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| **Programme Board** | **Gwent PSB 14th December 2023 t** |
| **Paper Number:** | **Item 5** |
| **Paper Type:** | **Exception Report** |
| **Project Name:** | **Community Safety Review, pan-Gwent** |
| **Project/Workstream:** | **East Local Policing Area** |
| **Project Sponsor:** | **CC Pam Kelly** |
| **Project Lead:** | **Ch/Supt. Carl Williams** |
| **Report Author:** | **Ch/Supt. Carl Williams** |

**Background**

The Gwent Public Service Board (PSB) agreed that a strategic task and finish group (CSP Review Group) would be formed with the intention of reviewing the pan-Gwent approach to Community Safety.

The strategic aims of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Review Group are:

1. Ensure that there is CSP provision across all areas of Gwent;
2. Create consistency in terms of principles/framework for each CSP, flexible enough to consider local conditions, needs and community issues;
3. Define the arrangements that will explain how the CSPs will provide assurance to the PSB in terms of statutory responsibilities.

CSPs across England & Wales have numerous duties that fall to them, and those in Wales have some additional duties as provided by the Welsh Government. Those duties include but are not limited to:

Commissioning Domestic Homicide Review (DHRs);

Anti-Social Behaviour;

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) (VAWDASV);

Counter Terrorism;

Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act;

Serious Violence Duty;

Protect Duty, and

Wellbeing Plans.

Each CSP is required to develop a Needs Assessment for their area, and requisite delivery strategies and plans.

Gwent is relatively small in terms of geography and population, however the five Local Authority areas differ vastly in terms of their communities[[1]](#footnote-1).

Whilst a local approach is needed to the tactical delivery to tackle these problems, a significant amount of the background work e.g. data collection, data sharing, pooling of administrative resource is possible on a pan-Gwent basis.

To achieve this, there needs consistency in terms of the CSP structure, the information and data that CSPs request/use, and the level of decision-making to be at an appropriately senior level from each organisation sat within the CSPs. There also needs a suitable structure to sit alongside the local CSPs to co-ordinate activity, share best practice and ensure that overarching issues are raised to the PSB as required.

Ensuring that an effective structure sits in an oversight role over the CSPs will also future proof the CSP structure should the recommendation[[2]](#footnote-2) be accepted that would place a duty on CSPs to report on their local ASB strategy and delivery to PCCs in future legislation. This is currently a proposal being shaped by the Home Office as part of a national review into community safety, ASB and CSPs.

**Issues for Consideration**

1. **Structure of CSP oversight**

A new group will be established to replace Safer Gwent. This group will provide a strategic partnership role over the CSPs, delivering programmes of activity that individual CSPs cannot, or would prefer not to, deliver alone, ensuring best practice is shared, issues escalated, regional duties are dealt with at a regional level and also future proof the CSP structure should anticipated legislative changes take place.

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| **Mandatory agenda items** |
| PSB update |
| Update from each of five CSPs |
| Regional issues/trends & issues required a regional response |
| Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) – those agreed and those soon to be published |
| Serious Organised Crime |
| Serious Violence Duty update |
| Anti-Social Behaviour update |
| VAWDASV |
| Finance |
| AOB |

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| **Mandatory attendees** |
| CSP Chairs or Deputies – one from each CSP |
| Police – Assistant Chief Constable |
| Local Authority – Director or Deputy Director |
| Fire Service – Assistant Brigade Manager |
| Probation Service – Regional Probation Director for Wales |
| Health Board – Director of Strategy, Planning & Partnerships |
| Youth Justice Service – TBC |
| Office of Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) – TBC |
| Third sector – Deputy Chief Executive or equivalent |
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The chairpersonship of the newly established group should be the Police and Crime Commissioner or their Deputy, given their unique ‘convening’ role, funding and commissioning responsibilities, and likely increased community safety remit in the future.

This group will replace the current *Safer Gwent* group and provide the PSB with the assurance that community safety activity across Gwent is being dealt with appropriately.

**A future paper will review the principles and framework for each CSP; this will be submitted by this CSP oversight group, if agreed.**

**RECOMMENDATION ONE –** that a new Community Safety strategic partnership group is established with the proposed structure and proposed attendees. The chairpersonship of this group should be a senior member of the OPCC.

**Limitations**

None of the recommendations within this paper attempt to or infer any circumvention of existing governance structures of CSPs in terms of accountability to Local Authorities.

**RECOMMENDATION TWO –** Local Authorities should work with the Community Safety strategic partnership group in order to try and create synergy between the way in which reporting takes place in order to limit bureaucracy but to ensure this new group and Local Authorities are reassured as to their statutory responsibilities and the effective, efficient running of each CSP.

**Interaction with other Gwent-wide Governance**

The introduction of a new Gwent-wide Community Safety governance structure does not remove all the current challenges faced by CSPs and other regional governance structures, namely significant inefficiency through duplication of activity, funding models, meetings, objectives, and nowhere to escalate issues that cannot be resolved by individual boards.

**RECOMMENDATION THREE –** On behalf of the PSB, one of the first objectives of the new regional CS structure will be to establish the appropriate synergies between itself and other regional structures, such as the VAWDASV Board, Area Planning Board for substance misuse, Safeguarding Board, and Local Criminal Justice Board. There is a real opportunity to reduce the current duplication and cross-over of efforts between these structures, harmonise work programmes, and agree decision and escalation lines.

1. the Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation highlighted the significant challenges that face some areas of the Gwent region. There are a numerous factors including housing, health, employment, population increases, job opportunities, education and general socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions that differ between Local Authorities. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See Consultation document (accessible) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)