



Published: October 2019

Welcome ...

Hello and welcome to October's edition of my newsletter. It has been a very busy summer for me and my team. There are many updates that I would like to present to you concerning topics such as rural crime, domestic abuse and investing in my workforce.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you on my work with partners and volunteers to make Dyfed-Powys a safer place, protect the most vulnerable and better connect with our communities.

I hope you find this newsletter both accessible and informative. If you have any feedback, please contact my office (contact details below).

Diolch.

Dafydd Llywelyn
Police and Crime Commissioner



The headlines ...



**Delivering on my
Police & Crime Plan.**



**Time I've spent out within the
Communities of Dyfed-Powys.**



**My Volunteers are protecting
the Vulnerable.**



**My investment in the
Future Workforce.**

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01267 226440

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POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

Commissioner's Impact within our Communities: Delivering on the Police & Crime Plan

By law I am required to create a Police & Crime Plan which sets out my priorities for Policing & Crime in Dyfed-Powys. I currently have four main priorities which are: **keeping our communities safe, safeguarding the vulnerable, protecting you from serious harm and connecting with communities.**

It is important to me that we deliver on these priorities for the communities of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys.

Within this edition of my newsletter I will provide a snapshot of some recent work that evidences how my priorities have an impact on you and your local services. I will focus on priorities one: **keeping our communities safe** and two: **safeguarding the vulnerable.**

In the next edition I will focus on priorities three and four.

Priority 1 Keeping Our Communities Safe

I have worked towards preventing crime and anti-social behaviour through funding an early intervention and prevention scheme through my Community Fund. **Find out more on page 6**



- I have sought to tackle the harm caused by substance misuse through many initiatives including the introduction of amnesty bins at the Royal Welsh Show and a session for our youth forum members on 'county lines' run by Fearless a young persons charity who encourage young people to report crime anonymously.
- We are responding to concerns of substance misuse in Lampeter following the Policing Accountability public meeting held in Lampeter in August.
- There has also been a successfully executed raid by Dyfed-Powys Police following information shared at a multi-agency day in Tregaron in January,



I have worked with partners at #ProjectEDWARD to improve road safety and reduce roadside fatalities **More on page 5**



Priority 2 Safeguarding the Vulnerable

I am recognising and dealing with vulnerability and seeking to prevent victimisation through the successful Independent Custody Visitors Pilot.

Find out more on page 7



- Initiatives such as the vulnerability desk and a grant through my Community Fund to charities such as West Wales Domestic Abuse Service are helping protect people from domestic abuse. **More on page 6**
- Following concerns I raised regarding the length of time some investigations are taking, an Investigation Standards Gold Group was set up to focus on ensuring officers and staff have the skills and knowledge to deliver swift, high quality investigations to victims of crime.



The Local Criminal Justice Board, which I chair, provides a forum to bring together key partners and senior representatives of criminal justice agencies operating within Dyfed-Powys. The vision of the Board is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the local criminal justice system, including improving the experience for victims and witnesses.



Remembering Simon Prince QPM



Mr Simon Prince QPM (left)

It was sad to hear of the passing of our former Chief Constable Simon Prince QPM in August.

I had the pleasure of knowing Simon both when I worked for the force and more recently in 2016 following my election as the Police Commissioner.

Simon treated everyone equally, regardless of rank, and was an individual who acted with the highest level of professionalism and integrity throughout.

Rural Crime Update



Dyfed-Powys Police's Rural Crime Team continue to work as hard as they can to make Dyfed-Powys's rural areas safer; but it is not an easy job. Recently there have been a series of quad bike and other rural thefts across Dyfed-Powys and the Rural Crime Team are doing their best to recover them.

I was pleased to see that some quad bikes have been recovered and arrests have been made and this is a positive step however this is a persistent problem that affects the very heart of our rural communities especially those who work within the agricultural sector.

On the 23rd of September I met with Deputy Chief Constable Claire Parmenter and Superintendent Ifan Charles where I was provided with operational updates on this important matter.

Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board has previously unveiled its aspirations to regenerate its rural communities - strengthening local economies, creating jobs and business opportunities and protecting the Welsh language. We have been keeping an eye on the Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward strategy led by Cllr. Cefin Campbell and my team recently attended an event where the task force launched the Rural Affairs Task Group Report. The event was a wonderful opportunity to hear more on the task force's findings. I welcome any future co-operation with the task force to meet all of our objectives for the area. More information on how I'm assisting Aberystwyth University with their rural crime study can be found on page 3.



Commissioner in the Community

Royal Welsh Show

We attended the Royal Welsh Show once again this year. As well as carrying out our usual engagement work I took the opportunity to launch the Rural Crime Study in partnership with Aberystwyth University. The new research project will build on the Rural Crime Survey carried out jointly in 2017 which was used to inform Dyfed-Powys Police's Rural Crime Strategy for 2017-2021.



Alongside Dyfed-Powys Police for the first time, we introduced drug amnesty bins at the show; amnesty bins are secure boxes in which suspected illegal drugs or legal highs can be safely deposited and anybody who places their illegal substances in these bins will be able to do so without fear of prosecution. We worked closely with Dyfed-Powys Police, and the Builth Wells Event Safety Group on this matter in order to ensure a safe experience for all visitors to the area during the Show.



Pembrokeshire Show

The Pembrokeshire Show was an opportunity for me to introduce the hybrid 'Renault Zoe' car which I funded for the Tenby Neighbourhood Policing Team over the summer. The show was a success once again giving us the perfect opportunity to speak to the public about rural crime and their contact with the Police. I would like to thank all those who assisted my team throughout the week.



Tregaron Show

Following a multi-agency day held in the town in January 2019, where residents had the opportunity to share their local concerns with us and our partner agencies, we returned to the area during the show to share the actions taken by our partners since the event. I was delighted to see that as a result of your engagement my office and partner agencies were able to take the necessary action to meet your concerns. One example was following residents' concerns regarding speeding in the town GoSafe Wales will carry out speed checks to assess the situation and suggest improvements. We also shared information residents gave us with partner agencies the Tregaron Family Centre has used the information gathered to apply for a community Lottery grant.

Policing Accountability Board

This is a public meeting - all are welcome to attend. We hold them at public places and the latest Policing Accountability Board was held on August 6th at Trinity St David's University in Lampeter.

The themes considered were accountability and leadership, and the meeting was an opportunity for me to hold the Chief Constable and the wider chief officer team to account on these matters.

We were joined by members of the public who were given the opportunity to express local concerns in regards to policing and crime; which included concerns around drug use in the area. Following the meeting the Chief Constable joined me for a live Facebook Q&A session. This is the second time we have held the live Q&A and we are sure to use the platform again to answer your questions and concerns so watch this space.



Shadowing the Brecon Street Pastors

I was invited to shadow the Brecon Street Pastors for an evening during the Brecon Jazz Festival on the 11th of August. What hit me whilst driving home at 2am; was the intense 24 hour nature and dedication of not only Dyfed-Powys Police, officers and staff, but our partners and hardworking volunteers, they are a valued partner both to my office and colleagues at Dyfed-Powys Police. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who volunteer alongside us, to keep our communities safe.



Tyisha, Llanelli

Following the announcement on the 5th July that I will be investing £50k into the communities of the Glan-y-môr and Tyisha wards to help improve community safety. My team attended a Family Activity Day in Tyisha. The event was organised by the Welsh Government and was an excellent opportunity to engage with local residents and other agencies. Following the event itself my team were invited to St Paul's Family Centre to meet with staff and families, and an invaluable link has now been made.

Crymych Community Engagement Day

I started my Community Engagement Day day in Crymych at the Farmer's Mart where I was joined by PCSO Caryl Griffiths, a member of the Rural Crime Team, along with local Councillors to discuss rural crime matters with the mart goers.

I also visited the Bro Preseli Community Housing Centre to discuss local matters with the residents and staff.

I ended the day at Ysgol y Preseli where a fun session with some interesting questions from the pupils on policing matters. It was great to see members of the Police Cadets involved in these sessions; sharing their own knowledge of the Police service.

Diolch i bawb.



Project EDWARD

On the 26th of September I was happy to support 'European Day Without A Road Death' known as #ProjectEDWARD.



The European-wide campaign aims to reduce the amount of collisions and road deaths in Europe.

#ProjectEDWARD encourages all road users to reflect on their behaviour and attitude.

I visited Llyswen Primary school where we held a road safety discussion and engagement with pupils, as well as a live video conferencing session with members of the Project EDWARD Road Tour Team; which included the European Commissioner for Transport Violeta Bulc.

The project saw a series of road safety days take place across Europe as well as a European road trip where the project coordinators joined many road safety days.

#ProjectEDWARD was 'created' on a path at the rear of Llyswen School so I am delighted to have supported the Project and will continue to do so in the future.

For more information visit: <https://projectedward.eu/>

Successful Applicants of the Commissioner's Community Fund Awarded Over £100K between Them

Earlier this summer, I announced that there were 18 successful applicants awarded a total of £117,554 between them through my community fun. I look forward to seeing the difference the grants make within our communities.



One of the successful applicants was Stop it Now! Wales, and this is what Claire Short, Stop it Now! Wales National Manager, had to say on receiving a grant of £10,000: *"Stop It Now! Wales are delighted to have been awarded funding through the Dyfed Powys Police & Crime Commissioner's Community Fund. Our project will enable us to deliver a suite of interventions designed to tackle online child sexual exploitation"*. The organisation will deliver their services across the Dyfed-Powys area.

My funding also focused on local causes one of which was the 'Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership'; Adam Whitehouse, Chairman of the Charity said; *"We are thrilled to again be supported in our work by the Dyfed-Powys Police & Crime Commissioner, and we are already working on a raft of projects and initiatives across Dyfed to educate young people and raise the wider public's awareness of the issues surrounding water safety and drowning prevention. These initiatives - in addition to the money supporting our Headquarters activities at the Quay Centre has all been made possible thanks to this funding by Dafydd Llywelyn and his team."*



One of the key priorities listed in my Police and Crime Plan is to protect the most vulnerable in society and I have allocated funding to groups who protect and develop vulnerable individuals. One of the successful applicants was Dyfodol Powys Futures who focus on children, young people and families offering support wherever necessary. They said of receiving a grant to support their programme 'Reaching Out'; *"Reaching Out/ Estyn Allan helps to build positive futures with vulnerable young men 16 - 25years, for whom other sources of support have failed. They are at a critical point in their lives, moving into adulthood. We give intensive one to one support out in their communities, wherever feels best for them: focusing on their lives and what matters to them."*

I am confident that the grants provided to organisations across Dyfed-Powys will help tackle some of our biggest problems and will help me deliver the priorities set out in my Police and Crime plan.

Successful Applicants of My Community Fund

- Women's Survivors Project - £1000
- Saundersfoot Youth Club - £1,560
- Dyfodol Powys Futures - £9,732
- Teifi Youth Programme - £5,500
- VC Gallery - £9,850
- Newtown Street Pastors - £500
- Stop it Now! Wales - £10,000
- Milford Haven Port Authority - £5,215
- Wales Federation of YFC - £9000
- Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services - £2000
- Llwynhendy and Pemberton Forum - £500
- Threshold DAS Ltd - £10,000
- West Wales Domestic Abuse Services - £9,781
- Hafren - £10,000
- Hafan Cymru - £9,916
- Cwmni Theatr Arad Goch - £10,000
- Cardigan Youth Project (Area 43) - £8000
- Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership - £5000
- Dr Mz - £10,000

Further Protection for Vulnerable People in Police Custody as Independent Custody Observers Pilot Launched

In September, I was proud to have been able to announce my Independent Custody Visiting Scheme; the only Welsh Scheme to have signed up to the 'Independent Custody Observers Pilot'.

This Pilot is being run by the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) within 7 Force areas across England and Wales, and aims to further protect the welfare of those identified as vulnerable within police custody, including young people. The introduction of custody record reviewing through this pilot will allow my ICVs to consider a detainee's entire journey through custody; helping us to build a better understanding of current and local issues.



Mandy Davies, one of my Carmarthenshire-based ICV's says: "The current visits only provide a snapshot of issues whilst the Pilot will enable us to examine all the relevant records. By providing unbiased observations from independent persons, the community can have confidence in fair and equitable treatment of detainees."

The pilot which started in September will run for six months ending in February of next year. As part of the pilot, ICV's are visiting my office on a weekly basis to report on a range of criteria. It is encouraging to see them hard at work providing this further protection to vulnerable people in custody.



If you would like further information on the Pilot or the scheme speak to Caryl Bond the scheme's coordinator: opcc@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk or telephone 01267 226440.

Further information is also available on my website: <http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/theoffice/volunteer-schemes/independent-custody-visitors/>

Investing In the Future Workforce

Over the Summer I provided two students with the opportunity to work for a period of 10 weeks each in my office. I am committed to providing people with the opportunity to work within my office to develop their skills and further their career prospects. In fact, have very recently recruited for two new student internships at my office, in partnership with the Open University and Santander. This will be the second time these internships have been made available to Open University Students, and I look forward to welcoming the students to our team. Here is what our summer student Interns Cerys and Steffan had to say about their experience.

"Going into my third year of university is daunting, and now I have to start to think about graduation and a future career. Studying Psychology with Criminology and Criminal Justice, I had (almost) a clear idea of what I wanted to do with my future. However, being given the opportunity to work in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner over the summer period has changed my outlook for my future completely.

“My time in the office has gone by so quickly, which is evidential of how much I have enjoyed working here and being a part of the team. No two days are the same and I have always been kept busy with various roles and responsibilities. From getting to grips with an office environment to working closely with the engagement team on community engagement days, there is always something to keep you busy. Trying to understand the complexity of the policing world was challenging at first, but it soon became easier as I learnt more.

“A couple of my main responsibilities were; helping with research relating to the Deep Dive scrutiny work being conducted on public contact with the Police and writing a report following a Quality Assurance Panel meeting. This was a great opportunity for me to use the skills I had already gained from university as well as to gain and develop new skills which I can use and implement on my return to university.

“Since working in the office I have met a variety of individuals, both internally and externally, who have all been so kind and willing to help me or have a chat. This experience has opened a whole new world to me and I will definitely benefit from it when pursuing my future career. I have gained more confidence and gained many skills whilst being here. I have really enjoyed this experience and I am sad to be leaving. Thank you to Mr Llywelyn and the team.”

“I graduated from Aberystwyth University in June and like most graduates did not have a clear idea of what I wanted to do when I left University. I saw the opportunity to work in the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office for ten weeks, and I knew if successful in getting the job it would be a good place to start in the world of employment; I wasn’t wrong.

“I received a very warm welcome from staff at the office; this made my move here from North Wales much easier as I was made to feel at home immediately. There was always someone available to help me or for advise when needed. I was involved from the start in exciting projects such as the review into public contact with the police, engagement days, working with colleagues to establish a Victims’ Engagement Forum and even putting this newsletter together.

“The internship has given me the opportunity to pick up many new skills which will benefit me greatly in future employment. I have also learnt a lot about policing and the important work that the Commissioner and staff do and the impact that has on the communities they serve. It is great to see that the Commissioner is providing opportunities for young people and I would recommend that anyone with an interest apply for any future opportunities with the Commissioner’s Office. Diolch i bawb.”

I hope you agree that these accounts demonstrate that student internships provide an opportunity to gain a range of valuable work experience while in paid employment, offer excellent career progression and will allow the force to widen its talent pool. This is a positive step in our journey to train and retain staff and I wish Cerys and Steffan all the very best.



PRESS RELEASE: Praise for Force's Progress in Tackling Domestic Abuse

The Police and Crime Commissioner has praised Dyfed-Powys Police for improvements in identifying and responding to domestic abuse, but says there's 'still more to do' in this important area.

In January 2018, the force identified domestic abuse as one of three core priorities for the 12 months ahead, and were keen to address the concerns raised by inspectors, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), about their initial risk assessments of domestic abuse incidents.

The work that followed included the introduction of a dedicated Vulnerability Desk in the force's control room, which takes emergency and non-emergency calls, to help call-takers and response officers identify and risk assess domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity, and ensure crimes are properly recorded. The information the Desk provides to frontline staff ultimately helps police provide the best support to victims from the very first contact.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys Police, Dafydd Llywelyn, said:

"I'm glad to see the force is taking this issue seriously. Domestic abuse is a horrific crime, which impacts survivors, children, families and the whole community.

"The force has invested in a bespoke training package, known as 'Domestic Abuse Matters', which is recognised at a national level and works in partnership with specialist domestic abuse services to enhance officer and staff understanding of the hidden side of domestic abuse, such as coercive control.

"Reports of controlling and coercive behaviour and stalking have risen sharply over the last year, which both I and the force welcome as a positive indicator that this training is working.

"While much positive progress has been made in this area, there is still more to do. I have concerns about the length of time some investigations are taking and have held detailed discussions with the Chief Officer team and the Head of Crime to scrutinise the force's response in this important area.

"I am reassured that an Investigation Standards Gold Group has been set up to focus on ensuring officers and staff have the skills and knowledge to deliver swift, high quality investigations to victims of crime."

"We know the length of an investigation has a direct impact on victims and it is vital we keep victims engaged in the criminal justice process. We can do this by providing the right support at the outset, and delivering as swift a justice process as possible."

"I have been working with partner agencies to ensure victims are provided with the best possible services in what is one of the most rural and challenging geographical areas in England and Wales. This includes joint investment in services for high risk victims, with the four local authorities, along with funding additional support for victims at any level of risk."

The force is keen to put context around its current position, pointing out that Dyfed-Powys' crime rate is the lowest in the country, despite the huge the influx of visitors over the summer period:

"Our crime rate per 1000 people is the lowest of 43 forces in the UK, and almost half that of the national average. We welcome hundreds of thousands of holiday makers to our four counties over the summer period, which boosts our population significantly and places extra demand on us."

Head of CID, Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Cockwell said,

"Despite the challenges we face, our overall charge rate is still significantly higher than national average."

"The nature of crime has changed over recent years in areas such as complex sexual assault investigations, fraud and cyber-enabled crimes." He continued.

"The increase in the use of technology and the amount of data held on mobile phones, tablets, and computers means that enquiries have become more protracted, and examination of devices takes longer. This is a challenge faced by the police service across the UK."

"In Dyfed-Powys Police we have invested heavily in our cyber-crime capacity, supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), who has provided funds for new equipment and technology to enhance our ability to examine devices more quickly."

"We have increased our specialist capacity in examining digital devices to address the increasing demand, and are also using triaging methods to prioritise devices where there is the best chance of recovering evidence."

"Thanks to this additional funding from the PCC, we are now building capability to examine phones in local hubs to improve timeliness, particularly where suspects are already in custody. The PCC's re-investment in CCTV is also helping, and evidence from the cameras has already proved invaluable in a number of investigations, while also providing reassurance to the public."

Dyfed-Powys Police's charge/postal requisition outcome is 50% higher than the national average at 11.8%, compared to 7.8% nationally.

Reports of Controlling and Coercive Behaviour have increased by 214% (from 80 to 251) in the 12 months ending June 2019.

Reports of Stalking have increased by 167% (from 69 to 184) in the 12 months ending June 2019.

Looking Ahead

8th & 9th October: CCTV Event, Police Headquarters



I will be hosting two events to present my CCTV systems to community representatives from across Dyfed-Powys. Re-investing in CCTV systems was one of my key pledges in my election manifesto and I am pleased to say that I have delivered on my promise. I am looking forward to showing guests the facilities we have here at HQ and I will take the opportunity to highlight the progress that has been made in the area and what more needs to be done to improve safety within our communities. The project continues to develop with 7 more areas to benefit from CCTV investment.

12-19 October: Hate Crime Awareness Week

This is an important week for everyone to be aware of. My staff, partners and volunteers are working closely with Dyfed-Powys Police to develop better practices in relation to hate crime. For example my Quality Assurance Panel have recently been scrutinising documents related to hate crime to ensure that Police Officers are following the correct guidelines when dealing and investigating it. The week's events are brought by Stop Hate UK who started as a small organisation in 1995 following the death of Stephen Lawrence.

They relaunched as Stop Hate UK in 2007 to reflect their support for all types of hate crime nationally and continue to provide a crucial service through national awareness campaigns and services such as a 24 hour helpline.



1st November: All Wales Youth Policing Convention, National Assembly for Wales

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



On the 1st of November, the first ever All Wales Youth Policing Convention will take place in the National Assembly at Cardiff Bay. It will bring Police Cadets from across all four policing areas of Wales together under one roof to celebrate the vital contribution that young volunteers make to the service. It will also be an opportunity for the young people to engage in serious discussion as to how we can improve the service and consequently help all of us shape the future of our police forces across Wales. The Event is kindly sponsored by the Llywydd Elin Jones AM; I am looking forward to attending this event.

Preparing for Brexit

I have been reassured by the Chief Constable Mark Collins that colleagues from across Dyfed-Powys Police and key partners have been making vital preparations ahead of the Brexit deadline on the 31st October; whether we leave with or without a deal. I am reassured that particular attention has been given to our Ports in Fishguard, Milford Haven and Pembroke to ensure continuing operations with limited disruption and delay.

