

Decision log number: PCCG-2021-010

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (OPCC)

TITLE: OPCC Annual Report on Communications and Engagement for 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

DATE: 25/06/2021

TIMING: Routine

PURPOSE: Monitoring

1.	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u> To note the end of year report outlining the communication and engagement activities undertaken by the OPCC between 1 st April 2020 and 31 st March 2021.
2.	<u>INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND</u> Engaging with the public and gathering feedback is vital where tackling crime and anti-social behaviour is concerned. Communication and engagement activities are also required by legislation and are an integral part of building confidence relating to the Commissioner's role and that of the OPCC. While engagement covers a spectrum of different interactions, both internally and externally, community engagement for the OPCC is organised by the Communications and Engagement team. The team is made up of a Head of Communications and Engagement and two Communications and Engagement Officers. A Digital Media Apprentice is due to join the team in September 2021, as part of a joint apprenticeship rollout led by Gwent Police. The team is responsible for communicating to the public, across many media platforms, the Commissioner's and OPCC's daily work and achievements. This includes highlighting and providing opportunities for residents to proactively engage with the Commissioner and the OPCC. The team also helps deliver the joint OPCC and Gwent Police Communications and Engagement Strategy. This year's communications and engagement work was significantly impacted by Covid-19, which saw large swathes of planned work postponed or cancelled. However, the pandemic also created many opportunities to diversify and improve existing and new engagement processes and initiatives. Many of these are highlighted in the attached report. Work at the end of the financial year was also impacted by the pre-election period, ahead of the Commissioner elections in May 2021.

3.	<p><u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u></p> <p>The end of year communications and engagement report is attached as annex A and covers the OPCC’s work to communicate and engage with people who live and work in Gwent.</p>
4.	<p><u>NEXT STEPS</u></p> <p>With pandemic restrictions being lifted or relaxed throughout the first quarter of 2021/22, the OPCC aims to increase face-to-face engagement within communities. There will be a focus on increasing engagement opportunities for seldom heard residents, particularly children, young people, Black, Asian and minority ethnic residents. The team will also look to increase the use of current platforms and develop new ones to increase and improve existing communications and engagement work.</p> <p>Communication and engagement activities throughout the pandemic have included a number of learning points that will inform future activities during 2021/22, as well as allowing the OPCC to develop new relationships and partnership working.</p> <p>In addition to the team’s plan and business plan objectives, the biggest area of work for 2021/22 will be the communications and engagement work to research, write and produce a new Police and Crime Plan.</p>
5.	<p><u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u></p> <p>A review of all the communication and engagement activity undertaken by the OPCC for the financial year 2020/21 shows that only £6,466 was spent from the dedicated non-pay budget. This includes the cost of the Commissioner and OPCC hosting meetings, printing, holding events and OPCC-related communications/marketing costs.</p>
6.	<p><u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u></p> <p>A large proportion of the communication and engagement work involved staff working outside of the office. During the summer months, it is anticipated that the OPCC will attend community events and, whether possible, these will be attended by at least two staff.</p>
7.	<p><u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u></p> <p>The legal requirements for engagement are set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 s14, s1(8) and s34.</p> <p>The OPCC’s communication and engagement practice is aligned with the Welsh Government’s National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales;</p>

	National Children and Young People’s Participation Standards for Wales; and supported by the Consultation Institute guidance.
8.	<p><u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u></p> <p>This report, and all communications and engagement activities undertaken, has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Equality Act 2010 and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 in preparing this report.</p> <p>One aspect of the OPCC’s inclusive engagement approach is to ensure representative samples of the force area population, which support Equalities and Human Rights requirements.</p>
9.	<p><u>RISK</u></p> <p>Communications and engagement activities are required by legislation and are integral to building confidence and legitimacy related to the role of the Commissioner, and that of the OPCC. Therefore, good engagement, with positive communication, aims to mitigate this risk and evidences the need to maintain positive engagement and communication activities into the future.</p>
10.	<p><u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u></p> <p>Publication of this report would be in the public interest.</p>
11.	<p><u>CONTACT OFFICER</u></p> <p>Rhodri Guest – Head of Communications and Engagement, OPCC rhodri.guest@gwent.pnn.police.uk</p>
12.	<p><u>ANNEXES</u></p> <p>Annex A – Engagement and Communication Outturn Report</p> <p> Annex A - Communications And</p>

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Police and Crime PCC for Gwent

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in

this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Case". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Date:

19/10/2021