



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL  
RHONDDA CYNON TAF  
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**GWŶS I GYFARFOD O'R CYNGOR**

C. Hanagan  
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf  
Y Pafiliynau  
Parc Hen Lofa'r Cambrian  
Cwm Clydach CF40 2XX

Dolen gyswllt: J Nicholls, Gwasanaethau Democrataidd (01443 424098)

**DYMA WŶS I CHI** i gyfarfod rhithwir o **PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU (TROSEDDAU AC ANHREFN)** yn cael ei gynnal ar **DYDD LLUN, 17EG MAI, 2021** am **5.00 PM**.

Caiff Aelodau nad ydyn nhw'n aelodau o'r pwyllgor ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd gyfrannu yn y cyfarfod ar faterion y cyfarfod er bydd y cais yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd. Gofynnwn i chi roi gwybod i Wasanaethau Democrataidd erbyn Dydd Iau, 13 Mai 2021 trwy ddefnyddio'r manylion cyswllt uchod, gan gynnwys rhoi gwybod a fyddwch chi'n siarad Cymraeg neu Saesneg.

**AGENDA**

**Tudalennau**

**1. DATGANIAD O FUDDIANT**

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Gynghorwyr, yn unol â gofynion Cod Ymddygiad y Cyngor.

Nodwch:

1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agendwm mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag ef a mynegi natur y buddiant personol hwnnw; a
2. Lle bo Aelodau'n ymneilltuo o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant sy'n rhagfarnu, rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.

**2. DERBYN ADRODDIAD Y CYFARWYDDWR GWASANAETH –  
IECHYD A DIOGELWCH Y CYHOEDD, A GWASANAETHAU  
CYMUNED.**

Cadw Menywod a Merched yn Ddiogel yn RhCT - Trosolwg o'r Trefniadau Cyfredol ar gyfer Mannau Cyhoeddus.

3 - 40

**3. ADOLYGIAD Y CADEIRYDD A DOD Â'R CYFARFOD I BEN**

Adlewyrchu ar y cyfarfod a'r camau gweithredu i'w dwyn ymlaen.

**4. MATERION BRYS**

Trafod unrhyw faterion a ddylai gael eu hystyried yn y cyfarfod ar frys oherwydd amgylchiadau arbennig yn nhyb y Cadeirydd.

**Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democraidd a Chyfathrebu**

**Cylchreliad:-**

Cadeirydd ac is-gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu (Troseddau ac Anhrefn)  
(Y Cynghorydd M Adams a Y Cynghorydd W Lewis)

**Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol:**

Y Cynghorydd H Boggis, Y Cynghorydd J Bonetto, Y Cynghorydd J Brencher,  
Y Cynghorydd P Jarman, Y Cynghorydd E Stephens, Y Cynghorydd G Caple,  
Y Cynghorydd W Jones, Y Cynghorydd M Griffiths, Y Cynghorydd L Walker,  
Y Cynghorydd A Cox, Y Cynghorydd M Forey and Y Cynghorydd G Hughes

**Aelodau Cyfetholedig Addysg er gwybodaeth-**

Mr J Fish, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol  
Mrs R Nicholls, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol  
Mr L Patterson, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol  
Mr M Cleverley, Cynrychiolydd Cymdeithas Genedlaethol yr Ysgolfeistri ac Undeb yr Athrawesau a'r Panel Athrawon  
Reverend E Counsell, Cynrychiolydd Awdurdodau Esgobaethol  
Ms A Jones, Cynrychiolydd UNITE  
Mrs C Jones, Cynrychiolydd Undeb Cenedlaethol yr Athrawon a'r Panel Athrawon  
Mr C Jones, Cynrychiolydd GMB  
Mr D Price, Cynrychiolydd UNSAIN/UNISON

Mr G Davies – Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Archwilio

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020-21**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - CRIME & DISORDER COMMITTEE**

**17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Agenda Item No. 2**

Keeping women and girls safe in RCT- an overview of current arrangements for public spaces

**Author:** Louise Davies, Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To update Elected Members on the current arrangements in Rhondda Cynon Taf to keep women and girls safe in public places. To enable Officers of South Wales Police to present Elected Members with an overview of current National and UK activity to strengthen strategic policy in this area and to present the local data for crimes such as stalking, harassment and violence against women and girls in the South Wales Police area.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that members:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the content of the report and express their views on the current arrangements for keeping women and girls safe in public spaces in RCT.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Everyone has the right to feel safe when out in communities. The shocking abduction and murder of Sarah Everard in London on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 caused a public outcry across the UK. While attacks by strangers on women and girls remain rare in the UK, this case has heightened our awareness that too many women and girls are victims of harassment and sexual assault and feel vulnerable when going about their everyday lives.

- 3.2 Keeping the people of RCT safe remains a key priority of this Council and our Partners and a range of initiatives and arrangements are already in place to keep vulnerable people safe in public places in RCT. It is recognised that as we emerge from the current coronavirus restrictions, people will be anxious about re-engaging with society and this recent tragedy has brought this into even greater focus. Working with our Partners in South Wales Police as part of the wider Community Safety Partnership, a review has been undertaken to identify the collective arrangements already in place and where necessary identify how we may strengthen initiatives to keep women and girls safe in our communities and in particular as the night time economy opens up in coming weeks.

#### **4. CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS IN RCT**

##### **CRIME AND POLICING**

- 4.1 Public concern in recent weeks has focused on the safety of women and girls and this is a key priority for Policing. It is also important to note that other people can feel unsafe in communities due to other vulnerabilities such as age, sexuality, ethnicity, disability and the aim, through the Community Safety Partnership, is to work together to keep all residents safe and feeling safe in RCT.
- 4.2 It remains the case that violent crimes against women and girls are most likely to be perpetrated by people they know. There are however crimes such as harassment and stalking which can be reviewed to give an additional insight to crimes which may be perpetrated by other persons. Appendix (i) of this report outlines a presentation that will be delivered to Elected Members at Committee by Inspector Mike Rudall and Inspector Ben Rowe from South Wales Police. This presentation outlines local statistical data for relevant offences against the person. It also covers national, strategic reviews being undertaken and how these will influence new policies to keep women and girls safe.
- 4.3 In addition, initiatives that are currently in place to keep our communities and residents safe are listed in the presentation for members consideration; a number of these are delivered in partnership with the Council such as the Friday Night Project and Joint Enforcement Teams.
- 4.4 South Wales Police is committed to keeping the public safe and have resourced the communities of RCT accordingly. Table 1 provides a breakdown of current Police resources within each area of RCT (April 2021):

Table 1: Police Resources for Rhondda, Cynon and Taff Areas.

<b>Rhondda</b>	<b>Cynon</b>	<b>Taff</b>
1 Local Policing Inspector	1 Local Policing Inspector	1 Local Policing Inspector
1 Deputy Local Policing Inspector	1 Deputy Local Policing Inspector	1 Deputy Local Policing Inspector
12 Sergeants	7 Sergeants	8 Sergeants
61 Response Police Constables	40 Response Police Constables	49 Response Police Constables
10 Neighbourhood Policing Team Police Constables	6 Neighbourhood Policing Team Police Constables	8 Neighbourhood Policing Team Police Constables
28 Police Community Support Officers	17 Police Community Support Officers	21 Police Community Support Officers
1 Staff	1 Staff	1 Staff
<b>Total - 114</b>	<b>Total - 73</b>	<b>Total - 89</b>

## **CCTV**

- 4.5 In RCT, the Council has deployed an extensive network of 155 high quality, digital public space CCTV cameras following almost £400K of investment in the last three years. There is also another 300+ RCT Council building and Depot cameras. This is supported by skilled staff in our CCTV control room who are all Security Industry Authority trained. The control room is operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- 4.6 The CCTV Operators have access to RCT 'Radionet' which enables them to contact and receive calls from shops within the Town Centres of RCT. This initiative enables our operators to assist in the apprehension of shoplifters, deter shop thefts and deter violence against shop staff and therefore actively contribute to how safe people feel when visiting our retail centres.
- 4.7 The CCTV Operators are able to communicate with the Police via their Airwave system and are fully trained in all aspects of the Police procedures in its use. Our Operators, on observing an ongoing incident, can immediately update the CACR (Police Control Room) and Police Officers on the ground to the exact location and can relay that information quickly, concisely and effectively to ensure Officers know what they are going to and exactly who is responsible. Below are two recent case studies outlining how our CCTV team assist in preventing and detecting crime. Both case studies clearly illustrate how well our CCTV Team work with our partners to prevent and detect crime within RCT.

- A) Case Study 1: A call was received from South Wales Police, via Airwaves, reporting that a male and female had been threatened to be stabbed by unknown persons. Male and female were travelling through the Railway network from Pontypridd towards Abercynon and Mountain Ash. CCTV Operators immediately monitored the Train Stations at Abercynon and Mountain ash and carried out area searches without any sightings. Firearms and Local units searched both areas without any positive leads. The individuals reporting the incident were known to Police and address searches were in the process of being undertaken. A short time later, while still carrying out area searches for the individuals, Operators observed a male and female on a bus in Mountain Ash, attacking an elderly male and appearing to take a bag from him. Police Officers were immediately informed via Police Airwaves and given full descriptions of suspects and requested an Ambulance for the elderly male. The CCTV operators followed the suspects and directed Police Officers to them where they were apprehended within minutes of committing the offence. The individuals arrested were the persons initially reporting that they were being threatened but in fact were the persons committing offences. Both were arrested for ABH and Robbery.
- B) Case Study 2: A CCTV Operator observed a male frantically pacing up and down Bute Street Treorchy, appearing to possibly be looking for someone. On closer inspection, the male had in his possession a 6 inch carving knife and a wooden baton. Police were informed immediately via Police Airwaves and units given a full description of the male and his actions. The male was continually monitored as he paced back and forth, and on seeing the Police arrive he quickly disposed of the weapons in the doorway of a takeaway shop. The male was detained and Officers were provided with an accurate description of the discarded weapons and where they had been hidden. Officers located the items and the male was arrested for possession of those items. The Police at the scene reported that there was visible damage to a vehicle parked outside of a flat where male had been pacing. As a result of this information, a CCTV data search was undertaken to establish if the damage was caused recently. The resulting CCTV footage identified that the arrested male had come from his flat after an unknown male had knocked on his door, without reply, and caused damage to the vehicle before making off. The arrested male was seeking retribution for the damage caused to his vehicle.

4.8 In 2020 the CCTV team were awarded SWP Northern BCU divisional commendation from Chief Superintendent Dorian Lloyd for the provision of services and the support to SWP officers in tackling crime and disorder across the region.

## **TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVES**

- 4.9 Throughout RCT we have business and community partnerships within our towns and communities, such as Pub Watch and Store Net, as well as Council Town Centre and Civil Enforcement Staff who work together as a network to ensure that there is early detection and reporting of incidents to our Police colleagues. In order to focus on Business Crime Reduction, we have also recently established a neighbourhood watch scheme in Pontypridd Town Centre, in order for businesses to feel part of a community and be reassured that we are all working together. If this is successful, we will look to roll out the initiative in our other principal Town Centres.
- 4.10 The Pub Watch scheme is particularly important to our night time economy and is further supported by a Taxi Marshall scheme for the busy Pontypridd Town area on weekends and other areas when there are large events. When hospitality is fully open, it operates between 9pm and 4am, ensuring trained security marshals work with our licensed taxi trade to protect the travelling public, particularly those of all genders who may be vulnerable under the influence of alcohol. At the end of 2019, Pontypridd Pubwatch was recognised as 'highly commended' at the National Pubwatch Awards at the prestigious award ceremony & dinner in the House of Lords, Westminster. The judges highlighted Pontypridd for its work around safeguarding vulnerable people and its supporting relationship with the Your Pontypridd Business Improvement District.
- 4.11 The Council has recently commenced a Safe Street Ambassador Scheme and this will run initially as a pilot for three months. The scheme involves six officers working Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings throughout RCT. The aim of the scheme is to provide reassurance to the hospitality trade, and the public, in relation to COVID prevention and controls in premises, but also provide reassurance to individuals who feel or appear vulnerable.
- 4.12 Work is being done to scope the opportunity to develop a "Safe Place" initiative throughout RCT, building on the initiatives that are already in place such as Pub Watch and Store Net and the work of the Youth Engagement and Participation Service outlines in paragraph 4.25 below. The "Safe Place" initiatives could be run in conjunction with the Business Improvement Districts and identify premises that openly welcome, and offer space, to individuals who feel intimidated, scared or at risk.

## **WIDER COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

- 4.13 Our Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) is a further example of action already taken to ensure alcohol related anti social behaviour is deterred from our communities and alcohol consumption on the streets of our principal Towns of Aberdare and Pontypridd is banned. This Order was put in place in 2017 in response to concerns that people did not feel our town centres were safe places to visit. The current RCT wide alcohol related PSPO is due to be reviewed in September 2021 and as such, the RCT Community Safety Partnership have commenced a period of consultation to establish whether the PSPO should be extended for a further 3 year period. The consultation has included the general public, elected members, partner organisations and businesses. We see this as

an opportunity to evaluate the existing PSPO and if necessary strengthen its remit and enforcement powers, to ensure that it is fit for purpose and as robust as possible. Documentation outlining the current PSPO is attached as Appendix (ii).

4.14 We have developed two Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) areas in Porth and Pontypridd. The objectives of the CAP are:

1. Reduce incidents of alcohol sales to young people
2. Reduce proxy purchasing and general supply of alcohol to under 18's
3. Develop a responsible retailing ethos and effective partnership approach in the CAP area
4. Reduce anti-social behaviour associated with youth alcohol consumption
5. Increase young people's awareness of the risks associated with drinking alcohol
6. Improve the general understanding of safe drinking limits and the law relating to the sale of alcohol to young people

Both areas have been successful in achieving the objectives. Pontypridd CAP was recognised for exceptional achievements in preventing alcohol harm to young people at an awards ceremony at the House of Lords in January 2020.

## **STREET LIGHTING**

4.15 RCT's street lighting policy was formulated in 2014 and includes the following level of service across the authority

- (i) Residential Areas:- Alternate part-night lighting provided in residential areas. This means that where the risk assessment has indicated it is appropriate to do so, alternate streetlights will be part night lit, i.e. they will be switched off between 12:00am and 5:00am. All other lighting units will be lit from dusk until dawn, in accordance with predetermined lighting levels.
- (ii) Non Residential Areas:- Part-night lighting provided on the classified network, industrial areas, retail and car parks. This means that where the risk assessment has indicated it is appropriate to do so all streetlights will be part night lit, i.e. they will be switched off between 12:00am and 5:00am.
- (iii) Sensitive Areas:- All night lighting i.e. from dusk to dawn will be provided at pedestrian crossings, traffic signals, accident black spots, traffic lights, town centres and areas with identified safety issues. The following locations have been classified as town centres: Porth, Tonypany, Treorchy, Treherbet, Aberdare, Mountain Ash, Pontypridd and Talbot Green.

Currently, RCTCBC have 29,735 streetlights in operation. Of these, 13,691 are part-night and 16,044 are dusk-dawn. It is estimated that the authority is saving £200,000 per annum since the introduction of the part-night policy. In addition, in the longer term, the policy of part night lighting also contributes to the reduction in the carbon footprint of the council.

4.16 Research was carried out in 2015 on the effect of reduced street lighting on road casualties and crime in England and Wales. <https://jech.bmj.com/content/69/11/1118>



The research quantified the effect of different lighting strategies on casualties and crime based on the analysis of police data on road traffic collisions and crime in 62 local authorities. The study found little evidence of harmful effects of either switching off, part-night lighting, dimming or changes to LED (white lights) on road collisions or crime. Below is a link from the BBC of the same report.

[Less lighting has no impact on crime or collisions, says report - BBC News](#)

- 4.17 While no evaluation of impact on RCT has been conducted to date, a study by Leicestershire County Council was to undertaken after the above research was published to assess whether the change in crime levels in areas where the part-night lighting scheme has been introduced were significantly different to the change in crime levels in areas where street lights remained on. Four years worth of crime data was used to assess the impact of the implementation of the part-night lighting scheme; two years prior to implementation and two years after. The findings of this study have been found to be similar to those in the research report referred to in paragraph 4.16. In most cases, results showed that there was either no impact, or a positive or very positive impact, on crime levels in areas that were part-lit. The only exception was in areas categorised as 'Constrained City Dwellers'. In these areas, overall, there was a greater reduction in crime where lights remained on, than in areas where they were part-lit.

### **HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**

- 4.18 We have a Comprehensive Strategy in place for RCT to tackle violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. The Strategy has four specific aims but underpinning the approach is the need to raise awareness of sexual violence. Over 6000 staff of RCT and Merthyr Councils have completed the National VAWDASV Training framework and extensive training across public and community sectors has already been delivered to further raise awareness of sexual violence, domestic abuse, modern day slavery and exploitation.
- 4.19 It is recognised how important it is to break cycles of behaviours and cultures in families and we have adopted a whole education approach in our schools to promote healthy relationships, with over 2000 young people reached to date. Within the majority of our schools, the healthy relationship sessions are delivered by the Hafan Cymru Spectrum Project. The project is fully funded by Welsh Government to deliver sessions on Healthy Relationships and VAWDASV topics in all primary and secondary schools in Wales. In RCT the main year groups that utilise the Spectrum Project are years 2, 5, 6 and all statutory secondary year groups. Other sessions delivered within schools include bespoke positive relationships programmes designed by Education Psychology, School Beat, School Nurse led sessions and a variety of other third sector involvement.
- 4.20 Healthy relationships are a key element of the issue-based work of YEPS and has been delivered on both a universal and targeted basis. Universal sessions have been offered to secondary schools as part of a wider Positive Wellbeing Days. These were successfully delivered prior to the pandemic but have been suspended over the past 12 months. As school provision resumes, the service will approach secondary schools again to re-establish these days if the schools wish to accommodate them. Targeted

healthy relationship work is undertaken when an issue is identified with a particular individual or cohort of young people.

## **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

- 4.21 The Youth Engagement and Participation Service (YEPS) has undertaken numerous activities over the past two years, focusing on understanding the issues affecting young people and how safe they feel within their local communities. The Your Voice Survey was conducted in December 2018, with almost 5000 young people participating from across RCT. The survey included a section on community safety and the results found that 16% felt unsafe or very safe in the community, for reasons that included groups of older young people congregating in certain areas, individuals drinking alcohol and using drugs in public areas and lack of street lighting. Subsequently, the respondents were asked what could be done to help them feel safer with almost 40% requesting CCTV and 30% suggesting more street lighting and greater Police presence.
- 4.22 Over the past nine months, YEPS has focused part of the youth forum agendas towards community safety. There have been detailed and lengthy discussion in the fora about females not feeling safe in their localities. Similarly to the Your Voice Survey findings, young people have identified feeling intimidated by other young people and adults drinking alcohol, taking illicit substances and being loud and raucous, to the point where they actively choose not to walk through their communities during the evenings. They have highlighted that the lack of street lighting has also heightened these fears during the darker months of the year.
- 4.23 Safer Wales have been leading a project with a YEPS youth forum sub-group of twelve young people, with the aiming of empowering women. The Champions of Wales project's syllabus concentrates in part on community safety, investigating what young women feel about their local community and their feelings of safety. The project is still underway and will result in recommendations for YEPS and wider Council to consider and implement.
- 4.24 Street-based youth work teams started being deployed across RCT from October 2020 in response to the needs of young people whilst usual delivery had been suspended due to lockdown restrictions. These have been very successful in certain areas across the county borough, offering young people the opportunity to engage with a trusted adult whilst schools, training providers and other opportunities were not available. Between October 2020 and March 2021, the service engaged with 2785 young people. The success of this intervention has led to it being included in the legacy plan for the service post-Covid. Developments will be required as easements continue, including multi-agency planning with the Police and Youth Offending Service, to reduce duplication of work in particular areas and using the collective capacity to cover all key areas of the County Borough.
- 4.25 In April 2020, the service received additional investment from the Council's Cabinet to grow and the develop the community element of the service to deliver youth work 5 evenings a week and at weekends, in multiple locations. This initiated the development

of the RCT 'Safe Space' initiative to support the creation of community based young people friendly locations, supported by local businesses and organisations where young people could get information, advice and assistance safely. Whilst put on hold during the pandemic, the development of the Safe Space initiative will continue to be implemented as restrictions ease. Each Safe Space will be different depending on the community it is based in, the building it is housed in, the needs of the young people within that area and the people running it. A Safe Space may be a youth club, community centre, park, sports club, or business like a café or activity centre. The hours the Safe Space operates will differ across locations but each one will have regular days and opening hours to ensure that young people are aware of when they can access the Safe Space. This consistency will help to build relationships and trust between those running the space and the young people that use it. As Safe Spaces are established across Rhondda Cynon Taf, a Safe Spaces Network will be developed by the YEPS service. This Network will provide support to individual organisations by offering advice, guidance and training opportunities to provide an inclusive and space location that young people can benefit from. The YEP Service will provide their own Safe Spaces and support partner coordinated by wider local authority service areas, third sector organisations and private businesses.

- 4.26 Utilising core budget and external capital grants, the YEP service has commissioned two vehicles to act as mobile youth clubs. The vehicles will provide the opportunity for a hub in a locality where access to a suitable permanent venue is not available. They can be used as mobile youth clubs, as the base for community activities like fun days and street-based youth work, as well as a hub for use at times when an immediate response is required within a community. The vehicles will be in use by the service and its partners from the end of April 2021 onwards.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The report highlights the extensive work that is carried out in Rhondda Cynon Taf to ensure women and girls and other vulnerable people are safe when going about their everyday lives in public places. South Wales Police remain committed to ensuring local, neighbourhood policing services to ensure people in our communities feel safe. A number of established initiatives in RCT support the wider objectives of the Community Safety Partnership and RCTCBC Corporate Priorities These initiatives work together to promote community safety with each specific intervention adopting an evidence based approach to implementation and evaluation. Some new initiatives have been identified during the review work to date and Officers will work in partnership to develop these in order to further enhance the arrangements in place.

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix (i) PRESENTATION BY SOUTH WALES POLICE “KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE IN RCT”**

**Appendix (ii) RCTCBC PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER 2017**



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CRIME AND DISORDER**

**17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Keeping women and girls safe in RCT- an overview of current arrangements for public spaces**

**Officer to contact: Louise Davies, Director Public Health, Protection and Community Services [Louise.M.Davies@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Louise.M.Davies@rctcbc.gov.uk)**

**Appendix (i)**

**“KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE IN RCT”**



# Keeping People Safe in RCT

C and D Scrutiny Panel Presentation

Speakers- Insp Mike Rudall Insp Ben Rowe



Tudalen 15



@swpolice

# HMI Matt Par - Headline Findings – Covid

- Existing problems in the criminal justice system, such as court delays and backlogs, were exacerbated. Policing, other criminal justice bodies and governments all need to work together to ensure the system can recover from the extreme pressures caused by the pandemic.
- “The police are expected to carry on as normal, when everything is not normal.”
- (Police officer, interviewed as part of this inspection.)
- Between March and November 2020, the police carried on protecting vulnerable people, answering requests for service, investigating crime, keeping people in custody and enforcing the law. They also stepped into the gaps left when some statutory agencies withdrew or reduced their frontline services. We are grateful to the police service for the swift and effective action taken to deal with the threats that the pandemic presented.





# South Wales Police

Horrifying death of Sarah Everard brings into sharp focus the abuse faced by women – and the public are rightly asking police about what we do to protect them

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# Concern at the Heart of Government

- Recently the names of 118 women and girls who have been killed in the UK in the last year – where a man has been charged or convicted as the perpetrator – were read out in Parliament. While stranger attacks are thankfully rare, it is also true that violence against women by men who they know occurs far too frequently.
- In addition to serious violence, we know women face other kinds of abuse and harassment, whether it be on the street, on public transport or simply going about their daily lives.



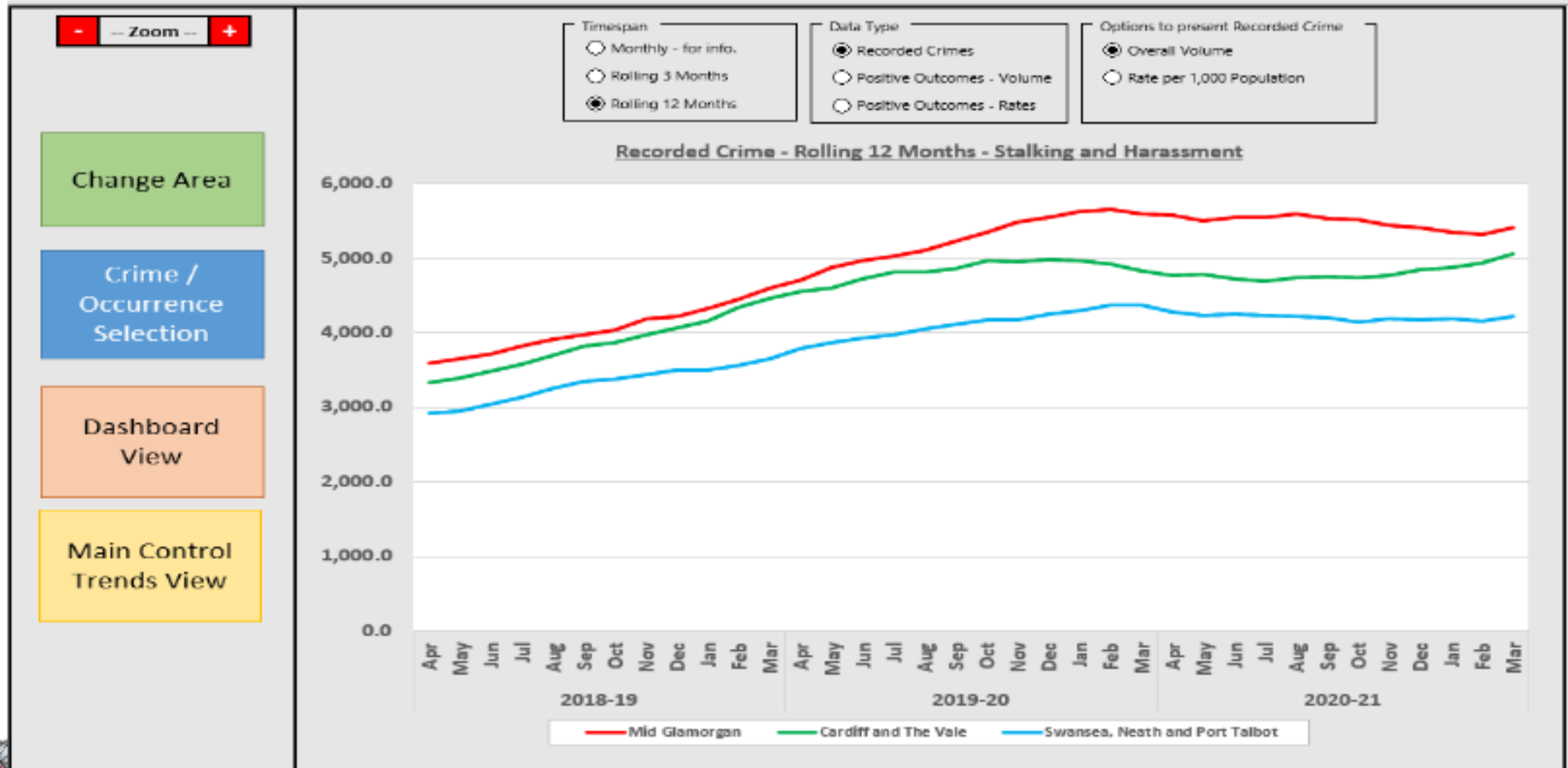
# Stalking – what is it?

- No strict legal definition
- The effect of such behaviour is to curtail a victim's freedom, leaving them feeling that they constantly have to be careful. In many cases, the conduct might appear innocent ( if it were to be taken in isolation), but when carried out repeatedly so as to amount to a course of conduct, it may then cause significant alarm, harassment or distress to the victim.
- can include a range of offences such as those under: the Protection from Harassment Act 1997; the Offences Against the Person Act 1861; the Sexual Offences Act 2003; and the Malicious Communications Act 1988.



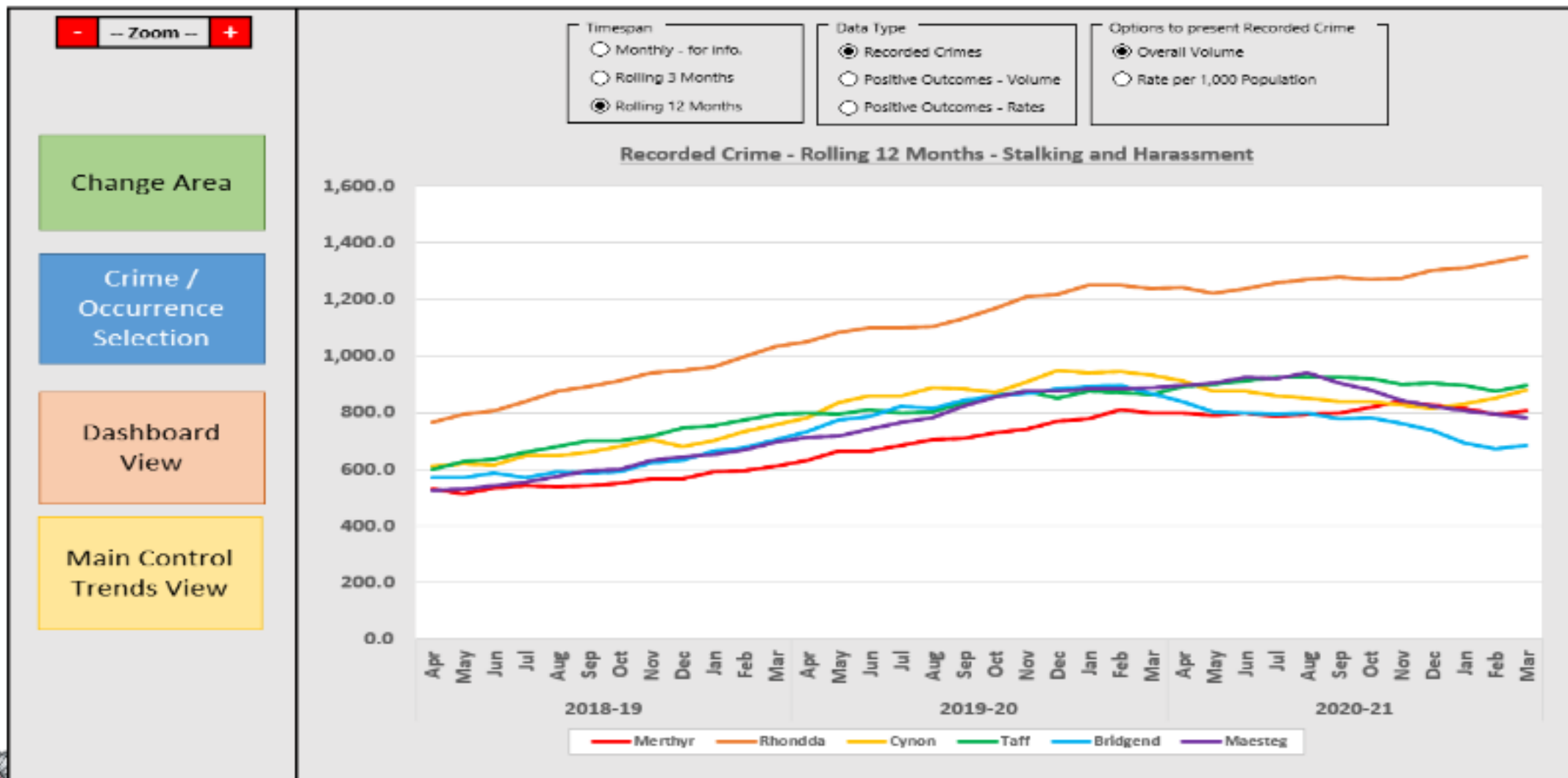
# Stalking / Harassment – Force

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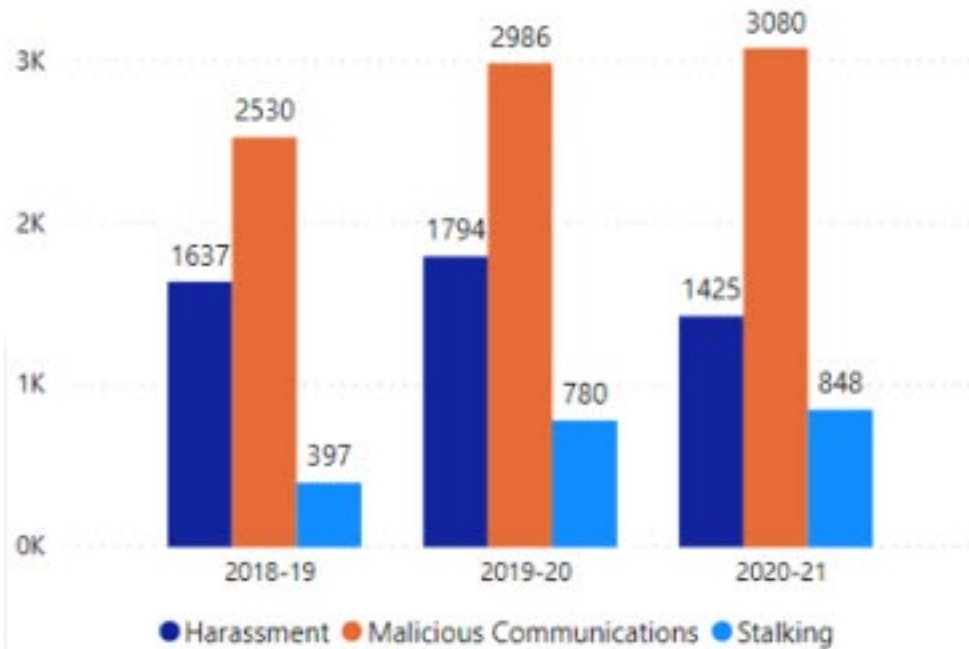
# Stalking / Harassment – Sectors

Tudalen 21

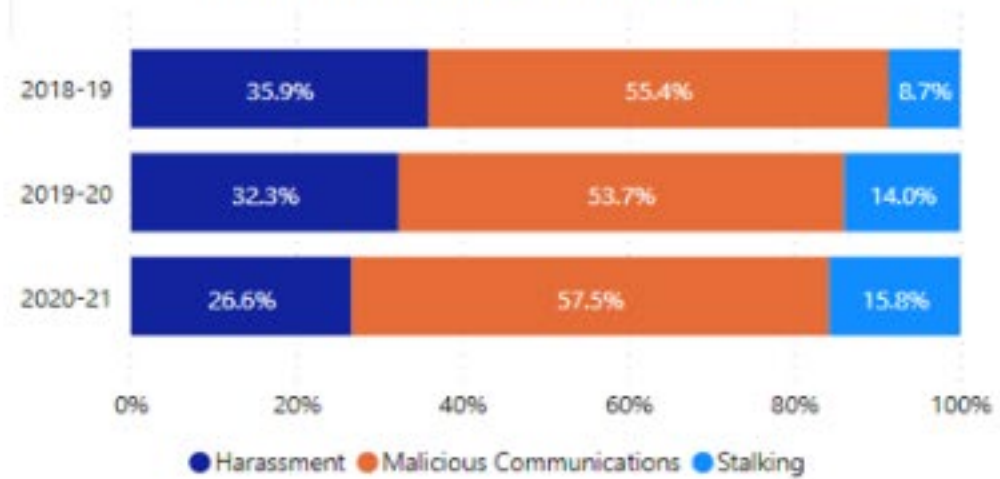


# Stalking and Harassment offences, Strand Breakdown - Mid Glamorgan

Crimes by Strand and Financial Year



Crimes by Strand and Financial Year



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# National Trends – Stalking and Harassment

Table 8: Victim-offender relationship for stalking experienced since the age of 16, among adults aged 16 to 74, by sex of victim, year ending March 2018 to year ending March 2020 CSEW<sup>1,2,3</sup>

England and Wales	Adults aged 16 to 74 <sup>3</sup>	
	Men	Women
	Percentage	
Partner/ex-partner	29	42
Family member	12	14
Unweighted base - number of adults	2,308	6,041

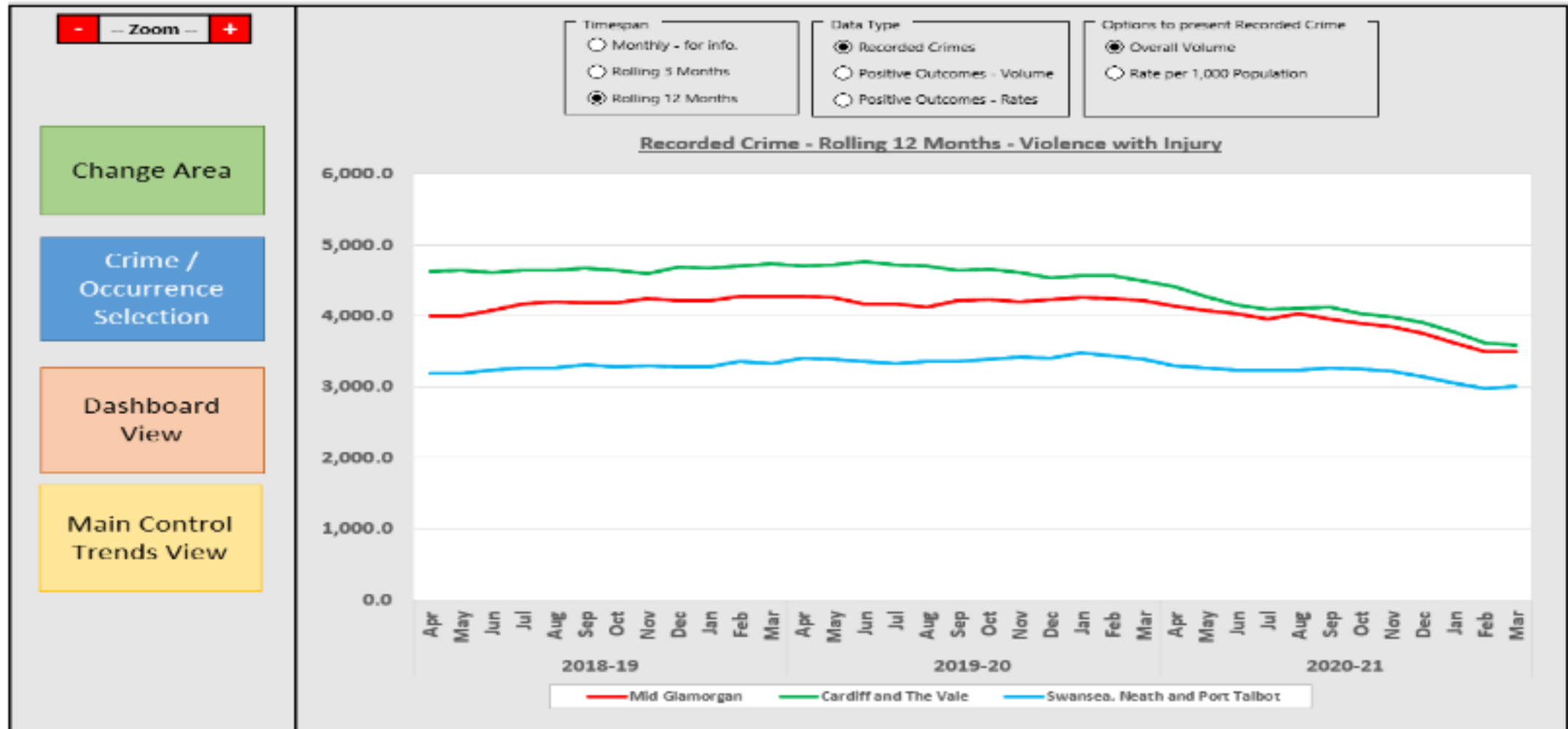
Source: Office for National Statistics - Crime Survey for England and Wales

1. These data are based on combined data from year ending March 2018 to year ending March 2020.
2. These data are based on the survey module on domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking which asks whether respondents have experienced sexual assault by a partner/ex-partner or a family member. While it is possible to tell if a respondent has experienced stalking from a partner/ex-partner and a family member from these questions, it is not possible to tell whether or not they have also experienced stalking by another offender, such as a stranger.
3. From April 2017, the upper age limit for the self-completion module was increased to ask all respondents aged 16 to 74.



# Violence with Injury – Force

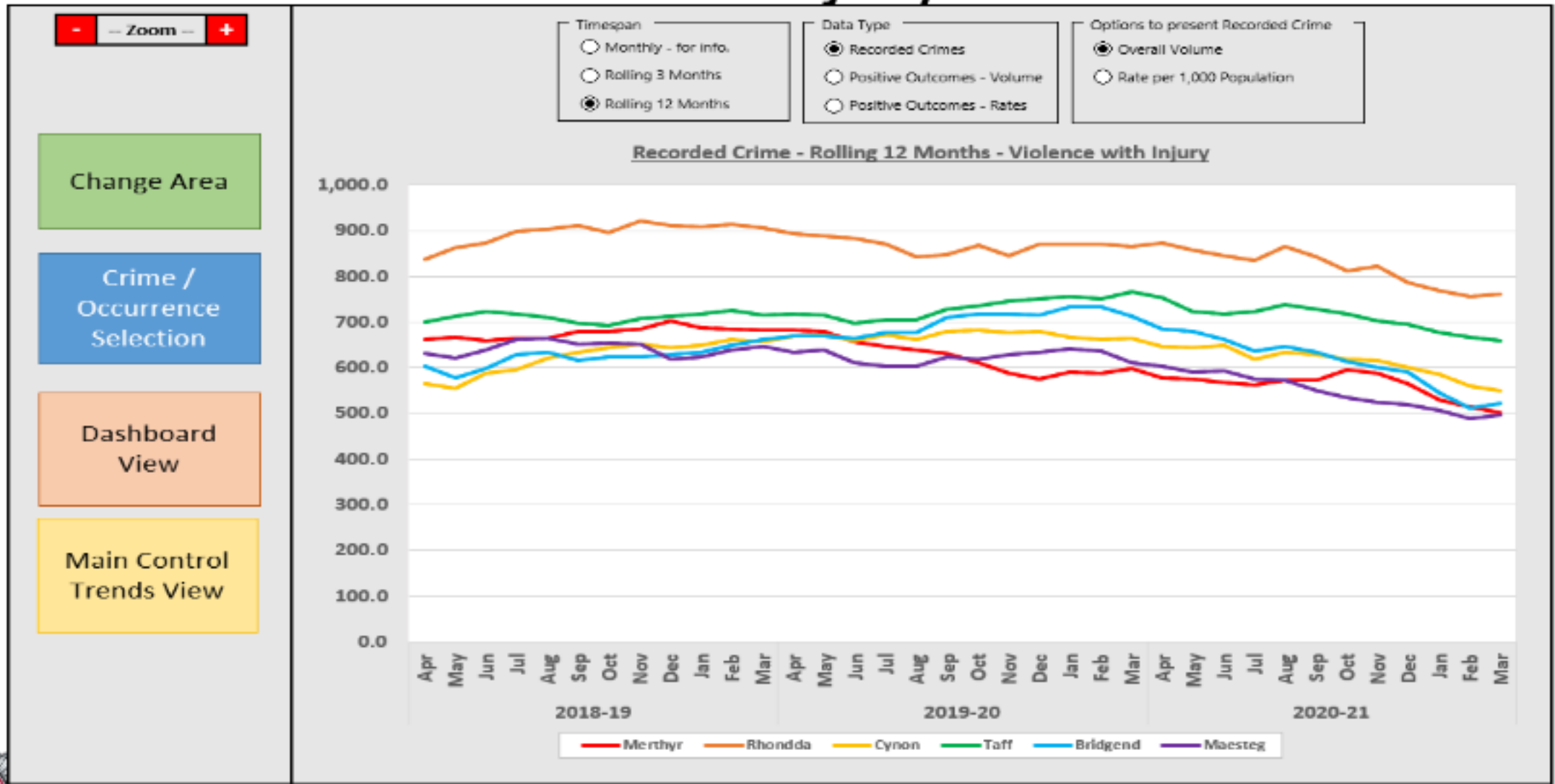
Tudalen 24





# Violence with Injury – Sectors

Tudalen 25



# Establishment - RCT

<b>Rhondda - 114</b> 1 x LPI 1 x Deputy LPI 12 x Sgts 61 x Response PCs 10 x NPT PCs 28 x PCSOs 1 x Staff	<b>Cynon - 73</b> 1 Insp 1 Deputy LPI 7 Sgts 40 Response PCs 6 NPT PCs 17 PCSOs 1 Staff	<b>Taff – 89</b> 1 x LPI 1 x Deputy LPI 8 x Sgts 49 x Response PCs 8 x NPT PCs 21 x PCSOs 1 x Staff
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# Crime Recording Vs Evidential Test

The Full Code Test has two stages:

- **The evidential stage** - Crown Prosecutors must be satisfied that there is enough evidence to provide a "realistic prospect of conviction" against each defendant on each charge.... If the case does not pass the evidential stage, it must not go ahead, no matter how important or serious it may be.
- **The public interest stage** - If the case does pass the evidential stage, Crown Prosecutors must then decide whether a prosecution is needed in the public interest.



# CPS Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

- framework for crimes that have been identified as primarily, although not exclusively, committed by men against women, within a context of power and control.



# What's Next – more broadly

26 Mar 21 – Rt Hon Priti Patel MP requested Sir Tom Winsor HMCIoC

- to conduct an additional overarching and holistic review to understand how well forces in England and Wales are engaging with women across the spectrum of policing activity/police handling of female victims of crime
- Findings will support the ongoing development of governments VAWG strategy



# Initiatives

- Youth Outreach Service – Friday Night Project
- SLOs delivering lessons on sexual / violent offences
- Vulnerability trg to our PCSOs
- PALADIN ‘Stalking Awareness’ SPOCs and Champions
- Improved Victim and witness strategy
- Vulnerability victims being prioritised through the courts
- Vulnerability trg package for the NTE – Pubwatch/Business Crime Partnerships
- Joint Enforcement Teams



# Initiatives

- Officers trained to 'spot' vulnerability and prevent abuse before it happens
- Body Worn Cameras – routinely worn when attending calls of abuse
- Sexual offence Liaison officers
- Digital Footprint of offenders /victims examined – Investigative Hubs
- Violence and Sexual offence – on-line crime prevention advice
- Sexual Assault Referral Centres



# Initiatives

- Officers using more bail conditions as a % of arrests to protect the vulnerable
- DMM focus – Repeat Victim Escalation Tool – ‘predictive’ intervention





# Summary

Policing cannot solve these issues alone and many of the experiences that have been shared by women speak to a need for better education of boys, and wider societal change to address misogyny.

We must all work together.

If this is combined with our efforts, and those across the criminal justice system, we can protect women today.





**Appendix (ii)**

**RCTCBC PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER 2017**



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PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER  
**INTOXICATING SUBSTANCES**  
INCLUDING ALCOHOL

**Background to the current RCTCBC  
Intoxicating Substances (Including Alcohol) PSPO**

**What are the current PSPO restrictions in Rhondda Cynon Taf?**

The existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) designates the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf as a Controlled Drinking Zone. This does not ban or make it illegal to carry alcohol or to drink alcohol in a public place as long as drinking is done responsibly.

The current PSPO also denotes 'Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones' in Pontypridd Town Centre and Aberdare Town Centre (defined areas of Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centre - refer to the enclosed Maps). The Order prohibits persons in these areas from ingesting, inhaling, injecting, smoking or otherwise using intoxicating substances in public places.

The consumption of alcohol in the exclusion zones is only allowed where the activity is undertaken at a premises or within the boundaries of the premises which is authorised for the supply of alcohol.

A fixed fine of £100 has been set for breaches of the order (the maximum allowed).

**What are Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)?**

Public spaces protection orders are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The order could also be used to deal with likely future problems. The Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 allows councils to introduce these orders, after consultation with communities and other interested parties. The orders must be reviewed every three years to ensure they are still necessary.

**What does the Borough wide PSPO mean?**

The aim of the PSPO is to provide Local Authorities with the necessary powers to introduce restrictions upon activity and behaviours deemed to be anti-social and occurring in "public spaces". A PSPO is designed to restrict and prohibit certain behaviours. In Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough, the consumption of alcohol in public spaces is currently restricted with a condition that enables a police officer or

other enforcement officer to request that a person who is causing anti-social behaviour whilst in possession of alcohol, to stop drinking alcohol. It also gives the police/enforcement officer the right to seize the alcohol. If someone refuses to comply with the request of the police/enforcement officer to stop drinking and to hand over any containers believed to contain alcohol he/she commits a criminal offence. The PSPO can be enforced by both the local authority (authorised personnel) and the police and any breach of the order is a criminal offence which can be discharged via fixed penalty notice (£100) or up to £1000 fine upon prosecution.

### **Is the borough wide PSPO a ban on drinking alcohol?**

No. A drinker's behaviour is the consideration in any action taken by those who enforce the order. It is not intended that those who are sensibly drinking will be subjected to these order's requirements. Home Office guidance reinforces this.

However, the drinking of alcohol in the Exclusion Zones will be prohibited, other than in relation to an activity, premises or curtilage authorised to be used for the supply of alcohol by licence or club premises certificate or permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980.

### **What is meant by Intoxicating Substances?**

Intoxicating Substances will be defined as substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system. (this includes alcohol and what are commonly referred to as "legal highs"): Exemptions shall apply where the substances are used for a valid and demonstrable medical use, given to an animal as a medicinal remedy, are cigarettes (tobacco) or vaporisers or are food stuffs regulated by Food, Safety or Health legislation.

### **What are the benefits of this PSPO?**

The main benefits are to reduce street drinking that is having a negative impact on communities and the environment, whilst reducing harmful consumption of alcohol and protecting vulnerable people.

### **Where are the Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones?**

The Intoxicating Substance Exclusion Zones are in Pontypridd Town Centre and Aberdare Town Centre. See maps below. The existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covers the whole County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf being a Controlled Drinking Zone.

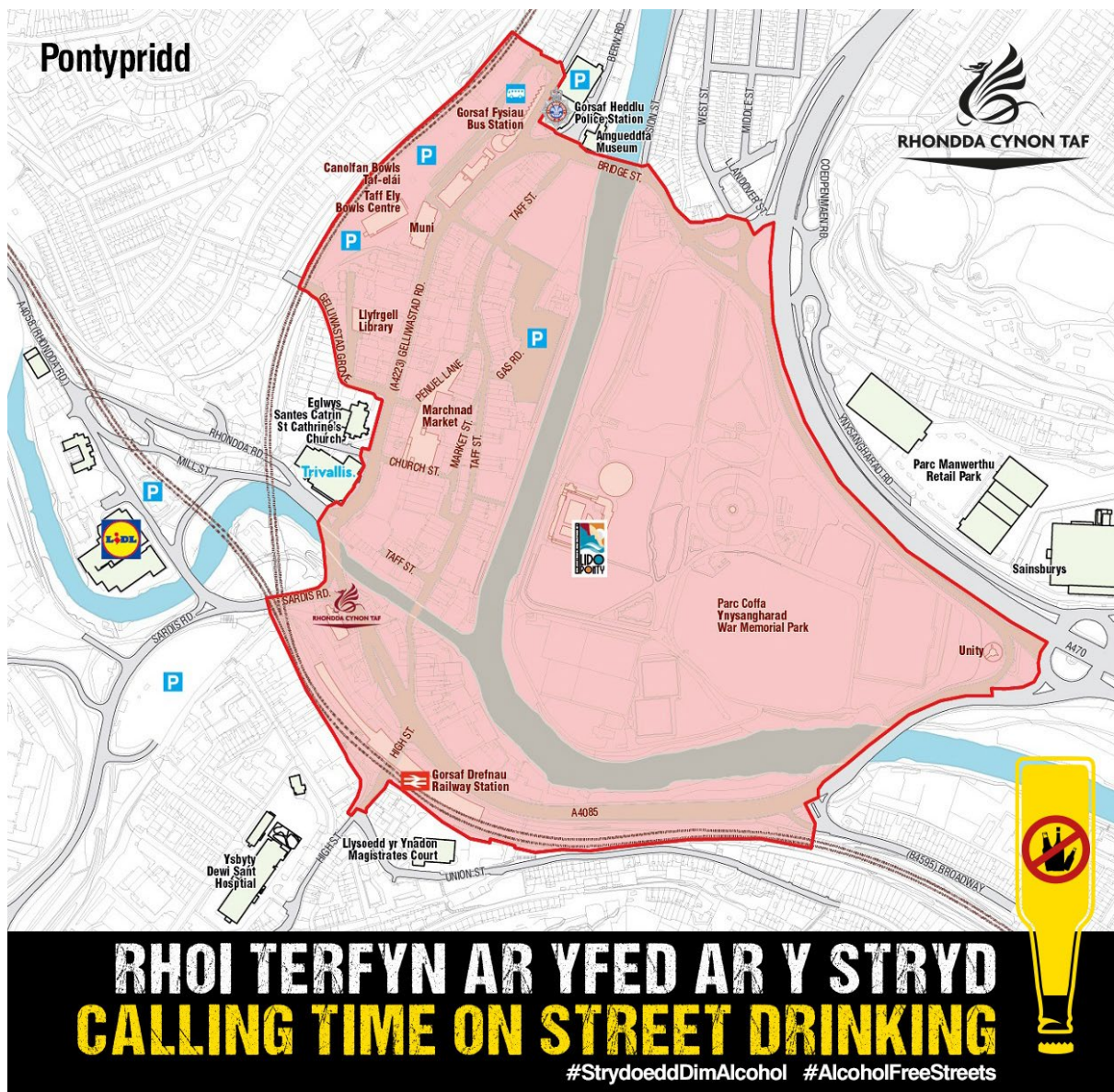
# Aberdare Exclusion Zone for Intoxicating Substances

Figure 1



# Pontypridd Exclusion Zone for Intoxicating Substances

Figure 2



**RHOI TERFYN AR YFED AR Y STRYD**  
**CALLING TIME ON STREET DRINKING**

#StrydoeddDimAlcohol #AlcoholFreeStreets