



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE SUMMONS

C.Hanagan
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
2 Llys Cadwyn
Taff Street
Pontypridd
CF37 4TH

Meeting Contact: Jess Daniel - Democratic and Services Officer (07385401877)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a virtual meeting of **COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CRIME AND DISORDER)** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 2024 at 5.00 PM.**

Non Committee Members and Members of the public may request the facility to address the Committee at their meetings on the business listed although facilitation of this request is at the discretion of the Chair. It is kindly asked that such notification is made to Democratic Services by Monday, 26 February 2024 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

AGENDA

**Page
No's**

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest: and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. MINUTES 24.04.23

To approve as an accurate record the minutes of the virtual meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee (Crime and Disorder) held on the 24th April 2023.

3 - 6

3. RCT COMMUNITY WARDENS AND RCT FUNDED PCSO'S

To update Elected Members on the performance of the RCT Community Wardens and RCT funded PCSO's.

7 - 18

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

To receive an update in respect of the Community Safety Partnership Review.

19 - 28

5. CHAIR'S REVIEW AND CLOSE

To reflect on the meeting and actions to be taken forward.

6. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items, which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Circulation:-

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee (Crime and Disorder)
(County Borough Councillor J Bonetto and County Borough Councillor R Davis respectively)

County Borough Councillors:

Councillor S Bradwick, Councillor A J Ellis, Councillor D Evans, Councillor A Fox, Councillor H Gronow, Councillor G Jones, Councillor N H Morgan, Councillor D Owen-Jones, Councillor D Parkin, Councillor A Roberts, Councillor G Stacey and Councillor T Williams



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (CRIME AND DISORDER)

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee (Crime and Disorder) held on Monday, 24 April 2023 at 5.00 pm.

This meeting was recorded, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

County Borough Councillors – The following Community Services Scrutiny Committee (Crime and Disorder) Councillors were present:-

Councillor J Bonetto (Chair)

Councillor G E Williams	Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor R Davis	Councillor A J Ellis
Councillor D Evans	Councillor A Fox
Councillor H Gronow	Councillor N H Morgan
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor D Parkin
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor T Williams

Officers in attendance:-

Ms L Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Mr G Black, Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Manager
C Emery, Interim Head Of Community Safety and Community Housing
Ms C Miles, Childcare Solicitor
Mr P Nicholls, Service Director, Legal Services
Ms J Nicholls, Principal Scrutiny Officer
Ms J Daniel, Democratic Services and Engagement Officer

Apologies for absence

Councillor G Stacey

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillor G Stacey.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declaration was made pertaining to the agenda:

Item 4 – Community Safety Partnership Review

County Borough Councillor S Bradwick – “I am Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority referenced in the report.”

3 CONSULTATION LINKS

Members acknowledged the information provided through the consultation links in respect of open consultations, Welsh Government consultations and those matters being consulted upon by the local authority.

4 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

The Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services took Members through a power point presentation updating Members on the findings of the review of Community Safety Partnership (CSP) arrangements in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region, and their implications for RCT.

Members were reminded of the statutory requirements for the Local Authority to have effective arrangements for CSP and provided with the details of the current set up. The Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services outlined to Members the process that led to a review of the CSP arrangements for Cwm Taf Morgannwg and continued the presentation taking Members through the detail of the process and outcomes of the review.

One Member felt it was disappointing that the inclusion of South Wales Fire & Rescue was not highlighted in the report as being involved with the review process. The Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services confirmed that South Wales Fire & Rescue are recognised as a member of the Community Safety Partnership for Cwm Taf Morgannwg and they were invited to contribute as a key stakeholder to the review and informed Members they regularly attend sub group meetings of the Cwm Taf CSP.

One Member discussed the recent government emergency alert and how it relates to residents on a local level. The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services acknowledged the signal was a Government scheme and whilst it can create alerts on a local level in relation to Counter Terrorism Members were informed it is a much broader initiative for Government.

Another Member felt a single CSP was a good way of organising resources but questioned how the partnership would ensure that the strategic working filters down to results and changes within the community. The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services highlighted to Members the recommendation set out in the report to establish a voice for citizens into the CSP on both a strategic level and community arrangements acknowledging this as one of the key recommendations resulting from the review. Discussion was held around the use of PACT meetings and how these can be utilised in the future.

A Member questioned how the CSP would plan to achieve the recommendation surrounding establishing a voice for citizens. The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services informed Members that the review has identified the issues and recommendations produced but no detailed plans are in place for these currently. Providing the Local Authority accept the reviews recommendations plans will move to the next phase for further detail. The Director acknowledged the element of a citizen's voice will be key and will enable with not just providing information on issues but also being active in finding solutions.

A Member questioned whether the recommendations set out in the report would

provide an effective solution. The Director shared with Members that there is currently a lot of regional working already happening. The Cwm Taf partnership has worked effectively for a number of years, but Members were informed of some governance challenges face by not having all of the Local Authorities referenced in the report working collaboratively. Members were also provided with some of the challenges faced by the recommendations and the requirement for further detail and work on each.

A Member referenced the scale of the three authorities referenced in the report and commented on the nature of crime not fitting within a set boundary and questioned whether the CSP recommendations went far enough in terms of geographical size. The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services informed Members the challenge is finding the right balance between using Intelligence to inform regional and local priorities and actions and when it needs to be wider. Members were informed that the single CSP would provide a bigger pool of resource to look at intelligence to direct where to target intervention.

A Member asked whether there had been any opposition from any stakeholders involved in the review process. The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services informed Members that there had currently not been any dissent but that the neighbouring Local Authorities were undergoing the same process as this Committee to determine their approval.

A Member questioned how the success of a single CSP would be measured and real results were measured. The Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services were reminded that further work is still required pending approval and that further engagement would be required to detail this. Members were informed that any future detail would be able to be shared with Members and the role of scrutiny would be key going forward.

Following scrutinization of the findings of the review of Community Safety Partnership arrangements in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region, and their implications for RCT it was **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report and the recommendations outlined and request further involvement in scrutinising detailed plans once available.

5 COUNTERTERRORISM & COUNCIL PREPAREDNESS

The Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Manager provided Members with an update on the Council's implementation of Counter Terrorism duties, and the Council's preparedness in the context of new duties.

Members were taken through the detail in the report and appendices.

A Member questioned the inclusion of Secondary Schools having statutory duty as part of the Prevent Duty. The Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Manager clarified for Members that Primary and Secondary Schools would have statutory duty under Prevent but when considering Martyn's Law some schools will have a capacity of over 800 but all education establishments for pupils aged 16 and below would fall under the standard tier due to the security mechanisms already in place in schools.

Further discussion was held around the emphasis on 21st Century Schools to link in with the Prevent Duty and the difference between other schools in the

Authority. The Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Manager acknowledged the challenge in implementing lockdowns in schools which are in older buildings. When training is provided, these areas are highlighted to Counter Terrorism policing, and funding can be applied for to close any gaps.

One Member asked what checks and balances are in place to ensure actions are proportionate and democratic. The Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Manager informed Members it is key to get the communities confidence in Prevent and that the communication has not previously been as inclusive as it could be. Members were reminded of their role in the process as members of the community in ensuring a fair voice is heard.

A Member also asked a question regarding the business premises that fall under the standard tier and what support will be given to them to ensure they comply with the duties. The Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Manager confirmed there will be engagement with businesses within the local authority and utilisation of the business improvement districts but acknowledged the need to ensure small businesses are included. The Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Manager informed Members of the need to look at it as the borough as a whole community and how everyone can assist to ensure compliance overall.

Following consideration by the Committee it was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the information contained within the report and the Prevent Duty action plan.

6 CHAIR'S REVIEW AND CLOSE

The Chair thanked Members for their contributions to lengthy discussions and welcomed further opportunities to engage with the Superintendent. The Chair also thanked Officers for their in-depth reports and insightful presentations.

7 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

This meeting closed at 6.35 pm

**Councillor J Bonetto
Chair.**

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

**COMMUNITY SERVICES - CRIME &
DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

28th February 2024

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

Agenda Item No.

RCT Community Wardens and RCT
funded PCSOs

Author: Gary Black, Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Service Manager

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Elected Members on the performance of the RCT Community Wardens and RCT funded PCSOs.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the content of the report and express their views on the performance of the RCT Community Wardens and the RCT funded PCSOs.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A report was presented to Cabinet on the 22nd June 2022 recommending the approval for the introduction of a new Community Warden service.
- 3.2 The report also recommended that Cabinet agree to provide funding to South Wales Police to employ an additional 10 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), dedicated to RCT, but nevertheless deployed and directed by South Wales Police.
- 3.3 Both of the above recommendations were approved.

4. RCT COMMUNITY WARDENS

- 4.1 The service encompasses fourteen Community Wardens in total, including two Senior Wardens.

- 4.2 The primary role of the Community Wardens is to provide a visible, uniformed presence in our communities, up to 7 days a week, with a focus on town centres and parks, by helping to build partnerships to reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 4.3 The locations of the patrols are primarily evidence and intelligence-led and the tasking is co-ordinated via multi agency tactical groups.
- 4.4 Community Wardens are tasked to uphold the Council's Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) and secure compliance with environmental issues such as the ban on dogs on marked sports pitches and the compliance with the alcohol related PSPOs in Pontypridd and Aberdare Town Centres.
- 4.5 The Community Wardens role heavily involves liaising with external agencies and organisations, including all member organisations of the Community Safety Partnership.

5. RCT FUNDED PCSOs

- 5.1 The RCT funded PCSOs have been in post since the 15th of June 2023 and a very close working relationship has developed between the PCSOs and the RCT Community Wardens.
- 5.2 This innovative approach to partnership working between Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and South Wales Police is the first time a local authority and police force in Wales have worked together to deliver additional, new PSCOs into communities.
- 5.3 Joint patrols are taking place and effective communication processes are in place between the Supervisors of each organisation. Direct feedback to the Community Wardens and PCSOs from members of the community has been positive.

6. JOINT OPERATING FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 A Joint Operating Framework between South Wales Police and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council has been developed to ensure the effective deployment of resources and therefore provide visibility and reassurance in our town centres, parks and communities.
- 6.2 The aims of the Joint Operating Framework are:
 - Have a targeted visible presence in our town centres and across wider communities, with a clear purpose and understanding of local priorities and areas of high demand and risk.
 - Improve the public perception of safety within our town centres, play areas and open spaces.
 - Reduce disorder and anti-social behaviour and protect the most vulnerable within our communities.

- Through our highly visible and locally connected teams we wish to improve the provisions of co-production across Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- Improve trust and confidence in local policing and local authority services through regular formal and informal engagement activities.
- Develop engagement activities which are tailored to local communities to better understand their needs, threats, and risks.
- Local priorities and problem-solving activities informed by local policing and local authority engagement activities.

6.3 The Joint Operating Framework is a “live” document and will be updated to highlight any emerging threats, risks or issues identified. The following points are highlighted within the Framework to illustrate how the partnership arrangement will work:

- Assets (when able) will co-locate for briefing and debriefing purposes – this will improve communication, a shared situational awareness, and develop relationships.
- To maintain visibility, we will provide a uniformed presence in our communities 7 days a week with a focus on town centres, parks, and open spaces. Developing closer working relationships with communities to gather and provide information, support the vulnerable, promote community cohesion and identify and tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour.
- Assets will wherever possible aim to co-locate within the community. Assets will jointly meet within community settings through identified engagement events (for example, Cuppa with Copper, PACT meetings, and surgeries).
- Where possible, the intention is to jointly patrol high demand and priority areas, including areas of threat, risk, and vulnerability using an evidence-based approach. Through joint patrols and targeted operational activity, the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Community Wardens will provide community reassurance, assistance and help to create a safer, more pleasant living environment for all.
- Assets will take a preventative approach by being a visible presence within the community, acting as a point of contact to empower communities and provide early advice, support, and intervention.
- We will make referrals to internal colleagues and other services and seek to enhance intelligence and communication to inform future allocation of resources and promote efficiency.
- We will provide a visible presence at local community events to offer reassurance, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and improve public safety. The aim being that this will improve community confidence and act as a deterrent against those who wish to cause harm within our communities.
- In addition to our proactive work, we recognise our role in providing a reactive response to address issues of public concern or respond to areas that are

experiencing anti-social behaviour. We will provide a visible uniformed presence, patrolling of hotspot areas at key times and locations, reporting incidents and safeguarding concerns to partners as appropriate.

- 6.4 The Joint Operating Framework provides the tactical oversight and escalation process that is required for the partnership to be a success.
- 6.5 Problem Orientated Policing (POP) is a recognised approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. It is assumed the identification and understanding of the root causes of a problem or conditions that allow it to continue, leads to an effective solution. The escalation from the initial 'plan on a page' is the OSARA model (Objective, Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment), by sharing information and having a joint understanding of risk we will be able to target activity to reduce the impact on communities, deal with problems effectively, and direct resources to the correct locations.
- 6.6 To achieve tactical oversight, we will in partnership, continue to support the Sector Problem Solving Groups (PSG). This model will encourage us to review local problems and improve our shared situational awareness, to ask the right questions and generate the right information to support evidence-based decisions while also promoting learning and delivering continuous improvement.
- 6.7 The escalation of issues that cannot be dealt with in the Sector PSGs will be directed towards the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Board meeting.
- 6.8 Neighbourhood Inspectors and deputies for RCT will maintain monthly meetings with the Community Warden Supervisors to discuss issues, identify training needs and continually evolve the provisions of collaborative working.
- 6.9 By monitoring, maintaining, and improving our operating practice we aim to deliver a better service to the communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

7. RCT COMMUNITY WARDENS' PERFORMANCE

7.1 The below table illustrates the Fixed Penalty Notices issued by the Community Wardens in relation to a breach of the PSPO regarding alcohol in the town centres, as well as those for the breach of a Community Protection Notice where a ban on entering a town is in force.

Date	Refusal to surrender alcohol	Continued to drink	Breach of CPN	Issued
Oct 22 - Dec 22	0	4	1	5
Jan 23 - Mar 23	1	0	9	10

Apr 23 - Jun 23	0	7	13	20
Jul 23 - Sep 23	1	11	25	37
Oct 23 - Dec 23	0	4	36	40
Jan 24 - Mar 24	0	1	5	6
Total FPN's issued	2	27	89	118

7.2 Community Wardens also refer members of the public for anti-social behaviour. To date the following number of referrals have been made:

PSPO (Alcohol) referrals – 586

Anti-Social Behaviour referrals – 136

7.3 Community Wardens are constantly assisting the public and also deal with environmental offences such as the PSPO regarding dogs on sports fields, dog fouling and littering offences.

8. RCT FUNDED PCSOs PERFORMANCE

8.1 The performance metrics by which the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are evaluated align with the objectives outlined in the joint operating framework, focusing particularly on three core principles integral to the role of PCSOs: communication with communities, problem-solving, and community empowerment.

8.2 Within the Mid Glamorgan Basic Command Unit (BCU), the performance of PCSOs is diligently monitored through an objective evaluation of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). This scrutiny, outlined in this paper, centres on specific KPI areas:

- South Wales Listens Registrations and Surveys.
- Community Engagements.
- Intelligence Submissions.
- Anti-Social Behaviour Referrals.

8.3 South Wales Listens and Registration Surveys

South Wales Listens (SWL) serves as a platform through which community members express their concerns to local neighbourhood police teams. The registration and survey KPI, within the SWL framework, is vital for understanding community issues, such as fear of crime and vulnerabilities. It facilitates direct communication with PCSOs, fostering a collaborative and empowered community interaction.

For the period between 01/06/2023 – 31/01/2024, the RCT funded PCSOs have completed a total of 120 registrations and 332 surveys have been completed.

8.4 Community Engagements

The PCSOs play a pivotal role in building positive relationships between the police and the community. Community engagements are a cornerstone in establishing trust and confidence, fundamental to effective policing. Through meaningful interactions recorded in a registration portal, PCSOs collaborate with residents, identify community-specific issues and implement problem-solving initiatives to enhance overall quality of life within RCT communities.

For the period between 01/06/2023 – 31/01/2024, the RCT funded PCSO's have recorded a total of 982 engagements on the portal.

8.5 Intelligence Submissions

Intelligence submissions are a valuable resource for PCSOs, contributing to the efficacy of community policing efforts. Leveraging community-based intelligence, PCSOs assess potential risks and vulnerabilities, aiding in the development of comprehensive community safety plans.

For the period between 01/06/2023 – 31/01/2024, the RCT funded PCSOs have submitted a total of 242 intelligence submissions.

8.6 Anti-Social Behaviour Referrals

ASB referrals serve as pivotal indicators related to community safety, well-being, and the success of interventions. The submission rate of ASB referrals is meticulously recorded for the PCSOs and serves as a critical KPI. This metric allows assessment and monitoring of specific incidents or behaviours that impact residents' quality of life, ensuring a responsive and effective approach to community safety.

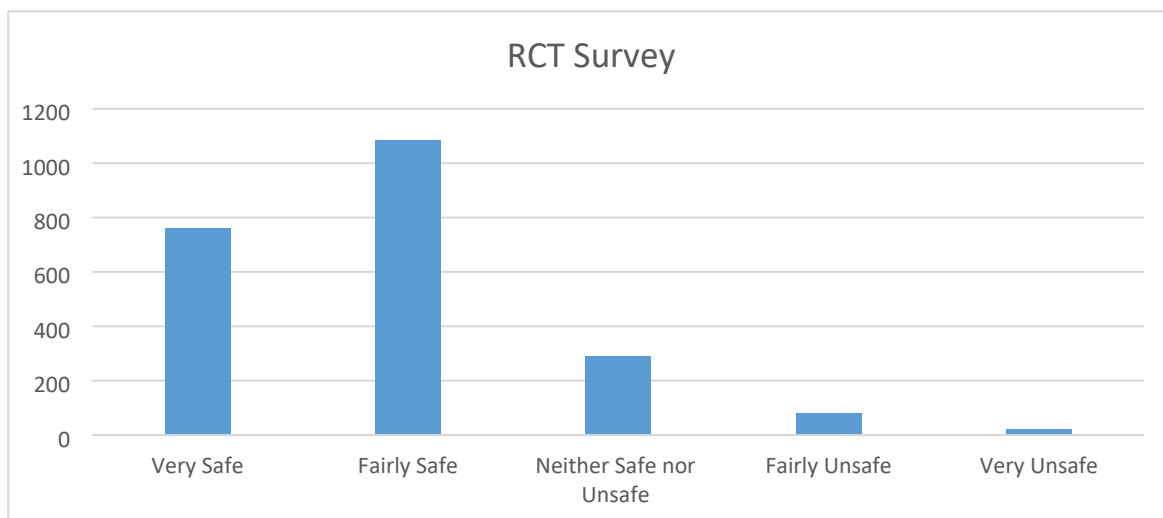
For the period between 01/06/2023 – 31/01/2024, the RCT funded PCSOs have submitted a total of 210 ASB referrals.

8.7 In summary, the comprehensive evaluation of these KPIs provides a nuanced understanding of the effectiveness of PCSO performance within the Mid Glamorgan BCU. It emphasises the principles of community engagement, problem-solving and empowerment, aligning with our commitment to fostering safer and more secure communities.

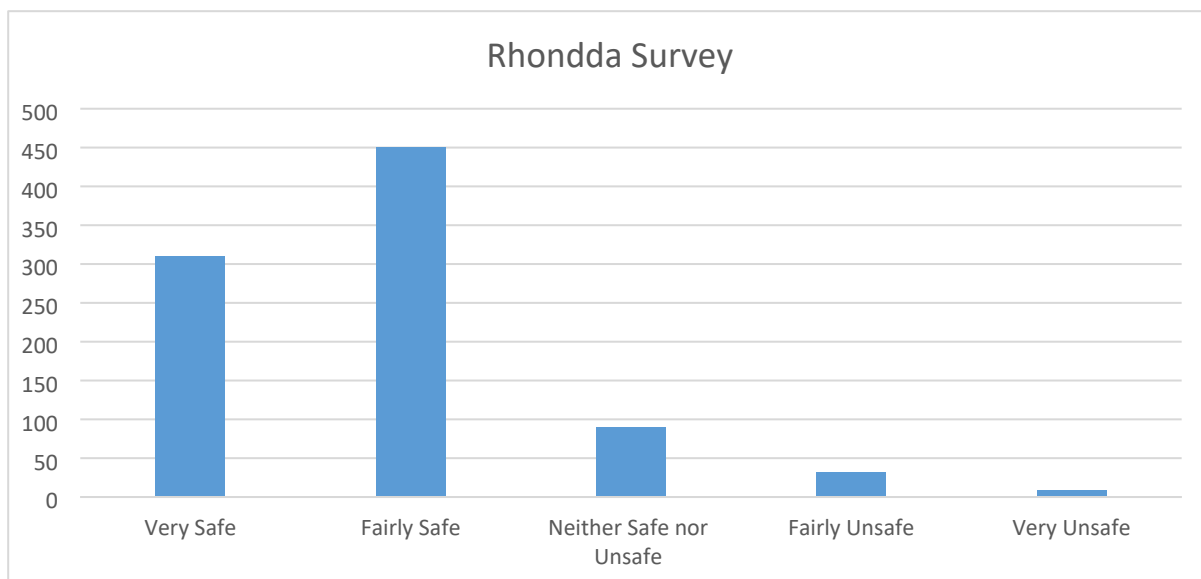
9. PERCEPTION OF SAFETY SURVEYS

9.1 As part of the South Wales Listens Surveys, residents were asked about how safe they feel in their local community.

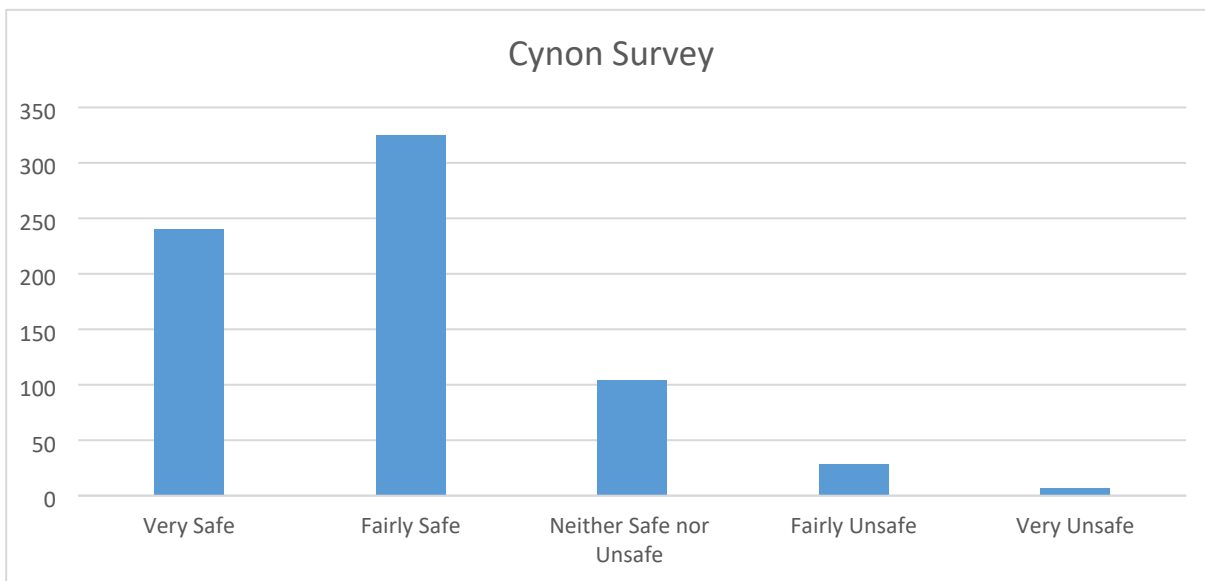
The graphs below outline the results from a whole RCT perspective and also from an individual Rhondda, Cynon and Taff perspective:



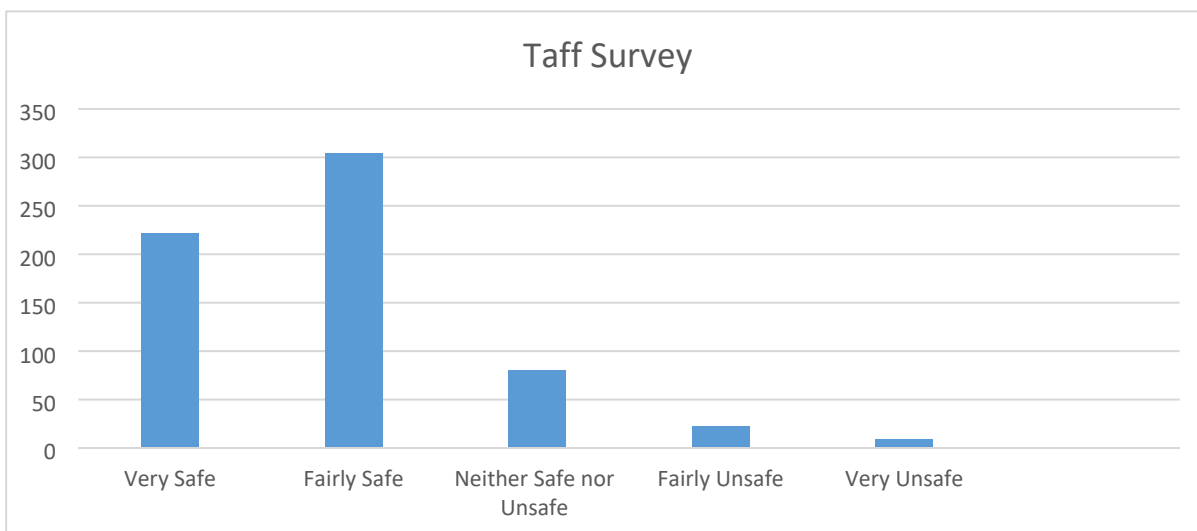
Results - 2231 surveys completed with 1843 (82.6%) of those respondents stating they feel Fairly Safe (48.6% - 1084) and Very Safe (34% - 759) in their local community.



RHONDDA Survey Results - 891 surveys completed with 761 (85.4%) of those respondents stating they feel Fairly Safe (51.1% - 455) and Very Safe (34.3% - 306) in their local community.



CYNON Survey Results - 704 surveys completed with 557 (79.1%) of those respondents stating they feel Fairly Safe (46.1% - 325) and Very Safe (33% - 232) in their local community.



TAFF Survey Results - 636 surveys completed with 525 (82.6%) of those respondents stating they feel Fairly Safe (47.8% - 304) and Very Safe (34.8% - 221) in their local community.

10. ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- 10.1 One notable success is the Community Outreach Team in Pontypridd, a collaborative effort involving Community Wardens and RCT funded PCSOs. This initiative addressed issues of homelessness and drug abuse, which were adversely affecting residents, businesses, and visitors in Pontypridd Town Centre. Complaints, especially on social

media, prompted the formation of the Outreach Team, conducting weekly joint patrols to engage the community, provide support, and address issues. Physical changes, like gating off problematic areas, were implemented, resulting in an 83% reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) calls involving individuals aged 18+. Ongoing outreach patrols continue to contribute to Pontypridd Town's recovery, recognised as a "Wales Champion Town."

- 10.2 At the South Wales Police 2023 Force Awards ceremony, RCT Community Wardens and Taff PCSOs were honoured with the Police and Crime Commissioners Exceptional Problem-Solving Award for their involvement in the multi-agency Outreach project. The partnership plays a crucial role in a broader, multi-agency response, tackling homelessness, drug abuse, mental health and ASB in Pontypridd town centre.
- 10.3 Expanding into Rhondda and Cynon, RCT Community Wardens and RCT funded PCSOs collaborated with partners such as Trivallis and Youth Engagement Participation Service (YEPS) to enhance engagement. Quantitative engagement portal data showcases meaningful interactions with various groups, including young persons, vulnerable individuals and business/education partners. Hidden work, such as supporting colleagues in executing positive drug warrants is challenging to measure but indicative of our PCSOs impact.
- 10.4 Challenges initially included developing a combined briefing/patrol strategy between the Community Wardens and PCSOs. The implemented structure involved a weekly staff rota exchange, joint use of the police station for briefings and information sharing, co-ordination of planned events, and monthly meetings for ongoing collaboration and evaluation. Despite difficulties in quantifying certain collaborative efforts, the dynamic nature of these occurrences reflects the proactive interventions and effectiveness of our joint service.
- 10.5 The collaboration between wardens and PCSOs will also translate into generated demand which is considered pro-active intervention. Examples such as this are difficult to measure but generated as Niche (Record Management System) occurrences. Occurrences are often a good barometer of how active our PCSOs are; they contain detail of calls attended/responded to and generated. This is a dynamic area of performance and has not been included in the quantitative aspect of measurement.
- 10.6 Initial challenges following the adoption of collaborative work between Community Wardens and PCSOs involved the development of a combined briefing/patrol strategy arrangement. The structure adopted was implemented as follows:
 - (i) NPT Sergeant send a weekly staff rota to Community Warden (CW) Supervisors via email, in advance. This includes contact details of the Supervisor on duty and the designated CW PCSO contact[s]. CW Supervisor will send weekly staff rota to NPT Sergeants/Actors and NPT Inspector.

- (ii) Police Station made available to use for joint briefings/sharing of pertinent intel/information regarding hot spots, emerging trends, repeat callers and target offenders.
- (iii) NPT and CW share information regarding planned events/meetings of benefit for joint attendance.
- (iv) NPT and CW to create opportunities for joint engagement, problem solving initiatives and targeted activities.
- (v) CW PCSO to record joint patrols, events, meetings to enable qualitative/quantitative evaluation of collaboration.
- (vi) Monthly meeting scheduled for Neighbourhood Policing Inspector, Sergeant and CW Supervisors scheduled to discuss what works well, what doesn't work well and how to improve service collaboration.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 11.1 An Equality and Impact Assessment is not required as the contents of this report are for information purposes only.

12. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no Welsh Language implications as the contents of this report are for information purposes only.

13. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 13.1 There will be ongoing consultation and involvement with the public, utilising the "South Wales Listens" platform as the main consultation platform.

14. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 14.1 The ongoing financial implications will relate to the resource costs of both the Community Wardens and RCT funded PCSOs.

15. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 15.1 All legal agreements were approved and signed prior to the implementation of the RCT funded PCSO recruitment process.

16. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 16.1 Community safety and the public's positive perception of safety are key in ensuring the Council achieves the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 “Making a Difference”.
- 16.2 The work of both the Community Wardens and PCSOs is directly aligned to the “Places” priority within the Corporate Plan – *ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, where people from all backgrounds get along with each other and feel safe.*
- 16.3 As community safety, and the feeling of safety is such an important element for communities to thrive in many ways, it is felt that the implementation of the Community Wardens and the RCT funded PCSOs contributes to all of the seven elements that the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is aiming to achieve:
1. A prosperous Wales.
 2. A resilient Wales.
 3. A more equal Wales.
 4. A healthier Wales.
 5. A Wales of cohesive communities.
 6. A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language.
 7. A globally responsible Wales.

17. CONCLUSION

- 17.1 The report has provided a clear presentation around the performance of the Community Wardens and the RCT funded PCSOs. The assessment of performance, aligned with the Joint Operating Framework, aims to provide a transparent evaluation of both the Wardens and PCSOs effectiveness in meeting their established goals and expectations.
- 17.2 Despite initial challenges in developing collaborative strategies, the report evidences the success of the implemented briefing and patrol strategy, where there will be ongoing evaluations to enhance collaboration between Wardens and PCSOs.
- 17.3 There is clearly a cohesive arrangement between Community Wardens and PCSOs. With the emphasis on transparency, accountability, and a commitment to continuous improvement, this will undoubtedly contribute to the ongoing efforts to foster safe and secure communities within Rhondda Cynon Taf.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28th February 2024

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

RCT Community Wardens and RCT funded PCSOs

Officer to contact:

Gary Black - Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Service Manager

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

**COMMUNITY SERVICES CRIME &
DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

28th February 2024

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

Agenda Item No. 4

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

Author: Martin Morgans, Head of Partnerships, Bridgend County Borough Council

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Elected Members on the on the findings of the review of Community Safety Partnership (CSP) arrangements in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region and the work done to take these recommendations forward.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the proposals made by the task and finish group in readiness for the merged Community Safety Partnership (CSP).
- 2.2 Make recommendations resulting from their scrutiny to support the creation of the regional Community Safety Partnership based on the review of CSP arrangements.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There are currently two Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) operating across Cwm Taf Morgannwg; the Cwm Taf CSP covers Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil local authority areas whilst Bridgend CSP is for the Bridgend local authority area.
- 3.2 There has been an increased adoption of regional footprints by strategic groups operating within the CSP framework such as the substance misuse Area Planning Board (APB), the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

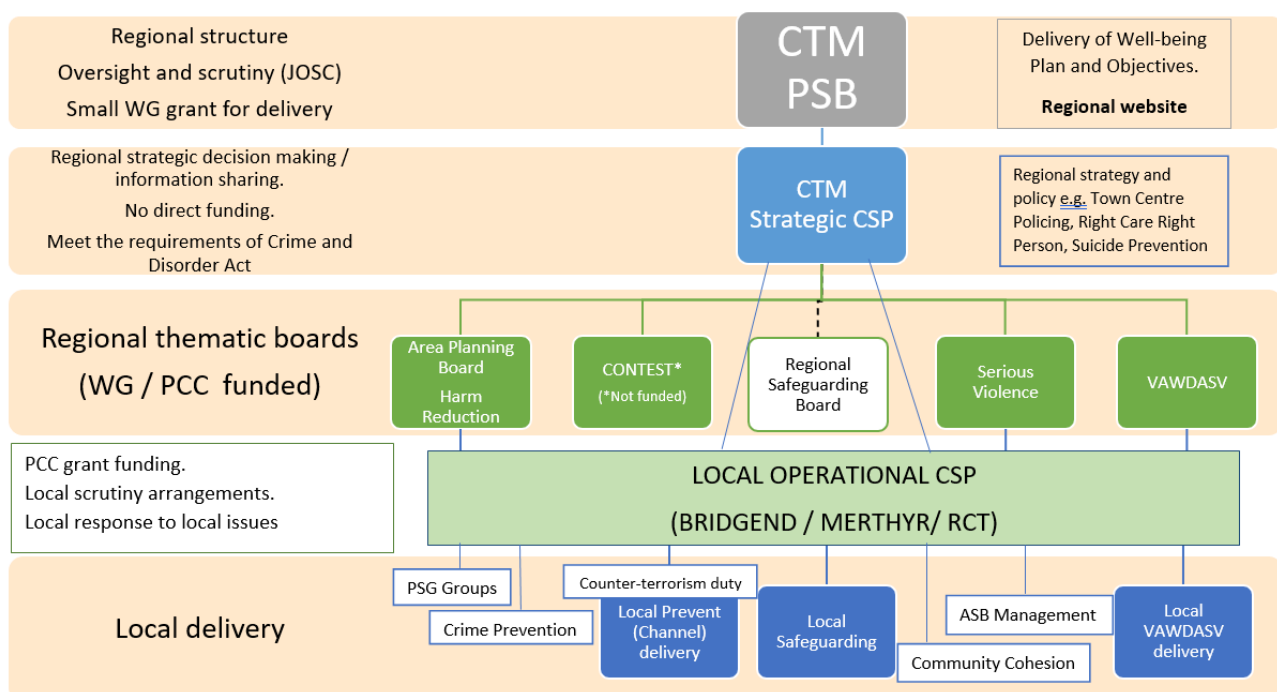
steering group and the Contest Board for counter terrorism. There is also one single Safeguarding Board for the region (CTMSB), one Regional Partnership Board (CTMRPB), and the regional Public Services Board (PSB).

- 3.3 The Chief Executives for Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf local authorities, along with the Chief Superintendent for Mid Glamorgan Basic Command Unit (BCU) of South Wales Police, agreed that a review of community safety partnership arrangements for the region was required with a view of consolidating the aforementioned already amalgamated strategic groups.
- 3.4 The review was commissioned by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council on behalf of its partners, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Bridgend County Borough Council and South Wales Police. The review was undertaken by an independent, external company on behalf of the Region.
- 3.5 The original aim of the review was to consider the establishment of a single CSP for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region, the associated governance requirements and any specific infrastructure and funding needs to ensure the community safety partnership can operate as a strategic and effective partnership for the region.
- 3.7 The Review Report and its recommendations have been considered by the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Board and the Bridgend Community Safety Partnership Board. Each Board has accepted the Report and its recommendations.
- 3.8 During [spring 2023 all three local authorities received reports](#) outlining the recommendations in the Practice Solutions review into community safety partnership arrangements. Each authority approved in principle the merger of Cwm Taf and Bridgend Community Safety Partnerships.

4. CURRENT SITUATION

- 4.1 There appears to be widespread support for integration and alignment with other regional arrangements. It was felt that greater economies of scale and critical mass, using a combined and streamlined approach to funding bids, provides potential for more resources and more value for money.
- 4.2 Following approval of the Report, South Wales Police colleagues began work on a project initiation document which discussed the recommendations of the review and what could be achieved by a task and finish group in readiness for the regional Board becoming operational in April 2024. It also considered what recommendations were more appropriate for the new Board to decide upon.
- 4.3 The project initiation document was discussed at the inception meeting for the Task and Finish group taking the work forward which included representatives from across the Community Safety Partnership. Martin Morgans, Head of Partnerships Bridgend County Borough Council, was appointed Chair of group.

- 4.4 A draft structure has been proposed, considering the statutory requirements in relation to Community Safety Partnerships as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and ensuring financial arrangements, such as grants funding community safety related activities, such as addressing anti-social behaviour, crime prevention and Prevent requirements, are not impacted.
- 4.5 The diagram below sets out the proposed structure for the regional strategic CSP to adopt. This is in keeping with the recommendation that “An agreed rational structure which effectively dovetails with the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board and the Safeguarding Board should be established for the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership Board.”



To note, the structure is not an exhaustive list of all CSP functions.

- 4.6 There had been some concern that regionalisation will dominate and diminish local arrangements, with the potential dominance of some larger partners. This structure demonstrates how the Cwm Taf Morgannwg CSP will take on the role of strategic decision making for the region, whilst local CSP arrangements will ensure hyper-localised strategies tailored to the needs of their communities.
- 4.7 To avoid duplication and ensure best use of resources, it is not intended that the same officer attend each meeting, or that regional Boards attend local arrangements, unless there is something specifically relating to that authority.

- 4.8 Based on the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the strategic intent of Cwm Taf Morgannwg CSP it is recommended that the membership of the Board be:

Organisation	Role
Bridgend County Borough Council	Head of Partnerships / Community Safety Partnership Manager
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	Head of Public Protection
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	Director Public Health and Community Services, Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Service Manager
South Wales Police	Chief Superintendent / Supt Partnerships
South Wales Police	Partnerships Manager
South Wales Fire and Rescue	Station Commander
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	Health Board / Chair, Public Health Board
National Probation Service	Head of Probation Delivery Unit
Registered Social Landlord	Regional Rep: ensuring communication and cascading of information
Third Sector	Regional Rep: ensuring communication and cascading of information
Youth Offending Service	Cwm Taf and Bridgend
Police and Crime Commissioner	Head of Community Safety / Wales Violence Prevention Unit
Substance Misuse Area Planning Board	Chair / Head of Commissioning Unit
Regional VAWDASV Steering Group Rep	Chair / Regional Lead
Regional Safeguarding Board	Chair / Business Manager

- 4.9 Work is currently underway on drafting the proposed Terms of Reference for the regional Community Safety Partnership. These will be discussed at the meeting of a shadow regional Community Safety Partnership taking place in March 2024 involving the suggested membership.
- 4.10 The Review Report also recommended that in addition to the establishment of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership Board, appropriate local arrangements should be in place to scrutinise regional activity and oversee delivery of activity extraneous to, but supportive of, the identified regional priorities.
- 4.11 As shown in the proposed structure (4.5), the Task and Finish group recommends that the structure of the regional Community Safety Partnership dovetails into the PSB and

its scrutiny arrangements, i.e., that PSB JOSC be used to scrutinise regional CSP activity.

5. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

5.1 The work of the Task and Finish group to date has resulted in proposals on:

- i. A structure for Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership.
- ii. A focus on the strategic work for the region.
- iii. Membership comprising of senior officers of the involved partners.
- iv. Reporting mechanisms for existing regional structures, e.g. the Area Planning Board and VAWDASV along with the Serious Violence Duty.
- v. Scrutiny of the regional Community Safety Partnership to be undertaken by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the regional Public Services Board.

Work is currently underway on drafting the proposed Terms of Reference for the regional Community Safety Partnership. These will be discussed at the meeting of a shadow regional Community Safety Partnership taking place in March 2024 involving the suggested membership.

5.2 The following recommendations from the Review Report were considered to be for the regional Community Safety Partnership to discuss and take forward:

- Reviewing the thematic sub-groups that have emerged at a regional level and, where appropriate, incorporating them into the CTMCSP.
- Establishing mechanisms for the CTMCSP to work with responsible authorities to engage with communities and pay heed to citizen voices.
- Develop, or consider the development of, a business unit to serve the CTMCSP to fulfil as a minimum the functions set out in this report.
- The funding formula to be developed to source support arrangements.

6. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Five Ways of Working

Involvement	<p>The methodology for the Review of the CSPs included a desktop review which considered the national context and local arrangements and engagement from a wide range of individuals. The Review Report noted that the commitment and engagement of current staff was valued and appreciated.</p> <p>The success of the regional Community Safety Partnership will be reliant on involving partners and people. The Board will also look for</p>
-------------	--

	opportunities to learn from the work of the PSB with the Co-Production Network for Wales and develop a mechanism to engage with communities.
Integration	The Review was undertaken with a view for continuing to support communities across Cwm Taf Morgannwg to be safe and cohesive, and ensuring integration between all relevant strategic boards and plans.
Prevention	One of the main drivers for the review of Community Safety Partnership arrangements was to prevent duplicated work and efforts, and ensure the best outcomes for our communities.
Long term	The regional Community Safety Partnership will be setting a strategic intent working to effectively address the long term CSP arrangements for the region and manage the evolving requirements placed on the partnership.
Collaboration	<p>The work to undertake the Practice Solutions review and all work since by the Task and Finish group has been a collaborative effort between the bodies involved in the existing Bridgend and Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnerships as well as the structures existing around them.</p> <p>The future Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership will have collaboration at its core.</p>

6.2 The Well-being Objectives

Healthy Local Neighbourhoods	<p>Healthy neighbourhoods are dependent on feelings of safety, cohesive and inclusivity. The Well-being Assessment told us that people want to feel and be safe.</p> <p>The creation of a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership will help to build a sense of belonging, improve perceptions of safety and ensure there are opportunities to act together to tackle problems when they occur.</p>
Resilient and Sustainable Local Neighbourhoods	A regional Community Safety Partnership will support cohesive environments where the conditions allow for more people to improve, use and protect our natural spaces.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

7.1 An Equality and Impact Assessment is not required as the contents of this report are for information purposes only.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no Welsh Language implications as the contents of this report are for information purposes only.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

9.1 The process was overseen by a steering group consisting of representatives of all statutory members of a Community Safety Partnership.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

10.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the implementation of the Regional Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership Board will be subject to separate consideration by all Community Safety Partners.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

11.1 Community Safety Partnerships are a statutory function under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. There is a provision for partnerships to be formed, with a strategic focus, on a regional basis. This relies on ensuring there remains a capability to deal with community safety issues on a local basis.

12. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PRIORITIES

12.1 Community safety and the public's positive perception of safety are key in ensuring the Council achieves the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 "Making a Difference".

12.2 The work of the Community Safety Partnership Board is directly aligned to the "Places" priority within the Corporate Plan – *ensuring the County Borough is one of the safest places in Wales, where people from all backgrounds get along with each other and feel safe.*

13. CONCLUSION

13.1 Highly significant and specifically relevant legislative and policy changes have been introduced in the 25 years since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships which have subsequently become Community Safety Partnerships. The consequence of these changes has been the expansion of the



number of authorities involved in the Community Safety Partnership agenda and an increase in the duties placed upon these authorities.

- 13.2 As a result of these changes, the importance of community safety has been amplified and the complexity of the necessary partnerships and priorities has significantly increased. However, the resource available and targeted at community safety has not kept pace with these increasing demands.
- 13.3 The creation of a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Community Safety Partnership Board, as outlined in the report, will provide a regional strategic direction whilst maintaining the essential local community safety delivery.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28th FEBRUARY 2024

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

REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

Officer to contact:

Gary Black - Community Safety and Strategic Partnerships Manager
Gary.Black@rctcbc.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank