

Annex C : A Public Health Approach to harm, crime and nuisance

In recent years, a collaborative approach between policing, criminal justice, public health and a wide range of partners across different sectors in Wales has had at its heart the adoption of a (preventative) public health approach which has provided strong foundations for multiple programmes of work including the initial Police Adverse Childhood Experience pilot, the Early Action Together Programme and the Wales Violence Prevention Unit.

Work by Criminal Justice in Wales has led to us jointly investing in analytic capacity which has now produced a flexible tool – a dashboard – which for the first time enables practitioners to have **an accurate profile of the offenders that are being managed in your area.**

Great strides have been made in improving responses to vulnerability and increased access to early intervention and prevention (IRIS and DRIVE are two examples where investment from Police funds have enabled significant interventions on domestic violence and abuse.

These developments will help us together to lead local Community Safety Partnerships to review their work, to develop community safety audits that are accurate and meaningful and jointly to take a public health approach that is supported by the following principles:

1. Developing a detailed understanding of the nature, extent, and impact of an issue – including the evidence of what is likely to cause or prevent it in the short, medium and long term – using shared **data and intelligence.**
2. Seeking to prevent an issue for your population as a whole by intervening early with at-risk groups to reduce the harm caused by the issue, including by promoting recovery and increasing resilience.
3. Understanding that the police, their partners and communities can work together to address the causes and impact of an issue by taking a whole system approach – instead of having a focus only on a response to harm.
4. Working with partners to coordinate tailored and targeted action that, together, aims to prevent:
 - an issue emerging in the first place or re-emerging by focusing on social determinants/the causes at a population level (primary prevention)
 - an emerging issue from becoming an established problem (secondary prevention)
 - an established problem getting worse and becoming a crisis, and mitigating the immediate impact of the problem (tertiary prevention)
5. Assessing how well interventions are implemented, and how effective they are at preventing the issue for your population and/or reducing the harm to relevant groups.
6. Learning from the effectiveness of actions and making necessary changes whether at an individual, organisational or system-wide level.
7. Building leadership across public services and communities to work together to address an issue, and its causes and harms, by aligning strategy, leadership and resources

Reflecting upon the spirit of the Crime and Disorder Act (1998), this approach will ensure that community safety audits are data led and evidence based, that they represent the needs of the local community, and that they strengthen the ability of our neighbourhood policing and council teams, with partners, to coordinate a multi-agency problem solving response.