**Meeting: Police Accountability Board**

**Venue: Pembrokeshire College**

**Date: 3rd February 2023**

**Time: 10:00 – 13:00**

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| **Members:** | Dafydd Llywelyn, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)  Chief Constable Dr Richard Lewis (CC)  Edwin Harries, Director of Finance (DoF)  Carys Morgans, Chief Executive, OPCC (CEX) |
| **Also Present:** | Superintendent Andrew Edwards, Chief of Staff (AE)  T-Inspector Richard Davies, Staff Officer OPCC (RD)  Jo Sayers, Communications Advisor, OPCC  Ellen Jones, Executive Support Officer, OPCC |
| **Observers:** | Pembrokeshire College Students  Pembrokeshire College Lectures  Police and Crime Panel Members  Members of the Public |
| **Apologies** | Beverley Peatling, Chief Finance Officer (CFO) |

1. **Apologies and Introductions**

The PCC welcomed members to the Policing Accountability Board meeting. Apologies were received from the CFO.

1. **Community Questions**

The PCC thanked members of the meeting for submitting questions in advance of the meeting and also welcomed any further questions.

*Q. In light of recent instances around violence to women and girls, and allegations of institutional misogyny and racism within the police, how can Dyfed Powys Police reassure people who want to report crimes against themselves that they will be listened to, heard, and taken seriously, respectfully, and that appropriate actions will then be taken - Sarah Harvey, Community Connector, Children & Families, Pembrokeshire*

A. The CC noted the relevance of the question. The CC informed that Dyfed Powys Police (DPP) have external agencies that oversee and scrutinise the Force including the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). The CC noted the need to focus on the Force’s interaction with members of the public and the need to ensure that members of the public have confidence and the knowledge on how report instances of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The CC informed that DPP have set a priority to eliminate domestic abuse and emphasised the need to work with external agencies to achieve this. The PCC agreed with the CC and noted that all Forces must restore their faith with the public. The PCC noted that he aims to ensure the Force’s internal culture is appropriate and informed that vetting is being undertaken for all Police Staff against the police national database including the members of the OPCC. The PCC noted there is need to ensure individuals have confidence to report and informed that there are commissioned services available to support those effected by VAWG and domestic abuse.

Q. *Can the Chief Constable explain his rationale for merging the 4 police forces in Wales and say how this would help to reduce crime and ensure accountability? – Student from Pembrokeshire College*

A. The CC began by informing that the comments made were his own personal view and that he does not speak on the behalf of the PCC or other Welsh Force’s. The CC informed that he believes Heddlu Cymru would be more efficient as it would create more savings, a more effective and efficient service and they would have more officers at their disposal.

Q. *What procedures are being put in place in Dyfed Powys to reassure the public that ‘rotten apples’ are being investigated and removed from the force promptly and we don’t have the same problems as have been reported in the Metropolitan Police recently?- Student from Pembrokeshire College*

A. The CC informed the members of the internal system in place called ‘Rotten Apple’, which aims to root out inappropriate behaviour. The CC noted the positive work already been carried out and provided an overview of the process in place in identifying misconduct and how he as Chief Constable was being held to account by the PCC on this issue.

Q. *Is training around Domestic abuse provided to officers? If so what kind as many victims suffer mental health issues. Member of the Public*

A. The PCC highlighted the need for efficient training to be provided to officers and referred back to the police and crime priorities that include victims are supported. The PCC informed that the commissioned services are independent bodies that support victims. The PCC noted the difficulties facing mental health provision and noted that work is being undertaken to ensure that there are more services available. The CC informed that officers regularly receive training including input from psychologists. The CC informed that work is currently being undertaken with Aberystwyth University to bring in virtual headset training into Force. The CC noted the crucial need for officers to be aware that all interaction with the victim is critical. Members of the public in attendance who are also members of the victim engagement forum expressed their positive interaction with the Goleudy service. The PCC thanked those who provided their feedback.

Q. *With recent news that the song Delilah has been banned at Welsh rugby matches, does the CC wish to contextualise his comments on Twitter? PCC Llywelyn*

A. The CC noted that the song describes the act of domestic abuse which he doesn’t feel is acceptable. In view of the Force’s aim to eliminate domestic abuse he has made the decision on a personal level not participate in the song. The CC noted the importance of demonstrating to victims that DPP is available to all. The CC ended the discussion by noting that if his comments encourage one victim of domestic abuse to come forward then his statement would have been worthwhile.

Q. With regards to *drug crime policy how does the CC see a health approach better considering the current pressure on health services*. *Member of the public*

A. The PCC informed that the CC is the national chief police council lead on drugs and noted that the Welsh government is providing funding to support substance misuse. The CC noted that drug policy has been agreed by the national police chiefs council and informed that he recently held a meeting with the Home Office Policing Minister, Policing Minster of Scotland, the Deputy First Minister of Wales, and the National Crime Agency to discuss drug policies and how collaboration can work. The CC informed that the Force aims to prevent county lines and noted that the capture and conviction method isn’t always effective, and a health-based approach is required to support those suffering from substance misuse.

Q. *Would legalising cannabis help with reducing substance misuse and crime rates? Member of the public*

A. Th PCC acknowledged that the Force must respond to the legal framework but noted there is need for more work to be undertaken in relation to the potential decriminalisation of the use of cannabis. The CC reiterated the PCC’s comments and noted the Force’s role to enforce the law and not create it. The CC noted the recent increase in the use of cannabis and the long-term mental health issues that it can cause, and the level of criminality and violence linked to drug use and dealing. The PCC expressed that the Force can only respond to the information given and they rely on members of the public to provide detailed information. The PCC encouraged members of the public to report any substance misuse concerns either via directly to the Force, through Single Online Home or confidentially through Crime-stoppers.

Q. *What is Dyfed Powys doing about Cyber Crime?- Student from Pembrokeshire College*

A. The CC informed that the Force have a cybercrime unit and highlighted the collaboration working being undertaken. The CC noted the importance of educating people of cybercrime to aide in prevention. The CC expressed the need to recruit more young people who are already aware of technology as crime has changed drastically in recent years.

Q. 6. What is Dyfed Powys doing to reduce its Carbon Footprint?- *Student from Pembrokeshire College*

A. The CC informed that DPP are undertaking vast amount of activity to reduce its carbon footprint including tracking footprint, collaboration with forces to implement an All-Wales Sustainability Plan, installation of LED lights, biomass boiler, rainwater harvesting, and better installation for buildings.

Q. *Where do you see the force in 5 years in terms of performance and crime reduction?- Student from Pembrokeshire College*

A. The CC informed that he hopes that more crime is reported, more people brought to justice and that more people are placed in diversionary schemes with the aid of the services commissioned by the PCC.

The PCC informed that engagement events will be held in March 2023 with the DPP neighbourhood policing teams to encourage better interaction with local communities and encouraged the members of the public to attend.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

Minutes from the previous meeting held on the 14th of October 2022 were deemed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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| ACTION SUMMARY FROM MEETING ON 14/10/2022 | | |
| Action No | Action Summary | Update |
| PAB 163 | OPCC to review the concerns raised regarding the INTACT team | Completed – PCC discussed with INTACT |
| PAB 164 | Terms of reference for Force response to priority 1 to be sent to the PCC | Completed |

1. **Matters arising from Policing Board scrutiny focus themes (by exception)**

The PCC noted the paper provided and provided an overview of the governance structure in place to ensure that the CC is held to account.

1. **Force contribution to National Measures**

The PCC welcomed Chief of Staff Superintendent an Edwards (AE) to the meeting. AE provided an introduction of the Force performance against the national measures and gave an overview of the document circulated. AE informed that a focus is on improving the service provided to domestic abuse victims. A discussion ensured regarding substance misuse, county lines and safety on the roads. AE informed the members of Operation Madrone, which has been piloted in Ceredigion were officers carried out drug swipes and road-site testing. AE continued with the presentation and informed that DPP have a high positive outcome rate and noted that neighbourhood crime has reduced due to better detection.

1. Force Performance Against Priority 2*:* Harm is prevented

AE provided an overview of Force performance on Police and Crime Plan priority 2 - Harm is Prevented. AE listed the points of action that the Force will seek to deliver upon. AE informed that the Force hold Force Performance events which focus on the need to increase the visibility of the neighbourhood policing teams (NPT). The PCC questioned how the Force measure NPT visibility. AE advised that the data is based on officer location and noted that the operational model is currently under review. The PCC questioned as to how often the data is collected. AE informed the data is now live and can be collected when required. The CC informed that this allows scrutiny to be undertaken at Force performance meetings. A member of the Police and Crime Panel present noted the importance of better visibility of officers required especially in light of the recently agreed precept increase. The CC noted the comments made and agreed that officers need to proactively be visible.

AE continued to discuss the positive increase in the stop and search cases. The PCC informed that the Quality Assurance Panel routinely undertake dip sampling activity of stop and search cases including reviewing body worn camera footage for scrutiny purposes. The PCC sought reassurance that the Force are not over policing communities, to which the CC responded that 1 in 5 stop search cases result in a positive outcome. A member of the public questioned if DPP collect data on ethnicity and stop and search rates to which the CC informed that the data is collected and is published nationally.

AE continued to provide an overview of the data on the NPT review, health approach policing, youth engagement and improved safety.

The PCC thanked AE for the detailed presentation provided.

1. Break
2. Finance

The PCC informed of the recent decision made at the Police and Crime Panel meeting to increase the police precept by 7.75%.

The PCC introduced the Director of Finance (DoF) and thanked for the report provided which highlighted the current year end financial position. The DoF provided an overview of the paper and noted the pressures facing the Force with the cost-of-living crisis and the need to create savings. The PCC noted the underspend within the training budget and informed that the OPCC has sought further reassurance in relation to this. A student present from Pembrokeshire College questioned if the Force has any additional risk with the budget being underspent. The DoF informed that no risks were being created with the underspend, but the Force must be cautious with the savings plan. The DoF informed that a review of office ranks is being undertaken and some vacant police staff roles with be disestablished. The PCC informed that police stations are under review, and buildings that are not required operationally will be under scrutiny.

The PCC thanked all for attending the Policing Accountability Board meeting. The PCC and CC thanked Pembrokeshire College for their engagement and hospitality.

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