

**SAFER VALE**



**VALE OF GLAMORGAN  
COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY  
2020-2023**

**BRO**

**DDIOGELACH**



## Contents

<b>FOREWORD</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>WHAT IS A COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP?</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>SAFER VALE PARTNERSHIP</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Welsh Government’s Safer Communities Programme.....	8
Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.....	8
Our Vale – Our Future .....	9
Partnership Plans.....	10
South Wales Police .....	10
National Probation Service .....	10
Vale of Glamorgan Council .....	10

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board .....	11
South Wales Fire and Rescue .....	11
<b>Additional areas of consideration. ....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>THIS STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SWOT FOR THE SAFER VALE PARTNERSHIP.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Governance Chart .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>THE VALE SERVICES .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Community Safety Services .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>THE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PRIORITY 1 - Prevent and Reduce Offending.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>PRIORITY 2 – Engage our Communities .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>PRIORITY 3 – Safeguard .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>PRIORITY 4 – Work Together .....</b>	<b>54</b>

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” Barack Obama

## INTRODUCTION



I am proud to introduce the Safer Vale's Strategy for 2020-2023.

This strategy has been formed as the result of analysing the current community safety challenges facing our communities and following a comprehensive consultation process involving our partners, residents and other stakeholders. We are confident that it provides the best possible strategic direction for the Safer Vale Partnership's activities over the next 3 years.

The extent to which the partnership has worked hard to achieve community safety improvements over the past few years is visible through some commendable recent achievements. These include the setting up of the new domestic abuse single point of

assessment hub (DAARC), which has increased the number of victims able to access support from the right services at the right time. It also includes a number of positive outcomes for the community safety anti-social behaviour team who have successfully implemented closure orders to protect our most vulnerable and issued civil injunctions providing crucial safeguarding for victims of domestic abuse. The Vale also celebrated another successful Safer Vale fun day where in excess of 4000 residents were able to connect with local community safety services.

We know that the work does not stop there, and building on the good work undertaken to date this new strategy will ensure a better coordinated and targeted relationship, recognising the importance and value of each partner's role in ensuring that the Safer Vale Partnership achieves the best outcomes for our communities. We have listened to what residents and stakeholders have told us and we know that we need to improve how we communicate and engage so that we always encourage the two-way flow of information necessary for keeping the partnership's work relevant to our communities, now and in the

future. We believe that every member of the community has a role to play in reducing the negative impacts that result from crime and disorder so we also need to ensure that we create the culture and environment necessary for individuals to thrive and to become active, positive members of their communities.

We know that we need to improve how our services interface to ensure a smoother and more efficient pathway for those who require support in our communities. Complex cases require complete partnership working and for partnership working to happen effectively we know that we need to improve contextual safeguarding and our information sharing as well as the technological systems that can enable this. Early, well informed, intervention is a key principle of the strategy as it is far better to seek to prevent a community safety problem than it is to have to deal with its consequences.

It is our commitment to work towards a Vale where everyone feels safe and free from the fear of crime and disorder. We look forward to working in Partnership to deliver a strategy that will help ensure that this vision become reality.

## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP?

Since the Scarman Report in 1981, successive governments recognised that effective partnership working resulted in better crime reduction outcomes. This was consolidated by the Morgan Report in 1991 and culminated in the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. This Act established Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, defines a Community Safety Partnership as

“An Alliance of Organisations which generates strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area”

“An alliance of organisations which generate strategies and policies, implement actions and interventions concerning crime and disorder within their partnership area”.<sup>1</sup>

They are statutorily responsible for reducing crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in each local authority area.

There are over 300 CSPs in the whole of the UK, including 21 CSPs in Wales and there is often considerable variation in the way that they operate.

The make-up and role of CSPs has been altered since 1998, through the Police and Justice Act 2006, Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007, the Local Government and Health Act 2007 and the Policing and Crime Act 2009. Finally, the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2011 made changes which freed up some of the legislative burden that had encroached upon

CSPs since 1998.

Whilst CSPs can be responsible for a huge range of activity, the actual statutory obligations upon them are fairly minimal. Currently these are:

- set up a strategic group to direct the work of the partnership
- regularly engage and consult with the community about their priorities and progress achieving them

<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/37/part/I/chapter/I/crossheading/crime-and-disorder-strategies>

'To be tough on crime and the causes of crime, tackling and preventing crime by promoting an evidence-based, partnership approach to identify "what works" and how I can add value.' Alun Michael, Police and Crime Commissioner, South Wales.

- set up protocols and systems for sharing information
- analyse a wide range of data, including recorded crime levels and patterns, in order to identify priorities in an annual strategic assessment
- set out a partnership plan and monitor progress
- produce a strategy to reduce reoffending
- commission domestic violence homicide reviews.

The strategy group was created by the 2007 Regulations. Its role is ostensibly to take oversight of the delivery of the strategic assessment and partnership plan, but essentially it provides a tight leadership group to the partnership.

The 2007 Regulations set out a lot of detail about chairing, meeting frequency, skills and knowledge and so on, but these were revoked in the 2011 Regulations, which enable the strategy group to be formally constituted by a minimum of just two representatives of responsible authorities, who no longer

have to be of a senior level. However, in practice the makeup of CSPs has not altered significantly.

Each partnership operates around an annual commissioning cycle

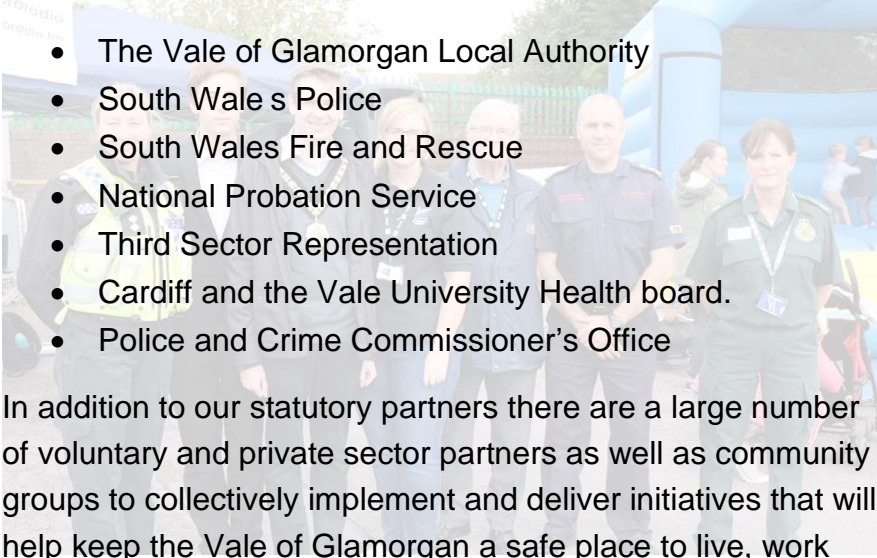




# SAFER VALE PARTNERSHIP

The Vale of Glamorgan’s Community Safety Partnership is known as the “Safer Vale Partnership”.

The Safer Vale Partnership is made up of representation from



- The Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority
- South Wales Police
- South Wales Fire and Rescue
- National Probation Service
- Third Sector Representation
- Cardiff and the Vale University Health board.
- Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office

In addition to our statutory partners there are a large number of voluntary and private sector partners as well as community groups to collectively implement and deliver initiatives that will help keep the Vale of Glamorgan a safe place to live, work and visit.

The mission of the Safer Vale Partnership is to

**Work together to Prevent and Reduce Crime and disorder and improve Public Perception, Wellbeing and Community Safety for those who live, work and visit the Vale of Glamorgan.**

In order to achieve its overall vision of

**A Vale where everyone is safe and free from the fear of crime and disorder.**

This Strategy sets out the ambitious work that the partnership will undertake to collectively achieve its mission. The new Partnership Priorities for the Safer Vale are to:

**PREVENT and REDUCE**

Work to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour to keep people who live, work and visit the Vale safe and free from the fear of crime.

**ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITIES**

Improve the way in which we connect with, involve and inform our communities to increase awareness, the feeling of belonging and positive community cohesion in the Vale.

**SAFEGUARD**

Work to safeguard the most vulnerable in our communities.

**WORK TOGETHER**

Strengthen the innovative partnership working and information sharing within the Vale to improve efficiencies and enhance problem solving.

This strategy responds to the requirements placed upon it and placed upon each of the partner organisations by the relevant pieces of legislation that they are bound to.



## Welsh Government's Safer Communities Programme

The Welsh Government's Safer Communities Programme was established in December 2017 following the completion of the Working Together for Safer Communities Review –

Welsh Government's response to the Auditor General's Community Safety in Wales report of the previous year. At the heart of the programme is a new shared vision for community safety in Wales in which:

1. Every community is strong, safe and confident in a manner that provides equality of opportunity and social justice, resilience and sustainability for all;
2. The shared responsibility of government, public and third sector agencies is to work together with the communities they serve and the private sector to address activity or behaviour that is unlawful, anti-social, harmful to individuals and society and to the environment;
3. Sharing knowledge and ensuring early intervention with prompt, positive action tackles local issues and addresses vulnerabilities.

This vision is underpinned by six key principles and a set of 11 commitments from Welsh Government designed to support the refresh of local and regional community safety partnership working ensuring it is:

- Evidence-based and intelligence-led;
- Supported by appropriate skills & knowledge;
- Sustainably resourced and locally appropriate;
- Engaging and involving citizens;
- Preventative and intervening as early as possible;
- Focused on long-term improvements and benefits.



## Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change. The Act has developed a "sustainable development principle" which calls upon organisations to consider 5 ways of working in order to meet their duty under the Act. These 5 ways of working are:



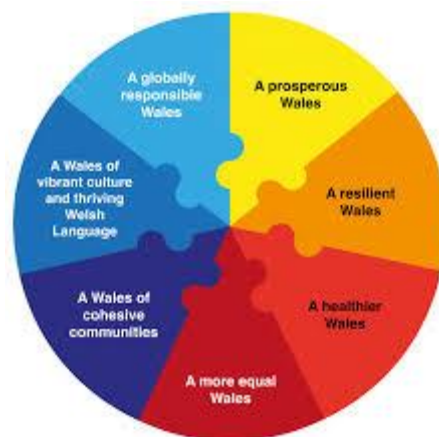
1. Long term – The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs.
2. Prevention – How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives
3. Integration – Considering how the public body’s well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.
4. Collaboration – Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives.
5. Involvement – The importance of involving people with

“We should embrace innovation and accept that in doing so we must be less risk averse. Government, public bodies and those who audit them must encourage well managed risk taking.” Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner

an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

## Our Vale – Our Future

Our Vale – Our Future, is the Vale Public Service Board’s five-year plan, developed in accordance with the duties placed upon it by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Safer Vale Partnership will be required to contribute directly to the delivery of its 4 objectives:



- Objective 1: To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services
- Objective 2: To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation
- Objective 3: To give children the best start in life
- Objective 4: To protect, enhance and value our environment

## Partnership Plans

The Safer Vale Strategy is required to ensure that it responds directly to, or works in conjunction with, the priorities set within the plans of its partners.

### South Wales Police

#### **Police and Crime Reduction Plan (2017-2021)**

The South Wales Police sets in place key principles to keep communities safe. These are:



- To reduce and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour to keep people safe in their homes and communities
- To improve the way in which we connect with, involve and inform our communities
- To protect the most vulnerable in our communities
- Make sure that the local criminal justice system works effectively and efficiently, meeting the needs of victims and challenging offenders.
- To contribute to the strategic policing requirement and successfully police major events.
- To spend money wisely to protect policing in the community.

## National Probation Service **A Framework to Support Positive Change for those at Risk of Offending in Wales 2018-2023**

National Probation Service



### Priority Areas

- Reduce the number of women in the criminal justice system
- Challenge domestic abuse perpetrators; hold them accountable for their actions and provide interventions and support to change their behaviour
- Improve provision for Ex-Armed Services Personnel
- Provide Support for Young Adults/Care Leavers
- Supporting Offenders' Families following sentencing
- Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups

## Vale of Glamorgan Council **Community Strategy 2011-2021**



The Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority makes the Safer Vale Partnership directly responsible for the delivery of its Community Strategy Priority Outcome 9:

**That residents and visitors are safe and feel safe and the Vale is recognised as a low crime area.**

## The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Corporate Plan (2016-2019) and Improvement Plan (2019-2020)

The Vale of Glamorgan Council each year publishes its annual objectives linked to the Outcomes stated in the Council's Corporate Strategy. The Safer Vale Partnership is responsible for supporting the delivery of the following outcomes and objectives

Well-being Outcome	Well-being Objectives
 <p>AN INCLUSIVE SAFE VALE</p>	<p>Objective 1: Reducing poverty and social exclusion</p> <p>Objective 2: Providing decent homes and safe communities.</p>
 <p>AN ACTIVE HEALTHY VALE</p>	<p>Objective 7: Encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Objective 8: Safeguarding those who are vulnerable and promoting independent living.</p>

## Cardiff and Vale University Health Board Shaping our future wellbeing



- Outcomes that matter to people (specifically linked in with the goals on expanding on preventative services and wellbeing hubs)

- Ensuring Services are sustainable (roll out of mental health liaison)
- Our Culture – being a great place to work (Improvement on ASB and aggression experienced in the health care environment)
  1. Improved childhood emotional health and wellbeing
  2. Number of people living in their own home over 75
  3. Reduction in all cause premature mortality

## South Wales Fire and Rescue

### Make South Wales safer by reducing risk

Their current plan sets out the following outcomes to achieve this aim:

- Working with others to protect our communities from harm or the risk of harm
- Developing more efficient and effective ways of engaging and communicating with our communities about our services
- Ensuring we attract, develop and retain a workforce that reflects our communities and is capable of delivering effective services today and in the future



- Reducing our Service's impact on the environment to ensure future sustainability
- Ensuring we use technology to enable efficient and improved service delivery

## Additional areas of consideration.

In addition to the plans and legislation outlined in this chapter, the Safer Vale Partnership will remain committed to supporting the priorities identified by other key documents that bear influence on the overall work of the partnership.

### **Priorities identified by the Social Services and Wellbeing Act Needs Assessment 2016-2017**

#### **Care and support needs**

- Support for children and young people affected by parental relationship breakdown and domestic violence;
- access to services including primary care and mental health;
- support for people with ADHD and autism;
- access to services for looked after children and children in need;
- support for young carers;
- more involvement of children in decisions about them;

- smoother transitions from child to adult services;
- accommodation;
- vocational education and apprenticeships;
- increasing complexity of needs; specific needs of children and young people with a disability

#### **Prevention issues**

- Building healthy relationships;
- practical life skills including financial skills;
- healthy lifestyles including healthy eating, physical activity and play;
- increased focus on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs);
- actions to reduce proportion of children becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET)

### **Other Plans and Key Documents**



- Violence against Women, Domestic and Sexual Violence Regional Plan
- Youth Justice Blueprint
- Cardiff and the Vale Area Planning Board Commissioning Strategy
- Community Cohesion Delivery Plan 2017-2020
- Public Health Wales Adverse Childhood Experiences Study
- The Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014

## THIS STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

The Partnership has seen significant evolution since its establishment following the Crime and Disorder Act in 1998. The Partnership structure has undergone several changes and the work that the Partnership monitor and oversee has progressed throughout the years. With 2018 marking the 20-year anniversary of the Partnership's beginnings, it was felt that this presented a sensible opportunity to review the Partnership's structure, governance arrangements, process and practices and develop a strategy to be the living backbone providing structure and direction to the Partnership's existence.

The board membership has undergone a review and a decision has been made to return the Partnership board to a strategic body which will meet twice a year to oversee the actions against the Delivery Plan and monitor any escalated risks that the Partnership faces. An operational Group will sit below the Strategic Board. This operational group will meet quarterly, in time to report on each quarter end. The operational group will have a feed in from each of the relevant subgroups and other regional groups to ensure that the flow of information to and from the Partnership is effective at maintaining an informed oversight on the issues affecting crime and disorder in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Operational Group will have the overall responsibility for delivering on the

actions set out in the Delivery Plan and will be made up of a wider membership of those organisations who have a responsibility in the priorities set out in this Strategy. A new governance arrangement has been developed in line with this new structure and the Strategy, to ensure that there is appropriate accountability for the actions set out in the Delivery Plan. Each priority is clearly linked to a number of subgroups that will be responsible for coordinating and delivering the different parts of the Delivery Plan.

One thing that was made clear throughout the development process was that there is a lot of confusion around what the Partnership is, who the Partnership is made up of and what the Partnership is meant to do. A clear misconception is that the Community Safety Partnership is a council function or body that invites other partners to link into it, rather than being a Partnership of equals who hold the same amount of responsibility for the Partnership and its functions.

**“It feels as though the brand of the Safer Vale is a bit weak, with no one really understanding fully who’s function it is or that it isn’t just a Vale council department. I think because the Community Safety Team is the council there’s the assumption that the team and the Partnership are one and the same”** Staff from Partnership Organisation



This new strategy, structure and governance arrangement will be relaunched with a new Communications Strategy to help all Partner organisations, all stakeholders and all residents of the Vale understand what the Partnership is and what it will achieve.

We will build up the Safer Vale brand to ensure it is a strong, recognisable brand that people can identify with, understand and that partners can commit to.

Following a series of Partnership meetings dedicated to looking at different parts of the Strategy, the 4 priorities were agreed as being the most appropriate way of moving the Partnership forward on its route towards reducing and preventing crime, reducing the fear of crime and protecting the vulnerable in our society.

A development day workshop was held where staff members of varying seniority attended from a number of partner organisations to create the Delivery Plan that will provide the actions for the Partnership over the next 3 years. The workshop mapped services currently working to have an

impact on Crime and Disorder in the Vale, with an acknowledgment of what is working well and what needs improvement. Delegates were also asked to provide a SWOT for the partnership, offering their frank perceptions of what is



currently working well for the Safer Vale and what isn't working well or is threatening its existence. A look at the opportunities available helped to provide a springboard for the final workshops that, with the help of Edward de Bono's six thinking hats method, set about developing the objectives and actions that would best serve to fulfil the Strategic Priorities.



## SWOT FOR THE SAFER VALE PARTNERSHIP

S

- Team and partnership relationships
- Willingness to change and improve within agencies
- Common goal
- Information sharing
- Knowledge and skill set of staff
- Well established – it exists and has for a long time
- Serves a small community
- Statutory subgroup of the public service board
- Key agencies are involved,
- Excellent attendance at board
- Momentum has been gained since the development of this strategy
- All get on in the partnership and champion to lead in the process
- Committed honest good relationships
- Data and Information Sharing (RSL, ASB) – Openness = TRUST
- Active neighbourhood watch with 240 watches.
- Active citizens
- Colocation for some partners

W

- Lack of consistency/not always a true reflection round data
- Not always sharing information with agencies /silo working
- Agencies using different systems to record information
- Budgets, sustainable funding and lack of resources
- Branding of the Safer Vale – a weak brand
- Awareness of what the Safer Vale is
- Communication
- Not much information shared with communities.
- Perception of crime
- Public tolerance
- Youth services
- GDPR
- Resilience
- Different priorities
- Membership
- Lack of specialist young

O

- Develop intergenerational engagement
- Share information with partnership and public
- Create and monitor a good strategy that works.
- Prevention working, crime, tenancy loss
- Regular meeting with key agencies
- Use of digital technology and social media
- Networking – not a one-off but regular events
- Share more information with public
- Having a better end user focus
- Better interaction with community.
- Having a local database that all agencies feed into with better data sets
- Using sources of information that are already out there
- Linking in with other organisations who are not involved
- Hub style delivery (Similar to Newport/Malpas Fire Station Site)
- Multi-agency working = better understanding and knowledge sharing

T

- Letting the public down if outcomes aren't achieved
- Losing knowledgeable staff
- An aging community and what that means in terms of resources
- Brexit – the need to be prepared
- Lack of future and sustainable funding
- Public's perception of crime, disorder and of the partnership
- Lack or reduction of resources means increased pressure on staff and increased pressure on partnership working
- People see Safer Vale as the council rather than a partnership
- Too much time at desk collating data not enough time working with people/clients
- Lack of presence of mental health agencies and adult services.
- Departments working on their own trying to carry on with reduced budgets
- Changing legislations – including the new GDPR
- Digital technologies and (sometimes negative) exposure that social media brings.



## **Public Service Board**

The Vale Public Service Board is made up of senior members from public and third sector organisations.

The Vale Public Service Board will receive information from the Safer Vale Strategic Group detailing performance against the strategy in line with the proposed bi-yearly meetings.

The Public Service Board will be responsible for agreeing the direction of the Safer Vale Partnership and responsible for transmitting strategic information to inform all the actions of the partnership.

## **Safer Vale Strategic Group**

The Safer Vale Strategic Group will receive performance, escalated risk and finance reports from the Safer Vale Operational group.

The Safer Vale Strategic Group will be responsible for overseeing performance, managing overall risk

and ensuring appropriate scrutiny on relevant financial decisions. The board group will also be responsible for ensuring that decision making is evidenced based and open to scrutiny; governance is transparent and to a consistently high standard and that the actions of the Delivery Plan of the Partnership are consistent with those of member organisations and intelligence led.

## **Safer Vale Operational Group**

The Safer Vale operational group is made up of representation from each of the subgroups and will receive information from each of those subgroups to scrutinise, discuss and review.

The Group will manage the risk register and issues log and will be responsible for information sharing to ensure that the information that is submitted to the board for decisions against the strategy is current, in line

with best practiced, locally informed and accurate.

## **Regional Groups**

The Safer Vale Operational Group will share information with the partnered regional groups and will develop protocols to ensure that strategies and delivery plans are created in consultation to inform development and avoid duplication.

## **Subgroups**

Beneath the operational group will sit a series of subgroups each responsible for the delivery of specific strands of the Safer Vale Strategy.

**We will review all governance protocols to ensure more formal and robust accountability**

## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN

The Vale of Glamorgan is a county in South Wales that borders Bridgend, Cardiff and Rhondda Cynon Taff.

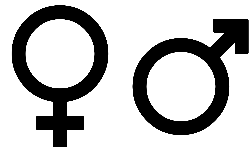


It is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> of the Welsh counties for size at 335km<sup>2</sup>. The Vale of Glamorgan has a diverse geography made up of coastal communities, rural villages, and the largest town in Wales, Barry.

<sup>2</sup> Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v1.0.

<sup>3</sup> <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/Local-Authority/populationestimates-by-localauthority-year>

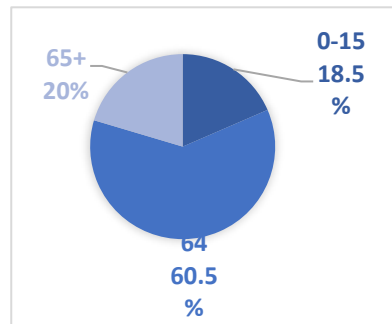
According to the Mid-Year estimates 2018, the



population was at 132,165.<sup>2</sup>

51% of the population are female and 48% male.<sup>3</sup>

18.5% of the population were 0-15, 60.5% 16-64 and 21% 65+.



<sup>3</sup> <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/Local-Authority/populationestimates-by-localauthority-year>

Population projections estimate that by 2036 the population aged 0-15 and aged 16-64 will decrease while the population of people aged 65+ is predicted to increase and be above the Welsh average by 2036.

The Vale has 1,143 members of the armed forces and a high proportion of veterans at 11.96 veterans per 1,000 residents



<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/2011censusdata/2011censusdatacatalogue/keyandquickstatistics>

97% of the Vale's population identify themselves as white, 1.4% as South Asian and 1.1% as black.<sup>4</sup> The Vale had a negative internal migration balance in 2015, internal migration refers to people moving between UK countries. More people from the Vale moved to other UK countries than moved into the area from UK countries.<sup>5</sup>

Only 3% of residents report being able to speak Welsh fluently, with 87% not being able to speak any Welsh. Of the population who can

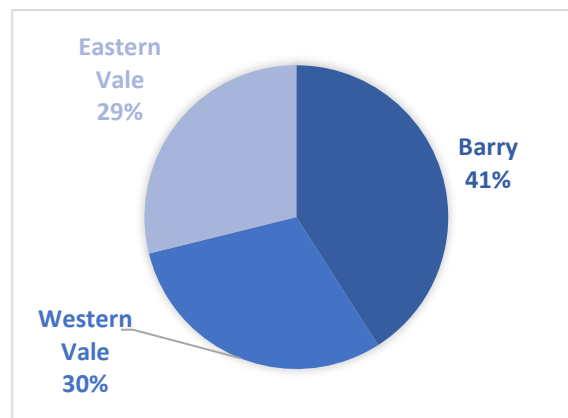
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/2011censusdata/2011censusdatacatalogue/origindestinationstatistics>

speak Welsh, 25% reported using Welsh on a daily basis. More recent data from the Annual Population survey states that 20.7% of the population speak Welsh.<sup>6</sup>

population reporting activity limitations due to a disability is one of the lowest in Wales.

The Vale has a population split of 41% people living in Barry, 29% in the Eastern Vale and 30% in the Western Vale.

historic evidence from Public Health Wales has shown the Vale of Glamorgan to have one of the largest inequality gaps in Wales between the most



and least deprived females. Areas with the lowest healthy life expectancy correlate to those that are most deprived as identified through WIMD 2014 and are predominantly located in areas within the eastern part of Barry such as Gibbonsdown, Castleland and Buttrills. These areas also have higher levels of

obesity, higher smoking levels and higher alcohol-specific mortality rates.

2017 WIMD data shows areas of Barry to have higher levels of income deprivation than areas of the Eastern and Western Vale. Similarly seven LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas) are ranked

“The Vale of Glamorgan is a diverse and beautiful part of Wales. The county is characterised by rolling countryside, coastal communities, busy towns and rural villages, includes Cardiff Airport, a variety of industry and businesses The area benefits from good road and rail links and is well placed within the region as an area for employment as a visitor destination and a place to live” The Vale Wellbeing Assessment

amongst the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales according to the WIMD Community Domain – all are located in Barry and higher crime rates are found in these more deprived areas.

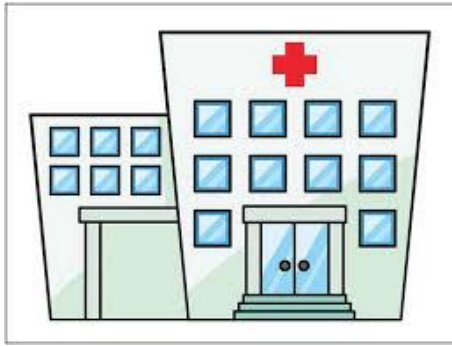
<sup>6</sup>

<https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Annual-Population-Survey->

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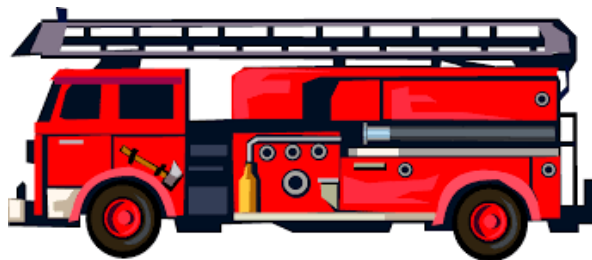
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## THE VALE SERVICES



**Llandough Hospital**

**Barry Community Hospital**



**64 Schools**

49 Primary

9 Secondary

4 Specialist

2 Independent

**4 Fire Stations**

**4 Police Stations**

- Barry (open to the public)
- Cowbridge
- Penarth
- Llantwit Major



**4 Town Councils**

**22 Community Councils**

**23 GP Surgeries**

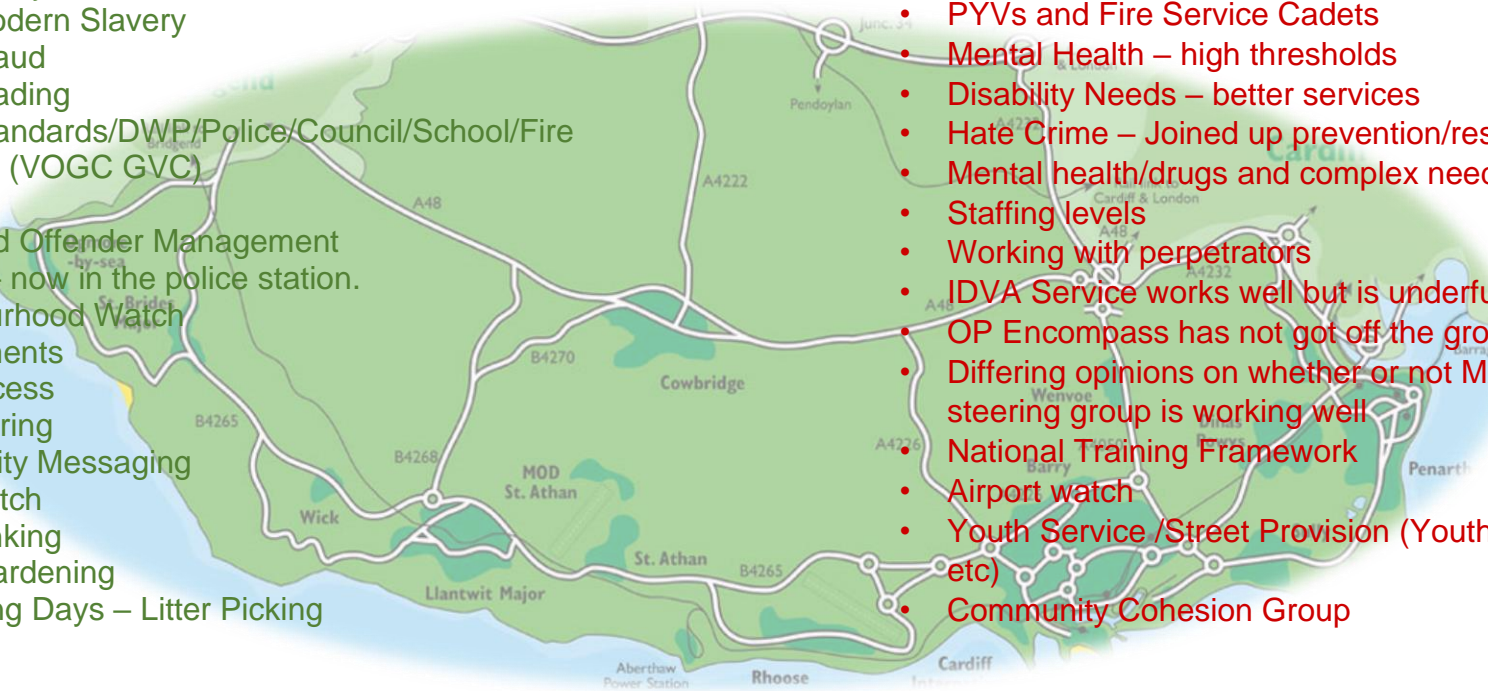




## Community Safety Services

- Tidy Towns (Community Issues)
- Tenant Fun Day / Safer Vale Funday – Safer Vale engagement day
- Festivale / Fun Day – Events
- Multi-agency initiatives
  - Modern Slavery
  - Fraud
  - Trading
 Standards/DWP/Police/Council/School/Fire
- Cadstock (VOGC GVC)
- PSG
- Integrated Offender Management
- Dyfodol – now in the police station.
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Engagements
- ASB Process
- Data Sharing
- Community Messaging
- Rural Watch
- Time Banking
- Target Hardening
- Fly Tipping Days – Litter Picking
- DAARC
- Licensing
- SRS
- ASB Team
- AST AyF
- Health IDVA

During the Strategy Development Workshop, partners mapped out the projects, services and groups across the Vale that were seen to be working well (green column on the left) and those that were seen to be requiring improvement (red column on the right)



- PYVs and Fire Service Cadets
- Mental Health – high thresholds
- Disability Needs – better services
- Hate Crime – Joined up prevention/response
- Mental health/drugs and complex need work
- Staffing levels
- Working with perpetrators
- IDVA Service works well but is underfunded
- OP Encompass has not got off the ground.
- Differing opinions on whether or not MARAC steering group is working well
- National Training Framework
- Airport watch
- Youth Service /Street Provision (Youth Clubs etc)
- Community Cohesion Group

## THE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Every year Community Safety Partnerships are required to carry out a Strategic Assessment to ensure that yearly work plans are based on evidenced based needs. The Safer Vale Partnership has previously relied on the strategic assessments carried out by its partners to inform best practice. Information sharing, however, is something that has been identified as an area that requires improvement between partners. It is often felt that there is an overreliance on Police data and with a subsequent lack of coordinated data sharing, the partnership isn't always working off most reliable and up to date data sets.

A Strategic Assessment has been carried out to gather information from partners and other organisations on the

We will look at our information sharing arrangements and develop a WASPI with a protocol that creates easier, clearer and more fluid methods for sharing accurate, relevant information.

“Information sharing is the cornerstone of delivery shared understanding of the issues and arriving at shared solutions. The right information enables partners to carry out evidence - based, targeted community safety interventions and to evaluate their impact. The improved outcome of an intelligence led, problem -solving approach to community safety can only be achieved when partners have access to relevant, robust and up-to-date information from a broad range of sources” Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working. Home Office 2007

issues that have a bearing on community safety across the Vale. This assessment is available alongside this strategy and references to the data features throughout this Strategy.

Information sharing within the Community Safety Partnership is currently enabled through the legal powers bestowed by the

**Crime and Disorder Act 1998** (Sections 115 and 17A), **The Police and Justice Act 2006** and the **Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009** and the **Criminal Justice and Court Service Act 2000**.





## PRIORITY 1 - Prevent and Reduce Offending.

*Work to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour to keep people who live, work and visit the Vale safe and free from the fear of crime.*

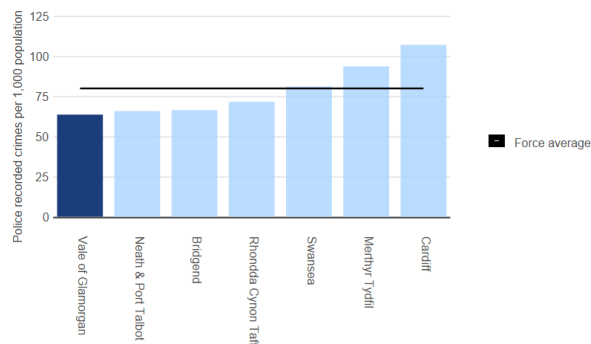
## TOTAL CRIME

There were 10,573 recorded crimes in the Vale of Glamorgan between May 2018 and April 2019.

This is the lowest rate in comparison with other CSP

areas in South Wales and among the lowers when compared with other similar areas across the UK.

As with the trend across the whole of the UK, the Vale of Glamorgan has seen an increase in the number of police recorded crime over the last few years. The Office for National



We will review what is currently being collected by agencies and establish a multi-agency approach that reduces duplication and allows better access to partner's systems.

Statistics warns that this does not necessarily reflect an increase in actual levels of crime as police data is also a reflection of policing activity, recording practices and the willingness of victims to report.

Between April 18 and December 18, Violent crimes (with and without injury) were the most commonly committed crime type at 1460, followed by criminal damage, at 814 incidents and finally stalking and harassment with 784 incidents. Within the Violence crime type, violence with injury is the most committed at 773 incidents.

The greatest increases in recorded crime were seen in

- hate crime (44% increase)
- stalking and harassment (34% increase) and
- miscellaneous crimes (20%).

The greatest decreases from 2017 to 2018 were seen in

- business and community burglary (-39%)
- theft (-33%) and
- bicycle theft (-27%)





Castleland is the ward with the highest crime rate per 1,000 population followed by Llandough with a crime rate per 1000 population of 134. This has remained consistent over the last two years.

Areas with the lowest crime per population are Sully and Llandow/Ewenny which have also seen decreases in crime over the last two years of 23% and 19% respectively.

Wenvoe saw the greatest increase in rate of crime per 1,000 population (44%) followed by Alexandra (29.8%) and St Brides Major (24.3%).

In Barry the greatest increases were seen in Illtyd (16.2%) followed by Court (10.8%). Gibbonsdown was the only beat in the Vale to show a decrease in crime of 8%.

### **DAILY TASKING**

Every morning the Police meet in Barry Police Station to discuss the crimes that have occurred over the last 24-hour time period. These meetings are attended by the Local Authority Community Safety Team to ensure that information is shared appropriately where Anti-Social

We will engage the community in delivering community led solutions to local problems

We will investigate place-based responses to crime

Behaviour incidents are likely to require a partnership approach.

### **THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TEAM**

A team made up of a Police officer and the Local Authority Community Safety Team members work together to address and tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in the Vale.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines ASB as:

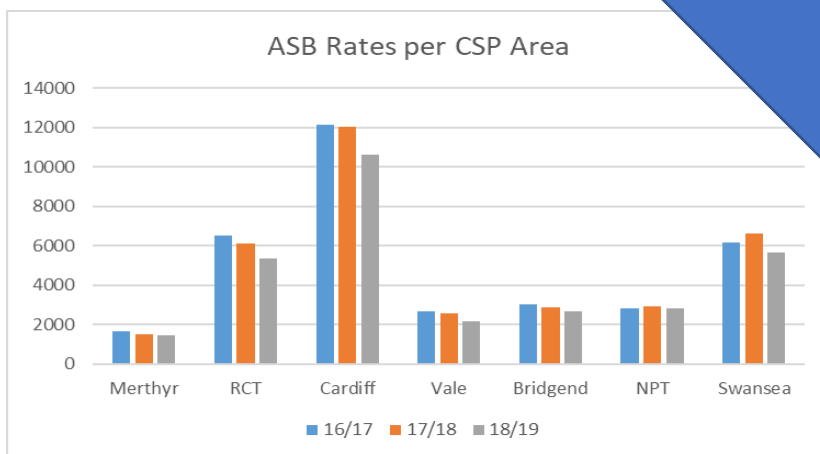
'Acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as (the defendant).'

Anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of unacceptable activity that causes harm to an individual, to their community or to their environment. This could be an action by someone else that leaves you feeling alarmed, harassed or distressed.

It also includes fear of crime or concern for public safety, public disorder or public nuisance.

South Wales Police categorise Anti-Social Behaviours under one of the following headings:

- 1) Nuisance (including presence of drug dealers or users, setting vehicles alight noisy neighbours and soliciting)
- 2) Personal - (includes various forms of intimidation and harassment such as verbal abuse and nuisance phone calls)
- 3) Environmental (including graffiti, damage to street furniture and fly tipping)



Declining Numbers:  
2184 incidents of ASB between 2018/2019 Among the lowest in South Wales

We will continue to monitor and respond to Crime and Antisocial Behaviour ensuring a streamlined partnership responses that actively reduce crime and disorder in the Vale.

In the Vale, there were 2184 incidents of ASB between April 2018 and March 2019. ASB levels when analysed per 1000 population, have remained the lowest in South Wales over the last three years (with the exception of Neath Port Talbot in 2016.)

ASB rates are higher throughout the summer months than the spring months.

The Antisocial Behaviour Team work under the powers issued by the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which seeks to put victims first giving power

to local people and enabling professionals to find the best solutions for their local area.



The team has the power to issue:

### **Injunctions**

This is a purely civil injunction, available in the county court for adults and the youth court for 10 to 17-year olds. It will allow a wide range of agencies, including the police, local councils and social landlords to deal quickly with anti-social individuals, nipping behaviour in the bud before it escalates.

### **Criminal Behaviour Orders**

Available following a conviction for any criminal offence and can address the underlying causes of the behaviour through new, positive requirements. Breach is a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison for adults. It demonstrates to the offender and the community the seriousness of the breach.

### **Premise Closure Orders**

This enables officers to effect the closure of a premise involved in antisocial behaviour for a maximum of 6 months.

### **Dispersal Powers**

This enables officers to require a person who has committed, or is likely to commit, ASB to leave a specified area and not return for up to 48 hours.

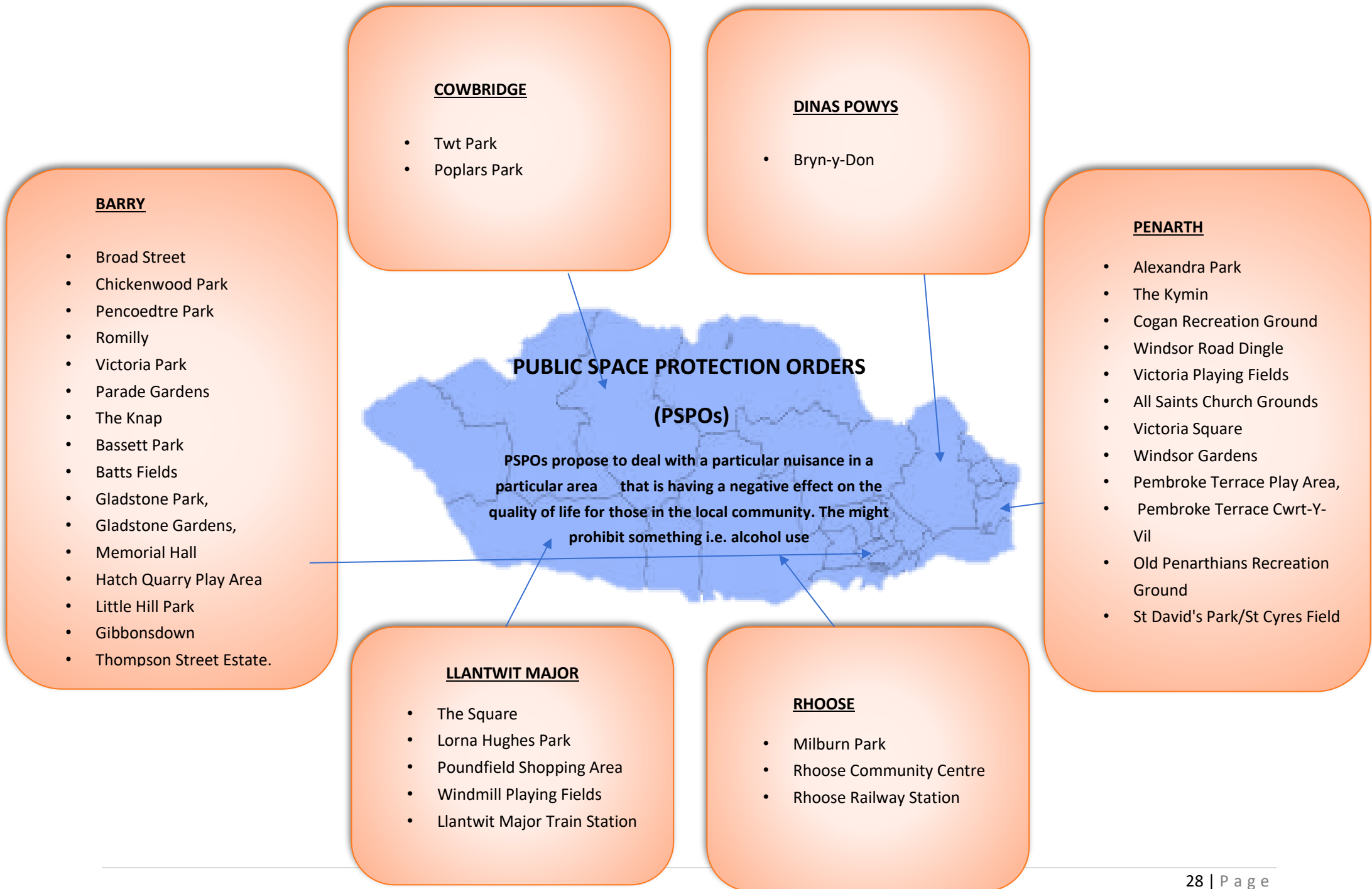
### **Community Protection Notices**

These include Community Protection Notices, Public Spaces Protection Orders and Closure orders. These powers allow faster, more effective action and are available to more agencies to use to tackle a whole range of place-specific anti-social and criminal behaviour.

### **Local involvement and accountability**

Community Remedy gives victims of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour a say in the punishment of the offender out of court, whilst the Community Trigger gives victims of persistent anti-social behaviour the right to demand action where they feel that their problems have not been dealt with.

The team support the responses to a wide range of community issues including litter, fly tipping, abandoned cars, discarded needles, street drinking, nuisance behaviour inconsiderate or inappropriate use of vehicles, rogue traders, crime prevention and any disregard for personal or community wellbeing.



There has been a rise in the number of incidents of crime and anti-social behaviour perpetrated against hospital and health care staff in the Vale. This rise is seen as a concern and an indication that where focus has been placed in the past on reducing the negative impacts of ASB for residents of the Vale of Glamorgan, a lesser emphasis is placed on victims of ASB who work in the Vale of Glamorgan. There were 25 incidents in 2018/2019, an increase from 13 in 2017/2018. The health board are not the only partner to experience violence, aggression or intimidation and the Community Safety Partnership are committed to ensuring that everyone feels safe in the Vale of Glamorgan and that this should not be at the oversight of those who work in it.

**We will monitor ASB in the workplace and develop support to prevent and address acts of antisocial behaviour within partner organisations.**

## OFFENDING AND REOFFENDING

The annual cost of re-offending in the UK is estimated as £7-10 Billion. The economic cost of crime helps to highlight the disruption offenders can cause to their communities. This and the need to safeguard communities from harm means an intensive level of multi-agency support and resource is required in order to effectively reduce these negative consequences of crime. The National Probation Service is primarily responsible for managing offenders who have been assessed as presenting a high or very high risk of harm.

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womens  
pathfinder  
preventing offending by  
empowering women and girls

The National  
Probation  
Service (NPS)  
works in close

partnership with the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), which is responsible for managing offenders who have been assessed as presenting a low or medium risk of harm who have either been sentenced by the courts to a community or suspended sentence order, or released on licence from prison to serve the rest of their sentence in the community, as well as supporting offenders who are sentenced to less than 12 months in prison through the gate. The NPS also works closely with Prisons, Courts, Police and other partners to help protect the public and tackle The Women's Pathfinder Project was launched in response to the

Justice Select Committee Inquiry into Women Offenders and its examination of progress made against the recommendations outlined in the Baroness Coston Report of a Review of Women with Particular Vulnerabilities in the Criminal Justice System (published in 2007). It was concluded more needed to be done to bring about improvements for women in the Criminal Justice System. As such, the Women's Pathfinder programme was set up with the aim of improving outcomes relating to women coming into contact with the Criminal Justice System in Wales. This work resulted in women being included as a priority group in the Wales Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2014-16. The Women's Pathfinder Project is in its infancy in the Vale having only been running for approximately 18 months.

The WISDOM project is another Integrated Offender Management Initiative aiming to achieve:

- Enhanced information-sharing arrangements in relation to dangerous priority groups;
- Improved public protection and community safety as well as reduced re-offending of the most dangerous offenders in Wales;
- Developed, evidence-led, targeted approach to multi-agency management of high risk of harm cohorts;
- Greater efficiencies realised through better integrated services and reduced duplication;

- Development of a vehicle through which lessons can be identified and multi-agency learning can be shared to prompt invaluable systemic changes.

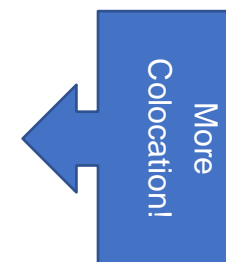
The project is in the process of being launched in the Vale following the identification of an appropriate cohort of individuals.

We will support our partners in the delivery of their action plans and actively contribute to Partnership initiatives.

### Dyfodol

The Dyfodol programme provides support to individuals who have drug and alcohol issues targeted within the criminal justice system.

The Dyfodol programme from 2019 is now based within the Police Station on Gladstone Road in Barry alongside a number of Police Departments, the Community Safety Team and the Probation Service.



Performance figures from the Dyfodol programme indicate that the Vale is successfully achieving targets to provide treatment and rehabilitation to those individuals in the criminal justice system with an alcohol or substance misuse issue. The main emerging trends identified by the team are:

- the growth in poly drug use – stimulants (cocaine/crack) and new psychoactive substances, with alcohol in the under 30s (and especially in the under 21s)
- a growth in women under 25 testing positive for class A substances in Cardiff custody suite.
- Increased comorbidity and complexity of those over 45 (especially with issues such as emphysema, mobility, cardiovascular, cancers etc)
- Increased overdose risk from harmful practices and risky drug taking.

### Crimestoppers Wales

Crimestoppers Wales are an independent charity who receive information from the public regarding crimes committed and send this information to the relevant authorities to process. They also have a proactive online presence where they share advice and information on how to protect people from crime. The charity works with

**CrimeStoppers.**  
**0800 555 111**  
100% anonymous. Always.

businesses to carry out educational campaign and provide an important service in the prevention and reduction of crime. Across the UK 10 suspects are arrested a day as a result of information received by Crimestoppers and 17% of the information passed on to the police from the charity helps to deliver a positive outcome.

### YOUTH OFFENDING

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) works with children and young people from the age of 8 to 17 identified as at risk of offending as part of its prevention service, these children/young people have not yet offended and the aim of the service is to address the risks and needs identified to prevent them from entering the Youth Justice System. The YOS also delivers early interventions alongside Media Academy Cardiff, Cardiff YOS and South Wales Police to children and young people who have offended for the first time and admit the offence to divert them from continued offending through diversion interventions. Prevention and early intervention now make up approximately 50% of the

**When compared per 100,000 across other CSP areas, the Vale has the highest number of First Time Entrants into the Youth Offending Service.**

YOS caseload. The YOS Caseload in the Vale for 2018/2019 showed



47 Assessed for a Prevention intervention  
53 started a prevention intervention  
53 received a Youth Restorative disposal  
21 received a Youth Caution or Youth Conditional Caution  
The YOS also have a statutory

court and custody caseload of which in 2018:  
15 started a Referral Order  
6 started a Youth Rehabilitation Order  
4 started a Custodial Order

5 remanded to Custody

As an outcome of these orders, over 100 assessments have been completed, as due every 3 months. The number of first-time entrants (FTE) into the Youth Offending Service has reduced year on year following the national trend across England and Wales. In 2018/2019 there were 23 FTE. It is believed that this decline is due to a mixture of reasons, notably the preventative work undertaken by youth offending

teams and the introduction of preventative programs to support vulnerable families. It has also been noted that a significant factor is likely to be the changes in police targets on offences brought to justice focusing on crimes unlikely to be perpetrated by young people and the increase in the use of restorative justice and diversionary practices used by the police.

Work informed by the study on Adverse Childhood Experiences is increasing nationally and, in the Vale, there is

a strong commitment towards ensuring that work is mindful of the findings of this prominent study. The study revealed that

**We will support the adoption of consistent and Trauma Informed approaches across agencies in response to ASB and Crime.**  
**This includes the sharing of training on ACEs and Trauma Informed practices.**

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), such as child abuse and neglect or growing up with caregivers who abuse alcohol or drugs, are strongly associated with poor health and social outcomes later in life.



## Trauma Informed Practice

At the time of this Strategic Assessment, there were 5 children/young people who were part of the Enhanced Case Management Project, which is a new way of working with young people who have experience of the criminal justice system, based on the Trauma Recovery Model additional children/young people were referred but the service was unable to complete the formulation due to the psychologist attached to the project being absent.

## Prevention and Early Intervention

There is no dismissing that prevention and early intervention are seen as being key in the fight for reduced crime and disorder in our communities. A study by Bowers & Guerette (2018) has suggested that for every £1.00 spent on situational crime prevention, £3.50 is saved.

A guide produced by the Home Office suggest that projects to engage young people in diversionary activities are effective in reducing vandalism/criminal damage combined with 'target hardening' measures (i.e. via improving natural surveillance

Resident feedback told us that the majority of residents thought that crime and disorder are mostly caused by a lack of youth provision and diversionary activities.

opportunities) as well as work with young people in schools to raise awareness of the impact and consequences of vandalism. It is also suggested that attempts to reduce this type of offence benefits particularly from a partnership approach.

We will undertake a mapping exercise to gain better understanding of the preventative activities being progressed across the partnership and share best practice or proven outcomes.



South Wales Fire and Rescue have seen a decline over the years in the number of accidental fires and road traffic collisions that are attended by the service. There was a total of 71 road traffic collisions attended, a reduction of 11 from the previous year's 82. There were 33 accidental dwelling fires in the reporting period which was a decrease from previous year's 36. It is believed that much of this reduction is due to the increase in harm reduction initiatives, including the safe and well visits, advice and information on home safety, Stay Aware – the Fatal 5 Campaign and bike safety advice.

The UK Counter-terrorism strategy, known as CONTEST, focuses on the most significant security threat to the people of the UK today, the threat from international terrorism. The aim of CONTEST is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. CONTEST programmes are organised into four workstreams: Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks. Prevent – to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism. Protect – to strengthen our protection against terrorist attack. Prepare – where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact. Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare reinforce and complement each other to reduce the terrorist threat to the UK and our overseas interests.

The Safer Vale Partnership is responsible for implementing the Prevent Strategy across the county and all partners have a critical role to play in building community cohesion and preventing violent extremism. Referrals to prevent are managed by the Community Safety Team.



CHANNEL is a multi-agency panel (similar to a MARAC), whereby individual cases are discussed, and appropriate support mechanisms are put in place. It is likely that the person referring an individual will be invited to attend the CHANNEL Panel in order to provide an overview of the case.

We will review and revamp the Community Cohesion Groups



## A Fine Example: Joint Working to Reduce Reoffending

### Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

The IOM team is made up of Police and Probation Officers who work closely with partners to effectively manage the cohort of offenders.

When an offender is street homeless it makes managing the risk problematic and is also a barrier to the offender being able to address substance misuse and taking positive employment steps. In one particular case an offender on the IOM cohort was identified as having housing needs.

IOM worked closely with Vale of Glamorgan housing department to secure temporary accommodation for the offender, this enabled a move on plan to be created. The offender eventually secured private rented accommodation with the assistance of the housing department.

During this time IOM worked closely with partners from Dyfodol Substance Misuse agency. Prior to release from custody the offender was discussed at the monthly multi agency case conference and Dyfodol advised that they would conduct a pre-release visit with the offender to discuss options once in the community. The offender engaged well which enabled Dyfodol to safely manage their methadone script.

Following the multi-agency case conference (which is also attended by Department of work and pensions) the offender was assisted by the DWP to set up and obtain universal credit. This is often done in the police station as part of IOM appointments. The DWP representative attends the appointments and deals with the offenders in a non-confrontational supportive manner.

Once stable the offender took positive steps regarding employment and was able to secure a job. However, as the individual was required to attend appointments, for both probation and to obtain his methadone script, IOM worked closely with Dyfodol, to ensure appointments were offered before the start of normal working hours. This enabled the offender to comply with license conditions, maintain the script and also continue to work.

We saw a significant reduction in offending, which led to the offender completing probation and being removed from the IOM Cohort. This would not have been possible without the assistance of housing, DWP and Dyfodol working closely with IOM (police and probation – who are one team).



## PRIORITY 2 – Engage our Communities

*Improve the way in which we connect with, involve and inform our communities to increase awareness, the feeling of belonging and positive community cohesion in the Vale.*



There are currently a number of initiatives to engage and communicate with the residents of the Vale.

### **Community messaging**

The Community Safety Team utilise 'Community Messaging' which is a targeted messaging service that allows the Safer Vale Partnership to inform the public about crimes and request information on a local level. The service is an invaluable communication tool that currently has 1,xxx individuals signed up to the scheme.

Currently the team issue messages on a weekly basis regarding important dates or news flashes that emerge within the Vale.

### **Safer Vale Fun Day**

Every year, the Community Safety Partnership hold a



summertime 'fun day' to engage with the community on issues relating to community safety. The event is used to consult with

the public, inform residents of changes or developments within community safety in the Vale and information share regarding both the availability and breadth of services available as well as prevention initiatives or intervention approaches that are available. The day is always a huge



success, attracting thousands of residents who engage well with the various stands and community safety activities available

### **TREV**

The Reassurance Engagement Vehicle "TREV" is a key tool for engaging with the community and creating a presence within the Vale of Glamorgan.





The Vehicle is utilised in Partnership to provide residents of the Vale of Glamorgan with information, advice and reassurance regarding a number of community safety initiatives. The

Community Safety Team manage a schedule of events where different partners can book the vehicle and an attempt is made to hold engagement events that are in keeping with particular dates such as discarded needle awareness during harm reduction week in November or Domestic Abuse advice and



information on White Ribbon Day.

VPod is the youth engagement vehicle carrying out similar engagement initiatives and outreach support targeted specifically at young people. The V-pod itself was created to go out and reach those young people who do not have access to local services and provision and over time has also become the Vale Youth Service's method of support activities and events within communities, such as Christmas lights, Community consultations and other youth events.

We will make better use of TREV and increase number of partner workers who have access to TREV in order to increase awareness of partnership and gain better access to individuals across the Vale.

We will organise hub days with all partners where nominated representatives attend hub clinics in rotating locations to raise awareness of the Safer Vale and gain public responses to issues in their area.

The Home Office identify that public confidence should be central to our understanding of how well we are delivering community safety and responding to the issues that most matter to the public. Community engagement is important as it helps to ensure that public services reflect and respond to the views and concerns of local people. It also helps people within a community feel involved in and responsible for

**“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about”** Margaret Wheatley

improving their quality of life and provides solutions that work over the long term. Without knowing what our communities care about, we have little chance of effecting positive change in matters concerning crime and disorder in the Vale.

Community feedback has shown us that the Community Safety Partnership is not a brand that the public recognise.

In its broadest sense, community engagement is a way of interacting with residents. It is an ongoing process which allows a two-way exchange between residents and the partnership. Both residents and partners should benefit from community engagement. All members of a community can get involved, regardless of their age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation or religion or belief. A community can be

many things; communities of place such as a street or communities of interest and engagement includes informing, consulting and empowering local communities to raise and deal with the issues affecting them the most. The basic fundamentals are:

- Consultation – asking people about what they want and how they want it to be done;
- Capacity building – developing the skills, abilities and confidence of the people in the community;
- and • Empowerment – giving people the opportunity, skills and ability to develop their community.

There is not always a step by step progression from consultation to empowerment and there are a number of challenges to embedding community engagement. These include consultation overload, limited agency resources, barriers to influencing decision making and ensuring ALL communities are involved and have a voice

**We will create a communications strategy that develops evidence-based methods for engaging with ALL communities, making best use of ALL methods of communication to suit the varied needs of residents.**

Resident feedback throughout this strategy revealed that a comparison of perceived crime with actual crime showed that residents from St Augustine's, St Bride's Major, Llantwit Major, Rhoose and Baruc all had a good idea of what crimes were most committed in their area.

40% of respondents were wrong about which crimes they thought were most commonly committed in their area and 83% erroneously thought that ASB had not gone down from last year.

In line with this, 44% felt uninformed regarding issues of crime and disorder in their area with a further 6% feeling very uninformed.

11% of respondents felt very informed and 22% felt informed regarding issues of crime and disorder in their area

**44% of residents felt uninformed regarding issues of crime and disorder in their area.**

The vast majority of residents did not know what the Safer Vale Partnership was and therefore were unaware of it as a resource for them to access information regarding crime and disorder or to access advice and support. The lack of

knowledge of the Safer Vale Partnership extended to professionals within partner organisations in the Vale, many of whom do not know what the Partnership does or how they are a part of it. One of the contributing factors to this lack of awareness of the Partnership is

assumed to be the inconsistency with which the brand is deployed among partner organisations. There is often confusion regarding when organisations should use their own organisation's logos and branding or when the Partnership branding should be used.

**We will nominate a Safer Vale engagement champion in all partner agencies responsible for utilising social media to promote information regarding the partnership within their organisations and among their clients**

**We will create a protocol for when Safer Vale branding should be used in lieu of individual agency branding.**

**We will create a short video explaining what the partnership is, who it is made up of and why it is important.**

As the digital age becomes progressively prevalent, the concept of e-living is becoming reality and across the UK the public sector is taking its lead from commercial organisations when it comes to understanding how to better serve the public. Calls to address technological change mean that local governments need to take this opportunity to optimise costs and ensure that services and operations are increasingly sustainable and adaptable towards evolving needs.

We will create a Safer Vale app that allows community members to easily access Safer Vale Services and informs the public about the Safer Vale.

The Community Safety Partnership has duties under the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty (general duty) and the specific duties for Wales.

The public sector equality duty covers eight protected characteristics:

- Age
- Race

- Disability
- Religion or Belief
- Gender Reassignment
- Sex
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Sexual Orientation

It applies to marriage and civil partnership, but only for having due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination.

The Equality Act lists the duties placed upon public bodies as needing to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not; and
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

This means that the Safer Vale Partners must work at:

- removing or minimising disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristics;

We will undertake an engagement gap analysis to determine which groups and areas are underrepresented within engagement groups.

- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people; and
- encouraging people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

We know that there is

disproportionate representation among certain groups within all the services across the Vale. This disproportion is none less than in the community groups that exist.

### Community Groups

Despite the statistics around lack of engagement in the Vale, there remains a strong and active hub of the community who engage in various community groups.



Rural Watch is designed to encourage people who live and work in the countryside to be vigilant, share their knowledge and reduce opportunities for crime and vandalism by reporting anything suspicious to the police. Intelligence is a vital tool for the police in the fight against crime and the public can help by providing information no matter how trivial in nature it may seem. Rural Watch provides advice and information on farm Security, Horse security/passport and strays, dealing with threats, preventing metal theft and trespassing.



**Paws on Patrol** is a scheme created to build community spirit where dog walkers can contribute towards the protection of their neighbourhoods, reduce the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour and reduce the fear of crime, especially among the vulnerable.

We will review membership and remit of community groups and merge where possible to create more streamlined better-connected groups





**Neighbourhood Watch** is a partnership intended to bring people together to make their communities safer. It involves the police, Community Safety departments of local authorities, other voluntary organisations and individuals and families who ostensibly want to make their neighbourhoods better places to live.

#### CASE STUDY: Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer

*Even though the current body of neighbourhood watch members is thriving across the Vale, we still want to grow and find ourselves stuck when new members want to come on board. One of the important aspects of a new Neighbourhood Watch is the ability to be able to advertise it and display the neighbourhood watch signs on lampposts where they are visible and recognised. However, to request this from the council Highways team is an incredibly lengthy process that involves filling in forms and waiting for the authorisation before moving forward. By the time we are giving the green light (which is every time) often the new Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer has become disengaged and consequently, the new watch doesn't get set up.*

**We will review processes that do not work, notably the permission for new NHW signs to be mounted within the community.**

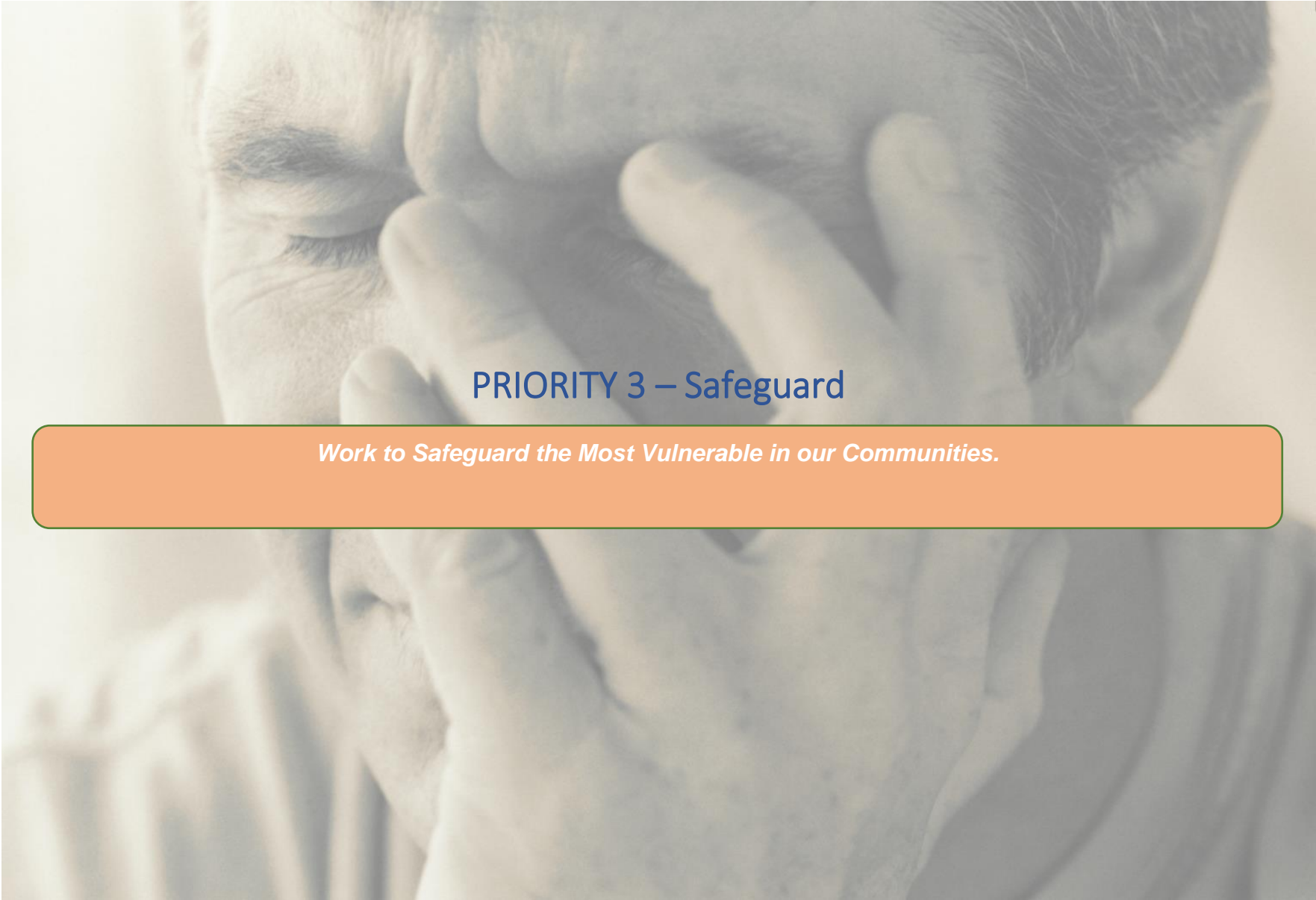
#### **Community Cohesion Group**

The Local Government Association define community cohesion as a community where there is common vision and a sense of belonging for all communities; the diversity of people's different backgrounds and circumstances are appreciated and positively valued; those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities; and strong and positive relationships are being developed

between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and within neighbourhoods."

Overall there are very low numbers for Hate Crime in the Vale however, per rate of 1,000 individuals, in comparison to other Community Safety Partnership areas across South Wales, between April 2018 to March 2019, there were higher numbers for disability hate crime, and transgender hate crime.

Racially or religiously aggravated public fear, alarm or distress also had the highest numbers in the Vale and assault with injury figures within hate crime are high when compared with other CSP areas.



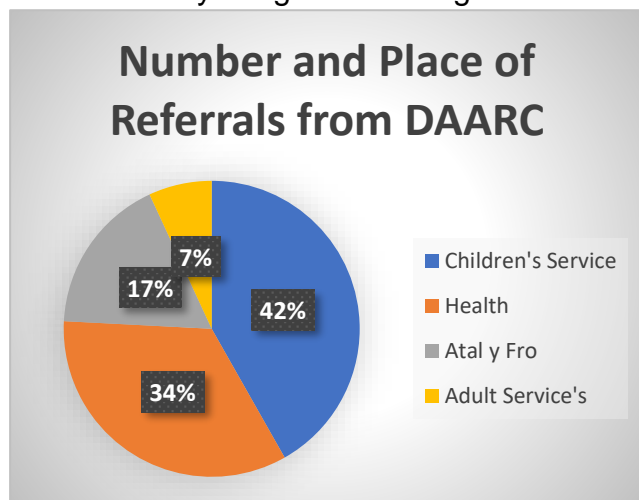
## PRIORITY 3 – Safeguard

*Work to Safeguard the Most Vulnerable in our Communities.*

Safeguarding is at the heart of the Safer Vale Partnership and there are close working practices with both the child and adult regional safeguarding boards. The Safer Vale Partnership understands its responsibility in supporting the Safeguarding Boards to protect adults within its area who have needs for care and support (whether or not a local authority is meeting any of those needs) and are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect and to prevent those adults from becoming at risk of abuse or neglect.

### The DAARC

The Domestic Abuse, Assessment and Referral Coordination project DAARC is the new, award winning, project managed by the Council's Community Safety Team. In 2016 the Safer Vale actively sought to investigate a solution to dealing with



individuals who presented with complex needs. It soon became clear that what professionals wanted and deemed to be the key to achieving positive

outcomes for service users, was better, more integrated communication and coordination in the care and support for individuals who require multiple service input.

*“I felt real reassurance, the call showed someone cares, the call helped me feel safer and made me feel important”* VICTIM FROM THE DAARC

The DAARC service was developed in direct response to these issues. The service involves a coordinator receiving all standard and medium risk Domestic Abuse Public Protection Notices (DA PPN) from the police and undertaking a range of investigations to correctly assess the individual's needs and refer them to the most appropriate service at the right time.

The overall aims of the service are to achieve fewer repeat incidences of domestic abuse, a lower rate of escalation from standard or medium DA PPNs to high risk DA PPNs, improved experience of the support pathway for victims of abuse, improved efficiency within services through an improved capacity to work with victims, rather than having to deal with duplicate and inappropriate referrals, and the difficulties created by contradicting support from services not talking to one another. In its first year the service processed 1657 referrals of which 1102 included children and has

effectively reduced inappropriate referrals across the pathway. The service has also effectively reduced duplicate referrals across the pathway and is offering an early intervention to victims and children of domestic abuse who would previously have not had this type of involvement with services.

*“Can’t fault it, the service was amazing for me.”* VICTIM FROM THE DAARC

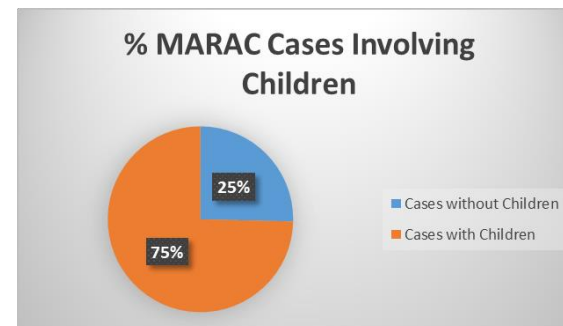
The service has actively helped victims feel safer, improved their home situation, improved their physical and mental health and their overall quality of life. In 2018/2019 the service was shortlisted for a UK Housing Award and won the Vale of Glamorgan Council award for Innovation.



We will continue to monitor and improve the DAARC Service and actively seek to expand its function to include a perpetrator function

### Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences

MARACs are multi-agency meetings where statutory and voluntary agency representatives share information about high risk victims in order to produce a coordinated action plan to increase victim safety. The role of the MARAC is to provide a forum for effective information sharing and partnership working amongst a diverse range of adult and child focussed services in order to enhance the safety of high-risk victims and their children. The concept of MARAC was first trialled in Cardiff in 2002 for domestic abuse victims and now there are over 250 such MARACs across the UK.



Referrals are received from a wide range of statutory and third sector agencies using the Safe Lives DASH-Ric, a

MARAC CASES IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2015	17	13	8	9	13	16	27	16	21	14	20	32
2016	16	23	19	22	18	38	25	18	23	37	24	32
	-6%	77%	138%	144%	38%	138%	-7%	13%	10%	164%	20%	0%
2017	37	35	31	33	31	23	22	35	23	20	14	15
	131%	52%	63%	50%	72%	-39%	-12%	94%	0%	-46%	-42%	-53%
2018	22	21	17	17	38	23	22	24	22	32	20	27
	-41%	-40%	-45%	-48%	23%	0%	0%	-31%	-4%	60%	43%	80%

standardised form designed to identify high risk victims, which is commonly used by all partners. The Safe Lives charity (formerly CAADA) have the responsibility for overseeing the operation of all MARACs across the UK and undertake annual reviews of MARACs and develop guidance, procedures, templates and training. MARACs play an exceptionally

important function it is clear that they are effective in bringing together partners to discuss high risk victims of domestic abuse. However, there have been issues raised concerning the processes that surround the MARAC, suggesting that more could be done to make them more

streamlined, less time consuming, and more effective overall in coordinating the care for those high-risk victims and their families.

We will review process and procedures for MARAC meetings



### SPECIALIST HOUSING AND REFUGE

The loss of tenancy is a common occurrence for individuals who suffer at the hands of vulnerability, be it through domestic abuse, substance or alcohol misuse or mental health problems.

Certainly, in the case of specialist domestic abuse/refuge services there is a total of 11 bed spaces and 105 hours floating support per week. There is no provision for male victims. This lack of

We will work with Supporting People to look at increasing the provision of accommodation for those with complex cooccurring needs



specialist housing and housing related support is a national problem and one that is echoed in the Vale by both victims and professionals

Helen is a 33 year old mum of 5 living in Barry. She is currently going through a divorce at the moment after having left her partner of 18 years due to domestic abuse and coercive behaviour.

Helen and the children have been forced to stay in her ex abuser's family home, where she has been living for 5 months so far given the lack of housing suitable for her and her 5 children. In this housing arrangement she has continued to receive threats to kill and has continued living in fear of her abuser.

She's currently waiting to move into a hostel where the 6 of them will share 2 rooms. The only other option was to move to Belfast.

## TARGET HARDENING

Wherever possible and safe to do so, victims should be supported to stay in their existing home with additional security measures if necessary. As well as offering practical

solutions to prevent unwanted access, they can offer peace of mind to victims. Such provision is often referred to as 'target hardening' and can include security measures on the fabric of the building such as external locks on gates, security lighting, fencing and CCTV, or internal measures such as window locks, fireproof letterboxes, bogus caller buttons and community alarms. The Community Safety Team are responsible for target hardening in the Vale in 18/19 99 properties were target hardened offering additional security to victims, helping them to feel safer and enabling them to remain safe in their own homes.

TARGET HARDENING IN THE VALE 18/19						
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	TOTALS	
MARAC Cases	58	66	81	71	276	
Target Hardening MARAC	8	9	8	6	31	
Target Hardening for NON-MARAC	21	14	15	18	68	
<b>Total Target Hardening</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>99</b>	

We will support the regional VAWDASV in their review of target hardening and moves towards a national approach



## **Violence Against Women Domestic and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)**

The VAWDASV Act 2015 was implemented by the National Assembly for Wales in order to: improve arrangements for the prevention of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence; improve arrangements for the protection of victims of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence; and improve support for people affected by gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

The Act provides the leadership and direction which will promote consistency and best practice in the way in which violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence is prioritised and tackled across Wales, with the aim of “creating a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future, a Wales where everybody is able to live fear-free in safe, equal, violence free relationships and communities.”

The act placed a duty on local authorities and statutory organisations to develop regional strategies. The Vale collaborated with Cardiff to create a regional strategy which outlines how they will carry out this duty through the delivery of following aims: PREPARE (Improve the planning and commissioning of services). PURSUE (Address perpetrators of VAWDASV and improve information sharing. PREVENT

(addressing negative attitudes and behaviours that have the potential to result in VAWDASV. PROTECT (Improve the multi-agency response and support to all victims and their children). SUPPORT (ensuring innovative, flexible and evidence-based services are available)

## **The White Ribbon Campaign**

White Ribbon are a UK organisation who aim to end male violence against women. The charity has developed a number of initiatives that individuals and companies can sign up to show their support of this initiative and publicly demonstrate their opposition to abusive or coercive behaviours towards women. Partners across the Vale have signed up to the pledge and on the 25<sup>th</sup> November (the international day for the elimination of violence against women) partners come together to openly demonstrate their support.



## WHAT THE PUBLIC SAID...

Feedback from the Social Services need's assessment showed that their respondents reported most commonly telling friends, the Police, relatives or healthcare professionals, about the abuse. Of people who hadn't told anyone about the abuse, reasons given included: being ashamed, didn't know who to tell, didn't realise it was abuse, thought they wouldn't be taken seriously, people would not believe a man would be the victim.

In terms of where respondents would like to see information about domestic abuse, GP surgeries, schools/colleges/universities, hospitals, council buildings, leisure centres, police stations, shopping centres / supermarkets, public transport, pubs/bars/clubs, and dentists were all identified by over half of respondents, suggesting strong support for widespread availability of information through a number of routes.

The need for perpetrator work was highlighted as being a priority among residents

35% of residents in the survey carried out for the Strategic Assessment thought that domestic abuse was a big problem.

An ACE's study conducted in North Wales looked at the effectiveness of rolling out of ACEs training in GP surgeries. The study identified that 60% of respondents disclosing an ACE had not previously shared this with another professional. We know that the vulnerable individuals seen by one partner in community services is likely to have been seen by a number of other partners at a previous time in their lives. A partnership approach and system wide commitment towards identifying and acting upon vulnerabilities is essential in ensuring that victims and service users get the support that they need at the earliest possible point.

**We will improve the identification of vulnerability through the roll out of a programme of safeguarding training and vulnerability training for all workers who are front facing (including refuse collectors/postmen/maintenance workers etc)**

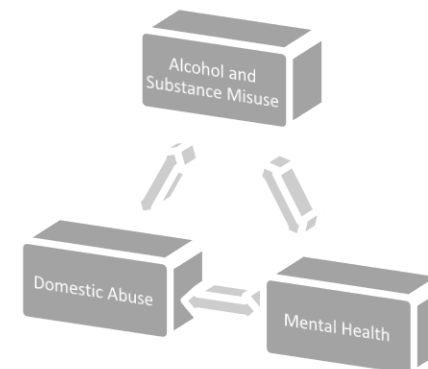
This is especially important in the case of issues such as modern-day slavery, child sexual exploitation and county lines which are all issues that are increasing in prevalence but continue to lack awareness among certain professionals in the community.

## Alcohol and Substance Misuse

Alcohol and Substance Misuse are both visible and hidden harms in the Vale of Glamorgan with figures of misuse evident in both the affluent Vale (through highest rates of alcohol consumption) and the more deprived parts (through increased hospital admissions for alcohol and drug specific and attributable conditions).

Alcohol continues to be the primary substance misused but there is increasing prevalence of misuse of cocaine, New Psychoactive Substances, Benzodiazepines and polydrug use. The Entry to Drug and Alcohol Service (EDAS) received 1566 referrals in the year 2018-2019, an increase from 1462 in the year 2017-2018. The service conducts an average of 15 assessments a week in the Vale and currently operates at a maximum of a 3 day wait for appointments. The Vale referrals in 2017 resulted in 116 referrals to the Vale Addictions Unit in Barry. A substantial proportion of those referrals concerned heroin as the main drug of choice.

Alcohol and Substances are rarely misused by individuals who aren't seeking to overcome their vulnerabilities and mask existing needs. The 'Toxic Trio' of alcohol/substances, domestic abuse and mental health is notoriously difficult to manage and this complex issue is one which can not be addressed outside of a partnership approach.



Cardiff and Vale are currently re-commissioning substance misuse services, one of the key aims being to improve the experience for people who require information, advice, support and treatment. The new system is currently being designed, and will place a focus on early identification and help, accessible service provision.

A common issue raised by those who have complex issues and rely on multiple service issues is how complicated the pathway can be, especially when partners appear to be working in silos and giving disjointed advice and support.

**We will investigate the feasibility of System Navigators for adults with complex needs to have support to more effectively navigate through services in the community.**

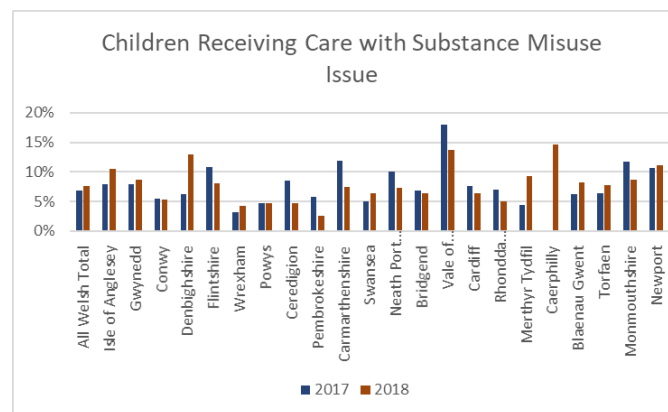
Where vulnerabilities are concerned there is no doubt that our children and young people are often the most vulnerable in our society.

One partnership initiative that looks to support vulnerable children is Operation Encompass which directly connects the police with schools to secure better outcomes for children who are subject or witness to police-attended incidents of domestic abuse. Rapid provision of support within the school environment means children are better safeguarded against the short-, medium- and long-term effects of domestic abuse.

**We will support the schools in the Vale to launch Operation Encompass**

We know that living in a household where there is domestic abuse is one of the Adverse Childhood experiences, and so too is living in a household with alcohol/substance misuse as well as a range of other factors.

In the year 17/18 there were 15 fixed term exclusions from Vale schools where drugs or alcohol were noted as being the reason for exclusion. Children in care are also more likely to have substance misuse issues than other areas in Wales.



Of 80 young people assessed for a drug or alcohol problem in the Youth Offending Service, 53

were identified as having a problem.

Disengagement from school, involvement in care, domestic abuse and substance misuse are all factors commonly present in the case of missing people. In the Vale there were 705 missing

people in the year

2018/2019 of which 444

were under 18. The

increased vulnerability of missing

children to child sexual exploitation, drug abuse,

	Age	Barry	Penarth	Vale	Out of CSP	Total
2017-18	UNDER 18	314	101	44	201	660
	18-24	40	14	6	34	94
	25-34	27	14	11	34	86
	35-44	29	17	7	49	102
	45-54	19	6	3	9	37
	55-64	9	19	2	12	42
	65+	5	8	9	2	24
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,045</b>
2018-19	UNDER 18	268	95	81	144	588
	18-24	36	16	11	41	104
	25-34	46	7	3	76	132
	35-44	27	41	4	37	109
	45-54	13	9	4	30	56
	55-64	5	3	4	15	27
	65+	10	15	7	8	40
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>1,056</b>



homelessness and crime makes identifying and tackling the causes of vulnerability to going missing a priority for all partners in the sector.

We will improve the competencies needed to identify ACEs and expand on existing projects where possible to include support for other areas of need.

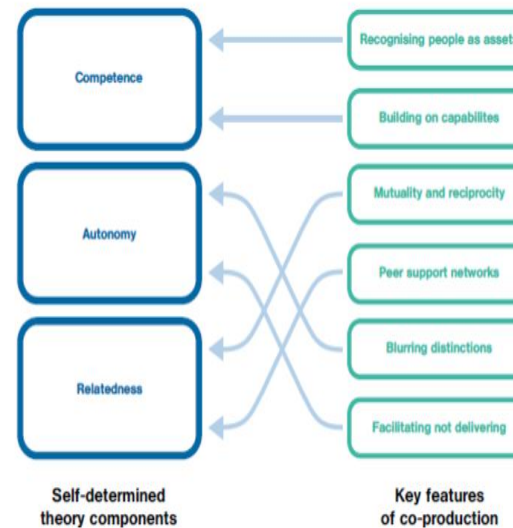
We will ensure that services are able to look at multiple needs in order to provide a more holistic service.

As outlined under priority 2, our services are only effective if we listen to the views and suggestions of the people who use them and work in partnership with our service users to



improve and develop the care we provide. Service user engagement is central to doing this, helping us make our services more responsive, effective and personalised.

There is increasing movement towards services that are coproduced with those who use their services and research has demonstrated compelling evidence that coproduction has the additional advantage of improving vulnerabilities



through its ability to increase the wellbeing of individuals.

We will create structures for volunteering that enable all partners to actively and systematically recruit their victims/service users into a programme that enables victims and service users to have a voice in the running and development of interventions and programmes.

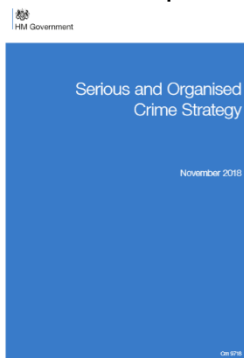
A background image showing a group of business professionals in a meeting. In the foreground, two hands are shaking in a firm grip, symbolizing agreement or partnership. Other hands are visible in the background, some pointing at documents on a table. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an office environment.

## PRIORITY 4 – Work Together

*Strengthen the innovative partnership working and information sharing within the Vale to improve efficiencies and enhance problem solving.*

## Organised Crime

In 2018, the UK Government issued its strategy for dealing with serious and organised crime. The strategy highlights the scale of the problem of organised crime and the huge cost,



both financial and humanitarian, to society. While drug offences are low in the Vale, one think that we know is that serious and organised crime often remains hidden or underreported so the true figure is likely to be much higher than

the one that is reported. Serious and organised crime knows no border, is able to be transient and can make full use of new and emerging technologies to increase its impact and work on a much larger scale.

Estimated numbers of drug users are very hard to ascertain as our dealers; however, the human cost can be seen in the number of deaths resulting from drug use of which there were 5 per 100,000 population in 2017.

'County Lines' is a term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence

to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. These dealers will use dedicated mobile phone lines, known as 'deal lines', to take orders from drug users. Heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine are the most common drugs being supplied and ordered. In most instances, the users or customers will live in a different area to where the dealers and networks are based, so drug runners are needed to transport the drugs and collect payment.

Serious and organised crime affects more UK citizens, more often, than any other national security threat and leads to more deaths in the UK each year than all other national security threats combined

The regional IOM is currently developing in Cardiff and the Vale to include county lines. County lines. In Wales, the main drugs supplied by the lines identified into North Wales in the reporting period were Crack Cocaine and Heroin, which is a continuing trend. There is an emergence of a small number of lines selling Crack Cocaine solely, which may be

representative of the local drug market and the demand for the product combined with its profitability.

Very few lines have been identified as running through Barry. One line that did was known to originate in Newport. However, it is clear that a partnership approach is critical for preventing, identifying and responding to these types of organised crime.

Alongside the need to develop a WASPI and information sharing protocols to facilitate joint working and the sharing of information, agencies often come across more practical barriers to sharing information given the number of different IT systems used by each partner agency that aren't able to interface with each other. A solution to this issue would be

*“A success of the DAARC project is its access to a number of different department’s databases which enables the gathering of a wide range of information to get the best picture about what is going on in a particular PPN. The downside is this is that this method of investigating is very time consuming”* DAARC WORKER

to provide agencies with access to each other’s databases, however as seen with the domestic abuse assessment and referral coordination (DAARC) project this is effective but very time consuming. In a time of diminishing staff teams,

We will investigate the feasibility of an information management system for the Safer Vale that is able to interface with existing systems

organisations would struggle to have this as the only means of accessing data held by other organisations.

One criticism of current information sharing protocols, as voiced by professionals in the sector, is that often good information sharing is dependent on a few key individuals who know each other well and are able to freely pick up the phone and make enquiries relating to their area of work. If any of these key people are off work, the relationship and information sharing protocol often leaves work with them, resulting in a lack of information sharing until their return. In the case of any crime and certainly in the case of serious and organised crime, information is likely to be needed instantly so the absence of protocols that work regardless of individuals or other situational factors is integral to swift, effective and accurate reporting.

Many counties across the UK have developed Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs known as a MASH. These hubs differ greatly in their remit, function and protocols but most of them operate by having a number of agencies collocated and able to deal with issues using a partnership approach. The possibility of a MASH was explored in the Vale and given the difficulties presented by different services spanning different counties, the resource implication of staffing a MASH given the existence of other MASHs in neighbouring areas it has been decided that this would not be the appropriate solution

for the Vale. However, the idea of daily discussions regarding cases that are new and require the attention of multiple services has been met with approval.

We will develop an appropriate solution for daily discussions that facilitate the appropriate discussions around individuals and families who require a partnership intervention.

Information on the service users/victims/clients isn't the only important information to be shared for the achievement of successful outcomes. Information on what the services deliver, where they deliver them and at during what operating times are equally important in ensuring that operational staff have the right information to inform service users/victims/clients.

*“In some services staff members seem to change so frequently I just can't keep up”* Staff Member

For many services, projects only receive short term funding and therefore what they deliver is also subject to frequent change

We will coordinate the creation of an information sheet with key contacts for different aspects of Community Safety within each agency.

We will organise 'speed (up)dating' sessions where practitioners are given a platform to meet and discuss changes in service

### **OSARA Model of Problem Solving**

The police developed a model of problem solving known as the OSARA model (Objective, Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment). Using the four steps in the OSARA model partnerships can find more effective ways to solve issues to common problems.

#### **Scanning**

Individuals can determine problems through:

- Personal experience with location, activity or behaviour that has come to the community/police attention.
- Communication with residents, businesses, or other public/private agencies.



A problem is two or more incidents which are similar in nature, are causing harm or have the potential to cause harm, and the public expects the police to deal with the problem.

Similarity among incidents include:

- Person
- Location
- Behaviour
- Time

### **Analysis**

This involves learning everything possible about the incidents, actions and who is already involved in trying to deal with the problem.

Analysis should be thorough, creative and innovative as the characteristics of each problem vary. Effective responses cannot be developed unless you know what is causing the problem.

The nature of the problem may seem obvious at first glance, but the purpose of the analysis is to learn as much as possible about a problem to identify what is causing it.

Think about the, who, what, why, when, where and why to help gather the evidence.

### **Response**

Based on the scanning and analysis steps, solutions can be designed to:

- Eliminate the problem

- Reduce the problem
- Reduce the harm caused by the problem
- Deal with the problem better
- Identify the best individual/agency that can better handle the problem

We will develop protocols for the systematic sharing of good practice

It is helpful to consider whether there are guardians of those affected (for example, parents, carers), or managers of locations (for example, landlord, trustees)

### **Assessment**

This is where you evaluate the effectiveness of your response.

It may include:

- Total elimination of the problem
- Less serious or harmful problems
- Better handling and improved response to the problem

A way to see if the assessment has had any impact on the community could be:

- Reduced fear from the community in relation to the problem
- Increased use or footfall in an area

- Decrease in crime and incidents in relation to that location

Assessment allows us to look at what effect the response had on a problem. If the response had little or no effect, more analysis can be completed so that a more appropriate response can be applied. If the response resulted in a positive change, it can be determined what, if anything, is needed to maintain the change.



### Community Alcohol Partnerships

Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) is a Community Interest Company (CiC) whose aim is to reduce alcohol harm in local communities from drinking by young people under 25 with a particular emphasis on preventing underage drinking.

The single most important function of CAP is that it is a catalyst for effective local partnership work to reduce alcohol harm. We bring together a range of local stakeholders with a shared interest in preventing underage drinking and encouraging responsible drinking among young adults.

Local partners, including retailers, must be willing to work in partnership to achieve objectives linked to reduction of underage drinking and associated harms. CAP partners vary but will typically include police, trading standards, relevant

local authority departments such as public health, licensing, community engagement and youth services, schools, local charities, housing associations, resident associations and alcohol retailers/licensees.

In Penarth, a Community Alcohol Partnership has been formed following the ongoing issue of young people drinking in the town centre, Penarth police officers carried out surveys with local schools and residents and data showed that only 15 per cent of the 16 and 17-year-olds surveyed had never consumed alcohol and 20 per cent said they drank alcohol at least once a week.

Figures showed that 20 per cent of residents who were surveyed said they witnessed young people consuming alcohol on a weekly basis in the centre of Penarth.

*“The introduction of the CAP will complement the work that’s already been undertaken by local officers and our partners, and hopefully will be a great example of police and agencies working together effectively, to reduce anti-social behaviour and make our communities better places to live, work and visit.”*

Tony Williams, Chief Inspector Vale of Glamorgan

An example of positive joint working that has been working for a number of years is the work completed by the Council and the Police in response to licensing issues. The team run regular operations to identify and address underage sales of alcohol, illegal knife sales and illegal sales of New Psychoactive Substances (namely Nitrous Oxide). Between 2016 and 2018 there were 28 tests of which 3 premises failed and are being managed by the teams.

### **Cardiff and Vale APB**

Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan's Area Planning Board (APB) for Substance Misuse was created in 2010 to strengthen partnership working and strategic leadership in the delivery of substance misuse strategy as well as to enhance and improve the key functions of planning, commissioning and performance management. The APB is one of 7 APBs covering all health boards and local authorities in Wales and is comprised of statutory and non statutory partners. APB spending is delivered via the substance misuse action fund which is an annual grant awarded to support the APB to meet its commissioning priorities.

The APB is formed of a strategic level board, an operational level Commissioning, Finance and Delivery Group as well as a range of advisory subgroups. The APB co-ordinates activities around reducing deaths from drug misuse and as

A collaboration to analyse NHS data was established in April 2014 between Public Health Wales and South Wales Police, with local Health Boards and the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust, and seeks to use evidence to prevent violence at the source by identifying and mapping communities, specifically police beats, which have the highest numbers of presentations to health care as a result of violence. This allows for targeted intervention to prevent violence in communities that are most at-risk. Regular routine reports are produced for Local Violence Prevention Groups and provide evidence-based advice for intervention and prevention.

such hosts Fatal Drug Poisoning Review Panels which meet monthly and discuss cases of individuals who have died likely as a result of a drug poisoning (overdose). The recommendations from these panels are fed up through the APB groups who can consider strategic and operational mechanisms to reduce the number of future deaths.

Safer Vale is invited to all levels of the APB partnership and is a key standing partner.

## Serious Violence

In April 2019 the Government launched a consultation on whether to introduce a new legal duty to support the multi-agency action needed to prevent and tackle serious violence. This is in response to the recognition that more is needed to be done in partnership to address issues such as serious violent crime. This consultation existed alongside a number of other initiatives and strategies based on addressing serious crime and vulnerability including a new £200 million Youth Endowment Fund, an independent review of drug misuse and the publishing of the new Violence Strategy published in April 2018.

The all-Wales Serious Violence Group has been developed in Wales to ensure an alignment between the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy to the ambitions set out in the Partnership Agreement between Public Health Wales, Policing and the other Criminal Justice Agencies operating in Wales. The group is a forum for developing consensus, setting direction and providing advice and provides a conduit for information to flow between the Home Secretary's Serious Violence Taskforce and stakeholders in Wales. An early focus for the Working Group has been to develop a jointly agreed cross-sector strategy and action plan for tackling serious violence in Wales, through a public health approach, and oversee its implementation. The aim is for this to focus on

serious violence including reducing knife and gun crime, tackling county lines and improving the data exchange between health, policing, criminal justice and other partners. A strategic review of the whole of Wales is currently being undertaken to produce a framework for tackling serious violence across the country. The Violence and Vulnerability Unit established by the Home Office was commissioned to conduct this work and over 200 people from 80+ organisations have been consulted and following a series of recommendations we are developing a strategy that will ensure the Serious Violence Strategy is fully implemented in Wales taking the devolved picture into the equation and enable a consistent approach across the police forces and our partner agencies.

We will ensure an active and strong response is provided to groups, consultations and reviews to guarantee the specific issues identified and experienced by the Safer Vale are communicated and placed on a platform to influence national change and improvement.

In 2017 the Community Safety Partnership held a workshop to look at the issues facing domestic abuse and substance misuse services in the Vale, particularly where cooccurrence of the two issues was at play. One of the outcomes of the workshop was the identification of the need to help each organisation better understand the other organisation's area of expertise. This resulted in domestic abuse and substance misuse working together to roll out a training module across the whole sector on the identification and intervention of concurrent domestic abuse and substance misuse.

This joint training meant that staff members across the board were saved time in attending one training session rather than two

Domestic abuse and substance misuse services were able to save resources on the delivery of joint training

The whole sector received standardised training so is able to deal with the issue in the same way.



Explore which agency training modules can be opened up to other agencies to create a cost-effective solution to improved awareness and understanding.



## Learning from other areas: Case Study from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service

### MALPAS HUB

The Newport Engagement Hub is an innovative building based in Malpas Fire Station, the first of its kind for a Fire Service, and a flagship Hub for SWFRS and partner agencies, providing a cost effective and cutting-edge home for modern-day Community Safety engagement.

This project enables collaboration and support in the maintaining of an accurate picture of ASB, facilitating reporting and ultimately strengthening community confidence through effective working. The Hub is the epicentre of contact with partnerships including: Gwent Police; Youth Services; CADROS; Newport Live; Positive Futures; Diversity and Inclusion Team; Children and Young People Prevention Team; Diversion Officers; ASB Officers; Newport Council; Victim Support.

Aside from the partnership joint tasking the Hub also hosts the Welsh Fire and Rescue Services, Youth Intervention Projects who work to build partnerships throughout Gwent in order to successfully educate and build awareness around the Fire Services key messages with young people aged between 11 & 25 who are known to offend, are at risk of offending, involved in ASB or display risky or challenging behaviour due to reasons such as mental health or exposure to ACES.

The benefits collated from partners include:

- Dramatic reduction in number of multi-agency meetings
- More partnership info and data available.

- Oversight of themes such as rough sleepers, CSE, OCG, mental health.
- More background information available prior to arrest or court appearance for individuals.
- More interaction with RSLs and support services which may solve problems in the community.
- More information from statutory services e.g., Social Services etc. is kept as part of the multi-agency response to crime/ASB.
- More powers available to use e.g., statutory powers held only by the local authority can be used in conjunction with ASB reduction powers or arrest to solve problems.
- Evidence to support CBOs, Injunctions and CPNs and other powers is collected through the Hub.
- Exploring new solutions to problems and innovative ways of working that can get results e.g., intelligence gathering with young people, rough sleepers and referral pathways to solutions in a multi-agency setting.
- Reduction in number of meetings.
- Reduction on time taken to deal with matters due to multi agency office.
- Reduction in police time spent on paperwork, such as 115 requests for information.

## Closing Remarks

This ambitious strategy sets out the direction for the work of the Safer Vale Partnership over the next 5 years. The document reflects the varying needs of the Vale of Glamorgan in relation to crime and disorder and the breadth of partners and stakeholders who need to be involved in the fight to make our communities safer places to live, both in real terms and in the perceptions of safety as felt by those who live, work and visit the Vale. There is significant overlap between the priorities outlined in the strategy and partners are urged to remember to consider how a commitment in one priority area can also provide positive benefits in another priority area. It will be crucial to communicate these overlaps to ensure no duplication and smooth joined up working. There is a golden thread that runs through each group representing the Safer Vale, each hierarchy level and each strategic priority. It is the responsibility of every person involved to identify and respond to this golden thread. /

Each year, a new strategic assessment will be carried out in line with the requirements placed upon the Partnership and this assessment will provide the basis for a review of the Strategy to ensure that this living document is refreshed and aligned to the most current and pressing needs of the Vale of Glamorgan. This strategy is intended to be the backbone of the Partnership and as a living document should always reflect the Vale of Glamorgan of today and tomorrow.

