

ANNUAL REPORT

2015/16

SWYDDFA **COMISIYNYDD HEDDLU**
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OFFICE OF THE **POLICE & CRIME**
COMMISSIONER NORTH WALES

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Introducing the Commissioner

It is a great honour for me to have been elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales, I was truly overjoyed with the result of the election on 5 May 2016.

As your Police and Crime Commissioner I will listen to the communities of North Wales. I plan to consult widely about the policing priorities for North Wales to make sure we have a good idea of what it is that the people of North Wales want us to deliver over the next 12 months. By working with North Wales Police and our partners, I will ensure we work together to deliver the best possible police service for you.



My initial priorities include scrutinising how domestic abuse cases are handled, with the aim of increasing convictions, and increasing the use of body worn video to support those convictions. Domestic violence is a hideous crime and one I feel passionately about. The fact that seven victims of domestic violence are killed every month in England and Wales makes it an obvious priority. There's an emotional cost, there's a cost to society and there's a financial cost and I think the responsibility falls to all of us to prioritise things of this nature. I would very much like to provide every front line officer in North Wales with a body worn video. The evidence coming out from the use of body worn video is that the number of offenders who are arrested, charged and brought before the courts has increased.

Another of my priorities is to encourage the devolution of the youth justice system. There is no consistent approach in the way youth justice services are delivered in different parts of North Wales. I have been lead councillor for Children's Services for Wrexham County Council with responsibility for Youth Justice (which is managed by the Ministry of Justice at Westminster). Youth Justice in North Wales is financed by the Welsh Government, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, North Wales Police, the Probation Service and the Health Board and it is dealt with differently across the whole of North Wales. Responsibility for youth justice should be devolved to Wales. The current bureaucratic system is too similar to a postcode lottery, children and young people deserve better. We should intervene earlier when the children are younger and break the cycle of crime before it happens.

Introduction – The Annual Report

As the police and crime commissioner for North Wales I am required to produce an annual report under section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act). This is my first report since being elected by the people of North Wales in May 2016.

This annual report relates to the financial year April 2015 to March 2016 and therefore covers the period before I came into office. It will focus on how my predecessor, Mr Winston Roddick CB QC exercised his functions and responsibilities during that year and the progress made in meeting the police and crime objectives of the 2015/16 Police and Crime Plan (the Plan).

The principal responsibilities of a Police and Crime Commissioner are

- To secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for North Wales;
- To hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of his functions and those under his direction and control; and
- To bring together community safety and criminal justice partners, to co-operate with other police and crime commissioners and formulate and implement strategies across the North Wales Police area.

Other responsibilities include publishing a police and crime plan (setting out the strategies for the policing of North Wales), setting the precept (the difference between the funds provided by the Government and the cost of policing North Wales) and obtain the views of local people and victims of crime.

Each of those responsibilities is addressed in this report.



Arfon Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner

A Year of Challenges

The nature of crime

In the short time since being elected as commissioner for North Wales I have found that many aspects of policing remain largely unchanged from eight years ago when I retired from North Wales Police in the rank of Inspector.

However, other aspects of policing have fundamentally changed during that time. Since 2012 and the introduction of police and crime commissioners, new crimes have entered our vocabulary. The identification, investigation and prosecution of these crimes place huge demands on the police service. Crimes such as child sexual exploitation, cyber-crime, human trafficking and modern slavery were hardly heard of until a few years ago.

However, even in a relatively small rural force area such as North Wales, it accounts for a large amount of the demands placed upon the officers and staff of North Wales Police and has led the Force to shift resources accordingly.

Within the most recent revision of the Plan, my predecessor placed great emphasis on ‘working in effective partnership’. I support that principal and it will remain a priority for the year ahead. As the issues arising out of cases involving domestic violence, child sexual exploitation and other serious crimes are often much wider than just policing, an effective response can only be delivered in partnership. As the focus on these crimes continues to sharpen, the importance of partnership working continues to grow.

Many of the crimes listed above continue to be under reported by victims and the public. However, there can be no doubt that there is an improving picture with the victims of these most serious of offences becoming more willing to come forward and report the crime. This reflects an increased confidence in North Wales Police and the dedicated teams established to investigate these serious offences. It is also recognition of the tremendous care and treatment the victims of crime now receive in North Wales since the introduction of the Victim Help Centre in 2015, which I will refer to in more detail later in this report.

The changing threat

The image (shown right) features within my predecessor's police and crime plan. It tells a story.

The matters below the waterline, some of which may involve no criminality whatsoever, account for a considerable amount of the demand currently placed upon North Wales Police. Missing fromhome enquiries and dealing with mental health concerns for example may have no

criminal activity at all, yet place a great deal of demand on the police service. Where there is criminality, many of these crimes have the most vulnerable of victims, including children at risk of sexual exploitation, victims of domestic violence, older people subjected to on-line fraud and so on. These so called 'hidden demands', which North Wales Police has done so much to bring to the surface over the last twelve months, will continue to be prioritised.

Given the scale of these demands, the importance of the efficiency review launched by the Force in 2015, which seeks to identify, understand and measure the demand placed on the Force cannot be overstated. The review is now entering its fourth and final phase and a number of recommendations have been made. Some of those recommendations will directly impact upon our partners. As my predecessor stated in his police and crime plan "One responsible authority reducing their demand by simply passing it on to another responsible authority is not effective partnership working". For far too long North Wales Police have picked up the responsibility of others. I am sure the Chief Constable and I will have the support of our colleagues at both the Regional Leadership Board and Safer Communities Board as these recommendations are implemented over the coming weeks and months.



The financial challenge

The terrorist attacks seen in Paris on 13th November 2015 prompted a different approach from national government about police funding and cuts which changed the financial landscape for the police service in England and Wales. The events in Paris, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey and elsewhere have brought into sharp focus the vital role the police play in keeping us all safe.

The financial position of the police service today is undoubtedly healthier than expected before November 2015.

However, the public should be aware that a significant financial challenge remains for North Wales Police. As of March 2016 £24m has been cut from North Wales Police's budget. Whilst the 2016/17 financial settlement was better than expected, savings of over £7m still need to be made over the next four years.

The police funding formula (which is used to calculate the distribution of funding between the 43 forces across England and Wales) was under review in 2015. The review was halted by the Home Office when an error was discovered in the data used. We still await further news on any future review and therefore the level of future funding for all police force areas, including North Wales Police remains unknown. Along with other rural force commissioner's I am committed to protecting and increasing the budgets of our forces, and to opposing any changes to the funding formula or the disposition of resources on a national or regional level which will be detrimental to rural areas.

When taking into account the £24m of savings already made, a further saving of £7m represents a very significant challenge and one which will inevitably lead to changes in the way policing is carried out in North Wales.

A Year of Achievements

Despite the challenges referred to, a great deal was achieved during 2015/16. As I start my term in office as police and crime commissioner, I would like to acknowledge the achievements of the past which provide a sound foundation for me to build upon during the next four years.

The Victim Help Centre

My predecessor Mr Roddick, commissioned a 'Needs Assessment for the Development of Victims Services in North Wales' (Needs Assessment) which was published in May 2014.

A direct result of that Needs Assessment was the introduction of the North Wales Victim Help Centre. The Centre began supporting victims in July 2015 and was officially opened in September 2015. The figures speak for themselves;

- ✓ **13,972** cases were eligible for an offer of support in this year. 7,692 (55%) were identified for the enhanced offer under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime
- ✓ Violence with injury remains the largest type of crime referred with theft as a close second
- ✓ Referrals flagged as domestic violence have increased over 50% since 2014-15
- ✓ Total number of contacts made by Victim Care Officers (VCO's) during the reporting period was 7,682
- ✓ **3,175** needs assessments were carried out by the VCO's with 72% having identified needs, of those just under 50% were able to have that need addressed immediately by the VCO, for example by providing immediate emotional support, target hardening equipment, police advocacy or information provision and the case was closed.

The high volume of victims that have benefitted from this service in the short period of time since its introduction clearly highlights there was a need for such a service here in North Wales. I commend all who were involved in its introduction and look forward to further improvements and developments over the next four years.

North Wales Police

As I referred to earlier, the police service in England and Wales faced significant challenges over the last twelve months and North Wales Police were no exception.

In addition to the challenging financial climate, the meteorological climate also presented enormous challenges for North Wales Police. The flooding of some of our communities and the closure of the A55 expressway in particular required significant resources and a strong performance by the Force to effectively deal with the problems that brought. The way in which the Force, supported by our partners and the wider policing family including volunteers, responded was tremendous and demonstrated all that is good about policing in the UK.

Resources have been reallocated to meet the new and complex demands presented by the increased prevalence of new crime types leading to a tenfold increase in the number of arrests. In addition, the drugs trade in North Wales was dealt further blows with a series of high profile prosecutions.

Whilst campaigning ahead of the election, I received a great deal of positive feedback in relation to the Rural Crime Team. The team are clearly held in high regard and for such a small team they have achieved a tremendous amount. I will continue to support and promote their vital work in protecting our rural communities and delivering a quality service

Public confidence and satisfaction has continued to rise during the last twelve months. The table below shows the improvements made when compared with other police forces in England and Wales. The figures are the ranking of the 43 forces.

England and Wales Rank	December 2015	December 2014	Change
Contact	18	18	-
Action	15	24	+9
Follow up	7	35	+28
Treatment	14	38	+24
Whole experience	15	39	+24

As shown above, all aspects of victim satisfaction have seen large increases in national placings in the latest data published to December 2015.

I will be discussing with the Chief Constable the possibility of extending the confidence and satisfaction surveys to incorporate measuring Welsh language service. I expect North Wales Police to be compliant with the new Welsh language standards set out in the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and maintain the highest of standards currently in place.

The 2015/16 Police and Crime Plan

As Police and Crime Commissioner, I am responsible for the strategic direction of policing in North Wales and the Chief Constable is responsible for operational matters.

That strategic direction is set out in the [Police and Crime Plan](#). This report will focus on progress against the Police and Crime Plan published by Winston Roddick in April 2015 (the 2015/16 Plan).

The 2015/6 Plan retained the three outcomes which featured in the first police and crime plan following the introduction of the commissioner role, namely security in the home, safety in public places and visible and accessible policing. To secure those outcomes, four new police and crime objectives were set. These were

1. Prevent crime
2. Deliver an effective response
3. Reduce harm and the risk of harm
4. Build effective partnerships

The Police and Crime Objectives

Prevent crime

Preventing a crime from occurring is the most effective way of protecting our communities and ensuring that people are safe at home and in public places.

To hold the Chief Constable to account and to measure the performance of North Wales Police against this objective, the 2015/16 Plan set out six measures

1. The level of total recorded crime
2. The level of victim based crime
3. The level of resolved crime, by crime type
4. The level of recorded anti-social behaviour
5. The level of domestic burglary
6. Increased number of special constabulary officers, volunteers and cadets

Deliver an effective response

The police, their partners in the criminal justice sector and responsible authorities such as the local authorities and the other emergency services, have a statutory duty to deliver an effective response to criminal offences or public safety issues. The police and crime plan set out a number of expectations in the delivery of this objective, including the delivery of the [Victims' Code of Practice](#) and addressing the threats within the [Strategic Policing Requirement](#).

To hold the Chief Constable to account and to measure the performance of North Wales Police against this objective, the 2014/15 Plan set out four measures

1. The average response times of attendance at police emergencies
2. The amount of non-emergency calls classified as 'abandoned calls'
3. The feedback received through victim surveys
4. The savings target for 2015/16 being achieved

Reduce harm and the risk of harm

Reducing harm and the risk of harm to our communities is of great importance. In August 2014, the threat level from international terrorism to the UK was raised to 'severe' and has remained at that level ever since. We are not immune to this threat in North Wales and it presents a further challenge to the Force during a time of substantial financial cuts.

Crimes included within this objective are often committed behind closed doors and have victims who are vulnerable and fear the consequences of reporting incidents to the police. Domestic abuse is an example of this. Also included within this objective is the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads each year.

To hold the Chief Constable to account in the performance of this objective, the 2014/15 Plan contained four measures

1. The number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions
2. The level of repeat offending, including high risk repeat offenders of domestic violence
3. The number of arrests and prosecutions of child sexual exploitation perpetrators
4. Number of indecent images of children cases prosecuted

Build effective partnerships

The police service is not alone in working to prevent crime, deliver effective responses, and reduce harm and the risk of harm. Working in partnership enables responses to be more effective and lasting in their effect on the community than they otherwise would be. It also reduces demand, thereby increasing the capacity of frontline staff and enabling the money to go further.

The issues arising out of cases involving domestic violence, child sexual exploitation and other serious crimes of that kind are very wide in their effect. They touch and concern the responsibilities of other agencies involved with public safety and health, and an effective response can only be delivered in partnership with the other agencies. As the focus on these crimes continues to sharpen, the importance of partnership working will also continue to grow.

The 2015/16 Plan did not contain any measures for this objective, this however does not make it any less important than the other three. Quite the opposite in fact. To meet the significant financial challenges that lie ahead, statutory agencies including the police service must continue to work effectively in partnership to overcome these challenges. The importance of collaborative working cannot be overstated and I will be encouraging all statutory partners to engage in dialogue to identify ways of integrating front line service delivery in the future.

Performance

Performance is measured by comparing against the year April 2011 to March 2012. Comparison is made against that particular year because it was the last full year before the governance of policing changed in November 2012 with the elections of the first police and crime commissioners.

I have also provided a comparison against the previous financial year in order to identify any areas of concern which also assists me in carrying out my scrutiny of the Chief Constable and holding him to account in the delivery of my Plan.

In 2014 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out an **inspection** into crime recording standards and practices in all police forces in England and Wales (this was a review of how accurately forces record crime). North Wales Police achieved a compliance rate of 94% and are in the top five performing forces. This is of fundamental importance. It tells me, and the people of North Wales, that my Police and Crime Plan is built on the foundation of accurate data. It confirms that my scrutiny of the Force's performance is based on accurate information.

Table A – Performance against police and crime plan measures

Objective	Measure	2015/16	2014/15	2011/12 baseline	% change from baseline
Prevent crime	Total recorded crime	38,517	36,478	41,947	-8%
	Victim based crime	34,751	35,828	41,214	-16%
	Resolved crime, by crime type	25.7%	34.5%	34.5%	-8.8pp
	Recorded anti-social behaviour	21,188	23,570	30,160	-30%
	Domestic Burglary	1,341	1,490	1,872	-28%
	Increased number of active Special Constabulary officers, volunteers and cadets	342	168	n/a	n/a
Deliver an effective response	The average response times of attendance at police emergencies (mins)	17.7	14.3	15	+2.7 mins
	The amount of non-emergency calls classified as 'abandoned calls'	5.3%	3.2%	6.5%	-1.2pp
	The feedback received through victim surveys	84%	80.8%	80.6%	+3.4pp
Reduce harm and the risk of harm	The number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions	338	382	382	-11%
	The level of repeat offending	7,120	7,035	10,035	-29%
	The number of arrests and prosecutions of child sexual exploitation perpetrators	107	10	n/a	n/a
	Number of indecent images of children cases detected	214	83	16	+1237%

The final column of the table above illustrates that both crime and victim based crime reduced over the term of the first police and crime commissioner, by 8% and 16% respectively.

During the same period, anti-social behaviour also reduced significantly, equal to nearly 9,000 fewer incidents recorded by North Wales Police whilst there were also more than 500 fewer victims of burglary when compared to 2011/12.

There was also a significant reduction in the number of offences committed by repeat offenders, a 29% reduction. In turn, that will also have led to a reduction in the number of repeat victims. These significant achievements reflect the investment made in North Wales Police's Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOM).

During a PEEL (Police Efficiency Effectiveness and Legitimacy) inspection in 2015, HMIC identified areas for improvement within the Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOM). Having discussed these issues with the Chief Constable since coming into office, I am reassured that these areas have now been addressed.

In measuring resolved crime, the focus is on outcomes that historically would have been referred to as 'detected crimes'. In April 2014 new national crime recording requirements were introduced by the Home Office. Previously, the outcome of a crime was recorded according to whether it was "detected" or "undetected". Those were the only two categories. All resolutions or outcomes had to fall into one of those two. Under the new recording requirements, there are 18 categories of outcomes which provide a much more precise description of the outcome. The full list is available on the [Home Office website](#).

Whilst the level of resolved outcomes has fallen in comparison to the 2011/12 level, this is an area that I will review frequently through my main forum for scrutiny, namely the [Strategic Executive Board](#). In particular I am keen to explore outcomes across the region, and specifically how the outcomes recorded in urban areas compare to those recorded in the rural communities of North Wales. I am aware that these statistics do not reflect the Force's greater emphasis on restorative justice, community resolution and community remedy but the reduction over the last few years demands greater focus and scrutiny.

Since my election, I have made clear that roads policing is one of my priorities. It is therefore pleasing to see that in comparison to 2011/12 there has been a 11.5% reduction in the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads. During my term in office I will be scrutinising the role of Go Safe in keeping our roads safe. Whilst I support speed enforcement, I am also a firm believer in focusing on the other elements of the 'fatal five'.

Over the last twelve months, North Wales Police have given greater focus to the most serious offences and the most vulnerable victims. This is in direct response to the priorities set out in the Plan. The outcome of that greater focus is clear with a tenfold increase in the number of arrests and prosecutions of child sexual exploitation perpetrators. There has also been a significant increase in the number of indecent images of children cases detected. That focus on vulnerability will continue.

Delivering the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

My core responsibilities are:

- to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for North Wales
- to hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of his functions
- to bring together community safety and criminal justice partners
- to co-operate with the other police and crime commissioners and to formulate and implement strategies across police force areas

Efficient and effective police force

I perform the first of these by the strategy laid down in the Police and Crime Plan and, in particular, by its four police and crime objectives - prevent crime, deliver an effective response, reduce harm and the risk of harm and build effective partnerships. At the time of writing, I have not revised the Plan and these objectives remain in place.

Ahead of the commissioner elections in May 2016, one of my manifesto pledges was to increase the use of Body Worn Video within North Wales Police. I remain of the view that the evidential value of these devices, as already demonstrated, would assist with the effectiveness and efficiency of the Force. I am encouraged by my initial discussions with the Chief Constable on this proposal and look forward to seeing the devices in greater use.

Holding the Chief Constable to account

The principal means by which I hold the Chief Constable to account continues to be through the [Strategic Executive Board](#) which I chair and of which the Chief Constable and his senior officers are members. This Board meets regularly and I receive reports on several aspects of the Chief Constable's functions including crime statistics for the period immediately preceding the meeting, the monthly performance summary (containing local performance information) results of surveys of officers, staff, and public satisfaction.

As did my predecessor, I intend to meet with Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary and with the Head of the Independent Police Complaints Commission regularly and receive their respective reports on the performance of North Wales Police.

In relation to HMIC, I have familiarised myself with the 2015 PEEL inspection reports and I am reassured by the 'good' grading for both efficiency and legitimacy. I am also reassured by the positive comments on the leadership within North Wales Police. As I outlined in my election manifesto, I believe the policing of football matches and protests is in need of review and is a matter I will be raising with our HMI Wendy Williams.

Bring together community safety and criminal justice partners

I am a firm believer in partnership working and fully support the decision made by my predecessor to put effective partnership working at the top of the agenda. It is already clear to me that in order to reach the goals that I will set, the support of our partners will be imperative.

I look forward to being part of both the local and all Wales Criminal Justice Boards. My initial focus regarding the criminal justice system is to improve the youth justice system which is beset by duplication and inefficiency. I will also be seeking answers and reassurance by our partners in Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) that the forthcoming closure of courts in North Wales will not have a detrimental impact on victims and witnesses. Many victims and witnesses will be facing longer journeys to court as a result of closures and I fully expect an increase in 'fail to appear' warrants. The resulting potential demand on North Wales Police is a concern that I will be raising with our partners.

I also look forward to working in effective partnership through the North Wales Area Planning Board, North Wales Regional Leadership Board and the Safer Communities Board. It is through these forums that I can see the objective of effective partnerships being delivered. My immediate focus is on exploring opportunities for joint commissioning, which I refer to in greater detail on page 18.

Formulate and implement strategies across police force areas

“All collaboration is welcome, but only through systematic and thought-through partnership will we maximise improvements in efficiency and effectiveness”

Home Secretary, Police Reform Summit, December 2015

The above statement made by the Home Secretary in 2015 reflects my own views on collaboration. Any collaboration, whether it is between police forces or between other emergency services, must improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Force.

North Wales Police already collaborate with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service in relation to shared buildings and facilities management. The Force also collaborates with Cheshire Constabulary in the firearms alliance and the joint dog unit.

In the North West, a great deal of work has taken place over the last year on tri-force collaboration between North Wales Police, Cheshire Constabulary and Merseyside Police. A strong working relationship exists between the Chief Constables and the Police and Crime Commissioners from Cheshire, Merseyside and North Wales Police. Each organisation recognises that working in partnership can provide both business and financial benefits and a concordat has been agreed that underpins and supports the delivery of the collaboration programme.

All-Wales progress on collaboration has been slow and at the time of writing it is difficult to see where the benefits are for North Wales Police. The outline business cases prepared to date have focussed on procurement and estates. Geography alone means that the benefits derived will benefit the southern forces of Wales more than us.

I will continue to work with the other Welsh commissioner's in exploring other opportunities for joint working and collaboration across Wales that would ensure strong and positive benefits for the people of North Wales.

One Year of Engagement

The below is a summary of engagement carried out by my predecessor during his final year in office.

April 2015

I visited Caia Park in Wrexham to meet the local community following an increase in arson attacks in the area. During the visit I met with the local councillors and police officers to discuss the measures in place to reduce the issues in Caia Park. In addition to this visit I was invited by the Wrexham street pastors to witness the terrific service that they provide to the nightlife of Wrexham.

May 2015

Crime has evolved in recent years with the emergence of crime such as child sexual exploitation (CSE). To ensure that CSE is tackled efficiently and effectively in North Wales partnership working is key which was the focus of the Child Sexual Exploitation Summit held in St. Asaph. Within my opening speech I requested that the NHS, North Wales Police and third sector services work together to keep the children of North Wales safe.

June 2015

I went on a visit to Rhyl to meet members of the local community and to speak to local businesses in the area. I was able to see first-hand the work carried out by local groups to provide for their local communities. It was during my visit to Rhyl that I came across the Foryd Community Centre the winner of my Gold Award at this year's Community Awards. The Foryd Community Centre provide a wide variety of services to their local community including IT lessons, a food bank and help with finding employment.

July 2015

I carried out a number of interesting visits in July which included HMP Altcourse to look at their work in rehabilitating offenders, Royal Welsh Show and Ysgubor Goch in Caernarfon to look at the work being carried out within the local community. I also had the pleasure of meeting with a Superintendent from Victoria in Australia who shared rural farming tactics with our rural crime team.

August 2015

I attended a number of the agricultural shows over the summer including the Môn Show, Denbigh and Flint and the Meirionnydd show. The agricultural shows give me the opportunity to speak to the people of North Wales and hear their views and concerns about policing.

September 2015

In October 2014 funding for victims services was given to Police and Crime Commissioners to provide services for victims locally. I officially opened the North Wales Victim's Help Centre on the 24th September allowing local services to tour the new facility and speak to the staff about the excellent work carried out at the centre.

October 2015

My second community awards ceremony was held to celebrate and recognise the outstanding work carried out by selfless members of our community. The evening was held in Abergele and it was an honour to award those who give so much of their own time to help others. The award winners included Foryd Community Centre, Lisa Clutton and the Moelfre Youth Club.

November 2015

I was invited to be a guest speaker at the Llandudno Friendship Link regarding my role as Police and Crime Commissioner and to answer any questions by members from the local community. I also attended the launch of the Christmas Drink Drive Campaign in Wrexham a successful example of partnership working to prevent crime and to keep the people of North Wales safe.

December 2015

I held a Third Sector engagement event to listen to the views of the third sector agencies as part of my consultation process for the review of my Police and Crime Plan. I also made a visit to Connah's Quay to speak to local businesses and the local community to listen to their concerns and witness the outstanding work being carried out in the area.

January 2016

As part of my consultation period I held public meetings across North Wales to speak to the public to hear their views and concerns about policing. I was invited to be a guest speaker at the Un Llais Cymru event in Chirk to speak about my role as Police and Crime Commissioner and to answer any questions that the members had about policing.

February 2016

It was a privilege for me to attend the Anglesey Youth Service Awards evening to present the Moelfre Youth Club the winners of my Young Persons award with certificates for their work in the local area. The Moelfre Youth Club help to keep their local area tidy and have since broken down the barriers between the young people and the older members in their community.

March 2016

As we came into the purdah period prior to the election for Police and Crime Commissioners I was unable to continue the high level of community engagement that I had enjoyed previously. I did however, have the opportunity to attend the Gwynedd High Sheriff's award evening to say a few words about my time as a Police and Crime Commissioner and the work that I had carried out during my time in office.

My Future Engagement

Section 14 of the 2011 Act makes clear my statutory responsibility to obtain the view of the public in formulating my Police and Crime Plan. I intend consulting widely throughout North Wales, not only to meet my statutory duties, but because I truly value the view of the public and recognise the importance of reflecting their views in my priorities.

There will always be a financial cost in consulting, engaging and communicating with the public. Whilst I will always ensure value for money, I also recognise the importance of hearing the public's views and as I am the public's representative in policing matters, it is important that the public are made aware of how I am representing them.

Funding and Finance

Police budget

The Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for setting the budget provided to the Chief Constable for the delivery of policing in North Wales. A net budget of £140m was allocated for 2015/16.

Whilst central government grants, determined by the Home Office, accounted for 52% of police funding, 48% was provided by local taxpayers. The draft final accounts for 2015/16 will be prepared for audit by the end of June 2016 and published on my website. The audited accounts will be available by the end of September.

The 2015/16 year was challenging financially, with £4.448m cuts compared to the previous year - the fifth consecutive year of substantial cuts for North Wales Police, with cuts of £24.101m over that period. Following the announcement in the 2015 Autumn Statement that police budgets in England and Wales would be protected in real terms, the settlement for 2016/17 was more generous than we had anticipated, with only a 0.6% cash reduction in government grant, compared to the 4% cut we had estimated previously in the Medium Term Financial Plan. Despite the more positive outlook for the immediate future, there is still much to do, with £2.838m to be saved in 2016/17, and a further estimated £4.541m to be saved by 2019/20.

Delivery of the Estates Strategy

The Estate Strategy 2012-16 (the Strategy) is now in its final year of implementation and during the last 12 months the modernisation of the estate has continued with the completion of new joint fire and police stations in Nefyn and Tywyn. Co-locating services here will enable closer collaborative working and result in cost savings from sharing buildings. The station in Tywyn has achieved an excellent BREEAM rating (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and these stations provide a model for future collaborative projects in North Wales communities. Llangollen police station is in a prominent town centre location that is ideally situated for policing the community and the inside of the station has been subject to long overdue modernisation works which ensures that the police officers remain visible and accessible in the town centre.

The former police station in Oxford Road, Llandudno has been demolished and a temporary station established a few hundred metres down the road in Argyll Road, pending the construction of the new police station. Planning consent has been obtained and construction work will commence during the summer of 2016 with the station becoming operational in the summer of 2017.

Planning consent has been obtained for the proposed Eastern Command and Custody Facility in Llay, near Wrexham and construction works are intended to commence in September 2016. The facility will become operational in early 2018 and will be complemented by a town centre police station which is to be located in the former Oriel Gallery adjacent the town library near the Guildhall. Planning consent has been granted for the town centre station and the adaption works will commence during the summer of 2016 to enable the station to become operational at the same time as Llay. The current police station in Bodhyfryd will then be decommissioned and sold, with the income going towards the cost of the new facilities.

As the current Strategy will have been fully implemented by early 2018 a new Strategy will be developed later in 2016 to assess what type and magnitude of estate will be appropriate for the next 10 years to provide an agile and flexible estate designed for delivering a visible and accessible policing service in our communities.

Commissioner's Fund 2015/16

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 enables me to award grants to partners, public organisations or voluntary groups that can support the objectives and aims identified in my Police and Crime Plan.

The Commissioner's Fund is made up of grant funding streams previously ring fenced, including the Community Safety Fund, the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) Fund, and the Youth Crime and Substance Misuse Prevention Funding. The funding distribution of the Community Safety Fund has been included in Annex A to this report.

In addition to the Community Safety Fund, I receive a grant from the Ministry of Justice each year to commission services in support of victims. During 2015/16 I commissioned the following services

- The Victim Help Centre
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors
- Independent Sexual Violence Advisors

Each of these services improved the care and support afforded to victims of crime across North Wales and have been recommissioned for 2016/17.

When notification was received of the grant for 2016/17, confirmation was also received from the Ministry of Justice that from 2017/18 onwards they hope to be in a position to provide commissioner's with longer term grant funding allocations. I welcome this change which will assist long term planning but more importantly, will bring to an end the annual cycle of uncertainty and confusion which is unfair on the people that occupy posts funded from this grant and undermines the effectiveness of the service.

I am a firm believer in joint commissioning. By working with our partners on the Safer Communities Board I will be exploring future opportunities for joint commissioning. Joint Commissioning is a strategic approach to planning and delivering services in a holistic, joined-up way. Whilst the statutory responsibility for commissioning is mine, and mine alone, I do support any joint commissioning strategy that delivers efficiencies and ultimately improves the service afforded to victims of crime across our region.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The annual budget for 2015/16 was set at the same level as that of the Police Authority during its final term, namely £731,174.00. This equates to 0.52% of the overall budget for policing in North Wales.

For 2016/17, the budget for the Office will be £741,000.00, again the equivalent of 0.52% of the overall budget. Changes in National Insurance charges have added 3.4% to employee costs; however, due to savings found in other areas, overall the increase has been limited to only 1.4%.

Annex A – Distribution of the Commissioner's Fund 2015/16

From April 2013 the Commissioner became responsible for the Community Safety Fund. Local Community Safety Partnerships have determined the distribution of funding within their locality for the funds that have been allocated to each partnership area. In 2015/16 the fund was allocated as follows:

Recipient	Purpose	Grants
Gwynedd and Anglesey CSP	Gwynedd: Antisocial Behaviour Coordinator	£15,000.00
	Gwynedd: Independent Domestic Violence Advisor	£7,000.00
	Gwynedd: CCTV Street Hawk	£3,666.83
	Anglesey: Antisocial Behaviour Coordinator	£17,483.17
	Anglesey: Independent Domestic Violence Advisor	£2,000.00
	Total	£45,150
Conwy & Denbighshire CSP	Joint Antisocial Behaviour Officer	£22,000.00
	Joint Safer homes project	£7,000.00
	Joint Neighbourhood Watch	£4,000.00
	Re-deployable CCTV cameras	£10,000.00
	Two Independent Domestic Violence Advisors	£11,126.00
	Total	£54,126
Flintshire CSP	Antisocial Behaviour Officer	£11,577.28
	Neighbourhood Watch Chief Officer	£13,643.09
	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor	£6,345.63
	Total	£54,126
Wrexham CSP	Target Hardening Service	£2642.00
	Communications and Reassurance Project	£4000.00
	CCTV surveillance	£6000.00
	OWL and Watch	£9500.00
	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic Coordination	£13000.00
	Total	£35,142
Gwynedd and Anglesey YOT	Contribution towards Youth Justice Prevention Worker	£16,464.00
Conwy and Denbighshire YOT	Contribution towards Youth Justice Prevention Worker	£20,384.00
Flintshire YOT	Contribution towards Youth Justice Prevention Worker	£15,029.00
Wrexham YOT	Contribution towards Youth Justice Prevention Worker	£19,695.00
North Wales DIP	Drug Intervention and Arrest Referral Services	£892,622.00
Total grant funding		£1,130,178

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OFFICE OF THE **POLICE & CRIME**
COMMISSIONER NORTH WALES