidents had been actioned. The Chief Constable advised that it was possible to apply for a Home Office grant for serious emergencies and gave the example of the April Jones murder investigation by Dyfed Powys Police.

The Chair sought more information on some of the cost pressures associated with the Estates Strategy. The Acting S151 Officer provided information on the demolition and security costs for the site of the former Police headquarters. The APCC advised that no final decision had been reached on the Gwent Police Operational Facility (GPOF) project. The Chair highlighted the increased costs for the proposed joint firearms range and questioned if planning was based on providing a fit-for-purpose facility rather than the best possible range. The APCC provided assurance on the substantial scrutiny and governance that was taking place around the planning of the firearms range. The Chief Constable advised that the range was a strategic policing requirement that was mandated by the Home Office. The Chair queried why £500,000 had been spent on rebranding of signage over a two year period. The Chief Constable advised that this had been caused by the need to change the Royal cypher on the Gwent Police crest following the death of Her Majesty The Queen in 2022. Replacing ER with CR. Members also heard how Gwent Police had adopted a phased approach to this necessary rebranding in order to minimise costs.

One Member requested and received clarification on CSO levels outlined in the report. The Member also observed that 42% of those surveyed on a potential precept increase replied none of the above in response to a list of options, and the Member suggested that this was an indication that these people favoured no increase at all which he thought was not surprising given the current economic climate. The APCC said that this was an inference and also highlighted that 58% of those surveyed did support an increase. The Member expressed concern over the increased financial burden on residents and suggested there was a limit on what should be expected from Council Tax payers.

A Member sought and received clarity on borrowing for short-term assets. The Socio-economic demographic of those consulted was also requested. The APCC gave details on how views were sought from across the Gwent region and how the planning was in accordance with the principles of the Strategic Equality Plan. Members heard how community engagement had shown that during difficult financial times people relied more on an effective Policing service. The Head of Communications provided further information on the consultation process and the information received both from surveys and face-to-face conversations. The Member then queried why there was a cost to Gwent Police for the kennelling of dangerous dogs. The Deputy Chief Constable advised that initial costs were met by the Police and any eventual charges to owners would follow the judicial process.

One Member asked if any compensation following a Police Inquest would come out of the force budget. The Chief Constable confirmed that this was the case.

A Member asked about the use of agency staff and if these costs were included in the budget. The Acting S151 Officer advised that he did not budget for agency costs as they would only incur if any vacancies arose and would be resourced from existing staffing budgets.

A Member sought and received clarification on the Gwent Police borrowing requirements.

Following closing remarks from the APCC and Chief Constable, the Chair adjourned the meeting and asked OPCC and Gwent Police officers to leave the room, to allow Panel Members to consider their response to the Budget Requirement and Precept Proposal..

The meeting reconvened after 30 minutes.

The Chair welcomed everyone back to the meeting and read out the report recommendations.

It was moved and seconded that the report's recommendations be supported. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner's proposed precept of £79,159,573 for 2024/25, equivalent to a Council Tax Band D of £349.52, reflecting an increase of 7.70% or £25.00 p.a. outlined in recommendations (1 - 5) is endorsed.

The Chair thanked officers for the amended structure of the report and advised that concerns still existed over the Estates Strategy and the pause of the GPOF project. The Chair outlined that many Panel Members were uncomfortable with the 7.7% increase but were minded to support the recommendations due to the considerable savings already made by Gwent Police and the challenging budget settlement. In response the APCC and Chief Constable thanked Panel Members for their support.

## **6. GWENT POLICE AND CRIME PANEL RECORDED COMPLAINTS AND CONDUCT MATTERS REGISTER**

The Lead Officer (Mrs. Forbes-Thompson) introduced this annual report to Members. Members heard how one recorded complaint against the Police and Crime Commissioner had been received and that this was in relation to the administration of the complainant's original complaint to the OPCC. The Commissioner's office had been asked to provide regular updates on the progress of the complaint with no further action.

Members noted the contents of this report.

## **7. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Lead Officer (Mrs. Forbes-Thompson) advised that the next meeting was scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> March and she confirmed to Members that this was outside of the PCC pre-election period. The following meeting would take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June when a new PCC was in place. One Member queried the absence of a specific date for a report on the Estates Strategy. As no decision would be reached until after the appointment of a new PCC in May it was decided that a briefing giving an update would be arranged for the Finance and Estates subgroup.

Meeting Closed at 1:05 pm.

## Overview of achievements

### Introduction

It has been a great honour and privilege to serve the people of Gwent as their elected Police and Crime Commissioner over the last eight years.

I greatly value the professional relationship that I have with my OPCC colleagues, Gwent Police, Police and Crime Panel members, partners and, of course, the public I have served over two terms of office.

Together, we've achieved a lot.

I am particularly pleased with how the OPCC has developed over my tenure and that it now has the right organisational structure and skilled, experienced staff to deliver for the people of Gwent. The team has been pivotal to our successes and my achievements over the last eight years. I strongly believe that, as a team, the OPCC has made a significant, positive difference and will continue to do so.

I am also proud of the investments I have made in policing, creating 170 additional officer posts to help the service recover following the low establishment numbers caused by austerity.

It is an uncertain future, and panel members will be well aware of the significant issues that we've had to deal with, and will probably continue to face, such as managing finances and partnerships, and the continual evolution of criminality.

The impact of Covid-19 since 2020 and the subsequent cost-of-living crisis have been substantial. Colleagues, organisations and communities have all been badly affected. We have lived through unprecedented times and it would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues, whether they be OPCC, Gwent Police or partners, for rising to these challenges.

Due to the evolving nature of crime, the criminal justice system and the law, there have also been numerous changes to and introductions of legislation during the last eight years. The office and I have influenced some of these during that time, including the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020. Both my deputy and I were Police and Crime Commissioner leads for this. The OPCC has also been working nationally to support the forthcoming changes to the police dismissals process.

Throughout my tenure as Commissioner, my main responsibility has been to ensure that Gwent has an efficient and effective policing service through support, reasonable challenge and scrutiny. My drive to ensure that Gwent remains a safer place to live, work or visit has been paramount to this. Partnership working with other organisations and our communities has been key to our shared success throughout my time in office. I am pleased to say this has largely been achieved.

And, while there are too many successes over the last eight years to list here, there are a number of achievements I do wish to celebrate.

### Significant achievements

As Commissioner, I am responsible for representing the people of Gwent and making sure the service provided by the police is efficient and effective. This is done by holding the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of local policing, setting and updating a Police and Crime Plan, setting the force budget and precept, regularly engaging with the public and communities, and appointing the Chief Constable.

Successes include:

- Developing and publishing two Police and Crime Plans and then overseeing the delivery of their priorities
- Working with three Chief Constables, appointing two of them to lead Gwent Police operationally
- Overseeing the development of the police estate to modernise police facilities and enable the evolution of working practices for both the OPCC and Gwent Police
- Achieving unqualified audit opinions on the annual accounts and balanced budgets every year of office
- Providing the funding for 170 new officer posts to bolster Gwent Police's establishment, in addition to the 200 additional officer posts created by Operation Uplift
- Investing more than £2.2m of community fund and partnership fund money to organisations benefiting communities all across Gwent
- Expanding engagement across Gwent, running a substantial programme of work in communities to ensure their voices are always heard and considered

## **OPCC**

In order to deliver an effective service, you need effective support. The support from the OPCC team has been invaluable. Together, we have introduced new structures, processes, training and initiatives to help further our success and really make a difference for the people of Gwent.

Successes include:

- Implementing an OPCC restructure to make it fit-for-purpose with an effective, flexible, highly-skilled and dynamic team
- Creating a new OPCC business planning process to drive a rolling programme of planned strategic work for the office
- Introducing agile working across all areas helping OPCC and Gwent Police move towards 'digital policing'
- Being awarded Disability Confident Committed status and a bronze award from the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme
- Becoming the first public organisation in Wales to receive the Alzheimer's Society 'dementia friendly' community kitemark
- Being awarded the Comparing Office of Police and Crime Commissioners (CoPaCC) Quality Mark for Transparency seven consecutive years
- Signing up to the Committee on Standards in Public Life Ethical Checklist
- Undertaking a thorough data protection review to ensure the office is compliant with legislation

## **Grant Funding and Commissioning**

I have been keen to work in partnership or provide funding to a wide range of third sector organisations, small community groups and social enterprises to support delivery of priorities outlined in the Police and Crime Plan. I have also strategically commissioned services to meet statutory responsibilities and Police and Crime Plan priorities. There are too many projects to list here, but successes include:

- Redesigning the Police Community Fund to provide strategic investment in communities to stop children and young people being involved in the criminal justice system



- Investing £6.7m in Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS) to support people and families affected by substance misuse across all five local authorities
- Investing more than £2.2m through the Police Community Fund (and formerly the Police Partnership Fund) to help meet Police and Crime Plan priorities
- Investing £1.9m in the Women's Pathfinder project; a groundbreaking intervention to support women in achieving better outcomes through the justice system
- Investing £1.34m in Positive Futures to run an inclusion programme that uses sport and physical activity to mentor and divert about 10,000 young people annually away from crime and anti-social behaviour
- Investing £630k in We Don't Buy Crime which benefited more than 5,000 residents and businesses through SmartWater packs, bespoke crime prevention advice and tackling the criminal supply chain
- Donating £454k to the High Sheriff Community Fund which supports community-based initiatives and projects for young people that help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Successfully bidding for more than £2.5m of Safer Streets funding to deliver community safety initiatives in 12 communities in Gwent

### **Strategic and National Work**

Building strong, positive relationships that support effective partnership working is fundamental to the successful delivery of my Police and Crime Plans. Gwent has a long history of excellent partnerships across a wide range of organisations at national, regional and local levels.

Successes include:

- Creating the Police and Partnership Board for Wales to ensure a co-ordinated approach to cross-governmental issues impacting all forces in Wales
- Becoming a Police and Crime Commissioner representative on the College of Policing, Blue Light Commercial, and Police Digital Service boards
- Undertaking the role of road safety, local policing and Welsh lead for modern-day slavery for the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)
- Being the lead Welsh Commissioner at the All-Wales cyber crime meeting and a board member of Cyber Resilience Centre for Wales
- Working with the Chief Constable to embed the APCC and National Police Chiefs' Council's Policing Visions 2025 and 2030
- Helping steer the national two-part review into the future role of Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure there are effective scrutiny mechanisms and Commissioners continue to be accountable to the communities they serve
- Organising major conferences to raise awareness of and help tackle issues such as modern-day slavery, missing children, and serious and organised crime
- Contributing funding to the Police Foundation's report, 'Understanding the Public's Priorities for Policing', that undertook research to understand the public's expectations of the police and their priorities, offering insights at both local and national levels
- Funding and hosting an event to showcase the findings of a research project commissioned through Race Council Cymru
- Hosting a public and third sector partnership event to raise awareness of Welsh Government's 'Code of Practice – Ethical Employment in Supply Chains'

- Hosting the Knife Angel statue, which was seen by more than 640,000 people during November 2022, and complementing this with engagement work with more than 4,000 young people
- Providing funding for Safer Gwent to enable key partners to prioritise community safety across Gwent and establish data sharing arrangements facilitated by my office
- Convening partners to deliver the first Gwent-wide serious violence needs assessment and strategy, through our new role under the Serious Violence Duty

## **Criminal Justice**

Criminal justice partners have a long and established relationship with the police. As Commissioner, I have a pivotal role in supporting criminal justice partners to work together, bringing greater clarity and accountability to the ways in which partners prioritise and collaborate in Gwent.

Successes include:

- Chairing the Local Criminal Justice Board to provide a fair criminal justice system that prevents, reduces and responds to crime and anti-social behaviour, while also focusing on the needs of victims and witnesses
- Supporting local criminal justice performance through the Criminal Justice Strategy Board review
- Developing, in partnership with Gwent Police, and chairing the Out Of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel, which reviews police decision-making and makes recommendations for improvements
- Being a key partner of Criminal Justice in Wales and driving the creation of its Anti-Racism Plan to root out any form of racism across the criminal justice system
- Facilitating the community engagement into the co-production of the Criminal Justice in Wales Anti-Racism Plan
- Being a member of the Hate Crime Criminal Justice Board Cymru and providing strategic oversight and influence of key issues across Wales

## **Reviews and Scrutiny**

My office and I actively monitor and scrutinise Gwent Police, while also providing recommendations on processes and decisions.

Successes include:

- Securing the creation of a strategic lead for crime prevention within Gwent Police and the creation of a dedicated rural crime team, following OPCC reviews of service
- Successfully recommending that Gwent Police creates a new Roads Policing and Specialist Operations Unit, invests in more specialist data collection and research, fills vacant posts, and implements new performance measures to provide more insight into police performance
- Carrying out a review into Gwent Police's approach to managing rape, which made a number of recommendations pre-dating Operation Soteria that are now national standard for rape and serious sexual offence investigations
- Reviewing modern-day slavery and human trafficking within Gwent to ensure a robust evidence base, with the resulting recommendations taken forward through the national and regional anti-slavery partnership structures

- Developing and co-ordinating the Legitimacy Scrutiny Panel that focuses on monitoring coercive powers, such as stop and search, and making recommendations to inform Gwent Police practice

## **VAWDASV**

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV) are sadly all too common crimes that persist in our society. Both Gwent Police and I have been committed to eradicating these crimes and work with partners to achieve this.

Successes include:

- Being a prominent board member of the Gwent-wide VAWDASV board helping to provide regional, strategic leadership to help tackle these issues
- Co-creating and co-chairing the national police VAWDASV taskforce to create a zero-tolerance culture, where police officers and staff are encouraged and empowered to call out sexist, misogynistic, racist, homophobic and all discriminatory attitudes
- Helping establish a new commitment to children and young people impacted by VAWDASV in-line with Welsh Government's VAWDASV strategy and blueprint with national research to recognise the current situation and areas for development
- Leading and delivering comprehensive engagement work with residents on White Ribbon Day and Elder Abuse Awareness Day on behalf of the regional partnership on an annual basis
- Funding substantial investment in Independent Domestic Violence Advisor and Independent Sexual Violence Adviser services to improve support to victims

## **Estate**

The Chief Constable and I are committed to delivering effective policing services in the modern age, utilising new technology and up-to-date working practices to safeguard and reassure the public. To support service delivery, the OPCC and Gwent Police require an estate that is fit-for-purpose. We have invested heavily in this during my tenure.

Successes include:

- Reviewing the entire estate to prioritise investment for a future-focused sustainable estate that enables officers and staff to deliver an excellent service
- Making changes to working practices to increase workforce flexibility and reduce environmental impact linked to travel and commuting
- Undertaking a program of works to refurbish all police facilities to ensure they provide a working environment suitable for the 21st Century
- Building a new headquarters for Gwent Police and a new police base in Abergavenny
- Launching a new joint Emergency Services Station in Abertillery with Fire and Ambulance services
- Buying out the Ystrad Mynach PFI (private finance initiative) to deliver greater value for money for Gwent Police over the long-term

## **Victims**

Delivering effective support for victims means taking a compassionate and victim-centred approach to everything we do. This includes ensuring that our support services are timely and capable of meeting a range of needs. In addition to supporting those who have experienced crime, we must also be ready to safeguard those who are vulnerable or at risk of harm.

Successes include:

- Launching a new victim care unit that supports victims from the point of reporting a crime to the conclusion of the criminal justice process
- Gwent Police creating, on my recommendation, a survivor engagement co-ordinator role, which was a first of its kind in Wales
- Working with and funding Tabw to provide emotional support and advocacy for victim-survivors of police-perpetrated VAWDASV
- Developing a Well-being and Vulnerability Framework to improve our response to those most at risk in our communities
- Working with local disability groups to co-produce hate crime resources to increase reporting of issues

## **Equalities**

The police service polices by consent. To continue to do so, it must gain the trust and confidence of communities through transparent, fair and ethical application of the law, as well as continuous engagement with residents. Both Gwent Police and I have been committed to ensuring that our organisations act with respect for equality, diversity and human rights, address inequality and challenge discrimination.

Successes include:

- Creating two four-year Strategic Equality Plans to deliver high-quality services that Gwent's diverse communities are confident to use and engage with
- Launching a Welsh language ebulletin and Facebook account, while promoting content on X (formerly Twitter) and the OPCC website bilingually
- Jointly funding, with the three other Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales, Race Council Cymru's annual Black History Wales programme of events
- Continuing to focus on making Gwent Police more representative of our communities, with the creation of a Positive Action Outreach team to raise awareness of the opportunities to work within our local policing arrangements
- Working with South Wales Police to deliver the Positive Action Leadership (PALS) programme to support Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic police constables to progress either upwards or laterally
- Rolling out mandatory 'tackling racism', 'unconscious bias' and Welsh language training for all staff

## **Engagement**

Regular, two-way engagement with all our communities, particularly those that are seldom-heard and harder-to-engage, provides opportunities for them to share their opinions and experiences of policing in Gwent.

Successes include:

- Creating two new OPCC websites over my tenure to make content more accessible to visitors
- Expanding Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) use, while also launching Instagram and YouTube channels and a weekly ebulletin for residents
- Funding three Behind the Badge community events to show the impact of Blue Light Services in Gwent and many of our commissioned services

- Introducing Commissioner walkabouts in communities as a way of hearing directly from the public on the issues that matter to them
- Overseeing a restructure of communications and engagement forward planning to prioritise community engagement and working with communities on Police and Crime Plan priorities

### **Child-Centred Policing**

I am committed to ensuring that all children and young people in Gwent can live their lives safely. If they do have to deal with the police, either as a victim of crime or as an offender, they must be treated fairly, with compassion and respect. Gwent Police has been making important steps towards a greater child-centred policing approach in recent years.

Successes include:

- Initiating a Gwent-focused Child-Centred Policing model that expands on the national strategy and adopts the key principles of child-centred awareness
- Co-producing a Child-Centred Policing Strategy for Gwent Police with children and young people at the heart of future decision-making
- Instigating the rollout of the Heddlu Bach Mini Police scheme to more than 150 schools in Gwent
- Re-aligning the Police Community Fund to enable children and young people in Gwent to be safe, healthy and happy, building a better future for themselves and their community by tackling community-based issues in a lasting and impactful way
- Researching and publishing the 'Understanding the Triggers' report calling on public services in Wales to develop new ways of preventing and reducing child criminality and exploitation
- Becoming the first OPCC in Wales to be awarded the Children and Young People's Participation Standards Charter
- Working towards the seven National Participation Standards when engaging and working with children and young people
- Holding annual Youth Question Time events to allow young people to ask local decision-makers about the issues that matter most to them
- Rolling out Safe Spaces workshops to schools in Gwent to work with children about the areas in their community where they feel safe or unsafe and discussing what can be done to tackle this
- Creating a campaign during Covid-19 lockdown to encourage compliance that Welsh Government's Youth Work Bulletin highlighted as best practice

### **Governance**

There needs to be an open, mutually supportive yet constructively challenging relationship between my office, the Chief Constable and the police service. To foster and maintain this, guidelines ensure appropriate accountability and scrutiny. These underpin a culture of mutual trust, confidence and openness in which responsibility and accountability is clear.

Successes include:

- Holding 36 Strategy and Performance Boards, which is the primary forum at which I hold the Chief Constable to account and we make strategic decisions affecting both the OPCC and Gwent Police

- Developing a Board Assurance Framework for my office and Gwent Police to help identify areas of compliance and areas for improvement with statutory requirements
- Successfully developing and launching the Public Response Unit, which has since moved to Gwent Police due to changes in legislation
- Developing processes to meet legislative requirements to undertake complaint reviews and consider whether complaints have been handled reasonably and proportionately by Gwent Police
- Overseeing the office's FOI scheme that has had a 98.5% compliance rate over the last eight years
- Annually reviewing the Manual of Corporate Governance to ensure the way we work in policing in Gwent follows legislation and agreed protocols
- Dip-sampling Gwent Police complaint files every six months, resulting in more accurate recording of updates to complainants and identifying system recording errors
- Holding 38 Joint Audit Committee meetings to provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and governance processes
- Reviewing the OPCC internal governance structure and the estates governance structure to ensure meetings are working effectively and appropriate scrutiny is being applied

## **Volunteers**

The OPCC is responsible for two volunteer programmes that have grown and developed over my tenure. Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) help us ensure that the strict conditions in Gwent Police's custody suites are met. Animal Welfare Visitors help ensure that Gwent Police's dogs are well looked-after and there are high levels of animal welfare.

Successes include:

- Achieving a Silver award from the Independent Custody Volunteers Association for compliance with the national Quality Assurance Framework
- Holding 30 ICV meetings and supporting 21 ICVs in undertaking 473 visits
- Implementing an alternative telephone monitoring service developed by my team to ensure ICV visits took place during lockdowns
- Holding 27 meetings for the animal welfare visitors who undertook 57 visits
- Having the animal welfare scheme certified by the Dogs Trust

## **Gwent Police**

Our investments in technology over the last two terms means we are ahead of the curve in terms of agile and flexible working practices. The office and I have also been heavily involved in many improvements to processes and strategies to deliver a more efficient and effective core policing service to our communities:

Successes include:

- Funding a team of Mental Health Practitioners within the Force Control Room, which removes a significant burden on frontline officers having to deal with non-policing issues
- Investing in additional staff resources for the Public Protection Unit to improve partnership working, investigation and prevention of the threat and risk of hidden crimes

- Creating a Police Online Investigation Team (POLIT) to protect and prevent children experiencing online abuse
- Covering the costs of Taser training after UK Government investment only covered the cost in the equipment itself
- Championing the need for an apprentice scheme that saw 15 apprentices work with Gwent Police and the OPCC
- Supporting Gwent Police around the implementation of Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) as part of our ongoing commitment to improve and enhance well-being provision
- Supporting the Vetting Appeals Panel to ensure a fair, independent process regarding vetting for people looking to work in policing
- Expanding a programme of dip-sampling complaints made to Gwent Police to make recommendations for improvements

## **Concluding Remarks**

Together, we've achieved a lot. And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Through our effective partnership arrangements, we have successfully worked to mitigate a range of issues across policing, the criminal justice system, commissioned services and our public and third sector partners. Through sustainable partnership models, I hope that much of this good work continues to have a positive impact for the communities affected and any vulnerable people who may find themselves caught-up in offending behaviour.

Throughout my time as Commissioner, the office and I have supported and challenged the Chief Constable to provide effective deployment of policing resources to where they are needed the most. This could be to the front-line or to provide specialist capabilities to deal with the crimes that cause the highest harm to our residents and communities.

I am satisfied that policing in Gwent has continued to move in a positive direction throughout my time as Commissioner, even against the backdrop of Covid-19, the cost-of-living crisis and the complications these have brought.

Providing a sustainable and effective policing service that is fit for the 21st Century requires continual investment and planning. However, the pressures regarding funding for policing from UK Government remain.

The increasing reliance on local council taxpayers to make sure that Gwent Police has adequate funding levels is an ongoing concern – particularly as many continue to experience financial hardship due to the pandemic and cost-of-living crisis.

Working with the other three police forces and Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales and our relevant public service boards, we have driven partnership working to achieve the very best public service possible. We did this not only for the people of Gwent, but across Wales as a whole.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) introduced public service boards (PSBs) to improve partnership working between public services in each local authority area in Wales. My office and I attended the PSBs in the five local authority areas in Gwent and we were instrumental in forming the Gwent PSB which we now attend.

I would like to thank my OPCC colleagues, Gwent Police's officers and staff, Police and Crime Panel members, and our partners for their hard work and support over the last eight years. Perhaps, most importantly, I would also like to thank the public for putting their trust in me to serve them as their voice in policing for two terms.

As I said, together we have achieved a lot.

Over the last eight years, a substantial amount of work has been undertaken. I am confident that I have ensured that Gwent is a safer place in which to live, work and visit than when I was first elected. And, I firmly believe that, with the team I have assembled, that there are solid foundations on which my successor can build.

Jeff Cuthbert

March 2023



## **Police and Crime Commissioner Update March 2024**

This is a selection of activities undertaken, scrutinised or supported by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in December 2023 - March 2024.

### **KEEP NEIGHBOURHOODS SAFE**

#### **Police Community Fund**

The office has reviewed all the submissions to the Police Community Fund, with six organisations awarded funding. Local groups delivering projects that create more resilient, safer and inclusive communities can bid for grants of £10,000 - £50,000. The following organisations successfully bid for funding:

- Cyfannol Women's Aid (£32,531)
- Senghenydd Youth Drop-in Centre (£39,929.76)
- Urban Circle (£49,230)
- Brynmawr Interact (£10,000)
- Media Academy Wales (£42,945)
- Newport Mind (£41,186.81)

The following projects funded in 2022/2023 or 2023/2024 have, in principle, also been awarded year two or three funding, where this was applied for in their original application, subject to satisfactory reporting:

- Newport Yemeni Community Association (£39,390)
- County in the Community (£11,355.39)
- Empire Fighting Chance (£15,158.40)
- Community House (£49,886)
- Cwmbran Centre for Young People (£42,631.48)
- Ethnic Youth Support Team (£48,930.96)

#### **Safer Streets:**

Gwent has been awarded £520,000 from the Home Office's Safer Streets fund to support initiatives that tackle crime in communities. The money is being split between two projects. The first will focus on neighbourhood crime in areas of Ebbw Vale and Maindee (Newport). A second project will improve the safety of women and girls, and support survivors of abuse, by working with Gwent's colleges and universities. The projects will be delivered in partnership with Gwent Police, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Newport City Council, New Pathways and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### **Women's Pathfinder Whole System Approach and 18-25 Early Intervention Service**

The tender process with South Wales OPCC and His Majesties Prison and Probation Service to re-commission women's and young people's diversionary services has been completed. This was a complex exercise to bring together the OPCCs' Women's Pathfinder and 18-25 services with the HMPPS-commissioned rehabilitation services and provision for mothers in prison and their children. The tender process was completed in December, with a new provider (Nelson's Trust) expected to be in place by April.

### **COMBAT SERIOUS CRIME**

#### **Cyber**

Businesses from across Torfaen have taken part in a cyber security workshop to help improve their resilience in the face of growing cyber crime. The event was hosted by Torfaen County Borough Council at its Springboard Business Innovation Centre and supported by the Wales Cyber Innovation Hub, Gwent Police, and the Office of the Police

and Crime Commissioner for Gwent. The office has also promoted the use of the Home Office-funded Police CyberAlarm to help businesses monitor and report suspicious activity on their networks. It offers near real-time monitoring of cyber threats, providing businesses with regular reports that highlight any vulnerabilities within the organisation. In the lead-up to Christmas, the office also promoted anti-fraud advice, both online and at all face-to-face engagement sessions during November and December.

### **Serious Violence Duty**

The Serious Violence Duty working group, led by my office, has now delivered the first strategic needs assessment, and interim strategy across Gwent and all local authority areas. There are four strategic priorities now being focused on:

- Better use of data to inform action;
- Prioritise addressing the risk factors for violence with evidence-based interventions;
- Join the dots to better understand and maximise impact - bringing local activity and good practice together; and
- Adopt a place-based approach that utilises local experience, listens to community voices and is strengthened through regional governance

Work continues with partners to develop the actions that will contribute to this strategy, including funding a range of interventions to tackle violence. My office has recently recruited a Partnership Delivery Manager to support all partners to take this forward.

### **SUPPORT VICTIMS AND PROTECT THE VULNERABLE**

#### **Domestic Abuse**

The recommissioning exercise for a new independent sexual violence advisors (ISVA) service has been completed. Led by South Wales OPCC, this is a partnership service between the police and crime commissioner offices for Dyfed Powys, Gwent and South Wales. The new provider of ISVA services will be confirmed imminently.

A new independent domestic violence advisor (IDVA) service is also being recommissioned, with Newport City Council as the lead authority of the partnership. The service is expected to go live in the autumn, so existing grant agreements are currently being extended.

### **INCREASE COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE IN POLICING**

#### **Child-centred policing**

The office has continued to expand its Safe Spaces workshops to children at Gwent schools. The workshops are currently being run in Blaenau Gwent, with 13 schools visited in the last three months. These sessions encourage children to talk about areas where they feel safe and unsafe in their communities, and the information is fed back to the local policing team and other partners.

The office held its sixth annual Youth Question Time in February. The event is co-produced between the office and local youth groups. Engagement sessions were run with young people in November which led to a series of thought-provoking discussions about issues including vaping and sexual harassment. In total, 70 people attended Youth Question Time at Penallta House in Caerphilly, with 93% per cent saying the event was very good/good and 100% of attendees said they would attend the event again.

The relationship with partners from Coleg Gwent has continued to flourish with the office supporting a series of well-being days for students. These events are a good opportunity to provide information on issues such as domestic abuse and staying safe online, while allowing students to give their opinions on the issues that matter to them.

## **DRIVE SUSTAINABLE POLICING**

### **Animal welfare scheme**

Our animal welfare scheme, which ensures that Gwent's police dogs are looked after to the highest standards, has received a certificate of recognition from the Dogs Trust for another year. This means the Dogs Trust is satisfied that the office and volunteers provide a high level of service, and it will continue to work with Gwent Police to provide rescue dogs for training in the future.

### **Budget setting**

Following the approval of the Gwent Police and Crime Panel in January, the budget setting process has been completed. The decision follows detailed scrutiny of the operational and financial case put forward for more funding by Chief Constable Pam Kelly, and a 12-week programme of public engagement with residents across Gwent. Despite the precept increase of 7.7 per cent, further savings will need to be made. The Chief Constable has committed to a significant programme of change to deliver service improvements and value for money.

### **Communications**

Gwent Community Link is Gwent Police's new messaging service for residents. It will keep you updated on appeals, crime, engagement events, policing activity and crime prevention advice in your area. You can also provide feedback and complete surveys to let your neighbourhood policing team know what matters most to you. At present, the service is only available for residents living in Blaenau Gwent, but it is hoped it will also be rolled out across further counties and boroughs in the force area. So far, more than 1,000 people have signed up to the service.

### **Estates**

Construction work is almost complete on the new police base in Abergavenny. The new facility in Llanfoist is due to open in spring 2024, and will house neighbourhood policing and response teams. As part of the social value work connected to the project, the office supported Willmott Dixon in its attendance at four events for young people in Ebbw Fawr, Croesyceiliog, Pontypool and Hengoed.

### **New recruits**

Gwent Police recently welcomed 18 student officers who had celebrated their graduation and the completion of their academic training. They will be deployed with policing teams across Gwent's five counties. The policing educational qualifications framework gives applicants the chance to study for an academic qualification while undertaking their police training. It enables police officers to raise their professional standards in the light of the constantly changing nature of crime and also allows recruits to learn as they earn.

### **Strategy and Performance Board**

My latest Strategy and Performance Board was due to take place on 7 March. An update can be provided to members at the panel meeting. The office has also started trialing a new scrutiny meeting with Gwent Police, to allow it to deep-dive thematics on a monthly basis. The first meeting scrutinised anti-social behavior and Freedom of Information Act compliance.

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# PCCs Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report

Quarter 3 2023 / 2024

# Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) oversight and scrutiny of Gwent Police performance in relation to the Police and Crime Plan. This is a report for quarter 3 of the financial year 2023/24.

The scrutiny and monitoring of force performance take place in a variety of forms. The main forum where this takes place is the Strategy and Performance Board, the meeting at which the PCC holds the Chief Constable (CC) to account and is open to the public. A new monthly scrutiny meeting is also being trialled. Members of the OPCC also observe and participate in boards and meetings as a critical friend, specific reports and briefings are requested as required, and the PCC has weekly one-to-one meetings with the CC to discuss matters arising and any areas of particular concern.

## The Police and Crime Plan Priorities

**Keep  
Neighbourhoods  
Safe**

**Combat Serious  
Crime**

**Support Victims  
and Protect the  
Vulnerable**

**Increase  
Confidence in  
Policing**

**Drive  
Sustainable  
Policing**

# Overview - Highlights and Areas of Focus

## Highlights

- Continue to see further improvements in 999 and 101 performance
- Starting to see a downward trend in Public Order and Anti-Social Behaviour, albeit some of this will be linked to seasonal patterns
- Continued reductions in burglary, robbery and neighbourhood crime
- Positive Outcome rates have improved in comparison to Q3 2022/23

## Areas of Focus

- Continued increasing levels of demand coming into the service
- Acquisitive Crime increases and the potential effects of the cost-of-living Crisis
- Shoplifting has reached another 5 year high in Q3
- Staff welfare and wellbeing through sickness rates

## All Incidents Updated for Quarter 3 2023-24

These tables provide a breakdown of the 'incidents' that Gwent Police have to manage on an annual and quarterly basis. For ease they are broken down into 4 main incident categories (ASB, Crime, Public Safety and Transport), albeit some incidents can be categorised in any of them so there is some crossover between them.

These incident categories can be further broken down into over 200 different incident types. The top 5 for each main category are shown to the left. These tend to be consistent year on year, other than 2020/21 and 2021/22 when Covid lockdown enforcement meant that COVID related ASB was a top category of ASB.

All Incidents	2019-20 Total	2020-21 Total	2021-22					2022-23					2023-24				Quarterly % Change
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Total	
Public Safety and Welfare	53,945	48,108	12,998	13,285	12,419	12,687	51,389	12,610	14,645	13,777	14,223	55,255	17,805	17,027	14,363	49,195	-16%
Crime Related	51,496	44,560	11,926	12,147	11,380	11,048	46,501	12,543	13,741	12,351	12,235	50,870	13,883	13,863	13,106	40,852	-5%
Transport	31,738	23,682	6,791	6,808	6,368	5,780	25,747	5,684	6,099	5,895	6,020	23,698	6,728	6,629	6,656	20,013	0%
Anti-Social Behaviour	11,245	28,659	4,724	3,568	2,883	2,808	13,983	2,951	2,888	2,220	2,608	10,667	3,521	3,481	2,950	9,952	-15%
Admin	30,950	31,660	8,195	8,709	7,670	6,964	31,538	7,293	7,746	6,934	6,957	28,930	7,722	8,150	7,714	23,586	-5%
Open Log	619	1,045	285	308	228	283	1,104	410	239	184	191	1,024	217	247	493	957	100%
Total	179,993	177,714	44,919	44,825	40,948	39,570	170,262	41,491	45,358	41,361	42,234	170,444	49,876	49,397	45,282	144,555	-8%
% change since previous year		-1.27%					-4.19%					0.11%				-15%	

Closing Category 1		Incident Sub Categories 2020-21		Incident Sub Categories 2021-22		Incident Sub Categories 2022-23		Incident Sub Categories 2023-24 April - Dec	
	Closing Category 2	Total	Closing Category 2	Total	Closing Category 2	Total	Closing Category 2	Total	
ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR	ASB - COVID19	16,574	ASB - NUISANCE	6,612	ASB - NUISANCE	6,066	ASB - NUISANCE	6,478	
	ASB - NUISANCE	6,446	ASB - PERSONAL	1,862	ASB - ENVIRONMENTAL	1,559	VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	1,142	
	ASB - ENVIRONMENTAL	1,830	ASB - ENVIRONMENTAL	1,594	VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	1,152	ASB - ENVIRONMENTAL	844	
	ASB - PERSONAL	1,820	ASB - COVID19	1,185	ASB - PERSONAL	955	ASB - PERSONAL	793	
	VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	837	VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	1,174	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	272	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	186	
CRIME RELATED	VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	20,906	VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	21,752	VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	24,903	VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	19,716	
	THEFT AND HANDLING	7,299	THEFT AND HANDLING	7,746	THEFT AND HANDLING	8,922	THEFT AND HANDLING	7,843	
	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	5,704	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	6,355	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	6,403	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	4,666	
	BURGLARY	2,516	BURGLARY	2,222	BURGLARY	2,278	BURGLARY	1,646	
	FRAUD AND FORGERY	1,038	SEXUAL OFFENCES	1,133	SEXUAL OFFENCES	1,315	SEXUAL OFFENCES	940	
PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE	CONCERN FOR SAFETY	14,261	ABANDONED CALL	14,318	ABANDONED CALL	17,953	ABANDONED CALL	18,185	
	ABANDONED CALL	11,449	CONCERN FOR SAFETY	14,200	CONCERN FOR SAFETY	13,351	CONCERN FOR SAFETY	9,178	
	DOMESTIC INCIDENT	3,898	MISSING PERSONS	3,925	MISSING PERSONS	4,436	SUS CIRCUM/INSEC PREMISES/VEH	5,813	
	SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/INS	3,608	DOMESTIC INCIDENT	3,895	SUS CIRCUM/INSEC PREMISES/VE	4,117	MISSING PERSONS	4,198	
	MISSING PERSONS	2,968	SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES/INS	3,712	DOMESTIC INCIDENT	3,529	DOMESTIC INCIDENT	2,973	
TRANSPORT	ROAD RELATED OFFENCE	11,607	ROAD RELATED OFFENCE	11,429	ROAD RELATED OFFENCE	10,036	ROAD RELATED OFFENCE	8,671	
	HIGHWAY DISRUPTION	7,436	HIGHWAY DISRUPTION	8,472	HIGHWAY DISRUPTION	7,549	HIGHWAY DISRUPTION	6,737	
	RTC DAMAGE ONLY	3,610	RTC DAMAGE ONLY	4,719	RTC DAMAGE ONLY	4,997	RTC DAMAGE ONLY	3,796	
	RTC DEATH/INJURY	583	RTC DEATH/INJURY	708	RTC DEATH/INJURY	679	RTC DEATH/INJURY	498	
	VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	66	VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	77	POLICE GENERATED RESOURCE A	130	POLICE GENERATED RESOURCE ACTI	75	



## All Crimes Updated for Quarter 3 2023-24

Crime Type	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22				2022-23				2023-24				Quarterly %		
	Total	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Total	Change
All Other Theft	4,278	3,005	741	850	870	798	3,259	951	973	913	886	3,723	972	935	901	2,808	-4%
Bicycle Theft	329	274	101	106	57	53	317	79	73	59	52	263	71	93	72	236	-23%
Commercial Burglary	1,098	689	144	167	162	215	688	237	195	162	165	759	215	199	200	614	1%
Criminal Damage & Arson	8,549	6,834	2,016	1,884	2,059	2,014	7,973	2,109	2,187	1,803	1,734	7,833	1,994	1,748	1,815	5,557	4%
Drug Offences	1,541	1,839	426	297	301	310	1,334	328	304	328	341	1,301	324	392	365	1,081	-7%
Homicide	6	3	2	0	2	0	4	5	4	0	0	9	2	1	0	3	-100%
Miscellaneous Crimes	1,742	1,743	416	355	382	363	1,516	399	361	377	377	1,514	421	450	372	1,243	-17%
Non Notifiable Offences	124	82	21	25	46	34	126	33	22	25	32	112	28	20	24	72	20%
Other Sexual Offences	1,078	828	306	262	288	285	1,141	321	324	309	329	1,283	316	269	281	866	4%
Possession of Weapons	251	252	62	53	75	108	298	97	76	106	102	381	130	140	115	385	-18%
Public Order Offences	7,250	6,885	2,007	2,091	1,927	2,079	8,104	2,355	2,577	2,163	2,051	9,146	2,244	1,874	1,661	5,779	-11%
Rape	520	425	127	140	155	158	580	174	152	141	137	604	141	145	142	428	-2%
Residential Burglary	2,498	1,953	375	435	483	465	1,758	431	458	366	371	1,626	395	340	357	1,092	5%
Robbery	305	243	79	59	66	63	267	77	93	78	82	330	66	87	67	220	-23%
Shoplifting	3,458	2,064	520	566	565	535	2,186	643	591	797	945	2,976	823	981	1,033	2,837	5%
Theft From the Person	284	153	37	37	50	42	166	49	50	59	50	208	64	45	48	157	7%
Vehicle Crime	3,254	2,260	547	588	573	585	2,293	602	561	616	557	2,336	715	845	749	2,309	-11%
Violence with Injury	5,855	4,577	1,399	1,428	1,529	1,488	5,844	1,546	1,748	1,646	1,613	6,553	1,848	1,675	1,594	5,117	-5%
Violence without Injury	14,763	14,015	3,606	3,686	3,881	4,192	15,365	4,246	4,566	4,257	4,545	17,614	4,687	4,269	4,338	13,294	2%
Total	57,184	48,125	12,933	13,029	13,472	13,787	53,221	14,683	15,315	14,207	14,370	58,574	15,457	14,508	14,134	44,099	-3%
% change since previous year		-15.84%					10.59%					10.06%				-25%	

## Positive Outcomes and Rates for Quarter 3 2023-24

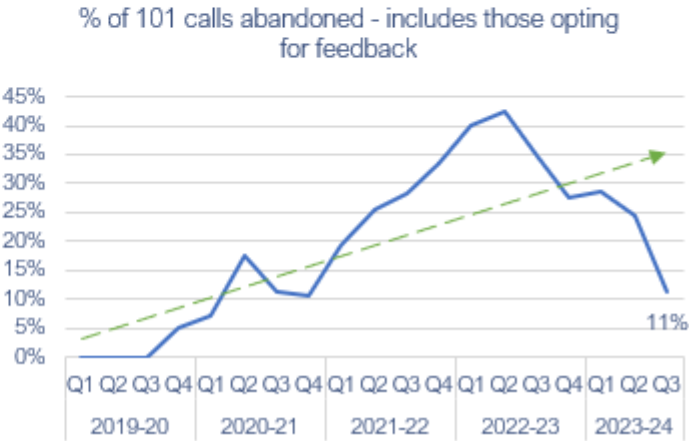
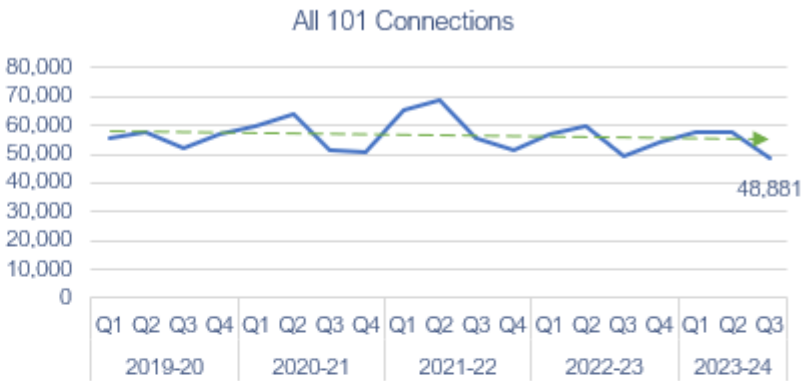
These charts show the Positive Outcomes types and percentages for each crime type. The chart to the right identifies those listed in **bold** as the 'Positive Outcomes' as per Home Office Counting Rules. Note that this information is changing daily as the volumes of 'New/Still Open' cases will continue to be finalised and further outcomes recorded.

Criminal Justice Positive Outcome Rates	2019-20 Total	2020-21 Total	2021-22 Total	2022-23					2023-24			
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Total
All Other Theft	4%	6%	3%	1%	4%	2%	4%	3%	4%	6%	4%	5%
Bicycle Theft	6%	2%	8%	5%	1%	2%	12%	5%	11%	1%	3%	5%
Commercial Burglary	8%	13%	7%	6%	7%	10%	14%	9%	11%	15%	14%	13%
Criminal Damage & Arson	7%	11%	7%	5%	8%	9%	8%	7%	6%	10%	9%	8%
Drug Offences	81%	79%	67%	41%	61%	62%	54%	54%	54%	64%	67%	62%
Homicide	67%	50%	100%	25%	100%	100%	0%	56%	100%	0%	0%	33%
Miscellaneous Crimes	14%	21%	18%	9%	17%	18%	19%	16%	15%	15%	25%	18%
Non Notifiable Offences	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%	4%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other Sexual Offences	10%	13%	8%	5%	9%	8%	11%	8%	9%	9%	13%	10%
Possession of Weapons	59%	62%	46%	22%	46%	44%	43%	39%	37%	42%	40%	40%
Public Order Offences	9%	15%	10%	6%	8%	8%	9%	7%	8%	11%	10%	10%
Rape	6%	11%	5%	5%	7%	8%	7%	7%	6%	8%	18%	11%
Residential Burglary	5%	7%	6%	5%	4%	5%	7%	5%	5%	5%	6%	5%
Robbery	19%	16%	19%	9%	10%	20%	12%	13%	15%	16%	16%	16%
Shoplifting	29%	35%	28%	19%	26%	21%	26%	23%	32%	27%	39%	33%
Theft From the Person	3%	6%	5%	0%	2%	2%	0%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Vehicle Crime	4%	5%	6%	3%	5%	5%	3%	4%	6%	3%	6%	5%
Violence with Injury	16%	19%	14%	10%	13%	11%	14%	12%	14%	15%	17%	15%
Violence without Injury	8%	12%	8%	5%	8%	8%	8%	7%	8%	9%	10%	9%
Overall Positive Outcome rate	12%	16%	11%	7%	10%	10%	11%	10%	11%	13%	14%	13%
% change since previous year		36.44%	-31.06%					-14.19%				32%

Outcome Rates for All Crime (based on period crime was recorded)	2019-20 Total	2020-21 Total	2021-22 Total	2022-23 Total	2023-24 YTD Total
1: Charged/Summoned	4,782	5,092	3,891	3,847	3,509
2: Youth Caution/Conditional Caution	74	89	66	75	73
3: Adult Caution/Conditional Caution	730	636	426	508	282
4: TIC (Taken into Consideration)	32	12	8	5	24
5: Offender has Died	13	15	32	67	41
6: Penalty Notice for disorder	249	286	124	4	1
7: Cannabis Warning	278	383	190	5	0
8: Community Resolution/Youth Restorative Justice	559	1,135	1,190	1,227	1,667
9: Prosecution not in the public interest	10	25	8	30	9
10: Police - Formal action not in public interest	573	557	366	794	322
11: Named suspect below age of criminal responsibility	79	74	88	183	133
12: Named suspect too ill to prosecute	54	127	56	179	106
13: Named suspect but victim/key witness deceased	36	26	26	54	71
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify suspect	3,067	2,934	2,578	2,822	1,347
15: Named suspect, victim supports but evidence insufficient	7,344	9,536	6,728	12,999	13,873
16: Victim withdraws support - named suspect identified	14,285	14,945	12,373	17,147	7,643
17: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit expired	140	188	160	352	21
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	21,271	15,547	13,576	21,482	14,743
20: Other body agency has investigation primacy	374	213	152	721	566
21: Named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	203	130	85	278	212
22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity	140	205	164	185	167
New/Still Open	110	111	164	228	318
<b>Positive Outcomes</b>	<b>6,717</b>	<b>7,648</b>	<b>5,927</b>	<b>5,738</b>	<b>5,597</b>
<b>Total Outcomes</b>	<b>54,293</b>	<b>52,155</b>	<b>42,287</b>	<b>62,964</b>	<b>44,810</b>
<b>Positive Outcomes Against Finalised Outcomes</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>

999 and 101 Demand for Quarter 3 2023-24

Quarter 3 2023-24: 999 demand has decreased by 17% compared with quarter 2 2023-24. Quarter 3 has seen a decreased demand in calls which is in line with the decrease in recorded crimes for quarter 3 2023-24. The demand decrease has had a positive effect of the 999 service level showing that 97% of calls were answered within 10 seconds, which is the highest service level recorded in the last 5 year period. 101 demand has also decreased in quarter 3 2023-24, which is typical for the months from October to December, this has seen the average speed of answer drop by over 3 minutes to an approximate 2-minute wait, and the abandonment rate has dropped to 11%. The improvements are because of a significant focus on leadership, systems and processes, and operation Uplift coming to completion.

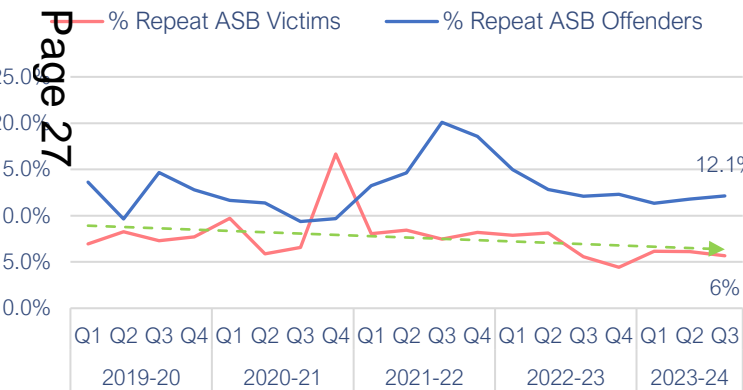


101 Average Answer Speed							
2022-23				2023-24			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
06:53	07:45	09:41	07:47	06:27	05:05	02:20	

# Priority One: Keep Neighbourhoods Safe

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour that impacts the safety and well being of communities in Gwent

**PRIORITY 1. KEEP NEIGHBOURHOODS SAFE: REDUCE PUBLIC ORDER AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB), AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO REPEATEDLY CARRY OUT THESE ACTS**



Q3 saw the continuation of 'The Gwent Community Link', a free service that enables residents to sign up and receive email updates from their neighbourhood policing team on recent arrests, charges and appeals for information. Since the initiative was rolled out in Blaenau Gwent, over 1,000 have signed up and started to receive updates from their local officers.

**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

**Policy, Projects and Partnerships**

The OPCC is still involved in both a regional and national review of Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) and ASB. The Gwent CSP review is still underway and the OPCC continues to work with the police and CSP partners in developing this work.

Q3 saw the 'ASB Hotspot Response Fund' commence as a result of the Home Office recognising the obvious overlap between 'ASB Hotspot Response patrolling' and 'Grip serious violence hotspot policing'. The outcome of this funding will be agreed in the next quarter.

Q3 also saw the beginning of the Phase 2 National Community Safety Partnership Review, the OPCC completed a Welsh Government response in addressing the connection between CSPs and OPCCs and their role in tackling ASB and anticipate additional information in the next quarter.

The OPCC's analyst continues to provide crime and ASB information to the CSPs to enable them to focus priorities.

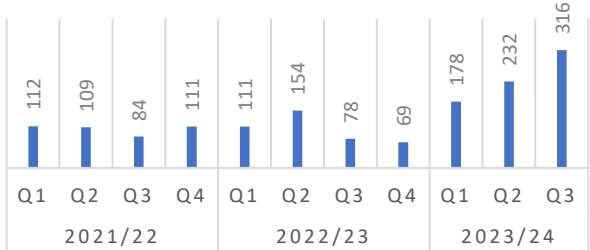
**Funding and Commissioned Services**

Positive Futures are a diversionary service for children and young people, funded by the PCC in Newport and wider Gwent. They put on a range of scheduled sessions each week, but also unscheduled sessions in response to emerging community issues.

During Q3, there was a notable rise in youth engagement particularly through 'Operation Bang', which offered sessions centred around Halloween and Bonfire night. These sessions incorporated sports alongside educational activities focusing on bonfire and firework safety.

The graph below shows the number of young people who attended an unscheduled ASB diversionary session; the numbers do not count repeat attendance. There was an increase in these sessions for young people, attributed by anti-social behaviour amongst young people and a trend often observed during the Christmas holiday period.

**NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING UNSCHEDULED DIVERSIONARY SESSIONS**



Quarter 3 2023-24 continues to show a downward trend in Public Order, ASB shows a slight decrease compared to the previous quarters 2023-24.

PRIORITY 1. KEEP NEIGHBOURHOODS SAFE: REDUCE ACQUISITIVE CRIME AND REPEAT OFFENDERS



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Acquisitive crime consists of burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, shoplifting and theft. Q3 saw an overall decrease in the number of acquisitive crime incidents since Q2.

Although vehicle crime (-11%) and robbery (-23%) remains lower than previous quarters, burglary, shoplifting and theft has increased.

The rise in these cases during Q3 are expected due to seasonal demands and the current cost of living however, shoplifting is now at an all-time high, exceeding all previous quarter 3's. The OPCC will continue to monitor and link in with local policing areas to ensure reporting is accurate and to provide context behind this quarterly rise.

What have the PCC and OPCC Done?

Policy, Projects and Partnerships:

The OPCC and other OPCCs/forces in Wales reported that although there have been significant increases in some acquisitive crime types (as highlighted left), with cost-of-living being a factor, it is still too early to tell if this is the primary driving force and more long-term analysis is needed.

Due to funding cuts from the Home Office for Safer Streets 5, restructuring and re-profiling were necessary and led to the discontinuation of some initial interventions. Consequently, the funding is now directed towards a streamlined approach for the Neighbourhood Policing Team to deter ASB and implement diversion tactics.

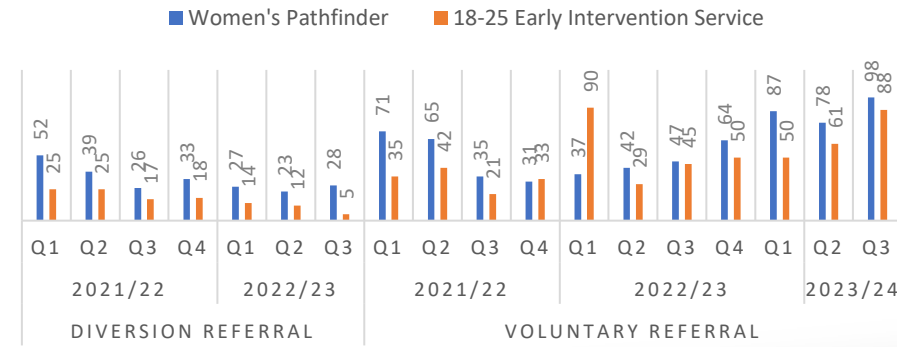
Funding and Commissioned Services

The OPCC provides funding for the delivery of 18-25 Early Intervention Service in Gwent. The service supports young adults and women entering the criminal justice system to achieve positive outcomes such as accessing accommodation, improving their financial situation, gaining employment and improving their overall health and wellbeing. These are vital outcomes for reducing re-offending.

During this quarter, work continued to deliver a comprehensive service to young adults and women, delivering 1:1 support, workshops and group support. Additionally, ongoing awareness raising campaigns were delivered with the police and community to support colleagues.

Following a re-commissioning exercise with partners, new providers for this service will commence their role in spring 2024, more information on this transition will be provided in the next quarter.

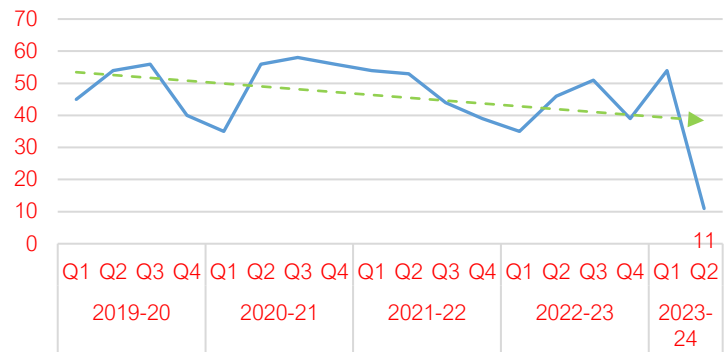
FUTURE 4 DIVERSIONARY SERVICE REFERRALS





PRIORITY 1. KEEP NEIGHBOURHOODS SAFE: IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF ROADS THROUGHOUT GWENT

Killed or Seriously Injured on Gwent Roads



No data for KSI incidents was provided to the OPCC during Q3 and therefore unable to make comparisons to previous quarters.

The number of collision investigation callouts has decreased 13% since the previous quarter and remains lower than 2022/23 Q3.

Collision Investigation Callouts are for complex collisions requiring roads policing expertise and do not necessarily reflect the severity of harm involved.

The 'Fatal Five' offences consist of:

- Careless Driving
- Drink/Drug Driving
- No Seatbelt
- Use of Mobile Phone
- Speeding

During Q3, 452 individuals were reported for one of these Fatal Five offences.

During this quarter, the most reported offence was drink/drug driving, accounting for 47.8% of all Fatal Five reports with 216 instances reported. This was followed by speeding, which accounted for 19.5% of Fatal Five reports with 88 instances reported.

Q3 saw the Road Policing and Specialist Operations (RSPO) officers in Newport take part in a covert exercise as part of 'Operation Harley', which tackles the use of electric off-road bikes being on the city's roads and pavements. At the start of this quarter, the RSPO officers seized 139 bikes in total and during the Newport operation, one more off-road bike was taken off the streets. The RSPO team will continue this exercise every 4 to 6 weeks.

What have the PCC and OPCC Done?

Funding and Commissioned Services

During Q3, 519 children from a primary school in Monmouthshire participated in Safer Space workshops coordinated by the OPCC. The aim of the workshops was to raise awareness of the dangers and impact of driving with a mobile phone and without a seatbelt.

Additionally, through December, the OPCC shared GO Safe's drink driving campaign on social media channels, website and featuring in the weekly e-bulletins.

Collision Investigation Callouts



Q3 Spotlight Service: **ST GILES TRUST**

- How much funding goes into the service? £127,706
- What proportion of the service is funded by the PCC? 0.5% (however, we fund 100% of the work that takes place in this programme in Gwent, with additional investment now coming via new Home Office funding in relation to the Serious Violence Duty)

**About the Service**

St Giles Trust support children and young people at risk of or currently being exploited. They provide 'tertiary' interventions work with children and young people known to be exploited, working across Wales to help people overcome barriers and get the support they need to move forward with their lives.

**Case Study**

Person A from Caerphilly came to St Giles' attention following multiple arrests at a property involving drugs. Despite no involvement, Person A was taken into custody, causing significant anxiety at just 16.

Referred by the Youth Offending Service, Person A struggled with panic attacks, exacerbated by their association with Child Criminal Exploitation. To provide support, their caseworker engaged with them in outdoor activities such as mountain climbing and lake walks, offering a sense of normalcy and reassurance.

Despite ongoing legal proceedings, Person A secured employment in a nearby town, displaying remarkable motivation and resilience by abstaining from drug use and working to rebuild family relationships. St Giles continues to provide support, offering emotional reassurance and practical assistance.

Person A anticipates weekly visits and in Q3 was focused on saving their wages for Christmas shopping. Family members have expressed gratitude for St Giles' invaluable support during this challenging period.



## **Priority Two: Combat Serious Crime**

**Preventing and reducing crimes that cause significant harm to communities and victims**

**PRIORITY 2. COMBAT SERIOUS CRIME: REDUCE THE NUMBER OF REPEAT VICTIMS OF CHILD CRIMINAL AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

**Policy, Projects and Partnerships**

The OPCC continue to work with Newport City Council on a pilot supporting vulnerable children and families at risk of criminality and exploitation (criminal or sexual).

The pilot, known as 'Understanding the Triggers' offers person-centred support built around the needs of children and their families.

Planning has now commenced for the OPCC to produce an evaluation report by the summer of 2024. There is keen interest in this work from Welsh Government, who will receive the evaluation report to inform their policies in this area.

The OPCC also continue to fund St Giles Trust, during this quarter, team leaders and caseworkers have met with Gwent Police through 'Operation Quartz', providing a linked-up approach to support and disrupt young people who are at risk of serious organised crime.

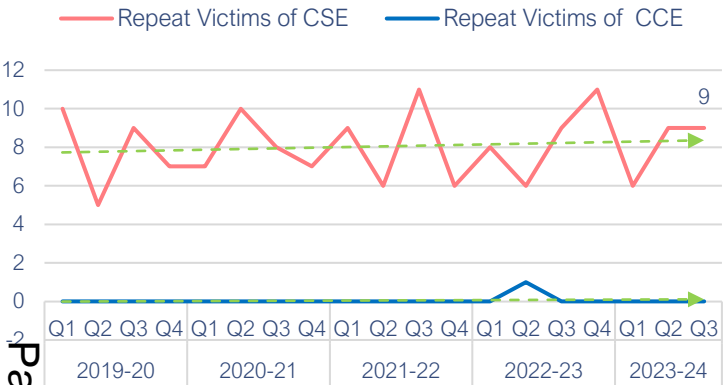
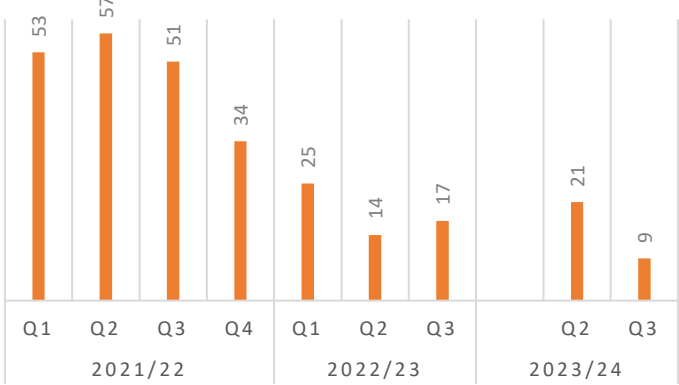
Another of our commissioned services Fearless provide children and professionals with information around CSE/CCE to identify signs and promote awareness, offering advice on different ways to report. More information about this service can be found on slide 15.

**Funding and Commissioned Services**

St Giles Trust support children and young people who are at risk of or currently being exploited to Serious Violence and Organised Crime. Tertiary interventions work with children and young people known to be exploited.

Q3 saw a decline in the amount of 1-1 tertiary interventions delivered to children and young people due to resource challenges, which were discussed at a recent service review meeting. However, during Q3, St Giles Trust delivered 4 school sessions to children aged 14-15. These engagement sessions were centred around supporting children to disengage with serious organised crime.

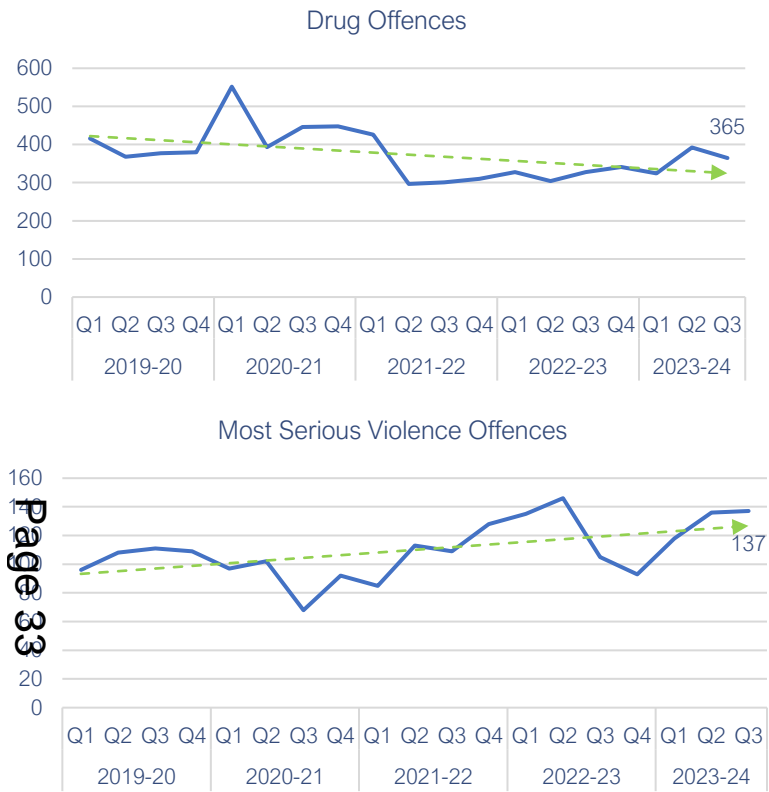
**ST GILES 1-1 TERTIARY INTERVENTIONS**



The number of repeat victims of CCE and CSE have remained the same this quarter. The force continue to reassure the OPCC that work collaboratively is ongoing to target those perpetrating these offences, to prevent and disrupt registered sex offenders. Communication with partners internal and external are continuously improving to safeguard and support identified victims.

The current cohort in East PPU have '4P' plans in place, that outline plans to Prepare to tackle the problem, Prevent offending, Protect vulnerable children and Pursue offenders. This intense support mechanism is in place for identified children, could be a consequence of there being no increase in reporting, due to greater scrutiny around movement and association.

**PRIORITY 2. COMBAT SERIOUS CRIME: INCREASE DISRUPTION OF SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME, AND REINVEST ASSETS SEIZED BACK INTO COMMUNITIES**



The number of drug offences has decreased in Q3, a quarterly decline of 7% however, still a notable rise since Q1.

Serious violence offences have slightly increased since Q2 and the previous Q3 2022/23.

**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

**Policy, Projects and Partnerships**

As the 'Lead Convening' authority the OPCC continues to work with partners to develop the Serious Violence Duty in Gwent.

Work in Q3 focused on finalising the Serious Violence prevention strategy and delivery plan, aiming to reduce and where possible, prevent harm to members of the community. This quarter, partners continued to develop and finalise the Strategic Needs Assessment across Gwent through identifying the problem profile and risk factors within each local authority.

The Serious Violence Duty Partnership Manager has now commenced their role within the OPCC, ensuring compliance with new requirements, leading the partnerships response to serious violence, including the needs assessment, strategy and delivery plans.

Using the £60K funding secured from Home Office, work continues to implement schemes to deliver the Serious Violence Duty in the next 2 years.

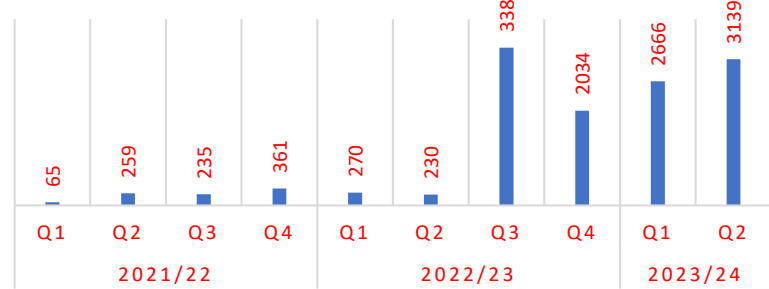
**Funding and Commissioned Services**

The OPCC provides funding to Fearless to deliver interventions to school children, with a focus on the risks of Serious Organised Crime, county lines and serious violence.

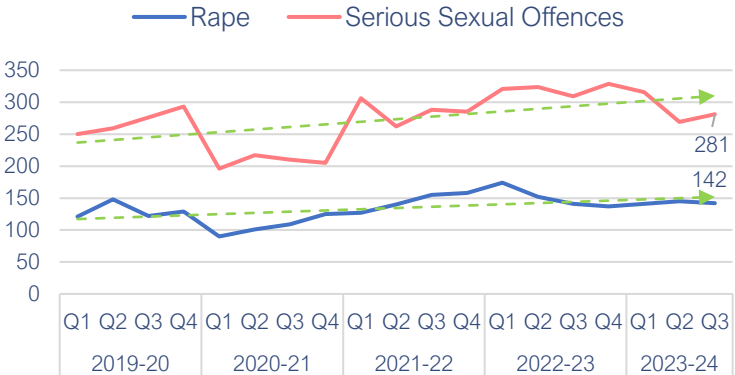
During Q3, Fearless participated in the Crucial Crew campaign, an annual two-week event that involves various agencies collaborating to help pupils develop personal safety awareness, react to dangerous situations, and contribute to crime preventions.

There is no data available for the number of children engaged in Fearless school interventions for Q3, but the OPCC ensures that this data will be collated for the next quarter. However, caseworkers continue their interactive sessions with children and young people to raise awareness about knife crime and county lines.

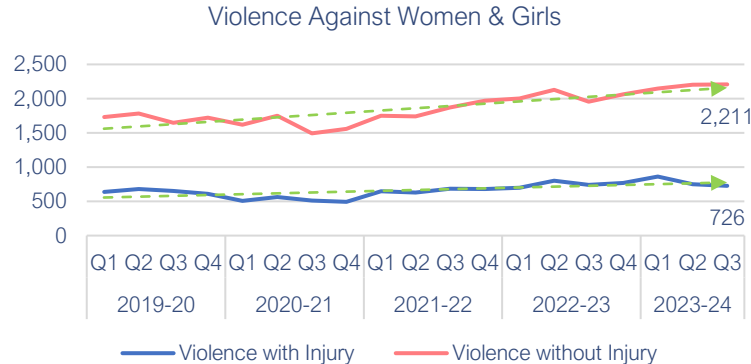
**NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENGAGED IN FEARLESS SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS**



**PRIORITY 2. COMBAT SERIOUS CRIME: IMPROVE THE OVERALL CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (VAWDASV)**



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Reported rape has remained consistent in comparison to Q3 22/23. The recent HMIC Op Soteria inspection has identified and commended the force's responses to RASSO victims, particularly the Survivor Engagement Coordinator role, who is soon to receive a regional VAWG award.

Domestic related crimes and broader violence against women and girls remains stable this quarter, seeing a slight decline since Q1 23/24. During Q3 the force promoted a Keep Safe This Christmas Campaign, offering advice/support/signposting via social media on how to stay safe during the busiest time of year. #ReadBetweenTheLines campaign was another initiative during this quarter. The force, in partnership with Live fear free, encouraged people to read between the lines and help those who may be suffering from domestic abuse.

Work is ongoing in the force to ensure positive outcomes increase particularly VAWG, which is now monitored at a new VAWG/Vulnerability Board to ensure progress is monitored and departments are held to account. VAWDASV is one of our key priorities.

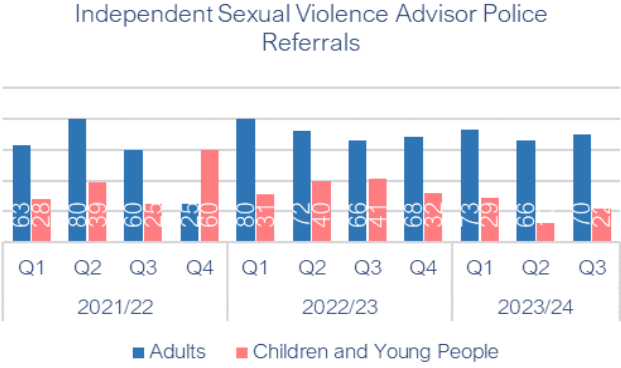
**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

**Funding and Commissioned Services**

During this quarter, further development has been made with MATAC (multi-agency tasking and coordination) process, funded through the OPCC. MATAC discusses the most high-risk perpetrators of domestic abuse in Gwent and how to disrupt their behavior using intelligence and partnership working.

We continue to fund and support Tabw, the service delivery of the Police-Perpetrated Domestic Abuse service for victims in Gwent and South Wales. The service provides independent support to victims/survivors understanding the additional barriers they face, when perpetrators hold a position of power and control.

New Pathways provide a specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service, further information about the service is on slide 17. Police referrals for adults remain relatively stable which is reflected in the force data.



**Q3 Spotlight Service: IDVA Service**

- How much funding goes into the service? £335,123.00
- What proportion of the service is funded by the PCC? The Gwent IDVA Service is funded by both the OPCC and Welsh Government; both contribute approximately 50% of its overall funding.

**About the Service**

The Gwent IDVA Service supports all high-risk victims of domestic abuse across Gwent, male and female, aged 16+, unless the client is already adequately supported by another DA (domestic abuse) specialist. Referrals are received into the IDVA Service via the DAST Team, MARAC's, other agencies direct or victim self-referrals.

When victims have reported matters to the police, the IDVA serves as the link between the victim and the criminal justice system, providing them with the information about court processes and, where appropriate, passing on their knowledge to inform bail and sentencing decisions.

More info on slide 21.

**Case Study**

C had previously been known to the service, however disengaged following an incident with her husband which was NFA'd by the police. Due to having a joint tenancy with her husband upon release he was able to return to the property, C felt let down by the system and disengaged with services.

A further incident had taken place which resulted in C being discussed at MARAC. C had been in this toxic relationship for decades, which had a huge impact on her mental health and ability to cope. She was going to bed early each day to get away from her husband and drinking a bottle of wine in bed so she could sleep. C was concerned the abuse could escalate if her husband knew she was trying to leave, or speaking to professionals, so the IDVA arranged to meet at her GP surgery. The GP allowed the IDVA to book a room to not arouse suspicion and alongside the IDVA, adult social services and mental health attended, along with C's housing officer.

The IDVA met with C on several occasions and jointly with other services, were able to address C's needs around DA and her safety concerns. They addressed C's mental health, wellbeing and alcohol use initially; before providing practical support around her housing needs and how they could support her to move. C was given lots of options and asked to think about different things between each session such as refuge, alcohol reduction techniques, finances, mental health support. Over time they built up a support plan and this year, she was given the keys to her own flat that was secured by POBL.

This case highlights multi agency working, significant safety planning, flexible working with clients as well as a significant risk management.

## **Priority Three: Support Victims and Protect the Vulnerable**

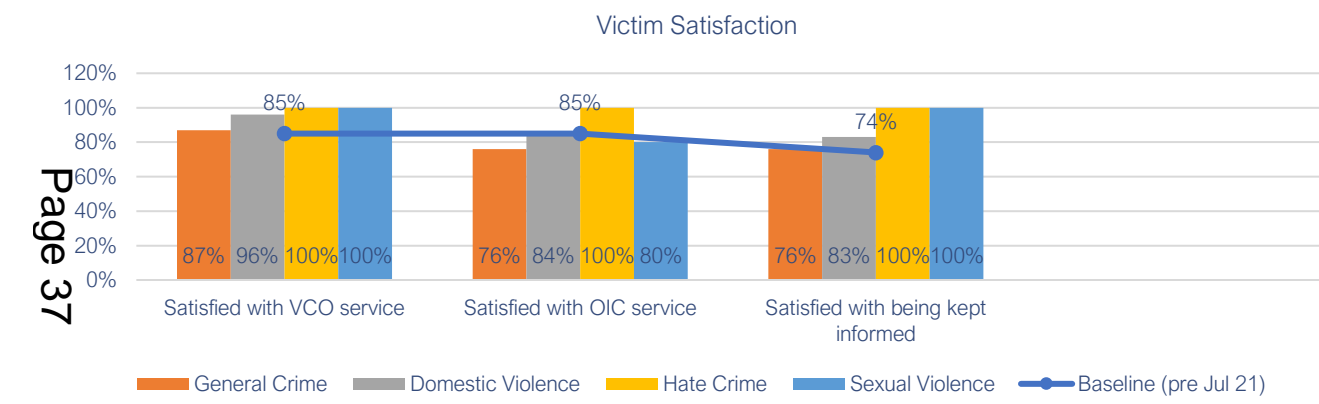
**Providing high-quality support to victims of crime and protecting those who are most vulnerable from harm**

**PRIORITY 3. SUPPORT VICTIMS AND PROTECT THE VULNERABLE: IMPROVE VICTIM SERVICES AND ENSURE THE NEEDS OF VICTIMS ARE IDENTIFIED AND RESPONDED TO APPROPRIATELY THROUGH CONNECT GWENT AND THE VICTIM CARE UNIT**

*\*\* Updated Q3 data for the VCU was not available at the time of reporting.*

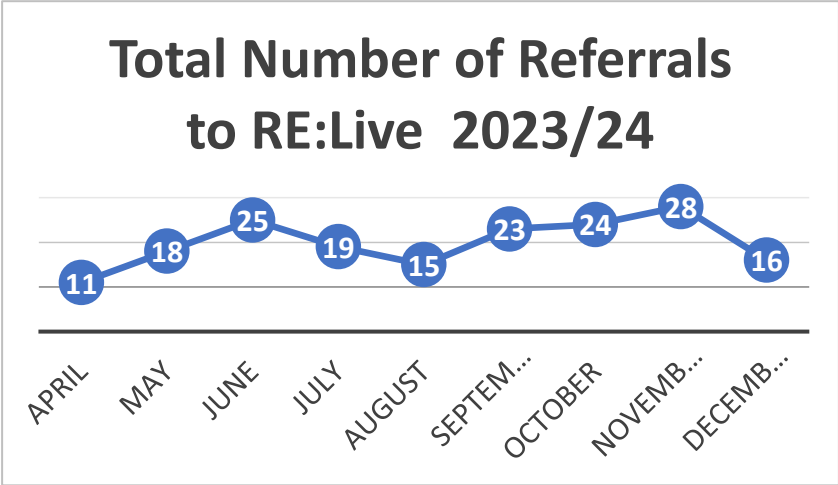
During Q2, the Victim Care Unit (VCU) received 14,190 referrals into the service, a slight decrease from the previous quarter. 4,812 victims were identified as requiring an enhanced service under the Victims' Code, an increase of 1,605 on Q1. Regular investigation updates were provided to 2,036 victims to keep them informed throughout the criminal justice process,

Witness Care Unit support peaked in September, at 7,667 victims and witnesses. The average attendance rate for Magistrate's Court was 87% (87% in Q1) and 98% for Crown (97% in Q1).



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- During the reporting period:
- General crime
    - Satisfaction with initial contact rose to 60% during Q3.
  - Domestic Violence
    - Satisfaction with being kept informed about your case increased to 83% during Q3.



**Funding and Commissioned Services**

The above graph shows the number of referrals to RE:Live, the service for young victims, survivors and witnesses. The service, funded by the OPCC as part of Connect Gwent, provides triage, assessment, pathfinding, information, and support services to enable young people to cope better after experiencing crime or antisocial behaviour. Referrals have followed a consistent pattern to the previous year with lower numbers recorded in April, August and December reflecting the school holidays, when school referrals are expected to decrease.

Of the individuals supported during the year:

- 96% reported greater ability to cope with aspects of everyday life
- 94% reported feeling better informed and empowered to act on information
- 93% reported improved mental health and wellbeing
- 92% reported increased feelings of safety.



**PRIORITY 3. SUPPORT VICTIMS AND PROTECT THE VULNERABLE: INCREASE THE TIMELINESS OF POLICE INVESTIGATION UPDATES PROVIDED TO VICTIMS**

	Q1 22/23	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 23/24*
Victims provided with regular key stage updates	95%	92%	95%	95%	
Victims provided with a final update	91%	96%	98%	98%	
Victims provided with regular updates as agreed	96%	92%	95%	95%	92%
Victims that opted out of regular updates	0%	5%	4%	4%	

\*\*Data for Q3 was unavailable at the time of reporting.

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It should be noted that key stage updates should be done by officers and the data does not illustrate compliance outside of the VCU. All victims who are referred into the VCU are given the opportunity to have regular updates. Should they wish to engage, a contact schedule will be arranged by the VCO which should be adhered to throughout the criminal justice journey. Victims can opt out of this at any time..

To support ongoing VCU capacity and workload challenges, Gwent Police is exploring options for digital enhancements to enable officers and VCOs more easily identify which victims need contacting.

A Gwent Police Victims' Code model (based on the latest national draft framework) has also been created for 2023/24 to capture, scrutinise and make meaningful change and will be utilised as described above and reported through the governance structure along with national forums.

The Head of Victim Services has collated all national and local priority workstreams into a framework that provides a clear plan for accountability and improvement. This enables updates from portfolio lead to be reported through each governance forum on how the force is meeting these priorities.

**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

**Policy, Projects and Partnerships**

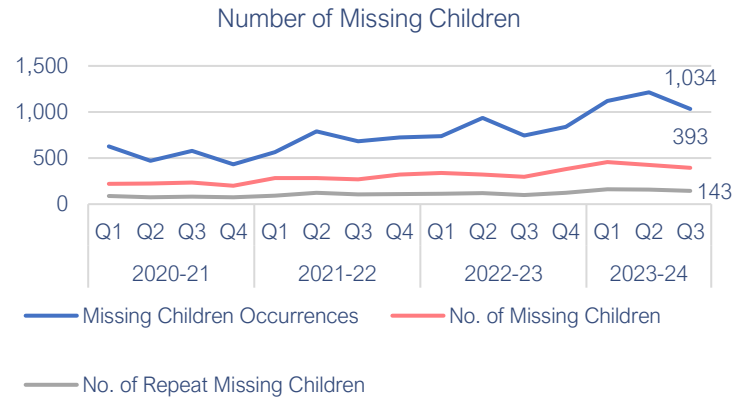
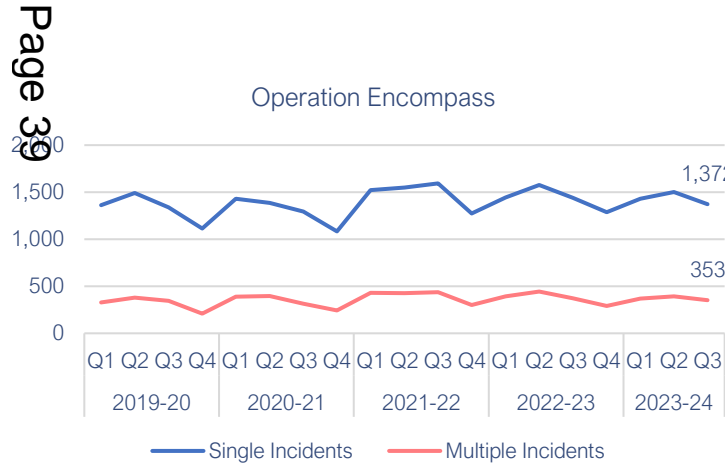
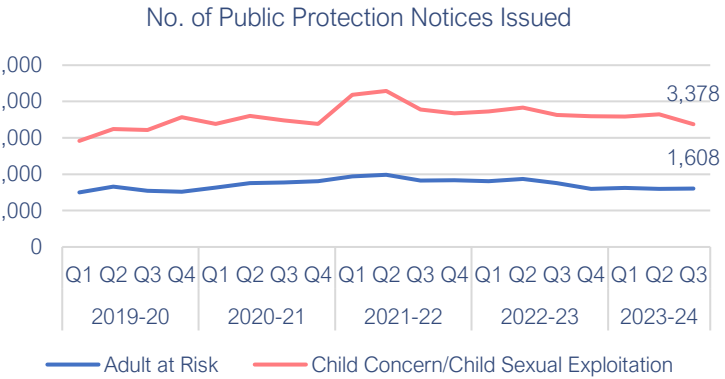
The OPCC continues to work with Gwent Police and partners to prepare for the enactment of the Victims and Prisoners' Bill. This will place a requirement on PCCs to take a convening role in local Victims' Code compliance monitoring with an intention for the data to be published, where feasible. A draft performance framework has been shared by the Ministry of Justice which is being considered for next steps through the CJ Wales Victim and Witness Taskforce and supporting sub-group.

During the last quarter, the OPCC worked with the Criminal Justice Board for Wales and other partners to reimagine the Wales Victims' Code of Practice compliance monitoring process. This considered the impending Ministry of Justice framework and demand on agencies (particularly policing) and identified opportunities to enhance and inform the data collection process.

A proposal to change the focus from data collection to victims' voice was agreed through the CJ Wales Victim and Witness Taskforce. Further work is now being undertaken to develop and embed this process at the Local Criminal Justice Board level



**PRIORITY 3. SUPPORT VICTIMS AND PROTECT THE VULNERABLE: FURTHER IMPROVE OUR WORK WITH PARTNERS TO PROTECT THOSE MOST VULNERABLE (1)**



The number of public protection notices for adults at risk has remained consistent for Q3, whilst the number of for children has decreased compared to previous quarters. More information on Child Sexual Exploitation data is included on slide 14.

Whilst the number of missing child occurrences decreased, in comparison to Q3 22/23 there has been an overall increase in cases. The OPCC has posed questions to the force, who advise the downward decline in missing children's cases is due to a targeted approach.

Communication with partners internal and external are continuously improving to safeguard and support identified victims as stated in slide 14. Additional to this, the force continue to designate PCSO's at residential care homes to provide advice to staff members and children around support, safeguarding and risk management, to promote a proactive approach when it comes to missing children. This has not only seen a reduction in reporting, but an increase in services felling equipped to manage these children effectively.

**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

**Policy, Projects and Partnerships**

The OPCC has been recognised nationally for the high quality of its Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. Independent custody visitors (ICVs) are trained volunteers who conduct unannounced visits to custody units to check on the treatment of people in custody, the conditions in which they are being held, and to ensure that their rights and entitlements are being observed. Findings are reported to the PCC and help to ensure robust scrutiny of Gwent Police.

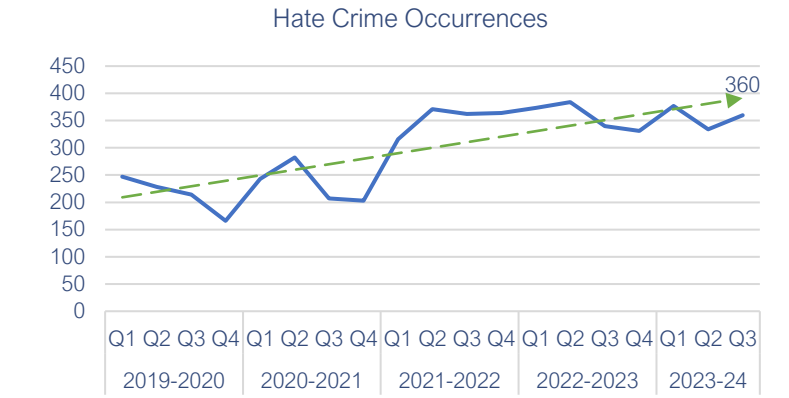
There has been a continued focus on strip searches of children. The OPCC-led Legitimacy Scrutiny Panel has incorporated child strip searches resulting from stops and searches into its core scrutiny criteria. Any incidents during the scrutiny period are reviewed by the Panel with feedback and appropriate recommendations provided to Gwent Police. Recently, the Panel has been joined by the local Youth Offending Service Managers who are able to represent the voices of the children engaged with their services.

**Funding and Commissioned Services**

A Regional IDVA service is currently jointly commissioned with Newport City Council to support all high-risk victims of domestic abuse across Gwent. The OPCC are currently working with other partner agencies to retender the service, in order to establish a secure model of service which meets current demand and provides a more sustainable and long-term agreement in relation to the funding of the service.

**PRIORITY 3. SUPPORT VICTIMS AND PROTECT THE VULNERABLE: FURTHER IMPROVE OUR WORK WITH PARTNERS TO PROTECT THOSE MOST VULNERABLE (2)**

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For Q3, the volume of hate crime offences has risen by 4.4% when compared to the quarter prior.

An increase of 2.3% can be seen when comparing Q3 2023-24 against the same quarter during the previous financial year, whereas a reduction of 2.8% has been recorded when comparing the current FYTD against FYTD 2022-23.

Please note: one crime can have multiple hate strands. The overall hate crime trend is based on recorded crimes, whilst the breakdown by hate strand is based on the volume of each individual strand.

- In Q3 23/24:
- Racial hate offences decreased by 2.1% when compared with previous quarter.
  - Religious hate offences have increased by 66.7% when compared to the previous quarter.
  - Disability-related hate offences have also increased seeing a 39.7% rise when compared to Q2.
  - Transphobic has increased by 8.3% when compared to the quarter prior.
  - Homophobic related offences have decreased by 3.7% when compared to Q2.

When compared to the Q2, the solved rate for hate crimes has increased by 0.5 percentage points to 15.2%, with four additional crimes solved for a total of 54. This represents the highest quarterly solved rate this year.

The solved rate for Q3 2023-24 is 6.8 percentage points above that recorded for the same quarter during the previous financial year, with 25 additional crimes solved. A rise of 6.1 percentage points can be observed when comparing the current FYTD against FYTD 2022-23, with 63 additional crimes solved.

**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

**Policy, Projects and Partnerships**

The OPCC is a member of the recently-established WG Disability Rights Taskforce: Access to Justice Working Group. The working group seeks to improve the experiences of disabled people in Wales and is engaged with a range of with stakeholders and relevant agencies to develop a set of recommendations for WG consideration. The outcomes will also be considered by the OPCC to inform any specific work with our disabled communities and criminal justice partners.

In October, we marked Hate Crime Awareness Week which, this year, had a focus on faith-based hate. During the week, OPCC staff attended five events across Gwent and engaged with 400 people. Better understanding of how religions and faiths within our communities interlink with modern policing is important to fostering good relationships and confidence across faith communities to report and incidents of hate crime they may experience.

In November in the run up to White Ribbon Day the office delivered road shows at Coleg Gwent campuses in each of Gwent's five counties. The team spoke with hundreds of learners, encouraging them to pledge their support to ending violence against women and girls, and sign posting them to support services. They have also delivered pop-up sessions in supermarkets across Gwent.

In addition to this, our office received awareness sessions from Victim support around Online Hate, ASB Hate and Mate Crime.

**PRIORITY 3. SUPPORT VICTIMS AND PROTECT THE MOST VULNERABLE: COMMISSION AND INVEST IN SPECIALIST SERVICES TO SUPPORT VICTIMS THROUGHOUT THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS**

**Q3 Spotlight Service: Victim Support**

- How much funding goes into the service? £273k
- What proportion of the service is funded by the PCC? 0.6%

**About the Service**

- The Victim Support service in Gwent continues to provide independent support to people impacted by crime across the region. The service is focused on delivering local, accessible, trauma informed and victim-centred services and is commissioned as part of Connect Gwent.
- During Q3 23/24, 557 referrals were made into the service, with the highest number coming from the national Action Fraud service (193 referrals), followed by Gwent Police (non-Victim Care Unit) (92 referrals). 233 cases went on to have 1:1 intervention and support with a Victim Services and Engagement Officer, Domestic Abuse Complex Caseworker, or Volunteer.
- The service now benefits from a Triage and Early Interventions Officer who provides initial administrative and triage support and had increased the capacity for engagement work across Gwent.
- The National Contact Centre continues to deliver a few 24/7 Supportline which offers confidential support to people across England and Wales. Within the last quarter, 27 callers were identified as Gwent residents, 9 of whom were referred to the local Gwent team for contact. Of these, 5 calls were about domestic abuse, 1 in relation to sexual violence, and 2 for hate crime.
- National delivery of Live Chat continues and is funded by the Ministry of Justice, This is also available 24/7 and anyone requiring ongoing support is directed to the local service for follow-up. Within Q3, a further 34 Gwent residents used the Live Chat function on the Victim Support website.

**Case Study**

SU self-referred to Victim Support for a previously unreported sexual assault by a male relative when SU was younger. SU wanted to know the process for reporting the incident and information relating to the criminal justice system before deciding whether to report.

SU was struggling emotionally and had little confidence in the criminal justice system. SU was provided with ongoing support for seven months, as well as tools and information that empowered SU to report her experience to the police as well as guiding her through relevant support. Information relating to the criminal justice system was provided and advocacy with the police was carried out to obtain updates for SU

SU gave consent for referral to specialist agencies, but due to lengthy waiting lists SU requested to retain support from Victim Support.

SU had concerns about letting her family know what was happening due to fear of causing a rift within the family. Support and reassurance was provided whilst SU gained confidence to disclose to certain family members.

Whilst in support discussions were had around SU's goals and aspirations, SU gained employment during this time which provided her with further confidence and has been a useful coping strategy since.

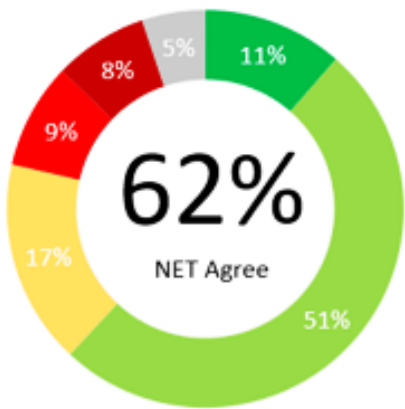
Following Victim Supports involvement, the SU felt equipped to be able to navigate the criminal justice system and has built the confidence to report the original incident. SU has also developed coping strategies and a support network; subsequently, Victim Support has been able to close her case.

# **Priority Four: Increase Community Confidence in Policing**

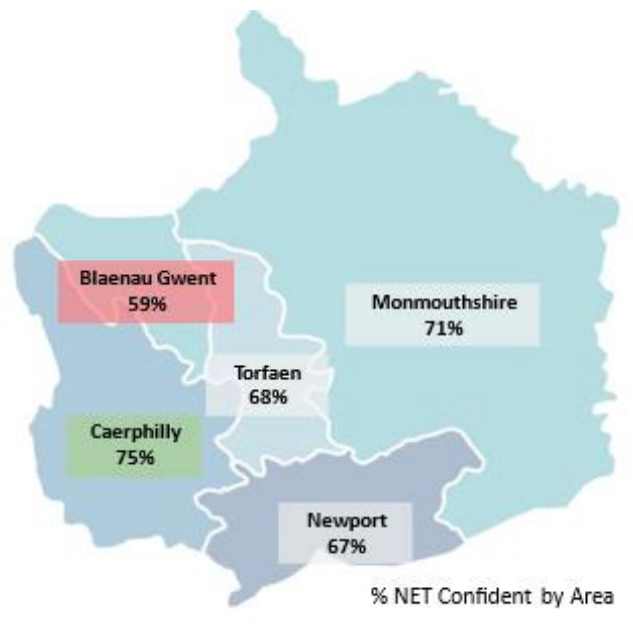
**Working with Gwent Police to improve our relationships with our communities and improve public confidence in policing**

**PRIORITY 4. INCREASE COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE IN POLICING: INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OFFICER AND STAFF ENGAGEMENT WITH RESIDENTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN GWENT POLICE (1)**

Page 43



- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know



Data reported in Q3 shows that 62% of people agree that they have confidence in the police in their area. This has dropped from the 63% in Q2 23/24.

Community confidence remains lowest in Blaenau Gwent at 50% (matching the last period) and highest in Caerphilly at 67%. 14% of residents disagree that they have confidence in the police in their area., an improvement from 17% reported in the last quarter.

53% of respondents from ethnic minority communities agreed that they have confidence in the police in their area, a decrease from 61% reported in the last period..

71% % of residents are confident that they could easily speak to police in their area, a decrease from 75% in Q1 23/24. Blaenau Gwent residents again have the lowest confidence (59%), while Caerphilly residents have the highest (75% down from 77% in Q2).

**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

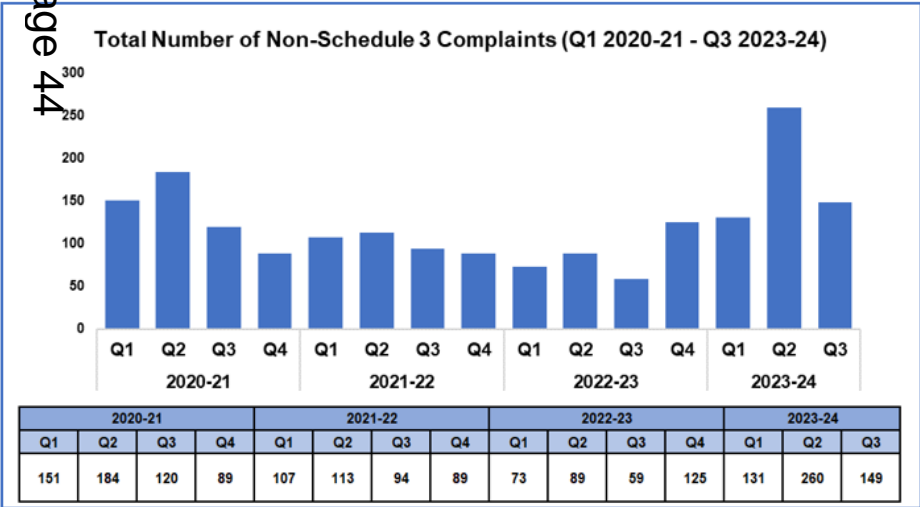
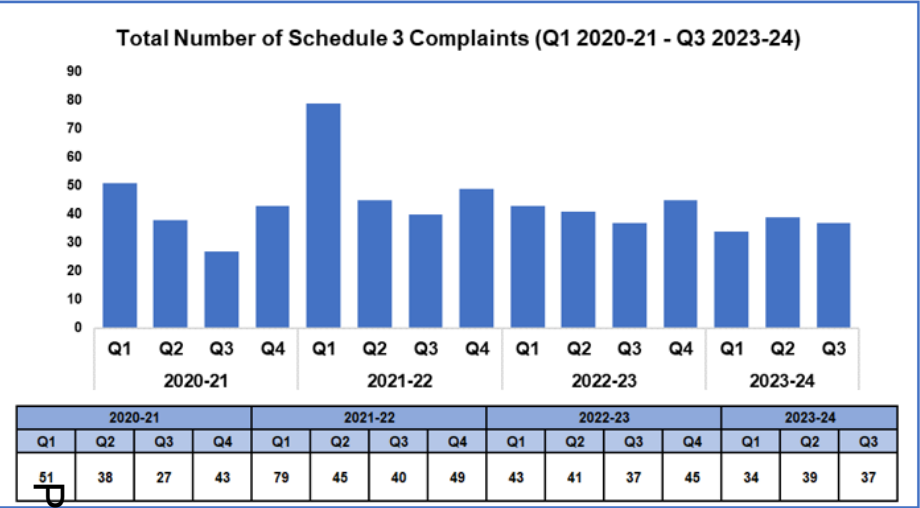
**Policy, Projects and Partnerships**

The OPCC responded to HMICFRS's inspections into Race and Policing Decision Making and Race and Policing Leadership and Governance, highlighting some of the work in Gwent, such as the Legitimacy Scrutiny Panel for stop and search and use of force, as well as other partnership arrangements, such as the Criminal Justice Board for Wales Anti Racism Action Plan. The responses also provide public assurance of where the Commissioner has made commitments to specific activities to deliver change.

The OPCC commenced consultation to support the development of its new strategic equality priorities for 2024-28. Both public and internal engagement is being undertaken as part of the development process, which also includes wider community and staff engagement, an extensive review of OPCC progress against the current Strategic Equality Plan, other plans and policies with equality, diversity and inclusion responsibilities linked to policing, and other influences, such as thematic reviews.

The consultation phase is due to finish in January at which time the results will be analysed and presented to the OPCC for consideration in informing our priorities for the next 4 years.

**PRIORITY 4. INCREASE COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE IN POLICING: INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OFFICER AND STAFF ENGAGEMENT WITH RESIDENTS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN GWENT POLICE (2)**



During Q3 there has been a slight decrease in Schedule 3 cases when compared to the quarter prior. Non-Schedule 3 has shown a significant reduction when compared with the previous quarter due to data cleansing and recalibration work undertaken during Q2.

Schedule 3 complaints are dealt with under the Police Reform Act 2022, whereby the complainant can request a review if they are not satisfied. Non-Schedule 3 complaints are dealt with outside the Police Reform Act 2002 (previously a dissatisfaction).

At the time the data was captured, there were 58 live Schedule 3 complaints and 23 live Non-Schedule 3 complaints. This is an increase when compared to the average live cases over the previous 12 months, attributable to some resourcing issues within the team throughout Q2.

\*Please note these figures can contain multiple allegations.

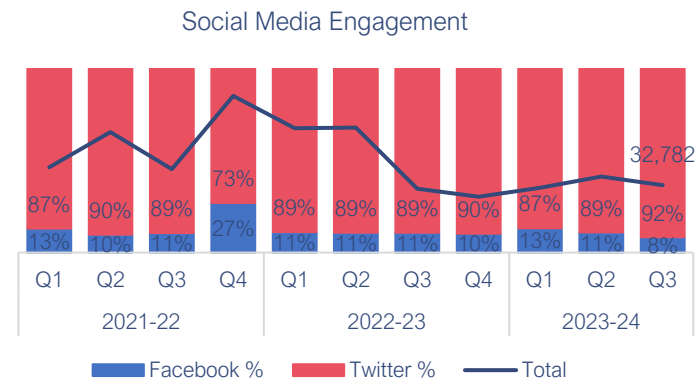
**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?  
Policy, Projects and Partnerships**

The first Vetting Scrutiny Panel took place in November, attended by the OPCC's Head of Assurance and Compliance, the Head of Gwent Police's Professional Standards Department and the Strategic Equality and Diversity Manager. Approximately 20 randomly selected cases were reviewed, and feedback was provided and discussed as appropriate. Further queries after a review of the Vetting Code of Practice and College of Policing's Authorised Professional Practice were undertaken, were provided to the Head of Professional Standards for consideration.

The process will continue to be developed and attendance by additional panel members may be considered in future.



**PRIORITY 4. INCREASE COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE IN POLICING: IMPROVE THE ACCESSIBILITY OF NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAMS THROUGH A VARIETY OF CONTACT CHANNELS THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PUBLIC**



Inbound private messages received via Gwent Police's social media platforms decreased by 23.6% during Q3 2023-24 when compared to the quarter prior, with 5,764 fewer messages received for a total of 18,681. In terms of inbound private message sources, 93.3% (17,432 messages) were received via Facebook platforms. Sundays saw the highest volume of inbound private messages, with a total of 2,912 received.

Inbound public messages received via Gwent Police's social media platforms increased by 39.5% during Q3 2023-24 when compared to the quarter prior, with 3,991 additional messages received for a total of 14,098. In terms of inbound public message sources, 89.8% (12,657 messages) were received via Facebook platforms. Thursdays saw the highest volume of inbound public messages, with a total of 2,898 received.

**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

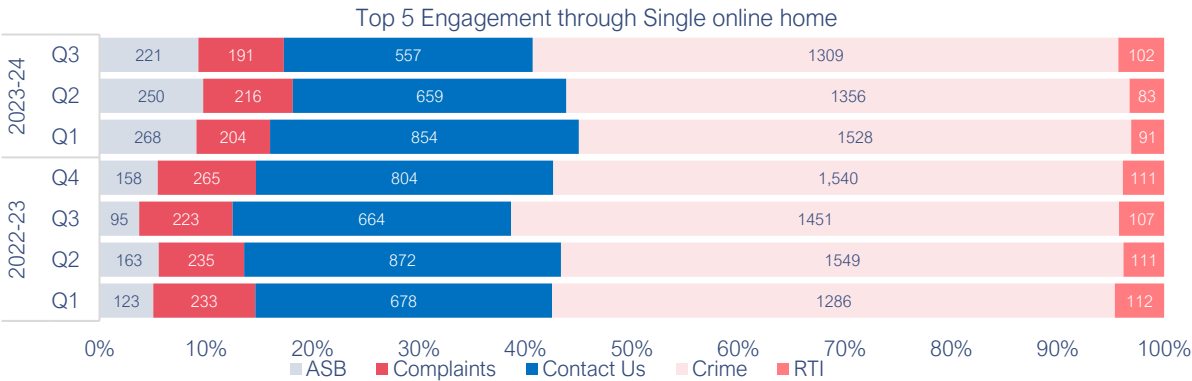
**Policy, Projects and Partnerships**

The OPCC has been awarded the Children and Young People's Participation Charter for the second time. The charter recognises the OPCC's continued commitment to ensuring the seven National Participation Standards are followed when working with children and young people. The participation standards reinforce the importance of listening to the voices of children and young people.

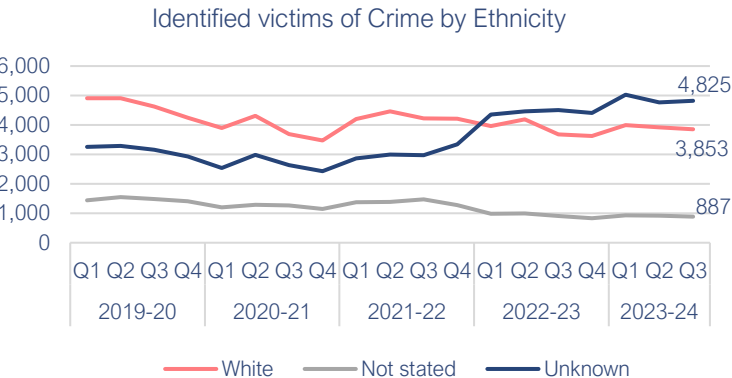
The OPCC was invited to the Cwmbran Over 50s Forum and talk to residents at a coffee morning in Pandy Village Hall, Abergavenny to talk about the work of the office, as well as giving residents the chance to talk about any issues in their area. We also discussed the police budget for 2024/25 and residents were able to complete our survey to give their views on the proposals and other related police matters.

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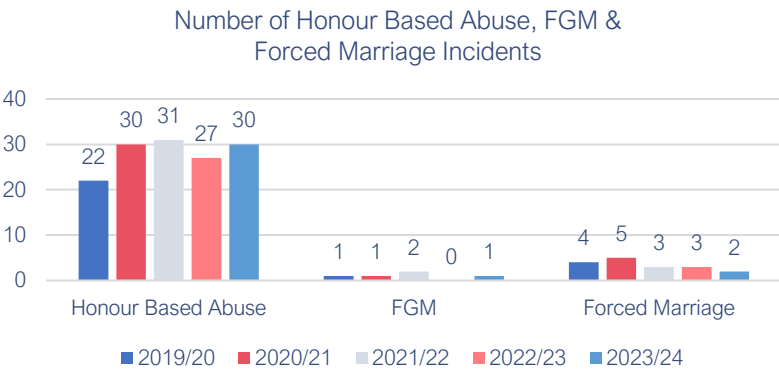
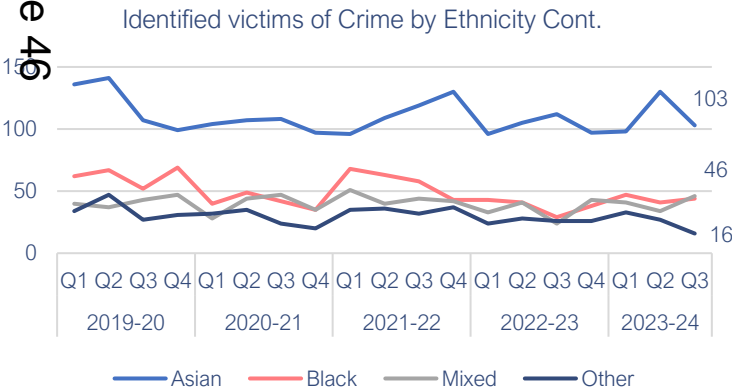
Of the top 5 topics for SOH engagement, the most numerous remains crime reports (56.7% or 1,309 forms), followed by general 'contact us' messages (24.1% or 557 forms), and ASB (9.5% or 221 forms).



**PRIORITY 4. INCREASE COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE IN POLICING: INCREASE REPORTING OF CRIME BY COMMUNITIES THAT ARE LESS LIKELY TO ENGAGE WITH THE POLICE**



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Improving the quality of demographic data recording remains a focus for Gwent Police which is a key element of the Gwent Race Action Plan and the Criminal Justice Board for Wales Anti-Racism Action Plan. During Q3, there was a slight increase in the number of reports where ethnicity was 'unknown'. However, reports from individuals of Black and Mixed heritage saw slight increases compared to Q2..

The number of Honour Based Abuse incidents recorded YTD shows a potential increase for the whole year compared to previous years. No incidents involving FGM or forced marriage were recorded in Q3.

The VAWDASV partnership continues to ensure appropriate engagement with communities that may be more affected by these crimes.

**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

**Policy, Projects and Partnerships**

Specific engagement took place with the Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board (chaired by the PCC) to further the aims of the Criminal Justice Anti Racism Action Plan.

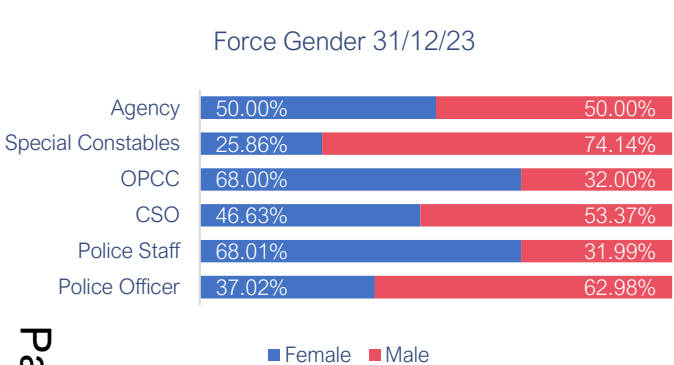
Following a meeting with the Criminal Justice Board leads in Wales, 7 ways for Local Criminal Justice Boards to support delivery of the Anti-Racism Action Plan were presented to the December meeting in Gwent. This included gathering of local evidence of good practice by Criminal Justice Boards to help publicise progress, including case studies or examples of lived experience accounts where possible.

In this way, it is hoped that racially diverse communities have greater confidence in the criminal justice system due to evidenced improvements in racial inequality.

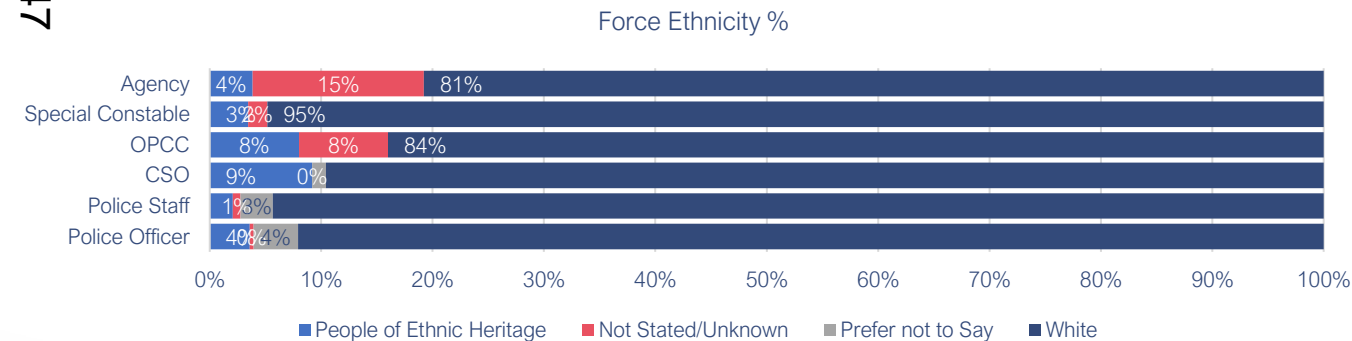


**PRIORITY 4. INCREASE COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE IN POLICING: FURTHER INCREASE OFFICER AND STAFF DIVERSITY TO ENSURE OUR POLICE SERVICE REFLECTS THE COMMUNITIES THAT WE SERVE**

There is a gender disparity evident in the workforce for both officers and staff. For officers, females are underrepresented by approximately 14 percentage points (females account for 51% of the population in Gwent based on the 2021 Census). However, females are overrepresented in the staff workstream area by approximately 17 percentage points.



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There is also a disparity in the minority ethnic representation within the workforce. In Census 2021, 8.6% of the Gwent population (5.6% in Census 2011) are from an ethnic minority background, which includes individuals in the following ethnic groups: Asian, black, mixed, other, and white minorities.

The table groups this differently, with white including white minorities (Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller groups, Irish and any other white background). In Census 2021, 5.8% of the Gwent population (3.9% in Census 2011) are from an ethnic background other than white. For police officers, currently 3.6% are from an ethnic group other than white. Ethnic minority representation in staff is lower at 1.9%.

**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

**Policy, Projects and Partnerships**

The OPCC sponsored the National Black Police Association conference in Cardiff, hosted by South Wales Police. It was an opportunity to listen and learn from policing colleagues and speakers from across the UK, including Dr Stuart Lawrence who spoke movingly on the life and legacy of his brother Stephen.

OPCC staff and Gwent Police colleagues participated in a development workshop for the reinvigorated Criminal Justice Board for Wales Anti-Racism Training, Cultural Competency, and Workforce Representation Sub-Group. Following the workshop, a set of actions has been agreed for the sub-group to take forward in progressing this element of the Anti-Racism Action Plan. The outcomes of the work will be used to inform OPCC strategic planning and policy-making.

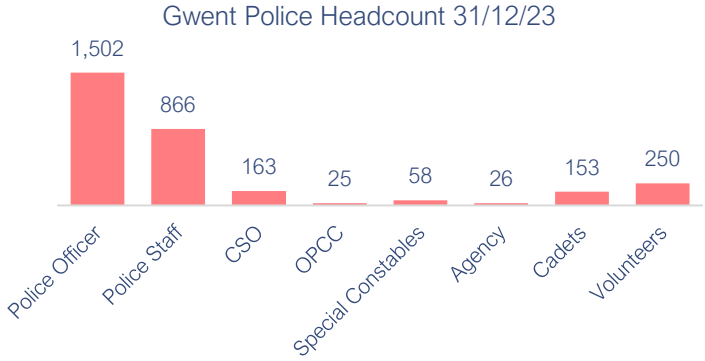
The Commissioner has a statutory obligation to publish the number of staff in their team, including the proportion of staff who are women and (where disclosed) are from an ethnic minority background, or have a disability. The OPCC team currently includes the following staff (excluding PCC and DPCC).

No. of Posts	24 FTE
No. of staff who are women	17
No. of staff from an ethnic minority background	2
No of staff with a disability	1

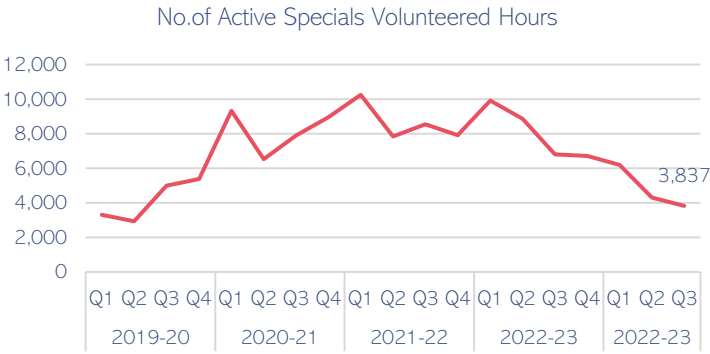
## **Priority Five: Drive Sustainable Policing**

**Providing a value for money police service that operates responsibly, with sustainable infrastructures the support current and future demands**

**PRIORITY 5. DRIVE SUSTAINABLE POLICING: ENSURE GWENT POLICE HAVE THE RIGHT NUMBER OF OFFICERS, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE RIGHT PLACE**

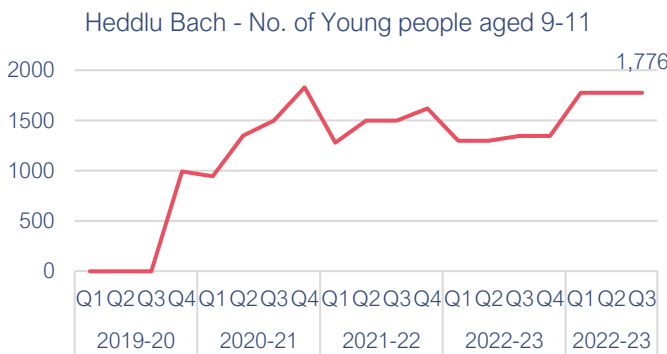
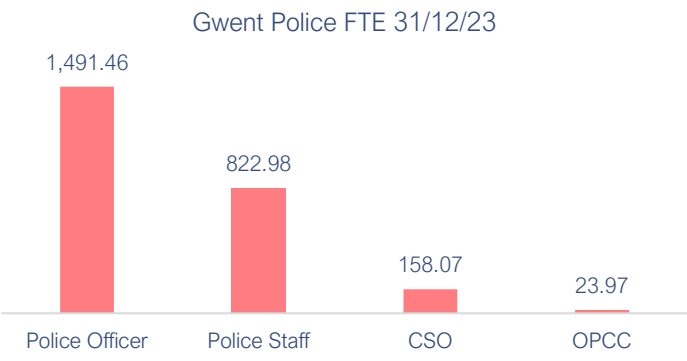


Gwent Police are currently undertaking preparing the Force Management Statement. The FMS is an annual requirement form HMICFRS, which identifies across all areas of business what current and future projected demand is, and what the challenges may be around meeting that demand.



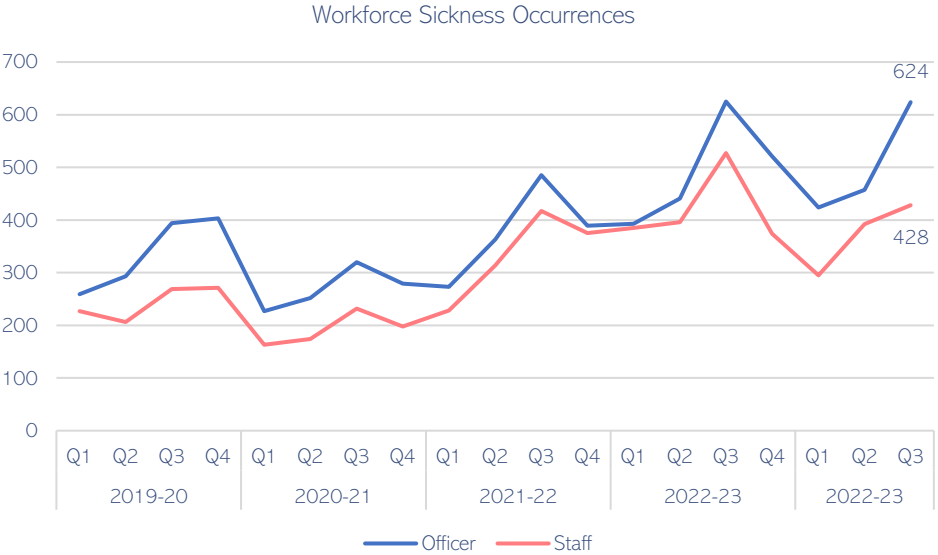
The OPCC will be consulted on this report and identify where there may be gaps that can be supported, or to support any commissioning/funding intentions.

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2010/11 – 1477 (the previous high point)  
2015/16 – 1147  
2019/20 – 1300

**PRIORITY 5. DRIVE SUSTAINABLE POLICING: ENHANCE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR OFFICERS AND STAFF TO ENSURE OUR WORKFORCE IS FIT AND READY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF POLICING**



The above data reflect the number of sickness occurrences for all Gwent Police officers and staff. The spike in Q3 follows the normal trend for that time of year, but sickness levels remain a particular concern and area of focus for Gwent Police.

**What have the PCC and OPCC Done?**

**Holding the Chief Constable to Account**

Reports into the PCC's Strategy and Performance Board highlight the work underway to support officers and staff, including:

- Focus groups with 23 departments and 160 officers and staff to understand the underlying reasons for sickness.
- In support of this and in addition to the Wellbeing Strategy and Plan, the force has now implemented a sickness management framework..
- Future plans include:
  - Wellbeing for line managers day beginning in January 2024
  - Trauma Incident briefing
  - Private health care option starting in January 2024
  - A review of the approach to annual psychological screening
  - Reflective practice with mental health nurse for high-risk areas
  - Wellbeing temperature checks
  - Financial roadshows
  - Mental health First Aid – rolled out to student officers and control room staff

Police and Crime Commissioner Briefing Document	
<b>Funding Stream</b>	PCC Police Community Fund
<b>Summary</b>	<p>Overview Report for the Police &amp; Crime Panel, March 2024</p> <p><b>Report Authors</b></p> <p>Zoe Morris – Principal Finance and Commissioning Manager OPCC</p> <p>Rob James – Funding and Commissioning Manager OPCC</p>
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Police Community Fund (PCF) was established to enable children and young people in Gwent to be safe, healthy and happy, building a better future for themselves and their communities by tackling community-based issues in a lasting and impactful way.</p> <p>Building a positive relationship between children and young people and the police, based on mutual respect, is essential. Through focusing on early intervention and prevention the fund will support children and young people who are vulnerable or at-risk to move forward with their lives and realise their full potential, establishing resilient, safer and more inclusive communities.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Policing Teams are well placed to know the needs of the local community so are fundamental in working with local organisations to support and help solve identified issues. Local Inspectors, together with Gwent Police representatives facilitate and enable the generation of project ideas from within their respective communities that target children and young people who are at risk of entering, or who are already in the criminal justice system, or have been victims of crime.</p> <p>The fund was established in 2018 and is enshrined within Decision number PCCG-2018-034 <a href="http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2018-034">www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/my-decisions/pccg-2018-034</a>.</p> <p>The PCF is a recurring commissioning fund that supports organisations who can demonstrate an alignment to the aims of the fund with a budget of up to £300,000 for the 2024/25 financial year. The PCF is funded via monies obtained through the Proceeds of Crime Act (£150,000 for 2024/25) and the PCC's base budget (£150,000 for 2024/25). The Fund supports not-for-profit, third sector and community-based organisations, seeking to deliver projects and services working with children, young people</p>

	<p>or vulnerable adults under the age of 25, who live in the Gwent Police area. The Fund focuses on projects supporting children and young people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• may be in danger of entering the criminal justice system; or</li> <li>• have become victims of crime.</li> </ul>
<b>2024/25 Process and Timeline</b>	<p>2024/25 applications have been submitted and awards to the successful applicants will be made in mid-March, following a grant recommendation panel meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, and a follow up grant decision panel meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024, where the PCC made the his final decision following a review of the 12<sup>th</sup> February panel recommendations. The process is structured to allow successful projects to commence or continue from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Outlined below is the process that has taken place with regards to the current round of PCF funding:</p> <p>July 2023 – The OPCC Communications Team launched the Fund via the OPCC website and social media channels, linking relevant website links giving application document and details around eligibility criteria. In addition, email notifications to appropriate contacts are circulated referring interested organisations to the OPCC PCF website (link below) which lists eligibility criteria, grant guidance and a blank PQQ template. Whilst the link perpetuates for information purposes, as the fund is closed for applications at present the application documentation is not live on the site.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/what-we-spend/commissioning/police-community-fund/">https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/what-we-spend/commissioning/police-community-fund/</a></p> <p>July - September 2023, eligible organisations invited to submit Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQ's) to the OPCC by 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.</p> <p>September - November 2023 – Due diligence checks were undertaken by the OPCC, followed by local Inspector reviews of the PQQ's to establish whether the bids meet PCF fund criteria as well as addressing any local policing needs. Based on the results of these enquiries and following feedback from Inspectors, PQQ's were either declined or applicants were invited to submit applications to the fund. The deadline for submission of full applications was 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</p>

	<p>October 2023 - January 2024, full bids were received and due diligence checks were conducted by OPCC staff. Applications were then passed to Force colleagues so that reviews could be conducted by relevant Gwent Police Departments and Local Inspectors. Local Policing Area (LPA) Chief Inspectors made final recommendations as to whether the application should be sent to the recommendation panel for consideration.</p> <p>February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, applications which had successfully completed the process outlined above were assessed at an initial meeting of the recommendation panel. Those applications that were not recommended for submission to the Panel by Chief Inspectors were also ratified. The Panel for 2024/25 consisted of Eleri Thomas (DPCC) Chair, Zoe Morris (Principal Finance &amp; Commissioning Manager OPCC), Rob James (Funding and Commissioning Manager OPCC), Paul Glaze, Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services, Chief Superintendent Carl Williams and Detective Chief Inspector Jitka Tomkova-Griffiths, Public Protection. Also in attendance were Chief Inspector Amanda Thomas and Chief Inspector Paul Biggs to present their LPA bids and to also participate in subsequent discussions. Observing from the OPCC were Natalie Jones, Policy Officer, Michelle Vaisey-Baker, Business &amp; Finance Officer and Mariah Allwood-Lewis, Policy Officer.</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> March 2024, a PCC Decision Panel meeting took place to review, discuss and where appropriate ratify the deliberations of the recommendation panel. The Decision Panel consisted of Jeff Cuthbert (PCC), Eleri Thomas (Deputy PCC), Darren Garwood-Pask (Chief Finance Officer), Sian Curley (Chief Executive OPCC), Zoe Morris (Principal Finance &amp; Commissioning Manager OPCC), Rob James (Funding and Commissioning Manager OPCC) and Michelle Vaisey-Baker (Business &amp; Finance Officer OPCC)</p> <p>Following the March Decision Panel meeting, award and decline documentation will now be drafted by the OPCC and issued to all applicants to the 2024/25 fund.</p>
<b>Statistics</b>	<p>During the 2024/25 PCF funding process, 15 PQQ's were submitted in total. After the recommendation panel but prior to the decision panel, 1 applicant withdrew their application.</p>

Of the 15 PQQ's, 12 applications proceeded to the recommendation panel for review. The 12 applications totalled a funding request for Year 1 funding of £495,485.57.

The budget for 2024/25 is £300,000, £207,352.23 of this was already ring fenced to provide Year 2 or Year 3 funding to previous successful awards based on their end of year returns. As such, £92,647.77 was available for new applications to the fund.

Following a review of the PQQ's which resulted in 12 full applications to the fund, six projects were successful in being awarded funding for 2024/25, the total sum awarded to the 6 successful projects for was **£215,822.57**.

Organisation	Area	Project Name	Amount
Cyffannol Women's Aid	Pan Gwent	Children & Young People's Intake & Assessment Worker	£32,531
Media Academy Wales	Pan Gwent	Positive Masculinity	£42,945
Urban Circle	Blaenau Gwent	Urban Circle Club	£49,230
Senghenydd Youth Drop-in Centre (SYDIC)	Caerphilly	Youth Engagement Project	£39,929.76
Newport MIND	Newport	Piece by Piece	£41,186.81
Brynmawr Interact	Blaenau Gwent	Develop & Grow a Stronger Future	£10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£215,822.57</b>

Ring fenced funding for continuing projects is as follows:

Organisation	Area	Project Name	Amount Awarded
Empire Fighting Chance	Torfaen	Fighting Crime in Torfaen	£15,158.40
Newport Yemeni Community Association	Newport	NYCA Youth Empowerment Programme	£39,390
County in the Community	Newport	Premier League Kicks	£11,355.39
Community House	Newport	Unity in the Community	£49,886
Cwmbran Centre for Young People	Torfaen	Open Access Drop In	£42,631.48



	Ethnic Youth Support Team	Newport	Urban Safe Project Newport	£48,930.96
	<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£207,352.23</b>
	<p>In addition to the above, Duffryn Community Link (Newport) will also be running their 2023/24 PCF funded project for some of the 2024/25 financial year. Their grant of £29,341 from the 23/24 budget allocation is running from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 however this figure does not form part of the totals above as it relates to a previous financial year.</p> <p>Therefore, in regard to the tables above, the total allocation for new and continuing projects for 2024/25 totalled <b>£423,174.80</b>. Which meant the fund was oversubscribed by <b>£123,174.80</b> when allocations to new and continuing projects were combined. Discussions took place at the decision panel meeting with the Chief Finance Officer who confirmed the overspend on this years budget could be covered from underspends across other areas within the force and from reserves within the OPCC budget and therefore it was resolved to fund the new and continuing projects highlighted in the tables above.</p>			
<b>Grant Monitoring</b>	<p>Grants awarded are for the 2024/25 financial year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. All new grant recipients are scheduled to attend a meeting, either virtually or in person, within 2 months of the project starting so that introductions can be made and expectations can be set. This initial meeting also helps in organising an initial visit to the project by OPCC staff. The OPCC Communication and engagement team also contact grant recipients in order to discuss project activities and to arrange to attend any special events that may be held throughout the year. Each organisation is required to submit monitoring reports on a six-monthly basis throughout the grant award period. The Grant Monitoring Report details the work undertaken by the Project, including outcomes, case studies and data returns. Additionally, an expenditure report, accompanied by any receipts is required to provide an update on the status of the funding awarded and to ensure it is being spent appropriately in line with the issued Grant Agreement and that the project is on course to achieve full spend, all projects are encouraged to link in with the OPCC at any point during the term of the grant to discuss any changes, issues, timescales or milestones as a flexible approach can often result in discussing innovative solutions to any issues that grant recipients may be facing in terms of fully spending their grant. Monitoring reports are shared with Local Policing Areas upon receipt and the</p>			

	<p>LPA's are asked to provide any feedback (positive or negative) that they may have on the project. All monitoring report returns are also reviewed by appropriate OPCC staff.</p> <p>Applicants who apply into the Fund are eligible to apply for up to a maximum of 3 years grant funding. This extended funding is authorised, and ring fenced by the Panel where appropriate, but this is dependent upon satisfactory reporting and outcomes being achieved at the end of year 1, and subsequently year 2. This ensures continual performance and monitoring of the project. The above process has differed slightly for the 2024/25 financial year due to the PCC Election taking place in May 2024, as such for the 2024/25 financial year, only one years funding was made available for eligible organisations to apply for. The following Decision Log references this decision:</p> <p><a href="https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/decisions/pccg-2023-010/">https://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/en/decisions/pccg-2023-010/</a></p> <p>Projects funded by the PCF are regularly contacted by the OPCC to maintain contact, check on progress and to discuss any issues arising, project visits are also undertaken in order to have a live view of projects as they are being delivered.</p>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<p>Aims and outcomes for the PCF are wide and varied and reflect the diverse nature of projects and organisations supported through the grant. Outlined below are some outcomes achieved by organisations who successfully applied to the fund in 2023/24 (please note outcomes are extracted from the 6 monthly reports submitted, annual reports are due in April 2024)</p> <p><b>Empire Fighting Chance (Torfaen)</b></p> <p>Empire Fighting Chance is a Boxing project where young people in Torfaen can participate in small groups sessions or on a 1:1 basis. At the start of their programme coaches Ben and Luke and therapist Hannah help participants to set personal goals to work towards. These goals relate to changes that the young people wanted to make to personal situations in their lives (e.g. leaving a gang), behaviours (e.g. reducing drug usage), emotions (e.g. reducing feelings of anger) and outlooks (e.g. increasing motivation).</p> <p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <p>4 schools worked with across Torfaen. 33 young people referred to the project.</p>

	<p>68 Box Champions/Box Therapy sessions delivered. 15 young people completed the programme during the reporting period.</p> <p><b>Cymru Creations - Blaenau Gwent Film Academy</b></p> <p>The project runs three classes a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. During the school summer holidays, the project runs additional or longer classes to enable young people to work on larger projects and to reach young people who the project cannot connect with during term time. As well as providing free, accessible activities for young people, the project also runs filmmaking classes, with a focus on creating short films with a message, the topic for the short films is decided by the students who are influenced by things they have learnt in school or through personal experiences, as well as content they are viewing on social media.</p> <p>The project has an active social media page, and has strong links to local schools and voluntary organisations as well as local Police who refer students to the organisation. The project takes on new students throughout the year.</p> <p>180 local young people who the project refers to as Academy Students attended the project and actively took part in filmmaking activities during the course of the (PCF) funded period.</p>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<p>We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Chief Inspectors and Inspector's from the LPA's for their hard work and commitment in processing applications to the PCF fund, all involved were proactive, diligent and helped to ensure the process deadlines were met and applicants linked into as appropriate. The force attendees at the Panel were instrumental in providing their expertise and knowledge in the various policing areas, as well as providing insight into any cultural or community issues prevalent and were able to comment on links to force priorities in conjunction with OPCC staff who were able to contribute to the discussion by linking in OPCC priorities. The process has grown stronger every year and highlights the collaborative approach and culture of partnership between the OPCC, Gwent Police and Third Sector/community organisations.</p> <p>With the PCC Election in May 2024 the next steps going forward will be to consider whether the PCF operates as it stands or whether any alterations will be made. Discussions will take place</p>

	<p>over the summer to formalise the process going forward. In the meantime however, the OPCC will continue to regularly monitor and support organisations running PCF projects both virtually or by project visits in person.</p>
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## GWENT POLICE AND CRIME PANEL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

Meeting Date	Items – Theme
15th March 2024	PCC Update
	Panel Questions to PCC (if submitted)
	Performance Qtr 3
	Community Funding
Meeting Date	Items – Theme
28th June 2024	Elect Chair and Vice Chair
	PCC Update
	Panel Questions to PCC (if submitted)
	Performance Qtr 4
	National Changes to the Police Misconduct Process
	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Annual Report 2023/24
Meeting Date	Items – Theme
27th Sept 2024	PCC Update
	Panel Questions to PCC (if submitted)
	Police and Crime Plan
	Performance Qtr 1
	MTFP & Budget Setting Timetable
	Welsh Language Standards Annual Report
Meeting Date	Items – Theme
13th Dec 2024	PCC Update
	Panel Questions to PCC (if submitted)
	PCP Recorded Complaints Report
	Operational Context and Requirements for the Finance Strategy
	Treasury Management update
	Performance Qtr 2 (Information item)
Meeting Date	Items – Theme
31st Jan 2025	Panel Questions to PCC (if submitted)
	Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent's Budget Requirement and Council Tax Precept Proposal
Meeting Date	Items – Theme
28th March 2025	PCC Update
	Panel Questions to PCC (if submitted)
	Performance Qtr 3
	Police and Crime Plan
	<b>Date to be confirmed</b>
	We Don't Buy Crime Initiative
	Complaints
	Estates Strategy Update

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