

Community Safety Review, Pan-Gwent

Exception Report

Background

The Gwent Public Services 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:

- i. Ensure that there is CSP provision across all areas of Gwent;
- ii. Create consistency/share best practice for each CSP, flexible enough to consider local conditions, needs and community issues;
- iii. Recommendations for proposed group/structure/functions.

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.

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 communities¹.

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.

Issues for Consideration

Structure of new Strategic Regional Group

A new group will be established pan-Gwent.

This group will:

- provide a strategic partnership role to manage/support shared priorities and risks
- give partners the opportunity to escalate local issues that require regional consideration/response
- enable regional consideration of national priorities/funding e.g. serious violence duty
- horizon scan in terms of forthcoming legislative changes, risks and policy development.

The full Terms of Reference for this group will be established upon formation of the new group.

This group will not circumvent or take over the statutory duties of the responsible authorities that make up a Community Safety Partnership on a Local Authority footprint or other statutory requirements of regional affiliated boards.

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.

PROTECTIVE MARKING: PROTECT, SUBJECT TO PUBLICATION STRATEGY

The introduction of a new Strategic Partnership group 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.

The intention for this group to be a high level, strategic group; this is reflected in the seniority of those named as core attendees.

Core 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 Public Health
Youth Justice Service – TBC
Office of Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) – TBC
Chair of Criminal Justice Board
Chair of Gwent Safeguarding Board
Chair of Gwent VAWDASV Board
Chair of Area Planning Board
Third sector – Deputy Chief Executive or equivalent
Any other relevant chairs

The chairpersonship of the newly established group should be the Police and Crime Commissioner, given their unique 'convening' role, funding and commissioning responsibilities, and likely increased community safety remit in the future.

RECOMMENDATION – that a new Strategic Partnership group is established with the proposed structure and proposed attendees. The chairpersonship of this group should be the Police & Crime Commissioner.