

Section 5.6a

Title: Draft 1 Community Safety

1. Overview

Information to inform this section of the wellbeing assessment has been drawn from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Strategic Assessment published in December 2016. This strategic assessment covers data for the last financial year period of 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 compared to the previous year. Some data sets used (including Cybercrime and Organised Crime Groups) within this document feature outside of these dates due to differing assessment reporting periods.

Other key data sources have included the common data set agreed with the Local Government Data Unit at a Gwent level. This section of the wellbeing assessment seeks to explore available data and how this might be affecting the safety and perception of safety of people in Blaenau Gwent.

In terms of ensuring engagement remains central to the Wellbeing Assessment, results from the BG We Want engagement will also be referenced within this report.

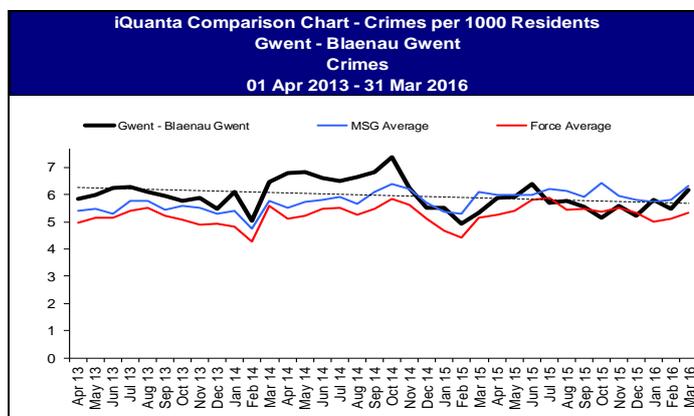
The document notes that Gwent is currently set against a period of economic challenges and organisational restructuring and recognises the role of partnership working to reduce any impact on service delivery.

1.2 Crime data

Total Crime in Blaenau Gwent has decreased by 8.7% over the twelve month period – the only area in Gwent to see a reduction. The 4,776 offences account for 12.7% of all crime in Gwent and translate to a crime rate of 68.62 crimes per 1000 population which remains above Gwent's average (65.03) as the second highest rate only to Newport. The table below shows a breakdown of crime by the areas within Blaenau Gwent.

Area	Apr-14 to Mar-15	Apr-15 to Mar-16	Daily Avg (Prev)	Daily Avg (Latest)	Rate per 1,000	Year End Diff	% Chg from Last Year	Pop Est	Proportion
B/GWENT	5233	4776	14.3	13.0	68.435	-457	-8.7%	69,789	100.0%
Abertillery	1081	996	3.0	2.7	61.082	-85	-7.9%	16,306	20.9%
Ebbw Vale	1769	1626	4.8	4.4	69.564	-143	-8.1%	23,374	34.0%
Brynmawr	1153	1044	3.2	2.9	70.260	-109	-9.5%	14,859	21.9%
Tredegarr	1230	1110	3.4	3.0	72.787	-120	-9.8%	15,250	23.2%

As a result of the 2015/16 reductions, the chart below now shows a decreasing trend for the monthly crime rate over the last three years i.e. below its MSG average (blue line) and slightly above the Force average (red line).



1.3 Anti- social behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents across Blaenau Gwent have decreased from 3,997 to 3,495 over the last year (-502 incidents or -12.6%). The ASB rate has reduced from 57.27 to 50.08 over the same period. See the table below for a breakdown by areas of Blaenau Gwent.

Area	Apr-14 to Mar-15	Apr-15 to Mar-16	Rate per 1,000	Year End Diff	% Chg from Last Year	Pop Est	Proportion
B/GWENT	3997	3495	50.080	-502	-12.6%	69,789	
Ebbw Vale	1208	1128	48.259	-80	-6.6%	23,374	32.3%
Brynmawr	949	875	58.887	-74	-7.8%	14,859	25.0%
Tredegarr	1005	816	53.508	-189	-18.8%	15,250	23.3%
Abertillery	835	676	41.457	-159	-19.0%	16,306	19.3%

2. Story behind the data

2.1 Crime

Priority sections for Gwent Police in Blaenau Gwent in terms of volume over the year are Ebbw Vale (1,626) and Tredegar (1,110), the latter demonstrating the best reduction across Blaenau Gwent with 120 fewer offences equating to a 9.8% reduction. In terms of Crimes per 1000 population, Tredegar (79), Brynmawr (70) and Ebbw Vale (69) remain the highest areas and impact upon Blaenau Gwent's overall rate of 68.6. Abertillery remains the lowest crime volume (996) and rate (61).

Priority wards over the last year in terms of volume are Tredegar Central & West (653), Ebbw Vale South (516) and Ebbw Vale North (408). The only increases across the wards are Beaufort (+7.2%), Llanhilleth (+4.7%) and Nantyglo (+4.5%). The wards with highest crime rates and skewing the average for their respective areas are Ebbw Vale South (120) and Tredegar Central/West (105).

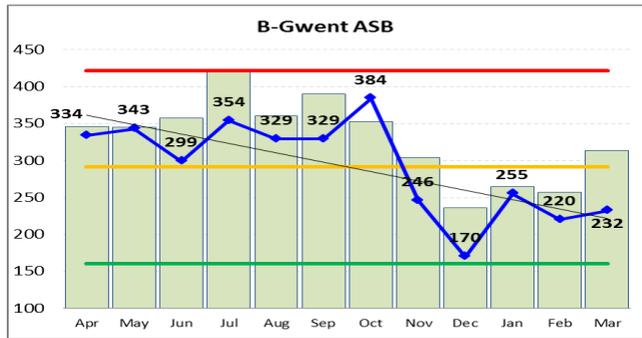
The below table shows total crime in Blaenau Gwent split by crime type. Priority crimes in terms of volume are Criminal Damage & Arson (1,122, 23.5% of crime), Violence without Injury (742, 15.5%), Violence with Injury (531, 11.1%) and All Other Theft (512, 10.7%).

Area	Apr-14 to Mar-15	Apr-15 to Mar-16	Year End Diff	% Chg from Last Year	Proportion
Criminal Damage & Arson	1184	1122	-62	-5.2%	23.5%
Violence Without Injury	591	742	151	25.5%	15.5%
Violence With Injury	671	531	-140	-20.9%	11.1%
All Other Theft	635	512	-123	-19.4%	10.7%
Vehicle Crime	501	485	-16	-3.2%	10.2%
Burglary - Non Dwelling	430	321	-109	-25.3%	6.7%
Shoplifting	357	255	-102	-28.6%	5.3%
Public Order Offences	203	207	4	2.0%	4.3%
Burglary - Dwelling	238	188	-50	-21.0%	3.9%
Drug Offences	169	152	-17	-10.1%	3.2%
Misc Crimes Against Society	89	91	2	2.2%	1.9%
Other Sexual Offences	58	72	14	24.1%	1.5%
Rape	28	27	-1	-3.6%	0.6%
Theft From The Person	17	21	4	23.5%	0.4%
Bicycle Theft	31	18	-13	-41.9%	0.4%
Possession Of Weapons	18	15	-3	-16.7%	0.3%
Robbery	13	13	0	0.0%	0.3%
Homicide	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
B/GWENT	5233	4776	-457	-8.7%	

Crimes that have seen a notable increase over the year are Violence without Injury (+151 crimes, +25.5%), Other Sexual offences (+14 crimes, +24.1%) and Theft from Person (+4 crimes, +23.5%). There were notable reductions in Bicycle Theft (-41.9%), Shoplifting (-28.6%), Burglary (-23.8%) and Violence with injury (-20.9%).

2.2 ASB

The chart below shows the significant downward trend of ASB incidents across Blaenau Gwent over the last year. The only peak was recorded in October 2015 linked to the school half-term and Halloween.



Area	Apr-14 to Mar-15	Apr-15 to Mar-16	Rate per 1,000	Year End Diff	% Chg from Last Year	Pop Est	Proportion
B/GWENT	3997	3495	50.080	-502	-12.6%	69,789	
Ebbw Vale	1208	1128	48.259	-80	-6.6%	23,374	32.3%
Brynmawr	949	875	58.887	-74	-7.8%	14,859	25.0%
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In terms of volume, priority sections are Ebbw Vale (1,128 incidents, 32.3% of BG total) and Brynmawr (875 incidents) accounting for two-thirds of Blaenau Gwent's total ASB. All areas saw reductions, more notably in Abertillery and Tredegar with -19% each. In terms of ASB per 1000 population Brynmawr (58.88) and Tredegar (53.51) are skewing B-Gwent's average rate of 50.08.

Looking at ward level, priority in terms of volume are Tredegar Central & West (457), Ebbw Vale South (404) and Brynmawr (378). The only wards that have seen the most notable increases over the year are Ebbw Vale North (+86, +36%), Georgetown (+11, +8.6%) and Nantyglo (+12, +3.8%).

The wards with highest ASB rates that are skewing the average for their respective areas are Ebbw Vale South (94), Tredegar Central/West (73), Nantyglo (72) and Brynmawr (68). The most common classification of

ASB during the period has been nuisance ASB accounting for 63% of all incidents. Nuisance offences have reduced slightly by 2.4% over the period. Personal incidents have accounted for 30% of all incidents and have decreased by 25% over the year. Environmental incidents account for just 7% of all incidents and have decreased by 19% over the period.

Local Authority data – The below data was received from Blaenau-Gwent Local Authority: -

Complaint category	2014/2015	2015/2016	Diff	%Change
Illicit Tipping	557	621	64	11.5%
Straying dogs	378	308	-70	-18.5%
Noise domestic	300	256	-44	-14.7%
Abandoned Vehicle	81	222	141	174.1%
Dog fouling Enforcement	162	131	-31	-19.1%
Noise dog	135	112	-23	-17.0%
Litter	33	31	-2	-6.1%
Noise Vehicles	23	17	-6	-26.1%
Uncontrolled animals (Straying animals)	2	7	5	250.0%
Noise other animals	13	4	-9	-69.2%
Noise Car alarm	0	2	2	200.0%
Noise road works (Construction/Demolition Sites)	6	1	-5	-83.3%
Noise Industrial	10	1	-9	-90.0%
Total ASB	1700	1713	13	0.8%

ASB related complaints saw very little change compared to 2014/15 (+0.8%), however, experienced notable increases in abandoned vehicles (+174%) and illicit tipping (+12%). These were counteracted by significant reductions in stray dogs (-19%) and noise domestic (-15%) complaints.

Community Trigger:

- Provides an opportunity for victims of persistent anti-social behaviour (including hate incidents) to request a multi-agency review of actions taken by Agencies when they feel these actions have not been adequate to resolve the anti-social behaviour.
- No Community Triggers have been invoked.

2.3 Domestic abuse

Domestic Abuse incidents have fallen over the last year by 4.8% (-634 incidents from 13,313 to 12,679) across Gwent as a whole. Approximately 2 in 5 Domestic Abuse incidents are subsequently crimed as a domestic abuse crime (44.5%). Whilst domestic abuse incidents have fallen slightly over the year, domestic related crime has risen slightly by 4.9% across Gwent (+219 offences from 4,406 to 4,702). Note, not all domestic abuse incidents will result in the recording of a crime as the incident may not be of the level of severity that would result

in a notifiable offence being recorded. Also, in some cases, one incident may result in multiple crimes. Domestic related crimes account for 12.5% of Gwent's total crime (no change since 2014/15) and over three quarters of domestic related crime is made up of violent offences (76%), with the other notable offence being Criminal Damage & Arson (10.9%).

Domestic Abuse occurs across Gwent and affects people from all backgrounds and is intrinsically linked to violent crime. Victims of Domestic Violence are predominantly women and perpetrators are predominantly male. The majority of victims and perpetrators are within the age range 18-45 and mainly occurs between 'partners' or 'ex-partners'. Domestic Violence offences predominantly occur over the weekend, between Friday – Monday and between the hours 16:00 – 02:00. Repeat victims will experience a further offence within 3 months of the initial or previous offence.

Due to data issues with crimes recorded on Gwent Police systems it is not possible to accurately determine the role alcohol and substance misuse has on both violence and domestic violence incidents. Historical and local qualitative information suggests that alcohol plays a part in a large proportion of offences particularly those that occur in the Night Time Economy.

Information suggests that CSE victims are more likely to have experienced domestic violence within the family environment.

Domestic Abuse - Violence	2014/15	2015/16	Diff	%Change	Current Crime Rate	% Proportion
Monmouthshire	288	343	55	19.1%	3.73	9.5%
Newport	956	1065	109	11.4%	7.28	29.6%
Caerphilly	1034	1111	77	7.4%	6.20	30.9%
Torfaen	578	616	38	6.6%	6.74	17.1%
Blaenau Gwent	548	462	-86	-15.7%	6.62	12.8%
Total	3404	3597	193	5.7%	6.23	

Over the 12 months BG has seen a 15% reduction of recorded domestic violence crimes but its crime rate per 1000 head of population remains above the Gwent average.

2.4 Malicious Communication/ Technology enabled Violence

Malicious Communication/Technological enabled Violence offences are showing an increasing trend and are expected to increase in the future due to continued development of products and increased usage within

society. Cybercrime is a growing area of concern across the UK with no definitive explanation available of what it involves. What is known is that it has links with numerous crime types including Harassment, CSE/grooming and Fraud.

2.5 Sexual offences

Sexual offences have increased by 14.1% over the last year across Gwent (+110 offences) and accounts for 2.4% of all Gwent crime. The main driver of this increase is the rise in non-rape related offences (+16.3%). Possible factors contributing to this rise include the recent training that has been provided to front line Police Officers in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation and increased confidence in reporting of historical abuse by victims.

Monthly Sexual Offences have followed a consistent upward trend over the last three year period which is expected to continue during the coming year, albeit the rate of increase is slowing down. Sexual Offences have historically spiked in the months of October, February and March.

Sexual Offences	2014/15	2015/16	Diff	%Change	Current Crime Rate	% Proportion
Newport	186	242	56	30.1%	1.65	27.3%
Monmouthshire	121	143	22	18.2%	1.53	16.2%
Blaenau Gwent	86	99	13	15.1%	1.42	11.2%
Caerphilly	231	256	25	10.8%	1.43	28.9%
Torfaen	150	145	-5	-3.3%	1.59	16.4%
Total	774	885	111	14.3%	1.52	

Please note, caution needs to be taken when looking at the above sexual offences figures. Almost a quarter of all offences are historical and may have occurred as far back as 1969. In total, approximately a quarter of all recorded offences at a Gwent level during the period actually happened prior to 2012. The increase in historical offences may be due to numerous high profile cases appearing in the media and increased victim confidence in reporting

Levels of Child Protection Strategic discussions saw an overall reduction by 3.5% (-84) comparing 2015/16 with 2014/15. The number of discussions per month was fairly consistent and followed the previous year trend, with an average of 192 per month. There were a significant number of discussions that took place in March 2016; 258 being the highest for some two years and can be linked to the school Easter holiday period.

2.6 Child Sexual Exploitation

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is not new, however through local incidents and national media coverage a wider public awareness has been created. The NSPCC indicate five per cent of children in the UK suffer contact sexual abuse at some point during their childhood. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common. Involvement in exploitative relationships is characterised by the child's or young person's limited availability of choice, as a result of their social, economic (links to multiple deprivation) or emotional vulnerability. A common feature of CSE is that the child or young person does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and does not see themselves as a victim of exploitation. This presents challenges for policing, as unlike other offences where victims identify themselves to the police, this may not occur, making it difficult to understand the true extent of CSE occurring in the Gwent area.

Victim profile

- Victims and those at risk are in the majority female, aged 14 -17 years, White British and residing in Newport.
- Gwent mirrors the national picture characteristics for CSE in the following areas:
 - More than half the victims have a family history or have witnessed domestic violence.
 - Nearly half of those at risk are receiving Child in Need support and a further third are looked after children.
 - Almost three quarters of those at risk have low self-esteem.
 - Approximately half are socially isolated from peers or social networks.
 - Nearly half have peers or friends who are involved in sexual exploitation.
 - Three quarters have either been excluded from school, have unexplained absences or are not participating in school or training.
 - A high percentage has periods of going missing overnight.
 - A significant percentage has misused drugs & alcohol.
 - Two thirds have associations to unknown males.

- A third has unexplained amounts of money / expensive clothing or other 'gifts'.
- A high percentage of those at risk have displayed expressions of despair (self-harm, overdose, eating disorders etc.).
- A Significant proportion resides in financially stretched areas within Gwent.
- There were 64 offences in the reporting period which met the definition of CSE of these:
 - Enticements were recorded as being offered, these included drugs, alcohol & money.
 - The main crime group was other sexual offences, followed by Rape and violence without injury. The most recorded offences were causing / inciting a female under 13/16 to engage in sexual activity.
 - Newport recorded the most CSE related offences
 - Just over half the offences were contact or face to face offences, while the rest were online grooming/exploitation.
 - A quarter of victims had previously been involved or was victim to other sexual incidents.

Offender Profile

- Offenders are in the majority White British males aged between 18-31 years.
- Over a third of all offenders are unemployed which mirrors the national picture.
- A substantial number of offenders have been known to the police previously and have a criminal record. These included sexual offences, violent crimes, drug use/supply and domestic incidents.
- Nearly half of all offenders reside in Newport, however online offenders were more likely to reside in Torfaen.
- Offender methodology mirrors the national picture in that the majority of offences are committed by lone offenders.

Missing children

- Nearly half of all missing persons are aged 15-16 years old, despite males making up 45% of those missing, they only make up 15% of CSE victims.
- All top 10 'missing from' locations are local authority children's homes, foster care address or 16+ supported living.
- Almost half of the top 100 missing children have CSE concerns.
- The top 10 missing children make up 22% of all missing episodes, 7 have significant Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Framework (SERAF) scores and all but one are looked after children.

Offending behaviour can, in many instances, be traced back to deprived social and family circumstances in households where an individual may experience alcohol, drug abuse, crime and domestic violence.

2.7 Organised Crime Groups (OCG's)

The overwhelming majority of OCGs in Gwent are involved primarily in drugs. However, OCGs tend to cross cut a variety of criminality types. A specific area of criminality that has come more to the fore across the UK is Organised Immigration Crime. Whilst Gwent Police's intelligence picture suggests that Gwent does not currently experience this type of criminality to any great extent, it is a particular kind of criminality that is expected to increase throughout the UK, and so is likely to impact on Gwent at some stage.

Between February 2015 and January 2016 the number of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) which have been mapped and added to the Gwent OCGM Tracker increased by a net quantity of two, taking them to 67. However, following a comprehensive review conducted between January and March 2016, this number reduced to 41, with 26 inactive OCG's archived.

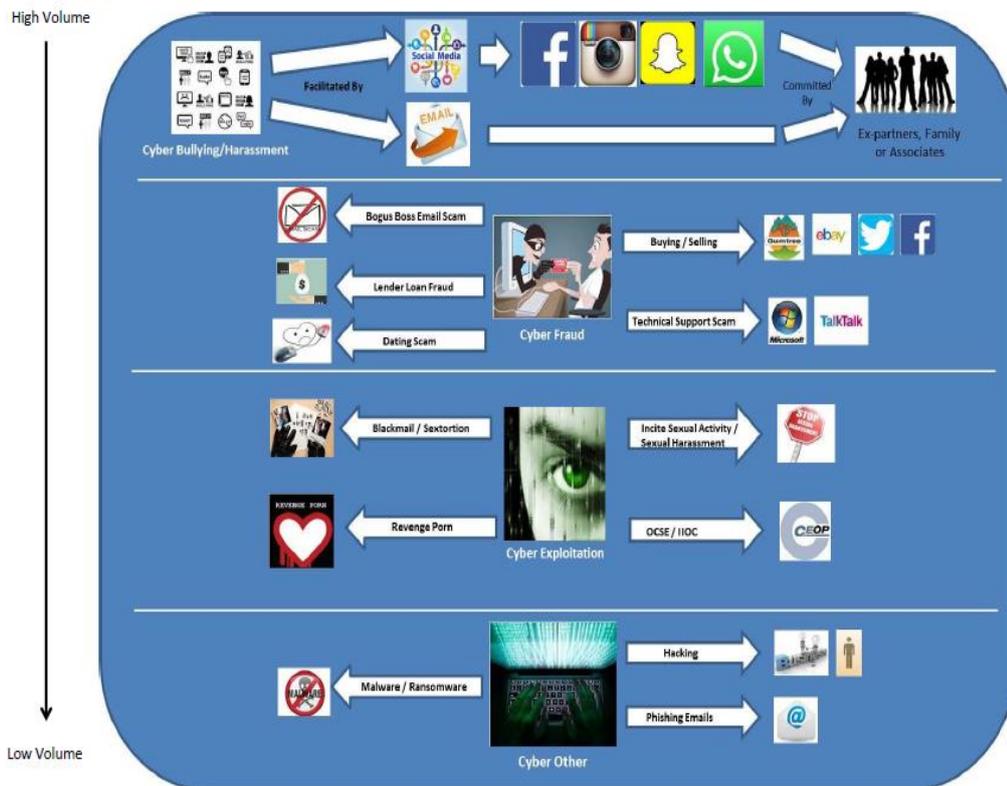
2.8 Cybercrime

A non-exhaustive list of 84 key words were searched in all crime offences for the period Jan – Dec 2015, the offences identified were then reviewed to establish if they were Cyber Crimes. The following analysis is based on the offences identified as Cyber Crime from the Key Word Searches. As shown in the table below, the number of offences, identified as Cyber Crime, has increased over the last 6 months compared to the previous 6 months.

	Jan - Jun 2015	July - Dec 2015	Difference over last 6 months	% Difference over last 6 months
Cyber Crime	253	402	149	59%

The infographic below shows the current picture of Cyber Crime in Gwent and combines the trends found in both crime and action fraud data. In terms of volume Cyber Bullying/Harassment is the most prominent trend and so features at the top of the picture. This is followed by Cyber Fraud, Cyber Exploitation and then Cyber Other.

6.1. Infographic of the Cyber Crime Picture in Gwent



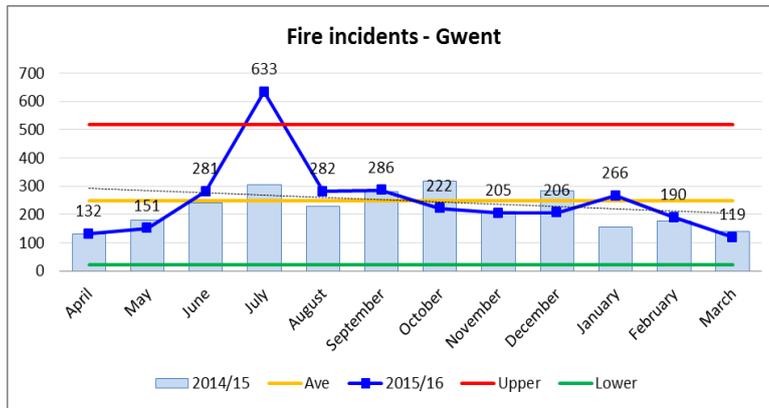
In terms of crime data, Cyber Bullying/Harassment, (where threats, abuse and harassment is carried out via social media and email), is the greatest problem within Gwent. This is followed by Cyber Exploitation which follows several themes such as Inciting Sexual Activity, Sexual Harassment, Revenge Porn, Sextortion/Blackmail and Indecent Images of Children. Cyber Exploitation involves younger victims who may be more vulnerable and at a greater risk. CEOP data shows a sharp increase in the number of packages received, increasing from 52 in 2014 to 95 in 2015 illustrating the risk within this area of criminality.

In terms of Action Fraud data, the greatest problem in terms of the number of victims and incidents is Online Shopping and Auction Fraud. This is followed by Technical Support Scams, Bogus Boss Email Scams and Lender Loan Fraud. Dating Scams also feature within the data together with as Malware/Ransomware, Phishing Emails and Hacking.

2.9 Fire Data

Data has been obtained via South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS) for the two financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16 for the area of Gwent. The data shows an 11.3% increase across Gwent in incidents over 2015/16 compared to 2014/15 (+319 incidents from 2,818 to 3,317). 95% of the incidents were actual fires (2,973) with the remaining being false alarm calls (165). The chart below shows the decreasing trend in fire incidents over the last two financial years. On average, there are 248 incidents per month, where incidents tend to rise in the summer months peaking in July before decreasing into Autumn/winter months. The weather is a major contributor to fire incidents, with hot weather in the summer leading to increased opportunity for grass/woodland fires. Damage/Arson offences and Fire incidents all have correlation in terms of time periods/location etc. Incidents across Gwent peak between the hours of 5-10pm in the evening with specific hourly spike between 8-9pm on weekends, followed by a Wednesday.

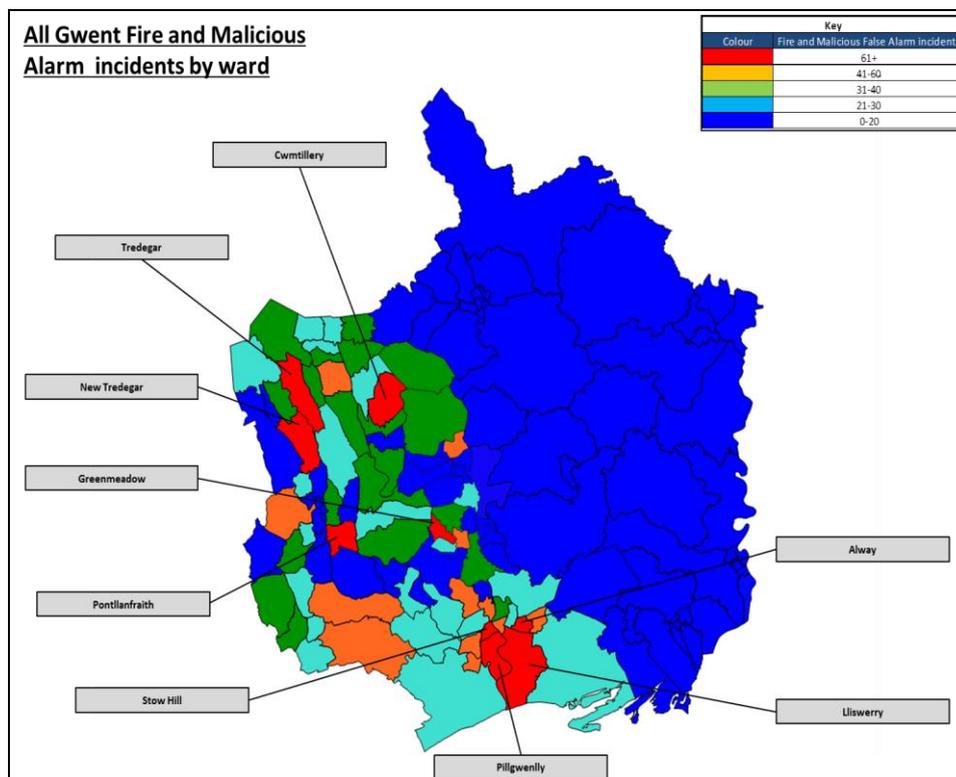
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The table below details incidents reported to SWFRS over the last two years split by Local Authority area.

UNITARY AUTHORITY	INCIDENT CATEGORY	2014/2015	2015/2016	Change	% Change
Blaenau Gwent	Malicious False Alarm	29	28		
Blaenau Gwent	Fire	586	564		
Blaenau Gwent Total		615	592	-23	-3.74%
Caerphilly	Malicious False Alarm	52	38		
Caerphilly	Fire	750	908		
Caerphilly Total		802	946	144	17.96%
Monmouthshire	Malicious False Alarm	2	10		
Monmouthshire	Fire	214	209		
Monmouthshire Total		216	219	3	1.39%
Newport	Malicious False Alarm	61	50		
Newport	Fire	741	854		
Newport Total		802	904	102	12.72%
Torfaen	Malicious False Alarm	21	38		
Torfaen	Fire	362	438		
Torfaen Total		383	476	93	24.28%
Grand Total	Malicious False Alarm	165	164	-1	-0.61%
	Fire	2653	2973	320	12.06%
	Total	2818	3137	319	11.32%

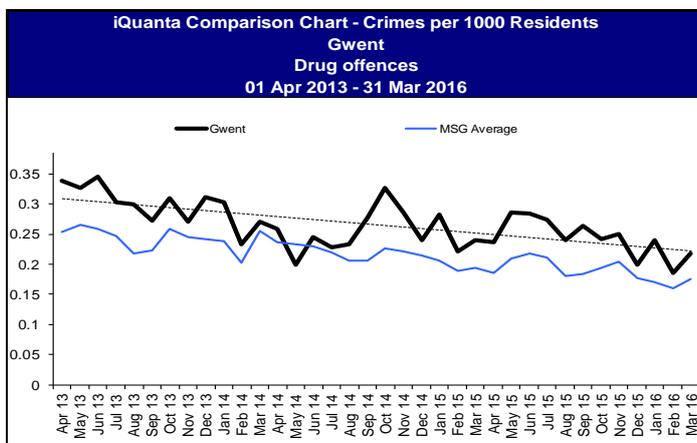
Blaenau Gwent has seen the only decrease in incidents over the year (-3.7%). The below Choropleth map shows the priority wards in terms of fire incidents across Gwent.



Priority wards for fire incidents for Blaenau Gwent are Local Authority Tredegar Central & West, Cwmtillery, Sirhowy, Georgetown and Nantyglo.

2.9 Substance Misuse

Substance misuse remains linked to criminality and victimisation. Treatment referrals across Gwent have decreased by almost 20% over the period with Alcohol and Heroin being the Primary Substances of note. The prominence of heroin referrals is also seen in DIP data positive drug tests whilst in custody showing the links between drug abuse of this type in particular and acquisitive crime. One of the most common characteristics of adult reoffenders on a Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order in Wales is drug misuse. There has also been a large rise in cannabis, solvents and hallucinogens.



Recorded drug offence volume has remained relatively static, decreasing marginally year on year by 4.2% (down from 1,767 to 1,693). There has also been a decrease in offences of Trafficking in Controlled Drugs over the last three years, with 426 offences recorded in the current period (down from 483 in the previous period).

Recorded trafficking offences has decreased by 11.8% (-57) across Gwent. When viewing the recorded offence, the link between proactive policing and drugs offences being predominantly self-generating should be noted. Overall, the number of recorded stop checks continued to fall, decreasing by 52.4% (down from 2,598 to 1,236) in the 12 months to February 2016, with drug related stops falling by 52.8% (down from 3,010 to 1,422) in the same period. This change in approach it is suggested has had an impact upon recorded drug offence volume.

The latest results from the Crime Survey for England and Wales show that the share of adults aged 16-59 years who have taken an illicit drug during 2015/16 has remained relatively static at 8.4%, compared to 8.6% in 2014/15. Drug use in young adults (16-24 years) also remains static, from 19.5% in 2014/15 to 18.0% in 2015/16. This segment of the adult population continues to be the most common age range for the wider adult age group, equating to more than double the 16-59 years age range). In relation to specific drug use during 2015/16, the survey identified that LSD, mephedrone and anabolic steroid use among young adults aged between 16-24 years saw significant reductions. The results for the Crime Survey for England and Wales have been published at a national level, the findings generally mirror the number of drug offences recorded in Gwent, with levels having remained consistent during the last two years.

Drug crime per 1000 population has decreased slightly from 3.04 to 2.92 during the period which is above the MSG average of 2.27. The below graph shows the decreasing trend in Drug Offences per 1000 population over the last three year period across Gwent.

Area	Apr-14 to Mar-15	Apr-15 to Mar-16	Daily Avg (Prev)	Daily Avg (Latest)	Rate per 1,000	Year End Diff	% Chg from Last Year	Pop Est	Proportion
WEST LPA	828	854	2.3	2.3	2.508	26	3.1%	340,443	50.4%
B/GWENT	169	152	0.5	0.4	2.178	-17	-10.1%	69,789	9.0%
CAERPHILLY	444	457	1.2	1.2	2.550	13	2.9%	179,247	27.0%
TORFAEN	215	245	0.6	0.7	2.680	30	14.0%	91,407	14.5%
EAST LPA	939	838	2.6	2.3	3.511	-101	-10.8%	238,658	49.5%
MONMOUTHSHIRE	236	162	0.6	0.4	1.759	-74	-31.4%	92,100	9.6%
NEWPORT	703	676	1.9	1.8	4.613	-27	-3.8%	146,558	39.9%
Force Total Crimes	1767	1693	4.8	4.6	2.923	-74	-4.2%	579,101	

Cannabis Factories

In the period to 31st August 2015, there were 216 recorded instances of cannabis cultivation in Gwent, compared to 150 during the previous period.

New Psychoactive substances (NPS)

“NPS or so called ‘legal highs’ are substances which produce the same, or similar effects, to illegal stimulant drugs such as cocaine and ecstasy, but are not controlled under legislation [the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in the UK]. They are however, considered illegal under current medicines legislation to sell, supply or advertise for “human consumption”. To get round this sellers refer to them as research chemicals, plant food, bath crystals or pond cleaner”. They are usually sold on the high street in ‘head shops’ and increasingly online.

According to the National Crime Agency the National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2014, due to the dynamic nature of the chemistry involved in producing NPSs’, this area will continue to grow, with the threat posed by China highlighted for its continuing production and supply.

The latest results from the Crime Survey for England and Wales indicates that NPS use is heavily weighted towards young adults aged 16-24 years of which 2.8% stated that they had taken NPS during 2014/15, this compared to 0.9% of the wider group of 16-59 year olds. In drilling down further into the 16-24 year age group, 4% of males aged

16-24 years are identified as the highest concentration of users. It should be noted that the findings did not take into account users aged 15 years or younger, with local intelligence frequently indicating children aged in their early teens are commonly using NPS.

On a national level, the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 is due to come into effect on 6th April 2016. The main aim of the Act will be to protect people from the risks posed by untested, unknown and potentially harmful drugs. It will create a blanket ban which will make it an offence to produce; supply; offer to supply; possess with intent to supply; import or export a psychoactive substance, with the maximum penalty on conviction being seven years and / or an unlimited fine.

Alcohol referrals continue to show that alcohol misuse is a major issue across Gwent and impacts on both the health of the person and on crime/ASB levels including the night time economy and domestic abuse incidents. The scale of the link between crime and alcohol misuse is currently underreported due to system and subjectivity issues but qualitative information suggests it plays a large role particularly in violent crime and the night time economy. A&E admissions due to alcohol for youths are proportionately higher for female youths than male youths suggesting female youths are more at risk of alcohol abuse. There is also a link with Child Sexual Exploitation which shows a significant percentage of CSE victims have misused drugs and alcohol.

ACPO: Guidance on Policing New Psychoactive Substances including Temporary Class Drugs (2011) -

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2012/CBADrugsPsychoactiveNov2011.pdf>

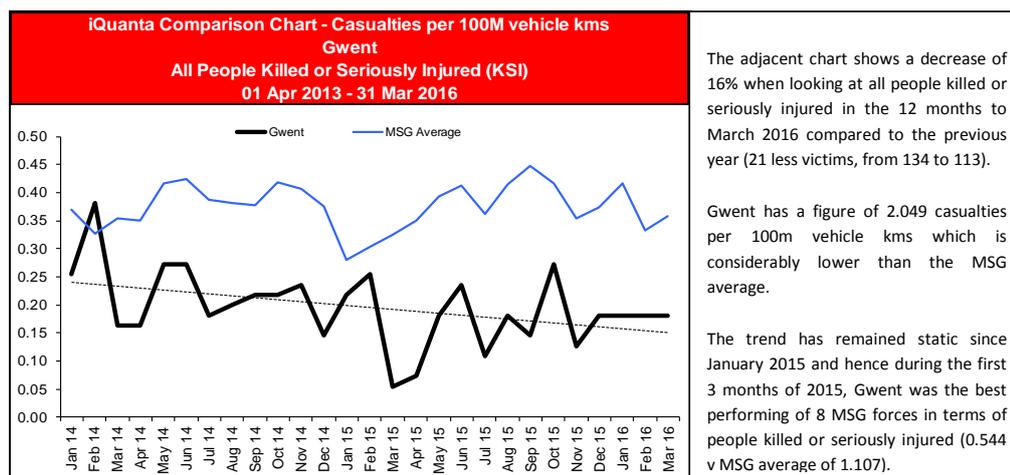
<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/207-nca-strategic-assessment-of-serious-and-organised-crime/file>

Home Office / ONS: Drug Misuse: Findings from the 2014 Crime Survey for England and Wales, Second Edition, July 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/462885/drug-misuse-1415.pdf

2.10 Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's)

The following data has been obtained via I Quanta for the Force area of Gwent as a whole. Data is for the twelve month period to March 2016 and includes the key performance indicator of people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI).



When looking at child casualties, there has been a reduction of 86% in children killed or seriously injured during the year (12 less casualties from 14 to 2).

In terms of people killed during the year, Gwent has seen 16 casualties during the year which is similar to last year (15). Incidents tend to occur on main arterial routes between main towns and cities and many are linked to a mixture of the weather, poor lighting and driver error.

2.11 Public confidence

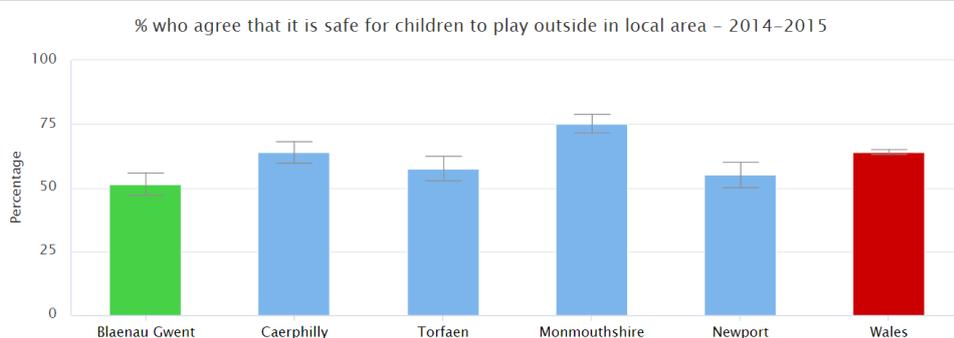
In April 2016, Gwent Police implemented a new Local Public Confidence Survey which is now conducted in-house at other 'Connect Gwent' site in Blackwood. The initial findings show that 60% of persons either strongly agreed or tended to agree with the question 'How much would you agree or disagree that the police in your area are dealing with the things that matter to you or your community.'

2.12 Perceptions of public safety

The figure below shows how many people across the region feel it is safe for children to play outside in 2014-2015. Across the Gwent region this ranged from around 51.5% in Blaenau Gwent to around 75.1% in Monmouthshire. This compared with around 64% for Wales for the same period.

Comment [DU1]: "Further underlying data available from LGDU on reasons why such a large proportion don't feel safe..."

Only whole LA data is available and no reasons are provided. Perhaps local information may be available.



Source: National Survey for Wales

	Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly	Torfaen	Monmouthshire	Newport	Wales
Value	51.5	63.8	57.5	75.1	55.0	64.0
Lower limit	47.1	59.5	52.6	71.5	50.0	62.9
Upper limit	55.9	68.1	62.3	78.8	59.9	65.0
Robustness	Estimate is precise	Estimate is precise	Estimate is precise	Estimate is precise	Estimate is precise	Estimate is precise

This data might well benefit from further exploration and we would welcome information or research from partners that may help us understand what is affecting parent's perceptions of safety for their children and how this might be improved upon.

3. What we know from engagement?



During the Blaenau Gwent We Want Engagement exercise, the partnership undertook and attended numerous engagement activities and events throughout the borough to gather people's views.

Residents also took part via the Blaenau Gwent We Want Facebook page and partnership websites. Links to an online questionnaire were also distributed to many residents known to the partnership, such as members of the Blaenau Gwent Citizen Panel.

Residents were encouraged via the methods above to answer a range of questions that sought to capture:

- Citizen values, aspirations and priorities;
- Citizen needs – insight into the needs they and their communities encounter within daily life and what the best solutions may be and
- Citizen assets – what people can and already contribute themselves such as self-care, citizen and community action and volunteering.

Q1. What do you think is special about BG?

Q2. What things are important to you to live well and enjoy life?

Q3. What would make BG a better place?

Q4. What can you do to help make BG a better place?

Approximately 1,000 residents were engaged with (across all groups) during the engagement phase.

Environment and community were identified as being the things participants recognised as being assets or special about Blaenau Gwent.

4% of respondents felt tidy and clean streets were important to them to live well.

In terms of identifying what would make Blaenau Gwent a better place, tidy and clean streets featured as a top priority for 9% of respondents and 4% seeking an increase in police presence.

It is also worth noting that helping to create tidy and clean streets was one of the top five areas respondents felt they had a role to play within.

Wider focus groups, involving older people, suggested that a lack of street lighting might be making older people less likely to go out at night because they are fearful. Other concerns included becoming victims of scams and swindles by mail, telephone, on line and on their doorstep. In this respect it was felt a greater police presence was needed to counter these issues. ". Some requested more information on help with safety features in their home, personal alarms and ways to contact people in an emergency.

More support was requested in schools for LGBT young people with one respondent saying "sometimes I get picked upon".

3. What we know from existing research

To date the research base for this sub section has centred on the Gwent PCC's strategic assessment, data from the LGDU and feedback from Phase 1 of the "Blaenau Gwent We Want" engagement work. Further work will be undertaken dependant on the direction given by the public service board on priorities following its 21 March 2017 meeting.

4. What this tells us about Well-being in Blaenau Gwent

The Blaenau Gwent area has seen a 8% reduction in recorded crime during the last 12 months. It does still have though the second highest level of crime at 68 per 1000 population.

In terms of anti-social behaviour Blaenau Gwent has seen a 12% reduction with levels at 3495 a reduction of some 502 incidents. This reduction is seen across the whole Borough.

No community triggers have been invoked during this period,

Domestic violence crimes have seen a 15% reduction during this period.

Whilst Blaenau Gwent specific data was not available it is likely that the level data on emerging threats such as cybercrime is equally relevant to this area. Increases in sexual offences have been seen within the area and explanations have been provided for these increases within this section but feature in greater detail with Gwent Police's strategic assessment.

Whilst local data was not available the threats of child sexual exploitation are likely to be equally relevant to Blaenau Gwent. PSB members might wish to directly consider the data on missing children within this report and numbers attributed to local authority children's homes, foster care addresses or 16+ supported living and what this might mean for existing partnership working.

The area has seen a reduction in fire incidents during this last year and this is attributed to the close working relationship between key partners within the Fair and safe group a sub group of the PSB.

Blaenau Gwent has seen a 10% reduction in recorded drugs crime. The Gwent Police strategic assessment highlights that during this period drug related stops have reduced by some 52% down from 2598 to 1236.

The report highlights the continued risks presented by new psychoactive substances, with use heavily weighted towards young adults aged 16-24 years.

Alcohol referrals continue to show that substance misuse is a major issue across Gwent impacting on the health of residents. The report also suggests links between its use crime and antisocial behaviour.

The report also highlights that data from the National Survey for Wales highlights that only 51% of respondents feel it safe for children to play

outside. We do not know why this is the case nor its impact on wellbeing issues such as childhood obesity.

The full Gwent Police Strategic assessment makes a number of recommendations in tackling the issue featured within its report from which these issues have been drawn. Some recommendations are single agency focussed, others are partnership focussed. PSB may wish to explore with Gwent Police and other partners what might be the best vehicle to tackle these issues e.g. the Fair and Safe Group, Safer Gwent or whether some elements need drawing out for consideration as a PSB priority.