

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to:
Joint inspection of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect of
children in Powys**

I acknowledge the recommendations outlined in this report and will monitor the Force's progress in implementing them. The Force's response to this inspection was discussed at Policing Board meetings, where I hold the Chief Constable to account, on 12th January 2024 and 14th March 2024.

It is encouraging that this report highlights that senior leaders in the local authority, police and health boards demonstrate a joint approach to regional safeguarding arrangements, and that leaders and managers have established a highly positive culture of joint multi-agency working. Dyfed-Powys Police was one of the agencies inspected.

There were many strengths identified in the report for Dyfed-Powys Police.

Areas for improvement include:

- Ensuring that outcome strategy discussions / meetings are always held at the conclusion of a Section 47 enquiry.
- Understanding the voice of the child and children's lived experience needs to improve across the organisation.
- Ensuring better consistency when completing Public Protection Notices following a child's missing person episode or when a child is recorded as a perpetrator.
- Embedding a stronger audit culture developing on qualitative focus further.
- Ensuring that supervisory reviews include a focus on the risk to the children involved.
- Ensuring that police personnel are trained in the signs of safety approach used during case conferences.

The Chief Constable has assured me that these recommendations are important to embed to ensure the safety of some of the most vulnerable members of the community. The Chief Constable has updated me on progress already made in relation to the areas for improvement. These measures include:

- The development and delivery of a bespoke training package for staff undertaking strategy discussions.
- Plans for the Missing Person Coordinator to deliver an awareness raising session with partners.
- The inclusion of reviews of strategy discussions within the Force's audit framework to assess compliance and performance.
- Voice of the child and professional curiosity training has been delivered across the organisation and will continue to feature as part of specialist inputs to new recruits.
- Plans to expand on the key performance data metrics and work to create a child protection performance dashboard.

THIS RESPONSE IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN WELSH



It is pleasing to see that the strengths of Dyfed-Powys Police and local partners have been highlighted during the joint inspection. I am reassured by the praise given to the Force regarding their partnership working. I am encouraged that there is work underway at pace to improve the response to children, both within Powys and wider across the Force, and across multi-agency partnerships.

I look forward to receiving further updates from the Force on their work towards some of these recommendations in due course. My office will be undertaking assurance and monitoring work relating to secure accommodation for children (including a dip-sample of custody records) and care experienced children in the next term. This area of work will continue to be monitored through Policing Board.