**Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board**

**Terms of Reference**

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| 1. **Vision and Purpose** |
| The Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board’s vision is:  ***Working in partnership, to provide a fair, efficient and effective criminal justice system across Gwent that prevents, reduces and responds to crime and anti-social behaviour, whilst focusing on the needs of victims***  The Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board brings together executive leaders from criminal justice organisations and key partners to provide:   * **Vision, inspirational leadership and direction** that delivers a consistent, effective, efficient and accessible criminal justice system for people in Gwent * **A space for collaborative decision making between devolved and non-devolved partners on criminal justice systemic and policy matters**. This ensures a consistent, effective, efficient and accessible criminal justice system for people in Gwent * **A strategic space to discuss and influence criminal justice activity and policy and unblock barriers** to provide a consistent, effective, efficient and accessible criminal justice system for people in Gwent * **Application of a ‘whole systems approach’ to set standards and scrutinise and challenge performance of criminal justice in Gwent**. This ensures that all aspects work cohesively together to provide a consistent, effective, efficient and accessible criminal justice system for people in Gwent * **A commitment to promoting equality and tackling disproportionality wherever it occurs.** The principle of ‘**explain or reform**’ will be applied by the Board to provide a structured approach to identify and address disparities and inequality of outcomes, with a critical focus on solutions. |
| 1. **Outcomes** |
| By delivering against its priorities and working to its principles, the Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board is ambitious in its aim to achieve the following criminal justice outcomes:   * 1. **People in Gwent have full confidence in all aspects of the criminal justice system and have confidence that they will be treated fairly and represented well at every stage**   2. **The experiences and outcomes for victims and witnesses in Gwent are more positive at each point of the criminal justice system**   3. **People who offend in Gwent receive person centred support and interventions to reduce re-offending**   4. **People in Gwent benefit from reduced levels of crime and are less impacted by their experiences** |
| 1. **Priorities** |
| The following priorities were agreed by Board members in January 2020 and reflect the Criminal Justice in Wales priorities:   * **Understand and address the vulnerability and/or multiple complex needs of people who offend** * **Understand and address the needs and vulnerabilities of victims and witnesses at all points within their criminal justice experience** * **Utilise evidence to understand the causes and drivers of offending behaviour and build onto existing *prevention and early intervention* approaches and influence policy that reduces crime and make positive change** * **Apply a ‘one public service’ approach in Gwent to advance race equality and tackle disproportionality wherever it occurs**   How all Criminal Justice and partner agencies effectively respond and recover from the impact of COVID 19 across all aspects of Criminal Justice System is fundamental to the successful delivery of each of the Board priorities. The immediate response to the pandemic has demonstrated how effective agencies in Gwent work together to improve criminal justice outcomes. We will harness the learning, commitment and drive from this response in delivering the priorities. |
| 1. **Board Commitments** |
| The Board is committed to working to following principles to support effective decision-making and implement affected activity:   * **Victim Focused and Person Centred** * **Whole Systems Approach** * **Evidence based**   Policy/ laws/ strategies and ‘action’ is taking place in Wales at each ‘points’ of the system, in different spaces by different actors  Policy/ laws/ strategies and ‘action’ is taking place in Wales at each ‘points’ of the system, in different spaces by different actors  Policy/ laws/ strategies and ‘action’ is taking place in Wales at each ‘points’ of the system, in different spaces by different actors   * **Performance focused to measure success** * **Commitment to Collaboration and Partnership Working** * **Dispersed Leadership** * **Public Health Approach** * **Building ‘onto’ existing approaches**: * **Technology** * **Effective Commissioning, Shared cost, shared benefits** |
| 1. **Delivering the Priorities and Monitoring Progress and Performance** |
| A delivery plan for Gwent will be developed across the priority areas with key deliverable activities, timescales and performance measures, as agreed by the Board. The delivery plan will identify the key areas of focus for the Board according to identified need and significance in the context of criminal justice in Gwent and more widely.  Progress against the delivery plan will be reported to each meeting of the Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board as set out in the delivery plan. Members will be expected to provide timely updates for their agency area (in the agreed format).  The Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board will provide quarterly update reports to the Criminal Justice in Wales board, outlining local issues and successes for the region. Any issues requiring escalation to the Wales board for action or decision will be included in the update report.  Criminal Justice in Wales updates will be provided to the Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board to provide feedback on the discussions, activities, progress and challenges at the national level.  The Chair and supporting Policy Officer for the Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board will work with the Criminal Justice in Wales Chair and Co-ordinator to enhance the connection and communication between local and national arrangements.  The Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board will provide appropriate regional representation to the Criminal Justice in Wales delivery groups to ensure the workstreams for the national priorities are delivered consistently at a local level and enable alignment of existing activity. |
| 1. **Chairing and Core Board Membership** |
| **Chair**: Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent  **Deputy Chair:** Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Agency** | **Role** | | Gwent Police | Assistant Chief Constable  Head of Criminal Justice and Information Services  Head of Crime | | Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent | Head of Strategy | | Connect Gwent | Victim Services Coordinator | | Crown Prosecution Service | Chief Crown Prosecutor  Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor | | Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service | Head of Services | | HM Courts and Tribunal Service | Head of Crime  Senior Legal Manager, Gwent and South Wales Magistrates Court | | HM Prison and Probation Service | Head of Probation Delivery Unit Gwent | | HM Prison and Probation Service | Governor, HMP Prescoed and Usk | | Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Regional Board | Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Manager  VAWDASV Coordinator | | Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service | Service Manager | | Monmouthshire and Torfaen Youth Offending Service | Service Manager | | Newport Youth Offending Service | Service Manager, Newport Children’s Service and Youth Justice | | Citizens Advice Bureau Witness Service | Area Manager for South Wales and Gwent | | South Wales Fire and Rescue Service | Group Manager – Community Safety | | Aneurin Bevan University Health Board | Mental Health | | Safer Gwent Partnership | Chair |   Additional members may be co-opted to the Board or working groups as required. |
| 1. **Governance of Meetings** |
| The Board will meet four times a year for 2 hours.  Administrative support will be provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.  Agenda and associated papers will be circulated at least three days prior to Board meetings.  Minutes of each meetings will be taken and circulated to all Board members. At the following meeting the minutes will be agreed and signed off as an accurate record. |
| 1. **Member Responsibilities** |
| Members will agree to the principles of the Board, set out in the Terms of Reference, and work towards a shared vision for Gwent through collective and agreed direction and collaborative leaderships.  Members will ensure representation at all Board meetings. If the nominated representative is unable to attend it is expected that they will send a suitable senior member of their team to represent their views and make decisions.  Board Members are required to submit agenda items no later than one week prior to a Board meeting. Exceptions can be made for urgent matters. |
| 1. **Welsh Language and Equality Requirements** |
| Members of the Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board will actively work to ensure that Welsh language users and their needs are reflected in policy decisions and practices.  It is expected that member agencies will comply with their own Welsh language schemes or any Welsh language standards imposed on them under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure (2011) in undertaking any work initiated by the Gwent Criminal Justice Strategy Board. Partner agencies should, through their policy considerations and decision-making processes, promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language ensuring the Welsh language is treated equally to the English language and people in Wales are able to live their lives through the medium of the Welsh language if they choose to do so.  Member agencies are also expected to operate in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and uphold their own commitments to equality, diversity and inclusion as set out in their respective Strategic Equality Plans or objectives. |