



As mentioned above the Police and Crime Plan embeds the principles of a public health approach to policing and crime by making safer places and thriving communities and responding to multiple and complex needs two of its four strategic priorities in recognition that supporting people away from the harm that drugs and alcohol can cause requires a whole systems approach.

Drugs and alcohol misuse are part of the wider determinants of crime and community safety, that requires the designing and commissioning of appropriate services to reduce the harm on individuals and communities. To support delivery of this harm reduction, the Mayor has continued to provide funding through her Community Safety Fund to Community Safety Partnerships to enable them to commission appropriate services for each local area.

This passported fund contributes to specific criminal justice related drug and alcohol support, as well as youth based initiatives that educate young people away from substance and alcohol misuse.

The specific drug and alcohol related outcomes of the Community Safety Fund are:

- Supporting services and early intervention approaches in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour. (*Keeping People Safe & Building Resilience*)
- Reducing crime and disorder through placed based community safety initiatives identified by the Community Safety Partnership. (*Safer Places and Thriving Communities*)
- Tackling the linked determinants of crime as part of a wider local approach on responding to multiple and complex needs, including re-offending and re-victimisation. (*Responding to Multiple & Complex Needs*)

The Mayor also supports specific dedicated testing of those arrested for offences likely to be linked to Class A substance misuse through the Test on Arrest / custody based Drug Intervention Programme. A positive test result allows a number of treatment options to be considered to support individuals out of the cycle of drug related offending.

The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) have conducted a research project looking at the links between drugs and violence.

The Mayor has co-ordinated bids locally to the Safer Streets 4 Fund that have resulted in safe spaces being introduced in towns and cities. These safe spaces support people to enjoy the night time economy and offer a range of services and support, including help to those that become vulnerable due to consuming of drugs and or alcohol.

Of note is the development of Combatting Drugs Partnerships across the county with each district currently shaping its practice and processes in this arena. Work is in train with WYP to create a WY wide strategic board chaired by the DM to provide governance and ensure a co-ordinated approach.

#### **8. Mayor's Safer Communities Fund**

During the Mayors first year the former PCC Safer Communities Fund continued to deliver projects to support Drugs and Alcohol 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))

To date, the Mayors Safer Communities Fund has awarded 25 projects tackling Drugs and Alcohol a total of £142,105.47, these projects have impacted an total of 5690 people.

#### **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**

Drugs and Alcohol interventions and support are undertaken in partnership with Community Safety Partnerships. Activity to date is highlighted within the report.

#### **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**

Drugs and Alcohol is tackled most effectively in partnership. It is known that minorities groups and marginalised individuals can be at increased risk and vulnerable drug and alcohol abuse.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

[Chief Constables report – Drugs and Alcohol](#) (PDF 452KB)