



Chief Officer Team Briefing for COM

Title: Children and Young People

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SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the role of our Safer Schools Police Officers (SSPOs) and the work they undertake in the schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) across West Yorkshire. It also gives an update on the Policing and Education Project (Pol-Ed), a trailblazing educational concept with the principle goal of safeguarding and protecting young people across West Yorkshire. The effectiveness of both the work of the SLOs and the Pol-Ed Project are a significant part of our early intervention offer with Children and Young People.

Safer Schools Police Officers (SSPOs)

There are currently 38 SSPOs in 56 educational establishments (including Secondary schools, Higher education establishments and Pupil Referral Units) across 4 of the 5 West Yorkshire Districts (**Appendix A**). Based on risk assessment and lower demand in Calderdale, there are no SSPOs placed in schools there at this time. SSPOs are funded by West Yorkshire Police with the schools paying pro-rata, based on days the SSO's spend in the school.

District	No. of SSPOs
Bradford	11
Calderdale	0
Kirklees	4
Leeds	20
Wakefield	3
Force Total	38

The Role and Impact of Safer Schools Police Officers (SSPOs)

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The SSPOs spend a large proportion of their time responding to incidents including, drugs, bullying, low level assaults and mobile phone related issues which in the past were given a policing outcome of 'No Further Action'.

Over the past 12 months WYP have created a series of educational inputs called 'Intervention 22'. These inputs provide information to the young person on the risks and consequences of the particular incident in which they were involved, suggests ways to avoid being drawn into a similar situation again and how to access further help and support if needed. These inputs have been very well received and are regularly accessed by our SSPOs and are now part of normal working practices to support children in developing their knowledge around risky behaviours and keeping safe.

SSPOs also work proactively to deliver educational inputs and safeguarding messages. They deliver diversionary activities to foster good relations with more vulnerable young people during school holidays or during lunch time and occasionally after school. SSPOs also work in the community, particularly just before and at the end of the school day or if anti-social behaviour is occurring in the locality. Perpetrators can be identified and then supported in school through a range of different systems which are specific to their needs.

With SSPOs being in schools full-time they can build positive and lasting relationships with young people over time which then reflects in how young people view the Police more generally.

In addition to SSPOs, we also have PCSOs aligned to every primary school across West Yorkshire who link in with schools as part of their community engagement activity. This forms part of Neighbourhood Policing Team's early intervention and prevention work by building positive relationships with children from a very early age and promoting understanding of policing as a service which is there to help them be safe and feel safe.

Through our West Yorkshire Police Schools Engagement Newsletter, schools are kept up to date with new resources, training, and new inputs which the PCSOs can deliver.

The Schools Toolkit is a corporate package of inputs for both SSPOs and PCSOs to deliver in schools and covers topics such as bullying, hate crime, drugs, and knife awareness. Rather than being standalone inputs (which run the risk of only being delivered once), Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Safety of Women and Girls are interwoven throughout a number of different inputs to promote messages more consistently.

The role of the Force Education Liaison Officer (Sarah Whitehead) is to link the Police with all schools across all five districts. She keeps up to date with new education initiatives, academic research and she attends regional and national conferences to ensure what we do reflects the very latest best practice and knowledge. She recently attended a national conference organised by Freedom from Abuse on 'Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment between

Children in School' and 'How Educators and Others Working with Young People can Promote Equality and Respect'. Speakers included DCC Maggie Blythe, NPCC lead VAWG and the American-based Dr Gail Dines (Professor Emerita). This learning will be used to inform strategic planning which cascades key knowledge and implications for schools and Children and Young People to address issues as they are emerging. It will also inform SSPO training and new educational inputs, including Pol-Ed.

Future

A Safer Schools Officer Manual of Guidance is currently in the early stages of development. This is not only to collate general information and learning for new SSPO's but also to reference relevant documents. They include but are not limited to-

- Keeping Children Safe in Education
- Tackling Crime Against Women and Girls
- The National Strategy for the Policing of Children & Young People
- Ofsted's Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges.

There will also be an agreed process to record best practice including what has worked well (and what has not) so this can be shared and is retained when an experienced officer retires. This is being developed alongside SSPOs, partners in schools and other educational partners.

Policing and Education Project (Pol-Ed)

Pol-Ed is a fantastic opportunity to enhance partnership working between Education and Policing. Pol-Ed is a comprehensive programme of custom-made resources focused on key themes including supportive friendships and positive relationships, understanding how young people are coerced into inappropriate behaviour, promoting development of skills to resist or avoid risky situations, safeguarding and values of good citizenship. Pol-Ed has been developed by West Yorkshire Police in partnership with education professionals to meet the requirements of the National PSHE Curriculum.

Pol-Ed Product and Lesson Development

The aim of Pol-Ed is to support Children and Young People throughout their education from Early Years through Primary and Secondary School and on to Post-16. As a long-term programme of intervention, children who start with Pol-Ed now at age 3 will progress through their school years having regular inputs which will build resilience, knowledge and understanding which children previously have not had access to.

West Yorkshire Police has the ambition, that by starting with Early Years, children grow up building their confidence in the police and develop their capacity and inclination to support each other (a key element of the Pol-Ed messaging) and know how to access help for themselves. The Pol-Ed programme is creating an umbrella of early intervention which will see children emerging from the education system more resilient, informed and safer than in previous years.

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The lesson plans that form Pol-Ed have been developed by qualified teachers within West Yorkshire Police for delivery by classroom teachers within schools. The requirements of supporting the National PSHE curriculum means that Pol-Ed covers a range of important subject areas. These include –

- Child Sexual Exploitation and safety
- Supportive and appropriate relationships
- Sexual harassment
- Domestic abuse and violence
- Organised criminality and involvement in gangs and county lines
- Violence and use of weapons

First and foremost, Pol-Ed creates the opportunity for young people to understand the world in which they are developing and make strong, safe and appropriate life choices promoting good citizenship.

In a similar way to the Schools Toolkit, Pol-Ed does not have specific lessons on the Safety of Women and Girls or EDI, rather, these themes run throughout many of the lessons and form part of a regular and repeated dialogue to young people. For example, in Year 2 (ages 6-7 years) there is a series of 3 lessons which cover the topic of appropriate and inappropriate behaviour, through the themes of 'online', 'bullying' and 'physical contact'.

Use of Pol-Ed

Pol-Ed is currently in 444 out of the 1,260 West Yorkshire schools. The current sign up rate is:

	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield
Total schools in District	308	153	242	377	180
Total Primary	201	104	174	279	125
Total Secondary	59	28	50	66	34
Sign Up rate to date (May 2022)					
Primary	86	45	46	92	63
Secondary	21	13	12	20	14
Post 16	0	1	1	3	1
SEN/PRU/AP	6	4	6	8	2
Total	113	63	65	123	80
Grand Total (West Yorkshire Schools) = 444					

Our ambition is to provide Pol-Ed free of charge to every school in West Yorkshire. During the first term of Pol-Ed being available across the Force, over one third of all schools have signed up, which is a staggering achievement.

Pol-Ed is currently hosted by Leeds City Council on their website but it does require a standalone platform. WYP are currently unable to ascertain when and how schools are accessing and utilising Pol-Ed. A standalone Portal would provide these analytical tools, and this is vital to enable effective evaluation of the product. We are currently considering what

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the long-term funding requirements are to secure the future development of Pol-Ed to support the team's aspiration for it to be established across the county and ultimately, nationally.

Pol-Ed has recently received a boost from the secondment of an Assistant Principal from Leeds City Academy, Kelly Allchin. Kelly is currently reviewing Pol-Ed from an educational perspective with the Pol-Ed Team and is creating 40 bespoke assembly packs to enable Secondary schools to deliver aspects of Pol-Ed in tutor and assembly time.

The Pol-Ed Team are currently hosting a number of online seminars to publicise Pol-Ed and to increase the number of schools signed up to use the product. There is also an intention to run a county-wide Conference in July 2022. West Yorkshire Police has also just commissioned a local Film and Media Company to create 3 videos that will be used to promote Pol-Ed with schools, young people and the wider public. These videos will sit alongside internally produced Pol-Ed videos that will be made available through a Pol-Ed You Tube channel.

West Yorkshire Police has excellent support from the 5 Local Authorities across West Yorkshire with key contacts and stakeholders identified and engaged. Through this network the Pol-Ed Team are creating an accreditation process for schools with the aim of identifying a number of 'Beacon Schools' across the county to champion Pol-Ed and its usage.

CONCLUSION

WYP are committed to increasing the opportunities that the WYP have to engage with Children and Young People directly and effectively. It is vital that they grow up understanding that we are a service aimed at keeping them safe. Through our well established links with schools across the Force and across all age groups, we are in an excellent position to continue to support the development of well informed, resilient children who can negotiate the challenges they may face while growing up to become responsible citizens and who have a positive attitude and confidence and trust in the police service.

Appendix A

Bradford	
1	Appleton Academy
1	Beckfoot Upper Heaton (was Belle Vue Boys)
1	Belle View Girls School
1	Buttershaw BEC
1	Dixons City Academy
1	Dixons Kings Academy
1	Dixons Trinity Academy
1	Dixons McMillan
1	Feversham Academy

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1	Co-op Academy Grange
1	HANSON
1	Immanuel College
1	Titus Salt School
1	Tong High School
1	Carlton Bolling
1	Bradford University
1	Bingley Grammar
1	Holy Family
1	Ilkley Grammar
1	Beckfoot Oakbank
1	Parkside
1	University Academy Keighley
1	Bradford Central PRU - Aireview & Jesse Street
1	Park Primary
Total – 11 Officers	24 Educational Establishments
Calderdale	
Total - 0 Officers	0 Educational Establishments
Kirklees	
1	Kirklees College
1	All Saints Catholic College
1	Spen Valley
1	Whitcliffe Mount School
1	Batley Girls High School
1	Pivot PRU
Total - 4 Officers	6 Educational Establishments
Leeds	
1	Coop
1	Brigshaw
1	Garforth/ Delta Academies
1	Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Academy Corpus Christi
1	Mount St Marys
1	Temple Moor High School Red Kite Learning Trust
1	Ralph Thorsby
1	Leeds West Academy
1	Lawnswood
1	Cockburn
1	Cockburn John Charles Academy
1	Woodkirk
1	Southway Extended Education Provision
1	Royds School

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1	Crawshaw
1	Temple Learning Academy
1	Pivot Academy
3	Leeds City College
1	Leeds University
1	Leeds Beckett University
1	Leeds College of Building
Total – 20 Officers	21 Educational Establishments
Wakefield	
1	Minsthorpe Community College
1	Outwood Grange
1	Outwood Academy Hemsworth
1	Kettlethorpe
1	Castleford Academy
Total 3 Officers	5 Educational Establishments
Grand Total – (WY)	Grand Total – (WY)
Officers - 38	Educational Establishments - 56