

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

15 June 2021

SUBJECT: Safeguarding

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police to Safeguard Vulnerable People.

RECOMMENDATION

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

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2016-21

3. 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.
4. This requires different agencies working together to safeguard people in different ways and requires a great deal of coordination and communication. Safeguarding people was considered the biggest priority by respondents to the "Your Priorities, Your Plan" consultation with 70% of people saying it was of importance to them. I will continue to work together to protect those most at risk ensuring that safeguarding the vulnerable is at the forefront of all of our partners' work and aim to deliver this in a coordinated, consistent and cohesive way across West Yorkshire.

KEY INFORMATION

5. The Police and Crime Plan outlines the importance of safeguarding all children and other vulnerable people. This includes raising awareness across West Yorkshire and nationally, investing in prevention, supporting victims and building stronger more effective partnerships. Examples of this work include:
 - The now established Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board continues to bring partners together to identify how, by working together a West Yorkshire wide approach can be taken. Working to a domestic and sexual abuse strategy and action plan the board is overseeing a number of strands of work and is currently developing a partnership performance dashboard to better understand the demand and to develop effective solutions.

- The Safeguarding Advisor continues to lead, deliver and advise the strategy for a coordinated, cohesive and consistent response to Safeguarding, in West Yorkshire and has now established a children's risk and vulnerability strategic group bringing together safeguarding children partnerships and police safeguarding leads to ensure that across West Yorkshire a consistent, collaborative and coordinated response is provided to all children and young persons who are at risk of neglect, abuse or exploitation.
- The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP) is the strategic meeting framework for frontline organisations in West Yorkshire who may encounter incidents or matters involving modern slavery or human trafficking and exploitation. 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 also have their own district-level forums. Since June 2020, the coordination and delivery of the WYASP became the responsibility of the former OPCC and was chaired by the former PCC. This responsibility now lies with WYCA. The WYASP is currently overseeing several strands of work to improve support for victims and criminal justice outcomes including the creation and development of a sub-group for rough sleeping and modern slavery. Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic and lockdown measures, the WYASP has continued to meet quarterly virtually and has increased its membership and partnership engagement due to this improvement in accessibility.
- The most recent WYASP meetings were held in December and March and we welcomed the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Dame Sara Thornton and the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit respectively. We also heard updates from all five districts on their work to tackle the issues locally and the latest data from the police force analyst to assist partners understand the local and regional threat picture.
- Anti-slavery day was acknowledged on 18th October 2020 and to mark this day of national awareness, the seven PCCs and Chief Constables of the North East region force areas published their collaborative modern slavery Transparency in Supply Chains Statement. The development and publication of this voluntary, unique and ground breaking statement was led by the former PCC for West Yorkshire as national APCC lead for this policy area of modern slavery and human trafficking. The statement sets out a commitment not just to examine our supply chains for modern slavery, but also to tackle modern slavery as a whole across our businesses. The seven areas in the North East include West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Humberside, Durham Cleveland and Northumbria.
- The former PCC has chaired the quarterly National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN) meetings since it was launched in 2016, the most recent of which was held in April. It is a vital platform which brings together PCCs in England and Wales to take a more strategic approach to tackle the issue of modern slavery by sharing best practice, assisting in the identification of victims and the conviction of perpetrators of this crime and associated crime types. The meetings are an opportunity for

PCCs to meet with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC), The National Police Chief Council (NPCC) and the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit to discuss and improve how they work together to combat human trafficking and modern slavery in all its forms.

- The NATMSN provides PCCs and Mayors in England and Wales with opportunities to engage with additional activity to support their response to modern slavery locally. This activity is embedded within the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme (MSOICP), funded by the Home Office. The additional activity has supported PCCs and Mayors to engage with regional workshops to improve victim care and partnership working, the development and publication of a PCC Modern Slavery Toolkit, several thematic partnership conferences and several rounds of small grants for local targeted prevention partnership activity. The former PCC as national lead for modern slavery and human trafficking has had joint strategic oversight of Programme delivery with PCC for Devon and Cornwall.
- The WYCA Policing and Crime Team continues to support the West Yorkshire Safeguarding Communications Group, working with West Yorkshire Police, Local Authority communications leads, health and the third sector the group seeks to develop collaborative safeguarding campaigns for West Yorkshire. Supported by the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit, the group have produced a 12 month plan and on the 1st March launched a campaign aimed at raising awareness of Child Criminal Exploitation with parents. <https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/CCE>
- The West Yorkshire Children's Risk and Vulnerability Strategic Group attended by Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership managers, West Yorkshire Police and NHS representatives held its quarterly meeting in March 2021. Included in the agenda as well as updates from all partners were discussions on Organised Exploitation of Vulnerable People (OEV) and strengthening the links with between child safeguarding and the violence reduction unit.
- We spoke at the online launch of the National Enforcement Powers Guide which was developed by the National Network Coordinators' Forum in collaboration with the Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime Programme (MSOICP). The purpose of the guide is to support law enforcement partners with designated powers of entry to work more collaboratively during investigations and operations to disrupt perpetrators and take appropriate action to support identified potential victims of modern slavery and exploitation.

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](#)