



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg yn ogystal â Saesneg.

This document is available in Welsh as well as English.

Dyfed Powys Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)

2024-2025 Summary

The Vision of the Dyfed Powys Criminal Justice Board

To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Dyfed Powys, including improving the experience for victims and witnesses and building confidence in the system, as a whole.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is at the heart of the local criminal justice board for a safe, just and inclusive Dyfed-Powys area. Celebrating the diversity of the Dyfed-Powys area and ensuring that the principles of equality and inclusion underpin all the work that is conducted.

Priority areas

In 2024/25, the Board adopted two main priorities.

1. Victims and Witnesses
2. People who Offend

The Board fed into the All-Wales plan whilst also focusing on local priorities within these areas.

A further commitment was made by the Board in November 2024 in relation to Youth Services. The Board will support the Youth Justice Service to deliver their Youth Justice Plans to achieve better outcomes for children and young people. This will be through engagement, identifying regional challenges related to criminal justice, resolving regional challenges and problem solving, sharing good practice, and supporting the local and national join up with the adult justice systems. A regional representative of the Youth Offending and Prevention Teams sits on the LCJB and acts as our conduit to ensure Youth Justice consideration in all that the Board discusses.

A commitment was made by members and included in the Terms of Reference for the LCJB group to fully support the All-Wales Criminal Justice Race Action Plan, ensuring that its priorities are embedded into everything that the LCJB and their organisations do. Members have signed up to take personal responsibility for individual development and awareness of anti-racism issues.

The Criminal Justice Board for Wales review concluded in December where it was agreed that there would be three key principles for the All-Wales Board going forwards:

- Locally led
- Insight Driven and Outcomes
- A strategic influencer

These principles are underpinned by:

- A robust priority setting process using evidence and identifying capacity and capabilities
- Effective governance structures

Key Highlights from Dyfed-Powys LCJB

Priority 1 – Victims and Witnesses

- **New victim service launched**

Previously managed by Goleudy, Dyfed-Powys Police victim support services are now being delivered by independent charity, Victim Support.

Victim Support are the leading independent victims' charity in England and Wales. They have over 50 years' experience in providing free and confidential support to anyone affected by crime and traumatic events.

They are independent of the police and local authorities but work with them and the whole of the criminal justice system and other relevant bodies, to improve services for victims and provide much-needed support.

The service went live in November 2024 and is available to support anyone affected by crime. That's not just victims, but includes their friends, family and anyone impacted by what has happened. Victim Support will offer a wide range of resources to assist victims in their time of need, from trauma counselling and practical guidance to links with community services. The service is open to victims of all crime types, including high risk victims of anti-social behaviour. For the first time, the service will also provide support directly to children and young people who have been victims of crime. This is a significant development in ensuring specialist support for young people.

So, what's the difference between Dyfed-Powys Victim Service and the Force's Witness Care Unit?

The Dyfed-Powys Victim Service will focus exclusively on delivering targeted support to victims, ensuring they receive appropriate guidance and help throughout their recovery journey.

Victim Support offers a variety of services such as:

- A dedicated Victim Support Officer
- Practical support including crime prevention advice
- Emotional support
- Signposting and referral to other support agencies
- Regular support via telephone, text, email and /or face to face
- Guidance and support to ensure victims' rights are maintained in line with the Victims' Code.

The Witness Care Unit within Dyfed Powys Police will continue to support witnesses and victims involved in court proceedings.

By being supported by witness care, victim and witnesses will be:

- Provided a dedicated Witness Care Officer, from first court hearing through to sentencing
 - Needs assessed for attendance at court
 - Assisted with arrangement support for court attendance as necessary
 - Provided with updates and information about significant events in the court process, including dates of court hearings and outcomes.
- **Domestic Abuse Champions introduced to Dyfed Powys Police**

This initiative is part of the Domestic Abuse (DA) Matters culture change programme, developed by SafeLives and the College of Policing, to enhance the knowledge and skills of our workforce, particularly those dealing with domestic abuse incidents on the front line.

What is the DA Matters Programme?

The DA Matters programme is designed to help police forces strengthen the way they respond to domestic abuse. It provides specialised training to officers who are often the first point of contact for victims - as well as the 'Champions' who have been introduced to provide support and guidance. The training covers critical aspects such as understanding coercive control, offering better insight to the impact of controlling behaviours on victims, and identifying the challenges victims face in leaving abusive situations.

This training programme ensures that the new DA Champions are well-equipped to both deal directly with and advise on the complexities of domestic abuse cases. The key objective is to build a more empathetic, consistent, and informed response to domestic abuse across Dyfed-Powys Police.

Who are the DA Champions?

The DA Champions are a dedicated group of officers who have voluntarily undergone specialised training to deepen their understanding of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. Currently, there are 40 DA Champions across the force.

What do they do?

DA Champions are passionate about improving our response to domestic abuse and seek to inspire colleagues to do the same. They provide vital guidance, promote a better understanding of domestic abuse, and challenge the myths and stereotypes that can sometimes surround DA incidents. Their role includes:

👂 Providing Support: Acting as a point of contact for colleagues who need advice or assistance in handling DA cases.

🧠 Promoting Understanding: Dispelling myths and stereotypes related to domestic abuse victims, children, and perpetrators.

✓ Improving Practice: Conducting dip sampling of domestic PPNs (Public Protection Notices) to identify areas for improvement and highlight examples of excellent work within the force. PPNs are an information sharing document that records

safeguarding concerns about an adult or child. They are shared with partner agencies to inform a multi-agency response.

🤝 Improving Service: Ensuring that the response to domestic abuse is consistent, timely, and empathetic, prioritising the safety and well-being of victims.

- **Support for victims of stalking**

A pilot support service for victims of stalking was launched in September 2024 delivered by Paladin National Stalking Advocacy Service, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Paladin support referrals for high-risk stalking victims from the Dyfed-Powys area with two part time dedicated Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISAC) in place to work with victims and professionals.

These caseworkers have attended and continue to attend a plethora of training sessions and Welsh language training.

This pilot also includes specialised stalking awareness training for 60 professionals, ensuring that victims are able to be appropriately supported within a range of services across the area. Two training sessions have already been carried out with a third planned for March. Representatives from a variety of organisations have already attended, ensuring a widespread understanding of stalking across the Dyfed-Powys area.

From its launch through to January 2025, 13 victims of stalking have been supported, and Paladin provide a quarterly monitoring report. This has already included a case study detailing intervention and support provided to one of their clients from this area. A positive and reassuring amount of activity is being undertaken.

- **Victim and Witness subgroup**

At the November meeting of the sub-group members received an important input from a member of the Mid and West Wales VAWDASV Survivor Advisory Panel, Sarah Taylor - a survivor of domestic abuse, coercive control, and post separation abuse in the family court. The group listened

to Sarah's evidence and committed to highlight to Welsh Government and Criminal Justice in Wales the challenges being experienced by users of family courts.

The Disclosure of Information between Family and Criminal Agencies and Jurisdictions 2024 Protocol was endorsed and a Joint Working Group created to operationalise the Protocol across Wales.

The Family Court Pathfinder project has also now been launched in the Mid and West Wales designated family judge area and will commence on 3rd March. This brings a focus on support for victims and in particular for children's voices to be heard in family court proceedings. The outcomes of this will be closely monitored by the group.

The way in which the sub-group considers victim and witness matters is set to change in 2025. The sub-group will be more data-driven, with members asked to consider data sets prior to the meeting relating to the objectives within the LCJB delivery plan i.e., Victims Code Of Practice compliance, Domestic Abuse attrition, and RASSO performance, alongside important topics such as victim engagement. This will ensure that the sub-group respond to emerging trends and demands and can evidence delivery against the LCJB delivery plan objectives.

- **Victims Code Of Practice (VCOP)**

The Victims Code of Practice focuses on victims' rights and sets out the minimum standard that organisations must provide to victims of crime.

Under the code it is a victim's right "to be referred to services that support victims and have services tailored to (their) needs".

The Police and Crime Commissioner has a duty to review criminal justice organisations' compliance with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime.

The new Government have agreed that a consultation on metrics will commence in 2025 with anticipated agreement in 2026. A Policy Advisor from the OPCC joined the Ministry Of Justice working group on the VCOP compliance framework.

There is still a gap in reporting capability on compliance rates. An All-Wales task and finish group was set up to see how data can be collated and analysed by Criminal Justice organisations.

- **Domestic Abuse developments**

An online survivor workshop was hosted in April. Ten individuals attended the workshop, all of whom were either currently experiencing or had previously been affected by domestic abuse. The event was a success with great engagement from participants.

Crown Prosecution Service training was delivered which covered special measures, the role of prosecutor, evidence-led prosecutions and witness summonses. The recording will also be used to inform training within Dyfed Powys Police.

Police Domestic Abuse Officers and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) from the PCC's commissioned service are now co-locating. This enables timely information sharing and early advice on incidents, ensuring that victims are safeguarded. This follows the best practice of Operation Soteria Bluestone for RASSO cases. Single Points Of Contact across the force area have been identified for IDVAs.

The Domestic Abuse Virtual Response Unit (DAVRU) now covers all four Dyfed-Powys regions of Carmarthenshire, Powys, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. IDVAs were involved in training the DAVRU teams. The service gives victims who report domestic - related incidents that do not require an urgent response the option to

speak to an officer over a video call. Those who choose this receive an immediate video service rather than a delayed physical attendance. An immediate video response allows for earlier identification of risk and assessment of evidential opportunities.

A new governance structure was put in place to ensure that each region in Wales has oversight of the end-to-end criminal justice response for domestic abuse victims, sharing good practice and working collaboratively. Local Specialist Domestic Violence Court groups have been re-purposed to oversee local performance, reviewing data to measure success, the Joint Justice Plans and report to the Victim and Witness subgroup (who then report to LCJB). Chairs of the oversight board will attend each LCJB meeting going forwards to give updates on progress and work being completed.

- **Criminal Justice outcomes for rape victims**

Victims are now being offered specialist support from the outset of investigations, including consideration of special measures, wellbeing and safeguarding for victims. Greater consideration is also being given to imposing bail conditions on suspects.

The latest data available from July to September 2024 shows that Dyfed-Powys has seen a significant decrease of 90% in the average days taken for police to charge an offender and is the only force in Wales to sit below the national average.

Operation Soteria was developed in response to national concern around the investigation of rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) and the increasing epidemic that is violence against women and girls. Launched in 2021 its aim was to increase the number of adult rape and serious sexual assault cases reaching charge, and in addition deliver sustained improvement in the criminal justice whole system response.

This led to the development of the first National Operating Model (NOM) for the investigation of rape and serious sexual offences.

Dyfed-Powys Police are continuing to implement the National Operating Model products within Op Soteria Bluestone. The implementation plan was signed off by the Chief Officer Group in January 2025.

Significant work has gone in to decrease attrition and achieve procedural justice for victims of RASSO. The Op Bluestone team was created to provide a virtual response to victims of non-acute rape. Following the first six months benefits seen include a 6% increase in victims supporting the criminal justice process and a 23% increase in victims agreeing to being referred to ISVA (independent sexual violence advisor) support.

Rape will remain at the top of the criminal justice agenda and whilst matters are progressing there are always areas that develop that need all stakeholders to work together to improve the position.

- **Special Measures**

[Safe Video Link Evidence Facilities](#) are remote sites in Wales where survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence can deliver their evidence in a safe and secure environment. This means evidence doesn't have to be given in a court room. Victims and witnesses of domestic abuse and sexual violence cases may feel safer and more protected not being in the same building as the perpetrator and their family/friends. There are specialist support workers at all facilities.

Whilst the use of remote evidence sites (RES) within Dyfed-Powys remained low this year all members of the V&W subgroup continue to promote the facilities and encourage use of the RES and other special measures.

- **Serious Violence Duty**

The Dyfed-Powys Serious Violence partnership has agreed a number of interventions to target the priorities identified in the strategic needs assessment. These will be delivered before the end of the financial year:

- Calan Domestic Violence Services – provision of counselling for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Ceredigion County Council – 'what are young people doing online?' feasibility study.
- Dyfed-Powys Police – Operation Vigilant. The aim of this is to identify individuals who appear to present a risk to others by displaying sexually predatory behaviours within the night-time economy. The project relies on both plain clothed and uniformed officers. Plain clothed officers with training act as spotters and uniform officers support by acting as 'disruption teams.
- Dyfed-Powys Police – Trauma informed training for the Vulnerability Hub
- [INTACT](#) intensification work. INTACT are an Early Intervention and Prevention Team who engage with children, young persons and vulnerable adults who have been identified at risk.
- INTACT Virtual Reality headsets – Sessions will be held with young people to highlight online threats, alcohol and drug misuse, county lines and criminal exploitation with the hope of providing a more collaborative response to the serious violence and organised crime threats. With the use of virtual reality headsets, the INTACT team will be able to not only educate young people but partner agencies, afterschool facilities, youth preventions and care givers.
- Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre – provision of support for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.
- New Pathways – Motivational interviewing training. This is a technique used by staff working with people who have experienced sexual violence and those displaying problematic sexual behaviours. It is designed to help people find the motivation to make a positive behaviour change. It is a client-centred approach and is particularly effective for people who have mixed feelings about changing their behaviour. Victims of sexual violence often need to make behaviour changes to deal with entrenched negative trauma coping strategies (substance misuse, high risk behaviours, disordered eating, self-harm etc.) and young

people displaying problematic sexual behaviours who need help to change these behaviours.

- New Pathways – counselling for people aged 18-25 who have experience sexual violence.
- Premier League Kicks – football sessions for young people in areas of high deprivation providing opportunities to participate in prevention workshops.
- BAWSO Training sessions – Serious violence duty funding was secured from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver training sessions in March to professionals who deal with marginalised groups who are at risk of or have directly experienced VAWG crimes.

The sessions will include:

- Working with People with no Recourse to Public Funds
- Domestic abuse from a BME perspective
- Cultural Diversity and Harmful Practices
- Working Effectively with Interpreters
- Domestic violence and the impact on children, young people and adults at risk
- The toxic trio: Assessing and responding to the impact on children, young people and their families
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking (MDSHT)
- Forced marriage and honour-based violence

Priority 2 – People who Offend

- **Women's Centre**

The Women's Centre in Carmarthen was formally opened by the PCC in September 2024. The main work undertaken at the centre is the delivery of the Community Rehabilitation Services contract, supporting women who are on probation orders and women who are released from prison on Rehabilitation Activity Requirement (RAR) days. All women can do their RAR days and access other support with Nelson Trust at the centre. The Carmarthen Centre has a whole system approach element incorporating early intervention and is therefore open for any woman with multiple complex needs. The centre delivers 1-2-1 sessions and group interventions as well as partnership working with food banks, a sexual health nurse, a domestic abuse service, the probation team and more.

Work is ongoing to further develop use of the site for multi-agency support for low level female offenders.

Nelson Trust was nominated for and successfully awarded the Safer Communities Award for their work in Dyfed Powys which was awarded at a ceremony in November 2024.

- **Offender Housing needs**

Housing is widely recognised as one of the main criminogenic needs amongst offenders. This was raised across all four Local Authorities with the Regional Safeguarding Board tasked to identify a suitable housing project. Carmarthenshire offered to be the pilot area providing supportive accommodation for vulnerable and chaotic individuals and emergency accommodation for homelessness and rough sleepers. A suitable property is being sought in Carmarthen, with funding and support discussions taking place alongside this development.

Offender housing was raised as being an issue across all areas in Wales and the Police and Crime Commissioner has given his support to a joint communication to Jayne Bryant MS, Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government, asking for a collective conversation on the issue in the coming months.

- **Integrated Offender Management Housing Pilot**

The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team in Ceredigion identified accommodation as the key need to attempt to break the offending cycle. Existing multi-occupancy projects didn't provide an environment or opportunity for rehabilitation.

The PCC provided set up funding for a dedicated property (single bedroom flat) to stabilise IOM nominals while more long-term accommodation was found.

The project relies on a partnership approach between key IOM agencies. The Police team identify and manage the referrals for the property. HMPPS support individuals whilst in the accommodation. Barcud, the housing association, provide the property on a license arrangement. The Care Society provide housing management and support to the individuals. The Local Authority support the initiative and treat individuals using the property as homeless and in temporary accommodation enabling them to access move on options. Wraparound support is provided through other IOM partners including substance misuse specialist services, meaning that the individual usually ends up being visited at their home every day by one of the agencies.

Since the project was launched in 2021 it is now operating successfully in both Ceredigion and Powys. North Wales have recognised the success of such a scheme and are interested in mirroring it in their area with discussions due to take place shortly.

Both Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire local authorities are supportive of the scheme and actively seeking suitable properties. There is a significant need for the project to be established in Carmarthenshire as it has the highest cohort of IOM nominals force wide.

- **Community Payback**

There are several core principles behind Community Payback projects including credible punishment, visibility, rehabilitation, public safety and public involvement. The types of projects completed are ones that benefit the

community, where ideally it is nominated by the public, and it does not take paid employment away.

In terms of the Dyfed-Powys area, there were 43,108 hours worked in the 12 months between February 2024 and January 2025. In 2024 89.8% of people on probation in Dyfed-Powys were offered a first work appointment within 15 business days of being sentenced and 71.8% completed their hours within 12 months of sentence.

On average, in excess of 25 projects per month nominated by members of the public are worked on by groups of people on probation supervised by Community Payback Supervisors. There are also a number of placements available with local organisations who provide day to day supervision for suitable people on probation. These placements can be tailored to cater for personal needs and protected characteristics to make sure that unpaid work is as inclusive as possible.

In addition, the project offered an education, training and employment programme, available for people who were unemployed, at risk of unemployment or wanting to improve their career prospects. An online learning platform with 20 learning units in 10 different languages is also available to support literacy, numeracy and employability. The project also encourages participants to volunteer.

Examples of current projects in the Dyfed-Powys area include Pentip Primary School in Llanelli, St. Mary's Catholic School Llanelli, Ysgol Llwyn Yr Eos Aberystwyth, Brecon Cathedral, Newtown Wetlands project and Help the Homeless in Builth Wells. Work is also being undertaken in various churches and chapels throughout Dyfed-Powys, grass cutting, strimming, hedging and path laying. Various litter picking projects are being carried out throughout the area and work with the Welsh Rugby Union, local sports clubs and Marine Conservation Society.

Suitable individuals undertake placements in charity shops, Ail Gyfle – Second chance in Llanelli, Ty Hafan, RSPCA, YMCA, Sue Ryder and Paul Sartori to carry out their unpaid work requirement.

Below are examples of the work carried out in the Dyfed-Powys area by people on probation:

St Mary's Church, Cardigan – The removal of rust and flaking paint, prior to re-painting



Litter picking- The clearing of litter from litter hot spots around the county



- **Restorative Justice**

A piece of work to review and refresh the restorative justice offer across Dyfed Powys was commenced in 2024. A portfolio lead for Dyfed-Powys Police has been identified and is reviewing current practice against the Police and Crime Plan, LCJB and VCOP expectations. This includes officer training; the menu of restorative options being utilised and the active offer of participation in Restorative Justice for victims of crime.

- **Provision for perpetrators of VAWDASV**

Historically a number of programmes for perpetrators of domestic abuse have been delivered across Dyfed Powys. A recent regional commissioning exercise was undertaken to provide a comprehensive regional offer of perpetrator interventions with a single point of referral into multiple programmes dependent on type and risk of offending. The PCC lead the procurement on behalf of the whole VAWDASV

Regional Partnership. The provision commences in April 2025 and will provide 3 schemes with availability to move between programmes as risk escalates and de-escalates. This includes specialist psychological support for stalking offenders.

All programmes have support for partners and families. The provider will also deliver the newly implemented CARA programme, delivering support to offenders and their families as part of the out of court disposal model.