

**Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Gwent**

# Annual Report 2015 - 2016



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# WELCOME



**I am pleased to present my Annual Report summarising and highlighting progress of key initiatives of my office for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 which furthered my policing priorities.**

As you may already know, I set out my priorities within my Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017. They are as follows:

- To deliver the best quality of service available
- To prevent and reduce crime
- To take more effective action to tackle anti-social behaviour
- To protect people from serious harm
- To make the best use of resources and provide value for money

This is a statutory document which is required by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

In my annual report 2014-2015, I detailed what my team and I would be focused on in the coming year. This report demonstrates how, during 2015 to 2016, those areas of importance have been taken forward and the difference they have made to the people in Gwent with regards to policing and their relationship with Gwent Police and my Office.

Holding the Chief Constable to account for overall force performance is part of my legislative duty under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, therefore, fostering good working relationships is essential. To enable this, I have regular meetings with the Chief Constable and his officers and engage with other agencies and partners to ensure that we work together effectively.

During the last year I have conducted a wide range of engagement programmes and consultations with the public which sought to gauge people's views on:

- What matters to them regarding crime and anti - social behaviour
- How we will fund the policing of Gwent into the future; and
- Improvements that could be made to ensure a fair and equal police service for everyone in Gwent.

One of the most pleasing aspects of my role is having the ability to commission services and award grants to organisations or bodies that support my policing priorities.

I hope you enjoy reading my Annual Report. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that I have worked with over this term of office in making a difference to policing in Gwent. I would also like to thank the people of Gwent, who I serve, for engaging with my office and taking the time to provide honest and frank feedback. The relationship between the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Police and the public is essential, long may it continue and prosper.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Johnston'.

**Ian Johnston QPM**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent**

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# Progress against our Priorities 2013 - 2017

## Priority One: Delivering the Best Quality of Service Available

Listening and engaging with the community continues to be the method for which the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) monitors whether the people of Gwent are satisfied that the service provided by the police meets their requirements. This is met via our annual engagement and consultation program run by the OPCC.

We have outlined in more detail below the key initiatives that the OPCC has undertaken during 2015/16. These have been put in place as a result of widespread community engagement.

### Engaging with our communities

#### OPCC engagement events

Between April 2015 and February 2016 the PCC, Deputy PCC and OPCC staff attended 256 public engagement activities.

These engagement projects and activities provided people and organisations the opportunity to link in to the OPCC with a view to influencing their policing service; accessing support services; accessing grants for community projects and being involved and participating at varying levels which suited them.

Some examples of these activities include: facilitated third sector meetings to enable the third sector to access funding and raise awareness of consortia's; supported and funded local voluntary Crime Prevention Panels which deliver local policing; established Safer Gwent to develop a strategic partnership approach to community safety across the Gwent region; ran consultation exercises around the Police and Crime Plan priorities and the OPCC Strategic Equality Plan; engaged with victims' services to improve local delivery to all victims via Connect Gwent and the Police; launched the Women's Pathfinder Pilot Scheme for Wales which provides a tailored way of working with women and girls who come into contact with the Criminal Justice System and facilitated meetings with local businesses and business organisations to improve their awareness of cybercrime.

### Our Online Community

We have also seen a general increase in online activity:

	March 2015	March 2016	Increase / Decrease
 Twitter	2,196	2,997	34.7% increase
 Facebook	1,107	1,218	10.02% increase

A new media monitoring service (excluding TV and Radio Broadcast coverage) was put in place on 1st October 2015. As a result of changes in the provision of media monitoring and a break in the service provided, a full comparison with data from the previous year is not available. However, a total of 447 press articles were logged in the last 6 months with 274 of them being positive and only 22 of them negative in nature. The total monetary value of the media cuttings captured equates to £608,397.40, with 29,960,061 individual reaches to people.

## Race Council Cymru (RCC) Project

The OPCC provided Race Council Cymru with grant funding in 2015/16 to undertake a research project that aimed to fully understand the demographics of Gwent by identifying the emerging Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (BAME) groups and document their current relationships and connections, both positive and negative, with the Police and the OPCC.



The project mainly concentrated on the wider Gwent area. Newport has already formed (and continues to develop) good relationships and networks between the Police and BAME communities. Through the project, the coordinator engaged with people from a large range of races and ethnicities across Gwent including: African / Caribbean, former Angola, Burkina Faso, Congo, Ivory Coast, Sudan, Nepalese, Syrian and Iraqi / Kurdish. The outcomes of the project have been added to the Joint Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 to be taken forward.

## 'Your Voice'



As discussed in previous annual reports, we believe that 'engagement' with communities is one of the most essential and core functions of the OPCC. March 2015 saw the creation and implementation of 'Your Voice', which replaced previous Partners and Community Together (PACT) meetings. This approach means that people have been able to meet their local Inspectors

every four months whilst Community Support Officers (CSOs) have continued to run a variety of Police surgeries. The aim of 'Your Voice' is to ensure the public have an opportunity to engage with the force and let them know what policing issues are impacting on them and their communities. This approach means that the 'voice' of the public is pivotal in influencing how policing is delivered in the neighbourhoods of Gwent.

To date, approximately 45,000 people have provided their views to the force via the 'Your Voice' process. Reassuringly, the highest category of response in all surveys was 'no policing issues at present'. The most common matters that were raised were related to traffic, such as, parking and speeding, followed by various types of anti-social behaviour (ASB).

## Consultations

We have continued to consult with communities across Gwent to provide you with the opportunity to discuss the issues that matter to you. The OPCC has outlined below how the findings of these consultations have been used to influence and shape how policing is delivered.

## Police and Crime Priorities

The PCC has a statutory duty to develop a Police and Crime Plan to provide the strategic direction for Gwent Police. There is a statutory duty that this is carried out in consultation

with the public. Therefore the OPCC published an E-consultation on the OPCC website called 'Your Policing - Your Voice' between June 2015 and August 2015. The consultation asked the communities of Gwent for their views on the following, by:

- Rating how important the existing police and crime priorities were to them
- Identifying which emerging local crime trends were most important to them
- Identifying which emerging national crime trends were of most concern to them

The overall response to the consultation shows that respondents are satisfied that the current priorities contained in the Police and Crime Plan are relevant and do not require any amendment at this time.

## **Precept Consultation**

The PCC has a legal requirement to set the police budget and precept levels. (Precept is the proportion of the cost of policing paid from residents council tax). With this in mind, the OPCC launched an online 'Have Your Say' consultation on setting the precept level for 2016 / 17, and asked the public in Gwent whether they were prepared to pay a little more for their policing service. 526 people answered the precept questions. The results were clearly in favour of paying the higher percentage increases.

For more information on this consultation please see the link below:

<http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk>

## **Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) consultation**

The SEP consultation was published between November and December 2015 and aimed to find out the views and opinions of the public, stakeholders and interested parties regarding the OPCCs proposed strategic equality objectives. The current SEP was reviewed to ensure the OPCC and Gwent Police fulfil their equality duties under the Equality Act 2010, and operate fairly and equally for all people who share protected characteristics.

471 people took part in the OPCC consultation. Below is a collation of what people said mattered most to them regarding equality and a fair policing service.

- **Police Budgets and Savings:**  
Demonstrate that a fair and equal police force is not dependent on the availability of police funds.
- **Welsh Language translation:**  
Translation of documents and information should be proportionate to the needs of Gwent.
- **Community Cohesion:**  
Specific cohesion initiatives should be implemented to prevent self - segregation and community unrest continuing.
- **Recruitment on merit:**  
Officers and staff should be recruited on ability and not on race. The objective to increase BAME candidates into the recruitment process was perceived as positive discrimination.
- **Officer Training:**  
Ensure more training on equality for officers is available.
- **Stop and search data:**  
Information on stop and search is published regarding race to ensure all stop and searches are fair and proportionate.
- **Mental health and custody:**  
There is a need to review the current actions undertaken for people in custody with mental health issues.

These issues will be taken forward to help develop a joint OPCC and Gwent Police Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020.

## Stop and Search – ‘Quality Encounters’

The PCC has a duty to ensure that officers initiate the ‘best use of stop and search powers’. As part of this duty, between June 2015 and January 2016, the OPCC opened a public survey asking people in Gwent who had been stopped and searched in the last 12 months to complete a questionnaire. The aim of the questionnaire was to capture their views, opinions, treatment and feelings towards Gwent Police whilst officers carried out a stop and search. A small cohort of people completed the survey, with a majority stating they were not aware of their rights when being stopped and searched. This information has informed the Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 activity programme which will provide public information on people’s rights when they are stopped and searched by the police.



All other response information has been used by the Force to improve the way Gwent Police carries out stop and searches, to ensure they are always proportionate, appropriate and fair.

## Victims at the Heart of Everything We Do

### Connect Gwent

As outlined in the 2014 / 15 annual report, the funding for victim services has changed nationally from Victim Support receiving direct funding from the Ministry of Justice, to the funds being allocated to Police and Crime Commissioners in order to commission enhanced victim support services.



We took this opportunity to work with partners and the community to take stock and reflect on how we provide services to victims. This approach ensured we were putting ‘victims at the heart of everything we do’ and therefore investing heavily in this area.

This saw the actualisation of the Connect Gwent concept in 2014, a new innovative and holistic multi agency hub. Baroness Helen Newlove of Warrington, the Victims’

Commissioner for England and Wales, joined the PCC to launch this initiative in May 2015. Since the launch we have been working hard with partners to develop and embed the model throughout the force and within the wider community. Connect Gwent now hosts partner agencies including Victim Support, New Pathways, Embrace, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Umbrella Gwent, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Age Cymru. In September 2015, to promote and support the presence of Age Cymru, who were the most recent addition to Connect Gwent, the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales, Sarah Rochira, visited the hub to discuss stronger partnerships to improve victim services for older people throughout Wales.

Since the launch of Connect Gwent in 2015, referral rates have increased by over 40%. Between April 1st 2015 and March 31st 2016, Connect Gwent received 27,072 compared to 15,377 referrals to Victim Support in the previous year before Connect Gwent was formed.

This means that more victims of crime in Gwent are now accessing this new and enhanced provision. To date, the data shows that with reference to victim satisfaction, we moved from 43rd position to 11th position nationally. We are confident Connect Gwent will continue to thrive and support more victims of crime.

## Holding the force to account

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, one of the PCC's core duties is to hold the Chief Constable to account. The following paragraphs outline how the OPCC scrutinises and monitors the force regarding this requirement to ensure continued development and improvement.

### Public Confidence

Theme	Crime Survey England & Wales National Average 12 months to Sep '14	Gwent 12 months to Sep '14	Gwent 12 months to Sep '15
Police deal with community priorities	61.4%	59.8%	58.1% ( -1.7% )
Treat you with respect	86.7%	82.2%	86.6% ( +4.4% )
Treat everyone fairly	66.7%	60.8%	62.1% ( +1.3% )

For the 12 month period to September 2015<sup>1</sup>, public confidence in Gwent Police is at 58.1%. This initially indicated a 1.7% decrease compared to 2014. However, over the past 3 years this is still an overall 5.1% increase in public confidence levels, illustrating the focus that the OPCC has given and maintained to improving the relationship and confidence levels with the public and Gwent Police.

Whilst no one element can be attributed to the increase in confidence, activities such as accurate crime recording, the CARES program, Connect Gwent, HMIC reports and findings and management of Crime and ASB levels have accumulatively effected our improved confidence levels.

<sup>1</sup> Data is collated and published 3 months in arrears

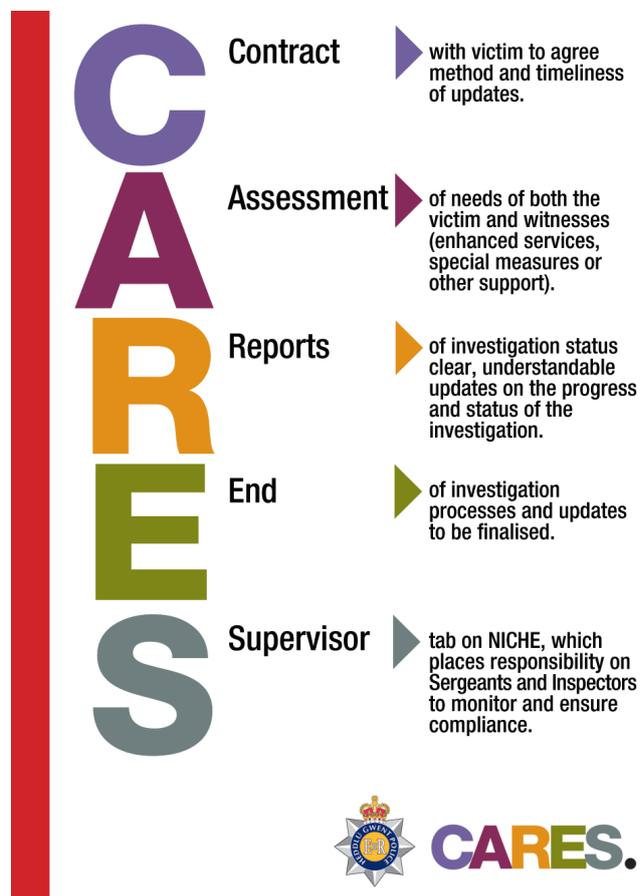
### Victim Satisfaction

The OPCC continued to monitor Gwent Police's performance throughout 2015/16 in relation to victim satisfaction. We are delighted to report that the Force improved its position across all 43 forces in England and Wales from 43rd to 11th for overall satisfaction levels for victims of crime.

In addition, between December 2014 and December 2015, the Force has shown a 12% increase in levels of victims' satisfaction for 'being kept informed' which is the highest percentage increase across all police Forces in England and Wales. This is a substantial achievement which can be drawn from the collective activities that the OPCC and Force have implemented, not least, the CARES programme and Connect Gwent.

## CARES

The force CARES process has contributed to the improvement in victim satisfaction by ensuring the right response is provided throughout the victim's journey in the criminal justice system. This in turn, ensures we are compliant with our Victims Charter<sup>2</sup> and the revised Victims Code of Practice<sup>3</sup>.



<sup>2</sup> Sets minimum standards that all victims of crime will receive from Gwent Police officer.  
<http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk/engagement/victims/victims-charter/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/470212/code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime.PDF](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/470212/code-of-practice-for-victims-of-crime.PDF)

## A New Police Service Model for Gwent

In April 2015, the force entered into a new era of policing with the implementation of the new force operating model. The model was implemented to provide an opportunity to better connect and engage with our communities in Gwent, by ensuring the force is efficiently staffed with the police resources required.

Ensuring that the correct resources are in the appropriate location and management structures have been streamlined in order to provide local ownership for local issues, attendance times for priority calls have improved significantly. The new operating model has focused on having the right resources available on the front line and this has assisted in improving both the victim satisfaction and confidence levels.

## How am I held to account?

### Gwent Police and Crime Panel (P&CP)

The Gwent Police and Crime Panel examines the actions and decisions made by the OPCC. The Panel makes sure that information is available for the public to assess whether they are holding the PCC to account, and providing support and challenge when they carry out their functions. During 2015/16, the Police and Crime Panel (P&CP) discussed matters regarding the PCC's statutory obligations and in particular, scrutinised 'victim services'. Within this priority area the P&CP required the OPCC to demonstrate the positive impact we had made regarding all victims journeys within the criminal justice system. The P&CP were very pleased with the initiatives we had instigated such as Connect Gwent and the Victims Charter, and how they have contributed to a better experience for all victims in Gwent.

## Audit

The OPCC is also subject to an auditing regime carried out by both the Wales Audit Office and TIAA (the internal auditors) who examine how the OPCC is carrying out its financial, governance and other processes.

## Stop and Search

In accordance with Police and Evidence Act 1984, code 5.4, the OPCC made arrangements to convene an annual dip sampling group with representation from the community. The groups' role is to scrutinise a randomly selected proportion of stop and search records. The aim of the group is to ensure that officers are legally compliant when they stop individuals and that the information they record demonstrates the reason(s), legal grounds and all diversity information. In July 2015, the third dip sampling exercise was completed. 78% of records recorded legal grounds, and in 77% of cases there was no further action taken by police. These key findings were fed back to the Force and the Stop and Search Board to ensure compliance with the best use of stop and search powers.

**Stop and Search Mobile Data:** To advance the Force's approach towards the use of Stop and Search powers, and being cognisant of the dip sample findings in July 2015, the force introduced 'mobile data' in October 2015. The aim of the mobile technology is to record all stop and searches and capture all the information categories in mandatory format. This ensures records are more transparent, accurate and accountable. The new system has also seen a reduction in the time taken to capture the encounters therefore increasing the amount of time officers are visible on patrol. Subsequently, the force are more effective in utilising the intelligence gained from the stop and searches for crime prevention and detection purposes.

## Priority Two and Three: Preventing and reducing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Reducing crime and ASB in our communities and the subsequent demand on force resources has been a key focus throughout 2015/16. We have continued to work with key partners and the community to collectively tackle these priorities.

### Crime & ASB Reduction

Last year we informed you of our collaborative partnership arrangements with Dyfed Powys and South Wales Police to assess and reduce demand. This arrangement has continued throughout 2015/16.

The accuracy of (ethical) crime recording is a measure that helps show the true impact of crime on the citizens of Gwent. We are pleased to highlight that Gwent Police are one of the best forces in the UK with regards to national crime recording accuracy, with a 94% compliance rate during 2015/16.

In addition, the crime figures suggest that the hard work with partner organisations has paid off, with only a slight increase of 0.87% during January 2015 to December 2015, a 2.7% improvement on 2014/15. This has led to Gwent being in 9th position out of the 43 Forces in England and Wales for crimes per 1000 people.

## Partnership Initiatives

### Safer Gwent

In 2015, the Commissioner actively supported the setting up of a Gwent wide partnership 'Safer Gwent'. The partnership was set up in order to work with key community safety partners and provide a strategic oversight and structured approach to support local delivery across the five local authority areas of Gwent for dealing with common community safety matters. The group's aim is to address regional community safety issues that impact on local communities. Safer Gwent will coordinate joint initiatives and activities throughout the region but does not replace the statutory Community Safety Partnerships that exist and operate through each of the five local authority's Local Service Boards.

Safer Gwent is made up of representatives from the local authorities, the police, the local health board, registered social landlords, education representatives, the voluntary sector, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, youth offending services and the probation and rehabilitation services. The group aims to develop a collective community engagement approach to enhance partnership working with a view to achieving better outcomes in tackling crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), preventing reoffending and supporting victims.

Safer Gwent enables information sharing to facilitate enhanced partnership working; influence existing funding opportunities to support the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan priorities; map existing community safety services to identify duplication and gaps in service provision; and provide information to support commissioning of community safety services.

Safer Gwent has a comprehensive programme of work which looks at such matters as:

- Preventing and reducing crime
- Tackling ASB
- Supporting victims
- Progressing Restorative Justice and Approaches measures with partners
- The provision of impactful projects across Gwent which benefit from a joint approach

### Positive Futures

In 2015/16 the OPCC supported the young persons sport project 'Positive Futures'. The project has far reaching benefits relating to preventing ASB and challenges some young people's behaviour across our communities of Gwent.

The project has engaged with 9712 young people during 2015/16 which is an impressive increase of nearly 300% when compared to 2014/15. The development of the project and the vast increase in engagement can be attributed to both the positive outcomes that the young people achieve through the project and the broader community benefits where those young people live.



## Engagement Usage Figures for Gwent Positive Futures

2013 / 14 - Newport only			2014 / 15 - Gwent wide			2015 / 16 - Gwent wide		
Males	Females	Volunteers	Males	Females	Volunteers	Males	Females	Volunteers
1186	439	11	1717	708	35	6780	2906	26
<b>Total : 1636</b>			<b>Total : 2460</b>			<b>Total : 9712</b>		

Outcomes for 2015 / 16:

- 79% (5756) have attended community based provision
- 5% (354) have been referred in on a 1:1 basis
- 9% (651) have been part of group interaction.
- 5% (384) young people have achieved qualifications
- 16 have moved onto employment whether it be in the Sports field or another

### Responding Restoratively

In Gwent ‘responding restoratively’ is an important partnership approach to preventing and reducing crime and ASB. This is why we have continued to work with partners and support Her Majesty’s Prison, Prescoed in establishing a restorative project. The project aims to provide victims with the chance to meet offenders and explain the real impacts of crimes. It also helps offenders account for their actions whilst enabling them to take responsibility and make amends for their crimes. This project will commence in 2016 and will contribute to reducing repeat offending and victimisation. As part of Safer Gwent, responding restoratively has been identified as one of the key priority areas for the partnership to focus on and progress into the future.

### All Wales Police School Liaison Programme

The All Wales Police School Liaison Core Programme is a crime prevention programme funded jointly by the four Welsh Police Forces and the Welsh Government. The aims of the programme are to work towards preventing crime and disorder with young people and the community through education and to promote the principle of positive citizenship in school and the wider community. The lessons are taught by trained Police Officers working with local teachers in support of the wider school curriculum.

We have worked hard in Gwent to ensure that the All Wales Schools Liaison Programme provides our young people with information by which they can keep themselves safe and positively interact in their communities. The OPCC has recently reviewed the provision in Gwent together with the Welsh Government and Force to maintain the programme into the foreseeable future.

### Community Remedy

Since October 2014, community remedies have been in place across Gwent. They continue to be an effective method of dealing with low level crime such as theft and criminal damage. The concept of community remedy allows victims to have a say in how the incident is dealt with and allows for swift reparation and closure for victims of crime. In addition, this approach enables the individual(s) responsible to face-up to their offending and provides an opportunity to increase victim satisfaction and police trust and confidence, via a pragmatic and common sense approach.

We do not have annual comparable data, however, what we know is that in the first six months (October 2014 – March 2015), 68 remedies were issued and in the subsequent 10 months (April 2015 - January 2016), there has been 301 adult community remedies issued which is a significant increase. This shows an overall increase in community support for this approach.

## The Community Trigger

The Community Trigger gives victims the chance to request a review of agencies' actions when they are dissatisfied with the way their ASB issues have been dealt with. The OPCC has a role in providing a route for victims who are dissatisfied with the Community Trigger outcomes and subsequently wish to query how their Community Trigger review was carried out. We undertook the first Community Trigger review in January 2016.

## Gwent Partnership Bureau

The OPCC monitors the progress of all three Gwent Partnership Bureaus (GPB) established across Gwent. The GBPs are a partnership between Gwent Police and the local Youth Offending Services. The Bureau aims to encourage joint decision-making, effective outcomes and restorative justice interventions for young people.

Through this process we have seen a 26% increase in the use and completion of Restorative Justice Disposals (RJD's) with young people when compared to the same period 2014 (114 young people completed RJD's between April-September 2015).

## Wings to Fly



To support targeted crime prevention work, we have provided funding for a further year to the 'Wings to Fly' initiative which highlights and addresses the dangers and tragic consequences of substance abuse. The project is aimed at 10-11 year olds and is delivered by Police Officers across Gwent through the All Wales School Liaison Programme. The programme is regularly evaluated and participants are encouraged to provide feedback on their experience.

## Cyber crime

The Home Secretary included cybercrime within the National Strategic Policing Requirements. These requirements cover issues that pose a threat to society. Cybercrime is an evolving challenge to both our communities in the UK and globally. We have therefore included it as a specific focus within the Police and Crime Plan (P&CP).

We have worked with the Force during 2015/16 to maintain overall oversight of the evolving cybercrime issues by attending the Strategic Policing Requirement Board where Gwent Police present regular updates. Gwent Police has a Cybercrime Governance Board, which has responsibility for the development of a Gwent Regional Cyber Strategy. We have supported this agenda by establishing joint breakfast meetings with business owners to raise awareness of the threat and impact of cybercrime to businesses and provide preventative information.

In 2015 we funded the 'Get Safe Online' initiative. The aim of the project is to provide website based advice to the community and businesses on how to identify and protect themselves from

cybercrime and promote internet safety. The project also provides training to practitioners and presentations to groups within Gwent. The initiative will be launched at the OPCCs Protecting Our Elderly Together (POET) conference in April 2016.

## Improving the Criminal Justice Process

### Hate Crime

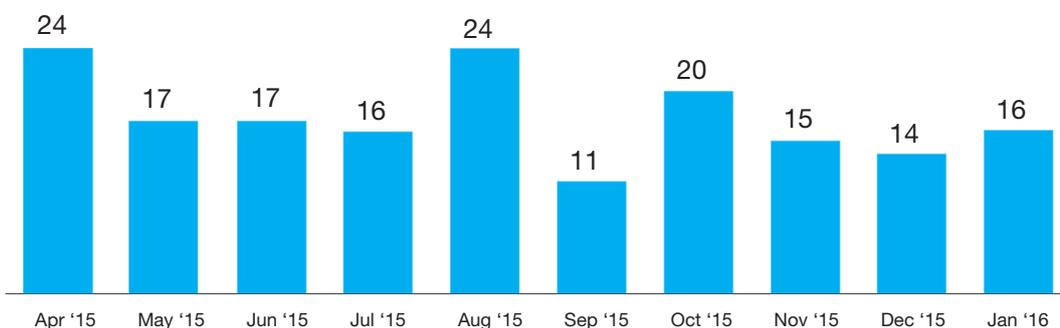
A key focus of development within the Criminal Justice System during 2015/16 has been improving Hate Crime identification and prosecutions. In November 2015, we supported Gwent Police by presenting at the regional Disability Hate Crime event to over 80 delegates alongside the keynote speaker who was a survivor of the 7 / 7 London terrorist attack.



In support of this campaign, in the lead up to the Hate Crime Awareness Week, we provided funding to train Gwent Police and Crown Prosecution Service staff on hate crime prosecutions. 18 Police officers undertook the training who subsequently distributed and utilised the All Wales Hate Crime campaign materials within their local communities.

The event was impactful and widely publicised across the media which we hope will help change the current reporting trends of hate crime in Gwent. During 2015/16 we saw a reduction of 29% in the levels of hate crimes reported (April to January 2016) when compared to the same period in 2014/15. However, we have seen high levels of victim satisfaction when the Force is dealing with hate crime issues. Levels of satisfactions for disabled victims of hate crime with regards to how they felt the police dealt with their issues was at 81.9%.

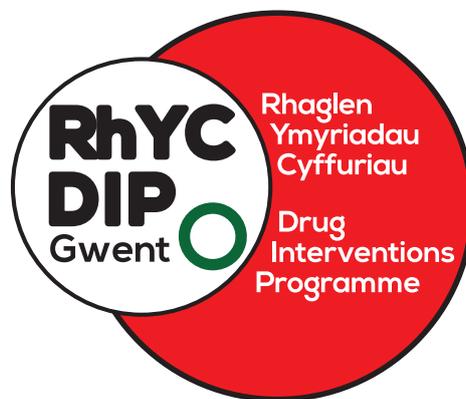
### Hate Crimes 2015 / 16



### Gwent-IRIS

The OPCC continues to fund the Gwent Drugs Interventions Programme (DIP) to support people involved in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) due to substance misuse. Gwent DIP works to reduce further harm arising from reoffending and continued substance misuse, including the use of psychoactive substances. May 2015 saw the launch of the jointly commissioned 'Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service' (GDAS).

Under the directorship of the OPCC and in partnership with the Gwent Area Planning Board, GDAS and the National Probation Service, GDAS was commissioned to deliver the first ever Gwent-wide integrated drug, alcohol and family intervention service for individuals, including offenders and communities affected by substance misuse.



The criminal justice element of the service has been re-branded 'Gwent-IRIS' which reflects the ethos of the service in providing an Integrated Recovery Interventions Service. 426 referrals were received into the service in the period May 2015 to March 2016 with a total of 138 people successfully concluding their treatment. Prison provided 35% and Gwent Police 10% of the primary source of referrals.

### Quality - Is Anyone Better Off?

<b>Completions</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>Percentage of completions of all closures</b>	<b>23%</b>
- Drug/Crime Free	52	- Drug/Crime Free	15%
- Crime Free only	20	- Crime Free only	6%
- Drug Free only	7	- Drug Free only	2%

### Women's Diversion Pathway

Females represent 17% of arrests in Wales (approximately 225,000 annually). Evidence suggests that women who are arrested are often low risk offenders but considered high in terms of needs and vulnerabilities. Some face multiple and complex issues including poor mental health, substance misuse, and abuse.

During the last year, Integrated Offender Management (IOM) continued to develop and under the directorship of the OPCC and on behalf of the four Welsh Police and Crime Commissioners, we submitted a successful bid to the Home Office Innovation Fund securing two years funding for 2014/15 and 2015/16 to enable the Diversion scheme to be piloted in four sites across Wales (one in each Police Force area).



The Pathway targets women in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and identifies specific methods and pathways to support reduction in re-offending. The Pathway includes diverting low level Female offenders from the CJS altogether into meaningful pathways and support. To date, in Gwent alone this has resulted in 33 women being diverted into the Diversion scheme at a referral rate of nearly 10% of those females arrested.

## **Integrated Offender Management (IOM)**

The PCC's office has continued to finance and support a Gwent IOM. This has included the set-up of multi-agency integrated teams dealing with the most prolific offenders in Gwent. This is to be replicated in the very near future when Gwent Police and its partners look to replicate that working model with the Wales Integrated Serious and Dangerous Offenders Management (WISDOM).

In June 2015, the OPCC helped launch the Strategic Framework and Delivery Manual in Gwent as part of achieving a consistent Pan Wales approach towards IOM.

Gwent, over this period has managed 54 offenders within IOM Acquisitive Crime. This consists of 33 offenders from the Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Torfaen and 33 offenders from Monmouthshire and Newport.

Studying the Gwent cohort over 18 months, available data has shown the lowest reoffending rate in Wales, that of 22.8%.

## **Priority Four: Protecting people from serious harm**

In order to ensure that people in Gwent are protected from serious harm, we closely monitor all areas of public protection by receiving quarterly public reports from the Head of Gwent Police's Public Protection Unit on the following areas:

- Safeguarding children
- High risk offenders including sex offenders
- Rape and serious sexual incidents
- Adult protection
- Human trafficking
- Violence Against Women, Domestic abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

Outlined below are the others ways we have taken this priority forward during 2015/16.

### **Child Protection**

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#### **South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (SEWSCB)**

The PCC has statutory safeguarding duties. To ensure these are fulfilled, the PCC is represented by the OPCC at the Gwent Police Public Protection Unit's Service Improvement Group (PPSIG). This enables the OPCC to monitor and scrutinise the strategic direction and activities undertaken by the force to protect children and young people.

#### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

CSE is classified by the Home Secretary as one of the 'National Strategic Policing Requirement'. This means that CSE is a priority area for the police to tackle, as it threatens the security and safety for children and young people across the UK. Therefore, all PCCs in the UK must ensure each Force prioritises reducing the impact of CSE on a local basis.

Gwent Police have also identified, through performance data and the force strategic assessment, that CSE is an emerging local policing priority. In tackling this complex and multi-faceted crime we have contributed funding to the SEWSCB to implement a CSE awareness raising campaign. The campaign will ensure that each of the 51 secondary schools in Gwent receive a theatre production conveying the issues relating to CSE. The performance will be in front of all

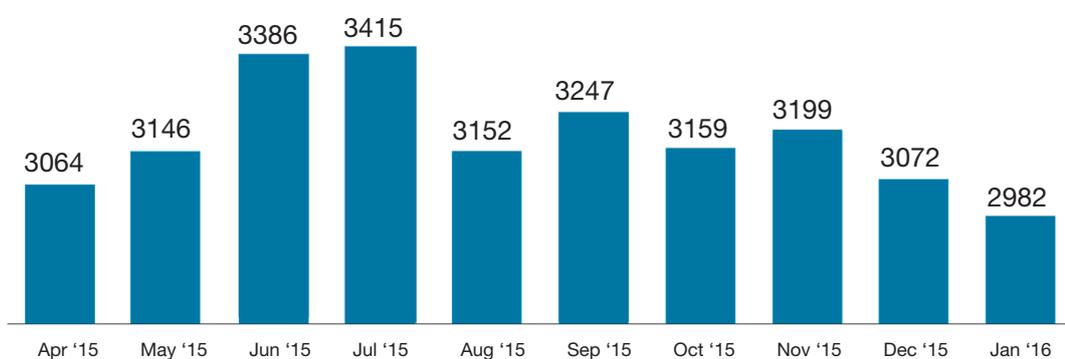
year eight pupils, therefore, performed to over 6,000 pupils across Gwent. This will provide these young people with the opportunity to engage with the performance and thereby increase their awareness, knowledge, understanding and the potential risk and vulnerability of CSE.

## Domestic abuse

Domestic violence crime figures for 2015/16 illustrate that compared to the same period in 2014/15, there was a slight increase of 806 in domestic violence crimes reported.

To ensure the OPCC have full oversight of all Violence against Women, Domestic abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) development, we attend the VAWDASV Board. The board is a multi-agency partnership approach which is chaired by the first national VAWDASV advisor for Wales. This approach has contributed to further funding allocations to the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) provision, Sexual Assault Referral Centre and Perpetrator project, which are explained further below.

### Domestic Violence 2015 / 16



### Independent Domestic Violence Advisors

During 2015/16 we have continued to support the provision of IDVAs through the allocation of Community Safety Funding to local authorities in Gwent. You will recall that last year we informed you that we were working with Newport City Council on the implementation of the Gwent Domestic Abuse Pathfinder Project.

In April 2015, a new regional approach to VAWDASV was implemented across Gwent. In 2015, as part of the development of this new Gwent approach, the reconfiguration of a Gwent IDVA service was taken forward, which we have been instrumental in supporting. The OPCC Strategic Commissioning Board has agreed £151,809 of funding for 2016/17 towards the development and sustainability of this new regional model. A key element to this funding is the creation of a new IDVA coordinator post. The post will be responsible for the management and effectiveness of the service.

### Gwent Domestic Abuse Service (GDAS) Perpetrator project

Reducing the impact of domestic abuse is an intrinsic element of policing due to the far reaching implications for those who experience, and are exposed to, violence and abuse in the home. We have therefore supported the GDAS perpetrator focused project as they provide a much needed service to those who perpetrate domestic abuse, and in turn, ensure the safety of victims and children.

The 15 week programme aims to challenge and change the attitudes of those individuals who perpetrate abuse and to ensure they are able to recognise and take responsibility for their actions, therefore reducing and preventing further harm. The project has engaged with individuals who have voluntarily signed up to the project to change their behaviour.

### Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

In Gwent reports of rapes have increased by 25% between April 2015 and January 2016. This is a somewhat 'positive' message, as it suggests that more victims are reporting these crimes to the police and are therefore enabling the police to hold the perpetrator to account. These crimes have a significant impact on individual lives and those close to them, it is therefore essential that we continue to work closely with New Pathways, providing funding to assess the needs of individuals waiting for counselling services.

In addition, New Pathways continue to play a key role within Connect Gwent ensuring that the needs of any individuals affected by sexual assault can be fully assessed and met as early as possible.

The OPCC has continued to be represented on the South Wales Health Collaborative Sexual Assault Service Board and 'Finance' task and finish sub-group during 2015/16. The sub group has agreed to reconfigure the provision of SARCs across Gwent, South Wales and Dyfed Powys to ensure the most sustainable and effective model is implemented.

## Mental Health

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### Improving Mental Health Provision in Gwent

There has been continued focus during 2015/16 on the standards of mental health provision within the police Force and Criminal Justice System. In December 2015, the PCC signed the Welsh Government 'Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat' alongside partner organisations in Wales. The concordat will ensure that people who are in crisis due to mental illness and who may be detained under the Mental Health Act are provided with the appropriate support and care. The concordat's core aims are to reduce police custody suites for adults and cease their use for those under 18 year olds as a place of safety for people experiencing mental health crisis.

Since 2013 within Gwent, under Mental Health Act 1983 Section 136, overall mental health custody detentions have decreased by 19%. Importantly through partnership working, of those detentions, individuals who remained detained with the custody suites as a place of safety has also reduced by 49% (from 172 to 88), and those transferred to health based places has increased by 17%. With overall detentions reducing, this data clearly indicates that we are already contributing to the core aims of the concordat.

## Priority Five: To make best use of resources and provide value for money

The OPCC receives regular reports as part of budget monitoring to help ensure that the people of Gwent are provided with a police service that is value for money.

During this period the PCC has:

- Agreed a budget requirement for Gwent Police for 2016/17 of £ 119,539,273 (2015/16 budget was £117,773,547)
- Set the council tax increase at 3.99% (2015/16 increase was 3.99%)
- Agreed a capital budget for 2016/17 of £4,209,000
- Continued to monitor how the Chief Constable is managing budget and austerity pressures (through Staying Ahead 8, the force transformational change programme). From 2008/9 to the end of 2015/16, nearly £38m of efficiency savings have been delivered.

## What does Gwent Police cost?

For 2015/16, the following gross budgets were set for revenue policing services in Gwent:

- Police Officers - £67.3m
- PCSO - £6.0m
- Police Staff - £23.4m
- Other Employee-Related Costs, e.g. training, injury pensions, etc. - £2.2m
- Premises - £6.0m
- Transport - £3.6m
- Supplies and Services/Contracts and Capital Charges - £20.7m
- Major Incidents and Proactive Incentives – £0.6m
- Other - £(0.9)

In addition, for 2015/16 the following capital budgets were set in Gwent:

- Estate - £0.5m
- Vehicles - £0.7m
- Information and Communication Systems - £2.8m
- Other Capital Projects and Schemes - £0.2m

There are a several mechanisms in place to ensure that value for money is being delivered, including:

- Annually Benchmarking costs with other Forces via HMIC's Value For Money profiles
- It is expected that the annual assurance judgement from the internal auditors (TIAA), on the overall system of internal control will be 'Reasonable'
- The annual review of governance arrangements through the compilation and publication of my 'Annual Governance Statement
- My multi-agency Strategic Commissioning Board
- During 2015, HMIC undertook a series of inspections as part of their PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) programme. The reports received provide confirmation of the excellent work that has been undertaken by the force during the year and abundant evidence of the continued improvement in the provision of policing services to the public of Gwent. Each area inspected resulted in an overall judgement of GOOD.
- The Wales Audit Office (WAO) undertakes an annual audit of our Statement of Accounts in July of each year, reporting their findings (including and assessment on the arrangements I have in place to secure value for money) in the following September. Over many years, the WAO has consistently provided an 'unqualified' audit opinion of my (formerly the Police Authority's) Statement of Accounts. This means that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view and have been prepared properly in accordance with relevant legislation, direction or regulations, and applicable accounting standards. Furthermore, the WAO have consistently been satisfied that I have had appropriate arrangements in place in the year to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in my use of resources, thereby demonstrating value for money.



**Ian Johnston QPM**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent**

