

Criminal Justice Board for Wales

Annual Report, 2021-2022



Cyfiawnder
Troseddol
yng Nghymru

**Criminal
Justice
in Wales**

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Foreword

In 2020 the Criminal Justice Board for Wales set out its vision for a fair, effective and efficient system within our published statement of purpose.

This report showcases the continued drive and commitment from Criminal Justice partners across Wales to work together to achieve that vision.

As the Chair of the Board I am delighted to be able to provide some insight into the work that the Board has been doing. Working together our focus has been on reducing crime and make communities safer by striving for better outcomes and experiences for those who encounter the Criminal Justice System in Wales whether as victims, witnesses or offenders.

We can't discuss last year's achievements without acknowledging that, whilst striving to achieve change, we were simultaneously dealing with COVID 19 and the complexities, challenges and restraints it imposed on every aspect of our lives, including the criminal justice system.

But, our collaborative response to COVID-19 in Wales has demonstrated the strength of the partnership working in Wales and what we can achieve when we work together on shared difficulties.

Whilst we want to share what we have achieved; the report also sets out our ambitions as we strive to do more in 2022-2023.

The achievements of 2021 across Wales and locally, give us a solid foundation on which to build; sharpening our focus to ensure our collective efforts are in the right places to make the most impact and difference to the lived experience of those who come into contact with the justice system in Wales.



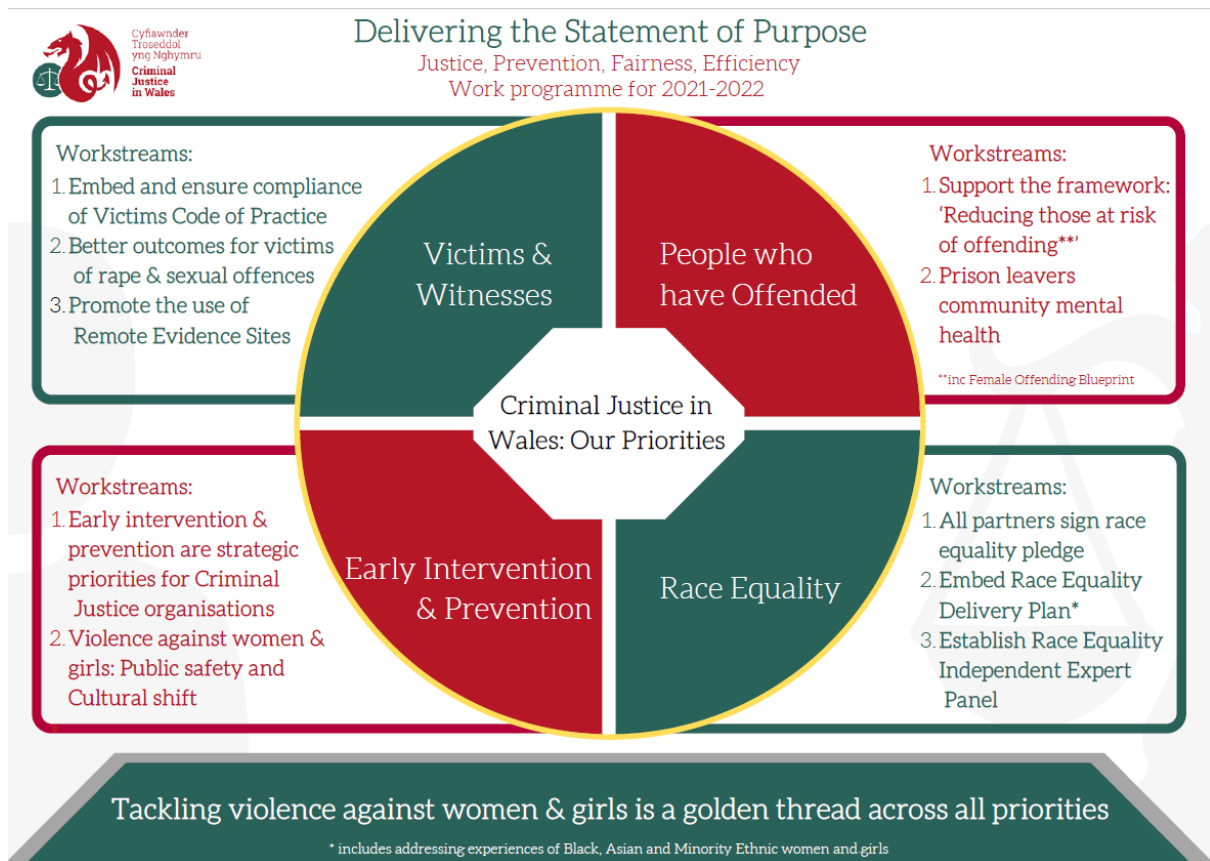
Amy Rees
Chair of Criminal Justice Board for Wales
Director General of Probation, Wales and Youth in HMPPS

Introduction

The Criminal Justice Board for Wales brings together criminal justice partners including, Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS), Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS), Youth Justice Board, Police services in Wales, Chief Constables in Wales, Police and Crime Commissioners in Wales, Crown Prosecution Service, Public Health Wales, Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association, Voluntary Sector bodies and Victims Commissioner.

The purpose of our work is to reduce crime and make communities safer by achieving better outcomes and experiences for those who encounter the Criminal Justice System in Wales whether as victims, witnesses or offenders.

Through consultation with all Local Criminal Justice Boards a work programme for 2021-2022 was agreed, which consists of four broad overarching priorities with focused workstreams as outlined below:



Whilst these are not new issues, the work programme coupled with the development of a robust delivery and governance structure has created the environment for effective coordination and consistency of delivery to support our aim to reduce crime and create safer communities.

This report provides a summary of the achievement last year for each of the four priorities.

What we achieved in 2021-2022

Meeting the needs of Victims and Witnesses

Measuring code compliance:

The new Victims' Code of Practice came into force April 2021. Wales led the development and implementation of a set of performance metrics to help Police, and Criminal Justice partners evidence and monitor how they were complying with the Code and meeting the needs of victims. This has informed the development of the Ministry of Justice performance framework due to be implemented in spring/summer 2022.

Implemented new model that checks victims' 'whole system' experience:

To complement the performance framework, two regions in Wales piloted a new quality assurance model that regularly brings together partners to check and test the experiences of victims of crime at all points across the criminal justice system. The success of the pilot has resulted in all regions in Wales adopting the model. This model will mean that, across Wales, Police and criminal justice organisations will be able to understand more quickly what's working well for victims and where change needs to happen with solutions implemented at pace.

Piloting special measures advisors:

South Wales Police implemented special measures advisors who are a dedicated resource to increase the number of vulnerable victims who benefit from special measures and increase the number who make victim impact statements. UK Government funding was provided to test this approach across several forces in England and Wales. In line with this wider pilot, forces in Wales aim to embed special measures advisors across Wales to test scalability and the benefits of a collaborative approach.

Transforming rape and sexual offence response in Wales:

Work has been undertaken at pace across Wales, not least through the regional action plans which have initially prioritised increasing early advice and special measures applications. In addition, the CPS in Wales and South Wales Police are one of five regions in England and Wales to pilot a new evidence-based operating model that aims to transform the response to victims and survivors of rape and sexual offences.

Increase join-up and scrutiny in Wales:

The Board's focus on rape and sexual offences has resulted in closer working across Wales on this cross-cutting priority, achieved through the establishment of the all Wales Strategic Rape and Sexual Offences group who:

- Share action plans and discuss what's 'working' and making a difference
- Have implemented a data set for Wales, in line with the rape score card, and secured analytical resource to evidence where and how progress is being made, as well as pinpointing where more focus is needed to improve outcomes.

Implemented new Safe Live Video Link Facilities in Wales for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence:

Equipment has been installed in the offices of thirteen domestic abuse and sexual violence services across Wales. This innovative scheme enables survivors to give their evidence safely in court proceedings. Importantly, these provisions are also open to survivors of domestic abuse sexual abuse who are going through the family court.

Awareness raising campaign for staff and the public:

Staff were provided with a suite of resources to remind them of the benefits of special measures to help victims and witnesses give best evidence. The public campaign was far reaching and consisted of three key strands; an ITV television broadcast; a Wales wide social media campaign which aimed to reach survivors and victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence with a short animation. And lastly a radio advert broadcast across Wales targeting those who have experienced domestic abuse or sexual violence which reached 1.9 million people in Wales.

A one public service approach to advance Race Equality in Wales

One Public service approach:

We know that the impact of racism permeates across all sectors of society not solely within criminal justice settings and systems. Therefore, criminal justice partners in Wales have worked with Welsh Government as they develop their Anti-Racism plan to ensure the plans work together and will result in people from ethnic minority communities feeling that real change across all areas of their life.

Co-producing a Criminal Justice Anti-Racist Plan for Wales:

The Board committed to developing a Criminal Justice Anti-Racist Plan for Wales in 2020 that is driven and shaped by the diverse voices and experiences of ethnic minority people across Wales. To deliver on this commitment, a series of community led engagement events and consultations were undertaken. As well simultaneously working in partnership with Welsh Government and commissioning experts, academics and third sector specialist within the field of race equality and criminal justice to develop the plan. This joined up, community led approach will ensure that people from ethnic minority communities are not discriminated or disadvantaged in any aspect of their life or public service that they use. The Welsh Government plan will be launched in June and our Criminal Justice plan will be launched on 8th September 2022.

Establishing an Independent Race Equality Oversight and Advisory panel for Wales:

Communities have said loudly that trust, accountability, transparency and communication are core to delivering real tangible difference to the experience of ethnic minority community. In response the Board agreed to establish an Independent Race Equality Oversight and Advisory Panel for Wales

The panel will work with the Criminal Justice Board for Wales to help to address the systemic discrimination and disadvantages that may have been experienced by Black & Minority Ethnic people in the criminal justice system. It will provide challenge, advice and independent oversight of anti-racism to Criminal Justice in Wales.

The Board commissioned Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team to lead on the recruitment process for the panel chair and twelve panel members. The panel will be made up of people from a diverse background with a range of expertise and lived experiences of the criminal justice system and racial injustice across Wales.

Developing an End to End performance dashboard:

Collating accurate data is essential to track change and evidence future areas of focus. A set of data has been captured to understand workforce representation and disproportionality or treated across at all touch points of the criminal justice system in Wales. The next steps in 2022 will be to transform the data into a dashboard, making the information easier to understand, monitor progress in improving fairness and representation in the criminal justice system.

Developed a minimum standard education and representative framework:

This is in two key parts. The first is focused on providing Police and Criminal Justice organisations with a guide to a range of evidence based training and education material which can be offered to employees across the workforce to ensure the organisation has the right skills and knowledge in the right place to create a culturally competent and confident organisation. The second element aims to provide a guide to 'what works' to develop and sustain a visibly representative workforce with the aim of increasing the number of ethnic minority leaders in Policing, Probation, Youth justice and the legal profession.

Early Intervention and Prevention

Mapping what 'works to address the drivers of offending behaviour':

There is no 'one answer' to this complex question and as such there are an array of interventions in place led by individuals, organisations and partnerships to address the root causes and prevent offending and reoffending. It was important that the Board reviewed the landscape and 'what works' before agreeing to any further work in this space. Drawing on expertise from the Wales Violence Prevention Unit, a mapping exercise, and analysis of projects, programmes and initiatives was undertaken to provide the Board with the evidence base, and indication of projects that are showing promise, and where there would be scope to track the benefits. This work then underpinned the next stage of identifying where the gaps are in this area and what the Board can do to support further development.

Prevention Definition and Prevention Strategy for Wales:

The findings from the mapping exercise reinforced the need already identified by the Board through the Early Action Together Programme evaluation, and committed to by Welsh Ministers at the Policing and Partnership Board for Wales, for an all Wales,

cross government approach to the prevention of crime and associated harm. Public Health Wales and Criminal justice partners continue to work with Welsh Government to take this commitment forward.

Focus on acquired brain injury:

Research has indicated the need to understand better the prevalence and impact of acquired brain injury within the criminal justice system and to identify the opportunities for primary preventative interventions and approaches. The Board are prioritising this work in the Welsh context next year.

Prevention of Violence against Women, Domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV):

The #safetosay¹ campaign was launched to raise awareness of the power of male bystanders in the prevention of sexual harassment. A toolkit, resources and further campaigns are also being developed to support this messaging. The Board are clear that preventing VAWDASV is central to stopping all forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Therefore, prevention and early intervention will feature as a core strand in the forthcoming VAWDASV Blueprint programme between criminal justice partners and Welsh Government .

People who have Offended

Success of the ‘Framework to support positive change for those at risk of offending in Wales:

In 2018 the Board oversaw the implementation and publication of the framework which identified six specific vulnerable groups of people who have offended or are at risk of offending to lead more positive lives. This included:

<p>Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear understanding of risk and need • Provision of services aiming to prevent VAWDASV • Shared understanding pf ‘what works’ 	<p>Women in the Criminal Justice System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce level of complexity • Reduce demand on upstream services • Better understand the distinct needs and vulnerabilities • Ensure mechanisms as in place <p>(Framework objectives have now been absorbed into and superseded by the Female Offending change programme.)</p>
<p>Ex-Armed Service Personnel</p>	<p>Black Asian & Minority Ethnic Group</p>

¹ [framework-to-support-positive-change-for-those-at-risk-of-offending.pdf \(gov.wales\)](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve identification and recording • Improve understanding of needs and experiences • Prevent ex-ASP transitioning out of the armed services from coming into contact with the CJS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully subsumed into CJIW Race Equality Priority • Work achieved within IOM workstream has fed into the current work around the wider whole system CJIW Race Equality delivery Plan • Will be reported separately into CJIW directly
<p>Offender’s Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the impact, provision and support services offered to families; • Working in partnership to ensure children and young people of offenders are identified at arrest, at sentencing and on imprisonment 	<p>Young Adult and Care Leavers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and analysis of our shared data • Improving identification & recording • Ensuring the opportunity to safely share experiences of being in care

The framework is in its fourth year of delivery and has achieved significant changes, some of which are listed below;

The implementation of a Female offending Blueprint which focuses on how the whole system can support women within the justice system or those at risk of entering. The programme has;

- involved women with lived experience to develop the programme,
- secured funding to establish the Pact Visiting Mum Service in HMP Eastwood Park and HMP Styal,
- implemented a psychologically led gender and trauma informed model,
- embedded a multi-agency gender informed practitioner skills training package.
- Run engagement events for Sentencers to understand the benefit of community sentence in comparison to incarceration for women.
- Completed research to understand how to support and meet the needs of ethnic minority Women within the Criminal Justice System in Wales.

Young carers and adults workstream have;

- Implemented a ‘Transition Protocol’ for young adults transferring from youth to adult criminal justice services across Wales
- Delivered staff briefings in Welsh custodial environment and Delivered training for keyworkers
- Established better connections between leaving care leads and criminal justice partners
- Worked with Welsh Government to inform a national protocol on reducing the criminalisation of care experienced young people
- Rolled out the maturity screening tool and ‘Choices and Changes’ across prisons and probation in Wales

- Identified Care Leavers Champions across Prison and Probation
- Introduced a new rehabilitation service for young adults, that includes a through the gate mentoring service as well as community provision.

Things that can therefore improve outcomes for ex-ASP in custody and under community supervision are:	
Alcohol Misuse Services	Mental Health Assessment
Specialist Mentoring	Accommodation

- **Ex armed forces:** Data system means probation were able to capture the needs of ex-armed forced personnel and tailor support offered to them to reduce re-offending. Engaged with Champions in Probation, police and prisons of latest pertinent resources.
- Communication campaign during Armed Forces week. Including a campaign for remembrance, a campaign during mental health awareness week which included the production of a Mental health directory
- Engaged with 4 Police and Crime Commissioners to sign the covenant. Which is a promise from the nation ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society. And face No disadvantage when accessing both private and public services, including in the Criminal Justice System.
- Attendance at regional armed forces forums to inform Probation Champions and Veteran in Custody Support Officer (ViCSOs).

Mental health of prison leavers:

In collaboration with Llamau and Safer Wales, HMPPS' bid via the MOJ's Local leadership and Innovation Fund was successful and they have received funding for their '18-25 whole system support' project. Llamau will provide holistic, place-based and whole system support to 18-25-year-old young people leaving prison. Evidence clearly shows that being inappropriately accommodated or homeless increases the likelihood of reoffending. By ensuring that young people have access to appropriate accommodation and accessible and timely wrap around support, they will ensure that their improved individual life outcomes but also better outcomes for communities, and individual organisations through reduced reoffending and improved engagement.

Our ambition for 2022-2023

The Board learnt many lessons during 2021-2022 delivering the work programme as set out above.

Three key learning points are outlined below and have shaped the 2022-2023 work programme;

- The inclusion of defined metric and measures: The work programme for Criminal Justice Board for Wales and the subsequent Local Criminal Justice Board delivery plans will include metrics and, where possible, qualitative data, specifically utilising the insights that the national score cards provide to inform and improve practice, policy and commissioning intentions.
- Strengthening of LCJB: Ensuring local boards feel equipped to deliver the national programme and local priorities.
- Focus on partnership alignment on our Cross-cutting issues: Alignment will take place at a national and local level to improve connectivity and awareness of cross cutting challenges that can be resolved together.

A summary of the Criminal Justice Board for Wales work programme for 2022-2023 is illustrated below.