

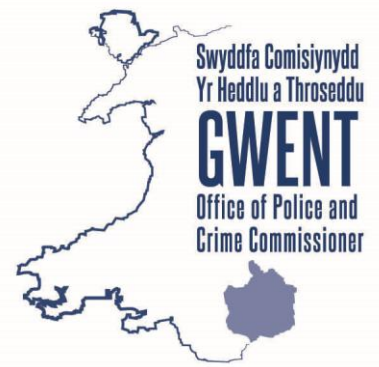
Swyddfa Comisiynydd Yr Heddlu a Throseddau, Gwent
Office of Police and Crime Commissioner, Gwent

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Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddau Gwent | Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent:

Jeff Cuthbert B.Sc., MCIPD

22 December 2016

Nick Ramsey AM
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Nick

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN WALES

Thank you for your letter of 15 December 2016 in relation to the Auditor General for Wales' (AGW) report on Community Safety in Wales and the invitation for me to give my view on the issues raised in the report. The AGW produced a report on the situation in Gwent also and my comments relate to that report mainly.

I welcome the report and recognise the conclusions made, and would largely support the recommendations originating from the research undertaken. I note, however, that although the AGW visited seven local authorities across Wales, none of them are within Gwent.

The complexity of defining community safety is a long standing issues and is further complicated when the issue of responsibility is superimposed on delivery, especially when this delivery could be impacted by the question of devolved and non-devolved services. This is an issue that is not applicable at the point of delivery and therefore should not impinge upon our collective responsibility to provide effective and efficient services to our communities.

With this in mind, two programmes of work, designed and implemented in Gwent via my office, received recognition as 'Good Practice' in the report.

Both the Strategic Commissioning Board and Safer Gwent Partnership have been designed to navigate the issues in the report regarding, collective responsibility, joined up strategic action planning, joined up service delivery and collective performance management:

- The purpose of the **Strategic Commissioning Board** is to provide strategic direction to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Commissioning Programme in relation to strategic planning, service quality, contracting performance and management and stakeholder engagement.
- **Safer Gwent** was established by my Office in 2015 and works with key community safety partners across the five local authority areas. It provides an organised and joined-up approach to achieve better outcomes in tackling issues such as preventing crime, ASB, preventing reoffending and supporting victims. Safer Gwent meets bi-monthly and aims to work collectively to address regional safety issues that impact on local communities.

A further joint enterprise of note, also in place in Gwent, is the Connect Gwent Victims Support Hub:

- **Connect Gwent** is the first ever multi-agency service of its kind in Wales which provides positive and lasting support to victims of crime, helping them to cope and recover. The service has brought together a range of agencies and organisations under one roof to provide enhanced support to victims of crime.

My Gwent wide approach to service delivery has been instrumental in already supporting some, if not the majority, of recommendations made in the report. Hopefully you can see that we are well versed in joint partnership working in order to achieve positive results.

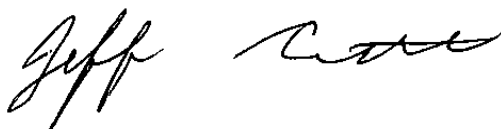
With this in mind, I don't believe that another layer of governance needs be added to the Community Safety landscape, but rather a more supported approach to working in the same way that we are working in Gwent at this time.

I will continue to champion the ethos of the recommendations made through the partnerships highlighted above, and in my work with others partnerships such as Public Service Boards to ensure they are given full consideration in our ongoing programmes of joint working.

Having noted the Welsh Governments suggestions for progressing this matter, I welcome its invitation to work together to develop a comprehensive, consistent and holistic response to the recommendations made in the report. A member of my staff has been allocated to work with the Welsh Government directly on this matter.

Can I add that further work is underway to collate data and develop joint working further in Gwent. I will happily share this information with you, once it is ready, if you feel that it would be helpful.

Yours sincerely



Jeff Cuthbert B.Sc., MCIPD
Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent