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HEDDLU A THROSEDDU
DYFED-POWYS
POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER

Community Link

Published: September 2020

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn's Newsletter



HIGHLIGHTS

**Publishing 2019-20
Annual Report**

**Securing £200k
Safer Streets Fund**

**Recruiting more
Volunteers**

**Q&A with OPCC
staff**

Welcome ...

Welcome to the September edition of my Newsletter.

This edition looks back at some highlights from July and August, which would usually include information on key activities and discussions held at events such as the Royal Welsh Show and other local agricultural shows, as well as the National Eisteddfod - all of which have of course been postponed due to COVID-19. However, it has still been a busy period for me and my office, and inside this edition you will find information on how my team and I have continued to hold Dyfed-Powys Police to account, information about our successful bid to the Home Office for Safer Streets funding, as well as Q&As with some of my staff about the challenges they have faced working at home during lockdown, and details on exciting volunteering opportunities within my Office.

Thank you for taking the time to read my Newsletter; I hope you find it enjoyable and informative.

If you have any questions about the information I've shared, please do get in touch.

Take care,

Dafydd Llywelyn

Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner

My 2019/2020 Annual Report

In the July edition of my Newsletter I told you about the hard work my office was undertaking to prepare my 2019/2020 Annual Report:

I am pleased to say that on 31 July, the Report was published, and features information on highlights and the key achievements of 2019/2020, as well as the significant progress made against the four priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan:

1. Keeping our communities safe;
2. Safeguarding the vulnerable;
3. Protecting our communities from serious threats; and
4. Connect with communities.

This year for the first time, I chose to publish a series of eight video productions in support of the written Report. My intention with this decision is to provide you with a more visual record of the different sections of the Report, and to provide you with an interactive 'behind the scenes' look at the work undertaken, for example at public engagement activities and the various Boards and Groups I sit on.

All of the videos are available in Welsh and English on my YouTube Channel within the Playlists tab:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4IMSB9Jn4_lwfZ-zry-7pRg/playlists.

I hope you find that these videos give you a better understanding of what I do and the wide number of organisations I work with.

I am optimistic that the productions will help ensure that this information is more accessible to the public and will allow me and my Office to engage with a wider audience.

I look forward to learning your thoughts on these videos, and you are welcome to get in touch with my office to let us know what you think by calling 01267 226 440 or e-mailing opcc@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk.

Alternatively, you can access the original written version of the Report on my website: <http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/the-commissioner/police-and-crime-commissioners-annual-report/>.

As I look back over 2019-2020, I am proud how, together with staff in my Office, the Force and partners, we have worked hard to achieve significant developments and build on our successes from the previous year.

I hope that by reading the Report or by watching the videos, you will see that I am committed to preserving the safety and wellbeing of the residents of the Dyfed-Powys area.



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Engaging with the Public

**2019/2020
Annual Report**



Holding the Chief Constable to account in a public forum

I have continued to work hard to ensure that I provide members of the public with as many opportunities as possible to engage with me, my Office and Chief Officers. It is important that you get the opportunity to directly put questions to us and to raise any concerns you may have about pressing local matters.

On 4 August, I was able to host my Policing Accountability Board virtually. The Policing Accountability Board meets on a quarterly basis and is a public meeting, and considers themes addressed in my Policing Boards held during the preceding three months.

Therefore, for the most recent meeting, I took steps to invite public representatives from each of the four counties, as well as members of my Quality Assurance Panel, to join me for the virtual Policing Accountability Board.

I was pleased with the attendance at the meeting, which saw questions being put to both myself and the Chief Constable from Councillor Emlyn Schiavone (Carmarthenshire), Councillor Keith Evans (Ceredigion), Councillor Bob Summons (Pembrokeshire) and Councillor Les George (Powys) about important local matters.

Discussions were had around operational policing matters, Dyfed-Powys Police's plans for meeting the demands brought by Covid-19.



Previously, for this meeting, I travelled to each of the four counties of the Dyfed-Powys area to host the meeting in a public space, to make it easier for members of the local community to attend.

Of course, due to restrictions around the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been unable to host the meeting as I usually would.

If you would like more information about Policing Accountability Board and how you can take part in future, follow this link: <http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/accountability-and-transparency/policing-accountability-board/>

Q&A with staff from OPCC

This month, I wanted to provide you with a flavour of how my office has responded to the challenges posed by Covid-19. My staff have effectively continued to carry out their roles throughout the lockdown period by altering the way they work in order to support the public. Below is a short Question and Answer with several members of the team which will give you an overview of how we've been working:



Director of Commissioning
Alison Perry

1. What does your job normally involve (pre-Covid)?

My role consists of strategic planning and commissioning of services that support victims and help meet the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. This involves first point of contact support for victims of crime, rape crisis centres, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and a whole host of other support services. It also includes services such as a diversionary scheme for low level offenders to provide support to break the cycle of offending, and in particular substance misuse. I also work closely with all our partner agencies and lead on the work of our Local Criminal Justice Board, ensuring an effective and efficient criminal justice system within Dyfed Powys.

2. How has lockdown and social restrictions affected what you do?

Our service providers have faced significant challenges in adapting their services to meet the needs of victims and services users during lockdown. Restrictions imposed due to the pandemic have placed vulnerable people under additional pressures, with home not necessarily being a safe place for everyone. Therefore our core work in supporting and scrutinising our services has had to adapt accordingly. The impact on the criminal justice system and those using it has been huge, with courtrooms having to close for a short while at the commencement of lockdown.

3. What has been your greatest achievement of holding an event/meeting during the lockdown?

We have managed to secure additional funding from the Ministry of Justice to help local services that provide support to victims of domestic and sexual abuse in continuing their vital work. This has made a big difference to services struggling with the impact. We have also worked closely with our partners across the criminal justice system to ensure that normal service could be resumed as quickly and safely as possible. We are proud to be one of the first areas in Wales to achieve normal running of our Magistrates courts, with the backlog of cases all being heard. We are now on the way to achieving a similar status with Crown Courts.

4. How have you been engaging with victims and victim services during the lockdown?

We are lucky to have extremely positive working relationships with not only our partners but also our much valued service providers. These relationships have been vital in helping us all to meet the needs of victims and service users during these unprecedented times. Our office is also in the process of establishing a Victim Engagement Forum which will ensure that we secure feedback from the most important people of all, those who use our services. If anyone has been a victim of crime or is supporting someone who has been a victim of crime, please get in touch with our Engagement Team who will assist you with progressing your concern: OPCC.Communication@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk



**Engagement Support Officer
Helen Shayle**

1. What does your job normally involve (pre-Covid)?

One of the many strands of my role as an Engagement officer is to plan and co-ordinate events and community engagement activity and to accompany and support the Police and Crime Commissioner at these events and visits, taking forward any actions arising. I arranged a regular monthly Community Engagement Day for the Commissioner and would accompany him on visits to meet and engage with different organisations and charities in our diverse communities of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys, to listen to views, concerns and compliments about policing that they may have. We would visit organisations that have benefited from the Commissioner's grants scheme and it was a pleasure to witness first hand their invaluable work and how they are making a positive difference in our communities. Dyfed-Powys has the largest geographical force area, with significant rural areas. As such, traveling to various parts of the area for engagement activities would take up a lot of my time. Holding virtual meetings during lockdown has been cost effective and a great benefit to our environment and carbon footprint. I am also mindful that the virtual world doesn't suit everyone and it is important to look at alternative ways to reach out to as many people as possible, from all walks of life, so am looking forward to returning to a bit of normality, where I can meet and greet people face to face.

2. How has lockdown and social restrictions affected what you do?

At the start of lockdown I was a bit unsure on how things would pan out. I wasn't able to physically meet and engage with people in the community during this time, and it took a while for me to get used to a new way of working. I was also working full time from home where I had regular contact with my office virtually. As an office we looked at alternative ways to carry on

working effectively to keep engaging with our communities in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys. I have arranged various virtual meetings for the Commissioner during lockdown, including virtual public meetings that have been hosted by the Commissioner and Superintendents and attended by the public and local councillors. It was a good opportunity for the public to log into the meeting from the comfort of their home, to meet the Commissioner and their local Superintendent, to hear about the policing priorities in their area and a place for them to express any concerns they had. There were also meetings arranged for the Commissioner with commissioned services that he funds. It was an opportunity for the Commissioner to touch base with them to find out if they are faced with any challenges with their work supporting others, during the pandemic.

3. What has been your greatest achievement of holding an event/meeting during the lockdown?

A couple of achievements; arranging and holding a virtual public meeting for the residents of Powys where local film maker, Gwyn Cole launched a film he had produced for the successful tour of the Knife Angel to Newtown, Powys in January 2020. It was a pleasure to re-visit the tour and attendees were shown the film during the virtual public meeting. If you are interested in learning more about the Knife Angel click on the link to the mini film of the Knife Angel by Gwyn Cole: <https://vimeo.com/427002814>

It was also a pleasure to accompany the Commissioner in the virtual meetings held with the commissioned services he funds and to hear about their invaluable support on offer to the public. The services have seen an increase of referrals during lockdown and it was interesting to hear the different ways they have had to adapt during a challenging time, taking into account the client's needs and weighing up the importance of the Covid-19 guidelines. If you are interested in learning more click on the link to Commissioned Services available to you: <http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/your-neighbourhood/services-available-to-you/>

4. How have you been engaging with the public during the lockdown?

We have held numerous virtual meetings, where we have been able to engage effectively with the public, organisations, recipients of the Commissioners community funding and commissioned services. We have kept publishing the commissioner's bi-monthly Newsletter, released regular Press Releases on significant work of the office, that can be found on our website; <http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/> and we have continued to engage with the public via posts on our Social Media - Twitter and Facebook.



**Assurance Support Officer
Caryl Bond**

1. What does your job normally entail?

My role entails:

- Organisation of the Commissioner's scrutiny panels including Out of Courts Disposal Panel and the Quality Assurance Panel.
- Coordination of Commissioner's Volunteers schemes including the Animal Welfare Scheme and the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme.
- Providing administration support for the Joint Audit Committee

2. What's been the hardest thing about carrying out your role during Covid?

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted on the different scrutiny panels and volunteer schemes run by the Commissioner's office, both the Independent Custody Visiting and Animal Welfare Schemes' face-to-face activities have been suspended. It is statutory for the Commissioner to have an ICV scheme in place and therefore to ensure oversight of the police custody environment whilst visiting has been put on hold. I have been undertaking independent dip-sampling of custody records on a fortnightly basis to ensure that checks on the welfare of detainees continue, and that all rights and entitlements continue to be granted during this unprecedented time. The Independent Custody visiting scheme have recently started undertaking calls into custody to speak with detainees about their custody experience, checking on their welfare and that they have been made aware of their rights and entitlements all via the phone/ skype.

The pandemic has meant that we have had to think of new ways of working including holding Out of Court Disposal Panel meetings, Quality Assurance Panel meetings and Joint Audit Committee meetings all virtually.

This has been a challenging time for Panel members and volunteers and I am very grateful to them all in being flexible and willing to trial these new ways of working.

3. What's been your greatest success (meeting/event)?

Both the Quality Assurance Panel and the Out of Court Disposal Panel met virtually for their first ever virtual scrutiny sessions in July. The Quality Assurance Panel reviewed 29 randomly selected Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued for breaches of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) regulations and the Out of Court Disposal Panel reviewed 20 Common Assault cases dealt with by means of an out of Court disposal. It was great to virtually meet with all attendees and to ensure that the Commissioners scrutiny panels continue.

4. What will change for volunteers moving forward?

We will continue to explore new ways of working, adapting to the current circumstances and guidance to ensure that all volunteer schemes and Panels are able to re-commence/continue with their roles safely and successfully.

Scrutiny Activities during July and August, and Volunteering Opportunities

I have several volunteer groups and I am extremely grateful for all their support and their valued input to the work of my office.

If you are interested in volunteering and becoming a part of our much valued extended volunteer family, I'm pleased to announce that there are currently plenty of opportunities for you to get involved. Information on both the volunteer groups that we are currently recruiting for can be seen in the side bar of this article, and information on the terms and conditions along with the application process follows the below updates.

Quality Assurance Panel Update

In their first ever virtual scrutiny session, members of my Quality Assurance Panel, reviewed 29 randomly selected Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued for breaches of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) regulations. A sample of FPNs issued to individuals from different ethnicities was selected from across the Dyfed-Powys Police area. They found.

- no issues with the rationale for issuing any individuals with an FPN.
- the detail of rationale recorded on the FPNs varied.
- there were some differences in the background checks conducted on those stopped.
- there appears to be an improvement in officers' activation of their Body Worn Video.

Members acknowledged the speed at which officers had to adapt to the new regulations and unanimously felt that Dyfed-Powys Police had done a good job in a difficult situation.

Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel Update

At a meeting of the Dyfed-Powys Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel held on the 27th July 2020, Members reviewed a selection of common assault cases which had been dealt with by way of an Out of Court Disposal. The Panel also reviewed a small selection of Out of Court Disposals given to cases with a tag relating to Covid-19. During this period only 3 cases with an outcome of an Out of Court Disposal were available.

The Panel considered a total of 20 cases, 7 involving youth suspects and 13 involving adults.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Government guidelines in terms of social distancing this meeting was conducted virtually via Skype for Business.

- The Panel came to the conclusion that 16/20 Cases were disposed of appropriately.
- The Panel found that 19/20 cases documented the victims' wishes and satisfaction with the outcome given to their case. There was only one case where the victim's wishes were not recorded in the case records.
- The Panel noted one domestic abuse case being given a Conditional Caution when domestic abuse offences should be given either a Caution (with special authorisation) or charged.



Independent Custody Scheme

This is a scheme which sees our volunteers - Independent Custody Visitors, visit custody suites across the Dyfed-Powys area. They visit in pairs, unannounced, at any time of the day or night and provide an independent check on the welfare of the detainees in custody, and the conditions in which they are being held.

Quality Assurance Panel

The Quality Assurance Panel has been established to scrutinise the quality of Police contact with the public, in a transparent and independent manner, on behalf of the communities within the Dyfed-Powys area.

The Panel will scrutinise areas of Police contact with the public, for example, complaint cases, Stop and Search incidents, use of force incidents and police handling of calls in to the Force's Communication Centre i.e. 101 and 999 calls.

Joint Audit Committee

Our Joint Audit Committee is a key component of the Dyfed-Powys Local Policing Body's corporate governance. It provides an independent and high level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.

The purpose of our Joint Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable on the adequacy of the governance and risk management frameworks, the internal control environment, and financial reporting, thereby helping to ensure efficient and effective arrangements are in place.

For further information on the role please visit our website:

<http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/accountability-and-transparency/joint-audit-committee/>

To volunteer with us you must be over the age of 18, live, work or study within the Dyfed-Powys area, have been resident in the UK for at least 3 years, be independent of the Police and Criminal Justice System, and be able to make unbiased observations and informed judgements in which the public can have confidence.

For further information please phone 01267 226440 or email opcc@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk.

To download our Scheme handbooks and an application form please follow the links below:

<http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/the-office/volunteer-schemes/>

Securing national investment of £118k to recruit additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisors in the area

I was extremely pleased to announce in July that my Office had been successful in securing additional funding from the Ministry of Justice for the recruitment of new ISVAs (Independent Sexual Violence Advisors) in the area.

An ISVA is specially trained to provide emotional and practical support for victims of rape or sexual assault. Their main role is to provide support around the criminal justice process, but they are independent from the police and are not legal advisors.

This additional funding announcement came following a process commenced by the Ministry of Justice prior to lockdown but revisited and enhanced as a result of the additional funding made available nationally to assist with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on service provision.

Dyfed-Powys was one of only 15 areas which was awarded funding, with an additional £55k secured for the area for the remainder of 2020/21, increasing to £63k in 2021/22.

I have continued to lobby hard at government level for increased funding to be made available, and I'm extremely pleased to be able to announce that we have been successful in securing this additional funding.

ISVA caseloads continue to increase in both volume and complexity with cases often taking longer to come to court and involving more complex trauma, leading to a reduction in the number of clients exiting services.

Our local ISVAs are often carrying more than the recommended case load which is clearly not sustainable

Dyfed-Powys is a predominantly rural Force, with a landmass covering over half the size of Wales.

The area faces unique challenges due to its rurality and as a result of the high cost of rural provision, some parts of the Dyfed-Powys region have not always been adequately covered by ISVA services.

It is important to ensure that ISVA services are available at bases throughout the Force area but also that we provide peripatetic ISVA services for those people who have been affected by sexual abuse and rape and who are not able to travel into centres; provision that is a must for a Force geography such as Dyfed Powys."

The additional funding will enable New Pathways, our ISVA service provider, to provide a dedicated resource ensuring that this flexible delivery is available and more importantly sustainable. It will also enable enhanced ISVA support for children and young people

"IT IS VITAL THAT PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SEXUAL VIOLENCE RECEIVE SPECIALIST SUPPORT WHEN AND WHERE THEY NEED IT."

"THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN RURAL AREAS, WHO MAY FEEL ADDITIONALLY ISOLATED AND OFTEN FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCESS SERVICES."

"THE FUNDING THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE OPCC DIRECTLY ADDRESSES THIS ISSUE BY ENABLING US TO EMPLOY A COMMUNITY BASED INDEPENDENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE ADVOCATE WHO WILL PROVIDE DIRECT SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE REGION."

"WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO MR. LLYWELYN FOR HIS CONTINUED SUPPORT AND FOR KEEPING THIS ISSUE HIGH ON HIS LIST OF PRIORITIES."

MIKE WILKINSON

NEW PATHWAYS DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Securing funds of £200k from Home Office's Safer Street Funding, to work with local partners to cut crime and make communities safer in the Llanelli area



In July I was pleased to announce that we were successful in securing funding of £195,673 from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund to work with local community safety partners in Carmarthenshire to tackle crime in the Tyisha and Glanymor areas of Llanelli.

The fund aims to stop offences that harm communities. Tyisha and Glanymor are considered to be two of the most deprived areas in Carmarthenshire according to the Welsh

Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation. The funding will focus on tackling acquisitive crime such as burglary, vehicle theft and robbery within the areas.

I will ensure that the money goes towards measures proven to cut crime, and will also employ two Community Wardens, purchase SelectaDNA kits, Community Crime Prevention Activity Support, Environmental Improvements and Community Crime Prevention kits.

I have invested significantly in the area over recent years with community grants I made available in addition to the new CCTV system that is in place across the town. This new additional funding will further build upon my work over recent years and I hope the residents will feel a positive difference in their communities.

Key delivery partners are Llanelli Town Council, Carmarthenshire County Council, Pobl Housing Association and Carmarthenshire Community Safety Partnership. All partners will be members of the steering group who will be responsible for the oversight of the project, ensuring implementation is timely, efficient, and that progress is monitored closely.

"THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND DYFED-POWYS POLICE AS WELL AS OTHER PARTNERS TO TACKLE THE CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES IN THIS AREA, AND IN PARTICULAR AS PART OF OUR AMBITIOUS REGENERATION PLANS FOR THE TYISHA WARD.

WE AIM TO TRANSFORM THE AREA TO CREATE A VIBRANT AND SAFE COMMUNITY WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE; AND THIS FUNDING WILL HELP US WITH THESE AMBITIOUS PLANS. IT REALLY IS EXCELLENT NEWS - AND A TIMELY BOOST FOR OUR COMMUNITIES"

Cllr Cefin Campell
Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board
Member for Communities

"I very much welcome the announcement of the successful bid from the Safer Street funding for the Glanymor and Tyisha wards. The improvements that will be enabled through this project will have significant impact within both community wards."

Cllr Shahana Najmi
Llanelli Town Council Leader

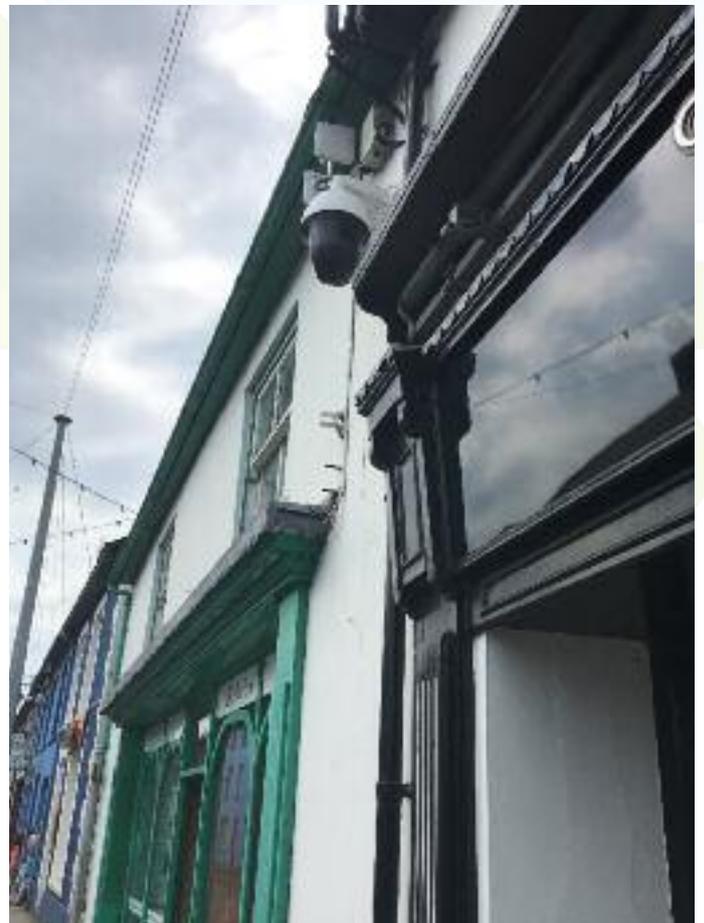
CCTV Investment

In August I oversaw three new cameras being installed in Newcastle Emlyn as part of my key pledge to reinvest in a public CCTV system. Work commenced in the town on the 10th of August which will see cameras installed in Sycamore Street, Emlyn Square and Heol y Bont.

We have chosen these locations to host a camera following a review of crime pattern analysis in consultation with partner agencies, with the work being carried out by contractors Baydale Control Systems Ltd. The hi-tech cameras are being supplied by Hikvision UK & Ireland.

Six new cameras are also being installed in Brecon. Work will commence on the installation programme in the town during September which will see cameras installed in High Street, Tredegar Street, the Bulwark, Co-op Car Park and Ship Street.

I am delighted that two towns are now set to benefit from new cameras, bringing the number of towns we have included in the CCTV since 2017, to 23. I am confident the cameras will prove to be a valuable asset in keeping these towns safe and assisting with the detection of crime.



A Week in the Life of the Commissioner

3rd - 7th of August

This week was a busy week for me prior to my Annual Leave at the end of the month. Amongst the highlights for the week were the following:

MONDAY

Today I held a follow up meeting with Ameer Davies to discuss youth engagement work around hate crime, racism and policing matters.

I also attended a meeting with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to discuss the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioners' Review.

TUESDAY

A Virtual Accountability Board meeting was held today, where I reviewed operational and financial decisions made by the Chief Constable

WEDNESDAY

I had an opportunity to catch up with several of my team at the OPCC today with meeting with my Policy Advisors in the morning as well as an Exec.Team meeting in the afternoon.

THURSDAY

In the morning I met with Aberystwyth Town Councillors and local Community Groups to discuss particular issues in the area.

In the afternoon, I attended a Home Office meeting to discuss the National Law Enforcement Data Programme.

FRIDAY

Today I was interviewed for S4C's Welsh news programme - Newyddion S4C - to discuss local challenges of policing social distancing as more and more tourists travel in to the Dyfed-Powys area.

I also had a meeting with the First Minister to discuss lessons learnt from the first phase of policing the Covid pandemic and some of the challenges for the police around enforcement.

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