

1st September 2021

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to

Interim report: Inspection into how effectively the police engage with women and girls

This inspection is timely and aligns with a number of recent workstreams focussing on victims' services.

Dyfed-Powys Police's End-to-End project is focused on putting victims at the heart of everything by understanding demand, improving processes and influencing culture to enable them to be efficient and effective.

The Dyfed-Powys [Victim Engagement Forum](#), co-ordinated by my Office, has already assisted Dyfed-Powys Police in giving victims a voice in shaping victims' services, and I fully support the continuation of this work to ensure victims play a central role in shaping support throughout the Criminal Justice System. There are many publicised opportunities for victims to join the forum, including via our Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) services.

The National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) response to Violence against Women and Girls and the National strategy from the Home Office remains under consultation. In Wales, we have recognised the importance of this area with the implementation of the Violence against Women and Girls Act in 2015, which makes provision for the prevention, protection and support of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Welsh Police and Crime Commissioner colleagues and I have recently agreed to work with Welsh Government on a VAWDASV Blueprint for Wales. Dyfed-Powys Police has also developed an initial delivery plan for the Violence against Women and Girls Act, which will be refined as further guidance anticipated from Central Government and the NPCC is received.

My office is supporting innovation in this area, having recently secured over £600,000 additional investment from the Ministry of Justice into VAWDASV services in the Dyfed-Powys area for the current financial year. This will provide additional capacity within existing services, increase capacity of independent domestic and sexual violence specialist roles and allow for delivery of innovative approaches to service delivery.

Dyfed-Powys Police will be undertaking its first 'Operation Vigilant' approach through the August bank holiday weekend, which will see the deployment of trained, plain clothed officers during peak times of night-time economy where groups of vulnerable females may become isolated. If persons are identified as demonstrating predatory behaviour, dedicated uniformed officers will be deployed to disrupt, stop and search those individuals. Previous operations of this nature have identified travelling Registered Sex Offenders and persons of interest to the intelligence department.



We are also in the process of submitting a bid to the Safety of Women at Night Fund to provide innovative approaches to creating safe spaces for women in our communities, particularly the night time economy and recognising our student and transient holiday populations.

I am reassured that together with partners and services commissioned by my office, Dyfed-Powys Police is committed to continuing to drive cross-agency working to ever improve how we collectively protect, and respond to the threats faced by women and girls.