



Media Release

International Association of Women Police – Civilian of the Year Award, 2019 Caryl Griffiths, Dyfed Powys Police, Wales, UK

Caryl Griffiths joined the police service having previously been a learning support teacher in a local primary school, she was born and brought up in Ceredigion, West Wales, the community in which she now performs the role of police community support officer (PCSO). Carol has been an operational PCSO for 3 years and has recently been appointed as a specialist rural crime team officer, she has a natural affiliation to the rural community having been brought up on a farm. Carol fully embraced her new role, which was a newly created position within Dyfed Powys Police. Her work includes crime prevention, information sharing and intelligence gathering working in partnership with stakeholders within the rural community, together bringing offenders to justice and providing reassurance to rural, often isolated communities. In her relatively short time as a PCSO Caryl has been responsible for piloting a Rural Facebook group for the whole force and securing forensic marking equipment for the launch of 'Farm watch' crime prevention schemes. These initiatives have been a big success helping to build trust and confidence within the rural and farming communities. Due to their success these initiatives have been implemented across the entire Dyfed Powys policing area.

Caryl has also demonstrated her bravery when at 1532 hours on Monday 19th March 2018 a 999 call was received from a member of the public reporting that her car had been stolen from outside the Old Scout Hall which is situated close to the River Teifi in Cardigan, reporting that her three-year-old daughter was in the vehicle. Due to the nature and seriousness of the incident Caryl was dispatched to assist with a coordinated search of the area. For the next hour and a quarter, there was an exceptionally high policing response from a significant number of resources including partner agencies. Caryl used her knowledge of the area to contribute to the search. At 1646 hours the National Police Air Service reported seeing a silver vehicle submerged in the River Teifi between the two road bridges. Caryl was at the time near the slipway where the vehicle had been left parked. Without any emergency equipment or buoyancy aids, Caryl bravely entered the river and swam out to the vehicle. The strong current of the river swept her away, and she was fortunately swept into the side of the submerged vehicle. She was joined by a colleague and entry was gained into the vehicle. A three-year-old girl was removed from the vehicle and conveyed to awaiting ambulance service staff. Despite Caryl's heroism in entering the water to recover the child and the extensive efforts of medical staff and Paramedics, the little girl sadly could not be revived and passed away. Caryl has received a Chief Constable's Commendation for her heroic actions.

Caryl Griffiths will be honoured at a formal luncheon during the IAWP's 57th Annual Training Conference due to take place between 23rd and 27th September 2019, in Anchorage, Alaska, USA.

IAWP President Deborah Friedl, "For the past 104 years, IAWP has promoted the role of women in policing. IAWP champions change to enable women to play their full part in delivering an inclusive service to their local communities. Without our annual recognition programme many phenomenal women and men would go unrecognized for their efforts".

The **Mission** of the IAWP is: To strengthen, unite and raise the capacity of women in policing internationally. The **Vision**: IAWP envisions a world where police reflect the diversity of the communities they serve and where human rights are protected.

For more information about IAWP visit www.iawp.org

For further information on the 2019 recognition programme, permissions or award sponsorship opportunities please contact Jane Townsley, executivedirector@iawp.org