

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

January 2023

SUBJECT: Safeguarding

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of Safeguarding

RECOMMENDATION

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

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 21-24

3. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of ‘The Voice of West Yorkshire’. Face to face and online consultation and engagement ran from 1 September 2021- 30 November 2021; The Voice of West Yorkshire is one of two key documents which supports the Police and Crime Plan 2021 -24. The document includes the notes of key events and can be found here: [police-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policy-and-strategy/policies-and-strategies/policy-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf).
4. Keeping People Safe and Building Resilience – Priority 2 outlines key outcomes and links to partnership strategies. It also refers to the need for a specific West Yorkshire Vulnerability and Safeguarding Strategy. Safeguarding and protecting those who are most vulnerable is a key theme running throughout the Police and Crime Plan. Under this strategic priority the Police and Crime plan states that the focus is on keeping people safe from (and preventing) harmful behaviour, exploitation and abuse. We will support people in building the resilience to overcome and survive criminal behaviours.
5. 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. This requires different agencies working together to safeguard people in different ways and requires a great deal of coordination and communication.

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:

- The Mayor and DMPC supported the 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Abuse which takes place annually between November 25 to December 10.
- On the 24th November the Mayor launched her Safety of Women and Girls Strategy at West Yorkshire's annual Third Sector Conference in Calderdale.

The four key aims to bring about societal change are:

- Education and Prevention: through events to raise awareness of the issue in schools, colleges, and universities across the region.
 - Behaviour Change: including delivering a behaviour change programme to empower men to be allies.
 - Safe Spaces: working to improve safety in the public, private and digital space.
 - Supporting the Sector: securing funding for vital services in the region through working together with partners including the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and private businesses.
- The strategy, which puts the voices of women and girls at its heart, will be delivered in partnership with West Yorkshire Police, local councils, community organisations, businesses and the public.

A further £1 million of funding has been made available by the mayor and builds on work already underway which includes:

- £14 million for victims' services across the next three years, many of which support women and girls;
- A SmartTag spray for use in night-time venues that tags offenders with a unique forensic code so they can be identified and brought to justice;
- Funding "Ask for Angela" services which enables those who feel vulnerable or unsafe to seek assistance in bars, clubs or businesses.
- Over £500,000 for domestic abuse perpetrator programmes across West Yorkshire to reduce re-offending.

<https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/9463/the-safety-of-women-and-girls-strategy.pdf>

- Grants from the West Yorkshire Mayor's office are supporting classes including the Springback programme in Leeds and Women & Girls Boxercise in Wakefield. The classes aim to help women and girls recover from past experiences and develop strength and confidence.
- In June 2022 West Yorkshire Safeguarding Week took place. Throughout the week, the five West Yorkshire Districts of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield, Safeguarding Children Partnerships, and Safeguarding Adults Boards, supported by their Community Safety Partnerships, West Yorkshire Police and many other partners brought the latest in safeguarding developments and information to those who work or volunteer to protect children and adults and raising awareness with communities, families', individuals and businesses across West Yorkshire.
- 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 has been developed with key dates and campaigns and shared with the members.
- Victim Support, a victim's charity, showcased their new service to support the victims of stalking to over 70 participants from 18 agency partners. The service, which launched in October, was funded by over £450,000 from West Yorkshire Mayor, Tracy Brabin.
- The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP) chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) continues to meet and is developing a forward plan for 2023 to support members in this challenging and ever-changing area of exploitation that touches us all in some way. Network members, as well as sharing and discussing local updates are planning to engage with specialist services and national organisations to continue developing our partnership responses.
- The West Yorkshire Children's Risk and Vulnerability Group (WYR&V) are also planning to have a series of meetings during 2023 collaborating and developing responses to child risk and vulnerability matters across West Yorkshire. The group brings together WYP Safeguarding leads, Local Children's Safeguarding Partnership Managers and Health representatives.
- 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

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 and GR2 awarded in 2022 – 100 projects were awarded a total of £534,286 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 265KB)