

# 2018/19

## Annual Report

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OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER NORTH WALES



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# Introduction

## Message from Arfon Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales

Welcome to my 2018-19 Annual Report as Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for North Wales. This report provides an update on overall progress against delivery of my Police and Crime Plan strategic priorities. My Plan was informed by a broad range of information that is reflected in five key priority areas:

- Domestic Abuse
- Modern Slavery
- Sexual Offences
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Delivering Safer Neighbourhoods

While I give equal weight to all five strategic priorities, the overarching theme of **'reducing the criminal exploitation of vulnerable people'** was introduced last year and is particularly highlighted throughout this report.

This year I was delighted to appoint Carl Foulkes as the new Chief Constable of North Wales Police. Carl brings a wealth of experience to the role which he has already made his own. His drive, passion and determination to make North Wales the safest place in the UK is one I fully endorse and look forward to continuing to work closely with Carl and his team to deliver an outstanding police service for our communities.

When writing this report and reflecting on the twelve month period covered, I realise just how much has been achieved in that time and what an exceptionally busy and demanding time it has been for PCC's and policing in the UK.

Our exit from the European Union and its impact is still to be resolved at the time of writing. Brexit risks putting the UK and North Wales in jeopardy. Our co-operation with the rest of Europe is used to help North Wales Police guard against terrorism, serious organised crime including modern slavery and human and drugs trafficking.

A hard Brexit will mean starting from scratch, negotiating individually with each country and using instruments that we currently use for countries outside the EU and that will mean extradition will be slower and more difficult, and criminals will evade justice and will find it easier to operate in the UK. As Police and Crime Commissioner I believe it is my duty to speak out against anything that threatens the security and safety of our communities and I will continue to do so.



The financial climate continues to be extremely challenging of course, although at the time of writing I am cautiously optimistic that the tide is turning and the Government recognise that the financial cuts to policing for over a decade have gone too far and too deep.

With the support of the Police and Crime Panel, in 2019/20 we were able to put some investment back into the workforce with an increase of 30 police officers and 6 staff. Whilst welcome news, I will continue to push for further investment and reverse the cuts imposed over the last decade.

Whilst it has been a very successful year for North Wales Police, there are of course challenges and areas that require improvement, as highlighted by HMICFRS and detailed within this report. However, through my scrutiny of the Force I am satisfied that arrangements are in place to improve in those areas. I would also like to thank the Police and Crime Panel for their continued contribution in the policing governance of North Wales. Openness, transparency and accountability are very important to me. I was delighted that CoPaCC once again recognised that commitment and awarded my office with their Transparency Award for 2018, for the 3rd year in a row which is a tremendous achievement which I am very proud of. It is my intention to continue to sustain this high level of accountability and this report reflects that commitment.

The forthcoming year (2019/20) will be my final year during this term of office before the PCC elections in May 2020. My achievements to date are set out in this report, but this is in no small part due to the outstanding support from all officers, staff and volunteers of North Wales Police and the small team working within my office.

**Arfon Jones**

Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales



## Working in effective partnership

Many of the challenges I face as PCC are ones that the police cannot tackle in isolation and require innovative and effective partnership working to truly make a difference.

I have a **small team of dedicated staff** that work alongside me and the Force to ensure that the Police and Crime Plan is delivered and that all my statutory duties are met. The team consists of two statutory officers, namely the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Finance Officer, and support staff specialising in research, policy, governance, finance, commissioning and communication. Many duties that are carried out are not routinely reported on, for example responding to HMIC reports, Freedom of Information Requests, arranging police appeal tribunals, facilitating conferences, recruiting and maintaining an Audit Committee as well as recruiting Independent Assessors and Custody Visitors. Full details of the staffing structure can be found on my website.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse remain key priorities within my Plan. The work of the Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors remain key to ensuring the victims of these abhorrent crimes receive the support they deserve throughout the criminal justice system. That service, and our approach to tackling Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse more widely, is managed through the **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic Board** which is chaired by my Chief Executive. In addition to the funding I make available for these vital services, funding is also received from Welsh Government. In order to ensure the grant was not spent on commissioning costs and was spent on the front line where needed most, I continue to be the accountable body for the grant and its expenditure.

During 2018/19 the Adverse Childhood Experiences Project Board has carried out exceptional work of which I am very proud. In November 2017, the Home Office awarded £6.87 million to the four Police Forces and Police and Crime Commissioners, Public Health Wales, Barnardo's and Criminal Justice partners for the collaborative Wales National Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Approach to Policing initiative. A proportion of this awarded funding resulted in the development of a North Wales Early Action Together Programme team (EATP) which is funded until March 2020 to deliver on the transformational change initiative.



The North Wales Early Action Together Programme (EATP) has aimed to transform the way in which vulnerability is policed. Using a public health approach, the Programme is working with a number of third and public sector agencies to give police and partners a better understanding of the generational cycle of crime and address the lack of early intervention when Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma are present, moving towards a system wide, preventative approach to crime.

To date the EATP has been an excellent example of partnership working and has ensured that programme objectives have been jointly owned and shared. The programme has not just concentrated on Policing but on how the Police work with partners to ensure improved responses for vulnerable people and to prevent vulnerability escalating. I have been delighted by the outcomes delivered to date. Looking ahead to 2019/20, the final year of funding for the programme, the focus must be on the sustainability of this work. I know the Chief Constable and I are of the same view and this will become embedded practice within North Wales Police. I would encourage our Local Authority partners and others to do the same.

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The **Police and Crime Panel** continue to scrutinise and challenge as required to ensure that I carry out my role effectively. The feedback I receive from the Panel is taken into account and helps me make key decisions with regard to strategies, policing priorities and the budget. I look forward to a continued constructive relationship with the Panel.

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The **Joint Audit Committee** is a committee made up of five independent members whose purpose is to play a key role in the oversight of the governance of my office and North Wales Police. By considering reports from the **Internal Auditors, Wales Audit Office** and others, they are able provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework, the internal control environment and the integrity of the financial reporting and annual



governance processes. Scrutiny by the **Joint Audit Committee** can help us to drive and identify further improvements. A new Committee was appointed in April 2018 and I thank them for their outstanding work and contribution during their first year.

The **Professional Standards Scrutiny Board (PSSB)** monitors and scrutinise the manner in which complaints and misconduct allegations are dealt with by North Wales Police in order that I can be satisfied that the arrangements and processes in place are appropriate and effective. The **PSSB** is chaired by my Deputy, Ann Griffith with professional advice provided by my Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Constable and the Head of the Professional Standards Department. During 2018/19 my Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Constable have jointly Chaired an internal project Board to prepare for the full enactment of The Policing and Crime Act 2017, now due in February 2020. This will make dramatic changes to the current performance, complaints and misconduct processes and the **PSSB** will continue to work closely with the Force to scrutinise and support the implementation of the changes. On a regular basis staff from my office continue to dip sample complaint files that relate to the use of force and other matters to ensure there is no bias in the decision making process and the investigations are proportionate and fair.

I have a statutory duty to ensure that the policing area provides an efficient and effective criminal justice system. One of my key mechanisms to achieve this is to Chair the **North Wales Criminal Justice Board (NWCJB)**. Membership of the board includes the Chief Constable, Crown Prosecution Service, Her Majesty's Court & Tribunal Service, National Probation Service, Wales Community Rehabilitation Company, Her Majesty's Prison Service and Youth Offending Teams. During 2018/19 I gave written and oral evidence to the Thomas Commission which was established to review the justice system and policing in Wales. I, and indeed the other Commissioners in Wales are keen to see more responsibilities devolved to Wales so that greater progress can be made.

I am represented on the **Multi-Agency Scrutiny Panel for Out of Court Disposals**. The purpose of the panel is to independently assess, scrutinise and quality control the use of out of court disposals by North Wales Police. The panel can make recommendations, feedback on individual cases to officers, communicate findings, promote best practice and identify potential policy development or training needs for consideration by the Force or other agency involved. This scrutiny is carried out with colleagues from other agencies in the criminal justice family, which includes North Wales Police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Magistrates Court, the Victim Help Centre and Youth Offending Teams.

I am a member of the **Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)**. The **APCC** is a national body which helps PCCs make the most of their ability to influence at a national level and deliver on their statutory duties and policing priorities. By sharing best practice and identifying opportunities to work together, of paying for services jointly, the **APCC** helps PCCs be more efficient and effective. I sit on the Board of the **APCC** and I am also the Deputy Lead for the Alcohol and Substance Misuse Portfolio.

**Your Community, Your Choice** is a project managed by **PACT (Police and Community Trust)**, North Wales that grants money to community groups and organisations that has been seized from offenders. Money recovered through the Proceeds of Crime Act and my Commissioners Fund supports community projects in North Wales. A total of 19 community groups were successful last year with grant applications totalling £61,901.00 that helped to provide services such as Wrexham One Love Homeless Choir, West End Children's Activity Hub in Bangor, Cobra Life in Connah's Quay; Llanddona Community Hall in Ynys Môn; Colwyn Bay Sea Squad, Rhyl Youth Boxing Club, as well as two major on-going projects that address the county lines issue.

I have a dedicated team of **Independent Custody Visitors** who help me scrutinise the work of North Wales Police's custody provision and custody suites. They carry out regular visits and ensure that the welfare of detainees is promoted. Independent Custody Visitors made 133 unannounced visits to custody last year. During the reporting period a total of 10,907 detainees were held in Custody in North Wales and 633 held during the visits.

Of the 633 detainees that were held in custody during the visiting times 344 were available to be seen and 296 consented to a visit (86%). The high number of detainees agreeing to a visit from the custody visitors proves the effectiveness of the Scheme and I thank them all for their continued efforts.

As a result of an alliance between North Wales Police and Cheshire Constabulary's Dog Units, we joined Cheshire's already successful **dog welfare visiting scheme**. During the reporting period a total of 18 visits were completed throughout Cheshire and North Wales (comprising of training days and visits to the kennels), with 59 dogs observed. A total of 104 dogs were observed and checked by the volunteers. In addition to kennels and training facilities, the police dog vehicles were checked and reported to be in good condition. As a result of these visits additional shading sails were purchased for the dogs during hot weather and improvement to the drainage at the kennels.

# Making a difference

I am extremely proud of the work and achievements of my Office, North Wales Police and our partners during 2018/19. I have listed below examples of just a few achievements with the overall aim of making North Wales the safest place in the UK.

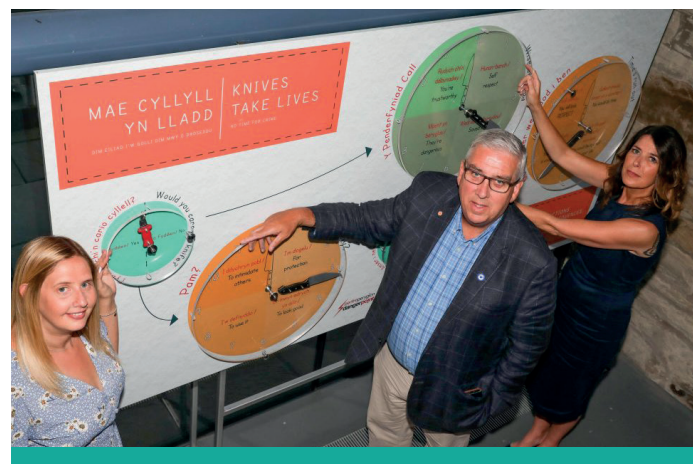
## April 2018

- I met with Welsh Government officials and Nazir Afzal, the Welsh Government’s Regional VAWDASV Advisor, to discuss how we can move perpetrator interventions forward in North Wales via our VAWDASV Board.
- My lead officer for Domestic Abuse attended The Suzy Lamplugh Trust’s Conference “Reporting Stalking: Best Practice in Stalking Cases” in London. As a result work started to establish how many people have been arrested and subsequently charged with stalking offences in North Wales; what specific support is available for victims of stalking in North Wales; are Police Information Notices issued in North Wales in stalking cases; how NWP officers and control room staff are trained to recognise a course of conduct as stalking; and once stalking is identified.
- Received presentations from Durham Constabulary on their Checkpoint Programme and Avon and Somerset Constabulary on the Bristol Education Programme. These meetings led to the eventual establishment of Checkpoint Cymru.



## May 2018

- Operation Lenten, an investigation into child sexual exploitation and modern slavery offences led to the recording of hundreds of crimes, including modern slavery offences. Vulnerable young victims were identified and were supported by the Victim Help Centre.
- During a visit to Danger Point I was made aware of the dangers that the social media app Musical.ly poses to children. As a result I urged parents to increase the safety and privacy settings on their children’s mobiles and apps. I also warned parents and guardians about the locations settings on the Snapchat App.



- North Wales Police continues to prioritise offering a genuine language choice to all who come into contact with them. In May 2018, they hosted a conference celebrating the Welsh language in the workplace. During this conference, North Wales Police and I launched our new Joint Welsh Language Strategy. The conference was attended by the Welsh Language Commissioner Meri Huws.



## June 2018

- The first phase of Operation Zeus, a large investigation into the criminal activities of persons supplying controlled drugs across the North West Wales concluded with a large number of defendants having entered guilty pleas.
- Op Lamberts also concluded with 3 individuals convicted and sentenced to over 10 years imprisonment for conspiracy to supply class A drugs.
- North Wales Police welcomed approximately 100,000 visitors to Llandudno for the National Armed Forces Day. A wide range of activities including a ceremonial parade along the seafront, that involved serving personnel, veterans, cadets and marching bands. There were demonstrations, air shows, and military vehicles on display. This was a complex operation that was hailed a huge success, and one of the largest policing operations that North Wales Police has ever undertaken. North Wales Police portrayed themselves in a very positive and professional light.



## August 2018

- I held a North Wales Diversion Programme workshop at the OpTIC in St Asaph for third sector and public services who are involved with low level offenders. The workshop was a great success with over 40 people attending and providing their inputs on what they feel would work best in North Wales.
- The Op Teal trial came to a successful conclusion with a two guilty verdicts for murder. This murder was in relation to a drug dispute involving Merseyside County Lines gangs operating in the Deeside area. The two men were sentenced to a total of 53 years.
- The recruitment process for a new Chief Constable took place. The recruitment process was a tremendous success and received glowing praise from the independent member appointed to oversee the process. The recruitment process we used has been adopted as best practice by other OPCC's since.



## July 2018

- I received a number of reports regarding Women in the Criminal Justice System and more specifically female imprisonment. As a result of these findings, as Chair of the North Wales Criminal Justice Board, I convened a Reducing Women's Imprisonment Task and Finish Group to drive forward a number of recommendations.
- I launched an appeal to find police dog welfare visitors to check on the working animals in North Wales and Cheshire. The visitors will ensure that the kennels are in good condition, that police vehicles are kept clean with adequate water for the dogs and that all handlers are adept in handling the dogs and vehicles.

## September 2018

- My Children and Young People Strategy was agreed with the Chief Constable with an action plan to be developed to deliver the strategy.
- As part of North Wales Police's commitment to becoming a dementia friendly organisation, the Herbert Protocol was launched in September 2018 by North Wales Police and the North Wales Safeguarding Board. The Herbert Protocol is designed to assist in locating individuals safe and well should they go missing, and provide reassurance to family and friends that the police have all the information they need to help locate the individual. The Herbert Protocol is a national initiative adopted by North Wales Police, as well as many other police forces around the UK.



## October 2018

- Hate Crime Awareness Week was held from 13th to 20th October. I funded local community projects and initiatives that raise awareness of hate crime. I distributed £5,000 of project funding which was provided by Welsh Government. In addition I contributed a further £3,362 of my own budget to fund events and activities. In total I received 18 applications totalling £16,528.71. Funding was agreed for 12 projects.
- I sponsored, attended and gave a speech at BAWSO's anti-slavery conference in Wrexham. This event was extremely well attended by partners and really underlined a key issue which is currently facing all partners working in this area, namely the lack of support for victims outside of the NRM 45 day period. This issue needs to be tackled nationally. I responded to a Home Affairs Select Committee on this point and urged the government to extend the period for the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Furthermore, I continue to encourage the third sector providers to aim their services towards those people who remain vulnerable but for whatever reason do not qualify under the NRM.

## November 2018

- Chief Constable Carl Foulkes began in his new role as Chief Constable of North Wales Police. Chief Constable Foulkes immediately set out his vision of North Wales becoming the safest place in the UK, a vision which I fully endorse.
- I launched a new campaign to reduce the soaring demand on the police control room in North Wales which takes over 1100 calls a day. Only 150 of those calls are reporting crimes, in the campaign I asked the public to help take the pressure off the control room and think before dialling 999. It is so important that people ring the correct number to ensure that demand is met where it is most needed.



## December 2018

- My response to the UK Government's Serious Violence Strategy, was published by the Home Affairs Select Committee. One of the main aims of the Serious Violence Strategy is to prevent those likely or entering into organised crime by providing them with an alternative to crime. The development of the Checkpoint Cymru diversion programme will identify vulnerabilities and address the underlying causes of offending behaviour.
- Following a number of complaints by the public regarding the 101 system I asked my staff to carry out a dip sample of non-emergency calls on a quarterly basis. This dip sample will allow me to assess the level of service afforded to members of the public.



## January 2019

- A County Lines Needs Assessment was commissioned by the North Wales Safer Communities Board as a result of the Home Office Locality Reviews. The agreed Terms of Reference were delivered in January 2019 and a draft report was produced in April 2019. The Needs Assessment resulted in a multi-agency holistic assessment of the threat posed by County Lines and now informs recommendations. This was an outstanding piece of work and the first of its kind in Wales.
- I carried out a survey with our communities to ensure that they still agreed with the policing priorities in North Wales and how much people would be prepared to pay for the policing service. The survey concluded support for the priorities and found that 51% of the 1,877 council tax payers who took part were in favour of an increase of 37p or more - with a third of them supporting a much higher increase of 50p and above a week.

## February 2019

- The Chief Constable and I launched our new Joint Strategic Equality Plan. In accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010, we consulted with stakeholders, partners and staff to establish the new priorities for 2019-2023. As always some of our priorities continue from our previous plan such as tackling hate crime and ensuring effective and fair use of powers. However, we now also see an increase in activity to ensure appropriate workforce representation across Welsh language, gender, race and other protected characteristics.
- The Early Intervention Youth Fund was launched and aims to tackle serious violence affecting young people in Wales. A collaborative bid by the four PCC's in Wales was successful and secured £1.7m funding. The work delivered through this project is overseen by the Wales Serious Violence Multi Agency Group and managed regionally by the four Serious Violence Prevention Co-ordinators based within each Welsh police force.



## March 2019

- A perpetrator intervention package for Domestic Abuse offenders was developed. ADAPT (Agencies Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Tasking) is based on the MATAAC (Multi Agency Tasking and Co-ordination) process in Northumbria. This process enables focus on those serial domestic abuse perpetrators who are assessed as more likely than not to continue to commit domestic abuse offences without intervention. The results of the pilot will be reported in the 2019/20 annual report.
- I was delighted that my office received the Transparency Quality Mark by CoPaCC for the third year running. The award is given for making information easily available to the public. I believe passionately in the importance of being totally open about what my office and I do, so gaining this quality mark for the third year running means a great deal to me.

# Delivering the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

My core responsibilities as Police and Crime Commissioner are to:

1. **Secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for North Wales**
2. **Hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of his functions**
3. **Bring together community safety and criminal justice partners**
4. **Co-operate with the other police and crime commissioners and to formulate and implement strategies across police force areas**

## Efficient and effective police force

Since I became Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales in 2016, I have endeavoured to secure an efficient and effective police force through the strategy laid down in the Police and Crime Plan 2017 – 2021 and, in particular, through its five police and crime strategic priorities:

- Domestic Abuse
- Modern Slavery
- Organised Crime
- Sexual abuse (including child sexual exploitation)
- Delivering Safer Neighbourhoods

Although an assessment of whether I have fulfilled this function can only be accurately made at the end of my term, the effectiveness and efficiency of the Force is inspected annually by HMICFRS in the PEEL assessment.

The Mental Health Picking up the Pieces inspection took place during this period. I was especially pleased with the findings of this report as it identified the current unnecessary demand placed on forces due to the failure of other services. I continue to receive updates on the demand placed on the force at the Strategic Executive Board.



My office and NWP are working closely with other organisations to try to improve their joint understanding of mental health. These collaborations are working both at a strategic level to influence the direction of services and at a more tactical level to solve specific problems. In collaboration with BCUHB, Mental health Triage workers have been recruited and will be working directly from the Force Control Room, this will improve access to timely information and advice.

Also during this period Crimes Against Older People were also subject of a HMICFRS inspection. North Wales Police were inspected in November 2018 and February 2019. North Wales Police was one of six forces who were inspected to form the findings of this thematic inspection. The Crime Allocation Triage used by the Force was identified as a best practice process as it provides an indicative score to enable good decisions to be made about which officers are best placed to investigate crimes. It was recognised that whilst still relatively new, the system has the potential to improve crime investigation and has attracted review from numerous other constabularies in the UK.

The first Force Management Statement was released in May 2018 which provided an overview of future and current demands. In the initial consultation phase Force Management Statements were designed to reduce the burden of inspections on forces. Unfortunately the introduction of the Force Management Statements has not reduced the level of work expected from the Force and has in fact increased this demand. I expressed my concern around this additional demand as part of my consultation response to HMICFRS in December 2018 and will continue to raise these concerns.



## Holding the Chief Constable to account

The principal method by which I hold the Chief Constable to account continues to be through the Strategic Executive Board which I Chair and of which the Chief Constable and his senior officers are members.

This Board meets regularly and I receive reports on several aspects of the Chief Constable's functions including crime statistics for the period immediately preceding the meeting, the monthly performance summary (containing local performance information), finance reports, results of surveys of officers and staff, and public satisfaction. I have also asked for regular updates on the Use of Force, Care not Custody, Human Resources and sustainable development to be considered at this Board.

Further scrutiny of the Force is made at my Professional Standards Scrutiny Board, Multi-Agency Scrutiny Panel, Joint Governance Board, Independent Custody Visitors Panel and various dip sampling exercises. I have provided more information on my scrutiny role and the support I have in place on my website.

There are many discussions, visits and challenges that take place every day to ensure that the Force and other partners are focussed on the key policing objectives identified in the Police and Crime Plan.



## Bringing together community safety and criminal justice partners

It is clear to me that in order to deliver the strategic priorities set out in my Plan, the support of our partners is imperative – the police cannot deal with these matters in isolation.

My office and I are a member of the following regional and All Wales committees and boards:-

- All Wales Criminal Justice Board
- North Wales Local Criminal Justice Board
- All Wales Women in Justice Board
- North Wales Safer Communities Board
- Area Planning Board
- Regional Leadership Board
- Modern Slavery Regional Partnership Group
- Violence Against Women and Girls Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Regional Board
- Early Action Together (Adverse Childhood Experiences) National Board
- All Wales Policing Group
- North West Joint Oversight Committee

It is through these forums that I can see the objective of effective partnerships being delivered and identify opportunities where we can improve how we work together, share relevant information and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the services we provide to the public.

During this period I launched a new scheme, the Early Intervention Fund which is specifically aimed at supporting early intervention projects within the region. Recognising that the Police have a crucial role in the delivery of early intervention locally and are uniquely placed to identify children, families or individuals who need support. Early intervention represents an intelligent approach to spending. It requires small investments to deal with root causes, rather than the much greater costs of dealing with the after effects. It allows us to act in a less intrusive, more cost effective way – through a parenting programme, for example costs relating to domestic abuse, substance misuse, children becoming looked after, children missing school and crime and anti-social behaviour were amongst the most significant costs. The Early Intervention Fund has also added value to the Adverse Childhood Experience agenda. I have made £100,000 available each year for the next 3 years to fund a number of projects with the main focus being on early intervention in the communities of North Wales. The funding allocated in 2018/19 can be found in the Commissioning section of this report.

## Co-operate with the other Police and Crime Commissioners

Co-operating with the other Police and Crime Commissioners to formulate and implement strategies across police force areas is an important function and contributes towards delivering the Strategic Policing Requirement. I have endeavoured to fulfil this function by regular meetings with my fellow Commissioners and their Chief Constables to discuss common interests and cross border matters in particular.

I meet regularly with the Police and Crime Commissioners of the North West of England. The collaboration work between North Wales Police and the North West is of particular importance to the policing of North Wales as the geographical proximity means that we have shared priorities for tackling serious and organised crime, as well as providing operational cooperation.

I continue to be impressed by the results delivered by the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (Titan). It is an outstanding example of collaborative working delivering tangible outcomes that keeps the communities of North Wales safe.

In Wales, the successful collaboration led by Police and Crime Commissioners, the Early Action Together programme established to tackle Adverse Childhood Experiences, has delivered excellent results and a trauma informed workforce across North Wales. PCC's also successfully collaborated during this period and secured a further £1.7m from the Early Youth Intervention Fund.

A campaign over the Christmas period of 2018, between the four Welsh forces was led by North Wales Police in order to target drink and drug drivers. Over 500 arrests were carried out in the period from 1st December 2018 to the 1st January 2019.

All forces in England and Wales continue to collaborate on the delivery of the National Police Air Service, National Crime Intelligence Service, National Wildlife Crime Unit, National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit and National Ballistics Intelligence Service.



I am a member of the **Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)**. The APCC is a national body which helps PCCs make the most of their ability to influence at a national level and deliver on their statutory duties and policing priorities. By sharing best practice and identifying opportunities to work together, of paying for services jointly, the APCC helps PCCs be more efficient and effective. I sit on the Board of the APCC and I am also the Deputy Lead for the Alcohol and Substance Misuse Portfolio.

## A year of engagement

I represent all of our communities across North Wales in ensuring their policing service is as efficient and effective as it can be. I therefore place great importance on getting out of the office and meeting the public at every opportunity. I therefore provide here only a snapshot of some of the events I have hosted or attended during 2018/19.

### Anglesey

- Visit to Holyhead Port along with the Assistant Chief Constable
- The Anglesey Agricultural Show
- Visit to Social Navigation project in Anglesey

### Gwynedd

- Nefyn Agricultural Show
- Police and Crime Commissioner's Charity Event at Bangor Cathedral
- Meirionnydd Agricultural Show
- Visit to Bangor's Homeless Centre
- Justice in a Day event with PACT
- High Sheriff of Gwynedd Crime beat and Community Service Awards

### Conwy

- Seminar Iaith Gymraeg. A conference to highlight achievements in recent years by promoting bilingualism in the organisation and developing and supporting the use of Welsh at work.
- Visit to Llandudno Junction Mosque.
- Breakfast event with North Wales Business Club
- Herbert Protocol Launch event. If a relative or carer for an individual who is living with dementia is concerned that the person may go missing, they can download, fill in and retain a copy of the Herbert Protocol form.

### Denbighshire

- Crime Stoppers launch event to target county lines Activity in North Wales
- Visit to Denbigh in Bloom - Your Community Your Choice
- Guest Speaker at the Cymorth Cymru County Lines conference in Rhyl

### Flintshire

- North & Mid Wales Association of Town Councils quarterly meeting
- White Ribbon Event
- Rainbow Biz Event Celebrating Volunteers

### Wrexham

- Guest Speaker at the Bawso Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Conference
- Bellvue Hate Crime Football Tournament at Ysgol Clywedog
- High Sheriff of Clwyd Crime beat and Community Service Awards

### Agricultural and National Shows

The summer months give me a chance to get out and speak to my local community at the agricultural and national shows. They provide a great opportunity to hear about local issues, the public's concerns and simply getting to know people across North Wales.

### Third Sector

It is extremely important to me to visit third sector agencies to see their excellent contribution to our community. They provide a wide range of services to all members of our society and are a key part in partnership working.

### Community Groups

In addition to third sector agencies my Deputy and I have had the privilege in attending a number of community groups from Anglesey to Wrexham. I feel it is essential to show my support to those groups that contribute in some way to all ages in our society.



# Police and Crime Plan Strategic Priorities - 2018/19 Progress Report:

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I am responsible for the strategic direction of policing in North Wales. That strategic direction is set out in my Police and Crime Plan. The Chief Constable is responsible for all operational matters and the delivery of my Plan.

My police and crime objectives have been developed in response to the areas of greatest threat, risk and harm facing the communities of North Wales. They have also been informed by an extensive consultation process. I have identified five priority areas for North Wales Police.

- **Domestic Abuse**
- **Sexual Abuse** (including child sexual exploitation)
- **Modern Slavery**
- **Organised Crime**
- **Delivering Safer Neighbourhoods**

In addition, in 2018/19 I introduced an overarching aim of **'reducing the criminal exploitation of vulnerable people'**. The Chief Constable's Delivery Plan sets out the specific actions North Wales Police will take in delivering these priorities. Of note is the importance of partnership working in tackling them. All priority areas present issues beyond policing and an effective response can only be delivered through effective partnership working.

## Domestic Abuse

In 2018/19 it was established that North Wales Police is an outlier nationally where the use of Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPNs and DVPOs) is concerned. My office undertook a piece of work in order to better understand the impact of DVPOs as this appeared to be where North Wales Police is doing something different to other forces, in fact the Force appeared to be ahead of several very large forces in terms of DVPO numbers.

It was established that DVPN usage and application was very strong in North Wales, and as a result in 2018/19 we saw considerable applications made to the courts which were supported by our Criminal Justice Partners. Victim feedback obtained in November 2018 was positive and supported the DVPN approach,

further victim feedback and consultation is ongoing and results are awaited. We were assured that this tactic is a strong mechanism in the overall reduction in repeat offenders for Domestic Abuse.

I anticipated that stalking and harassment was a crime group that would continue to increase due to more malicious communications reporting, and changes in counting rules from April 2018. As a result of this I have closely scrutinised this area of work in order to ensure that stalking and harassment, as well as coercive and controlling behaviour, is dealt with as effectively as possible by the Force.

A representative from my office attended The Suzy Lamplugh Trust's Conference "Reporting Stalking: Best Practice in Stalking Cases" in London and as a result of attendance at this conference work is ongoing to establish how many people have been arrested year to date, and subsequently charged with stalking offences in North Wales; what specific support is available for victims of stalking in North Wales; are Police Information Notices issued in North Wales in stalking cases; how officers and control room staff are trained to recognise a course of conduct as stalking; and once stalking is identified is there a multi-agency response to the victims' needs and the perpetrator's behaviour?

Such scrutiny includes ensuring that appropriate steps are taken to provide officers with up to date training on this area of work. The College of Policing is yet to publish an Authorised Professional Practice on Stalking and Harassment however I assessed that this work was of utmost importance to improve service to victims of these crimes, and I was glad to note that the Force was progressing this work as a priority. Whilst the Force are making very good progress in this area I will continue to scrutinise its performance. It is very pleasing to see that North Wales Police have completed all of the recommendations from the HMICFRS Stalking & Harassment inspection.

During this period considerable work has been undertaken in introducing a Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Performance Framework for the region. This is the first time that the region has had a full strategic picture on the delivery of domestic abuse services.

The North Wales MARAC Review was completed and the recommendations considered. I worked with partners via the North Wales VAWDASV Board to improve MARAC services across the region, to look at

the introduction of a survivors group, more training around coercive and controlling behaviour and more consistent provision of perpetrator intervention programmes, including diversion from custody.

The Domestic Abuse victim satisfaction and confidence survey pilot was completed and a growth bid for additional resources was successful in order to establish an internal team. The team is located within the Victim Help Centre and the results help inform our domestic abuse strategy and enable us to determine what support victims need during the criminal justice process.



## Sexual Abuse (including Child Sexual Exploitation)

Effective and timely information sharing between partner agencies is vitally important in the fight against Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). As a result of this North Wales Police and its partners agreed a regional Information Sharing Protocol in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation, Missing Children and Trafficked Children.

As part of meeting my scrutiny responsibilities, my office were provided with details of an audit between North Wales Police and a Regional CSE Social Worker of CSE cases. This audit reviewed investigative timelines and any potential blockers being experienced across the North Wales region. The results of the audit were delivered to the CSE Executive Board, of which I am a member, to influence improved working practices across North Wales.

There are obvious links between preventing and tackling CSE and the Adverse Childhood Experiences Agenda which I refer to elsewhere within this report. Adults who were physically or sexually abused as children or brought up in households where there was domestic violence, alcohol or drug abuse are more likely to adopt health-harming and anti-social behaviours in adult life. Results from the first Welsh Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) study show

that suffering four or more harmful experiences in childhood increases the chances of high-risk drinking in adulthood by four times, being a smoker by six times and being involved in violence by around 14 times. The report shows that providing safe and nurturing environments for every child in Wales is the best way to ensure we raise healthier and happier adults who contribute to their communities and the economy.

A Peer review of the Onyx Team (the CSE Team) was undertaken in November 2018. This was requested to ensure that the team is working effectively and efficiently and to identify areas for improvement and development against best practice nationally.

The Onyx Team and NSPCC continue to work together to identify opportunities to deliver CSE awareness and prevention work to those most at risk. Going forward I hope that the awareness sessions will include work specifically aimed at the LGBT community.

In 2018/19 North Wales Police had the highest percentage of positive outcomes for rape offences out of all of the England and Wales forces. I was assured that this strong performance was as a result of North Wales Police retaining a dedicated rape unit, having a good working relationship with the dedicated unit within CPS, and being proactive by working jointly with partners to deal with national concerns such as the disclosure of unused material in rape investigations.

## Modern Slavery

I have continued my commitment to tackling modern slavery during the reporting period. Greater progress was made during this time to increase and strengthen partnership working in order to tackle modern slavery. Both the Force and my office are key members of the Modern Slavery Regional Partnership Group and have pushed to ensure all local authorities have a single point of contact to update the regional group on matters relating to modern slavery.

During 2018/19 North Wales Police carried out Operation Octopus, a campaign to visit car washes across North Wales to ensure they are operating legally and safely and with regard to the welfare of their staff. Partnership working became the key to these visits with Health and Safety and Trading Standards support from local authorities becoming a real focus. It is often difficult to establish a crime and/or criminal intent with such businesses. However, breaches of trading standards and other regulations imposed by local authorities were far easier to establish. This resulted in some establishments being given notice to cease operating until they became compliant and did help to safeguard and signpost some vulnerable people.

National Crime Agency figures for 2018 indicate that North Wales Police continued to make a significant number of referrals to the National Referral Mechanism comparative to its size and other Forces. Of the 88 referrals made by Welsh Forces in 2018, 22 came from North Wales Police the second highest after Gwent. In addition, all 6 of North Wales' Local Authorities made referrals which reflects increased awareness and improvements in partnership working.

## Organised Crime

There was a significant increase in violent crime in 2018 with the UK Government releasing its Violence Strategy. This strategy recognised that the increase in violent crime was associated with organised crime and the drug market. In my response to this strategy I argued that drug regulation could reduce the impact that organised crime have on our communities and remove the need for individuals to carry weapons for protection.

Although gang crime is mainly situated within cities the wider implications of organised crime via criminal exploitation and county lines has clearly had a significant impact upon the rural communities of North Wales and we are currently one of the main importers of county lines in England and Wales, with offenders primarily from Merseyside. Evidence suggests that continued prohibition increases the level of violence as each prosecuted organised crime group is replaced by a more violent and destructive group.

Whilst I am an advocate of treating drug misuse as a health issue rather than a criminal matter, I am also clear in my support of North Wales Police in targeting those organised crime groups who exploit the most vulnerable members of our society. Some tremendously successful operations took place during this reporting period

In March 2019, North Wales Police worked in collaboration with Merseyside Police to deal with the scourge of County Lines. It was a joint operation to target the suspected illegal supply of Class A drugs in North Wales and Merseyside and the criminal exploitation of young people. The term 'County Lines' is used to describe gangs, groups or drug networks that supply drugs from urban areas into suburban areas across the country (in this case, into the market and coastal towns of North Wales), using dedicated mobile phone lines or 'deal lines'. This collaborative working is part of the embedded practice for North Wales Police in proactively responding to these cross-border offences.

As the below Case Study demonstrates, 2018/19 was a very successful period where a number of high profile operations took place and significant sentences given to OCG's across the region.

A multi million pounds drug operation, which saw class A drugs being brought into North Wales, led to twenty six people being sentenced to a total of 172 years 11months imprisonment.

North Wales Police targeted organised crime groups from Holyhead and Llandudno as part of **Operation Zeus**. The two distinct groups operated separately in different counties but co-operated with each other to ensure that they were each able to supply their respective areas. They sourced their drugs from organised crime groups in Merseyside and Manchester.

During the investigation the police recovered Class A drugs and a large amount of Benzocaine, commonly used to bulk out drugs in order to maximise the profit, indicating the scale of setup. The seizures had an estimated value of £2.7 million.

The Crown Prosecution Service said: "The amount of drugs distributed by the two organised crime groups in North Wales was staggering. The investigation revealed that two entirely separate crime groups came together to form a profitable consortium. In doing so they were able to supply class A drugs along the North Wales corridor across three counties. This was a well-established and sophisticated criminal enterprise.





## Drugs

Class A Drug supply is inextricably linked to organised crime. My views on current drugs policy is well documented. I am an advocate of treating drug misuse as a health issue rather than a criminal matter. I continue to research and raise awareness on the importance of drug reform and the issues associated with the illegal drug market. Over the last twelve months I have taken part in a number of consultations and debates around drug use including health consequences, an independent review on drugs and drugs misuse in prisons.

I expressed my support for regulation and the need to reduce the number of drug related deaths in the UK. Drug regulation would remove the drug markets away from organised criminals and would in turn reduce the exploitation of the vulnerable within our communities. Throughout, my focus is to protect those individuals who are targeted by organised crime due to their vulnerability.

In June 2018 a member of my office attended the "What Next for Drug Policy" debate hosted by Crispin Blunt MP and Jeff Smith MP. The debate demonstrated the growth in support of regulation among parliamentary officials. There were a number of MP's in attendance, it was enlightening to hear the support of the MP's and their understanding of the impact that drugs are having across the United Kingdom.

## Looking to the future - Drug Policy

Over the next twelve months I will continue to research the benefits of drug regulation and ways to reduce drug related deaths. In 2018 drug related deaths in England and Wales increased by 16% with 50% of drug deaths in Wales being caused by opiate overdoses. Naloxone can reverse the respiratory depression from an opioid overdose which in turn prevents opioid overdose deaths.

The Public Health Wales' Take Home Naloxone (THN) report states that there were approximately 25,767 opioid users in Wales in 2017/18 with 4120 new kits issued that year. THN was reportedly used in 533 drug poisoning events during 2017/18. In 87% of cases the THN was administered to a third party rather than to the kit holder, with 62% of all drug poisoning events taking place within a private residence. In North Wales there are seven sites which provide THN and around 384 individuals who are supplied with THN.



West Midlands Police Officers have begun to carry Nasal Naloxone to ensure that they are fully equipped to save lives if an overdose situation arises. In some cases police officers are the first to arrive at an overdose scene and their ability to administer Naloxone prior to arrival of the health services reduces the risk of drug related deaths. Naloxone can reduce demand on officers in the short-term by avoiding the resourcing required to secure a scene of a drug-related death and investigate the circumstances. In addition, once medical services have arrived at the scene officers will no longer be required unless the individual becomes violent. In some cases once Naloxone has been administered it causes drug withdrawal effects leaving some individuals agitated which may require assistance. Naloxone can reduce demand on officers in the long-term as it is proven to increase engagement with treatment when used or available.

Following preliminary discussions I am confident that North Wales Police officers will begin carrying Naloxone with the support of Chief Officers and the Police Federation in order to reduce the number of drug related deaths in North Wales.

## Delivering Safer Neighbourhoods

The visible presence of the police deters crimes which occur in public places, reassures the majority of the public and reinforces its links with the police. However, as I state within my Police and Crime Plan, there are now more crimes committed online than on the streets. Accordingly, our diminishing resources must be focused on the areas of greatest threat, risk and harm.

I am determined that our diminishing resources must focus on the areas of serious criminality and vulnerability, delivering visibility is therefore extremely challenging. We must differentiate between being visible and being accessible.

In order to ensure officers and staff spend as much time as possible out on the streets and not in police stations, during this reporting period new mobile devices were deployed to 600 additional users. These new devices provide users with the ability to be out and about more in the communities they serve rather than being tethered to the station.

In order to meet the Safer Neighbourhoods Force Delivery Plan actions a new meeting was introduced during this period. The purpose of this Group is to work collaboratively Force wide with key stakeholders to improve the understanding and delivery of Neighbourhood Policing in order to improve community safety; reduce crime, disorder and harm; improve public perceptions and build stronger ties within communities.

A key tool in delivering safer neighbourhoods is stop and search. As Police and Crime Commissioner it is my duty to provide the public with additional information around Stop & Search (in particular around the “Know Your Rights” campaign). This information is available on my website.

During this period I met with Chief Constable Andy Cook of Merseyside Police regarding his stance on Stop and Search. Chief Constable Cook- the National Police Chiefs Council’s lead on organised crime- made headlines when he argued that a drop in the use of Stop and Search had fuelled an increase in violent crime. The use of stop-and-search has almost halved to 304,000 a year since 2015, but Merseyside bucked the national trend by increasing the use of the tactic in response to a rise in gun and knife attacks in the region.

HMICFRS stated in its Stop and Search report that “the force should improve its process for regularly scrutinising a broad range of stop and search data and information, to gain a better understanding of the relationship between age, gender, ethnicity and



the number of stop and search encounters that resulted in outcomes that were linked to the original reason for search”.

North Wales Police responded to this report in the following ways:

1. Increased the detail in its Stop and Search Bi-annual report.
2. Changed the Stop and Search form to allow for the link between original grounds and outcome to be explicit.
3. Refreshed the Stop and Search website page to allow for anonymous public feedback.

I was pleased with the positive response of North Wales Police to the report and the increased use of stop and search. This use is scrutinised frequently through the Strategic Executive Board.

2018 / 19 year was another successful year for the North Wales Police Special Constabulary (SC). The recruiting of Special Constabulary Officers was included for the first time within the Force’s overall Work Force Plan. The Force establishment continued to grow despite losing a large number of officers to the paid Constabulary and reached a peak of 205 officers with the average number of officers over the year being 194.

This continued growth is at odds to the national trend which has seen a steady decline in Special Constabulary numbers across much of England and Wales. Between them these officers volunteered over 56,500 hours of time in support of our communities, covering a vast array of duty types. This averaged, over 24 hours per officer per month, considerably above the national expectation of 16 hours per month. This is the Full Time Equivalent of having an additional 32 full time police officers.

A significant amount of this time, almost half, is spent supporting and providing Response Policing within Local Policing Services. However, our specialism has increased as has our ambition that our SC officers become fully integrated into the overall workforce. Our specialisms include, Roads Policing (RPU), Sex and Violent Offenders Units (SAVOU), sexual offences investigation, football spotting and Financial Investigation (FIU).

In a national level survey conducted on behalf of the Home Office we were cited as being the best Special Constabulary in terms of our gender balance and we are especially proud of the fact that our gender balance during the reporting period was very close to a perfect balance of 51% male and 49% female. This reflects our approach to recruiting.

In addition to the Special Constabulary, North Wales Police currently have around 125 police cadets. The Cadets have been involved in a number of events force wide, where they have helped with the policing:

- Remembrance Sunday – assist local SNT in representing North Wales Police at local events.
- National Eisteddfod supporting the event as volunteers.
- Operation Sceptre – A national campaign aimed at reducing knife-related crime, where Cadets have been assisting with proactive deployments.

I wish to place on record my thanks to all volunteers in North Wales Police for their outstanding support in keeping our communities safe.





## Summary of Outcomes

Performance is measured by comparing 2018/19 against the previous year April 2017 to March 2018 (unless stated) in order to identify any areas of concern, which also assists me in carrying out my scrutiny of the Chief Constable and holding him to account in the delivery of my Plan.

### Domestic Abuse – 2018/19 summary of performance

- **Repeat Victims within 12 months** – 2018/19 saw an increase of 7.7%. There were 13.3% more male victims this year to date than last, up from 2410 to 2731.
- **Repeat Offenders within 12 months** – 2018/19 saw a reduction of 30.8%. Repeat offenders remained at a lower average since the end of 17/18. Offenders were predominantly in the 25-34 years age group.
- The **Strategic Risk Score** remained at HIGH during 201/19.
- **Domestic Abuse Victim Confidence and Satisfaction** – Between 28th November and 28th February 2019 135 DA surveys were carried out. Results show satisfaction levels at 89.1% for Contact; 89.3% for Action Taken; 97.8% for Treatment; 69.6% for Follow Up and 85.2% for Whole Experience. There have been no safeguarding issues.
- **Successful Prosecutions** – As at March 2018 81.3% of DA court cases were successful compared to 77.3% the previous year to date.
- **DVPNs** – A 16.6% increase on DA occurrences where at least one DVPN has been issued.
- Evidential footage from **Body Worn Video** was obtained in 10.1% of DA occurrences. This rises to 29.1% where a DVPN has been issued.

During 2018/19 DVPN usage and application was very strong in North Wales, with considerable applications made to the courts which were being supported. Victim feedback obtained in November 2018 was positive and supported the DVPN approach, further victim feedback and consultation is ongoing and results are awaited. This tactic is considered a strong mechanism in the overall reduction in repeat offenders for Domestic Abuse.

Repeat victims reporting continued to increase during this period as expected and is supported with a shift in crime recording identification across the Domestic abuse offence spectrum. This increased work impacted on Domestic Abuse officers, MARAC workloads and workloads on support agencies like

Women's Aid (Wales) and IDVA services. MARAC review across agencies is being commenced with a view to understanding how to more efficiently manage the demand and continue to support High Risk victims.

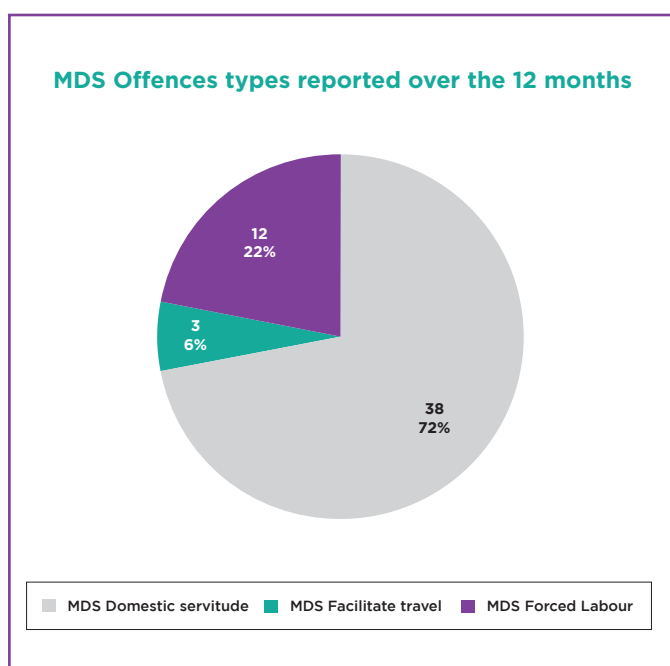
Work is ongoing to establish a SEEDS (Survivors Empowering and Educating Services) group that will utilise the experience of victims/survivors of DA in improving policy, training and working practices which I will report on in my 2019/20 report

The Force have developed a perpetrator intervention package for Domestic Abuse offenders. This is now subject of a delivery plan and consultation plan with partners across North Wales and identify two pilot areas. Potential title of the package is ADAPT (Agencies Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Tasking). This will focus on those serial domestic abuse perpetrators who are assessed as more likely than not to continue to commit domestic abuse offences.



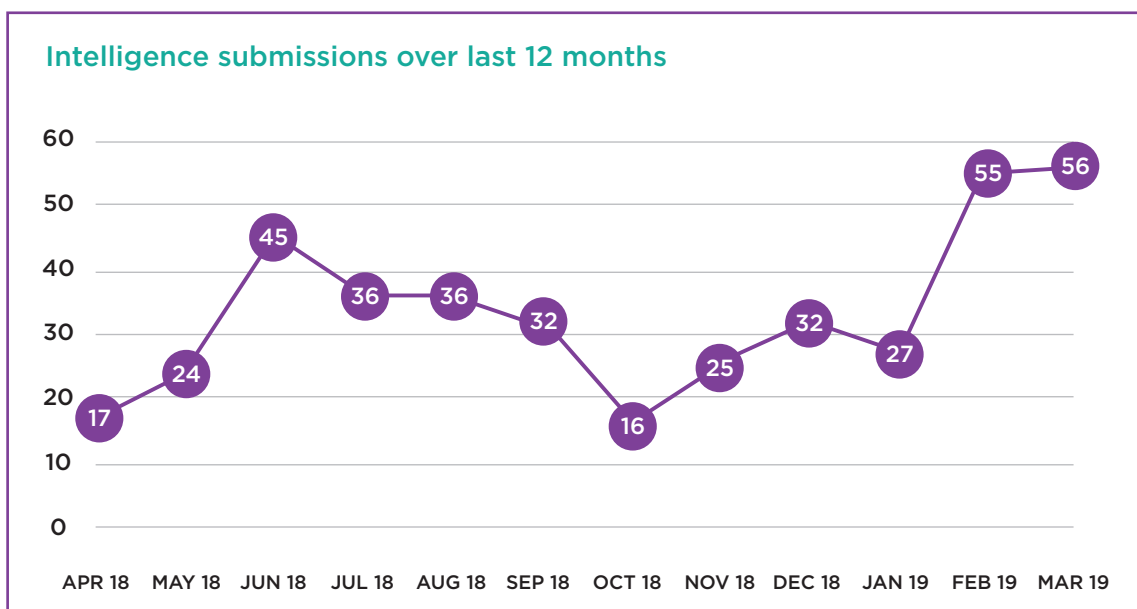
## Modern Slavery - 2018/19 summary of performance

- **Modern Slavery Record Reviews** - Compliance with effective investigation, safeguarding and victim care through the record reviews remained at 100%.
- As at May 2018 the **Strategic Risk Score** remained at HIGH.
- **Victims Safeguarded** During 2018/19 72% of reported offences were in relation to domestic servitude, 6% to facilitate travel and 22% forced labour.



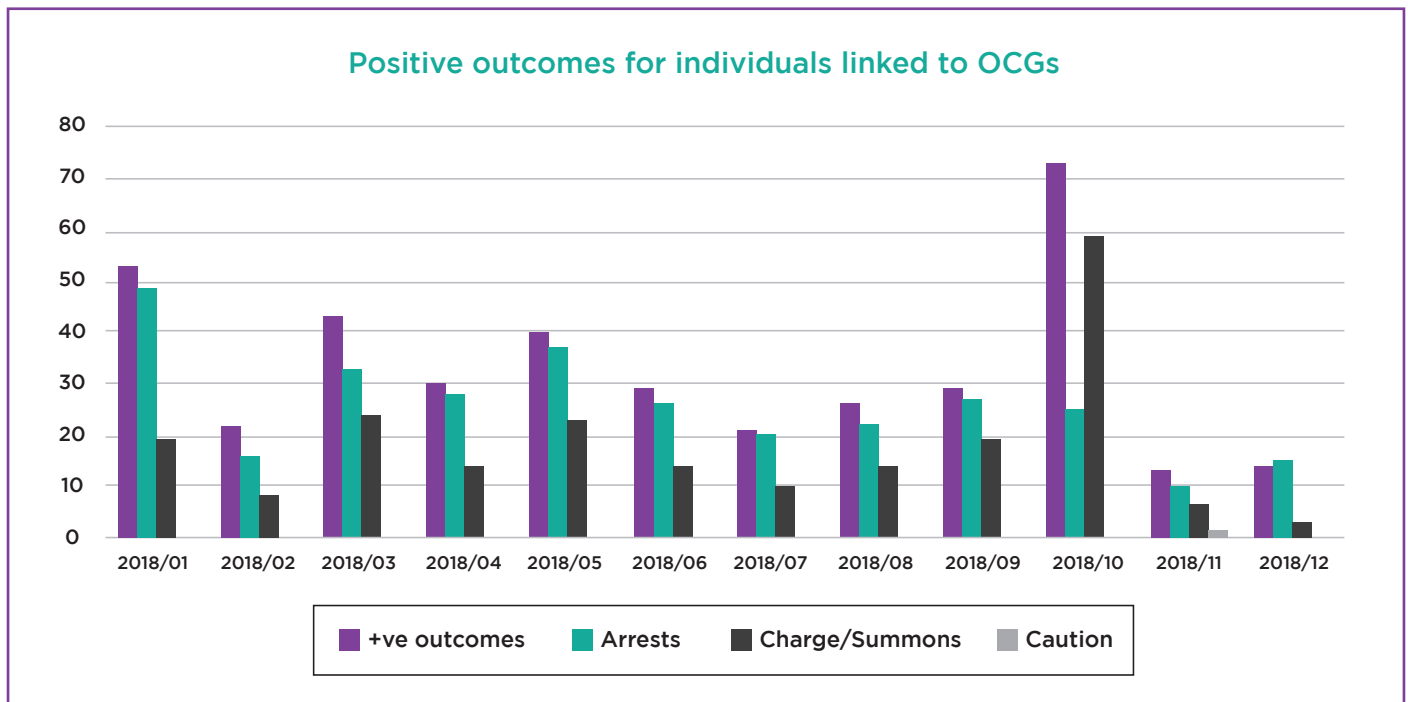
- As at February 2019, there were 37 **NRM referrals** YTD from 26 occurrences.

- During 2018/19 the Force' Modern Day Slavery (MDS) unit merged with the Onyx Team to create a new Exploitation Team. Partnership working increased during this period with meetings held with regards to County Lines. The MDS Unit rolled out the Unseen App on every work phone.
- Preventative work was progressed with colleagues in Education with a delivery programme agreed for schools in Denbighshire. This includes the provision of a drama production which has been funded by the Safeguarding Board.
- Funding was secured in respect of a Child Criminal Exploitation work shop to be delivered to education leads and care home providers.
- MDS Unit circulated a bulletin force-wide to educate officers with regards to Criminal Exploitation. They also continue to circulate bulletins with regards to other areas of Modern Slavery in order for officers to recognise the signs of Modern Slavery.
- Schools Beat launch of the County Lines training material targeting all schools in North Wales - Head teachers will then deliver in assemblies etc.
- An example of good practice relates to the joint visit of Denbigh Car Wash on 21/3/19 with Denbighshire County Council. The owner was arrested for Human Trafficking offences and a failed Asylum Seeker was taken to the reception centre. Denbighshire County Council Environmental Health used their powers to close the car wash due to dangerous electrical installations.
- With the assistance of Haven of Light / BRC and Salvation Army the Force secured premises in the Denbighshire area for use as a reception centre. This was previously lacking and the facility is excellent.

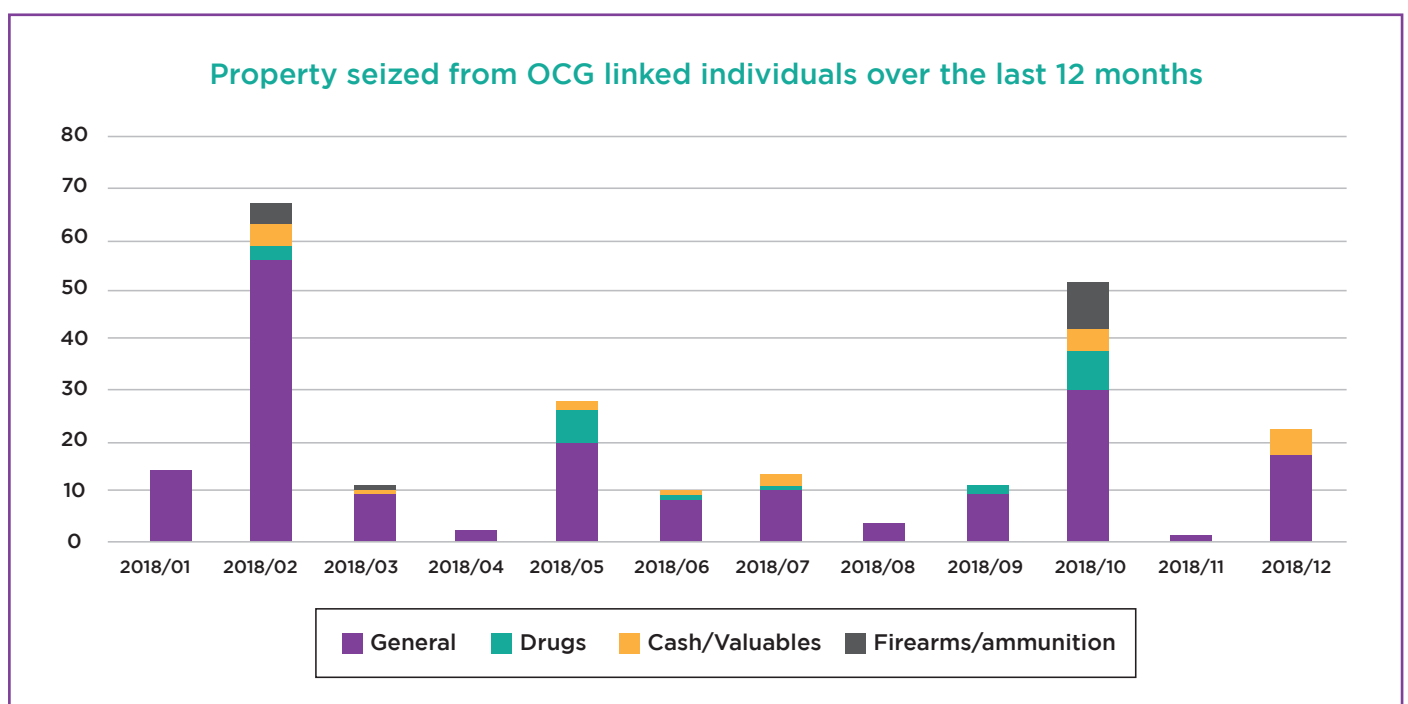


# Serious and Organised Crime – 2018/19 summary of performance

- As at May 2018 the **Strategic Risk Score** for Organised Supply of Class A Drugs remained HIGH and Cyber Dependent Crime remained at MEDIUM.
- OCG Disruptions** - Arrests, Charges and Outcomes 1-8 were stable throughout the year with a dramatic rise in January due to cases brought to court.



## Asset Seizures





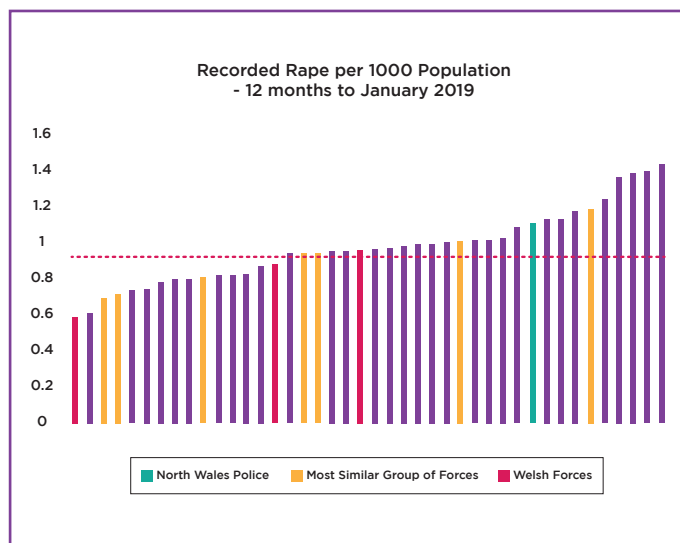
## County Lines Needs Assessment

A “County Lines Needs Assessment” was commissioned by the Safer Communities Board as a result of the Home Office Locality Reviews. The Needs Assessment will result in a multi-agency holistic assessment of the threat posed by County Lines and will inform recommendations. The work has been initiated and SPOCs from identified agencies and organisations have been briefed and tasked. The agreed Terms of Reference and Questionnaire to be completed by the SPOCs was delivered in January 2019 and a draft report produced in April 2019.

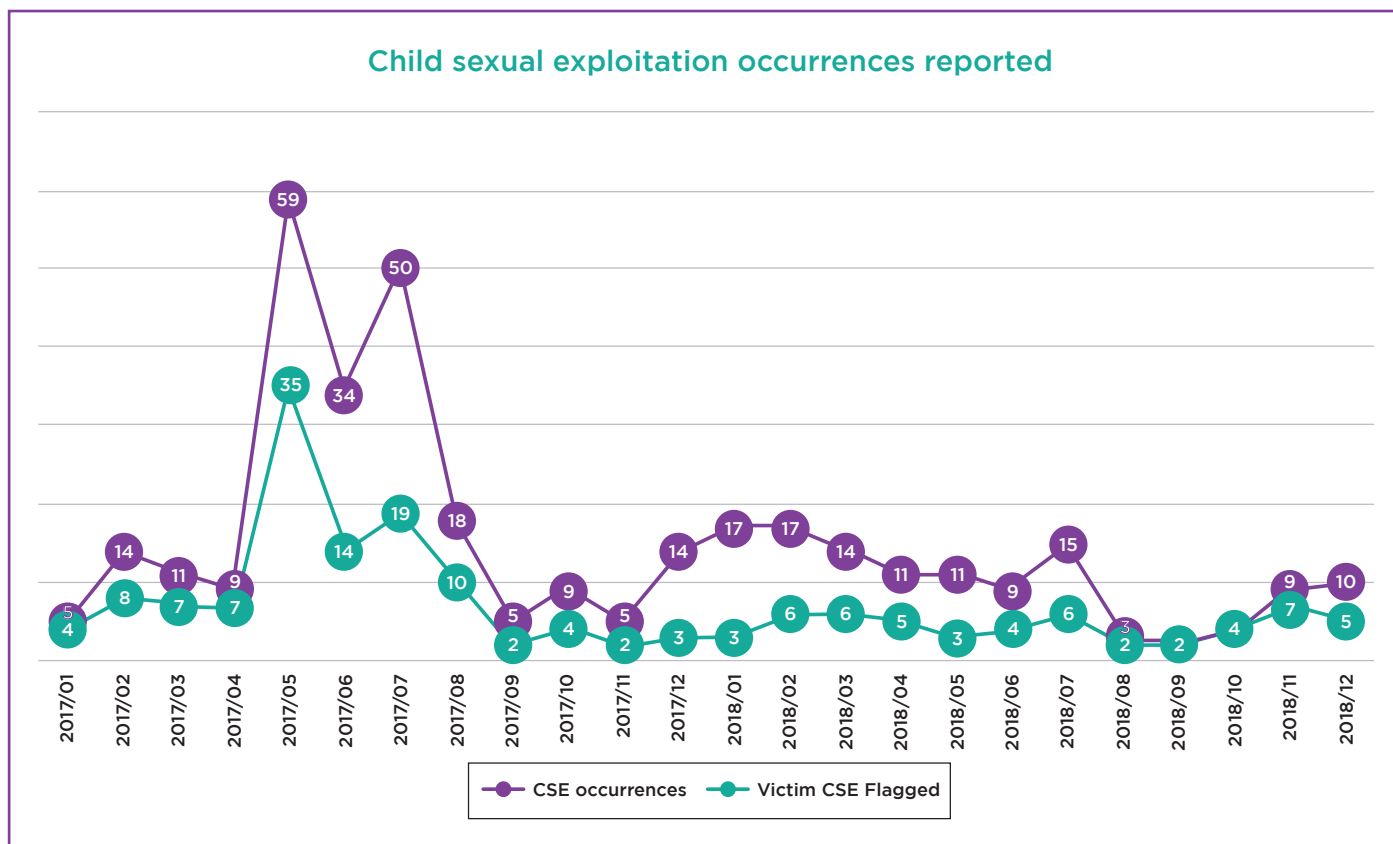
## Child Sexual Exploitation - 2018/19 summary of performance

- As at May 2018 the CSE **Strategic Risk Score** for contact offences received a MEDIUM score, as did Indecent Images of Children.

## Rape



The data set for this reporting period (twelve months to January 2019) showed that amongst the forty three police forces, North Wales Police were the 10th highest in relation to reported rape offences.



The number of CSE occurrences reduced year on year largely due to the elevated levels seen in the first half of 2017.

This trend has continued since that time and at the time of writing, North Wales has the highest rate of rape per 1000 population in England and Wales. This is of great concern to the Chief Constable and myself and work is underway to understand more about these offences.

During this period North Wales Police continued to attend the six regional CSE Panels. Flintshire and Wrexham have changed the panel to an Operational MET (missing, exploited, trafficked) meeting where strategies for children will take place in one monthly forum. The Onyx team provided awareness sessions to all front line staff to improve the identification of children at risk of exploitation, increase the flow of intelligence and to ensure perpetrator disruption. This work encompassed the wider child exploitation offence which includes county lines and child sexual exploitation. The drive to collaborate with partners to obtain consistent accredited CSE training continues in the form of ACSEP (Advanced CSE Practitioners) training being delivered by PACE (Parents Against Child Exploitation) to staff from North Wales Police, Conwy and Anglesey Local Authority.

The completion of return home interviews continues to be inconsistent across the six Local Authority areas with children in some Local authorities not receiving return home interviews following missing episodes even when they are open to social services. This is a matter I have grown increasingly frustrated by and have raised directly with Welsh Government Ministers and officials.

## Delivering Safer Neighbourhoods – 2018/19 summary of performance

- For **Police Understanding Community Issues**, North Wales remained 7th nationally with 73.4% for the 12 months to September 2018.
- For **Police Responding to Community Issues**, North Wales were 2nd nationally with 64.2% for the 12 months to September 2018.

## Problem Solving Initiatives

North Wales Police set up a problem solving Hub in November 2018, consisting of an Inspector and 2 Crime Prevention Co-ordinators, supported by a network of 54 tactical advisors. During the first months 19 plans were submitted for review and quality assurance. The project is fully engaged with the regional and national programmes, including hosting the regional meeting in January. The Hub is actively sharing best practice with partners and other forces, including Cheshire using the POP form developed by the North Wales Team. A visit has recently taken place between a neighbourhood team in Rhyl and a homeless project in Birmingham.

DCC Debicki began delivering awareness training sessions across the organisation, giving staff the strategic drive and understanding of the reasons for

its importance. The Problem Orientated Policing awards were held in September 2019 and highlighted some outstanding work across the Force area.

# Funding and Finance

## Police Budget

The Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for setting the budget provided to the Chief Constable for the delivery of policing in North Wales. A net budget of £144.023m was allocated to the Chief Constable for 2018/19. The remaining £2.323m was used for my Commissioner's Fund (which funds initiatives such as community safety, drug intervention and youth justice) and also for the costs of my office.

Whilst central government grants, determined by the Home Office, accounted for 49% of funding, 51% was funded by local taxpayers. The Statements of Accounts are available on my website.

The 2018/19 financial year was challenging, with a further £1.479m cuts delivered. Together with cuts of £2.832m to be delivered in 2019/20, and taking into account inflation and other pressures, in real terms the policing budget in North Wales is currently £33m less than in 2010/11. Despite the more positive outlook since 2015, the position remains challenging, and at the time of writing there is significant uncertainty over funding for 2020/21 and beyond.

## The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The annual budget for 2018/19 was set at £803,192, with the commissioning budget an additional £1,520,306. In addition, the Office administered Victims' Services Grant of £808,731 and is the accountable body for VAWDASV grant of £419,200. The Office is also the accountable body for the Drug Intervention Programme, receiving £478,140 from HM Prison and Probation Service annually towards the cost.

In 2019/20, the annual budget was set at £826,196, with the increase being required for pay increases and to ensure the funding of an annual contribution of £30,000 to PACT. The budget for commissioning is an additional £1,624,126. The Office continues to administer Victims' Services Grant of £804,262, VAWDASV grant of £419,200, and the Drug Intervention Programme.

## Delivery of the Estates Strategy

The Eastern Divisional Headquarters building in Llay was officially opened on Wednesday 1st May 2019. During its construction the project won “Client of the Year” and “Off Site Award” in the Construction Excellence Wales Awards 2018. In June 2019, Galliford Try Building Ltd received a “Highly Commended” in the People Development Category for the work that they undertook during construction, I also recognised their work in my annual awards by awarding them the 2018 Social Value PCC Award. The Eastern Divisional Headquarters also won the Sustainability Award at the National Police Estates Group in October 2019 and in December 2019 the Police and Crime Commissioner will receive the Sustainability Award by the Wrexham Area Civic Society for the remanufactured/refurbished furniture that has been used to furnish Llay has attracted quite a bit of attention from other public sector organisations.

Liz Bryan, Estate Project Manager, provided an insight into the process to a public sector audience at the Cardiff Business School. Merseyside Police are also looking to visit the building with a view to employing the same methodology within their new accommodation. Our ecological consultant, Dr Richard Birch, also wishes to enter the site into two categories for the 2020 Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

The town centre police station in Wrexham became fully operational in May 2019 following major alterations to the former Oriel building adjacent the town library. The station is ideally located to maintain a presence in the town centre following the decommissioning of the former DHQ and police station on the Bodhyfryd site which will be sold for redevelopment.

During the preparation of the Estates Strategy a number of buildings were identified as being underutilised and a plan on the future of these buildings will be developed during 2020. I fully support the concept of agile working and recognise we have much to do to bring the estate up to modern standards. I look forward to working with the Chief Constable and his team to deliver this vision.



## The financial outlook

Although there has been somewhat more certainty in recent years, the current political situation means it is difficult to predict the funding situation for 2020/21 and later years.

We have received confirmation that the grant received in 2019/20 to partially offset the additional cost of police pensions will be received again in 2020/21; however, the ongoing position has still not been decided.

I am planning to reduce the PFI reserve as the contract enters the final years, but have no plans to reduce other reserves over the term of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Chief Constable has made digital transformation one of his key priorities since being appointed last year. He is absolutely right to do so. The sheer scale of online offending, the complexity of the resulting investigations, demands investment to ensure we have officers and staff equipped to tackle this type of criminality and that the equipment they use is up to the required standard.



## Commissioning of Services

### Early Intervention Fund 2018/19

During this period I launched a new scheme aimed at supporting early intervention projects.

I have made £100,000 available each year for the next 3 years in order to fund a number of projects. The funding allocated in 2018/19 is shown below

RECIPIENT	GRANT
<b>Home - Start</b> ACE Lead Worker	Total Cost of Project - <b>£60,188.00</b> PCC Year 1 - £24,188.50 PCC Year 2 - £24,914.00 PCC Year 3 - £25,661.00
<b>Hafal</b> Young People Mental Health Programme	Total Cost of Project - <b>£227,100.00</b> PCC Year 1 - £30,000.00 PCC Year 2 - £30,000.00 PCC Year 3 - £30,000.00
<b>Grŵp Cynefin</b> Children and Young People Support Worker	Total Cost of Project - <b>£84,168.68</b> PCC Year 1 - £14,907.50 PCC Year 2 - £15,724.94 PCC Year 3 - £16,582.78
<b>North Wales Women's Centre</b> ACE's Intervention Project	Total Cost of Project - <b>£415,946.00</b> PCC Year 1 - £15,900.00 PCC Year 2 - £33,490.00 PCC Year 3 - £33,490.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	PCC Total year 1 - £84,995.50 PCC Total Year 2 - £104,128.94 PCC Total Year 3 - £105,733.78 <b>Total Cost - £294,898.22</b>

## Home Start

This project raises awareness of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) as it has been recognised that there is a variety of levels of training and information being delivered by private, statutory and third sector organisations relating to ACE awareness and resilience. The project will invite organisations from across Wrexham and Flintshire to share information and support each other to become more ACE focused to avoid repetition of activity in training/awareness sessions. In addition, the project will create an ACE's Learning Hub which will offer a supportive network of organisations working with children and their families with a distinct focus of connecting and working together to prevent ACE's in children and mitigating the effects of ACE's for their parents.

## Gorwel

A contribution towards a Children and Young people support worker covering Gwynedd and Mon working within the Anglesey Domestic Abuse – One Stop Shop who will be specifically working with young children. The aim of the project is to enhance the current service provision for Children and Young people that are victims of domestic abuse across the county of Anglesey.

## North Wales Women's Centre, DASU & CWLWM

The contribution will support a 'trauma informed' package of intervention programmes to address the consequences of issues such as childhood abuse, domestic violence and physical and sexual assault. As coping mechanisms women may develop substance or alcohol misuse, offending behaviour, self-harm, poor mental health or return to violent partners. The programme aims to address these barriers to recovery providing participants with practical strategies to help them develop their resilience increasing wellbeing and enabling recovery.

## Mon Mind & Hafal

This application combines two complementary projects from the principle local mental health providers, Hafal and Mind. Both projects have the broad aim of reducing the impact of mental health problems for young people in North Wales. Unlike physical health problems, mental health issues tend to develop in adolescence and early adulthood and have long term impacts across the lifespan. This early period of mental health problems provides a window of opportunity for preventative interventions which have the potential to reduce the long term impacts. Generic and statutory mental health services do not

have the capacity to fully exploit the opportunity for strategic and preventative interventions, and often focus on reactive interventions responding to crises. Furthermore, there is a problematic transition at age 18 between mental health services for young people and those for adults, which can result in substantial discontinuity of care at the crucial time when problems are developing.

## Early Youth Intervention Fund

The Early Youth Intervention Fund supported a collaborative bid by the four Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales.

Through the use of key delivery partners and through building on current local interventions, the project enables children and young people to be engaged with and diverted from the risk of exploitation and serious organised crime. The bid also works to reduce identified drivers of serious violence, involvement in drug dealing and county lines issues, and the prevalence of knife carrying and knife crime.

## Crime Stoppers

Provision of a Fearless Youth Worker across each force area to deliver and achieve the vision of educating and empowering young people about crime, offering direct delivery. This approach consists of a mixture of direct delivery and train the trainer sessions, coupled with providing relevant professional resources means that the impact of the service is both sustainable and long lasting.

## St Giles Trust

St Giles Trust is a charity that supports people with complex and challenging levels of need, often in partnership with the criminal justice system. They will recruit, manage and supervise caseworkers who will work alongside local agencies to provide additionality to the local response to gangs, county lines and exploitation of children and young people.

## Street Games

Street Games will build on the work they have carried out under the 'Safer Together Through Sport' programme, by engaging with children and young people in new volunteering opportunities over the course of the funding period. The programme centres on the value of youth volunteering and peer leadership to develop the critical protective factors of resilience, self-efficacy, positive outlook, positive relationships with adults as well as opportunities to become involved in their communities. Young people will be encouraged and supported to volunteer regularly to support the positive impact between volunteer engagement and positive personal and community impact.

## The Crime and Disorder Fund 2018/2019

The funding distribution for the year as shared by organisation is detailed below;

RECIPIENT	GRANT
CAIS	£15,500
Victim Support	£38,376
North Wales Women's Centre	£66,771
Hafan Cymru	£5,563
DASU North Wales Ltd	£6,345.63
Grwp Cynefin	£10,000
Conwy & Denbighshire Youth Offending Team	£43,567
Gwynedd & Anglesey Youth Offending Team	£43,814
Wrexham Youth Offending Team	£42,205
Flintshire Youth Offending Team	£37,864
Drug Intervention Programme	£792,622
Crime stoppers	£15,000
RASASC	£16,000
Families Affected by Parental Imprisonment	£9,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,143,128</b>



## The Victim Services Fund 2018/2019

In addition to the Community Safety Fund, I receive a grant from the Ministry of Justice each year to commission services in support of victims. During 2018/19 I have commissioned the following services;

- **The Victims' Help Centre**
- **Independent Domestic Violence Advisors**
- **Independent Sexual Violence Advisors**

Each of the below services have improved the care and support afforded to victims of crime across North Wales;

RECIPIENT	GRANT
Grwp Cynefin	£41,300
North Wales Women's Centre	£11,900
Hafan Cymru	£36,400
DASU North Wales Ltd	£40,637
Welsh Women's Aid	£74,820
BAWSO	£35,000
Sexual Assault Referral Centre	£120,000
Victim Support	£374,555
Stepping Stones	£17,000
Rape And Sexual Abuse Support Centre	£22,000
Staff Costs	£30,910
<b>Total</b>	<b>£794,522</b>

## Useful acronyms

APCC - Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

BAWSO - Black Association of Women Step Out

BCUHB - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

CoPaCC - Comparing Police and Crime Commissioners

CSE - Child Sexual Exploitation

DASU - Domestic Abuse Support Unit

DVPN - Domestic Violence Protection Notice

DVPO - Domestic Violence Protection Order

HMICFRS - Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services

IDVA - Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

ISVA - Independent Sexual Violence Advisor

MARAC - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MDS - Modern Day Slavery

NRM - National Referral Mechanism

OCG - Organised Crime Group

PACT - Police and Community Trust

PEEL - Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy

RASASC - Rape And Sexual Assault Support Centre North Wales

VAWDASV - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

# CONTACTS

## Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

I have a small team of staff who support me to carry out my role as Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales. If you have any queries or would like to speak to someone about how you can get involved with future consultations or events please contact:

**01492 805486** or contact me by email at **OPCC@northwales.pnn.police.uk**

To keep up to date with my latest work you can:

- visit my website **www.nwpcc.CYMRU**
- follow me on twitter **@NorthWalesPCC**

## North Wales Police

In an emergency the number to dial is 999 and if you have a non-urgent query or information to share with the police please call 101.

Email :- **northwalespolice@nthwales.pnn.police.uk**

Website:- **www.north-wales.police.uk**

Twitter:- **@nwpolice**

## Victims Help Centre

If you have been a victim of crime, Victims Help Centre North Wales can offer you the support and advice you need. The service is free and totally confidential and can be accessed even if you have not reported your experience to the police.

Freephone 24 hour Supportline on **0808 16 89 111** or **0300 30 30 159**

Website - **www.victimhelpcentrenorthwales.org.uk**

## PACT

Police and Community Trust, can help you with an application for funding from the “Your Community, Your Choice” project. Contact on **01745 588516** website **www.pactnorthwales.co.uk**