

# DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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## **1. Chairman's foreword**

I am delighted to be able to introduce the third Annual Report of the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel.

2020-2021 has again been a year like no other for all of us. The Coronavirus pandemic has placed a huge strain on all parts of society and the police have played a major role in the response along with the NHS and local government. Despite the pandemic my colleagues and I have continued to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys to account for the performance of his statutory functions and support him to deliver to the public an efficient and effective service. Again, the Panel has looked not just at policing in Dyfed-Powys, but also the wider remit of the Commissioner in relation to commissioned services and his use of the financial resources available to him

The Panel has inevitably had to change the way it has worked, replacing physical meetings around the force area with virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams and Zoom. Meetings of the Panel have continued to be webcast to promote public engagement.

We have again looked at examples of best practice elsewhere through our networking with other panels across England and Wales and brought these to the attention of the Commissioner where appropriate.

The end of the year has coincided with the first anniversary of the Coronavirus pandemic which continues to have unprecedented impact upon all our lives. Although the national focus is rightly upon the NHS at this difficult time the role of the Police and other frontline services should not be forgotten. My colleagues and I would therefore again like to pay tribute to all key workers, whatever their role, who have striven to maintain those essential services upon which we all rely.



*Cllr. Alun Lloyd-Jones*

*(Panel Chairman)*

## **2. Panel Membership**

There has been one change to the membership of the Panel during the year, when Councillor Jim Jones from Carmarthenshire replaced his fellow Carmarthenshire Councillor Emlyn Schiavone.

On behalf of my fellow Panel members, I would like to thank Councillor Schiavone for his valuable contribution to the work of the Panel since he was appointed.

The terms of office of the Panel's two independent/co-opted members were due to expire in October 2020. However due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Police and Crime Commissioner elections scheduled for May 2020 have been delayed until May 2021. This means the terms of office of the Panel's Independent/Co-opted members have automatically been extended to October 2021 as a result.

As mentioned in our last annual report the Coronavirus pandemic had a direct impact upon one of our members, Councillor William Powell who was

hospitalised for a considerable period after contracting the virus. Thankfully however he appears to have recovered fully and I along with rest of my colleagues were delighted to be to working with him again during the year.

Further information regarding the Panel Members can be found at Appendix 1.

### **3. Our role:**

The functions of the Police and Crime Panel are to;

1. Review the Police and Crime Commissioner's police and crime plan.
2. Review the Police and Crime Commissioner's annual draft budget, with the power to veto the level of precept.
3. Deal with certain complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner or his deputy.
4. Scrutinise decisions and actions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
5. Review the appointment or removal of the Chief Constable and the appointment of certain senior staff in the Police and Crime Commissioners office, namely any Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Commissioner's Chief of Staff and Chief Financial Officer.
6. Support the Commissioner in the performance of his statutory functions.
7. Make reports or recommendations to the Commissioner.
8. Review the Commissioner's conduct.

The statutory functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner are.

1. Setting the priorities for Dyfed-Powys Police.
2. Publishing a Police and Crime Plan.
3. Engaging with Communities and representing the public's voice on policing matters.
4. Working closely with community safety and criminal justice partners.
5. Supporting victims and bringing people to justice.

6. Commissioning services to make communities safer and to support the vulnerable.
7. Appointing and, if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable.
8. Dealing with complaints and disciplinary matters against the Chief Constable.
9. Holding the Chief Constable to account.
10. Setting the annual Police budget and precept level.

**Neither the Panel, nor the Police and Crime Commissioner has any role in the management of operational policing by Dyfed-Powys Police. Operational Policing is the responsibility of the Chief Constable.**

#### **4. Review of the year:**

The Panel held 4 formal meetings during the year along with one informal briefing from the Police and Crime Commissioner. Sub-groups of panel members also met separately to undertake more detailed pieces of work. More information about the formal panel meetings can be found on the Panel's website [www.dppoliceandcrimepanel.wales](http://www.dppoliceandcrimepanel.wales) by clicking on the 'meetings' tab, the 'please select' button and then selecting the year of the meeting that you wish to look for.

##### Meeting Summary

July 2020

This was the Panel's Annual General Meeting. The meeting focussed on the response of the police to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Commissioners annual report and scrutinising the statement of accounts for 2019-2020.

November 2020

This meeting focussed on Anti-Social Behaviour, the police response to the Coronavirus pandemic and the Commissioner's performance against the Policing Protocol.

5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

This meeting focussed on the setting of the police precept for 2021-202 and the problems arising from the use of Penally camp, Pembrokeshire as a centre for asylum seekers.

17<sup>th</sup> February 2021

This meeting focussed on the Commissioner's substantial investment in town centre CCTV, his performance against the Policing Protocol, and the appointment of a temporary Chief Constable

### **Complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner**

The Police and Crime Panel must record any complaint against the Commissioner that it receives. However, the Panel has only very limited powers to deal with these complaints and cannot 'investigate' any complaint that has been made. The Panel is obliged to refer any serious complaint (i.e. a complaint of criminal misconduct) to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and has no power to compel the Commissioner to take any remedial action in respect of a complaint.

During the year the Panel recorded no complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner from members of the public.

## Panel priorities for 2020-2021

In its annual report for 2019-2020 the Panel identified 3 priorities for the following year, each of which related to a statutory function of the Panel.

Therefore, our priorities for 2020-2021 were

PRIORITY 1	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE DID	OUTCOME
<p>Scrutiny of the Police Precept</p> <p>(A sub-group of panel members, chaired by Cllr Keith Evans led on this issue)</p>	<p>To ensure Police and Crime Commissioner's finances are being properly managed and that the people of Dyfed-Powys are receiving value for money from the Police Precept</p>	<p>Review the end of year accounts.</p> <p>Publicly question the Commissioner about those accounts.</p> <p>Receive a briefing from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Financial Officer regarding the financial status of Dyfed-Powys Police and the demands upon it.</p> <p>Receive information on the non-police services procured by the Commissioner.</p> <p>Receive information from the Chief Constable on budgetary pressure in a Finance Seminar.</p> <p>Hold a hearing to consider the proposed precept</p>	<p>The Panel concluded that the level of precept proposed by the Commissioner for 2021-2022 was appropriate having regard to all the circumstances.</p> <p><b>The Panel therefore recommended that the Commissioner proceed with that precept and the Commissioner followed that recommendation</b></p>

PRIORITY 2	OBJECTIVES	WHAT WE DID	OUTCOME
<p>CCTV</p> <p>(A sub-group of panel members chaired by Mrs Helen Thomas led on this issue)</p>	<p>To understand the impact that the Commissioner's investment in CCTV has had upon the efficiency and effectiveness of Dyfed-Powys Police, the management of the night-time economy, partnership working with other agencies and the impact on the public's overall fear of crime.</p>	<p>Ask the Commissioner to provide the Panel with specific information regarding this issue.</p> <p>To invite other key stakeholders to give their views to the Panel.</p> <p>Seek the views of the public.</p> <p>Seek examples of best practice from elsewhere.</p>	<p>The Panel was satisfied that the investment in CCTV represented good value for money and has had positive benefits for the People of Dyfed-Powys.</p> <p><b>The Panel recommended to the Commissioner that he make further investment in town centre CCTV if the evidence suggested that such investment would be worthwhile. The Commissioner accepted that recommendation.</b></p>

PRIORITY 3	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE WILL DO	OUTCOME
<p>Public engagement</p> <p>(A sub-committee Chaired by Cllr. Alun Lloyd-Jones led on this issue)</p>	<p>To continue to increase public awareness of and improve public engagement with the work of the Panel.</p>	<p>To further promote the work of the Panel through webcasting and the increased use of social media.</p> <p>Take further steps to engage with those sections of the public who are unable or do not wish to engage online through use of local newsletters.</p> <p>Specifically engage with minority groups.</p>	<p>Public Engagement has obviously been hampered by the Coronavirus pandemic. However, a public consultation exercise was held during the year which saw 176 people respond, a 24% increase in the number of responses received to the previous consultation exercise</p>

In addition to these priorities the Panel.

- Published its report on Anti-Social Behaviour that had been carried over from 2019-2020. This report contained recommendations regarding the Community Trigger and ASB information on the Commissioners website which the Commissioner again accepted.
- Continued to scrutinise how the Commissioner held the Chief constable to account.
- Scrutinised all key decisions made by the Commissioner including those in relation to commissioned services.

## 5. OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2021-2022

The Panel has determined that in addition to continuing the existing priorities relating to the setting of the police precept and increasing public awareness of and engagement with the Panel, it would also prioritise an examination of the approach taken by the Commissioner to policing and mental health.

Therefore, our priorities for 2021-2022 will be

PRIORITY 1	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE WILL DO	INTENDED OUTCOME
<p>Scrutiny of the Police Precept</p> <p>(A sub-group of panel members, chaired by Cllr Keith Evans will lead on this issue)</p>	<p>To ensure Police and Crime Commissioner's finances are being properly managed and that the people of Dyfed-Powys are receiving value for money from the Police Precept</p>	<p>Review the end of year accounts.</p> <p>Publicly question the Commissioner about those accounts.</p> <p>Receive a briefing from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Financial Officer regarding the financial status of Dyfed-Powys Police and the demands upon it.</p> <p>Receive information on the non-police services procured by the Commissioner.</p> <p>Receive information from the Chief Constable on budgetary pressure in a Finance Seminar.</p> <p>Hold a hearing to consider the proposed precept</p>	<p>That the level of precept set for 2022-2023 is appropriate having regard to all the circumstances.</p>

PRIORITY 2	OBJECTIVES	WHAT WE WILL DO	INTENDED OUTCOME
<p>Policing and Mental Health</p> <p>(A group of panel members chaired by Mrs Helen Thomas will lead on this issue)</p>	<p>To understand what the Police and Crime Plan has said about policing and mental health, how this has been implemented and the impact that it has had.</p>	<p>Ask the Commissioner to provide the Panel with specific information regarding this issue.</p> <p>To invite other key stakeholders to give their views to the Panel.</p> <p>Seek examples of best practice from elsewhere.</p>	<p>To satisfy ourselves that the approach taken by the Commissioner represented best practice and served to safeguard the vulnerable in the force area.</p>

PRIORITY 3	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE WILL DO	INTENDED OUTCOMES
<p>Public engagement</p> <p>(A sub-group of panel members chaired by Cllr. Alun Lloyd-Jones will lead on this issue)</p>	<p>To continue to increase public awareness of and improve public engagement with the work of the Panel.</p>	<p>To further promote the work of the Panel through webcasting and the increased use of social media.</p> <p>Take further steps to engage with those sections of the public who are unable or do not wish to engage online through use of local newsletters.</p> <p>Specifically engage with minority groups.</p>	<p>That the public are better informed about the work of the Panel.</p> <p>That the public have engaged with the Panel to help it perform its statutory functions.</p>

In addition to these priorities the Panel will.

- Support the Commissioner to develop a new Police and Crime Plan following the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2021 – Professor Ian Roffe, Vice-Chair of the Panel has agreed to lead on this issue.
- Continue to scrutinise how the Commissioner holds the Chief constable to account.

- Scrutinise all key decisions made by the Commissioner including those in relation to commissioned services.
- Scrutinise how the Commissioner performs against the Policing Protocol
- Undertake a public recruitment exercise for 2 co-opted (independent) panel members – the public engagement subgroup will lead on this.

## 6. CONCLUSION

As I stated in my introduction to this annual report 2020-2021 has again been a busy year for the Panel.

The public engagement with the work of the Panel has been welcomed and directly informed our report on the Commissioner's investment in town centre CTV which was published in February.

The impact of the Coronavirus on everyone's lives has been obvious. In terms of the work of the panel the move towards remote attendance at meetings has been successful despite the challenges that it posed.

The end of the municipal year has coincided with the retirement of Chief Constable Mark Collins after a highly successful period in office. I and my colleagues would like to thank him for all his efforts and wish him the very best for the future. Mr Collins has been succeeded by Temporary Chief Constable Clare Parmenter who has a wealth of policing experience including many years in the Dyfed-Powys force area, we wish her well in her new role and look forward to working with her.

I must conclude by again thanking and paying tribute to all frontline workers who have kept those essential services upon which we all rely going during this crisis. I and my colleagues are truly grateful for their efforts.

*Cllr Alun Lloyd-Jones*

(Chairman)

# APPENDIX 1 – MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

## MEMBERS OF DYFED POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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