

Community Link Free

Published: March 2020

Welcome ...

Hello and welcome to the March edition of my newsletter. As a public representative, I want to provide residents, visitors, partners and victims of crime with updates about my work as Police and Crime Commissioner. Detailed inside are some of the key areas of work I have been involved with over the last few months.

One of the highlights for me was the St David's Day Conference I hosted at Dyfed-Powys Police Headquarters on 6 March. This year the conference focused Policing in a rural setting. This theme was chosen as Dyfed-Powys Force area is one the largest and most rural Forces in England and Wales. Speakers included Dr Wyn Morris and Dr Gareth Morris from Aberystwyth University, PC Esther Davies, Rural Crime Team, Emma Picton-Jones, founder of the DPJ Foundation, Councillor Cefin Campbell, Carmarthenshire County Council and Detective Superintendent Estelle Hopkin-Davies from Dyfed-Powys Police's Criminal Investigation Department.

I hope you find this Newsletter both accessible and informative. Please share with family, friends and colleagues. Details of how you can subscribe can be found on the final page, and to view previous issues of my Newsletter visit my website <http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/your-neighbourhood/newsletters/> or contact my office on 01267 226440 / opcc@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk.

Thank you for reading,



Dafydd Llywelyn
Police and Crime Commissioner



The headlines ...



Police Precept remains lowest in Wales



Holding Dyfed-Powys Police to account



Knife Angel's first visit to Wales



Celebrating our CCTV infrastructure



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DYFED-POWYS
POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

First Time for the Knife Angel to visit Wales

I was honoured to have been able to support and sponsor the Knife Angel's first visit to Wales as we welcomed the sculpture to Newtown, Powys, 4 - 29 January 2020.

By bringing the Knife Angel to Newtown, Powys County Council and my office made a commitment to conduct 28 days of intensive educational workshops and programmes - but were also the first region to commit to targeting and deputising 10,000 Anti-Violence Champions. This drive encompasses schools and youth groups by allowing young people to stand up against violence and aggression in all forms, not just knife crime. Many schools in Powys have visited the Knife Angel and benefited from the workshops arranged - particularly the Crimestoppers Fearless School Talk, which I fund.

The Dyfed-Powys Police force area is the safest place in Wales and England and we have very low levels of violent crime and knife related issues. However, we must not be complacent to current trends and my hope as the Police and Crime Commissioner is for our communities to remain safe and that we take a preventative approach in reducing crime over the long term.

I see this area very much as being the frontline of stopping criminality infiltrating our communities. Our Knife Angel message is about prevention - I would like to see Dyfed-Powys continue as the safest place, and I want our youngsters to feel safe and secure. Delivering the Knife Angel to Newtown must be a catalyst to promote key prevention messages. It would be remiss of me not to thank Councillor Joy Jones, for being a local community leader that pushes the boundaries and gets things happening on the ground. I hope the community here in Newtown and further afield in Powys take this opportunity to understand the critical key message about crime prevention in particular relating to serious violence and knife crime. Any form of violence and aggression will not be tolerated.

During the Angel's visit a knife amnesty bin was placed next to the statue, encouraging everyone to surrender knives to save lives. The bin was emptied before the Angel left, and it was full. The British Ironworks has confirmed that they will create a piece from these surrendered blades, which when completed will return to be displayed in Powys.

The Knife Angel allowed my office and Dyfed-Powys Police to work with the community of Newtown and surrounding area to highlight key community safety messages and reduce the fear of crime within the area.



Whilst no official figures have been recorded for the number of people who have visited the monument, organisers and volunteers estimate that thousands have visited - with many travelling to Newtown from all over the UK.

I hope I can lay claim to have been the first person to have welcomed the Angel in the Welsh language. And I'm excited about what we've been able to achieve here in Newtown over the past few weeks.

My team and I have been awarded the National Anti-Violence Award in recognition of this positive impact upon the county of Powys and assisting the UK tour of the National Monument Against Violence and Aggression.

The feedback from those that have visited the statue demonstrates the impact it has had. Below is an anonymised selection:

"So powerful, sending such an important message. Great to see an Angel of peace in Newtown."

"Inspiring - everyone should visit the Angel."

Very thought provoking, raising awareness that violence of any form is not acceptable."

"Amazing and powerful – well worth the visit."

"The angel is a wonderful tribute to all those who have suffered or been lost due to knives."

"This is so very powerful in respect of encouraging people to drop the knife. Well done Newtown for hosting the Angel."

A couple of years ago I visited the British Ironworks Centre where I first saw the Knife Angel. At the time, I was not only taken aback by its sheer size, but by the very powerful message it has and the story behind its creation.

It was becoming a symbol representing a message of anti-violence and I wanted Powys to have the opportunity to be part of this tour and stand against violence of any kind. With the support of the PCC Dafydd and kindness of Clive from the British Ironworks Centre, the journey began.

The Knife Angel visit was not just about Newtown...it's about Powys and the whole community, building bridges, standing together, protecting the vulnerable and re-educating those who have made serious mistakes in their lives.

If communities stand together they can achieve amazing things and if Powys could become a county that stands up against violence...it would be a happier place.

Councillor Joy Jones

Why was the Knife Angel in Newtown?

This is the first time the Knife Angel has visited Wales and we are pleased that we have been able to secure Powys as its destination.

The Knife Angel is slowly touring the UK in a bid to raise awareness of the knife crime crises affecting communities, families and individuals. It is there to highlight the education and prevention initiatives taking place in schools and youth organisations across the area right now. The sculpture also recognises those whose lives have been blighted by knife crime and acts as a memorial for bereaved families.

Where did the knives come from?

The sculpture is made of 100,000 bladed instruments (flick knives, pen knives, machetes, samurai swords, kitchen knives) collected in amnesties by all 43 UK police forces. All have been sterilised and blunted.

Who created the Knife Angel?

Sculptor Alfie Bradley created the Knife Angel along with The British Ironwork Centre in Shropshire.

Who is the Knife Angel targeted at?

The Knife Angel should resonate with all of us, as we listen to daily news reports of knife crime and lives lost. It hopes to raise awareness in the communities it visits by providing a focal point, to question the senseless deaths and loss of lives and also support the police and school education programmes.

If you have any knowledge of a crime, report it to the Police on 101 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

If you are a young person you can find out more about knife crime by visiting fearless.org

Investment in new approach to community funding

I am investing in a new fund following the recent refresh of the Neighbourhood Policing structure across the Dyfed-Powys Police area.

Each of the 14 Neighbourhood Policing Teams across the force area will receive £10,000 to be spent within the communities they serve, and the communities themselves will be key decision makers in this Participatory Budgeting process. Neighbourhood Policing officers from Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys attended a training session in Newtown in February to launch this process. It will involve local police officers working closely with their community to enable the public to make important decisions on how money will be spent.

I have committed to fund this new and innovative approach to as I think it's vital that local residents have a say in how money is spent in their area. They are best placed to work with the police, and indeed other partner agencies, to identify where the money is needed and what would most benefit the local communities. Communities should be influencing the decisions.

The funding will be available from 1 April 2020. This new approach will firstly be adopted by Newtown officers and the communities they serve. It will then be rolled out across the remaining 13 Neighbourhood Policing areas. Newtown officers have already identified partners to work alongside them, which has resulted in additional funding being made available.

Superintendent Ifan Charles, Divisional Commander for Powys and lead on participatory budgeting said: "Participatory budgeting is a way of giving communities a greater say in how their community evolves.

"Problem solving to find long term solutions to solve the issues that cause communities the greatest harm, is at the core of our new neighbourhood policing model.

"Through informed community engagement and problem solving the new neighbourhood structure should reduce the long-term harm for our communities and, with that, demand on our response officers. This will only work if our communities and partners are equally engaged.

"Participatory budgeting has worked really well elsewhere and I'm really excited to lead the introduction of this innovative approach here."

Please find below a breakdown of the 14 Neighbourhood Policing Team areas:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Milford Haven | 8. Ammanford |
| 2. Pembroke Dock | 9. North Ceredigion |
| 3. Tenby | 10. Mid Ceredigion |
| 4. Haverfordwest | 11. South Ceredigion |
| 5. Llanelli Town | 12. North Powys |
| 6. Llanelli Rural | 13. Mid Powys |
| 7. Carmarthen | 14. South Powys |

I announced that I will increase the police precept by £1 per month, remaining the lowest council tax precept in Wales.

The increase will enable me to invest in policing services in the Dyfed-Powys area. Residents will benefit from an increase of 42 response and local investigation officers, with a further 38 additional specialist roles which include dealing with domestic abuse, serious and violent offenders and vulnerability. In addition, there will be an increase in staff to support the delivery of key areas of policing such as vulnerability and improving the public contact with the service.

Consultation undertaken to inform my decision showed that 60% of respondents were willing to pay an additional £2 or £1.50 each month through the Police Precept, with 40% willing to pay an additional £1 each month. The precept increase will raise the average band D property precept by 4.83% to £260.56 per year; which is still the lowest precept in Wales.

I presented my precept proposal to the Police and Crime Panel who unanimously agreed to accept the proposal. I have worked tirelessly to ensure the lowest council tax levels in Wales whilst ensuring the police service is developed for the future. The new CCTV system is greatly supporting frontline officers and investigations and I am confident that such investments will improve the service provided to local communities.

Additional resources must be prioritised for local response and investigations whilst also ensuring we protect and support the vulnerable.

For detailed information on the police precept proposal for 2020/21, please go to <http://www.dppoliceandcrimepanel.wales/home/meetings/2020/february-7-2020/>

For further information on the police precept set by the Police and Crime Commissioner, please go to <http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/the-office/finance/precept-and-medium-term-financial-plan/>



CCTV event held for County Councillors

On Friday, 15 February 2020, I held an event at Dyfed Powys Headquarters to mark the completion of the new CCTV infrastructure in 24 towns throughout Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys.

When I made my election pledge to reinstate CCTV in the Force area I was determined to see it come to fruition. Over 150 state of the art high definition CCTV cameras with 25x optical zoom and 360 degrees turning capability have now been installed in 24 towns across the Force area. To deliver this project has taken a lot of effort from lots of different people.

It's all about making sure our communities are as safe and secure as possible and it is very encouraging to see the positive impact the CCTV infrastructure, its centralised monitoring suite and our team of CCTV operators are having on policing throughout the Force.

To celebrate the accomplishment, I invited Councillors and other community representatives to Police Headquarters to see for themselves how the cameras are being proactively monitored from a centralised monitoring suite, to understand the level of investment made and for them to see the impact CCTV is already having throughout the Force.

Camera locations were identified by listening to community concerns matched with a review of crime pattern analysis. This included analysing crime data, the number of emergency and non-emergency calls for police service received, the level of reported anti-social behaviour and hate crime incidents.

The cameras are proactively monitored by a team of four CCTV operators overseen by a CCTV coordinator from a suite located in the Force Communications Centre, where all emergency and routine / non-emergency calls for police support are received.

CCTV footage has already provided crucial evidence in police investigations and is assisting with the protection of vulnerable people across Dyfed-Powys.



Emlyn Dole, Carmarthenshire Council Leader said: “The Police and Crime Commissioner is to be commended for his decision not only to overturn his predecessor’s decision, but to ensure that the cameras are installed across Dyfed-Powys and are of the highest quality. Already in our major towns in Carmarthenshire the decision has proved its validity as the cameras have helped to catch and sentence offenders. I have long been calling for the safety of Llanelli town centre - now that the cameras are in place everyone is feeling happier as police can keep a constant eye on what’s happening there. ”

“It was nice to visit the operating room at HQ and see how effective the system is and how the team operates. As Leader of Carmarthenshire, I can only commend Dafydd’s enthusiasm in his effort to ensure that this area remains the safest place in Britain.”

Ceredig Davies, Councillor for Aberystwyth, Ceredigion said, “As the ward councillor for the centre of Aberystwyth, with its eight CCTV cameras, I believed it was a retrograde step a few years ago for Ceredigion Council to cease their operation. The cameras were recognised by residents and businesses as an useful tool in monitoring criminal and anti social behaviour in the town. I was sceptical if we would see their return but my worries were ill founded as was evident when I recently visited the CCTV suite at the police headquarters in Carmarthen.”

“Not only have we our cameras back but there are more of them and the quality of the recorded video footage was far superior to what we had in the past. I would like to commend the Police and Crime Commissioner for keeping to his manifesto promise and delivering such a state of the art system.”



For further information on the CCTV rollout, including a list of towns that have received CCTV cameras, please click here: <https://www.dyfed-powys.police.uk/en/accessing-information/cctv-in-dyfed-powys-police/>

Holding Dyfed-Powys Police to account

My office has introduced a process called “Supportive Scrutiny” to assist me in discharging my duty to hold the Chief Constable to account for the effective and efficient delivery of policing services, by considering issues which I can have the greatest impact on.

In February, I conducted a review of the prevalence and factors affecting victim withdrawal and made a number of recommendations to ensure delivery of the best possible service to victims within Dyfed-Powys.



The full report on the review of victim withdrawal was shared with local Police and Crime Panel members at their public meeting on the 21st of February 2020.

Sparked by an apparent rise in victims withdrawing support for investigations into domestic and sexual crimes, individual cases highlighted to me and my responsibility to act as the voice of victims, the review scrutinised the findings from a number of previous reports on the subject and presented feedback received from victims.

Over 80% of victims who withdrew their support for an investigation still reported being satisfied with their overall experience but it is vital that these victims are able to access the appropriate support to help them cope and recover from the impact of the crime.

Whilst victims are clearly a priority for Dyfed-Powys Police, there are some concerns regarding the consistency and accuracy of the data used to inform action planning. There is duplication in the contact being made with victims and a lack of awareness of the support services available.

A series of recommendations have been accepted by Chief Constable, Mark Collins, who has detailed the Force's planned course of action in a formal response. My office will use this action plan to review the Force's progress over the coming months.

I have been encouraged by the Force's response to my office undertaking this work and thank all those who contributed honestly and thoroughly to the review. Victims are at the heart of everything we do and it is vital that their voices are heard and that we provide a service that is tailored to their needs. My office will be continuing to promote a variety of ways in which victims can share their experience and provide feedback regarding how services could be improved. I would encourage anyone who has experienced our services to use these opportunities to help us shape future provision.

The full report, summary and Chief Constable's response can be found on <http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/accountability-and-transparency/scrutiny/>

Independent Custody Observers Pilot - Launch of Second Phase

In September, I was proud to announce that my Independent Custody Visiting Scheme was 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 5 Force areas across England and Wales and aims to further protect the welfare of those identified as vulnerable within police custody, including young people and those with Mental Health concerns.

The Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Scheme came about as a result of the Lord Scarman Report on the Brixton riots in 1981. All Police and Crime Commissioners now have a statutory duty to put in place an effective ICV Scheme; to monitor the standards of custody facilities and the wellbeing of individuals being held in custody (detainees). Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) are local volunteers who make weekly unannounced visits to custody suites to speak to detainees. They check on detainees' rights, entitlements, welfare and wellbeing, and on the custody environment itself to ensure it is safe and fit for purpose; helping to maintain the Force's high standards.

The Pilot has been split into two phases. Phase 1 launched on the 2nd of September 2019, and saw the introduction of custody record reviewing. This allows my ICVs to independently review a selection of custody records each month, giving them a better insight into the totality of care extended to vulnerable detainees across Dyfed-Powys custody suites.

Phase 2 of the Pilot, which is being trialled in Pembrokeshire, was launched on the 24th of January 2020, this includes some changes to the ICV visits themselves. Phase 2 allows my ICVs, with consent from the detainees, to observe some of the custody procedures such as the booking in and release processes. My ICVs will answer a range of questions on their observations such as ensuring that individuals have been read their rights and entitlements, that an Appropriate Adult or interpreter is called if required and if female detainees have been given access to a female member of staff. These additional observations and questions will help to identify both areas of good practice and areas of improvement if needed.

“Taking part in the pilot has given me a deeper insight into the journey through Custody of detained persons, and I am able to take a more informed and broader view during my ICV visits. The pilot has already revealed good practice as well as areas of possible improvement that will require closer scrutiny. The Pilot Scheme should provide useful information that will help develop best practice to safeguard the vulnerable in Custody.”

John Jones, Independent Custody Visitor.

I am very pleased that our scheme here in the Dyfed-Powys area has signed up to be part of the Pilot. The introduction of custody record reviewing and increased observations during their visits to custody has enabled my ICVs to undertake a more detailed independent check on custody procedures, allowing them to consider a detainee’s entire journey through custody, helping us to build a better understanding of any current local issues.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner awarded Transparency Quality Mark

In March 2020, my office was awarded Transparency Quality Mark, for the second year running, a sign of high quality standards in relation to transparency of governance structures and information publishing.

CoPaCC, the police governance experts first reviewed Police and Crime Commissioners' (PCCs) ability to meet their statutory transparency responsibilities one year after the first PCC elections. Since then, 28 OPCC's have been awarded the Transparency Quality Mark.

The OPCCs were assessed during November and December 2019 with CoPaCC researchers acting as a ‘mystery shopper’ looking for the required information on the website of each OPCC.

Thirty-two OPCCs were assessed this year including the 28 who received the Quality Mark in 2019 plus four additional OPCCs who responded to the invitation to take part.

CoPaCC have announced that despite a higher pass threshold and the new ‘ease of use’ criteria, i.e. how easy is it for a member of the public to find the information disclosure, that 28 OPCCs are recognised to have reached the required standard for the 2020 ‘Open & Transparent’ Quality Mark including my office.

You can be confident that I meet my publishing responsibilities, as my office was also awarded the CoPaCC National Quality Mark for Transparency during 2018/19. The compliance function within my office ensures that any changes and updates to legislation are acted upon and members of the public have an avenue to request information that we hold. As one of 28 OPCCs to be presented with the award, my office has proven that they provide independent, consistent and clear information on my activity and performance.

Paul Grady, Head of Police for Grant Thornton, assurance providers and sponsors of the CoPaCC Transparency Quality Mark, said "For my part, these OPCCs have all demonstrated that they are transparent in what they do, meeting relevant legal requirements. They present key information in an accessible format on their websites. I congratulate them all on their award winning work, and I look forward to what I trust will be continued excellent work by each and every one of them in this area."



OPCC
**Transparency
Quality Mark**
2020

Community Investment

I am committed to keeping our communities safe, safeguarding the vulnerable and protecting our communities from serious threat. Through my Community Funding, a number of small grants are awarded to community groups working to deliver important projects in their area that support the vision of the Police and Crime Plan. The wards of Glanymor and Tyisha in Llanelli are classed amongst the most deprived wards according to the Welsh Indices of Multiple Deprivation and a significant amount of work is underway to address some of the challenges experienced in these communities. As part of this, I committed to invest £50,000 towards a variety of projects put forward by the communities themselves. These are outlined below:

Outreach Drug Support Officers £17,500: This project will enable the recruitment of two outreach drug support officers on a sessional basis. Fear is one of many multiple barriers that individuals are facing in the area. The following issues were identified; drinking alcohol in public places by both adults and young people, drug dealing and taking including used syringes and needles found, night noise and rowdiness, theft, and young people hanging around / congregating. The repercussions of this are having a negative effect on the lives of many, affecting health and wellbeing. With the County Lines being predominant in the area, this is increasing the availability of drugs that are being circulated, resulting in the lives of vulnerable individuals being put at a high risk.

Carmarthenshire County Council - Get into Gardening £4000: The project will create opportunities for young people to further their skills in landscaping and gardening in an in-formal setting whilst removing the barriers of cost, childcare and transport. This project will target 8-10 individuals aged 16 and over who are working with the youth service within the Bwlch centre. The individuals working with the youth service are identified as at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) or are working with the youth justice team. This project will take place in February within the area of Glanymor. On completion the individuals will achieve Agored Community Gardening unit Level 1. The project will utilise the garden within the Bwlch centre which the young people are keen to regenerate as a community garden.

Crimestoppers Llanelli Be Fearless £13,150: Aimed at 11-16 year olds, the Llanelli 'Be Fearless' project seeks to help build upon as well as localise the Welsh project. Aiming to prevent and reduce youth crime in Llanelli, enabling young people to feel confident and resilient if they encounter crime. There will be a bilingual youth summit linked to Fearless workshops targeted at Primary (Year 5/6) and Secondary Schools within the Llanelli Town area that will empower young people to overcome current challenges around drug-related activity / anti-social behaviour / child exploitation / cybercrime and invite young people to champion Fearless.org with their peers. A bilingual digital and promotional marketing campaign will be targeted in the Llanelli Town area using social media channels and materials, aimed at young people promoting Fearless.org specifically to encourage them to learn about and report crime issues. Community viewings and discussion sessions following the recent publication of a new Fearless film 'Running The Lines' raising awareness of how County Lines drug gangs exploit young people to sell drugs. Acting as a hub for all partner agencies to be present giving additional opportunities for Glanymor residents to ask any questions or raise any concerns that they may have.

Swansea City Football Club Community Trust - Seaside Kicks £5001: This project will work with the national, Premier League programme; Kicks. This is one of the Premier League's flagship community programmes. This project will take place across Glanymor and Tyisha and engage young people in constructive activities including a wide variety of sports, coaching and educational and personal development sessions. Having only begun in January, already more than 150 young people in the area participate on a weekly basis. They take part in various practical activities with the Seaside Kicks, such as football coaching sessions, as well as informal sessions that address crime issues.

I am privileged to see for myself the positive influence an initiative such as Seaside Kicks is having on the youth, and the wider community. As a sports enthusiast, and having played football at many levels in my youth, I am fully aware of the influence that sport and exercise have on the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities in general.

The initiative already said that is delivered locally by Swansea City Football Club Community Trust. The program aims to use football and sport in general to inspire youth living in deprived areas.



Craig Richards from the Swansea City FC Community Trust, said "Premier League Kicks provides free weekly football sessions and educational workshops to young people, giving them opportunities, support and pathways to reach their full potential and divert them away from crime or criminals. It was a pleasure to welcome the Police and Crime Commissioner, Dafydd Llywelyn to Seaside Kicks session to see so many young people having great fun in a safe environment".

Sean Rees, Llanelli Town Councillor for the Glanymor Ward added, "We were delighted to welcome the Commissioner to 'Seaside Kicks' whose funding has helped to make this happen. This is partnership work at its best. It is a pleasure to link up with the Swansea City Football Community Trust, Police and Crime Commissioner, our PCs and PCSO's, Ysgol PenRhos, Seaside AFC, Llanelli Town Council and the Community Safety Partnership in bringing forward such an exciting project.

"My thanks go to all the young people who are really enjoying and their parents who continue to turn out in such great numbers to support these sessions.

"Given its overwhelming success, the next step now should be to make 'Kicks' a permanent project in Glanymor Community."

YMCA Swansea Youth Club Seaside £9000: The project is to create a youth club facility within the Seaside area. The preferred location would be in Crown Park by the Social Club. There will be tailored activities which will be delivered and supported by specialist organisations. The target audience will be young people aged 12 plus. There will be a wide range of initiatives for the young people to access that will support them to upskill, identify career pathways, receive advice and guidance, support to improve wellbeing and information around cyber bullying and digital safety.

Volunteer Training - Fusion Carmarthenshire County Council £600: The proposal is to develop diversionary activities within the Glanymor and Tyisha areas, encouraging community cohesion. This diversionary activity will focus on bowling. Within the Llanelli areas there are limited activities at no/low cost for children and young people to participate in. With transportation being an issue for many, outreach activities are instrumental

to prevent boredom. This has been highlighted in the consultation that has taken place within the area. Whilst there are local football clubs in the wards, the range of sport and recreation is limited. The proposal is to train up local volunteers who can deliver outreach activities for the Glanymor and Tyisha Area.

Youth Voices: Legacy Programme Carmarthenshire County Council and Fusion Carmarthenshire County Council £1000: There will be a celebratory event which will be planned and delivered by the young people who have accessed local youth projects. This will be an opportunity to develop skills, and inform others of the outcomes achieved as a result of participation in the projects.

Connecting with Communities

As the Police and Crime Commissioner, it is vital I have a sound understanding of the issues that affect and matter most to you and that the public understands my role.

As part of one of my priorities to Connect with Communities, I enjoy visiting different communities in the region in order to discover and understand local issues and to raise awareness of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Here's a snapshot of some recent activity since my December edition of Community Link.

Tuesday 11 February 2020

09:00 - 10:00 - Visit to Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre

I spent the day in Pembrokeshire engaging with the community. I started off the day with a visit to Pembroke Dock Heritage Centre. It was interesting to see the historic artifacts and to meet the volunteers who run the centre. The Heritage Centre holds various events and provides regular sessions aimed towards local individuals suffering from or at risk of memory illness, and their carers.

10:15 - 11:30 - Public Meeting in Neyland

A public meeting was held in Neyland, where members of the Town Council also attended. There were discussions around operational matters, including CCTV and anti-social behaviour.

12:00 - 12:45 - Visit to the VC Gallery

In the afternoon, I travelled to Haverfordwest to meet with Barry John and his team at The VC Gallery to hear about their positive work in the community.



13:35 - 15:35 - Visit to Haverfordwest Police Station

Here I met with the Neighbourhood Policing Team where I was given an operational update within the area. We also discussed 'Street of the Week' initiative which has significantly increased community engagement opportunities for Milford Haven Neighbourhood Policing Team, and increased the community's confidence in the policing of this area.

15:35 - 16:35 - Meeting with Haverfordwest Youth Centre

Here I met with Youth Worker, Hannah White where we discussed the work of the centre.





16:35 - 17:35 - Garth Youth and Community Project

I met with Anji Tinley and the young people who attend the Youth Club. It was a great experience to see first-hand the positive impact that the centre has on the community

Wednesday 26 February 2020

On Wednesday 26 February, my engagement team visited Ystradgynlais to engage with the community and local businesses about the newly installed CCTV cameras that I have funded. I then joined the team at Ystradgynlais Police Station to meet with police officers and local councillors to discuss ways in which we could make a positive difference in the community.

Later on in the day, my engagement team travelled to Garnant where they met with Shadows Support group, who help and support people faced with mental health difficulties. My team were pleased to meet with Louise and Jennifer and to hear about the difference that they are making within the community and wider areas.



'PRESS RELEASE'

Llamau awarded further contract to continue independent de-briefing and mediation service for missing children and young people

Missing person cases place a significant demand on police forces, with for example one child alone reported missing on 62 separate occasions, costing over £80,000 in Dyfed-Powys Police in 2016. But we know there are complex underlying causes which can lead to a child or young person going missing. In order to address this the Police and Crime Commissioner commissioned Llamau in July 2015 to provide a de-briefing, support and mediation service for young people and their families who have been reported as 'missing' and at risk of sexual exploitation or victimisation.

Over 50% of all people who go missing in the UK every year are under the age of 18. Worryingly, according to the Department for Education approximately 25% of children who go missing are at risk of serious harm. Therefore, it was a priority for the Commissioner to evaluate the impact the Llamau service was having in helping to safeguard such vulnerable children and young people.

It was found that 25% of all referrals for de-brief by Llamau displayed signs of possible child sexual exploitation (CSE). In addition to the CSE, issues were also identified during debriefs where young people are at significant risk as both victims and perpetrators of crime. Llamau were able to provide the necessary support and mediation in these cases to try and break this cycle.

The impact of the service can also be seen in the reduction in incidents of missing young people being reported. Missing incidents for under 18s in Dyfed Powys reduced by approximately 30% between 2015/16 and 2018/19, equating to a reduction of over 550 individual missing episodes.

- A 14 year old girl at risk of CSE. She was reported missing 10 times to Dyfed-Powys Police over an eight month period. Llamau conducted 2 debriefs with her, following which no further missing episodes were reported
- A 17 year old girl at risk of CSE and in foster care. She was reported missing 14 times to Dyfed-Powys Police over a 6 month period. Llamau conducted 3 debriefs with her, with only 1 missing report recorded after the last debrief
- A 17 year old girl who was in the care of the Local Authority as a protective measure, was identified as being at risk of CSE. She was reported missing 9 times to Dyfed-Powys Police over an 8 month period. Llamau conducted a debrief with her and there has only been 1 missing report recorded since.



The feedback from those using the service is really positive. Some of the children supported by Llamau comment that they feel the service is useful and helps them understand why they shouldn't go missing and the possible consequences. They also say that they would rather talk to a Llamau representative than a police officer. Some of the comments from parents and carers have included the following:

“Wow he spoke to you, but he doesn't speak to anyone”; “He's been getting out of control and nothing was happening until you came along”; and “We've been desperate for someone to talk to them after they go missing, I've been calling for this for ages”.

A study by the University of Bedfordshire (Rowe,2016) found that police were only able to provide limited support in cases of missing persons. Over half of participants in the study felt that the best course of action was for the police to put them in touch with specialist agencies such as Llamau. When we consider that the Llamau service costs around a maximum of £250 per debrief compared with the estimated cost of a medium risk missing person investigation being between £1300 and £2400, it is a worthwhile investment that really makes a difference to vulnerable young people.

The original contract was due to end on 31st March 2020 and the PCC has recently undertaken a competitive exercise to award a contract for a further period. Llamau were successful in securing the contract and will therefore continue the excellent service until 2022, with the potential to extend until 2025.

St David's Day Conference to discuss challenges of Policing in Rural Areas

On 6th March 2020, I hosted my 4th annual St David's Day Conference at Dyfed-Powys Police Headquarters. Following on from last year's successful conference where cyber-crime was discussed, this year's conference was an exploration of policing in rural areas. I chose to focus on Rural Crime at this year's conference as the Dyfed-Powys area is one of the most rural areas in England and Wales and the conference followed on from two rural crime surveys conducted by Aberystwyth University.

The area served by Dyfed-Powys Police is predominately rural and has over one million hectares of agricultural land. The many remote rural communities present challenges in narrowing down potential criminal pathways.

Guest speakers at the conference included individuals and organisations specialising in countryside matters: including Dr Wyn Morris and Dr Gareth Norris from Aberystwyth University; PC Esther Davies, Rural Crime Officer in Ceredigion; Emma Picton-Jones from the DPJ Foundation, a charity that provides practical support and mental health training to those who work within the agricultural sector; Carmarthenshire County Councillor, Cefin Campbell who is a member of the Executive Board for Communities and Rural Affairs at the Council; and Temporary Detective Superintendent Estelle Hopkin-Davies who is the Force lead for Serious Violence and Organised Crime.



Services available to you

As the Police and Crime Commissioner, I commission services directly from specialist providers to help prevent crime, support the vulnerable and tackle issues that are important to you. Detailed below are the service providers and partners that support my strategy.

Goleudy

Victim and Witness Service

0300 1232996

Goleudy offers a personalised, emotional and practical support to help victims, families and witnesses survive crime and make them stronger. The service is free and confidential, whether or not the crime has been reported and regardless of when it happened.



Services for the referral, management, and reduction of anti-social behaviour 0800 012 1080

Goleudy provides a service for the referral, management, and reduction of antisocial behaviour. Goleudy identifies and manages the level of risk amongst victims, to improve community safety, and reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour.

DDAS

Drug and Alcohol Services for Dyfed
03303 639 997

Operating in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, and Pembrokeshire, DDAS aims to reduce substance misuse-related harm to service users, significant others and the wider community. DDAS also works to identify and engage offenders from the point of arrest through to sentence, and to maximise the proportion of individuals successfully completing treatment programmes.



Hafan Cymru and Gwalia

Support for victims of domestic abuse
01267 225555

Hafan Cymru and Gwalia support vulnerable, repeat and high risk victims of domestic abuse and their families. Victims are provided with crisis intervention, emotional, financial, and practical assistance, including support through the criminal justice process.



Llamau

Support and mediation for missing young people
029 2023 9585

Llamau offers a de-briefing, support, and mediation service for children, young people, and their families who have been reported as 'missing' and at risk of sexual exploitation or victimisation.



New Pathways

Support service for victims of sexual abuse
01685 379 310

New Pathways provides twenty-four hour access to crisis support for victims and ongoing support in a safe place that offers; first aid, safeguarding, and specialist clinical & forensic care.



Community Rehabilitation Company

Restorative justice for victims
07860 807169 / 07860 807170

Wales Community Rehabilitation Company delivers a victim-led restorative justice service for those living in Dyfed-Powys.



Dewis Cymru

Dewis Cymru is the place to go if you want information or advice about your well-being - or want to know how you can help somebody else.



Dewis Cymru
Have choice and take control

Kaleidoscope CAIS

Drug and Alcohol Services for Powys
01686 207 111

Kaleidoscope Powys aims to reduce substance misuse-related harm to service users, significant others and the wider community. Kaleidoscope also works to identify and engage offenders from the point of arrest through to sentence, and to maximise the proportion of individuals successfully completing treatment programmes.



Pobl

Offender Diversionary Scheme
01646 698820

The Dyfed-Powys Diversionary Scheme seeks to address criminal behaviour at a much earlier stage in an individuals offending journey by tackling the root causes of offending and associated health and community related issues. It aims to reduce the number of victims of crime by offering eligible offenders a four month long programme of interventions as an alternative to prosecution.



Youth Conference

On Tuesday, 3rd March 2020, I held a youth conference - Eln Llais / Our Voice to discuss the findings of a recent consultation on youth attitudes towards policing and crime.

During January and February 2020, my Office worked in partnership with Hafan Cymru and Hywel Dda Health Board on a consultation to seek the views of young people on policing, crime and health issues. The themes of the survey looked specifically at attitudes towards the police; police accessibility; police support and the health and well-being of young people.

As Commissioner, I am passionate about building strong relationships with young people, and it is encouraging to see that so many young people have been willing to take part in this survey. Since my election as Commissioner, I have regularly engaged with various groups of young people from different backgrounds across the force area, and set up a youth forum to give young people a voice. The findings of this survey will enable my office to provide the forum a slightly more structured system for the future, to grow the forum, and give me more opportunities to engage with young people.

With over 800 young people involved in the consultation, thousands of responses were received through online questionnaires and focus groups, and having discussed the responses with key partners at the Conference, I have pledged to give detailed consideration to the findings while planning for the future of policing in Dyfed-Powys.



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