

6th August 2020

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

Response to the Both Sides of the Coin: An inspection of how the police and National Crime Agency consider vulnerable people who are both victims and offenders in 'county lines' drug offending report

I welcome the review into how different agencies work together to tackle these complex crimes. Tackling illegal drugs in our communities is a key priority of mine. As such, my team has previously conducted a review of Dyfed-Powys' approach. I published the results of this review in April 2019, when I was encouraged by the pro-active approach to tackling drug trafficking. I highlighted the need for a multi-agency approach, especially in better utilising the substance misuse and diversionary services to support vulnerable victims and offenders.

I am pleased that Dyfed-Powys Police has made good progress in their partnership working through local Serious and Organised Crime Boards and Area Planning Boards in the creation of a county lines action plan. Dyfed-Powys Police continues to successfully conduct focused drug operations securing significant seizures and convictions. I am also assured that the Force's understanding and recognition of exploitation and modern slavery continues to improve. I am encouraged that young and vulnerable people are recognised as such first, with their needs considered first and most importantly over their criminal behaviour.