

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

11 July 2023

SUBJECT: Serious Organised Crime (SOC).

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of Serious Organised Crime (SOC) under Programme Precision.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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’ report. 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-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf). Neighbourhood crime, road safety, and serious violence were the most frequently selected areas of focus under this priority.
4. Plan Priority 3 - Safer Places and Thriving Communities outlines how the Police, Mayor, and partners will focus on the harmful and unacceptable behaviour that targets the different communities of West Yorkshire through an ongoing commitment to Neighbourhood Policing and partnership working in localities. Serious Violence is one aspect of this topic - links exist between drug and alcohol misuse, Serious Violent crimes, and the use of weapons, with OCGs targeting the vulnerable, highlighting the need to intervene early to stop the spiral of violence.
5. SOC also forms part of the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR). The SPR document sets out the Home Secretary’s view of the national threats that the police must prepare for. Details of the SPR can be found in the Police and Crime Plan.
6. There are specific objectives and outcomes regarding the reduction of Serious Organised Crime contained within the Police and Crime Plan’s performance framework.

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 VRU'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.
- VRU 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.

- MSCF: 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. Awards for Grant Round 3 were held on 9th Feb 2023, awarding £506k to 73 projects.

Other Combined Authority delivery:

- The VRU 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 VRU 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 VRU 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.
- VRU Community Advisory Group met in Bradford in March, continuing the VRU'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 VRU 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 VRU 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 VRU'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 – [Programme Precision Update June 2023](#) (PDF 840KB)
& [Homicide Prevention paper](#) (PDF 815KB)