

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:

- West Yorkshire Safeguarding Communications Group continues to bring WYP, WYCA, LA authority communications leads and the third sector to develop and deliver collaborative safeguarding campaigns. A 12-month Communication Plan for 2022 has been developed with key dates and campaigns and shared with the members.
- The 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Abuse took place in November '21 including a new campaign to look at adolescent to parent abuse with the message 'Before you see red, talk to someone instead'. See <https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/TalkToSomeone>
- The group supported the two #LookCloser awareness weeks, 7th - 20th March 2022 and shared links and learning events with the group members.
- WYP and WYCA are planning to support National Stalking Awareness Week – w/c 25th April and will be posting messages on social media accounts. The posts will link to the West Yorkshire Police webpage - Stalking and harassment. We will also be sharing messages from The Suzy Lamplugh Trust - National Stalking Awareness Week 2022.
- The DMPC will also be supporting International Missing Children Day – 25th May. Using the running away campaign on social media. This was supported by social media examples and animated GIFs.
- The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP) chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) met in December 2021 and March 2022. Network members, as well as sharing and discussing local updates and good practice heard from the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC). The current IASC Dame Sara Thornton will be laying her annual report before Parliament on the 27th of April and is then stepping down from the role. The meetings also heard from West Yorkshire Police Serious and Organised Crime Community Coordinator, the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit, Hope for Justice on the Independent Modern Slavery Advocate (IMSA) Model, and the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit.

- The WYASP were presented with an overview of the yearly data for 2021 which captured the local picture of the threat of modern slavery and exploitation across West Yorkshire and identified a significant increase in the number of crimes recorded for domestic servitude. This has been accredited to the significant uplift in training for front line officers and staff to identify the signs and indicators to this type of exploitation and an innovative awareness campaign.
- The DMPC has written to the Home Secretary in response to the Nationality and Borders Bill. The letter also captures the views of the NASN on the Bill following an Immigration Policy Workshop for PCCs which was delivered in September.
- During this quarter, the DMPC has responded to the HMICFRS report regarding the 'Safe to share? Report on Liberty and Southall Black Sisters' super-complaint on policing and immigration status. She has also responded to the HMICFRS report 'The Hidden Victims Report on Hestia's super-complaint on the police response to victims of modern slavery'.
- In March 2022 the DMPC again chaired the NASN and in addition to the standing updates from the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (OIASC), Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit (MSOICU) and the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit, the senior national stakeholders heard a presentation from the Medaille Trust. The Medaille Trust exists to provide refuge and freedom to victims of modern slavery, supporting them as they rebuild their lives. They are one of the largest providers of supported safe house beds for victims of modern slavery in the UK.
- The West Yorkshire Children's Risk and Vulnerability Group (WYR&V) met in March and was well attended by WYP Safeguarding leads, Local Children's Safeguarding Partnership Managers and Health representatives. This independently chaired meeting heard a presentation from Counter Terrorism Policing North-East on Prevent and the links to safeguarding,
- The WYR&V group also had standing agenda updates and best practice sharing from the WYP Safeguarding Central Governance Unit, district police leads, the Local Safeguarding Partnerships and the Violence Reduction Unit. The group also had an update from health on the ICS safeguarding approach going forward, the WY Safeguarding Communications Group and a discussion on the impact of safeguarding reforms and the KANTAR Public report on multi-agency reform: Key behavioural drivers and barriers.

- As well as the above local and national meetings, the DMPC has also had regular updates from West Yorkshire Police on the progress of the Safeguarding Review that took place in 2021. The main headlines from the review were as follows:
 - Resourcing and Recruitment – this has been escalated to a gold group overseen by an ACC to ensure quick completion
 - Training - ensuring that all in the safeguarding units have completed the relevant training
 - Allocation of crimes – looking at the effectiveness of a pilot looking at reducing demand. This is now under independent review to evaluate. This is part of a quarterly update to the DMPC from West Yorkshire Police. Under this priority the main measures are to reduce re-victimisation of Domestic Abuse Victims and to increase positive outcomes for both Domestic Abuse and Sexual offences including Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. The updates for these measures will be contained in the Delivery Quarterly document.

- More recently the DMPC has asked for a detailed report on Missing People as it was recognised as a key challenge in this area, particularly those missing from children’s homes. The DMPC will be raising this issue with Council leaders as part of a WYCA meeting and look at the problems of unregulated homes that have increased in West Yorkshire.

- Safeguarding issues continue to be high on the national agenda and continues as a high priority as part of the Police and Crime Plan.

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 GR1 awarded on 1 March 2022 – 39 projects were awarded a total of £208,254.93. A number of projects are delivering on multiple themes listed below:

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.

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 145KB)