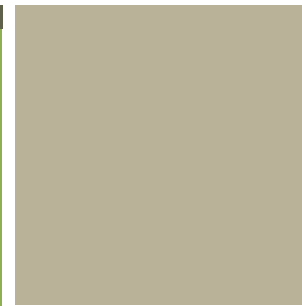


# North Wales Community Safety Plan

## 2014 -17



## Safer Communities Board



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# Foreword

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Cllr. Hugh Jones

**A**s this report states, the overall aim of the North Wales Safer Communities Board is to make North Wales a safer place.

There are a number of high profile organisations working to this goal, including the Police and Fire and Rescue services. Equally there are many smaller organisations working hard toward the same goal. The aim of the Safer Communities Board is to bring together in partnership these organisations, in the knowledge that by working together, we can more effectively deliver Community Safety for our residents.

Our plan has 4 clear priority areas dealing with Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, Acquisitive Crime, Anti Social Behaviour and Substance Misuse. These priorities have been informed by the local Community Safety Partnerships across the 6 counties of North Wales. It is vital that we maintain this link with local communities to enable us to combat crime and anti-social behaviour which is often not confined to administrative boundaries. By learning from each other's experiences, identifying good practice and what works and doesn't work we are better able to deliver successful outcomes.

In developing this plan, which is an organic and living plan, and will change as priorities change, we have worked along side the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that we are working together in effective partnership.

I commend the plan to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hugh Jones'.

**Cllr Hugh Jones JP**  
**Chair, North Wales Safer Communities Board**

# Introduction

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The purpose of this Community Safety Plan is to outline how the North Wales Safer Communities Board intends to focus its work over the next three years, working in partnership to tackle crime and disorder. It outlines how the Board has decided on its areas of work, and summarises the main priorities and outcomes. It also outlines how the Safer Communities Board will monitor and measure progress.

The Plan has been developed using many different sources of information and data that has been gathered from a number of public sector organisations. This information, which is evidence based, reflects the risks and concerns facing the people of North Wales.

This is primarily a web-based document, and is subject to change. However, the priorities will only be reviewed annually, and any changes will be agreed by the Board.

## What do we want to achieve?

This document sets out how the Safer Communities Board will contribute to tackling crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and reduce the fear of crime in North Wales during the 2014-2017 period.

The overall aim of the Safer Communities Board is: **Making North Wales a safer place.**

This will be achieved through focusing on the following priority areas, and their related outcomes:

### Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

- To increase confidence in reporting serious sexual offences
- To increase confidence in reporting incidents of domestic abuse
- Reduce the risk of becoming a repeat victim of domestic abuse

### Acquisitive Crime

- To reduce acquisitive crime
- Jointly address those who cause the greatest harm in our communities

### Anti-Social Behaviour

- To reduce the risk of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour

### Substance Misuse

- Improving availability and quality of education, prevention and treatment services and related support, with the emphasis on the relationship between alcohol, drugs and crime

# What is the North Wales Safer Communities Board?

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The North Wales Safer Communities Board is an enabling body which assists the work of the region's individual Community Safety Partnerships on a North Wales level. This is not possible for all areas of work, however there are considerable advantages to developing a consistent approach as it avoids duplication and encourages people with different expertise to work together for the common good.

It met for the first time in July 2012. It is made up of the public organisations that are required by law to work together to tackle crime and disorder<sup>1</sup>. The following organisations are represented:



- Anglesey County Council
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Cyngor Gwynedd
- Denbighshire County Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Medrwn Mon (on behalf of Welsh Council for Voluntary Action)
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- North Wales Police
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Probation Service (Prawf Cymru)
- Welsh Government
- Wrexham County Borough Council

The Board strives to provide a consistent strategic approach to issues that arise in the community safety and youth justice fields; and seeks to influence the criminal justice service. A key function of the Board is to challenge and improve performance across the region, and seek to make the best use of the organisations' resources (whether they are financial or personnel).

Although the Board is still in its infancy, the work undertaken to date is already influencing the way the region's public organisations strategically tackle crime and disorder through the production of a jointly commissioned strategic assessment, developing common work plans and commissioning certain services on a regional basis.

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<sup>1</sup>As defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

# Why do we need a Regional Community Safety Plan?

North Wales is an increasingly safe place to live work and visit, with levels of victim based crime steadily reducing. Recorded crime in the region has fallen by 13% between 2008/9 and 2012/13, and by 43% when compared to the levels experienced in 2002/03. Victim based crime in the current year 2013/14 is showing a reduction of 3.3%.

In part this is a reflection of the improved ways public sector organisations work together. Since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force there is a duty on local authorities, police, fire service, probation and health boards to work together to identify common crime and disorder issues, and develop strategies to address them accordingly. In part, this document fulfills this statutory requirement.

The priorities identified in the Plan form the basis for the Board's programme of work. It also encourages a consistency of approach for organisations when considering community safety related matters.

As the priorities and outcomes are based on what the evidence tells us, these will be problems encountered to varying degrees across the region, as a result, where problems occur unique to a particular locality we can draw upon good practice or a bank of knowledge across North Wales to help support and develop new approaches.

The public sector organisations of the region will also make greater impact working on this basis and sharing resources where appropriate.

We can't prioritise everything and neither can we predict certain events, however from the evidence that we do have we can:

- (i) Reflect and review trends e.g. seasonal events
- (ii) Build resilience in our teams to respond when things happen

The Plan also pays due regard to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan for North Wales.

The Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales, Winston Roddick CB QC, has emphasised the importance of partnership working in his current Police and Crime Plan. The joint working arrangements that are being developed through the Safer Communities Board and developed in the Plan will ensure better alignment between the strategic objectives of the Plan and those of the Board. The Commissioner's vision as set out in the Plan is security in the home, safety in public places and visible and accessible policing. The Board's vision is 'Making North Wales a safer place'. Each of these visions enhances the other. The Commissioner's police and crime objectives as set out in his Plan are:

- Prevent crime
- Deliver an effective response
- Reduce harm and the risk of harm
- Build effective partnerships

These and the Board's strategic priorities are mutually supportive.

# What does the evidence tell us?

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## Strategic Assessment 2013/14

The Strategic Assessment, which is produced annually, provides an opportunity to assess crime and disorder issues affecting the communities of North Wales. It examines existing problems and emerging trends to inform the response of the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

The Strategic Assessment for 2013 - 2014 has recommended the following priorities:

- Domestic Abuse.
- Sexual Offences.
- Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Burglary in the home.
- Vehicle Crime - Theft from Motor Vehicles.
- Shoplifting.

In addition there are key themes relevant to North Wales which affect the priorities:

- Drug and Alcohol Misuse - Misuse of drugs and alcohol is believed to be the root cause of a large proportion of crime and disorder. Addiction to illegal drugs and alcohol drives many acquisitive crimes such as burglary, shoplifting and theft from vehicles. Alcohol is also known to be a significant factor in many violent crimes, especially those that are domestic related, and in a large number of sexual crimes.
- Technology Enabled Crime and Bullying - Technology is playing an increasing role in criminal activities and anti-social behaviour. Young people in particular are increasingly vulnerable as affordable smart mobile technology becomes more widespread. The CSPs

will need to be as swift in their understanding of new technology as those who would abuse it.

- Organised Crime Groups - The activities of these groups cause harm across the UK and will be addressed with a partnership approach. Their involvement in offences such as the supply of illegal drugs is particularly relevant as substance abuse motivates addicts to commit acquisitive crime. Although the number of Organised Crime Groups believed to be operating in North Wales is comparably low, the severity of their criminal behaviour should not be underestimated.

## Substance Misuse Commissioning Strategy

In May 2010 the Welsh Government published guidance on the establishment of Area Planning Boards (APBs), with the intention that APBs will support the planning, commissioning and performance management of substance misuse services at a regional level.

The Substance Misuse Needs Assessment for the North Wales APB was approved by the Board on the 5th November 2013. A detailed review has commenced which will allow the APB to gain a clearer and more in depth understanding of how well services, currently commissioned across the six local authorities, deliver the outcomes identified within the Needs Assessment. This work will provide the basis of the gap analysis that will inform the APB's future Commissioning Strategy.

The Needs Assessment provides compelling evidence to support the view that one of the key areas of focus for newly commissioned services must be on minimising the harm caused by the misuse of alcohol.



# How will we know its working?

Each priority is linked to at least one performance indicator that the SCB will use to track progress over the year. The progress of each county will be monitored in this way.

➔ Priority : Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence			
Outcomes	People are more confident, and aware, to report domestic abuse and sexual violence offences	Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of domestic violence incidents reported to North Wales Police</li><li>• Number of sexual offences reported to North Wales Police</li></ul>
	Young people are aware of the nature and implications of sexual violence, and where to access support		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Well informed young people in relation to sexual violence (monitored via post intervention surveys)</li></ul>
	Deal effectively first time with high risk cases of domestic abuse through successful MARAC intervention		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of cases referred more than once to MARAC</li></ul>
➔ Priority : Acquisitive Crime			
Outcomes	Identify locally emerging trends in relation to acquisitive crime and develop targeted and appropriate responses to those trends	Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of reported offences of acquisitive crime</li></ul>
	Jointly address those who cause the greatest harm in our communities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of offences committed by repeat offenders in relation to acquisitive crimes</li></ul>

<sup>2</sup>MARAC - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, see page 11 for further information.

## ⇒ Priority : Anti-Social Behaviour

**Outcomes** Support high risk and repeat victims of anti-social behaviour

Providing appropriate interventions to locally identified anti-social behaviour problems in our communities

### Indicators

- Number of repeat high risk victims of anti social behaviour
- Number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents

## ⇒ Priority : Substance Misuse

**Outcomes** Improving availability and quality of education, prevention and treatment services and related support, with the emphasis on the relationship between alcohol, drugs and crime.

### Indicators

- Meeting the Welsh Government's Key Performance Indicator on substance misuse services

Performance will be monitored by the Safer Communities Board on a six monthly basis. Where possible these areas will be broken to county level.

# Making it happen....

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Over the past decade public organisations in North Wales have worked closely together to find the best ways of improving the lives of those who are at greatest risk in their communities, and also to identify those who are likely to cause the greatest harm.

There is much commonality across the Counties in terms of addressing crime and disorder. Using the 'problem solving' methodology, some examples are provided below of how key multi-agency services are delivered:

## 1. Supporting Victims

### i. Domestic Abuse

Each county has its own 'Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference' (MARAC) which is convened on a monthly basis to look at ways to support those who are at highest risk of harm from domestic abuse.

### ii. Anti-Social Behaviour

On a monthly basis an anti social behaviour 'tasking group' meets in each county, to support the most vulnerable, and repeat victims of anti-social behaviour, as well as looking at geographic areas of high anti social behaviour incidences.

### iii. Substance Misuse

Substance misuse, and mostly notably alcohol abuse, has a significant impact on rates of crime and disorder. Through the services commissioned via the North Wales Area Planning Board provision is made to support those who have been adversely affected by substance misuse.

## 2. Working with Offenders

A great deal of work is undertaken to identify those who have or are likely to cause harm to our communities. A distinction is made between adult and children's services, although when a young person transfers to adult services resources are available for practitioners, young people and their families to manage this transition effectively<sup>3</sup>.

### i. Adult services

Reducing reoffending is key objective in safe guarding our communities. By working with offenders in a targeted way with partners we can significantly reduce crime levels. We have a well established Integrated Offender Management Unit which brings together partners who will continue to deliver against the 'All Wales Reducing Reoffending Strategy'.

### ii. Children's services

There are four Youth Justice Services in North Wales. They focus on preventing young people entering the criminal justice system, and seek to reduce reoffending and use of custody. An important aspect of their rehabilitation work is to focus on the impact of crime on victims, and undertake community reparation work – where appropriate.

## 3. Identifying Locations

### i. Locational Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Across North Wales there are a number of multi-agency groups that meet on a regular basis (monthly) to review the geographic areas that have seen the highest numbers of incidents. These groups will also have plans in place to counter the impact of events at specific times of year (such as Halloween and Bonfire).

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<sup>3</sup>This provision is offered through the 'Y2A', which are a set of resources developed by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to help manage and improve transitions processes in both community and custody.

# Emerging issues

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The priorities contained within this Community Safety Plan have been identified through analysis of crime and disorder patterns and trends. Nevertheless, that does not mean agencies of the region do not recognise, and place great importance, on emerging areas of work or nationally driven priorities. Amongst the other key areas that the Safer Communities Board will be reviewing in 2014/15 are:

## Counter terrorism

Globally the work undertaken to address the threat of terrorism is given a high profile and priority. Over the past decade the Government has launched a number of key strategies to address this ever present danger and whilst the level of threat and risk remains relatively low in North Wales, it is important that all communities remain vigilant of in terms of reporting concerns and/or suspicions. The golden thread of 'Communities Defeat Terrorism' is as relevant today as it has always been.

## Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, harbouring or receipt of children, women or men through the use of threat, force, coercion, or deception for the purpose of exploitation.

This is an emerging area of work, which has recently been brought to the attention of public agencies. The extent of human trafficking in North Wales is not yet known, however work has recently been commissioned through the Regional Collaboration Fund to develop multi agency actions to tackle it and raise greater awareness of the issue amongst members of the public and practitioners.

# Useful contacts and references

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## Organisation

Anglesey County Council

Conwy County Council

Denbighshire County Council

Flintshire County Council

Gwynedd County Council

Wrexham County Borough Council

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust

North Wales Fire & Rescue Service

North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner

North Wales Police

Neighbourhood Watch

PACT

Probation

Woman's Aid

North Wales Police Victim Support

Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)

## Website Address

[www.anglesey.gov.uk](http://www.anglesey.gov.uk)

[www.conwy.gov.uk](http://www.conwy.gov.uk)

[www.denbighshire.gov.uk](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk)

[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)

[www.gwynedd.gov.uk](http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk)

[www.wrexham.gov.uk](http://www.wrexham.gov.uk)

[www.bcu.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.bcu.wales.nhs.uk)

[www.ambulance.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.ambulance.wales.nhs.uk)

[www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk](http://www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk)

[www.northwales-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northwales-pcc.gov.uk)

[www.north-wales.police.uk](http://www.north-wales.police.uk)

[www.neighbourhoodwatch.net](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net)

[www.pactnorthwales.co.uk](http://www.pactnorthwales.co.uk)

[www.nationalprobationservice.co.uk](http://www.nationalprobationservice.co.uk)

[www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

[www.north-wales.police.uk/advice\\_\\_support/victims\\_\\_witnesses.aspx](http://www.north-wales.police.uk/advice__support/victims__witnesses.aspx)

[www.wcva.org.uk](http://www.wcva.org.uk)

