



South Wales
Police and Crime Commissioner
Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throsedd
De Cymru



Annual Report 2012-13



On 15 November 2012, history was made.

Alun Michael was elected the first Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, replacing the former Police Authority but with significantly different powers and responsibilities.

Oath of Office

I, Alun Edward Michael do hereby declare that I accept the office of Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales.

In making this declaration, I solemnly and sincerely promise that during my term of office:

I will serve all the people of South Wales in the office of Police and Crime Commissioner.

I will act with integrity and diligence in my role and, to the best of my ability, will execute the duties of my office to ensure that the police are able to cut crime and protect the public.

I will give a voice to the public, especially victims of crime, and work with other services to ensure the safety of the community and effective criminal justice.

I will take all steps within my power to ensure transparency of my decisions, so that I may be properly held to account by the public.

I will not interfere with the operational independence of police officers.



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Commissioner's Team

In order to fulfil my duties effectively, I need to have a small support team. Following the election, I inherited the support staff of the former Police Authority, which was very small for a force of the size of South Wales.

I have made two significant appointments – that of my Deputy and Assistant. By appointing Sophie Howe and Dave Francis, following a public advert and open recruitment process, I have been able to bring in a wealth of experience in areas including health and the Welsh Government.

My team is small when compared to other Commissioner offices, and the office budget is only 0.36% of the total South Wales Police budget. The Home Affairs Select Committee has independently shown this is one of the lowest levels in England and Wales.

Team

Deputy Commissioner – Sophie Howe
Assistant Commissioner – Dave Francis

Chief of Staff – Cerith Thomas
Chief Finance Officer – Geoff Petty

Alongside the leadership and management teams, I am supported by a small staff, who specialise in different areas:

- Communications Manager
- Equality and Social Justice Manager
- Plan and Performance Manager
- Public Response Manager
- Partnerships and Volunteer Manager
- Staff Officer x 2
- Police Seconded
- Personal Assistant & Office Manager
- Administrative Assistant x 2

Introduction

Welcome to my first Annual Report, covering the period 22 November 2012 to 31 March 2013.

The creation of the role of Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales was an historic moment, and the biggest change to police governance for over 40 years. The decision to establish Police and Crime Commissioners was controversial, but it became clear that the Government was determined to press ahead. As a former Police Minister I felt that the role could be either effective or disastrous, and I gave up my seat as an MP to stand in order to make it work for the benefit of people in South Wales, rather than stand outside as a critic. Since November, a great deal has been achieved. Most importantly, the budget for 2013-14 was set in good time and I published a clear set of priorities which have guided my work and that of South Wales Police in recent months. Both were endorsed by the Police and Crime Panel.

Crime Levels

My starting point has been to value the successes of South Wales Police over recent years under the leadership of Chief Constable Peter Vaughan. Crime in South Wales is at its lowest level for 30 years. The last year has seen a further drop in crime of 3.2% - equal to 2,822 fewer victims. Anti-social behaviour, which is a regular concern of many people in South Wales, has dropped by 38%. This is due to the hard work of the officers and staff of South Wales Police, working in partnership with local authorities and local communities. This is a sound and solid basis on which to meet the challenges of the future.

Relationships

South Wales Police has a long history of working with partners to achieve its goals. As Deputy Home Secretary, I introduced legislation – the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – which established Youth Offending Teams, Community Safety Partnerships and measures to tackle anti-social behaviour. And in recent years I have been very proud, as a local MP, to see those measures implemented vigorously by South Wales Police and our seven local authorities. Collaboration with the University Police Science Institute – led by Professor Martin Innes at Cardiff University, with Professor Colin Rogers at the University of Glamorgan, has initiated an independent, evidence-based approach to cutting crime. With Peter Vaughan I will build on that foundation.

As one of only two Labour and Co-operative Commissioners in the country, I am deeply committed to working in partnership with others. Working with Councillors across South Wales, Welsh Government Ministers, organisations like Women's Aid, Victim Support, Neighbourhood Watch and Councils of Voluntary Action is time-consuming but rewarding and will pay dividends for the public. The relationship of trust with the Chief Constable, Peter Vaughan, and his officers is at the heart of my approach. My role is to be a 'critical friend', to both scrutinise and support the work of the police service in South Wales.

Plan

One of my most important and immediate responsibilities was to set the Police and Crime Reduction Plan for the future. This was achieved in a time frame of only seven working weeks, because of the Government's decision to delay the election from May to November 2012, but I had enormous co-operative from the police team and from local authorities across South Wales. It wasn't perfect, but my Plan received national recognition for clarity and an evidence-based approach. That's a good basis for the 2014 Plan for which I have invited suggestions and contributions from all concerned. Working in partnership with others always makes sense but it is absolutely crucial in a period when South Wales Police face further cuts and when deep cuts will affect all our partners in local government and every other part of the public service. Despite that, Peter Vaughan and I are committed to achieving further reductions in crime and increased public confidence.

Thanks

The first few months have been incredibly busy as I have tried to meet as many organisations and partners as possible. I am grateful for the support of the Chief Constable and his team and the ready response of so many individuals and organisations across South Wales. Together we can achieve far more than we can achieve alone – especially when times are tough.

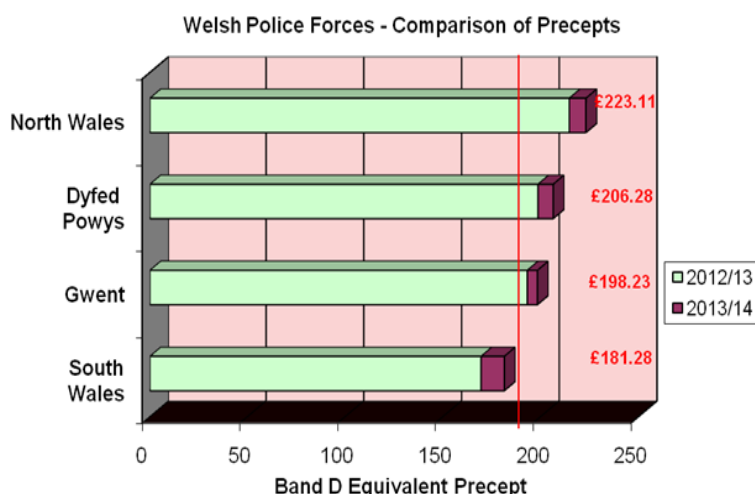


Rt Hon Alun Michael JP FRSA

Budget

In January 2013, I set the budget for 2013-14 at £258.5 million.

The police element of council tax has increased by 3p per day for 2013-14. This is equal to £11.86 (7%) extra per year for a Band D household, totalling £181.28 per year for a 24 hour, seven days a week police service. This is by far the lowest level in Wales. In North Wales, for example, the amount is around £40 more expensive.



Funding

South Wales Police has a history of being underfunded. The majority of its funds (around 73%) are provided through Government grants. In 2010, the Chancellor announced the Comprehensive Spending Review, imposing a 20% cut to police funding between 2011 and 2015. So far, South Wales Police has had to manage a £25million funding cut.

On top of this, the funding received by South Wales Police is not fair. A funding formula is used to determine the amount of money each force needs in order to carry out their functions effectively. This is based on a number of factors, including the size of the force. In 2012-13, the funding formula found that South Wales Police should receive £7.99million more than the £170million which received. This is because the money was re-allocated to other forces to give them a minimum amount of funding. This happens each year.

There is also the inherent unfairness that South Wales does not receive any additional payment

for policing our nation's capital. I will continue to urge Ministers to overcome this, but currently it all adds up to a significant shortfall in funding.

Jobs Saved

For 2013-14, we are being hit harder again by the consolidation of the Neighbourhood Policing Fund. What that means is that the money for neighbourhood policing, which had been a ring-fenced grant from the Home Office until this year, has been rolled into the funds passed to Commissioners by the Home Secretary.

But instead of passing the whole of the money previously given to South Wales through the Neighbourhood Policing Fund, the amount consolidated into the main formula grant has been cut by a sum equivalent to 40 Police Community Support Officers, resulting in effect in a further cut of £1million. The increase in the precept has saved these jobs. The aftermath of cutting police officers would have been even more unacceptable. The Police Community Support Officers are a key part of our neighbourhood policing work, and bring reassurance and a visible presence to our communities.

Not only that, but the decision has resulted in a further increase of 206 Community Support Officers, thanks to the generosity of Welsh Government Ministers who offered us extra posts, provided they were genuinely additional. The chances of the public seeing Community Support Officers and/or police officers on local streets are much greater as a result of this decision.

Partnership Development Fund

As part of the budget, the Commissioner has created a separate Partnership Development Fund.

The Fund will allow us to work in partnership with local councils, the health service, and other groups to focus on tackling crimes which are a blight to our communities. By tackling these crimes, for example violence, it will free up the time of our police officers.

Police and Crime Reduction Plan

Cutting crime and building safer communities is the focus of the first Police and Crime Reduction Plan for South Wales.

Sir Robert Peel set out that the purpose of the police is to cut crime – to reduce offending and cut reoffending. Even though he said this nearly 200 years ago, the principles are still the same, and this is the focus of my Police and Crime Reduction Plan.

Crime reduction is **the** key measure of effectiveness for the police and their partners. I intend to pick up that challenge by making the Police and Crime Reduction Plan something that drives policy and improvement in ways that make sense to the police, to our partners and to communities across South Wales.

The thread throughout my Plan is to be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. But in doing so, it is important that all partners work together to achieve this. It is not the sole responsibility of the police service to achieve this, but also local government and the health service.

The plan will guide our actions and priorities in the immediate future...but finalising this plan is just the start of the process. During the course of 2013, I will work on delivery with the Chief Constable and with everyone in the Police Service;

- **and** with our partners in Local Government and Welsh Government
- **and** with our partners in other public services, particularly the NHS
- **and** with victims groups and voluntary and community organisations
- **and** with the business community and other interested parties

In preparing this Plan, I have listened to the views and priorities of communities, victims of crime, South Wales Police, community safety and criminal justice partners. I have met many people in local authorities and voluntary and business groups across South Wales since the election, but given the short time available I cannot pretend that the list has been exhaustive.

In the next Plan a clear distinction will be made between what we want the police to achieve and the work to be undertaken with partners

I am determined to focus on 'what works' to improve community safety in South Wales. This will be based on an evidence-based, partnership approach, for example using the work of Professor Martin Innes and the University Police Science Institute, at Cardiff University, to understand this.



The 15 priorities in the plan:

- Crime Reduction and Prevention
- Working with the Criminal Justice System
- Strong, swift response to anti-social behaviour
- Continuing to tackle youth offending
- Developing a joint approach to the 18-25 age group
- Putting victims at the heart of our work
- Tackling violence against women and girls
- Understanding and addressing the needs of older people
- Working with partners on the causes of crime
- Making it easier for the public to communicate with the police
- Tackle online crime, including online child abuse and bullying
- Promoting the effective use of Restorative Justice
- Innovation on Road Safety and social justice
- Making the public feel safer
- Equality, Diversity and the impact of Poverty

Performance

The following pages show the performance statistics of South Wales Police from 2012-13, compared to 2011-12.

Crime and Detection Levels

Offence	Recorded Crime			Detection Rate		
	2011-12	2012-13	% Difference	2011-12	2012-13	% Difference
All Crime	87,350	84,528	-3.2	32.9%	32.6%	-0.3
Violence against the person	16,649	17,151	3.0	60.3%	53.6%	-6.7
Sexual offences	949	1,158	22.0	42.4%	29.9%	-12.5
Robbery	486	401	-17.5	47.3%	50.4%	+3.0
Burglaries of dwellings	4,362	4,161	-4.6	25.5%	33.5%	+8.0
Burglaries of other premises	5,816	5,626	-3.3	9.7%	10.0%	+0.3
Thefts of motor vehicles	2,273	2,261	-0.5	19.0%	17.3%	-1.7
Thefts from motor vehicles	7,255	7,656	5.5	7.9%	8.9%	+1.0
Vehicle interference	558	527	-5.6	11.1%	10.2%	-0.9
Other thefts	24,874	23,392	-6.0	25.8%	27.7%	+1.9
Fraud and forgery	2,056	2,034	-1.1	28.9%	21.1%	-7.8
Criminal damage	15,789	14,269	-9.6	13.8%	15.0%	+1.3
Drug trafficking	992	1,143	15.2	95.3%	84.1%	-11.2
Other drug offences	4,784	4,210	-12.0	91.6%	93.7%	+2.1
Violence with injury	7,728	8,532	10.4	57.3%	55.2%	-2.1
Serious sexual offences	727	881	21.2	40.2%	32.2%	-7.9

Victim Satisfaction

	2011-12	2012-13
Satisfaction – whole experience	86.6%	86.2%
Ease of contacting police	95.7%	95.7%
Actions taken by officers and staff	82.6%	82.0%
Follow up contact received	73.0%	72.7%
Treatment by officers and staff	95.3%	94.7%
Overall satisfaction of white victims	86.5%	84.3%
Overall satisfaction of black and minority ethnic victims	78.4%	81.3%
Satisfaction with racist incidents	81.6%	83.5%

Focus on: Youth Engagement

Part of my role is to engage with the public. I am particularly interested in engaging with young people, to understand their views on policing and community safety.

So far, I have hosted a seminar event, where young people from across South Wales gave their views on my draft Police and Crime Reduction Plan. Their views helped to strengthen my priority of working with the 18-25 age group.

This work will continue, with more events concentrating on online bullying and abuse already arranged for 2013-14

Anti-Social Behaviour

	2011-12	2012-13	% Difference
South Wales*	71,616	44,426	-38%
Central Division (Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan)	10,961	7,459	-32%
Eastern Division (Cardiff)	22,502	14,075	-37%
Northern Division (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf)	17,773	10,552	-41%
Western Division (Neath Port Talbot and Swansea)	19,309	12,024	-38%

*South Wales' figures include those where the beat was not known.

Hate Crime

	2011-12	2012-13	% Difference
Racist Incidents	1615	1421	-12.0%
Homophobic Incidents	350	291	-16.9%
Faith hate Incidents	81	46	-43.2%
Transphobic Incidents	48	27	-43.4%
Disability Incidents	339	258	-23.9%

Public Perception

	2011-12	2012-13
Perception that the local police do a good/excellent job	61.1%	57.8%*
Perception that police and local council are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area	60.1%	56.9%*
Perception that the police are dealing with the issues that are affecting the local area	60.6%	57.7%*

* at 31/12/2012

The figures show crime in South Wales has continued to fall. That is despite the savage funding cuts imposed by the Government.

It is down to the tremendous work of Chief Constable Peter Vaughan, and all of the officers and staff of South Wales Police and the excellence of the co-operation with our local partners, particularly the seven local councils. The work of Youth Offending Teams and local Community Safety Partnerships continues to make a massive contribution despite the challenges of austerity and cuts.

While crime continues to fall, we are taking steps to become even more visible across communities. This includes the increase in Community Support Officers patrolling our streets, thanks to the funding support of Welsh Government. In addition, our mobile police stations are out across South Wales every day to increase the presence in our local areas.

There are crimes which have increased in the past 12 months, but we are always working to reduce them. Most crime is opportunistic, and the public can help officers to reduce crime by taking steps to keep themselves and their property safe. By locking windows and doors, not leaving valuables on show and keeping property in a safe and secure place, it cuts out the easy option for thieves.

Reducing and detecting crime is one of the key objectives for me, and is shared by the Chief Constable, Peter Vaughan. There has been tremendous success in recent years to cut the amount of crime that takes place in South Wales. However, we cannot afford to be complacent.

By working with our partners, particularly in local government, and with our elected representatives across South Wales I will build on the excellent foundations already in place and continue to develop a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime, and provide the public with a voice in policing matters.

Scrutiny

I am a firm believer in being open and transparent about the duties of this Office. As an elected official, it is important that there is clear scrutiny of my decisions and actions.

Police and Crime Panel

A Police and Crime Panel has been established, administered by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, to review and scrutinise my decisions

While the Panel is not there to scrutinise the performance of the force directly, both the Chief Constable and I believe that the engagement of the Panel's members can make a significant and positive contribution to the work of South Wales Police.

With that in mind, as well as welcoming the Panel's role in scrutiny, I have gone beyond the statutory requirements by jointly providing full information to members about the current financial pressures against which the budget and Police and Crime Reduction Plan were developed.

Following a detailed scrutiny process, the Panel approved my budget for 2013-14 and the Police and Crime Reduction Plan. Alongside this, they also confirmed the appointment of Sophie Howe as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.

Volunteers

Each Commissioner is responsible for administering an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. This provides an independent check on police custody units in South Wales.

Members of the public volunteer to be part of the scheme and check on the welfare of detainees and the conditions of the suites.

During 2012-13:

- 413 visits were completed
- 651 detainees were visited, including 47 juveniles.

Joint Audit Committee

The Chief Constable and I have set up a Joint Audit Committee, which provides an independent overview of our governance arrangements.

The Members of the Committee, appointed following a public advert, are responsible for looking at issues including internal audit, risk management and value for money.

This new Committee is not about increasing the bureaucracy in the police service – far from it. Instead, it is about ensuring that the financial governance for both myself and the Chief Constable is properly and independently monitored, so ensuring effective spending of the police budget, based on 'value for money' principles.

Committee membership:

- Gareth Evans
- Gethin Lewis
- Alan M Thomas
- Jeffrey Edwards
- Robert Evans

Public Scrutiny

Alongside these formal approaches to scrutiny, I welcome scrutiny of my actions by the public. My website contains a range of information to the public to consider including the decisions made, expenses and gifts and hospitality register.

Alongside the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, we also manage an Animal Welfare Visiting Scheme. Volunteers carry out regular checks of the dogs and horses of South Wales Police, and the facilities in which they are kept.

In 2012-13, 45 visits were completed.



Community Safety Fund

The Community Safety Fund is a one-off transitional funding stream given by the Home Office to Police and Crime Commissioners for 2013-14 only. It replaces the funding previously provided by the Home Office to a range of partners. However, in South Wales, the Community Safety Fund for 2013-14 is £3,476million. This is roughly £1million less than

the amount spent by the Home Office on community safety and substance misuse prevention services across South Wales in the previous year. In other words, it was impossible to maintain the previous level of funding to some absolutely crucial partners. Following consideration, I agreed the funding to organisations as follows:

Area	Funding Awarded	Purpose
Substance Misuse Services		
Drug Intervention Programme	£2,373,713	Referral and treatment services for drugs misuse
Drug Testing Programme	£110,000	Targeted drug testing in custody suites
Community Safety Partnerships		
Safer Bridgend	£56,119	To fund work to tackle issues including anti-social behaviour, offender management and domestic abuse.
Safer Capital	£148,985	
Merthyr Tydfil	£41,168	
Safer Neath Port Talbot	£59,701	
Rhondda Cynon Taff	£82,349	
Safer Swansea	£120,456	
Safer Vale	£56,466	
'ASBIT' Database	£20,000	Improvements to the shared database for the better management of Anti Social Behaviour across all seven Community Safety Partnerships in South Wales
Youth Offending Teams		
Bridgend	31,862	To fund early intervention and prevention work with young people at risk of offending; to provide substance misuse services to young offenders and those at risk of offending
Cardiff	78,662	
Merthyr Tydfil	34,850	
Neath Port Talbot	35,845	
Rhondda Cynon Taff	64,390	
Swansea	63,062	
Vale of Glamorgan	23,241	
Additional funding proposals		
Positive Futures (Bridgend)	17,500	Sports based social inclusion programme for young people either at risk of offending or already engaged with youth offending/social services.
Youth Response Team (Bridgend)	26,318	Engagement with young people engaging in underage drinking / substance misuse
New Sandfields and Aberavon (Neath Port Talbot)	14,888	School based intervention and preventative support work with 'at risk' young people and their families
Homesafe (Safer Merthyr)	16,425	Home security measures for vulnerable victims of domestic abuse, burglary and hate crime

Duties of the Commissioner

As Commissioner, I have a range of responsibilities. These include:

- Producing the Police and Crime Plan;
- Scrutinising and challenging performance ;
- Setting the police budget and precept;
- Appointing the Chief Constable ;
- Investigating complaints against Chief Constable;
- Giving a voice to the public, especially victims; and
- Collaborating with other forces and agencies.

Pledges

On election, I made the following pledges to South Wales:

1. To serve and represent the interests of the whole population of South Wales, without fear or favour and without bias.
2. To place the strongest possible emphasis on the governance of the police, through the principles of honest, integrity and transparency. The principles for action for this are:
 - to be tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime
 - to put co-operative values into practice, encouraging a partnership approach to crime reduction
 - to pursue social justice as well as justice
 - and to both hold the police to account and protect police officers from political interference from whatever quarter.
3. To make all communication with the public clear and simple – and to end the use of confusing acronyms, such as ‘PCC’.

Contact

Find out more about the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner in the following ways:

Post: Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, Tŷ Morgannwg, Police Headquarters, Bridgend, CF31 3SU

Tel: 01656 869366; **Email:** commissioner@south-wales.pnn.police.uk

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