

## **Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2021**

I have read with interest Sir Tom Winsor's final report as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary. I am encouraged that many of the points raised reinforce the strategic direction I have set for the Dyfed-Powys area for the next 4 years. My three priorities are:

1. Ensure victims are recognised and supported, tailoring responses to their individual needs.
2. Prevent harm to individuals and communities caused through crime, anti-social behaviour and vulnerability.
3. Working with partners, communities and victims to improve confidence in the criminal justice system.

I highlight some of the main themes from the report and my commitments below.

### **Early intervention**

I have committed to work with partners to develop a tailored approach to working with young adults who commit low level offences, ensuring these individuals can be safely and effectively diverted from the criminal justice system. This will include providing grant funding for small organisations who are able to meet the diversity of young adults' needs and aspirations in creative ways.

### **Ensuring services discharge their responsibilities**

I will call on the statutory duty of other partners to provide appropriate support for young people.

### **Engaging the public in prioritisation decisions**

I have committed to continuing to engage with the public throughout my plan, with one of my supporting values designated as "engaging widely". I will provide opportunities, through my Victim and Youth Engagement Forums, for those with lived experience to engage in local discussions about criminal justice priorities and co-design services where appropriate.

I will also increase opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to be heard, share their views and shape policy.

## **Prevention**

One outcome I have set under my second priority is to adopt early intervention and a problem-solving approach to address root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour. We will measure our success by evaluating prevention services for young people which are effective at reducing harm.

## **Neighbourhood Policing**

The first outcome I have set under priority two is for Dyfed-Powys Police to provide visible and proactive policing services, both in the physical and cyber world. The measure I will seek to demonstrate success in this will be safer communities through a reduced fear of crime.

## **Attending and investigating all serious crimes**

I have set out my expectation for Dyfed-Powys Police to achieve the following two relevant success measures to prevent harm:

- A reduction in violence against women and girls.
- A reduction in the threat of Serious Organised Crime and exploitation.

Under my third priority I have also set the aspiration for more successful criminal justice outcomes, particularly relating to violence against women and girls.

## **Proactively looking for hidden crimes and working to increase victim confidence to report and give evidence**

My primary priority is to ensure victims are recognised and supported, tailoring responses to their individual needs. This means we will listen to the views of victims and give them a positive experience, regardless of the outcome.

I have set the expectation that the Chief Constable, partners and my office will demonstrate:

- Learning from the experience of survivors to inform future practice.
- Innovation to increase reporting opportunities for victims.
- How well victims of serious sexual offences and hate crimes are supported.

## **Compassionate and sensitive engagement with victims**

Through meeting our obligations to the Victims' Code and Witness Charter, I hope to achieve a reduction in the proportion of victims disengaging or withdrawing from the criminal justice system.

## **Investigation & prosecution of rape**

I concur that there needs to be an urgent, profound and fundamental shift in how rape cases are investigated and prosecuted. As such, the first two outcomes I have set under my third priority are:

- Improved quality and timeliness of criminal investigations.
- More successful criminal justice outcomes, particularly relating to violence against women and girls.

## **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)**

I have committed to measure my office, Dyfed-Powys Police and partners' progress towards tackling VAWG through encouraging a public health approach, targeted intervention and preventative orders. I am encouraged that the Chief Constable has subsequently set an ambitious objective for Dyfed-Powys Police to eliminate domestic abuse, stalking and harassment.

## **Investment in technology and analytics**

As a former Principal Police Intelligence Analyst, I wholeheartedly believe in the importance of maximising our analytical capabilities and technology. I fully intend on supporting investment in the increase of analytical capability, IT developments and innovative modernisation programmes to ensure decisions are made on a sound evidence base.

## **Funding**

It is of great encouragement to read Sir Tom's support for the overhaul of the current funding formula for policing, stating it is indeed "long overdue". I have raised this issue throughout my 6 years in office, and in my latest Police and Crime Plan have committed to lobby for a longer-term fair funding settlement for Welsh police forces, by making the case for Wales to receive a fair allocation of funding arising from any Comprehensive Spending Review, review of the police funding formula or other relevant distribution of resources.

## **Secure accommodation for children**

This is an issue partners and I have personally been working to tackle. I am working with local authorities to understand how we can ensure that

young people are not unnecessarily held in police custody any longer than they need to be. More broadly, I am keen to see improvements in how we support, treat and divert young people who find themselves in contact with the criminal justice system. I have committed to:

- Work to keep young people out of the criminal justice system, by promoting a trauma-informed, child-centred policing model. In particular, I will support the introduction and implementation of a national protocol to reduce the disproportionate criminalisation of care-experienced children and young people.
- Campaign to end the lifelong stigma of criminal records obtained in childhood. I will lobby the UK Government to bring our criminal records system in line with other European nations including Scotland, raising the age of criminal responsibility from ten to at least twelve years old.

I am grateful to Sir Tom Winsor for his endeavour in supporting the continued improvement of British Policing during his time in office and wish him the very best in the next chapter of his career.



Dafydd Llywelyn

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys**