

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg yn ogystal â Saesneg.  
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April 2024 - March 2025

# ANIMAL WELFARE SCHEME

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



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## Foreword

The Animal Welfare Lay Visitors Scheme has now been in place since 2002 and is something that I as the Police and Crime Commissioner very much welcome. It is important to me that our Police Dogs are treated with the best possible care to ultimately ensure that they are fit and healthy to undertake their important roles.

Volunteers of the Animal Welfare Scheme (AWS) play an important role in supporting me with my assurance and scrutiny activity. Their dedication and commitment help us build trust and improve policing services. We are incredibly grateful for their hard work and positive impact they have on our community. 2024/2025 was another busy year for the volunteers and I would like to thank them for their continued support and hard work.

### Animal Welfare Standards

AWS volunteers are asked to assess police dogs needs based on the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which places a responsibility on police forces to demonstrate that the needs of their dogs are catered for. These needs are assessed under the 5 Animal Welfare Standards which are:

- The need for a suitable environment
- The need for a suitable diet
- The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- The need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
- The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

In recognition of the work that AWS volunteers have contributed towards and the collaboration of DPP dog section, the Dogs Trust have provided this certificate in recognition that the Animal Welfare standards in Dyfed-Powys are upheld.

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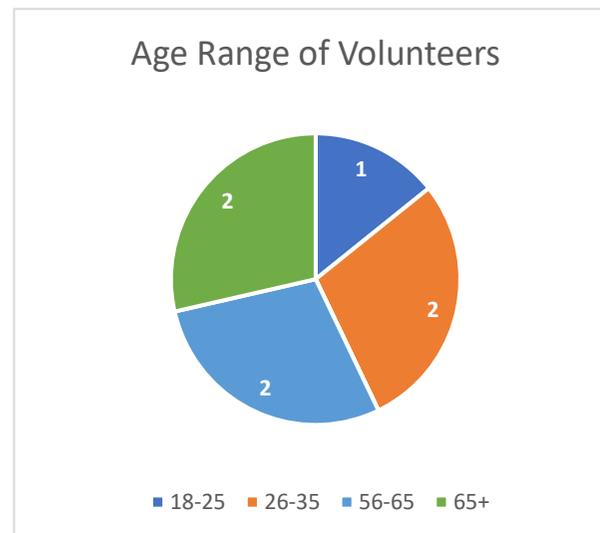
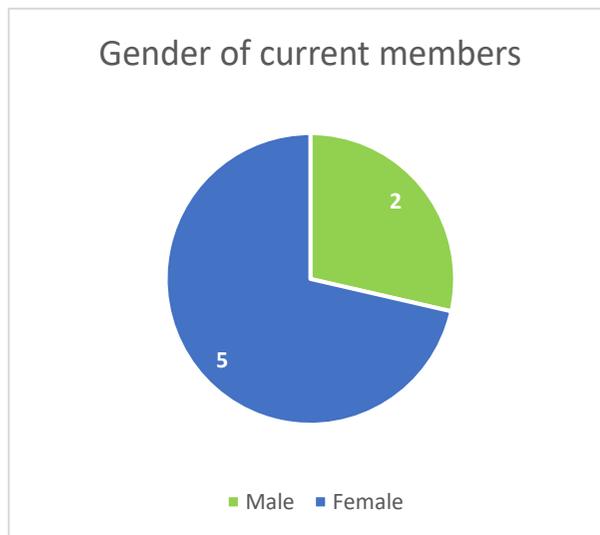


The Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) began the year with 4 Animal Welfare Scheme (AWS) volunteers. With two members departing, the OPCC recruited 5 new volunteer members who received induction training in January 2025 at Dyfed-Powys Police's (DPP) Pembrey Kennel facility supported by Louise Crawford from The Dogs Trust and PS Kerry Williams from the Dog Section.

Currently the scheme now has 7 AWS volunteers based across Dyfed-Powys. Every effort is made for the scheme to represent the demography of Dyfed-Powys but critically, volunteers who show a genuine commitment and interest in the scheme are appointed to the team. It has been

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acknowledged that this is not representative of the demographic area of Dyfed-Powys but this has been a target for recruitment drives. Scheme managers have attended community group meetings, schools and colleges across the Dyfed-Powys area and national shows such as the Urdd and Royal Welsh Agricultural Show to promote and educate members of the communities on the scheme. The current demographic of our volunteers is as follows with all identifying as White :

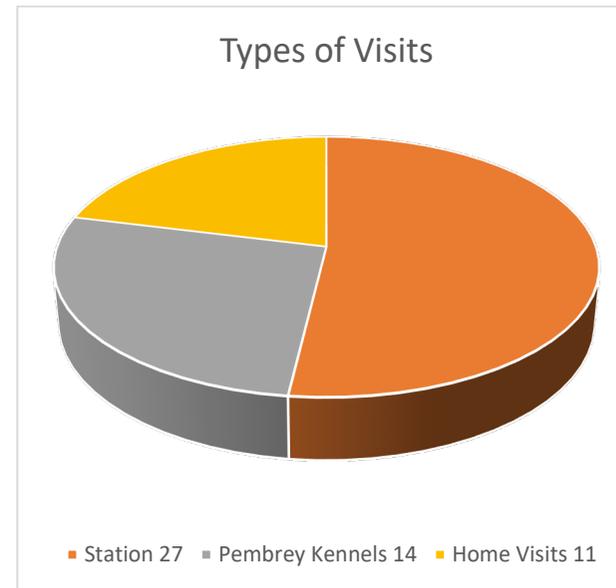
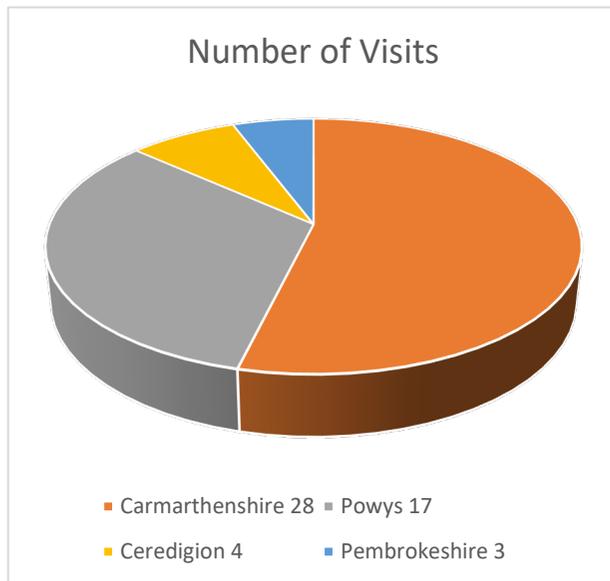


In total, DPP has 17 Dog Handlers across Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Powys. Each AWS volunteer has been assigned a number of dog handlers. Volunteers are asked to assess the vehicle the dog is being transported in, view training that dogs partake in with their dog handler and to conduct Kennel checks.

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During 2024/2025 41 visits were undertaken by our volunteers and there were no significant concerns raised through these visits. In addition to the visits made by volunteers, police dog handlers are also visited at home and findings are reported back to the OPCC. During 2024/2025 11 home visits were undertaken with no issues reported back to the OPCC.

### Breakdown of visits



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### Forward Look

To build on the success of this year, appropriate training and development opportunities will be identified for volunteers to ensure they are kept fully apprised of any new initiatives or guidance. We will continue to link with the Dogs Trust to ensure we adhere to specific guidance.

Further arrangements will be made throughout the year for volunteers to observe appropriate training sessions of the dogs within the service of Dyfed-Powys Police. These will be undertaken on a risk assessed basis ensuring the safety of volunteers, dog handlers and the dogs themselves.

With one current vacancy in the Ceredigion area the OPCC will use public engagement events to promote the scheme with a view to attracting a new volunteer to hopefully also increase the diversity of the volunteers.