

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

July 2023

SUBJECT: Safeguarding

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of Safeguarding

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Safeguarding.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 21-24

3. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of ‘The Voice of West Yorkshire’. Face to face and online consultation and engagement ran from 1 September 2021- 30 November 2021; The Voice of West Yorkshire is one of two key documents which supports the Police and Crime Plan 2021 -24. The document includes the notes of key events and can be found here: [police-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policy-and-strategy/policy-and-strategy-2021-24/policy-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf).
4. Keeping People Safe and Building Resilience – Priority 2 outlines key outcomes and links to partnership strategies. It also refers to the need for a specific West Yorkshire Vulnerability and Safeguarding Strategy. Safeguarding and protecting those who are most vulnerable is a key theme running throughout the Police and Crime Plan. Under this strategic priority the Police and Crime plan states that the focus is on keeping people safe from (and preventing) harmful behaviour, exploitation and abuse. We will support people in building the resilience to overcome and survive criminal behaviours.
5. Safeguarding vulnerable people is central to the work of the police and community safety partners. A person is vulnerable if as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care or protect themselves, or others, from harm or exploitation or other adverse impact on their quality of life. Vulnerability can take many forms and can be linked to mental health, substance misuse, age, etc. this means that each individual must be supported in a way which recognises their personal circumstances. This requires different agencies working together to safeguard people in different ways and requires a great deal of coordination and communication.

6. In respect of the safety of women and girls the priority also highlights the Mayor will work in partnership to reduce crimes that disproportionately affect women and girls and understand the extent of child sexual offences and domestic abuse which was hidden during the pandemic. We will do this by ensuring that more victims are accessing support services and we are working with all partners across organisational boundaries to support vulnerable people.

KEY INFORMATION

7. Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date includes:

- **Re-commissioning of the Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)**

The Mayor of West Yorkshire, the Yorkshire and the Humber (YaTH) Police & Crime Commissioners, and NHS England and NHS Improvement (the Commissioners), jointly commission a single Adult SARC service across the Yorkshire and Humber region. The contract costs are split 50/50 between YaTH Policing and Crime and NHSE Commissioners under the collaboration agreement.

The purpose of the SARC services is to co-ordinate and simplify the pathway for all victims of rape and sexual assault or abuse to access wider healthcare, social care and criminal justice processes, to improve individual health and well-being, as well as criminal justice outcomes. The SARC does not just refer to a building but embraces a range of assessment and support services in close partnership with other established agencies. SARC facilities provide three main elements following disclosure: healthcare; forensic examinations; and visually recorded interviews supporting Achieving Best Evidence.

The re-commissioning and procurement of the Adult SARC has now been completed. The successful bidder is Mountain Healthcare, the current provider, and the new contract started 1st April 2023. The contract awarded is for a maximum duration of 7 years (4 years plus a 3-year optional extension).

- The West Yorkshire Children's Risk and Vulnerability Group (WYR&V) met in January chaired by the Safeguarding Advisor and are due to meet this month (July - the April meeting was cancelled), This group has updates from all the Local Authority areas highlighting risks and opportunities. Other updates were from the Safeguarding Central Governance Unit in West Yorkshire Police and the Violence Reduction Unit. This meeting also included a full briefing on the Mayors Safety of Women and Girls Strategy from the WYCA Policy Manager.
- The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP) meeting took place on 19th April 2023 chaired by the Deputy Mayor. Since its creation in 2014, the WYASP has successfully brought together law enforcement, local government, public services, and NGOs for the delivery of a co-ordinated response to modern slavery, as well as the continued improvement of services for the safeguarding of victims.

All five West Yorkshire districts are represented; Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield, Kirklees and Calderdale, all of which have their own district-level forums.

- A meeting of the WY Adversity, Trauma and Resilience Strategy Board took place in June, chaired by the Deputy Mayor. This board has the ambition to 'Work together with people with lived experience and colleagues across all sectors and organisations to ensure WY is a trauma informed and responsive system by 2030 and develop a whole system approach to tackling multiple disadvantage'.

Underpinning the vision WY want to:

- Prevent adversity and trauma across the life course.
 - Engage in efforts build on assets and strengthen protective factors for our population
 - Reduce harm for our population who experience adversity and trauma
 - Reduce inequalities that contribute to adversity and trauma and inequalities caused by adversity and trauma.
 - Ensure an understanding of adversity and traumatic events and the impact they have on an individual, their life chances and opportunities.
- Safeguarding Week took place between 19th and 23rd June 2023. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor supported all 5 local authorities in West Yorkshire with the vast range of awareness events that took place. A link to some of the events can be found if you click [here](#). .

8. Mayor's Safer Communities Fund

During the Mayors first year the former PCC Safer Communities Fund continued to deliver projects to Safeguard Vulnerable People in accordance with the former police and crime plan under grant rounds 19 (completed 31 Jan 2022) and 20 (completed on 31 March 2022). 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))

The Mayors Safer Communities Fund Grant rounds 1 to 3 have awarded 172 projects a share of £1,037,781, many of these project's cover:

Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, Domestic Abuse, Fraud & Cyber Crime, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, So Called "Honour" Based Abuse, Stalking and Harassment, Rape and Sexual Offences.

Overall, we anticipate that the projects will impact/have impacted 59k people.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

Safeguarding is most effective when done in partnership and these are detailed in the examples above.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Safeguarding 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 to abuse and exploitation.

It is important that all safeguarding policies, strategies, delivery, and discussion is inclusive and ensures all services and support is accessible for all. Recognising and embracing diversity and being inclusive are the core foundations and key principles of safeguarding. This includes the people delivering the services as well as those receiving them.

ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constables report – Safeguarding](#) (PDF 271KB)