

<b>MEETING</b>	Communities Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE</b>	23/01/2024
<b>TITLE</b>	Annual Update from Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership
<b>REASON FOR SCRUTINY</b>	The Committee's role as a Crime and Disorder Committee
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<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	Cllr Dilwyn Morgan

### 1. Why does it need to be scrutinized?

The CSP is required to formally report to the Committee annually to submit an overview of activities. This ensures that the Partnership meets its commitments in accordance with sections 19 and 20, the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2006.

### 2. What needs to be scrutinised?

- The partnership's work over the year
- The partnership priorities and future direction of work

### 3. Summary and Key Issues

The report summarises the work of the Partnership over the year as well as the direction of the work over the next year.

### 4. Background / Context

#### **BACKGROUND:**

- Local Authorities have a statutory duty in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, **and the subsequent amendments resulting from the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2002 and 2006**, to work in partnership with the Police, Health Service, Probation Service and Fire and Rescue Service. These are the main agencies that make up the CSP. There are also co-operative partners such as the Area Planning Board (Substance Misuse), Education, Youth Justice and Community Cohesion.
- As a statutory member of the Partnership, it is important that the Council is properly represented. This is achieved through the presence of the local member with the Community Safety portfolio, namely Cllr Dilwyn Morgan, and the chief officer with responsibility for the work, namely Dylan Owen (Statutory Director of Social Services and current Chair of the Partnership).

- The Partnership has a responsibility to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence, following amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act as a result of the new Serious Violence Duty. In North Wales, a regional approach is being taken.
- Under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, CSPs also have a statutory duty to establish Domestic Homicide Reviews (*Domestic Homicide Reviews/DHRs*). These are a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has or appears to have resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by— (a) a person to whom he belonged or had been in a close personal relationship, or (b) a member of the same household as himself, with a view to identifying the lessons to be learned from the death.
- There is always good attendance at the quarterly meetings. The Partners and Local Members attending the meetings contribute positively, and quarterly data on crime figures is shared. Each responsible member of the partnership contributes financially to the establishment of a partnership analyst within the Police, so that regular data can be provided to support evidence-based decision making.
- Working between partners is fundamental to community safety. The main reason for the introduction of CSPs back in 1998, was to ensure that crime and disorder was seen as a '**problem for everyone**' and not just for the Police.
- It is important to note that we do not commission any projects or services directly (only the DHRs) as **no funds are allocated to Community Safety on an ongoing basis**. Any funding opportunities are 'ad hoc' and are only available by applying for them.
- The partnership works according to an annual plan. Attached is the 2024-25 plan, which is based on the regional priorities of the Safer North Wales Board Strategy. These priorities are:  
Preventing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour  
Tackling Violent Crime  
Tackling Serious Organised Crime  
Protecting and building resilient communities and maintaining public safety

## OVERVIEW OF CRIME LEVELS OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD:

- The Police consistently consider crime figures, reviewing all changes regionally and locally. Any significant changes are subject to further analysis. Problem areas will then be reviewed, with policing plans in place to address them. Local policing approaches include placing resources every day to address issues as they emerge.
- The Partnership receives data on crime levels on a quarterly basis. The data we generally use is comparison data between the period in the current year, and the same period in the previous year.

## CRIME DATA:

The table below highlights the year-to-date (YTD) volumes of each crime category for the fiscal years 2023/24 and 2024/25. The comparative data used is for the period 1st April to

December 31st for both fiscal years. Also included on the chart, is the current YTD change in volumes for 2024/25 in comparison to 2023/24 and a comparison to the overall change being seen across North Wales:

### Gwynedd

Gwynedd - Crime & Incident Data	Fiscal Year		% Change (YTD)	North Wales
	2023/24 (YTD)	2024/25 (YTD)		% Change (YTD)
<b>All Victim Based Crime</b>	5,807	5,989	<b>3.1%</b>	0.6%
<b>Violence with injury</b>	844	843	<b>-0.1%</b>	-0.5%
<b>Violence without injury</b>	1,105	1,106	<b>0.1%</b>	-1.1%
<b>Stalking &amp; Harassment</b>	970	1,082	<b>11.5%</b>	0.8%
<b>Sexual offences</b>	294	376	<b>27.9%</b>	14.6%
<b>All Acquisitive Crime</b>	1,516	1,419	<b>-6.4%</b>	-6.0%
- Burglary Residential	140	140	<b>0.0%</b>	2.4%
- Burglary - Business and Community	75	75	<b>0.0%</b>	4.2%
- Robbery	15	16	<b>6.7%</b>	38.5%
- Vehicle Crime	155	133	<b>-14.2%</b>	2.7%
- Theft and Handling	1131	1055	<b>-6.7%</b>	-9.3%
<b>Criminal Damage &amp; Arson</b>	765	717	<b>-6.3%</b>	0.3%
<b>Domestic Crime</b>	1,171	1,179	<b>0.7%</b>	-3.3%
<b>Domestic Incidents (non-crime)</b>	608	600	<b>-1.3%</b>	-1.7%
<b>Hate Crime</b>	141	164	<b>16.3%</b>	10.9%
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b>	1,926	1,756	<b>-8.8%</b>	-4.1%
<b>Substance used by Offender (Alcohol and/or Drugs)</b>	871	614	<b>-29.5%</b>	-28.5%

- Violence against the person offences have, overall, decreased in Gwynedd in 2024/25, compared to the same period last year.
- Year-to-date data for 2024/25 shows an 11.5% increase in Stalking and Harassment offences in comparison to the same period in 2023/24. North Wales Police, along with the other police forces across the UK, have been tasked with producing a problem profile focussing on Stalking offences, to better understand the issue.
- The 2024/25 year-to-date recorded level of Sexual Offences in Gwynedd has seen an increase in comparison to 2023/24. There can be significant fluctuations in reported offences from week to week, partly due to reporting of historic offences. Analysis conducted at the end of May 2024 (when the percentage change was over 80%), showed the increases in Gwynedd were down to an initial increase at the beginning of the fiscal year in the reporting of historic sexual offences. The recorded levels of sexual offences in Gwynedd have stabilised over recent months, resulting in a reduction in the percentage change. The tables below highlight the time period

between the occurrence date of the offence and when it was reported to the police. For all sexual offences, there has been an increase in the first three quarters of 2024/25 in offences being reported to the police **over 12 months** after they have occurred (51 in 2023/24 and 84 in 2024/25):

Gwynedd: All Sexual Offences (April to December)		
Reported to police	Q3 2023/24	Q3 2024/25
Within 7 days of offence	60.6%	58.1%
Within 28 days of offence	9.4%	9.3%
Between 28 days and 1 year of offence	12.2%	8.8%
Over 1 year after offence	17.8%	23.8%

When looking at just rape offences, the increase is higher again, with 22 being reported **after 12 months** in 2023/24, compared to 51 this fiscal year:

Gwynedd: Rape Offences (April to December)		
Reported to police	Q3 2023/24	Q3 2024/25
Within 7 days of offence	50.6%	32.0%
Within 28 days of offence	7.6%	2.9%
Between 28 days and 1 year of offence	13.9%	15.5%
Over 1 year after offence	27.8%	49.5%

In addition, the table below highlights the age group and gender of the suspects in sexual offences in Gwynedd, which are recorded as having occurred between April to December 2024. The data shows that of the 163 suspects identified, over 90% were male, with almost 25% being between the ages of 25-34:

Suspect: Age Group	Female	Male
0 - 11	0	2
12 - 17	4	12
18 - 24	2	27
25 - 34	3	40
35 - 44	2	29
45 - 54	2	19
55 - 64	0	11
65+	0	8
U/K	0	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>150</b>

- Acquisitive crime includes the categories Burglary Residential, Burglary Business & Community, Robbery, Vehicle Crime and Theft & Handling. Both Burglary Residential and Burglary – Business & Community offences are at the exact same volume this year, in comparison to last year, with reductions being seen in the volumes of Vehicle

Crime and Theft & Handling. Only Robbery has seen an increase so far in 2024/25, however this equates to just one additional occurrence in comparison to last year.

- A decrease in the year-to-date volume of Criminal Damage & Arson offences has been seen so far in Gwynedd this year. This reduction in volumes differs to the picture across North Wales as a whole, where a slight increase has been seen.
- Domestic Crime in Gwynedd has increased very marginally (0.7%) year-to-date, in comparison to last year. As a whole, North Wales has seen an overall reduction in reported Domestic Crime. Domestic Incidents (Non-Crime) are calls received by North Wales Police's Control Room which have a domestic element to them; however do not constitute a criminal offence and are therefore not recorded on the force records management system. They include incidents such as verbal domestic disputes, where no criminal offences have taken place. These incidents generate a CID 16 referral, for consideration of sharing with the relevant safeguarding partners. A slight decrease has been seen in the volumes of these non-crime incidents in Gwynedd in 2024/25, compared to the previous year. Across North Wales, there has also been a slight decrease in volumes.
- Following decreases in Hate Crime in 2023/24 in comparison to 2022/23, there has been an increase in Gwynedd in 2024/25. Increases have also been seen across North Wales.
- ASB in Gwynedd has seen a year-to-date decrease of -8.8% in 2024/25, in comparison to the same period in 2023/24. This equates to over 150 fewer incidents being reported. Repeat victims of ASB, repeat locations where ASB is occurring, and high-risk vulnerable victims are referred for review to monthly multi-agency tasking groups.

#### **WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED DURING 2024:**

- The annual plan was developed in line with the priorities of the Safer North Wales Regional Board. The 2024-25 plan (attached) sets out an activity that the Partnership would undertake during this financial year.
- Crime figures were broken down quarterly through a performance report prepared by a Police analyst, so that any additional trends and activity needed can be discussed.
- We have a statutory duty under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 to establish Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs / definition above). This year, 2 DHRs were submitted to the Home Office and approval was received to publish. The Partnership continued to coordinate 2 DHRs and unfortunately one new case was commissioned recently. This work inevitably has significant and ongoing resource implications, including Home Office approval which can be a very long and complex process. In Wales, since October 2024 DHRs are being included within the new Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process. In future, there will be no need to report for Home Office approval. Instead, quality assurance will be a process for Welsh Government.

### A summary of the specific work completed this year:

- Implement the annual Community Safety plan on an ongoing basis and report quarterly to the Safer North Wales Regional Partnership Board.
- The North Wales Serious Violence Strategy was published in January 2024, in response to the new Serious Violence Duty. The Duty requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area. Following recent amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act, the CSP had a specific role in evidence-based strategic action on serious violence, and we were involved in developing the regional strategy from the outset. As part of the Serious Violence Strategy, the Partnership received £82k for preventive projects in our region. This funding resulted in eight different projects, including:
  - Training for professionals supporting boys and young men on facilitating constructive dialogue around masculinity and being safe and being safe to be around.
  - 'Don't Steal My Future' sessions run in schools by RASA Cymru. This is an educational campaign, which raises awareness of the widespread nature of sexual violence in society, and most importantly, how we can begin to change attitudes and behaviour.
  - Training for frontline staff across Children and Family Services on the nature of abuse by a child on a parent/carer.
- Working closely with Local Policing Teams, we identified locations that could benefit from the Westminster Government's Common Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). One of the UKSPF's aims is to build resilient, safe and healthy neighbourhoods, which include targeted improvements to the built environment to prevent crime. Following a successful application, the Partnership received £450k from the Fund to upgrade and install new CCTV in Caernarfon, Bangor and Pwllheli with the aim of improving people's perception of safety and reducing crime in the neighbourhood. In close collaboration with the Highways Department, a substantial part of this work has been completed during 2024. The Partnership awaits confirmation on any further opportunities from the SPF for other areas that may benefit from this funding.
- Following Cabinet approval, 3 Public Space Protection Orders were introduced in Caernarfon, Criccieth and Pwllheli in August. This intention received considerable public support and will give the Police further powers to crack down on ASB in these areas.
- The Partnership has organised a range of different training sessions on specific topics in this area of work, including:
  - Innovative training through VR (*virtual reality*) on coercive controlling behavior. There were sessions for social workers showing a number of case studies through VR, so attendees could be 'in the room' and understand the victim's perspective. As there was significant interest, a request has been made to the Welsh Government for funding to hold more of these sessions and expand the offer.
  - Training for staff working with young people on '*Mind Mechanics*', an evidence-based mental health education programme. This is to support children and young people to understand their emotions, thoughts and physical responses with the aim of improving well-being and increasing young people's confidence and reducing anti-social behaviour.

-Training by the Welsh Government for the Council's staff on how to intervene in possible harmful situations such as sexual harassment. This training was held on White Ribbon Day in November and intended to equip Council staff with the skills and confidence to intervene safely in a variety of situations. This can be with a stranger, colleague or friend. The Partnership is very keen to organise a number of additional sessions of this training.

- In response to the DHRs, the partnership prepared an application to the Self Harm and Suicide Prevention Fund to undertake a project in collaboration with the Domestic Abuse Safety Unit (DASU), North Wales Police, and the Live Fear Free helpline to provide support to victims of domestic abuse. We have just found out that the application was successful, and this work will take place during 2025.
- We continued our membership with the regional group to implement the North Wales Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The Strategy seeks to minimise the harm associated with alcohol to the individual and wider society and highlights the need for a system-wide approach to collaborative partnership. Membership of this group includes the Health Board, the Area Planning Board, councils across the region and local support service providers. The current Strategy expired in 2024 and is currently being refreshed for the next few years.

## **PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE**

- Continue to implement local projects set out in the plan for Q4 and report to the Safer North Wales Regional Partnership Board.
- Continue to implement the 8 preventive projects under the Serious Violence Duty Funding.
- Continue with the DHR cases and submit to the Home Office for approval.
- Complete the CCTV project funded by the Common Prosperity Fund and ensure all expenditure has been made by the end of February 2025. Prepare for any further opportunities from this Fund.
- Progress with the project funded by the Self Harm and Suicide Prevention Funding to provide support to victims of domestic abuse.
- Continue to be part of the regional group to refresh and implement the North Wales Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.
- Following the announcement of the Prevent (the statutory duty to prevent terrorism) learning resources by the Home Office in November, we will focus on preparing a training package to hold a number of face-to-face sessions for Council staff. This will mean that our staff have the updated information to identify concerns and make timely referrals.
- Hold discussions with the Welsh Government to explore the possibility of organising further 'bystander intervention' sessions, so that a large number of Council staff can attend.

- An application for funding has been made by the Partnership to the Welsh Government's VAWDASV (*Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence*) Grant. If successful, we will organise more coercive control VR training so that more social workers can attend. Additionally in this application, the Partnership would like to organise 2 webinars from a renowned expert in the domestic abuse field, Professor Jane Monkton-Smith on identifying risk for death in an abusive relationship. DHRs in Gwynedd clearly demonstrate these risks and it is vital that agencies are aware of this to prevent domestic abuse related deaths.

## 5. Consultation

N/A does not apply for an annual update report.

In general, the public were consulted between January-March 2024 about the proposed introduction of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Criccieth, Caernarfon, and Pwllheli. Over 100 complete responses were received. It was clear from the consultation that a significant number of people were concerned about antisocial behaviour and supported the introduction of the Orders.

The SPF CCTV project was dependent on close consultation and collaboration with the Department of Highways.

## 6. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Have you **included** residents / service users? If not, when and how do you plan to consult them?

*The partnership included Gwynedd residents through the public consultation on the introduction of PSPOs early in 2024. Following an urgent request from the Police in September to extend the PSPO area in Criccieth following incidents of anti-social behaviour, a 'drop-in' session was held at Criccieth Library. Around 45 residents of the town attended and there was significant support for the proposed expansion of the area. It was a valuable opportunity for the community to discuss their concerns with the Community Safety Department and the Police.*

Have you considered **collaborating**?

*All of the Partnership's work is **dependent** on collaboration – between the responsible partners (Gwynedd and Anglesey Council, Police, Fire, Probation, Health) and more widely across the region (Regional Board, Police Commissioner's Office, other CSPs in the region etc). The Partnership works collaboratively to get the best value with the resources available.*



What has been done or will be done to **prevent** problems arising or worsening in the future?

*Prevention and early intervention is a particular priority within the Regional Serious Violence Strategy. All the local projects we have commissioned with the Serious Violence funding are based on the intention of preventing violence.*

*In addition, the domestic abuse and bystander intervention training organised by the Partnership is intended to prevent these incidents and support professionals to intervene at an earlier stage.*

*CCTV is recognised as a visible deterrent to crime and is a valuable tool for the Police to have timely access to evidence of a very high standard.*

How have you considered the **long term** and what will people's needs be in years to come?

*All the training we organize has longevity long after they have taken place. The skills and information gained is used throughout professionals' practice and shared through agencies. Recent statistics show the scale of violence against women in the country, and these numbers are not going to decrease without a change in mindset and culture by society. This is a priority for the Partnership. Due to fiscal constraints every decision we make takes into account the long term and getting the best value from the resources available.*

To ensure **integration**, have you considered the potential impact on other public bodies?

*Again, the Partnership is dependent on co-operation with other public bodies in the Gwynedd and Anglesey area. Any decisions are made in partnership with other relevant agencies.*

## **7. Impact on Equality Characteristics, Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Duty**

*In collaboration with the Equality Officer, an equality impact assessment was carried out during the introduction of the PSPOs in the Spring of 2024. No negative significant effect was reported and continued with intent as it was robust.*

*All Partnership meetings are held in Welsh. All publications and Communications are bilingual (Welsh first).*

## **8. Next Steps**

*Continue with the priorities set out in Section 5 of the Report.*

## **Background Information**

Introducing the PSPOs in Summer - [PSPO.pdf](#)

Expansion of PSPO Criccieth area - [20241115-Variation-of-the-Criccieth-PSPO-area.pdf](#)

The Serious Violence Duty - [Serious Violence Duty - Statutory Guidance](#)

Regional Strategy Serious Violence [Serious Violence Duty | Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales](#)

Domestic Homicide Review undertaking guidelines - [DHR-Statutory-Guidance-161206.pdf](#)

Prevent Duty - [Prevent duty guidance: Guidance for specified authorities in England and Wales](#)

## **Appendices**

*The Partnership's 2024-25 Plan.*

*Safer North Wales Regional Board Strategy 2022-24*