



Meeting: GWENT PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

Report: PROGRESS UPDATE: GWENT COMMUNITY SAFETY REVIEW

Date: 10th MARCH 2022

1. PURPOSE:

This paper aims to give an overview of progress in relation to the task set by the Gwent PSB to undertake a comprehensive review of Community Safety across the region.

The recommendations agreed by the PSB were:

- *The need for a comprehensive governance review of community safety & VAWDASV in Gwent*
- *Confirm the Gwent Community Safety Board (Safer Gwent) as the existing forum to take forward this work*
- *Nominate a strategic advocate to lead the development of a future scoping paper to come back to PSB*

2. BACKGROUND

At the Gwent PSB development session held in December 2021, the board were presented with an overview of the statutory duties and amending legislation in relations to the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, Substance Misuse (Wales) Regulations 2007 and the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

During the development session the various policy and legislative drivers were explored, which highlighted the complexity of the crowded partnership landscape across the Gwent. It was apparent that the absence of a cohesive and systemic approach to community safety across the region, was impacting the ability of operational leads to be truly effective.

The Board was in full agreement that a comprehensive review should be undertaken, and that the emphasis on prevention, localism, and better outcomes for the citizens across Gwent should be the presiding features.

3. PROGRESS

A working group has been established, with representatives from; Gwent Police, five Local Authority (CSP Managers), GSWAG (lead officers for the PSB), Welsh Government and Wales Safer Communities Network (WLGA). In addition, terms of reference for the group have also been established and will be reviewed as work progresses at each stage.

A set of questions have been agreed by officers and will form the scope of the review. The questions encompass many areas which were highlighted as challenges in the PSB development session. The work required to undertake the review effectively will need to explore in more detail the factors that are

contributing to complexity of the landscape, the barriers to effective delivery, the lack of shared outcomes and solid collaboration through joint planning; the questions this review will aim to explore include the following:

Governance

- Is the Gwent PSB meeting its statutory duties?
- Where do we need to be? What is the vision?
- Do we consider strategic alignment of policy, programme, and legislative drivers? does this follow through into planning?
- What new duties/legislation needs to be considered?
- How are local, regional and accountability to WG managed concurrently?
- Do we have appropriate mechanisms to escalate demand and address gaps in provision?
- Governance arrangements and line of sight to local democratic accountability?

Data/Evidence/Commissioning

- Are we evidence led? Do we use data effectively?
- What are the key themes/trends?
- What resources are needed to address issues effectively?
- How intelligence led is our commissioning?
- Do we have the right capacity in the right areas?
- What resources exist across the region? How effectively are they utilised?

Wellbeing and Community

- What does it mean for wellbeing in communities?
- How well are we supporting citizens? (victims/perpetrators/community)
- How effective is our prevention and early intervention?
- How does the voice of our citizens influence our systems and practice?
- Is Gwent a safe place to live and work? How do we know?

4. CONSIDERATIONS

It is acknowledged that a review of this undertaking is ambitious and will likely encounter some barriers and obstacles as exploration of long-standing programmes of work, pre-existing partnership arrangements and fidelity to policy and programme drivers will be challenging.

The working group is cognisant of the sensitivity of some partners and structures as this work progresses and therefore the support of the Gwent PSB nominated representatives, who will sponsor this review, namely Chief Constable Pam Kelly, Chief Officer Rhys Cornwall (NCC) and Chief Executive Steve Tiley (GAVO) will be crucial to the success and extent of the reach the review will have.

In addition to this, it is also paramount that the review is fully inclusive of key stakeholder including the acting chair or the Area Planning Board (APB) and Gwent PSB member, Dr Sarah Aitken (PHW) and Chair of the VAWDASV Board and Head of Service, Robert Hartshorn (CCBC) who will be critical voices in shaping this review in relation to their respective agendas and areas of expertise.

The role of the Safer Gwent Board will also be fundamental to the review, and as the board has now been given a clear mandate by the Gwent PSB to support this review. The future structure and membership of the Safer Gwent Board will also be considered as part of this process to ensure it remains fit for purpose and is resourced appropriately to undertake this function and for its on-going support to the Gwent PSB.

5. SUMMARY

Work is progressing as planned; officers' capacity will be vital to support the volume of work required and partners are so far keen to engage in this process. The working group remains open to feedback and any critique of the work being undertaken as part of this review; and officers will report back to the PSB at regular intervals to update on further progress.

The named PSB Lead sponsors will be crucial to setting direction, unblocking barriers, and ensuring that officers are able and fully supported to undertake this work. And key stakeholder engagement will be undertaken as part of the review. It remains important to take partners, the community, and other stakeholders on this journey as we aim to strengthen and build safer communities across Gwent.

The review will also encompass the areas of challenge discussed at the December PSB development session and most importantly, will also maintain a determined focus on prevention and vulnerability, as requested by PSB members, placing those elements at the heat of the review.

6. TIMELINE

It is anticipated that a full report with findings and recommendations will be reported to the Gwent PSB at the September meeting. This will allow 6mths for officers to undertake the review. All community safety work currently being undertaken across the region will not be impacted or required to cease because of the undertaking of this review.

7. GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING

The working group will provide update reports, in agreement with lead PSB sponsors at each PSB meeting, up until the final report which will be presented at the meeting scheduled for 29th September 2022.

8. RESOURCES

Resource requirement at this time will be required in the form of officer capacity. Officers listed as part of the working group, Safer Gwent and other key stakeholders will be required to commit their time to assist with conducting the review within the anticipated timeframe.

Report Author:

Name: Sharran Lloyd

Title: Strategic Partnerships Manager – Monmouthshire County Council

Tel: 01633 644344 / 07814 212067

Email: Sharranlloyd@monmouthshire.gov.uk