

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to:

Homicide Prevention: An inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide

I acknowledge the recommendations outlined in this report and will monitor the Force's progress in implementing them. The Force response to this inspection was discussed at Policing Board on 21st of September 2023.

It is encouraging that this report highlights that most police forces were able to identify the patterns and causes of homicide effectively, and that they were able to prioritise and allocate the right resources to tackle them. Dyfed-Powys Police was not one of the forces inspected.

I set out below my thoughts and reassurances I have received from the Chief Constable in relation to the two recommendations within the report which are relevant to forces.

Recommendation 2

By 31 August 2024, chief constables in England and Wales should devise an approach to make sure their force can, on a sufficiently frequent basis, produce an analytical report concerning its death investigations. This will help the force to:

- **better understand the pattern of death reports across the force area, drawing on force data and information gathered by other organisations, including the NHS and local authorities; and**
- **identify any linked series of death reports.**

As the Chair of the Wales Data Analysis Innovation and Improvement Network, Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys, and a former Principal Analyst, I have repeatedly highlighted my concern regarding the pressing need to address our collective shortage of analysts. This shortage is driven by a multitude of factors, including difficulties in recruiting, and retaining appropriately trained individuals, as well as the restrictions placed upon forces through the additional government funding for frontline officers. Whilst the uplift in funding is welcomed, forces need the flexibility to undertake balanced recruitment, enabling sufficient investment in the specialisms needed locally. I am also working to ensure all Welsh police forces provide data to the Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) databank which will support services in Wales to connect data to inform future research and planning.

The Force has completed a Homicide problem profile earlier this year, using data from homicide and near-miss offences between April 2019 and March 2022. The Chief Constable has assured me that this will regularly be refreshed.

The existing Serious Violence and Organised Crime (SVOC), Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) and regional safeguarding boards are multi-agency boards with Information Sharing Protocols. The Serious Violence Duty has re-emphasised the duty on statutory partners to work together to share information and thereby reduce serious violence (which includes homicide) and prevent people from becoming involved in serious violence. As part of this work, Dyfed-Powys Police hosted an information sharing event with statutory and non-statutory partner agencies to explain in detail their terms of reference for the serious violence duty strategic needs assessment (SNA) and what data was required to inform that SNA. This event was very well received and additional data sources have been provided to the analyst as a result.

The Force is also linking with the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) project. The project has developed the Wales Safeguarding Repository which will hold all historical and current reviews (for example, Adult and Child Practice Reviews, Mental Health Homicide Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews). Using computer science and machine learning technologies, the repository will provide unique pan-Wales thematic oversight and learning.

I will seek an update on the Force's progress against this recommendation through my Policing Board, the forum where I hold the Chief Constable to account before the 31st of August 2024.

Recommendation 3

By 1 December 2023, chief constables should make sure their force can quickly identify lessons from homicides and serious violence incidents. The process should be capable of involving partner organisations when appropriate, so that lessons can be learned more widely.

I am keen to ensure Dyfed-Powys Police maintains a link with the Wales Safeguarding Repository (WSR) which houses all Welsh practice reviews and death reviews. This project is an ongoing research venture undertaken in conjunction with the National Independent Safeguarding Board (NISB) and Welsh Government. It seeks to enhance the future safeguarding practice of professionals such as police officers, social workers and those working in health and social care through a digital repository to allow for better learning to emerge from death reviews via state-of-the-art text mining and machine learning techniques.

Dyfed-Powys Police have informed me that they are developing a homicide prevention strategy to target the areas identified as the highest risk within their homicide problem profile and the Serious Violence Duty Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA). The SNA will identify the needs, or "gaps," between the current situation in the Dyfed-Powys area and the desired outcomes – this is a key step in building a delivery plan for the Serious Violence Duty. The SNA, which is a

THIS RESPONSE IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN WELSH



significant piece of analytical work into serious violence, is due to be completed by October 2023. I will be seeking an update on the Force's progress against the Serious Violence Duty through my Policing Board, the forum where I hold the Chief Constable to account, in November 2023.