

Policing Board for Wales
19th November 2018 (12:00- 13:40)
Committee Room A, Tŷ Hywel, Cardiff Bay
Minutes

1. Attendees:

Alun Davies AM, Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services (Chair)

Rachel Maycock, Special Adviser

Jeff Cuthbert, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent and Chair of the All Wales Policing Group.

Arfon Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales

Dafydd Llywelyn, Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

Alun Michael, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales

Mark Collins, Chief Constable, Dyfed Powys Police

Carl Foulkes, Chief Constable North Wales Police **via telephone**

Matt Jukes, Chief Constable, South Wales Police and Chair of the Welsh Chief Officers Group.

Julian Williams, Chief Constable Gwent Police

Tracey Burke, Director General, Education & Public Services, Welsh Government

Andrew Goodall, Director General Health & Social Services/NHS Wales, Chief Executive, Welsh Government

Reg Kilpatrick, Department for Local Government and Public Services, Welsh Government

Martin Swain, Deputy Director for Community Safety, Welsh Government

Sarah Cooper, Head of Crime and Justice Team, Welsh Government

Samantha Huckle, Head of Apprenticeships, Welsh Government

Alison Lott, Crime and Justice Team, Welsh Government

Chief Superintendent Tony Brown, Police Liaison Unit

Sian Curley, Chief Executive, Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner's Team

Carys Morgans, Chief Executive, Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner's Team

Cerith Thomas, Police and Crime Commissioners Advisor to the All Wales Policing Team

Helen Hill, Police Liaison Unit Administrator

2. Apologies

Alun Cairns MP, Secretary of State for Wales

David Lamberti (Director, Policing & Fire) representative of Scott McPherson, Director General, Crime, Policing and Fire, Home Office

Amy Rees, Executive Director of HMPPS in Wales

Robert Evans, All Wales Deputy Chief Constable

Chris Batchelor, Head of Crime and Criminal Justice- Wales, Home Office

Debbie Wilcox, Leader Welsh Local Government Association

3. Chair's opening address:

3.1 Alun Davies AM, Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. CC Carl Foulkes was congratulated on his recent appointment to North Wales Police and his participation via telephone was welcomed.

3.2 CC Carl Foulkes was delighted to join the meeting via telephone. Prior work commitments meant he could not attend in person.

4. Terms of Reference & Membership

4.1 Draft Terms of Reference were circulated to the members in advance of the meeting. The Chair explained that the First Minister had asked him to chair the Board as it was consistent with his portfolio responsibilities. The Chair invited comments from those present on the Terms of Reference.

4.2 Arfon Jones queried whether there should be a reference within the Terms of Reference to ensure a clear link with the Cross Party Group on Policing which would help inform all AMs of progress made during the meetings.

Jeff Cuthbert indicated that not all Commissioners shared the same view and as the Cross Party Group was an Assembly meeting there was no requirement to include within the Terms of Reference of the Board which was the link with Welsh Government.

Dafydd Llywelyn suggested that it may be a case of sharing the minutes of the meeting with AMs?

Action 1: The Chair confirmed that he intended to place the minutes in the public domain and Commissioners could do likewise if they wished.

4.3 Alun Michael referred to point 3 (Purpose section of the terms of reference, p1) and highlighted that it was necessary for members to agree and understand that the Board needed to be about **both** Welsh Government and the Public Service in Wales being able to identify the implications of the legislative programme and the impact on public services.

4.4 Mr Michael also referred to a missing 'and' in point 4 of the same section and stated that the 'only' needs to be amended

Action 2: The Board agreed the amendments and that the terms of reference be updated accordingly.

4.5 The Board noted that there were no representatives from the Home Office, Ministry of Justice or the Welsh Office in attendance. Jeff Cuthbert stated he was keen to establish the proposed initial membership of the Board, including UK Government departments and he would contact the Home Office to discuss their attendance at future meetings. That was important given that the Home Office was the UK Government Department with responsibility for policing. He would also repeat the invitation for the Secretary of State for Wales, Rt Hon Alun Cairns, to nominate a senior representative to become a member of the Board.

4.6 The Chair indicated that he recently had good and positive meetings with both the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office. The Chair was particularly positive about the interaction regarding the Youth Justice blueprint and agreed that Home Office representation at meetings of the Board would be beneficial.

Action 3: Jeff Cuthbert to contact the Home Office regarding their membership of the Board.

Action 4: Jeff Cuthbert to write to the Secretary of State for Wales, Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP, to repeat the offer for a senior representative from the Welsh Office to become a member of the Board.

4.7 Dafydd Llywelyn asked the Chair about what details he intended to release in respect of the Policing Board.

4.8 The Chair confirmed that a written statement had been drafted and shared with Jeff Cuthbert and he had no difficulty if it was circulated to the Members of the Board. The intention was to release the statement as soon as possible.

Action 5: Alun Davies to share his written statement about the Policing Board with the Members

5. Policing in Wales (including challenges, demand and opportunities to support wider goals of Welsh Government)

5.1 The Chair welcomed a discussion on this topic as it provided the opportunity to understand the impact of legislation on Policing and Welsh Government and how they could move forward together.

5.2 Matt Jukes provided a high level overview highlighting Serious and Organised Crime in our communities; Terrorism and Radicalisation; Digital risk/threat and County Lines.

5.3 Further details were given about the footprint of the Extreme Right Wing in Wales and the threat that it posed particularly to younger people.

5.4 A breakdown of the demand seen by the Police services was provided and a summary of calls taken by South Wales Police showed that of the 1 million calls it received per year only 100,000 related to crime. The main causes of the additional calls were Public Safety which included dealing with vulnerable people and Mental Health. Police forces in Wales deal with over 200 Mental Health related incidents every day.

5.5. In respect of non-crime demand CC Jukes explained that Missing People and Missing Children from Care Homes were particularly challenging. In relation to missing children from care homes, 9 out of 10 were repeat calls. He emphasized that it was appropriate for the police to be involved where there was risk of harm. There was a close association between missing children and county lines, drugs/ drugs seen on our streets.

5.6 It was explained that there had been an increase in drug related deaths, with a significant increase in cocaine related deaths which was currently the highest since the 1990's.

5.7 Violent crime in Wales was following the international pattern of a downward trend which had recently begun to increase.

5.8 Mr Jukes explained that the purpose of raising these issues was because they are all Public Health related. It was confirmed that forces worked closely with Community Safety Partnerships, Public Service Boards and Local Partners but would like to work closer with the Welsh Government in tackling these issues.

5.9 Mr Jukes explained that Domestic abuse continued to be a priority as violence against women and girls remained a real risk.

5.10 The single highest risk of becoming a victim of crime was by being a victim of fraud.

5.11 The Scottish Business Resilience Centre was discussed briefly as an example of a more joined up model for Welsh Government and Policing but there is work to be done.

5.12 Reports of rape and serious sexual assaults had increased by 100% compared to 3 years previously. There were insufficient facilities across public services in place to resolve and target the added demand and that moreover the number of prosecutions in these cases was not as high as it should be.

5.13 Matt Jukes also highlighted the implications of being a Capital City and the impact and cost of policing the high number of associated events.

5.14 It was acknowledged that Welsh forces are fully engaged in discussions with Welsh Government on legislation where there was a clear link with Policing such as the Removal of the Defence of Reasonable Punishment. There were tremendous opportunities in Wales to work together for example the Adverse Childhood Experiences work. All Chief Constables welcomed the opportunity to assist officials and Ministers when legislation was under review.

5.15 Front end policing in Rural communities in Wales was highlighted as best practice nationally. There were examples of good partnership working in place with most Public Service Boards/ Local Service Boards/ local partners however there was room for improvement. It was recognised that partners were equally struggling due to a lack of resources.

5.16 The Chair welcomed the summary and thanked CC Jukes for his powerful analysis. He suggested it would be useful to have a further discussion between Ministers and Chief Constables in order to help the legislators understand the implications on policing.

Action 6: Cabinet Secretary's Office to look into setting up a relevant meeting between the Police, Cabinet Secretaries, Ministers and legislators.

5.17 The Chair asked whether there were clear linkages in place in terms of the wider interest of institutions of governance and policing in Wales and were there plans to maximise work streams already in place or were matters dealt with by executive actions.

5.18 CC Jukes stated that meetings were ongoing with the Community Safety Partnerships although they were not as good as they could be and set against the threats described earlier there were not necessarily appropriate links in all areas.

5.19 Alun Michael added that resources were a challenge, whilst staff may well be on board with a project if there were not enough of them to do the work then it could not happen. He gave an example of the Community Safety team in Cardiff which had its establishment of 90 staff, 10 years previously, reduced to 2 part time staff today. Public service Boards were beginning to mature and gave examples of good work in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot and also with Bridgend and Cwm Taf. He felt there was a dysfunctional link between the regional partnership boards and the public service boards. He agreed to provide a note to the Chair on that point.

Action 7: Alun Michael to send Alun Davies AM a note summarising the point made about Public Service Boards.

5.20 Mr Michael suggested further discussion was needed between the Welsh Government and the Police to identify the definition of Mental Health Demand.

CC Mark Collins, as National police lead for Mental Health offered to provide details of an agreed definition. It was explained that 90% of police time was spent dealing with non-crime related demand which includes Mental Health.

5.21 Dafydd Llywelyn felt that the development of the Public Service Boards had been inconsistent and not all were following up on their needs assessments. It appeared that the members of the Public Service Boards were withdrawing back to their statutory positions. There was general agreement that the Public Service Boards would be required to 'step up' following needs assessment of local areas. He expressed concern in that there were a number of good ideas being put forward although other partners are not providing funding and consequently nothing was progressed.

5.22 Dafydd Llywelyn suggested that the problems affecting rural communities are sometimes over simplified. It was suggested that it would be best viewed as a critical issue which requires a different policing model. The Chair supported this idea.

5.23 Andrew Goodall introduced himself to the meeting and felt that in his experience Local organisations needed to build on what they should be doing and develop relationships and thereafter convert them into actions. There was a need to challenge assumptions about not using funding and lots more could be done. It was also important to shift the emphasis to the prevention side in order to reduce demand on services.

5.24 In terms of Mental Health, Mr Goodall agreed that public services needed to be aligned better ahead of the point of crisis. He also felt that the relationships between the Regional Partnership Boards and the Public Service Boards should be untangled. He gave a clear commitment to work with the police service on the big issues and not just health.

5.25 Arfon Jones highlighted that Mental Health was being targeted through the Public Service Boards by the Joint Emergency Services Group.

5.26 Jeff Cuthbert stated that in Gwent there were good relationships between Policing and Community Safety. And currently there were no areas of conflict between Public Service Boards and Police and Crime Plans. However it should not be assumed that would always be the position and potential conflict/ contradiction was something that the Government need to be mindful of going forward.

5.27 Mr Cuthbert highlighted the current use of triage Mental Health nurses in Gwent control rooms which are funded by Gwent police. It was suggested that there needed to be more clarity around partnership responsibilities and funding arrangements. He also felt it would be a good idea to have a virtual Public Service Board across Gwent.

5.28 Arfon Jones felt that Community Safety Partnerships should become a part of the Public Service Boards especially when feeding in to regional bodies.

5.29 Having reviewed the current structure and appreciating the devolved/ non-devolved landscape Matt Jukes offered the chair operational policing involvement in any conversation, examples of Transport, developing plans for prosperity for all and Health and Social Care were given.

5.30 The Chair accepted this offer and stated there was a need to ensure a structure was in place to service our needs as opposed to the other way around. He undertook to circulate a note to clarify the issues (see action 6) as an opportunity to take forward the conversation and to ensure the correct structures were in place.

6. Funding

6.1 Comprehensive Spending Review

Jeff Cuthbert introduced the item by providing an overview of the current position in terms of where Policing in Wales was in terms of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). Mr Cuthbert was a member of the senior CSR Steering Group, in order to ensure the unique Welsh issues are captured and coordinated a four force submission taking into account the devolved environment within which the Welsh forces work.

A considerable amount of work was ongoing to ensure sufficient information was provided to assist the seven work streams:

- Demand and resilience
- Capability
- Efficiency and productivity
- Funding models
- Funding choices
- Objectives and narrative
- Programme management

The deadline for the submission to the Home Secretary was the end of December 2018 and he was not sure if it would be completed by that date. Any delay would be minimal.

6.2 Police Pensions

One of the biggest issues facing Police budgets was the requirement for larger employer contributions to Police Pensions, resulting from what has been referred to by HM Treasury as a re-evaluation.

In practical terms that was as if a 4% unfunded pressure on salary costs would be imposed if it took full effect. That could have major implications for the local police precept and the public will expect their money to go on services and not into bridging the gap.

The Home Secretary and the Minister for Policing were both pressing the chancellor on his stance on police pensions.

6.3 Reg Kilpatrick provided an update following a recent meeting which he and Martin Swain had recently attended with Jude Cole, Director of Finance at the Home Office. It was explained that re-evaluation work regarding the distribution formula was still ongoing but that it was in the early stages.

6.4 Arfon Jones questioned how it could be called a pensions re-evaluation when it had never been done before.

6.5 Alun Michael summarised the situation as Treasury used to fill the gap, the gap got bigger and they have decided forces now have to pay it.

6.6 Dafydd Llywelyn commented that this topic was a political mute point as it was gearing towards policing being funded more from locally raised taxes than from central funding.

Action 8: Jeff Cuthbert to send a summary about the Pension situation to Cabinet Secretary Alun Davies

6.7 Mr Davies indicated that Prof Mark Drakeford, Cabinet Secretary for Finance had made a Statement on this topic and confirmed he would link in with him to discuss the matter.

6.8 Mr Kilpatrick advised members that they had taken the opportunity during the meeting with Jude Cole to question the funding for the policing of Cardiff as a Capital City and all the associated demands that follow. It was explained that there was an opportunity to request additional funding but it required an evidential bid.

6.9 Matt Jukes explained that numerous discussions and evidenced submissions have taken place, but thanked Mr Kilpatrick for raising the issue.

6.10 The Chair stated that he would be happy for the Welsh Government to take forward the matter of Cardiff needing additional resources, having witnessed the level of policing required for events in the Capital to keep people safe.

Action 9: Welsh Government to support discussions with the Home Office to seek to secure additional resources for Cardiff as a Capital City.

Matt Jukes thanked the Chair for his support on this matter.

6.11 Matt Jukes highlighted that the UK's commitment to new money for Mental Health services would not necessarily see its way to Wales.

6.12 Jeff Cuthbert stated he would put a note about the impact of this in the Police Pension paper to the Minister.

6.13 All Wales Core School Liaison Programme

Alun Michael provided an update following a recent meeting between Martin Swain and Chris Gittens, DCC Richard Lewis, operational police officers and regional representatives. Following the meeting it was agreed that work would be carried out to scope the relevance of the different areas the programme covers and also a piece of work will be undertaken to identify the operational impacts.

Mr Michael suggested that both pieces of work could be brought back to the Board when completed.

6.14 The Chair stated that he was very anxious that the Welsh Government continued to fund the AWCSLP and showed an interest in understanding what preventative measures were in place for young children.

7. Serious and Organised Crime/ County Lines

7.1 A supporting paper was distributed ahead of the meeting and Matt Jukes highlighted the key points.

7.2 He set out the following points that would assist the police to respond in this area namely:

- 1) Public Service Boards should have a clear link into assist in the fight against Serious and Organised Crime and county lines.
- 2) Welsh Government to fund an evaluation of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) and then provide an input in a consistent way across Wales.
- 3) Joint Welsh Government oversight of Serious and Organised Crime and for there to be a focus in a similar way to that in place for Counter Terrorism.
- 4) Public Health Wales, Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables have agreed to explore the option of a Violence Reduction Unit for Wales and an invite to Welsh Government to be involved in this scoping. (please see attached document)

7.3 The Chair recognised the level of professionalism across all four force areas and the quality of work being delivered regarding Serious Organised Crime.

7.4 Arfon Jones was mindful that forces did not have a clear understanding in terms of who filled the void when organised crime gangs were removed and the exact picture and level of violence was unclear. There was a need for greater understanding in this area.

7.5 Mark Collins referred to a recent example in Dyfed-Powys whereby a high quantity of illegal drugs had been seized in his area and stressed that it was an issue affecting every basic command unit in Wales. It was not just an urban problem and it was also impacting on rural communities.

Action 10: The above four points raised by CC Jukes to be taken back by WG officials to consider how they can be progressed.

8. Probation and Community Rehabilitation Reform

8.1 There was insufficient time during the meeting to discuss this agenda item. The Chair suggested that if there were any issues to speak with Amy Rees directly.

8.2 Alun Michael explained that the four Police and Crime Commissioners had a considerable interest in the Criminal Justice System developments and were in discussions with Amy Rees about joint commissioning with the Ministry of Justice in Wales. The WLGA and Public Health Wales were also involved in the discussions.

8.3 The Chair highlighted that work was ongoing to get a woman's centre in Wales. Conversations are ongoing with the Scottish Parliament.

Action 11: A wider conversation between Cabinet Secretary Alun Davies and Andrew Goodall was required to discuss the management of such a centre as it would be managed by Welsh Government.

9. Brexit Contingency planning

9.1 The Chair stated that he anticipated matters would become clearer as we moved forward to 29 March 2019 and felt it would be helpful to understand what arrangements the police had in place.

The Chair expressed his concern for the agricultural communities of mid Wales and the wider economic impacts this may lead to.

Action 12: It was agreed that discussions between the Welsh Government and the Police forces highlighting what was in place within each force will continue as the Brexit situation became clearer.

9.2 A discussion surrounding difficulties in sharing information from numerous sources but primarily from Westminster took place. It was agreed that whilst it is likely the content was not particularly contentious it was likely to be politically sensitive.

9.3 The Chair explained that he had a meeting later that afternoon and if there were any examples of how security clearance was causing difficulty in planning effectively then members were urged to share them with him so he could raise it at a senior level.

Action 13: Examples of how security clearance issues are causing difficulty in planning effectively to be returned before 4pm on the day of the meeting (19/11/18)

10. Future agenda

10.1 The chair thanked all members for their attendance and contribution

10.2 It was suggested that the next meeting could take place in Wrexham

Action 14: Consideration be given to holding the next meeting of the Board in Wrexham

The meeting ended at 13:40

Action table- Actions from meeting 19/11/2018

| Action | Responsibility |
|--|--|
| 1) The Chair confirmed that he intended to place the minutes in the public domain and Commissioners could do likewise if they so wished. | WG Officials and the PLU |
| 2) The Board agreed the amendments and that the terms of reference be updated accordingly. | CT/TB |
| 3) Jeff Cuthbert to contact the Home Office regarding their membership of the Board. | JC |
| 4) Jeff Cuthbert to write to the Secretary of State for Wales, Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP, to repeat the offer for a senior representative from the Welsh Office to become a member of the Board. | JC |
| 5) Alun Davies to share his written statement about the Policing Board with the Members | WG Officials |
| 6) Cabinet Secretary's Office to look into setting up a relevant meeting between the Police, Cabinet Secretaries, Ministers and legislators. | WG Officials |
| 7) Alun Michael to send Alun Davies AM a note summarising the point made about Public Service Boards. | AM |
| 8) Jeff Cuthbert to send a summary about the Pension situation to Cabinet Secretary Alun Davies | JC |
| 9) Welsh Government to support discussions with the Home Office to seek to secure additional resources for Cardiff as a Capital City. | WG Officials |
| 10) The four points raised by CC Jukes regarding SOC to be taken back by WG officials to see how they can be taken forward. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Service Boards to have a clear link into assisting in the fight against Serious and Organised Crime and county lines. • Welsh Government to fund an evaluation of Multi agency safeguarding hubs and then provide an input in a consistent way across Wales. • Joint Welsh Government oversight of Serious and Organised Crime and for there to be a focus in a similar way that is in place for Counter Terrorism. • Public Health Wales, Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables have agreed to explore the option of a Violence Reduction Unit for Wales and an invite to Welsh Government to be involved in this scoping. (please see attached document) | WG Officials |
| 11) A wider conversation between Cabinet Secretary Alun Davies and Andrew Goodall is required to discuss the management of such a centre as it would be managed by Welsh Government. | AD/ AG |
| 12) It was agreed that discussions between the Welsh Government and the Police forces highlighting what is in place within each force would continue as the Brexit situation became clearer. | All members-assisted by PLU |
| 13) Examples of how security clearance issues were causing difficulty in planning effectively to be returned before 4pm on the day of the meeting (19/11/18) | All members |
| 14) Consideration be given to holding the next meeting of the Board in Wrexham | Board Chair, Chair of the All Wales Policing Group and Chair of the Welsh Chief Officer Group. |