

## **GWENT COMMUNITY SAFETY REVIEW – PROGRESS UPDATE**




**QUESTION:** “Is the PSB effectively discharging its statutory duties for Community Safety & VAWDASV and ensuring Gwent is a safe place to live, work & visit?”

- 1. RATIONAL:** 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 region. It was highlighted that the absence of a cohesive and systemic approach across the region, was impacting the ability of operational leads to be truly effective.

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

## **2. METHODS FOR UNDERTAKING THE REVIEW**

<b>TIMELINE: Phase 1: October 22 – June 23</b>	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
<b>1. Undertake a Desktop Governance review</b>	 Governance Review - Delivery Framework For full document see Appendix A2 below
<b>2. Data &amp; Evidence Review</b>	 Data-Evidence-Commissioning Review - For full document see Appendix A3 below
<b>3. Wellbeing &amp; Community Review</b>	 Wellbeing & Community Review - For full document see Appendix A4 below
<b>4. Key Stakeholder Engagement</b>	Chairs of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwent Area Planning Board (APB)</li> <li>• Gwent Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse &amp; Sexual Violence Commissioning Board (VAWDASV)</li> <li>• Gwent Criminal Justice Board (G-CJB)</li> <li>• Youth Offending Services, Local Management Boards (LMBs)</li> <li>• Gwent Antisocial Behaviour Board (ASB)</li> <li>• CONTEST Board</li> <li>• Gwent Safeguarding Board (GSGB)</li> <li>• Local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)</li> </ul> Template to be circulated to identify tiers of intervention and where early help and prevention is happening routinely

### 3. PHASE 1: COMMUNITY SAFETY REVIEW PROGRESS SUMMARY:

#### 3.1 Desktop Review Summary:

A framework has been developed to undertake the desktop review which will establish the legislative, policy and programme drivers across the community safety portfolio. The complexity of this issue spans multiple pieces of legislation. Some existing, some new and some that have been amended over time, all of which is currently serviced by staff and resources from across PSB organisations. To ensure resources and efforts are being utilised effectively, there is a need to understand.

- What the duties are in relation to PSB responsibility or core organisational function
- How we are currently resourcing this from PSB organisations
- How do we monitor and report the effectiveness of delivery – is it doing what it needs to do and is it doing it well?
- Is there scope and desire to rationalise the partnership landscape across Gwent?

Once the evidence has been mapped, collated, and interpreted, the Wales Safer Communities Network Team will assist with clarifying the legal duties, statutory requirements and responsibilities that need to sit with the Gwent PSB statutory partners, under the crime and disorder act. This will also then enable the PSB to better understand how these duties are currently being discharged, the impact and outcomes of delivery, and to explore the options and opportunities of utilising resources more effectively. This may also allow the PSB to consider if there is an opportunity or indeed desire, to rationalise the current partnership landscape across Gwent to maximise resources and improve outcomes where systems will allow.

#### 3.2 Data & Commissioning Summary

A framework has been developed to undertake the data & commissioning review to establish where data and evidence is a legal requirement in the form of strategic needs assessments, and how data and evidence is used to inform practice and service delivery at both regional and local levels.

In addition to this the review is seeking to establish the funding arrangements across Gwent (core & grant) and to explore if current resources and capacity are being utilised effectively and are sufficient to meet need and service demand. This review will aim to also clarify where there are interdependencies across service delivery, where collaborative approaches are working effectively, and to what extent do we jointly develop strategies, plan activity and approaches, and agree commissioning/funding models.

#### 3.3 Wellbeing & Community Summary:

A framework has been developed to undertake the review of wellbeing in the community, which aims to establish the extent to which we have sufficient and effective services and practice across multiple tiers of intervention to support victims, perpetrators, and wider community. It is recognised that there is significant delivery taking place and work underway across the community safety portfolio notably; the Marmot pilot, Wellbeing plan development, Area plan development and reviews within current boards, including the Gwent Area Planning Board & Gwent VAWDASV Commissioning board. The

Gwent community safety review needs to have clear alignment with, and work alongside these wider pieces of work to ensure that the structures and mechanics of both regional and local working operates as a 'whole system' approach. It also needs to provide options for the PSB to strengthen the resources, structures, and delivery across the region to be effective in meeting the PSBs aspiration within its Wellbeing plan, and in doing so, give the PSB the confidence that statutory duties are being discharged effectively and that early intervention and prevention is at the heart of the work across Gwent.

#### **4. KEY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK**

##### **4.1 Area Planning Board**

The APB is currently undertaking a prevention & outcome review, which in part is exploring the core purpose and function of the APB in Gwent. The review is also looking at organisations and agencies involved in preventative, early identification, intervention and treatment services for children, young people, and families, with a view to developing a whole system approach.

The APB is also undertaking a Needs Assessment to inform the commissioning process for the Children and Young Person's Substance Misuse Service. The Children & Young Person's Needs Assessment, which is currently being led by Public Health colleagues, will provide an opportunity to develop an improved holistic understanding across Gwent of the needs of children, their families, and wider communities in relation to substance misuse harms. The APB aims to also use the needs assessment information to inform their recommissioning of services, and in terms of the Community Safety review, this information can also be used to inform programmes of work within both strategic and local partnerships that support children, young people, and their families.

The APB has been holding a series of workshops which will help to, clarify the role of the Gwent APB, establish meaningful measures for service delivery and commissioning, and considering if the APB should provide an 'advocacy role' in terms of best practice, evidence-based delivery and seek to develop approaches to early intervention and prevention, through a stratified approach focussing on primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions.

The APB recognises there is a need for greater alignment & integration where there is correlation between substance misuse, domestic abuse and/or mental health, all of which are matters that impact the ability to keep people safe and well.

From informal discussions at the APB workshops, and on good advice from the chair, it has also been recommended that the Community Safety review undertake a mapping exercise across all Gwent boards to better understand how prevention (definition to be determined in-line with Welsh Government tiers of intervention) is currently addressed across the varying thematic boards that exist across the Gwent partnership landscape. This has now been factored into the Gwent Community Safety review as part of stakeholder engagement.

Other suggestions included consideration of the role and function of various boards across Gwent, who are often serviced by the same staff, and if they could be amalgamated into the Safer Gwent board function. This would require further exploration from and with other board structures to better understand where there are interdependencies and where this would enable efficiencies and stronger collaboration and accountability. If found to both feasible and desirable, this may also present an

opportunity for a regional commissioning board function that could potentially sit under Safer Gwent, and report directly into the Gwent PSB.

#### **4.2 Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)**

The regional arrangements have changed since the inception of the original VAWDASV board in 2015/16, following the review of the board undertaken in 2020/21. In 2022, a regional Commissioning board has been established in-line with Welsh Government statutory guidance. The regional Commissioning board has oversight of the development and delivery of the regional strategy & plan for Gwent, which delivers predominately against single member body statutory duties only. In addition, the board also manages the regional funding grant from Welsh Government, and partner organisations direct funding for commissioning of the IDVA & MARAC services which are strongly linked to the community safety & safeguarding function.

It is recognised that Gwent Police, Public Protection Unit (PPU) is the only link to policing and community safety, via the Gwent Safeguarding Board and IDVA/MARAC processes, that the Commissioning board has currently. This is at the most 'at risk' end of service delivery and arguably leaves a gap in prevention and early help for victims/survivors of VAWDASV.

Data and intelligence are collected for IDVA and MARAC cases, however no other data is held at board level, therefore there is no routine data or evidence shared with local level structures where the community safety agenda is more likely to deal with lower-level or early indications of VAWDASV. There is a greater need for alignment & integration where there is correlation between substance misuse, domestic abuse and/or mental health, all of which are matters that impact the ability to keep people safe and well.

The PSB is responsible for undertaking and commissioning Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), which are a requirement of the local CSP function. In Gwent we have trialled a Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process, which has proven to be more effective, efficient and realises meaningful practice change from the learning garnered from the review. This process had stalled in Wales, due to the non-devolved nature of the DHR requirement. There is currently on-going dialogue between Welsh Government & UK Home Office to implement the SUSR nationally across Wales later in 2023; until this has been agreed, the original DHR process needs to be followed and enacted where domestic homicides occur.

The chair of the Commissioning Board has also highlighted the complexity of delivery in relation to VAWDASV as there is minimal requirement from PSB in terms of the Welsh Government legislation, and most of the Wales act falls on individual public sector bodies to implement and support delivery. However, the IDVA/MARAC & DHR functions are entrenched in community safety, yet there is no input into local CSP functions from the Commissioning board, and the only links at board level are via the PPU in Gwent Police for high-risk cases.

The Commissioning function of the regional board is also undermined by the lack of funding that the board has to commission services with as there is only the WG grant, and contributions from the Gwent OPCC, 5 x LA's & Health for the IDVA & MARAC provision, which have been agreed on a temporary basis for 3yrs and until the Gwent Community Safety review has been undertaken and direction set by the Gwent PSB. All other funding that contributes to delivery of VAWDASV services is commissioned via grants at LA level or directly from Welsh Government to specialist sector, so the commissioning function of the regional board is diminished due to lack of funding or control of

funding. Ideally local commissioning should be data and evidence driven if the regional board was able to fulfil an 'advocacy role' similar to the discussions at the APB, however, the lack of capacity and

analytical skills within the regional VAWDASV team to undertake this routinely would also be a challenge.

It was also discussed that the role of the Regional Partnership Board (RPB), in terms of the VAWDASV agenda, would benefit from more transparency; it is unclear how the RBP, outside of some key services such as mental health, for example, or IDVA funding, tackle the issues of VAWDASV more broadly in partnership and through joint commissioning. There is also the potential to further scope the role and function of Neighbourhood Care Networks and the Accelerated Cluster model, via Integrated Services Partnership Boards, as to how they could also support the VAWDAVS, and arguably community safety agenda, at a grass-roots community level, particularly where GPs are likely to be seeing patients who may be experiencing VAWDASV, or other related issues.

The strength and use of data and intelligence at a local level, via the CSP function, could be vastly improved and resources could be maximised in local communities if there was stronger collaboration and planning across the VAWDASV, mental health, substance misuse and community safety portfolio; however, this is not yet happening in practice.

### **4.3 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)**

Across Gwent there is disparity in how the CSP function is discharged at a local level, which creates complexity in understanding how each local authority area is meeting its statutory responsibilities and collaborating to keep citizens and communities safe.

The lack of consistency of a formal CSP across all five LA areas can make the regional to local arrangements challenging, in terms of data, evidence, and intelligence sharing, especially in-light of newly introduced legislation, such as the Serious Violence duty & Domestic Abuse act, which heavily reference the role and function of the CSP in discharging these duties.

Legislative requirements and operational practice could be further enhanced if there was a CSP in all five LA areas, this view is strongly supported by Gwent Police leads in each policing area. By having a functioning CSP in each LA area, the PSB would have assurance that there is meaningful collaboration in relation to community safety, all CSPs would have the ability to be intelligence led, and the statutory duties and requirements would be discharged effectively across Gwent. The CSPs would also have clear democratic accountability at a local level through local scrutiny arrangements. This would also lend itself to a clear governance structure, under the PSB, which can be agreed as part of the governance review options and strengthening the future role of the Safer Gwent board.

### **4.4 CONTEST**

There is a well-established governance structure for the CONTEST function in Gwent. The CONTEST board works well at a Gwent level with clear accountability to UK Home Office and CONTEST Cymru. There is a clear workplan and delivery framework in place.

There is a view that the work of this board would be further enhanced by a consistent CSP function at a local level across Gwent to ensure local CSP functions are intelligence led.

#### **4.5 Gwent Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Board**

Gwent have an established an Anti-Social Behaviour support group where local authority and police staff meet quarterly to support each other regionally. The group was set-up to provide support and share effective practice across the region ensuring that Gwent local authorities are effectively dealing with anti-social behaviour. The group identifies barriers and establishes effective practice in the application of tools and powers. The group also identifies training gaps for practitioners, officers and partners and share existing skills, knowledge and best practice.

The Gwent ASB Support group escalate concerns via the Chair to the Safer Gwent Board. The group also shares effective practice and identified training needs to the All-Wales ASB Network.

There is a view that the work of this board would be further enhanced by a consistent CSP function at a local level across Gwent to ensure local CSP functions are intelligence led.

#### **4.6 Remaining Boards/ Stakeholder Engagement – to be completed**

<b>Board/Partnership</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>
Gwent Criminal Justice Board (CJB)	Scheduled December 22
Gwent Safeguarding Board (SGB)	TBC
Youth Offending service – Local Management Boards (YOS LMBs)	TBC

### **5. NEXT STEPS**

The review has been broken down into 4 x key elements as described above in the progress update, and work is currently underway to further explore and analyse the findings and feedback received, which will be used to inform a set a recommendation and/or options for the Gwent PSB.

The work will also aim to align to the Wellbeing plan development and Marmot pilot, ensuring that the structures and system that sit as part of the community safety portfolio are able to respond to the ambition of the Gwent PSB to create a Gwent that is safe for all citizens to live, work and visit.

**Appendix A2 - Governor Review Delivery Framework**

**Rationale:** The Welsh Government ‘Working Together for Safer Communities: A Welsh Government review of community safety partnership working in Wales found a degree of confusion around the role of PSBs in meeting the **statutory requirements** of the Crime & Disorder Act while balancing the need to focus on well-being assessment and planning as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. This confusion is exacerbated by the mix of local and regional **partnership structures** and **governance arrangements** that are interdependent with local community safety partnership working, such as regional safeguarding boards. Some respondents suggested **audit and inspection regimes** for individual community safety partners do not support more cross-cutting and holistic working around, for example, reducing reoffending. There were also concerns that the drive towards ‘single integrated partnerships’ had diluted the community safety focus and expertise needed for effective partnership working. Further the review noted ‘Regionalisation also presents a significant challenge around **democratic accountability**.’

ACTION	LEAD / KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
Finalise the <b>legal framework</b> requirements and functions across the community safety portfolio	<b>Lead - Helena Hunt, BGCBC</b> Support: Safer Gwent & Wales Safer Communities Network	Q4 2022-23	To be established
Clarify the devolved and non-devolved <b>policy</b> requirements and mandates across the community safety portfolio	<b>Lead - Helena Hunt, BGCBC</b> Support: Safer Gwent & Wales Safer Communities Network	Q4 2022-23	To be established
Map the current strategic to operational <b>delivery structures</b> across the community safety portfolio	<b>Lead - Helena Hunt, BGCBC</b> Support: Safer Gwent & Wales Safer Communities Network	Q4 2022-23	To be established
Clarify the <b>governance and accountability arrangements</b> across the community safety portfolio	<b>Lead - Helena Hunt, BGCBC</b> Support: Safer Gwent & Wales Safer Communities Network	Q4 2022-23	To be established
Clarify the national, regional and local <b>democratic scrutiny arrangements</b> across the community safety portfolio	<b>Lead - Helena Hunt, BGCBC</b> Support: Safer Gwent & Wales Safer Communities Network	Q4 2022-23	To be established

Identify and clarify any <b>compliance requirements</b> and related Governance arrangements across the community safety portfolio	<b>Lead - Helena Hunt, BGCBC</b> Support: Safer Gwent & Wales Safer Communities Network	Q4 2022-23	To established
---	--	------------	----------------



**Appendix A3 - Data/Evidence/Commissioning Review:**

The Working Together for Safer Communities 2017 published “Review found evidence of significant weaknesses in intelligence-led and evidence-based community safety partnership activity – including strategic assessments, planning and multi-agency service or solution commissioning, particularly in relation to preventative action or early intervention.” “Reliance on criminal justice data – analysed by criminal justice analysts – within strategic and tactical assessments will tend to focus on ‘symptoms’ rather than ‘causes’ and is therefore unlikely to result in more sustainable partnership prioritisation and programmes of activity.” “*The challenge to community safety partnership working in Wales now exceeds the ‘strategic assessment’ requirement with a direction to “understand the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring”* (Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015).

ACTION	LEAD / KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
Finalise the <b>legal and policy requirements</b> relating to <b>Strategic (Needs) Assessments</b> across the community safety portfolio – including Well-being Assessments. <b>ALIGNED TO GOV REVIEW</b>	<b>Lead - Helena Hunt, BGCBC</b> Support: Safer Gwent/Wales Safer Communities Network	Q4 2022-23	Nil additional required – all within current role and resource of contributory partner agencies
Identify any <b>key calendar / timelines</b> linked with Strategic Assessments, Strategies Partnership Plans, Consultations, Publications and Review etc. <b>ALIGNED TO GOV REVIEW</b>	<b>Lead - Helena Hunt, BGCBC</b> Support: Safer Gwent/ Wales Safer Communities Network	Q4 2022-23	Nil additional required – all within current role and resource of contributory partner agencies
Identify <b>Data Networks / Hubs / systems / datasets</b> across the community safety portfolio; and any data/systems compatibility / geographical data collection issues.	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q1 2023-24	To be established

<b>Map finance / grant sources</b> , cycles, and constraints within the context of developing intelligence-driven evidence-led commissioning opportunities across the community safety portfolio.	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q4 2022-23	To be established
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LEAD / KEY PARTNERS</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>
Identify and map <b>Research and Analytical Capacity / Networks</b> across the community safety portfolio and establish single points of contact with each.	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q1 2023-24	Safer Gwent will need dedicated research and analytical capacity to take forward the following programme of works
Clarify any <b>data sharing</b> protocols, other 'gateway' protocols and processes and identify related issues across the community safety portfolio for both personal and de-personalised aggregated data sets.	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q2 2023-24	
Identify any <b>data and intelligence development</b> issues to better to better understand and assess progress toward improving community safety outcomes.	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q2 2023-24	
Develop options for a consistent approach to the use of <b>Key Performance Indicators</b> and <b>minimum common data sets</b> that enable <b>benchmarking</b> and aggregation of	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q2-3 2023-24	

relevant data to regional and national levels.			
Develop an approach to <b>service user engagement</b> and data capture.	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q3-4 2023-24	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>LEAD / KEY PARTNERS</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>
Develop a sustainable approach to <b>performance measurement</b> and management – identifying any interdependencies of competing agendas.	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q4 2023-24	Safer Gwent will need dedicated research and analytical capacity to take forward the following programme of works
Work closely with the <b>National Community Safety Network</b> to further develop this work-stream.	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q4 2022-23	

**Appendix A4 - Well-being and Community Review**

**Rationale:** Welsh Government (Working together for Safer Communities) recognised that there were some significant challenges in relation to community safety in Wales, and the findings in the review, paved the way forward to establish a Safer Communities long-term programme of work, in partnership with devolved and non-devolved partners and stakeholders, to take forward and implement a new ambitious vision for working together for safer communities in Wales. Welsh Government stated: “Our vision is a Wales in which...”

- Every community is strong, safe, and confident in a manner that provides equality of opportunity and social justice, resilience, and sustainability for all
- The shared responsibility of government, public and third sector agencies is to work together with the communities they serve and the private sector to address activity or behaviour that is unlawful, anti-social, harmful to individuals and society and to the environment
- Sharing knowledge and ensuring early intervention with prompt, positive action tackles local issues and addresses vulnerabilities
- This vision will be achieved through collaborative and integrated multi-agency activity

ACTION	LEAD / KEY PARTNERS	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES
Map the support and services available across Gwent which address the wellbeing of, <b>Victims, Perpetrators &amp; Community</b>	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q4 2022 – Q1 2023	To be established
Establish the <b>tiers of intervention</b> and support currently provided across Gwent to <b>Victims, Perpetrators &amp; community</b>	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q4 2022- Q1 2023	To be established
Identify if there are any ‘ <b>gaps</b> ’ in provision and support provided to victims, perpetrators & community – <b>Gap analysis</b> to be undertaken	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q1 & Q2 - 2023	To be established
Establish how the <b>voice of citizens</b> , in terms of wellbeing, support and service design, <b>informs practice change</b> and <b>commissioning</b> of services across Gwent	<b>To be agreed</b>	Q1 - 2023	To be established

<p>Work with the <b>Institute of Health Equity</b> to align the Gwent Community Safety review to the <b>Wellbeing plan</b> priority and <b>Marmot principles</b></p>	<p><b>Safer Gwent partners</b></p>	<p>Q4 2022- Q1 &amp; Q2 2023</p>	<p>To be established</p>
--	------------------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------

