



SWYDDFA COMISIYNYDD HEDDLU  
A THROSEDD GOGLEDD CYMRU

OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER NORTH WALES

## The North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Compact

A Partnership Agreement between the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and the voluntary services councils of north Wales on behalf of third sector organisations in north Wales.

### Introduction

This Compact is a partnership agreement between the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner) and the six north Wales voluntary services councils on behalf of the Third Sector in north Wales and has been agreed by the responsible officers for the respective organisations.

It provides a framework to improve engagement, develop shared aims and objectives, mutual respect and understanding, and will assist the Commissioner and Third Sector partners to improve the quality of services for the people of north Wales.

The success of the Compact relies on the commitment of both parties. Collaboration can strengthen existing working relationships and at a time of economic pressure this can enable all parties to react to future challenges. Working more closely will enable organisations to maximise resources and knowledge and so become more effective and efficient.







The Parties to this agreement are:

Partner organisation	Logo	Chairs	Signature
Medrwn Môn, Anglesey		Andrew Hughes	<i>Andrew Hughes</i>
Community & Voluntary Support Conwy		Mary Trinder	<i>M. Trinder</i>
Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council		Sandra Wilson	<i>S. Wilson</i>
Flintshire Local Voluntary Council		Barbara Roberts	<i>Barbara Roberts</i>



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Mantell Gwynedd		Gwen Griffith	
Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW)		Peter Howell	
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales		Andrew Dunbobbin	

The compact was agreed on 07.10.24.

### The Role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner is the local governing body for policing in north Wales. The Commissioner has an overarching duty to secure an efficient and effective police force which demonstrates value for money and, above all, cut's crime.

The Commissioner has four main duties, which are to:

- Set out the priorities for policing in north Wales
- Decide the budget for North Wales Police
- Hold the Chief Constable to account, and to
- Listen and respond to public's views on policing

To fulfil these duties, the Commissioner has a range of power and responsibilities including:

- Being accountable to the electorate and representing the public in policing matters
- Preparing a Police and Crime Plan which sets out the strategic direction and objectives for policing in north Wales
- Setting the policing 'precept', which is the part of local council tax that goes towards policing
- Working with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending
- Holding the force to account, through the Chief Constable, for the delivery of police services.
- Appointing and, if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable
- Overseeing complaints against North Wales Police
- Commissioning community safety services and projects in the area
- Ensuring that public priorities are acted upon, victims are consulted, and the most vulnerable individuals are not overlooked



- Ensuring value for money

### **The role of County Voluntary Services Councils**

The six County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) will be co-signatories of the Compact. They are the umbrella organisations that support, promote and advise local voluntary and community organisations. They support voluntary action by supporting volunteering, advising on good practice, providing information on funding sources along with a wide range of other services.

The term 'Third Sector', as referred to in this document, incorporates voluntary and community organisations and volunteering interests including UK wide charities and their local branches, county-based organisations, informal community groups, social enterprises, co-operatives and self-help support groups.

Within the Compact the CVCs will provide opportunities for the voice of the Third Sector, and their service users, to be heard and ensure recognition of the significant impact that voluntary organisations contribute to community safety and cohesion.

### **Aim of the Compact**

This Compact aims to develop the partnership between the Commissioner and the Third Sector in north Wales to promote community safety and reduce crime to contribute to north Wales being a safe and vibrant place to live.

The compact will:

- Establish good engagement and communication on a two-way basis so that the County Voluntary Councils and the Police and Crime Commissioner have a robust mechanism to consult with the third sector.
- To ensure the Third Sector are able to influence the planning and development when addressing local community safety issues.
- Promote understanding and respect between the parties by creating a clear structure for dialogue and engagement.
- Create effective joint working to benefit the people of north Wales by bringing together similar organisations and helping them to share best practice.
- Seek to identify joint working opportunities between the Third Sector and OPCC to support communities.

### **Values and Principles**

The Compact is underpinned by the shared agreement of the following values:

Respect  
Honesty  
Fairness  
Integrity



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Adhering to these values will ensure:

- Respect for and valuing contribution by all partners irrespective of size.
- Respect for the independence of Third Sector organisations.
- Respect for the strategic and regional nature of the Police and Crime Commissioner's role.
- Openness in commissioning process.
- Honesty about capability and capacity to deliver services.
- Operating fair and transparent processes.
- Making fair decisions based upon clear and transparent process and procedure

### **Objectives**

1. Maintain a positive relationship by operating effective engagement strategies between the Commissioner and the Third Sector.
2. Use the expertise and frontline knowledge of Third Sector organisations to help and reduce crime and disorder in North Wales.
3. Always strive for excellence, equality of access, sustainable development, and value for money.

### **Community Safety and Partnership Working**

The Police and Crime Commissioner recognises the need to collaborate closely with partners to secure solutions to crime and disorder issues. The Commissioner works alongside public organisations such as North Wales Police, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, local authorities, partners in the criminal justice field and other key stakeholders including local communities, to achieve common goals more effectively.

The Commissioner's role also involves working in partnership with the Safer North Wales Partnership Board and North Wales Regional Leadership Board. The Commissioner works in partnership with the six north Wales County Voluntary Councils.

Partnership working may involve:

- Working in partnership to resolve neighbourhood problems such as anti-social behaviour.
- Providing more effective services to victims.
- Providing support to victims of domestic abuse so they have the confidence and opportunity to seek help and support.
- Improving the physical environment so that it is less conducive to crime.
- Providing services to those who misuse substances but who want help to reduce the harm they are doing to themselves, their families and our communities, and aiding offenders to rehabilitate and make a positive contribution to society.

Third sector organisations also play a crucial role in helping the Commissioner to address these issues.

### **Responsibilities**

The Police and Crime Commissioner and County Voluntary Councils recognise the role and responsibilities of each other. In particular the Police and Crime Commissioner recognises:



- The valuable contribution that voluntary and community organisations make to community safety.
- That CVCs can promote, facilitate, and influence best practice with the aim of maintaining high standards of governance. However, voluntary and community organisations are independent organisations who determine their own priorities and manage their own affairs, including the right to campaign.
- That voluntary and community organisations operate within the principles upon which they were founded.
- That individual CVCs can assist the Commissioner in engagement via the development of consultation activities.

The County Voluntary Councils on behalf of the third sector recognise:

- The legal and financial framework within which the Commissioner operates.
- That the Commissioner is scrutinised by an independent Police and Crime Panel.
- The importance of the Commissioner's duties to:
  - Set out the priorities for policing in North Wales
  - Decide the budget for North Wales Police
  - Hold the Chief Constable to account
  - Listen and respond to the public's views on policing.

### **Small Grant Funding**

There are several third sector and community groups who run projects and innovative schemes to help cut crime and make our communities safer. The Police and Crime Commissioner wishes to show financial support to some of these organisations. Therefore, the Commissioner has established 'Innovate to Grow' fund to target and invest in projects dealing with the root causes of crime across North Wales, especially ones that offer new and innovative ideas of preventing and tackling crime.

The initiative complements the priorities within the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan, as well as his Community Oriented Police Service (COPS) approach to serve all communities across North Wales. Examples of initiatives that could be eligible for support under the scheme include those covering youth services, early intervention, and adverse childhood experiences; drug, alcohol, and substance misuse services; and organisations working to combat domestic abuse, sexual violence, and violence against women and girls. The scheme operates by inviting applications for funding by organisations via the OPCC website, those applications are then reviewed by an OPCC policy officer before being circulated to the Senior Management Team with recommendations.

The Commissioner also works in collaboration with the Police & Community Trust to support the 'Your Community, Your Choice' fund.

The 'Your Community, Your Choice' scheme operates by inviting applications for funding by organisations, those applications are then shortlisted and opened to public vote. This approach ensures the decision-making power for such funding is in the hands of the public. Bids for this funding are opened each spring. Opening dates are notified to the public in the local press, through CVCs and on the website of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.



## Consultation and Policy Appraisal

Organisations have the right to challenge on matters that affect them. Furthermore, the Police and Crime Commissioner may from time to time consult with third sector organisations and or voluntary service councils who represent them on issues, projects, or policies. It is agreed that such consultation will be:

- Appropriate and relevant for the target group.
- Genuine and transparent, making clear aspects that may be changed and those which cannot.
- Accessible and equally available to both larger and smaller organisations.
- Timely and prior to decisions being made.

It is acknowledged that good practice is to allow 13 weeks for consultation excluding bank and other public holidays prior to decision making, and in the case of larger decisions such as Police and Crime Plan, this will be the minimum amount of consultation time.

However, with some smaller policy issues or consultation where the Police and Crime Commissioner is subject to the time scale of another organisation (such as national government) it may not be possible to allocate this amount of time. The Police and Crime Commissioner will always strive to allow the maximum amount of time possible to facilitate proper and clear consultation and will do everything possible to mitigate the impact of shorter consultation periods.

## Communication and Engagement

The Police and Crime Commissioner will operate within the Participation Cymru ten principles of engagement (see Appendix A). The Commissioner's liaison with third sector organisations forms part of this activity and specifically the Commissioner agreed with third sector organisations to conduct the following arrangements.

### Annual conference and engagement event

Each year the Police and Crime Commissioner will host an engagement event to engage with all relevant third sector organisations and stakeholders in North Wales. The event is open to all relevant third sector organisations and not restricted to organisations affiliated to the CVCs. In 2022/2023 and 2024, this event took the form of the All for One conference looking at the multiagency response to support victims and survivors across several areas of crime, such as VAWDASV, Modern Slavery, and Online Harms. During the event, the Commissioner:

- Provides a forum for discussion of topics relevant to the Police and Crime Plan and the reduction of crime in North Wales.
- Respond to the needs and changing requirements of third sector partners and the evolving situation regarding crime in North Wales to keep the topics as relevant as possible.



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The event is communicated and photographed with a news story appearing on the OPCC website as a record of the event.

### **Visits to individual third sector organisations**

It is important for the Commissioner to gain an insight into the frontline activities of third sector organisations to effectively understand demand for their services and how they are delivered. Therefore, the Police and Crime Commissioner agrees to visit various individual third sector organisations in locations where their services are delivered.

The visits will extend to organisations who are engaged in the community safety activity and will enable the Commissioner to see the frontline issues they face and the impact of their services on the community. Organisations who wish to be considered for a visit are invited to complete the form at Appendix B and return it to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, or to contact the Head of Communications and Engagement directly.

### **Website – Third Sector Page**

In accordance with the communication and engagement strategy, one of the Commissioner's primary tools for sharing information with the public is to make it available on the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner website. In addition, the Commissioner has established a page of his website dedicated to communicating information to the Third Sector. This includes providing feedback from his engagement activities. CVCs will create a link between their websites and the OPCC website.

[Third Sector \(northwales-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://northwales-pcc.gov.uk)

### **Third Sector Contact Database**

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner maintains a database of community contacts in order to communicate relevant pieces of information with people in local communities. All third sector organisations are recommended to register their details with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in order to receive updates and relevant information about local issues and events from the Police and Crime Commissioner. Each CVC holds a database of organisations that can be used by the Commissioner to communicate with third sector organisations.

### **Equality and Diversity**

Both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the third sector will abide by provisions of the Equality Act 2010. The Commissioner undertakes to perform his public sector duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote good relations between people. Furthermore, the Commissioner will act in accordance with the equality principles and priorities set out in the North Wales Police and North Wales Police and Crime Commissioners Equality Plan. Service parity will be provided to both Welsh and English languages.

### **Disputes and Concerns**





If the police and Crime Commissioner of County Voluntary Councils, either collectively or individually, have concerns regarding the implementation of the Compact, they agree to take part in mediation meetings for resolution.

### **Review**

On an annual basis the Police and Crime Commissioner and the six voluntary councils will review the performance and effectiveness of the compact.

### **Relevant Policies**

Below is a list of the Policies that underpin and support this Compact Agreement:

Police and Crime Plan

Participation Cymru – Engagement Principles

North Wales Police and North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Equality Plan

Correspondence Policy

### **Appendix A**

Participation Cymru – 10 Principles of Engagement

1. Engagement is effectively designed to make a difference  
Engagement gives a real chance to influence policy, service design and delivery from an early stage.
2. Encourage and enable everyone affected to be involved if they so choose.  
The people affected by an issue or change are included in opportunities to engage as an individual or as part of a group or community, with their views both respected and valued.
3. Engagement is planned and delivered in a timely and appropriate way  
The engagement process is clear, communicated to everyone in a way that is easy to understand within a reasonable timescale, and the most suitable method/s for those involved is used.
4. Work with relevant partner organisations  
Organisations should communicate with each other and work together wherever possible to ensure that people's time is used effectively and efficiently.
5. The information provided will be jargon free, appropriate, and understandable  
People are well placed to take part in the engagement process because they have easy access to relevant information that is tailored to meet their needs.
6. Make it easier for people to take part  
People can engage easily because any barriers for different groups of people are identified and address.
7. Enable people to take part effectively





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Engagement processes should try to develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence of all participants.

8. Engagement is given the right resources and support to be effective  
Appropriate training, guidance and support are provided to enable all participants to effectively engage, including both community participants and staff.

9. People are told the impact of their contribution  
Timely feedback is given to all participants about the views they expressed, and the decisions or actions taken as a result; methods and form of feedback should take account of participants' preferences.

10. Learn and share lessons to improve the process of engagement  
People's experience of the process of engagement should be monitored and evaluated to measure its success in engaging people and the effectiveness of their participation; lessons should be shared and applied in future engagements.

These Principles were developed by Participation Cymru.

## Appendix B

### North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

Application for visit to Third/Voluntary Sector Organisation by North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

FULL NAME OF ORGANISATION

CONTACT NAME



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**ADDRESS (IN WHAT PREMISES/LACTION ARE SERVICES PROVIDED)**

**EMAIL**

**WEBSITE DETAILS**

**PUPROSE / ROLE OF ORGANISATION**

**HOW DOES THE ORGANISATION IMPACT ON CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETRY ISSUES**

**ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC ISSUES YOU WOULD LIKE TO RAISE WITH THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER DURING HIS VISIT?**

If you do not want any publicity around his visit to your organisation, please tick here.

**Please return form to:** The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay, LL29 8AW or  
by to [opcc@northwales.police.uk](mailto:opcc@northwales.police.uk)