

WELSH MATTERS

News and views from the Police Federation's Welsh Affairs Sub-Committee

WELSH LEAD ATTENDS DROP-IN EVENT FOR POLICE FEDERATION AND MPS

WELSH AFFAIRS LEAD Nicky Ryan attended a drop-in event held at the House of Commons, giving members of the Police Federation a great opportunity to engage with politicians and update them on current campaigns.

A dozen Welsh MPs attended the event, along with Welsh National Board member Leigh Godfrey, as well as Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) chair Steve Hartshorn and deputy Tiff Lynch. Representatives from all four Welsh branches, Matthew Candy for Gwent, Steve Treharne for South Wales, Mark Jones for North Wales and Gareth Jones for Dyfed Powys, were also in attendance.

Nicky said the event, which took place on Monday 12 June at Westminster and was sponsored by the Rt Hon David Jones, MP for Clwyd West, gave representatives from across the Police Federation the perfect platform to discuss ongoing concerns while hearing about specific issues felt by local constituencies.

"Drop-in events like that held in June play an essential role in building those relationships between the Police Federation and local MPs," said Nicky.

"Face-to-face engagement with politicians is crucial if we want to get our voices heard - and, what's great about drop-in events like this is, there are no cameras there, no media; it's a space to have those honest and open conversations.

"Even if MPs don't necessarily throw their support behind our campaigns, at least it gives us an opportunity to



MEETING: (left to right) Steve Treharne (chair, South Wales Police Federation), MP Christina Rees and Nicky Ryan.

discuss them and raise awareness of our issues.

"And it gives Police Federation representatives the chance to hear about the concerns and issues had by members of the public too. Of course, we have our own priorities and so do MPs - it's so easy to become tunnel-visioned with our own agendas. Having honest conversations with one another gives us all the chance to discuss both local and national issues that need to be addressed."

Nicky says attention was specifically drawn to three ongoing campaigns including fair pay, calls for the creation of an Elizabeth Medal to be awarded to the families of fallen officers and #SimplifyDG6, which highlights the need for amendments to be made to

the time-consuming process involving members during the pre-charge stage of a case.

Also discussed was the ongoing Time Limits campaign, which calls for a cap on how long an allegation or complaint against a police officer can be investigated.

Nicky added: "If these MPs are going to stand up in Parliament and speak about policing, then they really need to speak to those in policing - which is where drop-in events like these prove vital.

"Hopefully, those politicians who attended will take our campaigns seriously, and help drive the change we want to see.

"I'd also like to acknowledge Mr Jones for sponsoring the event. He opened with a brilliant speech, his knowledge and interest in what we are campaigning for was incredible. He had a real understanding of our concerns and issues."

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FAMILY OF TERRY DAVIES TELL HOW DAY NEVER LOSES SIGNIFICANCE

THE FAMILY OF a Gwent officer who died while on duty say every National Police Memorial Day remains 'just as significant as the last', as they explain how the event is a day to 'reflect, remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones'.

PC Terry Davies was cycling home when he died after being hit by a stolen car on 30 August 1990.

He and his wife, Jayne were parents to Becky at the time, and expecting their second daughter, Lowri, who graduated as a Gwent Police officer in 2017 and now wears her dad's collar number when serving.

"The National Police Memorial Day is such an important day, for all the families and loved ones of officers who have died," said 61-year-old Jayne.

"It gives us a chance to keep Terry's memory alive while remembering the husband and dad he was. It's a big day for us, and every year is just as significant as the last one. It never stops being important."

Jayne continued to explain how the memorial day brings families together



Lowri's daughter Isla with Terry's police hat.

and provides a network of support between loved ones.

"It sounds strange to say it, but it really is a lovely weekend," she added.

Lowri, who is now a sergeant and is currently on maternity leave having welcomed her first child, Isla, says the day is 'full of emotion but so amazing'.

"Even though Dad died a long time ago, this is still such a massive event

for all of us. I don't think people quite appreciate how much it means to all of us until you're there and seeing it for yourself," the 32-year-old added.

"It's a day to remember - and not just to remember your loved one, but a chance to remember everyone who has died while on duty. Whether it's a loved one, a friend or a colleague, they all should be remembered.

"You get to know the other families and watch each other grow, year after year. In some ways, the event almost becomes like one big annual family reunion.

Since passing out in 2017, Lowri has been wearing her dad's collar number, something she says 'helps to keep his memory alive'.

"I wear his collar with pride every single day," continued Lowri, who lit the candle of remembrance for fallen officers at last year's service.

"People still remember him. In fact, quite often, his former colleagues will come and speak to me about him. By wearing his collar number, I'm helping to keep his memory alive."

WIDOW OF FIRST SOUTH WALES OFFICER TO DIE ON DUTY TO ATTEND NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL DAY

THE WIDOW OF a South Wales cop who died in the line of duty four weeks after the couple got married has told how important it is to keep his memory alive as she prepares to attend this year's National Police Memorial Day.

Jeffrey Pitman, 21, was the first South Wales police officer to die while on duty, following a motorbike accident after he had been called to an incident in 1969.

More than 50 years later and Diane Roberts is looking forward to attending the memorial service, which this year is being held in Cardiff.

"Jeff was a very special person. His one thing was that he always wanted to join the police. He'd joined the cadets at 17 and became a constable at 19, and he thrived in his role. He would have continued to be an amazing officer," recalls 74-year-old Diane, who was just 20 years old when Jeff died.

In 1968, just a year before he died, Jeff was awarded a Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct, after being shot at during an armed

burglary that he had been called to.

"It was extremely traumatic when Jeff died. I was devastated, we'd been married just over four weeks. I was in complete shock," Diane added.

"And to be honest, 50 years after, I didn't have any contact with the Force. But then on the 50th anniversary of his death, the Chief Constable took part in the Police Unity Tour in Jeff's memory, and that's how I came to be in contact with South Wales Police Force once again.

"I appreciated it so much that he hadn't been forgotten after all that time, it meant a lot to me. It's very comforting to know that, even after more than 50 years, I'm still considered part of the police family.

"It's so important to keep his memory alive - and remember all officers who have died on duty.

"The memorial event means our loved ones are remembered and honoured at a service every, single year - and that means a lot to us all."

Having struggled with Jeff's death,



Jeffrey Pitman.

Diane decided to train as a nurse, to give her something to focus on. During the second year of her nurse training, she went on to meet her husband, and the pair went on to have two children.

"I think helping others helped me heal, in a way," said Diane, who has six grandchildren.

"It took time for me to heal though and it wasn't until I was invited back to Bridgend to receive a commemorative display in Jeff's memory that I started talking about him again. In a way, getting in touch with the Force again was all part of the healing process."

WELSH POLICE MEMORIAL WILL BE PRIORITY FOR NEW TRUST

POLICE FEDERATION WELSH lead Nicky Ryan says she's looking forward to working with the new Police Remembrance Trust to establish a Welsh Police Memorial.

The Police Remembrance Trust has been formed from the merger of the National Police Memorial Day and the Police Roll of Honour Trust.

And Nicky said she was "delighted" to hear that the creation of a Welsh Police Memorial, which is likely to be located off Museum Avenue, near the university in Cardiff, was a priority for the new organisation.

Nicky said: "Hopefully, by merging the two charities, the new Police Remembrance Trust can go from strength to strength.

"I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING COLLEAGUES FROM ACROSS THE FOUR NATIONS TO CARDIFF IN SEPTEMBER. IT'S IMPORTANT WE REMEMBER FALLEN OFFICERS AND SHOW OUR SUPPORT TO THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES."

"And I'm delighted to hear that a new police memorial for Wales remains a priority for the new trust.

"Wales is the only country in the UK without its own memorial dedicated to those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"I'm looking forward to working with the trust and with colleagues across Wales to create a fitting and lasting tribute to those members of the service who have died while serving the people and communities of Wales."

The Reverend Canon David Wilbraham MBE, newly-elected chair of the Police Remembrance Trust, said: "This is a huge moment in the history of these two charities.

"We believe that together we can build on their vision, work and



commitment.

"To all who have been involved with National Police Memorial Day and the Police Roll of Honour Trust, we are grateful for your support over the years and invite you to remain on this journey with us with continuing commitment and enthusiasm."

Nicky said she was also looking forward to welcoming colleagues from across policing to Cardiff for the annual National Police Memorial Day later this year.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the National Police Memorial Day.

There will be a performance by the

British Police Symphony Orchestra on Saturday 23 September in St David's Hall, Cardiff.

The service itself will be held on Sunday 24 September, also in St David's Hall in Cardiff.

Nicky said: "Each year, the National Police Memorial Day is an emotional occasion that brings the UK's policing family together.

"I'm really looking forward to welcoming colleagues from across the four nations to Cardiff in September. It's important we remember fallen officers and show our support to their families, friends and colleagues."

Welsh lead Nicky Ryan will be attending this year's **National Police Memorial Day**, which will be taking place at St David's Hall in Cardiff on Sunday 24 September.

"The National Police Memorial Day is full of so many emotions, for every single person who's there," said Nicky.

"But if there's ever a time that really reinforces the 'police family' ethos, it's that weekend. We see loved ones who lost someone decades ago, while others more recently - yet, everyone comes together to remember our fallen colleagues, reflect and celebrate their lives.

"I suppose the National Police Memorial Day almost brings with it a sense of comfort for everyone who attends. It is a day where everyone understands exactly how everyone else is feeling and what they are going through.

"This year, the service is taking place in Welsh territory and I'm really looking forward to welcoming Jayne, Lowri, Becky, as well as Diane and all of the other families from across Wales and England, as we honour our fallen colleagues."

If you want to find out more information about this year's service or are interested in attending then visit the **National Police Memorial Day website**.



PRAISE FOR BRAVE OFFICERS

Nicky Ryan (second from left) with the Welsh delegation and First Minister Mark Drakeford (back row, fifth from right).

POLICE FEDERATION WELSH affairs lead Nicky Ryan has congratulated the region's 2023 Police Bravery Award winners and nominees.

Nicky joined colleagues from across the country for a special reception at 10 Downing Street hosted by Home Secretary Suella Braverman and then the awards presentation ceremony at a London hotel.

Four officers from South Wales Police were named as the winners for Wales at the awards ceremony in London on 13 July and were presented with their award by First Minister Mark Drakeford.

PC Owen Bedford, Inspector Paul Ramsay, Detective Inspector Paul Graham and a fourth officer who wishes to remain anonymous were honoured for the courage they showed as they tried to rescue a woman from a crumbling cliff edge.

The four officers risked their own lives to form a human chain over the edge of the high steep cliffs at Southerndown in the Vale of Glamorgan in the early hours of 12 April 2021.

They managed to get within touching distance of the woman and DI Graham managed to momentarily grab her hands but she slipped and fell and unfortunately did not survive her injuries.

Gwent Sergeants Isabelle Coulson and Ross Phillips were nominated for confronting and containing an aggressive dog responsible for a fatal attack on a 10-year-old boy.

The pair were among the first to

attend the scene of a dog attack at an address in Caerphilly in November 2021.

North Wales Police nominee PC Catherine Parry was hailed a real-life Happy Valley hero after she tackled a knife-wielding man in a supermarket.

She was off-duty and shopping in Sainsbury's in Oswestry in the neighbouring West Mercia force area when a man came in with a knife while experiencing a mental health crisis.

PC Parry, who has been in the Force for 20 years, displayed outstanding courage to protect fellow shoppers and subdue the offender.

Identifying herself as a police officer, she told the man to put down the knife but he continued to scream and shout and went behind the cigarette counter where he repeatedly stabbed the till so hard it broke the blade.

PC Parry kept the man inside the supermarket until West Mercia Police

officers arrived to support her and tackle the man to the ground.

Nicky said: "Once again the Police Bravery Award nominees from the Welsh forces have made us all proud to be police officers and I am delighted that their courage has been recognised.

"The annual awards are a highlight of the policing year and give us the opportunity to showcase and celebrate some of the extraordinary acts of heroism that police officers perform without giving a thought to their own personal safety.

"Each of our nominees risked their own lives as they tried to save others from harm and I think it takes a very special kind of courage to do that.

"Police officers run towards danger when others might run the other way and it is worth remembering that when negative headlines and unfair criticism make us feel undervalued."



Regional winners: South Wales officers with South Wales Chief Constable Jeremy Vaughan and First Minister of Wales Mark Drakeford.

CAMPAIGN TO INTRODUCE ELIZABETH MEDAL FOR FALLEN OFFICERS TO BE TAKEN TO WELSH GOVERNMENT

WELSH LEAD NICKY Ryan is preparing to take the Federation's #MedalsForHeroes campaign to the Welsh Government after First Minister of Wales Mark Drakeford pledged his support for the campaign at this year's Police Bravery Awards.

The Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) will be urging Welsh MPs to get behind the campaign, calling for an Elizabeth Medal to be given posthumously to emergency service workers killed while on duty.

The campaign is already being backed by Mr Drakeford, who promised to drive change, having spoken to Bryn Hughes - the father of PC Nicola Hughes who was tragically murdered in 2012 - at this year's bravery awards ceremony.

"We are seeking this award for all emergency service workers who are killed in the line of duty. And as the fire and ambulance service are devolved under the Welsh Government, we are hoping that they take notice of this campaign," said Nicky.

"As it stands, there is no formal state recognition available for when an emergency service worker dies doing their job in keeping our communities safe.



First Minister of Wales Mark Drakeford and Welsh lead Nicky Ryan.

The introduction of an Elizabeth Medal would ensure that those who have died in service, such as Bryn's daughter, Nicola, receive formal state recognition of the sacrifice they have made."

Nicky's comments come shortly before the National Police Memorial Day, which this year is being held on Sunday 24 September in Cardiff.

"The Elizabeth Medal wouldn't just be

for the person who died, it would be for their families and friends left behind too," continued Nicky.

"You can see just how much of a difference events like the National Police Memorial Day make to loved ones - giving them a chance to honour, remember and recognise the sacrifice our colleagues made while protecting the public.

"Firefighters, ambulance workers, prison officers and police officers put their lives on the line every day, it's only right that their sacrifice is never forgotten. Their friends and family deserve to know that their courage is properly recognised and acknowledged."

Having spoken to the First Minister at the Police Bravery Awards, Bryn said it is 'positive to see' him supporting the campaign 'both publicly and politically'.

"In the last 12 months, we have seen two home secretaries pledge their support for this campaign at national Federation events," said Bryn, who is leading the fight for an Elizabeth Medal in honour of his 23-year-old daughter.

"And now we have support from the First Minister of Wales. This is a very positive step for us."

Bryn explained that on the night of the bravery awards, the First Minister promised he would look into how the Welsh Government could help to introduce such a medal.

"THE ELIZABETH MEDAL WOULDN'T JUST BE FOR THE PERSON WHO DIED, IT WOULD BE FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS LEFT BEHIND TOO."

NICKY'S JUDGING ROLE FOR VOLUNTEER AWARDS

THE WELSH LEAD and Special Constabulary lead for the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) says she feels honoured to have been asked to be part of the judging panel at this year's Lord Ferrers Awards.

The Lord Ferrers Awards recognise outstanding contributions made by Special Constables, police support volunteers, volunteer police cadets and others who give their time to support policing.

Nicky Ryan will be judging this year's

prestigious awards, which will see a total of 12 individuals and teams honoured.

Speaking about her role Nicky said: "As Specials Constabulary lead for PFEW, it is a real honour to have been asked to be part of this year's judging panel at the Lord Ferrers Awards.

"Special Constables - and all volunteers who give their time to support the Force - bring with them something unique to policing. They all come from different backgrounds and come with their own skill set. We learn from them,

just as much as they learn from volunteering with the police.

"Volunteers are remarkable people and they deserve to be recognised - they are the unsung heroes within the Force. I'm sure these awards will highlight the innovation, skills, knowledge and talent that so many of our volunteers offer.

"I hope that the Welsh branches get behind their volunteers and put as many forward for an award as possible."

Nominations closed at midnight on 12 July.

WELSH LEAD 'THRILLED' WITH APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE POLICE COVENANT

NICKY RYAN HAS told how she hopes that having a chief medical officer in place to support the strategic direction of the Police Covenant will help drive positive change when it comes to the physical and mental health across the Welsh forces.

Comments from the Welsh lead come after it was recently announced that John Harrison was appointed the role, bringing with him years of experience, nine of which have been working with Devon and Cornwall Police as their chief medical officer.

Nicky says she is 'thrilled' with the news, calling it a 'huge move in the right direction' for the Police Covenant.

"Having a medical professional like John, who has such extensive experience in his field, is huge for the Covenant, and for police officers across England and Wales - it really is a big thing," says Nicky.

"There are so many different procedures across all 43 forces, having a chief medical officer in role will hopefully help to standardise processes.

"In terms of the four Welsh branches specifically, I look forward to John helping to generate some much-needed consistency. He has a real insight and total understanding of the differences that need to be negotiated within Wales with our devolved stakeholders such as the Welsh NHS. I believe this is a huge step forward for us."



New chief medical officer John Harrison.

"It's a marathon, not a sprint" says the new chief medical officer for the Police Covenant, echoing Nicky's comments: "When it comes to national consistency, that's the problem.

"One of the key challenges I see is that all 43 different police forces come with their own set of priorities. One of my goals is to focus on pulling together a network of people to support and operationalise a national agenda, so all forces can roll out the same policies and ways of working."

John's appointment comes shortly after the Police Covenant revealed their latest priorities includes, to

scope the current support in place in relation to healthcare pathways for the police workforce through further NHS Engagement.

The majority of his career has been spent working with the NHS, specifically as an occupational physician, using his core medical training to better understand ongoing issues in employment.

"A priority will be to look at a standardised national approach to occupational health across all forces," he continued.

"It is a postcode lottery. The variation between what different forces offer is massive and there's a huge amount of work that needs to be done in this area.

"I want to change the narrative around occupational policing, not only for our officers but so that we can recruit better too. I think the police is a very exciting place to work and I want to help other healthcare professionals see that."

John explained that his priorities also include clinical governance, to make sure everything that is being done within the police surrounding the health of officers, is done safely.

"It's so important that police forces are looking after their people properly. I'm here to not only help the organisation but to help officers too," John added.

"I recognise it's going to be a marathon, not a sprint but I'm confident we will get there."

FEDERATION REPRESENTED AT KEY NAPO AND UNISON EVENT

THE WELSH LEAD has highlighted the importance of regular engagement between the Police Federation and politicians after she attended the Napo and UNISON Cymru event where the future of probation in Wales was the main focus.

Nicky Ryan joined probation workers and union leaders at the event which took place in Cardiff last month and was also attended by First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford MS, Welsh Government and Dame Vera Baird KC, former Victims' Commissioner.

While the event focussed on a range of issues, the main item on the agenda was the relationship between probation workers and the Welsh Government, and more specifically the devolution of probation in Wales as recommended within the Gordon Brown Report.

"As the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW), we remain neutral on the devolution of policing and on all issues

discussed. However, it was reassuring and encouraging to see that there are positive conversations happening between the Welsh Government and unions to ensure that the best service is created should the devolution of probation happen," said Nicky.

"It's clear that probation staff are experiencing the same struggles and issues as our teams in policing with regards to demands versus capacity."

Mark Drakeford, who formerly worked as a probation officer, spoke at the event, setting out plans for a devolved probation service and arguing that workers would have a well-trained and well-prepared service if it were controlled by the Senedd and not the Westminster government.

He said: "Rebuilding lives is the best form of crime prevention. There would be a much stronger sense of probation service as a partner in the family of devolved services."

ENGAGE WITH THE FEDERATION

You can find out more about the Police Federation and its work representing police officers by contacting:

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