

This document was archived on 31 March 2016

# Have you got what it takes?

To work in partnership in Wales

archived

# Have you got what it takes?

## To work in partnership in Wales

### Important facts

Policing and crime are matters that are not devolved to the Welsh Government, but many factors influencing levels of offending and crime are matters that have been devolved to the Welsh Government, including local government, health, education, and fire and rescue.

The Welsh Government's approach to public service reform is based on:

- **collaboration (working together), rather than competition, between public service providers;**
- **simplification and a commitment to designing services around people, not organisations; and,**
- **supporting improvement in public services through strong democracy and accountability.**

The political leadership for the reform agenda is brought together under a reformed Partnership Council for Wales. The Public Service Leadership Group provides national leadership for reform and collaboration. The aim is to increase the pace of improvement in public services in Wales.

The model for partnerships and planning in Wales is engaged leadership through Local Service Boards (LSBs) in each local authority area. The LSB is responsible for making sure that all public services in their area work together across organisational boundaries to improve outcomes for people. They do this by putting a single integrated plan into practice. Membership includes executive and political leaders from local government, health, police, voluntary organisations, and the Welsh Government. Also, there is increasing regional collaboration and in some areas regional leadership boards are in place.

[www.wales.gov.uk/improvingpublicservices](http://www.wales.gov.uk/improvingpublicservices)

### Background

Local government in Wales is made up of 22 unitary authorities and 730 town and community councils. The Welsh Government sets the legal and regulatory framework and decides on the yearly revenue and capital settlements.

[www.wales.gov.uk/localgovernment](http://www.wales.gov.uk/localgovernment)

Wales has four police forces: South Wales, Gwent, Dyfed Powys and North Wales, plus links with the British Transport Police.

There are three fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) covering South Wales, Mid and West Wales, and North Wales. The Fire and Rescue National Framework sets out the Welsh Government's vision and priorities for FRAs in Wales.

[www.wales.gov.uk/fire](http://www.wales.gov.uk/fire)

There are also seven local health boards which deliver all health-care services across seven regions.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/nhswales/reform/?lang=en>

Health, education and social care are inspected by the Health Inspectorate Wales, Estyn and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales respectively. The Wales Audit Office also has regulatory and audit responsibilities for local authorities and health, police and fire organisations – all devolved to the Welsh Government.

A single Probation Trust covers the whole of Wales, operating through 10 local delivery units. Probation is still governed by the UK Government.

<http://www.walesprobationtrust.gov.uk/english/>

While the Children's Commissioner for Wales has no authority over issues which the UK Government is responsible for, he must be consulted about developments in relation to youth justice and wider children's issues.

<http://www.childcomwales.org.uk/>

There are 18 youth offending teams in Wales. The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) oversees the youth justice system in England and Wales, but many of the areas it monitors are devolved to Welsh Ministers. Consultation on a possible Prevention of Youth Offending (Wales) Bill will take place in late summer 2012.

The Welsh Government provides funding through a range of organisations to help deliver specialist support services for women, children and men who are experiencing, or have experienced, violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Consultation on the Welsh Government's aim to introduce a bill in 2013 will take place in autumn 2012.

[www.wales.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.wales.gov.uk/domesticabuse)

The first anti-human-trafficking co-ordinator post for Wales was created in April 2011, with the aim of co-ordinating the best possible support for victims and to make Wales a place where it is very difficult for human trafficking to take place.

[www.wales.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.wales.gov.uk/domesticabuse)

## More information

As in England, the police in Wales are funded from a number of sources, but the two main ones are central Government and that part of council tax that is allocated to the police (police precept).

### **Council tax in Wales is governed by the Welsh Government.**

In terms of funding from central Government, police and crime commissioners (PCCs) in Wales will receive funding from the Home Office and the Welsh Government.

### **What is a single integrated plan?**

By April 2013, each of Wales's 22 local authority areas will have a single integrated plan (SIP) in place. SIPs are made under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, which says that local authorities must carry out community planning. Other statutory bodies (including chief constables) are placed under a duty to co-operate with local authorities in community planning. SIPs will replace separate community safety plans; children and young people's plans; health, social care and wellbeing strategies; and community strategies. There will be a significant reduction in the number of separate partnerships in each area as planning becomes more streamlined.

### **What would the potential Prevention of Youth Offending (Wales) Bill aim to do?**

The Welsh Government is committed to consult on the need for a Prevention of Youth Offending Bill in late summer 2012. The bill or other measures, depending on the outcome of the consultation, will aim to reduce the number of children and young people entering the youth justice system. It should also give better support for those who are already in the youth justice system. This includes strengthening the responsibility and co-operation of local and regional partnerships, and providing better support and aftercare services for children and young people who have served a community or custodial sentence.

### **What would the proposed bill do to tackle violence against women and domestic abuse?**

The bill will support the existing 'Right to Be Safe' strategy and signal the intention that all relevant public bodies should tackle violence against women and domestic violence in a co-ordinated and clear way. It will look specifically at preventive, protective and supportive aspects. The aim is that the bill be complemented by strong national and regional leadership to improve service standards and deliver consistent outcomes. Formal consultation on the bill will take place in autumn 2012.

### **PCCs as partners**

In deciding on local policing priorities, PCCs will need to take account of UK and Welsh Government priorities for community safety and related areas such as health.

Welsh Government budgets will be allocated to PCCs to fund specific activities such as the extra 500 Community Support Officers in Wales and to tackle issues such as violence against women, domestic abuse and substance misuse.

PCCs in Wales will need to take an active role in planning and delivering services to tackle crime and improve community safety with other partners in Wales and in the UK. There will clearly need to be a joined-up approach to improving services and outcomes across a range of areas such as health, youth justice, domestic abuse and emergency planning.

PCCs will also be central partners in the wider public sector in Wales and significant commissioners. They will want to consider linking their police and crime plans with other strategic plans, such as single integrated plans, to provide the basis for joint commissioning and joint delivery locally.

Briefings on how the Welsh Government is taking forward its priorities in local government, health, education, and fire and rescue, and on other key issues that PCCs in Wales will need to be aware of, can be downloaded from the Welsh Government's website at: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/police/pccs>