

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

28 April 2026

SUBJECT: Drugs and Alcohol

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police (WYP) in respect of tackling Drugs and Alcohol.
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 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 tackling Drugs and Alcohol.

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. Drugs and alcohol are often linked to serious and violent crime and the [Voice of West Yorkshire](#) highlights the huge impact that Drugs and Alcohol have on feelings of safety.
6. Supporting Victims and Witnesses - The West Yorkshire Combatting Drugs Partnership Board emphasises the need for a co-ordinated response from key partners, the Mayor has said she will use her convening powers to bring together Combatting Drugs Partnerships across West Yorkshire to ensure consistency of response.
7. As Serious Violence is a spotlight in the Police and Crime Plan 24-28, the topic of tackling Drugs and Alcohol sits across all 3 priorities:
 - Keeping People Safe
 - Safer Places and Thriving Communities
 - Supporting Victims and Witnesses

and all 5 cross-cutting themes:

- Safety of Women and Girls
- Effective response to men and boys
- Children and Young people
- Reducing Vulnerability
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

8. There are specific objectives and outcomes regarding Serious Violence (Homicide, Knife Crime, Hospital Admissions, Knife Enabled Robberies and Serious Violence Duty Measures) within the Police and Crime Plan's performance measures.

9. There are also key police and community performance measures in relation to Drug and alcohol treatment in the Police and Crime Plan.

10. 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 P&C Plan FINAL web version.docx](#)

 [EqIA Stage 2 P&C Plan FINAL web version.docx](#)

KEY INFORMATION

11. Mayoral/DMPC activity to date includes:

Drugs and alcohol misuse are part of the wider determinants of crime and community safety which require the designing and commissioning of appropriate services to reduce the harm on individuals and communities. To support harm reduction, the Mayor has continued to provide funding through her Community Safety Fund, both to support local initiatives to educate people of the harm of drug use, but also to support groups who address the serious and organised crime which can be linked to drug supply (for example the Mayor's Safer Communities Fund's support of the West Yorkshire 'Clear, Hold, Build' programme).

The DMPC calls together district partners working on drug and alcohol issues through her chairing of the WY Combating Drugs Partnership Strategic Board (WY CDP). The Board meets twice-yearly to hear updates from district partners and representatives for HM Prisons and Probation, and in-custody liaison and diversion services.

A sub-group of the WY CDP Board has been established to help co-ordinate the West Yorkshire response to the danger of 'Synthetic Opioids'. We have collaborated with partners on our shared objective to devise a West Yorkshire-wide response plan for a potential mass-overdose event linked to synthetic opioids

(aka. 'nitazenes'). Nationwide clusters of nitazene poisonings have led to fatalities.

Further progress had been made in developing a new drug checking service at Leeds University, led by West Yorkshire Police. In the months ahead we are looking to develop our relationship with the WY Local Resilience Forum and strategic health services engaged with that group (Yorkshire Ambulance Service, Integrated Care Board), to further embed effective response planning linked to the threat of nitazenes.

Finally, WYP's pilot programme to test the use of the overdose-reversal treatment 'Naloxone' has concluded in Leeds and Wakefield. Following internal review (and the support of district public health partners), WYP expect to extend this project to the remaining West Yorkshire districts from May this year.

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

The expected commencement of the Women's Intensive Supervision Court project in Leeds will also call our partners associated in the LCJB to co-ordinate district drug treatment services with the needs of the cohort of women accessing the programme.

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

12. Mayor's Safer Communities Fund

The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund continues to support projects which tackle Drugs and Alcohol, details of projects funded can be found here ([Mayor's Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/mayors-safer-communities-fund))

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

Drugs and Alcohol interventions and support are undertaken in partnership with Community Safety Partnerships.

The Mayor supports all five Local Authorities (LAs) across West Yorkshire through the Community Safety Fund. This enables LAs to identify and fund local priorities, which can include responses to drugs and alcohol. This is monitored through reporting arrangements and learning is shared through the Community Safety Partnership Forum, chaired by the DMPC.

Local authority public health partners lead on the response to drug treatment in our districts. All our areas remain susceptible to overdose episodes linked to contaminated batches of 'Spice'.

We continue to work with our local partners to build a cross-district response plan for future incidents.

Current areas of development include the use of Buprenorphine – an important treatment which offers a methadone-like suppression of people's desire to use opioids.

Each district ensures delivery of Drugs and Alcohol services through their local Partnership arrangements. The DMPC ensures county-wide join up and oversight through the chairing of the WY Combatting Drugs Partnerships Strategic Board arrangements.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Drugs and Alcohol is tackled most effectively in partnership. It is known that minority groups and marginalised individuals can be at increased risk of drug and alcohol misuse issues.

POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT

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ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constable's Report – Drugs and Alcohol](#)

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

28 April 2026

SUBJECT: Supporting Victims and Witnesses.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police (WYP) in respect of supporting Victims and Witnesses.
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 WYP report and the cover paper provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of work underway in support of Victims and Witnesses.

RECOMMENDATION

3. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the WYP report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Supporting Victims and Witnesses.

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. 95.7% of respondents described Supporting Victims and Witnesses an important priority to them and 92% of partners agreed. Support for victims of all crimes received the most responses, followed by child criminal exploitation and driving improvements in the criminal justice system. This priority had the most balanced results with other areas of focus also receiving support. The Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) was highlighted as the way in which the Mayor can work with criminal justice partners to drive improvements in the criminal justice system that benefit victims of crime.
6. The Mayor has committed to:
 - work with WYP and criminal justice partners to ensure that all victims benefit from their rights under the Victim's Code
 - Use her convening powers to bring together Combatting Drugs Partnerships across West Yorkshire to ensure consistency of response
 - Lead the LCJB to make necessary improvements to the services offered to victims of crime, within delivery parameters set out by central government

- Make sure that justice is accessible for the most vulnerable victims and the most marginalised communities in West Yorkshire.

7. 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 P&C Plan FINAL web version.docx](#)

 [EqIA Stage 2 P&C Plan FINAL web version.docx](#)

KEY INFORMATION

Notable activity by the Policing and Crime Team on this topic includes:

8. The Mayor commissions key services across West Yorkshire to provide dedicated emotional and practical support services for victims of crime to help them cope and, as far as possible, recover from the effects of crime.
9. The Mayor's commissioned services include Victims' Support Services, specialist Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Stalking services.
10. The Mayor invests over £5m per annum in specialist victims' support services across West Yorkshire supporting approx. 70,000 victims every year.
11. The Women's Safety Unit; a first of its kind dedicated unit which has been set up by the Mayor to tackle violence against women and girls in the region. The team are a pioneering partnership and comprised of members from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the Violence Reduction Partnership and WYP. The unit is driving changes in:
 - Investigations and Risk Assessments – improving outcomes for victims
 - Victim Support and Engagement – embedding the voices of victim survivors and using this to drive improvements.
12. Safety of Men and Boys - Our research shows that it is important to recognise that men and boys are victims too, and that protection for those who are at risk of victimisation should be given. This cross-cutting theme will ensure that we keep this focus.
13. There are also key police and community performance measures in relation to supporting victims and witnesses in the Police and Crime Plan.
14. You can also find out more about the detail within the Victims and Witnesses Strategy [here](#).
15. The Mayor will host a partnership event to support male survivors of domestic abuse in June 2026. The event will bring together with key partners across the region to improve understanding and raise awareness of services available across West Yorkshire.
16. The Mayor will also host a whole system approach partnership event with Together Women in June for women at risk or involved in the Criminal Justice System. The event will promote relational working between agencies, map current provision across West Yorkshire and identify gaps and barriers, particularly at key points such as the time between arrest and court.

17. The Mayor's Safer Communities Fund continues to deliver projects to support victims and witnesses. You can find out more about the successful projects here ([Mayor's Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk))

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

The LCJB Victims and Witnesses Group meets quarterly and is chaired by the head of the regional Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Unit within the Crown Prosecution Service. Membership includes the WYP Witness unit, the WYP head of the Victims and Witnesses unit, Courts Witness care, VCSE members including Victim support, Rape Crisis centres and Restorative Justice. Key Outputs include assessing Victims Code Compliance, Victims Right to review and advising on Victims Policy through lived experience.

Two Survivor Panels for Women and Girls, and for Men and Boys, are now in operation and are attended by the DMPC and hosted by VCSE organisations. These are a key avenue for victims and survivors of crime to speak truth to power around their experiences of the support services and the criminal justice system.

The Mayor continues to fund specialist victims' support services across West Yorkshire, supporting a variety of partners to deliver support for victims of crime. Trends, information and learning from these services are shared by partners and inform the wider work of the Policing and Crime team and future commissioning.

Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)

The Home Office outlined three key success measures for VRPs and the Serious Violence Duty specified authorities with an emphasis on victims under the age of 25:

- I. A reduction in hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25,
- II. A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25,
- III. A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

Locally we use an interconnected approach through the themes: individual, relationship, community, society, sustainability and cultural change, with each considering the risks and vulnerabilities linked to becoming a victim of crime. We also recognise how children and young people can fall into the categories of both perpetrator and victim, and this is weaved throughout our delivery.

Serious Violence Legal Duty (SVD):

The VRP continue to coordinate the West Yorkshire partnership response, providing intelligence, capacity and capability to duty holders, and with oversight

still provided through the West Yorkshire Serious Violence Reduction Executive Strategic Steering Group.

This duty exists to ensure councils, and local services work together to share information and identify activities to prevent and reduce serious violence.

In addition, the VRP host the 'Partnership Dashboard' which collates a variety of datasets from numerous partners to allow an informed and detailed understanding of where, when, how and who is involved in serious violence. This data is used annually to produce the West Yorkshire Strategic Needs Assessment and Response Strategy for serious violence which when combined with the VRP's Influential Factors report provides insights to why serious violence occurs in West Yorkshire too.

More detail about the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership can be found here:

[West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment/Response Strategy/Influential Factors West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership Annual Report 2024–25](#)

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

It is important that all victims and witnesses are treated fairly, that vulnerabilities are addressed, diverse needs are met, access to information and support is available to all who need it. The Victims code and witness charter set out the key standards of service that victims and witnesses can expect from the criminal justice system.

POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT

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ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constable's Report – Victim and Witnesses](#)

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

28 April 2026

SUBJECT: Safeguarding - Adult

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

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

RECOMMENDATION

3. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Adult 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. Child and Adult Safeguarding – Safeguarding is mentioned in the 24-28 Police and Crime Plan under Priority 1 – Keeping People Safe and under the cross-cutting theme of Reducing Vulnerability.
6. 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
7. 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.

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:

[EqlA Stage 1 P&C Plan FINAL web version.docx](#)

[EqlA Stage 2 P&C Plan FINAL web version.docx](#)

KEY INFORMATION

8. Adult safeguarding refers to the police's work alongside other key partners to protect adults who are at risk of harm. Vulnerability may be a factor because of issues such as disability, mental ill-health, substance misuse, or social isolation, but safeguarding adults also encompasses topics within the safety of women and girls agenda, and also the victims of fraud.
9. This paper covers the following topics within adult safeguarding:
 - Domestic Abuse, Stalking and the Women's Safety Unit
 - Missing persons (Incl. mental health safeguarding)
 - Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (including 'Cuckooing' and Domestic Servitude)
 - So-called Honor-based Abuse
 - Fraud
 - Homelessness
10. Through WYP and the WYCA Policing and Crime Team, the Mayor supports a range of activity to help safeguard adults within our communities, for example:
 - Working with the police and local authority partners, we fund West Yorkshire's 'Appropriate Adult' service, which protects the rights, entitlements, and welfare of vulnerable people who are under arrest.
 - The Women's Safety Unit has been driving the use of SmartWater in VAWG investigations and the results are proving extremely positive.
 - The Mayor supports cross-district collaboration on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) through our co-ordination of the WY Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP). WYASP was established 10 years ago and continues to attract strong support from partners sharing the objectives of supporting victims and pursuing the perpetrators of modern slavery.
 - In September 2025, The Mayor and Deputy Mayor met with survivors of child sexual exploitation at a roundtable event at our Leeds offices. The discussion centred on the legacy of survivors' devastating childhood experiences, and deepened our understanding of the ongoing need for therapeutic support which extends into adulthood.
 - 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.

- Lending support to the Safe and Found Online project, which provides an online resource for the carers of those at risk of going missing, to post information which can help emergency services to quickly locate a person should they go missing. WYP have recently reached an impressive milestone of 500 registered Herbert Protocol profiles - this accounts for over 50% of the total number registered across the 11 UK police services using the programme.
- Drugs and substance misusers can be some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. The DMPC has led on developing a pilot programme for WYP officers to carry the overdose-reversal treatment, Naloxone. This work is supported by the WY Combating Drugs Partnership Strategic Board, with is chaired by the DMPC.
- Linked to the objectives of the Police Race Action Plan, WYP have also collaborated with the Black Police Association to examine the approach to missing occurrences involving people who are black or of black heritage. These cases have been scrutinised to understand whether there is any evidence of unconscious bias from officers dealing with the investigation.
- WYP has also engaged with an Independent Scrutiny and Advisory Group and a new Black Heritage Advisory Staff Group, to examine the approach to missing cases involving people who are Black or of Black heritage.

11. The Policing and Crime Team’s approach to safeguarding is described in our ‘Reducing Vulnerability’ strategy. This strategy now reflects safeguarding’s position as a cross-cutting theme across all priorities in the new Police and Crime Plan: <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12266/reducing-vulnerability-strategy-1.pdf>

Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund

- The Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund continues to deliver projects to support safeguarding. You can find out more about the successful projects here ([Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority \(westyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/12266/reducing-vulnerability-strategy-1.pdf))

Notable projects linked to adult safeguarding include:

- The Wakefield Hospice has introduced ReUnite fobs which allow passers-by who come across lost or confused people to scan a code using a smartphone. This then displays the person’s name along with up to two emergency contact numbers.
- Nip It In the Bud is a free mental health and well-being support service located in Leeds city centre. It provides a safe drop-in space where young people can talk confidentially with professional youth workers and counsellors.

- In Bradford, The Bridge Project's Talk-Trace-Turnaround project works with young people and teachers about how neglect, exclusion, and undiagnosed Special Educational Needs informed their journey to substance use; and,
- Through the MSCF, we have supported Leeds Trinity University's project to support the families of 'cold cases' and long-term missing persons.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

Adult safeguarding requires collaborative working between a number of key partners, as a statutory, multi-agency responsibility set out in the Care Act.

Key partners include:

- Local Authorities (Adult Social Care)
- Police
- NHS organisations:
 - Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)
 - NHS Trusts
- Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs)

Our WY Anti-Slavery Partnership, WY Combating Drugs Strategic Board, and Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board, and Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum all encompass adult safeguarding themes.

Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)

The landscape to tackling the causes as well as impact of serious violence is complex and addressing trauma, adversity and the root causes is a cross-agency response. Our Response Strategy, the work of the VRP and partners, strongly aligns and connects to the Police and Crime Plan, West Yorkshire Plan to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and work of the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, district Community Safety Strategies, Health and Wellbeing, Safeguarding Plans and emerging Drug and Alcohol Plans. We continue to drive greater connectivity to maximise the collective approach and opportunities to reducing serious violence and enabling sustainable approaches.

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.

Intervention delivery during 2025-26 funded through core VRP monies and additional Serious Violence Duty monies can be found here: [West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership](#)

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.

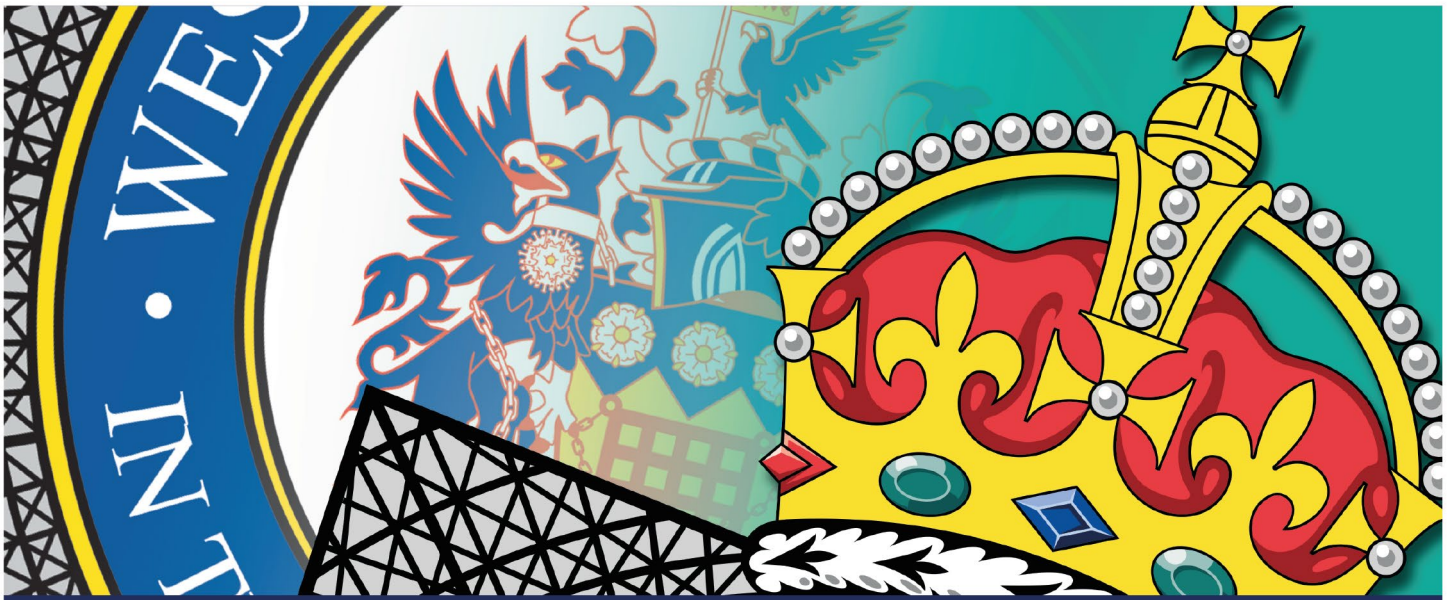
It is important that all safeguarding policies, strategies, delivery, and discussion is inclusive and ensures all services and support are accessible for all. Recognising and embracing diversity and being inclusive are the core foundations and key principles of safeguarding. This includes the people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

POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT

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ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constable's Report – Adult Safeguarding](#)



COM

April 2026

AI Reassurance



**WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE**

Title: AI Reassurance

COT Sponsor: DCC Khan

Report Author: Emma Ahern / Laura Fearnside

Date: 16/03/2026

Request: As we know the use of AI can have huge benefits but also pitfalls and WYCA are currently reviewing their own use of AI

Following the recent issues in West Midlands Police, and the decision of the Birmingham City Council Safety Advisory Group based on the recommendation of West Midlands Police to ban away fans from attending the Europa League football match between Aston Villa and Maccabi Tel Aviv on 6 November 2025. Can we please have some reassurance around our processes here in West Yorkshire?

We don't use it to make decisions, only humans make decisions, the lifecycle of AI – how WYP use it, where do they get the info from, do we use opensource for example, those kinds of things, to give reassurance

Summary:

Key reassurances

- West Yorkshire Police (WYP) do not use any Artificial Intelligence (AI) software / tools for creating any of our intelligence packs. If we identify any protests or events via social media the team are required to then research that event to validate the social media post to authenticate and provenance the post through research and external corroboration.
- All usage of copilot is subject to the same safeguards as any force IT systems. All activity leaves an auditable footprint which would be retrievable by Professional Standards.
- All usage is governed by the force's Acceptable Use Policy.

Report:

Policy and Procedure

Current

The use of Generative AI in force is restricted to Microsoft Copilot and within the bounds of the force Acceptable Use Policy.

WYP have always been clear that the use of Copilot should not be for anything operational, it should be regarded as an open-source tool just like google, and that all outputs should be checked and verified for accuracy. Whilst the focus has rightly been on protecting WYP data, the events from West Midlands Police highlights the importance of users understanding the tools limitations as well as its capabilities. The protections we have in place already limit the risk, but future awareness and learning & development sessions will also seek to bolster this understanding, especially as use increases.

The Data and Information Security policy has been amended to include a section on AI which establishes guidelines for the ethical and effective use of AI in WYP. This policy ensures that AI technologies are used responsibly, respecting human rights, privacy and the rule of law and that use complies with all security requirements while enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of policing activities.

The policy backs up the Acceptable use policy with some key principles:

- All information generated by AI must be reviewed and edited for accuracy prior to use. Users of AI are responsible for reviewing output and are accountable for ensuring the accuracy of AI generated output before use or release.
- AI must be used ethically and in compliance with all applicable legislation, regulations and organisational policies. Users must not use AI to generate content that is discriminatory, offensive or inappropriate.
- Content produced via AI must be identified and disclosed as containing AI-generated information, e.g.:

“Note: This document contains content generated by artificial intelligence (AI). AI generated content has been reviewed by the author for accuracy and edited/revised where necessary. The author takes responsibility for this content.”

Future

A new draft Force policy specifically on the use of generative AI and Large Language Models (LLMs), based on the NPCC template, is being formatted along with strengthened guidance (draft attached). These should both be available to the force imminently. They are not dissimilar from the current Acceptable Use Policy but give clearer guidance to users about prohibited information types or uses of the AI tool.

Prohibited Information types are

- Information classified above OFFICIAL
- Any sensitive Covert related information, including Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS), any staff in covert roles or anything relating to covert operations or tactics.
- Information which is subject to specific handling caveats
- Sensitive operational policing data
- Any system access credentials

Prohibited uses include

- Generative AI is not currently authorised for use in the criminal justice system for the creation of evidential materials. Therefore, it must not be used in the preparation of witness statements, MG forms or any other evidential reports or material which would fall under CPIA disclosure rules.
- Generative AI must not be used for intelligence purposes, neither relied upon to provide intelligence, nor should any intelligence ever be input into Copilot.
- Generative AI is not authorised for the creation of any videos, images or animations as part of any publication being shared externally. Force approved images and templates available from Corporate Communications must be utilised instead.

Governance for Change and Innovation

Any requests for new tools or technologies, including new capabilities being deployed as part of existing systems, are required to submit or update their Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA). Where there is use of AI or any other data driven technologies, this would trigger a requirement to ensure compliance with the NPCC AI checklist and Covenant. As part of this process, notification would also be sent to the forces Data Driven Technology Working Group (DDTWG) and an update made to the forces AI Systems Register.

New or novel innovation or processing of data requires business sponsorship by Senior Officers. In WYP we have a network of Information Asset Owners who are heads of Districts or Directorates. As part of WYP's governance they have oversight of all DPIA's impacting their business area and are accountable to the Senior Information Risk Owner (Deputy Chief Constable) for ensuring any activity is aligned to strategic priorities and that risks are mitigated as far as possible.

Data Services Hub

Any Districts or Departments wishing to explore new AI technologies, can discuss them at the Data Services Hub, which brings together subject matter experts from across Digital and Data, including Data Management, Engineering and Governance / Compliance with data services across the force including Change Management, Performance Review, Digital Innovation, Crime, YHROCU, and analysts from People Services and Finance. This ensures a co-ordinated approach to identify and progress the most appropriate solutions for the organisation's data challenges.

This tactical group has four sub strands looking at data driven technologies (including AI), Data Science, Data Management and Data People, to scope opportunities and deploy the right tools and technologies and ensure our workforce is appropriately skilled to utilise them.

Data Driven Technology Working Group

The DDTWG is a sub-group of the Data Services Hub and focusses on how WYP deploys AI, automation and advanced data tools. It ensures all emerging technologies are:

a) **Aligned to Strategic Priorities**

The group reviews proposals to ensure technology supports organisational objectives, ethical policing, and public confidence.

b) **Safe, Ethical and Legally Compliant**

DDTWG works closely with Information Management, Legal, Digital Policing and Security to:

- Identify risks early
- Ensure DPIAs are completed where required
- Check fairness, bias, proportionality and public-trust impacts
- Recommend mitigations before any pilot or deployment

c) **Consistent With AI and Copilot Policies**

The group ensures every use of AI or Copilot aligns with:

- WYP AI Principles
- The draft Copilot Policy & Guidance
- Data Protection & Information Security standards
- National requirements such as the NPCC AI Playbook

d) **A Central Control Point for Emerging Technologies**

The DDTWG prevents fragmented or unapproved experimentation by ensuring that *all* advanced digital tools—AI, automation, analytics—are evaluated through a single oversight route.

e) **Improving Transparency and Accountability**

The group maintains governance records, ensuring WYP can demonstrate:

- Why a technology was approved
- What risks were identified and mitigated
- How human oversight and controls are maintained

Training and Awareness

When Copilot chat first became available to force users through the M365 package, a number of force wide articles were published along with AI awareness sessions which aimed to help users understand the product and ensure they used it appropriately.

Utilising force communication channels, these news articles have been repeated to re-iterate the position, highlight the acceptable use policy and signpost users to resources which raise awareness of AI's uses and limitations.

AI awareness and the appropriate use policy also formed part of a Force wide Continuous Professional Development week organised by Learning & Organisational Development (L&OD) in October 2025 with the messages reiterated and the recorded session being available through e-learning platforms.

Staff can find out more about AI, what it is and its use in policing through the [Data Discovery Centre](#) which is an online resource hub, bringing together both internal and external resources grouped by topics and aimed at different persona's based on how they are likely to interact with and utilise data in their role.

In March 2026 Information Management and Digital Development & Delivery supported L&OD's CPD event, with a full morning focussed on AI. Over 100 delegates from across L&OD heard all about national oversight of AI in policing, how its being utilised in West Yorkshire and witnessed a live demonstration of Copilots capabilities within our acceptable use. Delegates also learnt how to spot AI generated images and heard about real life instances where poor data or poor oversight has impacted the delivery of AI tooling across various industries.

In February Chief Officers received a presentation on Copilot usage and guidance, highlighting the capabilities and limitations of copilot and why it's so important to have a 'human in the loop' for reviewing content and accuracy and in ensuring evidential that processes are protected.

Monitoring and Audit

- All usage of Copilot is subject to the same safeguards as any force IT systems. All activity leaves a footprint which would be retrievable by Professional Standards should the need arise.
- All messaging reminds staff of the acceptable use of Copilot and how to report a Security incident should they feel the acceptable use policy has been breached.

As part of Data and Information Governance Annual plan, thematic audits are carried out on specific areas of processes or data usage. These audits seek to understand the effectiveness and compliance of policies, processes, documentation, training materials and user understanding.

The use of artificial intelligence to support employees in day-to-day activities can bring about great efficiency gains, but its use must be lawful, ethical and responsible and above all adhere to Force Policy. WYP currently allows users to access Microsoft Copilot Chat as part of our existing licencing agreement, as well as offering the ability to access the enhanced M365 integrated Copilot which requires additional cost licences. The audit, scheduled for Q2 26/27, will seek to further understand force usage of Copilot chat and compliance with the principles laid out in policy.

Any areas of improvement identified through audit activity will be considered for recording as risks on the Force Information Risk Register depending on the severity and impact.

Data and Information Governance will utilise the findings from audit to inform Policy reviews, risk management activities, learning outcomes and required development or amendment of products/ services offered as part of the Information Management Service Catalogue.

Below a snapshot of our current user dashboard, showing the uptake and usage areas within M365:

Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat

This report applies to Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat users who don't have a Microsoft 365 Copilot license assigned to them. [Learn more about Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat](#)

Last updated: 10 Mar 2026 (UTC) ? Help

Filters: Periods: Past 30 days (9 Feb 2026 - 10 Mar 2026)

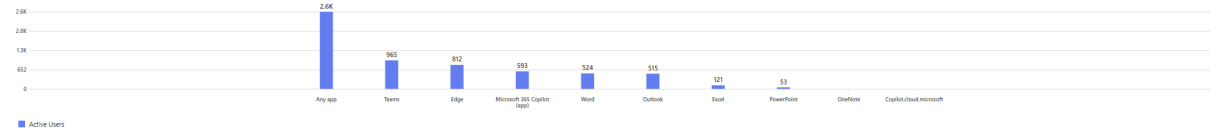
Active users: **2,606** | Average daily active users: **416** | Total prompts submitted: **71,516** | Average prompts submitted per user: **27**

Adoption

Adoption by app

Summary | Trend

The number of active users of Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat for the selected period. [See metric definitions](#)

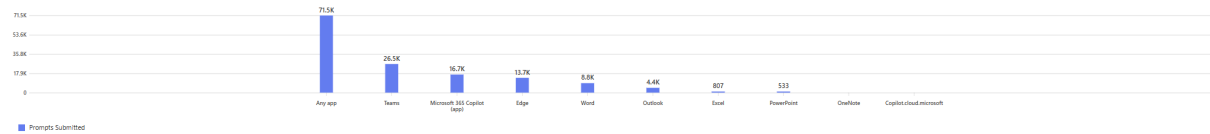


Activity

Prompts submitted by app

Summary | Trend

The number of prompts submitted to Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat for the selected period. [See metric definitions](#)



Usage details

Regional Functions

Regional and specialist business areas have confirmed that there is currently no use of AI to make operational or organisational decisions. RSSS, NPAS, Counter Terrorism Policing North East and YHROCU do not use AI within their formal work processes. As with WYP, individual staff in these business areas may use Microsoft Copilot to support routine tasks such as drafting reports or communications, in line with force guidance and governance. In addition, RSSS is working collaboratively with YHROCU on a STAR-funded project and is engaged nationally on the development of capabilities to detect AI-generated images and video, providing assurance that emerging risks are being actively considered and managed, and are cognisant of and working to the forces and national policy.

Future

Launch of the new policy is suggested to incorporate a short mandatory e-learning requirement for all employees covering the principles and key responsibilities of the policy. This ensures all staff understand their responsibility to read, understand and comply with the Policy. From 2027 onwards the Policy will also be included within Annual Integrity and Vetting Reviews where staff are required to reconfirm understanding of key policies and ensure they remain up to date.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

28 April 2026

SUBJECT: Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

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

RECOMMENDATION

3. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the WYP report to scrutinise the Force response in respect of the Strategic Policing Requirement.

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 plan sets out that the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) is the Home Secretary's view of what the current national threats are, and the national policing capabilities needed to counter those threats.
6. The seven threats are:
 - Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)
 - Terrorism
 - Serious and Organised Crime (SOC)
 - A National Cyber Incident
 - Child Sexual Abuse
 - Public Disorder
 - Civil Emergencies.

Note: WYP provide separate detailed reports on VAWG, SOC and Child Safeguarding. We cover these areas in varying degrees, notable forums include

the SOC Partnership Board, Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board, and engagement with the Survivor Leaders Group on CSEA to name but a few.

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:

[EqlA Stage 1 P&C Plan FINAL web version.docx](#)

[EqlA Stage 2 P&C Plan FINAL web version.docx](#)

KEY INFORMATION

7. The Mayor in her role as Police and Crime Commissioner must have regard to the SPR as follows:

Key themes

- **Statutory Duty:** PCCs must have regard to the SPR when issuing or amending their Police and Crime Plans and provide an assurance statement within their Annual Reports.
- **National Threats:** The SPR outlines key national threats, requiring cross-boundary policing responses beyond local force areas.
- **Balancing Local and National Priorities:** PCCs must align their local policing priorities with national security and public safety requirements.
- **Governance and Accountability:** The SPR strengthens oversight by setting expectations on how PCCs and Chief Constables should collaborate to meet national policing responsibilities.
- **Evolution of the SPR:** The SPR 2023 revision includes an additional national threat—Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)—and expanded guidance on governance, standards, and capacity requirements.

Highlighted requirements

- **PCCs' Responsibilities:** PCCs must ensure their Police and Crime Plans reflect the SPR and assess whether their force has the necessary resources to meet national policing demands.
- **Annual Reports:** PCCs must provide assurance statements outlining how they have had regard to the SPR and its influence on their strategic direction.
- **Holding Chief Constables to Account:** PCCs must scrutinize how Chief Constables implement SPR obligations and maintain operational readiness.
- **National Collaboration:** PCCs work with the Home Office, National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), and other agencies to ensure policing is prepared for national-level threats.

National Threats Covered in the SPR

- **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG):** Recognised as a national threat requiring a strategic policing response.
- **Terrorism:** Forces must be prepared to prevent and respond to terrorist threats.

- **Serious and Organised Crime (SOC):** Includes drugs, fraud, and organised immigration crime.
- **National Cyber Incidents:** Forces must have cybercrime units and resilience plans.
- **Child Sexual Abuse:** Strengthened approaches to safeguarding and prosecution.
- **Public Disorder:** Maintaining national mobilization capabilities.
- **Civil Emergencies:** Ensuring resilience to large-scale emergencies and natural disasters.

Impact and outcomes

- PCCs have strengthened governance mechanisms to align with the latest SPR guidance.
- Forces are adapting operational plans to address new and evolving national threats.
- The introduction of VAWG as a national priority has enhanced cross-agency collaboration and enforcement measures.
- Enhanced accountability and transparency in how forces implement national policing responsibilities.

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

Partnership working runs through all that the Policing and Crime team undertakes. This work underpins the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan 24-28. Specific workstreams, projects and funding are in place for different elements of the SPR. For example, VAWG is tackled through numerous partnership mechanisms, such as the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board, Chaired by the DMPC, the Women's Safety Unit, and the commissioning of services.

The work of the Policing and Crime team, DMPC and Mayor are covered in regular updates to the Police and Crime Panel, which holds the Mayor to account for her policing and crime work as the PCC for West Yorkshire.

<https://www.westyorkshire-pcp.gov.uk/meetings>

The papers detailed above include some of the work that the Policing and Crime team do alongside our partners under these priorities. However, it should be noted that WYP maintain operational independence and number of these areas relate to operational policing. To provide the Mayor with reassurance that WYP are providing an efficient and effective police service, a governance framework is in place where the Mayor holds the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of policing services. This COM meeting forms part of that framework.

Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP)

With partners, the WY VRP define serious violence as:

“Violence and serious violence include specific crime types where there is the use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community.”

The specific crime types included in West Yorkshire include homicide, knife crime, personal robbery, gun crime, violence against women and girls, **organised crime**, sexual exploitation, and domestic abuse.

The definition focusses on geographic areas of criminality and specific groups where serious violence, or its threat or impact, is evident; this is children, young adults, women and girls, public places, the night-time economy, gangs, **and organised crime groups**.

The VRP submitted a new budget and delivery plan for 26/27 to the Home Office based on the funding value of £4.97m (a combined grant this financial year for the VRU, Young Futures Panels and the Serious Violence Duty). Of this £1.97m has been allocated for commissioned community-based interventions which is approximately 40% of the overall budget.

A significant level of the VRP's work is targeted at preventing serious violence in communities and denying organised crime the space to thrive.

The VRP work closely with the Police Strategic Lead for the Knife Crime Concentration Fund /Knife Enabled Robbery Task Force are interconnecting with the enforcement work against knife crime and serious violence which aligns with WYP's response to SOC.

Staff within the VRP have and are currently working locally with police and partners in Clear Hold Build areas across West Yorkshire.

Serious Violence Legal Duty (SVD):

The VRP continue to coordinate the West Yorkshire partnership response, providing intelligence, capacity and capability to duty holders, and with oversight still provided through the West Yorkshire Serious Violence Reduction Executive Strategic Steering Group.

This duty exists to ensure councils, and local services work together to share information and identify activities to prevent and reduce serious violence.

In addition, the VRP host a partnership data dashboard which collates a variety of data from partners to allow an informed and detailed understanding of where, when, how and who is involved in serious violence. This data is used annually to produce the West Yorkshire Strategic Needs Assessment, which in combination with the VRP's Influential Factors report provides insights to why serious violence occurs in West Yorkshire. These documents then inform the Violence Reduction Response Strategy.

More detail about the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership can be found here:

[West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment/Response Strategy/Influential Factors Annual Report 2024-25](#)

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

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](#)

POLICING AND CRIME CONTACT

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ATTACHMENT

[Chief Constable's Report – Strategic Policing Requirement](#)