

Wales Safer Communities Network

Annual Report 2020/2021

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1. Introduction

This is the first annual report for the Wales Safer Communities Network. It is a short report which will cover from November 2020 until 31 March 2021 and the Safer Communities Network Team only started to operate in January 2021. Future annual reports will provide further information, including an overview of the year from the joint Chairs of the Wales Safer Communities Board, which provides leadership to the work of the Network.

2. Wales Safer Communities Network

The recruitment for the Wales Safer Communities Network team took place, involving members of the Board or representatives of the Board's members. All four members of the Network team started during January 2021. Four roles were appointed to: Head of Safer Communities Network; Business and Network Development Manager; Communications and Events Manager; and Business Support Officer.

The newly formed Network team carried out the following activities before the end of March 2021:

- Developed a one year **Network Strategic Plan** on a page.
- Created a **Brand Story** and Key Messages.
- Undertook **stakeholder** mapping.
- Developed a **Communications, Engagement and Involvement Strategy** and corresponding internal Communications Plan.
- **Created BRIFF** – A weekly environmental scanning newsletter circulated through a distribution list that increased with requests to receive the Briff and received a number of positive feedback within the first months, including:

“I just wanted to express my thanks to you for producing the weekly newsletters. They are very informative and I find them fantastic for keeping up to date with issues and legislation etc., as well as using them for reference points for specific topics. The newsletter contains all the relevant information required by community safety officers and teams, and we certainly wouldn’t have the time to research this info ourselves. I particularly like the fact that they are weekly as things change rapidly within community safety, and anything more than a week might have too much content to digest or the content becomes outdated very quickly.

Many thanks to your team for this fantastic resource and ensuring that community safety teams stay on the front foot!!”

– Gary Black, Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Service Manager

“I find the Briff incredibly useful to keep up to date with the latest news and events for community safety. In particular, I think the ‘events’ section is something new that I haven’t seen being produced by anyone else, so it’s a really useful source of information. I share the Briff with the VPU team, and also include resources shared in the Briff in the VPU’s monthly e-Bulletin which is shared with all of our stakeholders (approx. 460 people).”

– Bryony Parry, Wales Violence Prevention Unit (VPU)

- Provided **secretariat and support** for meetings of the Wales Data Analysis Innovation and Improvement Network (WDAIIN), and the Wales Association of Community Safety Officers (WACSO).
- **Social media** presence established by setting up the Welsh and English Twitter accounts – [@CymMwyDiogel](#) and [@WalesSaferComms](#).
- Undertook a **Workforce survey** – created the first survey and circulated it across Wales.
- Developed **internal documents**, including a Work Plan, Risk Register, Contact List, and Processes.
- Commissioned and set in motion the development of both the safer communities **website and podcast series**.
- Held a range of **virtual meetings** – met individually with 47 individuals and partner organisations.
- Attended more than ten **partnership meetings** with the Home Office, Welsh Government, Police and Crime Commissioners, Local Government, and others across Wales.
- Responded to one **consultation**.
- Assisted in the updating of the Wales Safer Communities Board **Terms of Reference and development of Work Programme**.

3. Wales Safer Communities Board

The Board agreed their five priorities for the coming year (2021/22):

1. Community safety is integrated across all relevant policy areas/ partnerships.
2. Safer Communities Network is the recognised national forum for all sectors involved in community safety partnership working.
3. The 'Evidence-based, Intelligence-led' principle and its application within local/ regional partnership working is sustainably resourced.
4. Community safety is prevention-focused and embraces a public-health approach.
5. To learn from other related and interdependent programmes.

4. Finance

The income for 2020/21 came from the Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association and Policing in Wales.

5. Looking Forward

Whilst the Network team have only been in place for a few months, there are already a number of areas of work that are under development and will be delivered in 2021/22, including:

- Website
- Podcasts
- Dynamic infographic
- Seminars (delivered virtually)
- Summary and analysis of Baseline survey
- Anti-Social Behaviour survey (in partnership with the ASB Practitioners Network)
- Legislation briefings
- Developing the membership model
- Maintaining social media presence (continued engagement, original content creation, and additional platforms to be utilised)
- Weekly BRIFF newsletter
- Case studies and good practice sharing
- Involvement in campaigns and awareness weeks/ months
- Consultation responses
- Workshops and other support for Community Safety Partnerships and partners.