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OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER NORTH WALES

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023-2024



# INTRODUCTION



Welcome to my 2023-2024 Annual Report, covering the period April 2023 to March 2024. This is my third annual report as Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) since being elected in May 2021. As I write this introduction, I start my second term in office, having been re-elected by the communities of North Wales on 3 May 2024.

I feel immensely honoured to have been re-elected by the people of North Wales. It shows that they are happy with the work I have been doing over the last three years to make policing more effective, efficient and accountable. There is always more work we can do and I look forward to serving all the people of North Wales, whether they voted for me or not.

Throughout the past year, my office and I have been active out and about in the community. For example, I started a series of public surgery meetings, connecting directly with the community to listen to people's opinions and concerns regarding policing.

In May, we organised the ['Open for Business'](#) event, focusing on addressing modern slavery in the post-pandemic North Wales economy. June saw the ['Cyber Security North Wales'](#) event, providing crucial insights to business owners on safeguarding their enterprises from the ever-evolving scourge of cybercrime. Addressing the unique challenges faced by our rural communities, a [collaborative event hosted in Caernarfon](#) in May in partnership with North Wales Police and Tir Dewi, explored innovative ways to enhance the safety and security of our rural areas. In April, I fulfilled a key commitment made in my Police and Crime Plan with the inaugural meeting of the [Victims' Panel for North Wales](#) to hear direct from victims, their experience of the criminal justice system and to learn from their findings.

As the summer break approached in July, clubs and youth organisations throughout North

Wales were urged to apply for funding through my special [Summer Soccer Fund](#), which proved highly successful in helping support a vibrant array of activities for young people. I was also delighted to attend the National Eisteddfod in August in Boduan, Gwynedd. As a Welsh learner myself, I know how important it is to have opportunities to read, speak and practise the language and the Eisteddfod is an excellent place for all people to celebrate our unique culture. We also had a busy time appearing at the summer county shows across our region. We were present at the Anglesey Show, the Denbigh and Flint Show, as well as the Merioneth Show, where we enjoyed meeting the public and discussing my priorities as PCC. We welcomed over 5,000 members of the public to our stands across the different events.

December saw the launch of my Community Christmas Fund, where I allocated £15,000, in small grants of £500, for organisations that work to support vulnerable children, young people and their families.

I am pleased to say that during the past year, recorded incidents of crime across North Wales have reduced by 13% compared to the previous 12 months, and the positive outcome rate has increased by just over 2%. These are positive results, but I am conscious that there is always more work to be done and I will continue to work with the Chief Constable to drive down crime and improve performance even further.

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

1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2023 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024



## 999 Calls

**119,552**

(an increase of 12%)



## 101 Calls

**241,327**

(an increase of 3%)



## Digital Contact

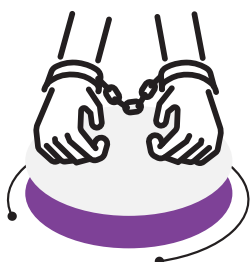
**88,162**

(Webchats 24,805 and  
Emails 63,357)



## Incidents Attended

**61,479**



## Arrests Made

**19,552**

(an increase of 10%)



# 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



**£49,000**

allocated through the Innovate to Grow Fund



**£13,000**

allocated through the Summer Soccer Fund, engaging **35,000** people on social media



**£1.8m**

allocated through the Victim Services Fund



Secured **£1m** from the Home Office to tackle ASB in hot spot areas



**499** complaints have been recorded with **31** applications to the Commissioner for a Review



North Wales Police have considered **53** conduct cases resulting in **12** dismissals



Commissioned BRAKE to provide face to face support for families following a fatal or catastrophic injury road collision. To date, **25** individuals have received support



**119** visits were carried out by Independent Custody Visitors and **270** detainees were spoken to



Averaging **50** press articles and features per month



**50%** increase in responses to the precept consultation survey



Over **5,000** visitors to the OPCC stand at the National Eisteddfod and summer shows

# SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY

Since the UK Government's Serious Violence Strategy came into effect in January 2023, I am pleased to report considerable progress. As the convenor for the duty in North Wales, I can confirm that we have successfully met all the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty during 2023-24. These are:

To tackle serious violence and its root causes in our local areas, I spearheaded the development of a **comprehensive strategic needs assessment** for serious violence. This crucial work involved significant input from key partners, including the police, local authorities, fire and rescue service, and specified health and criminal justice agencies. The insights from this assessment formed the foundation for our first-ever Serious Violence Strategy.

Developing our **Serious Violence Strategy** was a collaborative effort driven by the incredible work of our diverse partnership. We commissioned Crest Advisory UK to assist the Safer North Wales Partnership in crafting this landmark document.

This strategy is more than just a document, it is a call to action. Its vision is clear: a North Wales where violence holds no sway, where individuals feel safe and empowered, and where families thrive in a climate of respect and dignity. This overarching vision guides our strategic objectives to work together, hand in hand with our communities, to prevent and reduce serious violence in all its forms.

The **pillars** of this strategy align with the priorities I have outlined in my Police and Crime Plan. These key areas focus on:

- **Supporting and enhancing prevention and early intervention:** This includes tackling violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.
- **Promoting contextual safeguarding:** This means working proactively with young children and vulnerable young people to protect them from exploitation and modern slavery.
- **Identifying and implementing best practices:** As a collaborative partnership, we are committed to continuous improvement, innovation, and using the best approaches to address serious violence.
- **Building a preventative approach:** By understanding risk factors, adverse childhood experiences, and the impact of trauma, we can develop preventative measure in North Wales.

These priorities were collaboratively developed to guide us on a shared journey towards a North Wales free of violence.

I am incredibly proud of the work that is coming out of existing partnerships. We have a long history of successful collaboration across agencies, and I share the partnerships confidence in what can be achieved together.



# RECORDED CRIME IN NORTH WALES

From April 2023 to March 2024 compared to the previous 12 months

## Overall Crime: Down by -13.1%

(down from 63,624 to 55,312)

### Violence against women and girls down by

(down from 15,123 to 12,415)

**-17.9%**



### Hate Crime down by

(down from 1,285 to 1,019)

**-20.7%**



### Rape down by

(down from 1,878 to 1,611)

**-14.2%**



### Violence with injury down by

(down from 7,307 to 6,678)

**-8.6%**



### Violence without injury down by

(down from 11,472 to 9,761)

**-11.7%**



### Stalking and harassment down by

(down from 13,341 to 11,477)

**-14.9%**



### Burglary (Residential) down by

(down from 1,328 to 1,165)

**-12.3%**



### Criminal Damage and arson down by

(down from 7,006 to 6,133)

**-12.5%**



# BE THE VOICE OF THE PUBLIC ON POLICING MATTERS

We continued to deliver the actions of the OPCC Communications and Engagement Strategy. These developments have led to an increase in media coverage, social media followers, communications and engagement opportunities and the further development of the OPCC brand. Our coverage in regional and national media has remained consistent, averaging around 50 articles and features per month. We have also increased the amount of communications materials that we issue in Easy Read format to increase accessibility among the public.

The OPCC and FAW's Summer Soccer Fund, which launched in July 2023, awarded grants up to £4,000 to 7 North Wales clubs to engage young people in positive sports activities and reduce ASB over the holidays. We received 25 applications and reached over 35,000 users through social media promotion.

Rural crime and engaging with rural communities continued to be a key priority for the team. For example, through supporting the Wales Wildlife & Rural Crime Strategy 2023-2025, attending a Tir Dewi event in Caernarfon on protecting rural communities and engaging with organisations such as NFU Cymru and the FUW at events such as county shows and the FUW's Farmhouse Breakfast Week.

The 2024-25 Precept Consultation Survey received 1,564 responses, a 50.38% increase, through extensive North Wales promotion via a digivan, advertising, social media, accessible formats, online and paper copies at libraries/stations, community groups, and Police Community Alert, plus promotion by the PCC and staff at public events.

We continued our surgery meetings, held at various locations across the six counties of North Wales, including Llangefni, Barmouth, Abergele and Deeside. The surgeries provided a valuable platform for open dialogue, addressing concerns, and strengthening the relationship between the public and the PCC.

The OPCC was prominent at the National Eisteddfod in Boduan, Gwynedd, and regional events such as the Anglesey, Denbigh & Flint, and Merioneth shows in August. Through engaging with the public, sharing initiatives and discussing safety priorities, these events drew over 5,200 visitors to OPCC stands.



The OPCC attended Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's Fresher's Fayre events in September 2023 at Coleg Menai, Bangor, and Coleg Llandrillo, Rhos-on-Sea. Over 200 new students visited the OPCC stalls, providing an opportunity to share insights about keeping the region safe and to discuss the office's work with young people.

Over 100 professionals attended the second annual All for One conference on November 9, featuring keynote speakers Dr Sue Hills and Professor Jane Monckton Smith. Focused on supporting young people impacted by domestic abuse, sexual violence and modern slavery, the conference on these crucial issues received excellent feedback from attendees – with 100% of delegates finding it beneficial.

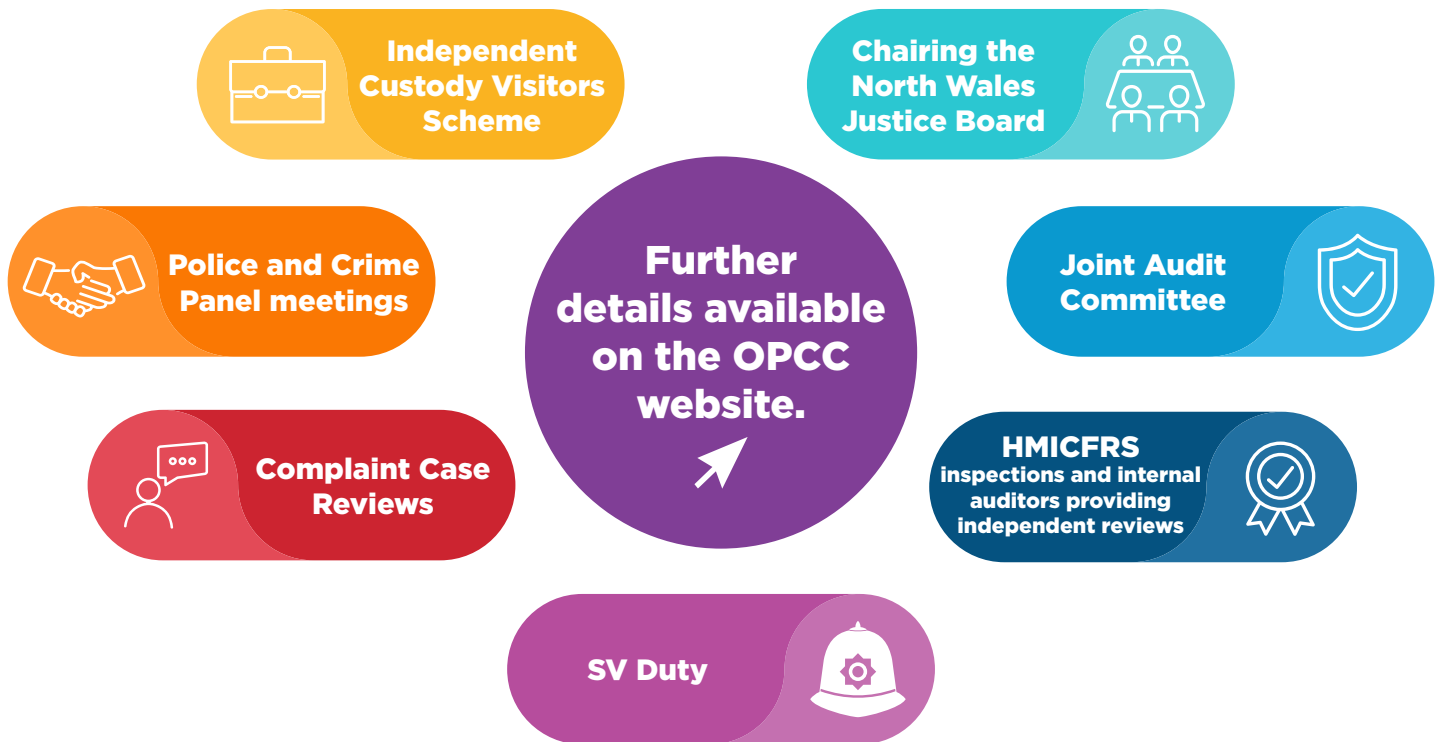
In September, the OPCC's online briefing for over 50 North Wales county councillors covered elected representatives' personal safety, the OPCC's achievements and priorities, and a North Wales Police presentation on online scams, street safety, and crime reporting.

Nearly 100 local businesses and public sector organisations across North Wales gathered on 22 May in Llandudno Junction for a free conference organised by the OPCC. The event, featuring regional and national speakers, focused on raising awareness about identifying and combating the continuing threat of Modern Slavery to local communities and economies.

In December, the PCC initiated a £15k Community Christmas Fund, which helped support nearly 50 North Wales organisations during the festive season. The fund garnered strong support among NWP officers and staff who nominated groups in their communities to receive funding.



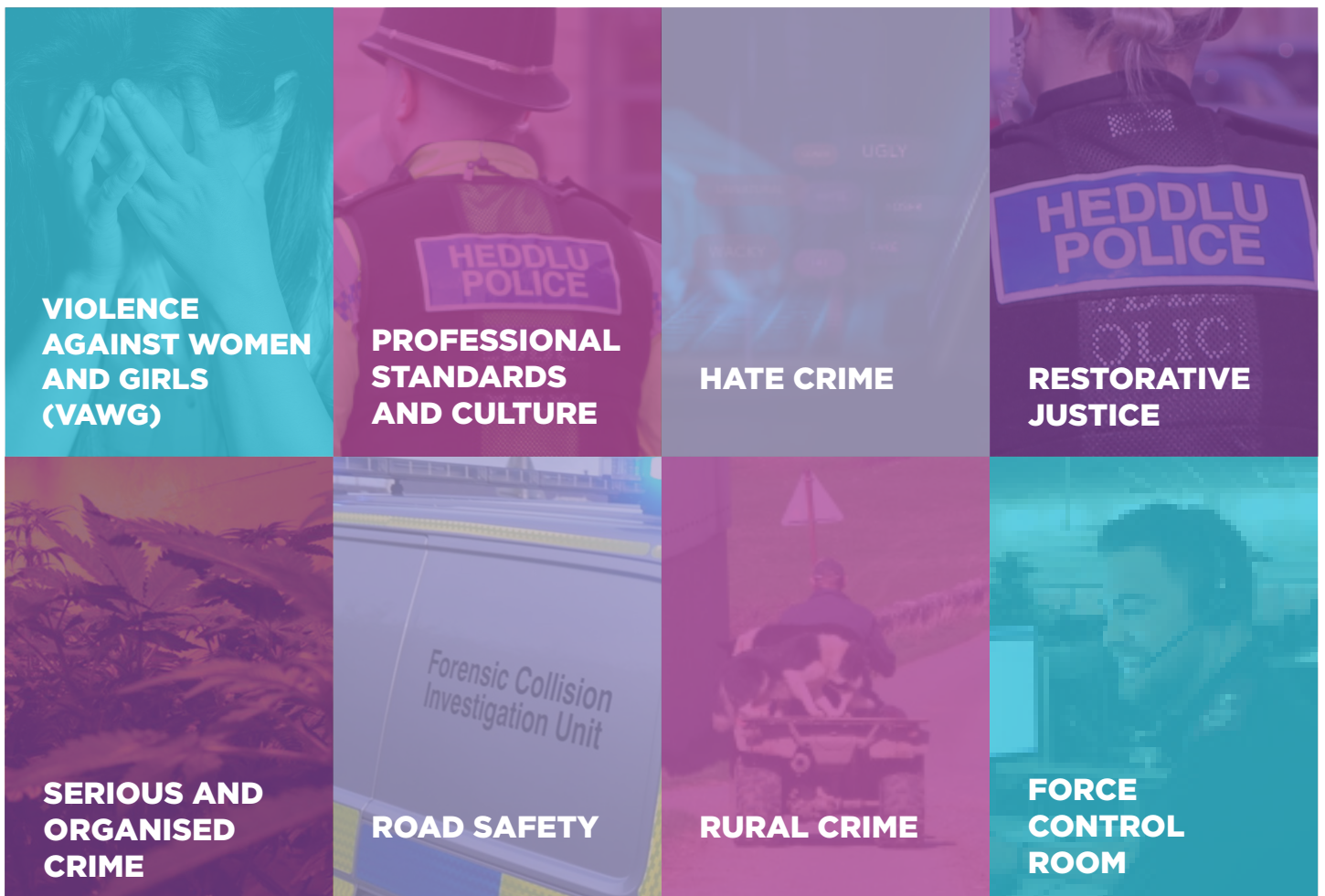
# ACCOUNTABILITY AND STATUTORY DUTIES



- Public confidence in the policing service is crucial and the complaints and conduct process contributes towards this by identifying organisational and individual learning to improve its delivery of services, and in serious cases removing staff and officers from the organisation. During the last year 499 complaints have been recorded with 31 applications to the Commissioner for a Review.
- In the coming months police regulations will be revised to provide swifter means for the Chief Constable to address serious cases of conduct within policing. I will support, but also scrutinise these regulations to ensure fairness to officers and our communities.
- In April 2022, HMICFRS in their report of *'An unannounced inspection visit to police custody suites in North Wales'* identified that there was limited scrutiny of custody. As a result, a monthly dip sample was established, with cases of use of force, removal of clothing and child detentions being reviewed. Each month I am represented at the Custody Scrutiny Managers meeting where any areas of concern or good practice are shared with the team. Child detentions are reviewed to ensure that children are only brought to custody as a last resort, that their time in custody is restricted and that they are provided specialist support whilst within the custody setting. HMICFRS also highlighted the lack of safe accommodation in North Wales for child offenders which results in children being kept in custody. Unfortunately, this remains an issue and has been raised with the North Wales Children's Safeguarding Board.
- Between April 2023 and March 2024 there have been 13 inspection reports received by HMICFRS. Of those 13 inspection reports, only two of the reports were North Wales specific. These reports were *'Vetting Arrangements North Wales'* and *'An inspection of the north-west regional response to serious and organised crime'*. I continue to monitor the Force's progress in completing the recommendations placed by HMICFRS at my Strategic Executive Board where I hold the Chief Constable to account.
- We currently have 24 Independent Custody Visitors who are appointed representatives of the local community. The Independent Custody Visitors observe, comment and report on the conditions under which persons are detained at custody suites across North Wales.

- Professional Standards within policing nationally has this year continued to be under intense scrutiny across the country following high profile and horrific crimes committed by serving police officers within the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS).
- I have overseen the additional measures implemented across policing following the publication of the [Hotton Report](#) and the [Baroness Casey Final Report](#) into Standards of Behaviour and internal culture within the Metropolitan Police. I note the publication of [Part 1 of the Angiolini Inquiry Report](#) and am pleased to note the active participation of the North Wales Police Professional Standards Department to review and respond to the recommendations.
- I monitor North Wales Police through my Professional Standards Scrutiny Board where the Deputy Chief Constable and Head of Professional Standards Department report on progress against national recommendations and also on any emerging issues specific to North Wales. Updates are then provided to the lead Police and Crime Panel members on a quarterly basis.
- I dip sample and scrutinise selected complaints and misconduct matters throughout the year.
- A revised version of the national Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) was published in February 2023 which provided strengthened detail around the action required from policing at the local and regional level to the critical national threats. The 2023 SPR set out seven identified national threats: Serious and Organised Crime (SOC); Terrorism; Cyber; Child Sexual Abuse; Public Disorder and Civil Emergencies, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), with VAWG being a new addition to the SPR in 2023 reflecting the threat it presents to public safety and confidence.
- I have received updates from the Chief Constable via my Strategic Executive Board and I am satisfied that North Wales Police and I have given due regard to the SPR.

## SCRUTINY DEEP DIVES AT THE STRATEGIC EXECUTIVE BOARD



# 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

This year I have funded the development of a North Wales road safety case worker who is employed by the road safety charity BRAKE to provide face to face support for families following a fatal or catastrophic injury road collision. The purpose of this role is to provide specialist support for families and to reduce the demand placed on family liaison officers. This will be a 12-month pilot initially and following 12 months the position will be reviewed. Following training the case worker began supporting individuals from mid-December 2023 and has so far supported 25 individuals in North Wales.

As the public representative I continue to receive enquiries by members of the public who have identified road safety issues in their area. Most recently, residents on Anglesey have raised their concerns due to ongoing speeding within their local area. Following a visit to the site, I have contacted their local council to request that a review is carried out on the road identified and that consideration into the reduction in the speed limit is given. I will continue to support local communities who identify road safety issues in their area.

Throughout August, I attended the agricultural shows alongside the North Wales Police cybercrime team to promote safety online to the rural communities. It was very beneficial to meet with the rural community and listen to their concerns and views regarding policing in their area. During the National Eisteddfod in Boduan it was a privilege to celebrate ten years of the Rural Crime Team alongside my predecessors and the Chief Constable. The expansion of the Rural Crime Team since its establishment in 2013, shows the effectiveness and the importance of their dedication to the rural communities.

I continue to meet the farming unions on a quarterly basis alongside the Chief Constable to ensure that there is open communication between the rural communities and policing. The first meeting was held in January, and they have been invaluable in understanding the issues and concerns surrounding crime within the rural community.



# 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

We held a workshop with partners and examined the end-to-end experiences of domestic abuse victims across the criminal justice system in North Wales and created a local plan to drive systemic change and reduce victim withdrawals. This proactive approach means North Wales is already aligned to the ambitions of the Domestic Abuse Joint Justice Plan which will improve how domestic abuse is responded to and investigated across England and Wales.

During the past year the national Strategic Policing Requirement has encompassed VAWG as a key policing priority moving forward. I carried out a scrutiny deep dive at the May meeting of my Strategic Executive Board and was informed by the Chief Constable that a gap analysis had identified the following priority areas:

- Improving quality of investigations and how we assess performance.
  - Victim updates and continuity of contact management.
  - Applications for civil orders and management of breaches.
  - Consistent involvement of NPTs.
  - Force intelligence profiles and intelligence submissions.
- In response, an initial leadership event with managers and district leads was arranged to highlight best practice and to encourage:
- Improved intelligence collection to support problem profiles.
  - Improved awareness of RFGV data sets with opportunities to focus on repeat offenders and victims.
  - Improved communications exploiting the successes of different approaches to both internal and external partners.

Over the last year, I have engaged regularly

members of the business and retail community, including federations and associations, to understand the needs and the challenges faced.

Task and finish groups within the Forum have been carrying out valuable work including:

- Establishing Standard Operating Procedures across North Wales for the discovery of Modern Slavery victims (covering victim services and rest and recovery premises).
- Hosting an event to highlight how Modern Slavery exists in the post-pandemic economy – particularly within the care sector. Also hosting an event that explored how young people are impacted by modern slavery and particularly criminal exploitation.
- Delivering on key aspects of the North Wales Vulnerability & Exploitation Strategy
- The DPCC has supported and spoken at events hosted by the North Wales Modern Slavery Partnership which included:
  - County lines and child criminal exploitation
  - Sex work
  - Labour exploitation/the care sector

The partnership approach to tackling Modern Slavery in North Wales has been recognised by Welsh Government as good practice.

I continue to scrutinise North Wales Police on its performance around serious and organised crime which includes human trafficking, modern slavery and organised immigration crime. My Deputy PCC meets with the head of the Exploitation Unit on a quarterly basis. In addition, I have carried out deep dive sessions on Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime through the Strategic Executive Board.

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.

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.

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.

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.

In June I hosted the '[Cyber Security North Wales](#)' event, providing crucial insights to business owners on safeguarding their enterprises from the ever-evolving scourge of cybercrime.

## Children & Young People Engagement/Participation

My Office has supported the Force to establish and run the first year of the Young Ambassadors group. The Young Ambassadors meetings have been held approximately every six weeks and have explored different themes around policing that affect young people. The Young Ambassadors have carried out further engagement with their peers and fed this back into the Force. I will continue to support the development of the Young Ambassadors programme in the coming year.

I have carried out a number of engagement and consultation exercises with young people this year, which is detailed in the communication and engagement section of this report.

The announcement made by Welsh Government in December 2023 concerning the withdrawal of funding for the School Beat Programme came as a bitter disappointment. At the time of writing, a review is underway for the future delivery of the programme in our schools. The Chief Constable and I remain committed to delivering the programme in some form.

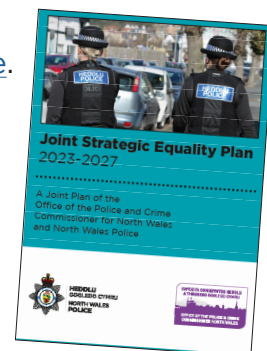
## Equality and Diversity

Together with the Force, I published a new Joint Strategic Equality Plan following the work done earlier last year to engage and research on what the new strategic equality objectives should be. These objectives are:

- **Effective Governance** – In meeting our equality duties, we will exercise effective governance, be transparent and ensure public oversight.
- **Our Public** – We will encourage participation and ensure people are neither overpoliced nor under protected.
- **Our Partners** – We will work with partners to improve our equality performance.
- **Our Organisation** – We will embed a supportive environment that creates an inclusive culture.
- **Our Workforce** – We will work towards achieving a representative and professional workforce made up of people with the right skills.

The full plan can be viewed [here](#).

- I note and support the work that is taking place in Force to ensure Culture, Diversity and Equality have the right level of governance and scrutiny. My Office continues to take an active role at all levels and is supportive of the changes to the governance boards.
- I welcome the challenge to get more members of the public involved in Force scrutiny. My Office attends all stakeholder liaison group meetings (including chairing the Race Stakeholder meeting) and takes an active role in the Body Worn Video scrutiny sessions. We continue to actively support the Force to get more members of the public involved in this work.
- Improving workforce representation remains a difficult area for the Force. I continue to monitor this. Both the [NPCC Police Race Action Plan](#) and the [CJIW Anti-Racism Action Plan](#) make provision for the need to increase the number of black and minority ethnic police officers and staff. North Wales Police and my Office are working with partners to meet all the requirements of these plans.



I am very pleased that in North Wales, our Chief Constable is the national lead for Acquisitive Crime and our Chief Superintendent Alex Goss is the national lead for Retail Crime. Thus when the new [Retail Crime Action Plan](#) was launched nationally in October 2023 our force are at the forefront of ensuring its implementation across North Wales. This marked the start of a renewed focus on police tackling retail crime alongside guidance for business owners and staff on how and what to report, which will assist us in working together more effectively to combat the economic and social impact of these crimes. Even though the new Plan was only launched six months ago, I am pleased to say that processes are markedly improved with new processes in the Control Room to prioritise police attendance whenever offenders are violent or have been detained, if evidence has been secured and to identify and divert or prosecute prolific or repeat offender.

In April 2023 we established the North Wales Victims Panel. The purpose of the Panel is to “Enable the Police and Crime Commissioner and other local criminal justice agencies to hear the voices of victims in North Wales and to better understand their experiences of the criminal justice process, to inform service improvements.” Since its inception the Panel has met four times and, on each occasion, it has led to a number of recommendations being made to improve the services afforded to victims. We have also worked with a network of survivor groups across North Wales who told us that support pathways, communication, training and alignment with the family courts were cross cutting themes which criminal justice agencies should be aware of. Their voices have informed the NWCJB’s Delivery Plan.

## **Restorative Justice and Hate Crime**

It has been identified that many victims of hate crime would encourage the use of restorative justice due to its ability to allow victims to explain the impact that the offender’s actions have caused. The use of restorative justice in hate crime cases in North Wales is low due to the level of referrals, however, work has been on going with the Diversity Team to promote restorative justice to the new hate crime champions within the force. Restorative Justice will now be explained and offered routinely to all victims of hate crime.

- I monitor hate crime figures throughout the year and note a second year of reductions in the number of hate crimes reported. There was an overall decrease from 1294 at year end last year 2022/23, to 1026 reports this year (2023/24). This equates to a reduction of 20%. This is the second consecutive year there has been a reduction with the preceding seven years seeing consistently increasing figures (particularly over the period of the Covid pandemic).
- The reductions are across most of the protected characteristics with only religious-based Hate Crimes showing an increase. This may in part be due to world events e.g. the Israeli Palestinian conflict. However, it must be noted that the actual figures for religious motivated hate are very low. Furthermore, North Wales has not seen the increase in religious motivated hate that has been experienced elsewhere in the UK. Up to year-end, tensions have been stable. The overall reduction across all protected characteristics, however, does mirror the figures from elsewhere in the UK with a national decrease in the reporting of Hate Crime.
- Whilst it is encouraging to see a decrease, I am also aware that the confidence of victims to report hate crime is a long-standing issue and I therefore continue my work to raise awareness and encourage reporting.
- I have monitored hate crime performance throughout the year and have been pleased to note an increase in victim satisfaction levels. Measures the Force have taken to improve their response to hate crime have led to improved performance. This includes allocating an additional Diversity Officer and training hate crime champions throughout local policing.
- I continue my scrutiny and support 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 80 people with an interest in improving services for victims of hate crime. See the post event report [here](#).

# 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 criminal justice system across North Wales is made up of multiple parts, overseen by different organisations. The aim of the North Wales Criminal Justice Board (NWCJB) is to ensure that all criminal justice agencies work seamlessly together to ensure that the system is fair, efficient and effective for victims, witnesses, and people who have offended.

Here are some examples of how we have worked with our partners to deliver an effective and efficient criminal justice system in North Wales over the past 12 months:

- *Our consistent approach towards addressing offending in North Wales:* Evidence-led local offending profiles were completed to inform the NWCJB about the most prevalent crime types, demographics, criminogenic needs and drivers of offending and the services and interventions available to address the offending behaviour and reduce crime. We collated and analysed a range of data to understand what is driving offending behaviour in North Wales and to assess whether we are addressing offenders' needs. The NWCJB is using this evidence to develop a local 'People Who Offend' plan the aim of which will be to reduce offending and create safer communities.
- *Becoming an Anti-Racism Criminal Justice System:* The first All-Wales Anti-Racism Action Plan Annual Report sets out our achievements against the Criminal Justice Anti Racism Action Plan, including training, a communication plan and hate crime research. Importantly it also reminds us we have more work to do.
- *Victims and witnesses are more aware of special measures:* Survivors told us last year that special measures and giving evidence remotely was beneficial and made them feel safer and more confident giving evidence. Therefore, we continued to ensure all victims and witnesses were informed about special measures via special measures advocates. We are pleased to report that use of the

three Remote Evidence Sites in North Wales increased significantly in 23/24 and we will continue to monitor their usage going forwards.

- *Overseeing the response to rape across the Criminal Justice System:* North Wales Police and the CPS in North Wales are part of the Government's rape transformation programme, known as Operation Soteria. The NWCJB works with the Wales Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Group in order to understand the response victims of rape receive in Wales, identify and share new initiatives and best practice, and to recognise common challenges. We continue to use the Ministry of Justice's Adult Rape delivery dashboard data to monitor if the activities driven via Operation Soteria are making a real difference to rape survivors. The data illustrates that in Wales rape cases continue to be finalised on average 100 days earlier than the average time across England and Wales. However, we have more work to do in 24/25 to enhance victim engagement, including setting up a Sexual Abuse specific Survivors Advising Services Forum in North Wales.
- *Becoming Trauma informed Criminal Justice System:* It is testament to our partnership working and shared vision that North Wales Police, CPS, HMCTS and HMPPS in North Wales are well on their way to becoming trauma informed organisations.

**Restorative Justice (RJ)** continues to be driven by our North Wales Police Restorative Justice Officer who has provided refresher training to our Victims Help Centre to encourage referrals. In February 2023, HMPPS released their Restorative Justice Policy Framework which outlined the requirement for high-risk restorative cases to be referred via the re:hub. The re:hub co-ordinates restorative justice across HMPPS (prison and community), managing associated risks and developing quality of practice.

The re:hub coordinate cases with added complexities or sensitive cases. Sensitive and complex cases can include murder and sexual offences. All cases within these criteria are routed through the re:hub and the restorative justice approval panel. The panel is chaired by the re:hub and considers RJ requests by reviewing and evaluating the risks and benefits of each case.

Unfortunately, the North Wales Police Restorative Justice Officer was experiencing extensive delays due to the re:hub taking a long

time to consider applications. This was resulting in victims waiting years to find out whether the Restorative Justice conference would go ahead. In July I met with the Management Team of the re:hub alongside the North Wales Police Restorative Justice Officer to consider a way forward in preventing such delays in the future. Following this meeting there has been an improvement in the level of communication from the re:hub and I will continue to monitor its progress to ensure that the issues don't reoccur.





# FUNDING AND FINANCE

	Original Budget £m	Revised Budget £m	Outturn £m	Overspend / (Underspend) £m
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Officers and Staff	167.904	172.750	172.161	(0.589)
Premises	12.440	11.474	10.433	(1.041)
Transport	3.943	3.955	3.137	(0.818)
Supplies and Services	27.792	29.235	30.371	1.136
Contingencies	1.066	-	-	-
Debt Charges and Charges to Capital	4.949	5.069	5.167	0.098
Commissioning	3.570	5.543	5.691	0.148
Collaborations and Partnerships	-	4.492	4.492	-
<b>Gross expenditure</b>	<b>221.664</b>	<b>232.518</b>	<b>231.452</b>	<b>(1.066)</b>
Grants for commissioning	-	(1.116)	(1.116)	-
Collaboration and Partnerships	-	(4.926)	(4.926)	-
Other income	(31.100)	(38.332)	(40.831)	(2.499)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>(31.100)</b>	<b>(44.374)</b>	<b>(46.873)</b>	<b>(2.499)</b>
Planned movements in reserves	(1.605)	815	815	-
<b>Net expenditure</b>	<b>188.959</b>	<b>188.959</b>	<b>183.954</b>	<b>(3.565)</b>
Transfer of underspend to reserves	-	-	3.565	3.565
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>188.959</b>	<b>188.959</b>	<b>188.959</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Funded by:</b>				
Government Grants	(88.715)	(88.715)	(88.715)	-
Precept	(100.244)	(100.244)	(100.244)	-
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>(188.959)</b>	<b>(188.959)</b>	<b>(188.959)</b>	<b>-</b>

Savings of **£3.753m** were planned and delivered during the year.

We spent less money than we expected on buildings and transport, but spent more on upgrading furniture and equipment to enable agile working.

Interest rates remained higher, so we earned more money on our investments.



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