

26 September 2022

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to
The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime

As Commissioner of the Dyfed and Powys area, my vision is to achieve a Dyfed-Powys of safe communities. Acquisitive offences are the crimes that the public are most likely to encounter. There is strong evidence that these crimes can be prevented by tactics that either remove opportunities to commit crime or act as a deterrent by increasing the chances of an offender being caught.

I am pleased to report that having raised the observations in the report with Dyfed-Powys Police, I am assured that they have accepted the recommendations and that these will be the focus for the Force to identify and measure standards and performance.

Overall, data analysis remains a key priority for Dyfed-Powys Police and the HMICFRS *PEEL 2021/22 Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy – An inspection of Dyfed-Powys Police* identified that the Force have an ethos of crime prevention and good examples were seen and quoted of analytical work being used to solve problems and preventative tactics being used by local officers working with partner agencies, based on a comprehensive neighbourhood policing strategy.

The introduction of INTACT, a multi-agency partnership programme to tackle Serious Violence and Organised Crime in the Dyfed and Powys area, aims to keep our communities safe together. One of the priorities of the programme is early intervention and prevention, and this work is undertaken by a dedicated team of INTACT PCSOs who were appointed in April 2021.

My office secured funding through the Home Office's Safer Street Fund to go towards measures proven to cut crime, including employing two Community Wardens, purchase of SelectaDNA kits, community crime prevention activity support, environmental improvements and Community Crime Prevention kits. The SelectaDNA kits are property marking kits that include a unique formula of DNA, UV tracer and microdots, which people can use to mark their valuable household items, so that if stolen, police are able to trace them. Similarly, the bike register kits include stickers, frame markings and microdots to uniquely identify a bike. Users can add descriptions and photos to ensure that in the event of a theft, their bicycle can be easily identified and returned by Police through the BikeRegister Scheme.

I therefore accept the recommendations as outlined in the report:

- 1. Forces should make sure their crime scene management practices adhere to the authorised professional practice on managing investigations for SAC or provide a rationale for deviating from it. They should also include:**

- **giving victims timely and appropriate advice during their initial call; and**
- **applying a risk assessment process such as THRIVE, clearly recording it, and flagging those re-victimised for further support.**

It is encouraging that the HMICFRS PEEL findings outlined that Dyfed-Powys Police identify repeat callers and vulnerable callers and others in the household who may also be vulnerable. I am reassured that Dyfed-Powys Police have appropriately trained and accredited officers and staff and utilise those specialist skills appropriately, to provide both intelligence and evidential support to investigations, alongside providing appropriate, realistic and cost-effective prevention recommendations to victims. However, I am conscious that residential burglaries resulting in a criminal justice outcome remains at a lower rate and this remains a key area for improvement.

2. Forces should ensure SAC investigations are subject to effective supervision and direction. This should focus on:

- **making sure supervisors have the capability and capacity to meaningfully supervise investigations.**
- **making sure investigations meet the necessary standard and achieve suitable outcomes that consider the voice or opinion of victims;**
- **applying investigative outcome codes appropriately; and**
- **complying with the Victims' Code and recording evidence of compliance.**

As a result of HMICFRS findings, Dyfed-Powys Police are now utilising a new model, ensuring that investigations are allocated to experienced staff and that victims are regularly updated. This has resulted in an improvement in the Positive Outcome rate, as well as a reduction in crimes resulting in evidential difficulties. Dyfed-Powys Police have a clear governance structure in place to monitor and improve standards of investigations and a clear process for the oversight and coordination of a victims right to a review. Whilst it is a concern that Dyfed-Powys Police have a disproportionate level of investigations where a victim withdraws their support in comparison to other areas, I am reassured that the Force have commissioned a holistic review of outcomes to address all component processes, procedures and behaviours that contribute to the outcome rates, and this will be reported on at the end of this year.

I will continue to scrutinise the progress against the recommendations through the appropriate forums.

My team and I continue to work closely with Dyfed-Powys Police representatives to ensure all relevant learning from insights generated through HMICFRS' activity is acted upon, in order to improve the policing service for the residents of Dyfed and Powys.