

Community Outcomes Meeting (COM)

Date: Tuesday, 10 October 2023

Present

Alison Lowe – Deputy Mayor for
Policing and Crime (DMPC)
Julie Reid – Head of Policing and
Crime, WYCA

Catherine Hankinson – DCC, WYP
Damien Miller – ACC, WYP
Carl Glavin – T/ACC, WYP
Russ Hughes – Ch. Supt. WYP

Also present

Paige Cowling – Consultation and
Engagement Officer, Policing and Crime
Dave Iveson, Digital Communications
Officer, Policing and Crime

Sharon Waugh – Consultation and
Engagement Manager, Policing and
Crime

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies.

The Deputy Mayor introduced the meeting, welcomed those in attendance and provided an overview of the agenda.

2. Notes of the previous meeting on 11 July and Matters arising.

The notes of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record.

3. Mayors Announcements:

- a) **Mayor's Safer Communities Fun - £1 million of cash seized from criminals to benefit communities in West Yorkshire** - With £1 million available, this was the largest Safer Communities Fund to date, and brought the fund's total since 2021 to over £2.3 million. The theme of the grant round was 'Multiple and Complex Needs', a key priority of the [Mayor's Police and Crime Plan](#). Organisations working to reduce re-offending and support victims were encouraged to apply.

The deadline for submissions was midday on 10 November 2023. Full terms and conditions, including more information on the theme and how to apply, were available on [the West Yorkshire Combined Authority website](#).

- b) **Male Behavior Change Campaign** - The Mayor had launched a new campaign which tackled everyday harassment and inappropriate male behaviour towards women and girls.

The "Just Don't" campaign was the latest step in the Mayor's fight to improve the safety of women and girls, alongside partners across the region.

The Mayor was urging everybody in the region to be an ally, step up, call it out and help stop it. The campaign was centred around a powerful video which showed men and boys making excuses for inappropriate behaviour and harassment in everyday situations. She asked everyone to watch the video and speak to friends and family about it. To find out more visit www.just-dont.co.uk.

- c) **Bus PCSO's - Safer Travel announcement** - The Mayor had funded 15 Safer Travel PCSO's, 3 in each district, dedicated full time to working in the bus stations, on the buses and around the bus network. The team would be working with the Combined Authority, bus operators, Neighbourhood Policing Teams and partner agencies to make the bus network safer. The team aimed to: Reduce violent crime, reduce anti-social behaviour, protect women and girls and protect the young and vulnerable.
- d) **Israel and Gaza Conflict** - The DMPC said that she, along with the Mayor wanted to reflect on the terrible events which had happened in Israel and Gaza over the weekend and passed on their thoughts and condolences to anyone affected. She reminded the public that any Hate Crime should be reported to the police. She then asked West Yorkshire Police to comment.

T/ACC Galvin was the Gold Command for Operation Jossigill which was West Yorkshire Police's response to the Israel, Palestine conflict. They were delivering in line with the national NPCC strategy. A meeting had been held which brought together key stakeholders from all five districts to ensure connectivity and consistence in terms of their approach. They would ensure public safety and maintaining trust and confidence was their main focus. Internal and external communications were considered carefully. A robust approach would be taken to any Hate Crime or Terrorism Act offending and he urged anyone who was a victim or witness of these crimes to report at the earliest opportunity.

4. Use of Force – to access the full reports click [HERE](#).

T/ACC Galvin said in terms of recording Use of Force, there was an electronic recording system in place which was available to all Officers via their handheld device. This allowed recording to take place immediately after the incident wherever practicable and this was subsequently reviewed by supervisors and as part of public scrutiny.

The Deputy Mayor said the last paragraph on Page 3 spoke about increased transparency, investment of training time and innovative approaches. Using these as examples, she asked for further explanation around how in real terms communities could be reassured in the work the Force were doing now compared to, for example, a year ago.

T/ACC Galvin said in terms of transparency, the Use of Force recording was incident based which may include personal protective equipment or other types of physical force in line with officers training. Time, date and location of the occurrence was recorded, along with reason for the force, justification and rationale in relation to the law and details of exactly what force had been used and why.

Officers were required to detail whether the force had been effective to feed into lessons learned where appropriate. It gave the Officer an opportunity to identify relevant impact factors which allowed the Force to understand the challenges that Officers were facing within community settings. Force was used on a continuum which started off with tactical communications and progressed as necessary, whilst always ensuring that the minimum amount necessary was used. All this information allowed scrutiny of the incident. Supervisory scrutiny in the first instance, which would then progress to Body Worn Video review if relevant. It also allowed scrutiny through the custody process and through public scrutiny panels.

There had been a change to the national delivery of training for Use of Force, in that over the next 6 months the training would increase from 1 to 2 days per year. West Yorkshire had moved to 2 days ahead of the national implementation which allowed Officers to explore a range of different incidents and ensure they were confident and comfortable in their application of tactics and techniques, along with their understanding of the legislation. There was an immersive learning environment at the Use of Force training facility where a variety of scenarios could be set up.

The DMPC noted that Use of Force recording was one of the key ways WYP hoped to gain trust and confidence, however the Use of Force form usage had remained static at 69%, which meant 31% of Officers were not completing the form. She was pleased to see that Body Worn Video (BWV) footage availability was now at 97% but was concerned about the transparency around Use of Force given the figures.

T/ACC Galvin agreed there was work to do in this area. Communications were sent to staff to make it part of the culture. He also hoped to see improvements in Use of Force form usage following the 2-day training.

The DMPC also noted in relation to tactics used for dog bites the figure was zero, however she was aware that dog bites had happened during the reporting period but had not been recorded. She asked how the public could have confidence in circumstances like this.

T/ACC Galvin said this was an area to work on also. The dog bites had been recorded in the Force Management Daily Log report but not on the Use of Force forms.

The DMPC thanked T/ACC Galvin and said she looked forward to improved figures over the coming months. She added there was an element of disciplinary attached to the use of Body Worn Video and suggested the same should be considered for completion of Use of Force forms.

The DMPC then asked what quality checks were in place to support Officers when they recorded whether injuries had been sustained as a result of force.

T/ACC Galvin said that Officers were treated as victims when they were the subject of an assault or injured as a result of use of force. A crime would be recorded where appropriate and they would be provided with support, if there was an offender linked to the crime they would be investigated. There was also a supervision aspect to incidents to ensure Officers were fit to return to work. Where Officers were not the victim of an assault but were injured in another way e.g., due to poor technique, they had health and safety reporting in respect of this and a welfare plan would again be put in place. Further training was provided where necessary.

The DMPC asked about the public in those circumstances. T/ACC Galvin said an assessment would be made to determine whether the use of force was proportionate, first aid would be provided immediately where necessary. Where there was excessive use of force that constituted an assessment by Professional Standards, then a referral would be made, and an investigative approach would take place. If the use of force met a threshold for disciplinary or other action, then those steps would take place. Where use of force was deemed proportionate and there were no complaints made, an assessment took place to determine whether there was a need for further action.

DCC Hankinson added in terms of recording the injuries, although there would be instances where individuals were not brought into custody after receiving an injury, the majority of people who sustained an injury under those circumstances would be those subject to arrest and would come into custody. The custody record would record any injuries. If a use of force form did not correspond then a review process would take place.

The DMPC asked aside from custody, individuals PACE entitlements and complaints, whether there was any other check and balance in place to determine whether Officers were recording use of force where harm occurred.

DCC Hankinson said where an individual had a taser pointed at them or a taser was discharged, these appeared on the daily summary for review by the Force Control Room Inspector. The BWV would also be reviewed, even if there was no complaint from a member of the public. If this was deemed excessive use of force it would be referred to Professional Standards Dept (PSD) proactively. The DMPC added that line managers reviewed BWV as standard weekly, specifically for stop and search.

The DMPC said that Section 5.6 of the report spoke about the Public Complaint data. Even though the numbers were smaller, the proportion of complaints from women and girls were much higher. She asked whether we understood why this was the case.

T/ACC Galvin said he had requested further analytical work to understand this, but his professional assessment would be that due to the increased focus in West Yorkshire around Violence Against Women and Girls, that women and girls felt more confident to report complaints.

The DMPC asked in future reports for use of force in custody settings to be separated out.

Finally, the DMPC asked what the difference was between a full and provisional taser license and what powers did the provisional license allow.

T/ACC Galvin said the licenses were very similar, however taser training nationwide had undergone a review and a new process was in place whereby provisional taser licenses had been given to forces who could deliver taser training. Whilst the College of Policing came and set up the infrastructure to do the full review to turn the provisional licenses into permanent licenses, the process enabled taser training to continue against a set framework. He had discussed in detail with the Public Order, Firearms and Taser Training Team and had no concerns that when the College of Policing came, they would turn provisional licenses into full ones. He also thought they would take away some good practice from the team.

Actions:

- a) WYP to provide further analytical work to understand why the proportion of complaints from women and girls was higher.**
- b) WYP to separate out Use of Force in custody settings in future reports and to provide the DMPC with these figures outside the meeting.**

5. Stop and Search - to access the full report, click [HERE](#).

ACC Miller provided a brief overview of the report which covered Stop and Search data for January – June 2023. The data showed an increase in Stop and Search but a decrease in direct outcome rate and the positive outcome rate. In terms of Operation Jemlock however, their direct outcome rate and positive outcome rate had increased.

The DMPC noted the small increase in stop and search of children (up 157 compared with the last period). She asked for more about the intelligence led information which led up to the stop and searches of the 10–17-year-olds especially as over half related to drugs and offensive weapons. She was especially interested in whether the intelligence showed that the young people were already linked to gangs/criminal activities.

ACC Miller said that although the stop and search numbers had risen, this was only in relation to outer clothing searches, rather than strip searches. Officers were tasked out based on hotspot intelligence and intelligence of those people who were involved within criminality. ACC Miller said unfortunately there were drug dealers on the streets, and they had seen an increase in the use of machetes, this was where they had been targeting their stop and search. The largest increases in stop and searches related to some targeted work in the Newsome and Ashbrow wards of Kirklees around Organised Crime Groups and Urban Street Gangs.

The DMPC understood the data presented around disproportionality and the reasons shared and noted the ongoing work in relation to the WYP response to the Race Action plan. She asked what reassurance WYP could offer to communities when they saw high visibility police operations/stop and search taking place, especially in communities where this may increase fear.

ACC Miller said to reassure communities, these were based on intelligence gathered from those communities. In relation to s60 stops reassurance work did take place and that WYP engaged with their Key Individual Networks, publicised what they were doing externally and enforced s60 powers in the smallest area possible. They also had the force Independent Scrutiny and Advisory Group (ISaAG) which they linked in with, provided policies to and reviewed their arrangements. They also had district Independent Advisory Groups where they asked communities to provide feedback.

He said the biggest thing to reassure communities was that the scrutiny groups reviewed their use of stop and searches which were chosen at random. BWV would be reviewed, and the group would look at whether the grounds for the stop and search met the legislation. Any feedback would be fed back into the organisation or to the officer. Within these forums they promoted discussion about transparency and use of police powers. WYP still operated the ride along scheme, and he encouraged anyone within communities who wanted to see firsthand how they used their powers to do so. Information on the ride along scheme was available on the website.

The DMPC said she was pleased to see the launch of the QR code, although it hadn't yet given us the data we had hoped for. The QR code allowed anyone who had been stopped and searched direct access to the complaints process. ACC Miller said they were going to re-launch this scheme to increase awareness.

The DMPC noted the launch of the road traffic App to support section 163 stop and searches, she asked what work, if any, were WYP planning around community engagement prior to the roll out.

ACC Miller said they were still working towards the April 2024 date but were aiming to have the app in place before then. The design in principle had been presented to their ISaAG. They would then widen this consultation to their district scrutiny groups and their internal Black Heritage Advisory Group. They would also push this out through their Key Individual Networks to gather as much feedback as possible. The DMPC also suggested they work with the young people from Carr Manor High School who did the Black Boy Joy video.

The DMPC welcomed the launch of the stop and search feedback form and noted the continued emphasis on procedural justice, effective communication and engagement with individuals subject to stop and search. She asked for more information about the key findings from the feedback form to date and how the form was being used to support learning within WYP.

ACC Miller said that unfortunately they had not yet received any feedback. They were using the Force Principal Engagement Officer to reach out to communities to increase awareness and to encourage feedback. They were also speaking with the ISaAGs about how they could better publicise the use of the tool. The QR code would be located on the back of Officer's handheld devices.

The DMPC said that her office would be happy to discuss how they could help engagement of the public and could do some comms to promote the work.

Action:

WYP to consult the young people from Carr Manor High School who were involved in the Black Boy Joy video on their road traffic app.

6. Neighbourhood Crime – to access the full report click [HERE](#).

ACC Miller said Neighbourhood Crime was a national crime and policing measure which looked at certain crime types which impacted communities more than others. The baseline was the 12 month period to December 2019 – the year before Covid struck. Compared to 2019 there was a 37% reduction in residential burglary, which was bigger than the national average, however when compared to the current previous 12 months there was an increase. The only crime which showed an increase compared to 2019 was theft of a motor vehicle, this was linked to the fact that certain vehicles could now be stolen without a key. Government were looking to change legislation around the sale of such vehicles. Outcome rates and victim satisfaction had also decreased.

The report highlighted the below (Page 2) in relation to residential burglary:

“The increase can also be attributed to a group of prolific offenders being released from prison and committing crime again. Recent intelligence suggests an organised crime group from 2018 who have been in prison are also now recruiting, suggesting offences may again increase if this continues.”

The DMPC asked what actions were being taken to target these prolific offenders/ Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) based on the intelligence.

ACC Miller was unable to go into detail on this however there were specific overt and covert tactics used to tackle OCGs led by Precision teams which were district based and looked at prolific crime and offenders. They had implemented a 4P approach; prepare, prevent, pursue and protect and had added partnership to this approach also which looked at target hardening communities. When a member of the OCG was wanted, the force would use all means available to bring them to justice. They also worked with their Integrated Offender Management Teams to address issues e.g., drug abuse, that the individuals may have.

The DMPC added that she was aware that all Sergeants were being trained in investigative methods so they could properly supervise officers out in the community which was positive.

The DMPC then asked how the ‘darker nights initiative’ targeted drug dealers and county lines.

ACC Miller confirmed that it didn’t, and that the darker nights initiative was in relation to burglary and the clocks going back. The initiative was about increasing patrols of communities that were impacted through burglary. They were also running their annual campaign around target hardening their property. He encouraged members of the public to seek information from the WYP website. The local NPTs would also work with local partnerships to tackle specific issues in their communities.

ACC Miller recognised that some burglary offences would be committed to feed a drug habit and so indirectly it did have an effect on the drug market.

The DMPC said she was a big fan of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and asked how residents could find out more about NHW and asked ACC Miller to explain more about what NHW Officers did.

ACC Miller said that information on how to sign up to NHW was available on the WYP website. The NHW Coordinators supported communities to set up their own group. They offered a bespoke service to set up, maintain, coordinate and monitor their NHW scheme. There were already a great number of NHW schemes across WY. Coordinators provided the network of information about the latest crime issues, scams etc. which could then be fed out into communities.

The DMPC said that even though satisfaction was decreasing overall, it was increasing in Calderdale and for the first time ever in Calderdale, Black satisfaction was higher than White satisfaction. ACC Miller said that overall satisfaction was beginning to increase again however it was still down compared to the previous period.

7. Neighbourhood Policing and ASB – to access the full report click [HERE](#).

ACC Miller gave an overview of the paper which provided details on the current staffing levels, vacancy factors which were in the main PC and PCSO roles. It also gave the uplift numbers, and also in relation to the priority based budgeting work they had been doing, some extra resources that had been taken from the Central Assessment Unit.

The DMPC mentioned the Immediate Justice Pilot which provided alternatives for communities where ASB was an issue.

The DMPC asked whether there was any understanding of when the uplift of officers would be part of the Neighbourhood policing teams in district.

ACC Miller said the Officers were currently being recruited, the issue was around the fact that the Force had recruited a large number of Officers, and they had to train them, get them onto a Patrol Team, and get them to a point where they were able to drive a police car. Once they were at the deployable level, some officers could be taken off the Patrol Teams to backfill into the Neighbourhood Teams. Their priority was to fill the current 70 FTE vacancies, followed by the 66 uplift officers. ACC Miller was hopeful this could be done in the next 12 months.

The DMPC added that the old system which allowed Officers to be trained within 18 weeks had been re-instated, rather than the 2/3-year timescale which the government set.

The DMPC asked for the specific figures regarding number of additional Neighbourhood Policing Officers in each district.

The DMPC noted there were a high number of Special Constables in Wakefield. She asked whether there was any understanding of why this district had a higher number compared to population. There were also a high number of cadets in Bradford, she asked whether this was by design.

The DMPC added that she had met with one of the Specials and they thought there were not enough of them and that more could be done to recruit.

The DCC said there was an advert out currently for recruitment of Special Constables and encouraged people to join.

ACC Miller said that they had recruited from the pool of Specials and a large proportion were now Police Officers. Special Constables were volunteers, so they got to choose where they wanted to work. Understandably, a lot of individuals chose their local area although the Force did encourage balancing out distribution of Specials.

In relation to Cadet numbers in Bradford, ACC Miller set the scheme up in Bradford and so had a couple of years head start, he was hopeful however that the other districts would catch up. The DMPC added that if there was anything that she or the Mayor could do to help with recruitment they would be happy to help.

The DMPC then asked for more information about the Neighbourhood Performance Framework and how this would be used.

ACC Miller said the framework was published in Spring 2023 and so was fairly new, it looked at the standardisation across all Forces in terms of how to manage neighbourhood performance. On the back of that he had tasked districts to create the framework so that performance could be measured. The issue was that they did not currently count all of the data within the framework, so it was currently half populated and there was still some work to do in certain areas.

The framework was broken down into a number of areas, including engaging communities, problem solving, and targeted activity. He would hold districts to account to ensure they were delivering against this framework.

The document referred to overall ASB coming down 9% in 2022/23. However, the DMPC said there had been a significant rise in calls for service in Quarter 1, 2023/24 and her casework and community feedback continued to highlight long term repeat ASB concerns. She asked what the reason for the increase in calls for service was, what action was being taken in response and what reassurance could WYP give to those suffering repeat ASB incidents.

ACC Miller said that ASB had reduced more than 9% however this was masked by crime data integrity. A lot of previous ASB was now getting recorded as a criminal offence. They were seeing a big problem with nuisance motorcycles, quad bikes and electric scooters and bikes. They were working with partners to target harden areas and clamp down on this. He added that WYP were proud of their Anti-Social Behaviour and Vulnerability Assessment Tool which their Neighbourhood Coordinators used every time ASB was reported.

This allowed WYP to identify repeat victims who they would then work with to solve the problem. Current vacancies were a problem here, and were the key priority.

The DMPC attended many PACT meetings, she wanted to understand how they were running as she was aware that post Covid some of them were still being held online. Pudsey in particular had complained about the meeting being online. She asked whether this was standard practice, whether officers had flexibility and how the public were engaging with that.

ACC Miller said there was flexibility depending on the needs of communities. They were happy to bring back face to face where the need was there. The framework also measured engagement through PACT, so this could be brought to meetings and the Force could be held to account on this going forward.

The DMPC confirmed that the Pudsey PACT meeting should return to face to face.

Actions:

- a. WYP to provide the specific figures regarding the number of additional Officers in each district.**
- b. WYP to provide the Neighbourhood Performance Framework to the DMPC and include it in future reports.**

8. Mental Health - to access the full report click [HERE](#).

The DMPC asked how the Force would ensure Officers continued to attend emergency mental health calls where there was a threat to life and were there concerns that the Right Care Right Person protocol may be misunderstood either internally or externally.

She had some communication this week from a VCSE organisation who felt that a young person was at risk, but the police refused the call out. She said communication with VCSE partners needed to be strengthened so that they understood what the threshold was for police attendance. She also asked what communication was currently taking place with agencies.

ACC Miller said there had been lots in the media about "Right Care Right Person", some of which was not down to West Yorkshire. Apart from the above-mentioned case which would be looked into. In 2019 WYP introduced their Welfare Check Policy and their Hospital Absconder Policy which involved a lot of the principles of "Right Care Right Person". He wanted to be clear in terms of what WYP did and did not attend. If the circumstances included the commission of a crime, or where there was immediate and continuing threat to life, WYP would always attend. The issue was with areas that were not police responsibility. "Right Care Right Person" was a national re-brand and had provided an opportunity to review the policies and re-train officers and staff and they had begun spot-checking some of their own decisions.

He had also written to all heads of Health to reassure them of this, but they would ensure that VCSE partners were also aware of this process.

The DMPC asked for a regular confidential update on how “Right Care Right Person” was working, to include baseline performance data and any partnership barriers that could be addressed together and where WYP would like to see more focus from other agencies. She believed she could be an asset to this situation due to her relationships with the VCSE sector.

Action:

WYP to confidentially update the DMPC regularly on how “Right Care Right Person” was working, to include baseline performance data and any partnership barriers that could be addressed together and where WYP would like to see more focus from other agencies.

9. Business Crime – Exception Paper - to access the full report click [HERE](#).

ACC Miller said the paper covered the Business Crime Prevention Group that he chaired. He would welcome further membership of this group. It also touched on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, shoplifting offences, and shop staff assaults. The paper also covered business crime and modern-day slavery and where they had an intelligence gap.

The DMPC said it was good to hear that the Business Crime Group was going strong, she asked how the learning from this group was shared.

ACC Miller said there was a good West Yorkshire wide representation on the group, but it could always be better, so he encouraged people to join. They were represented on the National Retail Crime Group, and they received updates on crime trends and intelligence related to retail OCGs. Through the link to the National Business Centre, they shared the information to the group, therefore increasing the membership of the group would allow the information to be shared wider. They have also undertaken conflict management training for retail staff, helped with the “Shop Kind” campaign and had police weeks of action campaigns endorsed through the partnership. The group had also received information on how to report business crime and had been shown WYPs’ Digital Asset Management System on which they were able to record where people had CCTV and allow uploads of footage of shoplifting.

The DMPC said that she and the Mayor would promote the group to the business community on WYP’s behalf.

The DMPC said that much of the increase in shoplifting seemed to be linked to food inflation, which was startling and most of the shoplifters arrested were of a young age. She asked what percentage of shoplifters were arrested and was there any analysis of those that were not detained as she was told that they just got banned from the store.

ACC Miller said that the arrest rate for the offences reported to the police was 11.8%. In relation to those not detained, the figure was not counted, and this was not currently possible. Of the offences where the individual was not detained but it was captured on CCTV, they showed it on their systems internally to try and identify the suspect. If the suspect was identified, they would make an arrest. Where the suspect could not be identified they looked at doing a WY appeal to identify the individuals.

The DMPC asked whether AI was used, ACC Miller confirmed it was not.

The DMPC was interested in the numbers of individuals who had been arrested who had no markers (38%) which meant they had not been arrested for shoplifting previously and strengthened the link with the cost-of-living crisis. The numbers had risen from 222 to 2000+ people with no markers.

ACC Miller added that in relation to the establishments that were being targeted, the majority were food retailers. He said that other establishments were also targeted by Organised Crime Gangs. However, the data clearly showed that food retailers were impacted more. Different shops took different approaches, a lot were now moving on to the deter method, rather than waiting for the criminal offence to take place.

The DMPC said it was alarming to see the numbers of shop staff assaulted, although there was a higher percentage of those without injury than with an injury. She asked whether the times of day were analysed when looking at these assaults.

ACC Miller said these assaults happened over the full 24 hours, however there was a specific period between 1300-2000 where most assaults took place. Assaults covered both physical and threatening behaviour. The peak time was between 1600-1700.

The DMPC suggested working with the Business Crime Group on how to prevent those crimes from happening, and this intelligence should be shared with the group.

There was an opportunity through the group and through increased engagement with big and small businesses to talk about Modern Slavery. She was pleased to say that both Asda and Morrisons were members of the group and it was an opportunity to increase intelligence around Modern Slavery and the links to business crime, especially in light of the information about out of court disposals. She asked how we could work better to achieve that.

ACC Miller said they had their Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Team and he was more than happy for them to come to the Business Crime meeting to increase their knowledge. There was a bit of an intelligence gap in regard to the vulnerable clients and supply chains within retail and WYP needed them to be the eyes and ears and feed the intelligence back. The members of the group were aware of the Partnership Intelligence Portal where they could send intelligence in directly, but knowledge of this needed to be increased, along with knowledge of the signs of modern-day slavery. They could do this through the group and with the help of the DMPC.

Action:

WYP to provide any materials on the Business Crime Group they would like the Mayor/ DMPC to promote.

10. Future Agenda Items

Rural Crime would be the exception item on the next agenda. The calendar for 2024 would be agreed outside of the meeting.

11. Any Other Business

None.

12. Next Meeting

27 February 2024

KEY INFORMATION

Policing & Crime coverage of SOC sits under our *Safer Places and Thriving Communities* priority, with links to the *Keeping People Safe and Building Resilience* priority (for preventing the exploitation of vulnerable people by organised criminal gangs).

Notable activity by the Policing & Crime Team on this topic includes:

- **The WY Anti-Slavery Partnership:** promoting collaboration across our local partners both in the care for the victims of slavery and trafficking, and in the response to the SOC threat of organised gangs engaged in illegal migration and labour market abuses.
- Building resilience through **promotional campaigns:** Supporting through our own press engagement, WYP awareness raising campaigns on topics such as County Lines and students' vulnerability to 'Money Mule' scams. Much of this work is co-ordinated through the WY Safeguarding Communications Group.
- **WY Violence Reduction Unit:** So much of the VRP's work is targeted at preventing serious violence in communities and denying organised crime the space to thrive.
- For example, the Focussed Deterrence Car project aims to prevent crime by bringing a youth worker and non-uniformed police officer together to intervene directly following a violent incident involving young people. The project engages young people at the 'teachable moment' immediately after the incident has occurred.
- VRP led enforcement work against knife crime and serious violence under Op. Jemlock aligns with WYP's response to SOC through their Programme Precision project.

Other important interventions include:

- Gangs and Violence Reduction Service at HMP Leeds (Catch22) - working to reduce the risk posed by gang-affiliated individuals in prison and before their release.
- HMYOI Wetherby Violence Reduction (St. Giles Trust) – a programme working with boys and girls with the objective of reducing knife-related violence once individuals have left custody.
- Kirklees Community Resilience & Development (Thornton Lodge Action Group). This project uses gym sessions as a 'vehicle for change' in reducing knife-related crime, by diverting young people at risk of offending away from criminal behaviours.
- Drugs – With drugs crime the dominant factor behind most of West Yorkshire's organised crime groups, we are leading on the West Yorkshire response to the government's 10 year drugs plan – 'From Harm to Hope'. The Combined Authority has established the WY Combatting Drugs Partnership to harness partner's work to reduce the demand for drugs; help people to access the right addiction treatment services; and tackle drug crime in our communities.
- In July 2021, Wakefield was selected by the Government to host a new national programme to tackle drug crime called Project ADDER. It brings together partners across health, employment, housing and policing to combine

enforcement operations against drug gangs with improved treatment and recovery services for drug users.

- The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund continues to support a wide range of grassroots-level diversionary projects which aim to prevent serious violence in communities, you can find out more about the funded projects by following this link. [Mayor's Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk)

Other Combined Authority delivery:

- The VRP have submitted a new budget and delivery plan for 23/24 based on the new funding value of £4.4m, a decrease of around 25% based on the budget from the previous year.
- The VRP have earmarked £2.3 million for commissioned interventions, which is over 50% of the budget and well over requirements of the Home Office.
- **Serious Violence Legal Duty (SVD):** The Legal Duty is now in place and the VRP have worked to coordinate the West Yorkshire partnership response and readiness assessment. SROs were identified from each responsible authority and have been briefed on SVD responsibilities. Oversight will be provided through the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Executive Strategic Group.
- VRP Community Advisory Group met in Bradford in March, continuing the VRP's commitment to listen to communities impacted by serious violence, and co-produce interventions which have the support of local residents.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

- Violence Reduction Unit - The Violence Reduction Unit take a multi-agency approach, bringing together police, local government, public health, voluntary and third sector, community leaders and other key partners to tackle violent crime and crucially to understand its underlying causes, the unit works closely with colleagues from the Policing and Crime Dept. particularly around interventions, engagement, and commissioning.
- Partnership Executive Group (PEG): Chaired by the Mayor of West Yorkshire Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, this is a quarterly meeting of Chief Executives, Chief Constable and leaders who provide scrutiny and oversight of the VRP core function, delivery progress, strategic direction, and financial decisions.
- Reducing Serious Violence Executive Strategic Group: Chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, this is a bi-monthly meeting of senior strategic leaders who provide system leadership and accountability for key areas of responsibility, including the delivery of a public health whole systems approach and driving the strategic direction.
- Partnership Delivery Group (PDG): This is a monthly meeting, chaired by the VRP Director, involves wide ranging stakeholder and partnership representation.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

The Combined Authority and West Yorkshire Police commitment to EDI under the topic of serious & organised crime can be illustrated by: grassroots-level interventions within communities impacted by serious violence through the VRP's engagement programme; support for neighbourhood-level projects (often developed by communities or local VCSE groups) through the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund; and robust scrutiny of the use of Stop and Search strategies across West Yorkshire.

ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constable's report – Serious and organised crime](#)

As mentioned above the Police and Crime Plan embeds the principles of a public health approach to policing and crime by making 'safer places and thriving communities', and 'responding to multiple and complex needs' two of its four strategic priorities, in recognition that supporting people away from the harm that drugs and alcohol can cause requires a whole systems approach.

Drugs and alcohol misuse are part of the wider determinants of crime and community safety which require the designing and commissioning of appropriate services to reduce the harm on individuals and communities. To support delivery of this harm reduction, the Mayor has continued to provide funding through her Community Safety Fund to Community Safety Partnerships to enable them to commission appropriate services for each local area.

This passported fund contributes to specific criminal justice related drug and alcohol support, as well as youth based initiatives that educate young people away from substance and alcohol misuse.

The specific drug and alcohol related outcomes of the Community Safety Fund are:

- Supporting services and early intervention approaches in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour. (*Keeping People Safe & Building Resilience*)
- Reducing crime and disorder through place-based community safety initiatives identified by the Community Safety Partnership. (*Safer Places and Thriving Communities*)
- Tackling the linked determinants of crime as part of a wider local approach on responding to multiple and complex needs, including re-offending and re-victimisation. (*Responding to Multiple & Complex Needs*)

The Mayor also funds specific dedicated testing of those arrested for offences likely to be linked to Class A substance misuse through the Test on Arrest / custody based Drug Intervention Programme. A positive test result allows a number of treatment options to be considered to support individuals out of the cycle of drug related offending.

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) have conducted a research project looking at the links between drugs and violence.

The Mayor has co-ordinated bids locally to the Safer Streets 4 Fund that have resulted in safe spaces being introduced in towns and cities. These safe spaces support people to enjoy the night-time economy and offer a range of services and support, including help to those that become vulnerable due to consuming of drugs and or alcohol.

Of note is the development of Combatting Drugs Partnerships (CDPs) across the county. CDPs represent a multi-agency platform for understanding and addressing drug-related harm. Together, these agencies can take a holistic view of the issue of substance misuse in their area, and work to devise a strong partnership response.

Chaired by the DMPC, the West Yorkshire Combating Drugs Partnership Strategic Board has promoted the use of the opiate overdose medication, Naloxone, which is soon to be carried by West Yorkshire Police officers as part of a pilot project.

8. Mayor's Safer Communities Fund

The Mayors Safer Communities Fund continues to support projects which tackle Drugs and Alcohol, details of projects funded can be found here ([Mayor's Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/mayors-safer-communities-fund))

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

Drugs and Alcohol interventions and support are undertaken in partnership with Community Safety Partnerships. Activity to date is highlighted within the report.

The Mayor supports all five local authorities across West Yorkshire through the Community Safety Fund. This enables LAs to identify and fund local priorities. In addition, Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) Funding is provided to West Yorkshire Police to undertake specific drug services with a focus on drug testing in custody.

In Wakefield District, the Home Office have provided additional funding to support activity known as Project ADDER. This is a national pilot project bringing together enforcement and drug treatment to reduce opiate related drug deaths. The Mayor is looking to learn and share best practice from Project ADDER to support the new Combatting Drugs Partnerships across West Yorkshire Districts.

Each District ensures delivery of Drugs and Alcohol services through their local Partnership arrangements. The DMPC will ensure county-wide join up and oversight through the chairing of the WY Combatting Drugs Partnerships Strategic Board arrangements.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Drugs and Alcohol is tackled most effectively in partnership. It is known that minority groups and marginalised individuals can be at increased risk of drug and alcohol misuse issues.

ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constables report – Drugs and Alcohol](#)

- We have continued to engage with the public about their road safety concerns in 2023, including in our face-to face surveys over the summer, and in our 'Safety on the Roads of West Yorkshire' consultation.
- The Mayor is committed to delivering the Vision Zero ambition in West Yorkshire. Vision Zero is a Safe Systems approach bringing together five aspects of a safe road environment: safe roads, safe vehicles, safe behaviours, safe speeds and, when a collision occurs, the response to the collision.
- The main objective will see us working towards eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable transport for all partly through the leadership of the new Vision Zero Strategic Board, which oversees the ongoing efforts to deliver an effective Vision Zero approach across all the districts. The first meeting of the Vision Zero Board took place in December 2021 and has then taken place quarterly since this time.
- The Mayor's Transport Strategy prioritises work through our Vision Zero Partnership (previously the Safer Roads Partnership) to reduce casualty numbers on our roads. During the COVID-19 pandemic we saw increased take-up of cycling and walking. This mode shift is welcomed and has been sustained by interventions supported by Active Travel funding, but injuries to pedestrians and cyclists continue to be a barrier, and a business-as-usual approach with existing levels of funding will not be adequate. We will embed road safety into our design and interventions (alongside education, training, and publicity programmes) and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders such as West Yorkshire Police.
- Funding provided through the City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement for the Safer Roads Programme is allowing districts to implement key infrastructure changes, with £25 million allocated across five years for safety projects. We are working through the Vision Zero Partnership meetings to bring new sources of data together to support the programme, and colleagues in the Combined Authority's Research and Intelligence Team are progressing with a pilot of 'near miss' technology which may inform a preventative approach for future highways interventions.
- The Combined Authority was successful in a bid to the Home Office for the Safety of Women at Night Fund. This is funding a project to support women and girls' safety on the West Yorkshire transport system, with a particular focus on the night-time economy. The first project is a web-based safety feedback tool on the MCard Mobile App, to allow customers to feedback their bus journey experiences and for us to use this insight to inform future investments and interventions.

- Commissioned services to support victims are available to all victims of road traffic collisions where a crime may have been committed, including those who do not report to the police. This includes the core referral and local support service and the restorative justice service.
www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/how-we-work/supporting-victims
- The Mayor has supported the road safety charity BRAKE which provides a specialist national service to victims of road traffic collisions resulting in death or serious injury. We have provided funding to BRAKE via the Police Property Act Fund.
- As part of the Mayor's leadership on the road safety agenda, the Combined Authority's Vision Zero Policy Manager and Vision Zero Policy Assistant are currently developing the West Yorkshire Vision Zero Strategy with feedback from partners, following consultation and engagement during 2023. The strategy is intended to provide a common direction across the county in reducing the harm caused by road traffic collisions and outline objectives for the next three years.
- A Vision Zero Communications Officer is soon to be in post to support partnership ambitions for increased public awareness of road safety messaging. The Vision Zero Strategy will include deliverables such as behaviour change campaigns for key priority groups which the Communications Officer will lead on.
- These posts are funded through the West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership and underline the new momentum that all partners are bringing to this agenda to achieve the ambition of no one killed or seriously injured on West Yorkshire's roads by 2040.

6. Mayor's Safer Communities Fund

The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund continues to support road safety; details of projects funded can be found here: ([Mayor's Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](http://Mayor's%20Safer%20Communities%20Fund%20-%20West%20Yorkshire%20Combined%20Authority%20(westyorks-ca.gov.uk)))

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

The Mayor has representation on the West Yorkshire Vision Zero Partnership which includes all five districts, West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, and National Highways working together to tackle road safety. Please see Appendix A for more detail.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

There are significant equality, diversity, and inclusion aspects to the road safety agenda. Some communities, including those impacted by multiple deprivation, are

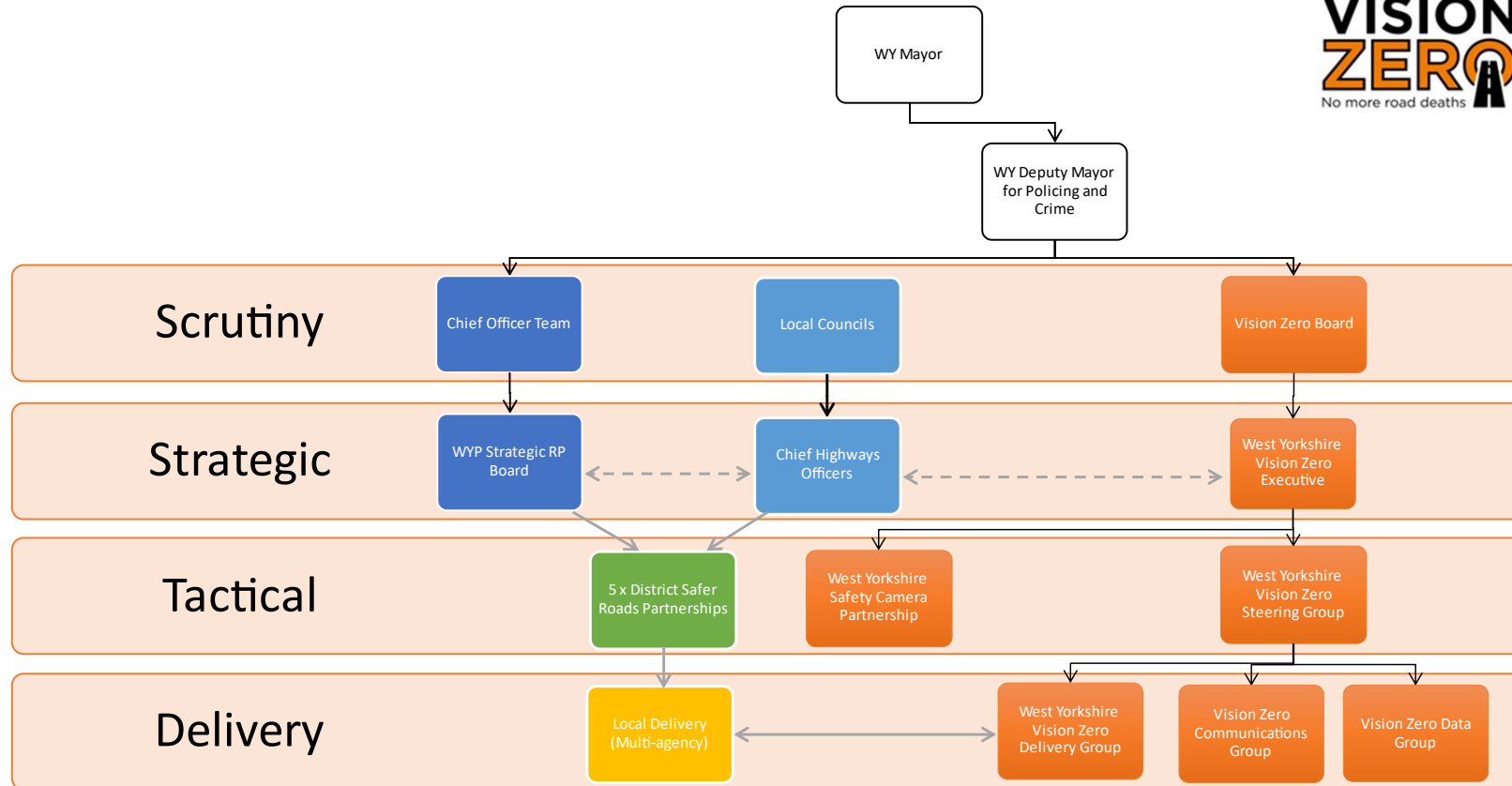
much more affected by the issues than others. Younger people are deterred from taking out insurance by the high costs involved.

ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constable's report – Road Safety](#)

Appendix A

West Yorkshire Vision Zero Partnership Structures



control, financial abuse), work to influence and educate young people, and perpetrator programmes that reduce reoffending

Priority 2: Keeping people safe and building resilience

- The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the volume of crime that disproportionality affects women and girls. We will work to uncover this hidden harm, getting the support and justice to those who need it.
- Work with all partners to embed a violence against women and girls' delivery framework.
- Reduce vulnerability and isolation by engaging women and girls in education, employment, and training opportunities.
- Challenge the male community to stand up and be counted, as role models to their peers, calling out unacceptable behaviour

Priority 3: Safer Places and Thriving Communities

- This Plan will make West Yorkshire a hostile place to exploiters, through developing strong deterrents, designing-out crime, supporting community challenge, making reporting crime simpler, and increasing confidence in the police.
- Support grass-roots community organisations that provide important services for women and girls.
- Use developing technology and tools to understand where and why women and girls feel unsafe in public spaces.
- Work to ensure women and girls are safe on public transport and taxis

Priority 4: Responding to Multiple and complex needs

- Bring a trauma-informed focus to those supporting women and girls who have experienced exploitation.
- Bring a whole systems approach to the safety of women and girls' agenda, for both victims and perpetrators.
- Embed the violence against women and girls' priority in the new Serious Violence Duty.
- Evaluate the impact of commissioned perpetrator programmes to understand what works to reduce violent behaviour

The Police and Crime Plan includes a series of indicators that will be used to measure performance which, while not solely related to women and girls, reflect the fact that women and girls are disproportionately represented in the associated crime cohort. These include:

- Increasing positive outcomes for victims of domestic and sexual abuse and violence
- Reducing the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse
- Increase the use of Domestic Violence Protection Orders and Domestic Violence Protection Notices
- Increase the use of Stalking Prevention Orders
- Increase the % of female officers

Performance against the indicators in the Police and Crime Plan is reported via the Mayor's Governance meetings and the Police and Crime Panel.

KEY INFORMATION

6. Mayoral/DMPC and VRU activity to date includes:

- Funded and supported the leading research for safety of women and girls in West Yorkshire's parks. The [research led by Dr Anna Barker and Professor George Holmes](#) at the University of Leeds. Applying a multi-dimensional approach, maximising the learning from this research, and working with partners, means we will achieve a greater understanding of how we can innovate, share great ideas, and aid the safety of women and girls in public, including how we can take this learning into the private and digital spaces to ensure we accelerate societal change.
- A 'Train the Trainer programme' rolled out to youth workers to implement and upskill for behaviour change across West Yorkshire. 150 youth workers to be trained on behavioural change, and once completed, these youth workers will have the skills required to upskill other frontline workers, including those on the transport network.
- Ongoing development of a male behaviour change campaign by the Policy Manager, Eran Sandhu, and project lead colleagues in Policing and Crime team. The video proposal is developed with the ambition to generate low-level male behaviour change within the Safety of Women and Girls agenda through engaging with men and boys in West Yorkshire.
- The Policy Manager, leading the workstream for the safety of women and girls has conducted knowledge share sessions with Infrastructure, engineering and mass transit colleagues and consultants.
- Set up a county wide [Stalking Advocacy Service](#) for victims of domestic stalking with Victim Support. This is the first West Yorkshire wide service for victims of stalking.
- Safe space hubs in town centres including Leeds, Halifax, Bradford, Wakefield, and Huddersfield.
- The VRP Response Strategy and West Yorkshire Needs Assessment VRP literature review which: Provided an insight into the causes and impacts of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) as understood in current literature and service provision; Identified the needs of women and girls in West Yorkshire to support the development and introduction of intelligence led, evidence based sustainable intervention and provision; Offered an overview of current knowledge whilst identifying gaps in knowledge and recommendations to prompt engagement and localised research. Findings from the review suggested the implementation a long-term public health approach, which tackles the deep rooted and ingrained social, health and economic problems facing women and girls as the best chance of addressing this issue.

- The VRP have also completed a VAWG literature review in partnership with Integrated Care Systems and Together Women and a response strategy to the literature review will be published shortly.
- Safer Streets Primary bid – Supporting women’s safety in parks. Each Local Authority received £46K to support women and girls’ safety focusing on two parks per district. The funding is split as follows:
 - £10K per park to improve the look and feel, lighting, replacing damaged equipment / features, introducing new features / equipment / seating etc. This included “reclaim the park” / “taking a stand” launch events for parks to promote women’s safety / male behaviour change.
 - £10K per park to develop those two parks as community assets for women and girls’ groups, working with local groups and secondary schools to understand what they want from the park, and facilitate activities for those groups. These have included sports activities, dog walking, picnics, self-defence, dance classes.
 - £6k per authority to fund a role (either internally or to a Third Sector group) to drive activity in relation to the community asset work and build sustainability.
 - University of Leeds led research project, together with women’s groups, residents, community safety professionals and the Combined Authority, looking to understand how and why women and girls feel unsafe in parks and develop guidelines for Parks design that has regional and national impact.
- Safer Streets Secondary bid – Challenging sexist and predatory behaviour in FE / HE institutions

This was an offer to 10 institutions in West Yorkshire developing consent workshops and active upstander training during Freshers week for the first-year students;

- Consent training workshop includes train the trainer approach for institution staff to build sustainability post funding. Delivered by Basis Yorkshire.
- Active upstander/bystander training for peers to be able to challenge unacceptable behaviour in a safe way on and around campus.
- Personal safety & conflict management techniques training.
- Campus based Behaviour Change Campaign – coproduced by staff and students.
- Safety of Women at Night Fund – Focusing on Transport and the Night-Time Economy - West Yorkshire wide projects as follows:
 - An anonymous bus safety feedback tool on the Yorcard mobile application, allowing users to feedback on their feelings of safety at any point along their journey. Also featuring travel safety information. Data collected from the App reporting tool along with other intelligence will allow for targeted interventions

to take place on routes that have high levels of violence against women and girls as reported by passengers and staff. Transport staff and police in plain clothes will ride the routes identified to address any issues at high-risk times.

- West Yorkshire Police-led enhanced active upstander training to licensed venue staff in the night-time economy for them to challenge unacceptable behaviour. This included a train the trainer approach for managers so they can train new staff in the hospitality industry. An upstander approach identifies those individuals have a role to play in the prevention of abuse being committed against/ or by others. This approach for violence prevention focuses on boys and men not as perpetrators or potential perpetrators, but as empowered upstanders who can confront abusive peers and support abused ones. Likewise, the model focuses on girls and women not as victims or potential targets of harassment, rape, and abuse, but as empowered upstanders who can support abused peers and confront abusive ones.
- West Yorkshire wide “Ask for Angela” campaigns relaunch and reinvigorated, which allows patrons of venues to use this covert phrase to ask for support and assistance and included training for licensed premises staff to support customers who approach them.
- Other District night-time economy-orientated projects which largely ran on Friday and Saturday nights
- Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Funding for Victims and Witnesses

The MoJ funding is for the provision of local commissioning of victims’ support services across West Yorkshire to support all victims of crime. Information of all allocations of this funding are available on the Policing and Crime website.

For this report the following funded provision is for women and girls only.

- Rape Crisis Centres - For all women and girls affected by rape and sexual violence.
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) for the following groups of women and girls - BME: Black, Minority Ethnic women and girls
- Sex workers and women being or have been sexually exploited for females victims in prison
- Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) for the following groups of women and girls, Specialist Rape crisis, Specialist Rape crisis Children and Young people.
- Specialist Rape crisis BME: Black, Minority Ethnic people women and girls
- Jyoti Service - Specialist service for BME: Black, Minority Ethnic women and girls, which is run by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic women offering a culturally sensitive approach to dealing with issues around rape and sexual violence.
- Mayoral Engagement - The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) and the office supported the Mayor’s attendance at joint events and

engagements throughout International Women's Week which began Monday 7 March 2021 and concluded with the Women's Day Symposium on 12 March 2022. A summary of events/engagements are detailed as follows:

- CARA Launch Event, Wednesday 9 March - The DMPC opened the launch of a virtual launch event for the CARA perpetrator programme (Cautions and Relationship Abuse). In 2020 the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner commissioned Restorative Solutions CIC, partnered with the Hampton Trust, to introduce and deliver CARA over a period of 2 years. This partnership brings substantial relevant expertise and local knowledge to this service. Eligibility is for standard risk first time offenders, issued with a Conditional Caution by West Yorkshire Police. The launch followed a decision to extend the contract for a further year until June 2023.
- Rosalie Ryrie Foundation – (DMPC & The Mayor) - The Rosalie Ryrie Foundation support people who are victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and people whose behaviours are abusive. They work with adults, children, and young people from all backgrounds to raise awareness and provide support. As part of the launch of the Police and Crime plan the Mayor and DMPC met with a group of women who have been victims of Domestic Abuse. Rosalie Ryrie have been previously funded by SCF and the VRU and are currently funded by the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund.

Mayor's Safer Communities Fund – The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund continues to deliver projects to support women and girls. You can find out more about the successful projects here ([Mayor's Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/mayors-safer-communities-fund))

The Policing and Crime Team appointed Eran Sandhu as the Women and Girls Policy Officer on 20 June 2022.

The mayor hosted two co-design events in May and September 2022 to form the West Yorkshire Safety of Women and Girls Strategy.

In July the announcement that victims' support services across West Yorkshire are set to receive nearly £14m in a cash boost aimed at supporting the region's most vulnerable. The funding will secure services for the next three years and will pay for over 70 different services and support roles for victims and witnesses across West Yorkshire including 52 Independent Sexual Violence/Domestic Violence Advisers (ISVA/IDVA). A new West Yorkshire wide service will also be established to specifically support victims of Domestic Abuse related Stalking.

Also in July, The Mayor and Community Safety Partners are successful in a bid to the Safer Streets Fund. £717,953.61 will be directed into a number of projects to support the safety of women and girls across the night-time economy in West Yorkshire. A portion of the money will also enable the development of a male targeted behaviour change campaign designed to address attitudes and approaches towards women.

In August, Over £500,000 was secured to support the victims and survivors of domestic abuse and to reduce reoffending across West Yorkshire

In November, Mayor's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy officially launched. The strategy reveals the shocking experiences and challenges facing women and girls, including a recent survey that found 97% believe 'being a woman' affects their personal safety, and outlines a plan to tackle this. The launch of the Mayoral Safety of Women and Girls strategy comes with £992k of Women and Girls funding over the next three years from UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The criteria for the Women and Girls strand of the UK SPF has been shared with Local Authorities, with an encouragement to work closely with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector in developing the proposals.

The Mayor/DMPC continue to do all they can to raise the profile of support required around the safety of women and girls both locally and nationally ensuring:

- They attend partnership events to advocate for the Safety of Women and Girls
- Attend community-based meetings and initiatives to better understand the lived experiences and challenges faced by Women and Girls
- Address WYP performance in respect of accountability, scrutiny and oversight both directly, through the Policy Manager and the work of the wider team.

New Mayor's Women Safety Unit

Timeline

In December 2021 West Yorkshire Police (WYP) launched the strategy for the new national project to tackle VAWG. As one of the Forces who collaborated nationally on the strategy, WYP was identified as an exemplar Force and started a healthy programme of activities under the three pillars to improve trust and confidence, improve outcomes and create safer spaces.

In November 2022, the Mayor launched The Mayor of West Yorkshire's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy. The Strategy was co-produced with partners and stakeholders across West Yorkshire. The Mayor will continue to work with the police, partner agencies, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and victims and survivors to ensure we deliver for those who are most vulnerable, putting them at the heart of our response. Mayoral priorities include education and prevention, behaviour change, safe spaces and supporting the sector.

In April 2023, WYP joined the national programme of Operation Soteria Bluestone (Op Soteria), to embed the national operation model (NOM) to improve the investigation and prosecution of rape cases.

In May 2023, VAWG was added to the national Strategic Risk Assessment (STRA), highlighting VAWG as one of the six other national threats along with counter terrorism and child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Establishment of the Unit

We recognised the duty to collaborate, noting that VAWG remains a prominent strategic issue nationally. To combat VAWG, we wanted to combine our resources and ensure strategic delivery could make a difference to all in West Yorkshire and beyond. The purpose of this Unit is to establish a dedicated team to support the Mayoral pledge support women and girls, and all communities of West Yorkshire.

The group will also build on the collaboration of Police and staff from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA).

The unit will be formed by a collaboration between the Mayor's Policing and Crime Team and Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) and WYP to deliver the Mayor's pledge for the safety of women and girls (and strategic actions in the [Mayor's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy](#)), including improving performance against the metrics in the [Police and Crime Plan](#), and to support the delivery of the [Strategic Policing Requirement](#) relating to VAWG.

The additional resource will provide the structure to support, embed and report on the performance of West Yorkshire Police against the [Operation Soteria](#) national operating model (to improve the investigation and prosecution of rape cases).

The Mayor's responsibilities to hold the Chief Constable to account, to reduce serious violence, to convene partners and engage with and inform communities will be supported through the collaboration.

We will deliver actions lead by the Strategic Lead of West Yorkshire Police, and the Policy Manager in Policing and Crime, leading the workstream for the safety of women and girls to improve outcomes for victims and confidence in policing.

It is proposed that this new unit will be a pilot for 12 months starting as soon as possible with evaluation at 6 months and 12 months. These evaluation phases will allow us to determine the progress against the strategic actions set out in the [Mayor's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy](#). We will seek to review the delivery, in conjunction with metrics determined in the [Police and Crime Plan](#).

The Policy Manager and Assistant will continue to elevate the work of the Mayor's Unit nationally as good practice, through national networks, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), and providers and via the APCC, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC), and locally for community reassurance.

The sustainability of governance and management of the Unit will be reviewed through a nominated unit meeting. Feedback from this meeting will be shared with various steering groups, partnership boards and thematic district VAWG Groups to ensure a 'joined up' approach. The delivery of these projects will also be reviewed through quarterly monitoring returns.

The projects ongoing in districts and departments across West Yorkshire will represent the wider Safety of Women and Girls Policy outcomes.

In addition to current internal and external engagement through communities of West Yorkshire, partners, CSPs and the force Independent Advisory Group (IAG), the methodology will deliver actions lead by the Strategic Lead of West Yorkshire Police, and the Policy Manager in Policing and Crime, leading the workstream for the safety of women and girls to improving outcomes for victims and confidence in policing.

#Justdont Campaign

In an increasingly challenging world for younger people, where online presence is just as relevant as the real world, we understand that gaps have been identified around specific targeting of male behaviours, and we want to be teaching, challenging, and encouraging individuals to speak out and recognise when certain behaviours are not acceptable.

To empower and encourage progressive views and healthy attitudes towards women and girls, we wanted to provoke peer to peer conversations amongst men of all ages, which will begin to create shifts in societal behaviour.

The value that behavioural change programmes and initiatives have is powerful. The Mayor wanted to make a difference working across West Yorkshire to ensure women and girls are no longer harassed and abused online, in person, at home or in their work environment.

We commissioned [Storycatchers](#), to create a video campaign to generate male behaviour change within the Safety of Women and Girls agenda through engaging with men and boys in West Yorkshire. This was to support delivery under the theme of behaviour change, and delivery of the [Mayor of West Yorkshire's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy](#).

The focus of the content was to influence young men and boys aged between 14 and 21, with the ambition of reaching a wider audience. The video would bring attention to, and positively impact on, inappropriate male behaviour towards women and girls in public and in digital spaces. We wanted to use this video on multiple platforms and channels, highlighting behavioural change themes.

Following this, creative proposals were submitted for consideration, and research was conducted with the target audience. This testing was used to support the decision on which proposal to select and to drive the campaign to ensure it was evidence led.

We tested key words, comments, tones, and the messaging of the campaign to encourage interactive engagement following the launch of the video.

The research identified several key points, including:

- We need men to be talking to men, and that is why the focus of the video is on men.
- Men didn't appreciate or weren't aware of the scale of the problem, so awareness raising of that point specifically became an important aim.
- Men can disassociate themselves from depictions of more serious behaviours and can have a "that isn't me" type reaction.
- The cast of the video is late teens to early 20s as younger males view older males as role models. However, as we have noted, the content resonates with all audiences from all backgrounds.

To support the development of the campaign, we reported the 86% of women aged 18-24 have been sexually harassed. This data was from [Prevalence and reporting of sexual harassment in UK public spaces - A Report by the APPG for UN Women](#). 'Public space' was defined in UN Women UK's 2021 YouGov survey as any of the following: Public transport (buses, trains, etc.), hospitality venues (pubs, clubs, bars,

etc.), public events (concerts, sports games, festivals, etc.), streets, parks, commons and other public recreational spaces and online spaces (e.g. social media).

To align to the strategy, the Mayor ensured that the campaign had a West Yorkshire angle and represented different communities in the county through the reflection of different demographics and colloquial language.

Filming for this campaign took place in various locations across West Yorkshire, on the 2nd August 2023. The concept was then edited and launched in person at Leeds City College on 20th September 2023, with the support of all partners across West Yorkshire. Local organisations have supported the #Justdont campaign, including sporting clubs Leeds United, Huddersfield FC, and Leeds Rhinos.

Campaign Video:

<https://youtu.be/EN6fHDQ6IZQ>

Behind the Scenes Video:

[The Making of the #JustDont Campaign \(youtube.com\)](#)

Campaign Launch:

[#JustDont Campaign Launch Event in Leeds \(youtube.com\)](#)

Allyship from Men and Boys sports teams:

- [Leeds United support campaign against sexual harassment - Leeds United](#)
- [CLUB SUPPORT #JUSTDONT CAMPAIGN FIGHTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS - News - Huddersfield Town \(htafc.com\)](#)
- [#JustDont Launch Event - Leeds Rhinos reaction to the campaign \(youtube.com\)](#)

National Day of Memory

The Mayor attended the Day of Memory conference on 14th July 2023 at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. The conference marked the 30th anniversary of Karma Nirvana, and was a powerful and inspiring event that brought together survivors, activists, and advocates from around the UK to reflect on the past and look to the future.

It was an opportunity to honour the legacy of those affected by Honour Based Abuse and to renew our drive to continue the hard work to challenge Honour Based Abuse in our own lives. The event was attended by the Mayor, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and other national figures to support the Safety of Women and Girls.

The national honour-based abuse helpline receives an average of around 2,500 cases every year, and to support this helpline, the Mayor has provided

£71,453.16 (2022-2025) to the service.

Active Bystander Training – ‘Stand Up to Harassment’

It was recommended in consultation for the Mayor’s Safety of Women and Girls Strategy that ‘more emphasis needs to be put on private/public organisations to champion the VAWG Strategy in the workplace’. The Mayor committed to delivering focused training to support the sector.

Using the Mayor’s voice with businesses, we want to influence employers to understand what they can do to support women’s safety and support industries to be more gender inclusive. For this reason, the Mayor hosted ‘Stand Up to Harassment’ training, delivered by the Suzy Lampard Trust and L’Oréal. This training was delivered for WYCA employees during national Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week.

The training helped to drive awareness of harassment, as well as upskilling and empowering bystanders in settings such as public transport, educational institutions, festivals, public spaces, and workplaces, to help defuse situations, discourage harassers, and support victims. It enables those who witness street harassment to feel confident to intervene and provide support to those being harassed.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

The Policing and Crime Team have several Partnership Boards including:

- Women’s Focus Group
- Criminal Justice Board Victim and Witness Group
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board
- West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership
- Children’s Risk and Vulnerability Group

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

The Safety of Women and girls is everyone’s responsibility and is most effective in partnership. It is known that minorities groups and marginalised individuals can be at increased risk and vulnerable.

ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constables report – VAWG](#)

KEY INFORMATION

9. Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date includes:

- In July 2021, a partnership bid to reduce motor vehicle crime in neighbourhood areas along the West Yorkshire M62 corridor received £306K from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund. The money was used to reduce the opportunity for motor vehicle crime by improving street lighting and installing and utilising CCTV and ANPR cameras in higher crime areas. The funding was also used for increased engagement and education around vehicle safety throughout the region to prevent vehicles being stolen.
- West Yorkshire was also again successful in Safer Streets Funding in July 2022, £518K was awarded to West Yorkshire to tackle anti-social behaviour and misuse of motorised quad bikes and motorcycles in residential areas, as well as parks and open spaces. This includes enforcement activity focused on the misuse of vehicles, a youth outreach and diversion programme working with charities in specific areas, and a public engagement campaign to ensure communities do not suffer or tolerate anti-social behaviour.
- Community Safety Partnerships, Local Authorities, West Yorkshire Police and third sector organisations are working together with the Mayor to deliver distinct and localised aspects.
- The Mayor/DMPC have set specific targets through the Police and Crime Plan to Keep Neighbourhood Crime below baseline.
- The Mayors Safer Communities Fund continues to support projects which tackle neighbourhood Crime, details can be found on our website. www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/mscf

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

The Mayor/DMPC will work with partners to continue to further embed an early intervention and prevention approach to anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood crime and disorder, whilst reducing harm and vulnerability in neighbourhoods.

The Mayor's Community Safety Fund, totalling over £5m annually across the 5 WY Districts, contributes towards distinct programmes of work that look to prevent neighbourhood crime, and support offenders away from a life of crime.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Some Individuals and communities may be more vulnerable to Neighbourhood crime based on their protected characteristics and or the communities where they live/work.

ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constables report – Neighbourhood Crime](#)

7. Rural crime is often linked to Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) who target and exploit rural communities across a range of crime types for example organised plant theft, livestock theft, burglaries targeting firearms, poaching and hare coursing.
8. Rural Crime issues tend to come to our attention through our Casework inbox, either from members of rural communities raising concerns about rural issues, or from rural interest groups contacting us about wildlife crime.
9. In the past, the Policing & Crime Team has supported joint work on hare coursing with the Country Land and Business Association, whilst we have encouraged rural/Farmwatch community groups to bid to the MSCF. As an important crime prevention strategy, we would encourage residents of rural communities to build strong links with their Neighbourhood Police Teams, to help establish Neighbourhood or Farm Watch schemes which can play a key role in deterring criminality in rural areas.

KEY INFORMATION

10. Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date includes:

- The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund continues to support projects which tackle all crime, you can find out more here www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/mscf

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

The Mayor/DMPC will work with partners to continue to further embed an early intervention and prevention projects to support safer communities.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Some Individuals and communities may be more vulnerable to Rural crime based on their protected characteristics and or the communities where they live/work.

ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constable's report – Rural Crime](#)