

6. In respect of the safety of women and girls the priority also highlights:

- we 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.

7. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) will continue to develop their innovative approaches to tackling serious violence in, and with communities, through their ground-breaking work. Taking a public health approach, the VRU seeks to improve the health and safety of all members of the community by addressing the underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence.

8. There are also specific objectives and outcomes regarding the reduction of Serious Organised Crime contained within the plan performance framework.

9. Finally, SOC also forms part of the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) which was published in July 2012 as the Government recognised that there were some aspects of policing that required a national response, and that there was a need for a balance between localism and meeting national requirements. The SPR document sets out the Home Secretary's view of the national threats that the police must prepare for and the appropriate national policing capabilities that are required to counter those threats. Details of the SPR can be found in the Police and Crime Plan.

KEY INFORMATION

Mayoral/DMPC/VRU Activity to date includes:

- Supported weapons amnesties and WYP lead campaigns across the serious and violent crime arena.
- Supported the recent re-launch of Programme Precision a Partnership response to Serious Violent Crime.
- On 14 April 2022 the VRU announced it would receive £5,863,803 to continue its pioneering response to serious violent crime, with an added guarantee of funding for the next three years.
- The overall estimated cost for Serious Violence in West Yorkshire at £960,534,113 - almost £1 billion. Between April and December 2021, 5816 young people were supported across 41 VRU funded interventions.

- The West Yorkshire VRU has helped around 200 people over the age of 25 in 2021/22.
- Exhibition at the Royal Armouries, entitled 'At the Sharp End: Tackling Violent Crime Together in West Yorkshire'. It visually showcases the efforts of the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit and Op Jemlock in combatting serious violent crime and includes a display of seized weapons. This will be exhibited here for six months, during which we expect more than 100,000 people will have the opportunity to see it, after which it will tour the West Yorkshire region
- The VRU Established a Community Advisory Group in January 2021. The aim of the CAG is to provide a consultation platform with a regular group of volunteers and allow them to use their local knowledge of West Yorkshire communities to comment on and influence new VRU interventions and ensure any proposals best suit what our communities want and need to reduce serious violence. Most importantly, the group is owned and chaired by members – providing a voice for the community.
- The VRU has completed a co-production pilot held in Leeds during 2020/21 and in Kirklees during 2021/22. The unit is looking at plans for 2022/23.
- The VRU Knowledge hub has an extensive Research Programme:
 - Social media and & vicarious online trauma
 - The experiences of young people with low level mental health issues and violence
 - Neurodiversity, young people and violence.
 - Exploring the links between drugs, alcohol and serious violence.
 - Raising aspirations of young people
 - Violence Against Women & Girls (complete)
 - Education Inclusion (complete)
 - Inequalities (complete)
 - Trauma informed education (complete)

A summary of the Unit's work can be found in their Annual Report.

- Mayor's Safer Communities Fund

During the Mayor's first year the former PCC Safer Communities Fund continued to deliver projects to tackle serious violence 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/mayors-safer-communities-fund))

The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund GR1 awarded on 1 March 2022 – 39 projects were awarded a total of £208,254.93 with 10 projects focussing on Serious Violence (£54,584).

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.
- The Policing and Crime Team supports the work of the South and West Yorkshire Resettlement Consortium, which seeks to improve the transition between Wetherby Young Offenders Institute and Youth Justice Services and promotes initiatives around identity shift of those who have become involved in criminality at a young age. In addition, colleagues are working with WYP and the VRU to support staff within Wetherby to improve searching of residents, with a view to fewer weapons being concealed and used.
- Through the Local Criminal Justice Board WYP have been encouraged to revise its approach to tackling prison crime which regularly involves serious violence, and as a result, improvements are being made to the structure moving forward.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

With a diverse population distributed across urban and rural areas, understanding the needs of our communities can be complex. It is crucial that we are engaged with all our communities to understand their needs so we can serve them well. The health needs of people in the criminal justice system are increased by additional social needs and inequalities, unemployment, rough sleeping, lack of education, training and social isolation.

ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constables report – Serious Organised Crime](#) (PDF 228KB)