

# Heddlu Dyfed-Powys Police



## Youth Strategy

# **DYFED-POWYS POLICE**

## **Investing in Our Future... Children and Young People of Dyfed-Powys**

### **OUR VISION**

**Dyfed-Powys Police recognises that our future lies in the hands of the children and young people, who live, work and play in our communities. We value the contribution that they can make to our society and want to keep them safe and help them reach their goals to become valued citizens of the future.**

## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

This strategy has been drafted in accordance with the Human Rights Act and has been reviewed on the basis of its contents and the supporting evidence and it is deemed compliant with that Act and the principles underpinning it.

Name: **Bryn Thomas**

Department: **Legal Services Department**

Signed: .....*B. Thomas* ..... (Force Legal Advisor)

### REVIEW

This strategy is due for review on: December, 2008

## REVIEW OF DOCUMENT

<b>Date of Review</b>	<b>Reviewed By</b>	<b>Amendments made</b>
07.01.08	Chief Insp. Nigel George	Review undertaken no changes.

## **CONTENTS**

<b>Para</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Purpose of the Strategy</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Current Partnerships with Dyfed-Powys Police</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>The Six Key Themes</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Key Theme 1</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key Theme 2</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Key Theme 3</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Key Theme 4</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Key Theme 5</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Key Theme 6</b>	<b>13</b>

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Dyfed-Powys Police, in its vision for the future, recognises the importance of investing in children and young people and seeks to ensure that as they grow they are provided with the necessary support to develop into valued adult citizens.
- 1.2 This strategy sets out Dyfed Powys Police's contribution to the core aims set out in the Welsh Assembly Guidance on local cooperation under the Children Act 2004, and the overall aim of ensuring that all children and young people achieve their full potential and go on to make a positive contribution to their communities. Children and young people have massive amounts of energy and ability, but often they are not provided with the platform to harness their skills and enthusiasm. The police can become a visible lead in championing the valuable contributions that so many children and young people can make to the benefit of their communities.
- 1.3 The core of the Dyfed-Powys Police 'Youth Strategy' is based on supporting young people, the ultimate aim being Crime & Disorder reduction. In order to achieve this, it must consider how the quality of contact and services provided by the police at both a local and force level, are co-ordinated.
- 1.4 Dyfed-Powys Police believe that the key to success is working together in partnership with both statutory and voluntary organisations, pooling expertise, resources and determination to benefit children and young people and their communities. The Police should listen and respond to the needs of children and young people to ensure that a focused quality service is provided for them. As a result the primary objective is to safeguard children and young people and promote their well-being.

## **2. RATIONALE**

- 2.1 The need to develop proactive working procedures involving children and young people in Dyfed-Powys arise from the following facts and principles:
  - ◆ Children and young people form a substantial percentage of the population and they are the group most at risk of becoming a victim of crime. Proven risk and protective measures enable accurate predictions surrounding potential offenders which enable effective early intervention and long term results.
  - ◆ A very small identifiable percentage of children and young people commit a disproportionately large amount of crime. Children and young people are most subject to misleading information, stereotypical images and are distanced by a less tolerant and understanding society.
  - ◆ Children and young people have massive amounts of energy and ability, and should be supported to harness their skills and enthusiasm to the benefit of their communities. Service providers often make decisions effecting young people without gaining their views. There are so many

organisations providing services for children and young people that there are often large degrees of duplicity that don't necessarily make best use of combined resources.

- ◆ It is acknowledged that the majority of children and young people are not involved in crime or anti social behaviour and indeed make positive contributions to their communities and are responsible law-abiding citizens. The minority who commit acts of anti-social behaviour and become involved in crime must be addressed through problem-solving, intelligence-led approaches, working with partners and local communities to seek long term solutions.
- ◆ This strategy recognises that only a small proportion of our young people in Dyfed-Powys will enter the criminal justice system as offenders but a considerably higher number will be victims or witnesses. The Force has an important role, working with partners to ensure young people are safe from crime and the fear of crime.
- ◆ Dyfed Powys Police aims to prevent and deter young people from becoming offenders and ensure those that do offend will be dealt with efficiently and effectively.
- ◆ Developing preventative approaches can pay dividends in the long run.

### **3. PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY**

3.1 The purpose of this strategy is as follows:

- a) To deliver a top quality service, fully integrated with partners to provide an accessible and familiar service to all children and young people
- b) To prevent and reduce crime and in particular offending by children and young people.
- c) To identify the roles and responsibilities of all Dyfed-Powys Police staff whilst working with children and young people.
- d) To develop partnership working with children and young people which make their communities a safer and better place in which to live.
- e) To include children and young people in problem solving and decision making within their communities and ensuring that their voices are heard.
- f) To develop protocols which provide guidance for the implementation of new legislation involving children and young people.

- g) To provide specialist support and intervention for those children and young people who have special needs including witnesses, victims and offenders.
- h) To target and use intelligence-led policing in relation to children and young people who may offend.

#### **4. CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS WITH DYFED-POWYS POLICE**

- 4.1 The core of this strategy is reliant on developing the existing strong partnership ethos within Dyfed-Powys. If this strategy is to be fully and effectively implemented it is essential that multi agency support is secured through widespread consultation and discussion.
- 4.2 Over the years Dyfed-Powys Police have worked with partner agencies to support children and young people. There are excellent working practices between the police and agencies involved in supporting children and young people.
- 4.3 The strategy is based on the current working relationships with partners. This needs to develop further in order to fully participate in meaningful consultation processes. This will better meet the needs of young people.

#### **5. THE SIX KEY THEMES**

- 5.1 Six key themes identified in this strategy incorporate the aims and objectives as recognised in the Association of Chief Police Officers document entitled 'Never too early, never too late' 2003.
- 5.2 This strategy is designed to meet the needs of Dyfed-Powys Police taking full account of Central Government, Welsh Assembly Government and force priorities together with other partnership aims and objectives.
- 5.3 The six key themes are as follows:
  - Engaging with children and young people
  - Supporting children and young people as victims and witnesses
  - Protecting vulnerable children and young people
  - Helping those children and young people at risk and in need
  - Effective Youth Justice
  - Professional development

## **6. KEY THEME 1**

### ***ENGAGING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE***

#### **6.1 Aims**

- To build and maintain positive relationships to show respect and understanding through effective communication with children and all young people.
- To help children and young people avoid becoming victims of crime and disorder.
- To provide children and young people, their parents and carers, with the best available information to safeguard them and enable young people to avoid crime and disorder.

#### **6.2 Objectives / Priorities**

6.2.1 to listen to the views of children and young people when formulating policy and working practices.

6.2.2 to work with partners to:

- maintain and promote a wide range of communication and consultative processes with children and young people, their families and the community.
- support locally developed community-based initiatives, which encourage the inclusion of children and young people in reducing crime and disorder and promoting good citizenship.
- provide children and young people, their parents and carers with appropriate information to help them avoid crime and disorder.

6.2.4. To work with the Local Education Authority to:

- School Liaison
- provide a familiar and accessible service to young people in both school and wider communities.
- reduce the prevalence of crime and victimisation among children and young people and reduce the number of incidents of crime in schools and their local communities.
- to ensure children and young people attend places of education.

## **7. KEY THEME 2**

### ***SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS VICTIMS AND WITNESSES***

#### **7.1 Aims**

- Provide reassurance and support to young victims, witnesses and their families
- To provide a safe environment for children and young people who are victims or witnesses to feel confident about reporting crime and disorder.
- To work with partners to develop systems which provide reassurance and response to the individual needs of children and young people as victims and witnesses in accordance with the 'All Wales Children Protection Procedures and Working Together 2002'

#### **7.2 Objectives / Priorities**

7.2.1 to comply with the Victims Code of Practice and Witness Charter.

7.2.1 to work with partners in the Criminal Justice System to:

- provide appropriate support to children, young people and their families who become victims and witnesses.
- maximise the use of special measures in all Courts in accordance with their needs and wishes as defined in the 'Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999'

7.2.3 to promote and encourage confidence in young victims and witnesses to report crime and disorder to the police.

7.2.4 to improve the collating of community intelligence and issues from children and young people.

## **8. KEY THEME 3**

### ***PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE***

#### **8.1 Aim**

- Dyfed-Powys Police will through effective partnership working proactively engage with agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people and to identify and investigate incidents of abuse whether it be physical, sexual, neglect or emotional abuse.

#### **8.2 Objectives / Priorities**

- 8.2.1 Engage as a whole workforce to promote the protection of children and young people as a golden thread of policing throughout all of our dealings with the community.
- 8.2.2 Adhere to the principles contained within 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and the 'All Wales child protection procedures.'
- 8.2.3 ensure that victims and witnesses are afforded special measures in accordance with 'Achieving best evidence in criminal proceedings'
- 8.2.4 to ensure that the Dyfed Powys Police is represented at senior management level on Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LCSB) and young peoples partnerships.
- 8.2.5 To work with partners to:
- ensure that the welfare of the child or young person is the paramount consideration in any investigation and that, wherever possible and appropriate, their family is fully involved and consulted.
  - operate effective multi agency public protection arrangements through MAPPA meetings.
  - safeguard the most vulnerable children or young people identified as being at greatest risk of becoming victims of crime and disorder.
- 8.2.6 to ensure that the policy and procedures on crime recording, crime investigation and missing persons meet the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people.

## 9. **KEY THEME 4**

### ***HELPING THOSE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK AND IN NEED***

#### **9.1 Aims**

- To work with partners to identify and help those children and young people at greatest risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or criminality and enable them to gain the necessary interventions before they enter the Criminal Justice System.
- To work with partners to support those children and young people who are socially excluded or have been victims of crime.

#### **9.2 Objectives / Priorities:**

- 9.2.1 To target police resources within a co-ordinated partnership framework to reassure and support children and young people who are at the highest risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or criminality, or are socially excluded.
- 9.2.2 to work with partners within current information-sharing protocols, which provide confidence, confidentiality and meet legislative requirements. To identify at the earliest opportunity, those children and young people who are the highest risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or criminality ensuring that 'key risk factor' information is shared between relevant partner agencies.
- 9.2.3 To deliver appropriately graduated support intervention for those children and young people who are identified to be at the highest risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour or criminality and to reduce or remove those risks which.
- Prevent them becoming involved in crime
  - Prevent them becoming victims of crime
  - Divert them away from crime
  - Educate them on the effects of crime as victims and perpetrators
  - Support and educate them to become responsible citizens
  - Reinforce responsibilities to the community
- 9.2.4 to work with partners to help children and young people resist substance misuse. Ensure that the groups most at risk of developing serious substance misuse problems receive appropriate and specific interventions.

## **10. KEY THEME 5**

### ***EFFECTIVE YOUTH JUSTICE***

#### **10.1 Aims**

- To deal quickly and effectively with children and young people in the Youth Justice System to reduce further offending.
- Policing responses are graduated towards those young offenders who are at greatest risk.
- To have a consistent process across Dyfed-Powys Police.
- To target Persistent Young Offenders through intelligence-led policing and multi-agency partnerships.

#### **10.2 Objectives / Priorities**

10.2.1 Review, develop and where possible, enhance internal and inter-agency processes that will enable expeditious processing of children and young people within the Youth Justice System to meet clear and uniform standards.

10.2.2 Develop robust data-sharing arrangements between partners that ensure confidence, confidentiality and integrity to reduce the effect of crime and disorder involving children and young people within the Youth Justice System.

10.2.3 Work with partners to:

- ensure appropriate support and interventions are an integral part of reprimand and final warning processes to break the offending cycle and provide positive opportunities for rehabilitation in the community.
- to work with Youth Offending Team to ensure that Persistent Young Offenders get high-level interventions appropriate to the risk.

10.2.4 to ensure that a specific focus on Persistent Young Offenders through the NIM at BCU level to prioritise resources towards crime committed by young people.

10.2.5 to work with partners to raise awareness and promote the use of Restorative Justice to build positive relationships between children and young people and members of the community

10.2.6 To proactively manage crime and anti social behaviour hot spots with partners utilizing the National Intelligence Model.

## **11. KEY THEME 6**

### ***PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT***

#### **11.1 Aims**

- To ensure effective staff selection and training is provided which secures the delivery of quality services for children and young people.
- To ensure that Dyfed Powys Police staff have appropriate skills and accreditation to perform their role effectively in accordance with their level of contact with children and young people.

#### **11.2 Objectives / Priorities**

11.2.1 to formulate a strategic policy, which provides clear organisational expectations and defines the specified roles for Police Officers and Police Staff working with children and young people

11.2.2 to define particular specialist roles in terms of job descriptions, person specifications and review annually those involved in youth issues.

11.2.3 Train practitioners and their managers to the required level and enable continued professional development

11.2.4 Adopt accreditation schemes where appropriate and ensure integration with National Occupational Standards

11.2.5 to incorporate the aims of this strategy into the PDR process.