

ANNUAL REPORT

2013/14



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OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER NORTH WALES

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Introduction

I was elected in November 2012 as the first ever Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales. The role, which has replaced the North Wales Police Authority, places upon me the duty to deliver an efficient and effective police force which demonstrates value for money and, above all, cuts crime.

This is my second annual report issued under section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act). This is the first report covering a full year of activity and will focus on matters undertaken during 2013/14.

Since publishing my last annual report I believe I have made significant progress in setting the strategic direction for north Wales Police on behalf of the public. I have worked to enhance engagement with the public and in delivering value for money for the public.

I have been pleased to learn the results of my first public survey, which are included within this report. Over 87.5% of people responded that they felt safe in north Wales, and only 6% of people responded that they don't see a police officer as part of their normal weekly routine.

Crime in north Wales has continued to fall, with a reduction of 2.6% which builds on last years reduction of 11.6%. I was disappointed to learn through the results of the survey I commissioned with the force that people don't fully see the reduction in crime, however a continued reduction in crime is welcome and I will continue to raise awareness of this achievement.

In this past year I have also appointed north Wales first Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. Julian Sandham was appointed through a transparent appointment process which involved elected representatives from four of the local authorities. I would like to thank him for the work that he has done to date, and I would also like to thank the rest of my team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the chief constable and his team for their continued efforts to keep north Wales safe, and I look forward to building on this progress in the coming year.



Winston Roddick CB QC
North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner



Section One: The Police and Crime Plan

As the Police and Crime Commissioner, I have the statutory responsibility for the strategic direction of policing in north Wales and the chief constable remains responsible for operational matters.

That strategic direction is set out in the Police and Crime Plan, the first version was published in March 2013 and the revised Plan was finalised in March 2014 following consultation with the public and the Panel. The focus of this report will be reporting on progress against the first Police and Crime Plan.

The 2013/14 Police and Crime Plan had four key objectives which provide a framework for developing and improving the police force in a way that will cut crime and ensure security in the home and safety in public places.

The Police and Crime Objectives within the 2013/14 Plan were as follows:

1. To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
2. To protect people and reduce harm
3. To deliver a quality service that meets the needs of our communities
4. To promote a well led, organised and skilled workforce

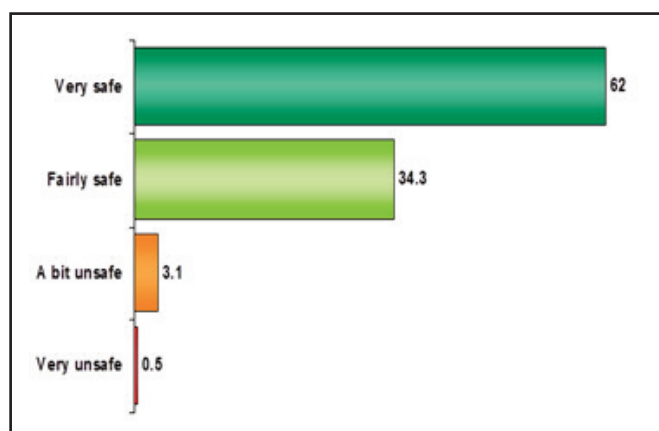
I also established three strategic outcomes within the first police and crime plan, these were: Security in the Home; Safety in Public Places; Visible and Accessible Policing

The Strategic Outcomes

Within the Police and Crime Plan I stated the outcomes I wish to deliver for north Wales, and I also committed to commissioning an independent survey to assess progress against delivering those outcomes. The first survey has been undertaken and the full results can be viewed on my website. As this is the first survey to be undertaken, no comparison is available at present, and I intend to carry out a further survey in the next financial year to benchmark against the first survey.

Feelings of safety

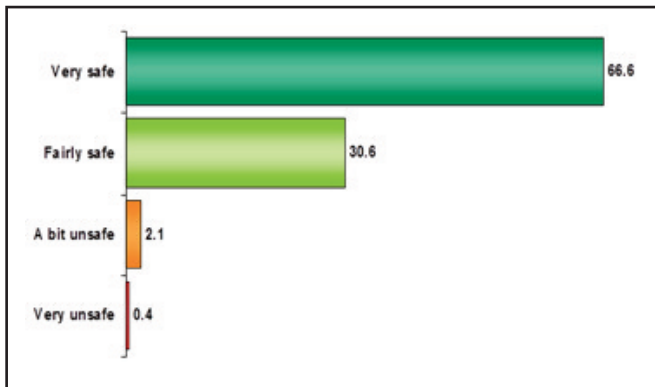
Respondents were asked about **how safe they felt in their own homes**. 96.3% of respondents said they felt very safe or fairly safe, while 3.6% stated that they felt unsafe



Only 3.6% of respondents stated that they felt a bit or very unsafe in their own home, the main reasons for this are:-

- **Poor previous experience** 30%
- **Poor area / unsafe area** 19%
- **Personal reasons (disability etc)** 15%
- **Fear of being burgled/broken into** 15%
- **Due to mixture of cultures/people** 13%
- **Due to young generation** 10%
- **Poor Police service** 10%

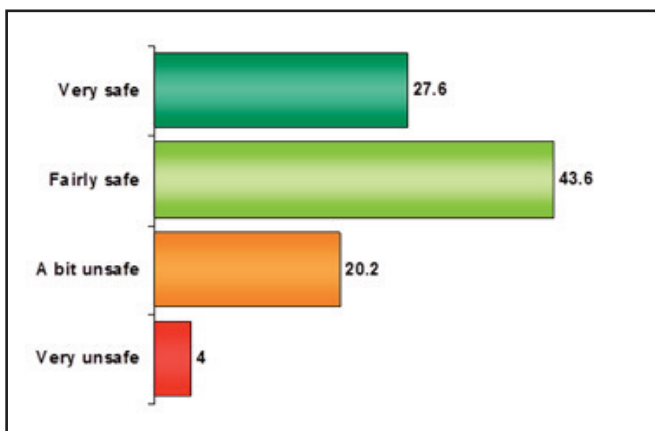
Respondents were asked about **how safe they felt in their local areas** during the **day** and during the **night**. 97.2% of respondents stated that they felt very safe or fairly safe during the day, while 2.5% stated that they felt unsafe. 0.9% lower than those who stated they felt unsafe in their own homes.



Only 2.5% of respondents stated that they felt a bit or very unsafe in their area during the day, the main reasons for this are:-

- **Due to mixture of cultures/people** 29%
- **Poor area / unsafe area** 22%
- **Poor previous experience** 21%
- **Due to young generation** 20%
- **Substance abuse** 13%

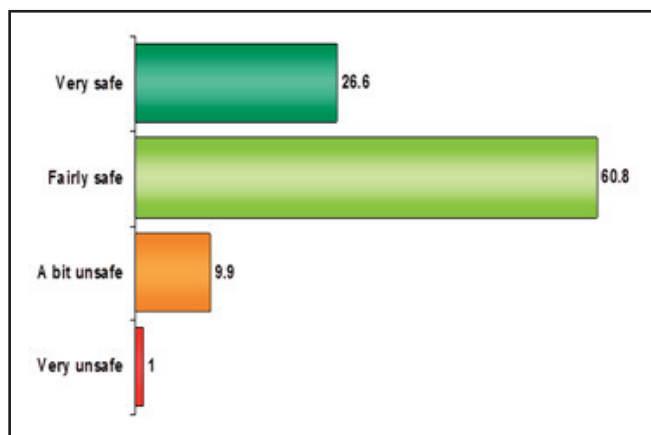
71.1% of respondents stated that they felt very safe or fairly safe in their area during the **night**, while 24.2% stated that they felt unsafe.



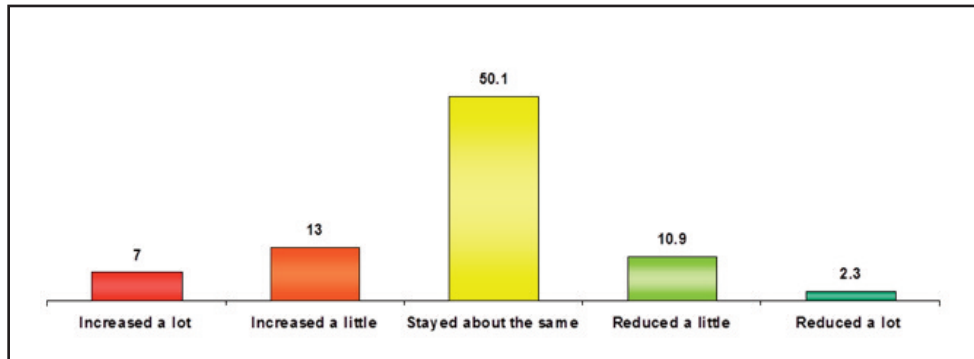
Nearly a quarter (24%) of respondents stated that they felt a bit or very unsafe in their local area on the street at night, the main reasons for this are:-

- **Due to groups hanging around area** 42%
- **Generally feel unsafe** 25%
- **Fear of mugging/physical attack** 17%
- **Lack of street lighting** 15%
- **Fear of the dark/night** 15%
- **Fear of going out alone** 14%
- **General crime/disorder in the local area** 13%

Respondents were also asked about their general **feeling of safety in north Wales**. 87.5% stated that they either felt very safe or fairly safe, with 10.8% responding that they felt unsafe.

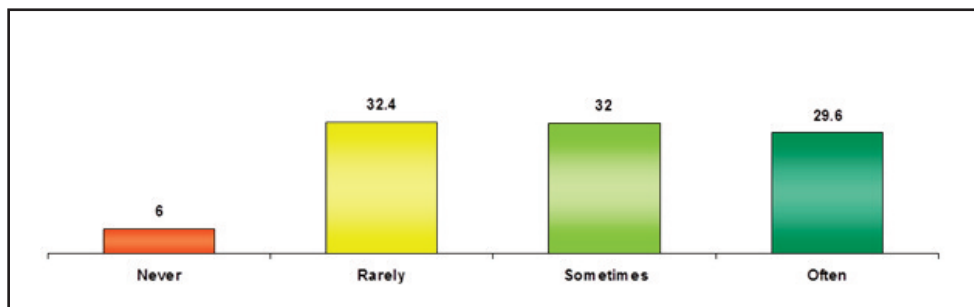


Respondents were asked about their perception of crime in north Wales. The majority of respondents perceived crime to have 'stayed about the same', with 16.4% stating that they didn't know.

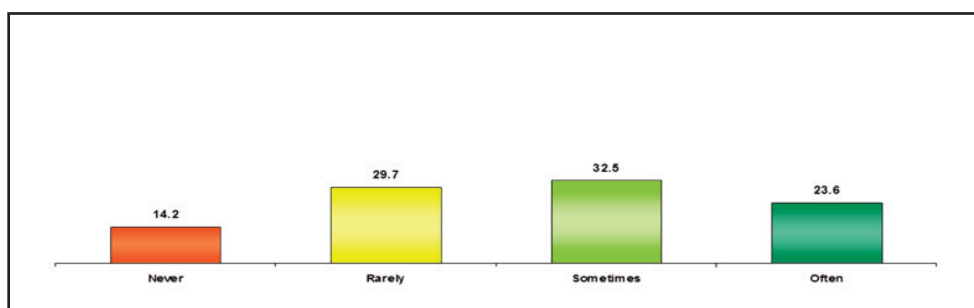


Police visibility and accessibility

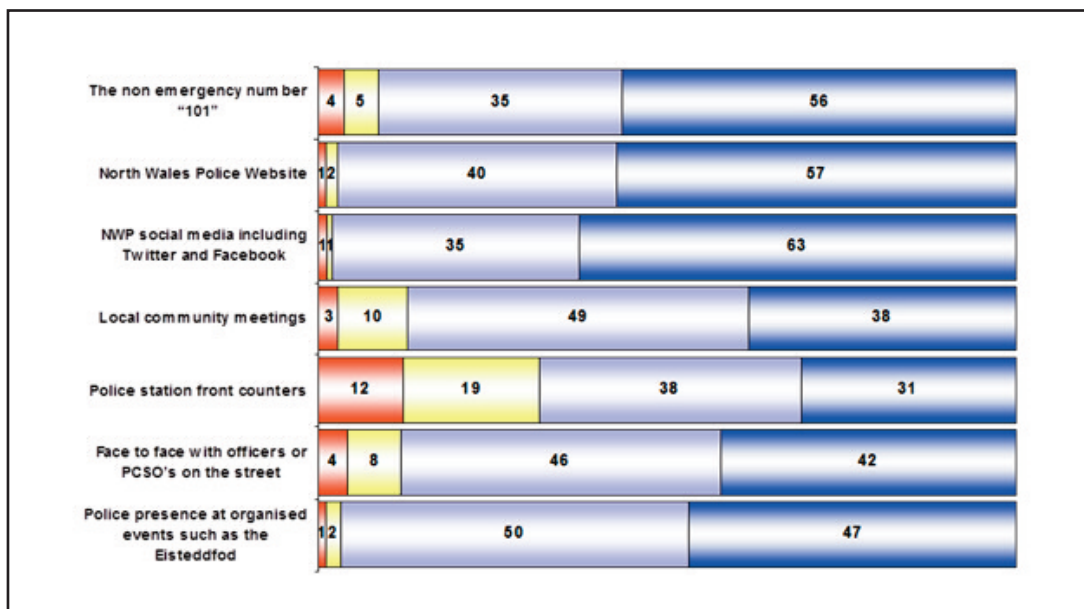
Respondents to the survey were also asked about their views on police visibility. They were asked how often they felt that they saw police officers as part of their normal week. Over half of respondents remember seeing **police officers** in the course of a normal week, either sometimes or often. Only 6% of respondents stated that they never see police officers as part of their normal week.



Respondents were also asked about their views on the visibility of **PCSOs**. Over half of respondents remember seeing PCSO's in the course of a normal week, either sometimes or often. While 14.2% stated that they never see a PCSO as part of their normal week.



Respondents were also asked about the **accessibility** of the police through various methods (including the non-emergency line and other developments such as through social media). Overall the police services are seen as very/fairly accessible.



Reducing victim based crime

The performance for the 2013/14 showed that there were decreases in most crime types, with 874 (reduction of 2.6%) fewer victims. Although the reduction is lower than that in the previous financial year I am still pleased with the overall performance of the force and the continued reduction in crime. This year's reduction builds on last year's (2012/13 there were 4,381 fewer victims of victim-based crime a reduction of 11.6%)

The chief constable and force have worked tirelessly to reduce crime during 2013/14, through delivering the crime and ASB reduction plan. I hope that the chief constable builds on this further during the next year.

- Victim-based crime decreased by 2.6%, with 874 fewer crimes
- Violence with injury decreased by 6.0%, with 254 fewer crimes
- Violence without injury increased by 4.6%, with 189 more crimes
- Rape Offences increased by 12.3%, with 37 more crimes
- Sexual Offences increased by 0.4%, 2 more crimes
- Burglary Dwelling increased by 6.0%, 93 more crimes
- Burglary other than dwelling decreased by 3.8%, 113 fewer crimes
- Robbery decreased by 12.8%, 19 fewer crimes
- Vehicle crime decreased by 8.6%, 223 fewer crimes
- Shoplifting increased by 9.5%, 342 more crimes
- Other acquisitive crime decreased by 6.3%, 371 fewer crimes
- Criminal Damage and Arson decreased by 7.5%, 558 fewer crimes
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) decreased by 4.7%, 1,276 fewer incidents

Reduce crime and Anti-social behaviour

The chief constable has continued to implement the force's crime and anti-social behaviour reduction programme. The reduction of 2.6% builds on a 11.6% reduction in 2012/13. 2013/14 saw an increase in the rate of domestic burglary in north Wales. In response to this trend the chief constable has provided a detective superintendent dedicated to coordinate the work of the group established in force to reduce burglary. I am satisfied that he is giving this trend appropriate resources.

The force is also enhancing the development of evidence-based policing to ensure that activities are focused and initiatives that reduce crime effectively are recognised and rolled out further. Activities during 2013/14 included the review of operation Tricep. Operation Tricep was set up back in November 2012; using analysis, the police force identified areas in Rhyl west that were busier and also at what times of the day. As a result targeted policing responses were developed including by deploying police officers and community support officers on high visibility patrols at the locations. The aim was to deter crime such as anti-social behaviour while also providing reassurance for the public. Crime hotspots in Rhyl West have decreased from seven to four with the number of calls to police reduced by more than 18% in six months. The learning from this pilot has been incorporated into the force crime reduction and anti-social behaviour plan for 2014/15.

Work with partners in jointly addressing crime and anti-social behaviour matters has progressed during 2013/14. The north Wales Safer Communities Board have developed a draft North Wales Community Safety Plan, which will give further strategic direction to support partnership working in this area.

Protect people and reduce harm

The Amethyst Team, a dedicated rape and serious sexual offences investigation team, is now fully embedded within the force structure. This development has in no doubt aided in enhancing the service that victims of these crimes receive.

The work to establish a multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) has created strong foundations for the future. The original intention was to establish the MASH hub in Wrexham, but we are delighted that this has been extended to include Flintshire. I have visited the new hub and was impressed by the work being developed there and see it has strong potential for being the future for best practice in working together to reduce harm.

The force has established a sound method of assessing compliance against the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR).

I have continued to provide financial support for a programme to provide support for offenders who have substance misuse problems which contribute to their offending behaviour. The work covers the 'test on arrest programme' and arrest referral procedure for those with substance misuse problems.

Deliver a quality service that meets the needs of our communities

Listening to the views of the people of north Wales enables me to represent those views in policing matters. I have continued to engage with communities across north Wales, and used feedback to develop appropriate services such as the rural crime team.

As part of the survey to measure perceptions and feelings of safety, I also included a question about the awareness of my role. I have no local baseline to compare the results with, however in consideration of the limited time Police Commissioners have been in place this is a relatively positive start and provides a clear focus for my continued engagement and communication work with the public.

	Total
	(n=3026)
	%
Aware	44.5
Unaware	55.5

Rural Crime

The rural crime team was launched in 2012/13, following extensive discussions with stakeholders. The team includes police officers, police community support officers and special constables. The team has worked to build stronger relations with the rural communities to assist in the reduction of crime.

The new team has taken a fresh approach to the issue of rural crime and has worked on initiatives to educate and prevent these unique types of crime by liaising closely with our farming unions and being a visible presence at farmers’ markets and rural shows. They have also gathered detailed daily statistics on the types of rural crimes and locations enabling them to analyse patterns and times of crimes and work smarter, with proactive operations and prevention activities.

Provide a well led, organised, skilled workforce

The chief constable has introduced the 51 new police officer posts and appointments have been made to them:

- Eastern area - 23 officers (9 North Flintshire, 2 South Flintshire, 2 Wrexham rural, 9 Wrexham Town, 1 Youth Offending Team).
- Central area - 6 officers (2 officers West Conwy Coastal District, 2 Conwy and Denbigh rural District, 2 Denbighshire Coastal and Abergele District).
- Western area - 8 officers (2 Anglesey, 2 Gwynedd North, 4 Gwynedd South).
- Amethyst Team - 6 Detective Constables.
- Rural Crime Liaison Officers - 3 officers.
- Uniform and plain clothes domestic abuse - 3 officers.
- Intelligence-led proactive work to prevent and detect crime - 2 uniform officers.

The chief constable invited me to participate in the appointment of a new assistant chief constable; Richard Debicki will join the chief officer team in June. Richard will be a valuable asset for delivering policing in north Wales.

The integrity of the police service is not only something that is important to me but rests at the heart of the British policing model. To this end I meet quarterly with the professional standards department and the lead chief officer, the deputy chief constable, to review action taken by the force.

Each year the chief constable commissions a cultural survey to explore the workforce well being and attitudes. As a result of the survey action plans to address any concerns or trends that may need addressing are commissioned. I have been impressed by this process and would encourage other organisations to undertake a similar annual survey.

CRIME COMMISSIONER ONE YEAR OF ENGAGING

● **APRIL 2013**

I attended several events during this month including being the guest speaker at the Un Llais Event for community town councils, meeting with the Welsh Police and Crime Commissioners, meeting with Anglesey and Flintshire county councils.

● **JUNE 2013**

I attended an introductory event with the North Wales Muslim Council and Islamic Society. I also met with the Welsh minister for local government and deputy minister for social services, the north Wales group of labour MPs, and provided evidence as part of the Silk commission.

● **AUGUST 2013**

The summer months gave me the opportunity to attend a number of the annual shows including the Denbigh and Flint Show, Anglesey Agricultural Show and the National Eisteddfod. The rural crime team were in attendance at the agricultural shows.

2013

● **MAY 2013**

I visited the DangerPoint project; this project aims to provide an education facility for young people to aid in the understanding of safety. Since opening in 2005 the project has educated over 50,000 visitors. I was also invited to be a guest speaker at the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) annual conference.

● **JULY 2013**

I held my first public Surgery in Colwyn Bay, giving members of the public the opportunity to meet with me and discuss any issues or questions that they may have. I was also invited to be guest speaker at the National High Sheriff Conference, and joined Aled Roberts AM to visit Women's Aid.

● **SEPTEMBER 2013**

I was delighted to attend a presentation by a Wrexham PCSO about the recently introduced 'Rural Mapping technology' that assists officers in rural areas. This work was a demonstration of innovation in working with communities and has also been highlighted in the House of Commons. I commenced consultation work on the revised police and crime plan, and attended the National Police Memorial Day remembrance event in Cardiff.

OCTOBER 2013

The Home Secretary addressed the national Police and Commissioners meeting this month, while locally I visited the Youth Justice service to see first-hand the work they are undertaking to reduce offending and reoffending.

DECEMBER 2013

At the beginning of December the coastal town of Rhyl suffered severe flooding causing a number of the town's residents to leave their homes and take shelter at the local high school. On the evening of the floods I attended the high school to show support to the victims.

FEBRUARY 2013

Rhyl College invited me to attend and have a tour around the different facilities available at the college and the opportunities given to their students. I attended a meeting for the third sector to consult on police and crime objectives as part of the on-going work to revise the police and crime plan.

2014

NOVEMBER 2013

I attended a meeting with the farmers union to receive initial feedback on the work of the rural crime team, and was pleased to learn that the team has already begun to make an impact. I was also invited to address the meeting of the police federation representatives.

JANUARY 2013

I attended a long service award evening to recognize the valued contribution that staff and officers have made to making north Wales safe, I have attended many of these evenings as it is important that I take the time to thank people for the work they have done.

MARCH 2013

I was invited to visit the Warehouse Project to witness their work in the local community and in preventing young people from entering the Criminal Justice System. I also addressed student in Ysgol John Bright School about my role. I also hosted a conference looking at the victim's journey in north Wales.

Section Two: Delivering the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

My core functions 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

I have endeavoured to perform the first of these by the strategy laid down in my police and crime plan 2013/14 and, in particular, by its four police and crime objectives namely: to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, protect people and reduce harm, deliver a quality service that meets the needs of our communities and promote a well led, organised and skilled police force. Although an assessment of whether I have yet fulfilled this function would be premature at this stage, there are indications that I am succeeding in doing so. There are a number of ways of measuring effectiveness, I accept, but the substantial reduction crime is probably the best indicator of all.

I participated in the National Audit Office Review of Police Accountability which highlighted the increased public contact made with me through correspondence in comparison to the Police Authority, and I have also participated in a review of my engagement arrangements with the Wales Audit Office, which identified good practice and gave positive feedback for the further development of my activities to engage.

The principal means by which I hold the chief constable to account is through the Strategic Executive Board which I chair and of which the chief constable and his senior officers are members. This meets regularly and I take reports on several aspects of the chief constable's functions including in particular crime statistics for the period immediately preceding the meeting, the performance summary which contains local performance information, results of surveys of the officers and staff, and public satisfaction surveys. My engagement with the chief constable and his senior officers is not limited to the Strategic Executive Board meetings, and I believe we have developed a positive working model.

This overseeing function is reinforced by my regular meetings with Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary and with the Head of the Independent Police Complaints Commission and by their respective reports on the performance of North Wales Police.

I have further developed my partnership working in the past year. I continue to represent Wales on the National Criminal Justice Board in addition to being part of the local and Wales Criminal Justice Boards. My Deputy has become a member of the North Wales Area Planning Board and I continue to work with the North Wales Leadership and Safer Communities Board to identify opportunities to work together and share relevant information.

Co-operating with the other Police and Crime Commissioners and to formulate and implement strategies across police force areas is an important function and contributes towards delivering the Strategic Policing Requirement. This function I have endeavoured to fulfil by regular meetings with my fellow Welsh commissioners and their chief constables to discuss common interests and cross border matters in particular. I meet regularly with the commissioners of the north west of England to discuss cross-border matters and other common interests. The collaboration work between North Wales Police and the police forces of the north west of England is of particular importance to the policing of north Wales, the geographical proximity means that we have shared priorities for tackling serious and organised crime as well as providing operational cooperation for the police service.

Funding and finance

Police budget

I am responsible for setting the finance which will be provided to the chief constable for the delivery of policing in north Wales. A net budget of £141m has been allocated for 2013/14.

Whilst the Central Government Police Grant from the Home Office accounts for 56% of Police Funding, 44% is provided by local taxpayers. The draft final accounts for 2013/14 will be provided for audit in June 2014 and published on my website. The audited accounts will be available by the end of September.

This has been a challenging year financially, as the austerity programme, which has been in place since 2010/11, is set to continue until at least 2017/18. Despite reducing resources, the chief constable has continued to provide an efficient and effective policing service to north Wales, and during 2013/14 made significant progress to ensure that the required savings for 2014/15 can be delivered. Plans to deliver further savings in future years are being developed at the current time.

Delivery of the Estates Strategy

I have overseen significant progress in the delivery of the North Wales Police Estate Strategy 2013-2016. Key highlights during the year include the official opening of Llangefni police station, which will not only enable the police to deliver 21st century policing, it will also provide a new and fresh work place as well as a suitable, professional and appropriate location for those members of the community who may need to attend a police station.

I have also approved the purchase of land at Llay to prepare for the rebuild of the policing facilities in Wrexham. The Llay development will house custody facilities and specialist officers and staff. A town centre police station will also be developed in Wrexham.

In terms of the corporate estate I am currently reviewing the joint communication centre in St Asaph. I do not intend to pre-empt the outcome of this review at this stage, but its core aims are to ensure that we are achieving value for money for the future sustainability of the service which will enable the delivery of the best service.

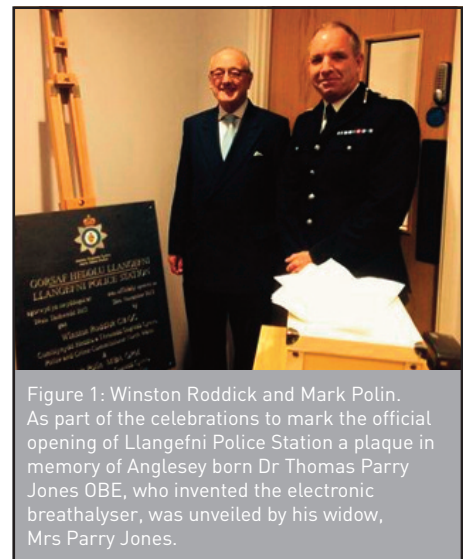


Figure 1: Winston Roddick and Mark Polin. As part of the celebrations to mark the official opening of Llangefni Police Station a plaque in memory of Anglesey born Dr Thomas Parry Jones OBE, who invented the electronic breathalyser, was unveiled by his widow, Mrs Parry Jones.

Commissioner's Fund 2013/14

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 the police and crime plan.

The Home Office confirmed that the Commissioner's Fund (which is made up of grant funding streams previously ring fenced, including the Community Safety Fund, the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) Fund, the DIP Drug Testing Grant, and the Youth Crime and Substance Misuse Prevention Funding) for north Wales in 2013/14 was £1,379,000. The funding distribution has been included in Annex A of this document. For 2014/15 I have allocated £1,166,000 to the Commissioner's Community Safety Fund.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The annual budget for 2013/14 has been set at the same level as that of the Police Authority during its final term £731,174.00. This equates to 0.5% of the overall budget for policing in north Wales.

Annex A – Distribution of the Commissioner’s Fund 2013/14

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. The fund has been allocated as follows:

Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Anglesey & Gwynedd Community Safety Partnership	Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator (Gwynedd). <i>An in-year underspend against this element was identified by the Partnership and the Commissioner agreed that the partnership recommendations that funding should be allocated to the Bangor Street Pastor scheme (£5,990.49) and to fund Hermes project aimed at reducing acquisitive crime in north Gwynedd (£4,000) with the remaining £11,009.51 being provided to fund the ASB coordinator post.</i>	£21,000
Total: £62,970.31		
	Gwynedd Care and Repair (installation of target hardening equipment for High Risk Domestic Violence and deployment of Telecare in Domestic Violence cases (high risk MARAC)	£10,000
	Redeployable CCTV Street Hawk and payment of Domestic Violence Telecare rent (Gwynedd)	£4,797.31
	Installation and rent of Telecare for Domestic Violence cases (high risk MARAC) (Anglesey):	£1,055.44
	ASB Reduction Officer (Anglesey):	£11,117.56
	Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) (Anglesey):	£15,000
Conwy & Denbighshire Community Safety Partnership	Joint Conwy and Denbighshire Anti-Social Behaviour Officer <i>Local Priorities’ Projects:</i> Offensive Graffiti Removal	£24,000 £6,000
Total: £75,655.82	Alleygate Maintenance	£9,000
	CCTV	£10,000
	No cold calling signage	£4,000
	Safer Homes Project	£10,000
	Neighbourhood Watch	£4,655.82
	Race Equality Outreach Worker	£8,000
Flintshire Community Safety Partnership	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA)	£8,875.00
	Flintshire Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Coordinator	£16,170.25
Total: £44,126.50	Neighbourhood Watch Chief Officer Post	£19,081.25

Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Wrexham Community Safety Partnership	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Coordination and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates:	£15,000
	Communications and Reassurance Campaigns:	£8,000
Total: £49,127.56	Watch Schemes Development and Communications	£12,585.56
	CCTV Surveillance Project	£9,000
	Target Hardening	£4,542
Gwynedd & Anglesey Youth Justice Service	Contribution towards the salary of the Prevention Social Worker Post (joint funded from the YJB grant):	£10,000
Total: £16,464	Contribution towards the salary of the Substance Misuse Nurse (joint funded from the YJB grant):	£6,464
Conwy & Denbighshire Youth Justice Service	Contribution towards the salary of the Substance Misuse Officer (joint funded by the YJS)	£20,384
Total: £20,384		
Flintshire Youth Justice Service	Contribution towards cost of a Youth Justice Prevention Worker (joint funded by the YJS)	£15,029
Total: £15,029		
Wrexham Youth Justice Service	Contribution towards year nine prevention programme	£19,695
Total: £19,695		
North Wales Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP)	Drug Intervention & Arrest Referral Services	£650,000
	Post Custody Prescribing	£148,160
Total: £892,662.59	Regional Management Team	£106,000
	Estates	£52,500
	IT System License	£2,400
	<i>Total programme cost: £959,060.00 (£66,397.41 from other funding sources)</i>	
North Wales Police	Contribution towards 'Drug Testing programme' cover part of the staffing costs for those who administer drug testing in custody.	£182,825
Total: £182,825		



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