

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

DATE: 22/02/2024

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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) for the period of 2023-24.
2.00	BACKGROUND
2.01	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. The committee's duty is to scrutinise the Partnership's work, rather than the work of individual members (bodies).
2.03	BACKGROUND: 1) 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. 2) 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 – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime and Disorder• Substance Misuse• Reducing reoffending• Since 2023, we also have 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, CSPs have a statutory duty to establish Domestic Homicide Reviews. 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 was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or (b) a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death. <p>3) Quarterly meetings are always well attended. 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 having in place a partnership analyst, so that regular data can be supplied to support evidence-based decisions.</p> <p>4) 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.</p> <p>5) Some of the main changes the partnership has, and currently faces are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of local grants – all 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. We do not commission any projects or services directly (only the DHRs) as we have no funding allocated to Community Safety. • Loss of local coordinators – 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 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 not seen before. Organized 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, which has impacted greatly on the criminal gangs’ activity in the area.
3.00	THE PARTNERSHIP’S PRIORITIES/DOCUMENTS FOR SCRUTINY
3.01	<p>The partnership works to an annual plan. Attached is the 2023-24 plan, which is based on the priorities within the Safer North Wales Board’s Strategy. These priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- Tackling Violent Crime
- Tackling Serious Organised Crime
- Protecting and building resilient communities and maintaining public safety.

4.00 OVERVIEW OF OFFENDING RATES OVER THE REPORTING PERIOD

4.01

Background:

- 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 receive data on crime levels on a quarterly 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.

CRIME DATA

1. Below is the most recent crime data for Gwynedd for February 2024 from the Partnership Analyst within North Wales Police. This outlines the figures for the year to date, with comparison to the previous year and the picture across North Wales.

Gwynedd - Crime & Incident Data	Fiscal Year		% Change (YTD)	North Wales % Change (YTD)
	2022/23 (YTD)	2023/24 (YTD)		
All Victim Based Crime	6,844	6,093	-11.0%	-14.4%
Violence with injury	903	903	0.0%	-7.8%
Violence without injury	1,354	1,103	-13.4%	-12.3%
Stalking & Harassment	1,215	1,075	-11.5%	-16.1%
Sexual offences	295	304	3.1%	-12.7%
All Acquisitive Crime	1,263	1,508	19.4%	3.9%
- Burglary Residential	128	134	4.7%	-9.3%
- Burglary - Business and Community	78	79	1.3%	-13.1%
- Robbery	10	16	60.0%	-11.2%
- Vehicle Crime	134	169	26.1%	-1.0%
- Theft and Handling	1,047	1,208	15.4%	8.2%
Criminal Damage & Arson	2,533	1,861	-26.5%	-12.1%
Domestic Crime	1,497	1,236	-17.4%	-14.6%
Domestic Incidents (non-crime)	691	665	-3.8%	3.5%
Hate Crime	203	143	-29.6%	-20.8%
Anti-Social Behaviour	2,391	2,089	-12.6%	-8.4%

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Violence against the person offences have, overall, decreased in Gwynedd in 2023/24, compared to the same period last year. Violence without injury offences have seen a significant fall in volumes, with over 250 fewer offences recorded so far this fiscal year, compared to last. 3. Year-to-date Stalking and Harassment data for 2023/24 shows a -11.5% decrease in comparison to the same period in 2022/23. This equates to 140 fewer Stalking & Harassment offences being recorded. 4. The 2023/24 year-to-date recorded level of Sexual Offences in Gwynedd has seen a marginal increase in comparison to 2022/23. There can be significant fluctuations in reported offences from week to week, partly due to reporting of historic offences. 5. Acquisitive crime includes the categories Burglary Residential, Burglary Business & Community, Robbery, Vehicle Crime and Theft & Handling. Burglary Residential offences have increased marginally in Gwynedd this year by 4.7% (+9 occurrences), in comparison to last year. Increases have also been seen for Robbery and Vehicle Crime, although volumes are relatively low. Year-to-date, there has been a marked increase in the volume of Theft & Handling offences in Gwynedd and also across the force area, in comparison to last year. This is mainly driven by an increase in Retail Crime (Shoplifting), which falls within the Theft and Handling category. Shoplifting in Gwynedd is 43.2% higher year-to-date in comparison to last year, with the force seeing overall increases of over 35%. The cost-of-living crisis is widely acknowledged as one of the biggest driving forces in the growing number of occurrences. Retail Crime is now a force priority and significant work is being done to tackle the increases being experienced. 6. A significant decrease in the year-to-date volume of Criminal Damage & Arson offences has been seen so far in Gwynedd this year, with over 650 fewer occurrences being recorded. This reduction in volumes is being seen across North Wales. 7. Domestic Crime in Gwynedd has fallen by -17.4% year-to-date, in comparison to last year. This equates to over 250 fewer domestic crimes. These reductions are also being seen across the force area. 8. Following some sharp increases in Hate Crime on Gwynedd, during and post COVID, the 2023/24 volumes are now showing a decrease in comparison to last year. These decreases are being seen across North Wales as a whole. 9. ASB in Gwynedd has seen a year-to-date decrease of 12.6% in 2023/24, in comparison to the same period in 2022/23. This equates to over 300 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.
5.00	WORK COMPLETED SO FAR DURING 2023/24
5.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop the annual plan, we consulted with partners on any upcoming activities or projects that linked with the Safer North Wales Board's priorities. The 2023-24 plan (attached) sets out the 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.

- Crime figures are 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.
- We have a statutory duty under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 to establish Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs/definition above). Sadly, the Partnership had 5 ongoing DHRs this year. This work inevitably has significant and continuing resourcing implications, including Home Office sign off which can be a very lengthy and unwieldy process.

A summary of the work completed this year:

1. The Serious Violence Duty came into force in January 2023, requiring specified authorities to work together to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area. To develop the Strategy, a regional Task and Finish Group was set up with representation from senior responsible officers across relevant authorities. To form the evidence base for the Strategy, a Data and Evidence Subgroup was also created, to develop a local picture of serious violence. Following recent amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act, the CSP has an explicit role in evidence based strategic action on serious violence. The final Strategy was published in January 2024.
2. Working closely with Local Policing Teams, we identified areas that could benefit from the Westminster Government's Shared Prosperity Fund. One of the investment priorities within the fund is 'Community and Place', and one of the Levelling Up Missions aims that: by 2030 homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen. As part of this work, we have identified specific locations in Gwynedd where offences take place or where people do not feel safe, where additional CCTV could be introduced. The objective being to improve perceptions of safety and reduce neighbourhood crime. We are pleased to report that the bid was successful, and the additional cameras will be installed by the end of the year.
3. The CSP oversees Prevent delivery in the area (a duty within the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism). Following the annual benchmarking assurance exercise with the Regional Prevent Advisor, we received confirmation in May that Gwynedd was meeting the requirements of the Duty in most areas. We have continued to work constructively and collaboratively with the Regional Advisor to develop any areas of improvement.
4. We continued to coordinate the ongoing Domestic Homicide Reviews in the County. This has involved the attending of Panel Meetings throughout the year, researching the background of the cases, and providing an input into discussions around any missed opportunities, lessons learnt and developing recommendations.
5. Following feedback from service users, the Substance Misuse Harm Reduction outreach service was renamed as the North Wales Enhancing Lives Service. It will

	<p>retain the outreach focus, but the general support provided will be enhanced with new specialist staff to carry a caseload of more complex cases.</p> <p>6. This year, we are working with the new-in-post Regional Lead for Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention. This involves attendance at the regional forum to develop a regional plan based on the national strategy. Learning from the DHRs have highlighted the link between suicide and domestic abuse, and raising awareness of this will be one of our priorities moving forward.</p> <p>7. Chaired by the Police, the Anglesey and Gwynedd SOC (Serious Organised Crime) group has continued to meet, providing a valuable opportunity for Police and Partner Agencies to discuss local concerns and share intelligence around Organised Crime Gangs in the area.</p>
6.00	WORK ONGOING:
6.01	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Serious Violence Duty Strategy was published last month. As mentioned previously, changes to the 1998 Act mean that ensuring preventing and reducing serious violence is a priority for CSPs. Over the next year we will be concentrating on embedding the Strategy. 2. Roll out Shared Prosperity Fund CCTV project in three of our towns. 3. Once completed, sign off the content of the DHR reports and submit to Home Office for Quality Assurance process before publication. 4. Continue to work closely with the Home Office Prevent Regional Advisor to update LA Prevent and Channel arrangements following new guidance published this year. Working alongside our partners in the Regional Prevent Delivery Group to implement a Communication and Engagement Strategy. 5. Continue our work with the Regional Lead for Suicide Prevention to develop a workplan relating to improved understand of, and response to, domestic abuse and its impact on mental health.
7.00	RECOMMENDATIONS
7.01	To note the contents of the report and attached documents, and state whether the Scrutiny Committee supports the priorities and future direction of the work.
8.00	APPENDICES
8.01	2023-24 Plan