



2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

## **POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER RESPONSE TO THE HMICFRS INSPECTION ON THE POLICING RESPONSE TO ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: PEEL SPOTLIGHT REPORT**

I welcome the 'Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection report. The recommendations outlined in this spotlight report support the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's commitment to strengthen partnership responses to anti-social behaviour (ASB) across the South Wales force area.

One of the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan priorities is the delivery of 'Responsive and Community Focused Policing'. As part of this work, close consideration will be given to the following:

1. The recommendations made by the Victim's Commissioner in her recent report, *Still living a Nightmare: Understanding the experiences of anti-social behaviour victims*, and the HMICFRS PEEL Spotlight Report, within the South Wales partnership context.
2. The UK Government's recent response to the Home Office Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and ASB Review, outlining future policy and legislative change relating to the relationship between PCCs and CSPs in this space.
3. Existing statutory requirements under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
4. Undertaking a partnership deep dive to determine local approaches that are in place to respond to ASB; this will include a focus on the Police and local authorities.
5. The development of robust data led needs assessments and delivery plans has proven to be challenging due to a lack of dedicated analytical resource across the partnership landscape. This issue has been heightened in recent years given additional legislative requirements that require the production of data products for distinct areas of work. To operate effectively it is important that we work with partners to develop sustainable solutions.

This will build upon existing work that is underway in South Wales; one example is the Home Office ASB Hotspot Response Programme:



## Home Office ASB Hotspot Response Pilot 23-24 and Hotspot Response Programme 24-25

In March 2023, South Wales was one of 10 police force areas across England and Wales identified to pilot a hotspot policing approach to ASB, with an allocation of £1million made to the Commissioner, working with South Wales Police and local authorities, to rollout increased presence of police and other “uniformed authority figures”, such as wardens and youth outreach, in key ASB hotspot areas. Working with Neighbourhood Policing Teams and with Community Safety partners, we identified parts of the community where a stronger, focused approach was needed to tackle ASB. The funding has been used to put in place an enhanced presence of police and other relevant agencies in identified ASB hotspot areas.

Operation Sentinel, a methodology developed by South Wales Police to identify key ASB and violence hotspot areas, aligns police and health data with the Cambridge Harm Index to identify the most violence and most harmful hotspots within South Wales. These were plotted as micro beats across the Force area. To enable this, the Force area was geospatially mapped into 34,300 micro beats 300m by 300m. This presents significant opportunities to be more precise in our understanding of issues, our response to those issues and how we then engage and explain the issues and our collective response to our communities. In a trial run nationally these hotspots delivered an average of a 9% decrease in violence which suggests that the methodology works. There is ongoing work with partners to further enhance the joint situational awareness of the approach, by complimenting the existing methodology with operational perspectives. The intention is to develop a cohesive and effective operating model in each locality.

The ASB Hotspot Response Pilot enhanced existing mechanisms to help ensure that responses to ASB are data led and evidence based, represent the needs of our local communities, and strengthen the ability of our neighbourhood policing teams and partners to coordinate a multi-agency problem solving response. Each hotspot cluster is subject to problem solving plans (most at a micro beat level), and there is a clear expectation that partnership patrols and problem-solving form part of these plans. This is alongside business-as-usual neighbourhood teams/licensing team approaches.

Strategic oversight for the ASB Hotspot Response programme, Safer Streets Fund and Violence Reduction Unit (Violence Prevention Unit) sits within the Community Safety and Violence Prevention Team within the Commissioner’s Office, ensuring alignment across all programmes of work, maximising the use of resource and reducing duplication of effort. When developing the ASB Hotspot Response approach and delivery plan, consideration has been given to interventions that are currently funded in ASB hotspot areas and how they can support patrolling activity and vice versa.

The delivery of the above Home Office initiatives are embedded within local partnership structures such as Community Safety Partnerships and Problem Solving



Groups, with regular highlight reports recognising the connectivity across programmes.

### **Community Safety Partnership Dashboard development**

Through initial investment as part of the ASB Hotspot Policing Pilot referred to above, a data analytics portal is being developed that will enable us to overlay partnership and police data to give a single unified situational awareness from which we can predict areas of concern for violence, ASB, damage, public order and dangerous dog offences amongst others. As well as providing a predictive/situational awareness tool, the system will also provide an automated feed on police and partner patrol and POP activity within the identified hotspots to the Home Office. There remains an intention to drive and capture the partnership activity through GPS data linked to a bespoke mobile app within this, in the interim that will be through self-completed MS Forms returns. An information repository is also being considered as part of the solution, which will include tactical options menus, localised partner reporting and information that is relevant to decision makers and operational staff within all organisations (access levels built in).

Assistant Chief Constable Maal summarises her views on the report as follows:-

*South Wales Police acknowledges the findings and recommendations within the report "The policing response to antisocial behaviour - PEEL spotlight' report".*

*We are pleased with the findings from our own PEEL report which confirmed the force prioritises reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, acknowledged our work with partners to make public places safer and that we involve other organisations in problem solving.*

*As a result of focus within the force a number of the recommendations from the spotlight report are already in place. However, we will monitor progress and development in the areas identified, in particular identifying and recording anti-social behaviour, ensuring we have an appropriate risk assessment process in place and that we are able to evaluate problem solving plans.*

*South Wales Police is aware of the significant impact anti-social behaviour can have on communities and victims' lives and we are committed to continuing our work and focus in order to tackle anti- social behaviour.*

I am grateful for the Assistant Chief Constable's comments and the commitment to monitor progress and development in the areas highlighted. I will use my Scrutiny & Accountability programme to track progress against the recommendations.



**Emma Wools**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales**