

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

DATE: 19/01/2023

REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR DILWYN MORGAN
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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), January 2023 for the the period of 2021-22, and developments for 2022-23.
2.00	BACKGROUND
2.01	<p>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.</p> <p>The committee’s duty is to scrutinise the Partnership’s work, rather than the work of individual members (bodies).</p>
2.02	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 –• Crime and Disorder• Substance Misuse• Reducing reoffending• We will also have a responsibility to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence, following amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act as a result of the new Serious Violence Duty expected next year.• Under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, CSPs also have a statutory duty to establish Domestic Homicide Reviews. These are a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by— (a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or

	(b) a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.
2.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Safety Partnership has now been in place for 24 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. • 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 analyst, so that regular data can be supplied in order that evidence-based decisions can be made. • 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 and disorder was seen as ‘everybody’s problem’ and not the realm of the Police alone. • Some of the main changes the partnership has, and currently faces are listed below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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, and most are involved with drug related crime. These gangs are known as county lines gangs and have been the subject of much responsive activity in North Wales, which have impacted greatly on the criminal gangs’ activity in the area.
3.00	THE PARTNERSHIP’S PRIORITIES/DOCUMENTS FOR SCRUTINY

3.01 The partnership works to an annual plan. Attached is the 2022-23 plan, which is based on the priorities within the Safer North Wales Board’s Strategy. These priorities are:

- Preventing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Tackling Violent Crime
- Tackling Serious Organised Crime
- Protecting and building resilient communities and maintaining public safety.

These priorities are also closely linked to the Police’s regional strategic assessment and the Police and Crime Commissioner’s plan.

4.00 OVERVIEW OF OFFENDING RATES OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD

4.01 Background:

- 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 monthly 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.

CRIME DATA

1. Below is the most recent crime data for Gwynedd for January 2023 from the Partnership Analyst within North Wales Police. This outlines the figures for the year to date, with comparison to previous years and the picture across North Wales.

Gwynedd

Gwynedd - Crime & Incident Data	Fiscal Year		% Change (YTD)	North Wales % Change (YTD)
	2021/22 (YTD)	2022/23 (YTD)		
All Victim Based Crime	6,880	6,274	-8.8%	-4.4%
Violence with injury	815	827	1.5%	1.3%
Violence without injury	1,339	1,234	-7.8%	-2.8%
Stalking & Harassment	1,329	1,112	-16.3%	-13.7%
Sexual offences	318	276	-13.2%	5.8%
All Acquisitive Crime	1,253	1,304	4.1%	13.1%
Burglary Residential	167	136	-18.6%	-11.6%

Burglary - Business and Community	90	76	-15.6%	11.1%
Robbery	16	10	-37.5%	-27.3%
Vehicle Crime	146	125	-14.4%	-1.4%
Theft and Handling	834	957	14.7%	21.5%
Criminal Damage & Arson	890	942	5.8%	-4.7%
Domestic Crime	1,414	1,351	-4.5%	-4.5%
Domestic Incidents (non-crime)	498	592	18.9%	7.5%
Hate Crime	210	187	-11.0%	-14.7%
Anti-Social Behaviour	2,487	2,239	-10.0%	-8.7%

2. Violence against the person offences have, overall, decreased in Gwynedd in 2022/23, compared to the same period last year. This follows the pattern being seen across North Wales as a whole, where *Violence with Injury* offences have increased slightly, and *Violence without Injury* offences have decreased.
3. In April 2020, the Home Office made changes to the category of Stalking & Harassment and included additional offence types within it, such as coercive and controlling behaviour. This, along with more scrutiny around secondary/additional crimes led to large increases in offence numbers both across the force and nationally. Year-to-date data for 2022/23 shows that these initial increases have stopped and reductions in volumes are now being seen across the force and, by a larger percentage, in Gwynedd.
4. The 2022/23 year-to-date recorded level of Sexual Offences in Gwynedd has decreased in comparison to 2021/22, whereas across North Wales as a whole there has been an increase. There can be significant fluctuations in reported offences from week to week, partly due to reporting of historic offences.
5. Burglary Residential offences have reduced in Gwynedd this year by -18.6%, in comparison to last year. Force wide, there has been -11.6% decrease overall. Burglary – Business & Community offences have also decreased in Gwynedd this year, in comparison to last year. As a whole, North Wales has experienced an 11.1% increase in Burglary – Business & Community offences this year, compared to last. Year-to-date, there has been a marked increase in the volume of Theft & Handling offences in Gwynedd and also across the force area, in comparison to last year. This is mainly driven by an increase in Shoplifting, which falls within the Theft and Handling category. Shoplifting in Gwynedd is 53.8% higher year-to-date in comparison to last year, with the force seeing an overall increase of 32.3%. With increases in the cost of living, it is predicted that shoplifting offences will rise over the coming months.
6. A slight increase in the year-to-date volume of Criminal Damage & Arson offences has been seen so far in Gwynedd this year, whilst across North Wales there has been a slight reduction.

	<p>7. Domestic Crime in Gwynedd has fallen by -4.5% year-to-date, in comparison to last year. This percentage reduction is also being seen across the force area. Domestic Incidents (Non-Crime) are calls received by North Wales Police's Control Room which have a domestic element to them; however do not constitute a criminal offence and are therefore not recorded on the force records management system. They include incidents such as verbal domestic disputes, where no criminal offences have taken place. These incidents generate a CID 16 referral, for consideration of sharing with the relevant safeguarding partners. It is difficult to analyse the reasons behind the increases being seen in Non-Crime Domestic Incidents, however it is hoped that public confidence in the force has played a part in more people coming forward to report such incidents.</p> <p>8. Following some sharp increases in Hate Crime on Gwynedd, during and post COVID, the 2022/23 volumes are now showing a decrease in comparison to last year. These decreases are being seen across North Wales as a whole.</p> <p>9. ASB in Gwynedd has seen a year-to-date decrease of 10% in 2022/23, in comparison to the same period in 2021/22. This equates to approximately 250 fewer incidents being reported. Repeat victims of ASB, repeat locations where ASB is occurring, and high-risk vulnerable victims are referred for review to monthly multi-agency tasking groups.</p>
5.00	WORK COMPLETED SO FAR DURING 2022
5.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A questionnaire laid the foundation for establishing the plan for this year, through asking partners for information about any upcoming activities or projects that linked with the Safer North Wales Board's priorities. • The 2022-23 plan (attached) sets out the activity the Partnership wanted to achieve during this financial year. The activity is monitored and reported on a quarterly basis to the CSP, so that any remedial activity can be agreed if required. • Crime figures are shared on a quarterly basis through a performance report prepared by the Police Analyst, so that any trends and additional activity needed could be discussed. • We have a statutory duty under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 to establish Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). These are a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by— (a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or (b) a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the

lessons to be learnt from the death. Sadly, the Partnership was required to commission 3 additional DHR's this year. This work inevitably has significant and continuing resourcing implications, including Home Office sign off which can be a very lengthy and unwieldy process.

A summary of the work completed this year:

- Fraud was identified by the partnership as a priority in terms of raising awareness for staff working with vulnerable individuals. As a result, training sessions by the Economic Crime Unit of the Police were held in January for Local Authority staff working with vulnerable individuals to raise awareness of frequent scams and tactics used by fraudsters.
- The Safer Streets 2 Project in Bangor was completed in March. Working alongside our colleagues in Highways and the Police, the project meant an additional 41 CCTV cameras and improvements to lighting in the Hirael/Deiniol area of the city.
- Earlier in the year, a SOC (Serious Organised Crime) Group was introduced to cover Gwynedd and Anglesey. Chaired by the Police, the group includes representation from several key agencies and services. By taking a multi-agency, cross-departmental approach, this gives a valuable opportunity to share information on individuals that are cause for concern in our area.
- The CSP is preparing for the Serious Violence Duty, which is expected to come into force in January 2023. The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in the area, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area. A regional Task and Finish Group has recently been set up to implement the duty and prepare a Strategy. Public Health Wales have been leading on the development of a Regional Needs Assessment, which is currently in draft form. This will set the basis of the Strategy.
- We continue to attend the regional group and work collaboratively to implement the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy in both Councils. This also includes supporting the work of the sub-group which focuses on a social media campaign on poly drug use, targeted at recreational users and young people.
- The Partnership ensures continued attendance and input to the new Police VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Partner Meetings that meets monthly. This group was set up in March with the purpose of taking a partnership approach to delivering the NPCC (National Police Chief's Council) VAWG Delivery Framework, which focuses on building trust and confidence between women and girls and the Police, prevention activity and disruption of perpetrators.
- We have been working closely with Local Policing Teams to identify areas that could benefit from the Westminster Government's Shared Prosperity Fund. One of the investment priorities within the fund is 'Community and Place', and one of the Levelling Up Missions aims that by 2030 homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen. As part of this work, we have identified specific locations across Gwynedd and Anglesey where additional CCTV or improved street lighting could be introduced, with the objective of improving

	<p>perceptions of safety and reducing neighbourhood crime. A bid is currently in the process of being put together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August and September, virtual training sessions were organized and held by the Police on the Prevent Duty. The Prevent Duty is part of the Government’s overall counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, and the aim is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The sessions were available to Gwynedd and Anglesey staff, and approximately 100 individuals attended. We are planning to expand the offer to more staff in the future. These sessions are in addition to the mandatory e-learning package. • The CSP oversees Prevent delivery in the area (a duty within the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism). This year, we have been working with the new Home Office Regional Prevent Advisor to develop our Action Plan and ensure best practice, which this year involved more localised information on current risks and threats, rather than the usual regional approach for North Wales. • Furthermore, the creation of a Regional Prevent Delivery Group earlier in the year is a very positive development to report. This enables North Wales Prevent leads to come together to network, discuss best practice and improve current arrangements across the region. The Senior Officer attends the group on behalf of the CSP. One clear example of the benefit of this regional conversation was the ability for us to submit a bid at short notice across all counties in the region to the Reducing Radicalisation Fund by the Home Office. With Anglesey as the lead LA, the bid was successful. Evidence highlights that the online space can be a significant driver for the radicalisation and exploitation of young people. This funding will result in media literacy sessions within educational settings to improve critical thinking skills and identify fake news online. We are awaiting details regarding the identification of a suitable provider to deliver the project across the region. The project will then be completed by March 2023. There will be opportunities for us to increase the roll out further rounds of this funding. • The Council has recently received White Ribbon Accreditation, following work by our colleagues in Corporate Support Department. We have been providing a Community Safety input in terms of beginning to implement the Action Plan. This has also involved ensuring relevant partners are linked in to the work i.e. Police, Regional VAWDASV Advisor. • Following discussions with the local Police, we explored the possibility of extending the current provision of the Safe Spaces Scheme locally. The Scheme is run by the charity ‘UK Says No More’, with the aim of providing a safe and discrete way for people experiencing domestic abuse to contact friends/family or specialist support services. Presently the Scheme is only suitable for Pharmacies and Banks as a result of strict quality assurance/confidentiality reasons. We are currently in discussions to try and encourage our independent pharmacies across the region to sign up, and will be supporting with any necessary promotional material that the charity has provided with us.
6.00	WORK ONGOING:
6.01	Work ongoing:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement local projects identified within the plan for Q3 – through monitoring process. • Continue to support the implementation of the regional alcohol plan in both Authorities and development of the poly drug communications campaign. • Continue to attend the regional task & finish group in preparation for the Serious Violence Duty, so that the LA best placed meet the new requirements promptly. • Continue to work closely with the new Home Office Prevent Regional Advisor to update LA Prevent and Channel arrangements, working alongside our partners in the new Regional Prevent Delivery Group. We will also focus on the training to increase awareness of the Duty and the signs of radicalisation so that staff are aware of what to look out for and are best placed to make a referral for any concerns. • The Partnership is very mindful of the current cost of living crisis we are facing, and the rise we have seen in theft and handling crimes locally. Research has shown that socio-economic deprivation is linked to greater chances of interacting with the justice system, being a victim of crime, or not feeling safe in a community. We are also aware that the current situation could lead to desperation for many, inevitably providing further opportunities for organised crime groups. The new Chief Constable for North Wales Police, Amanda Blakeman, is the national policing lead for serious organised acquisitive crime so this will be an important area for the CSP’s ongoing work. • We will continue providing an input and supporting the implementation of the White Ribbon Accreditation Action Plan. • We will continue discussions to extend local roll out of the Safe Spaces scheme in our pharmacies.
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	1. 2022-23 Plan