**SUBJECT: Everyone Lives in a Place they Feel Safe: Community Safety Review & Strategic Safe Communities Partnership Board**

**MEETING:** **Gwent Public Services Board**

**DATE: 27/03/25**

*Report written and submitted by: Sam Slater, Head of Strategy, Gwent OPCC, on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner*

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| **1** | **Areas Affected** |
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| 1.11.2 | Geographically, this affects the whole of Gwent and all PSB member organisations.Thematically, this addresses the Gwent Wellbeing Plan priority ‘everyone lives in a place they feel safe’ and the Gwent Community Safety Review, commissioned by the PSB. |
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| **2** | **Purpose of Report**  |
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| 2.12.2 | This report provides an update on progress against the above PSB priority (hereafter called the ‘safer places’ priority), alongside a set of draft terms of reference for a new Strategic Safer Communities Partnership Board. The development of this new partnership structure was a recommendation agreed by the PSB in September 2024 following the Community Safety Review. It will also enable the delivery of the safer places priority. The report recommends that the PSB agree to the approach proposed in the terms of reference for the new SSCPB, with any finer detail/changes to be made by the SSCPB when established.  |
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| **3** | **Background** |
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| 3.13.23.33.43.53.63.73.83.93.103.11 | The current Wellbeing Plan contains 4 key ‘Areas of Focus’:* Every child has the best start in life
* Everyone lives in a place they feel safe
* Everyone has the same economic chances
* Everyone lives in a climate-ready community where their environment is valued and protected.

The Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Gwent Police have agreed to co-lead the second priority. This was agreed by the PSB in September. Since that time, three significant developments have taken place under this priority.Firstly, the Commissioner has permanently recruited a new Chief Constable in Autumn 2024, Mark Hobrough, who will already be known to PSB members whilst in the post temporarily. The Chief Constable has introduced a new policing model across Gwent, with Improving Trust and Confidence at the heart of that new model, and an increased focus on neighbourhood policing to increase visibility, provide reassurance and make communities safer. Secondly, the Commissioner has developed a new Police, Crime and Justice Plan for Gwent, due for release on 28th March 2025. The new Plan has five Pillars under which sit relevant priorities. The Pillars to the Plan are:* Preventing crime and antisocial behaviour
* Making our communities safer
* Protecting the vulnerable
* Putting victims first, and
* Reducing reoffending.

Flowing throughout the entire Plan is a strong emphasis on tackling those community safety issues that the public, PSB and other partners told the Commissioner are their main concerns following extensive surveying in 2024. Added to this is a focus on partnership working, in particular the safer places priority under the PSB.Thirdly, with these fundamental aspects now in place, focus can now increasingly shift to developing the relevant plans, outputs and desired outcomes against the safer places priority. Much of this will be delivered through a new multi-agency partnership structure, made up of senior strategic leads from PSB organisations and relevant partnerships involved in keeping communities safe. This was also the primary recommendation coming from the community safety review, which also reported to the PSB in September 2024. The PSB agreed this was necessary to improve how the range of partnerships that focus on safer communities interact with each other at a strategic level. For example, by deconflicting priorities and reducing duplication, and offering a route to escalate strategic issues that cannot be solved by one partnership in isolation. The PSB had been considered as the main route for escalation, but given the scale of business the PSB has to consider, a different forum was agreed to be needed. Therefore, a set of terms of reference have been drafted for this new structure, proposed to be called the Gwent Strategic Safer Communities Partnership Board (name still to be confirmed). As per the agreed recommendation at the PSB, this will be chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner. The terms of reference for this new board are attached to this report for scrutiny. Overall, this new board will provide whole system leadership for building safer communities in Gwent and enable the delivery of the safer places priority. The partnerships affected by these developments are:* Five Community Safety Partnerships
* Gwent Area Planning Board
* Gwent CONTEST Board
* Gwent Safeguarding Board
* Gwent Serious Organised Crime Partnership Group
* Gwent Strategic Criminal Justice Board
* Gwent VAWDASV Board
* Gwent Serious Violence Duty Working Group

Importantly, this new Board will not be developed to carry out the statutory functions of those partnerships, which will remain in those structures. Nor will it intend to create any additional workload for them, except where that is requested and agreed as necessary by those partnerships or as required to deliver the safer places priority. Finally, due to the timing of this scrutiny meeting, these terms of reference have not been shared with wider PSB partners at this stage. Following discussion by PSB partners at the full board meeting in March, the terms of reference may be subject to change.This report and the terms of reference went through regional scrutiny on 19/03/25, with feedback supportive of this new approach.  |
| **4** | **Funding**  |
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| 4.1 | At this stage there are no specific funding requirements for the PSB to consider. Support to the new board will be provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any funding required to deliver the safer places priority or any other business developed by the board will be managed through business as usual. Any requests for funding to the PSB will be by exception only.  |
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| **5** | **Recommendations** |
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| 5.1 | It is recommended that the Gwent Public Services Board:1. Agree to the approach proposed in this report and as set out in the draft terms of reference
2. Agree that any amendments to the terms of reference will be determined by the new Board, when established
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|  | **Background Documents** |

