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WALES SAFER COMMUNITIES
Network

Voices from the Frontline: Community Safety Perspectives (Wales)

Prepared by Wales Safer Communities Network February 2026



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Executive Summary

In November 2025 the Safer Communities Board for Wales commissioned the practitioner survey “Voices from the Frontline: Community Safety Perspectives”. This report evidences the current challenges and practical realities facing community safety practitioners across Wales, informs policy and funding decisions for the Safer Communities Board and operational decisions at national, regional and local level.

Introduction

This report presents the findings from Voices from the Frontline: Community Safety Perspectives, a practitioner survey conducted by the Wales Safer Communities Network on behalf of the Safer Communities Board for Wales. The survey captured the views of 27 community safety professionals working across local authorities, policing, housing providers and third sector organisations throughout Wales.

The purpose of this report is to evidence the real-world challenges facing community safety practitioners, highlight what is working well, and identify the systemic barriers that limit effective prevention and long-term impact. This report explains the depth of practitioner voice and provides analysis to support informed decision-making at local, regional and national levels.

Key findings

- Serious violence, youth antisocial behaviour and substance misuse are consistently identified as the most pressing community safety issues across Wales.
- Children and young people and vulnerable people with complex needs are most affected by these issues. Those in town and city centres feel the impacts most strongly.
- Partnership working is generally seen as valuable but constrained, with recurring barriers around data-sharing, capacity, inconsistent processes and staff turnover.
- The funding environment is widely viewed as fragmented, short-term and unsustainable, undermining workforce stability, early intervention and long-term planning.
- Practitioners are calling for sustainable, multi-year funding, greater local autonomy for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), and a stronger focus on prevention and early intervention.



- There is a clear desire for practitioner voice to play a more central role in shaping funding and policy decisions.

Pressing community safety challenges

Across responses, practitioners describe a worsening and increasingly complex risk landscape. Serious violence, particularly involving young people, is a major concern, with respondents highlighting younger ages of involvement, increasing severity of behaviour, and links to exploitation, substance misuse and online harms.

Youth antisocial behaviour remains a significant pressure, especially in town centres and public spaces. Practitioners report rising levels of fear among residents, increased demand on frontline services, and limited options for diversion when youth provision is reduced or short-term.

Substance misuse, homelessness, rough sleeping and associated anti-social behaviour are frequently described as interconnected issues, particularly where individuals with multiple vulnerabilities are concentrated in specific locations. Practitioners emphasise that enforcement alone is insufficient, and that without coordinated mental health, substance misuse and housing support, community safety risks persist.

Communities and groups most affected

While respondents note that community safety issues affect all communities, there is strong consensus that certain groups experience disproportionate harm:

- Children and young people, particularly those exposed to violence, exploitation, exclusion from education and online harms.
- Vulnerable adults, including those experiencing homelessness, mental ill-health, substance misuse or social isolation.
- Town and city centre communities, where visible anti-social behaviour, drug use and violence impact residents, businesses and perceptions of safety.
- Women and girls, particularly in relation to violence, harassment and misogyny in public and online spaces.
- Rural communities, which face additional challenges linked to isolation, limited access to services and reduced visibility of support.

These impacts are often cumulative, reinforcing cycles of harm and placing sustained pressure on frontline services.



Partnership working: strengths and barriers

Most respondents describe current partnership arrangements as “somewhat effective”, reflecting a strong commitment to multi-agency working and shared problem-solving. Many examples of good practice are cited, including operational tasking groups, co-location, neighbourhood-based approaches and specialist partnerships.

However, practitioners consistently identify structural barriers that limit effectiveness, including:

- Data-sharing restrictions and uncertainty, often linked to GDPR interpretation.
- Competing organisational priorities and funding cycles.
- Limited capacity and time to engage fully in partnership activity.
- High staff turnover, leading to loss of relationships and institutional knowledge.
- Inconsistent approaches and expectations across regions.

There is strong appetite for more integrated, neighbourhood-focused partnership models, clearer governance, and shared standards to reduce duplication and siloed working.

Funding environment and sustainability

The funding landscape is described by many practitioners as fragmented, unpredictable and unsustainable. Short-term or one-off funding streams are encountered frequently and are widely reported to:

- Hinder long-term planning and commissioning.
- Undermine staff retention and morale, with many roles reliant on fixed-term contracts.
- Delay or limit early intervention and preventative work.
- Increase administrative burden, diverting time away from frontline delivery.

Complex bidding, monitoring and reporting requirements are a recurring concern, particularly where funding amounts are relatively small or time-limited. Several respondents report having to scale back, delay or discontinue projects due to administrative demands or late confirmation of funding.

Practitioners consistently argue that current funding models are incompatible with the complexity of community safety work, which requires sustained relationships, trust and long-term investment.



Governance, voice and decision-making

Many respondents feel that Community Safety Partnerships lack sufficient decision-making power, particularly in relation to funding allocation and commissioning. While CSPs are seen as best placed to understand local need, funding decisions are often made at regional or national levels, limiting local flexibility and responsiveness.

There is also a strong perception that practitioner voice is not consistently heard in funding and policy decisions. Respondents call for more transparent decision making, earlier engagement, and mechanisms that value frontline insight alongside strategic priorities.

Practitioner led priorities and recommendations

Practitioners identify the following priorities for the Safer Communities Board over the next 2-3 years:

1. Strengthening early intervention and prevention, particularly for children and young people.
2. Improving multi-agency collaboration and data-sharing, with clearer governance and shared standards.
3. Securing sustainable, long-term funding for community safety services and staffing.
4. Enhancing support for vulnerable groups and complex needs, including mental health and substance misuse.
5. Enhancing local autonomy and influence by empowering Community Safety Partnerships and practitioner voice.

Conclusion

The survey paints a clear picture of a committed, skilled and solutions focused workforce operating in an increasingly challenging environment. Practitioners are not short of ideas or motivation; rather, they are constrained by structural barriers, particularly around funding, capacity and governance.

By addressing these systemic issues, most notably through sustainable funding models, strengthened partnerships and genuine engagement with practitioner voice, the Safer Communities Board has a significant opportunity to unlock the full potential of community safety work across Wales and deliver lasting improvements for communities.



Methodology

This report is informed by responses to the Voices from the Frontline: Community Safety Perspectives on-line survey, distributed by the Wales Safer Communities Network in November 2025. A total of 27 practitioners responded, representing a broad range of statutory and non-statutory organisations involved in community safety delivery across Wales, including local authorities, policing, housing providers, third-sector organisations, faith-based services and Welsh Government policy roles. Respondents worked across urban, town-centre and rural contexts and held a mix of operational, strategic and policy-focused roles. The survey combined multiple-choice questions with open-text responses, enabling practitioners to both quantify their experiences and describe challenges in their own words.

All responses were reviewed in full and included in the analysis. Closed questions were summarised using simple frequency counts, with charts used to highlight patterns and trends, while open-text responses were analysed using a light-touch thematic approach to identify recurring issues and themes. Where responses referenced multiple issues, they were reflected across relevant themes to capture the interconnected nature of community safety challenges. No statistical weighting or modelling was applied. The analysis is intended to describe shared experiences and learning, rather than provide statistically representative findings. While the results reflect the views of those who responded, the strong consistency of themes across sectors and geographies provides robust qualitative insight into the pressures and realities facing community safety practitioners in Wales.

A full description of the methodology is provided in [Annex A](#).



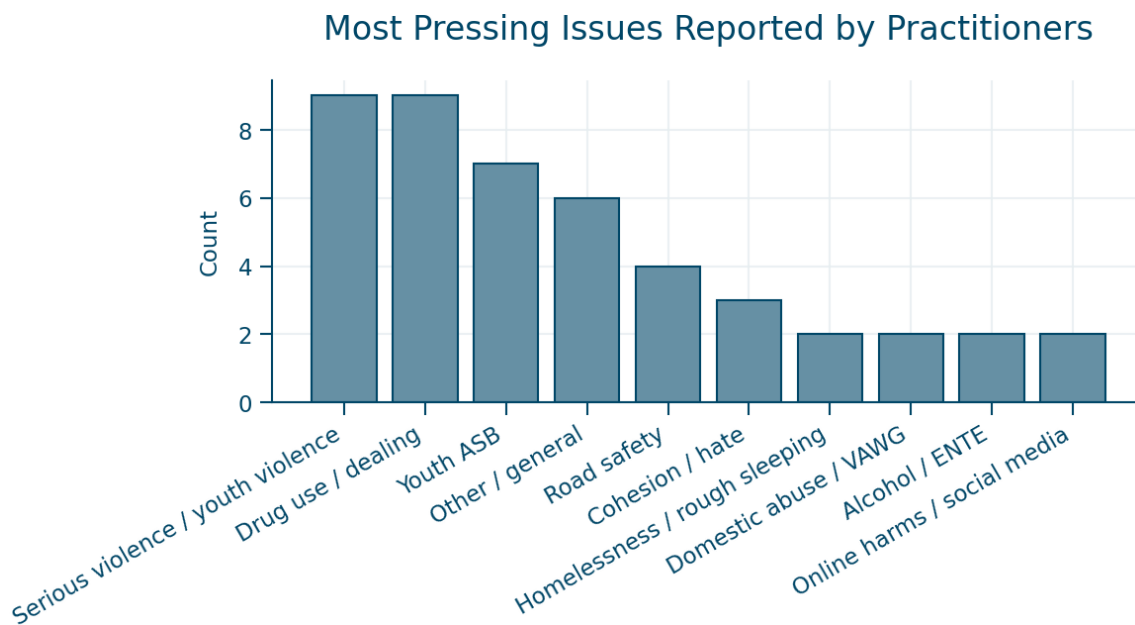
Findings

The following section provides the detailed evidence underpinning the Key Findings and Summary above. It summarises the key findings from the practitioner survey, drawing on both quantitative data and qualitative feedback. Findings are organised thematically to reflect the interconnected challenges facing community safety delivery in Wales.

Pressing community safety issues

Most respondents frequently reference serious violence and youth anti-social behaviour, alongside drug-related harms and homelessness/complex needs.

Chart 1: Most pressing issues reported by practitioners



Whilst there was recognition that the community safety issues highlighted impact on the whole community, participants identified the following groups as the most affected:

- Children & young people
- Vulnerable adults/complex needs
- Town centre residents & businesses
- Women and girls
- Older people



Children and young people are disproportionately affected by rising serious violence and youth ASB, including violence in and around schools, increased exclusions, fear, and heightened exposure to exploitation, drugs and harmful online content.

“younger individuals [are] becoming involved in anti-social / criminal behaviour i.e. 8–10yr olds, and secondly, the seriousness / level of the behaviour occurring.” — Anti-social Behaviour Coordinator

Vulnerable adults and those with complex needs experience increased harm due to the intersection of substance misuse, mental ill-health, homelessness and exploitation, particularly in areas with visible drug use and organised criminal activity.

Town centre residents and businesses are most impacted by concentrated youth ASB, late-night violence, intoxication and drug-related activity, resulting in reduced feelings of safety, disruption to daily life and economic activity, and pressure on staff.

Women and girls are affected by harassment, unwanted attention and fear of violence in public spaces, especially at night and in town centres, alongside exposure to misogynistic and harmful online material.

Older people are particularly affected by feeling unsafe in public spaces, including pedestrianised areas impacted by unsafe vehicle and e-bike use, street drinking and visible drug use, limiting confidence and mobility.

Partnership working: effectiveness and barriers

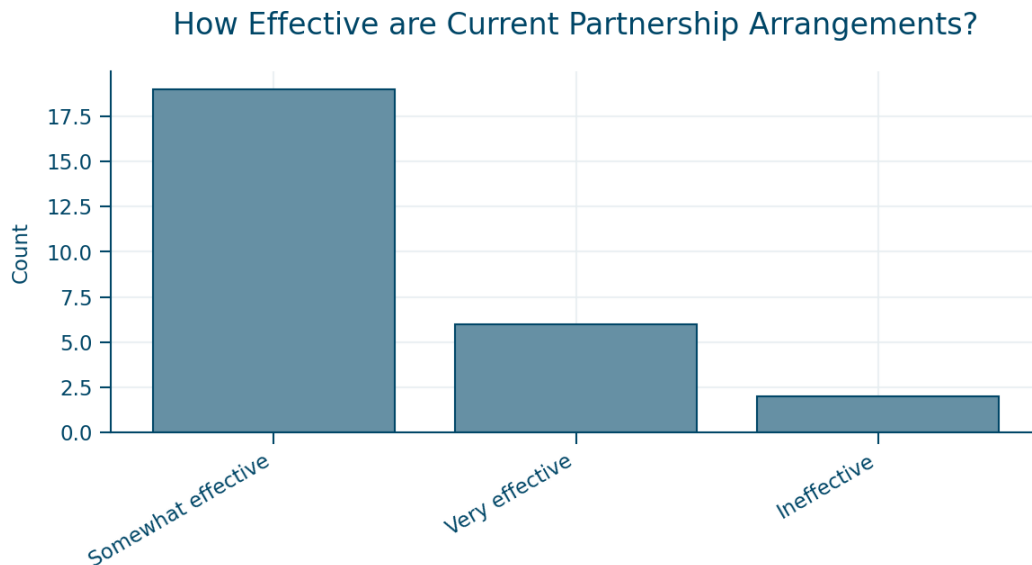
Overall, participants described partnership working as committed and relationship-driven, with strong examples of effective collaboration at operational level. Where partnerships work best, is linked to shared understanding of local issues, co-location, informal relationships and consistency of personnel.

However, effectiveness is repeatedly constrained by structural and systemic barriers, particularly short-term and fragmented funding, competing organisational priorities, staff turnover, and inconsistent data-sharing arrangements. These issues limit strategic alignment, continuity, and the ability to plan preventative, long-term responses, despite goodwill and willingness among partners.



Partnerships are broadly working but with clear scope to strengthen. Among 27 respondents, 70% said “somewhat effective”, 22% “very effective”, and 7% “ineffective.”

Chart 2: Practitioners views on the effectiveness of current partnership arrangements

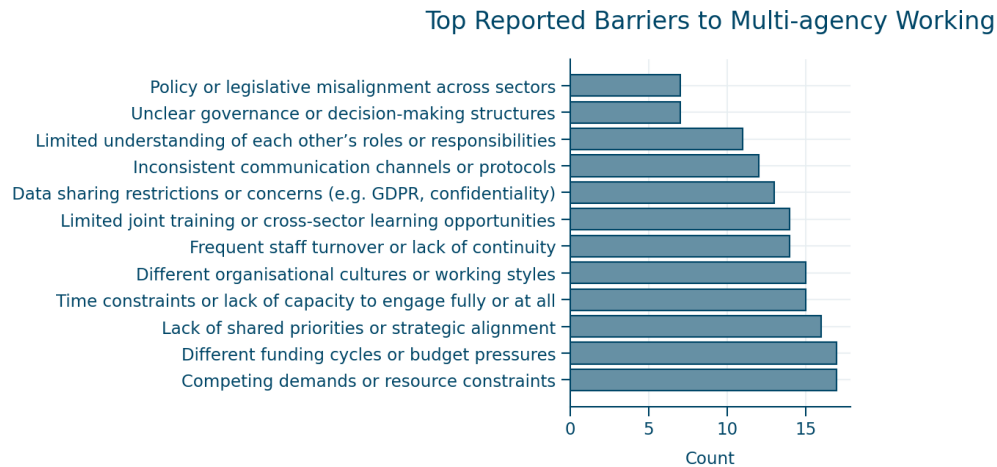


Participants identified a number of challenges. However the top barriers were competing demands and resource constraints, different funding cycles, lack of shared priorities, team capacity, cultural differences between organisation and data-sharing, with staff turnover and limited joint training also prominent within the feedback.

“The lack of analytical products/documents (victim / offender / locations etc.) to help us understand the highest demand or high impact crimes to inform more intelligent commissioning of our resources.” — Lead for Community Safety



Chart 3: Barriers to partnership working most frequently cited by practitioners



While participants identified a range of barriers to effective partnership working, they also highlighted examples of excellence and best practice where collaboration is delivering clear benefits. These examples show that partnership working can be highly effective when there is a shared purpose, consistent structures and strong relationships. Key examples include regional and task-focused partnership models, such as: Serious Violence Duty delivery and ASB taskforces, which promote consistency and shared ownership across areas; co-location and locality-based working, which strengthens trust, information sharing and coordinated responses; and multi-agency youth diversion and outreach initiatives, which bring statutory and third-sector partners together to prevent escalation and address underlying causes of harm.

Building on these examples of effective practice, participants highlighted opportunities to strengthen early intervention and prevention. Responses emphasised the need to move from reactive, short-term responses towards more coordinated, preventative approaches, underpinned by sustainable funding and sufficient capacity. Key priorities included earlier and more consistent engagement with children and young people, improved access to mental health and substance misuse support, stronger analytical and intelligence capability, and clearer, more accountable partnership frameworks. Participants also highlighted the importance of shared understanding of roles, improved data-sharing, joint training, and place-based or neighbourhood models that bring services together around communities, enabling issues to be addressed before they escalate.

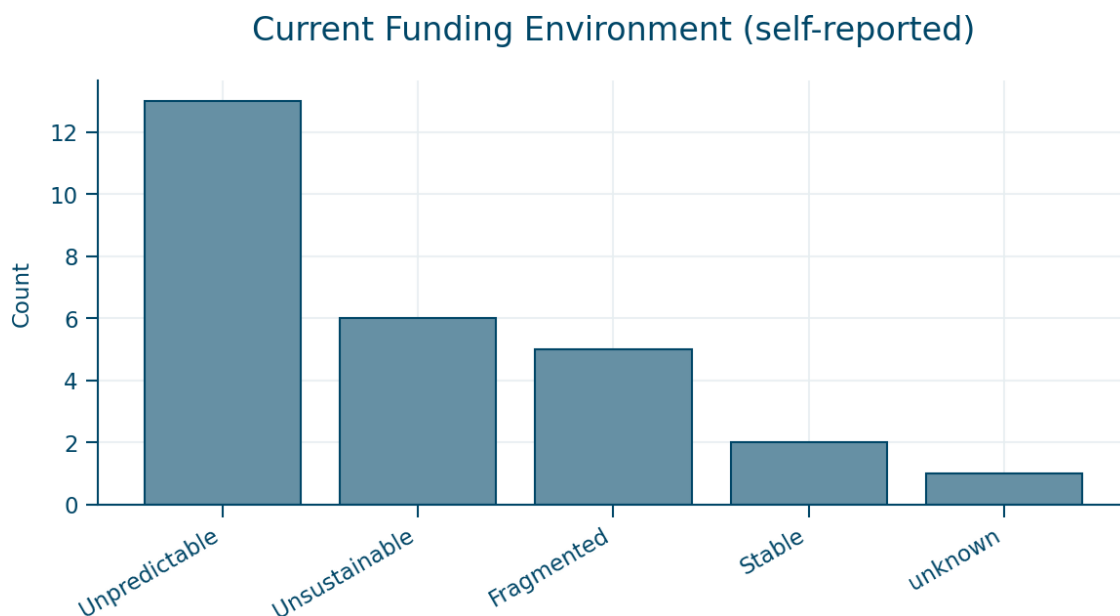


Funding landscape

Participants consistently described the funding environment for community safety as short-term, uncertain and restrictive. Funding was widely seen as fragmented and heavily reliant on annual or one-off grants, making long-term planning difficult and undermining sustainability. Late confirmation of funding and frequent changes to funding criteria were reported to contribute to staff turnover, loss of expertise and a more reactive approach to delivery. Participants also highlighted the significant administrative burden associated with bidding, reporting and compliance, which reduces capacity for frontline work and prevention, and in some cases influences decisions to scale back, delay or discontinue otherwise effective initiatives.

Funding is overwhelmingly described as unpredictable, unsustainable or fragmented, with significant implications for planning, commissioning and staff retention.

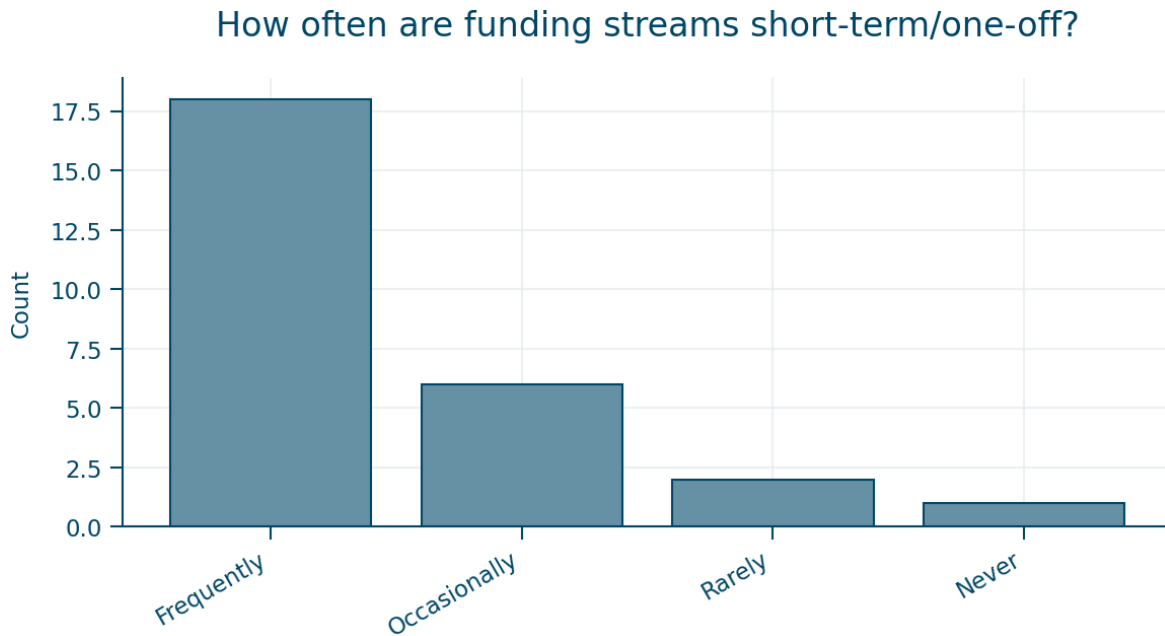
Chart 4: Practitioners views on the current funding environment



Participants described the frequency of fragmented and late-confirmed funding, alongside complex bidding and reporting requirements, as limiting long-term planning, contributing to staff turnover, and reducing capacity to focus on prevention and frontline delivery.



Chart 5: How often are funding streams short-term/one-off?



Participants ranked the impact of short-term funding on long-term planning, with responses showing it to be a significant constraint. The majority identified short-term funding as the most relevant issue of hindering long-term planning, but also citing reduced ability to plan strategically, limiting ambition and ongoing uncertainty. Although some noted that short-term funding can provide limited flexibility, this was consistently outweighed by its negative impact on sustainability, continuity and effective prevention.



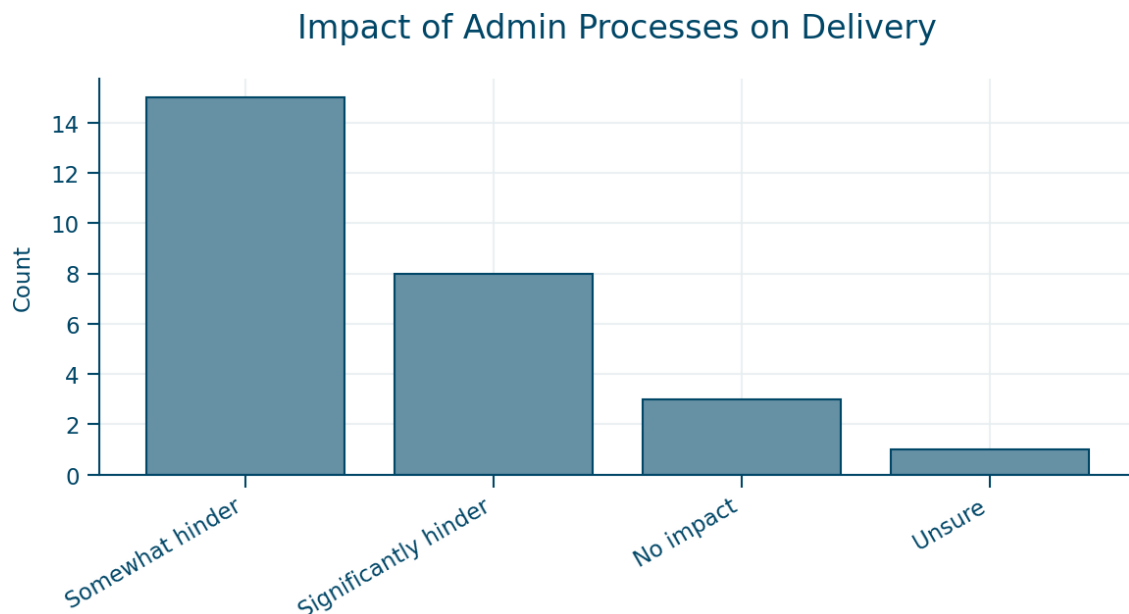
Chart 6: Impact of short-term or one-off funding streams on long-term planning

16. What impact do short-term or one-off funding streams have on your ability to plan for the long term? (Please rank the statements below 1= most relevant 7= least relevant)



Administrative processes have a significant impact on the delivery of community safety work. A large proportion of participants shared that bidding, reporting and compliance requirements reduce capacity and divert time away from frontline delivery and prevention activity.

Chart 7: The impact of admin processes on operational delivery

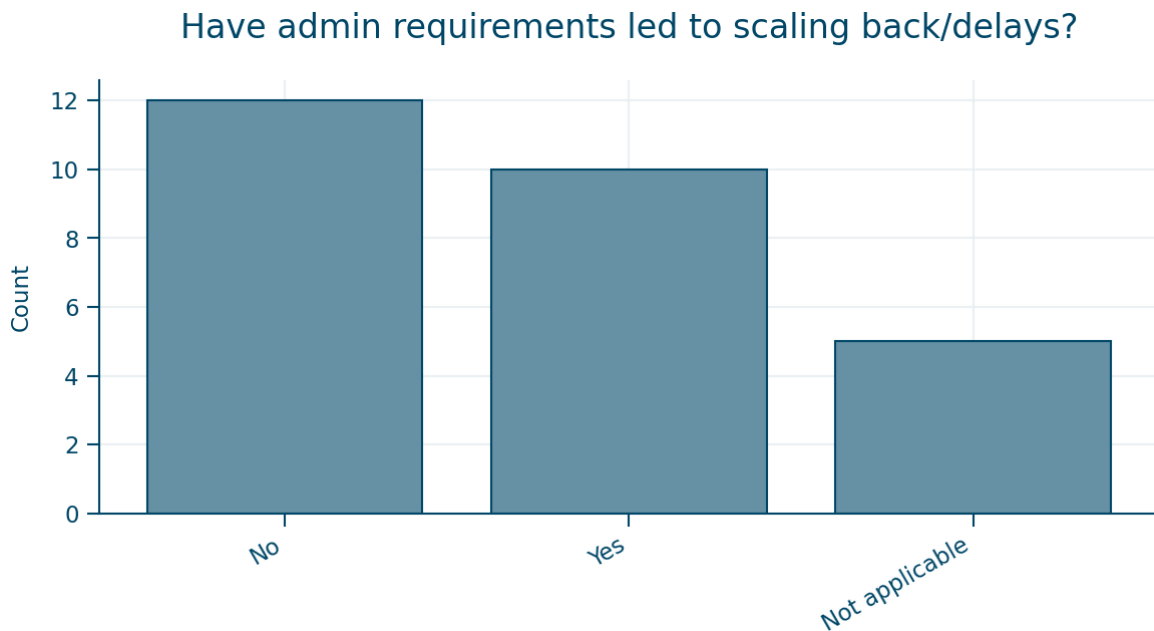


37% of responders confirmed that administrative requirements have directly affected delivery decisions. Many participants indicated that bureaucracy has influenced



decisions to scale back, delay or discontinue projects, highlighting the practical impact of administrative burden on sustaining effective community safety initiatives.

Chart 8: Delays to implementation caused by administrative requirements



Looking at the bureaucratic challenges faced when applying or managing funding, participants most frequently cited complex and time-consuming application processes, onerous reporting and monitoring requirements, short funding timescales, and limited staff capacity. These pressures were seen as contributing to staff burnout, reducing flexibility, and diverting time away from delivery and partnership working.

Prevention and early intervention programmes are most affected by changes or inconsistencies in funding, followed by long-term strategic initiatives and multi-agency or partnership-based projects. This indicates that funding instability disproportionately impacts preventative, collaborative and longer-term approaches to community safety.



Table 1: Types of projects or interventions that are more sensitive to changes or inconsistencies in funding

Are there particular types of projects or interventions that are more sensitive to changes or inconsistencies in funding?	
<i>Types of projects or interventions</i>	<i>Selected</i>
Prevention and early intervention programmes	22 (20%)
Long-term strategic initiatives	19 (18%)
Multi-agency or partnership-based projects	16 (15%)
Pilot or innovation-based projects	16 (15%)
Community-led or grassroots initiatives	13 (12%)
Projects reliant on specialist staff or training	12 (11%)
Services with statutory obligations	10 (9%)
None / Not applicable	0
Other	0

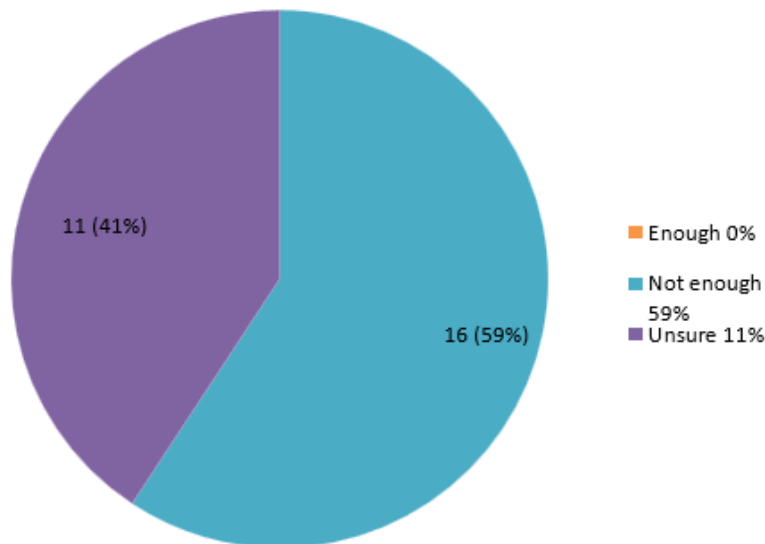
Governance: decision-making power of CSPs

Perceptions of the decision-making power of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) vary but many respondents indicate limited influence over funding and policy decisions, particularly beyond the local level. CSPs were widely seen as having little decision-making power over resources, with funding often controlled externally and poorly aligned to local priorities, constraining flexibility and effective delivery.



Chart 9: Decision-making power of CSPs

How much decision-making power do CSPs have over resources and funding?



Community involvement in shaping community safety priorities is variable and often limited by capacity and resource constraints. While some partnerships reported meaningful engagement through consultations, surveys and local forums, others described involvement as minimal or inconsistent. Participants asked for stronger support for CSPs, calls for direct multi-year allocations to CSPs, clearer governance structures and lines of escalation, improved data-sharing, and greater recognition of the CSP role in addressing local community safety issues.

Strong agreement on future community safety priorities were captured. Early intervention and prevention, improved multi-agency collaboration and data-sharing, as well as the need for sustainable, long-term funding, alongside calls for greater recognition and support for neighbourhood-based and frontline community safety work.

Practitioner-informed recommendations

Drawing on the evidence showing the lived experience of community safety practitioners across Wales, the following recommendations set out practical actions to strengthen community safety delivery and improve long-term outcomes:

- Move to pooled, multi-year funding for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), with proportionate, light-touch reporting arrangements aligned to agreed



outcomes, to support workforce stability, long-term planning and effective prevention.

- Establish or strengthen co-located, neighbourhood-based partnership hubs to improve joint ownership of issues, enable timely data-sharing, and support collaborative problem-solving at a local level.
- Invest in early intervention and trauma-informed support, particularly in relation to youth violence, exploitation, and co-occurring mental health and substance misuse needs, to address root causes rather than relying on reactive responses.
- Develop standard, all-Wales data-sharing protocols and core partnership standards, including clarity on roles, escalation routes and accountability, to reduce inconsistency and remove barriers to effective multi-agency working.
- Build analytical capacity and shared intelligence products to better inform commissioning decisions, target hotspot problem-solving, and ensure resources are directed where they can have the greatest impact.

Reflecting the findings of the survey, practitioners identify the following priorities for the Safer Communities Board over the next 2–3 years:

1. Strengthening early intervention and prevention, particularly for children and young people.
2. Improving multi-agency collaboration and data-sharing, with clearer governance and shared standards.
3. Securing sustainable, long-term funding for community safety services and staffing.
4. Enhancing support for vulnerable groups and complex needs, including mental health and substance misuse.
5. Enhancing local autonomy and influence by empowering Community Safety Partnerships and practitioner voice.

Summary

This survey provides a grounded view of what practitioners across Wales are facing day-to-day and demonstrates what would make the biggest difference. The learning is clear: risk is rising and complex, partnerships matter but are constrained, and short-termism in funding is undermining prevention and workforce stability. The insights below combine the evidence and practitioner voice to guide future decisions.



Practitioners report earlier age of involvement in violence and ASB, with risks that cluster around substance use, exploitation, homelessness and mental health. Problems are interconnected, so single-agency responses struggle to hold.

“There has been a noticeable increase in homelessness, rough sleeping, begging, and associated anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime... clustering often exacerbates vulnerabilities.” — Community Safety Officer

We need to ensure interventions are joined-up and preventative, particularly around youth violence and co-occurring needs.

Operational relationships and local tasking groups are strong, yet effectiveness is held back by data-sharing uncertainty, capacity gaps, turnover and misaligned cycles/protocols. Practitioners want co-located, neighbourhood-focused models with clear standards and escalation routes.

“Partnership working operationally is very proactive as everyone has a shared understanding of the issues and a willingness to work together. However there is a reluctance to share personalised information.” — Community Safety & Partnership Manager

We need clear, standard all-Wales data-sharing protocols and core partnership standards (roles, escalation, accountability), plus co-located hubs to drive shared problem-solving.

Respondents consistently describe funding as unpredictable/unsustainable, with late confirmations and heavy bidding/monitoring that divert time from delivery and erode continuity. Many teams rely on fixed-term posts, risking loss of expertise and relationships.

“Funding is short term, last minute notifications of funding to be spent quickly and simply insufficient funding to actually make meaningful changes.” — Community Safety & Partnership Manager

It is suggested that we move to a pooled, multi-year funding for CSPs with light-touch, proportionate reporting aligned to outcomes, so partners can plan, retain staff, and invest in prevention.

“A minimum of three year grant funding streams. CSPs to be given control of their grants so spend on local community safety priorities.” — Complex Support Team Lead



Many feel CSPs have limited decision-making power over resources; funding is often controlled elsewhere, reducing local flexibility. Frontline insight is not consistently heard early enough in policy/funding decisions.

CSPs should be empowered with direct allocations and transparent governance. Embed practitioner voice in decision-making to ensure investment tracks real-world need.

Teams are small, posts are time-limited, and administrative burden is high—all of which undermines stability and learning. Still, practitioners remain solutions-focused, asking for clear standards, better analytics and sustainable funding to deliver.

“Unsure whether the team has a job from one year to the next.” — ASB Coordinator

We need to build analytical capacity and shared intelligence products backed with stable funding so practice can mature and improve.

What we can do differently

- Fund for stability and prevention: adopt multi-year, pooled CSP funding with proportionate oversight, enabling staff retention and pre-planned prevention.
- Work as one team locally: co-locate partnership hubs and agree all-Wales data-sharing and partnership standards to reduce variation and unblock information flow.
- Aim effort where risk concentrates: invest in early intervention, trauma-informed support and shared analytics to target hotspots and complex need.
- Elevate practitioner voice: ensure CSPs and frontline leads are in the room early on policy and funding decisions.



Conclusion

The Voices from the Frontline survey offers a cohesive and candid picture of community safety practice in Wales. Practitioners describe a rising and increasingly complex pattern of harm, notably serious violence involving younger cohorts, youth-related ASB, substance misuse, and the intersection of homelessness with mental health needs.

While multi-agency working is valued and frequently effective at an operational level, its impact is constrained by structural barriers: inconsistent data-sharing, uneven standards and expectations across areas, high turnover, and a funding model that is fragmented, unpredictable and administratively heavy. These pressures undermine continuity, workforce stability and the ability to plan for prevention.

Crucially, many respondents feel CSPs lack sufficient decision-making power over resources, and that practitioner voice is not consistently heard early enough in funding and policy cycles. The path forward should be clear from the evidence: sustained investment, empowered local partnerships, common standards for collaboration and data, and stronger analytical capability to target effort where it makes the greatest difference. Taken together, these shifts would enable CSPs and partners to move decisively from short-term, reactive responses to long-term, preventative, and trauma-informed approaches that improve safety and confidence across communities in Wales.



Full list of recommendations

Funding and commissioning

- Adopt pooled, multi-year funding for CSPs with proportionate, light-touch reporting aligned to a small set of agreed outcomes, enabling workforce stability, forward planning and sustained prevention.
- Streamline bid, monitoring and compliance requirements across funders (WG, OPCC, UKG) to reduce administrative burden, with earlier confirmations to avoid end-year “cliff edges.”
- Provide transparent visibility of all community safety-related spend at local level, so CSPs can align investments, avoid duplication and fill genuine gaps.

Partnership model and governance

- Establish (or strengthen) co-located, neighbourhood partnership hubs to embed joint ownership, real-time tasking, and shared problem-solving in place.
- Define all-Wales core partnership standards (roles, expectations, escalation and accountability) to reduce variation and ensure consistent practice across regions.
- Clarify and strengthen CSP decision-making powers over local community safety resources, with clear governance that ties accountability to influence.

Data-sharing, insight and learning

- Develop standard all-Wales data-sharing protocols with clear GDPR-compliant templates and guidance, to remove uncertainty and accelerate multi-agency action.
- Build shared analytical capacity and products (victim/offender/location profiles, hotspot analysis, demand forecasting) to underpin commissioning and targeted prevention.
- Adopt a simple performance and learning framework that links inputs to outcomes, captures practitioner insights, and supports continuous improvement across CSPs.

Prevention and practice

- Invest in early intervention and trauma-informed support, especially around youth violence, exploitation and co-occurring mental health/substance use, with school-linked pathways and family support.



- Protect and expand visible, community-based provision (e.g. youth outreach, diversionary activities, business/community watch networks) in town and city centres and rural settings.
- Stabilise key roles (e.g. prevention practitioners, youth engagement officers, community safety coordinators) through multi-year funding to preserve relationships and local knowledge.

Voice and accountability

- Embed practitioner and community voice early in policy and funding design (consultation windows, co-design panels, lived-experience input), with feedback loops that show how views shaped decisions.
- Publish a concise annual CSP assurance statement locally and nationally, summarising priorities, investment, outcomes and learning to strengthen transparency and trust.



Annex A – Full methodology

Data source

The analysis draws on responses to the “Voices from the Frontline: Community Safety Perspectives” survey, distributed by the Wales Safer Communities Network in November 2025.

- The survey was shared with community safety practitioners across Wales through professional networks, email and social media.
- 27 completed responses were received.
- Respondents represented a broad mix of roles and organisations, including local authorities, policing, housing providers and third-sector organisations.
- The survey included both multiple-choice questions and open-text questions, allowing practitioners to describe challenges and experiences in their own words.

Organisations represented in the survey

Responses to the Voices from the Frontline: Community Safety Perspectives survey were received from practitioners working across a range of statutory and non-statutory organisations involved in community safety delivery in Wales.

Organisations represented include:

- Local Authorities
 - Community Safety teams
 - Anti-Social Behaviour services
 - Youth Services
 - Housing and Homelessness services
 - Policy and Strategic Partnership teams
- Police and Policing Partnerships
 - Territorial police forces in Wales
 - Police community safety and ASB leads
 - Regional and force-level partnership roles
- Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) funded services
 - Community safety initiatives
 - Violence prevention and ASB programmes
- Housing Providers
 - Registered Social Landlords
 - Social housing community safety and tenancy sustainment teams



- Third-Sector and Voluntary Organisations
 - Youth work and outreach services
 - Community safety and safeguarding charities
 - Victim support and exploitation services
- Faith and community-based services
 - Night-time economy and street support services
- Welsh Government
 - Policy and advisory roles linked to community safety and prevention

Respondents worked across urban, town-centre and rural settings, and represented a mix of operational, strategic and policy-focused roles.

Data preparation and review

All responses were reviewed in full.

- No responses were excluded from the analysis.
- Blank or “not applicable” answers were noted but retained.
- Open-text responses were not edited, to ensure that practitioner language and meaning were preserved.

This step ensured the analysis was grounded in the full range of practitioner feedback.

Analysis of closed questions

For questions with fixed response options (for example, funding environment, partnership effectiveness and governance):

- Responses were counted and summarised using simple frequency totals.
- Where questions allowed multiple answers (such as barriers to partnership working), each selected option was counted once per respondent.
- Charts have been used to highlight patterns and trends.

No statistical modelling or weighting was applied. The purpose was to describe common experiences, not to produce predictive or representative statistics.

Analysis of open-text responses

Open-text responses were analysed using a light-touch thematic approach, focused on clarity and transparency.

This involved:

- Reading all responses carefully.



- Identifying issues and themes that appeared repeatedly across responses.
- Grouping similar comments under clear themes (for example, serious violence, youth anti-social behaviour, funding insecurity, data-sharing barriers).

Where a single response raised multiple issues, it was included in more than one theme. This reflects the interconnected nature of community safety challenges.

Identifying pressing issues and affected groups

For questions about the most pressing community safety issues and the communities most affected:

- Responses were reviewed and grouped using simple keyword-supported thematic coding.
- For example, references to knife crime, gangs or exploitation were grouped under 'serious violence', while references to children, schools or youth behaviour were grouped under 'youth-related issues'.
- Responses often covered more than one issue or group and were counted accordingly.

This approach ensured that complex, overlapping challenges were accurately reflected.

Limitations

The findings reflect the views and experiences of the practitioners who responded to the survey and are not intended to be statistically representative of the entire community safety workforce in Wales.

However, the consistency of themes across different roles, sectors and geographic areas provides strong qualitative evidence of shared challenges facing community safety practitioners.