



Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
Office of Chief Constable

COVID19 UPDATE REPORT

7th June 2021



1. PURPOSE AND RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information for monitoring purposes and OPCC reporting.
- 1.2 There are no recommendations made requiring a decision.

2. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the OPCC with an update as to Force planning and activity in the recovery phase of COVID-19.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Resourcing

The Gwent Police Response to Covid is led by Chief Superintendent Mark Hobrough, who is the Gold Commander. From April 2020 to April 2021 The Force held daily Covid Gold Meetings. These have now become a weekly meeting that addresses issues related to the Force's Covid response. It is attended by representatives of both Local Policing areas, Crime Investigation, Business Support Functions, Legal Services, Finance and other key senior staff. The Force has also dedicated the Civil Contingencies Chief Inspector to its Covid Response. He is supported by staff from the Continuous Improvement and Force Planning Departments and liaises with the LPA Response and Neighbourhood Leads.

From April 2020 onwards the Force undertook weekly dedicated Covid Patrols within both Local Policing Areas (LPAs) and across all five Local Authority areas. These were tasked in line with local community intelligence, calls for service and information from partner agencies. The tactics employed included static vehicle checks, foot patrols of key locations and targeted patrol of locations where groups were likely to gather in breach of the regulations. The patrols were funded primarily from the Covid Surge Funding and utilised both Roads Policing Area Support Unit (ASU) officers and LPA Response/Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) staff. With Wales' move out of Lockdown these patrols have been replaced by less frequent but larger public order patrols focussed on weekends.



With the gradual return of the night-time economy it is believed that these public order patrols will be a necessary response to an anticipated increase in alcohol fuelled crime and (Anti-Social Behaviour) ASB.

From December 2020 the Force implemented a 'Covid Hub' to manage all queries on infection from Force Staff and to undertake internal Contact Tracing in order to identify and respond to workplace transmission of the virus. This was initially a team of seven staff drawn from across the Force on short-term attachments. Due to abstractions and competing demand this reduced to a team of four and a commensurate reduction in its capacity and capability. Following the acceptance of a proposal made in March this year this team will shortly be increased to a Supervisor and seven staff who will manage not only Contact Tracing, but also the new Force Testing Regime that is referred to later in this report.

3.2 Covid Demand

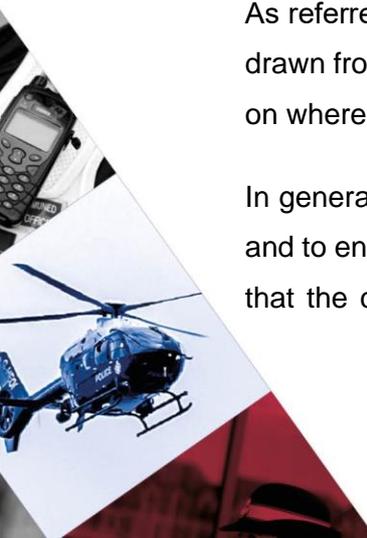
Gwent Police has had 18,000 calls for service related to Covid issues since March 2020. At its peak in April 2020 we were receiving 1,200 Covid calls per week, on top of our regular demand. This obviously impacted upon the Force's capacity to respond to other incidents, but due to the Covid regulations put in place at the time there was a significant reduction nationally in Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime during 2020/21. All notifiable offences across the UK reduced by 29% to year end 2021, compared to the previous year, and this is reflected locally. Covid linked incidents have gradually reduced during 2021 as regulations have relaxed. We received 1,387 such calls during January this year and only 493 in April.

3.3 Covid Enforcement

Gwent Police are committed to the National Policing Chiefs Council (NPCC) national Covid strategy and the sequential and proportionate approach to engage, explain and encourage public cooperation, with enforcement being the last resort.

As referred to above, throughout the pandemic the Force resourced 'Covid Patrols' drawn from operational staff to target identified hotspots and respond to intelligence on where Covid related issues were likely to be experienced.

In general, these patrols were able to engage with those breaching the regulations and to encourage compliance. However, towards the end of 2020 it was recognised that the context in which policing was operating was changing. 'Test, Track and



Trace' Health evidence suggested that clusters of the virus could be traced back to individuals and groups of infected persons who disregarded directions to self-isolate or licensed premises operating beyond their safe capacity or with insufficient measures to ensure social distancing. The worsening health picture resulted in the second lockdown and a need for a greater level of enforcement activity. Gwent Police remained committed to the impartial service of the law and there was a legitimate expectation that policing would respond to growing public concerns given the humanitarian consequences of further 'waves' of the pandemic. This resulted in the development of a new Enforcement Strategy (*Annex 13.1: Gwent Police Enforcement Strategy as of 27th October 2020*).

During the second lockdown at the start of 2021 officers experienced increased levels of opposition to their enforcement activity. Whilst the vast majority of the public remained compliant there were increased instances of aggression towards officers and refusal by some to disperse. As time has passed, we have seen 'Covid Apathy', particularly amongst younger people. Social Gatherings, Raves, House Parties etc. have all created particular policing challenges. With such breaches not only presenting risk the risk officers of being assaulted, but also putting officers into close contact with potentially infectious people. The Gwent Police Corporate Communications team were able during this period to use officer's Body Worn Video (BWV) footage to demonstrate the resistance that officers were being met with by some individuals, which elicited significant public support and understanding of the difficulties of the policing role in these circumstances (*see Annex 13.2: BBC Report: House Party*).

This second lockdown saw a more robust approach to breaches of the regulations, with a greater emphasis on Enforcement. This resulted in a significant increase in the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for breaches of the Covid Regulations. Since the start of the pandemic (up until the end of April 2021) 1,374 Covid Fixed Penalty Notices were issued by Gwent Police (*see Annex 13.3: Corona Virus Act ACRO Submissions 4-5-21*).

The most frequently identified offences related to: Persons contravening a restriction of movement across Health Protection Areas (253); people gathering in private dwellings (181); people gathering in public (609) and; people being away from their home without a reasonable excuse (270). Of the FPNs issued 1,219 (89%) were



given to people identifying as 'White', the remaining 155 FPNs (11%) were issued to either members of BAME communities or where ethnicity was not stated.

There has been widespread media coverage recently regarding a press release by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) that questioned the legality of many Covid Fixed Penalty Notices. The JCHR said that it had "significant concerns" about the "validity of fines, the inadequacy of the review and appeal process, the size of the penalties and the criminalisation of those who could not afford to pay" (see *Annex 13.4: BBC Report: Lockdown Fines*). The Joint Legal Services Team are currently monitoring the situation but there remains a high level of confidence in the Covid Fixed Penalty process. The number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued has obviously significantly reduced as the Regulations that they relate to have been relaxed. Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, Martin Hewitt issued a press release on the 4th of May 2021 setting out the policing position in relation to Covid Enforcement and FPNs. There remains public concern over how many Penalties have not been paid, but AC Hewitt clarifies in the release that many such FPNs still have payment periods outstanding. If an FPN is contested or not complied with within the 28-day payment period, the case becomes a matter for HM Courts and Tribunals Service following a force level review (see *Annex 13.5: Update on Coronavirus FPNs Issued by Police - April 2021*).

The Policing of Protests within Gwent has been a particularly challenging aspect of the pandemic. There is a conflict between the freedoms enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998 (under Articles 9, 10 & 11 – Freedom of Expression and Assembly) and the Covid Regulations in place at that particular time. Within Gwent we have managed over 90 protests of varying size in the last 12 months. Each of which has demanded a level of planning, negotiation and response. These ranged from a large 'Black Lives Matter' protest in Newport City Centre in June 2020 to regular 'Anti-Lockdown' protests consisting of a handful of demonstrators in public parks.

In order to ensure consistency and a sound legal footing for the policing of these events Gwent Police Operations Support have worked closely with the Regional Joint Legal Services team to formulate strategy and tactics. The situation has often been made more challenging due to differences in the regulations in Wales to those elsewhere in the UK regarding protest. But on the whole the consultative and engaging approach of Gwent Police has been received positively by both those seeking to demonstrate and the wider public.



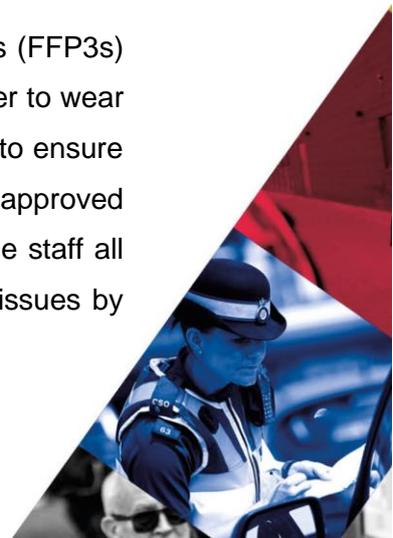
Enforcement activity relating to returning travellers to the UK will become an increasing demand for Gwent Police. Until recently there were only a small number of such returners and their compliance with Quarantine Regulations was managed initially by UK Border Agency and then by the Local Authority Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) Hubs. Gwent Police introduced a policy to respond to any requests for enforcement activity if the individuals failed to engage, but this has only been required on a handful of occasions. However, as restrictions are lifted and international travel increases this will be an area of increasing demand upon policing. A private security contractor has been engaged by the Government in order to carry out initial telephone and in-person checks to ensure that quarantine regulations are being complied with. However, where there is a lack of compliance these will be passed to the local police force for action which may include the issuing of a Fixed Penalty, a Summons or Arrest.

One of the most challenging areas of Covid Enforcement for Gwent Police has been the often fast-paced changes in legislation and the fact that as a Wales/England Border Force we have had to deal with public confusion or misunderstanding about which Regulations apply at a particular time and in a particular geographic location. There has often been an identifiable lag between what the Governments have said, what the police understood and what the public believed, was permissible. Gwent Police often found itself in the position of not only upholding the law that applied at that time, but also, through social media and communication channels, explaining the regulations to the public

3.4 **Health and Safety**

The National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) has taken control of National Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies for policing and Gwent Police submits monthly stock figures and orders to the approved service supplier. As a result, we have suspended local efforts to source PPE which previously presented quality and supply chain issues.

Our biggest challenge previously was securing sufficient Face Fit Masks (FFP3s) which are required for the more significant exposures to Covid-19. In order to wear such a mask an officer must undergo a short training and testing course to ensure an effective and safe fit. A problem arose whenever NPoCC changed the approved manufacturer of the masks supplied to the Force. When this occurred the staff all had to be re-tested with the new FFP3 mask. We have resolved these issues by



training our Covid Hub staff to deliver this Face Fit Testing within Force. Additionally, we have provided this training to a number of Custody Sergeants who are now able to 'Face-Fit' officers in order to allow them to undertake Breathalyser Procedures in Custody, which is deemed a high-risk activity for Covid infections.

The Health and Safety Team have led for the Force over the course of the pandemic on ensuring 'Covid Secure Workplaces'. They have reviewed all areas of the Force and provided advice and guidance on methods of working, workplace interaction and contact with the public. Each Department and part of the Police Estate has a plan of work and has implemented changes that range from 'one-way-systems' through open officers and the provision of sanitisation stations, to wholesale changes to the Force Control Room that included Perspex Screens, staggering of staff activities and dispersing functions across the Gwent Police Estate. These are continually reviewed in line with Force and Governmental advice. For instance, recently new guidance on the use of vehicles by more than two officers, which had previously been prohibited, was issued with specified controlled measures attached to allow it now to be undertaken in certain circumstances.

The Health & Safety Team also work closely with the Covid Hub and respond to any identified workplace transmission of the virus. They provide immediate response to any such incidents and advise on additional mitigation required or changes to workplace practices that should be undertaken. As the Force is required to report any such workplace transmission to the Health & Safety Executive the Team also lead on this for the Force and work closely with the Departmental Head to address any issues raised.

3.5 **Workforce Resilience**

Absence, including Covid19 related absence, remains low and is tracked each day at the Force Daily Management Meeting. As a Force have remained well below the National staff absence averages for the duration of the pandemic and officers and staff have exhibited a clear determination to continue working even when their wellbeing and health was deemed to be at risk.

Ongoing processes with Public Health Wales have evolved to ensure testing can take place for all staff at testing centres, with 400 places reserved across blue light services for prioritised testing should it be required. If officers come into contact with a suspected or diagnosed case of Covid-19 an information sharing agreement has



been established with Public Health Wales to allow Occupational Health staff and Medical staff within Custody to access medical records for the person who is infected, to establish their medical status. This has been a positive inclusion in our working practices providing reductions in time where staff and officers are potentially absent from work.

The Covid Hub was put into operation in December 2020 in response to demand being placed upon the Occupational Health Unit and other Force resources to respond effectively to Covid-19 infections and workplace transmission. It quickly became established as an effective team. There are clear future demands for the Force that will sit within the remit of the Covid Hub, such as the development and management of a Force Testing Regime, further PPE testing and the risk presented by Variants of Concern. A proposal to Chief Officers in March this year resulted in a wider role for the Hub and an uplift in staff (*Annex 13.6: Gwent Police Covid Management Hub Options Paper*).

Gwent Police is part of an All Wales Pilot/Rollout of Workplace Testing of staff. This will involve the provision of Self-Testing Kits and guidance/training to all staff who will undertake testing processes. It is anticipated that this will result in the identification of significantly more Covid-19 infections. In order to manage the consequences of this (which would otherwise result in a large number of staff self-isolating) the Force is also introducing 'Daily Contact Testing' procedures. This involves the directly supervised testing of those staff identified by contact tracing processes to be defined as 'close contacts' over seven consecutive days via an Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS).

South Wales Police have led on this pilot until now and they are working on the informed assumption that both contact tracing and this testing regime will be required until at least February 2022. The aim of this testing process is to protect our staff from infection and to keep staff in work who would otherwise need to self-isolate. Both the Police Federation and Unison are very supportive of the introduction of these testing processes.

In relation to Vaccinations, policing as an occupation has remained outside of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JVCI) Priority Groups. This is despite Chief Officers making the case that front-line staff are at risk of infection on a daily basis as they routinely interact physically with the public. Public Health Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government did authorise the vaccination of officers



classed as 'Police Medics'. So, in February 2021 Gwent officers from Custody, the Joint Firearms Unit and First Aid Training, along with those who have received enhanced medical training, were all vaccinated - a total of 121 officers. In addition to this, officers from across the Force who fit the JVCI Priority Gradings due to age or vulnerability have been vaccinated within the Public Health Wales system. A total of a further 680 officers and staff (this figure is based upon self-reporting by the vaccinated staff).

Elsewhere in Wales a number of Health Boards have been left with large numbers of 'spare' vaccines that would otherwise need to be disposed of and have made these available at short notice to their local police force. Within Gwent the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) have developed robust booking and logistics processes which have meant that spare vaccines have not been available during the first stages of the vaccination programme and that they are vaccinating more members of the public than elsewhere (ABUHB are the first Health Board in the UK to start vaccinating the 30-40 year old age group). However, it is anticipated that the situation here may change as younger groups are called for vaccination. As these are working-age groups, with potentially less motivation to receive a vaccination, it is believed that there may be an increase in numbers failing to attend appointments. Gwent Police has a procedure in place for the acceptance of 'spare' vaccines that prioritises front line staff.

In the week ending the 3rd May we had a small number of vaccinations made available to Gwent Police and applied this process. Further such access to vaccines for Gwent Police Staff is anticipated on an ad hoc basis. In addition, we have an agreement in place with South Wales Police to make 'spare' vaccines available within their area to Gwent Police staff living close to where the vaccines are located.

Some staff who have received vaccinations have reported side-effects including nausea and flu-like symptoms lasting 24-48 hours. This has resulted in short term sickness absence increases that appear to impact upon younger members of staff more significantly than older, and the effects are more strongly associated with the



Astra-Zeneca vaccine. ABUHB have recognised this impact and intend to offer alternative brands of vaccine to those under 30 years old to mitigate against it.

Earlier in the pandemic all training courses delivered both within Force and externally were suspended. Gradually more essential courses were reintroduced and now all courses are again being delivered, albeit often with reduced numbers of students and with strict social distancing in place. Gwent Police is in a good position with regard to compulsory development training compared to Forces nationally. Of particular note is the fact that we have been able to maintain our national commitment to Public Order capacity and capability through maintaining the refresher training of PSU Officers. Many Forces across the country have been unable to meet their commitments in this area.

3.6 **Wellbeing**

The Force is conscious of the demands placed upon staff working from home for extended periods, particularly for those who have needed to shield. It has adopted an all Wales risk assessment tool to ensure it provides the right level of support and advice to those who may be vulnerable. Once Shielding ended line managers undertook risk assessments to enable their staff to return to the working environment with confidence.

The Force has improved it's wellbeing offer to staff by approving a new staffing model with a dedicated Wellbeing Specialist and has recruited a Wellbeing Lead. Gwent Police now has a dedicated Wellbeing section on The Beat.

There is also a weekly Wellbeing Teams call at 10am each Friday, which discusses a specific wellbeing topic for the first half of the meeting, followed by a period of peer support.

We now have two Force Counsellors who are busy reviewing and expanding the Counselling provision whilst linking in with the development of the Wellbeing Strategy. A new Bereavement Support Group is due to start on the 9th February which will be a six-week programme to support those who have suffered loss.

3.7 **Community Cohesion**

The first lockdown in 2020 came at the start of Ramadhan and presented significant challenges for Gwent Police and Local Authorities. Ramadhan and the subsequent



celebrations and feasts are obviously hugely important social and community events. But through early and effective communication with key community leaders we were able to explain the restrictions and gain support from the Mosques and Imams within the Force area. Christmas and other religious events followed, similar approaches were applied, but the restrictions in place at the time clearly placed a strain upon the communities of Gwent. In 2021 Gwent Police built upon the good will developed previously to prepare for Ramadhan, although the gradual relaxing of restrictions has also eased the concerns of the communities.

Funerals have also been a highly emotive area. Particularly with the high mortality rate and the disproportionate impact of Covid upon Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities. NPTs and Community officers are still having weekly discussions over the ability of the public to mourn those that have passed. Again, the relaxation of the Regulations in this area will be welcomed by communities across Gwent.

The Gwent Police Diversity and Inclusion Lead chairs a weekly 'Covid Community Dial-In' with representatives of Faith groups, Cultural Organisations, Support Workers, and other representatives of Gwent's diverse communities. This provides an opportunity for these disparate groups to ask questions on policing and health issues during the pandemic and for Gwent Police to allay concerns and to understand the views of our communities. The Civil Contingencies Chief Inspector takes part in these meetings and is able to gain a first-hand understanding of the impact of Covid Enforcement and messaging on the communities of Gwent.

3.8 **Lessons Learned**

Lessons Learned processes are in place aligned to the College of Policing Guidance and NPCC, branded as 'Operation Talla'. There are established reporting lines in place and regular national meetings to provide a platform for discussion and regular links with police liaison in the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that lessons from all Forces are brought together.

Any local lessons learned are registered within Continuous Improvement and mitigating processes put in place. Standard Operating Procedures have been developed and are embedded to cover specific areas of policing such as the response to 'Covid Confirmed' calls for service, Test, Trace Protect (TTP) procedures for our own staff and the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment.



The Civil Contingencies Chief Inspector, Health & Safety Lead, Occupational Health Manager and other key staff regular dial in to Regional and National meetings in order to capture best practice. Alongside the Strategic Coordination Group, Incident Management Teams and Tactical Coordination Groups there are also functional meetings such as the Police (Wales) TTP & Covid Working Group and The National PPE Group.

The team is also working closely with specific Lessons Learned Forums such as the College of Policing Operational Learning Groups. These are workshops for all Forces in England and Wales which are thematic and relate to core areas of policing and how they have been affected by the pandemic. Contributors identify best practice and what has worked well for them and share information and documentation relating to these. The Civil Contingencies Chief Inspector is also a member of the 'Covid19 All Wales Organisational Learning Group' hosted by Dyfed Powys Police. This group reviews practices across the four Welsh Forces and allows members to bring forward local challenges and offers examples of good practice.

3.9 Inspection

Gwent Police was selected by HMICFRS in December 2020 to take part in a Covid-19 inspection which examined: how policing is responding to the Covid crisis; what is working well and what is being learnt; how the sector is dealing with the problems it faces and; opportunities to make sustainable improvements to the service. The inspection examined three distinct themes: Preparedness, Partnerships and Strategic Leadership; Policing Themes (Vulnerability, Investigations, Reporting, Enforcement and Wellbeing) and; Police Custody.

This inspection resulted in the report: 'Policing in the Pandemic: The police response to the coronavirus pandemic during 2020' which was published in April 2021 (see *Annex 13.7: Policing in the Pandemic HMICFRS Report*). The report makes five recommendations for forces. Gwent Police will be required to provide an update to the OPCC to allow the PCC to compile his statutory response to the Home Secretary on the report. These recommendations are as follows:

- 1. Managing Registered Sex Offenders: Forces must immediately make sure that officers understand and correctly implement the guidance for managing registered sex offenders during the pandemic.*



2. Legislation and Guidance: Forces must immediately make sure they can manage their responses to changes in coronavirus-related legislation. They must ensure frontline officers and staff are clear about the difference between legislation and guidance.

3. Test, Track and Trace: Forces must immediately put in place a policy to make sure that they follow the guidance and self-isolation directions when members of the workforce come into contact with someone with coronavirus symptoms.

4. Custody Records: Forces must immediately make sure that they clearly and consistently record on custody records information about how/when/if detainees are informed of the temporary changes to how they can exercise their rights to legal advice and representation.

The record must make clear how any consents are obtained about the way in which legal advice and representation are provided.

5. Overall Scale and Impact of Changes: Within six months, forces must assess the sustainability of any temporary measures introduced during the pandemic that change the way they work. They must understand positive, negative and unintended consequences of the scale and impact of the changes before determining if any of these new ways of working should continue.

Each of these recommendations have a Force owner allocated and responsible for implementing the necessary change. Additionally, the Report also identified learning points for all Forces to consider and implement where relevant to their circumstances. These are in the areas of: Demand & Pressures; Technology; Training; Workforce Wellbeing; Data and; Learning. The Force is reviewing these areas through its Assurance Officers.

3.10 **Recovery**

The Force is in the process of moving from Incident Management of the Pandemic to Recovery. Within the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) the Strategic Coordination Group chaired by Chief Superintendent McLain was stood down in April 2021. There is an LRF Recovery Group now in place that meets Quarterly and is Chaired by Newport City Council Chief Executive Beverly Owen. Within Force the Covid Gold Group still sits, Chaired by Chief Superintendent Mark Hobrough and will be



supplemented shortly by a Recovery Coordination Group and Board. These will address longer term recovery issues for the Force and the communities of Gwent.

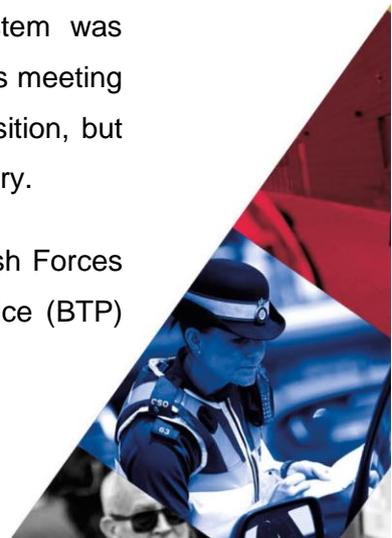
The Recovery programme itself will also need to be able to mitigate against future increases in Covid cases. Public Health Wales are predicting further 'waves' of infection this year, although with a lesser impact than those experienced previously. As the increase in cases nationally that occurred around Christmas demonstrated, increased transmission within the workplace resulted in hugely increased demand upon the Covid Hub and other areas of Gwent Police. Contact Tracing activity is urgently required following a reported case to prevent further transmission and mitigate against the impact of cases and that will continue to be a requirement for some time.

Public Health Wales and Public Health England are increasingly concerned about 'new' and emerging variants of Coronavirus, or 'Variants of Concern' (VOCs). As each variant is identified they are assessed for relative infection rates, severity of illness and resistance to the current vaccination programme. It is strongly believed that these VOCs will result in increased transmission within our communities and also therefore, within policing. It will be necessary, even with high vaccination rates, to maintain effective contact tracing procedures and to have the ability to react rapidly to infection to prevent workplace transmission of the virus.

4. COLLABORATION

Throughout the pandemic the four Welsh Forces held Weekly 'All Wales Gold' Meetings between the Four Organisational Gold Commanders (represented by Chief Superintendent Mark Hobrough for Gwent) and the Police Liaison Unit at the Welsh Assembly Government. This allowed the Forces to provide consistency of response across Wales and to identify and promulgate best practice. This mirrored the approach taken by Chief Officers across Wales and ensured that the particular structure of policing in Wales under a devolved Governmental system was considered alongside UK wide approaches to policing the pandemic. This meeting was stood down in May 2021 as Forces move towards a Recovery position, but Forces retain the ability for it to be stood up again in quick time if necessary.

On a more tactical level the Civil Contingencies Leads of the Four Welsh Forces (Represented by Chief Inspector Gwent) and the British Transport Police (BTP)



Operational Lead for Wales, met fortnightly from May 2020. This group is entitled 'The Police (Wales) TTP & Covid Working Group'. The group allowed those dealing with the policies and procedures concerning Covid Demand, Covid Enforcement and Infection Prevention Control to learn from each other and provide support where appropriate. This meeting will continue as we move into a Recovery phase.

5. NEXT STEPS

As detailed above an effective Recovery Programme is required in order to return Gwent Police to a new state of normality, to embrace innovative and new ways of working developed during the pandemic and to position the Force to enable it to effectively respond to similar future challenges.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Covid19 lockdown has already had a significant effect on the phasing of expenditure throughout 2020/21 and this will continue into the new 2021/22 financial year.

Most variances in non-pay expenditure categories are due in some part to the delay or cancellation of spend as a result of officers and staff working more agilely and safely since March 2020. Given the ongoing Covid19 working patterns, it is still uncertain whether some of this expenditure will materialise in the next financial year. The capital programme has also been impacted by Covid19 with a number of projects within the programme delayed. However, the new HQ build has continued throughout the lockdown period.

7. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

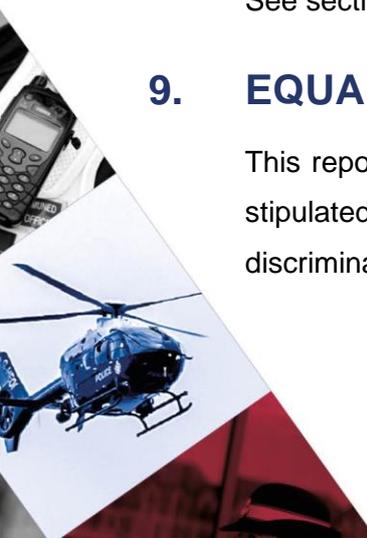
See sections 3.5 and 3.6 above.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

See section 3.3 above.

9. EQUALITIES & HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

This report has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Joint Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.



In preparing this report, consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.

10. RISK

As documented in the Force Risk Register.

11. PUBLIC INTEREST

- 11.1 In producing this report, has consideration been given to 'public confidence'? **Yes**
- 11.2 Are the contents of this report, observations and appendices necessary and suitable for the public domain? **Yes**
- 11.3 If you consider this report to be exempt from the public domain, please state the reasons:
- 11.4 Media, Stakeholder and Community Impacts:

12. LEAD CHIEF OFFICER

- 12.1 ACC Ian Roberts

13. ANNEXES

- 13.1 BBC Report: House Party
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-55774886>
- 13.2 Corona Virus Act ACRO Submissions 4-5-21

Corona Virus Act
ACRO Submissions 4
- 13.3 BBC Report: Lockdown Fines
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-56890540>
- 13.4 Update on Coronavirus FPNs Issued by Police - April 2021





Update on
Coronavirus FPNs Is:

13.5 Gwent Police Covid Management Hub Options Paper



Gwent Police Covid
Management Hub C

13.6 Policing in the Pandemic HMICFRS Report



Policing the
Pandemic HMICFRS

14. CHIEF OFFICER APPROVAL

- 14.1 I confirm this report has been discussed and approved at a formal Chief Officers' meeting.
- 14.2 I confirm this report is suitable for the public domain / is not suitable for the public domain for the reasons stated in 11.3.



Signature:

Date: 13th May 2021

