ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15



OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER NORTH WALES

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Introduction

This is my second annual report since my election in November 2012 as the first Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales. It is made under section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act) and relates to the financial year April 2014 to March 2015. It will focus on how I have exercised my functions and responsibilities during that year and the progress which has been made in that year in meeting the police and crime objectives of my Police and Crime Plan (the Plan).

My principal responsibilities as 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.

My 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.

I shall address those responsibilities in this report but I would particularly like to mention the significant progress which has been made during the past twelve months in the provision of support for victims in North Wales. To assist me in my preparations for the change in funding arrangements for victim services that came into force on 1 April 2015, I commissioned a 'Needs Assessment for the Development of Victims Services in North Wales' (Needs Assessment) which I published in May 2014. This Needs Assessment formed the basis of our formulation of the victims' service for North Wales.

The Needs Assessment has informed the work of a project team, led by my Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Julian Sandham. In July 2015, as a direct result of the Needs Assessment, I shall be opening the new Victims Help Centre. It will be located at St Asaph which is a central location in North Wales and will be funded from my budget. I would like to thank Julian Sandham, the project team and the staff within my office for their excellent work in establishing this vital and improved support for victims. I look forward to seeing the progress of the Help Centre over the coming year.

The last twelve months have been a period of very high demand for the officers and staff of North Wales Police. There was a significant increase in terrorist related offences and instances where the police service was targeted. There has also been an increased prevalence in crimes such as child sexual exploitation and cyber-crime. These issues add significantly to the challenges confronting modern policing and to the financial pressure on the police service at a time when it is experiencing unprecedented cuts.

Despite such significant challenges, crime in North Wales has continued to fall, with a reduction of 0.2% - a small reduction yes, but a reduction nonetheless. It must be acknowledged that this reduction comes following sustained crime reduction achievements in North Wales over the last five years. The last twelve months also saw a significant blow being dealt to the illicit drugs trade in North Wales with twenty six people who conspired to supply controlled drugs jailed for a total of

127 years. The Force is to be applauded for achieving such tremendous outcomes against a backdrop of cuts and challenges.

The most recent results of the National Crime Survey for England and Wales (up to the end of December 2014) show that North Wales Police have achieved improvements in a number of areas, summarised below. Many of the measures relate in some way to the confidence that the public have in North Wales Police.

- Community Understanding the number of those thinking that North Wales Police have an understanding of community issues has increased. The Force has risen eight places to 2nd nationally (out of 43 police forces).
- Respect the number of those of the opinion that North Wales Police officers treat people with respect has also increased. North Wales Police have moved up five places to 6th nationally.
- **Police Dealing with Concerns** North Wales Police is placed 10th nationally in this area, which is an increase of six places on the previous quarter.
- Police Doing a Good/ Excellent job North Wales Police have moved up seven places nationally to21st, which puts North Wales Police in line with the national average.
- Confidence More people have stated that they have confidence in North Wales Police. This has led to North Wales Police moving up eight places to 25th nationally (compared with 42nd nationally in December 2013).
- Fair Treatment the Force has moved up eleven places to 12th nationally.

Of course, the Chief Constable and I recognise that this is an improving, rather than a perfect position. It is clear that in some areas the Force has more work to do to ensure that it is as good as it can be. However, I am in no doubt that these recent improvements have not happened by chance, but rather as a result of deliberate effort and hard work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Constable and his team for their successes and for their continued efforts to keep North Wales safe. I look forward to building on this progress in the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank the people of North Wales. I have travelled the length and breadth of North Wales many times during the last twelve months and have consulted with the public, statutory authorities, the business community and the third sector organisations of North Wales. I am grateful to you all for your valuable contribution and continued support.

Winston Roddick CB QC

Winston Roddielo

North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

Section One: The 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 my Police and Crime Plan. Although I have recently completed my second revision of the Plan, this report will focus on progress against the Police and Crime Plan published in April 2014 (the 2014/15 Plan).

The 2014/15 Plan retained the three outcomes I sought in my first plan, namely security in the home, safety in public places and visible and accessible policing. However, to secure those outcomes I introduced four new police and crime objectives into the 2014/15 Plan. These are

- 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 2014/15 Plan set out four 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

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. My police and crime plan set out a number of expectations in the delivery of this objective, including the delivery of the <u>Victims' Code of Practice</u> and addressing the threats within the <u>Strategic Policing Requirement</u>.

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 three 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

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'. 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. I expect the Chief Constable to be able to balance the requirement I have set out for visible policing with the methods and resources required to enable him to tackle all kinds of offences that cause serious harm.

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

- 1. The number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions
- 2. The level of repeat offending

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 2014/15 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. In that regard, I am encouraged by the progress made by the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Wrexham. 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

My aim continues to be to reduce crime and victim-based crime in particular, over the term of my plan (2013 to 2016).

I measure performance by comparing against the year April 2011 to March 2012. I compare 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 <u>inspection</u> 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 measures

Objective	Measure	2014/15	2013/14	2011/12 baseline	% change from baseline
	Total recorded crime	36,478	36,530	41,947	-13%
	Victim based crime	35,828	35,929	41,214	-13.1%
	Resolved crime, by crime	34.5%	33.4%	34.5%	0%
Prevent	type				
crime	Recorded anti-social	23,570	25,606	30,160	-21.9%
	behaviour				
	The average response times	14.3	14.8	15	-4.7%
	of attendance at police				
Deliver an	emergencies				
effective	The amount of non-	3.2%	5%	6.5%	-3.3pp
response	emergency calls classified as				
	'abandoned calls'				
	The feedback received	80.8%	79%	80.6%	0.2%
	through victim surveys				
	The number of people killed	382	342	382	0%
Reduce harm	or seriously injured (KSI) in				
and the risk	road traffic collisions				
of harm	The level of repeat offending	7,035	6,674	10,035	-29.9%

The final column of the table above clearly illustrates the tremendous performance over the last twelve months and we are firmly on track to deliver my overriding objective of reducing crime over the term of my Plan.

There was a 13% reduction in total recorded crime in 2014/15 compared to 2011/12 whilst there was a 13.1% reduction in victim based crime. That equates to **5,386 fewer victims in North Wales**.

During the same period, anti-social behaviour also reduced, equal to **6,590 fewer incidents** recorded by North Wales Police.

I am particularly pleased to see the significant reduction in the number of offences committed by repeat offenders, a 29.9% reduction equal to 3,000 fewer offences. 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). The IOM Unit is a collaborative partnership involving North Wales Police, Probation Housing Officers and the Prison Service. It is also supported by Health and Drug Interventions Programme (Arch) workers and many more. It covers the whole Force area. The Unit manages a cohort of offenders and oversees the running of the Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) scheme. The main aim of the Unit is to reduce reoffending and they are clearly achieving positive outcomes.

In measuring resolved crime, I have focused 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 remained at the same level as 2011/12, this is an area that I regularly review through my main forum for scrutiny, namely the <u>Strategic Executive Board</u>. These statistics however do not reflect the Force's greater emphasis on restorative justice, community resolution and community remedy, all of which have proved to be tremendously successful. I continue to receive positive feedback from victims in this regard.

It is also through the Strategic Executive Board that the Chief Constable has kept me updated in relation to the increase in the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions. Whilst the level remains the same as in 2011/12 there has been an increase of 40 compared to the previous twelve months. The Force is aware of my concerns. Scrutiny activity has already been carried out in this regard and more will take place over coming months so that I am satisfied the Force are doing all within their power to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.

North Wales Police cannot tackle this issue in isolation and my objective of effective partnerships will be imperative in reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries on the roads of North Wales. Speed enforcement, both by North Wales Police and the Go Safe road safety partnership, is one tool to tackle this issue. Education and engineering are also of equal importance as set out within the Road Safety Framework for Wales.

Section Two:

Delivering the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

My core responsibilities are:

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

I continue 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 - prevent crime, deliver an effective response, reduce harm and the risk of harm and build effective partnerships. Although an assessment of whether I have fulfilled this function can only be effectively made at the end of my term, the effectiveness of the Force is clearly demonstrated in Table 1 (page 6). In November 2014 the HMIC's first PEEL assessments (Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy) was published. HMIC found that "North Wales Police is on track to meet its spending review challenge and is financially well-placed to face further cuts".

The principal means by which I hold the Chief Constable to account continues to be through the <u>Strategic Executive Board</u> 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. My engagement with the Chief Constable and his senior officers is not limited to the Strategic Executive Board meetings, and I believe we have a positive working model that serves the people of North Wales well.

I regularly meet with Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary and with the Head of the Independent Police Complaints Commission and receive their respective reports on the performance of North Wales Police.

Other partnership working has developed over the past year. I continue to represent Wales on the National Criminal Justice Board, in addition to being part of both the local and all Wales Criminal Justice Boards. My Deputy is a member of the North Wales Area Planning Board and I continue to work with the North Wales Regional Leadership Board and the Safer Communities Board. It is through these forums that I can see my objective of effective partnerships being delivered. However, more can be done to integrate front line service delivery which will be imperative if statutory agencies are to overcome the significant financial challenges that lay ahead.

There is currently considerable scrutiny on collaborative work between forces and partners. North Wales Police still faces significant financial cut backs over the next few years and many programmes of work have been developed to achieve some of the required savings. Looking forward, we still need to reduce the budget further and I continue to scrutinise the Force's approach to collaboration. Any collaborative opportunity will be examined in detail, subject to a business case. Opportunities are currently being explored on an all Wales basis and with colleagues in the North West.

We have examined in detail the <u>HMIC Value for Money profiles</u> of North Wales Police in comparison to other forces across England and Wales. There are still areas where the Force spends more than average.

One Year of engagement

April 2014

I was invited to take part in the <u>Justice in a Day scheme</u> to play the role of the judge. Justice in a Day is a workshop aimed at 14-15 year olds that demonstrates the journey through the criminal justice system. It's an excellent way of enabling young people to understand the criminal justice system and for helping them to make the right choices.

May 2014

After hearing about the cadet programme run by the <u>Oystercatcher restaurant</u> on Anglesey, I visited the restaurant to see their excellent work for myself. The cadet programme is based on rehabilitation and is a two year catering course which provides the cadets with classroom based and practical training. By choosing its staff on their personalities instead of their qualifications and criminal convictions the Oystercatcher gives them another chance.

June 2014

I was invited to the Wrexham One Stop Shop as a follow-up to my visit last year. The centre is a refuge for vulnerable females and helps with resettlement, housing and other care services. It was encouraging to see how the centre had developed over the last year with an increasing number of services now available to vulnerable people.

There are a number of agricultural shows across North Wales during the summer months, and in preparation for these I met with the leaders of the Farmers Union for Wales and National Farmers Union.

July 2014

I attended the North Wales Business Club meeting to share the results of the business crime survey I commissioned through the Online Watch Link (OWL) team. This was a beneficial meeting as it allowed me to listen to the business community's views on policing in North Wales.

I also visited the youth workers club in Prestatyn and the North Wales Pride festival in Bangor.

August 2014

I attend agricultural shows such as the Môn Show, Denbigh and Flint and the Meirionnydd show with the Force's Rural Crime Team.

I visited two community projects that received funding from the 2013/14 participatory budget scheme. These were the Saltney Ferry Scout and Guide Group who needed the funding to restore items damaged in a fire and the Noddfa Community Centre in Caernarfon.

September 2014

The <u>Gwarchod Bermo CCTV scheme</u> received the Safer Communities award this year and it was during my visit that I realised the scheme deserved public recognition. It provides CCTV coverage for the town of Barmouth and it has provided real assistance to North Wales Police with identifying offenders. The scheme is run by local volunteers who regularly give up their own time to go through the CCTV footage.

I also attended the Mantell Gwynedd charity morning to discuss my role with its members.

October 2014

My first <u>community awards ceremony</u> 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. Those that received awards included George Powell from the Warehouse Project, Barmouth CCTV and JIGSAW to name but a few.

November 2014

The Magistrates Association invited me to attend their general meeting to speak about my role as Commissioner.

As part of my engagement with the Muslim community in North Wales I met with the Conwy Islamic Centre leaders.

I attended a meeting in Swansea with the Children's Commissioner and other authorities to discuss the issue of child sexual abuse and exploitation and safeguarding children.

I also hosted a successful conference on <u>Restorative Justice</u> at which the benefits of the restorative justice process were shared amongst criminal justice practitioners.

December 2014

During my consultation period for the revised Police and Crime Plan I spent time speaking to members of the public, organisations and third sector groups. I visited <u>VIVA</u> who are a part of the West Rhyl Young People Project. They offer a meeting place, social activities and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people. This gave me the opportunity to speak to young people and hear their views on policing priorities.

I also held a <u>third sector engagement evening</u> where I listened to the views of the third sector agencies.

January 2015

Following the success of the 2013/14 Participatory Budget scheme 'Your Community Your Choice' we ran the scheme again in 2014/15. I was delighted to present the winners, chosen by their local communities, with their grant funding at an event held at the police headquarters.

I also attended a community meeting in Llandudno with local officers to hear local concerns and answer questions about my role as Commissioner.

February 2015

I was invited by the Muslim Council of Wales to attend an event in Cardiff to mark the United Nations Interfaith Week. There were guest speakers from the Muslim and the Jewish communities to mark the union between the leaders of different religions. The event was attended by hundreds of people showing their support towards interfaith in Wales.

I also attended a public meeting in Wrexham following an invite from a Wrexham residents association to discuss various local issues.

March 2015

In April 2015, the funding for victims services will come under my control and to introduce the new services I hosted a <u>victim's conference</u> in Llandudno Junction with guest speakers that included Baroness Helen Newlove. The speakers shared their experiences, with one victim of domestic abuse

telling her harrowing story and how the help she received allowed her to recover from her ordeal. The new victim's hub will open in July 2015 and will provide victims with a variety of services.

Funding and Finance

Police budget

I am responsible for setting the budget provided to the Chief Constable for the delivery of policing in North Wales. A net budget of £141m was allocated for 2014/15.

Whilst central government grants, determined by the Home Office, accounted for 55% of police funding, 45% was provided by local taxpayers. The draft final accounts for 2014/15 will be prepared for audit by the end of June 2015 and published on my website. The audited accounts will be available by the end of September.

The 2014/15 year has been challenging financially and these challenges are likely to get tougher in 2015/16 and beyond. The year ahead will be the fifth consecutive year of substantial cuts for North Wales Police. £19.6m has been cut over the previous four years and our current assumptions are that a further £15.5m will be cut over the next four years. Despite the reducing resources, the Chief Constable has continued to provide an efficient and effective policing service to North Wales. Plans to deliver further savings in future years are in the course of being developed.

Delivery of the Estates Strategy

The Estate Strategy 2012-16 (the Strategy) has been progressing as intended in respect of the key capital projects which underpin the Strategy. The design of the building proposed for a new Eastern Command and Custody Facility at Llay has progressed during the 2014/15 with construction planned to commence in August 2015. As outlined in the Strategy, a police station will also be provided in Wrexham town centre. Through the working partnership that has developed during the past twelve months between Wrexham County Borough Council and North Wales Police, it has been agreed that the town station can be located in the former 'Oriel/Gallery' building adjacent the main public library near the Guildhall. This location, based as it is in the town centre, will ensure that police officers based there will be visible and accessible to the public. The station will have a public enquiry counter service. It is planned that the new facility in Llay and the town centre police station will be operational by April 2017.

In April 2014, the relocated police station in Flint became fully operational as part of the 'Flintshire Connects' building. This enables police officers to work alongside partner agencies. It also enabled the former police station and court site to be vacated for a proposed social housing redevelopment as part of Flint town centre planning. Similarly, but on a smaller scale, the police station in Bethesda relocated into 'Siop Ogwen' in partnership working with 'Partneriaeth Ogwen' which brought the station back into the High Street.

Plans to redevelop the current police station site in Llandudno have been progressing during 2014-15 and it is proposed that construction works will commence later in 2015.

Commissioner's Fund 2014/15

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 has been included in Annex A to this report.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The annual budget for 2014/15 was set at the same level as that of the Police Authority during its final term, namely £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 2014/15

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 2014/15 the fund was allocated as follows:

Recipient	Purpose	Grants		
	Gwynedd: Antisocial Behaviour Coordinator	£15,000.00		
Gwynedd and Anglesey	Gwynedd: Independent Domestic Violence Advisor	£7,000.00		
CSP	Gwynedd: CCTV Street Hawk	£3,666.83		
	Anglesey: Antisocial Behaviour Coordinator	£17,483.17		
	Anglesey: Independent Domestic Violence Advisor			
	£45,150			
	Joint Antisocial Behaviour Officer	£22,000.00		
Conwy & Denbighshire	Joint Safer homes project	£7,000.00		
CSP	Joint Neighbourhood Watch	£4,000.00		
	Re-deployable CCTV cameras	£10,000.00		
	Two Independent Domestic Violence Advisors	£11,126.00		
	Total	£54,126		
	Antisocial Behaviour Officer	£11,577.28		
Flintshire CSP	Neighbourhood Watch Chief Officer	£13,643.09		
	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor	£6,345.63		
	Total	£54,126		
	Target Hardening Service	£2642.00		
_	Communications and Reassurance Project	£4000.00		
Wrexham CSP	CCTV surveillance	£6000.00		
	OWL and Watch	£9500.00		
	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic	£13000.00		
	Coordination			
	Total	£35,142		
Gwynedd and Anglesey	Contribution towards Youth Justice Prevention	£16,464.00		
YOT	Worker	222 224 22		
Conwy and Denbighshire	Contribution towards Youth Justice Prevention	£20,384.00		
YOT Flintshire YOT	Worker	C1E 020 00		
Filntsnire YU1	Contribution towards Youth Justice Prevention Worker	£15,029.00		
Wrexham YOT				
WIEXIIAIII TOT	Worker Contribution towards Youth Justice Prevention			
North Wales DIP	Drug Intervention and Arrest Referral Services	£892,622.00		
1401 til VVales DIF	Drug intervention and Arrest Neterral Services	1032,022.00		
	Total grant funding	£1,130,178		
	Total grant failaing	11,130,176		

