

## REPORT OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

**TITLE:** Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales' Scrutiny Overview

**DATE:** 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**PURPOSE:** For Noting

<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>RECOMMENDATION</u></b></p> <p>That the Police and Crime Panel considers and notes the attached report and supporting presentation summarising formal scrutiny and governance as required by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>INTRODUCTION &amp; BACKGROUND</u></b></p> <p>The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 states that the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner for South Wales has a statutory duty and electoral mandate to hold South Wales Police to account on behalf of the public. He works to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the force by working together with the Chief Constable, aiming to provide the best possible police service to South Wales.</p> <p>The Commissioner uses a range of ways to ensure that formal scrutiny of the force takes place throughout the year. As well as the weekly contact he has with Chief Officers in the force, the Commissioner chairs a Strategic Board on a quarterly basis. This is where he formally holds the Chief Constable to account in relation to crime reduction, force performance, and the delivery of priorities in the Police &amp; Crime Plan. Further detail on these arrangements are laid out in the jointly agreed Manual of Governance and Annual Governance Statement.</p> <p>The Commissioner's Scrutiny &amp; Accountability portfolio is the primary mechanism through which the Commissioner's 'holding to account' role is evidenced. The Commissioner's Scrutiny &amp; Accountability Board meetings are held every 6 weeks to formally take South Wales Police through its annual scrutiny programme, which is set 12 months in advance. In addition to this scheduled programme of scrutiny via scrutiny 'deep dives', the Board also enables escalating and emerging issues to be considered for scrutiny and oversight as and when required.</p> <p>.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u></b></p> <p>The report (and presentation) outlines the activity that was conducted via the scrutiny programme recently and proposals moving forward. Annex A</p>

4.	<p><b><u>NEXT STEPS</u></b>  The Police and Crime Panel are asked to note and comment, the attached report and supporting presentation.</p>
5.	<p><b><u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u></b>  There are financial implications to the delivery of the work of the team which are articulated within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.</p>
6.	<p><b><u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u></b>  The plans take account of the pressure on the budget and drive the efficient and effective use of the budget in a planned and timely manner.</p>
7.	<p><b><u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u></b>  Producing the reports particularly in the light of:  (i) any report or recommendations made by the police and crime panel; and  (ii) any changes in the strategic policing requirement  (iii) statutory responsibilities of the Commissioner under the Police Reform and Social Responsibilities Act 2011.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u></b>  This proposal has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to discriminate against any group.</p> <p>In preparing this report, consideration has been given to the requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.</p>
9.	<p><b><u>RISK</u></b>  Non-compliance with the duties outlined would create a risk of non-compliance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.</p>
10.	<p><b><u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u></b>  Scrutiny reports, such as the Annual Report will be placed on the website of both the Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel.</p>
11.	<p><b><u>CONTACT OFFICER</u></b>  Lee Jones, Chief Executive to the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales.</p>
12.	<p><b><u>ANNEXES</u></b>  The Annexe to this report is a copy of the referenced report for noting.</p>

# Police & Crime Panel

## SCRUTINY UPDATE

<b>Date</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Scrutiny & Accountability Update
<b>Submitted by</b>	Hannah Jenkins-Jones Strategic Lead (Scrutiny, Assurance & Equality)

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Commissioner's Scrutiny & Accountability portfolio is the primary mechanism through which the Commissioner's 'holding to account' role is evidenced. The Commissioner's Scrutiny & Accountability Board meetings are held every 6 weeks to formally take South Wales Police through its annual scrutiny programme, which is set 12 months in advance. In addition to this scheduled programme of scrutiny via scrutiny 'deep dives', the Board also enables escalating and emerging issues to be considered for scrutiny and oversight as and when required.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny & Accountability Board meetings are alternately chaired by the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Executive. The Strategic Lead for Scrutiny co-ordinates and devises research and input for each deep dive.
- 1.3 At the end of each deep dive, the Commissioner's team makes formal recommendations to South Wales Police and these are then tracked for progress over time.

### 2. SCRUTINY DEEP DIVE RECOMMENDATION REVIEWS

- 2.1 In the Scrutiny & Accountability Board meeting in March 2021, a review was conducted of the scrutiny recommendations that the Commissioner's team had made following deep dives in 2019/20.
- 2.2 It had been almost two years since the establishment of the Scrutiny & Accountability Board and its associated deep dives, all of which had led to a series of recommendations, and it was considered an important time to review progress. It had always been anticipated that the deep dive recommendations would be implemented over a long period as many required the embedding of long-term change.
- 2.3 The outcomes of the 2019/20 reviews, and of the Scrutiny & Accountability Board meeting conversations around them, are outlined in the next section.

### 3. HATE CRIME AND STALKING, HARASSMENT & COERCIVE CONTROL DEEP DIVE RECOMMENDATION REVIEWS

- 3.1 The Hate Crime deep dive took place in May 2019, and the Stalking, Harassment & Coercive Control deep dive took place in August 2019. **Appendix A** contains the original recommendations for each deep dive, and the Commissioner's Team's

assessment of progress against them, following recent update meetings with subject leads in the force.

The Scrutiny & Accountability Board considered the updates and discussed the areas flagged as amber and red.

3.2 The following was of particular note from the update table:

- Two individual recommendations from both scrutiny deep dives related to the same issues i.e. the need for vulnerable victims to be prioritised for victim updates, and the need for positive victim stories to be promoted to the public to encourage confidence to report. These will now be compiled into two generic recommendations.
- One recommendation has been noted as requiring escalation. The Scrutiny & Accountability Board discussed the ongoing national constraints around introducing hate crime sub categories to NICHE. It was felt that this needed to be raised again at a national level and in the first instance to the Commissioner's Strategic Board for discussion.

#### **4. OTHER DEEP DIVE RECOMMENDATIONS (2019/20)**

4.1 In addition to the recommendations in Appendix A, an assessment of all other recommendations from the 2019/20 scrutiny programme was conducted. This included assessing the 12 'Culture and Wellbeing' recommendations, and the Anti Social Behaviour recommendations. All but one were discharged.

#### **5. POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGITIMACY GROUP**

5.1 Another aspect of the Commissioner's Scrutiny & Accountability programme is the Police Accountability & Legitimacy Group, which meets quarterly. This group consists of external partner agencies and independent community members, all of whom assist the Commissioner's team in providing a scrutiny and oversight function of South Wales Police. The group provides a constructive, 'critical friend' approach to a range of policing issues.

5.2 The group has worked well over the last year to provide important feedback on community perceptions of policing, for example, in relation to race equality and disproportionality. They also provide oversight of force performance data, such as stop search and use of force data, and are encouraged to make observations and challenges about any issues of community interest.

5.3 During 2021, it is the Commissioner's team's intention to set up a subgroup of this group, which will enable members to view Bodyworn video footage of stop searches and use of force. This will enable them to comment on what they see and provide feedback, and will encourage greater transparency and openness.

## **6. EQUALITY UPDATE**

6.1 The Scrutiny & Equality team is continuing to work with relevant force leads on race equality issues. This includes the Joint Race Equality Action Plan, soon to be launched, and proposals for further positive action work for greater levels of recruitment from Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic communities.

6.2 In addition, the team is working with other forces and Commissioner teams across Wales to consider how to promote race equality on a Wales-wide level, including through the development of a race equality pledge and associated Delivery Plan for the partners within Criminal Justice in Wales.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

7.1 The Police & Crime Panel is asked to consider the content of the report during the Scrutiny & Accountability Board meeting.

