



Rhwydwaith
CYMUNEDAU MWY DIOGEL CYMRU
WALES **SAFER COMMUNITIES**
Network

Making Wales Safer Together



**Wales Safer Communities Network:
Strategic Plan 2025 – 2030**

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Introduction

“Welcome to ‘Making Wales Safer Together’, the Wales Safer Communities Network’s five-year strategic plan. Since 2021 the Network has developed a strong foundation, and this plan aims to build on our successes by continuing to support practitioners and enhance collaboration between professionals, partners and stakeholders.

This plan outlines our vision, mission and values as well as setting out the priorities and activity we will focus on, as we continue to work towards a future where communities across Wales are safer, stronger, and more connected.

In order to evidence the delivery of the ambitions within this plan, we will produce an annual statement which will set out our achievements and enable us to assess whether there is a need to alter those ambitions. We will also undertake a medium-term review of this plan to ensure that we are still meeting the needs of practitioners, partners and stakeholders.

**Mark Brace, Head of the Wales
Safer Communities Network**

Wales Safer Communities Network

Who we are

Background

The Network was established in January 2021 as a joint response by Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Policing in Wales, following the publication of the Welsh Government's review of community safety partnership working in Wales.



The Working Together for Safer Communities Review (2017) set out a vision for community safety in Wales driven by a collaborative and integrated multi-agency approach, so that every community is strong, safe and confident. This vision was founded on a shared responsibility of government, public and third sector agencies to work together to address harmful, anti-social and unlawful behaviour.

This was envisaged to be:

- Evidence-based and intelligence led
- Supported by appropriate skills and knowledge
- Sustainably resourced and locally appropriate
- Preventative and intervening as early as possible
- Focused on long-term improvements and benefits

The establishment of a Safer Communities Network was recommended as a key part of this approach, and it has evolved into an important part of the partnership landscape in Wales.

Vision, Mission and Values

Our **vision** is to achieve safer, stronger and more resilient communities across Wales.



Our **mission** is to champion and support practitioners, influence national policy and inform practitioners to enhance local delivery to ensure safer communities.

We will achieve this through our **values**. To be:

- A trusted national voice on community safety
- Inclusive and collaborative
- Evidence led
- Open, responsive and pro-active
- Prevention and early intervention focused



What we do

The Wales Safer Communities Network was established to foster safer communities across Wales. We offer direct support and assistance, work collaboratively and enable continuous professional development for community safety practitioners.



Connect



Support



Inform



Champion

We provide comprehensive guidance, support and resources to community safety practitioners and other professionals. We foster partnerships, promote training opportunities and facilitate knowledge sharing to enhance community safety activity across Wales.



2024 Wales Safer Communities Awards



2024 Wales Safer Communities Awards

We act as the collective voice of community safety practitioners across Wales, acting as an independent arbiter where necessary to represent their challenges, successes and viewpoints to policy makers across Welsh and UK Governments.

“ **a community for all those involved
in community safety** ”

We know that community safety takes different forms across Wales, both in terms of priority issues and local approaches. We also know that the ability to tackle the causes and consequences of these issues requires strong partnership working. Sharing knowledge and information, raising awareness of the importance of community safety, as well as bringing people together is at the heart of the Network's aim – to create a community of support for all those involved in community safety.



Our Successes

Since 2021 we have developed and delivered the following successes:

Policy development

We have established ourselves as a key advisor for both Welsh and Westminster Governments, reflecting the views of community safety practitioners. In addition to assisting in the development of community safety legislation, guidance and policy frameworks, we have contributed to policy development in areas such as Serious Violence Duty Guidance and the development of the Single Unified Safeguarding Review process in Wales.

Consultations

- We have become a significant voice in responding to consultations on behalf of practitioners across Wales, providing a coherent voice that advises and influences current and future policy development. We consult with members by email or through workshops collating detailed responses on a vast variety of issues impacting community safety including homelessness, substance misuse, mental health, online safety, race equality and community cohesion.
- Since the Network was established 81 public consultation responses have been submitted and 37 direct responses have been shared between Network team and Government officials.

Annual Safer Communities Awards

We held the inaugural Safer Communities Awards ceremony in 2023, and this has now become a key event in the community safety calendar. The awards provide an opportunity to recognise, acknowledge, celebrate and promote the fantastic partnership work being delivered in communities across Wales.

Safer Communities Awareness week

The Awareness week is an opportunity to engage with partners and practitioners to spotlight current and emerging themes. From seminars to hackathon events, we deliver activity across a wide variety of organisations and sectors, providing opportunities to inform and encourage partnership working.

Seminar programme

Our annual seminar programme provides an opportunity to share information and inform practitioners. Topics are relevant, timely and include wide ranging themes from wildfires and local place shaping to mental health and suicide prevention.

Supporting Partner Networks

We continue to support a number of partner Networks and key meetings such as the Safer Community Board for Wales, All-Wales Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Practitioners Network, Wales Data Analysis Innovation and Improvement Network (WDAIIN), Wales Association of Community Safety Officers (WACSO) and A Wales Without Violence Prevention Board (AWWVPB). This provides opportunities for common issues and information to be shared across a range of practitioners to develop a coherent and consistent approach to community safety concerns.

A growing library of resources

Our website hosts a comprehensive library of resources that provide practitioners with access to case studies, training, podcasts and recorded seminars across a variety of community safety themes.

Partnerships

We play a key role in promoting positive partnership working across Wales and continue to improve links between community safety and other key sectors such as criminal justice, serious violence and youth offending to improve services and outcomes.

Our Goals and Priorities

In addition to our core partner agencies across policing, fire, local, Welsh and Westminster governments, we also work with agencies in health and the third sector to ensure there is a co-ordinated approach to tackle community safety issues. Our successes demonstrate the positive and productive reputation we have built for increasing the skills and knowledge of practitioners and raising the profile of community safety.

We want to build on these successes over the next 5 years. We will:

1. Make the connections

P R I O R I T Y

- Continue to champion community safety issues and strengthen our strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, by working closely with teams across local government and policing in Wales. We will continue to broaden the Network's reach and impact at local, regional and national levels by increasing engagement with community safety practitioners.
- Identify and collaborate with existing networks and partners to maximise opportunities for joint working and to align priorities.
- Engage and contribute to the implementation of new and developing work in areas such as the Safer Streets Mission, Anti-Racist Action Plan, Welsh Government Blueprints and climate change.
- Focus on developing effective links between the Safer Communities Board and the Criminal Justice Board for Wales to ensure that there is a coherent approach to problem solving and an effective use of resources to tackle local issues such as ASB, VAWDASV, reducing reoffending and serious violence.
- Ensure that there are networking opportunities and forums for practitioners to share insights, experiences and successful interventions.
- Strengthen our relationship with the Welsh and Westminster Governments to improve influence and provide guidance for the development of new initiatives and legislation.
- Continue to support and promote partner Networks such as WACSO, WDAIIN and ASB Practitioners group to ensure a collective and collaborative approach to community safety and encourage joint initiatives among different agencies.

2. Support Practitioners

- Provide tailored guidance and support to community safety practitioners across Wales, addressing specific challenges and promoting best practice.
- Provide access to online support, training and guidance that increases skills and knowledge of community safety practitioners.

3. Build Training and Capability

- Implement a community safety training programme that will include a free foundation module with links to wider learning and resources.
- Develop a community safety qualification package.
- Establish certification programs and professional development opportunities to enhance practitioners' skills and knowledge.
- Partner with academic institutions and training providers to ensure access to high-quality, up-to-date training resources.

4. Promote Continuous Evaluation and Improvement

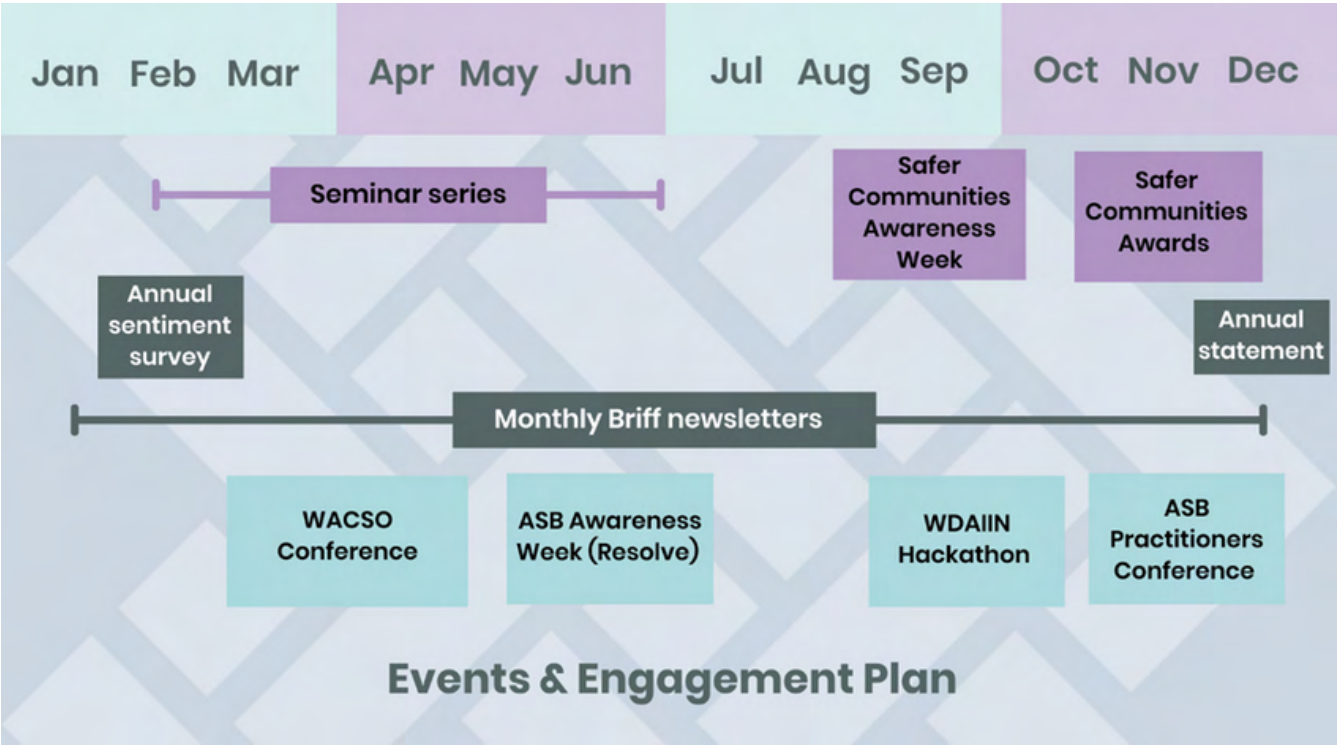
- Utilise surveys to obtain feedback from members to identify areas for improvement and development or priority areas for action, both across the community safety landscape and the Network activities.
- Review and update this strategic plan to adapt to changing needs and priorities within the community safety landscape.
- Work with partners to promote an evidence-based approach to prevention and early intervention.
- Continue to raise the profile of community safety through the Wales Safer Communities Awards which recognises and champions community safety initiatives across Wales.

Annual Work Programme

The delivery of this strategy will be centred around an annual work programme which sets out how we will use our resources to focus on the issues and themes that are current and matter to community safety practitioners. It will provide an annual roadmap through which we can outline what we will do to deliver against our goals and priorities, and assist in providing support, share information and provide feedback for future initiatives, as well as being reactive to emerging needs of practitioners.

The plan will be published annually in January on our website, with an annual statement reporting on the success of the plan from the previous year published at the same time.

As part of the work plan there will be an annual events and engagement programme which will follow this format:



Delivery Performance and Metrics

It is important that we can demonstrate that we are adding value, improving practitioner knowledge and skills, raising awareness of the importance of community safety and enhancing partnership delivery. Each year we will publish an annual statement that demonstrates our achievements over the previous year and the outcomes we have delivered, as well as outlining the programme of work for the following year.



This will be done through the development of a set of performance metrics that will provide an overview of the Network's impact, and will include:

Network Sentiment

Conduct regular surveys to gauge satisfaction with the Network, the use of resources and the impact that the Network is having on community safety across Wales.

Training Impact

Assess the reach and impact of the of our training programme.

Engagement levels with the Network

How much practitioners engage with Network activities, including newsletter subscriptions, seminar attendance and award nominations.

Engagement levels with Governments

How often we are asked to contribute to policy making on behalf of practitioners in Wales.

Annual Programme Delivery and Impact

Assess the impact and outcome achieved by our annual work programme through attendance, surveys and feedback.

Over the lifetime of this plan, we will seek to work with partners to develop these metrics to ensure that we can demonstrate the added value that the Network brings to community safety activity across Wales.

Governance and Funding

Governance

The Wales Safer Communities Network reports to an Executive Board that oversees the overall performance of the Network. This board is made up of representatives from Welsh Government, WLGA, Policing in Wales, and Fire and Rescue Services to ensure that the Network is adding value to community safety practice across Wales and meeting the needs of its members. The Network will provide the Board with update reports every 6 months to outline progress made against priorities.

The Network also supports and reports to the Wales Safer Communities Board to ensure that key information is shared and there is a coherent approach to creating safer and resilient communities across Wales. The purpose of the Board is to provide leadership and support for local partnership working and the Network plays a critical role in co-ordinating this approach.

Funding

The Network will be supported in the delivery of this strategy through funding from Welsh Government, Policing in Wales, WLGA, and Fire and Rescue Services. This funding model will enable the Network to continue to develop resources that will support practitioners, partners and stakeholders, as well as improving existing resources and delivering the annual work programme.

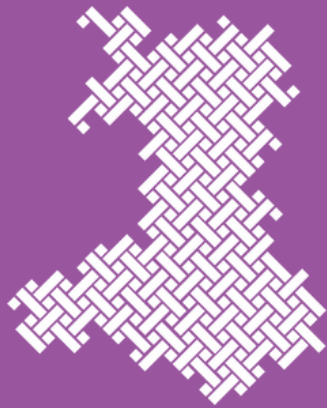
Throughout the period of this strategy, the Network will continue to explore opportunities for additional, sustainable funding streams that will assist the ongoing development of the Network's portfolio.

Resources

- Website – Our bilingual website is a one-stop-shop that gives practitioners access to case studies, podcasts, training material and a wealth of information.
- **BRIFF** – This bilingual newsletter provides a monthly update of community safety activity across Wales. It contains information on learning opportunities, upcoming policy or legislation changes, consultations and highlights areas of best practice.
- **Seminars** – Our annual seminar series provides opportunities to share knowledge and gain invaluable insights on key community safety issues. It gives practitioners and partners a chance to hear from subject matter experts and offers a chance to network with colleagues from a variety of different organisations and sectors.
- **Workshops** – We host a number of workshops throughout the year, giving practitioners an insight into current issues and an opportunity for partners to have a voice in shaping policy and legislation.
- **Awareness week** – The annual Safer Communities Awareness Week introduced by the Network in 2023 highlights key Community Safety priorities and promotes partnership working across Wales.
- **Awards** – The annual awards celebrate and acknowledge good practice and effective partnership working, building a library of case studies of effective working.

The Network Team:

- Head of the Network
- Policy and Partnership Manager
- Events and Communication Manager



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