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**ANNUAL REPORT 2017/19**

**A summary of our impact**

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1. **Commissioner’s Introduction**

I am pleased to introduce my annual report for the financial year 2017-2018. This report summarises the work my team and I have carried out during another busy, challenging but enjoyable year. The economic environment remains very challenging and, if we are not to lose valuable services, we must continue to shrink together, not apart as in recent years. Key to this is our ability to work in partnership. As Police and Crime Commissioner, I am uniquely placed to act as a catalyst for partnership across a wide range of devolved and non-devolved services. During the past year, we continued to play an active role on the six Public Service Boards across South Wales as they look to embed the findings of their Wellbeing plans and objectives for future service design and delivery. An important element across all the Public Service Boards has been direct alignment with Community Safety Partnerships, something both Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association have also supported. This has led to a ground-breaking agreement between Policing in Wales (the four Commissioners and the four Chief Constables) and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) is funding the costs of creating a Community Safety Co-ordinator role to support local partnership working across Wales.

There has been a continued focus on early intervention and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). This is building on the original work conducted in South Wales Police and is now being developed into an all Wales approach to policing vulnerability, using the international growing body of ACE evidence to inform what we do. At the heart of a £6.8million programme, supported by the Police Transformation Fund, is the use of the ACEs research to provide an understanding of policing vulnerability and an understanding of the way that the consequences of ACEs span from childhood to adulthood.

Public Service Boards (PSBs) are being mandated across Wales to focus their local needs assessments on wellbeing, with ACEs forming a cornerstone of how partners will respond. This will provide the opportunity for the programme to be owned locally and coordinated with key partners who hold the levers, which can reduce demand and mitigate against the impact of ACEs. These key partners include other justice services such as Prisons, Probation and substance misuse services as well as wider social partners such as housing, education, health and social services. This approach is underpinned by an ethos of coproduction

The year has seen activity across all areas of my Plan and positive progress continues to be made. There continue to be resource challenges across the police service and I remain encouraged to see how much South Wales Police is developing its people and services during these challenging times. I remain committed to enabling South Wales Police to be an efficient and effective force and this annual report provides an overview of how I have worked to do this during the last year.

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**2. Progress against Police and Crime Reduction Plan 2016-21: April 2017- March 2018**

**This section highlights progess in 2017-18 towards delivering the priorities in my Police and Crime Plan 2016-21.**

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| **PRIORITY 1**  **We will reduce and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour to keep people safe in their homes and in their communities** |

**Together with the Force, we have continued to be tough on crime and the causes of crime through strong local policing that works in the community to make sure that people in South Wales are safe.**

Funded by the Commissioner through Youth Offending contributions, StaySafe is a joint project with Cardiff Youth Offending Services and South Wales Police. It aims to reduce anti-social behaviour, safeguard children, reduce first time entrants to the criminal justice system, develop a vibrant and safe night time economy, assist people and communities to feel safe and reduce damaging alcohol consumption. During 2017-18, a total of 75 operations were run across the city engaging with approximately 3,000 young people who received a range of assistance and advice regarding drug and alcohol use, contraception and information on how to stay safe.

We have also continued to support and promote ‘Club Crew’ during the year. Following on from its introduction in September 2016, the results from the first academic term of the Club Crew initiative have demonstrated its impact in safeguarding students within the night time economy.

Through collaboration between the Police & Crime Commissioner, Drink Aware and the South Wales Student Unions, the Club Crew safeguard students by raising awareness of sexual harassment and supporting those who are vulnerable. The Crew work in pairs throughout the evening, engaging customers, checking high-risk areas and ensuring that people leave safely when the venue closes. Since its inception the Club Crew have supported over 1000 individuals.

Accompanying the first September term of the Club Crew scheme was a social media awareness campaign entitled ‘Wouldn’t Shouldn’t’. This focused on groping and sexual harassment within the night time economy. This campaign gained huge traction on social media, with 180,000 18-24 year olds viewing the campaign on Facebook, 96,000 through Twitter and 184,322 individuals via cinema advertising. This campaign has evolved to focus on encouraging individuals to be active bystanders if they see someone on the receiving end of sexual harassment. The main campaign message was ‘*If you see someone being harassed on a night out, it’s ok to ask if they are ok*’. This messagereached 172,928 18-24 year olds 7.7 times. In total 55,624, ‘took an action’ i.e. clicked on the link, shared it, viewed it, liked it or commented.

We have also sustained the success of the ‘Drink Less Enjoy More’ campaign from previous years and adapted the campaign messaging and imaging to ensure it remains relevant to evolving issues. In September 2017, we focused on the issue of ‘pre-loading’ with the clear messaging that if individuals pre-drank to excess they would not be allowed entry into premises and their night would end early. We sustained this focus through autumn rugby internationals, Halloween and Christmas. As an example of the campaign’s success, during the autumn internationals, the campaign had 560.420 impressions on social media and reached 184,115 individuals.

In addition, the ‘Help Point’ continues to be delivered in Swansea in partnership with St Johns Ambulance, Health Boards, Welsh Ambulance Service Trust and Universities. To date 3,804 people have been treated at the Help Point - an average of just under 90 a month. With only 13% of attendees needing further treatment at the Emergency Department, that equates to 3,329 saved ambulance calls over a 43 month period and a significant number of police officer hours saved by not having to wait for an ambulance to arrive.

Public Health Wales reports continue to be produced and utilised to provide a current picture of violence across each South Wales Basic Command Unit (BCU) in terms of the prevalence of violence, type of assaults, and location of violence alongside assault victim demography. This enables police and local partnerships to target intervention and prevention strategies for violence within their communities. In 2017-18, we developed proformas that police and partners complete to monitor how the reports are being used and to track progress against any actions.

In conjunction with the Portman Group, The South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner hosted a Best Practice Night Time Economy event in the Principality Stadium in November 2017. The event was hosted as part of the Home Office Local Alcohol Action Area programme and with over 130 attendees; the event demonstrated the excellent work that takes place to make South Wales night time economies safe. To support the event a brochure was produced to highlight the good work.

We are always working to improve our understanding of and response to incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). One way we have done this is through a pilot project, which involved sharing information between Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and the police. This is an innovative, sustainable solution to sharing information and a way in which the identification of vulnerable people can be improved and escalation of issues can be prevented at the earliest opportunity. This pilot proved successful and has now been rolled out across South Wales, whereby, half of all of the social housing properties are now registered on the police record management system.  This allows us to work closer with local authorities and housing associations to ensure we are providing a multi-agency approach to early intervention and identification of issues of vulnerability.

A proof of concept project called the ‘Review Together’ pilot was created during the year in order to develop an innovative approach to improve the way social landlords identify and respond to anti-social behaviour, vulnerability, preventing homelessness and evictions. This was funded by the Welsh Government to work with organisations and tenants to develop relational approaches to improve the culture, practices and performance of social landlords. From a policing perspective, it is important for social landlords to respond effectively to their tenants in order to prevent minor neighbourhood issues escalating and becoming a policing matter and/or a criminal offence.

During the year, we have also continued to work with our Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to consider ways to develop them and bring them the recognition they deserve in their unique community roles. We recognise the important role they play in communities and in the prevention of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. As a result, we have worked to strengthen their initial training to focus on developing their skills to deal with community and partnership issues, including a more detailed understanding of mental health support. We have also worked on ways to formally recognise PCSO contributions and have jointly established recognition events for nominated PCSOs every quarter.

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| **PRIORITY 2**  **We will improve the way in which we connect with, involve, and inform our communities** |

**Throughout the year, we have continued to work closely with our partners and our local communities to ensure that they have had the opportunity to shape and influence our work and decisions. We have also conducted inspection activities to find out how the force is performing in a number of areas in order to provide information to the public, and we have worked to encourage under-represented members of the community to be more visible in South Wales Police.**

In June 2017, we established a new ‘Police Accountability & Legitimacy Group’, chaired by the Commissioner’s Chief of Staff. This group consists of representatives of partner organisations with an interest in equality and accountability. The group assists us in our scrutiny role of South Wales Police by providing a critical friend input into South Wales Police performance and practice with the aim of pushing for improvement on behalf of the public. The group meets every quarter and some of the issues discussed in meetings have included hate crime victim satisfaction, stop, search, and use of force.

During the year, we analysed the responses provided by hate crime victims to the South Wales Police Telephone Research Unit. We found that most victims were happy with the treatment they received by officers and that most people that had reported would do so again. This led us to develop a video that would encourage other hate crime victims to report to South Wales Police. During Hate Crime Awareness Week 2017, we launched an animated video, which looked to encourage reporting and explain the positive service South Wales Police provides to hate crime victims. During the coming year we aim to publicise and share this video as widely as possible.

We have engaged with young people, including those from Black & Minority Ethnic communities, about their experiences and understanding of stop and search. Whilst doing this we have taken the opportunity to hand out and explain our ‘Know Your Rights’ information leaflets that we began to develop last year. These leaflets have now been widely distributed and inform community members about what to expect if they are stopped and searched, what their rights are and how they can make a complaint if they wish to.

We have also conducted a range of stop search dip sampling exercises during the year, whereby we have checked a random sample of completed stop search forms to check the searches have been legitimate and appropriately explained. These exercises have shown that the majority of stop searches appear to have been fair and legitimate but where we have identified areas for improvement, the findings have been communicated to appropriate lead officers for consideration.

Ensuring our workforce more closely reflects the communities we serve is crucial in ensuring that we are able to engage with our diverse communities. Our Representative Workforce Programme has been in operation throughout the year to enable us to jointly work towards improving the representation of BME and female officers. By the beginning of 2018, we had around 200 volunteer Development Champions to support people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities through the application process for South Wales Police roles. In April 2016, when the programme was initiated, there were no BME recruits in the Police Constable recruitment intake. As of March 2018, we had seen a total of 46 BME people begin to work with South Wales Police, including as police officers, PCSOs, Special Constables and in our Public Service Centre. We have also established an internal support programme to provide tailored development to BME officers wishing to progress through the ranks.

We are also working to improve the numbers of female officers across all ranks and have made a number of changes via our ‘Plan for Female Recruitment, Progression & Retention’. For example, we have revised the South Wales Police Flexible Working Policy to make it more positive and consistent; we have developed a Pregnancy Champion Scheme to support women during pregnancy and maternity, and introduced positive action events to support female officers considering promotion.

During the year, we have also worked with partners to carry out research work on sexual harassment and are the lead force in Wales to do so working alongside our public service partners and the third sector. The aim of the campaign is to challenge and change the culture of misogyny and sexual harassment wherever it may arise in order for individuals to feel safe in their community and to have the freedom to make life choices without fear of sexual harassment. A pilot survey was carried out which then led to a wider All Wales Survey that is being progressed.

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| **PRIORITY 3**  **We will work to protect the most vulnerable in our communities** |

**Understanding the needs of the most vulnerable people in our community and working to protect them, as well as sharing our learning, has continued to be at the forefront of our work in 2017-18.**

In July 2017, the UK Government awarded the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner £1.4 million from the Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Transformation fund – the largest share of the £17 million fund after a successful bid. This grant promotes projects that are leading the way in stopping violence before it happens, preventing abusive behaviour from becoming entrenched, and establishing the best ways to help victims and their families. The £1.4 million awarded to the Police and Crime Commissioner will allow us to expand successful schemes and test new initiatives such as the Change that Lasts – which will introduce community disclosure points, and rolling out the ‘Ask Me’ scheme. Up to 30 community ambassadors will be trained to identify the signs of abuse and to provide safe spaces within communities where women can report it.  
  
A joint bid led by Merseyside’s Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner was also submitted to the Home Office Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Service Transformation Fund. This project will compliment ongoing work with local partner agencies in order to help protect sex workers from sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking. South Wales were awarded £187,000 from the Service Transformation Fund. In place until March 2020, the project will adopt a victim-centred approach to help sex workers who are already victims and those who are at risk, and explore support options for those engaging in sex work online. To support this project, police Chiefs in Cardiff and Swansea will assign dedicated officers to work with the project advocacy service.

We undertake enhanced collaboration with our partners via our South Wales Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Collaborative Programme Board. Partners from Health, local authorities, the third sector, Fire and Rescue services and specialist service providers make up the board’s membership. This board has oversight of the work being undertaken in relation to VAWDASV with a particular focus on the delivery of the Home Office ‘Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Service Transformation’ fund. Partners of this board work together across the region to share information, learning and data, and opportunities that seek to support systems change.

VAWDASV Executive group meetings are held on a quarterly basis in each local authority area to discuss local services, planning, delivery and progress in relation to local VAWDASV strategies. We attend each meeting to share and update on progress in relation to the Transformation Fund and to enable partners at a local level to inform the development of programmes of work relating to VAWDASV, and collectively raise any common issues with Welsh Government.

As part of efforts by the government and law enforcement to better understand the nature of prostitution and sex work, the University of Bristol has been granted £150,000 to carry out a new research project. Formally commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, the award followed an open tender process, during which researchers and academics were asked to submit proposals for developing a comprehensive understanding of contemporary prostitution and sex work. The University of Bristol’s research will help support law enforcement and government efforts to protect vulnerable people by assessing the different types of prostitution – such as on-street, off-street and online – its extent in England and Wales and any possible links to trafficking for the purposes of sex work. In 2016, following the Home Affairs Select Committee report on prostitution, the government accepted that there was a need for further research on the nature and prevalence of prostitution in England and Wales – something we had already recognised here in South Wales. We have worked closely with the Home Office to commission research to better inform understanding about prostitution.

Between August and November 2017, telephone interviews were undertaken with victims of domestic abuse. The in-house telephone research unit at South Wales Police, between 6-12 weeks after the incident was reported, conducted the interviews. We invested in additional resources in order to better understand the victim’s experience, recognise good practice and enhance operational policing responses. Through this survey, we also identified further opportunities for victims to shape and influence service through the Victims Voice Project. A total of 61 victim satisfaction surveys were completed, showing that 93% were satisfied with the treatment they received from South Wales Police.

Through our work with specialist service providers, we regularly seek to ensure meaningful and regular dialogue with domestic abuse survivors that support legitimate opportunities to help shape domestic abuse services, inform decision-making and contribute to the development of awareness raising and training. We attend quarterly meetings of the SEEdS (Survivors Empowering and Educating Services) group, facilitated by Welsh Women’s Aid.   
  
The South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and South Wales Police also supports the White Ribbon Campaign to end violence against women and girls. The White Ribbon Campaign asks men to pledge to never commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women in all its forms. We have developed a network of White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions across the force– officers and staff who engage with local communities to raise awareness of all forms of violence against women and girls, help achieve a change in behaviour and attitude amongst men, and encourage victims to come forward. The 2017 campaign took place during the 16 days of action up to 10th December. Representatives marched with partner agencies through Cardiff to Llandaff Cathedral on 27th November to the annual ‘Light a Candle’ multi-faith service.

Increased availability of counselling and support has also been made available to those affected by child sexual abuse as a result of additional funding provided to [New Pathways.](http://www.newpathways.org.uk/) This funding allowed New Pathways to deliver 2,898 counselling sessions. Research found that 100% of those who were able to access the service said they felt better support and 80% felt safer.

In February 2018 we held a conference on ‘Tackling Vulnerability Together’. This was a response to the report published by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (now the Independent Office of Police Conduct), following the Ian Watkins case of serious child abuse. The report identified that South Wales Police could have done more to prevent the exploitation of vulnerable people involved in that case. Therefore, the Commissioner’s team organised a conference, inviting partner agencies and organisations, in order to discuss ways in which we could all work together to better deal with vulnerability and vulnerable people at risk. Various themes were discussed, such as counteracting unconscious bias, working with partners, and identifying vulnerability at the earliest stage. The conference was very successful and has led to discussions about future partnership events to share learning.

The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat was also finalised during the year and recommendations from this are now being implemented. This Concordat is a shared statement of commitment, endorsed by senior leaders from the organisations most heavily involved in responding to mental health crisis in South Wales to work together to deliver a quality response when individuals with acute mental health need help. In 2017, South Wales Police took 33,000 calls from individuals with some kind of mental health-related issue. We are therefore working towards a pilot where mental health professionals will be based in the Public Service Centre at Police Headquarters, undertaking a mental health triage service. This will support frontline officers and the Public Service Centre staff who take numerous calls where mental health problems are the underpinning problem. The aim is to assist the individual on the phone, signposting as required and dealing with issues at an early stage in a crisis. We are working closely with statutory partners in order to take this initiative forward. In order to support this work a Mental Health ‘App’ for police officers is being developed, which will enable officers to make better evidence-based decisions and recording the use of Section 136.

Another initiative we have progressed during the year has been to encourage victims to report violence, particularly those less likely to report. The violence surveillance reports identified a significant proportion of victims of assaults do not report to the police and as such we developed a campaign to encourage victims to come forward and signpost them to the Victim Focus service. The key messages of the campaign included: that no-one has the right to hurt you; that if you have been the victim of violence, no matter who you are, how or when you were hurt, South Wales Police is there to help; that specialist staff will support you; that making contact with the police does not commit you to taking any further action; and that by reporting what happened you may be able to prevent it happening again or prevent someone else from being hurt. The campaign has received widespread support and promotion from our partners and the campaign reached 191,526 individuals with a total of 477,416 social media impressions. Our violence surveillance reports have also shown a decrease in the number of victims who do not report to the police, which would indicate campaign success.

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| **PRIORITY 4**  **We will make sure that the local criminal justice system works effectively and efficiently, meeting the needs of victims and challenging offenders** |

**We have maintained our emphasis on reducing crime, working with our Criminal Justice partners to ensure victims are at the heart of the what we do while working with offenders to tackle root causes of offending behaviour.**

The victim services funded by the Commissioner have continued to help victims cope and recover from the effects of crime and ensure that the Criminal Justice System puts their needs first. The Ministry of Justice provides an annual grant to all Police and Crime Commissioners allowing them to decide how best to commission services that meet the needs of victims locally. South Wales ‘Victim Focus’, delivered by Victim Support, is our core service for victims. It provides free and confidential needs-led, help and support to anyone affected by crime. During the year, 40,726 people were referred into the service, 6,965 people received a needs assessment and 2,283 people received in depth support from our local teams. People who accessed the service who were helped to understand the information, advice and services available to them, said that they felt safer and that their health and wellbeing improved.

Funding for the ‘Drive Partnership’ challenges perpetrators of domestic abuse. It will develop, test and evaluate a new model to fundamentally change perpetrator behaviour to make victims and families safe. To reduce the number of victims, we must reduce the number of perpetrators. Drive was launched in Cwm Taf in April 2016 and has since provided a targeted service for almost 186 of the most dangerous perpetrators, challenging them to change and holding them to account if they do not. The additional funding will allow further development of ‘Drive’ in South Wales and seek opportunities to integrate a perpetrator response to increase the safety of victims and their families.

Due the success of ‘18-25 Diversion’ the ‘Support 18-25’ project was launched in Cwm Taf in September 2017. Similar to diversion, SUPPORT 18-25 is a project that works with young adults who have been arrested but may not be eligible for diversion (due to severity of offence or previous offending history). The project aims to help individuals address any issues that they have, put support in place to reduce the likelihood of them coming into contact with the police in the future and help them make positive changes in their lives. Since the commencement of the scheme to the end of the financial year, 87 young people received support through voluntary engagement.

During the year, the Commissioner has also worked in partnership with the Youth Justice Board, Public Health Wales and the Forensic Adolescent Consultation and Treatment Service, to trial a youth justice response to adverse childhood experiences (ACE). This will involve bringing together the use of an ACE-lens to improve how we identify and respond to the needs of young people who are repeat offenders and the enhanced case management approach which will be the response when a high prevalence of adverse childhood experiences, trauma and complexity is identified. This three-year programme of work commenced in 2017-18 with the evaluation scheduled for the end of 2019-20.

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| **PRIORITY 5**  **We will make our contribution to the strategic Policing requirement and successfully police major events** |

**South Wales Police is a key strategic force in the support of major events outside and inside its boundaries, making a significant contribution to policing major events.**

In 2017, Cardiff hosted the UEFA Champions League Final, one of the largest sporting events in the World, which saw 170,000 people visiting the city. For South Wales Police the security requirements were unprecedented and resulted in the biggest single sporting security operation in the United Kingdom. A team of 50 officers were involved in planning for the event and 6000 officers were deployed in Cardiff during the week of the event. The Commissioner contributed to supporting the response to this event, liaising with key stakeholders and partners to ensure adequate support for the additional policing requirement.

In June 2017, during the UEFA Champions League Final in Cardiff, South Wales Police became the first Force to deploy Automated Facial Recognition (AFR) ‘Locate’. This included becoming the first force in the UK to have a positive match using AFR, leading to the arrest of a 34-year-old man wanted on a recall to prison. AFR Locate is a real time solution, which uses live feeds from CCTV-type cameras based either at a specific fixed location or on a camera secured to a police vehicle to locate persons on prescribed watch lists.

On the 7th August, South Wales Police went live with Automated Facial Recognition (AFR) ‘Identify’ which uses a static face search capability. AFR Identity allows officers to load images of “persons of interest” and compare them against our 500,000 custody images to see if there is a possible match on identification.

As well, as oversight by the Police & Crime Commissioner there has been scrutiny from the Biometrics Commissioner, the Information Commissioner and the Surveillance Commissioner and by the Independent Ethics Committee (appointed jointly by the Commissioner and the Chief Constable) and from a Home Office team including senior lawyers and policy officials.

Lobbying is ongoing for South Wales Police, as within the overall Police Settlement, the Metropolitan Police Service, through the Greater London Authority, will continue to receive National and International Capital City (NICC) grant funding worth £173.6m. The City of London Police will also continue to receive NICC grant funding worth £4.5m. This is in recognition of the unique and additional demands of policing the capital city of the United Kingdom. No such allocation is provided in recognition of Cardiff’s status as the capital city of Wales and the associated events held there that draw resources from South Wales Police and its neighbouring forces.

The Commissioners team have continued to work with partners and stakeholders to raise awareness of cyber-crime and internet related issues, building on and developing work with organisations such as Get Safe Online, and a key member of the forces digital and cyber strategic group.

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| **PRIORITY 6**  **We will spend your money wisely to protect policing in your community** |

In 2017/18 was a year of ‘flat cash’ grant to policing and therefore a further cut in cash terms. Combined with the impacts of inflation and changing demand, this meant that we faced a continued budget gap. Increases in police precept have made up the balance but the precept in South Wales remains the second lowest of the four Welsh police forces.

Wherever possible, savings have come from more efficient use of fleet, property, supplies and services, rather than from reductions in police officer and PCSO numbers.

During 2016/17, we continued our success in winning back funds to South Wales from Home Office grants. We were successful with bids to the Police Transformation Fund for grants particularly our part in the all wales Adverse Childhood Experiences successful bid of £6.8 million and in July 2017, South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner was awarded £1.4 million from the Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Transformation fund – the largest share of the £17 million fund after a successful bid.

The major renovation and upgrade of the Headquarters in Bridgend was completed early in 2017, the next phase of redevelopment is currently being planned. An in-depth review of estates continued in 2017/18 and will be monitored as a programme of modernisation and rationalisation is developed.

Alongside new approaches, we have continued to contribute funding to crucial services for those affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. This has included the much needed provision of Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs). The advocates have provided invaluable help and support to male and female victims involved in the criminal justice process ensuring that their needs are put first, that they know what to expect and that they are provided with support and reassurance in court. A total of 713 individuals affected by domestic abuse were supported through the court process.

The Home Office has also awarded funding to the ‘Drive Partnership’ to further address the behaviour of perpetrators of violent crime in South Wales. South Wales Police has secured a share of additional funding from the Home Office Police Transformation Fund to continue its innovative work with offenders. The funding will seek to complement and integrate perpetrator provision within a wider service delivery framework in order to tackle violence against women and girls.

The Commissioner also funds a number of diversionary schemes project, which seeks to reduce offending and re-offending by diverting individuals away from the criminal justice system and into supportive interventions through early intervention. Through prompt, positive action, 18-25 and Women’s diversion schemes are able to work with individuals to address vulnerabilities, underlying needs and divert away from crime and into healthy, positive lives.

**3. Grants and funding**

**Victim Services**

Victim Support received £748,435 to deliver South Wales Victim Focus, a service that provides needs-led, free and confidential support to individuals affected by crime.

* 40,726 people were referred into the service
* 6,965 people received a needs assessment
* 2,283 people received in depth support

Information and advocacy, emotional and practical support and referrals to other agencies were delivered face to face and over the phone by local teams in:

* Cardiff, Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan
* Swansea and Neath Port Talbot
* Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil

**Community Safety**

Each Community Safety Partnership within the South Wales Police area received a contribution to support their work.

* Bridgend Community Safety Partnership £56,100
* Cardiff Safer & Cohesive Communities Programme Board £149,000
* Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Board (Merthyr £41,200; RCT £82,300 ) £123,500
* Safer NPT Partnership Board £59,700
* Safer Swansea Board £120,500
* Safer Vale Partnership £56,500

The Commissioner’s funding has helped to deliver a range of community services, including:

* Crime and disorder reduction and prevention interventions
* Offender management
* Substance misuse support
* Domestic and sexual abuse (including IDVA and ISVA services) support
* Mental health support
* Evening and nigh time economy interventions
* Hate crime support
* Community cohesion and engagement activities
* Anti-human exploitation support

**Diversionary Schemes**

Media Academy Cardiff Ltd and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council receive a total of £323,752 deliver a diversion services that offers young people aged 18-25 arrested for a low-level offence an intervention to divert them from the criminal justice system. This money is also utilised for providing support for Young People arrested who may not be eligible for diversion.

* 506 Young Adults Referred for Diversion Assessment
* 463 Young Adults were accepted for diversion and diverted away from the Criminal Justice System
* 700 onward referrals and/or signposts have been made to partner agencies, giving young adults access to services and support, such as mental health, housing, substance misuse.

‘Include’ (formerly Gibran UK) and Safer Wales received £121,826 to deliver the Women’s Pathfinder Diversion Scheme in Cardiff and Cwm Taf to divert women from the Criminal Justice System into support and intervention at the earliest opportunity. Women were able to improve their safety, enabled to make positive choices and empowered to make positive changes in their lives by receiving a need led service.

* 277 women were referred to the scheme
* 245 women were accepted onto the scheme
* 178 women were provided with support

**Youth Offending**

The Commissioner’s contribution to Youth Offending has helped the Partnerships to deliver early intervention and preventions services, diversionary activities, substance misuse services and services for victims of youth crime.

They received the following contributions to service:

* Western Bay Early Intervention and Youth Justice Board (Bridgend £31,900, Neath Port Talbot £35,800 and Swansea £63,100) £130,800
* Cardiff Youth Offending Service Management Board £78,700
* Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service (Merthyr £34,900; RCT, £64,400) £99,300
* Vale of Glamorgan Youth Offending Board £23,200

**Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment & Sexual Violence (DASHSV) Services**

Grants were awarded to provide services to victims of domestic abuse, domestic violence and sexual violence.

We have continued to fund vital provision, focusing on early identification, intervention and prevention. The IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) initiative will now be funded by University Health Boards as part of core business, working towards a more sustainable approach to planning, funding and the delivery of services. IRIS has been running in Cwm Taff since August 2015. Since then they have received 223 referrals from health professionals. Their practitioners are actively asking the right questions and are confident in doing so. Patients and clients have reported that they feel listened to and valued.

Cardiff and the Vale – BAWSO £50,000

* 27 surgeries were IRIS aware
* 527 health professionals trained
* 406 patients referred to IRIS service
* 209 had disclosed for the first time that they were experiencing domestic abuse or violence

Cardiff and the Vale practices found that the key achievements were; 27 practices were fully engaged, their practitioners were asking the right questions and practitioners were aware of the referral pathway for IRIS.

* 38 surgeries were IRIS aware
* 699 health professionals trained
* 359 patients referred to IRIS service
* 114 had disclosed for the first time that they were experiencing domestic abuse or violence

With a first-time disclosure rate of over 60%, IRIS has proved itself as an excellent model for early intervention and one that could be duplicated with other professionals. The success of IRIS has identified the gaps in the provision available, as there is a lack of available funding for prevention/early intervention work.

During the year, £186,403 was awarded to Welsh Women’s Aid to deliver the first year of the early-intervention model ‘Change that Lasts’. This is for domestic abuse victims and survivors in a defined area of Cardiff. ‘Change that Lasts’ is a strengths-based, needs-led model that supports domestic abuse survivors and their children to build resilience and leads to independence. It is about the process of ending violence and abuse. It does not assume that, in all cases, the survivor ends the relationship with the abuser - rather the aim is to give survivors options and to help them to negotiate these, because staying with her partner is only an option at all if leaving is a viable option.

The DRIVE Partnership (Safe Lives, Respect and Social Finance) was awarded £284,000 to reduce the number of child and adult victims of domestic abuse by developing a whole system response that drives perpetrators to change their behaviour and achieves increased physical safety and feelings of safety for victims. Drive has coordinated innovative responses to challenging the abusive behaviour of 186 perpetrators of domestic abuse.

**Court Independent Domestic Violence Advocates and Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (IDVA and ISVA) provision**

Atal Y Fro, Bridgend council, Safer Merthyr, Cardiff Council, Neath Port Talbot Council and New Pathways received £97,881 towards IDVA and ISVA services in South Wales. A total of 2340 people affected by domestic Abuse and sexual violence received a service.

**Child Sexual Abuse**

[New Pathways](http://www.newpathways.org.uk/) received £109,727 to provide counselling and assessment for adults, children and young people affected by rape and sexual abuse.

* 463 adults and 135 children and young people accessed the service
* 733 assessments were undertaken
* 2,898 counselling sessions were provided

All clients felt they had better knowledge of information, advice and support services available to them, over 80% felt safer, and that their health and wellbeing had improved because of receiving the service.

**4. Statutory Responsibilities and Corporate Governance**

**Independent Custody Visiting**

The Commissioner has a number of responsibilities within legislation to ensure that the force is held to account on behalf of the public. A number of assurance activities are conducted throughout the year to ensure this takes place and findings are fed back to the force for any improvement to be made. One of our statutory schemes of this nature is the running of our Independent Custody Visiting scheme, which provides a check on the conditions of detention and the welfare of individuals held in South Wales Police custody. In 2017-18, 38 volunteers made 224 unannounced visits to the four custody suites, speaking to 763 detainees, including 42 children. Issues monitored included waiting times for Appropriate Adults, the operation of hearing loops, adverse incidents including self-harm and timeliness of repairs.

The Commissioner also operates the Animal Welfare Visiting scheme to ensure the welfare of working police animals. During 2017-18, volunteers made 52 visits to the Dog & Mounted Section at Waterton to check on the police dogs and horses.

**Governance and Decision Making**

The governance arrangements are designed to ensure appropriate accountability and to assist effective leadership. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 created two “corporations sole” within each police force: the Commissioner and the Chief Constable. They each have separate roles set out in statute. The Commissioner must set a budget each year, including the Council Tax precept and appoints the Chief Constable. The Commissioner has specific responsibilities for community safety and crime reduction and a wider responsibility for the enhancement of the delivery of criminal justice locally. The Chief Constable is responsible for the control, direction and delivery of operational policing.

The Commissioner’s Strategic Board is the main way in which the Commissioner is able to oversee force performance. It is chaired by the Commissioner and attended by the Chief Constable and his senior officers. Minutes of the Commissioner’s Strategic Board can be found here:

<http://commissioner.south-wales.police.uk/en/right-information/make-decisions/strategic-board/>

The Commissioner also takes decisions that relate to his particular areas of statutory responsibility. The significant decisions can be found here:

<http://commissioner.south-wales.police.uk/en/right-information/make-decisions/decisions-made/>

**Accountability and Scrutiny**

**Police and Crime Panel**

The Police and Crime Panel is responsible for overseeing the Police and Crime Commissioner and scrutinising his decisions. Agendas and minutes of Panel meetings can be found here:

<https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/councillors-and-committees/south-wales-police-and-crime-panel/>

**Joint Audit Committee**

The Commissioner and Chief Constable have appointed an independent Joint Audit Committee that provides assurance to enhance public trust and confidence in governance. The Committee provides:

* Independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment;
* Independent scrutiny of financial performance;
* Oversight in relation to the financial reporting framework.

Further details on the Joint Audit Committee can be found here:

<http://commissioner.south-wales.police.uk/en/right-information/freedom-information/freedom-information-publications-scheme/finance/joint-audit-committee/>

**Internal Audit**

A specialist company, TIAA, provides internal audit services. Internal audit perform a range of reviews to an agreed audit plan and in compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. The Internal Audit Plan is scrutinised by the Joint Audit Committee before it is agreed. The Joint Audit Committee receive and review each internal audit report.

**External Audit**

The Wales Audit Office are the appointed external auditors to the Commissioner and Chief Constable. Each year, the Wales Audit Office comment on the financial aspects of corporate governance, including the legality of financial transactions, financial standing systems, systems of internal financial control and the standards of financial conduct, fraud and corruption. The Wales Audit Office also has a statutory duty to assess arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

**Independent Ethics Committee**

The Commissioners team are a key member of the independent Ethics Committee, contributing to dilemmas and debate through last year this included issues around the use of facial recognition, stop and search powers as well as broader issues such as the homelessness issues within Cardiff city centre.

**Police Accountability & Legitimacy Group (PALG)**

As outlined in the report, this group was introduced in 2017 to enhance the Commissioner’s role of overseeing the force and engaging with communities. PALG issues discussed during 2017-18 included stop search, equality objectives, hate crime and use of force.

**Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)**

The role of the HMIC is to promote the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of policing through inspection, to ensure agreed standards are met and maintained; good practice is spread and performance is improved. The HMIC inspects the functions of the Chief Constable, not the Police and Crime Commissioner. However, the Commissioner receives a copy of each report and has a duty to respond to each report. Copies of HMIC reports can be found here:

<http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/?force=south-wales&type=publications>

**Complaints**

The Police and Crime Panel is responsible for investigating complaints against the Commissioner. More information can be found here:

<https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/councillors-and-committees/south-wales-police-and-crime-panel/>

The Commissioner is responsible for investigating complaints against the Chief Constable. More information can be found here:

<http://commissioner.south-wales.police.uk/en/complaints-compliments-suggestions/>

**5. Finance and oversight**

Before the start of each financial year, the Commissioner produces a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) that sets out his spending plans and precept proposal for the forthcoming financial year. This document includes detailed information on the economic background, Home Office decisions in respect of police grants, revenue and capital expenditure plans, workforce estimates and the Treasury Management Strategy.

At the end of each financial year, the Statement of Accounts is produced which details financial performance during the year and the financial position as at 31st March. The Wales Audit Office audits the Statement of Accounts.

The MTFS and Statement of Accounts for 2017/18 can be found at:

<http://commissioner.south-wales.police.uk/en/right-information/freedom-information/freedom-information-publications-scheme/finance/>

Further detail on the finances can be found on the Police and Crime Commissioners website:

<http://commissioner.south-wales.police.uk/en/right-information/freedom-information/freedom-information-publications-scheme/finance/financial-plans-reports/>

**Transparency**

Police and Crime Commissioners are obliged to publish certain information to allow the public to hold them to account. The Commissioner complies with these requirements and the information can be found here:

<hthttp://commissioner.south-wales.police.uk/en/right-information/specified-information/>

**6. Looking ahead to 2018-19 and beyond**

With the new Chief Constable formally in post, and the implementation of his delivery plan, we will work together to refresh my Police and Crime Reduction Plan to reflect our mutual priorities. While I do not expect a fundamental change in approach, it is only right that the new Chief has the opportunity to inject his ideas into the Plan. We will continue to work in partnership with the Public Service Boards as they implement their Wellbeing Plans and ensure that Community Safety receives ongoing commitment amongst competing priorities.

In relation to Community Safety in Wales we have now had confirmation of the detail for the three-way agreement between ourselves (Commissioners and Chief Constables), the WLGA and Welsh Government.

The Safer Communities Project is a joint initiative between Welsh Government, Local Government and Policing in Wales with the objective of providing shared leadership in reinvigorating community safety partnership working in Wales.

The Project will work closely with and provide regular updates to the Safer Communities Programme Board (SCPB[[1]](#footnote-1)), which will oversee implementation of the Community Safety Review’s recommendations. The Project will run from 30th July 2018 through until at least 31st March 2020 (subject to review). A jointly funded Safer Communities Project Manager (seconded from the National Assembly for Wales) who will be based at the WLGA offices will support the Project. Line management of the post will be undertaken by WLGA.

This Project is complementary to the work of WG and the Safer Communities Programme Board and will ensure that appropriate leadership in reinvigorating community safety partnership working is operating effectively across Wales, at national, regional and local levels. It will also connect to other partners involved in community safety work and agencies in the criminal justice system. Welsh Government will continue to provide national strategic leadership on community safety in Wales.

The Project will be undertaken on a collaborative basis, working towards delivery of agreed priorities and activities. A work plan for the timescale of the Project will be developed (in autumn 2018), identifying clear outcomes and outputs to be achieved. The Project will take a solution-focused approach, reaching consensus on the way forward and maintaining a focus on delivering our shared ambition for improving the safety of our communities.

As stated above in July this year, we were successful with a bid to the UK Governments [Violence against Women and Girls Transformation Fund](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-awards-14million-to-south-wales-police-crime-commissioner-to-tackle-violence-against-women-and-girls). We have received £1.4 million representing the largest share of the £17 million fund. This money will be spent over the next three years to deliver the ‘Change that Lasts’ model, accelerating our work in reducing violence against women and girls. We will also be [working in conjunction with Merseyside Police](http://www.wirralglobe.co.uk/news/15471825.Extra_funding_to_protect_sex_workers_on_the_streets_of_Merseyside/) to tackle the causes and effects of sex working in South Wales. This three-year project will put in place victim-focused processes to better support sex workers who have already been victims of violence and those who are at risk, both on the street and online.

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1. A Strategic Oversight Group will meet as necessary to monitor progress and provide direction on the work of the Project. Membership of this Group will include Steve Thomas (WLGA), Alun Michael (Policing), Reg Kilpatrick (WG), and secretariat support provided by the Safer Communities Project Manager.

   An Operational Group will meet monthly to provide more operational direction and support and will include Naomi Alleyne (WLGA), Dan Jones/Mark Brace (Policing), Martin Swain (WG), Mark Price (WG) and the Safer Communities Project Manager [↑](#footnote-ref-1)