



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

SWYDDFA COMISIYNYDD HEDDLU
A THROSEDD GOGLEDD CYMRU



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER NORTH WALES

www.northwales-pcc.gov.uk

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to my 2022-2023 Annual Report, covering the period April 2022 to March 2023. This is my second annual report as Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) since being elected in May 2021.

2022/23 was another challenging year, not only for North Wales Police (NWP) but for the entire police service in the UK. Sadly, all too often this year we have seen police officers abusing their position of trust. Many of the examples we have seen concerned the Metropolitan Police Service in London. For example, the horrific case of former police constable David Carrick raised questions for us all. As I said at the time, it would be naïve for anyone to believe these problems are isolated to the Met alone.

The recently published review conducted by Baroness Casey, whilst again focussed on the Met, raises serious questions for us all and as PCC for North Wales I am determined to do all that I can to ensure that our communities receive the best possible police service. I will continue to work with the Chief Constable to ensure that those officers and staff that do not uphold the highest of standards will be driven out of the organisation as quickly as possible. It is clear to me that we have much to do to regain the public's trust and confidence in policing, which is so vital to our model of policing by consent.

Whilst we have seen the very worst of policing, the last twelve months also saw the very best of British policing.



The announcement of the death of Her Majesty The Queen and the period of mourning and funeral saw one of the largest policing operations ever seen in the UK, and I am very proud of the role played by North Wales Police.

In London, Scotland and elsewhere, the Force assisted with armed protection officers, motorcycle escorts, public order patrols search officers, and by taking part in the funeral cortege. The officers of North Wales Police worked unstintingly to do their duty and do their community and country proud, and their contribution was also recognised and remarked upon by HM The King, and HRH the Prince of Wales.

At the outset of this annual report I want to once again express my sincere thanks to all officers, staff and volunteers of North Wales Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for their hard work and dedication. I also wish to extend my thanks to the communities of North Wales for their continued engagement and support.

Andrew Dunbobbin
Police and Crime Commissioner

DEMAND ON NORTH WALES POLICE

1ST APRIL 2022 TO 31ST MARCH 2023



**999
CALLS**

106,849



**101
CALLS**

235,646



**DIGITAL
CONTACT**

67,761*



**INCIDENTS
ATTENDED**

66,902



**ARRESTS
MADE**

17,616

* (emails, forms, chats, DMs on social media if measured) Webchats - 20,226 / Emails - 47,535

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

MY PRIORITIES



DELIVERING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

- Tackle and prevent rural and wildlife crime
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of police officers and police staff
- Improve Road safety

SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND COMMUNITIES

- Tackle and prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Safeguard vulnerable people including children
- Tackle and prevent cybercrime
- Establish a victims panel
- Tackle and prevent Hate Crime



FAIR AND EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Introduce a North Wales Female Offender Strategy
- Increase the use of Restorative Justice
- Support and protect children and young people and divert them away from the Criminal Justice System
- Address the root causes of offending and support the rehabilitation of people who have offended

THE OPCC YEAR IN NUMBERS



Target of 138 new officers to be recruited in next 12 months



Over £1.1m awarded by the Home Office for Safer Streets projects across North Wales



Secured an additional £288,000 from Welsh Government to support women's refuges



206 extra officers recruited in last 12 months



£70,000 distributed through my new Innovate to Grow Fund



Secured £240,000 from Home Office for the roll out of a Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programme



£120,000 allocated to communities from the Proceeds of Crime fund

THE OPCC YEAR IN NUMBERS CONTINUED

Launch of a new website and an average of 2,500 visitors each month



Public survey on the proposed precept survey saw a 341% increase in participation



www.

600 subscribers to the new fortnightly OPCC newsletter

%

Over 4,000 visitors to the OPCC stand at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Denbigh

SAFER STREETS FUNDING



HOLYHEAD

- Improve street lighting in an around Holyhead Town Centre
- Installation of additional 21 CCTV cameras to identify areas by Town council
- Provision of 'Safe Cabs'
- Provision of Youth Shelters and Outreach work
- Creation of Safe Havens
- Target hardening

£692,148

FLINTSHIRE

- Re-deployable cameras
- Environmental Improvements: Street Lighting and Landscaping
- Target Hardening and Crime Prevention Packs
- Training for 20 multi-agency staff
- Neighbourhood Alert System

£301,125

WREXHAM

- 5 youth ASB intervention projects
- Violence against women and girls educational package
- Hafan y Dref Safe spaces Hub
- Street Marshalls
- Electric bikes
- Target hardening

£268,157

RECORDED CRIME IN NORTH WALES

From April 2022 to March 2023 compared to the previous 12 months

Overall crime down 5.9%

(down from 67,617 to 63,652)

Violence against women and girls down by

(down from 16,904 to 15,123)

10.5%



Hate Crime down by

(down from 1,464 to 1,275)

12.9%



Rape down by

(down from 798 to 733)

8.1%



Violence with injury down by

(down from 7,280 to 7,255)

0.3%



Violence without injury down 4.4%

(down from 11,844 to 11,317)

4.4%



Stalking and harassment down by

(down from 13,341 to 11,477)

14%



Burglary (Dwelling) down by

(down from 1,460 to 1,335)

8.6%



Criminal Damage down by

(down from 7,479 to 7,014)

6.2%



BE THE VOICE OF THE PUBLIC ON POLICING MATTERS

Launch of a new OPCC communications and engagement strategy. These developments have led to an increase in media coverage, communications and engagement and the further development of the OPCC brand. Our coverage in regional and national media has increased from around 30 articles and features per month to 50.

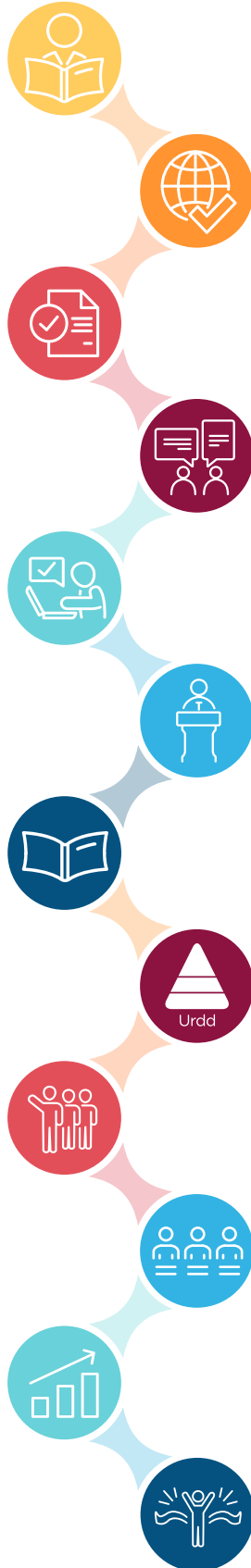
Launched a new fully bilingual OPCC Newsletter, which is distributed to over 600 subscribers

The online vote for the Your Community, Your Choice awards saw a 66% increase in participation on last year, with Welsh language participation increasing 803%.

In early 2023, we launched a rural communications strategy to ensure the rural areas and communities of North Wales are informed about OPCC and policing activity in their areas and demonstrates the commitment of the PCC and NWP to fighting crime and supporting victims in rural parts of the region.

A standout event organised by the team during the period was All for One, a first-of-its-kind conference that took place in Llandudno Junction on 23 November 2022 looking at how different agencies and organisations from police through health and social services can come together to tackle cases of domestic violence and modern slavery in North Wales. The event attracted around 100 delegates from across public and emergency services, local authorities, and the third sector in North Wales.

A survey on the proposed precept for the next financial year saw a 341% increase in participation over the last survey.



Launched the new OPCC website. The website features greater functionality and accessibility for audiences. As of April 2023, we are seeing an average of 2,500 visitors to our website each month and 400 unique downloads of our content, such as our meeting minutes and report documentations.

We visited the Anglesey County Show in Gwalchmai on August 9 and 10 2022, where we had over one thousand visitors. We highlighted the work of the office, the role of the Commissioner and the Police and Crime Plan. We invited partners from the Victim Help Centre and the North Wales Police Cybercrime team to share our stand and met with other organisations such as Tir Dewi, NFU Cymru and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

We began a monthly community surgery at locations across North Wales where members of the public can book to discuss policing matters with the PCC.

We had a prominent presence at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Denbigh from 30 May - 4 June 2022. We had over 4,000 visitors and spoke to the public about the OPCC, the Commissioner and Police and Crime Plan. We also hosted Get Safe Online, Youth Shedz, and Denbigh in Bloom on the stand.

On 7 September 2022, OPCC staff attended the Freshers' Fairs at Coleg Menai and Coleg Llandrillo. It was the first time the office had attended these events to engage with the young people at these colleges and we spoke to over 100 students. Several lecturers across Public Service, and Policing courses also visited the stand and expressed an interest in the PCC speaking to students. Seminars were subsequently held with students in both colleges.

As part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we attended North Wales Pride on June 25 2022. The OPCC were sponsors of the event and had a joint stand with North Wales Police.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND STATUTORY DUTIES



**Independent
Custody Visitors
Scheme**

**Chairing the
North Wales
Justice Board**



**Police and Crime
Panel meetings**

**Further details
available on the
OPCC website.**

**Joint Audit
Committee**



**Complaint Case
Reviews**

**HMICFRS
inspections and internal
auditors providing
independent reviews**



POLICE AND CRIME PLAN OBJECTIVES

DELIVERING SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS



- Tackle and prevent rural and wildlife crime
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of police officers and police staff
- Improve Road safety



Commissioned the first independent review of policing of the Hunting Act in Wales. The review led to a number of recommendations and an action plan for North Wales Police that I continue to monitor.



Various engagement events with our rural communities, including:

- o FUW Breakfast
- o Control room information evening for farmers
- o Meeting with the FUW and NFU to discuss crime in rural areas.



Working with BRAKE, the road safety charity, I am funding a position of a case worker to support individuals affected by fatal and catastrophic injuries. This will be a face-to-face, fully bilingual service to provide specialist support and in turn reduce demand which is currently placed on the Roads Policing Unit Family Liaison Officers.



Collaborating with local councillors to improve road safety in areas of concern across the region. For example, I am working with the local Councillor in Glasfryn, Conwy in an attempt to reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 30mph through the village. I have written to the Welsh Government requesting them to reconsider their decision.



OPCC has supported the campaign around the story of Olivia Alkir, a local teenager who was tragically killed in a car accident in 2019. Olivia's mother, Jo Alkir, is campaigning to make roads safer for young people and on February 28 2023, we shared Olivia's Story at the Senedd in Cardiff as part of this mission. The event brought together lawmakers, campaigners and industry to view the film and discuss the key issues it raises.



My office and I took part in EDWARD (Every day without a road death) week of action. I provided a video demonstrating support and we shared promotional road safety information on our social media.



Supported the BRAKE Road Safety Awareness week – shared all promotional road safety information on our social media.



Responded to the UK Government's Call for Evidence on the implementation of drug driving rehabilitation and high-risk offender scheme for drug driving. My response can be found [here](#).

SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND COMMUNITIES



- Tackle and prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Safeguard vulnerable people including children
- Tackle and prevent cybercrime
- Establish a victims panel
- Tackle and prevent Hate Crime



I carried out a deep dive into Force performance around Hate Crime. I raised questions on how the Force deals with victims of Hate Crime, the challenge of increased reporting (over the past 6 years) and falling levels of victim satisfaction. Additional measures are being taken to improve the Force's response including an additional local policing support officer. I continue to monitor the progress of this work.



I continue my scrutiny through key North Wales Police strategic boards including Quality of Service Board and the All Wales Hate and Community Tensions Board.



I hosted an online event in support of Hate Crime Awareness Week. The event was attended by over 100 people with an interest in improving services for victims of Hate Crime. See the post event report [here](#).



Partnership working through the Vulnerability & Exploitation Board remains fundamental to the way in which modern slavery is approached in North Wales. My Chief Executive Officer continues to Chair this Board. The Modern Slavery Services Providers Forum, which reports into the Vulnerability and Exploitation Board, has become a well-established cornerstone of partnership working.



I continue to scrutinise North Wales Police on its performance around serious and organised crime which includes human trafficking and modern slavery. I note the leading and successful approach taken to the discovery of a child carrying large amounts of drugs. Rather than charge the child with drugs offences, it was clear to officers that they were the victim of county lines criminal exploitation. Modern Slavery legislation was therefore utilised to support the investigation, which ultimately led to the prosecution of people exploiting the child.



This year I have carried out scrutiny of equality and diversity matters with active participation from my Office in the Force Welsh Language Equality Diversity and Inclusion Board, and also participation in and attendance at the Force Stakeholder Group meetings including the Race Group, LGBT Group, and Disability Group.



Every four years I am required to publish equality objectives that outline the work that will be done to meet the requirements of the General Equality Duty set out in the Equality Act 2010. I write a Joint Equality Plan together with North Wales Police which sets out our priorities for equality in policing for the next four years. To set these priorities, I undertake preparatory tasks, including stakeholder engagement. [The attached report](#), details the consultation and engagement activity undertaken to establish equality objectives for 2023-2027.



Each year I provide an annual report on the scrutiny I have carried out on Professional Standards within North Wales Police. [Here is the Professional Standards Scrutiny Report for 2022/23](#). My Office's structure for scrutiny of professional standards matters is well established and robust. Nonetheless I am pleased to note the culture of learning and transparency that exists in relation to conduct matters in North Wales.



I have publicly shared the [report](#) of Chief Constable Amanda Blakeman into conduct matters in North Wales Police.



I continue to support work aimed at improving the experiences of children and young people in care. The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) continue to lobby Welsh Government for a statutory requirement for local authorities to provide Return Home Interviews - which I fully support.



I continue to commission Get Safe Online to provide a cyber support service for North Wales communities. Get Safe Online are a not-for-profit public / private sector partnership supported by leading organisations in banking, retail, internet security and other sectors. They are Cyber Essentials certified.



The new Serious Violence Duty requires Specified Authorities to collaborate and plan to reduce and prevent serious violence in local areas, producing a strategic needs assessment, a response strategy, impact evaluation and adopting a public health approach. As lead convener of the Duty the OPCC has been working to establish the staff and governance arrangements to ensure compliance with the Duty. A partnership agreement has been signed by all the specified authorities in the duty, namely; North Wales Police, Local Authorities, the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Youth Justice, Education, HMPPS and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.



CARA (Cautions and Relationship Abuse) is the first domestic abuse policing strategy in UK history to be trialled under experimental conditions. The aim of CARA is to move participants away from a place of denial and minimisation for their actions to a position of acceptance and responsibility for the harm they have caused.

FAIR AND EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



- Introduce a North Wales Female Offender Strategy
- Increase the use of Restorative Justice
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I continue to invest in a Crimestoppers Fearless Youth Worker for North Wales. The youth worker will prepare, facilitate, and deliver Fearless crime prevention and education sessions to young people and those employed to work with young people across North Wales. Raising awareness of Crimestoppers and educating young people on the consequences of crime, with a particular focus on county lines, knife crime and the Bystander Approach to build strong working relationships with youth partners, schools, police, and other agencies.



I delivered one of my Police and Crime Plan priorities with the establishment of a Victims Panel to hear the voices of victims in North Wales and to better understand their experiences of the criminal justice process, in order to inform service improvements. The Panel met for the first time on the 31st March 2023 and the valuable points made by victims about their criminal justice journey were fed back to partners in order to improve specific issues for future victims.



I have also raised concerns with His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service to raise concerns over the current blockages in place which are preventing the North Wales Police RJ lead officer from contacting and engaging with prisoners.



I signed the Why Me? Restorative Justice pledge upon my election and pledged to fulfil their ten asks towards better services for victims. One of the ten asks is to ensure that there is proper data collection on RJ. The benefits of having proper data collection include identifying any barriers, areas for improvement and demonstrates good practice. The data previously collected for RJ cases in North Wales only included the high-level cases. This resulted in RJ practices being used within Checkpoint, Community Remedies and School Liaison being missed. A new way of recording has recently been implemented following an IT update which has allowed for cases of RJ within the Community Remedy to be recorded. Checkpoint cases will soon be included as part of this data collection.



Another Police and Crime Plan priority has been delivered with the launch of a new strategy which aims to help address the causes of female offending in North Wales and to make a genuine difference to women's lives, reduce their involvement with the criminal justice system, and cut crime.



Building on the foundations of the Women's Justice Blueprint for Wales and the work of existing organisations and partners across the region, the North Wales Women's Justice Strategy has been designed by the North Wales Women in Justice Delivery Group. The strategy is the first of its kind at a local level in Wales.



I continue to support North Wales Police with its project to recruit a young people's advisory group (Young Ambassadors) and undertake to provide resources to support this work during the first year of the scheme.



My Office has also carried out a review of its scrutiny work, considering how young people are impacted by policing matters. We are in the process of writing a Children & Young People Scrutiny Strategy to ensure the work of my Office is carried out with a clear understanding of the impact and effect of policing and crime issues on young people. The strategy will detail how, within my general scrutiny, the issues impacting young people will be addressed.



The Checkpoint Cymru Diversion Scheme, which was launched in North Wales Police in December 2019, is designed to improve services for those at risk of entering, or those who have entered the Criminal Justice System, seeking to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour. Previously the Checkpoint Cymru navigators supported men on the scheme and women were supported by a local women's centre. Following a review the Checkpoint Cymru navigators will be supporting both men and women. This new development will allow us to fully understand the needs of women referred to Checkpoint Cymru and understand any gaps in service which they may require. By working with partners, we will support the women to improve their outcomes and move to more positive futures.



FUNDING AND FINANCE

	Original Budget £m	Revised Budget £m	Outturn £m	Overspend / (Underspend) £m
Expenditure				
Officers and Staff	159.504	161.616	158.117	(3.499)
Premises	8.349	8.914	9.750	0.836
Transport	3.553	3.660	3.279	(0.381)
Supplies and Services	27.106	27.400	27.493	0.093
Contingencies	1.166	-	-	-
Debt Charges and Charges to Capital	4.507	5.470	5.594	0.124
Commissioning	3.545	5.866	5.807	(0.059)
Collaborations and Partnerships	-	2.865	2.865	-
Gross expenditure	207.730	215.791	212.905	(2.886)
Grants for commissioning	-	(4.082)	(4.082)	-
Collaboration and Partnerships	-	(3.236)	(3.236)	-
Other income	(26.685)	(27.041)	(30.445)	(3.404)
Total income	(26.685)	(34.359)	(37.763)	(3.404)
Planned movements in reserves	1.223	0.836	0.836	-
Net Expenditure	182.268	182.268	175.978	(6.290)
Transfer of underspend to reserves	-	-	6.290	6.290
Total	182.268	182.268	182.268	-

	Original Budget £m	Revised Budget £m	Outturn £m	Variance £m
Expenditure				
Government Grants	(88.407)	(88.407)	(88.407)	-
Precept	(93.861)	(93.861)	(93.861)	-
Total funding	(182.268)	(182.268)	(182.268)	-



Savings of £0.755m were planned and delivered during 2022/23.



High energy costs impacted on the cost of running our buildings.



Additional income included mutual aid from various events, investment income, and grants.



Some of the underspend in 2022/23 has been put aside to address the risk of peaks in energy and fuel prices in 2023/24 - this means that the council tax increase could be lower, and still have a balanced budget.



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