

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

28 July 2026

SUBJECT: Abuse of Police Power – Exception Paper

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report provides an update on the progress in West Yorkshire in response to complaints involving the Abuse of Police Power
2. This cover paper highlights the ongoing work of West Yorkshire Police Professional Standards Department in their work to investigate Abuse of Power complaints, including ensuring the outcome in investigations support increased trust and confidence
3. Together, the West Yorkshire Police (WYP) report and this cover paper provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of the work to date across WYP and in respect of the Mayor/DMPC.

RECOMMENDATION

4. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise West Yorkshire Police delivery

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 24-28

5. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of 'The Voice of West Yorkshire'. The Voice of West Yorkshire represents the views of over 6,500 respondents and includes the views of children and young people. It is part of a series of documents which includes a summary needs assessment. You can review the documents here: [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
6. Trust and confidence in policing is vital to support Safer Communities, a lack of trust undermines the principle of policing by consent. It can impact on how people interact with the police including reporting crime and intelligence.
7. Both above activities have been boosted by the Summer Surge Initiative.
8. A detailed Equality Impact Assessment which looked at how the themes and priorities impacted communities was completed for the 2024-28 plan, you can read it here: [eqia-stage-1-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](#) and here: [eqia-stage-2-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](#)

KEY INFORMATION

9. Following the murder of Sarah Everard by a serving Metropolitan police officer, Forces nationally have seen a loss in confidence in policing, the review by Baroness Casey and calls for reform across policing.
10. The Mayor/DMPC have been at the forefront of this work in the Safety of Women and Girls space and their wider overview and scrutiny of West Yorkshire Police.
11. In order for the Mayor/Deputy Mayor to hold the Chief Constable to account for handling of complaints and conduct matters, the Chief Constable and/or members of the Chief Officer Team report on a quarterly basis to the Mayor / DMPC at Quarterly Governance Meetings.
12. For conduct matters the reports which are reviewed at the Quarterly Governance Meetings provide information on volumes, nature of conduct issues raised and information on handling and outcomes.
13. The reports also provide opportunity for early indication of cases which may fall within the parameters of potential pension forfeiture consideration.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

14. To further enhance the ongoing scrutiny of the handling of complaints and conduct matters, regular meetings are also held between the Policing and Crime Casework and Reviews team, Oversight Leads from the Independent Office for Police Conduct and Senior Leadership within West Yorkshire Police's Professional Standards Directorate.
15. The Policing and Crime Business Manager and Casework and Reviews Manager meet regularly with Senior Leadership within West Yorkshire Police's Professional Standards Directorate to forecast potential pension forfeiture cases and retain oversight of the pension forfeiture pipeline for ongoing cases.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

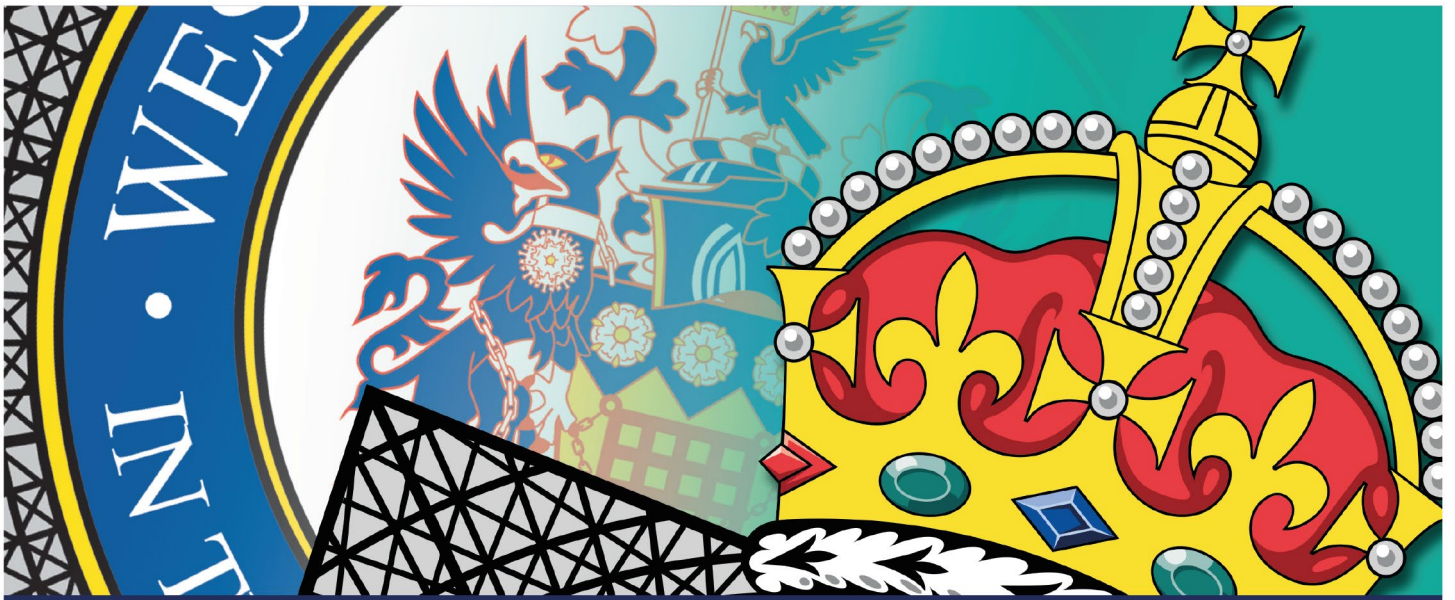
The Mayor and DMPC are working closely with the Chief Constable at both a national and local level to better understand the impact of Hate Crime, signpost support and increase awareness and reporting.

ATTACHMENT

Report of the Chief Constable – Abuse of power

POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT

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Abuse of Power

July 2026



WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE

Title: PSD report – Abuse of Power

COT Sponsor: ACC Close

Report Author: Kate Woodward

Date: 28th July 2026

Since the murder of Sarah Everard by a serving Metropolitan Police officer in March 2021, policing culture and standards have been subjected to unprecedented levels of public scrutiny. There has been a marked increase in the reporting of inappropriate behaviour by both police officers and staff, occurring both on and off duty. In response, disciplinary processes have become more robust, with a growing number of individuals being dismissed from service where misconduct is substantiated.

The Professional Standards Directorate (PSD) is increasingly progressing cases for pension forfeiture in line with existing legislative guidance. Recent cases include that of a former Detective Constable who was convicted and imprisoned for misconduct in public office, having pursued inappropriate relationships with multiple women while serving in a Safeguarding role. Although he retired prior to his misconduct hearing, he would have been dismissed in January 2026 had he remained in service. The Mayor's Office has approved a 35% reduction in his pension.

Further cases include a former Police Constable who was convicted of theft and fraud by false representation, having stolen a bank card from a deceased woman while serving with the Metropolitan Police Service. Despite later transferring to West Yorkshire Police, she was subsequently dismissed following a misconduct hearing.

An additional application for pension forfeiture is being progressed in relation to a former Detective Constable convicted of misconduct in a public office, having engaged in inappropriate relationships with women while working within Leeds Adult Safeguarding. He was dismissed following a misconduct hearing. Pension forfeiture is now being actively considered in all relevant cases, supported by regular meetings between PSD and

representatives from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) to identify suitable cases.

The PSD has experienced a significant increase in cases involving abuse of position for a sexual purpose, sexual misconduct, and discriminatory behaviour, including racist, homophobic, and misogynistic conduct.

The Reactive and Counter Corruption Units are currently managing approximately 200 ongoing investigations, covering both criminal and misconduct matters. At present, 27 members of staff are suspended from duty, with a further 59 placed on restricted duties.

Of those suspended, 20 individuals are subject to reports relating to sexual offences, including sexual assault, rape, inappropriate sexual communications, and grooming.

This group comprises 16 police officers and 4 members of police staff, with 14 cases currently progressing through the criminal justice system. In addition, 3 police officers remain suspended in connection with domestic abuse investigations.

Of the 59 personnel currently on restricted duties, 11 cases relate to sexual conduct or behaviour, occurring both on and off duty. A further 9 cases involve reports of domestic abuse, while 5 relate to inappropriate racial remarks or misconduct on social media platforms.

At present, 25 staff members are engaged in ongoing court proceedings. Of these, 13 cases relate to sexual offences, including rape, sexual assault, sexual activity with a child, misconduct in a public office, and inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.

There are currently 9 misconduct hearings scheduled, with hearing dates extending to October 2026. Of these, 2 cases relate to inappropriate comments directed towards female colleagues and historic sexual abuse. In addition, 40 gross misconduct cases have

been determined to have a case to answer and are awaiting hearing dates, of which 24 relate to either sexual misconduct or domestic abuse.

The volume of misconduct hearings has increased significantly over the past five years, rising from 17 hearings between April 2020 and March 2021 to 51 hearings between April 2025 and March 2026. A substantial proportion of these hearings relate to sexual misconduct, domestic abuse, and inappropriate workplace behaviour or comments.

Notable court outcomes within the last 12 months include Police Constable Jonathan Holmes, who was convicted of sexual assault and attempted rape, and subsequently dismissed following a misconduct hearing. Police Constable Ben Bottomley was also convicted of rape and would have been dismissed had he remained in service. Police Constable Charlie Valente was convicted of sexual assault whilst off duty and dismissed without notice.

Increased awareness among officers and staff, supported by the Professional Standards Directorate's continuous professional development programme, has contributed to the rise in reporting. This reflects a growing willingness across the organisation to challenge and report inappropriate behaviour. This shift is indicative of broader cultural change, with professional standards more clearly understood and consistently upheld.

The corresponding increase in conduct investigations, alongside a higher number of dismissals where misconduct is proven, has strengthened internal confidence. Officers and staff are increasingly assured that concerns will be taken seriously, investigated thoroughly, and result in appropriate and proportionate outcomes.

Furthermore, the transparent communication of outcomes from misconduct hearings and criminal proceedings demonstrates accountability and openness. By routinely publishing the results of such cases, the Force seeks to reinforce public trust and confidence, underlining its commitment to addressing misconduct and maintaining the highest standards of integrity.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

28 July 2026

SUBJECT: Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).
2. This cover paper highlights the importance of the report topic in respect of the Police and Crime plan and also includes the delivery of the Mayor and her office. Together the West Yorkshire Police (WYP) report and the cover paper provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of work underway to tackle VAWG related crime.

RECOMMENDATION

3. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of VAWG.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 24-28

4. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of 'The Voice of West Yorkshire'. The Voice of West Yorkshire represents the views of over 6,500 respondents and includes the views of children and young people. It is part of a series of documents which includes a summary needs assessment. You can review the documents here: [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
5. The Police and Crime Plan 24-28 has a spotlight on Serious Violence and in the Mayor's manifesto she stated she would make tackling serious violence a priority and deliver a Co-produced Serious Violence Strategy. The West Yorkshire definition of Serious Violence includes Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Exploitation. [The Voice of West Yorkshire](#) highlights the huge impact that Serious Violence has on feelings of safety.
6. The Mayor is continuing her work to keep women and girls safe including safety in the public and private space. By embedding the Safety of Women and Girls as a crosscutting theme, we can continue the work to combat violence against women and girls across all workstreams, as well as broader issues of safety, therefore identifying and driving change for the future as laid out in the Safety of Women and Girls Strategy.
7. There are also key police and community performance measures in relation to Supporting Victims and Vulnerable People in the Police and Crime Plan. These include, overall VAWG offences, Rape offences and Domestic Abuse offences.

8. A detailed Equality Impact Assessment which looked at how the themes and priorities impacted communities was completed for the 2024-28 plan, you can read it here:

[eqia-stage-1-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](#)

[eqia-stage-2-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](#)

KEY INFORMATION

9. Mayoral/DMPC and VRP recent activity includes:

The Mayor/DMPC continue to do all they can to raise the profile of support required around the safety of women and girls both locally and nationally ensuring:

- They attend partnership events to advocate for the Safety of Women and Girls
- Attend community-based meetings and initiatives to better understand the lived experiences and challenges faced by Women and Girls.
- Address WYP performance in respect of accountability, scrutiny and oversight both directly, and through the work of the wider team.

Delivery of the Mayor's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy

Safe Spaces – Safer Travel

The Mayor has been working with the wider Combined Authority transport teams and partners to develop best practice across staff to aid the personal safety of women and girls on the transport networks across West Yorkshire. For this reason, there have been significant developments for the Mayor's Bus Safety Tool.

The Safer Travel PCSOs continue to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, increase the safety of women and girls, and reassure and protect more vulnerable travel users. Data completed and filled in from the tool and survey is exported from the Combined Authority's Research and Intelligence team to the Violence Reduction analysts, who now share that data to deploy officers across the bus network.

The tool footer, as demonstrated below, will be displayed in relevant sizes, inserted into the timetable production, eventually covering all 13,000+ bus stops in West Yorks including bus stations. The team in the Combined Authority are building in-app notifications feature on the MCard Mobile app this year, so we can include messages to highlight the existence of the tool. The plan is for the new timetable footer (see below) to first appear in a few weeks on some Arriva services that are being updated. From then on, the footer will be rolled out at all stops whenever timetables are amended.

Supporting the Sector – The Mayor's VAWG Roundtable

In April, the Mayor and DMPC hosted a roundtable to discuss the importance of VAWG specialist work, and how organisations can support government to deliver on their pledge to halve VAWG. The Mayor and DMPC brought together experts, practitioners, stakeholders, and community representatives to address the

challenges, share experiences, and explore solutions. Attendees included West Yorkshire MPs, Rape Crisis Centres, the VAWG Sector, Local Authority representatives and local Councillors. The MPs included Anna Dixon MBE, Harpreet Uppal, Iqbal Mohamed, Kim Leadbeater MBE, Mark Swards and Naz Shah.

The roundtable brought together a range of perspectives, and the strength of participation reflected the shared commitment to meaningful change. We were especially encouraged by the level of cross-sector collaboration and the appetite for practical, and survivor-focused solutions.

The aims:

- Demonstrate specialist work in the VAWG sector in West Yorkshire.
- Discuss sustainability and long-term planning, risk and challenges across the sector.
- How can front-line delivery organisations support Government's pledge to halve VAWG and influence policy?

Throughout the discussion, a number of key actions and recommendations were raised. We believe these points provide a strong basis for measurable progress, and we are keen to ensure momentum continues. The team will be working with local MPs offices to support the implementation of the recommendations.

#Justdont Campaign

Campaign Video:

<https://youtu.be/EN6fHDQ6IZQ>

Behind the Scenes Video:

[The Making of the #JustDont Campaign \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN6fHDQ6IZQ)

Campaign Launch:

[#JustDont Campaign Launch Event in Leeds \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN6fHDQ6IZQ)

The value that behavioural change programmes and initiatives have is powerful. The Mayor wanted to make a difference working across West Yorkshire to ensure women and girls are no longer harassed and abused online, in person, at home or in their work environment. A video campaign was created to generate male behaviour change within the Safety of Women and Girls agenda through engaging with men and boys in West Yorkshire. This was to support delivery under the theme of behaviour change, and delivery of the [Mayor of West Yorkshire's Safety of Women and Girls Strategy](#).

- Delivery of a West Yorkshire wide safety of women and girls' media campaign, that puts West Yorkshire at the forefront of driving social change.

The campaign video has garnered over 8 million views across all social media platforms since its release in September 2023. This level of engagement shows how widely the message has resonated across communities in West Yorkshire and beyond. A legal intellectual property license agreement has been established between West Yorkshire Combined Authority and other offices nationally to allow for asset sharing, and for other regions to use the campaign effectively to promote behaviour change. This has been launched by Bournemouth, Christchurch and

Poole Council and soon will be launched by Humberside Violence Prevention Partnership. We have supported Bradford City Council Youth Ambassadors

Safe Spaces – Reclaim the Night

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor hosted their Reclaim the Night event in West Yorkshire. The event empowered women and girls to stand up for safer public spaces after dark. It was a free event for all residents of West Yorkshire to attend. Everyone was invited along to Greenhead Park in Huddersfield to hear from guest speakers and discover more about the many community services available at a range of stalls. The Reclaim the Night event took place on October 27, the day the clocks went back, and was organised to coincide with the clocks going back as women feel particularly vulnerable at this time of the year.

This event was attended by organisations supporting the Safety of Women and Girls, and demonstrations from self-defence classes, safety bus, youth dance classes, and activities across WY. Colleagues in the Police and Crime team engaged with over 140 individuals, including over 40 children, to provide their views on the Mayor's West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Plan, setting the strategic direction for police, community safety partners and commissioned services up to 2028. The event was attended by women, girls and allies, including, Al Garthwaite, Kim Leadbeater MP, Harpreet Uppal MP, Caitlin O'Ryan, with over 300 people participating in the walk.

The team have been working closely with partners to deliver the mayor's ambition of a West Yorkshire wide Reclaim the Night, on 26th October. As the nights get darker, women and allies across the region are being invited to come together to demand a safer, fairer West Yorkshire for all. The date marks the annual turning back of the clocks, a time that women and girls often report feeling vulnerable being in public spaces after dark. This show of collective action follows the success of last year's event in Huddersfield, which saw hundreds call for change and stand in solidarity against violence against women and girls.

Home Affairs Select Committee

We provided a response to the Government's VAWG Strategy consultation, specifically on VAWG Funding. Following this, the DMPC attended a Home Affairs Select Committee to raise issues that the VCSE sector have raised in West Yorkshire at the Mayor's VAWG Roundtable. The DMPC raised issues regarding the current funding landscape, including the challenges around short-term funding for victims' services, investing in prevention initiatives and refuge spaces and the improvement of consistent data collection.

West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership – Intervention Delivery

Using funding allocated to the Mayor by the Home Office for Violence Reduction Partnership agreed delivery, colleagues have been working with the Women's Safety Unit to allocate £150,000 designated for activity to help the response to VAWG related offences and to commission an education programme for children in secondary school.

A proportion of this funding has been provided to West Yorkshire Police to deliver a pilot focused on stalking and harassment cases in Wakefield and Leeds, based on the Operation Atlas programme (designed to embed specialist policing capabilities into the Metropolitan Police Services response to public protection). Ongoing is a commissioning exercise to identify a delivery partner to provide one to one diversionary sessions to those receiving an Outcome 22 from West Yorkshire Police for a violence against women and girls offence.

Following an expression of interest process, two providers – Tender Arts and Education and Step2 (with Brathay and James) have received grants to deliver education programme that utilise innovative and creative methods focused on, amongst other topics, challenging harmful gendered attitudes and male allyship within secondary schools.

These interventions will operate until the end of this financial year and will then be reviewed against any incoming budget for continued VRP delivery and outcomes to date.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

The Policing and Crime Team deliver work related to VAWG via several Partnership Boards, including:

- Women's Focus Group
- Local Criminal Justice Board (Victims and Witness Group)
- Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board
- West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership
- Children's Risk and Vulnerability Group

Supporting Male Victims and survivors of Domestic abuse – The Mayor/DMPC held a conference on 3 June 2026 in partnership with Gasped. The aim of the conference was to bring together key partners from across the Criminal Justice System to understand how they work with male victims and learn from the lived experiences shared. This is the start of a series of events to take this work forward.

Whole System approach – The Mayor/DMPC held an event on 30 June 2026 in partnership with Leeds Beckett University and Together Women The event brought together partners from across criminal justice, health, local authorities, housing, social care, the voluntary and community sector, and organisations with lived experience expertise. The aim was to begin developing a shared vision and blueprint for how services across West Yorkshire can work collaboratively to improve outcomes for women in contact with, or at risk of entering, the criminal justice system. This is the start in a series of events to take this work forward.

Women's Safety Unit - Women's Safety Unit A firstofitskind dedicated unit has been set up by the Mayor to tackle violence against women and girls in the region. The team is a pioneering partnership and comprised of members from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the Violence Reduction Partnership and West Yorkshire Police.

The Unit is driving changes in:

- Investigations and Risk Assessments
- Victim Support and Engagement

- Partnerships and Community

The Mayor has extended funding for the Women's Safety Unit (WSU) until 2026. The WSU continues to lead extensive work with West Yorkshire Police (WYP) and partners to transform the investigation of Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) across the force and improve outcomes for victims. The unit has successfully influenced pre-charge durations average at 273 days in force, now tracking comfortably below the national average of 330 days. This is a large reduction from being at over 400 days during 2024. They are continuing to influence in-force delivery of Operation Soteria training, including interactive, scenario-based events for RaSSO investigators. Additionally, they have supported training for patrol frontline teams to educate officers in the principles of procedural justice and how to provide a victim – centred first response to victims of sexual violence.

Violence Reduction Partnership - The Violence Reduction Partnership deliver work related to VAWG via several Partnership Boards, including:

- Serious Violence Strategic Executive
- Serious Violence Programme Delivery Group

Through VRP funding granted to local Community Safety Partnerships a number of interventions with a focus on relationship violence prevention have been commissioned:

Calderdale – Safety Project in School (with Halifax Panthers), delivered to children aged 9-11 in primary school, providing educational input on healthy relationships, online safety and positive masculinity.

Leeds – Bespoke Girls Project (delivered by Getaway Girls) supporting girls and young women who are at risk of offending, exploitation and being a victim of violence against women and girls. Providing group activities and 121 support.

Leeds – StreetSafe (delivered by The Youth Association), providing street based workshops on topics such as knife crime, drugs, positive masculinity and VAWG.

Wakefield – Men and Masculinities Domestic Abuse Behaviour Change Programme (delivered by Cranstoun), exploring what it means to display appropriate behaviour within relationships and highlights how conflict, aggression and anger can deeply impact the lives of others. Working with young men and adult males who have engaged in abusive, harmful and damaging behaviour within their relationships.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

The Safety of Women and girls is everyone's responsibility and is most effective in partnership. It is known that minorities groups and marginalised individuals can be at increased risk and vulnerable.

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ATTACHMENT

Chief Constables report – VAWG

Domestic

COM VAWG July 2026



WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE

Title:

VAWG Report

Title: VAWG

COT Sponsor: ACC Damien Miller

Report Author: T/Supt James Kitchen

Date: 28th July 2026

Investigations and Risk Assessments

A key priority for West Yorkshire Police is to ensure the highest standards of response, risk assessment and investigation of all VAWG incidents and offences. As well as bringing perpetrators to justice WYP is committed to recognising and reducing vulnerability, as outlined in the Police and Crime Plan as a cross-cutting theme.

“End to End Positive Outcomes”

The force is represented positively at the present time across many metrics as tracked by the publicly available Criminal Justice System delivery data dashboard for Adult Rape.

- Number of suspects the police refer to the CPS for early advice or for a charging decision is 32 higher than the previous year, 10% higher than the previous quarter, and is firmly on a continual increasing trend.
- Number of suspects the CPS authorised to be charged in Q4 72 a 22% increase from Q3.
- the force currently achieves a 9% charge rate for adult victim rape, on a continually increasing trend, and positively tracking at the national average and above some MSG forces.
- Pre-charge durations average at 296 days in force, consistently below the national average of 341 days. This is a dramatic reduction from being at over 400 days during 2024.

Whilst the above metrics appear favourable, the force has clear aspirations to build on this through the remainder of its Operation Soteria force transformation and beyond. The force is also cognisant of the findings of the super-complaint into rape investigation with significant focus on the timeliness of investigation by Police and Criminal Justice Partners. WYP will continue to work with the NVCPP through Operation Soteria to deliver on findings and recommendations.

Operation Soteria

Implementation of Op Soteria has continued throughout the reporting period. This phase of implementation has continued to concentrate on both the training of officers/staff, as well as the refreshing of the force transformational and NOM implementation plans to focus future strategic direction.

The force has been assessed as structurally compliant with the government aspiration of specialist rape teams in all forces by 2029. This places the force in a strong position to optimise its core RaSSO functions as opposed to re-design and make large scale organisational changes.

A core part of specialist rape team compliance is the continual roll out of the Specialist Sexual Assault Investigators Development Programme (SSAIDP). As such, the force has a comprehensive programme of courses throughout 2026, having recently added further courses to the autumn 2026 programme to coincide with the force's high aspirations. As well as district based RaSSO investigators attending, members of both the force's Homicide and Major Enquiry Team, and Professional Standards Directorate will attend the course too.

Since access was provided to investigators in-force of the National Operating Model support products during December 2025, the force has seen usage of said products continually increase. The number of repeat users is increasing quarter upon quarter, thereby validating the value added to investigations by the support products.

The force recently opened access to Soteria CPD module 3, the 3rd and final internal training module for investigators of RaSSO. This i-learn programme further embeds the core

principles and showcases the value added by the full range of support products. It is envisaged that the primary RaSSO investigation functions will have completed the full CPD series by the close of 2026.

The First Responders course, whilst embedded within new officer training, the Sexual Offence Liaison Officer (SOLO) training, and having been rolled out to all frontline officers during their formal training days in summer 2025, is now being trained to Customer Contact Centre staff. With 50% of the training programme completed so far, this brings the suspect focus, victim centred and context led approach to the very first contact a victim of RaSSO has with the force.

Domestic Abuse

In the 12 months to end May 2026, West Yorkshire Police recorded 67,084 domestic abuse incidents and 49,590 crimes – showing a decrease (-1.7% and -4.3% respectively) compared with the previous 12 months.

The Force continues to see high victim satisfaction rates for domestic abuse, with overall satisfaction sitting at 82% and 92.5% of victims being satisfied with the treatment they have received in the 12 months to end April 2026.

Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA)

The Force introduced the Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) in March 2026. DARA aims to better identify risk by considering the wider context and identifying patterns of behaviour. Face to face training was delivered across the force over several months.

Through the DARA, we have improved the Operation Encompass process with functionality to allow direct notifications to schools when a child is present or not present at a domestic incident. This will ensure a more timely and consistent approach across West Yorkshire. Work continues to monitor the quality of information captured in DARA.

DVPO app

The Force is seeing an increase in DVPOs being applied for and granted by the courts. Current data to the end May 2026 shows a 75.7% increase in DVPOs. To support the DVPO process an app has been developed to assist officers with completing the application form and subsequent paperwork that is issued to the court and perpetrators. Following a successful pilot in Leeds the app has now been rolled out to colleagues in Wakefield and Calderdale. Further roll out Force wide is anticipated soon.

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law)

West Yorkshire Police has volunteered to take part in nationally supported research into Clare's Law policy, processes and the compliance with statutory guidance. This is due to commence imminently for a period of 2 years.

DRIVE

DRIVE is a high harm domestic abuse perpetrator intervention programme which is being piloted in Bradford from April 2026. A DRIVE fellow (DI) is currently overseeing the implementation of this pilot with the Bridge Project who will be delivering the intervention. Task and finish groups were established with partners to develop referral pathways, set up the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel (DAPP), establish governance arrangements and draft information sharing arrangements. The first DAPP was held in April 2026. Monthly meetings to discuss suitable offenders for the programme will continue.

Smartwater

Forensic marking is a tactical option to protect victims, deter perpetrators, and support domestic abuse and wider safeguarding investigations. A standard operating procedure has been developed to ensure consistency of use across all districts. Current data shows that Smartwater has been issued to 580 victims in the last 12 months. Further training was delivered on the Safeguarding training days in April 2026.

Stalking and Harassment

Stalking Protection Orders

Force policy has been reviewed with the Stalking Coordination Unit, and we have streamlined the current Stalking Protection Order (SPO) process which will ensure more timely applications.

We have explored the use of innovative prohibitions such as polygraph testing and internet monitoring software within SPOs to manage subjects. We have not yet utilised any of these methods however they will be considered in all future applications.

As of May 2026, the Force is managing 34 active Stalking Protection Orders. 18 linked to domestic abuse related stalking and 16 for non-domestic related stalking.

West Yorkshire Police are supporting academic research with the University of York which will review the use of SPO's and the victim's perception of their own safety following a successful SPO application. The research involves interviews with police officers, victims/survivors and key stakeholders in the criminal justice system. It is anticipated to take place over the next 12 months with the published report on findings shortly after.

West Yorkshire Police have worked closely with WYCA to commission Safer Steps, the specialist stalking advocacy service which provides specialist support to victims of DA and non-DA stalking from February 2026.

So-called Honour Based Abuse (HBA), Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Honour based abuse

The Force continues to be the North-East regional lead for this area, meeting with other regional forces to share best practice. As regional lead, we attend the National Working Group and Silver Group meetings and chair tactical meetings on behalf of the region.

Partnership activity continues through the HBA Steering Group, which includes representation from the Police, CPS, local authorities, and Karma Nirvana. The Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Protection Order (DAMAPO) pilot in Bradford has proven successful in managing Forced Marriage Protection Orders and is now an established and embedded process within the district. We are now exploring how this could be expanded to other districts.

The HBA Steering Group has also commenced work on developing a standardised training package for delivery across all partner agencies, including health services, local authorities, and the police. The initial partnership meeting took place on 10 February 2026, with a further meeting held in April 2026 to review a draft version of the training materials.

WYP HBA leads attended the National HBA/FGM Conference in February 2026, where updates were provided on Karma Nirvana's Home Office funded development of an E-Learning package for police forces. This resource was previewed at the conference and is now in its final stages prior to rollout.

VAWG

VAWG work in HMP New Hall

WYP continues to work closely alongside HMP Newhall and Together Women Project to deliver quarterly 'VAWG events' for female prisoners, understanding that they are disproportionately more likely to be victims of VAWG themselves.

Prisoners select topics that they'd like to learn more about and colleagues from Women's Safety Unit and Safeguarding Governance then attend the prison and present and discuss on pertinent VAWG topics in an informal format. To date, we have presented on:

- Clare's Law
- Protective Orders
- Coercive control and stalking
- SARC, reporting serious sexual offences and support available including ISVAs

We have also upskilled Prison Offender Managers and discussed SARC pathways and serious sexual offences. The response continues to be positive and receptive, and prisoners are now repeatedly attending these sessions and engaging in discussion with Police.

The next event is taking place on 14th July, and we will repeat the above cycle of inputs given the ever-changing prison population.

West Yorkshire Rape Crisis Partnership

WYCA have commissioned a specialist ISVA service, namely West Yorkshire Rape Crisis Partnership (WYRCP) dedicated to supporting victims of rape and serious sexual assault (RaSSO). Every victim of a RaSSO crime within West Yorkshire will be offered the opportunity of referral to this service. Extensive work has taken place between the WYCA commissioning team, WYP and the support services to ensure the smooth transition from Victim Support's multi-crime support service over to the West Yorkshire Rape Crisis Partnership.

Victim Engagement programme

The Women's Safety Unit is continuing with a programme of activity to scope, gather and respond to the views and experiences of victims of domestic and sexual abuse from across diverse communities. Sessions have primarily heard the voices of victims from minoritised groups/communities, all to bring about equity of service delivery to all victims. So far, this has helped drive change to operational policing in terms of initial response, obtaining victim evidence and accessibility to prison establishments via victim support services.

Spiking

The Standard Operating Procedure for Spiking is being reviewed and refreshed alongside SMEs within and external to the organisation. Amongst other benefits, this will help maximise forensic testing opportunities with victims, this being a core objective of the National Centre for VAWG and Public Protection's (NCVPP) spiking focus. The refreshed procedures in force will also coincide with the NCVPP launch of an online supportive toolkit for officers, of which spiking is a key topic area.

Perpetrator focused: Winter Safer Streets initiative (including Project Vigilant development)

The focus of the delivery was the initial scoping, development and delivery of Project Vigilant within West Yorkshire. This work involved some initial training and then the deployment of police officers into evidence led hotspots across the county. The deployments were in Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield. The deployments also used police resources such as Live Facial Recognition to support the delivery.

This activity also utilised the national **'it does matter'** campaign within targeted hotspot areas within the same deployment periods. This was done via social media, digital radio and digital billboards within the hotspots, with an aim to engage the public and support reporting.

Deployments

The activity took place on Friday and Saturday evenings from January-March 2026 to address Violence Against Women and Girls within the nighttime economy. The operation was designed to provide high-visibility reassurance, deter predatory behaviour, and enable early intervention to prevent harm.

Activity

NTE saw additional uniformed and plain clothes operations targeting bars and events on multiple weekends. Venues, staff, and door staff were engaged around safe spaces and reporting, campaigns such as Stop the Spike and Ask for Angela for tested and door staff encouraged to engage a more proactive approach inside venues. This had a clear impact as

lawful ejections increased with door staff highlighting individuals to Police who were either arrested for Public Order offences or issued with tickets for breaching PSPO offences. Joint working between door staff and Police saw an increase in reporting of predatory behaviour towards females with CPN's issued and intelligence gathered. Joint lines of communication were established through radio networks with events. Nightsafe Leeds were utilised for lone females, phones re charged and lone females escorted to transport home.

Vehicles identified as circling the NTE were identified due to predatory behaviour and stop and searched, several drug arrests were made and vehicles excluded from the area using PSPO powers.

The engagement van was placed out in the NTE on several occasions with partners brought together working from one central point.

Hotels across the City were engaged and staff provided with advice and assistance around the initial building blocks and safe spaces, tests were also conducted at several hotels for their approach to VAWG and young females with a number failing, allowing rooms to be booked by males with vulnerable females. Follow up and training was given to these venues.

Riverside and Dockland

The canal and Riverside were a focus for lone runners and those exercising early evening. The visibility increased engagement and awareness with foot and mountain bike patrols, rough sleeping encampments were cleared which were causing crime and anti-social behaviour where lone females were exercising. The engagement van remained with the docklands offering advice and a point of contact.

Young Females

Joint work was undertaken every Friday and Saturday evening with Youth Outreach workers. Young females placed in vulnerable positions in gangs and individually were spoken to and removed home with follow of visits from Social and Outreach workers. Underage drinking was targeted with the youth workers and licensing.

Retail

Retail work was undertaken with the business improvement district. Retail workers were given advice on reporting and support mechanisms available, patrols were increased in cosmetic areas where females reported feeling vulnerable. Safe routes to car parks and transport hubs received additional uniformed patrols to increase safety with high visibility patrols increased during peak rush hour periods.

Over the period of the operation

Over **125 intelligence reports** were submitted, including:

- Sighting and conversations with high-risk CSE perpetrators
- Sightings and stop checks on Registered Sex Offenders
- Persons in vehicles looking offering vulnerable women and girls' lifts home, whilst they are looking for taxis
- Persons on bail for rape offences, found in similar circumstances for offences that they are on bail for.

43 arrests were made including:

- Arrest for a serious sexual offence, with the individual detained in connection with allegations of rape
- Arrest for failing to attend a drugs assessment, with the individual later charged by the DIT after being identified and located using facial-recognition technology.
- Arrest for theft from shop (three offences); the individual was also linked to a fail-to-stop incident involving an unlawfully fast electric motorcycle, which was seized.
- Arrest for stalking, with a stop search conducted at the time of arrest.

The '**it does matter**' campaign was focused through March and delivered the following.

- Meta: 4,273 clicks to the landing page.
- Spotify: 119,329 impressions, 26,363 reach.
- DAX digital radio: 277,794 impressions, 130,065 reach.
- Digital billboards: 65,170 plays in hotspot locations.

It is hard to equate some of the figures to behavioural change or engagement, however over March 2026 it is clear that 10's of thousands of people will have seen the campaign in the hotspot areas, with thousands going on to engage with the content either by clicking the link to the landing page or having to listen to the DAX digital radio.

Project Vigilant Development

Building on learning of the winter initiative, project vigilant will be piloted in full, in two districts. This is to ensure that it is embedded correctly with greatest impact, whilst being evaluated. Project Vigilant is a recommendation from the Angiolini Inquiry, it has been adopted by the NCVPP and the Home Office.

The intervention is to identify and prevent VAWG offending in public spaces. Utilising police and partners to identify perpetrators and provide immediate intervention. Once identified risk assessments made and further intervention put in place when required. This can range from words of advice, support to other services to the use of civil orders etc. This will be supported with targeted communication, articulating the community voice via digital means.

Timeline

- Three forces already benchmarked
- WYP SLT agreement pilot areas (Leeds and Kirklees)
- Training resources secured
- Tabletop mapping day 22nd June
- Start of delivery July

VAWG Educational Interventions

Home Office funding into the Violence Reduction Partnership for VAWG related initiatives has allowed for the WSU to identify gaps in provision and support the commissioning of several delivery partners.

From October 25 to March 26 Tender and Step 2 (in collaboration with the Brathay Trust and James UK) are engaged in their delivery plan across various educational establishments in

West Yorkshire. Tender delivered through creative workshops across 10 mainstream secondary schools in 4 of the 5 local authority areas, whilst Step 2 continue their delivery of a more conventional lesson style albeit within alternative provisions such as pupil referral units and Wetherby YOI.

GIPSIL were awarded the VAWG outcome 22 commissioning contract and commenced delivery in early 2026. Through referrals from police early action teams, they have already engaged with over 75 children and delivery has now been extended to December 2026.

Education Development: WSU - Pol-ed

The Women's Safety Unit working with Pol-Ed's (which is a police and education lead programme) will develop a programme of interventions designed to strengthen family support by providing clear, accessible safeguarding guidance, crime prevention and police outcome 22 opportunities. The initiative will introduce a suite of short, downloadable topic overviews that help parents and carers understand risks, spot early warning signs, and hold confident, supportive conversations with their children.

These overviews will use non-technical language and include indicators of concern, signposting to national and local support services, and simple conversation prompts. They will be initially hosted on the Parents/Carers section of the Pol-Ed website, alongside wider resources and programme information, enabling easy access for families, schools, and police officers.

Further development will take place of a mobile app to further improve accessibility, offering topic information, tools, and alerts.

Pol-Ed has already piloted two Police Parent Inputs—Anti-Social Behaviour and Online Safety—and will expand this into a broader programme on VAWG related issues, with a strong focus on VAWG related online harms information evenings, workshops, and targeted family sessions.

All inputs will align with the written overviews to maintain consistent messaging.

Overall, this development will enhance parent/carer offer by improving access to practical safeguarding guidance, empowering adults with clear information, supporting effective communication at home, and laying the foundations for a long-term, multi-platform engagement strategy.

Timeline

- Outcomes and priorities agreed in principle
- Delivery plan accepted by the Home Office
- Full delivery plan under development with Pol-Ed
- Content creation throughout 2026-27
- First delivery start of school year 2026
- App development throughout 2026.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

23 October 2025

SUBJECT: Hate Crime and Community Cohesion

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of Hate Crime and Community Cohesion.
2. This cover paper highlights the importance of the report topic in respect of the Police and Crime plan and also includes the delivery of the Mayor and her office. Together the West Yorkshire Police (WYP) report and the cover paper provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of work underway.

RECOMMENDATION

3. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Hate Crime and Community Cohesion.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 24-28

4. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of 'The Voice of West Yorkshire'. The Voice of West Yorkshire represents the views of over 6,500 respondents and includes the views of children and young people. It is part of a series of documents which includes a summary needs assessment. You can review the documents here: [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
5. There are also key police and community performance measures in relation to Hate Incidents in the Police and Crime Plan.
6. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion is a key cross cutting theme which runs throughout the Police and Crime Plan. West Yorkshire is a vibrant and diverse region. It is home to many different communities within the towns, cities, and villages of our districts. Together we all share the same ambition to live in thriving, safe neighbourhoods. At the centre of the police and crime plan is the celebration of this diversity and the vision of a strong, cohesive, and welcoming West Yorkshire which is fair, just, and inclusive.
7. Hate Crime is defined as any incident, which is perceived to be motivated by prejudice based on the victim's disability, race, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation. No one should have to live in the fear, anxiety and consequences of hate crime.

A detailed Equality Impact Assessment which looked at how the themes and priorities impacted communities was completed for the 2024-28 plan, you can read it here:

[eqia-stage-1-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](#)

[eqia-stage-2-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](#)

KEY INFORMATION

8. Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date includes:

- The Mayor commissions services to support victims which are available to all victims of hate crime, including those who do not report to the police. This includes the core referral and local support service and the restorative justice service. Further information is available on the “supporting victims” page on the website <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/support-for-victims>
- The Mayor supports the extension of the definition of hate crime to include misogyny and is pushing and working nationally for this to be changed. This is part of her wider work in supporting the [Safety of women and Girls](#).
- The Mayor and DMPC continue to work with groups across all hate crime strands, engaging with victims and signposting support.

Both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime continue to:

- Meet with the Chief Constable on a regular basis to discuss the current impact of the Israel - Gaza conflict and its impact in West Yorkshire especially in terms of both Hate Crime and Community Cohesion. In addition to this they use their respective roles to offer reassurance to communities. They have continued to speak about the work WYP are undertaking and took part in promoting Hate Crime awareness (as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week and shared messages internally and externally to increase reporting across West Yorkshire).
- Receive regular updates on current police operational activity and the Policing and Crime Team are part of the West Yorkshire wide Local Resilience forum.
- Attend WYP Scrutiny Panel sessions when invited.
- APCC meetings on Hate Crime and tension monitoring
- The Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund continues to support community based projects which raise awareness and tackle hate crime and projects which support community and social cohesion.

West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)

Locality aligned staff within the VRP work with local Community Safety Partnerships to understand communities and support engagement activity linked to delivery of the Response Strategy and Serious Violence Duty. Engagement specifically focused on faith and communities has also been undertaken.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

9. The Mayor and DMPC work with specific groups and organisations to better understand the impact of Hate Crime on individuals and communities. A huge amount of effort has gone into creating a network of hate crime reporting centres to make reporting easier. This has been possible through close partnership working with the VCSE sector and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).
10. The Mayor and DMPC work with the five district CSPs covering West Yorkshire in multiple other ways. CSPs understand their areas and what interventions may be successful in tackling Hate Crime and improving community cohesion. Local Authorities lead on a range of community cohesion initiatives and the Mayor and DMPC remain informed of these via staff attendance at CSPs.
11. At a district level, CSP lead officers and councillors have reassured the DMPC that they are engaged and kept informed by WYP at a district level in terms of community tensions and Hate Crime incidents. This is achieved via our CSP Forum.
12. The Mayor and DMPC have attended several faith meetings to respond to concerns and issues which include Hate Crime and Community Cohesion.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

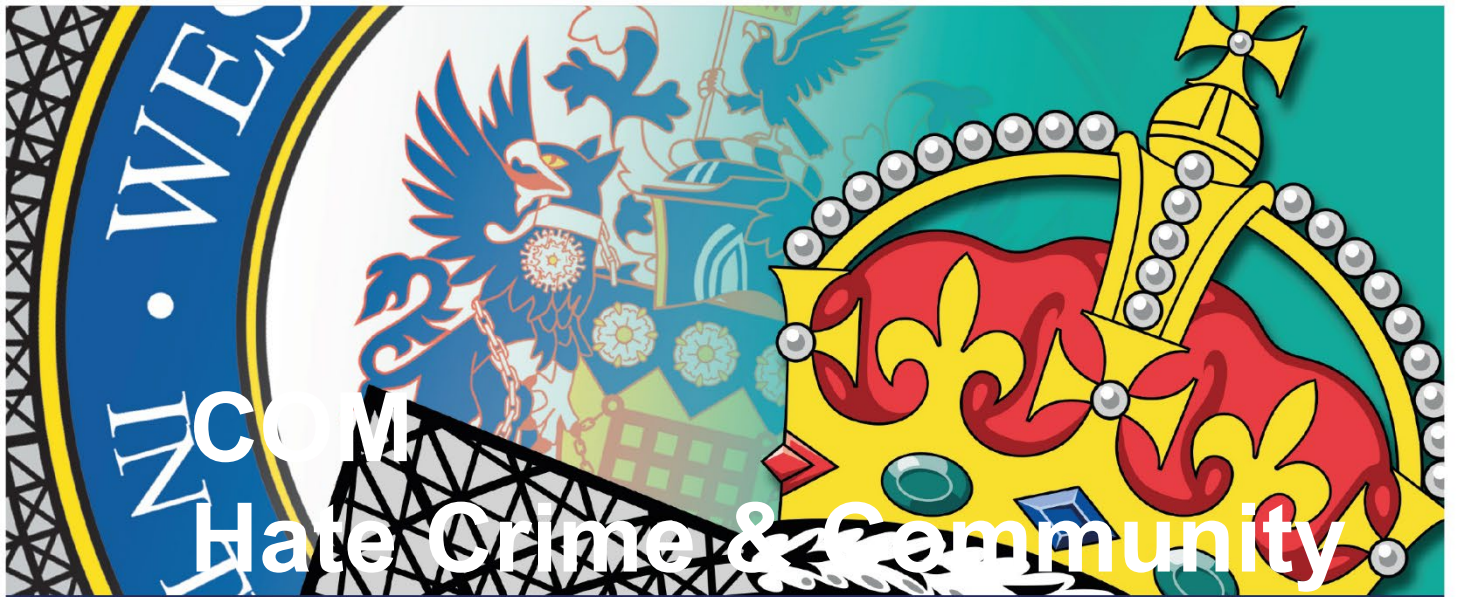
The Mayor and DMPC are working closely with the Chief Constable at both a national and local level to better understand the impact of Hate Crime, signpost support and increase awareness and reporting.

ATTACHMENT

Report of the Chief Constable – Hate Crime and Community Cohesion

POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT

Sharon Waugh – sharon.waugh@westyorks-ca.gov.uk



Hate Crime & Community

Cohesion

July 2026



WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE

Title: Hate Crime and Community Cohesion

COT Sponsor: ACC Damien Miller

Report Author: T/Chief Inspector Michelle Swift

Date: 28th July 2026

Summary

This report provides an update on all the hate crime/hate incident data and trends over the last 2 years.

This includes:

- Race Hate
- Faith Hate
- Disability Hate
- Sexual Orientation Hate
- Transphobic Hate

It contains information on victim satisfaction, victim-centred solutions, hate crime recording and online hate crime.

Highlights current risks, community tensions and the impact of local and national incidents including Jewish and Muslim hate crime.

It then provides an overview of the ongoing work across districts to encourage hate crime reporting, community cohesion, engagement and support.

Hate Crime and Incident Data

From May 2025 to April 2026, 8,894 hate incidents were reported to West Yorkshire Police which is a decrease on the previous 12 months, May 2024 to April 2025 when 9,556 hate incidents were recorded. This is 662 less reports that equates to a -6.9% decrease.

In the last twelve months 350 (3.9%) were non crime related and 8,544 were crime related

compared to the previous 12 months when 328 (3.4%) were non crime related and 9,228 were crime related.

Hate incidents can be categorised across the strands of race, faith, disability, sexual orientation and transphobia.

The number of hate incidents recorded in the 12 months to April 2026 have decreased by - 6.9% from the previous 12 months.

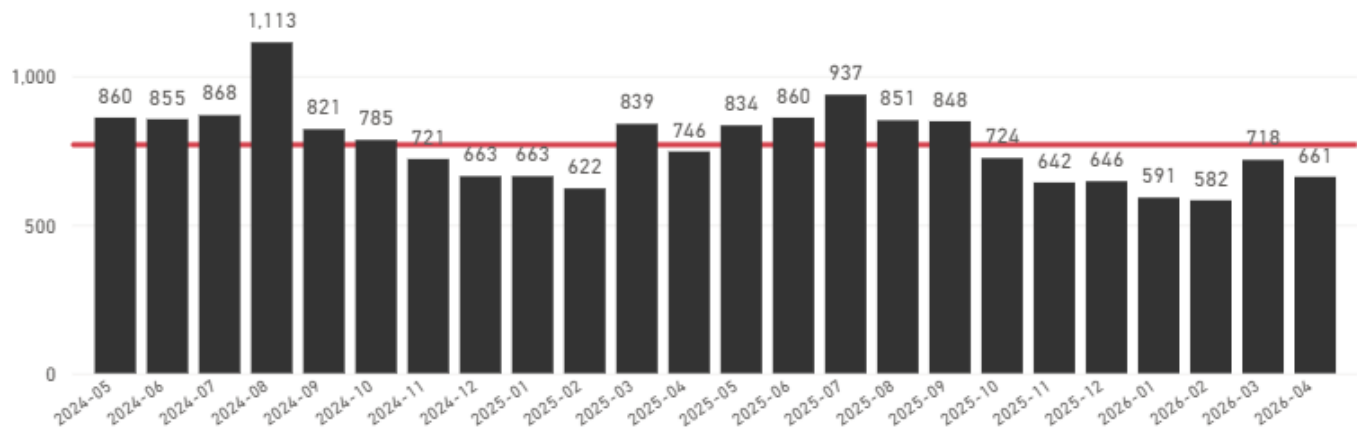
Hate Incidents (Crimes and Non-Crimes)

Comparison	Selected	Change	% Change
9,556	8,894	-662	-6.9 %

Strand	Comparison	Selected	Change	% Change
⊕ Disability	960	661	-299	-31.1 %
⊕ Faith	903	847	-56	-6.2 %
⊕ Race	6,410	6,009	-401	-6.3 %
⊕ Sexual Orientation	1,310	1,246	-64	-4.9 %
⊕ Transphobic	256	217	-39	-15.2 %

Strand	Comparison	Selected	Change	% Change
⊖ Faith	903	847	-56	-6.2 %
Anti Buddhist	3	2	-1	-33.3 %
Anti Christian	44	33	-11	-25.0 %
Anti Hindu	32	36	4	12.5 %
Anti Jewish	158	168	10	6.3 %
Anti Muslim	545	538	-7	-1.3 %
Anti Other	29	20	-9	-31.0 %
Anti Sikh	26	18	-8	-30.8 %
Sub-Strand Not...	84	61	-23	-27.4 %

Monthly Hate Incident Count - Last 24 Months



Rolling 12 Month Hate Incident Count - Last 24 Months

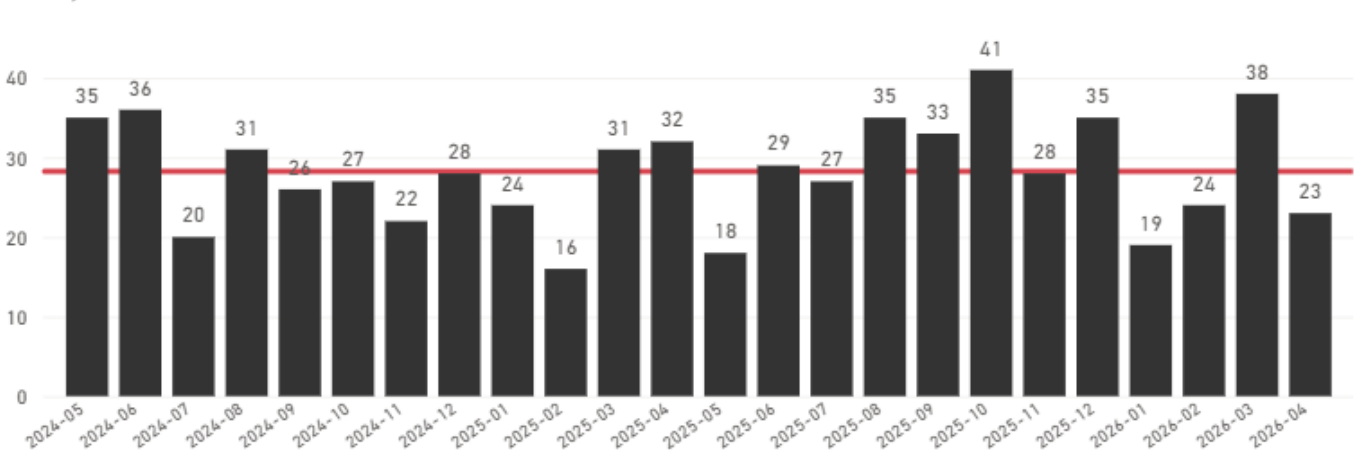


Hate Incidents (Non-Crimes)

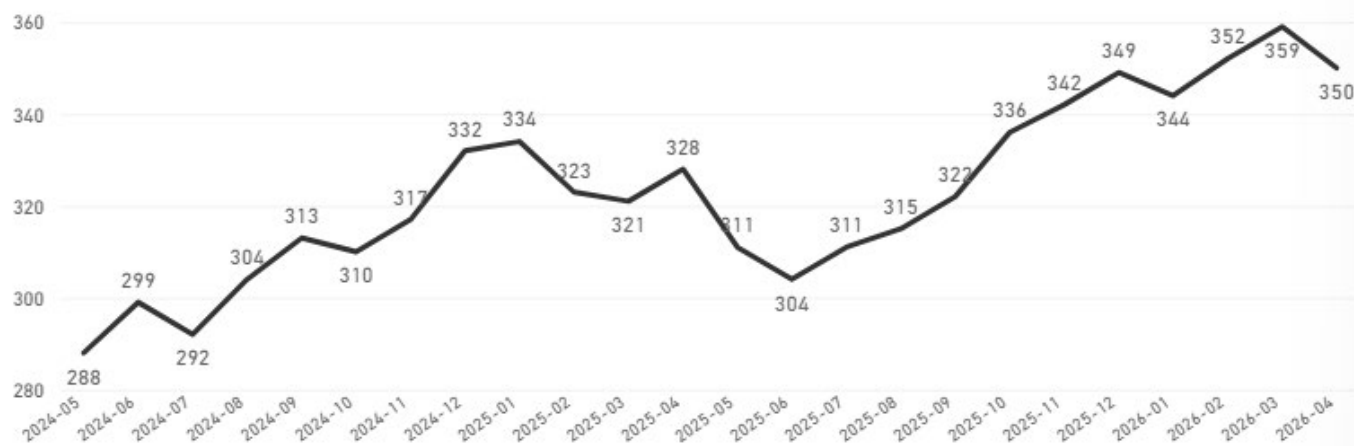
Comparison	Selected	Change	% Change
328	350	22	6.7 %

Strand	Comparison	Selected	Change	% Change
⊕ Disability	60	45	-15	-25.0 %
⊕ Faith	51	70	19	37.3 %
⊕ Race	144	165	21	14.6 %
⊕ Sexual Orientation	61	57	-4	-6.6 %
⊕ Transphobic	12	1	-11	-91.7 %

Monthly Hate Incident Count - Last 24 Months



Rolling 12 Month Hate Incident Count - Last 24 Months

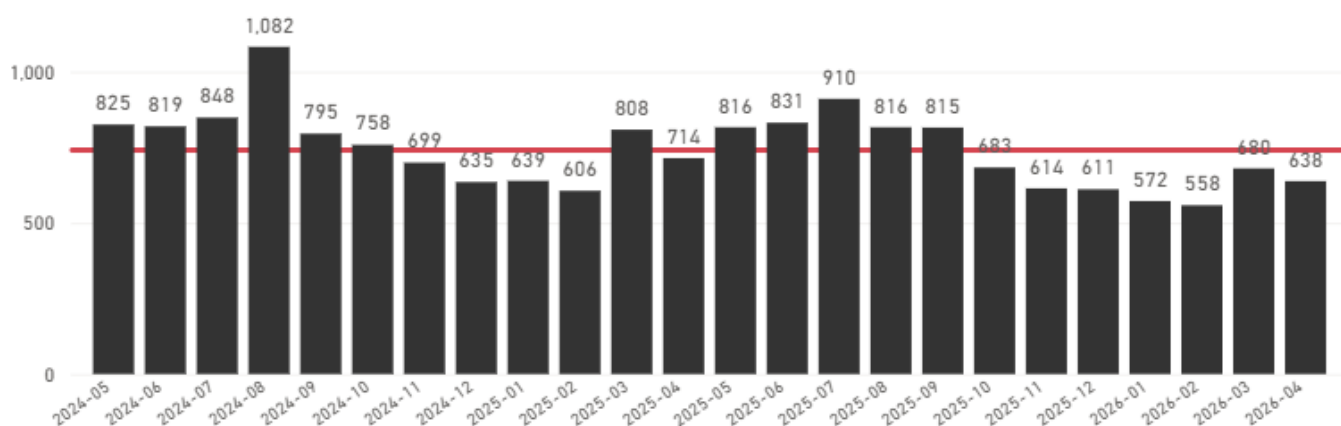


Hate Crimes

Comparison	Selected	Change	% Change
9,228	8,544	-684	-7.4 %

Strand	Comparison	Selected	Change	% Change
⊕ Disability	900	616	-284	-31.6 %
⊕ Faith	852	777	-75	-8.8 %
⊕ Race	6,266	5,844	-422	-6.7 %
⊕ Sexual Orientation	1,249	1,189	-60	-4.8 %
⊕ Transphobic	244	216	-28	-11.5 %

Monthly Hate Incident Count - Last 24 Months



Rolling 12 Month Hate Incident Count - Last 24 Months



Race Hate Incidents

The vast majority of hate incidents are recorded as race hate incidents; they account for just over two thirds (67.6%) of all hate incidents recorded in West Yorkshire over the last twelve months. This is a similar position to the National picture. The volume of race hate incidents has decreased over the two years to April 2026. Over a two-year period, reporting decreased from 6,410 incidents to 6,009. This is an decrease of -6.3%.

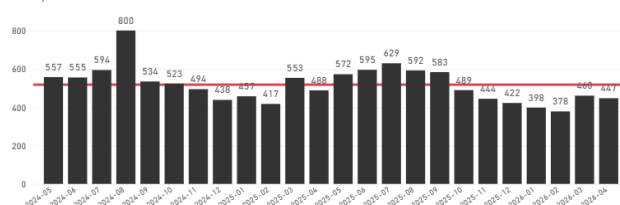
The main category of incidents recorded are public order offences followed by stalking and harassment.

The repeat victim rate has decreased over a 12-month period and currently stands at 20.3%, decreasing from 22.2%. The repeat suspect rate is 15.5% which has increased from 14.7% the previous year.

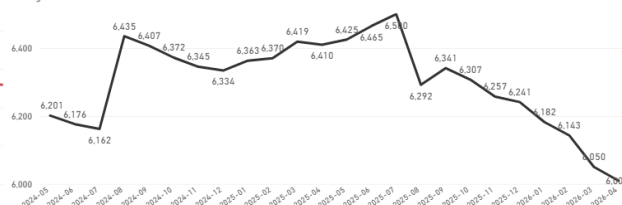
Positive Outcome (1 to 4, 6 to 8) rates have increased significantly from 12.1% in the 12 months to April 2025 to 14.0%, which is an increase of +1.9%. Suspect identity was unknown in 35.3% in the last twelve months and just nearly half (45.7%) were finalised as having evidential difficulties.

Race Hate Incidents (Crimes and Non-Crimes)

Monthly Hate Incident Count - Last 24 Months



Rolling 12 Month Hate Incident Count - Last 24 Months



Faith Hate

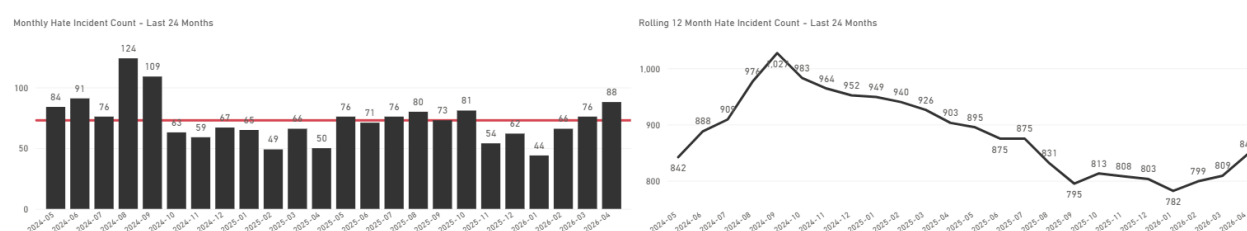
Faith related incidents have decreased in volume from the previous year and stand at 847 for the 12 months to April 2026, a decrease of -56 (-6.2%). There has been a -1.3% (-7 to 538) decrease in incidents recorded against the Islamic/Muslim, incidents relating to the Jewish faith has seen a +6.3% (+10 to 168) increase from the previous rate 12 months ago.

The main category of incident recorded are public order offences followed by stalking and harassment.

The repeat victim rate has decreased over a 12-month period and currently stands at 23.5%, decreasing from 25.1% the previous year. The repeat suspects rate is 13.9% which has decreased from 15.3% the previous year.

Positive Outcome (1 to 4, 6 to 8) rates have significantly increased from 13.2% the previous year to 19.8% which is an increase of +6.6%. Suspect identity was unknown in 42.0% of offences that were finalised and 33.3% were finalised as having evidential difficulties.

Faith Hate Incidents (Crimes and Non-Crimes)



Disability Hate

Disability related incidents have decreased in volume, from 960 in April 2025 to currently being at 661 for the 12 months to April 2026, a reduction of -31.1% over 2 years.

The main category of incidents recorded are stalking and harassment followed by public order offences.

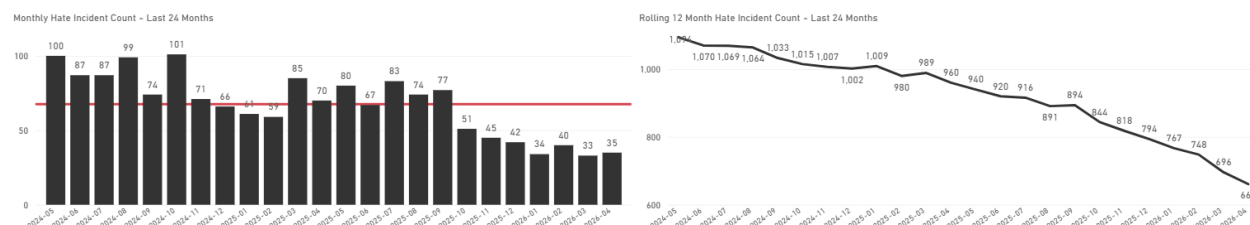
The repeat victim rate for the previous 12 months to end of April 2025 was 26.6%. This has reduced to 23.8% which is a reduction of -2.8% in the last twelve months.

The repeat suspect rate relating to disability incidents has reduced from 12.4% to 9.5% in the last twelve months which is a -2.9% decrease.

Positive Outcome (1 to 4, 6 to 8) rates have increased. Positive outcomes were 3.1% in the

previous year and are now 5.9% this twelve month. This is one of the lowest outcome rates for hate incidents. Around a third of outcomes were finalised as the suspect was not identified, 38.7% and around a half of offences, 47.4%, were finalised as having evidential difficulties.

Disability Hate Incidents (Crimes and Non-Crimes)



Sexual Orientation Hate

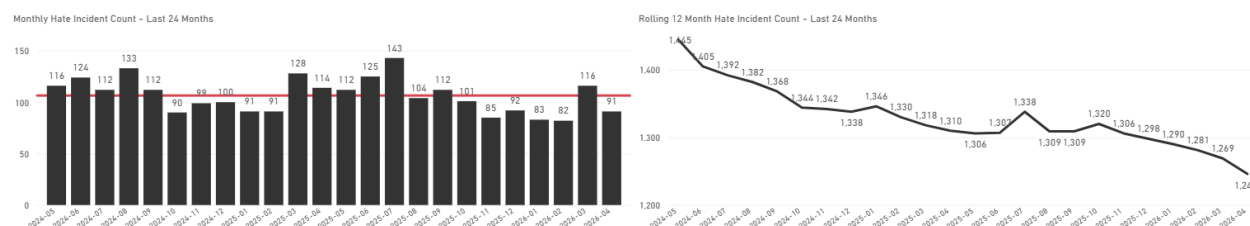
Sexual orientation incidents decreased over the last twelve months to stand at 1,246, reducing from 1,310 in the previous 12 months, a reduction of -4.9%.

The main category of incident recorded are public order offences followed by stalking and harassment.

The repeat victim rate has decreased to 26.7% from the previous 12 months which was 27.4%, this is a decrease of -0.7%. The repeat suspect rate has slightly decreased from 14.3% in the previous twelve months to 12.4% in the last 12 months, this is a -1.9% decrease.

Positive Outcome (1 to 4, 6 to 8) rates have increased. Positive outcome rates for the previous 12 months were 15.8% compared to 20.8% in the last twelve months. This has increased by +5.0%. This is the highest positive outcome rate across all hate strands. 29.7% of offences were finalised due to the fact no suspect ID was confirmed. Just over two fifths of offences, 41.8%, showed evidential difficulties prohibited a charge.

Sexual Orientation Hate Incidents (Crimes and Non-Crimes)



Transphobic Hate

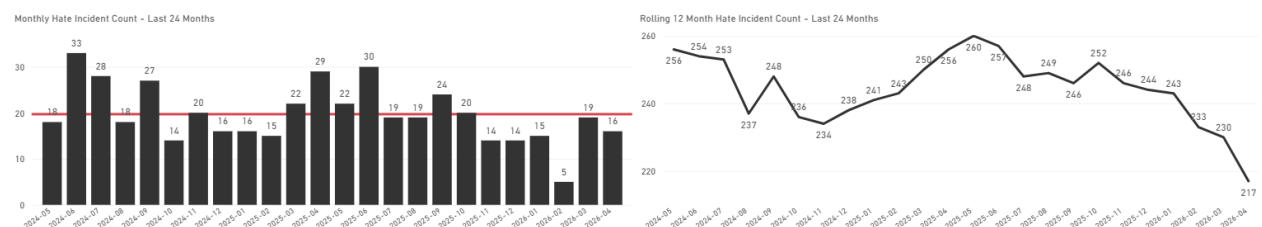
Transphobic hate incidents are relatively low in volume but decreased from 256 in the previous twelve month to 217 in the last 12 months, this is a decrease of -15.2%.

The main category of incident recorded are stalking and harassment followed by public order offences.

The number of repeat victims has increased from the previous 12 months of 37.9% to 47.9% in the last twelve months, this is an increase of +10.0%. This equates to just under a 1 in 2 chance of being a repeat victim in the next 12 months. The repeat suspect rate also increased from 8.2% in the previous 12 months to 12.9% which is an increase of +4.7%.

Positive Outcome (1 to 4, 6 to 8) rates have increased. Positive outcome rate for the previous 12 months was 3.0% which has increased to 5.7% in the last twelve months. 48.5% of offences were finalised due to no suspect ID confirmed and 40.6%, showed evidential difficulties prohibited a charge.

Transphobic Hate Incidents (Crimes and Non-Crimes)



Victim Satisfaction with Hate Crime by Service Delivery Area

Satisfaction by Service Delivery Area					
Service Delivery Area	Selected 12m	Previous 12m	+/-	Sig	Selected 12m n=
Ease of Contact	88.1%	89.5%	-1.4%	→	395
Ability of the Call Taker	93.9%	93.0%	0.8%	→	309
Speed of Arrival	81.3%	81.3%	-0.1%	→	187
Remote Investigation	54.5%	60.2%	-5.7%	↔	367
Actions Taken	65.9%	69.7%	-3.8%	→	208
CSI Investigation	88.9%	88.0%	0.9%	→	9
Keeping Informed of Progress	62.1%	66.2%	-4.1%	→	203
Treatment	87.9%	91.4%	-3.6%	→	206
Outcome	64.5%	60.7%	3.8%	→	197
Overall	68.2%	68.9%	-0.6%	→	576

Overall satisfaction with Hate Crime currently stands at 68.2% (12 months to April-26, a sample size of 576) a marginal decrease of 0.6% vs previous 12-month period (not a statistically significant decrease). The lowest Service Delivery Areas are satisfaction with

Remote Investigation (54.5%, -5.7% vs previous 12 month period), Keeping Informed of Progress (62.1%) and Outcome (64.5%).

Overall Victim Satisfaction with Hate Crime by District:

District / Dept	Selected 12m	+/-	Sig	12m n =	+/- Dist Avg	Sig
Bradford	70.2%	4.7%	→	121	1.5%	→
Calderdale	70.0%	8.1%	→	40	1.2%	→
Kirklees	70.0%	-0.2%	→	80	1.2%	→
Leeds	64.8%	-7.5%	↘	210	-4.0%	→
Wakefield	75.7%	0.3%	→	74	6.9%	→
FCMU	68.8%	10.4%	→	32		

Leeds (64.8%) has the lowest satisfaction of the territorial districts while Wakefield has the highest (75.7%). Leeds (-7.5%, sample size = 210) has seen a notable decrease vs previous 12-month period.

*Note lower monthly sample sizes for Hate (especially at district level) so figures are more liable to a greater change month to month. *

Hate Crime Recording

There have been no changes to the force approach to hate crime and non-crime hate incident recording. West Yorkshire Police continues to apply the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) and National Standards for Incident Recording (NSIR), ensuring that all reports are assessed and recorded in line with national guidance.

The force definition of hate crime and hate incidents remains unchanged, with offences and incidents recorded where hostility or prejudice is perceived by the victim or any other person, and in accordance with established offence coding and flagging requirements.

The Non-Crime Hate Incident Code of Practice (introduced June 2023) continues to be applied, with officers using professional judgement to determine whether incidents meet the required threshold. Personal data is only recorded where there is a real risk of significant harm or future offending, ensuring compliance with safeguards relating to freedom of expression.

The current West Yorkshire Police policy on hate crime and non-crime incidents remains in place and continues to support consistent and compliant recording practices across the force.

The West Yorkshire Policy Hate crime and non-crime policy can be found at:

<https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/about-us/policies-and-procedures/policies/crime-and-safeguarding/hate-crimes-and-non-crimes>

Current risks, community tensions and reassurance activity

Across West Yorkshire, community cohesion continues to be influenced by a combination of local, national and international factors. International conflict, particularly relating to the Middle East, alongside wider geopolitical tensions, continues to contribute to increased sensitivities within some communities. These influences are reflected in fluctuations in hate crime reporting, particularly within race and religion strands, consistent with national trends.

Nationally, hate crime demand remains high, with increases noted in both antisemitic and anti-Muslim incidents linked to global events. These trends continue to inform local risk assessments and policing responses across the force area.

At a regional level, community tensions are further shaped by protest activity, misinformation and harmful narratives shared online, which have the potential to amplify local concerns and contribute to rapid escalation if not managed effectively. Changing demographics across West Yorkshire, alongside longstanding inequalities, also continue to influence community cohesion and perceptions of policing.

Current risks are managed through ongoing monitoring of intelligence, community feedback and Community Impact Assessments (CIAs), supported by daily and structured governance processes. Partnership working remains central to this approach, enabling a coordinated understanding of emerging risks across policing, local authorities and third-sector organisations.

Reassurance activity is delivered through a combination of:

- High-visibility patrols in key locations, including places of worship, community venues and areas of identified risk
- Ongoing engagement with faith leaders, community representatives and advocacy groups
- Targeted communication and messaging to address misinformation and provide accurate, timely information
- Use of established community engagement frameworks, including Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs), Key Individual Networks (KINs), and Strategic Engagement Officers

West Yorkshire Police continues to contribute to the national conversation on community cohesion through its involvement with the Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion. This includes sharing insight from operational policing, engagement activity and partnership work, alongside participation in roundtables with faith leaders, youth workers, educators, and community advocates.

This approach supports both local and national understanding of community tensions, ensuring that policing responses remain informed by community experience while contributing to wider best practice in cohesion and prevention.

Community cohesion

West Yorkshire is a vibrant, diverse and multi-faith county, where most people across our cities, towns and rural communities live and work well together. From Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield to Kirklees and Calderdale, our communities are shaped by rich histories, cultures and strong local identity.

However, policing and partner agencies are increasingly encountering a range of challenges that impact community cohesion and public confidence. In some areas, longstanding inequalities, changing demographics ([Census 2021 in West Yorkshire | Data and analysis](#)) and the rapid spread of misinformation have contributed to renewed expressions of historic tensions, alongside new and emerging risks.

Local incidents and national events in recent years have reinforced the need for proactive,

intelligence-led and community-centred partnership approaches to cohesion. Periods of unrest and heightened tension have demonstrated how quickly divisions can surface, and the critical importance of early intervention, trusted relationships and effective partnership working.

For policing and community safety partners, this presents a set of shared priorities:

- Building and maintaining trust and confidence across all communities
- Strengthening local intelligence through meaningful community engagement
- Preventing hate crime, extremism and exploitation (including Misogyny, Manosphere and the Incel Movement)
- Tackling misinformation and harmful narratives
- Supporting vulnerable individuals and communities at risk of isolation or exclusion

West Yorkshire Police is actively supporting the work of the Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion by contributing insight, and practical experience to help shape a stronger, more inclusive approach to community relations both locally and nationally.

The force is engaging with the Commission as part of a wider national conversation on cohesion, sharing learning from community engagement activity, and partnership work across West Yorkshire. This includes highlighting the challenges posed by issues such as changing demographics, and community tensions, as well as showcasing effective local approaches that build trust, understanding, and resilience. These include Tactical Community engagement Planning, creation of a directory of information sheets to support officers when engaging with our diverse communities of West Yorkshire, ongoing recruitment of KINs and IAG's / ISaAG members.

A key part of this involvement is active participation in roundtable discussions and engagement events organised by the Commission. West Yorkshire Police is working alongside a broad range of stakeholders, including:

- Faith leaders – to understand and respond to the concerns of diverse religious communities
- Community advocates – who provide grassroots insight and represent underheard voices

- Youth workers – bringing forward the experiences and perspectives of young people
- Education professionals – supporting citizenship, inclusion, and early intervention work
- Civic and community partners – helping to co-produce solutions that reflect local needs

Through these conversations, the force is helping to amplify local voices into the national dialogue, ensuring that policy and recommendations are grounded in real community experiences.

This collaborative approach enables West Yorkshire Police to both inform and learn from national best practice, strengthening its own approach to neighbourhood policing, prevention, and community cohesion. It also reinforces the organisation's commitment to working in partnership to build safer, more connected communities, where differences are understood, respected, and valued.

Neighbourhood Policing Abstractions and Demand

Across West Yorkshire, demand continues to be impacted by abstractions from Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) to support wider operational requirements, including protest activity and public order deployments linked to national and international events.

This reduces capacity for proactive engagement, preventative activity and long-term problem solving within communities.

A risk-based approach is applied across districts, prioritising high-risk victims, vulnerable individuals and identified hotspot locations. Demand is managed through local tasking, supervision and partnership working.

District variation includes:

- Bradford maintaining the lowest abstraction rate and above 100% compliance for NPT resourcing
- Wakefield managing abstractions linked to Operation Leste within existing staffing levels, with a reduced policing footprint in line with threat, risk and harm

- Kirklees and Calderdale identifying continued abstraction pressures impacting proactive activity

Identification of Hotspots and Trends

Across West Yorkshire, geographical hotspots and trends are identified through:

- Crime data and intelligence analysis
- Daily and weekly analytical products
- Power BI monitoring tools
- Local intelligence from NPTs
- Supervisory oversight and structured governance processes

These approaches are supported by local knowledge, tasking processes and problem-solving methodologies, including SARA/OSARA plans where applicable.

District examples include:

- Calderdale: Halifax town centre identified through SPIN reporting and analytical products
- Wakefield: WDHQ identified via Power BI as the highest location with 52 offences in 12 months
- Kirklees: Daily and weekly data reviews, including Continuous Improvement Unit analysis
- Bradford: Oversight through HCC reviews, Scrutiny Panel and Community Hub processes

Reassurance Activity

Reassurance activity across West Yorkshire is delivered through:

- High-visibility patrols in identified hotspot locations
- Engagement with community groups, faith leaders and local representatives
- Attendance at community events, educational settings and key locations

- Targeted engagement linked to national and international events
- Use of communication channels and outreach activity to encourage reporting and provide support

District-specific delivery includes:

- Bradford: Stronger Communities Team engagement at mosques, synagogues and multi-faith events
- Kirklees: Victim contact by HCCs, supported by NPT follow-up and partnership engagement with the Holocaust Centre and Huddersfield University
- Calderdale: Visible patrols, community engagement and activity linked to Clear, Hold, Build and Neighbourhood Impact Team priorities
- Wakefield: NPT deployment to repeat locations, school inputs, business engagement and community outreach
- Leeds: Targeted reassurance following national incidents, including patrols and engagement with affected communities

Victim contact and support remains a key element of the response, with Hate Crime Co-ordinators and Neighbourhood Policing Teams providing direct engagement, follow-up and signposting where required.

Partnership Working and Information Sharing

Partnership working across West Yorkshire is delivered through established multi-agency structures, including Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and district-specific governance arrangements.

Information sharing includes:

- Crime trends, emerging risks and community tensions
- Coordination of safeguarding and reassurance activity
- Joint planning and delivery of engagement and prevention activity

Information Sharing Agreements (ISAs) are in place across districts and support

coordinated responses.

District-specific arrangements include:

- Bradford: Community Hub enabling rapid multi-agency coordination
- Kirklees: Hate Crime and ASB Operational Board alongside wider partnership forums
- Calderdale: CSP engagement with local authority, housing, education and third sector
- Wakefield: Weekly hate crime meetings with local authority and planned expansion of community involvement
- Leeds: Community Cohesion meetings and multi-agency delivery through projects such as Project Shield

Governance and oversight is supported through district-based scrutiny panels, operational boards and partnership forums, providing structured review of hate crime investigations, trends and partnership responses.

District Updates

Bradford

Current Trends, Reassurance and Key Challenges

Bradford District continues to experience heightened community tensions influenced by both local and global factors. International conflict, particularly relating to the Middle East and the Israel–Palestine situation, alongside wider geopolitical tensions including India–Pakistan, is impacting community cohesion locally. These issues are further influenced by protest activity, social media and misinformation.

Hate crime demand remains high nationally, particularly in relation to race and religion offences, including antisemitic and anti-Muslim incidents. This continues to shape local demand and response requirements.

The Bradford Hate Crime Support Team continues to review all reported incidents, ensuring consistent processes and support to victims and police colleagues. Hate Crime

Coordinators contribute to training inputs, including new recruit training and force-wide sessions.

Reassurance is delivered through the Stronger Communities Team, with attendance at places of worship, community venues and local events, including regular engagement at mosques, synagogues and multi-faith events.

Identification of Hotspots, Trends and Response

Hate crime cases are reviewed through governance processes involving HCCs, supervisors and the Partnerships Inspector, with additional scrutiny through the Bradford Scrutiny Panel.

Partnership arrangements support coordinated responses, including multi-agency meetings and the use of the Community Hub. This allows stakeholders to be convened at short notice to respond to emerging issues at local, national and international levels.

Prevention and awareness activity includes:

- Public engagement activity at The Broadway (2026)
- Promotion of the BHCA app and 25 external reporting centres
- Targeted sessions for migrant and asylum communities
- Faith Trail visits to religious sites to support understanding and confidence

Kirklees

Current Trends, Reassurance and Key Challenges

Hate crime in Kirklees has reduced by 7% compared to the previous year, although increases have been identified within race and sexual orientation-related offences.

The most common victim profile remains White British individuals aged 29–49. Outcome rates are stable, and victim satisfaction is currently 70% following the introduction of Operation SEATARM.

Demand remains a challenge, with Hate Crime Co-ordinators managing significant administrative workload, limiting capacity for proactive engagement and awareness

activity.

Reassurance activity includes direct victim contact by HCCs, supported by follow-up visits from NPTs and PCSOs for repeat and vulnerable victims. Patrol activity is focused within identified hotspot areas, alongside communication through community messaging platforms.

Partnership engagement includes ongoing work with the Holocaust Centre and Huddersfield University.

Identification of Hotspots, Trends and Response

Hotspots and trends are identified through:

- Weekly data from the Continuous Improvement Unit and Safer Communities Team
- Power BI monitoring of recent incidents
- Daily review by NPT Duty Inspectors

NPTs contribute through intelligence submissions and problem-solving plans (SARA/OSARA), addressing repeat offenders, victims and locations.

Community response activity includes:

- Pop-up engagement events at Huddersfield University, Holocaust Centre and Kirklees College
- Delivery aligned to Hate Crime Awareness Week
- Engagement with faith groups, schools, ward panels and PACT meetings

Risks and Community Tensions

Risks are linked to international events, including the Middle East conflict (Operation JOSEPH) and terrorism-related impacts on the Jewish community.

Mitigation includes Community Impact Assessments and patrol plans, with NPTs providing local feedback to inform responses.

Calderdale

Current Trends, Positives and Key Challenges

Hate crime across Calderdale has reduced by 3.0%, from 738 to 716 offences. Within this, increases are recorded in race, faith and transphobic offences, with reductions in disability and sexual orientation strands.

These changes are consistent with national patterns and influenced by external factors, including the Middle East conflict.

Hate crimes against police officers have increased during 2026. Work continues to improve reporting processes, confidence and support for affected staff, including engagement with Senior Leadership Teams and discussion through the District Staff Engagement Forum.

Delivery of the Police Race Action Plan continues, including engagement with the Black community through HBF Church in Halifax, alongside youth engagement and partnership working with Valley of Sanctuary.

Clear, Hold, Build has progressed to the HOLD phase, with outcomes from:

- Operation Hawkpark – 30 offenders sentenced
- Operation Highhill – 35 arrests, 26 charged and remanded

Identification of Hotspots, Trends and Response

Hotspots are identified through data, intelligence and SPIN reporting, with Halifax town centre and surrounding urban areas identified as key locations.

Activity includes targeted patrols, problem-solving and partnership engagement. Safeguarding is provided to repeat victims through ongoing support and risk management.

Reassurance activity includes visible patrols, engagement with community groups and attendance at key locations such as transport hubs, supermarkets and town centres.

Wakefield

Current Trends, Reassurance and Key Challenges

Wakefield has recorded a slight reduction in hate crime. Reassurance is delivered through NPT deployments to repeat locations and areas likely to impact on the wider community.

Awareness of hate crime continues to increase.

A key challenge is demand generated by repeated reports from a single individual, which are assessed as false but cannot be cancelled.

Identification of Hotspots, Trends and Response

Hotspots are identified through:

- NPT awareness of local issues
- Oversight by the Hate Crime Co-ordinator
- Power BI analysis of repeat victims, offenders and locations

WDHQ has been identified as the highest location, with 52 offences in 12 months. Activity includes:

- Internal engagement with officers and supervisors
- Awareness posters within custody
- Quarterly drop-in sessions with the HCC
- Development of a support and advice website
- Increased supervisory oversight of investigations

Reassurance activity includes:

- NPT engagement and Street PACT meetings
- School inputs and community events
- Engagement within businesses, including hospitals and Wakefield District Housing
- Engagement at immigration hotels and hostels

Risks and Community Tensions

No specific impacts linked to the Middle East conflict have been identified.

A Community Impact Assessment has been completed, with reassurance activity delivered at mosques and Cedar Court Hotel.

Leeds

Current Trends, Reassurance and Key Activity

Leeds District continues to develop scrutiny and engagement, with the Scrutiny Panel increasing to 50 members and the LGBT+ panel at 22 members. Members engage through training, learning platforms and operational activity.

A Youth Scrutiny Panel has been introduced, with positive feedback from participants. This has been extended through partnership work with Safer Schools and Youth Justice Services.

Hate crime awareness activity includes Anti-Semitism Week inputs and engagement with the trans community, supported through work with TransLeeds.

Identification of Hotspots, Trends and Response

Six-weekly Community Cohesion meetings support identification of emerging risks and coordinated responses.

Targeted reassurance activity is delivered following national incidents. For example, following the Golders Green stabbing:

- Patrols were increased at Jewish schools and places of worship
- Engagement was undertaken with community members and businesses
- Calls linked to key locations were prioritised
- Work was conducted with the Community Security Trust

Community Engagement and Development

Strategic Engagement Officers deliver engagement across communities, including:

- Traveller communities
- Migrant groups
- Women and girls
- Faith groups

Activity includes Faith Trail events, safety messaging and partnership work with Leeds City Council and third-sector organisations.

Project Shield delivers multi-agency work addressing youth violence, alongside programmes such as Junior Detectives, Detective in a Day and One Life No Knives.

Current work with education establishments

As previously reported, there were 3,109 school inputs delivered across West Yorkshire between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025.

Since September 2025, delivery has increased, with a total of 3,750 lessons delivered across West Yorkshire from the Race Related Lessons programme. This reflects sustained demand and continued prioritisation of preventative engagement within educational settings.

The highest-volume inputs focus on key themes including bullying, conflict resolution, respect, and understanding policing powers. The most frequently delivered sessions include *What is stop and search?*, *Is this banter or bullying?*, and *How do I deal with conflict?*.

There has also been significant delivery in lessons covering protected characteristics, anti-racism, discrimination, and the impact of language, supporting improved awareness and community cohesion among young people.

In addition, sessions addressing anti-social behaviour, safeguarding, and personal safety have been widely delivered, alongside more complex topic areas such as hate crime, extremism, and radicalisation, ensuring a broad and balanced educational offer.

The breadth and volume of delivery demonstrate a comprehensive and consistent approach to early intervention, equipping young people with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions, understand the law, and engage positively with policing.

Title	Interactions
What is stop and search?	268
Is this banter or bullying?	197
How do I deal with conflict?	170
What is bullying?	168
What are protected characteristics?	162

How do words have power?	158
What is bullying?	155
What is anti-racism?	140
What is anti-social behaviour?	125
What is discrimination?	125
How should we treat people?	122
How can we be allies against racism?	111
How can I share my worries?	108
How do I share family worries?	106
What are protected characteristics?	100
What is victim blaming?	90
How can I play safely?	88
Why is name calling unkind?	86
How can I speak up?	83
What are rules?	80
What is my relationship with authority?	71
What are public order offences?	70
How can I keep safe at school?	70
How can I keep safe at home?	68
How can we balance freedom with the law?	66
How can it feel to witness a crime?	66
What is hate crime?	65
What is diversity?	64
What do we mean by intimidation?	61
What is extremism?	60
Who makes up my community?	59
What is a debate?	58
Who do I encounter?	55
Is it OK to protest?	53
Who are the police and how do they help us?	48
What are consequences?	47
What is hate crime?	43
What is radicalisation?	43
How do I report a concern?	41

Upcoming pressures/challenges

Upcoming pressures for West Yorkshire Police continue to be driven by a combination of local demand and external influences.

International events, particularly the ongoing Middle East conflict and wider geopolitical tensions, are expected to continue impacting community cohesion, protest activity and hate crime demand, particularly within race and religion strands.

Demand on Neighbourhood Policing Teams remains a key challenge, with ongoing abstractions to support protests and public order operations reducing capacity for proactive engagement, prevention activity and long-term problem solving within communities.

The spread of misinformation and harmful narratives, particularly via social media, continues to present a challenge in managing community tensions and preventing escalation.

Changing demographics across West Yorkshire, alongside existing inequalities, continue to influence community confidence, engagement and reporting behaviours.

Internal pressures include increases in hate crimes committed against police officers within some districts, alongside ongoing work to improve confidence in reporting and support for affected staff.

Administrative demand linked to hate crime oversight, governance and victim contact continues to impact the capacity of specialist roles, including Hate Crime Co-ordinators, limiting opportunities for proactive work.

These pressures require continued prioritisation of high-risk incidents, effective partnership working, and sustained community engagement to manage demand and support community cohesion.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

28 July 2026

SUBJECT: Safeguarding - Child

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of Child Safeguarding.
2. This cover paper highlights the importance of the report topic in respect of the Police and Crime plan and also includes the delivery of the Mayor and her office. Together the West Yorkshire Police (WYP) report and the cover paper provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of work underway to tackle Drugs and Alcohol related crime.

RECOMMENDATION

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

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 24-28

4. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of 'The Voice of West Yorkshire.' The Voice of West Yorkshire represents the views of over 6,500 respondents and includes the views of children and young people. It is part of a series of documents which includes a summary needs assessment. You can review the documents here: [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
5. Children and Young People are a Cross Cutting Theme in the 24-28 Police and Crime Plan.
6. Child Safeguarding is also mentioned in the 24-28 Police and Crime Plan under Priority 1 – Keeping People Safe and Priority 3 - Supporting Victims and Witnesses. It is also under the cross-cutting theme of reducing vulnerability.
7. During the Mayor's first term the Reducing Vulnerability Strategy was launched. The priorities are:
 - Child Sexual Abuse, Exploitation, and Neglect
 - Transitional Safeguarding
 - Child Criminal Exploitation
 - Adults at Risk

8. There are key police and community safety measures which support child and adult safeguarding in the plan especially in relation to mental health incidents, missing persons, looked after children or children in need (CIN) and Child Protection.
9. A detailed Equality Impact Assessment which looked at how the themes and priorities impacted communities was completed for the 2024-28 plan, you can read it here:
[eqia-stage-1-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](#)
[eqia-stage-2-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](#)

KEY INFORMATION

10. Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date includes:

- Child First: Work by researchers within the Violence Reduction Partnership's Knowledge Hub has led to the publishing of a guidance framework for professionals who make decisions that may impact the lives of children in West Yorkshire. The framework was informed by the views of 455 children from all 5 districts in West Yorkshire who participated in the research.
- Publishing the Reducing Vulnerability strategy: Earlier this year, the Policing and Crime team published this strategy, covering child and adult safeguarding themes. The final document can be found at:
<https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12266/reducing-vulnerability-strategy-1.pdf>
- The Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime scrutinises West Yorkshire Police's work on child safeguarding through regular Governance meetings, meetings with the Chief Constable, in addition to the review of safeguarding work provide through this Community Outcomes Meeting.
- **Re-commissioning of the Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)**

The Mayor of West Yorkshire, the Yorkshire and the Humber (YaTH) Police & Crime Commissioners, and NHS England (NHSE) and NHS Improvement (the Commissioners), jointly commission a SARC service across the Yorkshire and Humber region. The contract costs are split 50/50 between YaTH Policing and Crime and NHSE Commissioners under the collaboration agreement.

The purpose of the SARC services is to co-ordinate and simplify the pathway for all victims of rape and sexual assault or abuse to access wider healthcare, social care and criminal justice processes, to improve individual health and well-being, as well as criminal justice outcomes.

The re-commissioning and procurement of the Adult SARC has now been completed. The successful bidder is Mountain Healthcare, the current provider, and the new contract started 1st April 2023.

The contract awarded is for a maximum duration of 7 years (4 years plus a 3-year optional extension).

In addition, the Combined Authority supports the victims of sexual violence and abuse through the commissioning of victims' services in West Yorkshire, and this includes child victims of sexual abuse or exploitation, and the families of those impacted by child sexual exploitation.

- The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP) meets quarterly and is chaired by the Deputy Mayor. Modern slavery can include the exploitation of children through County Lines drug dealing, and this topic is regularly reviewed by the partnership, alongside other child safeguarding themes.

West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership

Child safeguarding continues to be a priority as part of our funded delivery and intervention commissioning approach, in terms of policy and practice and operational focus on protecting and supporting vulnerable children and young people.

We work closely with each local Community Safety Partnership as key partners in the prioritisation, coordination, and delivery at place and as such the conduit for named partners under the Serious Violence Duty to deliver at place. These local arrangements are ideally placed to identify, engage, and respond to locally evidenced based need and collaborate with Health and Wellbeing Boards, Safeguarding and Children's Partnerships in their response.

Our collaboration with the Integrated Care Board to deliver the Adversity, Trauma and Resilience programme continues, and specific funding has been provided to offer a dedicated training resource and support the development of a train the trainer model. Training is available to partners across West Yorkshire at a Foundation Level with plans to expand into Level 1 and Level 2.

Mayor's Safer Communities Fund

- The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund continues to deliver projects to support children and young people. You can find out more about the successful projects here ([Mayor's Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://westyorks-ca.gov.uk/mayors-safer-communities-fund))

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

Safeguarding children requires collaborative working between a number of key partners. The current guidance on working practices for multi-agency working in safeguarding places special responsibilities on the Chief Constable, Local Authority Chief Executive Officers, and the Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board, to work together as lead safeguarding partners in West Yorkshire.

As detailed above, a range of mechanisms are utilised by the Mayor/DMPC to support effective partnership working in relation to Child Safeguarding. Notable areas of work for Policing & Crime include our co-ordination of the West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership, numerous interventions with young people through the WY Violence Reduction Partnership, and membership of WYP's Out of Court Resolution Scrutiny panel, which encompasses youth justice outcomes.

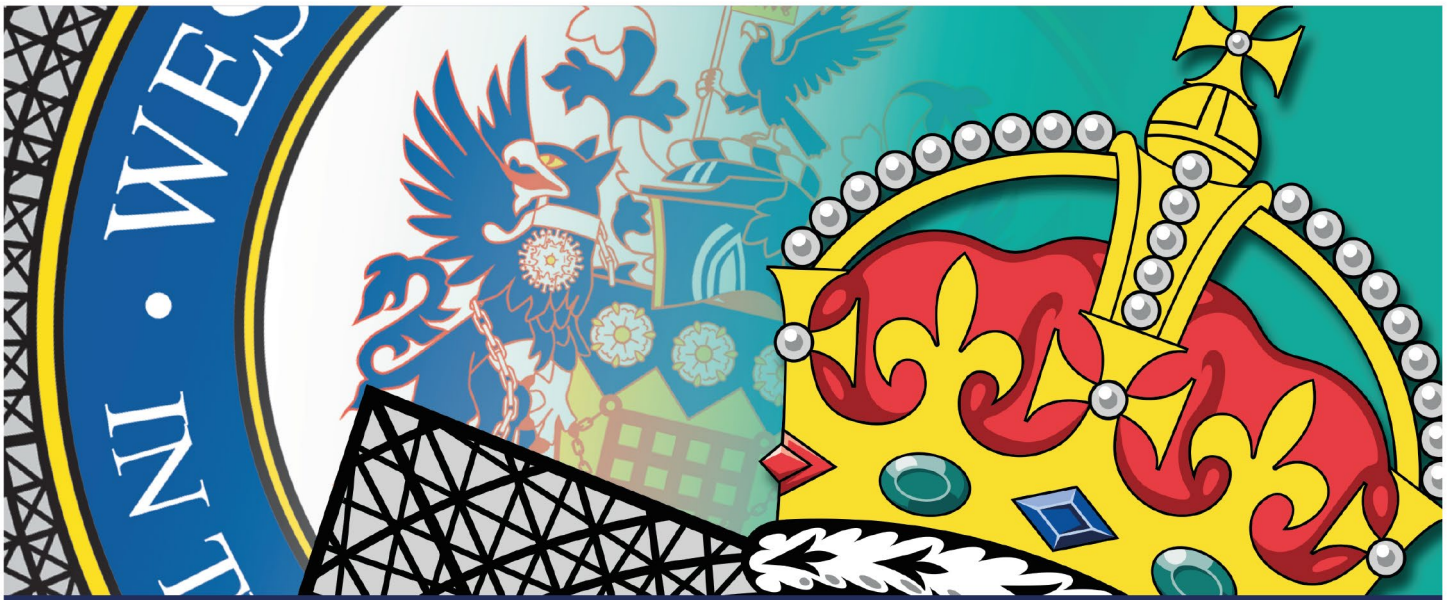
EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is most effective in partnership. It is known that minority groups and marginalised individuals can face specific safeguarding challenges and be at increased risk to abuse and exploitation.

It is important that all safeguarding policies, strategies, delivery, and discussion is inclusive and ensures all services and support are accessible for all. Recognising and embracing diversity and being inclusive are the core foundations and key principles of safeguarding. This includes the people delivering the services as well as those receiving them.

ATTACHMENT

Chief Constable's report – Child Safeguarding.



COM

Child Safeguarding

July 2026



WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE

Title: Child Safeguarding

COT Sponsor: ACC Miller

Report Author: D/Supt Alex Bacon

Date: 28th July 2026

Introduction

This report provides an overview of child safeguarding activity across West Yorkshire Police and its partner agencies. It builds upon the previous submission and reflects a continued commitment to strengthening child safeguarding practice, enhancing multi-agency working, and improving outcomes for children and young people.

The safeguarding landscape continues to evolve rapidly, shaped by increasing demand, technological change, and legislative developments. As such, West Yorkshire Police has prioritised the delivery of a coordinated and evidence-based approach that is responsive to both current and emerging risks.

Since the last update West Yorkshire Police has had its HMICFRS PEEL report published highlighting areas that require further consideration within child safeguarding. West Yorkshire Police had already commenced work across a range of child protection matters to address the areas identified prior to publication of the report. The force is confident that with the continued focus on improvements that we are progressing towards a stronger position with our child protection delivery.

West Yorkshire Police has had confirmation that Bradford and Keighley will be one of the areas that the National Grooming Gang Inquiry will focus upon. The force awaits further detail of the expectations from the Inquiry which involves all safeguarding partners. This overlaps with our continued work to improve services to support Victims and Survivors of Non-Recent Group based CSEA as part of Operation Beaconport.

West Yorkshire Police continue to respond to Child Safeguarding as outlined in the Police and Crime Plan, the Force's Operational Policing Strategy, and the national VAWG Strategy. This is translated into practice via the Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) Strategic Plan and the Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (CANE) Tactical Plan overseen by the ACC for Local Policing and Safeguarding.

This report specifically addresses key areas identified by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), including updates on workstreams across Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH), developments within Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), current child safeguarding pressures, and operational responses to national programmes such as Operation Beaconport.

In doing so, it aims to provide a clear and transparent overview of progress, challenges, and future direction in child safeguarding across West Yorkshire.

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs

Since the last report the co-design requirements for each of our five Local Authority partnerships to have Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPT) has gathered pace. West Yorkshire Police play a key part in this co-design and roll out as a statutory safeguarding partner. This is under the Families First reforms set out in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 with MACPT's required to be in place by March 2027. This Act also sets out a greater emphasis to share information. West Yorkshire Police Safeguarding Governance are working with WYCA to assist with co-ordinating different Local Authority approaches to this new legislation to share learning across the partnerships. The force has Local Authority funded posts in place to assist with this delivery.

The force MASH Handbook has been refreshed and reviewed to provide guidance on the child MASH functions in line with feedback from the HMICFRS PEEL report. This is in the process of being linked with the Children and Young People's Policy. This will further ensure consistency across the districts and sets out a clear induction pathway for new

starters working in this arena. It includes developments in Public Protection Notice (PPN) triage processes for both single agency and joint agency triage of information sharing after police identify concerns relating to a child/children.

The PPN triage process is audited monthly, and feedback is provided to the districts which also influences future training. This includes a focus on understanding cumulative risk and process adherence. The PPN feedback portal continues to be used widely by MASH practitioners which creates individual notifications to officers and their supervision whilst identifying recurring themes for improvement driving future training needs. This was referenced positively within HMICFRS PEEL report.

The force continues to work through IT solutions to improve information sharing efficiencies within MASH. Digital Policing teams are prioritising this work over the next 6 to 12 months to ensure we enhance consistency and effectiveness with delivery in each of our 5 local MASHs.

West Yorkshire Police have clear central and local governance within child MASHs including joint quarterly meetings with partners. Additionally, there is a new task and finish group established focussing on areas for improvement identified from the HMICFRS PEEL report. Training, digital solutions and processes are all aspects of our improvement programme. The force is involved in the national MASH working groups, allowing leads to stay abreast of current themes and best practice.

There will be a new MASH I-learn package released by the College of Policing this year. This will enable all within West Yorkshire Police to gain knowledge and understanding of MASH. Once launched the Learning and Organisational Development team will review this product to see how this can inform future training schedules.

A force review of Adult MASH which overlaps with child safeguarding was completed at the beginning of 2026. Consequently, this has now come under the umbrella of Adult Safeguarding with a Detective Chief Inspector posted to oversee recommendations from the review.

MAPPA

Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are overseen by the MAPPA Strategic Management Boards (SMB). In line with MAPPA guidance good practice, West Yorkshire's SMB has a rotating chair (between the 'responsible authorities') and West Yorkshire Police accepted the role as chair in January 2024. In January 2026 ACC Miller handed over the role of MAPPA SMB Chair to the Head of Service for Bradford/Calderdale Probation Delivery Unit, Anja Woods. ACC Miller still retains an active part in the MAPPA SMB and acts as chair where required.

Whilst acting as Chair for the last 2 years, considerable work has been undertaken to ensure effective delivery of MAPPA. Following completion of a national self-assessment, West Yorkshire SMB held a self-assessment workshop which brought together 'responsive authorities' and 'duty to cooperate agencies' to discuss identified areas for improvement. A comprehensive West Yorkshire MAPPA business plan for 2024 to 2026 has been written, bringing together actions from the self-assessment, previous open actions from the previous plan, actions from a West Yorkshire serious case review and aspects from the National MAPPA business plan where local action could make improvements. A further self-assessment is due and will similarly be used to inform any necessary amendments to the business plan. This was discussed within the most recent MAPPA SMB and is currently being reviewed by all agencies and led by the MAPPA Co-ordinator. A West Yorkshire specific MAPPA Data Sharing Memorandum of Understanding between HM Prisons, Probation, West Yorkshire Police and MAPPA Duty to Co-operate Agencies and Associate Agencies has been signed off by the MAPPA SMB in Spring 2026.

A MAPPA learning Duty to Cooperate event is scheduled to take place in July 2026 which will bring together staff from a range of agencies including social care and housing provision services to improve awareness and understanding of MAPPA. A previous event held in March 2025 had proved successful with positive feedback from delegates.

Key Child Safeguarding Issues

West Yorkshire Police continue to face a number of significant child safeguarding pressures, reflecting both local and national trends. Demand for safeguarding services has increased year on year, placing considerable pressure on frontline officers and specialist teams.

Online CSEA

A key issue is the increasing prevalence of online child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSEA). The HMICFRS thematic report “The policing response to the investigation of online child sexual abuse and the management of registered sex offenders” highlights these concerns across all police forces. WYP are mapping themselves against these national recommendations for improvements.

The nature of offending has become more complex, with perpetrators utilising multiple devices, platforms, and communication methods. Emerging crime types such as financially motivated sexual extortion and COM networks involving violently fixated individuals present new challenges for investigators.

National insights have identified that many frontline practitioners require additional skills and confidence to effectively respond to online CSEA. In response, WYP has developed targeted training programmes and awareness initiatives to enhance workforce capability.

In January 2026, West Yorkshire Police delivered a force-wide Safeguarding Awareness Week, which enhanced practitioner capability by reinforcing the use of key investigative tools to support the development of offences involving harm to children. As part of this, a dedicated COM Network Continuing Professional Development (CPD) session was delivered to officers and staff within Online Child Abuse Investigation Teams (OCAIT), Public Protection Units (PPU), Child Safeguarding teams, and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH), increasing awareness and operational readiness.

Ongoing activity has continued to build organisational understanding of the complexity and evolving nature of COM Network offending. Targeted awareness inputs have been delivered across Intelligence Departments, Contact, and the Force Crime Management Unit (FCMU), with further inputs scheduled for the Criminal Justice Team. This sustained programme of engagement is improving workforce awareness, crime pattern identification and mapping, strengthening early understanding of risk, and supporting a more effective and coordinated response to online harm.

Safeguarding Governance developed an I-Learn in relation to Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (YPSI) and Self-generated Indecent Images of Children. This is now a mandatory learning package for all officers and staff who come into contact with members of the public. The I Learn seeks to support officers to conduct proportionate investigations where there is no aggravating features identified. We are one of the first forces in the country to deliver such a package which was developed on the back of a Peer Review that we commissioned from the College of Policing Cadre on our approach to tackling offences and incidents involving YPSI. The I-Learning completion rates continue to grow within force through ongoing governance and tracking.

Whilst family members of those arrested or investigated for Online offences against children are not formally recognised as victims under Ministry of Justice criteria, the Force recognised the trauma they experience. In January 2024 West Yorkshire Police began working with Family Matters, who provide support and guidance to such families through a pilot scheme which as above has now been funded for a further year and is fully accessible for families affected by these crimes.

Partnerships

Financial pressures across partner agencies, particularly within health services, are impacting system capacity. Reductions in Integrated Care Board funding have raised concerns regarding workforce sustainability and the availability of specialist safeguarding support within health.

Recruitment and Retention

Recruitment and retention challenges also persist within child safeguarding specialist roles. The complexity of the work, combined with the demands of training and accreditation, continues to impact workforce resilience.

Work is underway to strengthen the training of staff deployed within District Child Safeguarding Teams. Enhancements are being made to the Child Protection (SCAIDP) portfolio requirements to ensure they are practical, accessible, and proportionate, while remaining fit for purpose. The revised approach is intended to remove unnecessary barriers, improve completion rates, and increase the capacity and capability of safeguarding personnel.

The Force has a range of measures to support our workforce. Although not an exhaustive list, this includes Occupational Health Support, Peer Support, Trauma Risk Management, and an Employee Assistance Programme.

Operation Beaconport and Group Based CSEA

West Yorkshire Police submitted its returns of Group Based CSEA investigations to the National Crime Agency (NCA) a week ahead of the national deadline and under forecast of cost. The force deliberately utilised teams that would not abstract resourcing from front line child protection specialist work.

Given that the NCA has not released the current number of national returns the force will await this update before sharing total submissions to ensure there is appropriate national context provided.

The next steps are that the NCA will select cases against a criteria to be set for document returns from all forces. These documents relating to the investigations will be reviewed by NCA for consideration as to whether any investigations need to be returned to forces for further work.

The timeframes for next steps and volume of returns is not clear at this moment. The force is in a strong position to respond to any returns with its well established Non-Recent CSE investigative structures.

The force is currently scoping enhanced Victim and Survivor service opportunities. Safeguarding Governance are creating a force Victim and Survivor strategy derived from the national strategy which all forces are required to submit to NCA.

In June 2026 Bradford and Keighley were announced as one of the local areas to be the focus of the National Grooming Gangs Inquiry. The force awaits further detail.

This is West Yorkshire Police's position regarding non-recent group-based child sexual exploitation as of 24 June 2026:

- As a result of investigations running between 2016 and 2026, 242 defendants have been sentenced to a total of 2,682 years and 3 months.
- There are 57 investigations across West Yorkshire ongoing with 51 defendants due to stand trial in 2026, 2027 and 2028.
- In Bradford district 66 defendants have been sentenced to a total of 754 years and 6 months.
- There are 24 ongoing investigations in Bradford into non-recent group-based child sexual exploitation.

Operation Makesafe

Operation Makesafe involves police officers or staff providing training to hotel employees and taxi operators to raise their awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Officers from Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Child Vulnerability and Exploitation Teams build positive relationships with hotel staff, taxi companies, staff working within local take aways and nighttime economy to support improved information sharing and awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Hotel chains such as Premier Inn, Travelodge, Accor, Ibis and Mecure deliver their own staff training and liaise with the National Hydrant Disruption Lead.

Operation Makesafe was implemented across Bradford during late Autumn 2025 and again in Spring 2025, with a coordinated approach targeting both taxi providers and hotels. Encouragingly, all hotels engaged refused the suspect booking attempts. However, engagement from the taxi sector was more variable. Despite prior safeguarding awareness training delivered by the Child Vulnerability and Exploitation Team to Taxi Licensing, a significant proportion of taxi companies did not report concerning behaviours observed within their vehicles.

Following the operation, targeted feedback was provided to taxi companies to reinforce expectations around safeguarding vigilance and reporting. Further proactive engagement across Bradford and Wakefield and strengthening of partnership working with the taxi sector is planned over the summer period to address these gaps and improve reporting outcomes.

Operation Makesafe will be relaunched this year within the newly created Child Vulnerability Exploitation Team commons standards framework

Child Safeguarding Volumes

Over the last year West Yorkshire Police have attended over 30,000 incidents that have involved a concern for a child requiring a referral to children's social care (PPN). This is an increase of 15% from the previous year. It is believed this increase is due to the impact of NSPCC training (SHARED) the force has delivered to all front-line officers in relation to spotting the signs of neglect and sharing information. The force's focus on child centred policing is also believed to have increased recording.

West Yorkshire Police have continued to work with the NSPCC to ensure ongoing CPD capability for the force. Feedback from staff completing the training has been extremely positive. This has proved successful in identification of neglect and how officers articulate their concerns and the quality of reports to partner agencies. The training material has been embedded into foundation training for new recruits and into a Neglect I-Learn. This I-Learn has been designated as mandatory refresher training to be completed every 2 years. West Yorkshire Police is the first force in the country to embed SHARED in this way.

West Yorkshire Police continue with a child-centred approach, embedding voice of the child into training (such as training on neglect, Online CSEA investigations, Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) training. Safeguarding Governance have also developed an I-Learn specifically on the subject of capturing the voice of the child which has now been rolled out. This I-Learn also features Trauma-informed policing and Adultification. This training has been approved as mandatory for completion every two years. An I-Learn has also been developed for Victim-Blaming language. This has also been mandated for being completed every 2 years. Safeguarding Governance monitors compliance with this training to ensure improvements.

West Yorkshire Police recorded just under 26,000 child protection crimes over the last 12 months. This is a slight reduction in recording from the previous 12 months. Almost 6,000 of these crimes related to child neglect/cruelty which is an increase of over 7% from the previous year. West Yorkshire Police has created a new approach to interventions with

parents and carers who are involved with child neglect concerns to ensure we have appropriate partnership engagement in place to better protect children.

Registered Sex Offenders

The HMICFRS thematic report “The policing response to the investigation of online child sexual abuse and the management of registered sex offenders” highlights issues across all police forces with the management of sex offenders given their increasing numbers. WYP are mapping themselves against these national recommendations. In relation to the management of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs), each district has a dedicated Public Protection Team with specially trained officers and police staff who work with Probation and other agencies under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to continually risk assess, develop risk management plans and manage those offenders to mitigate the risk of further offending against the public. This includes considering the risk to children and ensuring this is part of the risk management plan where relevant.

The nature of sexual offending varies widely, whether against adults or children, some offences take place off-line, some exclusively online but in many cases, offending transcends both the on-line and offline space. This presents a challenge for offender management with the added complexity of the digital age with individuals owning multiple internet-enabled devices, accessing multiple platforms and the ever-expanding volume of digital content.

The Force have and continue to seek to maximise funding opportunities to provide staff with supporting equipment to assist in monitoring and detecting any breaches in offenders’ notification requirements or compliance with sexual orders.

Additional funding was secured to access 300 licences until November 2027 to remotely monitor Registered Sex Offender’s devices for potential further offending.

Over and above core nationally mandated specialist training, West Yorkshire Police have invested in additional training and equipment to do our utmost to identify any subsequent offending and protect the public, including providing specialist digital training.

In addition to upskilling staff and equipping them, the Force is one of twelve that has two Polygraph Officers dedicated to RSO management. They have conducted 38 Polygraph Tests in the last 4 months. The highest number across England and Wales. They provided training to Yorkshire & Humber CPS lawyers focussed on RASSO offending in March 2026 and are scheduled to present again in September 2026. It is relevant to highlight that the Force's work to manage Registered Sex Offenders commences right at the start of criminal justice procedures where officers seek Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO) upon conviction to place restrictions on offenders and provide officers additional powers to support subsequent management in the community.

In the past 12 months to the end of April 2026 there were 207 breaches of SHPOs, an increase of 6 on the previous 12 months. Breaches are being detected proactively and the Force's Public Protection Officers enabled by provision of equipment, digital skills, and an uplift in resources.

Furthermore, staff attend CPD days, and Safeguarding Governance publish a regular newsletter to ensure they keep up to date with emerging good practice, lessons learnt and innovation in this area.

Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) / Operation Encompass

The Force introduced the Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) in March 2026. DARA aims to better identify risk by considering the wider context and identifying patterns of behaviour and ensuring children present are recognised and information shared appropriately. Face to face training was delivered across the force over several months.

Through the DARA, we have improved the Operation Encompass process with functionality to allow direct notifications to schools when a child is present or not present at a domestic

incident. This will ensure a more timely and consistent approach across West Yorkshire. DARA also has a process in which a PPN notification is sent to social care of any child present or not at a domestic incident automatically after Officers complete the DARA. This automation went live in May 2026. Work continues to monitor the quality of information captured in DARA.

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS - Clare's Law)

West Yorkshire Police has volunteered to take part in nationally supported research into Clare's Law policy, processes, and the compliance with statutory guidance. This domestic abuse disclosure process is to safeguard children as well as adults. This review is due to commence imminently for a period of 2 years. A final report will be published upon completion of the research.

Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (CSODs - Sarah's Law)

West Yorkshire Police has taken significant steps to improve our response to CSODs in the last year. The force has reviewed force policy to ensure that it was aligned with statutory guidance. Safeguarding Governance has reviewed current demand and predicted demand and worked with districts to ensure they have adequate staffing in place. A demand and performance management Power BI product has been created to monitor overdue applications. This has led to overdue applications reducing significantly in the last 12 month period. Ongoing developing IT automation work is continuing to deliver improvements. A new flagging process for when a disclosure is agreed through Right to Know and Right to Ask but Officers are unable to contact applicant/victim were introduced in March 2026.

Missing Children

West Yorkshire Police have implemented new automations, processes and policy changes to ensure cumulative risk is more effectively identified with repeat missing incidents, particularly when involving children identified as at risk of CSE and CCE. New processes

allow the force to share information with partners regarding missing children at the earliest opportunity to ensure joined up working in identifying any push-pull issues which are contributing to risk.

West Yorkshire Police are continuing to strengthen their response to missing children by working closely with local authority missing teams to support the delivery of training for care staff and foster parents. This includes improving understanding of how the police respond to missing children and promoting a more child-focused approach, where police and care providers work collaboratively when dealing with missing incidents. There is a strong emphasis on encouraging the completion of the Philomena Protocol for all children in care to ensure essential information is readily available at the earliest opportunity. This is particularly pertinent for looked after children moving into West Yorkshire where they are not known to partners. The Child Exploitation Vulnerability Team common standards framework is now in place which clearly identifies the expectations of CVET and MASH for effective information sharing when vulnerable children move into force. Care staff are also being supported to better understand the processes available to them should they wish to escalate concerns regarding a missing child to the police. This is intended to support early intervention and prevent repeat missing episodes.

In 2026 enhanced training for Inspectors has been delivered, focusing on risk assessment and grading, decision-making rationale, and the appropriate use of delay and review periods under the Levels of Intervention model. A subsequent audit commissioned after the HMICFRS PEEL review period demonstrated a significant improvement in Inspectors' risk assessments and the quality of recorded rationale.

Following HMICFRS inspection feedback, changes to the log recording and finalisation process have been introduced to strengthen risk management and safeguarding. From May 2026, all low-risk missing cases must be recorded on police record management systems on a new recorded occurrence type. An Inspector is now required to complete a finalisation template, evidencing the risk assessment, safeguarding actions, and information sharing.

Conclusion

West Yorkshire Police continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to child safeguarding. Through sustained investment in policy, training, and partnership working, the force is working tirelessly to improve its ability to protect children.

While significant challenges remain, particularly in relation to demand and the evolving nature of online harm, the organisation is well positioned to deliver effective child protection services.

Ongoing collaboration with WYCA and partner agencies will be critical to maintaining this progress and achieving long-term improvements in outcomes for children across West Yorkshire.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

28 July 2026

SUBJECT: USE OF POLICE POWERS

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of the use of Police powers including Use of Force and Stop and Search.

RECOMMENDATION

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

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 24-28

1. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of 'The Voice of West Yorkshire'. The Voice of West Yorkshire represents the views of over 6,500 respondents and includes the views of children and young people. It is part of a series of documents which includes a summary needs assessment. You can review the documents here: [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](#)
2. There are also key police and community performance measures in relation to Annual Equality/ Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Reports for use of force and stop and search
3. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion is a key cross cutting theme which runs throughout the Police and Crime Plan. West Yorkshire is a vibrant and diverse region. It is home to many different communities within the towns, cities, and villages of our districts. Together we all share the same ambition to live in thriving, safe neighbourhoods. At the centre of the police and crime plan is the celebration of this diversity and the vision of a strong, cohesive, and welcoming West Yorkshire which is fair, just, and inclusive.
4. The disproportionate use of police powers including use of force and stop search can have a major impact on trust and confidence in policing. The Mayor and the DMPC are committed to ensuring that police powers are used lawfully, proportionately and with professionalism.

A detailed Equality Impact Assessment which looked at how the themes and priorities impacted communities was completed for the 2024-28 plan, you can read it here: [eqia-stage-1-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](#)
[eqia-stage-2-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](#)

KEY INFORMATION

3. Mayoral/DMPC Activity to date include
4. As part of the national portfolio on the APCC Race Disparity Working Group the DMPC has considered the recommendations of the IOPC national stop and search learning report as part of the ongoing work to tackle race disparity and improve communities' confidence in policing and the criminal justice system.
5. The DMPC also works closely with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and other organisations on the Race Action Plan.
6. The Mayor, DMPC and their office are continuing to support Community Updates on the Police Race Action Plan and receive regular briefings on its progress since it launched (2023).
7. Policing and Crime colleagues attend the WYP TDG (Tactical Delivery Group) Inequalities meeting (where the work to support implementation of the Police Race Action Plan takes place), WYP Independent Advisory Group and Independent Scrutiny and Advisory Group (ISaAG) which looks at Inequalities. The DMPC also receives regular updates from the Independent Chair of ISaAG for an update on their work.
8. The Mayor and DMPC sought reassurance from WYP after Child Q a 15-year-old black schoolgirl was strip-searched while at school and asked that routine monitoring data be updated to better reflect child related stop and search, they continue to review closely the Stop and Search of Children.
9. The Mayor/DMPC welcomed the Children's Commissioner report and recommendations into Exposure of Intimate Body Parts (EIP) searches, formerly known as strip searches and also note the findings of the most recent report (April 2026).
10. The Child Custody Detention Panel, a professional panel of predominately Youth Justice, Children's Social Workers and Corporate Parenting managers drawn from each Local Authority, chaired by a Policy Manager from the P&C team, reviews all child EIP searches carried out by the force and makes observations and recommendations to the force. A Public Protection Notice (PNN) is sent to local authorities in all cases where a EIP search of a child has taken place.
11. The Mayor/DMPC have established an Independent Custody Detention Scrutiny Panel. The panel meets quarterly. On a themed basis, the panel will review the detention and treatment of detained persons. For example, the use of force and the searching of people in the custody environment, where such a search may include Exposure of Intimate Body Parts (EIP searching),

appropriate adult and legal rights provision, the welfare of those with mental ill-health or neurodiverse conditions.

12. The Mayor/DMPC are routinely advised and supported by the work of the Mayors Young Communities Network.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

The Mayor and DMPC work with specific groups and organisations to better understand the impact of Use of Force and Stop and Search on individuals and communities including their impact on children and Young People.

Work of key partners and leaders, such as the Children's Commissioner, is closely monitored so that learning and best practice can be considered when reviewing related activity.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

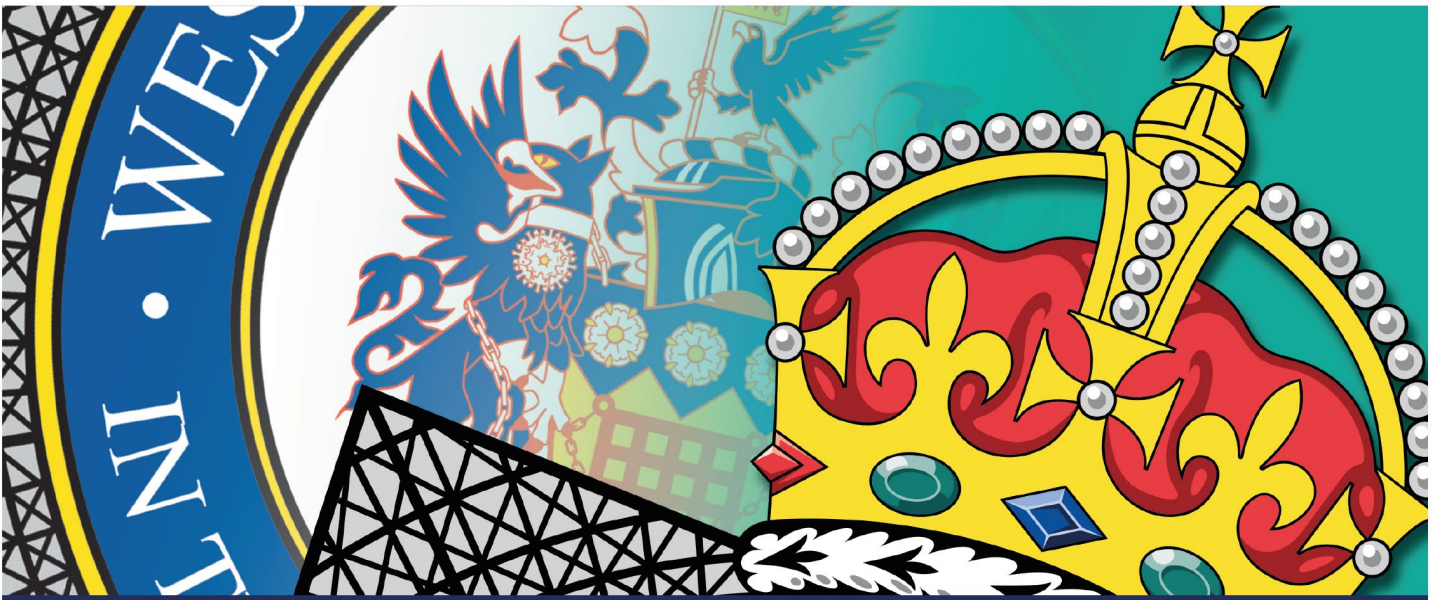
The Mayor and DMPC are working closely with the Chief Constable at both a national and local level to better understand the explanation for disproportionality in relation to Police Powers.

ATTACHMENT

Chief Constables report – Police Powers

POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT

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COM

Use of Police Powers

July 2026



**WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE**

Title: Use of Police Powers

COT Sponsor: ACC Rob McCoubrey

Report Author: Supt Ben Ryder and Insp Alasdair Cheyne

Date: 19th June 2026

Summary

Reflecting previously briefed changes to the governance structure giving strategic oversight to the use of force and the use of stop and search a single paper has been produced addressing both of these themes of scrutiny, and the new area of s163 Road Traffic Act stops.

1. [Governance](#)
2. [Use of Force](#) (laws, why the police may use force, performance data and analysis – including taser)
3. [Stop and Search](#) (laws, why the police may use these powers, performance data and analysis)
4. [Inequalities in Experience](#) (covering all powers with a focus on racial inequality)
5. [Internal Scrutiny](#) (including review process, public complaints and training compliance)
6. [External Scrutiny](#)
7. [Active areas of focus or innovation](#)

REPORT DETAILS

1. West Yorkshire Police Governance

West Yorkshire Police has a governance structure of:

- A quarterly Gold Group (chaired by T/ACC Arrowsuch) which has the Providing Reassurance Board occurring consecutively. This area of our work is soon to be aligned the Providing Reassurance Board which is chaired by ACC Miller.
- A quarterly Tactical Delivery Group (chaired by Supt Ryder)
- Routine local delivery meetings chaired by local senior leaders

Supporting the above are the Taser Steering Group and Firearms Steering Group. Work is undertaken to ensure the necessary internal collaboration is embedded with consistent reporting methodologies, performance management techniques and expectations. This structure will work closely with the Crime Board, and the Criminal Justice and Custody Board to ensure the use of related investigative or detention powers is examined thematically for scrutiny and inspection purposes.

2. Use of Force

2.1 Laws relating to the Use of Force

Relevant legislation, common law and case law are hyperlinked for further information:

- [Section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967](#)
- [Section 117 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984](#)
- [Section 76 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008](#)
- [Common Law](#) (CPS guidance covering use of force and police powers)
- [College of Policing Guidance](#) – conflict management
- All of the above is compliant with the Human Rights Act (1998) and ECHR articles:
 - Article 2 – the right to life
 - Article 3 – prohibition from torture
 - Article 16 – prohibition from discrimination

2.2 Why Do the Police Use Force?

The powers that the police have are specific to the role they have in society, but the principles upon how they should be used are universal to every member of society – they should be fair, reasonable, proportionate legitimate and they should stand up to scrutiny. But why do the police use force?

With the general population the use of force is generally used for the purposes of self-defence – protecting themselves from a threat they think will cause them harm. The police use force to help the public when they need protecting from threats, they need protection from. The police use force to protect victims, to protect the wider public and their property, and to protect

themselves while they do so. The decision about what force to use and how to use it are made in a fraction of the time that it is scrutinised for.

Behind every use of force is a victim or future victim that needs protection or someone at risk of harming themselves.

West Yorkshire Police is more transparent than ever in its use of force, and its officers and staff are using lesser force more often while keeping the public safe. West Yorkshire Police has started a robust approach to scrutiny and is seeking to enhance that with increased use of technology and by increasing public scrutiny.

2.3 Performance

Since the requirement to complete a use of force form was introduced, we have seen significant gains in the number of forms submitted. Home Office data indicated that WP were submitting the most forms for a Force outside the MPS.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Year	Use of Force Forms
2019/20	17934
2020/21	33977
2021/22	40727
2022/23	46132
2023/24	47071
2024/25	42770
2025/26	46848

Commentary: a reduction in the submission of use of force forms was anticipated as the submissions of such a form when tactical communication alone was used to manage conflict was no longer required.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

2.4 Tactics Used

% Distribution of All Tactics Recorded	2019 / 2020	2020 / 2021	2021 /202 2	2022 /202 3	2023 /202 4	2024 /202 5	2025 /202 6	Trend
Tactical communication	33.7	33.9	35.9	37.9	38.4	37.9	37.7	Stable trend following period of significant improvement
Compliant handcuffing	22.1	27.7	27.5	28.6	27.2	27.4	27.6	Stable trend following period of significant improvement
Non-compliant handcuffing	12.6	10.6	9.7	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.1	Stable trend following period of significant improvement
Unarmed skills	19.8	17.6	18.0	16.9	17.3	18.1	19	Trend is fluctuating but with gradual improvement
Incapacitant spray (used)	2.1	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.5	1.1	0.9	Significant reduction – low and stable
Baton used	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	Low and stable
Spit and bite guard	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	Stable trend following period of improvement
Ground restraint	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.6	Reduction – low and stable
Limb restraints	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	Stable trend following period of improvement
CED (taser)	2.5	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.6	0.7	Stable trend following period of significant improvement

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Dog deployed	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	Low and stable
Dog bite	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	Low and stable
Firearms	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1		Stable trend following period of significant improvement

2.5 Analysis

Any use of force should:

- Have a lawful objective
- Be necessary
- Be minimal and proportionate to the threat
- Have due regard to the nature and gravity of the threat, and the potential to cause harm from using force

While the above may appear simple, the use of force can often be very complex, based on a large number of factors that need to be carefully compared and the honestly held belief the person using force about those factors can be tested.

Sometimes the factors that may be essential to understanding why force was used may not be immediately apparent if witnessed in person or when watching video footage of it. This may be a result of the direction from which it is viewed, or information held about the individual only the police know, or things that cannot always be seen such as the person being drunk; all these can influence how much force could be considered reasonable in the circumstances.

It is also important to reflect that the proportionality of force used to deal with a threat can vary between officers – sometimes this can be based on the same factors as detailed as above, but when having to use force an officer with less physical formidability or strength, or a smaller number of officers may need to use more force to safely arrest, restrain or detain the same person.

The proportionality of the force used is often based on the medical implications of the tactic the police use compared to the threat the person poses – so where the threat is lower than a greater emphasis would be expected on the use of tactics that have a lower risk of causing injury (also known as less intrusive tactics), but where the threat is higher than more intrusive tactics may be proportionate.

Deciding what is proportionate in each set of circumstances is challenging at the time and in any following scrutiny. Similar challenges are faced when looking at overall performance of a Force as some factors can change with a year and between years, for example:

- Large scale recruitment can change the experience level of operational officers and so decision making can be less refined by experiential learning
- Variation in recruitment cohorts (age, size, fitness, physical capabilities) can affect the physical formidability of the cohort of officers available
- The training methodology and outcomes of the training can vary with time and changes to curriculum
- The availability of new equipment will change how other tactics are used, and the introduction of that new kit will mean the use varies as officers get used to it and establish when they need to use it
- Wider policy can influence training, deployment and commander assessed tactics
- The nature of the threat can vary due to factors outside of the control of policing such as public disorder
- The anomaly of the Covid pandemic lockdown will also feature to the significant impact on social behaviours
- The response of officers by using force could be matched to the trends in threat or violence they are faced
- Changes in recording practices will also feature in changes in performance as our data is from officer reporting

Our performance data shows that in the broadest terms we can see consistent change in the way in force was being used between 2020 and 2022, which includes the pandemic lockdown, but we can see consistent change and then generally stable trends in the use of force from 2021/22 onwards. These trends show:

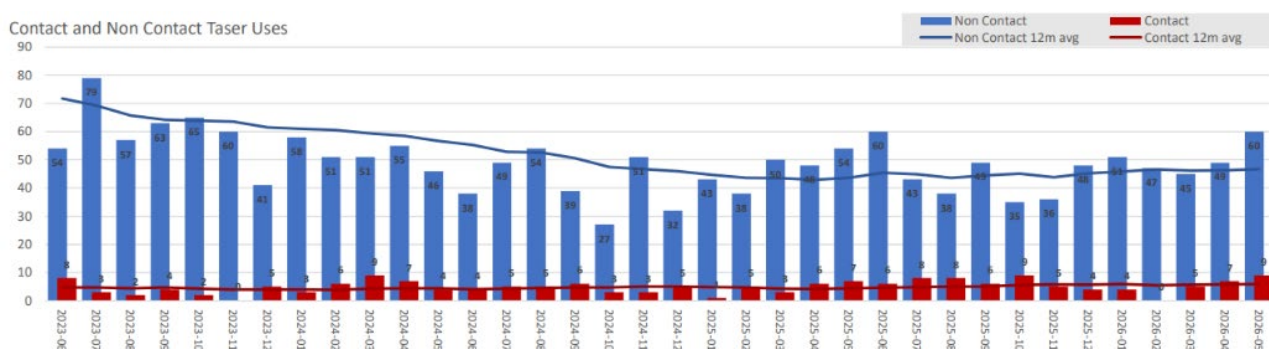
- i. A significant increase in the prevalence of tactical communications as a first tactic used and as a tactic used generally – this is a reassuring feature as it indicates that officers are trying not to use force, and where they have to, they are trying to do so minimally, and instead negotiate a person to a safe resolution

- ii. The above is further evidenced by a shift away from non-compliant handcuffing to compliant handcuffing – control to handcuff is being achieved verbally with increasing prevalence than by using force
- iii. As tactics increase in intrusiveness the reductions are less apparent, which is also reassuring as it is indicative that the times they are used are sparing and necessary and have been for some time.

Overall, the data shows that officers in West Yorkshire Police are actively learning and developing their skills and as a result force is being used with increasing reliance on the less intrusive means by which the public are exposed to less risk of injury.

2.6 Use of Taser

The below chart tracks the use of taser use (contact = red, non-contact use = blue) and tracks beyond the year 2025/26 to show the continued trend.



West Yorkshire Police have significantly reduced the use of taser over the last three years which should offer significant reassurance to the public. Our performance is stable, with rigorous review processes ensuring appropriateness of use.

Officers have started in the new taser device (the Axon T10) which is designed offer subjects of a Police encounter more distance, time and space; this reduces pressure on those people, particularly those in crisis, with the aim of increased rates of compliant surrender for arrest.

2.7 Police Use of Firearms

The firearms data presented is that when an officer points a firearm at a person.

West Yorkshire Police routinely deploys armed officers around the county to ensure that should there be a need to deploy them that they can respond quickly. Armed officers are always deployed in a minimum of a pair, the number of armed officers deployed will depend on the firearms tactics required to reduce risk to the public and their proximity to the location armed officers are required.

The criteria for the deployment of armed officers are defined by the College of Policing as when officers need to protect themselves or others from:

- a person possessing a firearm or other potentially lethal weapon,
- or when an individual is deemed so dangerous that armed deployment is necessary.

Additionally, armed officers can be deployed as part of a specific operation or for the destruction of dangerous or suffering animals.

Armed officers can choose to draw their firearms themselves, though this has not happened for several years. Generally armed officers are required to draw their firearms in two circumstances:

- Following a report to police with an immediate threat to the life of another they are deployed by an Initial Tactical Firearms Commander, with the decision later ratified by a Strategic Firearms Commander.
- When the immediacy of the threat is lower and there is time to plan this decision is recommended by a Tactical Firearms Commander and then authorised by the Strategic Firearms Commander prior to the officers being deployed.

Although officers may be deployed on an armed operation it is possible that they may not point their firearm at a person, but they may still use force in other ways e.g. by handcuffing a subject.

On the types of the armed deployment described above it is important to note that the information they are briefed with by the Initial Tactical Firearms Commander or Tactical Firearms Commander will heavily guide their decision making in regards to whether a firearm is pointed, or at whom, and any secondary uses of force, but that the officer themselves remains accountable for the decision, as does the Initial Tactical Firearms Commander or Tactical Firearms Commander for the decision to deploy armed officers and the information provided to the armed officers.

2.8 Use of Force in Custody

A focus on the use of PAVA in custody was prompted after the HMICFRS custody inspection report; progress has been made:

	August 2024 to July 2025	July 2025 to June 2026	% Change
BD – Trafalgar House	5	8	+60%
CD – Halifax	3	7	+75%
KD – Huddersfield	1	0	-100%
LD – Elland Road	9	2	-77%
LD - Stainbeck	0	4	+400%
WD – Havertop Lane	10	3	-70%
WYP	28	24	-14%

3. Stop and Search

3.1 Powers of Stop and Search

Commonly used powers of stop and search are:

- Under Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act police can stop and search individuals or vehicles if they have reasonable grounds to suspect they will find stolen goods, prohibited articles (such as weapons) or items which may be used in certain crimes.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- Under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 police can stop and search a person when they have reasonable grounds to suspect that any person is in possession of a controlled drug.
- Under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 police can stop and search without reasonable suspicion if a senior officer believes serious violence may occur or has occurred and that people are carrying weapons in a specific area.
- Under Section 47 of the Firearms Act 1967 officers may search a person and detain them for that purpose if suspected of having a firearm.
- Under Section 11 of the Public Order Act 2023 police can stop and search without suspicion if an inspector believes offences may be committed or prohibited items are being carried in relation to locking on (a protect tactic), tunnelling to cause disruption, obstructing major transport networks or interfering with national infrastructure.

3.2 Why do the police use powers of stop and search?

Powers of stop and search are given to the police by Government to remove harm from society; the harm may be caused by the item itself or also its future criminal use, such as:

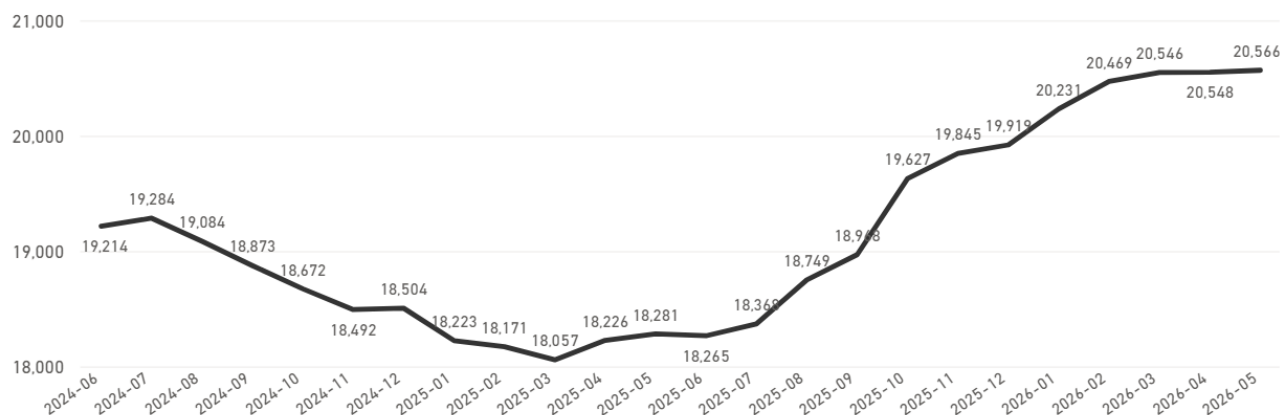
- Searching for weapons or firearms which may be used in serious violence
- Searching for drugs which are assessed by medical experts as being harmful when consumed, and which also have a link to the commission of other crimes to fund drug addictions
- Searching for items that criminals may use to break into people's homes or steal their cars, or items from them
- Searching for stolen property so it can be returned to its rightful owner

Not every stop and search will result in something being found, but even those actions can help to deter, displace and reduce associated crimes. The experience of being stop and searched can also be a negative one, which is why significant scrutiny is place on their use, and is detailed in the sections below.

3.3 Performance (General) (Data up to May 2026)

3.3.1 Volume

Rolling 12 Month Stop Search Count - Last 24 Months



The volume of stop and searches over the 12-month period, when compared to the previous 12 months, has increased by 12.5% (2,285 in total). Over the last 3 months there has been an increase of 2% (97) when compared to the same period last year which is good – stop and search removes harm from communities and is a contributing performance measure in the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.

The volume of child stop searches has increased over the 12-month period by 8.3% (223 in total). Over the last 3 months there has been an increase of 0.6% (4) when compared to the same period last year.

The breakdown of stop and search data reflects strategic threats to the Force, and the operational threats to our communities across West Yorkshire. Over the last 12 months:

- 71.8% of all searches conducted were undertaken for drugs
- 8.6% for going equipped (for offences of burglary, theft, or fraud)
- 10.5% for offensive weapons (including bladed articles)
- 6.2% for stolen property.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Reasons given for the stop and search of children over the last 12 months are:

- 48.9% undertaken for drugs
- 22.4% for offensive weapons (including bladed articles)
- 15.8% going equipped (for offences of burglary, theft, or fraud)
- 7.1% for stolen property

The Police and Criminal Evidence Act, 1984 Code A, defines the extent to which searches may be conducted: confined to outer clothing only (JOG), more thorough than outer clothing (MTS), or exposing intimate parts (EIP). Searches involving exposure of intimate parts of the body may be carried out only at a nearby police station or other nearby location which is out of public view (but not a police vehicle). In the last 12 months:

- 95.4% of searches were outer clothing
- 0.2% were more than outer clothing
- 1.4% involved exposure of intimate parts
- 3.0% were vehicle only

In respect of children:

- 99.6% of searches were outer clothing
- 0.2% were more than outer clothing
- 0.2% involved exposure of intimate parts (5 occurrences – no change on last year)

3.3.2 Outcomes and find rates

Search outcomes are split into two, with both being legitimate and beneficial:

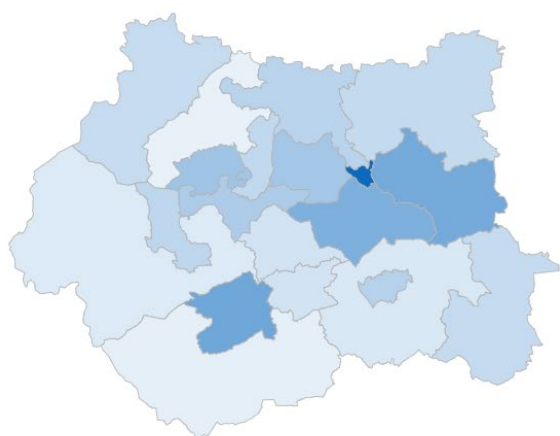
- Direct outcomes are searches where the item being searched for is found. The direct outcome rate increased from 27.2% to 27.7% when compared to the same period last year.
- Positive outcomes are searches where, for example, something else illegal, other than what was sought is found, or where a person is arrested for an offence or in connection with being wanted on a court warrant. The positive outcome rate has increased from 33.5% to 34.1%.

3.3.3 Focus: Offensive Weapons / Bladed Articles

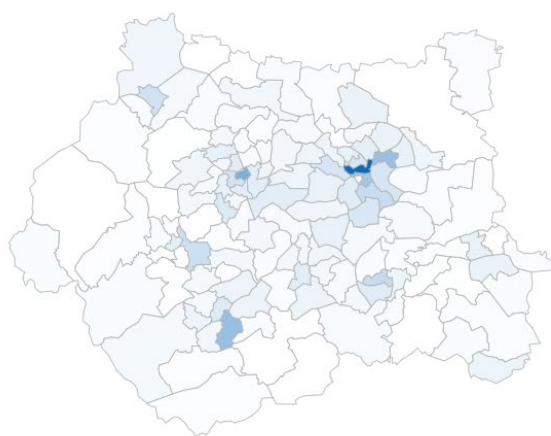
In the last year:

- There were 2,129 stop and searches for offensive weapons / bladed articles – a 0.05% (-1) decrease from the previous year
- Such searches accounted for 10.5% of all stop and searches – a 1.2% reduction from the previous year
- The direct find rate has been 12.5% last year, this is no change on the previous year
- The positive outcome rate has been 26.1% last year, a decrease of 0.5% from the previous year
- The geographic spread and time analysis of the use of stop and search focussing on offensive weapons / bladed articles is presented below

Stop Search Volume by NPT



Stop Search Volume by Ward



Day / Hour	0:00-0:59	1:00-1:59	2:00-2:59	3:00-3:59	4:00-4:59	5:00-5:59	6:00-6:59	7:00-7:59	8:00-8:59	9:00-9:59	10:00-10:59	11:00-11:59	12:00-12:59	13:00-13:59	14:00-14:59	15:00-15:59	16:00-16:59	17:00-17:59	18:00-18:59	19:00-19:59	20:00-20:59	21:00-21:59	22:00-22:59	23:00-23:59
Monday	12	15	11	7	5	1	1	3	4	5	9	5	11	6	7	14	12	14	32	45	24	16	13	22
Tuesday	11	4	2	6	1	4	1	1	4	7	7	5	11	4	11	13	11	19	22	22	23	25	16	22
Wednesday	7	5	12	5	4	1	1	5	2	4	2	9	9	5	20	15	15	15	33	37	38	10	13	19
Thursday	12	13	10		7	2	1	3	8	6	6	11	11	11	9	9	5	8	33	39	21	20	11	18
Friday	24	12	5	7		2	2	1	5	7	11	9	7	11	12	6	22	11	18	31	23	35	21	39
Saturday	41	21	15	5	10	12	1	3	4	2	3	8	6	10	13	14	18	31	31	35	22	29	18	19
Sunday	27	13	10	7	5	10	1	1	5	6	2	9	2	9	16	9	27	19	34	40	27	13	21	17

3.3.4 Focus: Use of Handcuffs in Stop and Search

- Over the past 18 months there has been significant scrutiny of the police use of force when conducting stop and searches, specifically the application of handcuffs.
- The scrutiny is supported by increased training and feedback to officers.
- In July 2025 handcuffs were applied in 17.8% of all stop and search encounters, in May 2026 handcuffs were applied in 26.6% of all stop and search encounters.
-

Period	Total searches	Handcuffed	% of S&S with handcuffs used
Jun-25	1514	228	15.1%
Jul-25	1694	302	17.8%
Aug-25	1254	260	20.7%
Sep-25	1639	422	25.7%
Oct-25	2096	510	24.3%
Nov-25	1797	451	25.1%
Dec-25	1643	395	24.0%
Jan-26	1785	416	23.3%
Feb-26	1697	467	27.5%
Mar-26	1589	441	27.8%
Apr-26	1621	456	28.1%
May-26	1663	442	26.6%
Total	19992	4790	24.0%

One hundred incidents of use of handcuffs during stop search have been subject to a secondary review by a senior leader, with all uses assessed as satisfactory.

4. Inequalities in Experience

4.1 How Inequalities are Measured

Conventionally the measure used to assess the fairness of police activity (and those of others) is one which is enshrined in a concept of equal distribution. This census-orientated approach then used to compare any given experience between different groups to establish if it is direct proportion to the distribution of that population at the point the measure is made. The measures generally use the volume of the White population as the denominator of calculations to present a summary such as “*X group are more (or less) likely to experience Y than White people*”.

The key assumption made in the use of the census data is that policing should equally applied based on protected characteristics as this would be a measure of fairness. The concept of equal distribution is arguably an admirable one, but its assumption of absolute equality is not reflective of the diverse nature of society and how a complex interaction of social pressures can result in systemic differences and inequalities in the lived experiences of the population (detailed in the above section), which can then lead to

adverse behaviours that public services have a challenging duty to understand and respond to.

Census data remains a reference point as it is a comprehensive data collection method that offers detailed information in a relatively consistent manner with a set frequency of collection, but the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Quality and Methods Guide for Census-Based Statistics UK (2021) states that the data it collects is quickly out of date and so may not reflect shorter term migration or economic shifts, that the accuracy of responses can vary due to misunderstanding of questions or deliberate misreporting, and that there can be issues of undercounting and non-response (leading to under representation), particularly in relation to young adults, migrants, homeless individuals.

A further concern about the census method of analysis is that it assumes all crime is committed within the counting area for the population – people travel and cross borders to commit crime (the notion of “county lines” offending perfectly demonstrates this).

In 2021 a concept called Risk Adjusted Disparity was proposed by academics at the Cambridge Centre for Evidenced Based Policing by examining the use of stop and search in comparison to inequalities in murder rates. It concluded that *“an index of proactive policing using victimizations by race is more likely to lead to equal protection of law than a residential population-based metric of proactive police actions, as is commonly used in official reporting”* ([Source](#)).

The study focussed on stop and search being used as a means of preventing murder and found that between the years 2000 and 2019 the murder rate of Black people was on average 5.6 times higher than it was for White people, and Asian rates were twice those of White rates; most concerningly the rates for Black people aged 16-24 was 24 times higher than it was for White people of that age group ([Source](#)). The use of victim data was based on a strong correlation in the demographics of suspects/offenders and their victims.

West Yorkshire Police has embedded a similar methodology for stop and search analysis and for use of force too.

4.1 Inequalities in the Use of Force

A description of the tactics can be found at Appendix A.

Asian (Compared to White)	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Compliant Handcuffing	1.4-2.0	1.6-2.2	1.6-2.1	1.4-1.7	1.3-1.7
Non-compliant Handcuffing	1.0-1.4	1.1-1.5	0.9-1.3	0.7-0.9	0.7-0.9
Ground Restraint	0.6-0.9	0.6-0.9	0.7-1.0	0.6-0.7	0.6-0.8
Spit and Bite Guard	0.5-0.8	0.6-0.8	0.9-1.2	0.8-1.0	0.5-0.6
Incapacitant Spray	0.5-0.7	0.7-0.9	0.7-0.9	0.7-0.8	0.7-0.9
Limb Restraint	0.5-0.7	0.7-0.9	0.7-0.9	0.6-0.7	0.6-0.8
Baton Used	0.5-0.7	0.6-0.8	1.3-1.7	1.3-1.6	1.2-1.5
Unarmed Skills	0.8-1.1	0.9-1.2	1.0-1.3	0.8-1.0	0.8-1.0
Taser (not fired)	0.8-1.3	0.8-1.3	0.8-1.2	0.9-1.1	1.2-1.5
Taser (fired)	0.5-0.8	0.3-0.5	0.5-0.7	0.6-0.7	
Firearm	2.1-3.6	2.3-3.7	1.9-2.7	1.2-1.3	2.2-2.8
AEP	1.6-2.7	-	-	0.8-0.9	0.6-0.7

In the broadest sense we see that force is disproportionately used on White people compared to Asian people, but that there are tactics that Asian people experience more.

When all of the tactics are adjusted for volume Asian people are around 1.2 times more likely to experience a use of force than White people, when adjusted for the rate of violent crime.

Black (Compared to White)	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Compliant Handcuffing	1.5-1.6	1.6-2.0	1.5-2.0	1.7-1.9	1.7-1.9
Non-compliant Handcuffing	1.4	1.5-1.8	1.3-1.7	1.3-1.5	1.5-1.6
Ground Restraint	1.1-1.2	1.3-1.5	1.1-1.4	1.2-1.4	1.4-1.5
Spit and Bite Guard	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.7	1.0-1.3	0.9-1.1	0.9-1.7
Incapacitant Spray	1.2-1.3	1.5-1.8	1.6-2.0	1.2-1.4	1.4-1.5

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Limb Restraint	1.5-1.6	1.4-1.7	0.8-1.1	0.9-1.1	1.2-1.4
Baton Used	1.2-1.3	1.5-1.8	2.7-3.5	1.0-1.2	1.6-1.8
Unarmed Skills	1.4-1.5	1.4-1.6	1.3-1.7	1.3-1.4	1.4-1.5
Taser (not fired)	2.0-2.2	1.4-2.0	1.6-2.1	2.1-2.4	2.0-2.8
Taser (fired)	1.2-1.4	1.4-2.0	0.3-0.4	2.1-2.4	
Firearm	2.5-2.8	3.6-5.0	3.1-4.3	2.7-3.6	1.8-2.8
AEP	-	-	-	-	-

We do see consistently higher rates of force being used on Black people compared to White people.

Mixed Race (Compared to White)	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Compliant Handcuffing	0.5-0.6	0.5-0.7	0.3	0.1-1.4	0.2-1.4
Non-compliant Handcuffing	0.8	0.6-0.8	0.2-0.3	0.1-0.7	0.2-0.7
Ground Restraint	0.6	0.9-1.2	0.3-0.4	0.0-0.6	0.3-0.5
Spit and Bite Guard	0.6-0.7	0.5-0.8	0.5-0.6	0.1-0.8	0.3-0.7
Incapacitant Spray	0.7	0.6-0.9	0.2-0.3	0.1-0.7	0.2-0.6
Limb Restraint	0.6	0.6-0.8	0.3-0.4	0.1-0.6	0.3-0.5
Baton Used	0.7	0.6-0.9	0.8-1.0	0.4-1.3	0.3-1.2
Unarmed Skills	0.5-0.6	0.6-0.8	0.3-0.4	0.2-0.8	0.2-0.8
Taser (not fired)	0.8	0.5-0.8	0.1-0.3	0.3-0.9	0.1-0.9
Taser (fired)	1.4	1.2-2.3	0	0.6-0.7	
Firearm	0.7-0.8	1.4-2.5	0.4-0.8	0.3	-
AEP	-	-	-	0.8-2.8	-

Overall, we see that force is overwhelming used more on White people than Mixed race people, and this is generally a consistent trend but will require ongoing monitoring.

The focus of inequalities in the use of force is on racial inequalities, but we also occasionally review the use of force for inequalities for females and young person's using the same method of analysis as we do for racial groups. Data is examined comparing female experience to male experience, and child experience to adult experience:

- the use of spit and bite guards and limb restraints is proportionately higher for people under the age of 18 but is not disproportionate to the use of these tactics to adults
- the use of spit and bite guards and limb restraints is proportionately higher females but is not disproportionate to the use of these tactics to adults

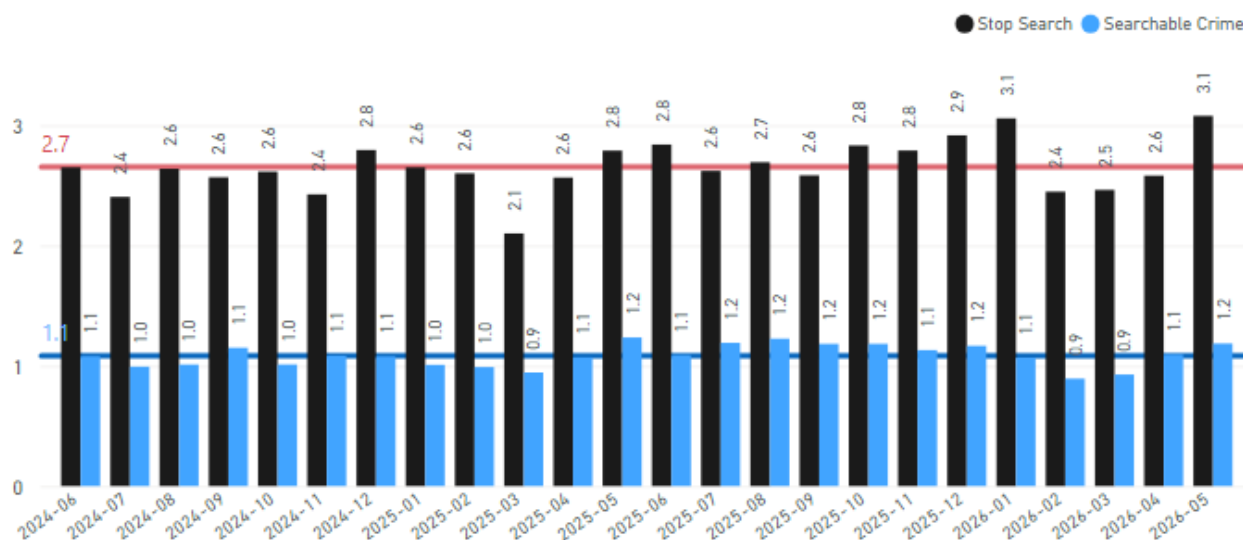
For both of these results the similar in that a review of assaults on officers and reports on their use showed an increased prevalence of violence being threatened of employed by these groups. The theory behind this is:

- the groups are generally smaller and so generally less capable of developing a more formidable level of resistance
- the amount of strength required to bite, or spit is low but it still has the capability to cause harm
- the most powerful muscle groups are in the legs and so they offer the smaller people the means to develop the most force and therefore injury potential
- as such biting, spitting and kicking may be the most effective means of resistance and so the tactics used to address these threats may feature more.

5.7 Inequalities in Stop and Search

The table below shows the disproportionality in the use of stop and search powers over the last two years for all minority ethnicities. The black bars use data from the Census of 2021 to create a measure of inequality, and the blue bars show the data for the risk adjusted approach ("searchable crime") which is using a population based on offenders of the crimes that stop and search can prevent or detect:

Monthly Ethnic Minority Disproportionality - Last 24 Months

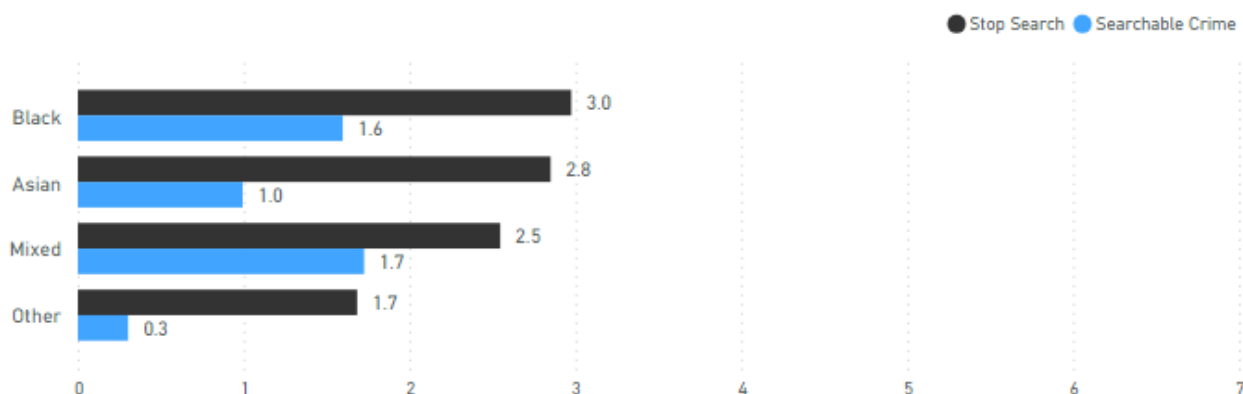


The data shows two trend lines:

- when compared to census data people from an ethnic minority are around 2.7 times more likely to be subject to a stop and search
- when compared to offending rates of crimes that stop and search can prevent or detect people of an ethnic minority are as likely to be subject to a stop and search as white people

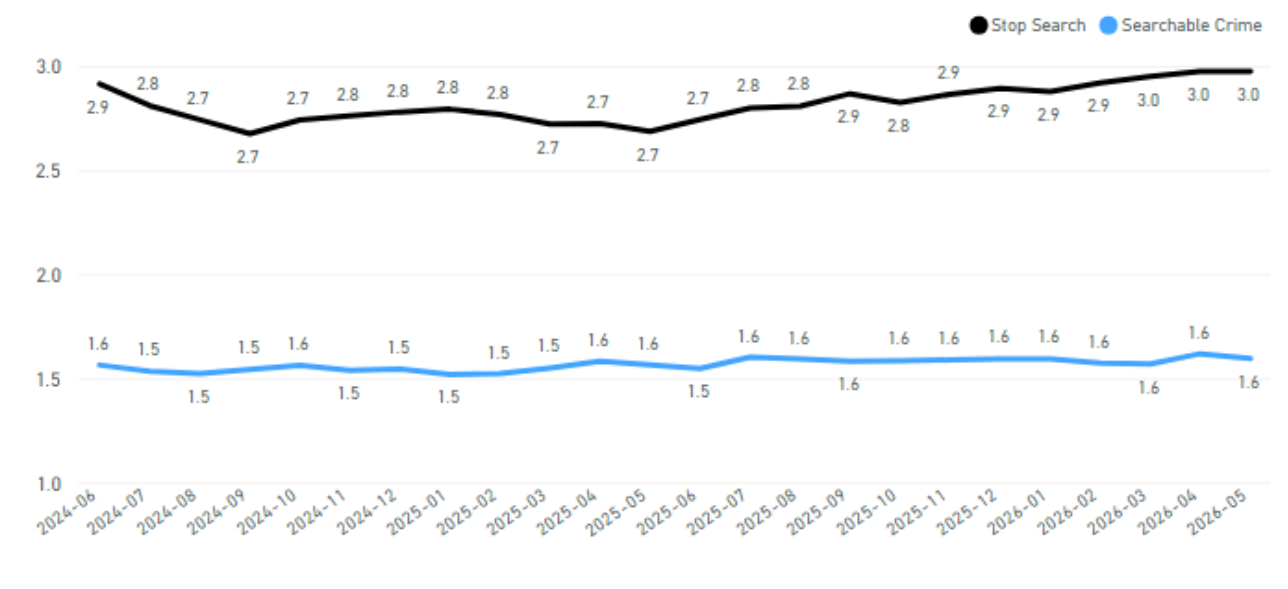
The same means of data analysis is presented below for the different racial or ethnic groups that the police are required to measure:

Disproportionality Breakdown by Self Defined Ethnicity Group - Last 12 ...



The greatest degree of scrutiny on the use of stop and search has been on black people; the chart below shows the trend over the last two years for this group only:

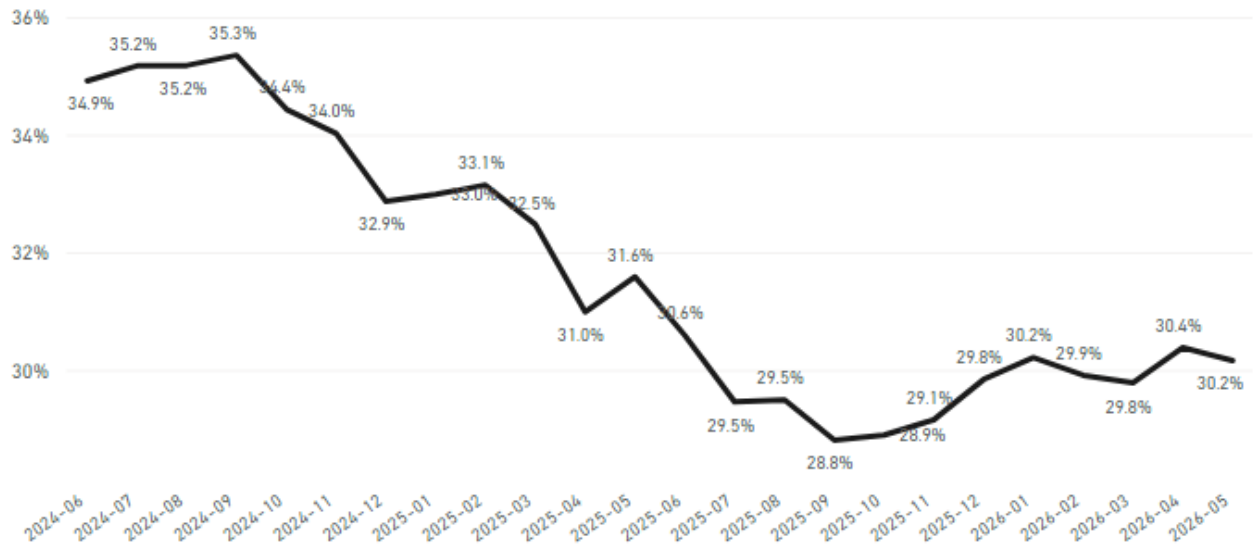
Rolling 12 Month Ethnic Minority Disproportionality - Last 24 Months



The stop and search repeat rate is a measure of the people who are subject to more than one stop and search in a 6-month period. The data presented in the below table shows the repeat rate for each ethnic group the police measure, and the chart after focuses on the trend for black people only:

Self-defined Ethnicity	Same period last year	Last 12 months	Change
Asian	38.3%	38.6%	+0.3%
Black	31.6%	30.2%	-1.4%
Mixed	35.8%	36.9%	+1.1%
Other	33.2%	29.8%	-3.4%
White	32.6%	34.4%	+1.9%

Rolling 12 Month Stop Search Repeat Rate % - Last 24 Months



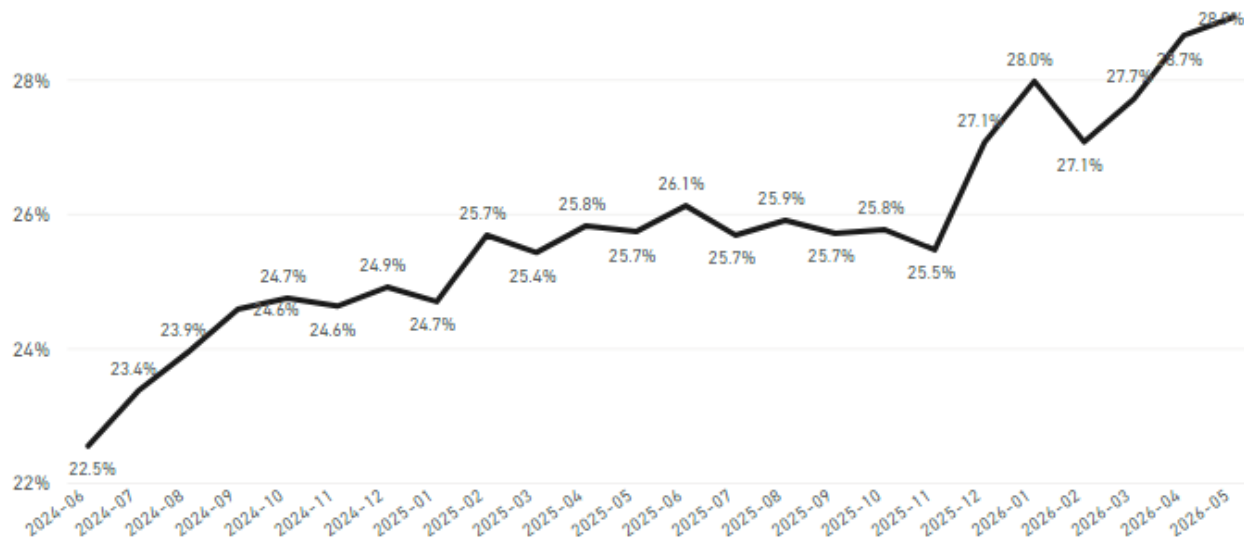
The direct find rate is the measure of the officer finding the item they were looking for (e.g. suspicion a knife is being carried and is found):

Long Term Trend

SDE Group	Same Period Last Year	Last 12 Months	Change	Significance
Asian	30.5 %	32.9 %	2.4 %	↗
Black	25.7 %	28.9 %	3.2 %	→
Mixed	28.2 %	24.8 %	-3.4 %	→
Other	24.4 %	22.8 %	-1.6 %	→
White	24.5 %	24.3 %	-0.2 %	→

A trend for the direct find rate of black subjects of stop and search is below:

Rolling 12 Month Stop Search Find Rate % - Last 24 Months



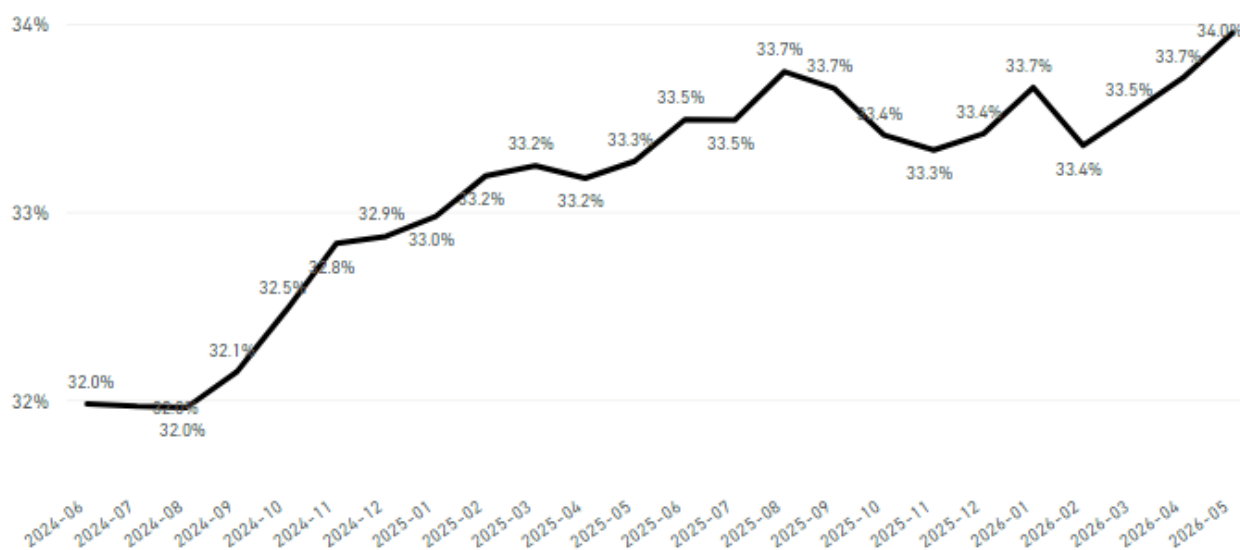
The positive outcome rate is measure of the officer finding a different item to the one they were looking for (e.g. suspicion a knife is being carried and drugs are found); in such circumstances the stop and search is still lawful:

Long Term Trend

SDE Group	Same Period Last Year	Last 12 Months	Change	Significance
Asian	35.6 %	37.2 %	1.6 %	→
Black	37.6 %	38.9 %	1.2 %	→
Mixed	39.1 %	34.4 %	-4.6 %	↘
Other	32.7 %	31.3 %	-1.3 %	→
White	33.1 %	33.4 %	0.3 %	→

A trend for the positive find rate of black subjects of stop and search is below:

Rolling 12 Month Stop Search Outcome Rate % - Last 24 Months



5. Scrutiny & Training

6.1 Internal Reviews and Feedback

A new compliance and reviews process has been introduced following feedback from officers and the HMICFRS which sees a broader range of circumstances reviewed by a broader range of reviewing officers and has seen increased levels of automation make the process more efficient. Feedback is automatically passed to the officers under review and their supervisor, with recording on the PDR system encouraged and the trends of feedback then summarised to inform the content of officer training.

The approach was implemented in July (use of force) and August (stop and search) 2025 and so a valuable dataset is still be developed for future scrutiny at COM, but headline findings so far include:

- A need for greater detail in explaining what the officer has done and why through the provision of a short account
- Areas for development have been identified in 18% of reviews
- The most common points of positive feedback are “good tactical communications”, “shows compassion and empathy” and “managed others well at the scene”

6.2 Public Complaints & Police Conduct Matters

Data for 12 months June 2025 – May 2026:

Complaint Allegations	Use of Force	Stop & Search
June 25	33	1
July 25	30	3
Aug 25	27	9
Sept 25	39	4
Oct 25	28	3
Nov 25	35	3
Dec 25	20	2
Jan 26	15	3
Feb 26	27	5
Mar 26	23	1
Apr 26	29	1
May 26	23	1

West Yorkshire Police retain the Community Trigger threshold at one complaint, and the outcome of every stop and search complaint is passed in a redacted format to local scrutiny panels for their review. Between June 2025 and May 2026 there were 36 complaints made over the period related to stop and search encounters.

The distribution by District for this time period is:

Complaint Allegations	Use of Force	Stop & Search
Bradford (22%)	22%	25%
Calderdale (8%)	12%	11%
Kirklees (14%)	16%	3%
Leeds (29%)	31%	36%
Wakefield (12%)	12%	17%
Operations Support (14%)	5%	8%

(The percentage shown next to District names is the proportion of police officers held between those being reported on).

Complaint by ethnicity for the time period is:

Complaint Allegations	Use of Force	Stop & Search
Asian	37	10
Black	17	1
White	149	21
Other	7	4
Unknown	119	0

Complaint outcomes for the time period are:

Complaint Allegations	Use of Force	Stop & Search
Service provided was acceptable	45.6%	41.7%
Service provided was not acceptable	1.5%	2.8%
Not determined if acceptable	3.3%	2.8%
Resolved	3.3%	27.8%
Reg 41 (NFA	6.1%	-
Conduct investigation	-	-
Withdrawn	4.0%	-
Not resolved – no further action	-	-
No further action	1.8%	2.8%

(113 use of force allegations remain live)

Conduct investigations for the time period are:

Complaint Allegations	Use of Force
Bradford (22%)	13.9%
Calderdale (8%)	13.9%
Kirklees (14%)	8.3%
Leeds (29%)	41.7%
Wakefield (12%)	8.3%
Operations Support (14%)	13.9%

(The percentage shown next to District names is the proportion of police officers held between those being reported on).

6. External Scrutiny

Five adult Scrutiny Panels are embedded within each district. Each panel meets every 8 weeks reviewing stop and search, use of force and hate crime occurrences.

Between May 2025 and May 2026, the external Scrutiny Panels have reviewed 168 incidents. 77 of these incidents have resulted in feedback being provided to the officer. 14 for hate crime incidents, 42 for stop and search incidents and 21 for use of force incidents. Of the 77 incidents, 53 were positive feedback and 24 were developmental feedback.

A summary of the positive feedback from the panel members passed to officers included; officers praised for their caring, professional and patient manner, compliments on the way an officer handled a vulnerable woman, officers explaining the grounds well and correctly completing GOWISELY to subjects, an officer's excellent communication style whilst looking after a subject, the calm and reassuring demeanour helped de-escalate a challenging situation. In another incident, the panel were impressed by the actions of the officers to locate and apprehend an offender.

Developmental feedback was identified with key themes raised such as, inappropriate language used by officers, perceived inappropriate tone and facial expression by an officer who was interrupting the subject during the interaction, poor communication and explanation when dealing with subjects. Concerns regard an officer having an aggressive attitude and the potential that this could cause escalation at the incident. The panel observed attending officers push a female resulting in her falling to the floor which some members felt was unnecessary. Lack of consideration by officer when looking at options to assist with potential language difficulties, officers not going that extra step to consider a house visit when they couldn't reach an aggrieved on the phone.

Further organisation learning was also recorded and checked with the Learning and Development Training Department to ensure it was part of the learning syllabus for all officers attending Public and Personal Safety Training and Student Officer training. Observations raised included, the timely submission of S&S records by officers as per PACE and the timely review of SS encounters by supervisors to be improved. Lack of self-protection by some officers not using gloves was also noted. Officers missing some parts of GOWISLEY and BWV still not being turned on or officers still not telling the subject that BWV is recording when it was.

The feedback from the Scrutiny Panels is recorded on the Scrutiny Panel Portal. The feedback is tracked and monitored to ensure it is given to the officer in question. The Use of Powers Improvements Board reviews and assesses both internal and external feedback with the intention that the feedback will inform process, policy, and training.

Questions

DMPC has asked if you have data on cumulative use of force, i.e., Stop and Search, Taser user, handcuff (even if compliant) strip searches for the same people?

- The short answer is no, this is not part of our routine data collection and would require a complex programme change to draw the necessary information from the data warehouse and present it, and then the analysis could be complicated by additional factors which are recorded within qualitative sections of Niche and Pronto. This currently sits outside of our capacity and as PPN compliance improves it will be covered.

Usage and impact of body worn video including feedback from scrutiny panels re both S&S and UOF

- These are covered in the report – we should be emphasising the roll-out of the new BWV

Any improvements on usage/recording

- There is little change to this area of performance, but we have an ongoing action to understand those who repeatedly fall below expectation and explore a consistent performance or conduct plan to address this.

Impact/improvements associated with Jemlock

- We normally labour the contribution of Op Jemlock in this report, but I have removed it as the Hotspot Action Fund has been withdrawn by the Home Office and effectively ended the approach under Op Jemlock. When the Knife Crime Concentration Fund starts to deliver, we may look at inclusion in this report, but that approach is much more partnership focussed than one aiming to improve operational delivery. Since Jemlock ended we have seen a decrease in the use of stop and search, which is a power that saves lives.

Updates on the quality of stop and search – complaints etc

- Detailed in the report

Any current challenges, improvements across training, recording etc

- Related PEEL feedback and actions
 - PPST training plan is being reviewed through a COT paper to make training completion more achievable, but we have already seen an increase in compliance levels over the last 6 months
 - Positive feedback on the internal and external scrutiny processes

Use of Police powers report (and following on for peel) can we please add data confirming whether a PPN has been completed in ALL cases of children being held in custody (which is force policy) or where they have been stopped and searched or had other use of force on them.

- There are a number of challenges with this expectation in PEEL which are requiring a detailed workstream to address
 - We have automated the production of a PPN on every arrest, but this notifies the officer of the need to add a rationale and then submit it; we know we are 100%

compliant with the notification to the officer but we are struggling to track if the PPN is actually submitted.

- Completion of a PPN after a stop and search is not mandatory in Force Policy (or any national directive – it is simply an opinion of the FLL and one which smaller Forces do, which if we repeat we will swamp partners so we are looking at how best to automate a single agency triage using Early Action teams and only send the most serious to MASH (but this means us adopting more corporate risk)
- Use of force is an enabling power not an outcome power like arrest or stop and search (which will cover through the above approaches); seldom are the circumstances found where force is used on a child and they are not arrested or stop and searched (the only one we can think of is a public order cordon, at which point we would not be getting names and addresses)

The volume of PPNs is large and the complexities of the situation and the form are making this a challenge to gain compliance, so I am trying to maximise automation and increase the simplicity of producing a PPN to ensure we look after young people with an effective, efficient and proportionate process.

Appendix A

Tactic	Further Comment
Tactical Communications	Including officer presence and communication skills to resolve conflict at an incident.
Handcuffing	Both compliant and non-compliant handcuffing/ They work by restricting hand and arm movement to prevent escape, self-harm, assault or evidence destruction.
Unarmed Skill	Including strikes or restraints.
Irritant Spray (PAVA)	Drawn or used. This works by causing pain to the eyes but has a relatively short-lived experience during which time aftercare is provided.
Baton	Including the drawing and striking. Officers are taught to strike forcefully, and the medical implications can range according to the desired location or resulting point of impact. Strikes to major muscle areas are likely to result in bruising and soreness, to joints or bones there is a risk of fractures, with a risk of more serious injury to strikes to the body's most vulnerable points.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Spit and Bite Guards	In a custody setting or outside of custody. These are made from material that allows the subject to see and breathe through a mesh fabric which prevents the subject spotting or biting others. When applied the subject is given verbal reassurance and is consistently monitored.
Conducted Energy Device (Taser)	Used in prescribed modes of drawn, aimed, red dot, arced, fired, or drive stun. The taser uses an amperage that affects the neuro-muscular system for a few seconds at a time, offering a relatively quick recovery time.
Dog bite	As described
Shield	Shields are a protective measure
Attenuating Energy Projectile	Aimed or fired. This is projects a rubber mass towards the subject.
Firearms	Aimed and fired
Other / Improvised	As described.
