

# Have you got what it takes?

To work in partnership in Wales



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### Important facts

Policing and crime are non-devolved matters, but many factors influencing levels of offending and criminality are matters which have been devolved to the Welsh Government, including local government, health, education, social services, accommodation and fire and rescue.

The Welsh Government's approach to public service reform is based on collaboration, rather than competition, between public service providers, simplification and a commitment to designing services around people, not organisations.

The collective political leadership for the reform agenda is brought together under a reformed Partnership Council for Wales (PCfW), which provides political accountability and national leadership for public services reform and collaboration, and also drives the pace of improvement of public services of Wales.

The PCfW is chaired by the Minister for Public Services' and its key responsibilities are:

- Encouraging dialogue between the Welsh Ministers and Local Government on matters affecting Local Government in Wales, in accordance with Sections 72 and 73 of the Government of Wales Act 2006; and

- Providing collective political accountability for action to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of public services.

**Partnerships and planning** – The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act received Royal Assent in May 2015 and brings about a significant change in the partnership landscape at a local level. From April 2016, the model in Wales will be collaborative leadership through statutory Public Services Boards (PSBs) in each local authority area.

The PSB is a strategic body responsible for improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their area by contributing to the achievement of 7 national well-being goals. They will achieve this by assessing the state of well-being in the area, and producing and delivering a local well-being plan which will contain objectives, and steps to meet those objectives – designed to maximise their contribution to the goals. There are 4 statutory members (Local Authorities, Local Health Boards, Natural Resources Wales, Fire and Rescue Authorities), and 5 bodies which the board is required to invite to participate in their activities including PCCs and Chief Constables (other bodies are Third Sector, probation services and Welsh Ministers). In addition, the board will be able to invite other partners they think will be important in seeking to improve well-being in the area.

### Background

Local Government in Wales consists of 22 unitary authorities and 735 town and community councils. The Welsh Government sets the legislative and regulatory framework and determines the annual revenue and capital settlements.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/?lang=en>

Wales has 4 police forces – South Wales, Gwent, Dyfed Powys and North Wales plus links with British Transport Police.

There are 3 devolved fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) for 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.

<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/fireandrescue/?lang=en>

In addition there are 7 Local Health Boards which deliver all healthcare services across 7 regions.

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

Health, education and social care are inspected by the Healthcare 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 bodies – all are devolved.

**The National Offender Management Service (NOMS)** in Wales consists of all public sector prisons and the National Probation Service in Wales and contract manages Wales Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and HMP Parc. They also lead the programme to establish the new prison in North Wales. NOMS in Wales is not devolved.

**Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Cymru** is a pan Wales strategic partnership set up to provide an integrated approach to reducing reoffending for agreed priority groups.

Whilst the **Children's Commissioner for Wales** has no authority over non-devolved issues, it is critical that she is consulted about developments in relation to youth justice as the office takes an active interest in youth justice matters.  
[www.childcomwales.org.uk](http://www.childcomwales.org.uk)

There are 15 **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. The Welsh Government and YJB have a good history of working jointly to better support and help young people in the youth justice system and, in July 2014, the Welsh Government and Youth Justice Board launched a joint Strategy 'Children and Young People First'.  
<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/safety/youthjustice/children-and-young-people-first/?lang=en>

Welsh Government provides funding through organisations to help deliver specialist support services for women, children and men who are experiencing or have experienced **domestic abuse and sexual violence**. The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2015. The overarching objective of the Act is to improve the

Public Sector response in Wales to gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence.  
<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/safety/domesticabuse/?lang=en>

The Welsh Government is the only Government in the UK to appoint an **Anti-Slavery Co-ordinator**. The role was created in 2011 with the aim co-ordinating activities to make Wales hostile to slavery and to provide the best possible support for survivors of this heinous crime.  
<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2014/annualreportantihumantrafficking/?lang=en>

## More information

### What is a local well-being plan?

The local well-being plan is produced as part of the functions required of a public services board (PSB). This statutory board, required for each local authority area by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, replaces currently non-statutory Local Service Boards (LSBs) and, when produced, local well-being plans will replace Single Integrated Plans.

The local well-being plan will set out how the board intends to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of its area by setting local objectives which will maximise the contribution made by the board to achieving the well-being goals. The local well-being plan can be used as a vehicle to fulfil other statutory duties or requirements, further rationalising the partnership structures in each area.

Statutory guidance for Public Services Boards will be published in February 2016.

### How are the police funded in Wales?

The Home Office retains responsibility for police policy matters. However, the core unhypothecated revenue funding for policing in Wales is delivered through a three way arrangement involving the Home Office, the Welsh Government and Council Tax payers.

- **The Home Office allocates the unhypothecated Police Grant across all forces in England and Wales by means of a common needs-based formula.**
- **The Welsh Government contributes around a quarter of the core funding. This comprises Revenue Support Grant and redistributed Non-Domestic Rate income. This is also allocated (to Welsh forces only) by means of the common formula used across England and Wales. The Home Office is responsible for the equivalent of funding in England**
- **Council Tax income provides the remainder of core funding (around 40 per cent) to Welsh forces through the police precept. Setting the precept is the responsibility of each Police and Crime Commissioner and the process is set out in regulations which apply across England and Wales.**

In addition to the general revenue funding, the Welsh Government provides a number of specific grants for community safety activities, including provision for the 500 additional Community Support Officers. Some of these go directly to the forces whilst others provide funding for the forces through partnership arrangements. Forces are also eligible to bid for other sources of Welsh Government funding in collaboration with other public service providers in Wales.

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

Specific Welsh Government funding that will be allocated to PCCs, such as for the additional 500 CSOs in Wales, will be ring fenced to ensure aims in improving community safety and tackling issues such as violence against women, domestic abuse and substance misuse continue to be prioritised in Wales.

PCCs in Wales will need to participate proactively in planning and delivering services to combat crime and improve community safety with other partners, both devolved and non-devolved.

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 civil contingencies.

