

ANNUAL REPORT

2012/13



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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 first annual report under section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act). Although I have been in post only six months, I am required to prepare an annual report at this time. Covering as it does a period of only six months, it will of necessity be briefer than it otherwise would be. It will be a summary of how I have carried out my functions to date and the progress I have made in that time in meeting the police and crime objectives of my Police and Crime Plan.

As your elected representative, I am your voice in policing matters. I am responsible for holding the Chief Constable of North Wales Police to account and ensuring that the Force meets the needs of the communities it serves. I am answerable to the Police and Crime Panel which is made up of 12 community representatives who scrutinise my work and hold me to account.

My vision is for North Wales to be a place where people feel safe and secure at home and in public places. I want to see a significant reduction in victim-based crime. I believe that increased visibility of the police and the other initiatives which are being introduced will assist in cutting crime and in making people feel safer.

I have set out my vision in my Police and Crime Plan. Preparing the Plan has been the main focus of my work over the past six months. It was developed after consultation with the police and other partner organisations, community groups and the public. It is based on four key objectives which will underpin the work of North Wales Police over the next five years.

Another important task for the first few months was to draw up the Force budget and set the council tax precept for 2013/14. With the approval of the Police and Crime Panel, I increased the council tax by 3.98% which will pay for an additional 51 police officers.

Over the coming months and years, I will build on the foundations that have been laid during my first six months in office. I will continue to work alongside the police, partners and the communities of North Wales towards achieving the outcomes set out in the Plan: security at home, safety in public places, and visible policing.

I am grateful to the Chief Constable and his staff for the excellent support they have given me during these challenging first few months in office. Likewise my staff for their strong and efficient support. I have appeared before the Police and Crime Panel on a number of occasions during this opening six months period. In that time, its members have scrutinised my budget, my Police and Crime Plan and the statutory appointments to my office. I am grateful to them for their constructive criticisms, suggestions and encouragement. All in all, I have been lucky in the people with whom I work.

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 which I published in March this year. The plan will be reviewed and adapted regularly in light of emerging issues and the views of stakeholders and the public.

The Plan includes 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 are 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

The Plan highlights a number of key issues which are relevant to all parts of North Wales. These include:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Domestic abuse and sexual assault
- Substance misuse
- Rural crime
- Road safety

The Chief Constable has put together an action plan detailing how North Wales Police will address these issues and how they propose to achieve the four key objectives. Through regular meetings and reports, including the Strategic Executive Board, I shall be measuring and monitoring the police's performance against that action plan.

Progress to date

Although the Plan was not formally adopted until quite recently, a number of important and innovative initiatives have already been developed, and I have included a summary of some of the activity undertaken to date against each of the police and crime objectives.

The performance for the 2012/13 showed that there were significant decreases in most crime types, with 4,381 fewer victims of victim-based crime (a reduction of 11.6%) and 3,550 fewer incidents of anti-social behaviour (a reduction of 11.6%).

The Chief Constable and Force have worked tirelessly to reduce crime during 2012/13 and I hope that we can reduce crime even further this year, by focusing on prevention of crime.

Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

Figures for the end of the 2012-13 performance year show that:

- Victim-based crime decreased by 11.6%, with **4,381 fewer victims**.
- Violence with injury decreased by 7%, with **314 fewer victims**.
- Violence without injury decreased by 5%, with **217 fewer victims**.
- Domestic burglary decreased by 16.2%, with a **reduction of 304 victims**.
- Burglary other than dwelling decreased by 14.3%, with a **reduction of 502 victims**.
- Robbery decreased by 8.8%, with **14 less victims**.
- Vehicle theft decreased by 17.3%, a **reduction of 123 victims**.
- Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) decreased by 11.6%, a **reduction of 3,550 incidents**

I believe that nothing is more effective in deterring and reducing crime than the visible presence of the police. I have pledged to work with the Force to increase police visibility with the aim of reassuring the public. The addition of 51 front line officers will assist in achieving this objective.

The Chief Constable has begun implementing the Force's crime and anti-social behaviour reduction programme focusing on reducing victim-based crime and anti-social behaviour. This will build on the crime reduction delivered in 2012/13. 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.

The Force is reviewing the way and the method it uses to respond to incidents to ensure that the response is proportionate and appropriately to the incident. This will build on a pilot initiative undertaken in Flintshire South.

I have received positive feedback about partnership working in North Wales, but I feel this can be developed further and opportunities for collaborating with our local partners could also be explored further. To this end, the role of the Deputy Commissioner has been created to support me in the development and delivery of partnership working. The role of the Deputy Commissioner is currently being advertised.

Protect people and reduce harm

With my full support, North Wales Police are establishing a dedicated team to investigate rape (known as the 'Amethyst Team'). The Amethyst team will provide victim focused support in a sensitive and appropriate way, and will comprise a Detective Chief Inspector, a Detective Inspector, three Detective Sergeants, 12 Detective Constables and six specially trained police officers, and conscious efforts are being made to ensure that there is Welsh language specialist support available.

Through continued collaboration with partners such as Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and victim support groups, the police are working towards further enhancing the quality and consistency of the police response to these crimes.

The investigation of recent allegations of historic abuse in the care system in North Wales (Operation Pallial) has to date reported that an additional 76 new complainants have come forward. The first phase of the investigation has stated that "no evidence of systemic or institutional misconduct by North Wales Police officers or staff in connection with these matters has been identified".

I supported the Chief Constable's statements on the findings and his actions over the investigation. The standards of investigation and the support provided to victims has improved significantly in recent times and the dedicated team will further improve the capability and capacity within North Wales to treat these crimes as a priority.

"It's never too late to report abuse"
Mark Polin, Chief Constable of North Wales

The management of the most dangerous and violent offenders is central to the safety of people in North Wales, and this is something that could not be delivered without the multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA). The Chief Constable is working with partners to develop a multi-agency safeguarding hub to pilot with partners. This pilot will aim to improve the cross-sector working to deliver better outcomes for the most vulnerable members of our community.

I have decided to continue 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 am committed to open and transparent engagement and two-way communication with the public and their representatives as well as with the police, statutory partners, and other public, private and voluntary organisations.

Community engagement has been an important part of developing the Police and Crime Plan. Feedback from a wide range of organisations and individuals was taken in to account during the process of identifying the objectives and the priority areas for action. Listening to the views about police and crime issues in North Wales will continue to be crucial to enable me to monitor the impact of the Plan.

Over the next few months, I will publish an Engagement Plan and will formalise arrangements with the Force for joint engagement with the public and other key partners who work in the community safety or criminal justice field. This will enhance my ability to listen and respond to the communities of North Wales.

As part of this work, the Force have also begun to examine the feasibility of participatory tasking of Police Community Support Officers. This work is in the early stages of exploratory study but in principle we are focusing on the potential for communities to influence how some of the work time of local Community support officers is used. We will be reporting the findings of this feasibility study in 2014. This is an innovative feasibility study to see if we can introduce local participation in focusing support officer time on local priority areas.

Rural Crime Plan

Following meetings with rural communities across North Wales, resounding concerns about rural crime became evident. I therefore requested that the Police create an operational plan to tackle rural crime. The Rural Crime Plan for North Wales is being developed in close partnership with the farming unions in Wales, including the Federation of Young Farmers, and it will be officially launched during the summer.

In developing the Rural Crime Plan, some of the issues that we will seek to address include:

- Improving crime prevention and security
- Thefts from rural areas of equipment, diesel, scrap metal and vehicles
- Theft of livestock
- Wildlife and environmental crime
- Having a presence at farmers markets and agricultural events
- Reducing arson
- Communicating effectively with rural communities using text messages and emails
- Dealing with emerging issues to maintain public safety

Under the Rural Crime Plan, a team of Police Officers will be dedicated to dealing with rural crime. Six PCSOs have been nominated and three brand new Rural Crime Officer posts will be advertised in the near future.

Provide a well led, organised, skilled workforce

I increased the council tax precept by 3.98% for 2013/14 to strengthen front line policing. This increase has minimised the effect of central government cuts and has allowed for investment in 51 additional police officer posts. These brand new posts are being recruited over the coming months. 37 of the 51 will be deployed as patrol constables within local policing.

The Chief Constable and I have also decided to set the starting salary for new police officers at £22,000. We want to attract the best candidates to become police officers. Joining the police force enables people to serve their communities and the Force offers great career opportunities. All officers must start as Police Constables. To build an effective Force for the future we need to be able to compete with other employers and attract the best candidates.

One of the programmes that have been commissioned is to examine how mobile data technology can better support police officers and staff to enable them to spend more time with the public by avoiding unnecessary journeys to use equipment within police stations.

The Chief Constable is currently undertaking 20 roadshows across North Wales to communicate with staff and officers, and to seek feedback from them to enhance the service in addition to communicating the objectives within the Police and Crime Plan.

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 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.

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 including 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 monthly 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; it is a continuing engagement on delivery against agreed objectives including publishing information at regular intervals. This published material includes my observations and comments and agreed actions that arise out of the performance summary.

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.

Although it also oversees me as well as the Chief Constable there is further reinforcement of this overseeing function by the audit panel which I set up recently jointly with the Chief Constable.

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. There are also forward looking plans to explore further opportunities for collaboration between North Wales Police and the Cheshire Constabulary. 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. In view of the fact that 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.

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 has 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 is £1,379,000 (a reduction of £174,734 compared to the grant funding streams available in 2012/13).

I have decided to maintain the status quo in the transitional year (2013/14) to support partners and service providers to prepare for change. The funding distribution has been included in Annex A of this document. I will provide an update on the outcomes of these initiatives as part of the Annual Report for 2013/14, and these will also be informing the review of the commissioned services.

Commissioner's Fund 2014/15

Throughout this year I will be reviewing the programmes currently funded. I have decided that at least 5% of this fund will be used to fund community and voluntary sector projects in 2014/15 to support crime reduction and community safety activities across North Wales.

I will be working through the North Wales Safer Communities Board to develop a Commissioning programme which will support crime reduction throughout the area.

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. I have decided that the budget should remain at this level for this financial year. We currently have six staff members in work; with a planned staffing level of ten (three of the roles are currently part time).

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

From April 2013 the Commissioner has become 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):	£21,000
	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
Total: £62,970.31		
	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	£24,000
	<i>Local Priorities’ Projects:</i>	
Total: £75,655.82	Offensive Graffiti Removal	£6,000
	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

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		

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales

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