

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CRIME AND DISORDER) GWYNEDD LOCAL AUTHORITY

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REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR DAFYDD MEURIG
(SUPPORT OFFICER - CATHERINE E ROBERTS)

SUBJECT: ANNUAL UPDATE BY THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
(GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY)

1.00	PURPOSE OF THE REPORT
1.01	To provide an overview to Members of the activities of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership (CSP) during the period 2019-20, and developments for 2020-2021.
2.00	BACKGROUND
2.01	The Community Safety Partnership is required to formally report to this committee each year to present an overview. This ensures that the Partnership delivers its obligations in accordance with sections 19 and 20 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2006. The committee's duty is to scrutinise the Partnership's work, rather than the work of individual members (bodies).
2.02	There is a statutory duty on Local Authorities in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and subsequent amendments because of the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2002 and 2006, to work in partnership with the Police, the Health service, the Probation Service and the Fire and Rescue Service , to address the local community safety agenda. These are the main agencies that make up the Community Safety Partnership. Community safety partnerships were originally called crime and disorder partnerships, and although the name has been changed, the areas or responsibility have not, and they remain – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and Disorder • Substance Misuse • Reducing reoffending • Delivering a strategic assessment to identify priorities (work that is now undertaken on a regional basis) • Putting plans in place to deal with these priorities (a plan now exists on a regional and local basis)
2.03	A partnership has existed in Anglesey and in Gwynedd since 1998. However, it has operated as a two-county Partnership for many years now.

3.00	THE PARTNERSHIP'S PRIORITIES/DOCUMENTS FOR SCRUTINY
3.01	<p>The partnership works to an annual plan, which is based on a three-year regional plan.</p> <p>Attached are -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2019-20 annual partnership plan – showing end of year position on all actions. • The Current annual plan, which has been in place since April of this year.
3.02	<p>Seven priorities attract the Partnership's attention. These priorities are based on a strategic assessment. They are -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing victim based crimes (acquisitive crimes only) • Reducing Antisocial Behaviour • Supporting vulnerable people to prevent them becoming victims of crime • Raising confidence to report incidents of domestic abuse • Raising confidence to report sexual abuse • Addressing substance misuse in the area • Reducing Re-offending
4.00	OVERVIEW OF OFFENDING RATES OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When measuring levels of crime, it is Important that we have a basis for recoding, which allows comparison and perspective. The Home Office (HO) monitors crime levels across all Police forces in the UK. One of the parameters they use to maintain an overview is a comparison league of sorts, called <i>most similar groups</i> (MSG). The HO compile groups of Counties, where the demography is so similar, that crime levels would also be expected to be very similar. • Both Counties fluctuate around the average for our MSG – with variations being further analysed, as and when they occur. • The Police look at crime figures constantly, and review all changes on a regional and local basis. Any significant changes are subject to further analysis. Problem areas will then be reviewed, with Policing plans put in place to tackle the issues. Local policing methods include the daily tasking of resources to tackle issues as they emerge. • The Partnership received data on crime levels on a quarterly basis, and the 'softer' or longer term approaches of tackling crime trends will be the basis of the partnership plan. (During the lockdown period, data was received on a 2-3 week basis). The data we generally use, is that of a comparison between the period in the current year, and the same period in the former year, although 5 year trends are also looked at as required. • The Partnership has a statutory duty to respond to a strategic assessment of crime trends, and prepare a plan based on these assessments. Currently, the assessment is undertaken on a regional basis, with a 3 year plan in place, and then filters down to a more localised one year plan.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the early part of this year, because of the lockdown situation, all crime reported to the Police reduced in number. This of course, was the same across the Country. The most significant reduction was in acquisitive crimes of all types, and violent crimes. Overall reported crimes were down by 29% across North Wales in May of this year, slightly less so in Anglesey and Gwynedd (29% being the average). In late June through July, reported crime figures began to increase, and by mid-September were returning to pre-lockdown rates. However, almost all crime types are still lower than this time last year with some, violence with injury and acquisitive crimes, being significantly lower. But some crime types have seen an increase; Domestic crimes are now returning to pre-lockdown rates, which had been anticipated, and interventions have been put in place during the last few months to address this. • Two areas where increased numbers are being seen is stalking and harassment, and hate crime. Further analysis has shown that the stalking and harassment increase is mainly due to the inclusion of coercive control offences being recorded within the harassment category and also the increase in reports of harassment happening on social media and via messaging apps. The Partnership is looking to prepare an awareness campaign with regards to the appropriate use of social media platforms. Similarly, the increase in hate crimes (although the numbers here are very low) has been largely related to tensions between individuals resulting in verbal abuse, which is unfortunately being seen across the Country as movement of people during Covid restrictions can cause friction. The Police respond to all reports of hate crime and they are investigated fully.
5.00	2019-20
5.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is worth noting that the Community safety partnership has now been in place for 22 years, latterly, as a two County partnership. The changes that the partnership has faced over the years are numerous. Indeed, it could be said that the landscape today looks nothing like that which existed in 1998, when CSP's became a statutory requirement. • What has not changed however is the commitment and engagement of all partners. Quarterly meetings are always well attended, and not one meeting has been cancelled in over 20 years – up until the recent Covid 19 restrictions. • Partners and local Members who attend the meetings contribute positively, and quarterly data on crime figures and plan delivery are shared at every meeting.

- Every responsible member of the partnership contributes financially to have in place a partnership analysts, so that regular data can be supplied in order that evidence based decisions can be made.
- Some of the main changes the partnership has, and currently faces are listed below.
 - Loss of local grants – all of the grants, which the partnership once received have now either ended, or have moved to a regional grant position, managed on a North Wales basis. However, by ensuring we play our part in the regional structure, monies are still being secured, including additional funding in the past 18 months for both Domestic abuse/sexual violence and substance misuse, in Gwynedd and Anglesey.
 - Loss of local co-ordinators – some posts have been lost because of the withdrawal of funding, others became a regional resource. However, by maintaining close and purposeful membership of the regional groups, we are confident that local needs are embedded in all regional plans and activity.
 - The main challenges we all face of course, is the changing face of criminality in our communities today. **Even though Gwynedd and Anglesey remain amongst the safest places to live**, we face the same issues as all other areas of the UK. Crime today is far reaching and complex, with the use of technology enabling a level of exploitative crime, arguably not seen before. Organised crime gangs, exist across the UK, most involved with drug related crime, and these gangs known as county lines gangs have been the subject of much responsive activity in North wales.
- During 2019-20, North Wales police led on a regional needs assessment on county lines, bringing together organisations across the region (almost 200 people attended one meeting) from that, a regional response plan was developed, which is now evolving into local activity. In that same period (and continuing) North wales police have conducted a number of county lines enforcement operations, which have impacted greatly on the criminal gangs' activity in the area.
- The 2019-20 plan, which is attached, collates most of the additional activity the partnership wanted to achieve during that financial year. The activity was completed, and reported on a quarterly basis to the CSP, so that any remedial activity could be agreed if required. Crime figures were also shared on a quarterly basis, so that any additional activity needed could be discussed.
- Working between partners is fundamental to community safety. The main reason for the introduction of CSP's back in 1998, was to ensure that crime

	<p>and disorder was seen as ‘everybody’s problem’ and not the realm of the Police alone. The joint working between key partners, both in the public sector and the third sector has never been as strong. There are endless examples of this Joint working together as organisations, which now happens on a daily basis as a matter of course. There is no complacency however, and existing plans still contain intentions to move to even more joint working.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sadly, throughout this reporting period, the partnership have had two ongoing Domestic Homicide reviews (DHR’s). • At the end of the 2019-20 financial year, the partnership held a workshop, to begin the work of planning for the coming year. This took place in February, and was the final physical meeting of partners locally, before the commencement of the lockdown in March 2020.
6.00	2020-21
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although much was different, in terms of working practices during March, and into April, we managed to formulate the activity of the workshop into an action plan by the beginning of this financial year. The plan is attached. • The partnership cancelled the scheduled meeting for April, and instead a LOG was circulated – featuring the crime figures for the period, and all other papers and matters which required the members attention. This activity has continued since then, with a 2-3 weekly LOG being shared, and matters arising being highlighted for attention. Meetings of the partnership resumed in July, using virtual capabilities. • The plan is being monitored, and as expected we are seeing some activity stalled because of the Covid 19 situation. The intention is that we look to identify any new opportunities arising from the current period and mitigate the possible effects of any activity which will not be taking place. It is early days yet, in the analysis of lessons to learn and best practice. • At a very early stage in the lockdown period, we saw, as expected, a reduction in the overall crime rates across the Counties, by the beginning of June - the rates of crime overall compared to the same period the previous year were down - by 24.6% in Gwynedd and 24.8% in Anglesey. The reductions varied across the crime types with acquisitive and violent crimes seeing the most reductions. • Since then, crime rates have been slowly creeping back towards expected levels. Domestic abuse (DA), which was an issue we kept a close overview of during the lockdown period, for obvious reasons - is again approaching more expected numbers in terms of reporting. Luckily, as previously mentioned, we have been able to take advantage of the additional monies from Welsh Government to put more provision in place for DA and sexual abuse needs.

- During the remaining months of this financial year, we aim to continue with virtual meetings and regular sharing of information, in order to keep the plan on track as far as is possible. We also aim to learn from the 'response' to the lockdown period, which has undoubtedly seen the emergence of good practice and innovation.

Since the development of this statutory partnership under the 1998 Act, joint working between the various public and third sector organisations has changed dramatically. The fact that some of the responsible partners are devolved and some not, that some areas of work are led by Welsh Government, and others by the UK Government, has not hindered the progress of joint working, which as mentioned already, is now embedded into daily working practice.

Even so, there is no doubt that the recent Covid 19 situation has, and continues to be a challenging time for all partners. Below are examples as to how some of these challenges have been met.

- Unfortunately, in Gwynedd, a Domestic Homicide review (which is a CSP responsibility) was required following a death in December 2019. The Home Office gave partnerships leeway to 'hold' on the process during the lockdown period. However, partners were keen to make progress, and using virtual meetings both locally and with organisations from two Other Counties across the UK, we have kept to the timescale that we would have regardless of the current obstacles.
- Early on in the Lockdown period, it was recognised that vigilance was required as regards Domestic Abuse (DA). High risk victims of DA are discussed in a multiagency meeting each month, as standard practice. Partners agreed that in addition, weekly virtual meetings would also be held, so that heightened risk factors could be dealt with quickly. These meetings continue.
- Meeting the needs of our homeless citizens became a priority during the lockdown period, not only providing housing for each one, but also meeting other needs they might present. Our Substance misuse services increased the 'outreach' provision available, working alongside the police and housing services on the ground, engaging with each individual. Providing for these needs ensured that they continued to engage with services and as a result referred and engaged within more structured treatment services. Added value was provided through provision of hot food and basic items, mobile phones where they did not have access to one, and travel vouchers to enable them to go to appointments and receive further support when required.
- Our housing and Social care services also increased the number of (virtual) meetings with partners in the third sector/substance misuse/and Probation to discuss the management of individuals in the community who were subject to Probation supervision. Addressing needs and managing risk being very much the aim, at a time where face to face contact was not always possible.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also, as face to face supervision meetings with clients in the community within office spaces became difficult for the probation service (as with all other providers) during the early days of lockdown, Probation and the police strengthen their joint working practices, increased use of Police premises and joint door stop visits , to ensure risk management was maintained during the period. • During the Lockdown period, partners received 2/3 weekly data on crime trends, as opposed to the quarterly monitoring that is standard. This enabled partners the opportunity to react to emerging trends or issues. The partnership analyst was also able to provide more in-depth data on any identified issues so that we all understood what was changing and how responses might need to be altered. An example of this, was the identification in an increase in ‘harassment’ type of offences involving the use of social media. Currently, the partnership is looking at what additional awareness campaigns we might develop to inform people of the need for responsible use of such mediums.
7.00	RECOMMENDATIONS
7.01	To note the contents of the report and attached documents, and state whether or not the Scrutiny Committee supports the priorities and future direction of the work.
8.00	APPENDICES
8.01	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2019-20 Plan 2. 2020-21 Plan