



Complete Agenda

Democracy Services
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

**COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
CRIME AND DISORDER**

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 2022

NOTE: A BRIEFING SESSION WILL BE HELD FOR MEMBERS AT 10.15AM

Location

Zoom

For public access to the meeting, please contact us.

A webcast will be available following the meeting.

https://gwynedd.public-i.tv/core//en_GB/portal/home

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(DISTRIBUTED 05/01/22)

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (18)

Plaid Cymru (10)

Councillors

Gwynfor Owen
Aled Wyn Jones
Gethin Glyn Williams
Dafydd Owen

Elwyn Edwards
Linda Morgan
Simon Glyn

Annwen Hughes
Edgar Wyn Owen
Berwyn Parry Jones

Independent (5)

Councillors

Elwyn Jones
Mike Stevens
Angela Russell

Kevin Morris Jones
Elfed Powell Roberts

Llais Gwynedd (2)

Councillors

Robert Glyn Daniels

Owain Williams

Individual Member (1)

Councillor

Stephen W. Churchman

Ex-officio Members

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

Other Invited Members

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

4 - 8

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee, held on November 4th, 2021 be signed as a true record.

5. ANNUAL UPDATE BY THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP 9 - 55

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR DAFYDD MEURIG

To provide an overview to Members of the activities of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership (CSP) during the period 2020-21, and developments for 2021-22.

6. STREET CLEANSING

56 - 58

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR CATRIN WAGER

To consider the report

7. GRASS CUTTING AND ROAD VERGE MAINTENANCE

59 - 60

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR CATRIN WAGER

To consider the report

8. CLIMATE CHANGE BOARD

To nominate a member to represent the Committee on the Climate Change Board

Communities Scrutiny Committee 4 November 2021

Present:

COUNCILLORS: Stephen Churchman, Glyn Daniels, Elwyn Edwards, Simon Glyn, Annwen Hughes, Berwyn Parry Jones, Elwyn Jones, Dafydd Owen, Edgar Wyn Owen, Gwynfor Owen, Elfed P. Roberts, Angela Russell, Mike Stevens, Gethin Williams and Owain Williams.

Officers present:

Llywela Owain (Senior Language and Scrutiny Advisor), Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Advisor) and Natalie Jones (Democracy Service Officer).

Present for item 5:

Councillor Gareth Griffith (Cabinet Member for the Environment), Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment), Gareth Jones (Assistant Head of Environment), and Rebeca Jones (Joint Planning Policy Unit Manager).

Present for item 6:

Councillor Gareth Griffith (Cabinet Member for the Environment), Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment Department) and Wyn Williams (Countryside Manager).

Present for item 7:

Dewi Wyn Jones (The Council's Business Support Service Manager).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Linda Morgan, Kevin M Jones, Aled Wyn Jones and Dyfrig Siencyn (Council Leader).

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

3. URGENT ITEMS

No urgent matters.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 23 September 2021 as a true record.

5. JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW REPORT

A report was submitted by the Cabinet Member - Environment noting that this report before the Committee was to receive the members comments.

The Joint Planning Policy Unit Manager explained that it was a requirement for the Council to prepare a brief review report and include some certain matters e.g. information that will be considered to guide the Local Development Plan.

Reference was made to Appendix 1 and it was noted that it was split into 6 parts. All the parts were discussed thoroughly by explaining the purpose of each one.

The next steps were discussed, namely that a 6-week public consultation would take place before a final report would be brought before the Full Council. The Committee was asked to consider the draft review report and offer comments on matters that need reviewing while preparing the amended plan.

During the discussion the following observations were made:

- It was asked why the Council was joint planning with Anglesey as no other counties in Wales collaborate in the same manner. It was noted that Gwynedd has its unique needs and deserves its own plan.
- Reference was made to page 53 of the programme where it was noted that the housing provision has fallen under the target.
- It was noted that there was an impact on communities as the Wylfa plans were no longer proceeding and it was suggested that the number of houses designated within the plan be subject to conditions regarding developing without endangering communities.
- Questions were raised regarding demolition and re-building of houses much larger than the original ones. Although more expensive to buy, these houses are more cost effective,
- Concern was raised regarding building houses without need and it was noted that they were not affordable for the majority of Gwynedd and Anglesey residents.
- The review was welcomed and the other members comments were agreed regarding the need for new houses as Gwynedd and Anglesey's population was static.
- It was suggested that an affordable local housing market was needed across the counties and not in some areas alone as evidence showed that housing was out of reach to most local people.
- Enquiries were made regarding 'ScottishPower's' pilot scheme as there was fuel poverty in Penllyn, but it was not included in the plan.
- Pride was noted as consideration was being given to biodiversity, however, attention was drawn to the lack of discussion in the AONB area.
- A point was raised regarding using local materials for example local slate on houses built - to ensure work in the quarry and that money stays local.
- Disappointment was expressed that it was not possible for children of farming families to stay in their homes as it was not possible for them to build houses on the land. It was added that this leads to farms being sold.

In response the Officers noted the following:

- They agreed that the situation was different by now following the news that the Wylfa development would not proceed and this would be included when amending the plan.
- It was noted with assurance that firm evidence would be needed in order to develop houses and that there was local need for them.
- They added that it was very relevant from every aspect of the new plan for all types of developments to meet the Council's carbon requirements.
- The Committee was reminded that a paper had been brought before them regarding second homes and consequently a report was presented to the Senedd.

- It was noted that information regarding the 'ScottishPower' plan was on their website in order to receive further information on the areas that are a part of the plan.
- The member's point on the use of local materials was recognised, however, it was noted that it was unlawful to set conditions on materials and only a condition in terms of ensuring the material is similar in terms of appearance was possible.
- It was suggested that the members should participate in the consultation in order to voice their opinions on the points raised in the Committee today that are beyond the report's remit.

DECISION

To accept the report and note the observations received.

6. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The discussion was opened by the Cabinet Member for the Environment by noting that the purpose of the final draft was to receive comments from members of the Committee.

The report was presented by the Countryside Manager by noting that a public consultation would follow after the comments on the final draft plan. Reference was made to factors that are highlighted in the report which are alterations to access programme, additional resources and grants for the service.

He noted that the action points will continue as they were and these will lead the work. He added that there will be no need to prepare detailed work programmes, however, it will need to be done every one or two years.

During the discussion the following observations were made:

- Enquiries were made regarding how the scheme was currently working, are there any problems for example some landowners refusing to comply.
- Thanks were given for the report and it was asked what are the requirements of the Disabilities Act in relation to access to the network pathways.
- It was suggested that the Council should have a record on their website that notes the accessibility of the network for people with disabilities.
- It was asked how much progress has been done in assessing pathways, by referring to the 2004/5 report and noting that 25% of the network was assessed at that time.
- It was reiterated that minor adaptations will make a world of difference to the disabled, by referring to a local complaint of a member who asked for guidance on starting a path in the ward in order to facilitate accessibility for a blind person.
- Thanks was expressed for all the work by noting that miles of paths need assessing and therefore recognition was expressed as it was a challenging task. Reference was made to the enjoyment people had experienced walking these paths during the lockdown periods.
- This was reiterated, noting that it would be useful, if possible to record the number of path users.
- Enquiries were made regarding the paths that had not been open for some time due to lack of maintenance.
- A report should be submitted to the Committee to give an update on the condition of the network in the near future.

In response, the Countryside Manager noted:

- As a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) open land was established for access to the uplands and also schemes that targeted the agricultural sector with grants following this. He reiterated that the field is currently being assessed following 'Brexit'.
- On access and accessibility matters, that the landscape differs and that there are some situations where the paths are on uneven ground in terms of access. He reiterated that an opportunity following a grant programme to improve pathways and the network, in this case would hopefully facilitate access for everyone. He referred to an example which was removing stiles in order to ensure accessibility.
- The department was looking at ways to improve information on the network as there was not much information to give regarding the current condition of the network. He added that it needs to be established which are easy paths and open for use.
- The Head of the Environment Department added that the National Park had improved their paths and the department would collaborate with the Park to plan information for the accessibility of Gwynedd's paths.
- The department would certainly consider the options that are available to improve accessibility, however, he reiterated that the size of the network and the number of staff was a challenge.

DECISION

a) To accept the final draft plan and note the observations received and incorporate them in the document for public consultation.

b) To accept the report following the consultation period and to note the observations received.

7. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS OF THE GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD, AND PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT

The report was submitted by the Council's Business Support Service Manager.

It was discussed that the housing sub-group on the board has come to an end as their purposes had been fulfilled.

It was explained that there had been much progress in prioritising the Welsh language - a project would be joint-funded to see why a number of Welsh people choose not to use the Welsh language when contacting wider local bodies.

It was explained that a pilot scheme was in progress with the Climate Change project in the Porthmadog area, it was explained that it was proposed to expand the areas further in the future.

It was noted that the work of the Well-Being Assessment was progressing. There was a well-being assessment in 2017 amongst the areas. It was asked that this assessing work be completed every 5 years, which is why the assessing has started again. This year, the assessing work was in accordance with the Regeneration Framework, which was a consultation plan currently underway in Gwynedd. It was hoped that this assessment would be completed by the end of the financial year. A further plan will follow.

The Board was proposing for the reports to be offered every 6 months rather than the present procedure to report three times yearly.

During the discussion the following observations were made by officers in response to members' comments:

- it was noted that the sub-group which is coming to an end may be re-purposed to get more use out of their information.
- It was explained that further discussions with the community in the consultation project will note if priority needs to be given to the community's Economy, and Climate in the same way.

DECISION

a) To accept the report and to note the observations received

b) Agree to scrutinise the Board's work twice a year.

8. THE AMENDED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22

The amended work programme was submitted to the Committee for acceptance. It was noted that the items 'Climate Change' and 'Update – Salt Bins' were added to the work programme For discussion in the Committee on the 10th or March 2022.

In response to comments from a member or the committee regarding the scrutiny of the item 'Update – Salt Bins', the Scrutiny Advisor noted they would be in contact with the Department in order to receive confirmation of the proposed plan.

DECISION

To approve the amended work programme.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 a.m. and concluded at 12.35 p.m.

Chairman

Agenda Item 5

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CRIME AND DISORDER) GWYNEDD LOCAL AUTHORITY

DATE: 13/01/2022

REPORT BY: COUNCILLOR DAFYDD MEURIG
(SUPPORT OFFICER – DARON OWENS/MANNON TRAPPE)

SUBJECT: ANNUAL UPDATE BY THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
(GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY)

1.00	PURPOSE OF THE REPORT
1.01	To provide an overview to Members of the activities of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership (CSP) during the period 2020-21, and developments for 2021-22.
2.00	BACKGROUND
2.01	<p>The Community Safety Partnership is required to formally report to this committee each year to present an overview. This ensures that the Partnership delivers its obligations in accordance with sections 19 and 20 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2006.</p> <p>The committee’s duty is to scrutinise the Partnership’s work, rather than the work of individual members (bodies).</p>
2.02	<p>There is a statutory duty on Local Authorities in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and subsequent amendments because of the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2002 and 2006, to work in partnership with the Police, the Health service, the Probation Service and the Fire and Rescue Service, to address the local community safety agenda. These are the main agencies that make up the Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>Community safety partnerships were originally called crime and disorder partnerships, and although the name has been changed, the areas or responsibility have not, and they remain –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime and Disorder• Substance Misuse• Reducing reoffending• Delivering a strategic assessment to identify priorities (work that is now undertaken on a regional basis)• Putting plans in place to deal with these priorities (a plan now exists on a regional and local basis)

2.03

- The Community Safety Partnership has now been in place for 22 years, latterly, as a two-county partnership. The changes that the partnership has faced over the years are numerous. Indeed, it could be said that the landscape today looks nothing like that which existed in 1998, when CSP's became a statutory requirement.
- What has not changed however is the commitment and engagement of all partners. Quarterly meetings are always well attended, and not one meeting had been cancelled in over 20 years – up until the recent Covid 19 restrictions.
- Partners and local Members who attend the meetings contribute positively, and quarterly data on crime figures and plan delivery are shared at every meeting.
- Every responsible member of the partnership contributes financially to have in place a partnership analyst, so that regular data can be supplied in order that evidence-based decisions can be made.
- Working between partners is fundamental to community safety. The main reason for the introduction of CSP's back in 1998, was to ensure that crime and disorder was seen as 'everybody's problem' and not the realm of the Police alone. The joint working between key partners, both in the public sector and the third sector has never been as strong. There are endless examples of this Joint working together as organisations, which now happens on a daily basis as a matter of course. There is no complacency however, and existing plans still contain intentions to move to even more joint working.
- Some of the main changes the partnership has, and currently faces are listed below.
 - Loss of local grants – all of the grants, which the partnership once received have now either ended, or have moved to a regional grant position, managed on a North Wales basis. However, by ensuring we play our part in the regional structure, monies are still being secured, including additional funding in the past 18 months for both Domestic abuse/sexual violence and substance misuse, in Gwynedd and Anglesey.
 - Loss of local co-ordinators – some posts have been lost because of the withdrawal of funding, others became a regional resource. However, by maintaining close and purposeful membership of the regional groups, we are confident that local needs are embedded in all regional plans and activity.
 - The main challenges we all face of course, is the changing face of criminality in our communities today. **Even though Gwynedd and Anglesey remain amongst the safest places to live**, we face the same

	<p>issues as all other areas of the UK. Crime today is far reaching and complex, with the use of technology enabling a level of exploitative crime, arguably not seen before. Organised crime gangs exist across the UK, and most are involved with drug related crime. These gangs are known as county lines gangs and have been the subject of much responsive activity in North Wales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During 2019-20, North Wales police led on a regional needs assessment on county lines, bringing together organisations across the region (almost 200 people attended one meeting) from that, a regional response plan was developed, which is now evolving into local activity. In that same period (and continuing) North Wales police have conducted a number of county lines enforcement operations, which have impacted greatly on the criminal gangs' activity in the area. • Since the development of this statutory partnership under the 1998 Act, joint working between the various public and third sector organisations has changed dramatically. The fact that some of the responsible partners are devolved and some not, that some areas of work are led by Welsh Government, and others by the UK Government, has not hindered the progress of joint working, which as mentioned already, is now embedded into daily working practice.
3.00	THE PARTNERSHIP'S PRIORITIES/DOCUMENTS FOR SCRUTINY
3.01	<p>The partnership works to an annual plan, which is based on a three-year regional plan. Attached are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2020-21 annual partnership plan – showing end of year position on all actions. • The current annual plan for 2021-22 which has been in place since April of this year.
3.02	<p>Seven priority areas directed the work of the partnership during 2021-22. These priorities were based on a strategic assessment. These were –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquisitive Crime 2. Anti-Social Behaviour 3. Vulnerable Victims 4. Domestic Violence 5. Sexual Offences 6. Substance Misuse 7. Reduce Re-offending

4.00 OVERVIEW OF OFFENDING RATES OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD

Background:

- When measuring levels of crime, it is important that we have a basis for recording, which allows comparison and perspective. The Home Office (HO) monitors crime levels across all Police forces in the UK. One of the parameters they use to maintain an overview is a comparison league of sorts, called *most similar groups* (MSG). The HO compile groups of Counties, where the demography is so similar, that crime levels would also be expected to be very similar.
- Both Counties fluctuate around the average for our MSG – with variations being further analysed, as and when they occur.
- The Police look at crime figures constantly, and review all changes on a regional and local basis. Any significant changes are subject to further analysis. Problem areas will then be reviewed, with Policing plans put in place to tackle the issues. Local policing methods include the daily tasking of resources to tackle issues as they emerge.
- The Partnership received data on crime levels on a quarterly basis, and the ‘softer’ or longer-term approaches of tackling crime trends will be the basis of the partnership plan. (During the lockdown period, data was received on a monthly basis.) The data we generally use, is that of a comparison between the period in the current year, and the same period in the former year.
- The Partnership has a statutory duty to respond to a strategic assessment of crime trends, and prepare a plan based on these assessments. Currently, the assessment is undertaken on a regional basis. The latest Assessment was received in March 2021, we are expecting an updated version early in 2022.

2020-21:

- During the early part of last year, because of the lockdown situation, all crime reported to the Police reduced in number. This of course, was the same across the Country. The most significant reduction was in acquisitive crimes of all types, and violent crimes. Following the lifting of Covid restrictions, crimes as a whole have slowly risen back to pre-lockdown numbers, but not all.
- Two areas where increased numbers were seen was stalking and harassment, and hate crime. Further analysis showed that the stalking and harassment increase was mainly due to the inclusion of coercive control offences being recorded within the harassment category and also the increase in reports of harassment happening on social media and via messaging apps. Similarly, an increase in hate crimes (although the numbers here were still very low) were largely related to tensions between individuals resulting in verbal abuse, which is unfortunately being seen across the Country as movement of people during Covid restrictions can cause friction.

The Police respond to all reports of hate crime and they are investigated fully. The national definition of hate crime, as used by the Police, included discrimination on a person's race including countries within the UK, i.e. Welsh/English, therefore this is how such incidents were recorded.

- All repeat domestic abuse cases are captured via MARAC (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference), to ensure that appropriate multi agency action is being taken. Gwynedd experienced spikes in case numbers over the summer of 2020, which coincides with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The number of cases then decreased quite sharply in both areas in the autumn and winter months.

2021-22:

- North Wales Police's Onyx department manage the safeguarding of CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) victims, all of whom have safeguarding partnership plans. They did not see any changes in the number of CSE victims during quarter 1 of 2021/22 or throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with numbers remaining relatively stable.
- Domestic Abuse continues to be a force and local priority for Anglesey and Gwynedd, with increased focus on safeguarding, scrutiny around investigative standards, reducing timelines of investigations in conjunction with CPS and obtaining better outcomes for victims. Domestic Abuse accounts for around 20% of total crime in the Western area.
- Antisocial behaviour (ASB) in Gwynedd increased in the first half of 2021/22, in line with increases being seen across the force area. Nationally there has been a marked increase in youth related ASB since the end of lockdown and similar increases have been noted in the monthly ASB multi-agency tasking groups across North Wales.
- Late in the Summer, we received reports of issues with individuals drinking in public and causing ASB in Bangor, leading to concerns from businesses in the vicinity. As a response, a multi-agency task group was brought together to look at how we could improve the situation, including representatives from Housing, Police and Substance Misuse Services. The Police reported that regular patrols were made, and they had engaged with the individuals who were ready to dispose of the alcohol when challenged. We found that the number of complaints fell to zero once the Autumn and Winter months arrived. However, we are planning for the Spring, and this work will continue.
- During this year, attention has been drawn towards fraud crimes and scams. Nationally, these types of crimes rose significantly, but this remains an area which is vastly underreported due to a number of reasons. The Partnership received a presentation by the Police, in order to explain the reporting process and role of Action Fraud. It was also decided that training sessions would be available for staff working with vulnerable people in order to increase understanding and awareness more widely.

5.00	WORK DURING 2020-21
5.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the 2019-20 financial year, the partnership held a workshop, to begin the work of planning for the coming year. This took place in February, and was the final physical meeting of partners locally, before the commencement of the lockdown in March 2020. Although much was different, in terms of working practices during March, and into April, we managed to formulate the activity of the workshop into an action plan by the beginning of the financial year. • The partnership cancelled the scheduled meeting for April, and instead a LOG was circulated – featuring the crime figures for the period, and all other papers and matters which required the members attention. Meetings of the partnership resumed in July, using virtual capabilities. • The 2020-21 plan, which is attached, collates most of the additional activity the partnership wanted to achieve during that financial year. Most of the activity was completed, and reported on a quarterly basis to the CSP, so that any remedial activity could be agreed if required. Crime figures were also shared on a quarterly basis, so that any additional activity needed could be discussed. • Unsurprisingly, some of the activities within the plan stalled because of the Covid 19 situation. This resulted in 5 out of 28 actions being incomplete at the end of the year due to competing priorities of the pandemic. • At a very early stage in the lockdown period, we saw, as expected, a reduction in the overall crime rates across the Counties, by the beginning of June - the rates of crime overall compared to the same period the previous year were down - by 24.6% in Gwynedd and 24.8% in Anglesey. The reductions varied across the crime types with acquisitive and violent crimes seeing the most reductions. • Since then, crime rates have been slowly creeping back towards expected levels. Domestic abuse (DA), which was an issue we kept a close overview of during the lockdown period, for obvious reasons - is again approaching more expected numbers in terms of reporting. Luckily, as previously mentioned, we have been able to take advantage of the additional monies from Welsh Government to put more provision in place for DA and sexual abuse needs. • During this time period we continued with virtual meetings and regular sharing of information, in order to keep the plan on track as far as is possible. We also learned from the ‘response’ to the lockdown period, which undoubtedly saw the emergence of good practice and innovation. • Sadly, throughout this reporting period, the partnership had two ongoing Domestic Homicide reviews (DHR’s).

- The Prevent plan (a duty to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism) was updated following the most recent local profile received in December from the Police. The plan has three parts, which are recommendations to address current threats, the fulfilment of Prevent's statutory and transactional elements, and a multiagency partnership.
- The North Wales Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy was launched in March 2020. Since then, the CSP have supported the delivery of the strategy in Gwynedd by attending the regional meetings and keeping up to date with priorities and relevant actions as they arise.

There is no doubt that the recent Covid 19 situation has, and continues to be a challenging time for all partners. Below are examples as to how some of these challenges were met.

- Unfortunately, in Gwynedd, a Domestic Homicide review (which is a CSP responsibility) was required following a death in December 2019. The Home Office gave partnerships leeway to 'hold' on the process during the lockdown period. However, partners were keen to make progress, and using virtual meetings both locally and with organisations from two Other Counties across the UK, we kept to the timescale that we would have regardless of the current obstacles.
- Early on in the Lockdown period, it was recognised that vigilance was required as regards Domestic Abuse (DA). High risk victims of DA are discussed in a multiagency meeting each month, as standard practice. Partners agreed that in addition, weekly virtual meetings would also be held, so that heightened risk factors could be dealt with quickly. These meetings continue.
- Meeting the needs of our homeless citizens became a priority during the lockdown period, not only providing housing for each one, but also meeting other needs they might present. Our Substance misuse services increased the 'outreach' provision available, working alongside the police and housing services on the ground, engaging with each individual. Providing for these needs ensured that they continued to engage with services and as a result referred and engaged within more structured treatment services. Added value was provided through provision of hot food and basic items, mobile phones where they did not have access to one, and travel vouchers to enable them to go to appointments and receive further support when required.
- Our housing and Social care services also increased the number of (virtual) meetings with partners in the third sector/substance misuse/and Probation to discuss the management of individuals in the community who were subject to Probation supervision. Addressing needs and managing risk being very much the aim, at a time where face to face contact was not always possible.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also, as face to face supervision meetings with clients in the community within office spaces became difficult for the probation service (as with all other providers) during the early days of lockdown, Probation and the police strengthen their joint working practices, increased use of Police premises and joint door stop visits, to ensure risk management was maintained during the period.
6.00	WORK DURING 2021-22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the pandemic, the CSP was unable to prepare for the new plan through the usual mode of a workshop. It was decided that a questionnaire would lay the foundation for establishing the plan for this year, through asking partners for information about any upcoming activities or projects that linked with the priorities within the strategic assessment. • The 2021-22 plan, which is attached, collates most of the additional activity the partnership wanted to achieve during this financial year. The activity is monitored and reported on a quarterly basis to the CSP, so that any remedial activity can be agreed if required. Following discussions, the plan for this year also included additional information around the intended outcomes of each project. • Crime figures were also shared on a quarterly basis through a performance report prepared by the Police analyst, so that any trends and additional activity needed could be discussed. • Following discussions, the partnership identified the need to refresh the quarterly data prepared by the analyst in order to better inform the meetings, the new format was in place for the April meeting. This included additional narrative to explain any changes to data recording or the impact of historic cases on the data. • Sadly, during this year the partnership has now an additional two ongoing Domestic Homicide reviews (DHR's) following deaths that occurred early in the year, bringing the total to 4 DHRs in Gwynedd currently ongoing. • Despite the continuing difficulties brought around by Covid, the Partnership can report a number of positive developments for this financial year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the Summer, working with the Police and the OPCC, we submitted a Safer Streets Fund 2 bid for Hirael and Deiniol in Bangor. This was successful, meaning an additional 41 CCTV cameras, improved street lighting and crime prevention packs for the area. The project is progressing well (procurement process has begun/project board meeting monthly/publicity arrangements in place.) - In previous meetings, the partnership identified the need to refresh local operational groups. This work is being led by the police, and by now most

	<p>of the groups have now been established, including the monthly Gwynedd VARM (Vulnerability Assessment/Risk Management) which is a multi-agency partnership aiming to reduce repeat demand, vulnerability and risk through a co-ordinated, problem-solving approach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fraud was identified by the partnership as a priority in terms of raising awareness for staff working with vulnerable individuals. As a result, training sessions by the Police have been arranged for January. - Following the actions set out in the North Wales Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy 2021-24 in terms of improving access to information and help for VAWDASV (Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence), the Community Safety page on the council website includes a wealth of information about current local and national support resources for all types of victims. This includes a link to the Live Fear Free Helpline, which is also promoted regularly on Council social media and staff pages. - The CSP have been made aware of and are preparing for new duties such as Protect and Serious Violence. This includes attending national webinars and sharing of information. The Police presented around the Serious Violence Duty to members earlier in the year, and a further presentation around the new Intelligence Hub which will hold North Wales data and is currently being developed is scheduled for January. - The CSP has reflected on the current Prevent training that is available, and are awaiting to see what is possible with the new package from the Home Office. The new training platform is currently being tested before being rolled out. <p>Work ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement local projects identified within the plan for Q3 – through monitoring process. • Respond to the Community Profile we have recently received from the Police. This includes the development of a multi-agency SOC (Serious & Organised Crime) group which is being led by the Police. • Continue to support the progress of the Safer Streets 2 Fund in Bangor, working alongside the Highways department and the Police. • Continue to support the implementation of the regional alcohol plan in both Authorities. • The partnership is mindful, that when the time is right we should be looking to assess the changes that within our communities that have resulted from the pandemic, and the way organisations have needed to change in order to meet the communities need. Currently changes and flux are still very much the norm, therefore this work proper may need to start now, but is likely to take a longer period. Currently, services are still being reactive to changes.
7.00	RECOMMENDATIONS

7.01	To note the contents of the report and attached documents, and state whether or not the Scrutiny Committee supports the priorities and future direction of the work.
8.00	APPENDICES
8.01	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 2020-21 Plan2. 2021-22 Plan

Community Safety Partnership – Gwynedd and Anglesey

What is it?

The community safety Partnership is a group of organisations working together to look at how best we can tackle crime and disorder. The requirement to have such a partnership in place on a local level is enshrined in law, within the Crime and Disorder Act of 1998. A number of organisations have a role to play within the partnership, including the Local Authority, the Police, the Probation services, the Fire and Rescue service and the Health board.

We have responsibilities under the 1998 Act for a number of areas, including – reducing crime and disorder, reducing re-offending, substance misuse and antisocial behaviour. We also have a duty to commission Domestic Homicide reviews in certain specific circumstances. And, we have a duty to prepare an annual assessment of crime and disorder, to guide us as to what needs prioritising.

What does it do?

Since it was first established over 20 years ago, the partnership has undergone a number of changes. Initially, the work was supported by a number of local grants and dedicated co-ordinators. However, today, we have no local grants, and hugely reduced dedicated resources. So we have adapted to the new landscape, which means working to a large extent with partners across North Wales, to secure opportunities and resources for implementing change locally.

Much of the work since 1998 then has been about mainstreaming community safety into the daily work of all partners. This has resulted in vast changes being witnessed, as services now plan and build into their day to day work the needs of vulnerable people and victims, as a given. Training on a number of issues relating to crime and disorder is now applied as a matter of course, and joint working between agencies is a daily occurrence.

Today, we maintain the developments of the last 20 years, which has seen a reduction in some crime types, but also the awareness of new crimes which need specialist attention. Having established working links and networks across the North Wales region, we are better placed to respond to these emerging challenges.

Locally, we still maintain our joint working groups and constantly look to improve how we work collectively to tackle our areas of responsibility. Below we will show you what structures we have in place to move our work forward, and also what specific areas will be receiving our attention over the next 12 months.

Community safety structures -

North Wales region -

In North Wales we have a number of Boards, which bring the required partners together to discuss various aspects of Community safety, these include –

- Serious and organised crime
- Safeguarding (vulnerable people) including radicalisation
- Modern slavery
- Domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Substance misuse (drugs and alcohol)
- Criminal Justice Board
- Offender management

This is not an exhaustive list, but indicates how much work goes on to develop strategic plans, direct and sometimes commission services which meet the needs of all the North Wales Counties. The Boards are constantly reviewed in order to ensure effectiveness, and avoid duplication of effort. A major review is taking place over the next few months, to ensure we make the most of what resources we have, by reducing the number of Boards and meetings

Gwynedd and Anglesey -

There are a number of local groups across Gwynedd and Anglesey which then put these strategic visions into practice. The Gwynedd Community Safety partnership will have **oversight** of these work streams locally, but will also look closely at how and where operational practice needs to be improved.

In the next 12 months we will be looking at these areas of work –

- Our training programmes – to ensure we have an informed and enabled workforce
- Our awareness raising programme – understanding the gaps and needs
- Ensuring we develop our working practices in order to meet new demands, such as County Lines (organised drug gangs)
- Understanding what the annual strategic assessment and other completed profiles/analysis are telling us we need to do
- Looking at the contacts and working practices locally, and improving communication and structures where required
- Be part of the regional and national review of governance and structures for Community safety
- Piloting new projects and monitoring the outcomes

The strategic assessment –

The newly completed assessment for North Wales, tells us that these areas below, need to be prioritised. Because the assessment is based on both the level of risk and the ability of services to respond, not all crime types are a priority at this time. Some types of crime are well understood, and the response of the required organisations is well established and appropriate. This does not mean that we do not address any issues that arise, but it may mean we do not necessarily need to give the issues appropriate attention as a partnership.

- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Substance Misuse and all related crimes, such as County Lines and exploitation
- Vulnerable victims
- Reducing re-offending
- Antisocial behaviour
- Serious acquisitive crime including organised crime

Work plan for next 12 months -

OUR TRAINING PROGRAMME				
What needs doing this year	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Anglesey and Gwynedd Local Authorities are developing new and appropriate information as regards safeguarding issues for all LA staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both LA's have in place awareness raising information in relation to adult and children's safeguarding duties, and additional learning packages in relation to Modern slavery/Prevent/domestic and sexual abuse 	G

	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both Local Authorities, the Fire service and the health Board need to start implementing the Ask and Act level of the Domestic Abuse National Training Framework, as well as continuing with e level 1 awareness training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gwynedd has developed and piloted a bespoke virtual training package for Ask and Act. Anglesey are in the process of undertaking same. This enables the roll out of the training in both local authorities in the absence of being able to undertake the statutory face-to-face training package. Fire Service and Health Board are on track with delivery of their VAWDASV training framework. 	G
	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners need to review their PREVENT training (radicalisation) to ensure relevant staff are receiving the required awareness programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-part plan has been updated on the basis of the CTLP. Work to develop further will continue into next year's plan. 	G
OUR AWARENESS RAISING PROGRAMME				
What needs doing this year	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Police will deliver additional awareness sessions for Local Members in Gwynedd, as regards the County Lines issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions took place virtually on the 13th January. 	G
	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Partnership has developed an awareness campaign, in relation to Cocaine, which will now be rolled out across North Wales. Welsh Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information (new posters) has been shared with all partners across the region, for use as required 	G
	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government, as a result of this development, are also investing in a specific awareness campaign over the next few months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government has delayed this development, possibly until the new financial year - as the C19 crisis has changed priorities (in the meantime our local cocaine awareness posters have been shared with Pub-watch via licensing) 	R

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration is being given to using the local posters on display vans in the future. 	
ENSURING WE DEVELOP OUR WORK PRACTICES TO MEET NEW DEMANDS				
What needs doing this year	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police will not only continue, but develop the capacity of the cybercrime unit. With the aim – of tackling the growing problem of Cyber fraud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Wales Police have made additional investment within the Cyber Crime Team resulting in a dedicated Protect and Prevent officer now being in place alongside three dedicated Investigators and a Detective Sergeant 	G
	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The partnership will commission additional data as regards the nature and extent of cybercrime locally –and respond with additional awareness activity if required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prevent/Protect officer will provide a regional focus on protecting people from becoming victims of Cyber Crime and from preventing people becoming Cyber Crime offenders. (Data showed no specific issues other than use of social media for harassment - awareness already in place) 	G
	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglesey Children’s services are looking at the structures around providing interviews for children who have returned following going missing. The aim is to ensure safeguarding issues are identified and dealt with –any learning will be shared with Gwynedd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We accept that the performance in reporting on RHI’s could be improved significantly and we have plans in place for this to happen. The change in process is as follows; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The missing from home referral on open and new cases will be identified by Teulu Môn and forwarded to the Practice leaders, Social Workers and critically the healthy relationships workers. In the past the healthy relationships workers 	G

			<p>have not been notified of missing from home referrals on open cases.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Healthy relationships workers will be responsible for monitoring the progress on each return home interview. 3. All missing episodes and interviews will be logged in a data base. 4. The new return home interview form on the WCCIS will make reporting easier. <p>The new definition of missing episodes (AWCP) will inevitably lead to more RHI being included. However we do not foresee a significant increase in demand as we already exercise a great deal of flexibility within the current definition.</p> <p>We are moving away from using the SERAF and have adopted the child exploitation tool to assess risk. The tool will be completed at the conclusion of assessments or during a multi-agency strategy meeting. We've had recent MASM's with the ONYX team virtually via Teams.</p>	
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Counties are having additional investment put into , tier 2 Substance misuse provision – this means, that outreach (targeted) support for people with substance misuse issues can be increased in both Counties. The aim is to reach people who may not otherwise seek help with their problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The detail is found below the substance misuse developments 		G

	11	Much work has been undertaken already in identifying the local issues relating to County Lines issues. Profiles and needs assessment have been prepared, in the coming months workshops will be held, to see how these can be worked into local operational plans. The aim is to work together, to target localities where the need is greatest, and where the most impact can be made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is ongoing to re-establish this group and will be completed in the new financial year. The police are leading on a work programme to make sure this happens. 	G
LOOKING AT THE CONTACTS AND WORKING PRACTICES, AND IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND STRUCTURES WHERE REQUIRED				
What needs doing this year	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trading standards and the Police locally, will discuss and implement more effective sharing of intelligence data. With the aim of securing effective prosecutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On hold as resources have moved to Covid priority areas of work 	R
	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Authorities and Police will review existing public space protection orders. With the aim of ensuring what is in place for the future reflects the real need and considers the resources available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions between the two Councils and the police have taken place, orders will come to an end in October 2020 (end of the three year period) 	G
	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglesey Housing department and the Youth justice Service will look at how structures might be improved, to work together on early identification and intervention with young people who are committing ASB in specific areas. The aim is to engage with young people at an early stage and reduce chances of escalating behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although there has been no progress with establishing a formal group between Housing and Youth Justice, the following groups will include young people in need of intervention. -Monthly partnership problem solving meeting - between the Council and North Wales Police, youth justice service attends this 	G

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Early Support Hub - a multi-agency approach to supporting families, including young people -Weekly CAP - ASB forum between North Wales Police and Anglesey social landlords - this meeting discusses young people 	
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VARM group (Vulnerability and Risk management) will be introduced in Gwynedd, a multiagency group which seeks to find solutions to issues for individuals who are not within normal safeguarding parameters, but are still needing a service. The aim is to find a solution which brings about an improved situation for the individual and a reduced need for intervention for the services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is ongoing to re-establish a group which will undertake the work of what was formerly VARM groups, and will be completed in the new financial year. The police are leading on a work programme to make sure this happens. 	G	
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On a regional basis, we are working together on a review of our MARAC structures, a multiagency group which plan for the safety of high risk victims of domestic abuse. The aim is to develop a structure which works for the future in terms of effectiveness and managing the demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision has now been made to develop a regional MARAC Steering group, however, it has also been decided that the local MARAC Steering will remain in place. 	G	
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substance misuse services are finding it difficult to identify appropriate and available buildings in Bangor, from which to deliver services. Partners are working together to identify any opportunity to jointly develop the available space in this area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This work is on hold presently. Due to the Pandemic, the needs of Services have changed in terms of the physical space required. Development opportunities will be included in next year's plan. 	Y	
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting a timely review of the substance misuses service for young people, 'be di'r sgor 'to ensure referral pathways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review underway, not yet completed. The work thus far has highlighted the need for a 	Y	

		are effective	Mental Health Worker for the Service. Discussions to continue and will be included in next year's plan.	
	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Tier 2 outreach service for substance misuse will be implemented across North Wales, we will ensure that this resource is modelled locally in such a way as to complement existing services, and appropriate pathways are in place for referrals and targeted outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New outreach service established - with 5 new posts. The Service is developing well and establishing links to local services. 	G
BE PART OF THE REGIONAL REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURES FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY				
What needs doing this year	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be a rationalisation of the existing Strategic Boards across North Wales, and the local partnership will ensure we inform the process from a local perspective. The aim - a more efficient and effective structure of Governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This work has progressed earlier than the delayed timescale suggested of September –the structures are now established. Terms of reference and membership of each of the new board is being completed 	G
	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government continue with the review of Community Safety issues –we will respond as required on a local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration received in June, that there will be Funding for the Wales Community Safety Network to set up the new structure in the next financial year. Current program ends therefore - tasks completed. 	G
	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The partnership will report to the required Governing structures – including for the first time the Public Services Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report shared with PSB in September 2020 	G

	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a Partnership, we continue to undertake our duty as regards conducting reviews on domestic homicides. We enter this new strategic year with two ongoing reviews. The aim is to learn from such incidents, and improve provision where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHR 2 sent to Home Office in July, awaiting response. DHR 4 – two panel meetings have taken place and IMRs have been completed. The process for both reviews is progressing as expected and the work will continue into the next financial year. 	G
PILOTING NEW PROJECTS				
What needs doing this year	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions will continue with relevant partners, to establish whether or not Street pastors might be established in Caernarfon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay because of C19 	R
	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pilot project will take place in Holyhead based on contextual safeguarding. With the aim of the community playing it's part in safeguarding young people who may be at risk of harm or criminality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because of Covid challenges, the Pilot has not been put in place, exploration of this will continue in next year's plan. 	Y
	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work will take place this year to explore the possibility of a pilot initiative regarding Veterans and healthy relationships. The aim is to identify any specific issues pertinent to veterans, where tailored interventions might be required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This development was on hold because of Covid, however, in the meantime - our partners in the venture have shared veterans specific RELATE provision with all the Armed forces liaison officers across Wales and other appropriate stakeholders, looking to improve referral and take up between both sectors. Following a national campaign on domestic violence within the armed forces community, this document 	G

			<p>was shared with service providers across the region.</p>  <p>DVA in military families.pdf</p> <p>Therefore, the outcomes have been met, albeit in a different model.</p>	
	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anglesey LA will pilot the use of a new 'keeping safe' app for children/parents through schools, any lessons will be shared at the end of the period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The keep safe app has been presented by the developers to education officers and representatives from secondary schools in Anglesey. The use of the app will be promoted in every school. 	G
	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A three month pilot project will be run by Crimestoppers in South Gwynedd. Working alongside the Local Councillors and communities, the aim is to increase the confidence of communities to report crimes anonymously, without direct contact with the Police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crimestoppers have delayed this campaign in March due to the Covid 19 crisis. 	R

Monitoring -

The Partnership will receive quarterly updates as to how crimes and incidents are presenting in Gwynedd and Anglesey. The analytical report, will explain any anomalies, and report on any additional factors which need attention.

The work plan will also be monitored and reported on.

What is it?

The community safety Partnership is a group of organisations working together to look at how best we can tackle crime and disorder. The requirement to have such a partnership in place on a local level is enshrined in law, within the Crime and Disorder Act of 1998. A number of organisations have a role to play within the partnership, including the Local Authority, the Police, the Probation services, the Fire and Rescue service and the Health board.

We have responsibilities under the 1998 Act for a number of areas, including – reducing crime and disorder, reducing re-offending, substance misuse and antisocial behaviour. We also have a duty to commission Domestic Homicide reviews in certain specific circumstances. And, we have a duty to prepare an annual assessment of crime and disorder, to guide us as to what needs prioritising.

What does it do?

Since it was first established over 20 years ago, the partnership has undergone a number of changes. Initially, the work was supported by a number of local grants and dedicated co-ordinators. However, today, all grants are received on a regional (North Wales) level, and dedicated supporting resources have also moved to a regional footing. Therefore, we have adapted to the new landscape, which means working to a large extent with partners across North Wales, to secure opportunities and resources for implementing change **locally**. We will include the regional plans and strategies within this document where appropriate, so that all the work being done is included.

Much of the work since 1998 then has been about mainstreaming community safety into the daily work of all partners. This has resulted in vast changes being witnessed, as services now plan and build into their day to day work the needs of vulnerable people and victims, as a given. Training on a number of issues relating to crime and disorder is now applied as a matter of course, and joint working between agencies is a daily occurrence.

Today, we maintain the developments of the last 20 years, which has seen a reduction in some crime types, but also the awareness of new crimes which need specialist attention. Having established working links and networks across the North Wales region, we are better placed to respond to these emerging challenges.

Locally, we still maintain our joint working groups and constantly look to improve how we work collectively to tackle our areas of responsibility. Below we will show you what structures we have in place to move our work forward, and also what specific areas will be receiving our attention over the next 12 months.

Changes to the Crime figures - Impact of the pandemic and our future challenges

The period of national lockdown restrictions between April and May 2020 saw a significant reduction of 32% in total crime (excluding fraud and computer misuse) across England and Wales (ONS, 2020). Recorded theft offences, particularly domestic burglary and theft in public spaces decreased significantly, as people spent more time at home, restrictions of movement were put into place, and the night-time economy was closed. The Crime Survey of England and Wales found that crime was perceived to have fallen since the virus outbreak, however worry about crime remained the same. The survey also found that public perceptions of police and their response to the coronavirus outbreak were largely positive.

In late June through July, reported crime figures began to increase, and by mid-September were returning to pre-lockdown rates. However, almost all crime types are still lower than this time last year with some, violence with injury and acquisitive crimes, being significantly lower. But some crime types have seen an increase; Domestic crimes are now returning to pre-lockdown rates, which had been anticipated, and interventions have been put in place during the last few months to address this. During the second full lockdown period, overall crime is again reducing.

During the period of our last plan, there were some action which we had planned, that could not take place because of the pandemic situation. The way we work has changed dramatically over this period, with meetings and contacts moving online, and front line services adapting to meet the requirements of Covid restrictions. Adapting the way we respond to need is now a constant factor of the work each organisation undertakes. We continue our commitment to work together as partner, to assist and challenge each other in an open and constructive way, so that we collectively do the best we can to meet the changing and , sometimes, growing needs of our communities.

The partnership has a statutory duty to undertake a review, called a domestic homicide review, under certain circumstances. Sadly, in Gwynedd 6 such reviews have been required since 2012 –two have taken place this year. These reviews are important, and it has to be recognised that they do take up a great deal of partnership resources. This may at times lead to other issues receiving less attention than might otherwise be the case.

Community safety structures -

North Wales region -

In North Wales we have a number of Boards, which bring the required partners together to discuss various aspects of Community safety, these include –

- Safer North Wales Board - which ensures a regional overview and steer, as regards crime and disorder matters in the area
- Safeguarding Board - which have a strategy relating to adult and child safeguarding duties
- Vulnerabilities and exploitation Board – where a strategy exists to tackle domestic abuse, sexual violence, and modern slavery
- Area planning Board – which has a needs assessment, strategy and commissioning plan relating to Substance misuse (drugs and alcohol)
- Criminal Justice Board/ Integrated Offender management Board – tackling re-offending
- CONTEST Board – where statutory duties to tackle terrorism are put in place

There are also a number of sub groups, or task and finish groups in place to take work forward, such as -

- Various commissioning groups, where specialist services are commissioned
- Serious and organised crime - where we have a regional needs assessment, a strategy and recommendations which are now being implemented as part of core work

Gwynedd and Anglesey -

There are a number of local groups across Gwynedd and Anglesey which then put these strategic visions into practice. The Gwynedd Community Safety partnership will have **oversight** of these work streams locally, but will also look closely at how and where operational practice needs to be improved.

In the next 12 months we will be looking at these areas of work –

- Understanding what the annual strategic assessment and other completed profiles/analysis are telling us we need to do
- Our training and awareness raising programmes – to ensure we have an informed and enabled workforce
- Ensuring we develop our working practices in order to meet new demands, such as County Lines (organised drug gangs)
- Looking at the contacts and working practices locally, and improving communication and structures where required
- Piloting new projects and monitoring the outcomes

The strategic assessment –

The newly completed assessment for North Wales, tells us that these areas below, need to be prioritised. Because the assessment is based on both the level of risk and the ability of services to respond, not all crime types are a priority at this time. Some types of crime are well understood, and the response of the required organisations is well established and appropriate. This does not mean that we do not address any issues that arises, but it may mean we do not necessarily need to give the issues appropriate attention as a partnership.

- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Substance Misuse and all related crimes, such as County Lines and exploitation
- Vulnerable victims
- Reducing re-offending
- Antisocial behaviour
- Serious acquisitive crime including organised crime

These issues are constantly on the radar of all partners as we work in partnership on a day to day basis, however, we have a duty, on an annual basis, to consider which aspects of crime and disorder are particularly concerning as we set out our plans for the coming 12 months. These issues are identified by conducting a strategic assessment, and this year we have highlighted the below as needing attention -

- Serious and organised drug crime
- Child sexual exploitation and abuse
- Modern slavery
- Domestic abuse
- Hate crime
- Missing people
- Driving under the influence (drugs and alcohol)
- Fraud –including Cyber crime
- Rape and serious sexual offences

Work plan for next 12 months

The North Wales regional Boards, as identified above, have in place various plans and strategies, which all partners within the CSP contribute to on a regional basis. These plans are monitored by the regional Boards. To avoid duplication – the regional actions will not be included in the below local actions. However, if there are issues in either of the two Counties, with implementation of the regional plans, then those issues can be highlighted locally and included in the below actions for local attention.

			RAG
What needs doing this year	1. The Ask and Act level of training in relation to the Domestic Abuse National Trainign Framework is a requirement for all Local Authorities, Health Boards and Fire and rescue service. The BCUHB have an alternative programme in place, agreed by Welsh Government, the Fire and Rescue service are on track to meet required levels of training sessions. However, both Local Authorities have encountered obstacles, not least the C19 position. Both Counties have worked towards developing a virtual version of the training package – which, following pilots sessions etc- will be rolled out during 2021-2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates Q3 and Q4 	
	2. North Wales Police will refresh the Early Action Together (EAT) awareness amongst the workforce. The EAT process has been agreed and implemented by the Police and Social services, as a means of identifying individuals who may be in need of support and advice, as a preventive intervention. It derides form the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) research, which acknowledges how ACE’s may result in offending or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Q3 	

	harmful behaviours in later life. The concept is about understanding these behaviours and providing intervention at an earlier stage where possible.		
	3. In order to facilitate awareness raising in relation to some crime types, we will review and update the 'one minute guides' and make them available to all partners and LA services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Q1: 1 Minute Guides have been updated. They have now been passed on to the Corporate Operational Safeguarding Group and will be going on their work programme for consideration. This work is ongoing. 	Y
	4. Information on the Prevent duty and referral pathway (for the public) will be shared on the LA's websites (this has been available on partner websites previously, but not LA's)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Q1: Information on the Prevent Duty together with support and advice resource available on both local authority pages. 	G
What needs doing this year	5. The Area Planning Board has developed a 4 year North wales alcohol plan. We wil establish task and finish groups in both Local Authorities to decide which aspects of the plan are relative and possible in the two LA's over the next 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates Q3 and Q4 Q2: This work is ongoing – currently concentrating on awareness raising opportunities like Alcohol Awareness Week in November. 	Y

	<p>6. Aspects of the regional substance misuse work plan which will improve on services in Gwynedd and Anglesey –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the alcohol link provision at the Local hospital, to better meet needs • Remodeling the SMS (substance misuse service) and CAMHS (child and adolescent mental health service) team links. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates each Q • Work ongoing around this action, the service specification has been reviewed and developed to meet needs. Operational procedures are currently being developed, and monitoring information is being reviewed. The review is progressing well with partners working together effectively. • Meetings have taken place to identify any gaps and issues with the current referral pathway. Training needs are also currently being looked at to increase awareness and identification of substance misuse issues in the hospital. A pathway is now in place at the Hospital to ensure support for young people who attend or are admitted to the Emergency Unit on the Children's ward. Work is ongoing with services to ensure awareness is raised and that services and departments within the hospital are able to identify individuals requiring intervention. 	<p>Y</p> <p>G</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to identified need - add new mental health resource in the Young People's Substance Misuse team (Be'dir score) This resource will also strengthen joint working with CAMHS and the Hospital as well as improving provision to support young people suffering from joint substance misuse and mental health problems. • Continue efforts to find appropriate premises in Bangor for local CT services • In response to identified need, develop an additional resource within a prescribed medication support Service (counseling) to meet local and regional need and, in particular, to meet the needs of pregnant women and older people. • Establish and develop the Psychological Intervention Service for individuals who have been affected by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A job description and person specification has been developed and is currently being evaluated by HR, with the aim of going out to advert in the next few weeks. The job description and person specification has been agreed and are awaiting confirmation from the Finance Department before moving on to advertising within the next few weeks. • This work is ongoing, the team is working closely with Community Mental health to identify joint premises in Bangor. Work ongoing unfortunately - unable to identify a building. • A new post has been created and recruited to, ensuring increased capacity in the service to meet needs. Posts in place, and continue to monitor through quarterly monitoring information and regular contact with the Service. • A new service (CAMFA) is in place now since the 1st of April, the new 	<p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>G</p> <p>G</p>
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	<p>substance misuse. The new service will be in place from 1st April 2021. The new Service will include a resource to develop and co-ordinate Support Groups - Moving on in My Recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the Peer Support pilot project on Anglesey - providing training packages for identified Peers, to work with families / individuals identified by Social Services. The project will be evaluated with a view to expanding if successful. 	<p>provider is CAIS. This is developing well with regular monitoring meetings in place. Continuing to develop well. It has been challenging with recruiting to new posts but they are now filled and are catching up with things.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Peer Support project has started. Evaluation will take place early next year, hopefully with more participants involved. Project is progressing well and have been able to get more numbers to join the project as well. 	<p>G</p>
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	<p>7. We will ensure that the responsibilities placed upon the CSP in relation to conducting domestic homicide reviews (DHR's) are completed appropriately. In essence, this entails ensuring that proper review panels, chairs and authors are commissioned and that final review reports are presented and accepted by the Home Office. Currently , there are 4 reviews in Gwynedd at various stages of completion. Some will be completed within this financial year and some will carry over .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates each Q	<p>Y</p>
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	<p>8. Over the coming year North Wales Police will be creating an Economic Crime Unit (ECU) which will consist of specially trained fraud officers, cybercrime officers and financial investigation officers. The new unit will combine specialist knowledge under one new team. The aim, is to provide expert knowledge on fraud and cybercrime to both colleagues and members of the public. It will ensure that officers are able to more effectively investigate fraud and cybercrime which will reduce the length of time fraud investigations take. The unit will provide early intervention to disrupt fraudsters and their activities which will reduce the impact of fraud on local communities. Fraud officers will identify repeat offenders located within North Wales and have oversight of all fraud offences being committed within North Wales, making it possible to track fraud trends. The unit will also provide education, crime prevention advice and support to targeted vulnerable groups across the North Wales area in a bid to reduce victimisation. All new PCSO's and CID officers will be given specific training on fraud and cybercrime to enable them to identify offences and provide the correct advice and support to the public.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Q3 	
	<p>9. Gwynedd Children's services have developed a new provision, called Emrallt, to improve the early identification and prevention of inappropriate, problematic or harmful sexual behaviours by children. The service, which sits within the Youth Justice Team will offer support, guidance and advice to professionals who</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates Q2 and Q4 • Q2: The Gwynedd Harmful Sexualised Behaviour team (Emrallt) has been fully established and operational. The team now aims to respond to enquiries from agencies 	<p>G</p>

	<p>work with children providing awareness training and resources.</p> <p>The Emrallt team supports professionals working with children who demonstrate these harmful behaviours, and is available to staff within from the Education, Health and Social Services sectors within Gwynedd.</p> <p>We expect that the Service will raise greater awareness across agencies about the importance of early identification and intervention by way of establishing a multi-agency pathway for managing and responding to problematic or harmful sexual behaviour.</p>	<p>across Health, Social Care and Education. During the past few months there has been a drive on upskilling staff and have rolled out training events that specifically offers practitioners guidance on using a verified checklist tool to identify what behaviours constitute a response. Improving staff understanding on early identification and preventative approaches to such behaviour has allowed us to identify cases sooner in order to avoid an increase in risk.</p>	
	<p>10. Gwynedd Council’s Homelessness Service has identified the need for increasing the supported accommodation available within the County. Having reviewed current provision and taken into account the additional demand facing the service, they are investing in both additional provision and the revamping of current services to better meet the increasing needs. People presenting as homeless, or having issues in maintaining tenancy, often have complex needs which require bespoke support. Some of this additional support will be attained through current floating support commissioning, but much will be developed within the homelessness services. This will increase the units of support available across the County including specific targeted cohorts, such as female prison leavers, and individuals with very complex needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Q4 	

	<p>It is recognised, that many individuals presenting as homeless, face a number of complex social and sometimes emotional issues which can lead to chaotic or even offending behaviours. By establishing a more robust support framework, then earlier intervention is possible for those who may be experiencing such problems.</p>		
	<p>11. The National Probation Service have recently introduced a new Short Term Sentence Team for prisoners leaving HMP Berwyn. The purpose of the Team is to provide a rapid response to a chaotic cohort and to reduce the rates of reoffending and recall for offenders who receive custodial sentences of 12 months or less. It will focus on the consideration of effective ways to break the revolving door cycle of this cohort re-entering custody, by working with prisoners with short sentences to develop effective resettlement plans. Practitioners will be trained to enter the prison in order to maintain contact with STST cases at key points during their sentence. This will mean increased pre-release liaison between the Prison Offender Managers and Community Offender Managers (COM/POM) to develop a relationship with the Service-User in preparation for their release. Eligibility for these cases are males 18 years old and over, with a risk level ranging from low to high. In the West, there will be a team of 6 Officers. Since the Team was established in July last year, Covid has caused problems in that staff were unable to physically</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates Q2 + Q4 • Q2: The STST continues to develop its approach in the West. The restrictions with COVID have impacted on the access to custody however virtual links have been made with HMP Berwyn with joint weekly tasking meetings being held. These also include housing and Resettlement staff from Berwyn. There are 8 Resettlement workers that are now attached to North Wales, two of these being linked to Gwynedd and Môn. The early feedback about impact on recall rates is positive with a reported reduction rate of recall for this cohort. The current focus is on building the increased contact with the people on probation (3 contacts per week) and ensuring swift access 	<p>Y</p>

	visit the prison. However, it is envisaged that the work will proceed as normal during the next year when restrictions are lifted.	to interventions to assist with rehabilitation and risk reduction work.	
What needs doing this year	12. The sub groups-led by the Police, but involving a number of partners needs to be reviewed. Both to ensure that there is no duplication, and, that the terms of reference are robust and clear. This work will be led by the Police, and will start in Anglesey, and then applied as appropriate in Gwynedd. This will include reviewing having an appropriate group to look at OCG (organised crime gangs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates Q1 and Q3 • Q1: Most of the groups have now been established, an update will be given at the Q1 Partnership meeting. 	Y
	13. Alongside, and in addition to the above, Anglesey Children’s services (and partners)to consideration and research the possible application of ‘Contextual Safeguarding’ as a framework – which may fit in with one of the groups when newly formulated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates Q3 and Q4 	
What needs doing this year	14. Hate Crime will be a key focus for North Wales Police for the next twelve months with the force’s Diversity Unit using ever opportunity to encourage the reporting of Hate Crime from minority communities. The aim is to ensure that everyone feels confident in reporting any type of hate crime to the Police.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q2: North Wales Police’s Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team continued to see an increase in reported Hate Crime during the last crime year and continued to encourage reporting of such crimes to us. During the last 12 months they have seen a number of tensions linked to hate crimes in our communities, particularly Covid-19, BLM and Second Home tensions. 	G

		They continue to support victims and witnesses.	
	15. The partnership members all have some responsibilities in relation to the Home Office Prevent programme (radicalisation in relation to terrorist activity). The Local Authorities lead on Channel meetings, which are designed to support the individuals and steer them from being radicalised. There are changes to the Channel process requirements, which we will put in place during the course of the coming year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Q3 	
What needs doing this year	16. The Isle of Anglesey County Council like all LA's provide 'floating support' for a number of individuals to prevent homelessness, and support people to have the capability, independence, skills and confidence to access and/or maintain a stable and suitable home. This targeted support is available for a number of identified needs, including substance misuse, Domestic abuse, Mental Health and others. The referral numbers for these services are high, therefore, the LA has identified those who's needs are low level or emerging, and are to pilot a scheme which diverts those individuals to a community based set of early intervention, including signposting, access to community transport, Local Asset Co-ordinator, delivered by Môn Community Link. This should help to address their needs before they worsen,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Q4 This scheme is operational with referrals made by Housing Assistance Grant Providers, when the individual has met the outcomes set within the support plan, but the person may still be vulnerable for different reasons. Since January 2021, when this scheme was piloted, there have been around 75 Housing Aid referrals sent to Anglesey Community Link which is part of Medrwn Môn. As a result, many cases have continued to receive support with form completion, 	G

	<p>and will also release more capacity to tackle those with higher levels of need through the established provision. The aim is to reduce escalation of the issues for those individuals, and reduce their likelihood of becoming vulnerable within their community/becoming homeless/escalating any harmful behaviours.</p>	<p>receiving information, advice, and assistance, being referred on to specialist services e.g. health and care, and get information about community activities to try to reduce loneliness.</p>	
	<p>17. In preparation for the new school Curriculum in 2022, 3 primary schools in Anglesey and 1 Primary and 1 Secondary school in Gwynedd will be piloting the Welsh Government led 'Hate crime in schools project'. Two strands - <i>critical thinking skills and Hate crime sessions</i>. The first aspect is supported by Sapere (P4C) and the second by NWREN. The aim is to enable children to critically explore different forms of intolerance, and create more understanding of hate crime. It is clearly a preventative measure, which will hopefully reduce intolerance in future generations. This project has been hindered to some extent because of current pressures with Covid 19, and this may yet stifle some progress in 2021.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Q3 	

Monitoring -

The Partnership will receive quarterly updates as to how crimes and incidents are presenting in Gwynedd and Anglesey. The analytical report, will explain any anomalies, and report on any additional factors which need attention.

The work plan will also be monitored and reported on.

APPENDIX A – ANNUAL PLAN OUTCOMES

<u>Thematic Area from strategic assessment</u>	<u>Risk Score</u>	<u>Statutory areas of responsibility</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Inputs and outputs</u>	<u>Outcomes (short/medium/long term)</u>
Organized drug supply	High		No 9	Local review of Organized Crime Group situation New group established if need identified, ensuring it is fit for purpose	In the short to medium term an effective local response to OCG is in place –contributing to the regional plan for organized drug gang activity
		Prevent duty	No 4	Information on the Prevent duty is placed on the two Counties (LA’s) community safety site to inform the public and sharing the <i>Act Early</i> – link	Public will have information on where/how to receive support and help with radicalization concerns
			No 12	New Channel guidance is disseminated within both LA’s New requirements implemented as required	New processes are in place to meet the Home Office requirements  HO Channel Duty Guidance.pdf Ultimately, to contribute to the HO Prevent outcomes of reducing radicalization

CSE/A	High		No 8	<p>Education, Health and Social care sectors are made aware of this provision</p> <p>Sessions and support are delivered to staff</p>	<p>In the longer term, greater awareness across agencies about the importance of early identification and intervention by way of establishing a multi-agency pathway for managing and responding to problematic or harmful sexual behaviour</p> <p>Identified individuals receive timely and appropriate interventions , thereby leading to less likelihood of offending behaviour</p>
			No 10	<p>Current pressures and Covid situation allowing – revisit the potential for a contextual safeguarding approach to be implemented in Anglesey –or parts of Anglesey</p> <p>Collaboration created between relevant sectors and partners</p>	<p>Contextual Safeguarding seeks to understand child protection risks from beyond the family i.e. communities, schools. In this approach, There is an emphasis on everyone working in the neighbourhood to play their part i.e. retailers, bus drivers. If safeguarding professionals are able to assess and intervene in these places, they are better placed to disrupt or limit harmful contexts, to reduce the risk of harm.</p>

					In the long term – community response to CSE grows and risks to children from CSE reduces - these are long term goals –early indicator to be identified as process develops
Modern Slavery	High				
Domestic Abuse	Medium - High		No 1	Training department have developed a virtual training package – to overcome Covic19 restrictions. Virtual training developed and rolled out	In the short term LA staff will be trained to use Ask and Act In the long term – more people will be signposted and receive timely support with DA issues
Hate Crime	Medium - High		No 11	North Wales Police diversity unit – proactively encouraging minority communities to report incidents	Continued evidence of increased reporting to the Police

			No 14	Delivery of hate crime awareness and critical thinking sessions in the named schools	In the medium term - WLGA will share outcomes of pilot to enable all schools to deliver via new curriculum In the long term, reduce intolerance in future generations, thereby reducing hate crime
		Tackle antisocial behavior	No 9	Local review of ASB groups to ensure they meet current need in terms of partnership working New groups established based on review	Local response to various issues in place via new groups, this will include ASB/reducing demand on services by timely interventions
Missing persons	Medium-High				
Driving under the influence (drugs & alcohol)	Medium	Drugs and alcohol duty	No 5	Local Authorities to adopt the regional alcohol reduction plan Task and Finish groups to be put in place to identify tasks and implement locally	Over the course of the year – depending on what plans are deliverable, a contribution is made to the outcomes of the regional plan - this is a long term ambition – 4 year plan

			No 6	<p>Local needs in relation to drug and alcohol services are agreed by Regional Board – including securing the funding to implement</p> <p>All new posts and resources identified are put in place locally</p>	<p>All developments contribute to the outcomes of the regional plan</p>  <p>3. WG Delivery Plan and APB position st</p>
Fraud including Cyber Crime	Medium		No 7	<p>The creation of an Economic Crime Unit (ECU) which will consist of specially trained fraud officers, cybercrime officers and financial investigation officers within North Wales Police</p> <p>The unit will provide early intervention to disrupt fraudsters and their activities</p> <p>More front line officers trained to respond to fraud</p> <p>The unit will also provide education, crime prevention advice and support to targeted vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Short term – NWP better equipped to deal with fraud</p> <p>Reduction in the length of time investigations take to complete</p> <p>Long term – reduce victimization within the community</p>
Rape & Serious Sexual Offences	Medium				

		Lleihau Aildroseddu			
Projects which contribute to the overall development of community safety			No 13	Targeted support is made available for a number of identified needs, including substance misuse, Domestic abuse, Mental Health and others Numbers of individuals receiving intervention	Reduced numbers of clients needing the higher end interventions
			No 2	Police staff receive a refresh on the EAT training Increase in numbers of appropriate EAT referrals	In the medium term more individuals receive an earlier intervention, which should prevent escalation into requiring more intense provision
			No 3	Refresh and update various one minute guides pertaining to various crime types Make them available to LA services and others as appropriate	An additional awareness raising tool is available to staff, which enhances the opportunities for them to be appropriately informed of what to look out for, what to do, who to contact
			No 9	Review current supported accommodation provision	Services better placed to provide early intervention support for individuals, reduced numbers of

				<p>Increase the number of units available</p> <p>Bring some of that support in-house to the Homelessness Service</p>	<p>clients presenting with complex needs and requiring more intensive support</p>
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Agenda Item 6

Committee	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	13 January, 2022
Title	Street Cleansing
Cabinet Member	Councillor Catrin Wager
Author	Steffan Jones, Head of Highways and Municipal
Purpose	Ensuring Clean and Tidy Communities

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Poor local environmental quality has far-reaching and negative effects. It affects well-being, discourages access to green spaces and is even linked to higher rates of crime and anti-social behaviour, while also affecting tourism and the local economy.
- 1.2 The effects of the recent pandemic have impacted and changed our work with increasing pressure on our resources during periods of recent years.
- 1.3 Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that the public highways are free of litter. We provide a full range of services that help to keep our streets and public open spaces clean.
- 1.4 Street cleansing is something that happens throughout the year and activities include:
 - clearing litter
 - disposal of dead animals
 - clean up dog faeces
 - removing anything that is fly-tipped
 - emptying litter and dog waste bins
 - clear anything else that has been deposited
 - cleaning public open spaces
 - sweeping roads and pavements.
- 1.5 The service covers all of our public sites and adopted roads managed by the Council and areas are divided into zones according to their use. High intensity of use zones are mainly town centres, Medium intensity of use zones include most residential areas, whilst Low intensity of use zones are less densely populated areas and include rural County roads.

- 1.6 Litter accumulates in the different zones over various time periods. The cleanliness of an area is assessed by comparison with standard. The standards are:
- Grade A - no litter or refuse
 - Grade B - predominately free of litter and refuse apart from some small items
 - Grade B+ - no more than three small items of litter
 - Grade C - widespread distribution of litter and/or refuse with minor accumulations
 - Grade D - heavily affected by litter and/or refuse with significant accumulations.
- 1.7 Alternative response times are allowed to clean the areas and return them to the appropriate standard. The principle of the Code is how clean an area is and not how often it is cleaned.
- 1.8 The standards of cleanliness are regularly monitored by random sampling of streets throughout the County.
- 1.9 An independent audit of cleanliness standards is carried out by Keep Wales Tidy and currently takes place annually. This is done using a methodology (LEAMS).
- 1.10 Where possible, the main roads are mechanically swept regularly. Areas of high amenity, such as the town centres and local shopping centres, are cleansed daily. Other areas of land are monitored and cleansed to meet the standards set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Code of Practice for litter and refuse.

2. Background and Current Situation

- 2.1 Our cyclic cleansing routes need updating to meet the additional pressures of increased tourism but also different waste collection arrangements.
- 2.2 We also want to ensure that suitable bins are located throughout the County to promote recycling of litter and provide appropriate opportunities for residents and visitors to get involved - everyone has a responsibility to dispose of their litter responsibly.
- 2.3 Our priority as a Department is to ensure Clean and Tidy Communities and introduce dedicated teams to tackle problems that contribute to improving the appearance of our streets and local environment - the work of these teams will need to be closely aligned with that of the cyclical cleansing team.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Nobody likes to see litter on the streets, but regrettably, some people are still harming our environment by not disposing of their waste responsibly.
- 3.2 By reminding people of the best option, and making that option as easy as possible, we can change behavior to achieve long-term environmental benefits.
- 3.3 Educating our children is vital as is raising awareness of the effects of litter.
- 3.4 Volunteers are vitally important and we are already seeing countywide litter picking campaigns and the organisation of events to clear illegally disposed items.

3.5 The Welsh Government is also about to release a Litter and Fly-tipping Scheme and is working on introducing a new Code of Practice that is very likely to place much more emphasis on standards of cleanliness.

3.6 Our vision therefore is to bring this together by:

- Reviewing our cyclical cleaning arrangements by ensuring that they respond to demand, by revisiting the available resources necessary to carry out this work
- Co-ordinate volunteer litter picking activity
- Cross-sector working to deliver campaigns
- Tackle roadside litter
- Introduce on-street recycling bins to maximize recycling
- Benefiting from information technology advances, e.g. smart bins
- Adapt as and when the new code of practice is introduced.

Committee	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	13 January, 2022
Title	Grass Cutting and Road Verge Maintenance
Cabinet Member	Councillor Catrin Wager
Author	Steffan Jones, Head of Highways and Municipal
Purpose	Review of the County road verge maintenance

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The main purpose of road verges is to ensure clear visibility for traffic as well as provide safe pedestrian spaces in areas where there are no footways. Consequently, verges must be managed to safeguard all road users.
- 1.2 Verges are also important habitats for biodiversity - for the benefit of species such as bees and other pollinators; for flowers and other wildlife that are rapidly disappearing in the countryside, and as vital wildlife corridors that connect habitats. We aim to review our current working arrangements and address the above realistically and economically.

2. Background and Current Situation

- 2.1 Gwynedd Council, as the Highway Authority, has a legal responsibility to keep our highways accessible and safe for all users.
- 2.2 The Council also has a duty to maintain and repair the highway (within reason) and to keep the road surface free from anything which may cause obstruction or danger. Under Part 1 - Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Council has a legal duty to 'maintain and enhance biodiversity' where that is part of its functions and, in so doing, seek to 'promote resilience of ecosystems'. This responsibility is underpinned by the duties placed on public bodies by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to maintain long-term sustainability.
- 2.3 Responsive roadside management enables us to contribute effectively to the Welsh Government's 'Pollinator Action Plan' by providing better and more connected wildflower-rich habitats for urban and rural areas.
- 2.4 The new national code of practice for highways - 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice', sets out recommendations and good practice for cutting highway verges and advises that local authorities should develop their own local standards.
- 2.5 Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 requires all Highway Authorities to ensure that road users have a safe route along the highway. In terms of vegetation, this has been interpreted to mean that overhanging branches and grass should be cut so that forward visibility is not unnecessarily impaired.
- 2.6 In order to fulfil these duties, we need to prepare and adopt a roadside grass cutting policy that considers the needs of road users as well as the needs of wildlife.

3.0 Next Steps - How often should verges be cut?

Proposed regime for discussion.

- 3.1 Roadside verges need to be cut for the safety of users (including pedestrians) as well as the species they support. Road user safety is extremely important; consequently, visibility splays and footways need to be maintained at key locations.
- 3.2 On verges in other locations, plants should be allowed to flower and seed before cutting and animal habitats needs to be maintained. To achieve these goals, careful attention needs to be paid to the timing of mowing as well as the cutting height.
- 3.3 Throughout the County, grass will be cut twice a year, based on time, verges that are on the main road network and the minor road network. Main roads are defined as roads that are classified as A or B roads. Minor roads are those which are not classified as A or B roads.
- 3.4 Main roads will generally be cut after 01 July with works estimated to be completed by the end of July.
- 3.5 Minor roads will be cut after 01 August with work estimated to be completed by the end of September. Grass cut by tractors and mowers should be not less than 100mm in height after cutting. Other equipment (strimmers etc.) may be used at some sites where a tractor and mower cannot be used. In these circumstances, it may not be possible to cut the grass to a height of 100mm and the grass may be cut shorter. Whatever equipment is used, the height of the grass after cutting should not expose or disturb the surface soil.
- 3.6 On all roads, including A and B roads, the length of the cut section shall be no more than 1 meter wide from the kerb and of a height of not less than 100mm. In some specific locations, the cut may need to be greater than 1 m at the discretion of the relevant area office for health and safety reasons. This may mean that some roads will be cut ahead of the dates in clauses 3.4. and 3.5 above. Frequent cuts may be necessary to maintain visibility splays in some locations. Again, this will be at the discretion of the relevant area office for health and safety purposes.
- 3.7 Every effort will be made to delay cutting along the minor road network for as long as possible in order for flowers to seed and to avoid unnecessary disturbance to wildlife. The entire length of the kerbside may be cut at the discretion of the relevant area office to prevent overgrowth of scrub and to ensure forward visibility for health and safety purposes.
- 3.8 We will be returning in the Autumn with a full cut on all roads. Such a cutting regime promotes wildlife and enhances the environment for growth.
- 3.8 We will work towards a policy of collecting cut grass (where possible) when resources allow and this will be done when organising the second cut in October.