

Police and Crime Plan 2024-28

The Voice of West Yorkshire

**Highlights and summary from the #TellTracy
consultation on policing, crime, and community safety
priorities within West Yorkshire**



West Yorkshire: Safe, Just, Inclusive



**Tracy Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire**

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The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime have a duty to consult on the development of their Police and Crime Plan. The plan sets out the Mayor's policing priorities and the direction of West Yorkshire Police over the next four years, focussing on three key priorities and five cross cutting themes. When the Mayor was elected for a second term, she also promised a long-term strategy to deal with Serious Violence.

The consultation on the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan opened on 16 July 2024 and closed on 31 October 2024. All conversations were informed by the draft plan on a page, a document produced to inform the consultation, which was based on the Mayor's manifesto and feedback from communities.

During the consultation we have spoken to and listened to a wide range of individuals, partners and communities using a variety of methodologies. This report highlights the detail of those conversations and their feedback in relation to the draft priorities and the areas of focus they cover. It also offers comments on the cross-cutting themes and the spotlight on Serious Violence. Through the Mayor's #TellTracy about Policing and Crime campaign communities have told us about the impact and effect of crime. They have shared their experiences of being a victim of crime, their interactions with partners and support services, including West Yorkshire Police, and provided feedback on the crime and community issues that matter most to them. They also shared what more they think can be done to support a Safe, Just and Inclusive West Yorkshire.

This is the Mayor's second Plan; she has listened to what has been said over her term of office which builds on her work to date, and continues to represent her shared vision, values, and Mayoral pledges.

Background

The West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan is created and published by the Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin.

Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Mayor must produce a plan which sets out the strategic policing and crime priorities for West Yorkshire, and how she plans to meet them. The plan also has a requirement to set out the objectives and priorities of the work and activity of West Yorkshire Police and the Chief Constable for the next three years, and how the Mayor will hold the Chief Constable to account in delivering those objectives. The plan will draw on a wide range of information to ensure it reflects the policing and crime issues which are affecting West Yorkshire, so therefore listening to the opinions on West Yorkshire's residents and communities are a key and constant part of its development.

It is important that all our communities and partners have their say, and this includes all those impacted by crime including serious violence.

All the views and information collected have been used to inform the development of the plan and will ensure the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime continue to focus activity and resources on the areas of greatest need and of greatest concern to the people of West Yorkshire.

Section 1: Our consultation and engagement

Our objectives

- Ensure everyone can share and have their views heard on what should be included in the Police and Crime Plan.
- Support understanding on the Mayor's pledges, the spotlight on Serious Violence and draft priorities, the areas of focus they cover and the cross-cutting themes.
- Start the work to support the community co-design of the Serious Violence Strategy.
- Ensure victims of crime and those impacted by crime are heard.
- Raise awareness of the Mayor/Deputy Mayor's role on Policing, Crime, and Community Safety including the strategies from the first Police and Crime Plan.
- Ensure all our engagement is fully inclusive.

How we engaged

We widened our consultation and engagement methodologies in 2024 which allowed those we have engaged with to focus on the issues that mattered to them most. This has been delivered through an online toolkit for organisations to undertake their own consultation, surveys designed for key audiences for example adults, young people, children and those with a learning disability. It was also designed to explore issues such as Serious Violence in more detail. A range of resources including background information was available either on our website or copies that could be requested, and the consultation was promoted to the best of our ability via social media, Community Alert and by our key partners across the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Online and in person surveys - communities

Wider public surveys continue to be one of our main tools to engage audiences and are a great way to quickly capture feedback. As always, we ensure we incorporate as many free text responses as possible so we can gather more insight into some of the reasons shared around the statistical responses. Overall, we have received thousands of comments which have really helped us understand how people are impacted by crime and community safety and many of those quotes are reflected throughout this report.

The Police and Crime Plan online survey ran from 15th July to 31st October 2024. During that time, we received 2,057 responses from those who live, work or study in West Yorkshire. The content of the survey focused on the three priorities and areas of focus within those priorities, the cross-cutting themes, and a spotlight on serious violence (for the detailed analysis on the response to Serious Violence including feelings of safety during the day/night – please see Appendix 5). Respondents were also given an opportunity to comment across a series of free text questions as well as providing responses to a series of demographic questions.

Ensuring our consultation is inclusive is key to how we work, therefore we know we need to ensure we speak to groups and individuals in person in the communities where they live or visit, work, attend school, college or university.

In person surveys also played a significant role in our engagement on the draft plan at well attended high footfall community-based events. These were conducted over Summer and Autumn where we spoke to 1,411 adults, 201 young people and 887 children.

Our final surveys included our Partner Consultation on the Plan details below, and specific consultation on the Serious Violence undertaken by both the Policing and Crime Team and the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP).

The Voice of West Yorkshire (VoWY) details all of the responses comprehensively across all of our **surveys, 6,062 people plus 40 partners, as well as feedback received in other ways, such as by email and during in person sessions.**

While the full question set varied across these approaches, a core set of questions was consistently explored. Our report provides the detail of those responses calculating the numbers for the themes discussed.

In person meetings and events (including online events) with communities

We have taken opportunities to engage and consult with key partners at meetings and events including working closely with our colleagues in the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP), West Yorkshire Police (WYP) and Community Safety Partners (CSP). The Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime have also continued with their engagements ensuring at every opportunity they have spoken about the draft plan; encouraging discussion and feedback on its content and themes. A high-level strategic summary offering an insight into who we spoke to, and the key issues shared is shown at Appendix 6 and refers to conversations with a further **549 people** representing a range of community-based partners and VCSE Groups.

Partnership Consultation, in person and surveys

The activities and expertise of partners is critical to the success of the new Police and Crime Plan and its delivery. Moreover, organisations across West Yorkshire have invaluable insights and understanding of the key issues, and the potential solutions to those issues. Therefore, it was vital to gather the input of organisations with an interest in the full range of work to be undertaken under the new Plan.

The partner consultation had two main elements: an online partner survey, and delivery of sessions for partners.

More details of both engagement approaches are included within the report. In addition, organisations were able to request an individual meeting or call and were able to submit feedback by email in whatever format worked best for them.

During the consultation period, the Policing and Crime team proactively contacted over 450 individuals from over 200 organisations, in addition to all local councillors. The team researched organisations working with underrepresented communities and delivering activities against each area of the draft Plan. To ensure we reached beyond our existing networks, partners were asked to send information of the engagement opportunities to their own networks. A pack for partners was created and distributed to make this as easy as possible. Physical leaflets were created and provided to partners, and posts on social media directed organisations to the engagement opportunities.

Whenever possible, cross-promotion of engagement opportunities took place; partner engagement sessions shared details of the survey for individuals and vice versa.

Specialist interest meetings and Focus Groups

Ensuring our engagement is inclusive and knowing we are reflecting all our voices across West Yorkshire is crucial to the consultation and required planning, consideration and an understanding of where our gaps are, knowing who we need to engage is important, so we have worked with our partners to extend our reach as wide as possible. This resulted in us reaching out to special interest groups either directly or through the people who work to support them. This has included working with five core VCSE sector organisations as well as district and community-based projects who are commissioned or are/have been a recipient of the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund.

Targeted work with Children and Young People

Keeping a Child First lens on every part of the plan was part of the Mayor's manifesto pledge, ensuring a focus on children and young people across all areas. We therefore knew we needed to do more to listen to what children and young people had to say. In addition to our work with the Policing and Crime Youth Advisory Group and the VRP Youth Commission we designed two further in person surveys; one aimed at children, and one aimed at teenagers. A fantastic way to talk to children with parental support was to engage them at high footfall events whilst also speaking to their parents, family, or siblings. Every opportunity was taken at community events over summer and autumn and allowed us to capture a diverse group of children aged 5 to 17.

Our approach - who we spoke to - overall summary

The Voice of West Yorkshire (VoWY) represents feedback from:

- A public online survey on Serious Violence (only) based on **2,554** responses – included in the full Analysis Appendix 5
- A public online survey on the draft Police and Crime Plan priorities and serious violence based on **2,057** responses detailed in Section 3 and Appendix 5.
- In person engagement with **1,612** Adults and Young people, **887** Children totalling **2,499** detailed in Section 4.
- In person events and meetings with communities **549** people responses detailed in the high-level analysis at Appendix 6
- Phone calls, emails and casework (**45** people) included in Appendix 6
- Partner consultation responses to **40** partner surveys responses in section 4 and in person high-level analysis at Appendix 7

Note: some meetings which took place in the consultation period are sensitive/relate to individuals. The views shared have informed the consultation but are excluded from the summary.

Key issues impacting consultation and engagement in 2024

Based on feedback during the consultation period we can say with confidence that the issues flagged below impacted on the feelings and concerns of those we engaged:

Serious Disorder – Harehills, Leeds

On Thursday 18th July 2024, West Yorkshire Police received a 999 call from Leeds City Council social workers who were acting on an order from the Family Court to remove four children from an address in the Harehills suburb of Leeds.

The social workers reported that they were encountering difficulties at the address, including a hostile crowd gathering outside. The Police had no prior knowledge of the court order or the removal of the children from the address. The activity of the Police and social services in carrying out the order of the court led to large crowds forming outside the residential address which later became hostile and engaged in acts of criminal damage and disorder. The criminal damage was first directed at police vehicles but then evolved into setting fires in the street and to a public bus. The disorder continued throughout the evening and a multi-agency response was put into action. Many of the people we spoke to from both across West Yorkshire, Leeds and specifically Harehills commented on the impact of the disorder on feelings of safety in their local community.

Serious Violence – Southport Attack

On 29th July an attack occurred in Southport, Merseyside where three children were killed and 10 others injured. The incident and subsequent reporting had an impact on many of those we spoke to including charities supporting asylum seekers and refugees, those already impacted by hate crime and hate incidents, and parents who talked about conversations they were forced in to having with their young children about knife crime.

International Conflict

The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the Israeli/Hamas conflict have continued to highlight risks faced by communities here in West Yorkshire, impacted community tensions and created additional policing, crime and community safety need and reassurance work with communities across West Yorkshire.

Section 2: Executive summary

Support for the priorities

The public, our partners and communities were in overall support of the priorities chosen. Strong support was received with regards to the areas of focus under each priority and much of the in-person consultation focussed on the discussion around people's thoughts and experiences on the detailed areas.

Many people recognised the links across the priorities and no gaps were identified. However, some factors were identified throughout the consultation which many people felt would have a significant impact on the Plan's delivery, these were mental health, community cohesion (which are areas of focus) and poverty. Collectively people agreed that we are focussing on the issues which mattered to them and this view was strongly based on their personal experiences, including those who told us they had been a victim of crime or been harmed by crime. Other views were predominantly formed based on who they felt would benefit most from the priorities chosen.

Keeping People Safe

The Police, Mayor and partners have said they will focus on keeping people safe from harmful behaviour, exploitation, and abuse. They will tackle the root causes of harmful behaviour to prevent such offences as serious violent crime or other crimes against the person, including those perpetrated in the online space.

All those we engaged were incredibly supportive of this priority with those who responded to our online survey stating that knife crime, child sexual abuse and child sexual exploitation were their biggest concerns. This was also supported by our in-person survey and our conversations with specialist interest groups where communities continued to be concerned about knife crime. Many people spoke to us about the impact of the Southport attack, and how, for the first time, they were discussing knife crime with their children. The riots outside of West Yorkshire also impacted on feelings of safety here. The impact of knife crime incidents across West Yorkshire was also a concern with victims and those impacted by knife crime talking about its long-term effects on families and communities.

Groups who supported both women and men especially spoke about the deep-rooted impact of domestic abuse, rape and sexual abuse and so very much welcomed its inclusion in keeping people safe. Many of the older people we spoke to highlighted the importance of fraud, which included online harm, and this was also an issue raised by young people in relation to bullying, hate crime and revenge porn. Hate crime was a major theme discussed at all our in-person engagement events and featured heavily in the concerns raised by the people we met at 2024 Pride celebrations, and when meeting specialist interest groups where the conflict in Israel and Gaza continued to impact here in West Yorkshire across Jewish and Muslim communities. 88% of people who responded to our partner survey felt this priority was important. However, their top three areas of concern differed from our community response, with hate crime being partners' biggest concern followed closely by domestic abuse and stalking and harassment. Harassment was also a key area of focus when speaking to children and young people, especially young adults.

Safer Places and Thriving Communities

The Police, Mayor, and partners have said they will focus on the harmful and unacceptable behaviour that targets the different communities of West Yorkshire through an ongoing commitment to Neighbourhood Policing and partnership working in localities.

It will tackle the place-based crime that damages people's everyday lives, including burglary and neighbourhood crime, anti-social behaviour, and dangerous driving and speeding.

Throughout our in-person consultation, neighbourhood crime including burglary, robbery, vehicle and motorcycle crime/theft were key issues raised with victims talking about their experiences, and the levels of support they received from West Yorkshire Police as part of their feedback.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in all its forms was highlighted particularly in community meetings and many people thought ASB led to other crimes which were often considered by some to be less serious. Vehicle related ASB featured highly in our feedback both in relation to ASB and discussions on road safety and neighbour disputes, it was also felt that cuts to support young people had also had a detrimental impact across towns, cities and in rural areas. Theft was a real concern especially when speaking to younger people and business and retail crime was raised frequently when engaging with people who worked in business and retail along with hate related verbal or physical abuse. Drugs and alcohol featured heavily across all our discussions especially linked to feelings of safety and the nighttime economy and certainly impacted whether people travelled into cities and town centres for recreation. Conversations about Police Officer visibility featured frequently and linked often to trust and confidence. Many people who lived outside of towns and cities wanted to see more of an emphasis on rural crime.

Business related crime was highlighted by some partners at in person meetings and via the online survey for partners. One key point raised was that of the impact on feelings of safety for employees as individuals. Retail crime, shop theft, violence and verbal abuse to shop workers was highlighted, particularly those working in the nighttime economy and more generally in town centres. Those who worked for businesses also spoke about the impact of hate crime on their feelings of safety.

Most people we spoke to welcomed the Vision Zero strategy and its support across all the strands of road safety with road safety continuing to feature as one of the top areas of focus within this priority. 98% of those who responded to our online survey said that Safer Places and Thriving Communities was important to them, which was the highest response rate of the three priorities with anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood crime and road safety being the biggest concerns. 79% of partners said this was important with ASB ranking as their biggest concern followed closely by community cohesion and social and public spaces including the nighttime economy. The people we engaged really welcomed the place-based approach and told us about how safe or unsafe they felt in their local area.

Supporting Victims and Witnesses

Supporting victims, survivors, witnesses, and those harmed by crime is at the heart of the new Police and Crime Plan, helping people to get justice. The Mayor has said we will continue to ensure all partners and West Yorkshire Police take a victim-centred approach. This improves the engagement, trust, and confidence of victims and survivors throughout their journey. The single most important person in any criminal investigation is the person who has been harmed.

78% of partners said this was very or fairly important to them with their main areas of focus being mental health and wellbeing followed by support for all victims and witnesses and drugs and alcohol.

Throughout the in-person engagement we spoke to victims who had been harmed by crime who shared their views on priorities based on personal experiences, they also told us what would help regarding services and support.

Many people spoke about their frustration with the Criminal Justice System, and this was often linked to the support to reduce reoffending ensuring those coming out of prison were not “forced” into committing more crime.

People also told us about the long-term impact of trauma after being a victim of a crime. 98% of those who responded to our online survey said that Supporting Victims and Witnesses was important to them, with support for victims of all crimes, child criminal exploitation and driving improvements in the criminal justice system receiving the greatest number of responses.

Support for the cross-cutting themes

The five cross cutting themes identified for the Mayor’s second plan were well supported: the safety of women and girls; children and young people; effective response to men and boys who are victims; reducing vulnerability; and equity, diversity and inclusion. 89% of those who responded to our online public survey said that they thought the themes were important for us to consider across all our work.

Partners also supported the themes and provided some detailed feedback around terminology, the breadth and coverage of the themes as well as strong support for the inclusion of the reference to **boys and men who were victims** which was also supported by members of the public and by partners who worked to support men and boys.

Communities welcomed the continued focus from the first plan on the **safety of women and girls** with partners highlighting gaps in provision and support for those under 16 and online radicalisation relating to extreme misogyny.

Whilst all welcomed the focus on **reducing vulnerability** some communities were confused by what would be covered and partners commented further on the narrative in the draft plan, but everyone agreed that it would have a positive impact ensuring the target was to support key individuals.

Finally, there was recognition in the importance of **equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)** with partners wanting to see more on tackling inequalities across the Plan and communities welcoming its continued focus especially in light of the impact of local, national, and international events effecting feelings of safety for many communities across West Yorkshire.

Spotlight on serious violence

A detailed community response is included at Appendix 5.

Our definition: Violence and serious violence includes specific crime types where there is the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community - the specific crime types for West Yorkshire include homicide, knife crime, violence against the person, personal robbery, gun crime, violence against women and girls, organised crime (including county lines), sexual exploitation and domestic abuse.

Our consultation shows that through surveys (online and in person) 4,420 people considered the above definition and 81% either agreed with the definition as presented (74.5%) or agreed with it while offering additional considerations. Most people we engaged spoke about serious violence in all its forms, how it linked intrinsically to all the issues discussed in the draft Plan and about its impact on victims, families and in our communities.

Serious violence was also a key issue highlighted by the young people we engaged including those in schools, colleges and universities. Parents also shared their concerns around child vulnerability and fear around criminal exploitation, and we spoke to some people who shared their own lived experience. Some people also discussed organised crime and its links to drugs and drug related crime, knife crime and gun crime.

Only a handful of people that we engaged were unhappy with the theme of Serious Violence as a spotlight, but they did acknowledge they did not believe it was an issue where they lived. People really welcomed clarification of the definition and many of the women and girls' groups who support women welcomed the inclusion of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the definition.

Key Findings

- The consultation on our proposals for the new Police and Crime Plan ran during summer through until Autumn 2024. Overall, over 6,500 people responded to our request for feedback including surveys and in person engagement. We can therefore be extremely confident in their overall support for the priorities and cross-cutting themes chosen.
- Similarly, we received strong support for the spotlight on Serious Violence and for the proposed definition shared and whilst some people did recognise the work already underway across West Yorkshire it was felt that much more needed to be done especially in response to tackling knife crime and drug/gang related violence. The consultation also highlighted that Serious Violence was a problem which needed to be addressed more widely outside of policing, crime and community safety.
- There was a real recognition around the current challenges being faced by statutory and VCSE partners, cuts to services were impacting on what could already be delivered, so there were some concerns around the expectations of a new Plan.
- We received lots of feedback in respect of the need for early intervention and prevention and there was a real opportunity to re-affirm the connection to the Child First approach referred to in the draft Plan.
- Overall, people really welcomed the theming of a place and person-centred approach.

- Our partners and those who worked in business and retail have provided feedback about their current challenges and shared feedback about what support they need to help support the new Police and Crime Plan.
- People found it really challenging across all the consultation to prioritise the policing and crime issues discussed. They recognised the challenge for the police in responding to crime but continued to hold them to high standards. Much of their feedback and responses to this were influenced by personal experiences. Many of the people we spoke to were concerned about the levels of police resources.
- There was a great deal of appreciation that the Safety of Women and Girls was a focus in the Mayor's second Plan. Partners and the VCSE sector especially welcomed the partnership work to date and recognised challenges ahead.
- There was an opportunity for us to talk about our journey so far, many of those we spoke to were engaging with us for the first time and were not aware of the previous Plan, its strategies and its delivery.
- Nearly a quarter of people we engaged online told us they had been a victim of crime, in comparison to 18.5% in our in-person survey.
- The children and young adults we spoke to via in-person surveys overall felt relatively safe, those we spoke to in-depth generally felt less safe but most young people were concerned with their safety online. Of note 12% of the children we spoke to were either too young or not allowed to go online.

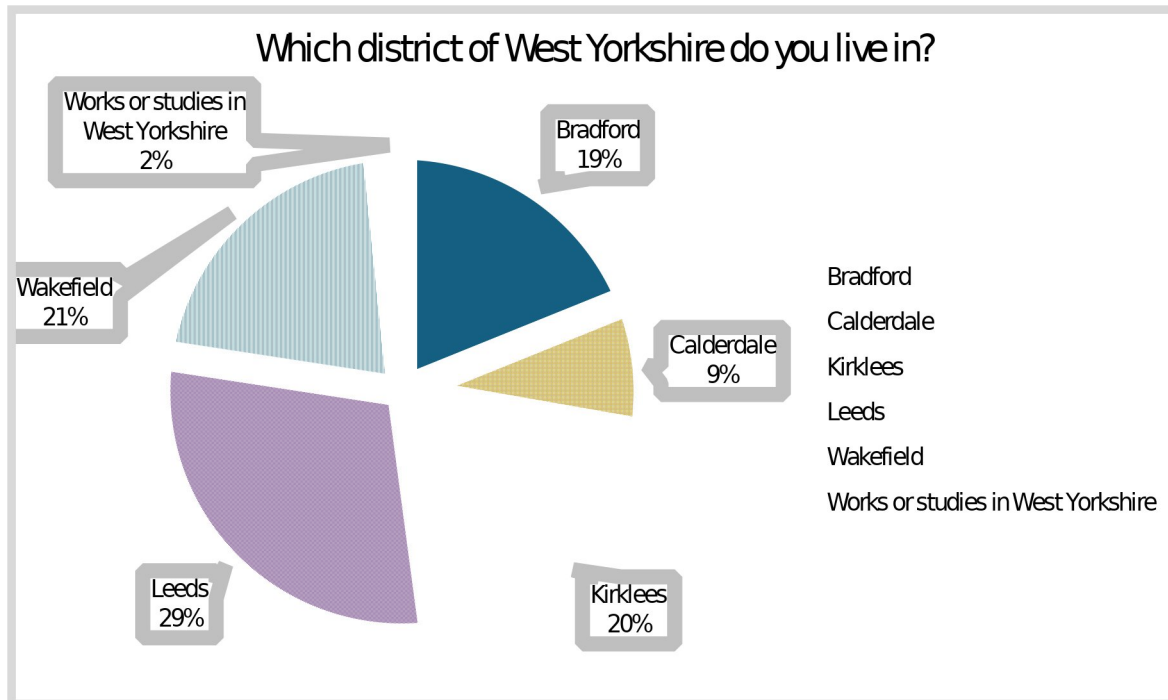
Section 3: Public consultation - online

Who we spoke to

- We received 2,057 responses.
- Nearly half of respondents identified as a woman (49%). 45% identified as a man, 0.2% as non-binary, 0.3% used another term and 6% preferred not to state.
- The overwhelming majority of respondents were white (85%). 3% were Asian or Asian British, 2% were from mixed/multiple ethnic groups, just under 1% were Black African, Black Caribbean or Black British, 1% were from another ethnic group and 8% preferred not to say. Both the Asian and Asian British and Black African, Black Caribbean, Black British communities are underrepresented in the survey results. 16% of West Yorkshire's population is Asian or Asian British and 3% is Black African, Black Caribbean or Black British. It's worth noting that only a very small number of Black African, Black Caribbean and Black British people responded to the online survey (18 respondents).
- The majority of respondents were over the age of 55 (58%). 28% were age 35-54 and 11% were under the age of 35. The over 55 category is overrepresented when comparing to the population of West Yorkshire, whereas those under the age of 35 are underrepresented.
- 31% of those who responded to the survey consider themselves to have a disability or health condition. According to the 2021 census, 17.6% of West Yorkshire's population were disabled.
- 8% of respondents were from the LGBTQ+ community. This is higher than the West Yorkshire figure which is 3.2%.

- Less than 1% of respondents identified as trans. In 2021, 0.61% of the population stated they have a gender identity different from the sex registered at birth. Despite this, it's worth noting that a very small number of those who identify as trans responded to the survey (11 individuals) so we should be mindful of this when looking at the results.

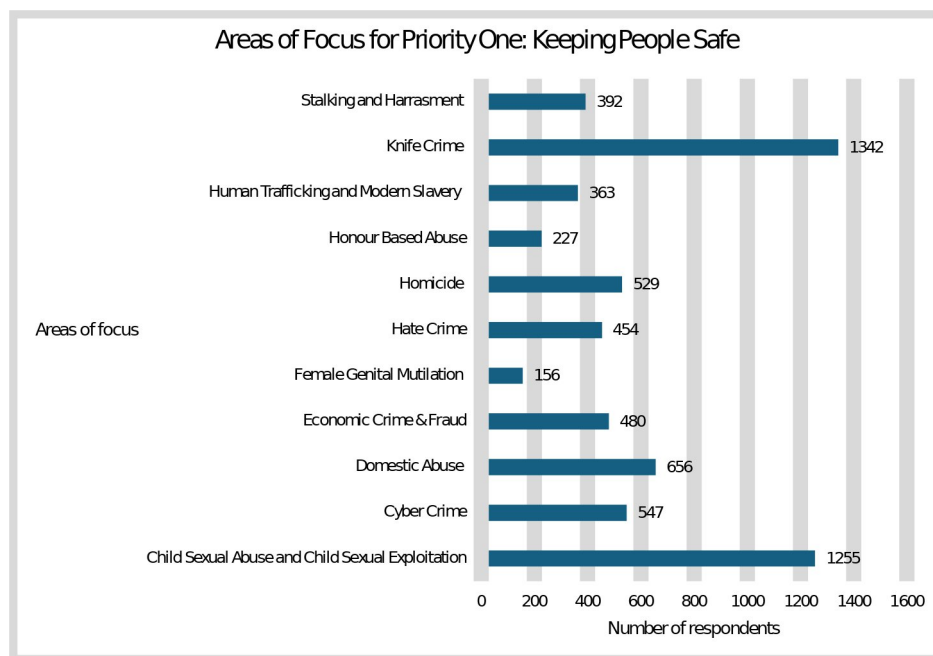
The below chart shows which part of West Yorkshire respondents reside. Compared to the makeup of West Yorkshire, Leeds and Bradford are underrepresented whereas Wakefield and Kirklees are overrepresented. The response from those who live in Calderdale is proportionate.



Priorities

Priority One: Keeping People Safe

95.7% of those who responded said that **Keeping People Safe was important to them**. As can be seen in the graph below, respondents placed a strong emphasis on two areas of focus. In particular, knife crime and child sexual abuse & child sexual exploitation receiving the highest responses when individuals were asked which areas were the most important to them.



In a free text option, we asked if there any other comments or feedback respondents would like to make about this priority. Below is a summary of the feedback based on 794 responses.

By far the majority of comments were respondents stating they could not prioritise the different crime types because they were all important and that in fact more or all of the issues referred to under keeping people safe were a major concern. Some people struggled to understand why we were asking them to prioritise their concerns.

Police presence and response featured next in the list of comments with people stating they wanted to see more visible policing both Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). There was a real recognition of the role of Neighbourhood Policing, and the need for specialist teams to police specific issues. People also spoke about the need for faster and more effective police response across all the different areas of focus. However, neighbourhood crime, the safety of women and girls, serious violence, ASB and road safety were the focus of most comments.

Many respondents recognised the key pressures impacting visibility which included police funding and the complexities of modern policing,

The need to **tackle serious violence** in all its form was key and knife crime and organised criminality a major concern; people spoke about the need for education and early intervention and prevention to tackle all forms of serious violence.

“I feel that as a society we need to develop a better understanding of the deeper problems which create crime and serious violence. I feel that a much greater level of investment is needed in prevention and education, regeneration and inclusion.

I feel that a major part of understanding why people commit serious violence is understanding how a lack of self-worth plays a huge part in people's need to commit violence. In areas which suffer high levels of unemployment, alcoholism, crime etc, there is a general feeling from people within these communities that they are forgotten by society, have no power and no voice, and do not feel a sense of self-worth. Safe places are not simply created by higher levels of policing. We need to look much deeper and focus on prevention. Until we do, the problems we experience as a society will persist.”

Whilst some people acknowledged the work underway to address the **safety of women and girls**, many respondents referred to it as an issue with sadly many people talking about their own feelings of safety and their personal experience about being a victim of crime. It was felt there was still a great deal of work around education and enforcement with sexual violence, domestic abuse and stalking referred to frequently.

“It’s Vital that Domestic Abuse is a Priority for the Police – the current domestic abuse policy is not fit for purpose. Telling my abusive ex to stay away from me instead of training him to speak respectfully has fueled his delusions that I am the threat and has traumatised both our daughters who struggle to trust their own experience.”

At this early point in the survey many felt that key issues such as **neighbourhood crime** were being excluded so wanted to ensure that the new plan focussed on the areas which mattered most to them namely burglary, robbery, theft from the person and vehicle and motorcycle crime. Many people also took an opportunity to say that neighbourhood crime was not just based in towns and cities it also impacted those who lived in rural communities.

Respondents were extremely worried that **drugs and alcohol** had not been mentioned at this stage in the survey with concerns raised that this was a major concern, linked to Neighbourhood crime and serious violence in all its form but especially knife crime.

Similar numbers of respondents also spoke about here about the importance of **road safety** again this was often drawn from personal experience and some people shared some very personal stories of loss.

All forms of road safety concerns were highlighted with speeding, dangerous driving and dangerous parking featuring frequently in the comments. Many people referred to Vision Zero and its ambitions with some people recognising the challenge of delivering the strategy especially in districts where it was felt that individuals needed to do more to address bad driving behaviors.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) was also referred to frequently with many people talking about how it linked to other crimes mentioned in the survey. Some people referred to frustrations in it being labelled as low level and neighbour related ASB was highlighted as a significant issue for many. People also linked ASB to hate crime and community cohesion. Other issues frequently mentioned in line with this priority included both the sexual and criminal abuse and exploitation of children.

We also received a host of feedback around the following additional themes:

- **General feelings of safety** which included people stating they were afraid in their own homes and afraid to go out and travel into their local town and city centres.

Many people from specific communities spoke about their fears linked to hate crime with concerns being amplified by riots outside of West Yorkshire following the Southport attacks, the disorder experienced in Harehills and the impact of international wars and conflicts on West Yorkshire communities. The local, national and international events also impacted their comments linked to serious violence and community cohesion.

“People just want to feel safe in their own houses and outside.”

- The impact of poor mental health, understanding the risks and its impact on policing, crime and community safety and the need for the police response and training to be appropriate was highlighted along with the impact of the police approach of Right Care Right Person.

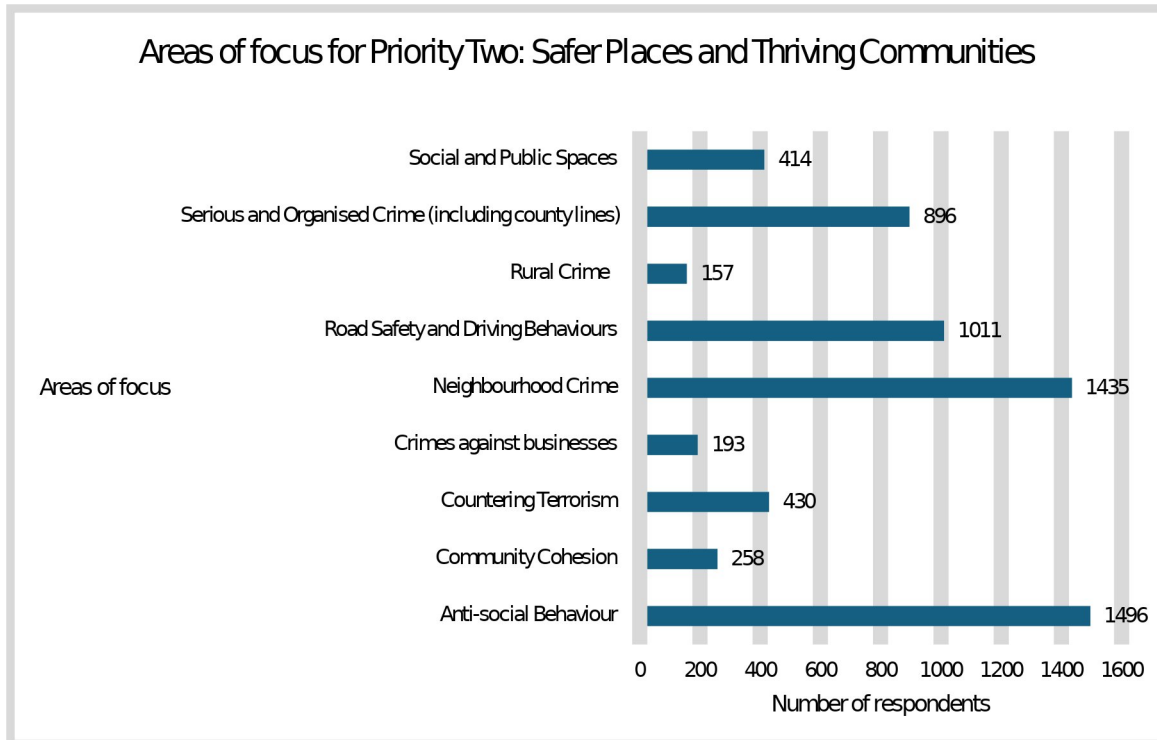
“I think the stand that the Police have taken regarding mental health incidents is the correct one. I agree that a law enforcement agency is not the correct resource to deal with such incidents and the responsibility does need to be directed back towards appropriate services so protect this vulnerable group in society and keep them safe. Hopefully this will stop depleting police resources and create a shift back to adequate funding of mental health services.”

- There were wider concerns regarding the Criminal Justice System with many people commenting that they thought it did not support the Police or that Crown Prosecution Service decisions reduced community safety. People also spoke about their views on the early prison release scheme.
- Some people felt that this priority needed to recognise the impact on victims more.
- Within this category many people also shared detailed feedback specific to their community, where they lived or their views and experiences of services after reporting incidents to West Yorkshire Police.
- Funding concerns were also flagged with concerns that the Police needed more funding and better resources.

“It is simply unacceptable to fund and resource police so poorly that we must choose priorities between different crimes of violence and serious abuse.”

Priority Two: Safer Places and Thriving Communities

97.9% of respondents said that **safer places and thriving communities** was important to them, which is the highest response rate of the three priorities. Again, respondents placed particular emphasis on two areas of focus, which were anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime. This was then followed by road safety & driving behaviours.



In a free text option, we asked if there were any other comments or feedback respondents would like to make about this priority. Below is a summary of the feedback based on 595 responses.

When it came to talking about Safer Places and Thriving Communities, most people spoke about the need for Officer visibility, their experiences both positive and negative in relation to Neighbourhood Policing and the response in person or on the phone from WYP.

“Please have a focused effort to crack down on motorcycle thieves and their irresponsible and illegal riding of stolen motorbikes.”

As with the comments on Priority 1, the next most common issue spoken about was the challenge in prioritising these important issues.

“The police are expected to do too much these days, crime will always be with us whatever we do. I would like to see them concentrate on the most dangerous aspects of crime that is terrorism, burglary, robbery, theft from the person, vehicle theft in that order.”

Further comments in order of importance were road safety which included speeding, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol and the illegal use of mobile phones.

“Are the consequences of drink driving serious enough when we compare this with driving under the influence of drugs? Driving under the influence of drugs tend to have stricter consequences, but drink driving is also a very serious crime which is more likely to occur due to our culture of being more acceptant of people drinking when comparing this with taking drugs, and therefore should be taken very seriously.”

ASB was a key concern with people talking about the different types of ASB experienced, this included frustrations with local authority partners and the Police especially with long standing issues which peaked but sometimes went unresolved causing some of those who could to physically move areas.

“I don't think children and young people should be labelled as the instigators of ASB (as they often are) and I would like to see them being involved as part of the solution.”

In terms of other responses many people referred to funding challenges, the importance of community cohesion and the impact of court delays and sentencing decisions.

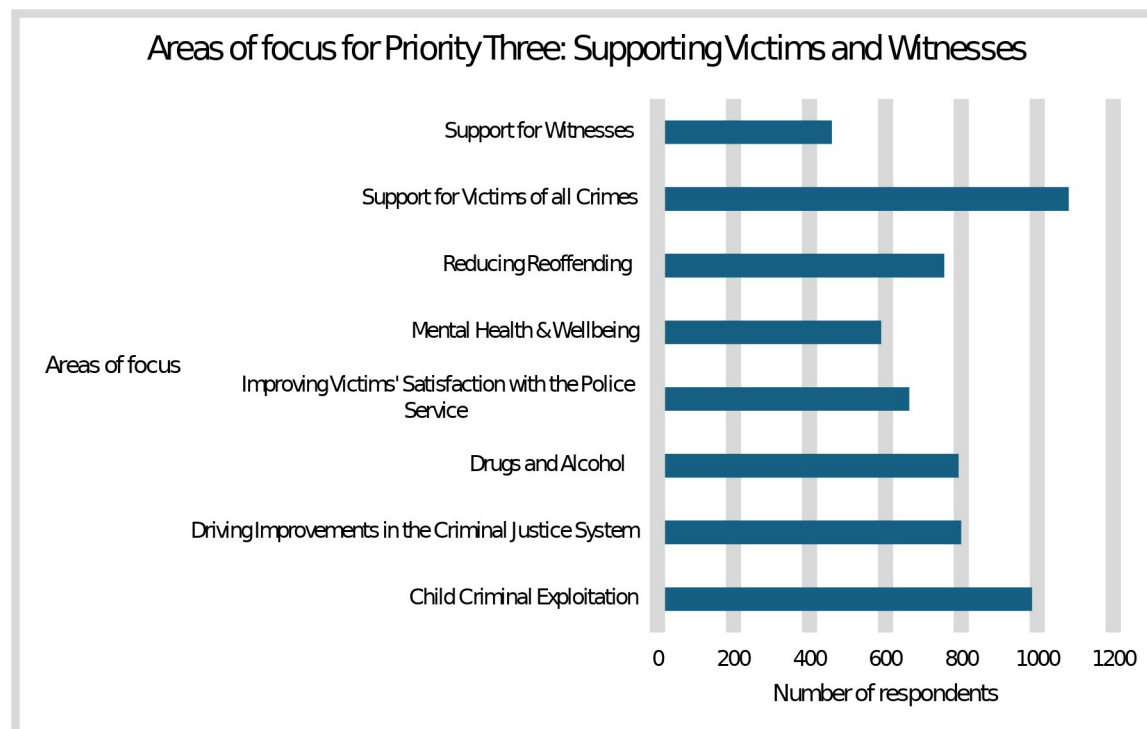
“No point arresting bike thieves if you aren't going to keep them locked up, zero deterrent for prolific thieves who just get released to steal again and again.”

“Improving the criminal justice system should concentrate on shortening the time taken from a crime being reported to an investigation commencing, and if a case goes to court having it take place as quickly as possible.”

Finally, many people referred to the cross over in priorities with key interdependencies.

Priority Three: Supporting Victims and Witnesses

95.7% of those who answered the survey said that **supporting victims and witnesses** was important to them, with support for victims of all crimes, child criminal exploitation and driving improvements in the criminal justice system receiving the greatest number of responses. This priority received a more balanced response across all areas of focus.



In a free text option, we asked if there were any other comments or feedback respondents would like to make about this priority. Below is a summary of the feedback based on 418 responses.

Improved Criminal Justice System (CJS) and **better support for victims** were the most commented on topics. People took issue with the CJS from the initial report of a crime through to the court system and beyond. Respondents also said improved support for victims was key to safer places and thriving communities.

“Totally agree that victims of crime should be at the center of the justice system.”

“This is really important. Ensure victims are updated as to what is happening with their case from when it is reported to at least a month after trial to ensure victims are fully supported. This needs to be an independent person and not the police as they cannot fully give the amount of time needed in this crucial area.”

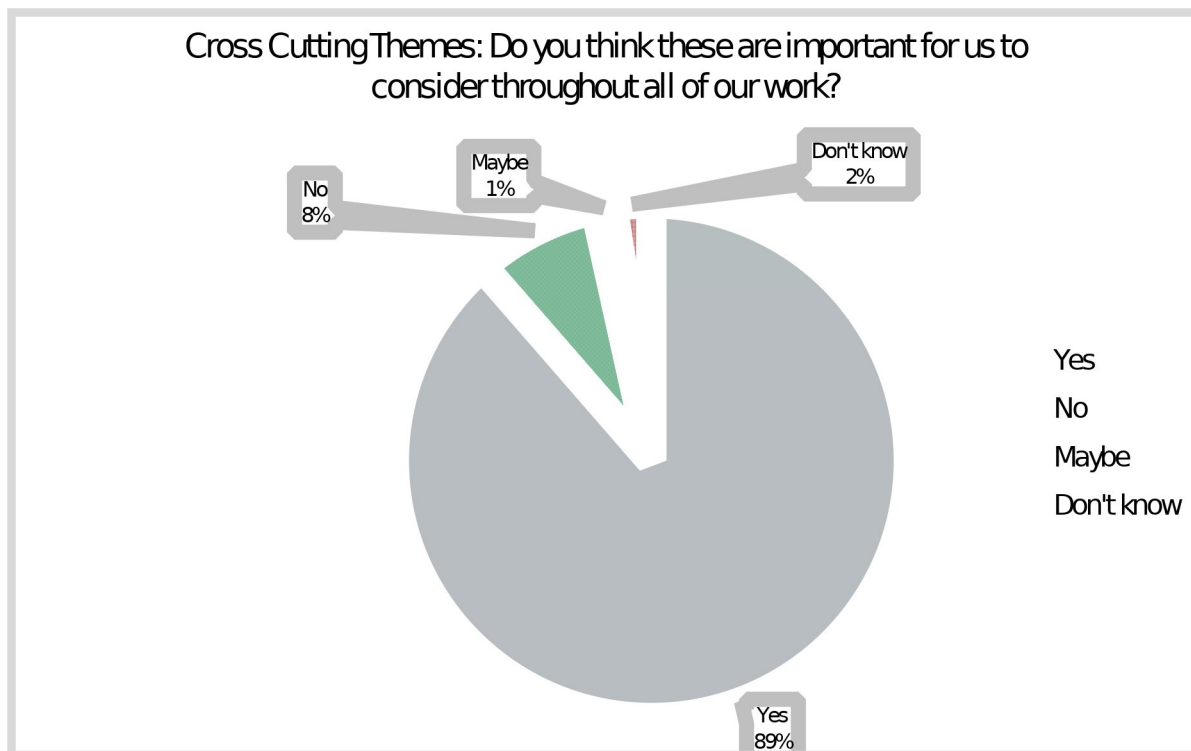
Respondents also said there was a need for **improved engagement with communities** across West Yorkshire from all services, as well as increased youth intervention, community groups, support services and 'reducing reoffending' initiatives. The respondents also said **visible policing** was important.

“It is very important to support victims. But I believe much more needs to be done to improve prisons and provide opportunities for offenders to turn their live around in prison and to get work and a place to live after prison. We need to break the vicious cycle. It is a national shame that we imprison so many people and do so little to turn the situation around.”

“Sometimes feels like stats have to be chased for targets and therefore victims often forgotten with no follow up or care provided. I would like to see stronger community policing return. Forget about the targets that need to be achieved because the community policemen /women often knew about the community which could provide a great deal of information to help curb crime.”

Cross Cutting themes

At the heart of development of the plan are five cross cutting themes: the safety of women and girls; children and young people; effective response to men and boys who are victims; reducing vulnerability; and equity, diversity and inclusion. **89% of respondents answered that they think the themes are important for us to consider** throughout all our work, which represents strong support to carry these themes forward into the development of the new Plan.



In a free text option, we asked if there were any other comments or feedback respondents would like to make about the Cross Cutting Themes.

A total of 492 people responded. Most of the respondents said they supported the Cross Cutting Themes, highlighting the women and girls theme as a particular need with many people supporting it with their lived experiences.

Safety of women of girls – **“As a woman I do not feel safe in my area. I feel like a visitor in my own home, and I am not welcome. The comments which are made to me are of a sexual and violent nature.”**

Supporting Vulnerability – **“I would prefer the main focus to be for the vulnerable, not only are they at more of risk of being targeted, but there is a lack of support out there for them following a crime.”**

“Reducing vulnerability is so important as services take people who they deem as fit to be independent but actually are naive and have severe disabilities. We leave people in a place of not seeing danger coming, not knowing how to deal with it. This lack of care and leaving people open to crime is not compassionate or just.”

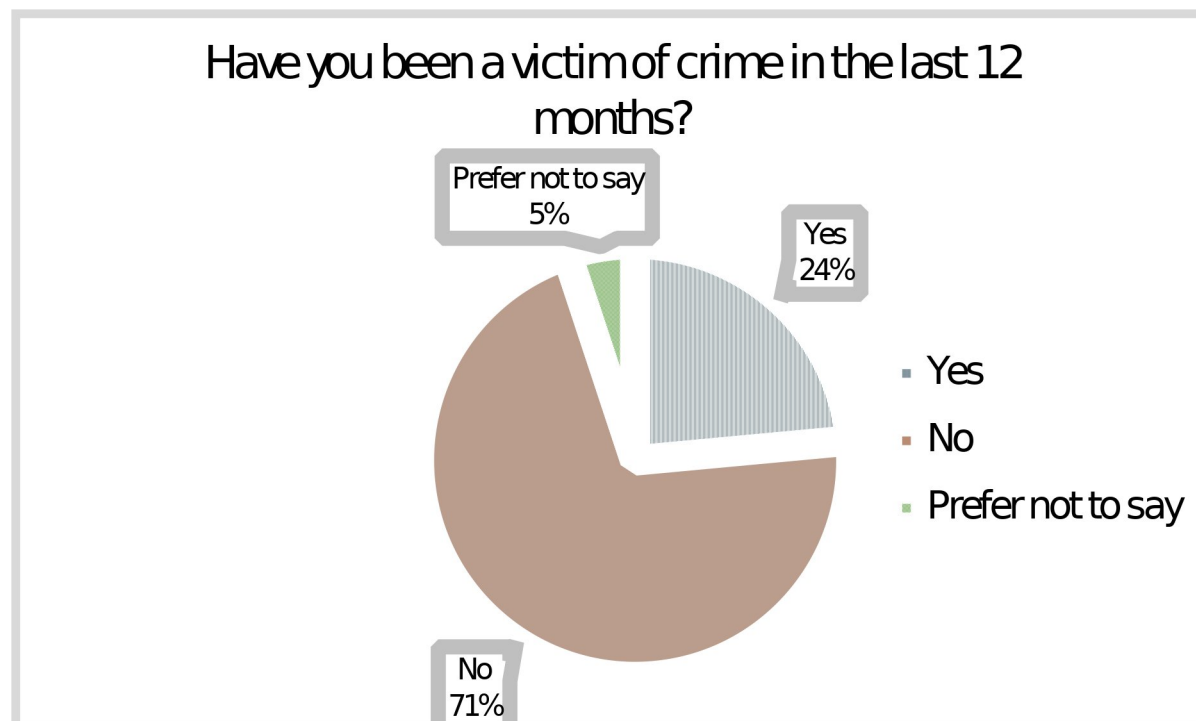
Some respondents questioned the effectiveness of the themes and found it hard to understand what would actually be delivered based on the information provided, this was a concern across all themes including Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

“These points just look like someone has spent a lot of time producing the wording just so that every base is covered. I can't read anything in these points that actually isn't just what has come before - but not worded in a convoluted explanation of a simple point.”

“The five areas pretty much cover everyone in society for one reason or another so is it necessary to have 5 areas.”

Victims of Crime

The final question in the survey asked if respondents had been a victim of crime in the past 12 months. **Nearly a quarter of respondents answered “yes”**, with 5% preferring not to state.



Male respondents were more likely to say that they had been a victim of crime (26%) than women (20%). When looking at how different ethnic groups responded, **Asian/British Asian respondents were the most likely to answer that they had been victims of crime (31%)**, followed by mixed/multiple ethnicity respondents (27%), Black African, Black Caribbean or Black British (22%), White (22%), and other (17%).

Regarding age groups, there wasn't much difference in the way different groups responded. 24% of 35–54-year-olds have been a victim of crime, followed by 21% of under 35's and 20% of over 55's.

There was, however, a difference in the way respondents answered the question depending on their disability or health condition status. **31% of those who consider themselves to have a disability or health condition had been a victim of crime** compared to 20% of non-disabled respondents.

In the survey, respondents were asked if they could share information about their sexuality. **36% of respondents who identified as gay/lesbian had been a victim of crime in the past 12 months**, compared to 24% of bi respondents and 22% of heterosexual respondents.

There was only a small number of respondents for the online survey who identified as **trans** (less than 1%), but of those respondents, **36% stated that they had been a victim of crime** in the past 12 months.

Section 4: In person consultation

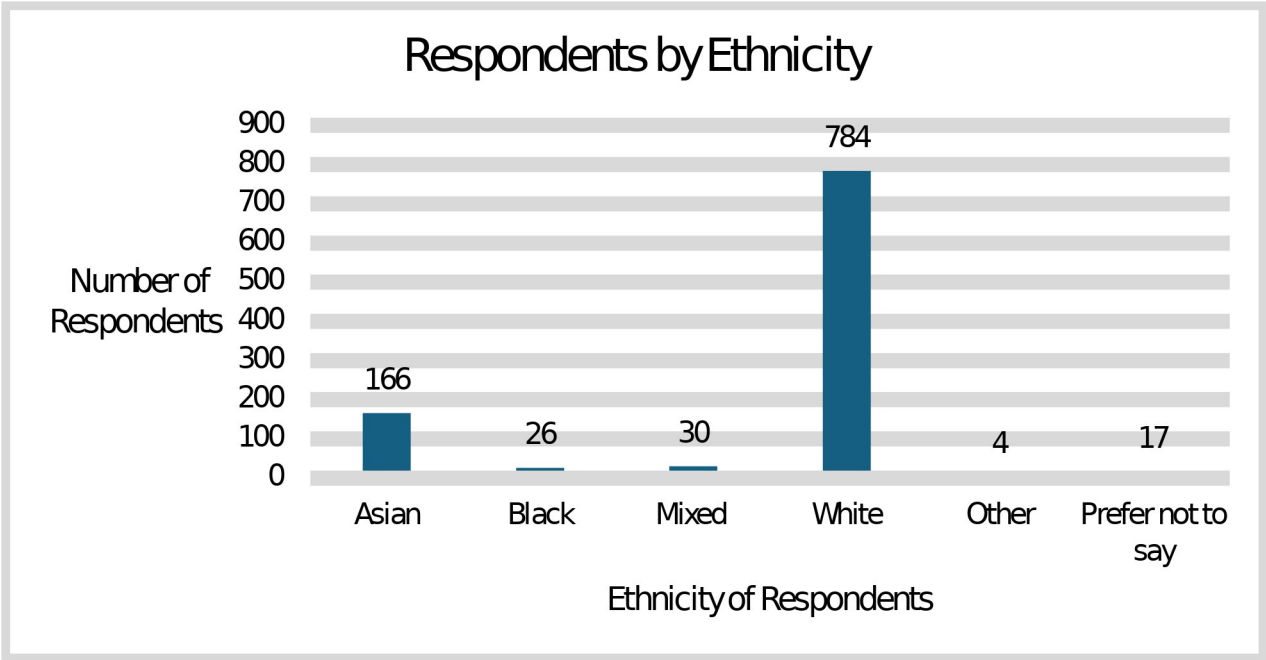
This element of the consultation received 1,612 responses with 201 young people responding.

The adults in person survey focused on Serious Violence, Anti-Social Behaviour and asked for crime concerns in addition to Serious Violence.

The teen survey focussed on feeling safe online, feeling safe at school, college or work, if they were a victim of crime would they contact the Police? Do they worry about serious violence and what other crimes worry them the most?

As referenced previously our in-person engagement creates greater opportunities to ensure our consultation is inclusive. The demographic data below outlines who we engaged with and supports the breath of consultation and engagement on the plan in addition to our online surveys.

Figure 1: A bar chart showing the ethnicity of respondents based on 1,027 responses



22% of those who responded told us they were Asian, Black or mixed race.

Figure 2: A bar chart showing the religion or belief of respondents based on 849 responses

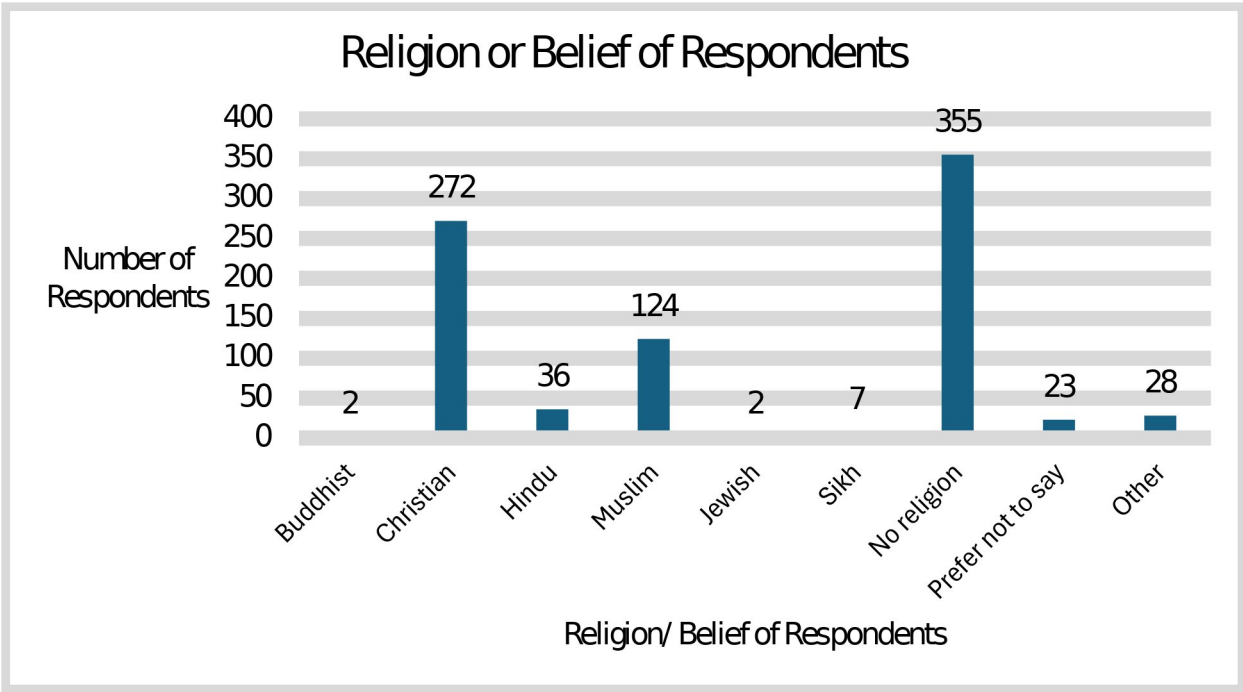


Figure 3: A bar chart showing the breakdown of respondents by gender based on 1,288 responses

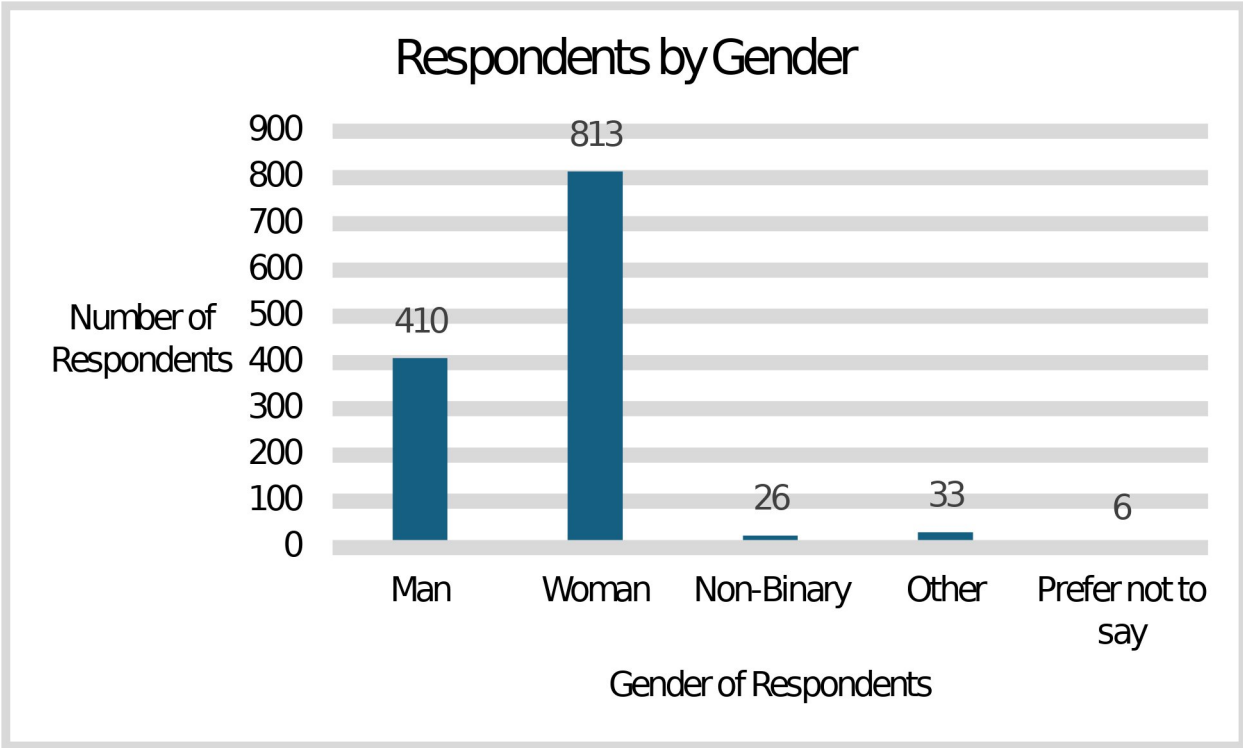
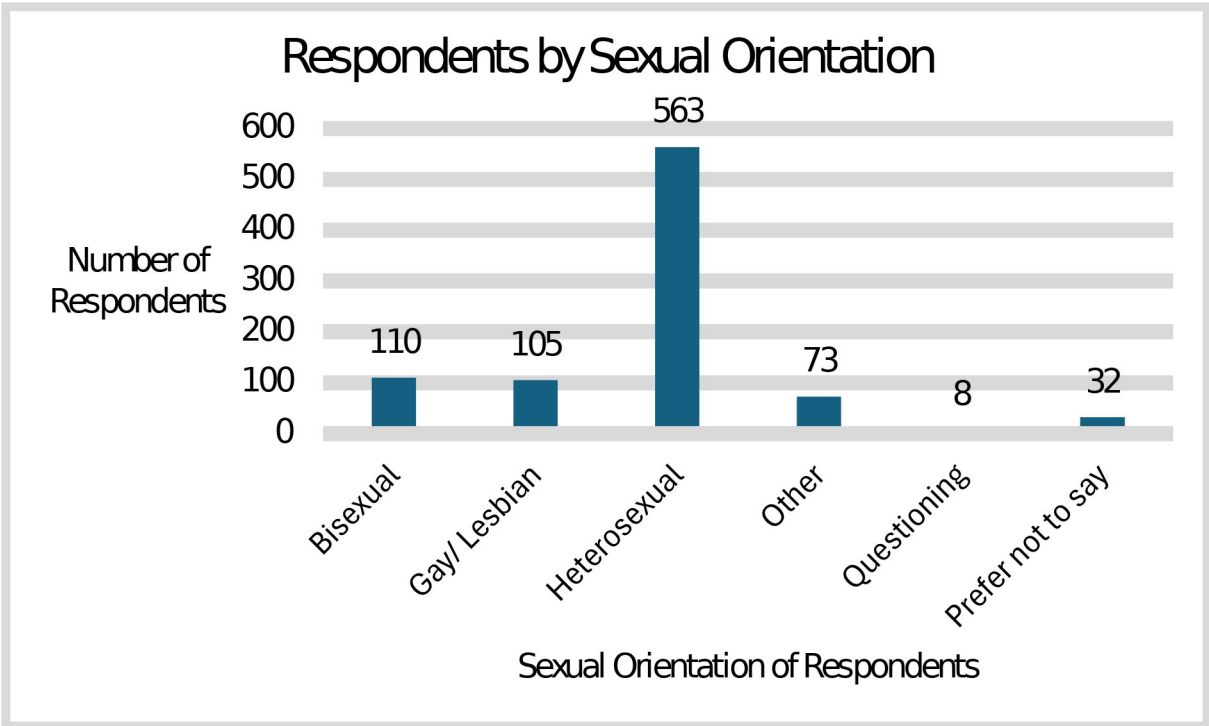


Figure 4: A bar chart showing the breakdown of respondents by sexual orientation based on 891 responses



25% of those who responded stated they were Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, plus (LGBTQ+).

Figure 5: A bar chart showing a breakdown of respondents by district based on 1,326 responses

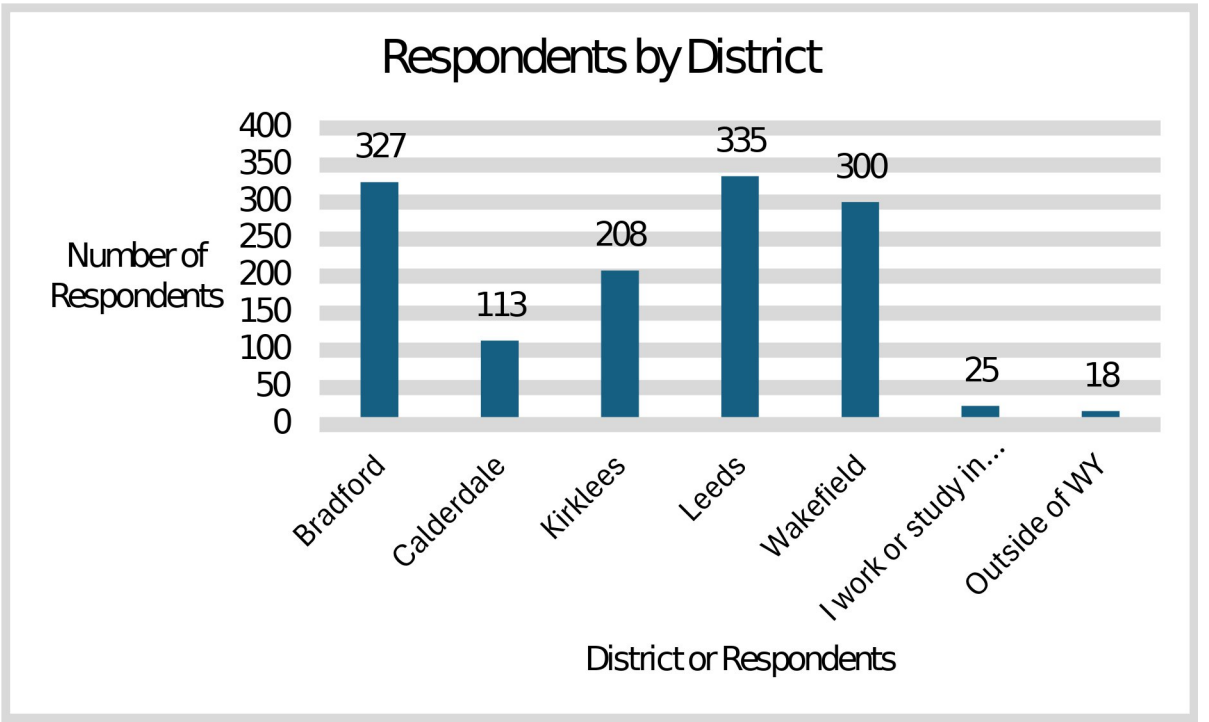
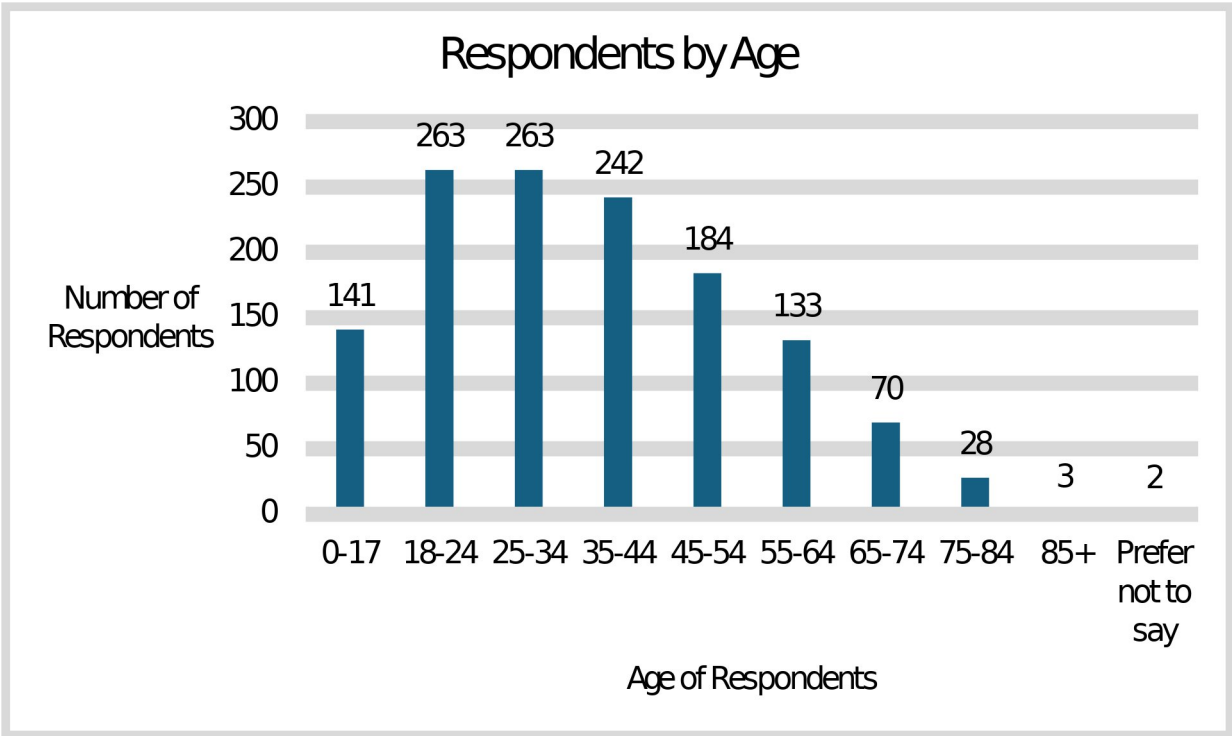


Figure 6: A bar chart showing a breakdown of respondents by age based on 1,329 responses.



In addition to the charts included, the in-person engagement highlighted that 50.2% of those we spoke to were under the age of 34, with 68.4% under the age of 44 and 28% of all those we engaged said they had a disability.

Adult in person survey results

These results are based on 1,411 responses.

Figure 1: A bar chart showing the number of respondents who had been a victim of crime in the last 12 months based on 994 responses



We also asked: If you have been a victim of crime or harmed by crime, what would have helped you the most – free text comments based on 127 responses covered the following themes:

Support in order of what would have helped: Police response including speed and quality, support services including victim support, friends and family, security, education and crime prevention advice followed by counselling.

Figure 2: A bar chart showing how concerned respondents were about Anti-Social Behaviour based on 1196 responses

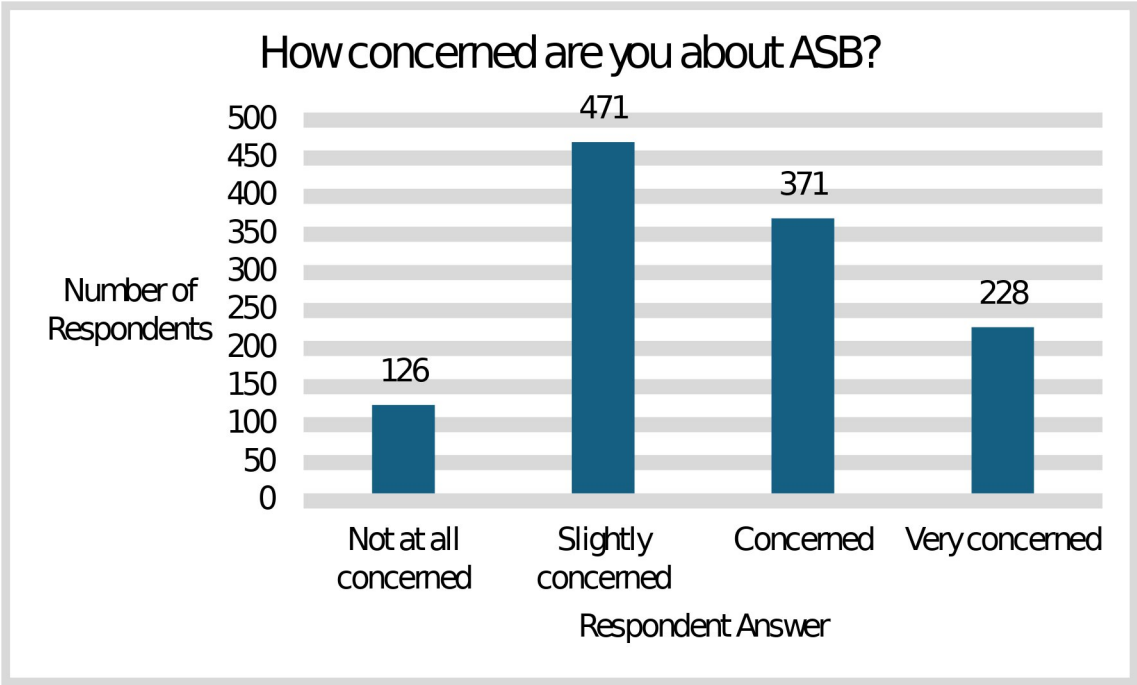


Figure 3: A bar chart showing whether respondents thought Anti-Social Behaviour had increased over the last 12 months based on 1182 responses

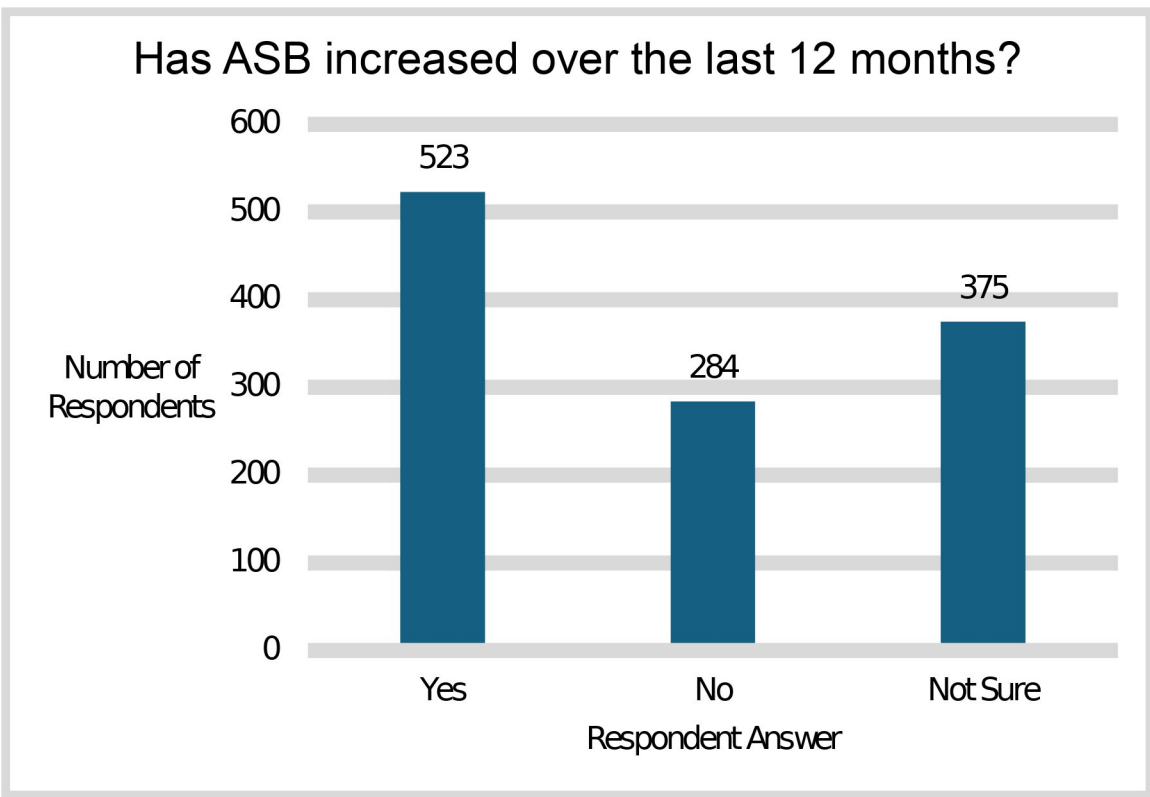
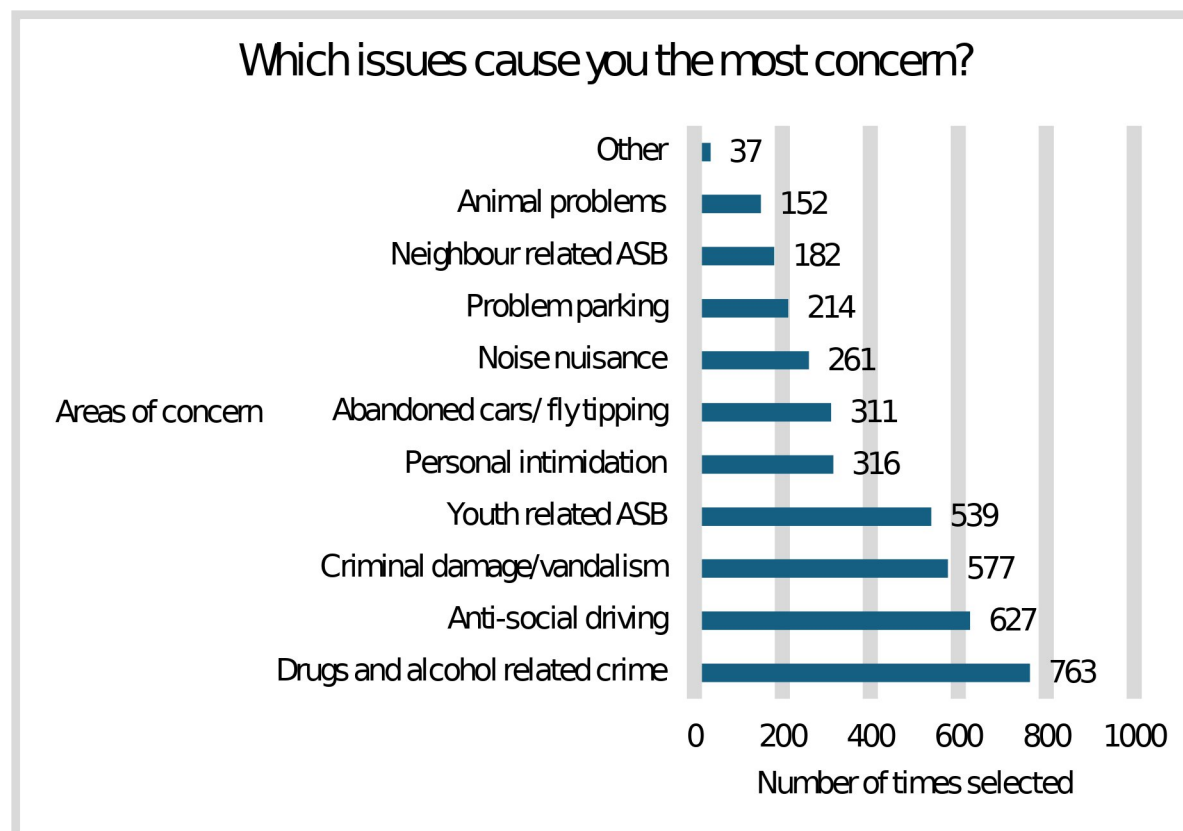


Figure 4: A bar chart showing the issues that caused respondents the most concern based on 1,189 responses



The graph above shows that when asked to identify their top areas of concern, respondents' most frequently selected **drug and alcohol related crime**. This was followed by **anti-social driving** and **criminal damage/vandalism**.

Areas of concern included in the 'other' category were **fireworks, shoplifting/theft** and **large groups 'hanging around'**.

In relation to free text crime concerns we received 633 responses, the top three issues in order were:

1. **Neighbourhood crime** - including, theft, robbery, burglary and domestic abuse. Shop related theft was also flagged by the respondents.
2. **Serious Violence** - including all forms of violence and violent crime including knife crime, organised crime, homicide and gang related crime.
3. **Drugs and alcohol** – whilst alcohol related crime and street drinking was an issue by far the biggest issue was drug related crime with many people referring to the connections with burglar and drug related violence.

Other key concerns in order of preference were **road safety, hate crime, personal and sexual abuse. ASB, VAWG, disorder and countering terrorism**.

“Being transgendered, I find an increasing amount of hate and ridicule comments made towards me, almost every time I leave home. There never seems to be any protection from this.”

“My two boys get racial abuse every other time they play out. They now hardly go out; they don’t mix with the children that live in the village. It has been different children who parents are not bothered by their children’s behaviour.”

Teen survey results

These results are based on 201 surveys.

Figure 1: A bar chart showing whether respondents agreed with the statement ‘I feel safe online’ based on 201 responses.

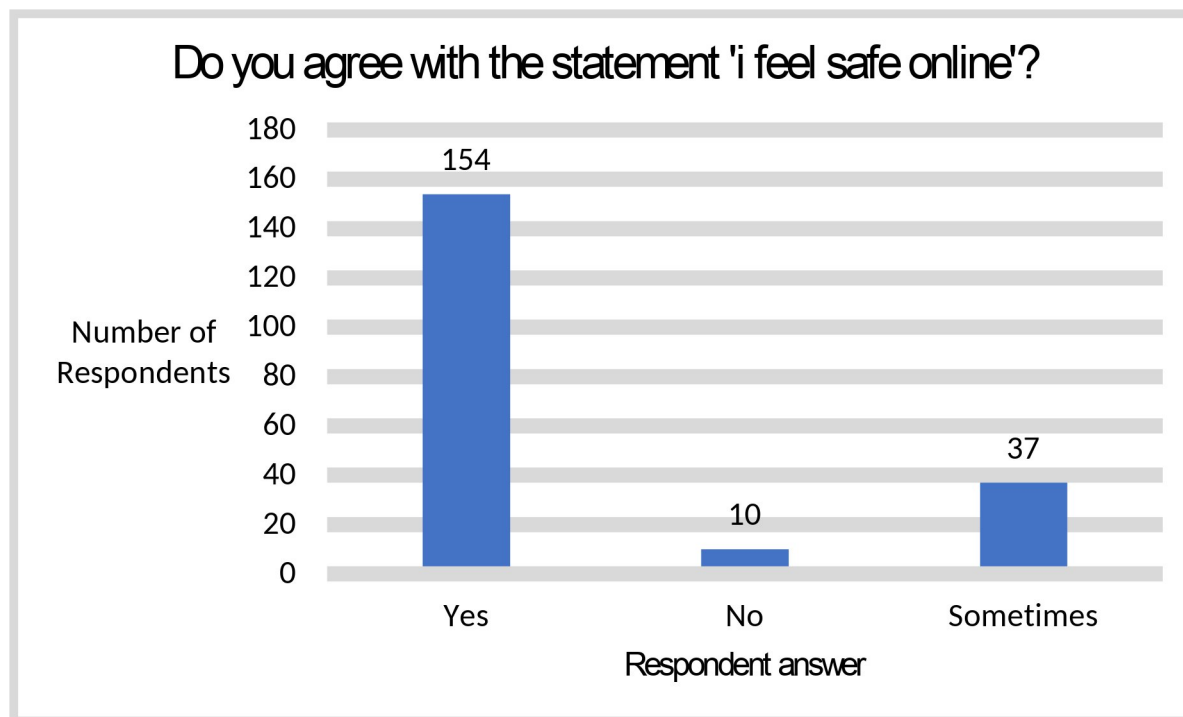


Figure 2: A bar chart showing whether respondents felt safe when they went to school/ college or work based on 199 responses.

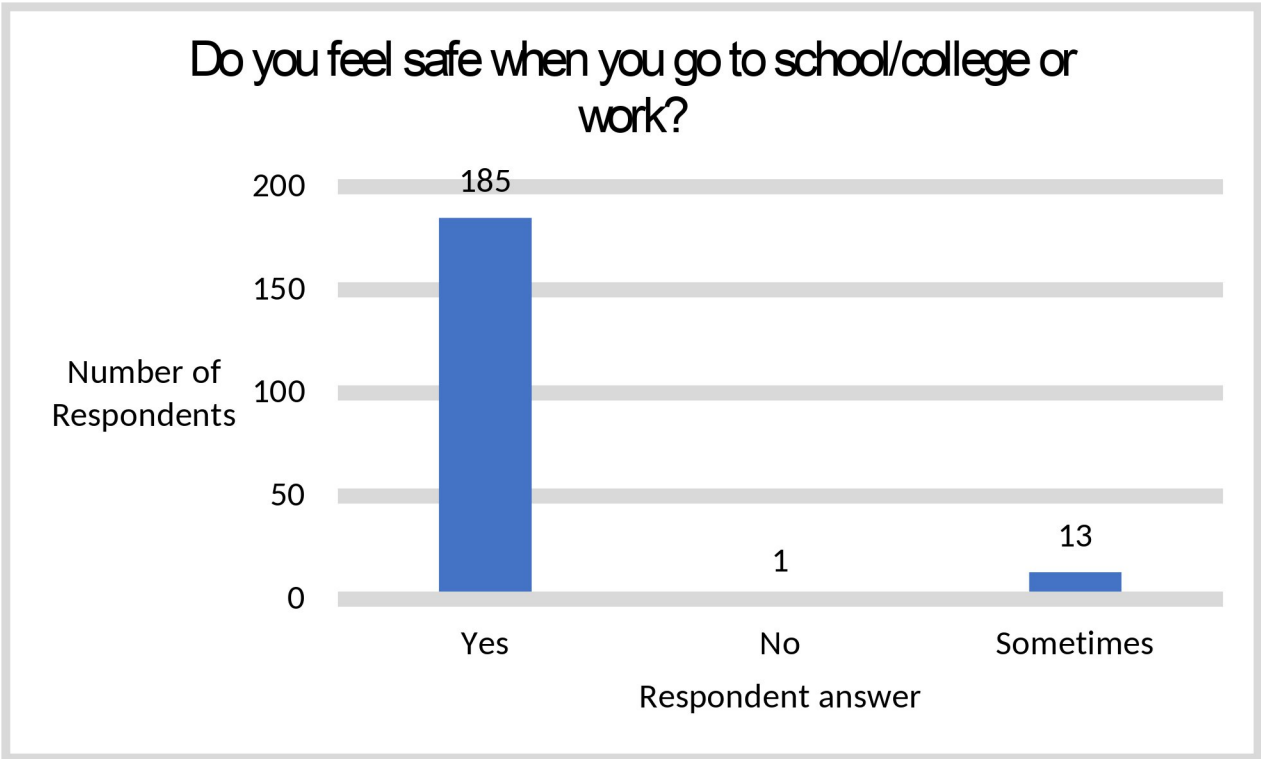


Figure 3: A bar chart showing whether respondent would report to the police if they were a victim of crime, based on 198 responses.

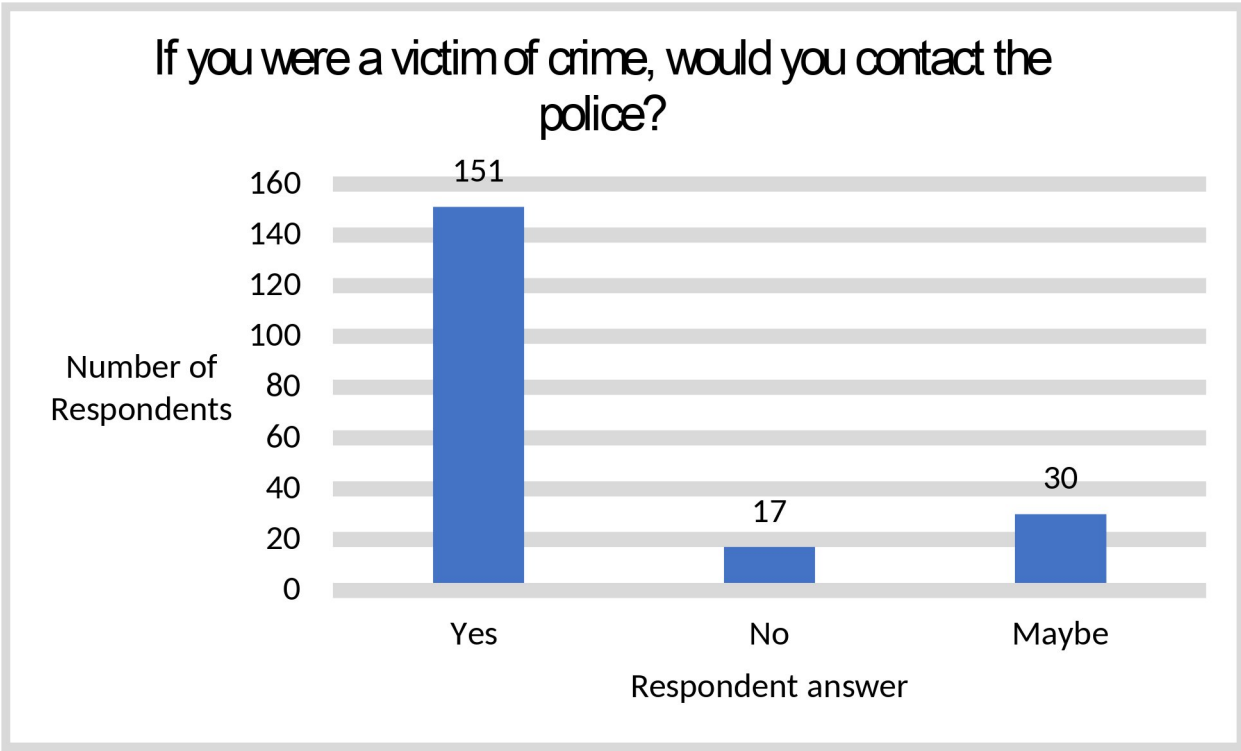


Figure 4: A bar chart showing whether respondents worried about serious violence, based on 196 responses.

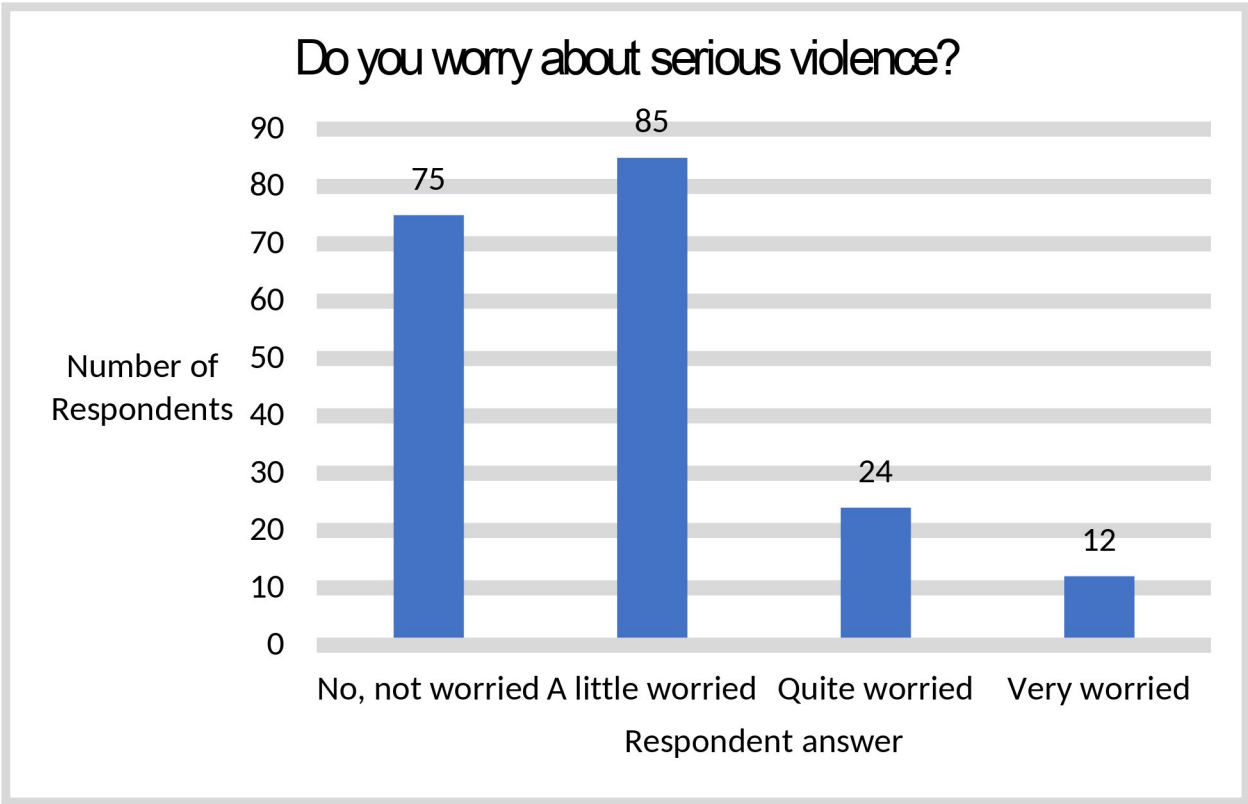
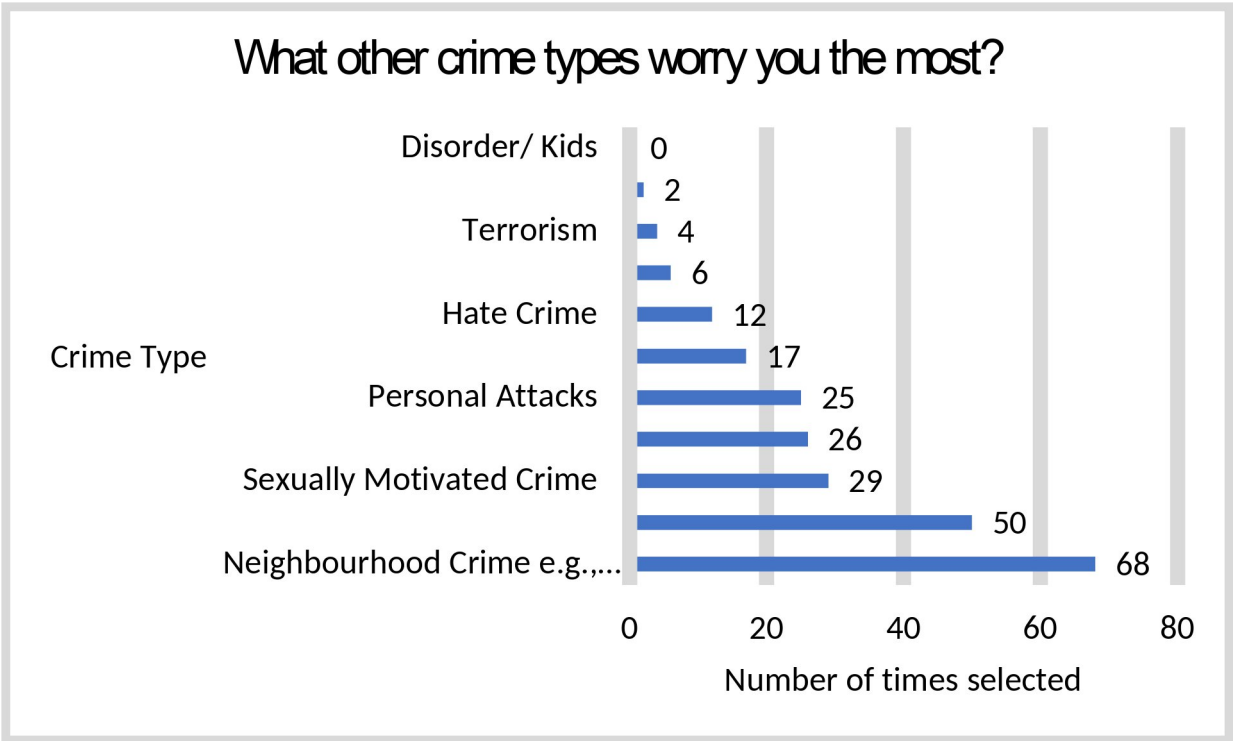


Figure 5: A bar chart showing other crime types that worried respondents the most, based on 117 responses.



When asked what other crime types worried them the most, the most common answer was neighbourhood crime, which included burglary, robbery and car crime. This was followed by violent crime and sexually motivated crime.

Children in-person consultation results

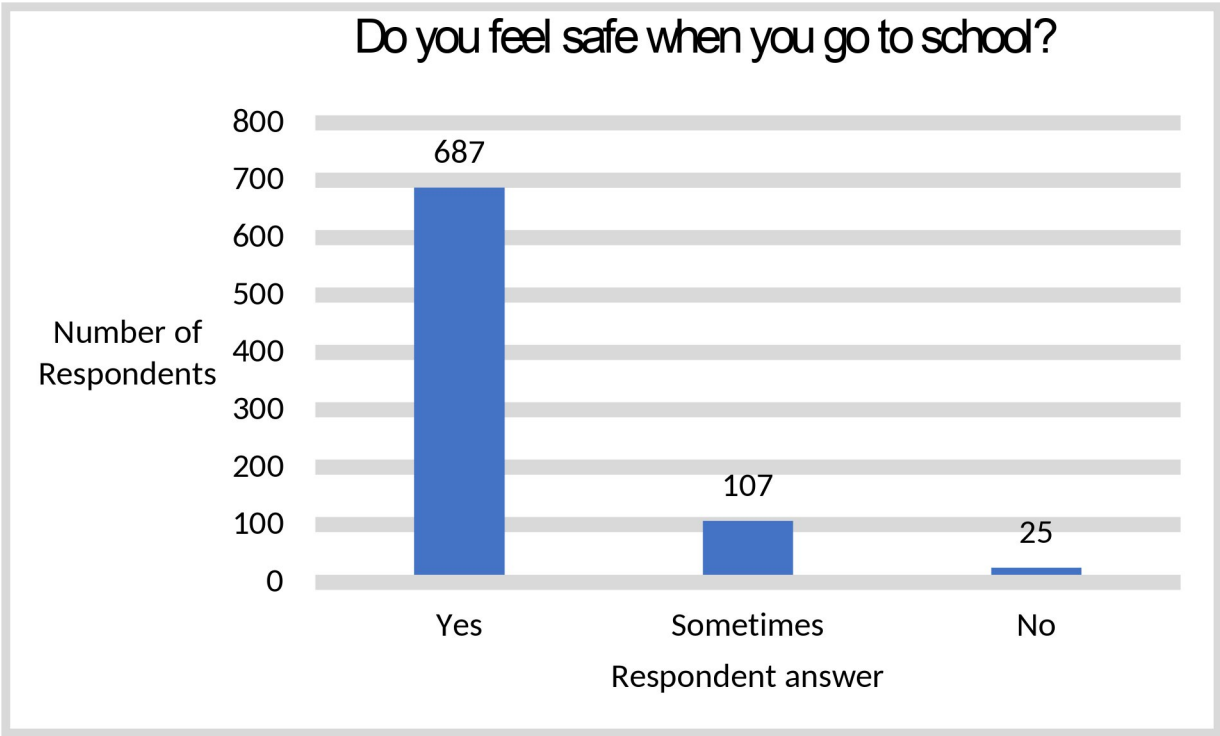
These results are based on conversations with 887 children in total, 824 of which lived in West Yorkshire.

Figure 1: A bar chart showing whether children felt safe/ protected in their local area/ where they lived, based on 814 responses.



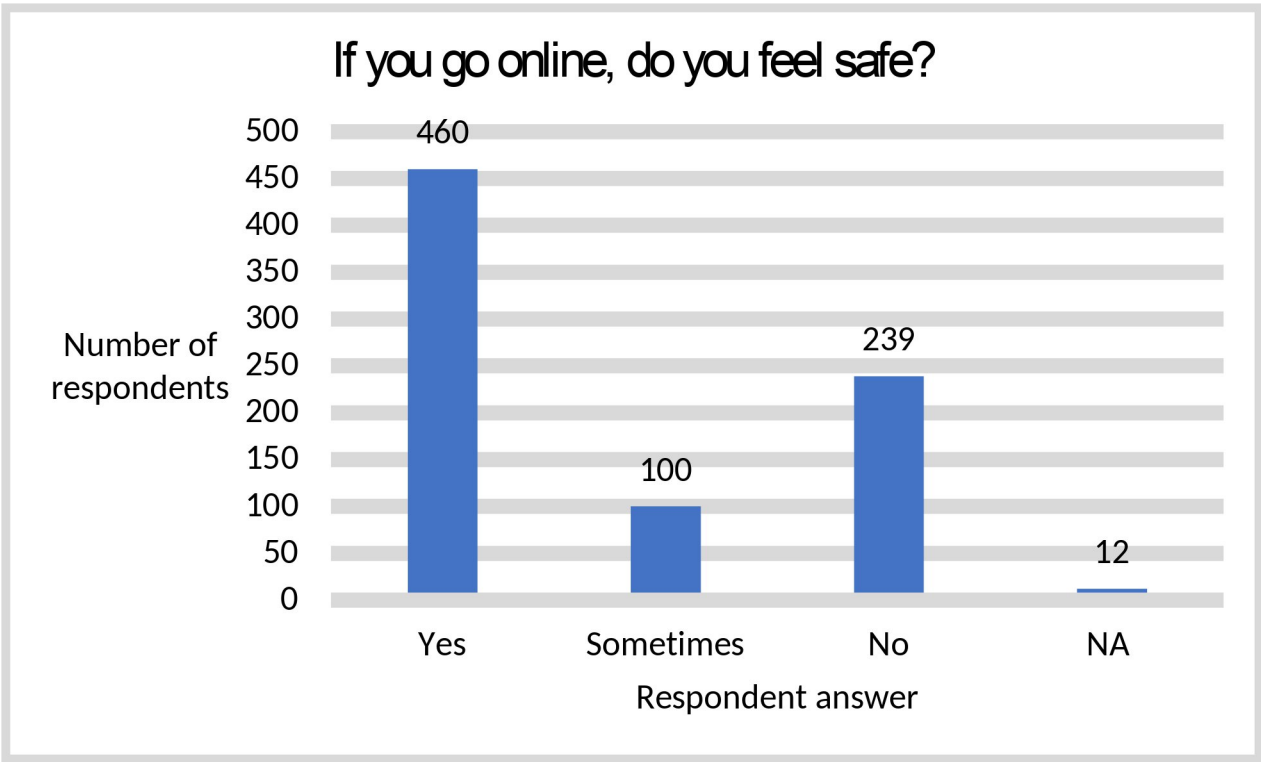
86% of children feel safe and protected in their local area/where they live.

Figure 2: A bar chart showing whether children felt safe when they went to school based on 819 responses.



84% of children feel safe when they go to school.

Figure 3: A bar chart showing whether children felt safe if they went online, based on 811 responses.



57% of children said they felt safe online and 2% stated they did not go online.

Figure 4: A bar chart showing the age of respondents who completed the children’s survey, based on 795 responses.

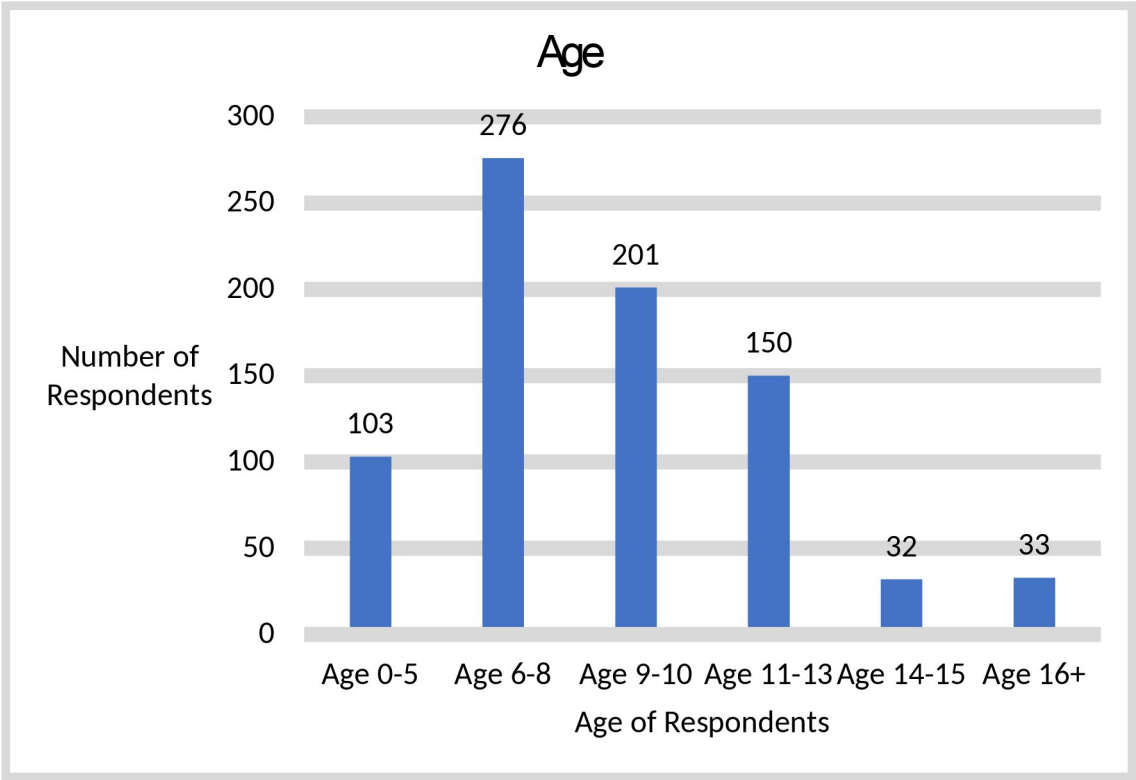
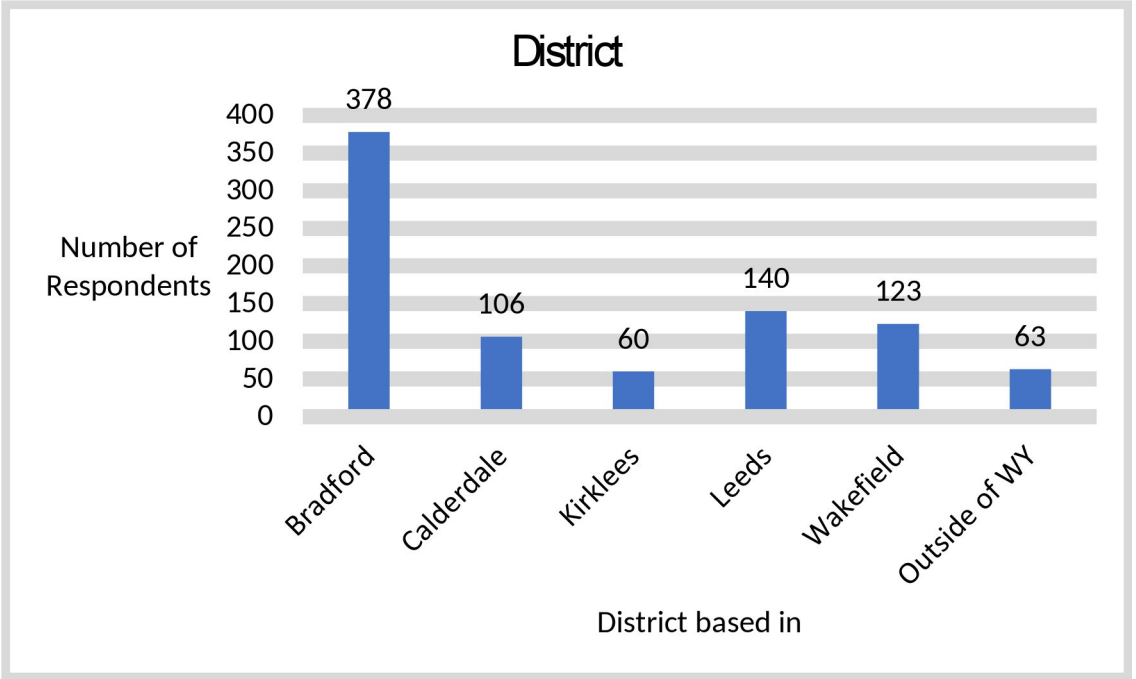


Figure 5: A bar chart showing the district that children lived in, based on 870 responses.



Free text responses from Children and Young People feelings of safety

What makes you feel safe: • When its light outside I feel safe, when my phones charged with data. • I feel safe, when I am with friends and family, I feel safe. • I carry I knife all the time; I need it where I live it makes me feel safe.	What makes you feel unsafe: • Adults drinking, swearing and arguing during day in the town centre. • People hanging around in gangs following you and shouting at you – they know where I live. • You can't escape social media. • When I'm not with my family or friends.
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Section 5: Partnership Consultation

Overview

Online partner survey

The online survey for partners was open between 16th July and 10th October 2024. It was actively promoted to partners by email, through calls and in meetings. It was also promoted on social media on its opening, ahead of the closure, and at milestones in between.

A total of 40 responses were received to the online survey.

Sessions for partners

In person and online sessions for organisations were delivered between 5th July and 25th October 2024. A range of sessions were delivered to enable organisations to join a session with other volunteers and professionals with a similar geographical or thematic interest, in order to maximise the usefulness of subsequent discussions. The sessions offered were as follows:

District sessions

In person sessions (some with an online option), organised in partnership with each of the five Community Safety Partnerships, for organisations based in or operating in a specific district: Calderdale, two sessions, Bradford, three sessions, Kirklees: two sessions, Leeds District: two sessions and Wakefield: four sessions.

Thematic sessions

In person and online sessions for organisations already working in partnership with the Policing and Crime team and/or Violence Reduction Partnership through existing Boards and Forums.

Tailored sessions

Additional sessions organised to reach a particular category of organisation not covered in detail by the types above.

Individual calls and meetings were also offered to organisations unable to attend the scheduled sessions above. This resulted in two additional sessions.

Full details of the sessions are included at Appendix 7.

Reach and Demographics

Reach

In total, the team received 165 points of engagement from 80 separate organisations. This includes survey responses, email submissions, and attendance at a partner session. Some organisations and individuals will have engaged more than once, e.g. completed the online survey and attended a session.

Organisations

Organisations who provided feedback on the draft Plan covered a wide range of organisation type, location and thematic area. Local Authorities were well represented, with individuals from a variety of departments from each of the five Districts taking part as well as Community Safety Partnership Leads and Councillors. Other statutory partners across areas such as health, fire and rescue, and Trading Standards also responded. The VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise) sector provided a wealth of input and were represented across infrastructure organisations, national charities delivering in West Yorkshire, and local and grassroots organisations. A small number of private sector organisations also responded, but this was limited. Finally, organisations working with key communities were well represented, including faith-based institutions, victim services and those supporting people with a learning disability.

Individuals

While the partner engagement was designed to gather the views of organisations, it is important to understand who we were able to reach through this process. Survey respondents were asked a series of demographic questions, which were optional. People who attended a session for partners were asked to complete the same demographic questions, which was also optional.

We received 40 online survey responses, which included answers to some or all of the demographic questions.

76 demographics questionnaires were received from people who attended a session. While these 76 do not cover all session attendees, it is a large enough number to provide an indication as to the reach of the engagement process. A summary of findings is below:

- Location: Between 16% and 19% of all respondents live in each of the five Districts, meaning that the larger Districts of Leeds and Bradford are slightly underrepresented. 8% of respondents do not live in West Yorkshire.
- Age: Almost a quarter of respondents were between 45 and 54 years old, with 70% being between 35 and 64 years old. 12% were 18 to 34, meaning that this age group is slightly underrepresented.
- Ethnicity: 84% of respondents identified as white, above the 77% for West Yorkshire as a whole¹. 6% stated they were Asian or Asian British; 3% as Black African, Black Caribbean or Black British; and 3% as Mixed/multiple ethnic groups.
- Sexual orientation: 78% of respondents identified as heterosexual, which is below the 89% for West Yorkshire as a whole². 3% identified as Bi, 3% as Gay, 3% as Lesbian and 3% use another term.
- Disability, health and neurodiversity: 18% of respondents disclosed that they have a disability or health condition and 13% stated that they consider themselves to be neurodivergent.

Feedback and findings

General and overarching feedback

Overall, the content and structure of the draft plan on a page received support from partners. Partners recognised the issues prioritised in the Plan, including the Spotlight on serious violence. Generally, the areas of focus under the three Priorities were welcomed, as were the five cross-cutting themes.

There were frequent discussions around the wording used, any definitions of key terms such as 'serious violence' and 'cybercrime'. While partners were not always in agreement, it was generally accepted that being clear in the Plan as to what is meant by key terms will help all partners to have a consistent approach to these issues.

Spotlight on serious violence

Across all partner sessions and other feedback, there was broad support for the Spotlight and a recognition that it is a priority for the people of West Yorkshire.

Of those who completed the online survey, 65% of respondents said that they work with those affected by serious violence, demonstrating that this is an issue affecting the beneficiaries and clients of our partners.

40% of respondents stated that they had seen a change in the number of those affected by serious violence over the past year.

However, a further 40% said that they did not know if there had been a change, suggesting that the scale of the issue isn't fully understood by partners.

Of those who had seen a change, every single response providing more detail talked about an increase; none said they had seen a decrease. Many shared the impact on the people they support, while others spoke about the increased demand placed on their services:

“Young people, especially trans young people have told us they feel a lot less safe travelling on public transport too so will avoid going out too often.”

“Our waiting list for counselling is the highest it has ever been, despite us making significant changes to stretch our resources in response to the growing need.”

Priorities

Feedback given by partners and the discussions around each priority area is summarised in this section. This feedback covers the information provided by partners via in person and online meetings as well as the online survey. It pulls out the most frequently raised points, as well as some more specific pieces of feedback that may have come up less frequently but that were important to the partner(s) who raised it and/or the people they work with.

Priority 1 – Keeping People Safe

When asked 'How important is this priority for your organisation?', 88% of survey respondents stated that it is 'very important', with a further 5% selecting 'fairly important' and a further 5% selecting 'important'. No organisation said that it is not important to them.

Survey respondents were asked to select key focus areas of their organisation under this Priority. They could select up to three. The number of times each was selected is included below:



As shown above, hate crime was the most selected area of focus, closely followed by domestic abuse. This selection was mirrored by the discussions that took place in partner sessions, with hate crime and associated issues such as community cohesion frequently discussed and flagged as a priority for partners.

“Keeping People Safe MUST start with where the FEAR/THREAT begins - this means preventative measures in encouraging people to get to know each other.”

While female genital mutilation was the least selected option in the online survey with just 5% of respondents selecting it, discussions with partners demonstrated a great concern for this issue. Organisations frequently made the points that it is under reported, affects some communities disproportionately, and that community-led work is needed to understand the scale of the problem and build trust with the police. Other gender related crimes were also highlighted:

“I'd like to understand the rationale behind not including other types of serious sexual violence and abuse on this list though e.g. rape, sexual assault. We would definitely consider sexual violence and abuse prevention as important areas of focus under this priority.”

A common theme during discussions around Keeping People Safe was that of prevention and early intervention, including education. Another was that of ASB, which is seen as having a significant effect on people's behaviours as a result of not feeling safe and was often linked to more high harm crimes:

“Families share how they are fearful for their children being out and playing and socialising in safe spaces. This is linked with anti-social behaviour amongst different age groups, and residents have expressed they want to see more police presence in their communities to be visible and offer reassurance.”

Finally, a significant number of discussions took place on the need to see more focus on human trafficking and modern slavery, especially in relation to more effective communication such as raising awareness that it is happening locally, information on how to spot the signs, and sharing the support that is available.

A brief summary of key points raised under each focus area is included below:

Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation: Child Criminal Exploitation could also be here as it often affects the same young people with the same vulnerabilities. Consider expanding exploitation to all ages. Cuckooing is a concern for older people with other vulnerabilities.

Cyber Crime: Partners want to see tackling suicide sites included, plus social media training around grooming, bullying, harassment and abuse. There isn't a shared understanding of what cybercrime is, so a definition would be helpful. The term feels outdated.

Domestic Abuse (DA): Need to be clear this includes the full range of types; financial abuse, coercive control etc. Sex work and sex workers aren't mentioned but have specific needs. Drugs are a big factor in DA. Need to see increase in prosecutions for DA.

Economic Crime and Fraud: Economic crime is a major concern. There isn't a shared understanding of what economic crime is so a definition would be helpful. Crimes against businesses are only viewed in an organisational context but affect individuals.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): FGM is hidden so there's a risk people won't prioritise it. Engagement with police is an issue for some communities – this is vital to prevention, reporting etc. Need more community focused work on awareness to improve identification.

Hate Crime: Hate crime is important, needs to be looked at in schools. Linked to wider community cohesion. Affects vulnerable populations and impacts trust in the police and other institutions.

Homicide: Major priority but felt this is covered by the Spotlight. Homicide is thought by the public to be American or isn't understood – general feeling that 'murder' is a more accessible word.

Honour Based Abuse: Should be 'so called' honour-based abuse. This is still very hidden, and the full extent is not realised. Improving community cohesion is important to tackling this.

Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery: Don't hear enough about work on human trafficking. Need a specific emphasis on county lines and cuckooing. Want to see more community focused work on awareness and education to improve identification.

Knife Crime: Knife crime is a priority. Unclear why knife crime is specifically listed out as opposed to other violent crimes. Early intervention is key.

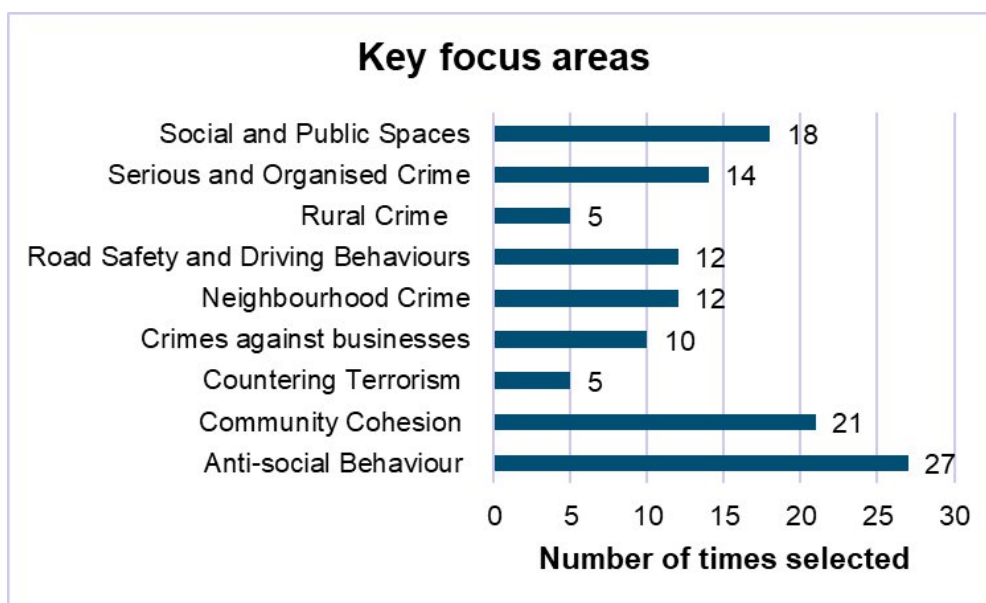
Rape and Sexual Abuse: Non-contact sexual offences (spiking, flashing etc.) aren't listed but are linked to serious sexual offences. Rape and sexual abuse are critical to many partners.

Stalking and Harassment: Must do more as it is key to preventing later offending. Harassment is seen as normal so is underreported - education is needed to change this. There's a need to keep people safe from online / social media abuse that is linked to stalking.

Priority 2 – Safer Places and Thriving Communities

When asked ‘How important is this priority for your organisation?’, 78% of survey respondents stated that it is ‘very important’, with a further 10% selecting ‘fairly important’ and a further 8% selecting ‘important’. No organisation said that it is not important to them.

Survey respondents were asked to select key focus areas of their organisation under this Priority. They could select up to three. The number of times each was selected is included below:



As shown above, anti-social behaviour (ASB) was the most selected area of focus, followed by community cohesion and social and public spaces (including the nighttime economy). Partner discussions around ASB were complex, with different views on the scale and cause of the problem and the best ways to tackle it. However, all organisations agreed that a partnership approach is key and responsibility for ASB cannot and does not just sit with the police. Partners discussed the impact on vulnerable communities, businesses and charities:

“We’re constantly dealing with antisocial behaviour [sic] —fireworks, graffiti, criminal damage, and nuisance parking. Running a non-profit under these conditions is becoming nearly impossible. It’s not just financially draining; it’s taking a serious toll on our mental health and safety.”

53% of survey respondents selected community cohesion, and this topic also sparked in depth discussions during partner sessions. There was a broad recognition that good community cohesion is an indicator of a thriving community, but significant debate took place as to the definition of community cohesion and how to measure it.

While rural crime was one of the least selected areas of focus for survey respondents, it was often raised during partner sessions. Organisations serving rural communities felt strongly that it needs to be a priority, and the visibility of police was often mentioned:

“...rural crime seems to be very under resourced. Bradford is a huge district with some wards being very rural but seeing minimal policing; even emergency response seemingly rare.”

Road safety and driving behaviours (including Vision Zero) featured significantly in discussions with partners. The resources dedicated to Vision Zero were welcomed, but it was generally felt that wider public awareness still needs to be increased. Issues such as antisocial use of e-bikes, bike theft, and a lack of support for victims and witnesses of road safety incidents were all raised.

Finally, a thread that ran through all sessions and that features in responses to the online survey is that of a visible police presence. Partners accepted the resourcing pressures the Police are under and the need to dedicate resources to complex investigations and other initiatives that don't have a visible street presence. However, it was still felt that more frequent interactions with Officers would have wide ranging benefits.

A summary of key points raised under each focus area is included below:

Anti-Social Behaviour: Strong support for more resources and joined up working. Need to empower communities to play a part in solutions. Tackling lower level ASB could help prevent escalation. Satisfaction in police and other agencies key to addressing ASB. Arson needs to be included.

Community Cohesion: Strong desire to see a more joined up approach. Must recognise that it means different things to different people. Social media impacts community cohesion. Community cohesion sits under everything - supports people, gives pride in local area.

Countering Terrorism: There are links between community cohesion and countering terrorism. Counter terrorism is very broad, want to see the more serious end reflected in SV spotlight and want a focus on early identification (Prevent, partnership working).

Crimes Against Businesses: These don't just affect the business – it affects individuals, often vulnerable employees. Most responses focused on city centre crime and ASB.

Neighbourhood Crime (inc. burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and theft from a person): Seen as 'low level crimes' but have a huge impact on victims. Significant links to community cohesion and ASB. Can drastically affect trust and confidence in policing.

Serious and Organised Crime: Significant links to exploitation in all forms. Recognition that police powers are absolutely vital here - every level from structured dismantling to NPTs with local intelligence. Partner working vital e.g. Trading Standards encounters modern slavery.

Social and Public Spaces (inc. Night-time Economy): Feeling safe in town centres needs addressing in a joined-up way covering ASB, begging, homelessness, drugs and alcohol etc. Strong call for uniformity across West Yorkshire regarding safe spaces, safety apps etc. Police visibility is key.

Road Safety and Driving Behaviours (inc. Vision Zero): Making places safer will encourage active travel and improve health and wellbeing.

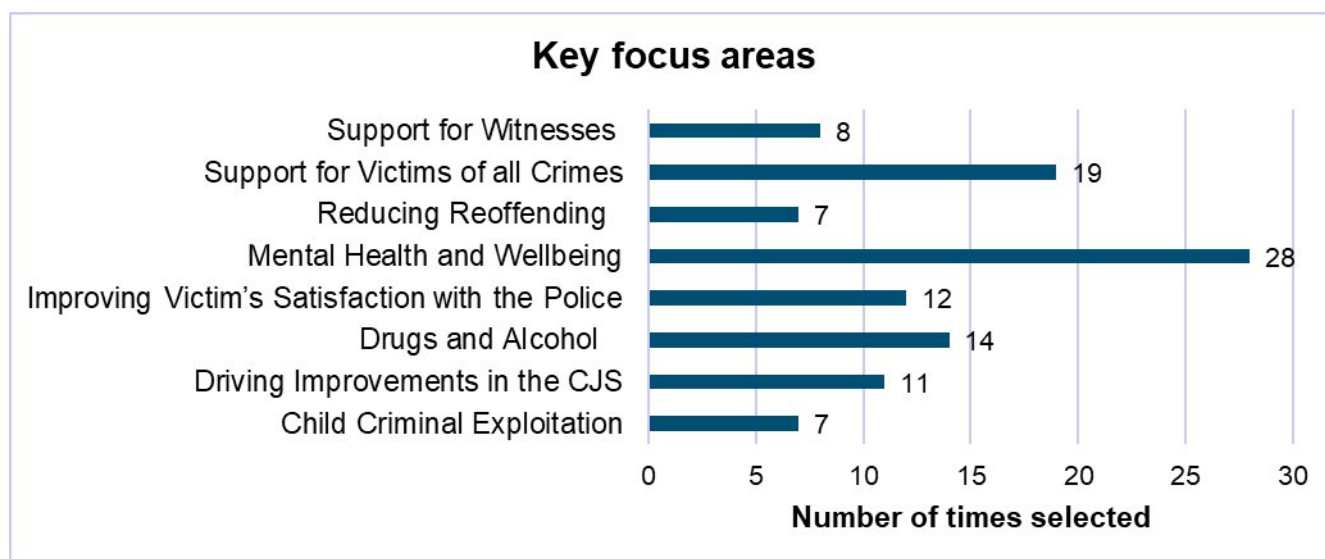
Much discussion over the language used; 'driving behaviours' focuses on individual not systems and 'road safety' is passive.

Rural Crime: This is a major issue with links to ASB and Serious Organised Crime. General feeling is that it is under resourced.

Priority 3 – Supporting Victims and Witnesses

When asked ‘How important is this priority for your organisation?’, 68% of survey respondents stated that it is ‘very important’, with a further 10% selecting ‘fairly important’ and a further 13% selecting ‘important’. No organisation said that it is not important to them.

Survey respondents were asked to select key focus areas of their organisation under this Priority. They could select up to three. The number of times each was selected is included below:



As shown above, mental health and wellbeing was by far the most selected area of focus, followed by support for victims of all crimes.

Support for victims and witnesses was often discussed together during partner sessions. Recurring themes included the need to proactively offer support rather than rely on it being requested, a recognition that services need to be flexible and tailored to the individual, and a need to centre the victim in the CJS:

“Support for victims is crucial in a fair and just Criminal Justice System. They have to have their voices heard and not be just an add-on to justice which is heavily focussed on offenders.”

“Driving improvements in the CJS is essential to improve levels of social and criminal justice for victims, and in the case of traumatic crimes of violence like rape and CSA/CSE, should be delivered alongside properly resourced, specialist support services, including advocacy and mental health and well-being work.”

Drugs and alcohol were selected by 35% of survey respondents as a key focus area and was frequently raised in discussions. Often the connectiveness between mental health and drugs and alcohol was a focus, with a strong recognition that perpetrators of crimes linked to drugs are often victims too:

“Many of our young people have been a victim of sexual abuse. Young people may have been exposed to parents/families using drugs and alcohol, many of our young people use alcohol and drugs as a way of coping with low mood and self-worth...A high number of our young people display poor mental health.”

Finally, when discussing improving victim's satisfaction with the police service, partners often linked this to increasing trust – which is required in order to report in the first place. The factors that impact on trust and confidence were often discussed with recurring points being a lack of visibility, low conviction rates and slow progress through the CJS:

“Reporting of crime is low...Reasons are many- lack of/no outcome, inconsistency of approach by PCs, time taken to report, lack of knowledge of process etc.”

A summary of key points raised under each focus area is included below:

Child Criminal Exploitation: Some partners felt this should be under Keeping People Safe. The ‘cliff edge’ at age 18 for victims and perpetrators was raised. There is a need for more joined up work with education. Partners wanted more emphasis on disruption tactics to prevent future offending.

Driving Improvements in the Criminal Justice System (CJS): Ultimately more funding is needed for courts. Introducing / expanding problem-solving courts could help. Recognised the direct link between improving the CSJ and reducing reoffending. Easier crime reporting could help.

Drugs and Alcohol: General acceptance this needs to include punitive as well as supportive elements. Economic development is key to reducing crime and drug use - support into employment. Mental health links in, as does DA. Drug courts great for problem solving and partner working.

Improving Victim Satisfaction with the Police Service: Include ‘confidence in the police’ too. People won’t disclose if they don’t feel they will get the support to stay safe. Trust in whole system and all agencies is needed. Community policing is vital. Staff turnover affects relationships.

Mental Health and Wellbeing: Causes substance misuse etc. are usually social issues like poor housing or debt so a whole system approach is needed (not just more mental health support). Strong support for reducing suicide - particularly in public places and/or linked to DA.

Missing People: Doesn’t impact on the work of many partners but was recognised as a wider issue.

Reducing Reoffending: Victim and perpetrator are often the same person for many crime types (drugs, DA, cuckooing etc.). Want to see support for perpetrators. Need more of a focus on early intervention for pre-criminal concerning behaviours. Trauma informed approach needs embedding.

Support for Victims of all Crimes: Not enough support for victim/witness in custody. Lack of support for victims of road crime. Want an explicit focus on trauma response / support. Need to be more proactive in offering support. Focus support on vulnerable victims. Provide restorative justice.

Support for Witnesses: Want to see specific support for families who have to support children as victims/witnesses. Need greater awareness of anonymous ways to report to protect witnesses who fear repercussions of reporting.

Cross cutting themes

The cross-cutting themes were generally well received by partners. Some organisations expressed that, following so many cuts to services like youth clubs, it simply wouldn’t be

possible to make meaningful progress on some or all of the cross-cutting themes. Additionally, there was a strong message that partners need to better understand who we see as key partners in the delivery of the Plan and the cross-cutting themes. While there was an acknowledgement that naming individual organisations in the Plan may not be the best way to address this, partners were clear that it would be beneficial to be able to find out who is delivering each area of the Plan.

Survey respondents were asked ‘Do you have any feedback on the inclusion of these themes?’ and 20 out of 40 provided a response. Of those, 50% indicated that all five themes were important. 20% emphasised the importance of the safety of women and girls and 20% emphasised the importance of the cross-cutting theme for men and boys.

Recurring themes from feedback on each of the cross-cutting themes is summarised below.

Safety of Women and Girls

- Partners want to see changing male behaviour explicitly mentioned under this theme.
- There needs to be some focus on women and girls carrying weapons, as well as men and boys, as this brings them towards harm. This applies to coerced behaviour as well as women and girls carrying weapons for self-defence.
- Some partners felt that there is a gap for u16s with little support available.
- Online radicalisation relating to extreme misogyny is an increasing issue. This needs to be tackled earlier but outside organisations are needed – teachers aren’t specialists, and this is a complex issue.

Children and young people

- Partners were generally positive about the inclusion of Child First where that term was understood.
- Some partners weren’t familiar with Child First and were confident that it wouldn’t be a recognised term for the general public. We should avoid labels and jargon and use accessible language.
- The voice of the child is important in developing policies and projects.
- A partnership approach to safeguarding needed.

Men and boys

- Partners gave strong support for inclusion of men and boys.
- Generally, it was felt that the choice of language for this theme does not feel right. Partners shared that it felt ‘cold’ and isn’t clear on what will actually be done.
- More information was requested around how this links to the ‘Safety of Women and Girls’ theme, and whether there will be joint work across the two themes.
- Male victims of child criminal exploitation should be a focus here, with concerns specifically voiced for boys and young men from deprived backgrounds being vulnerable to right wing radicalisation.

Reducing vulnerability

- It was emphasised that ‘Reducing Vulnerability’ puts the emphasis on individuals not systems, but the causes of vulnerability need to be a focus through system change.

-
- Partners felt that the phrasing of reducing vulnerabilities is negative and disempowering, and they would prefer to see asset-based language around building resilience.
 - Reducing the vulnerability of perpetrators as well as victims is vital to reduce reoffending and therefore reduce number of future victims
 - A partnership approach to early intervention for reducing vulnerabilities is key.
 - We need to acknowledge the external factors beyond our control, such as economic pressures.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)

- Partners wanted to see more on tackling inequalities across the Plan.
- Partners raised that the description in the draft only specifically mentions race so needs to be much wider to include multiple EDI factors, such as disability.
- Some discussions raised whether EDI could go beyond protected characteristics to other vulnerabilities, such as care experience.
- The draft description points towards the Race Action Plan, so partners asked whether other relevant EDI strategies could be included, where they exist.
- Partners supported the use of 'equity' instead of 'equality'.

Section 6: Response to the Serious Violence Spotlight

As detailed a range of questions on Serious Violence were replicated across of all surveys aimed at adults which included members of the public, partners, and Serious Violence Duty Holders. The results have been combined with work undertaken by the VRP knowledge hub. Their detailed results are shown in full – See Appendix 5.

Further comments regarding serious violence are included across the discussions on the priorities and themes throughout this report.

Notes: A full Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was undertaken prior to the 2024 Plan Consultation, A further EqIA has been completed for the Plan. You could find out more about the considerations on our website.

Sensitivity warning - if you have been impacted by any of the findings or feedback in this report you can find a range of help and support services on page 44 of the Police and Crime Plan 2024-28.

ENDS

Appendices

Appendix 1: Frequently used terms

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is conduct that has caused – or is likely to cause – harassment, alarm, or distress to any person.

Types of ASB:

Personal ASB - Personal antisocial behaviour is when a person targets a specific individual or group.

Nuisance ASB - Nuisance antisocial behaviour is when a person causes trouble, annoyance or suffering to a community.

Environmental ASB - Environmental antisocial behaviour is when a person's actions affect the wider environment, such as public spaces or buildings.

Neighbourhood Policing - West Yorkshire Police has 47 Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) which are Inspector led and made up of Sergeants, Constables and Police Community Support Officers. A total of 1722 Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers are performing this valuable role. The teams work closely with communities in defined geographical areas and in partnership to tackle the issues most important to local people.

Neighbourhood Crime - includes the following offence types: domestic burglary robbery, theft from the person and vehicle and cycle crime.

The **Serious Violence Duty** makes councils, and local services work together to share information and target interventions to prevent and reduce serious violence.

Child First Approach - This work aims to follow a trauma informed approach and to put children's voices at the centre, involving them in decisions whenever possible.

Trauma informed approach - Trauma-informed practice is an approach to health and care interventions which is grounded in the understanding that trauma exposure can impact an individual.

Adversity, Trauma and Resilience (ATR) - is a concept that describes how people can cope with difficult life experiences.

West Yorkshire's Immediate Justice approach - This includes completing unpaid work, repairing damage caused by their actions, and the option of restorative justice, where the victim can communicate with the person responsible for the crime.

Criminal Justice System - The collection of agencies including, but not limited to, the police, the courts, the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office which are involved in the detection and prevention of crime, the prosecution of people accused of committing crimes, the conviction and sentencing of those found responsible.

Appendix 2: Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

Every member of the public who completed a survey, met with us in person, online or those who spoke directly to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Thank you for engaging so openly about the issues that matter to you.

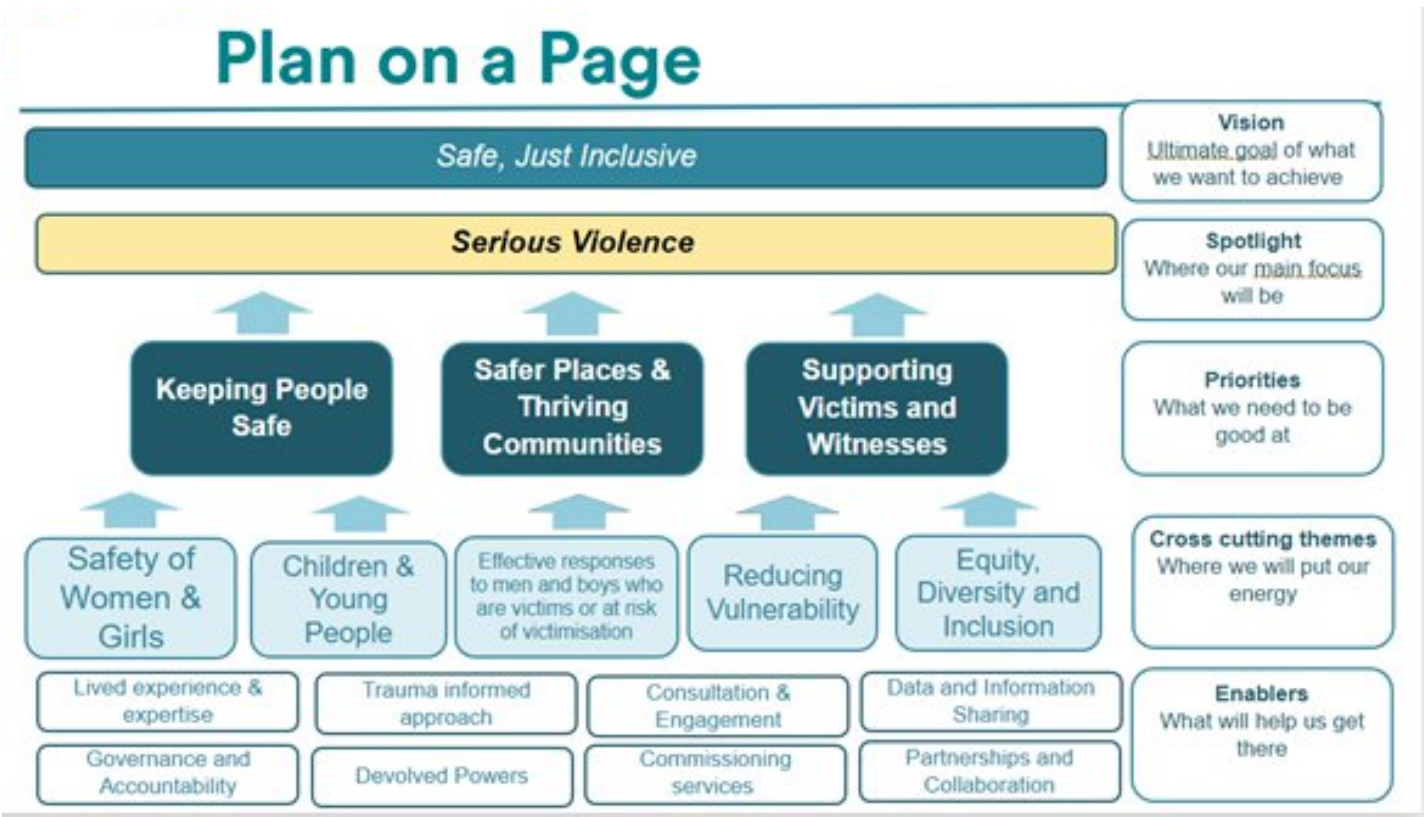
Colleagues across the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) and in particular the CSP managers who supported both our Partner and Community Engagement sessions ensuring we spoke to key people in each of the districts.

Specialist interest groups who have shared so openly about their crime concerns and priorities and to the people who supported their engagement with us again we thank you.

We would like to thank all our commissioned services that are supporting victims and survivors to cope and as far as possible recover from the crime they have experienced and achieve criminal justice outcomes across West Yorkshire. Especially to our vibrant Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector and their ability and expertise to work with all our communities.

Finally, to those who told us they were either victims and survivors or those who had been harmed by crime who have shared their lived experiences and helped us understand the true impact of crime.

Appendix 3: Plan on a Page



Appendix 4: Consultation pre-read document

Priorities

Priority 1 - Keeping People Safe

The Police, Mayor and partners will focus on keeping people safe from harmful behaviour, exploitation, and abuse. We will tackle the root causes of harmful behaviour to prevent such offences as Serious Violent Crime or other crimes against the person, including are perpetrated in the online space.

Areas of focus – Homicide, Knife Crime, Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, Domestic Abuse, Rape and Sexual Abuse, Stalking & Harassment, Female Genital mutilation, Honour Based Abuse, Economic Crime and Fraud, Cyber Crime and Hate Crime.

Priority 2 – Safer Places and Thriving Communities

The Police, Mayor, and partners will focus on the harmful and unacceptable behaviour that targets the different communities of West Yorkshire through an ongoing commitment to Neighbourhood Policing and partnership working in localities. It will tackle the place-based crime that damages people's everyday lives, including burglary and Neighbourhood Crime, anti-social behaviour, and dangerous driving and speeding.

Areas of focus – Serious Organised Crime, Neighbourhood Crime including burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and theft from a person, Crimes against business, Community Cohesion, Countering Terrorism, social and public spaces inc. Nighttime economy, Rural Crime, Road Safety and Driving Behaviour (Vision Zero) and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Priority 3 – Supporting Victims and witnesses

Supporting victims, survivors, witnesses, and those harmed by crime is at the heart of this Police and Crime Plan, helping people to get justice. We continue to ensure all partners and West Yorkshire Police take a victim-centred approach. This improves the engagement, trust, and confidence of victims and survivors throughout their journey. The single most important person in any criminal investigation is the person who has been harmed.

Areas of Focus - Support for Victims of all crimes, Support for witnesses, Reducing Reoffending, Driving Improvements in the Criminal Justice System, Mental Health & Wellbeing, Improving Victims Satisfaction with the Police Service, Drugs & Alcohol, Missing People and Child Criminal Exploitation.

Cross Cutting Themes

Safety of Women and Girls

The Mayor is continuing her work to keep women and girls safe including safety in the public and private sphere, living free from harm and building strong emotional resilience. This will include the continued funding of the first Women's Safety Unit working with the Police.

Effective Response to Men and Boys who are Victims

Our research shows that men and boys want those that are victims to be recognised and protection for those who are at risk of victimisation. This cross-cutting theme will ensure that we keep this focus.

Children and Young People

Keeping a Child First lens on every part of the plan was part of the Mayor's manifesto pledge, ensuring a focus on children and young people across all areas.

Reducing Vulnerability

Being vulnerable is defined as in need of special care, support, or protection because of age, disability, risk of abuse or neglect, to name a few examples. Vulnerability can take many forms, so the response requires different agencies to work closely together to protect people from harm. This cross-cutting theme will keep the attention on supporting each individual in a way which recognises their personal circumstances.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Celebrating the diversity of West Yorkshire and ensuring that the principles of equity and inclusion underpin all the work we do including working with the Police to embed the Race Action Plan in West Yorkshire.

[appendix-5-vrp-community-voice-violence.docx](#)
[appendix-5a-community-engagement-bradford.docx](#)
[appendix-5b-community-engagement-calderdale.docx](#)
[appendix-5c-community-engagement-kirklees.docx](#)
[appendix-5d-community-engagement-leeds.docx](#)
[appendix-5e-community-engagement-wakefield.docx](#)
[appendix-6-high-level-analysis-community-consultation.docx](#)
[appendix-7-high-level-analysis-partnership-consultation.docx](#)