

28th January 2022

UPDATE ON WALES SAFER COMMUNITIES NETWORK AND MEMBERSHIP OFFER

Purpose

1. To provide members with an update on the establishment of the Safer Communities Network for Wales and to highlight and seek views on the proposed financial commitment to the Network through a membership model, also setting out the potential benefits of membership in improving community safety work and in making communities safer across Wales.

Background

2. The Wales Safer Communities Network was established in January 2021 following the recommendations of the Welsh Government's *Working Together for Safer Communities Review*. The Review created a vision that safer communities will exist in Wales where "every community is strong, safe and confident in a manner that provides equality of opportunity, social justice, resilience and sustainability for all".
3. The Network is currently hosted by the WLGA and consists of a team of four full time staff; Head of Safer Communities Network; Business and Network Development Manager; Communications and Events Manager; and Business Support Officer.
4. The Network received initial funding from the Welsh Government for three years which tapers down over this time as the Network is expected to become financially independent and sustainable. The majority of the Network's funding thus far has been through arrangements set out by the Welsh Government underpinning its introduction in January 2021, however WLGA and Policing in Wales have also already shown commitment to the financial stability of the Wales Safer Communities Network, building of the financial commitment to the previous joint Safer Communities Project between WLGA and Policing in Wales. As the Network strives to become independent, including its own plans for income generation, an initial membership model has been produced in consultation with members of the Safer Communities Board.

The role of the Wales Safer Communities Network in supporting community safety practices

5. Since Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were first introduced over 20 years ago, with the aim of achieving effective safer communities through focussed multi-agency working, austerity hit community safety hard resulting in diminished resource for both CSPs and specific community safety projects which also resulted in community safety issues having a lower profile and dropping down the agenda. In

addition, the current social, political, economic and environmental conditions in Wales are now significantly different to the context in which 'Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships' (CDRPs) were originally established. Also, public service structures have altered substantially and there have been many alterations to the primary legislation itself. The safer communities environment and landscape is also more complex now, bringing many additional challenges and risking not achieving the duty to deliver safe communities now and in the future.

6. The Wales Safer Communities Network's mission is to become the strategic voice for community safety in Wales, through working collaboratively with members and partners to champion and support community safety partnership working and influence the shaping and development of national policy and local practice. The Wales Safer Communities Network will independently deliver a refreshed energy to community safety work and encourage a sustainable approach to partnership working which delivers safer communities for future generations. In delivering its mission, the network will champion, voice, co-ordinate and support community safety partnership working and influence the shaping and development of national policy and local practice across Wales and build within it the sustainable development principle and the Hallmarks of Effective Partnership working. The network will deliver financial efficiency and effectiveness to all involved in community safety and aim for long-term sustainability for future generations to come.

7. In terms of its role, the Network will:

- Deliver financial efficiency and long-term sustainability – through the networks ambition it is anticipated longer-term efficiency savings can be made, as well as increased effectiveness through a co-ordinated approach across CSPs and community safety partners bringing improvements and many benefits. The network aims to be sustainably resourced and locally appropriate.
- Deliver services in a way which works collaboratively, finding long term solutions to community safety issues within a complex environment and landscape, delivering effective and professional practice. Development of a model of work for the Network that is agile, resilient and adaptable, acknowledges the strength of its membership, and will be fit-for-purpose and sustainable for the future development of the network.
- Facilitate a public health approach to community safety matters, delivering a preventative focus to safer communities across Wales, promoting and presenting early intervention at the earliest opportunities. Futureproofing the security of effective safer communities.
- Promote and facilitate an evidenced based and intelligence led approach across Wales
- Provide co-ordination, supporting appropriate skills and knowledge across the community safety sector by enabling opportunities for developing and sharing evidenced best practice and arranging training and development opportunities, whilst understanding communities are made up in many forms and that a 'one size' does not fit all is required.
- Develop community safety network relationships, communications and stakeholder engagement. Facilitate engagement with partners, third sector, local business, communities and citizens
- Provide secretariat support and facilitation of the Wales Safer Communities Board, providing strategic leadership for community safety across Wales

- Develop and support thematic networks and sub or associated networks - including Community Justice Cymru, Welsh Centre for Crime and Social Justice (WCCSJ) and the Wales Data and Analysis Innovation & Improvement Network (WDAIIN)
- Engage in relevant consultations and discussions to ensure the voice of community safety in Wales is heard by policy and legislative leads in both devolved and non-devolved matters.

Developing a membership model

8. The Network has already made great steps and progress since its inception, building foundations for a more connected and co-ordinated community safety in Wales and in progressing its mission. Examples of key work undertaken to date to raise awareness of the Network includes the development of the bilingual website (a one stop shop for all community safety matters: [Safer Communities for Wales - Wales Safer Communities](#)), a social media presence, and a weekly update document (Briff) for all sighted matters arising relating to safer communities. Good links have been established with Welsh and UK Government and community safety practitioners (through the Wales Association of Community Safety Officers WACSO) on new and emerging policy areas such as the Serious Violence Duty and engagement with all relevant partners, supporting key community safety linked boards through attendance (local, regional and national) and secretariat duties and leading co-ordination in relation to consultations (such as on topics ranging from 20mph speed limit to the Prevent Duty). The Network has also carried out 3 surveys (ASB Practitioners, Baseline survey of community safety priorities, Understanding the profile of community safety workforce survey) and have also shared knowledge and learning on key issues through podcasts, seminars and workshops.
9. As noted previously, in establishing the Network, with initial funding from Welsh Government, the expectation was for the Network to become financially independent, with funding committed from partners involved in community safety work (and other interested parties). Through discussions with the Safer Communities Board and representatives of Solace from a local government perspective, and the need to develop a sustainable funding model to support the work of the Network, a 3 tiered funding model has been developed, formed on an annual financial commitment from members as follows¹:

Financial level	Membership Fee
<£200m	£7,500
£200m to £400m	£10,000
£400m>	£12,500

10. In developing a membership model, it is important that potential members understand the benefits of membership, that the investment they make will reap benefits to their

¹ It should be noted that these costs are not expected to cover third sector organisations. Policing in Wales may develop a model that is more appropriate to their leadership role and contribution to community safety.

organisation. The Network has developed a membership offer that is attached at Annex 1 and in short will include:

- Free spaces at network meetings, annual conference, and community safety awards, plus discounted for other attendees (minimum of 25%)
- Free access to virtual seminars and free or discounted access to in-person seminars and training opportunities.
- Members only information. Including members portal for sharing information which cannot be on a publicly available website.
- Free governance support, problem solving, peer reviews, advice and support on documentation.
- Briefings and update on new legislation and duties, funding, and support for local, regional and national campaigns

11. Local authorities, along with policing, are the core members of CSPs and play a critical role in leading and facilitating work to support safer communities at the local level. It is therefore hoped that all authorities will positively consider formally joining the Network as members and the Network will be writing to each local authority to invite them into membership.

12. The Network are also due to hold a launch event in March 2022, followed by a dedicated session in the Senedd later in the year to both raise awareness of the Network and the importance of supporting and enabling safer communities across Wales.

Recommendations

13. **Members are asked to:**

- 13.1 Note and comment on the content of this report, including the progress made by the Safer Communities Network since its establishment;**
- 13.2 Consider the Membership model and provide any views on the proposed 3 tier model as set out; and**
- 13.3 Ensure consideration of the invitation to join the membership of the Network when received by each authority.**

Report cleared by: Cllr Jane Mudd, in her role as a Member of Wales Safer Communities Board

Author: Emma Thomas, Head of the Wales Safer Communities Network
Tel: 07502323589
E-mail: emma.thomas@wlga.gov.uk



Rhwydwaith
CYMUNEDAU MWY DIOGEL CYMRU
WALES **SAFER COMMUNITIES**
Network

Annex 1

MEMBERSHIP OFFER: INITIAL DRAFT

October 2021

INTRODUCTION

Join the Wales Safer Communities Network as we work to raise awareness of community safety in Wales. We act as a voice to influence policy, legislation, and practice for local and national devolved and non-devolved matters that impact community safety and the delivery of safer communities across Wales.

OUR AMBITION is that community safety is valued and integrated across all relevant policy areas in Wales, and that our members are better informed and supported to develop and deliver their community safety priorities. We are committed to working with members and partner organisations to deliver evidence-based, innovative, trauma informed, preventative solutions through partnership working and the sharing of best practice from across Wales and further afield.

In order to achieve a prosperous, resilient, equal and healthier Wales, with cohesive, inclusive communities and a vibrant culture, people who live, work and visit Wales need to feel safe and be safe. Whilst the Wales Safer Communities Network cannot deliver this on our own,

we are eager to help facilitate and coordinate partners to achieve this goal. We do this by ensuring a robust and consistent use of the “five ways of working” from The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, which are: Long Term; Integration; Involvement; Collaboration; and Prevention. We also work alongside other frameworks that our partners use. To find out more about the frameworks in which we work, take a look at our [dynamic infographic](#).

Working across Wales within a wider membership provides opportunities to impact on both local communities and individuals, to prevent reoffending or escalation to further and/ or worse actions, whilst also having a strong focus on safeguarding and support for victims. It also allows for opportunities to deliver and influence legislation and guidance in Wales (both from Welsh Government and Westminster) for the benefit of individuals, communities and partners across Wales.



**By joining the Network you will
receive additional benefits...**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

ENGAGEMENT:

- 3 free spaces at network meetings (2x a year).
- 3 free spaces at annual conference, plus discounted for other attendees (at least 25% off).
- 1 free space at Community Safety Awards (due to be launched in January 2022), plus discounted for other attendees (at least 25% off).
- Free access to virtual seminars for 3 individuals.
- Free or discounted access to in-person seminars.
- Free or discounted training opportunities.
- Early invite to workshops on specific themes and consultations.
- Additional information provided through the members portal (where appropriate), which is of a confidential nature – such as the briefings or information from IOM Cymru or Prevent/Contest which cannot be on a publicly available website.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



SUPPORT:

- Free governance support, problem solving, advice on specific community safety issues.
- Free peer review of governance, community safety team structures (capacity permitting).
- Advice and support on documentation – template Terms of Reference, etc.
- Draft consultation responses that can be adapted locally.
- Access to recorded seminars and training through the members portal.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Briefings on new legislation and duties, and case studies/examples of best practice.
- Funding briefings.
- Support on documentation – template newsletter/ campaign resources etc.
- Support for local, regional, and national campaigns.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



FUTURE DIRECTION:

As a member, you will also be able to directly influence the priorities of the Network, the future direction, and specific areas of work. Through an annual meeting of members, you will be able to raise questions of the Governance Board and the Network team, ensuring that the Network is working for your organisation as well as others.

The Network will continue to raise the profile of community safety and represent community safety where it is appropriate to do so at a Wales and UK level. The partner networks (WDAIIN, WACSO, ASB Practitioners Network) will continue to be supported through secretariat by the Network team.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN BECOMING A MEMBER
OF THE WALES SAFER COMMUNITIES NETWORK.

For more information contact –
SaferCommunities@wlga.gov.uk

Copyright 2021 © Wales Safer
Communities Network, WLGA



Rhwydwaith
CYMUNEDAU MWY DIOGEL CYMRU
WALES **SAFER COMMUNITIES**
Network