

Community Outcomes Meeting (COM) - Livestreamed

Date: Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Time: 15:00 – 17:00

Present

Alison Lowe – Deputy Mayor for
Policing and Crime (DMPC)
Damien Miller – T/ACC, WYP

John Robins – Chief Constable (CC)
West Yorkshire Police (WYP)
Ben Ryder – Chief Inspector, WYP

Also present

Erica Doran – Head of Policy and
Delivery, Policing and Crime
Paige Cowling – Engagement Officer,
Policing and Crime

Sharon Waugh – Engagement
Manager, Policing and Crime

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies.

Apologies were received from the Mayor for West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, Deputy Chief Constable, Russ Foster and WYP WYCA Liaison Officer, Allison Kemp.

Alison introduced the meeting and provided an overview of the COM as this was the first live streamed meeting. This was also Alison's first COM.

2. Notes of the previous meeting on 15 June 2021 and Matters arising.

The notes of the meeting held on 15 June 2021 were subsequently agreed and there were no matters arising.

3. Deputy Mayor for Policing and crime and Chief Constables Announcements:

DPMC announcements:

a) Women and Girls event on 7 Sept

Over a hundred and thirty delegates joined the online roundtable event which captured the views and feedback from a range of organisations and individuals, it also included an update on our call for evidence about the safety of women and girls. The event and the lived experience shared, demonstrated the breadth of work ahead - our call for evidence was open until 17 September.

b) Tell Tracy – about policing and crime

Public consultation on the Police and Crime plan launched on 1 September 2021 to ask people to "Tell Tracy" about their views on policing and crime. Further detail was available on the website and the online survey was open until 17 October.

c) Public Questions

DPMC thanked those who raised public questions and advised we would come back to individuals outside of the meeting.

4. Chief Constable Announcements:

WYP had recently undergone the HMICFRS PEEL inspection and anticipated the report would be made public on 18 October 2021.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour - to access the full report, click [here](#).

The DMPC referred to the new Survey referred to in the report which commenced in April 2021 and the new ASB question set, she questioned from the data they had received so far how many callers had requested re-contact from the local Neighbourhood Team and asked for more detail on ASB satisfaction data.

The CC said there had been a slow response to start, which had increased in recent weeks. They would continue to gather the data and bring that back to a future meeting. Regarding satisfaction data, most of this was included in the report, he highlighted some of the key figures and overall satisfaction was 73%.

Given their comments about Youth services and the current pressure on third sector partners the DMPC asked what plans WYP had to address the increase in youth related ASB incidents including the increase in the number of reports of youths on electric scooters over the last 12 months.

TACC Miller explained the figures had returned to normal, post lockdown incidents had decreased as schools were back open and youth clubs and provisions were beginning to reopen. He also spoke about the Pol-ed programme which was launched in September and was available to all schools. Pol-ed taught about legislation, consequences to actions and promoted well-being and good citizenship. Early action teams had continued to support youths across the county in partnership with the Local Authorities and diversionary activities were also considered. Local NPTs had addressed issues with electric scooters and had been communicating and educating on rules surrounding them.

The DMPC asked how they supported communities who had long term ASB problems and how was the positive work or successful problem solving shared with those who reported incidents/raised their concerns. She also asked how they ensured they had a comprehensive picture of the issue and how they worked with other agencies to share information and ensure the support and remedy was right for the victim.

TACC Miller explained they used digital systems which allowed them to see a full picture of issues across West Yorkshire and this could be narrowed down to the local NPT. Information could also be shared with partners due to information sharing agreements to allow partnership working. They had brought in a new neighbourhood model over the last few years to improve problem solving, this included increased levels of governance and peer reviews. The process was reviewed regularly, and good and bad practice was recorded for learning. Solved problems were signed off by the supervisors, and good practice from other forces was shared through the Neighbourhood Learning Forum. WYP had invested in a full neighbourhood training programme and a key element of this was around problem solving. The community trigger was also in place which meant that if a member of the public reported ASB on 3 or more occasions in a 6-month window the problem-solving process would be re-visited.

Finally, TACC Miller was asked why WYP had stopped using the Osara problem solving tool, and then re-started using it. This was because they had moved to a different system and as part of a peer review it was suggested that the Osara tool was a more comprehensive model.

ACTIONS:

- a) DMPC to visit a Neighbourhood Forum**
- b) ASB Question set data to be included in the next ASB update report**

6. Drugs and Alcohol Misuse - to access the full report, click [here](#).

The DMPC asked what WYP were doing to address the continuing and in fact worsening performance at Leeds.

She was advised that for a large period during the Covid lockdown drugs testing was not possible due to the need to be in close contact and referral agencies were also unable to work. From April 2021 they also had issues with the supply of drug testing kits, however these were now back in stock. He also highlighted the MyCase system which was shut down in March due to cost and a new system came online in August. Moving forward, now that performance data was available, monthly accountability meetings had taken place to monitor performance and was also a key element of PDR's. Performance was also fed into weekly SLT meetings. Training was also being provided to new officers to ensure they had a full understanding.

The DMPC then questioned why Bradford district had conducted a lot more tests than Leeds and noted they would have faced the same pressures relating to Covid and supply. TACC Miller explained Bradford district had received more kits and Leeds district had been told to increase testing.

The DMPC said WYP were funded to get the work done and so evidence was needed to show this work was being carried out. She said that the situation in Wakefield was equally serious, and the rationale provided was around the lack of drug treatment service, however this was separate to the testing.

T/ACC Miller agreed that drug testing in Wakefield also needed to be increased.

DMPC welcomed that drug users were involved in training and asked for more information about what else WYP were doing to engage service users in the development of provision.

T/ACC Miller said the user voice influenced their approach and individuals with lived experience of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) had spoken to officers at recent training days. They were also linked into various working groups to inform good practice and influence change and we were also working with Transform Justice to develop their approach to Out of Court Disposals, with a public health and diversionary approach to drug offences.

ACTIONS:

- a) A briefing meeting to take place between the DMPC and TACC Miller around drug testing, what provisions were in place and what more could be done.**
- b) WYP to provide an update on the effectiveness of the drug intervention schemes and processes at a future meeting.**

7. Use of Force - to access the full report, click [here](#).

The DPMC asked what changes had been made following their early work in reviewing the policies surrounding the use of force and compliance in reporting and what timeframe or goals had been set for the need to use force to be minimised.

The CC said that using force affected individual's human rights. However, police officers had to protect society and this at times meant that force had to be used. Body Worn Video (BWV) was now mandatory in all aspects of public engagement which allowed for reviewing and documenting events and to ensure all use of force incidents were necessary and correct. Every incidence of the use of drawing (not discharging) a firearm was reviewed by an officer of at least Chief Superintendent level. Every incidence of drawing a taser, use of spit or bite guards and use of PAVA spray was reviewed by a Chief Inspector. All incidences of use of force were recorded, documented, reviewed, analysed and learning was taken from them. Other practices, such as stop and search, road traffic stops, and public order and protests were also reviewed in the same way. Public scrutiny panels were in place across West Yorkshire and Independent Advisory Groups provided advice and scrutiny on the use of force. Other methods of scrutiny included the audit and ethics committee, Independent Custody Visitors along with national inspections such as by the Home Office and the HMICFRS. WYP was continually evolving in terms of best practice.

CI Ryder said that they shared these concerns, however they needed to wait a little longer before they looked at these figures due to the significantly different circumstances and restrictions on people's liberties over the last 18 months. They had seen an increase in incidences of coughing and spitting in officer's faces during Covid and these were recorded as assaults so the context of Covid needed to be considered. WYP would be delivering officer safety training over the coming months.

The DMPC said the use of force against officers was also a problem and the Mayor had signed up to the 'Protect the Protectors' pledge. She was concerned with the 16.6% increase in assaults on officers and staff, and asked for further explanation about how introducing situational judgement scenarios would improve officer safety and the reductions in the amount of force used

The CC added that officers were also victims of regular Hate Crime and abuse, and the force were reviewing the best way to deal with these incidences, he welcomed conversations about this in the future. Alison said there was a zero tolerance to these crimes and hoped the officers were reporting these as hate crimes.

The CC was thanked for the comprehensive data provided in paragraph 6, and for the update on their ongoing work to understand disproportionality. The DMPC asked for more information on how WYP planned to adapt their approach to use of force in conjunction with the identified groups they used force on disproportionately currently and how they would then use this to enhance their legitimacy and build trust and confidence in communities.

CI Ryder reaffirmed their commitment to addressing disproportionality, they had adopted a new approach called 'Risk Adjusted Disparity' which allowed specific groups to be identified, which included age and gender as well as race, this allowed more targeted review processes.

Video samples were collected which were then put through the various scrutiny processes both internally and externally. Work had already started with minority communities to ensure their influence was heard too. Once this data set was available, they held supervisor debriefs to understand officer actions. Almost every officer had now also received unconscious bias training. They were also seeking independent scrutiny from the academic sector to understand the data. In response to a further question CI Ryder confirmed Body Worn Video would be used in training with new recruits. A timetable had been agreed for the publication of the data.

The CC added WYP was alive to the fact that people did have unconscious biases and that racism and discrimination could occur. He said West Yorkshire were the only force in the country to train their entire force in unconscious bias over the past year but understood there was a lot more work to be done in this area to provide communities with the reassurance they needed.

ACTIONS:

- a) The CC invited the DMPC to attend a scrutiny panel.**
- b) Hate Crimes on officers to be discussed in a future meeting**

8. Mental Health - to access the full report, click [here](#).

The DPMC noted the report detailed what WYP were doing to support Victims around their mental health, however, she asked what they were doing to ensure that those who were suspected of offences were supported and understood, and not “criminalised” due to behaviour which was due to a mental health issue.

The CC said they were changing an element of officer training to public safety training which focussed on individuals who found themselves in difficult situations due to mental health issues. All frontline officers had received specific training in this area, and it was also included in student officer training. The custody process and Criminal Justice System were key processes in identifying mental health issues and there was a focus on not criminalising individuals due to their mental health. Work was continually progressing, however there was more to be done.

The DPMC also highlighted that Liaison and Diversion teams were in each of the custody suites who were trained professionals in dealing with and recognising mental health problems.

She also commented that the report stated that one person was brought into Police cells after being arrested under s136 of the Mental Health act. She asked what were the circumstances which led this to happen, and what was being done to ensure that no one was detained in under s136.

TACC Miller provided an overview of this specific incident and advised the individual had been detained in custody as there had been no beds available at hospital. This was an extreme one-off case. To ensure this did not happen on a regular basis WYP had a good relationship with partners and improvements in service had ensured a vast decrease in numbers over the last few years. Processes were reviewed on a continual basis and where an individual was taken into custody under s136 this was raised immediately with partners.

The DPMC said that as part of a needs assessment, all commissioned services were being looked at in West Yorkshire for development of the Police and Crime Plan. Details of new services would be available on a live basis.

Finally, she asked about use of Tasers where Mental Health was present following the recent Independent Office of Police Complaint report. She asked what training and awareness was available to officers in West Yorkshire. T/ACC Miller confirmed every single use of taser was reviewed and learning was taken which included officer training.

9. Neighbourhood Policing - to access the full report, click [here](#).

The DMPC began by asking how Neighbourhood Policing Teams were supported by members of the early action hub, she was especially keen to understand any long-term impact and positive outcomes.

TACC Miller said that the support from the hubs was positive and information sharing agreements allowed them to work jointly with officers to prevent individuals entering criminality. It also helped get information across to those who would not engage with the police. It helped to guide young people down the right path as they wanted to avoid criminality at a young age. It was difficult to identify long term impact and positive outcomes because if the intervention worked, the individual would not encounter the police again. He said there were outstanding schemes across West Yorkshire delivering diversionary and early intervention projects.

She noted the report spoke about how they had ensured resilience in relation to frontline policing in comparison to other forces which had allowed them to respond to calls for service and demand, she asked if they were reassured that the quality of service had been maintained.

ACC Miller explained they had implemented a Covid structure which included the Chief Officer Team and partners early on which had been beneficial and allowed a joined-up approach to managing the pandemic. It also ensured that staff were fully stocked up with PPE. Ensuring the safety of staff meant that as many people as possible were able to stay at work. They took a pragmatic approach to managing the changing restrictions in terms of the 4 E's, and local neighbourhood resources were used to manage some of the increased call volume and calls for service. He said they maintained daily business throughout despite the significant increase in calls for service.

The DPMC thanked WYP for their outstanding work throughout the pandemic.

Finally, the DMPC said she was really pleased with the work they had started with the Independent Scrutiny and Advisory group for race equality (ISAAG) and would really like to understand what specifically they had learned so far from their engagement.

Whilst it was still early days, they did understand the key priorities and work strands of the group. The background, knowledge and value of the members had also been very beneficial throughout the pandemic and concerns because of the impact of Black Lives Matter.

The group also provided feedback on stop and search and understanding disproportionality along with use of force. Focus groups allowed them to understand what the public wanted and had also guided some inequalities work.

10. Future Agenda Items

- a) Countering Terrorism
- b) Safeguarding
- c) Serious Violent Crime
- d) Road Safety
- e) Exception Report – theme to be agreed

11. Any Other Business

The DPMC welcomed feedback and scrutiny on the running of the meeting from the public.

12. Next Meeting

7 December 2021 at 1400



Chief Officer Team Briefing for COM

Title: Counter Terrorism Prevent
Report Author: Supt Matt Davison
CoT Sponsor: ACC Twiggs
Date: 15th November 2021

SUMMARY

The Prevent Business Plan 2021/22 – is being managed across three national pillars:

Identify: will cover partnership work to identify and refer both those vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and those who pose a radicalisation risk to others by working with communities, local policing, Counter Terrorism (CT) policing, public sector, businesses and charities.

Safeguard: will work collaboratively to safeguard and divert those vulnerable to radicalisation or being drawn into terrorism by working increasingly with the private and charity sectors to enhance capability and embed the work of Vulnerability Support Hubs.

Manage Risk: will work with partners, to assess, manage and disrupt those individuals who pose a CT or extremism risk and those who seek to radicalise the vulnerable. National management processes will be embedded to eliminate any gaps in referrals and partners supported to deliver recognised programmes.

There will be **four key priorities for 2021:**

1. **Enabling our people to be successful**

For obvious reasons 2020 had a huge impact upon wellbeing. Our first priority in 2021 will be our people. We will ensure our teams are **well led, well equipped and well supported**. Our ambitious plan will be supported by **Investors in People** to galvanise the views and experiences of everyone and build upon our recently awarded Work-place Wellbeing Charter mark.

2. Friends and Family

We will reduce long-term CT vulnerabilities by working with friends and family to increase their role in reducing radicalisation through Prevent. We will raise awareness of radicalisation, increase understanding of Prevent, build trust and confidence, and increase involvement in supporting loved ones through Prevent.

3. Embedding Prevent across policing

We will embed Vulnerability to Radicalisation as the 14th core discipline of public protection. We will support forces to embed this across mainstream policing, including through strong governance, and we will support all CT pillars and capabilities to maximise early opportunities to identify terrorism related vulnerabilities and support Prevent intervention.

4. Reducing the risk from on-line radicalisation

We will work with partners and other CT pillars to tackle misinformation, increase access to positive narratives and build community resilience to radicalisation. Together, we will develop the partnerships, skills, tools and processes to better identify those vulnerable to online radicalisation and disrupt the reach and influence of extremist voices and propaganda.

Prevent activity during COVID 19

Business continuity in relation to Prevent within West Yorkshire has so far been successfully maintained following the implementation of reviewed working practices which accord with Government, WYP and PHE guidance. Daily assessment and reporting into the national CTP network has contributed to a comprehensive national overview of threat and risk and all indications are that Prevent in West Yorkshire has and will continue deliver business as usual. Indeed, Prevent referrals in West Yorkshire saw only a 1.2% drop in 2020/21 compared to 22% nationally. This has meant that an initial drop in Prevent referrals in West Yorkshire has been addressed through a raft of measures to support families, parents and partners particularly in the on-line space and that all remaining referrals are being successfully managed in accordance with prevent policy and safeguarding protocols including on-line Channel meetings and intervention provision. These efforts have paid dividends as Prevent referral numbers have now returned to normal levels.

National Review of Prevent

As an amendment to the Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act parliament has requested a national review of the Prevent strategy. This was being led by Lord Alexander Carlile but following a Judicial Review the review was suspended. Lord Walney has now been appointed as government advisor on political violence and disruption and William Shawcross has resumed the national review as the new lead in place of Lord Carlile. Findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Home Secretary and Prime Minister by the end of the year for publication subject to their approval.

The HMICFRS CT4 Prevent Inspection

A thematic report summarising CT4 findings at a national level was released in March 2020. Supt. Shelley Slarke has now assumed the role of Force Prevent Strategic Lead (FPSL). WYP have developed a 4P Counter Terrorism Strategic Plan in conjunction with CTP-NE. Regular Tactical Delivery Group meetings are now taking place and Districts will be held to account in terms of the delivery of the plans' contents at a forthcoming round of LAMs. CTP-NE and the WYP Safeguarding Central Governance Unit are now working closely together to embed Prevent as the 14th strand of Public Protection by developing joint training, processes and meetings including CTP representation at the WY Strategic Safeguarding Board. West Yorkshire Police and the North East Region will be held to account at the National Prevent Thematic Board attended by ACC Khan in relation to a number of KPIs including numbers of referrals, managed cases and positive outcomes. CTP-NE work with local policing colleagues has led to a 28.5% increase in non-CT policing referrals during 2020/21.

The OSCT (now known as Homeland Security) annual Cross-government prioritisation process

This process to inform the allocation of resources for Prevent activity in local authorities in 2022/23 is now underway and the current four funded West Yorkshire LA areas are likely to retain their funded status and will receive funding for a series of projects and posts including Prevent Coordinators and Prevent Education Officers. Two additional Regional Advisors will now also be aligned to the North East to support unfunded areas like Wakefield.

Manchester Arena Enquiry/Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs)/Protect Duty

The enquiry is still underway but is likely to identify significant learning that will inform future decision making and policy. A law requiring venue operators to consider the risk of a terrorist attack and take proportionate and reasonable measures to prepare for and protect the public from such an attack will be referred to as the 'Protect Duty'. This could include increased physical security, improved training, incident response plans and exercises for staff on what to do during an attack. The Protect Duty has the full support of victims' groups. The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) have commenced the transition from the current 'crowded places' approach to the tiered Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs) approach which will be piloted in the North East

The National ACT (Action Counters Terrorism) Awareness Campaign

The campaign has now been rolled out across West Yorkshire. ACT is delivered at Strategic, Corporate and Operational levels and the new e-learning package has now been cascaded to thousands of businesses, statutory and third sector partners across the county. Some 2.8 million ACT modules have now been completed nationally.

Act Early

This new public facing website highlighting particularly the increased on-line threat during lock down has been developed by NCTPHQ and was officially launched in November 2020. The site is supported by an advice line and heralds Prevent as a strand of safeguarding while

educating viewers on threats, signs and referral routes. The site and help line are currently being evaluated and have already generated new referrals.

North East Regional Counter Terrorism Advisory Group

CTP North East continues to hold its Regional CTAG which has broad representation from across the diverse communities of the region. This will enable CTP-NE to directly consult West Yorkshire communities on relevant CT issues and strengthen the legitimacy of the services we provide going forwards.

Local Delivery

The National Prevent Referral Form and pathway have now been launched. The national referral form will be sent directly by referrers to CTP and Local Authority safeguarding hubs simultaneously.

Police Led Partnerships (PLPs) have now been implemented across West Yorkshire. PLPs will mirror Channel arrangements in that they will involve partners in conferencing managed cases but in circumstances in which cases are classed as 'Police Led' on the basis that we have been unable to obtain consent, where risk is higher or where disruptive tactics are appropriate.

'WYP Prevent Champions' has involved all policing Districts identifying and enlisting the support of willing volunteers to become Prevent SPOCs at both delivery and management level in order to develop a communication and training network. A recent CPD event saw ninety WYP Prevent Champions and partners gather at Carr Gate to update their knowledge and skills and build on this good work. This concept is now being rolled out to partnership agencies across West Yorkshire and C19 has not frustrated the comprehensive programme of training and CPD which has continued on-line.

Mental Health

Mental ill health and disabilities e.g. ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder), continue to feature as a significant vulnerability factor in radicalisation and increase the risks of individuals carrying out lone actor (henceforth to be known as Self-Initiated Terrorists) attacks particularly. Our Northern Vulnerability Support Hub approach has continued to operate remotely throughout Covid with specialist MH professionals advising on interventions and securing additional MH services as required. The current national review of these commissioning arrangements appears unlikely to affect local delivery.

Returnees from conflict zones and Afghanistan

Work with Local Authority Children's and Adult Social Care and District partners continues. This work ensures a greater level of preparedness should returnees from conflict zones return to the North East. A comprehensive set of plans which capture all elements of CT, Criminal Justice, safeguarding and Local Authority actions have been completed and provided a framework with which to dynamically respond to evacuation from Afghanistan. CTP has actively supported the governments humanitarian efforts in relation to Operation Warm Welcome and will continue to address any arising issues that are relevant to national security including vulnerability to radicalisation and aspiration to travel to support terrorism.

The Military

CTPNE meet regularly with the military to ensure referral pathways are fit for purpose and that awareness is raised with military units across the wider region. The Army and RAF have re-affirmed their commitment to Prevent and now have a Military Liaison Officer in local groups in areas where there is a military presence. The MOD is not obliged to support PREVENT (except for those units that fall under Schedule 6 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 e.g. training establishments) but have now published JSP345 (a Joint Services Protocol). This is the official MOD Policy on Prevent and will trigger each Service (RN, Army, and RAF) to produce their own policies, which will drive how Prevent is delivered.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

[Project Servator](#) (PDF 204KB)



Chief Officer Team Paper for COM

Title: Safeguarding
Report Author: D/Superintendent Bickerdike
COT Sponsor: ACC Miller
Date: December 2021

Summary

The submitted paper seeks to highlight some of the key current areas for West Yorkshire Police in terms of Safeguarding as requested by the Mayor's Office.

Firstly, section one outlines the current position in relation to post-lockdown understanding of CSEA, Child Abuse and Neglect. The paper includes commentary on how services including the police are starting to understand the lessons learned from the pandemic so far and how this is being translated to practice. The King's College have led the way with their report 'Protecting Children at a Distance' which is explored in relation to West Yorkshire Practice.

What is clear is that reports of neglect, abuse and exploitation of children have risen since lockdown has eased. It is also clear that this is strongly linked to the availability of trusted adults in the lives of children in order for concerns to be noted, recorded and actioned. therefore any lessons learned must include how we develop mechanisms to protect children when these safety nets are removed. We are using this information to prepare our response for any further periods of lockdown that may occur.

Secondly, the report provides commentary on the position with regards to the 2021 Strategic Plan for Protecting Vulnerable People. Within this, the two Tactical Plans for CSEA, Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse have been compiled and are currently being implemented and driven through the Tactical Delivery Group chaired by the Detective Supt at Safeguarding Central Governance Unit. Each plan is ambitious and comprehensive in its approach and sets out to tackle key areas in terms of priority to really drive improvement in these areas.

CSEA continues to present a significant challenge for the Force and particularly in relation to demand associated with complex and non-recent offences and to the ever-growing demand in the field of online offending against children.

Online offending presents a challenge in terms of volume and the intrinsic complexity of investigations including the examination of large quantities of digital material. The Force have

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uplifted the resourcing in POLIT teams, are reviewing resourcing in the Abusive Images Assessment Hub and are uplifting resourcing in the Digital Forensic Unit. We welcome the scrutiny that CC Critchley is giving to this area through his Online Child Sexual Abuse Pursue board.

In terms of Domestic Abuse, West Yorkshire Police is working with Local Authority Domestic Abuse leads to develop and improve the understanding around Domestic Homicides and are participating in a forthcoming DHR research conference on 1 December 2021. We are reviewing the use of IDVA support to gain maximum benefit for victims and continue to develop the use of Power BI to ensure that the data available does not contain gaps and allows districts to have a clear picture of the demographic breakdown of Domestic Abuse in their area.

Work continues around the development of the management of offenders and each district is anticipated to have dedicated staff in place by the start of 2022 to manage Domestic Abuse perpetrator cohorts. This will complement the work being driven around the availability of perpetrator programmes to tackle repeat offending.

We are working on our response to stalking, both domestic and non-domestic related and are looking at the work of forces who have dedicated Stalking response units to see what can be learned and to assess their suitability as an option. The low use of Stalking Protection Orders is being addressed.

Domestic Abuse approaches are of course impacted by court delays and a full update to this situation is given. Solutions are being sought by HMCTS. As of October, courts are predominantly operating back within TSJ timelines for first hearings. There remains a backlog of trials for subsequent hearings for which HMCTS have a recovery plan.

This situation has naturally tested the Witness Care Unit who are now solely staffed by West Yorkshire Police with the last remaining funded staff member from the CJ partnership being recently removed. Funding has been recently secure from the WCU Surge funding which is being utilised to elevate the current pressures with an immediate uplift in staff.

In terms of Adult Safeguarding, the Force Adult Safeguarding meeting which is held six-weekly with district ASG leads is now embedded practice to provide a consistent approach across the Force as we continue to develop this area.

Mental Health remains an area of priority with local health partners predicting a 30% increase in their demand over the next 12 months.

SCGU are currently working on a bespoke training package for frontline staff, with partners, regarding neurodiverse conditions and autism and health have also agreed in principle to fund a Police Suicide Prevention Officer.

The MH Improvement Meeting has been refreshed and will recommence under the chair of the Head of Corporate Services, Supt Alisa Newman.

MASA relationships continue to be strong and productive and at Force level we are commencing on an internal MASH review overseen by Safeguarding Central Governance with a dedicated Detective Chief Inspector and working closely with the National working group to

reflect good practice and develop best ways of working. This review has the buy-in and support of partner agencies and will be multi-agency in nature.

The PPN roll-out is progressing well and three out of five districts are now using this with the remaining two going live in early 2022. Feedback from officers and partners is very positive.

The final section is, as requested, “a detailed section on missing people including those who go missing frequently with a focus on missing young people with detailed figures a interventions in each district showcasing any innovative work/case studies” followed by an outline of wider partnership working across the force in this area.

The Niche Missing Module 2 (NMM) will be released in Calderdale in mid-November 2021, commencing the roll out of the module across the Force and this will allow for better understanding of missing person episodes and an ability to provide clearer audit and data capabilities. The change will be accompanied by refreshed policy which also removes the category of ‘absent-no apparent risk’.

An explanation is provided of the force’s missing person data set which is comprehensive and widely shared including with WYCA on a macro level, with more detailed sets being provided internally to key stakeholders.

In relation to missing children, the 12-month rolling average of children going missing across the Force has steadily decreased since 2018. If the pandemic decreases are discounted, then the current levels of absence are where they would be expected to be taking into account the reduction over the last three years.

The report outlines current and ongoing issues around the provision and suitability of residential home care/support settings in some areas. This issue is being addressed locally at districts but also nationally through NPCC lead, ACC Hankinson.

As requested, the report concludes with a section on current partnership arrangements at districts including some innovative responses and wider partnership work to protect children in this area.

1) Please provide detail on the post lockdown current position and plans. Has an upsurge in reports (from the lockdown period) taken place and what lessons have been learned by WYP and partners more specifically related to child neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an unprecedented change in circumstances not before seen in modern times for children in the UK and globally. Restrictions on movement, social interaction and crucially in terms of contact with trusted adults for the majority of children during lockdown has impacted on all areas relating to the safeguarding of children. We have seen statistical impacts on many areas including referrals, crime recording and contact with organisations such as Childline. We also know through the NCA that online offending against children increased.

It is important that we do not rush too quickly to identify conclusive ‘lessons learned’ without proper analysis and acceptance that the pandemic is far from over although we can draw

some tentative conclusions informed by emerging and full academic research that is starting to appear. One such report is the 'Protecting Children at a Distance Report' published by King's College London in June 2021¹ which we have sought to put into some context below.

The Detective Superintendent for Safeguarding Central Governance represents the Yorkshire and Humber region on the National Online Child Sexual Abuse Pursue and Prevent Boards as well as the Child Protection and Abuse Investigation Working Group. These are chaired by NPCC Lead CC Ian Critchley and workstreams within this national context are seeking to provide analysis of the lockdown periods. Information received at this board is fed back. In addition, the D/Supt chairs the Regional Multi-agency CSEA Threat Reduction Group which has just commissioned a piece of analytical work to examine the impact (using regional data) of different lockdown points on this area. The Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Portal liaison officer has been tasked with establishing what progress is being made nationally on lessons learned.

Within West Yorkshire specifically, during the last lockdown periods we identified a cohort of children on the periphery of criminality, CSE, CCE etc using a matrix system based on contacts with the police (witness, victim, suspect, present at DA for example). We utilised safer schools officers to liaise with their schools and establish if the child was attending (and therefore subject to monitoring by a professional). On the whole, the majority were accounted for and being supported by trusted adults which was encouraging and pleasing. Those not attending or those with poor attendance were followed up, initially by the schools but where appropriate a welfare check by police was also carried out. The approach was successful for this cohort however the main lesson to be learned is regarding information sharing between partners to ensure a joint understanding of risk to individual children. This will ensure we can all see the bigger picture and direct resources to the most vulnerable where required in every situation and not just in times of crisis.

In terms of our understanding we know the following;

- The end of the second lockdown in March 2021 marked to point at which children physically returned to school. At this period the overall number of child protection occurrences increased and then reduced over the summer holiday period.
- In terms of the immediate period post lockdown when children were in school (between 5th March 2021 and 27th July 2021):
 - child neglect offences increased by 168% with 576 offences.
 - overall child Sexual offences increase by 13.4% with 2123 offences, of which 331 related for familial CSEA. Whilst a clear increase, the anticipated surge did not fully materialise which is to be understood given that victims/survivors often do not feel able to disclose sexual abuse until years or decades later. Reports made post lockdown include not only offences during the pandemic period but also non-recent offences that occurred pre-pandemic.

¹ Protecting Children at a Distance: A multi-agency investigation of child safeguarding and protection responses consequent upon COVID-19 lockdown/social distancing measures (Driscoll et al, 2021, Kings College) [Microsoft Word - Full survey report + conclusion final 2021-05-24.docx \(kcl.ac.uk\)](#)

- Records indicate that physical assaults on children by adults reduced by 20%, of which 27% relate to familial suspects.

Caution needs to be exercised as these figures rely upon victims and suspects being linked to the crimes at the time of extraction as well as the relationship being recorded.

In terms of the current position, so far reports have increased again now children have returned for the autumn term but not to the same level as post lockdown and are now starting to level off again as attendance at schools and other safe spaces stabilise. West Yorkshire Police continue to work with partners to safeguard children and investigate offences of all types of child abuse and are continuing to monitor reporting levels to ensure we are able to provide an effective response.

In terms of lessons learnt by West Yorkshire Police and partners, essentially these centre around effective information sharing to ensure a joint understanding of risk to children and the need for that coordinated response to identify and safeguard those at risk. As can be expected, this is reflected on a national basis. The notable points of the King's College report are assessed in relation to West Yorkshire as follows;

- **Risk assessments** - Most agencies reported conducting their own risk assessments of children and some reported sharing these amongst the partnership during the pandemic but nationally there has been very little evidence of joint risk assessing of children, which it is felt would be more beneficial in the future. The report recommends enhancing local information sharing strategies should a further lockdown take place. This was something that was adopted in West Yorkshire as online meetings were used by professionals and a set approach to identifying the most at risk children was adopted however, there is always room to improve in this area as Information Sharing is one of the most often cited failings in CSPR nationally.
- **Remote Communication** - Policing took a 'why not in person' approach to Safeguarding throughout the pandemic, which other agencies later followed by the end of the third lockdown. In West Yorkshire, we adopted a Business as Usual approach to communication with the vulnerable and this was later adopted by other agencies more closely. We are proud of this approach. However, nationally there are concerns about the reliance on technology for meetings amongst professionals. The report found that
 - 97% of professionals were concerned about not being able to use all senses to pick up on non-verbal cues
 - 95% were concerned about not knowing who else was in the room.
 - 85% were concerned about miscommunication
 - 84% were concerned about the lack of relationship/rapport building

The report recommends guidance be issued to practitioners around when remote contact would be suitable but the use of technology between partners has shown to increase attendance at MASH, strategy/Section 47 meetings and child protection case conferences. It is recommended a blended approach of in person/dial in options moving forwards to ensure increased attendance levels continue. This is something that can be taken forward with partners to balance efficiency and effectiveness.

- **Education** - Education professionals should be more involved in Safeguarding partnerships. Consideration should also be given to ensure school's knowledge of children and families is fully respected during multi-agency discussions. Within West Yorkshire a wide range of strategies have been employed during the pandemic to keep in touch with children not attending school. This has included the schools themselves, Social care and police. The use of Police is seen as controversial nationally, but it has been used by 57% of respondents and all say they would use this as a tactic again (in the context of the pandemic).
- **Health** Future decisions around re-deployment of Health professionals with Safeguarding responsibility and Health professionals who are critical for the early identification of SG concerns (such as midwives and health visitors), should be undertaken in consultation with both Safeguarding leadership within health and Safeguarding Partnerships. At West Yorkshire Police we have raised awareness of professional curiosity and the duty of officers to take into account the circumstances of families that they visit. One example would be promoting the 'Safer Sleep' campaign with health colleagues to frontline officers during the pandemic to give basic advice to families they see around the care of young children. This is not to replace the role of health professionals but to accept there have been gaps.
- **Early Help** Nationally there has been an increase in Early Help needs and there is a concern that some Early Help provision has been cut to benefit statutory services throughout the pandemic, despite the increase in demand. The report recommends that funding for Early help should continue or even be expanded during a pandemic. It also suggests that plans for enhanced 'covid secure' spaces are made to deal to ensure provision is able to continue during any future lockdowns. It is reported that some services have been delivered online (no specific details of these) and these are under review to evaluate the lessons learned and to see if this can provide a broader reach of provision moving forwards. Within West Yorkshire we have seen clear links between the absence of trusted adults in the lives of children and the volumes of crime reports, intelligence submissions and referrals. We welcome the provision of spaces that can remain open to vulnerable children during any further lockdown periods in the future.

We know that inequality makes people and in particular, children more vulnerable to being abused and we continue to publicise campaigns alongside the OPCC and other agencies that encourage people to seek help. The media strategy has been devised through the Safeguarding Communications Group which is attended by representatives from many different partners. This work continues. We believe the impact seen for children is far from over. The Safeguarding Central Governance Unit is committed to taking a long-term view of COVID impact and as part of the Force's ethos of continuous improvement West Yorkshire Police are now in the process of reviewing the response to COVID-19 thus far to ensure any lessons learnt are acted upon, that good practice is retained and that we are prepared for any and all further periods of lockdown that may occur.

2) Children and Child Abuse update

As previously reported West Yorkshire Police have developed its Protecting Vulnerable People Strategic Plan supported by a thorough CSEA, Abuse and Neglect Tactical Plan. This is

managed through a dedicated Threat Reduction Group chaired by the Detective Superintendent head of SCGU. With some 70 actions within the tactical plan aimed at honing our response in this area over the next year, key actions have been prioritised through the identification of phase one. Notable actions commenced under phase 1 include:

- The development of bespoke engagement plans to engage with communities (including C&YP and LGBT+) to build confidence, improve understanding, and increase reporting of CSEA; especially with groups affected by structural inequalities.
- Renewing engagement with retail and service sector businesses partners to ensure staff know to spot the signs and their duties to report abuse as they re-open fully after the COVID19 lockdown periods.
- Embedding Prevent as the 14th strand of Safeguarding
- Undertaking detailed case studies to identify lessons in protecting children at risk of exploitation.
- Work to assess the work of our Children Vulnerable to Exploitation Teams and develop terms of reference for them.
- Work to improve system functionality to support missing person investigations.
- Work to improve data quality around CSE records; work has already been undertaken to ensure the Force's compliance with Home Office 'Annual Data Requirements'.

CSEA continues to present a significant challenge for the Force and particularly in relation to demand associated with complex and non-recent offences. Nevertheless, West Yorkshire Police continue to encourage the identification and reporting of such abuse.

As reported under CSEA Tactical Plan Delivery, the Force are taking an holistic approach to build confidence, increase reporting and respond effectively to safeguard children and bring offenders to justice.

Online offending presents a challenge in terms of volume and the intrinsic complexity of investigations including the examination of large quantities of digital material. The Force have uplifted the resourcing in POLIT teams, are reviewing resourcing in the Abusive Images Assessment Hub and are uplifting resourcing in the Digital Forensic Unit.

In relation to online offending we are currently developing a new prevention campaign to deter offending and guide potential offenders to support agencies and continue to take the role of Regional Lead at the Online Pursue and Prevent Boards as well as the Child Protection and Abuse Investigation Working Groups chaired by CC Ian Critchley.

3) Domestic Abuse update

As previously reported West Yorkshire Police have developed its Protecting Vulnerable People Strategic Plan supported by a thorough Domestic Abuse Tactical Plan. This is managed through a dedicated Threat Reduction Group chaired by the Detective Superintendent head of SCGU. With some 50 actions within the tactical plan aimed at honing our response in this area over the next year, key actions have been prioritised through the identification of phase one. Notable actions commenced under phase 1 include:

- Improving the support given to families through early intervention
- Providing support for victims throughout the CJ journey

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- IDVA provision as supported by WYCA.
- The development of perpetrator programmes
- Developing and formalising learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews
- Developing staff and officer training
- The effective use of legal powers as relates to civil orders

The SCGU are working with Local Authority Domestic Abuse leads to develop and improve the understanding around Domestic Homicides and are participating in a forthcoming DHR research conference on 1 December 2021. The implementation and communication of DHR recommendations is being refreshed with policing districts through a 6-weekly meeting with operational Domestic Abuse inspectors within districts. This is with a view to better ensuring that all districts learn from the recommendations raised by DHRs and in addition to the production of 1-minute-guide style briefings on the recommendation from specific cases.

The SCGU have reviewed the Force's use of IDVAs and the provision within each district to work with the Mayor's Office in providing a more consistent provision across the Force for all victims and to ensure that victims from marginalised, under-represented and emerging communities are receiving the support they need. To aid in understanding this, the Force is developing standard operating procedures for the use of Power BI around Domestic Abuse and for general data quality to ensure that the data available does not contain gaps and allows districts to have a clear picture of the demographic breakdown of Domestic Abuse in their area.

The Force continues to look to develop its use and the scope of programmes for perpetrators that is broader than and will complement the successful use of the CARA programme. A scoping exercise is being undertaken to understand fully what may be available in addition and to discuss this with the Mayor's Office, as it is recognised that education programmes for perpetrators can reduce levels of repeat victims of Domestic Abuse as well as managing demand. Work continues around the development of the management of offenders and each district is anticipated to have dedicated staff in place by the start of 2022 to manage Domestic Abuse perpetrator cohorts. SCGU will look to ensure consistent practice and minimum standards of management in this area.

Training is being fully reviewed and gaps being identified, with plans to upskill all frontline officers in 'DA Matters' training in the coming year. The College of Policing is seeking to develop a Domestic Abuse investigators' training package that caters specifically for those officers not covered by current dedicated Domestic Abuse accredited training. In the meantime, West Yorkshire Police are to provide our own training that is focussed on crimes involving VAWG and misogyny in conjunction with external providers.

Significant work has been done around attendance at Domestic Abuse calls and pilots are ongoing in Kirklees and Leeds around managing appointments and regarding the use of technology to speak to victims face-to-face online in a much more timely way. This aims to ensure better victim focus and safeguarding, and to ensure that risk is managed more effectively.

In addition to this work, the Domestic Abuse Tactical Plan recognises that stalking is a feature of many Domestic Abuse incidents. The Force is reviewing its approach to stalking for both

domestic and non-domestic cases and has commissioned a Problem Profile for Stalking through Force Intelligence. Whilst we recognise that the majority of stalking is related to Domestic Abuse, there are numbers of cases of non-domestic related stalking victims who need support. Both occurrence 'types' disproportionately impact on women and increasingly involve a cyber element or focus as is the case nationally.

The SCGU have a plan of action around understanding the Force's current approach to stalking, including Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs), the use of which continues to be relatively low. Liaison is taking place with other Forces around the country who have higher levels of usage and also to benchmark issues around investigation, charging and victim support. Focus is being given to the use of all orders in Domestic Abuse including the use of DVPOs, which continues to be enhanced and developed across the Force.

Performance on these issues is being monitored more closely now by Performance Review and this will feature in the next round of Force LAMs in December 2021.

4) Adult Safeguarding update

The rollout of PPN across the Force is on schedule with three out of the five districts now using PPN for the referrals of Adults at Risk. As part of this training has been provided for front line officers and continues to develop awareness and understanding of this important and growing area of work. PPN and other work around referrals from Adult Social Care to police is being better streamlined to ensure that West Yorkshire Police have a clearer understanding of the data in this area.

The Adult Safeguarding iLearn which seeks to supplement this is completed but needs to be implemented into the training catalogue and schedule to ensure that learning around this is consolidated. This is imminent.

The Force Adult Safeguarding meeting which is held six-weekly with district ASG leads is now embedded practice to provide a consistent approach across the Force as we continue to develop this area.

5) Mental Health update

Mental Health remains an area of priority for West Yorkshire Police. It is already clear that COVID has had a significant impact on Mental Health related demand, affecting a younger cohort with greater acuity. Local health partners are predicting a 30% increase in their demand over the next 12 months. On top of this it has been recognised nationally that the current CAHMS provision is not able to meet current levels of demand. As such we continue to be actively engaged with partners to ensure we can all respond to the changing demand and provide the best possible service at the earliest opportunity.

SCGU are currently working on a bespoke training package for frontline staff, with partners, regarding neurodiverse conditions and autism. This will ensure staff are fully equipped with the knowledge to recognise and appropriately deal with more complex conditions that may have previously been seen as criminal behaviours.

Health have also agreed in principle to fund a Police Suicide Prevention Officer. This role will be an integral link between partners in our suicide prevention and real time surveillance work, ensuring accurate data is gathered, maintained and appropriately shared.

The MH Improvement Meeting has been refreshed and will recommence under the chair of the Head of Corporate Services, Supt Alisa Newman. This will ensure that business around MH is given the focus it requires at both district and departmental level.

6) The West Yorkshire area response to court delays for victims

Covid restrictions and social distancing rules inevitably created a backlog in the court system with cases being relisted into holding courts. In response, the courts have since introduced additional court space as the pandemic eases to allow more first hearings. As of October, courts are predominantly operating back within TSJ timelines for first hearings. There remains a backlog of trials for subsequent hearings for which HMCTS have a recovery plan.

In order to provide more courtrooms for first hearings, trial courts have reduced. The HMCTS five-point plan notes that once first hearings are in line with TSJ protocols attention will turn to trials which has now started to happen. West Yorkshire Police are currently still in a position whereby they are charging a similar amount to those which are being finalised within the court system. Discussions are continuing with partners with regards to achieving increased trial capacity. The magistrates court are currently listing Domestic Abuse cases into March 2022.

The Crown Court is working on time in relation to first hearings (PTPHs) and sentencing workstreams. Trials in the Crown Court are being heard, but naturally at a slightly lower rate than pre-covid. There are six Jury trial courts in Leeds and five in Bradford. A business case has been submitted to increase Leeds to nine which will assist greatly. Crown Court are currently listing into 2023 which has been publicised and highlighted in the press. This is reflective of national issues.

This situation has naturally tested the Witness Care Unit who are now solely staffed by West Yorkshire Police with the last remaining funded staff member from the CJ partnership being recently removed. Funding has been recently secure from the WCU Surge funding which is being utilised to elevate the current pressures with an immediate uplift in staff, whilst initiating academic research to determine what West Yorkshire Police can do better to support these victims and witnesses within the current delays.

In order to free up trial space the use of 'nightingale' courts is being explored for lengthy trials where custody is not a requirement. Trials that have been identified to date are envisioned to take up to six months. This is currently having a minimal effect on the volumes as the remit for these cases to be heard within these courts are narrow.

Within both the magistrate's courts in Leeds and Bradford there are currently running trial blitz and Case Management hearings with a district judge overseeing proceedings. West Yorkshire Police is supporting these being having a physical presence from the prosecution team within the court setting in order to ensure that cases can be dealt with on the day and assisting the court with any last-minute enquiries. West Yorkshire Police are exploring the

reintroduction of fast track Domestic Abuse cases with colleagues at Leeds Crown as one way to ensure that victims are fully supported through the court system.

7) Please provide details of consistent structures and processes across the districts including in partnership relations and what more could we do to improve this? Are there consistent safeguarding structures and processes across the 5 districts of West Yorkshire?

The Force is currently part of a national working group to improve the effectiveness of safeguarding partnership arrangements and functioning of the MASH, chaired by ACC Rachel Jones from West Mercia Police, the new NPCC Lead for MASH and Early Intervention Portfolio. National key issues have been identified for focus which include inconsistent Information sharing/risk assessments, single agency triage, volume, and country wide operating inconsistencies.

At Force level we are commencing on an internal MASH review overseen by Safeguarding Central Governance with a dedicated Detective Chief Inspector and working closely with the National working group to reflect good practice and develop best ways of working. The ACC for Local Policing and Safeguarding as well as the Executives for Adult and Children's Social Care has established that West Yorkshire will develop a mandate for a MASH review which is being developed alongside practitioners, requesting buy-in in terms of resource and commitment so we get a multi-agency review from the offset. An initial meeting has taken place with partners which was widely supported and broad visions for the review agreed by directors. This is fantastic progress and testament to the solid partnership relationships that exist within the five MASA structures of West Yorkshire.

In addition, the Force are progressing well in the rollout of the PPN system. Calderdale, Wakefield and Kirklees districts have all gone live and Safeguarding Central Governance are now working with Bradford and Leeds districts to further the roll-out programme. All districts that have gone live report excellent feedback from the users and from partner agencies with greater accountability and quality of referrals. This is key progress towards consistent processes across the districts.

8) SARC update

Weekly meetings continue with all key stakeholders and SARC services continue to operate as normal following the post-COVID return to normality. The contract with Mountain Healthcare has been extended and the work on recommissioning is continuing. The site still continues to propose being a pilot site for the s.28 hearings but this has not been determined or finalised.

9) A detailed section on missing people including those who go missing frequently with a focus on missing young people with detailed figures and interventions in each district showcasing any innovative work/case studies. She would also like to understand more about wider partnership working involving safeguarding children including any proactive work

NMM2

The Niche Missing Module 2 (NMM) will be released in Calderdale in mid-November 2021, commencing the roll out of the module across the Force. Initially Calderdale will be used to embed, review and trouble shoot the success of the module before releasing it for the remaining four Districts in January and February 2022. In addition to this the iLearn training module linked to this with the user guide aims to addresses identified areas of improvement within missing person investigations. The system will also enable better understanding of missing person episodes and an ability to provide clearer audit and data capabilities.

Force Policy

Force Policy will shortly be amended to remove the 'Absent – no apparent risk' category and give staff clear guidance around the Levels of Intervention model to ensure that those reporting missing persons, especially those with parental responsibility for children have or are, based on risk assessment, making initial efforts to locate the missing person themselves.

Force Data

The Force's data set on missing persons is comprehensive. On a weekly basis, everyone involved in the management, investigation and prevention of missing persons, in both District and Departments, receive the following datasets, which include individuals' details and number of missing incidents:

- All missing persons (child and adult) for the Force over 3 and 12 weeks ranked in order of number of occurrences over those periods and broken down by Adult/Child.
- All 'first time' missing children for the current month
- A rolling 12-week log of missing incidents of Looked After Children from regulated and non-regulated children's homes/care and support settings
- A rolling 12-week log of missing incidents involving those in hospital or medical establishment setting

In addition to this the Force provides quarterly macro management information on its Performance pages of the Intranet and is available to all in the Force (and to the Mayor's Office – see attached documents) and shows:

- Missing incident data, broken down into adult and child with more fine grain demographic data and including CSE and MH markers. This is provided with detail at a Force and District level.
- Data on missing children broken down by whether they are Looked After Children or not. This is also provided at Force and District level detail.

This data is important to Districts in their ongoing daily management of missing people and especially in relation to those who are going missing repeatedly and those children for whom early intervention can be considered, albeit that because of the arrangements in all Districts the Missing From Home Coordinators are fully aware of their persistent missing children aside from this data.

Children going Missing

The 12-month rolling average of children going missing across the Force has steadily decreased since 2018. From Spring 2021 this rolling average has however begun to

rise. Whilst each District across the Force has a different profile, all saw a steeper decrease in recorded incidents during the pandemic started and increases were first seen in March 2021 as the third lockdown began to ease. This is replicated in all five Districts. If the pandemic decreases are discounted then the current levels of absence are where they would be expected to be taking into account the reduction over the last three years.

That being said, both Kirklees and Leeds have seen the most marked increases and at both Districts issues have been raised around the placement of out-of-area Looked After Children with high instances of missing episodes impacting on the number of reports. There have been highlighted problems around the notification and sharing of information regarding these children. This is perhaps compounded by ongoing issues around the provision and suitability of residential home care/support settings (regulated and particularly unregulated) for children from the Local Authority area, some of whom have also shown an increase in missing instances. That being said children who are not LAC have also shown increases in these districts.

Both these issues are however national problems and has been highlighted in David Foster's report into 'Looked after children: out of area, unregulated and unregistered accommodation' (June 2021).²

CI Alan Rhees-Cooper, Staff Officer to the NPCC Lead for Missing People Catherine Hankinson, is undertaking work between police and partners. The aim is to develop a West Yorkshire partnership response to this issue and find agreement across the partnership as to what is considered a suitable location for a children's home and what is considered an unsuitable location. There is a desire to have a consistent approach to Locality Risk Assessments across all Districts. Kirklees especially are keen to encourage the other local authorities to adopt a similar policy in respect of out of area placements to achieve some consistency across West Yorkshire.

District Structures

All Districts use the Force information available as well as their own internal processes to ensure that there are trigger plans, prevention occurrences and multi-agency meetings and discussions in place for all high risk or repeat missing children. This is normal and embedded practice and whilst the specific structures may vary across the Force there is a considerable effort expended in ensuring that all such reports are reviewed and dealt with in a way that safeguards and seeks to signpost and support the child or young person and their family.

Information regarding missing children is shared daily with CSCs and ongoing efforts are being made to ensure that information from return interview service responses are shared and intelligence submitted in order to safeguard, understand and make lives better for children and young people who go missing.

All District have Missing From Home Coordinators who are responsible for ensuring the partnerships and Districts work together to respond to missing persons. In all except Bradford District, missing person are routinely investigated by Response and/or NPTs. Bradford has Missing From Home Investigators, which whilst not the case at other districts, has distinct

² Foster, D (2021) Looked After Children: Out of area, unregulated and unregistered accommodation. Available at <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7560/CBP-7560.pdf>

advantages and benefits to the handling of missing person investigations. High risk missing persons (child or adult) are always investigated by the Safeguarding or Serious Crime Departments, under the investigative oversight of a Detective Inspector.

District Responses

The Force recognises that missing episodes, especially with children, are symptomatic of other underlying issues and are often a rational response to escape the issues they perceive they face. Whilst missing investigations rightly focus on finding children to keep them safe and to minimise the risk they face whilst away from their home setting, partnership work with both the children and their families is critical to addressing the root causes of the absences.

All Districts are encouraged to seek problem solving solutions at a local level and NPTs are very much involved in the engagement and contact with children who go missing.

Wakefield District MFHCs work in the same office as the Children's Social Care missing officer as do the Return Interview Service. They are in turn co-located with the District Child Vulnerable to Exploitation Team

Wakefield District have prevention occurrences for each children's home setting as well as for individual children to ensure clarity around the wider care picture. This is in addition to having dedicated PCSOs working with the homes from an engagement and familiarity perspective.

Kirklees have had issues around the Districts' children's home setting and increased out-of-area children going missing repeatedly, working with the other Local Authorities to seek to problem solve and ensure that in working with Kirklees Local Authority bad placement matches are avoided. Kirklees have done some good work with Locality Risk Assessments in this to ensure that police concerns over specific areas of children's residential accommodation.

The Kirklees MFHCs have been involved in setting up joint training sessions for staff in children's home setting (including and especially making provision for staff working permanent nights). This is to expand knowledge of the Levels of Intervention model and process promoting understanding and ensuring that police are not unnecessarily involved with children and young people as missing people when they don't need to be. This also explains the potential damage that can be done by a child or young person's view of the police and those in authority being. In addition to this, Kirklees are also working hard to continually promote the Philomena protocol, where it is apparent that police have taken reports of missing persons that should not be recorded as such.

Kirklees NPTs have also engaged in problem oriented policing work where exploitation was occurring near to a children's home setting which has reduced the instances of missing as well as reducing potential criminality.

As well as having firmly embedded and applied the Philomena protocol in Bradford, the MFHC attend quarterly placement coordination meetings with Children's Social Care, to support and encourage the appropriate placement of children in neighbourhood locations that do not leave them at risk of further harm. This working relationship is seen as a real positive and has resulted in some changes of living arrangements for the benefit of the children involved.

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The increase in Locality Risk Assessments is very good and beneficial for the overall safeguarding of children but does place a significant resourcing burden on the MFHCs. It is hoped that in a short time the available data will make it clear to all Local Authorities outside of Bradford and Children's Home providers which areas of the District will and won't be considered appropriate for placement of vulnerable children and young people.

NPT staff based at Shipley in Bradford have spent time working with two local children's homes where missing episodes were symptomatic of other problems with the children involved. Working with the Community Manager at Keighley Cougars, they were as a partnership able to engage with some of the children with more persistent missing episodes to build relationships and build respect. This had the result of reducing their individual absences dramatically and giving the young people a different perspective on their actions and a healthier view of those in authority.

The Leeds Early Help Hub structure includes three Hubs across the District in Yeadon, Harehills and Cottingley, with a number of tiers of support for those children going missing. Early Help Officers (3 per locality) within these Hubs are able to visit in the first instance those children or young people who have not engaged with or been in contact with the Youth Service. There is also a focus on those first time missing children or those who look like going missing may become a more regular thing. They also have regular meeting in respect of persistent missing children to open cases where family practitioners can spend some time with the family to help them identify the root cause of the symptom.

Encouragingly Leeds have secured DWP funded for training for practitioners in reducing parental conflict, enabling them to offer parental conflict resolution to those who are at loggerheads with one another and where this may be impacting on the children in the house.

Calderdale's Early Action Team receive referrals of first time or sudden multiple time missing children and young people, using the opportunity with partners to understand the trigger factors for the young person involved, which may have manifest themselves in missing, adolescent to parent violence, DA. The triage meetings bring together police, Youth Justice, L&D and CSC. Through this they try and jointly engage with the children and young people in various enjoyable activities (like climbing, karting, etc) to break down barriers, gain trust and share information with partners to signpost and direct to services with education to help them understand the risks they face. This is having positive impacts on the children involved.

Safeguarding COM Glossary of Abbreviations

ACC – Assistant Chief Constable	MFHC – Missing From Home Coordinators
ASG – Adult Safeguarding	MH – Mental Health
C&YP – Children & Young People	NCA – National Crime Agency
CAMHS – Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service	NMM – Niche Missing Module
CARA – Cautioning & Relationship Abuse project	NPCC – National Police Chiefs’ Council
CC – Chief Constable	NPT – Neighbourhood Policing Teams
CCE – Child Criminal Exploitation	OPCC – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (former, now replaced by Mayor’s Office)
CI – Chief Inspector	PCSO – Police Community Support Officer
CJ – Criminal Justice	POLIT – Police OnLine Investigation Team
CSC – Children’s Social Care	Power BI – Data collection and analytics system used by West Yorkshire Police
CSEA – Child Sexual Exploitation & Abuse	PPN – Police Protection Notice – police referral system
CSPR – Child Safeguarding Practice Review	PTPH – Plea & Trial Preparation Hearing
DA – Domestic Abuse	s.28 hearing – special measures hearings under s.28 Youth Justice & Criminal Evidence Act 1999
DHR – Domestic Homicide Review	s.47 meeting – child strategy meeting under s.47 Children Act 1989
DVPO/N – Domestic Violence Protection Order/Notice	SARC – Sexual Assault Referral Clinic
DWP – Department of Work & Pensions	SCGU – Safeguarding Central Governance Unit
HMCTS – HM Courts & Tribunal Service	SPO – Stalking Protection Order
IDVA – Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor	TSJ – Transforming Summary Justice
iLearn – West Yorkshire Police online training system	VKPP – Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Portal
L&D – Liaison & Diversion	WCU – Witness Care Unit
LAC – Looked After Children (sometimes CLA – Child Looked After)	WYCA – West Yorkshire Combined Authority
LAM – Local Accountability Meeting	
MASA – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements	
MASH – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	



**Chief Officer Team
Briefing for COM**

Title: Serious Violent Crime

Report Author: Superintendent Damon Solley

COT Sponsor: ACC Damien Miller

Date: December 2021

SUMMARY

This report provides details of how West Yorkshire Police and the Mayoral Combined Authority - governed Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) have made progress to tackle serious violent crime, knife crime, county lines, firearms offences and Serious Organised Crime (SOC) as it relates to violence.

The report details the progress of Operation Jemlock and how it operates as the enforcement arm of the Violence Reduction Unit. It shows how the downward trend in incidents of knife related violence is continuing. There is a section on how the outcomes are tracked for those arrested by the team and how it is an emerging workstream to share data to establish records on those young people who may come into contact with both the enforcement and diversion aspects of VRU business.

The impact of the pandemic restrictions on violent crime levels is explained with data from performance analysts. This demonstrates that there was an inevitable decrease in such crimes when Covid restrictions were in place. However, since the lifting of restrictions there have been increases in some crime types, although thankfully not large spikes as feared.

The overall picture on firearms offences is also encouraging. The standard of investigations and mapping of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) are just two of the reasons why discharges are down. To tackle County Lines exploitation, Op Precision colleagues work closely with the region and several operations have been launched to ensure a joined-up approach.

For child offenders, a new initiative has been launched by the VRU whereby an outreach worker accompanies police officers at street level to engage young people at the scene of incidents involving violence.

There is a comprehensive description of West Yorkshire Police's early intervention activities across all five districts, detailing the many initiatives targeted at young people. This is the

force response which, as daily business, compliments the VRU - supported projects. There is a great deal which is delivered by district teams for young people working with local authorities and other partner agencies.

The section on Operation Precision, West Yorkshire Police's initiative to tackle Serious and Organised Crime details how a recently developed Home Office methodology, 'Clear, Hold and Build' is being used in a number of force areas as a means to further enhance partnership working in SOC priority areas. In addition to targeting Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) the teams are also targeting priority individuals to better understand the threat to communities.

In terms of how SOC activity informs Neighbourhood Policing, each district has it's own SOC local profile and puts the 'Clear Hold Build' approach at the heart of its activity to deliver a partnership response to SOC.

The VRU workstream updates are then listed to inform on the progress of each and the report finally covers the latest and emerging challenges relating to the collective effort to further drive down serious violence in all its forms.

Operation Jemlock & Links with the VRU

Operation Jemlock has been the force's dedicated serious violence reduction initiative since April 2019 and is now approaching the end of its third financial year.

It provides daily deployments of officers into hotspot patrols of West Yorkshire and has delivered a visible and effective policing style by utilising the following policing tactics.

- Intelligence – led high visibility hotspot patrols in high serious violent crime (SVC) areas
- Disruption activities utilising appropriate stop and search
- Targeting SVC offenders wanted for outstanding offences
- Responding to live time incidents of serious violence.

Year 3 has seen highly localised and specific hotspot patrols to deliver the most efficient and targeted reductions. The VRU has recruited an additional analyst to carry out the data analytics which identify our hotspots.

In addition to this work, Operation Jemlock continue to deploy into higher crime areas for longer periods to disrupt criminality and search for those who are wanted for offences of violence. Jemlock staff also receive requests sent direct through from the Inland Border Command, Border Force, to visit addresses and intercept illegally imported weapons purchased over the internet.

There will also be activity aligned to the national week of action, Operation Sceptre, which is supported by district staff. The week of action for the Autumn of 2021 commences on November the 15th. This will involve weapons safety sweeps, test purchasing of knives and deployments of our knife arches.

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The whole organisation has supported and delivered the violence reduction agenda. The number of searches for weapons has risen dramatically. The number of interventions and locally run operations which support the central aims have increased and overall Operation Jemlock has led the way to empower all staff to contribute to the successes achieved so far.

Officers have been upskilled by working with specialists on the operation to whom they would ordinarily have had limited access. Young in-service officers have worked alongside search trained officers, advanced drivers, police dog handlers and others. They have gained much from these experiences and taken that back to their daily roles.

Officers who work on Operation Jemlock are challenged to improve their knowledge of local youths at risk of violent offending and the programmes with which they may (or may not be) engaging. This improves the overall intelligence picture for proportionate targeting of offenders.

The lead and deputy for Operation Jemlock attend VRU Partnership Delivery Group meetings from which there are specific actions to take the collaboration forward. In addition, they play an active role in the Partnership Executive Group along with senior representatives from all the local Crime Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to discuss the initiatives being delivered and how operational policing feeds into this.

To date, the following performance has been delivered by Operation Jemlock and the combined activities of the VRU, local authority and wider West Yorkshire Police collaboration to tackle serious violence.

Operation Jemlock.

- Arrests 6,168
- Weapons recovered 930
- Stop & Search 6,155
- Intelligence submissions 12,822

KEY MEASUREABLE OUTCOMES									
KPI	2019	2020	BD	KD	LD	CD	WD	2021	Total
GRAND TOTALS									
Weapons Seized	146	469	68	63	160	8	16	315	930
Arrests	2389	2431	456	358	405	101	28	1348	6168
Stop / Searches	1706	2751	386	283	912	58	59	1698	6155
Intel Submissions	4188	5354	862	798	1315	224	81	3280	12822

In the 29 months since Operation Jemlock launched, compared to the same period prior to that, the following reductions have been achieved.

Of note is that precisely at the time of Jemlock's commencement, the method of counting knife offences changed due to the National Data Quality Improvement Service (NDQIS).

This resulted in **more knife offences identified than previously** (not a huge increase as our crime recording was already considered to be accurate).

Therefore, the reductions seen below should be viewed as even more noteworthy, given this change in practice.

Knife enabled crime down **5%**

299 Fewer victims

Knife crime victims under 25 down **6.2%**

54 Fewer victims

Non-domestic Homicides down **20%**

12 Fewer victims

Robbery down **19.5%**

1,593 Fewer victims

Robbery involving a sharp implement down **16%**

335 Fewer victims

Outcomes and Post Arrest Interventions

Part of the collection of the vast amount of data by Operation Jemlock staff is outcomes by category of those arrested. Below is the current table which displays outcomes for arrests carried out since April 2021.

ARREST OUTCOMES							
Outcome Code	BD	KD	LD	CD	WD	Total	%
RUI / BAIL	116	129	131	33	12	421	47%
01 - Charged	68	41	101	14	2	226	25%
03 - Caution	6	10	6	2	0	24	3%
08 - Community Resolution	13	7	9	0	1	30	3%
15 - NFA - Evidential	44	48	53	12	8	165	18%
16 - NFA - Victim Withdraws	8	16	8	5	1	38	4%
21 - No Police Action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
22 - Diversionary	0	1	0	0	0	1	0%
Court (None-PACE)	174	63	58	29	3	327	NA
Foreign Force Enquiry	5	9	1	0	1	16	NA
Other	4	4	9	0	0	17	NA
Total (check)	438	328	376	95	28	1265	

Offences of violence often require further enquiries to be carried out to establish the circumstances and events of a case, as well as trace additional witnesses and suspects. That is why the numbers of people who at present have been released under investigation or on police bail appear so prominent.

We do not currently track those with whom we come into contact from an enforcement perspective into VRU – supported interventions. Currently VRU analysts in the Knowledge Hub don't have access to identifiable police data. We are about to embark on a workstream which will better enable us to do this, with support and assistance from our Information Governance colleague to negotiate around the information management side.

Recently the VRU recruited a dedicated Jemlock analyst, employed by West Yorkshire Police, primarily to assist with the specific data analytics required for the Home Office - mandated hotspot policing.

However, this also gives us capacity to explore using their expertise to carry out searches on all systems to identify whether there can be links made to VRU commissioned projects and initiatives. Again, this comes down to data protection and information governance. This is not without issue as many organisations who work with young people may understandably wish to keep the identities of those they are working with confidential.

We will seek to work more closely with local authorities to record data relating to referrals made by operational officers to them and track progress.

The Impact of the Pandemic and a Review of how the Restrictions Affected the levels of Knife Crime and Potential for Increases Post – Lockdown

Trends

Crime involving knives and sharp instruments have seen a marked reduction since 2018, despite the force implementing a new approach for identifying such crimes from April 2019 (NDQIS – National Data Quality Improvement Service). The long-term trend has levelled off but there are early indications that small increases may be seen based on the most recent 12 monthly figures.

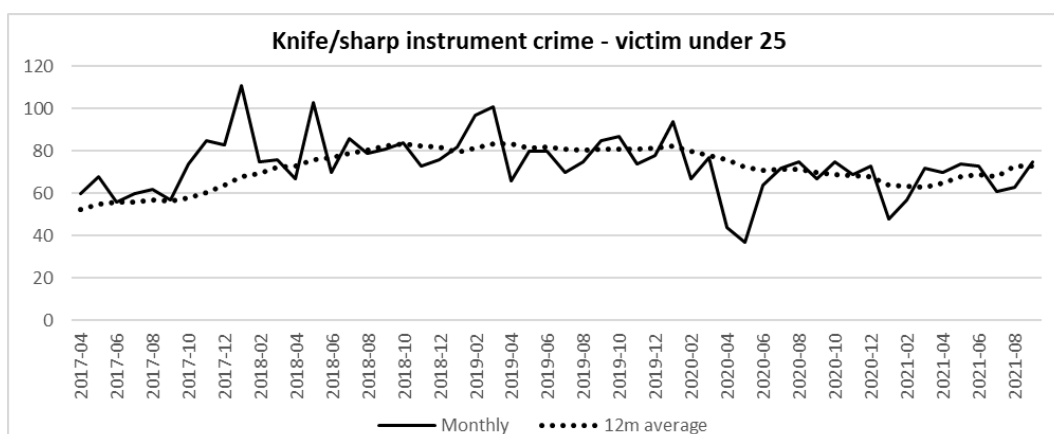
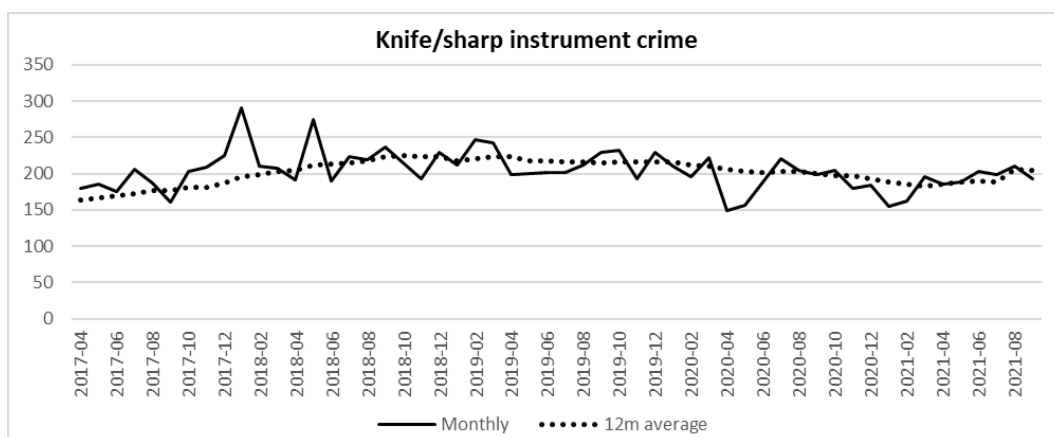
The force reported a 10.7% reduction in the last 12 months when compared to the pre-Covid period (12 months to March 2020), with all districts seeing a reduction. However, when compared with the Covid period (12 months to March 2021) there has been a 2.7% increase. This suggests that as restrictions have been eased there has been an increase in offending. For crimes involving victims aged under 25 the reduction was greater at 13.2% compared with the pre-Covid period, but there has been a larger increase when compared with the Covid period (+7.6%).

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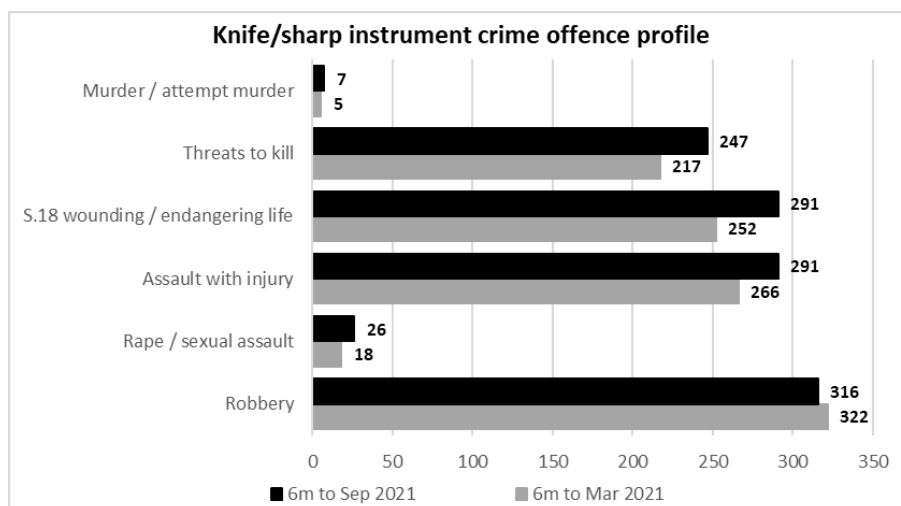
All crimes	BD	CD	KD	LD	WD	Force
12m to September 2021	575	156	378	908	241	2258
12m to March 2021	568	172	370	866	222	2198
Change	+7	-16	+8	+42	+19	+60
	+1.2%	-9.3%	+2.2%	+4.8%	+8.6%	+2.7%
12m to March 2020	616	196	420	1033	264	2529
Change	-41	-40	-42	-125	-23	-271
	-6.7%	-20.4%	-10.0%	-12.1%	-8.7%	-10.7%

Victim under 25	BD	CD	KD	LD	WD	Force
12m to September 2021	207	45	122	364	72	810
12m to March 2021	184	42	117	344	66	753
Change	+23	+3	+5	+20	+6	+57
	+12.5%	+7.1%	+4.3%	+5.8%	+9.1%	+7.6%
12m to March 2020	185	82	171	419	76	933
Change	+22	-37	-49	-55	-4	-123
	+11.9%	-45.1%	-28.7%	-13.1%	-5.3%	-13.2%

The following charts show the monthly volumes and 12-month averages for all crimes and for those involving a victim aged under 25. The impact of Covid restrictions in April-June 2020 can clearly be seen, with volumes of crime reducing, and this is repeated in early 2021 as restrictions were reintroduced. These reductions were more marked when considering crimes involving victims aged under 25. From March 2021 onwards there has been an upward trend evident, however the volumes have not returned to pre-Covid levels as yet.

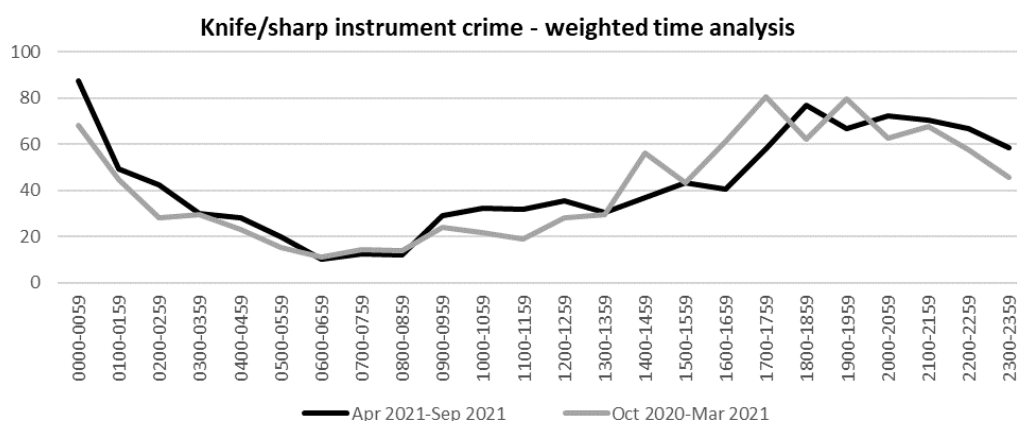


The following chart shows the offence profile for the latest six months to September compared with the previous six months to March 2021, illustrating the change in offending since the easing of Covid restrictions in April 2021. The main increases have been seen in Threats to kill (+14%), S.18 wounding / endangering life (+15%) and Assault with injury (+9%).



Temporal analysis

The distribution of crime throughout an average day (based on the earliest and latest dates committed) for the six months to September 2021 is illustrated below, along with comparisons to the previous six months to March 2021. More offences were committed overnight in the last six months and between 1000-1300, however the profile is relatively similar between the two periods.



In summary

- The number of crimes involving knives or sharp instruments reduced through 2020/21 compared with the previous year.
- Volumes were at their lowest when Covid restrictions were in place.

- The short-term trend is increasing, and volumes have returned to those reported in the same period in 2020 but remain below the previous year.
- The main increases have been seen in Threats to kill, S.18 wounding / endangering life and Assault with injury.
- Times of offending remain relatively consistent, with higher levels of offences being committed overnight.

Firearms Incidents and Gun Crime

Within Protective Services Crime a Firearms Prevent team is dedicated to reducing the risk from firearms and effectively investigating any discharges. As required, this team is supported by the larger major investigation teams with all such investigations being led by a Senior Investigating Officer.

The force has a dedicated Chief Inspector on the Firearms Cadre providing 24-hour cover with a dedicated Intelligence function providing live - time research and analysis to ensure a thorough evaluation of the information, dynamic risk assessments with tactical plans formulated and officers deployed where appropriate in a timely manner. The force has a weekly meeting where firearms and organised crime Intelligence is reviewed to ensure all disruption and assertive management opportunities are maximised. This includes the management of offenders who are released into the community with specialist Investigators involved in these investigations from Protective Services crime.

There is a strong and effective relationship between investigators and the firearms capability of the force. For example, armed response vehicles patrol hotspot areas and undertake offender management of some individuals, after appropriate assessment. This is being further strengthened between specialist investigators at PSC and firearms officers developing bespoke training to upskill key departments.

We have had some significant performance across a number of different work streams due to our 'whole systems' approach to firearms criminality and how, by understanding the threat as a whole and making improvements across different aspects of our response we have achieved a situation whereby the public are undoubtedly safer. All of this is being delivered in line with Programme Precision and our response to Serious Organised Crime.

Actual Discharges

	Apr 2016 – Mar 2017	Apr 2017 – Mar 2018	Apr 2018 – Mar 2019	Apr 2019 – Mar 2020	Apr 2020 – Mar 2021	Apr 2021 – Oct 2021
Totals	60	50	51	42	23	14
Detection	11.5%	19.6%	17%	28%	52.2%	66.7%

Our actual discharge figures are the lowest for five years, a considerable year on year decrease. Some might suggest that this is the Covid 19 effect, but we would dispute this. During the same period, one of our neighbouring forces has seen a substantial increase, with the National picture remaining the same.

The reason our figures have decreased is because we undertake specialist investigations into every discharge event. Some discharges involve a gun fired into the air, some involve a homicide. However, our approach is to deploy a specialist investigation into each and every discharge event to ensure that where we can we recover the weapons and ensure convictions for the relevant offence. It is this approach which has led to the detection rates we have achieved.

West Yorkshire Police works closely with the Regional Organised Crime Unit to monitor and map organised crime groups and urban street gangs who are involved in County Lines and drug supply both within West Yorkshire and into other counties. West Yorkshire has mapped several lines to manage, monitor and disrupt where appropriate utilising both overt and covert investigations.

Similar to the Organised Crime Group model, groups are scored, mapped and prioritised for interventions and disruptions. The force develops strategic plans to tackle and disrupt organised crime groups through a coordinated Multi-Agency approach.

Strategic plans are monitored and delivered through the Programme Precision Force Silver group where Organised Crime Groups (OCG) and Urban Street Gangs that are high priority are discussed, disruptions are recorded which includes arrests and convictions of OCG nominals.

Home Office Serious Violence Strategy “Tackling County Lines and misuse of Drugs “

Within West Yorkshire, County Lines criminality is dealt with using a joined-up approach between the National County Lines Coordination Centre, Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit County Lines co-ordinator and centralised team and then at district through targeted investigations and the SOC Op Precision.

County Lines and organised exploitation has been strategically MoRILE (management of risk in law enforcement) scored and has been identified as a primary threat.

The county lines issue in West Yorkshire is predominately one of an exporting force. This exporting is both internally and externally and so our focus is on exploitation and the organisation elements as opposed to street level interdictions.

The county lines response is codenamed Op Redive we share this name with the YH ROCU to unify our response. There is a central Redive team based within the Specialist Programme Precision Modern Slavery Team. The response is led by a DCI who is the force tactical lead for county lines. This team co-ordinates the management, mapping, flagging, and scoring of threat, activity on identified county lines and projects, campaigns and initiatives aimed at diversion and intervention on those who may be exploited.

A force wide thematic threat has been identified that involves the Western Balkans. To tackle this threat Operation Peninsular was set up to increase the intelligence and investigative opportunities specifically centred around Cannabis production.

As part of the Specialist Programme Precision Modern Slavery Team there is a dedicated Training and Partnerships Officer (Modern Slavery & Redive - County Lines) who regularly creates training packages for officers and partners. Through the already well-established district modern slavery partnership forums, we work closely to ensure that we have a joined up multi-agency approach to tackle county lines, working across all the 4P's.

Operation CUCKOO is being developed by the Specialist Programme Precision Modern Slavery Team and non-policing partners to look at best practice to tackle the issue of Cuckooed addresses within West Yorkshire. This process will allow a joint up response to prevent vulnerable people being exploited within their homes for the benefit of organised crime groups.

We are also a pilot force for National Data Analytics Solution (Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking), providing data into a central and national repository of information that looks to identify trends, patterns, and threats.

The force has successfully used drug dealing telephone restriction orders to disrupt county lines activity.

County lines OCGs are subject of a six-weekly review by the head of SOC to ensure that there is a plan in place for each and that focused activity is being undertaken.

Approach to Child Offenders

There are a number of specific initiatives in the Violence Reduction Unit that are currently being funded to ensure young people are supported away from criminal behaviour and activity when they have been drawn into serious violence and gangs. These were detailed in the previous COM paper and many are planned to continue when funding is confirmed.

Custody and hospital based diversionary programmes with partners continue their delivery and are integral to provide interventions for the 'teachable moment'.

Early intervention is at the heart of the VRU approach and the details of specific projects for young people is covered elsewhere in this report. The aim is obviously to prevent young person's becoming involved in violent crime and criminality which incorporates violence as a method of commission or indeed as a cultural norm.

A new and very promising initiative which launched in the autumn of 2021 was the 'Teachable Moments' patrol, also known as the 'Focussed Deterrence Car'. This has been made possible thanks to a successful bid made by the VRU to the Serious Violence Youth Interventions Funding – Teachable Moments Interventions Programme.

The initiative involves the deployment of a plain clothes police officer crewed with an outreach youth worker. The aim is that where Operation Jemlock officers are requested to

attend the scene of a violence – related incident, the Focussed Deterrence Car can also attend to engage with those young people on the periphery. They may be witnesses or bystanders. They will be young people who have the potential to become further embroiled in the USG violence arena.

The outreach worker will engage if possible with the young person or people and offer support at that ‘teachable moment’, just as they would in A & E or even custody, with a view to beginning a process of intervening positively to steer them away from such a path.

All district local authorities have supported this initiative. The first series of deployments have been positively received and show early signs of proving successful.

Home Office Serious Violence Strategy “Early Intervention and Prevention” – Force Response

The Neighbourhood Policing Model is embedded across the Force area. All five Districts utilise Safer Schools Officers, Neighbourhood Officers and Police Community Support Officers to deliver knife crime awareness lessons to children in education establishments, supported by the Force’s School Liaison Officer.

The Early Action offer across all the Districts has increased over the past year and further supports joint work with Partners in relation to education, intervention, and diversion. The Force works closely in partnership with the Liaison and Diversion Team across all Districts, supported by VRU funding.

Calderdale District’s Early Help Team have two referral pathways to identify young people who are on the cusp of coming to the attention of the Police. Internally every 24 hours from a data search of police systems they identify every young person linked to a crime as a first-time offender or a young person linked to more than one crime. With this data each crime is reviewed, and the team direct the investigating officers to refer to the Early Action Team. Cases are discussed twice weekly with Partners which includes the Liaison and Diversion Team, the Youth Justice Service and Children’s Social Care.

These meetings identify actions to tackle the causes of offending not just the symptoms. Every referral has a Niche Occurrence created where the issues, actions and outcomes of the interventions are recorded. They also have helped develop a second pathway called the Early Help Hub created by the Councils Children Services. This identifies young people from those referrals from incidents or issues that have not been reported to the Police, instead they have been reported direct to Children’s Social Care via the front door at MASH. These referrals in many cases would never have come to police attention. As a result of these referrals the team identify young people and their families who need support from services including the police to reduce the risks of escalation to more serious offence types.

The team uses activity-based sessions funded by the VRU to deliver to the more complex young people that are more downstream or who may have special educational needs, multiple adverse risks, mental health or self-esteem issues. This enables the team to break down barriers through the activities to enable the educational side of the work they deliver.

The team are introducing opportunities for the young people to provide feedback about the engagements they provide to assist with improving service delivery. Calderdale District have also seen an opportunity to utilise their engagements with young people to seek feedback about their perception of policing in general. This is in relation to encounters they have had and policing they have witnessed, what they like and don't like. This may help the police going forward to understand young people and use the learning to get the best out of young people.

Bradford District's Early Help offer this year has focused on the early educational settings, increasing awareness and referrals to be discussed at localised Lead Practitioner Panel meetings. Keighley's 'all age' pilot continues to be successful in reducing demand with effective partnership work around repeat callers, missing persons and first-time offenders.

Bradford have developed a pathway to allow referrals via Children's Social Care and the front door to be discussed at the daily Early Help Panel, cases which would normally have not met the threshold or come to Police attention. Bradford's new Early Help Domestic Abuse Partnership has been created allowing officers to signpost families, both victims and perpetrators focusing on family intervention as a whole. They continue to work closely with their Neighbourhoods, Safer Schools and the Bradford Youth Engagement Officer delivering focused inputs in raising awareness of criminal exploitation, the consequences of crime and youth violence.

As part of Operation Sceptre, local NPTs ran operations across the district which included educational knife crime and drugs inputs and the effects of crime helping them build community cohesion and confidence in the Police. Bradford District continue to work and build on the successful intervention project "Breaking the Cycle" proactively completing outreach work with their diverse team across the district to target hotspot areas and engage with young people encouraging youth empowerment and positive role models.

Kirklees District continue to progress their successful P.E.A.K Project (Positive Engagement Against Knives) which was designed and is delivered by Early Action officers with support from the Huddersfield Town Foundation. The bespoke six-week programme supports targeted young people in schools across Kirklees to help them feel safer, realise their potential, and improve community cohesion. This is achieved through educational resources, diversionary activity, youth empowerment, inspiration and use of role models. As part of this project Kirklees Early Action officers have secured the assistance of the courageous widow of a murder victim who was violently killed in 2020 by two young people. She is speaking to those enrolled as part of the workshops about the devastating effects on her family, friends and community.

They are also developing a new educational video regarding the incident. The young people also receive First Aid training and accreditation. In addition, officers have developed a 'Challenge Day' diversionary project at Eden's Forest CIC where referred young people receive inputs around violent crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, and County Lines along with participation in team building exercises and bushcraft activities. The Kirklees Early Action Team continues

to expand and young people dealt with for low level offences are receiving educational inputs on crime and the consequences with a view to preventing further offences and a life of criminality by showing them what they can achieve away from negative influences.

In **Leeds** the Early Action team are spread across three sites, East, West and South. The officers are co-located with a multi-discipline team. They meet daily to discuss all new cases and formulate intervention plans. Referrals come mainly through a 24-hour search of Police Systems. A focus on the first-time subjects, suspects, missing from home has now been adopted to make sure resources are directed to the cases that are suitable for early intervention. The team continue also to build a strong working relationship with Liaison and Diversion, identifying the limits of Leeds City Council EH Hubs and optimising support for Youths / Families in need of help through the L&D channels.

In September, awareness briefings were provided to all response officers to highlight the benefits of Early intervention and to encourage referrals from the front line. This has resulted in an upsurge of quality referrals during October. Awareness briefings will also be delivered to Neighbourhood policing teams during the month of November. The Early Action team are committed to further promoting the Early Intervention ethos across the district and will be visiting all teams over the coming months to offer support and advice.

Leeds City Council have offered Leeds District 265 e-licences for training into reducing parental conflict (RPC). Currently all Early Action officers have been trained to engage and assist parents at conflict deal with their issues. In addition, the link officers for LASBT will also be trained in RPC. Any remaining licences will be offered to PCSO's within each Neighbourhood locality.

The Strategic Engagement officer for Primary schools in Leeds has upskilled Neighbourhood PCSO's to deliver presentations including topics such as the dangers of knives in Primary Schools across the district. Early Action officers have supported this work, attending the schools and helping to break down barriers between children and police.

Within the most deprived areas in Leeds known for youth violent crime, there has been a request for intensive workshops to be run at some North East Leeds schools and the launch of these is imminent.

Just prior to the summer break, Collaboration Digital linked in with Safer Schools to present knife crime workshops across several schools in the city. Each group of children attending the workshop created their own promotional videos to raise awareness of the dangers of carrying a knife. The videos were posted online, and people voted for their favourite.

Wakefield District continues to deliver 1:1 intervention within the Early Action Hub around Serious Violent Crime, including weapons and knives. They also have the CASLNK Project which is a funded partnership project between the Police, the Children's First Hub and a company called Life Experience. This project primarily focuses on knife crime and runs in cohorts over a 6-week period. Each cohort focusses on working with ex-offenders around the

dangers of knife related crime, statistics, the crime to prison process, consequences of crime, victim-based work, peer pressure, reflection, substance misuse, first aid, self-defence and structured scenario-based work.

The District has also continued the Cell Intervention Project. The project is run every 6 weeks at South Kirkby Police Station. The aim of the intervention is to give each young person a 'realistic' experience of the crime to custody process. Each young person will go through a mock custody booking-in process, shown to the cells, fingerprints and photographs as well as information around the detention of prisoners. They utilise partner agencies including Family Hubs, St Giles and other partners to deliver key messages and education around consequences of crime and lived experience from ex-offenders.

The project has been a successful intervention. Feedback from both young people and parents has been positive in disrupting that young person's negative behaviours and developmental in moulding the projects. A number of young people have been referred to other services for a whole family system support as well as working with St Giles after identifying concerns around county lines.

Wakefield District also continue to champion the Focus Deterrence Car. This is a Force wide project co-ordinated at each District funded by the VRU. Working with a Youth Worker they deploy in the aftermath of incidents of serious violence and fill the vacuum often left when the victim has been taken to hospital, suspect arrested and what is left young people in the streets.

In September 2021, West Yorkshire Police launched a new initiative called 'Pol-Ed' (Policing and Education). Pol-Ed is a trailblazing concept, in both its development and design, with the principle goal of safeguarding and protecting all young people across West Yorkshire. It has been developed by officers and teachers working within West Yorkshire Police for delivery by schools and education providers across the county. The ultimate aim of the project is to keep every child in West Yorkshire safe. The resources provide teachers with the tools to deliver information on the law, crime prevention and safeguarding. Serious violence crime and knife crime is included in the schemes of work for secondary education.

Home Office Serious Violence Strategy "Supporting Communities and Partnership Working"

The Home Office strategy details the role of Police and Crime Commissioners in tackling serious violence in communities.

Since the transfer of responsibilities from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Mayoral Combined Authority, a detailed programme of work has been undertaken to ensure that the staff and their roles have continued with minimal disruption to the delivery of services, including the Violence Reduction Unit in its entirety.

The work of engaging with retailers to encourage the responsible sale of knives was previously disrupted by the closure of shops and non-essential retailers during the pandemic.

However, this work recommenced earlier in the year and will continue with the national week of action, Operation Sceptre, in November 2021. Each district and the VRU have a planned timetable of activity to sweep for weapons, test retailers for knife sales to underage young people and deploy our knife arches.

The focus on preventing the acquisition of knives illegally is a key strand of our enforcement work. Operation Jemlock receives notification from the Border Agency of illegally imported weapons ordered over the internet and takes responsibility for the requisite enforcement action to intercept the items and deal with the offenders.

Programme Precision Update 2021

Over the past 12 months West Yorkshire Police have produced a county-wide Serious and Organised Crime Local profile alongside separate profiles for each of the five local authority areas. These profiles used police data including Serious Violence, acquisitive crime and drugs offending to produce a detailed analytical picture of how SOC impacts on each of the wards across each district.

These local profiles are being used to guide the delivery of work at a number of levels. Initially through the Programme Precision Executive Steering Group, which is chaired by Kersten England, Chief Executive for Bradford Council and has director level representation from each local authority alongside police and the Violence Reduction Unit. This steering group has been refreshed during this year and is working to enhance links between the Serious Violence and SOC Strategies.

Locally each district has a Programme Precision Partnership Group who meet regularly to develop an enhanced collaborative response to address local SOC risks. These meetings are supported by a broad spectrum of partners and work is ongoing to support the future development of these meetings. These groups are able to commission specific Bronze groups to deliver on identified pieces of work and provide regular updates into the force Silver Group which in turn feeds into the Executive Steering Group.

A recently developed Home Office methodology Clear, Hold and Build is being used in a number of force areas as a means to further enhance partnership working in SOC priority areas.

Our focus within West Yorkshire has broadened from a focus simply on Organised Crime Groups (OCG's). Alongside OCG's, our focus is also on priority individuals, the enablers of criminality who may serve a number of different crime groups. By taking this broader approach we are able to better understand and respond to SOC within our communities.

Following a successful project in one part of West Yorkshire, we have now invested in a dedicated SOC Community Coordinator that seeks to identify and develop partnership opportunities around SOC and enhance connectivity internally and externally across the County.

Recognising the pathways into SOC and where the crossovers are with Serious Violent Crime is fundamental to developing a whole systems approach that can address all these priority areas. Engagement and the development of this thinking in conjunction with the Violence Reduction Unit is being developed however there are still further opportunities to enhance co-delivery within this area both through the VRU Knowledge Hub but also around the commissioning of interventions.

The mapping and response to Urban Street Gangs (USG's) is a key example of a pathway into SOC. All USGs are managed through established SOC processes, are mapped and scored and have a Lead Responsible Officer.

Recent work by Leeds district alongside Liaison and Diversion and the VRU funded St Giles Trust, have been able to provide an effective peer-mentoring response to help step these individuals away from the dangerous and criminal behaviour and provides a strong example of how a collaborative response can be effective.

How SOC Activity Informs Neighbourhood Policing

Our focus on strengthening the links between neighbourhood policing and Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) continues to mature. The SOC Local Profiles are now an embedded part of SOC delivery across districts, with work focussed on the identified high SOC harm wards. The SOC LP's, in both internal police and partner versions, have been very well received and are guiding work both within the Precision Executive Steering Group and also local Silver SOC boards.

As a pilot force for the Home Office developed Clear, Hold and Build (CHB) methodology, we are leading the way nationally in using this model to deliver a partnership response to SOC. The work using CHB was recognised by Chief Constable Jupp, NPCC lead for SOC, at a recent Home Office national launch of CHB. We are now using the CHB methodology in a number of districts and sit on the national CHB delivery board to provide feedback and identify good shared practice around the use of this.

Recognising the importance of our neighbourhood staff having a strong understanding of SOC and those other colleagues involved in the delivery of this work, work over the past 6 months has included the development of 'Precision PCSO's'. This is a cohort of PCSO's who work within the wards of highest SOC harm as identified by the SOC Local Profiles. The PCSO's have volunteered to take on this additional training alongside their normal duties and have received an initial days training in June 21 from SOC subject matter experts. The cohort come back together on a quarterly basis for further sessions, networking and discussion on their work. The first quarterly session took place in Sept 21 and some positive practice has been identified as a result of the wider awareness of SOC issues and greater relationships forged with Precision teams both within district and at PSC.

The SOC Community Coordinator has been working with Bev Adams to support the development and delivery of the Community Champions model and the faith framework, developed with The Diocese of Leeds. Both programmes are helping to identify the most

effective pathways into our communities to deliver the key messages around SOC and work with Bev will continue to explore how this can reach into other groups within our neighbourhoods.

Violence Reduction Unit – Headline Updates

West Yorkshire Hospital (A&E) Navigator Programme Hospital Pilots

Funding allocated for continued delivery of existing A&E based Navigators into 2021/22 at Leeds GI, St James and Bradford RI.

Community Links - Support of existing (specialist) place-based provision to provide additional and ongoing support to young people who have been referred through the hospital navigator programme, focused deterrence car and other partners/statutory organisations.

West Yorkshire Responses to Domestic Abuse

IDVA in Police Control Room - A domestic abuse specialist based within the Police Control Room at Elland Road, Leeds

'Tackle it' Project - Delivered through the Leeds Rhinos Foundation a project focused on working with both perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse at HMP Wealstun.

West Yorkshire Education/Inclusion programme

Pilot in Wakefield is currently being implemented in conjunction with an identified secondary school and associated feeder primary schools with the aim of increasing attendance and reducing exclusions.

West Yorkshire Criminal Justice Programme

Catch 22 - The Catch22 Gangs and Violence Reduction Services support the management of prisons by reducing the risk of violence and aggression posed by gang-involved prisoners in HMP Leeds.

Custody Diversion - Since December 2019, St Giles Trust have been working alongside the Police and West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion Service to combine their service with culturally competent SOS case workers with lived experience of serious youth violence and criminality across West Yorkshire.

Locality Based Early Intervention

Grant funding arrangement with each CSP, supported by the VRU for interventions aligned to the priorities in the WY Response Strategy, but responsive to local need.

Night-Time Economy

Working within each district NTE/licencing team to identify targeted early intervention and prevention initiatives related to alcohol fuelled violence and sexual assault within town and city centres within West Yorkshire.

Trauma, Adversity and Resilience

Whilst the VRU are working with the Health and Care Partnership on a wider programme of work relating to Trauma, Adversity and Resilience (ATR), specific funding has been provided towards the development and implementation of a West Yorkshire training collaborative and an ATR Navigator in A&E/primary care pilot based on learning from Year 2 of the VRU.

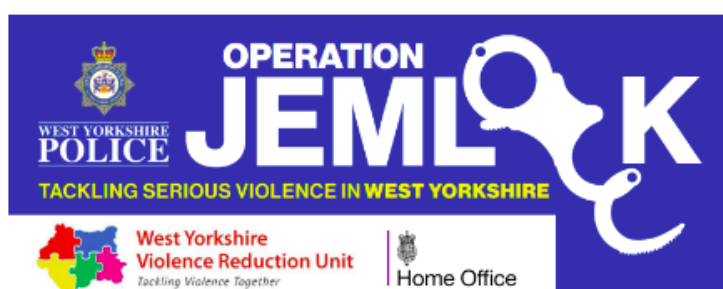
Current Challenges, Impact and Next Steps

The easing of the lockdown and the removal of restrictions continues to yield an inevitable increase in incidents of violence. Operation Jemlock is working with local district colleagues to support them in the policing of their night-time economy and any specific localised increases in violence related offences.

Recently, the VRU recruited a dedicated analyst to assist the Jemlock staff to ensure they have evidence-based hotspots for our deployment model. This member of staff enabled us to deliver the analytical work required to identify our hotspots. The quarterly returns are now required to detail exactly where our officers have patrolled, for how long and to what outcome. This level of detail is not easy to record and report, however the team are working hard to ensure the Home Office receive the standard of returns they have requested.

As previously mentioned, we are working towards being able to identify young people who come to prominence as a result of any enforcement actions by the police but who may also benefit from being referred to early intervention or diversionary initiatives. This will depend on data sharing issues, but we anticipate that this will not be a bar to doing so.

There will be a continued focus on how the VRU, and enforcement can work in unison. In particular, we will consider how dedicated and specialist serious violent crime enforcement work can continue beyond March 2022, should there be no more Grip funding forthcoming.





**Chief Officer Team
Paper for COM**

Title: Road Safety

Report Author: CI Woodmason / Paul Jeffrey / Neil Hudson

COT Sponsor: ACC Hankinson

Date: 15/11/2021

Summary

This report will cover emerging issues and challenges throughout 2021 and beyond.

It will cover the points specifically requested by the WYCA liaison:

- Update on vision zero
- Update on Op Snap – digital footage submission scheme
- Update on ANPR – develop national ANPR
- Impact on WYP of LA partners working due to COVID-19
- Impact of ANPR in West Yorkshire
- Impact on road safety partnership from the police perspective

ACC Hankinson has commenced her role as the Chief Officer Team lead for Roads Policing, with Superintendent Arrowsuch being recently posted into the role of Superintendent Partnerships.

The West Yorkshire Roads Policing Strategy 2019-2022 continues to be the bedrock of activity within West Yorkshire, with a continued ambition to deliver 'Vision Zero' in West Yorkshire with the Strategic Roads Executive Partnership.

Collisions

2020 saw a reduction in casualties of road traffic collisions compared to previous years. This was partly due to the reduction in traffic volumes from Apr 2020 caused by restrictions introduced to tackle the COVID19 pandemic. As traffic volumes have normalised, 2021 has seen an increase in road traffic collisions in comparison to 2020.

The below table shows the number of all injury and fatal RTC's in West Yorkshire 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Month	2019-20	2020-21
Oct	439	345
Nov	500	302
Dec	420	330
Jan	458	234
Feb	368	216
Mar	297	299
Apr	129	361
May	219	410
Jun	282	422
Jul	342	441
Aug	348	384
Sep	370	431
Total	4172	4175

Despite reductions in overall numbers during the pandemic, a total of 30 people have been killed as a result of a Road Traffic Collision in 2021 (to 31st October 2021) which is consistent with figures from 2020, where there were 33 fatalities as of 31st October 2020.

The number of people that are shown to have serious injuries is expected to show an increase, over the next 12-month period due to a change in the recording system that West Yorkshire Police are using for collision data. CRASH automatically assigns a severity classification to each casualty according to the injuries recorded by the reporting Police Officer, whereas the previous system allowed officers to specify the severity directly. Where CRASH has been used elsewhere in the country there has generally been an increase in the proportion of reported casualties which are classified as serious in the range of 13 -30% uplift. This seems to be replicated across West Yorkshire (*source Accident Studies WYCA*).

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The below table shows the 6 years (January – June) data for Killed and Seriously Injured as well as All Casualty data across West Yorkshire. CRASH was implemented in April 2021 and so when compared to 2019 (due to COVID19 discrepancies in 2020) a 17.3% increase is seen in 2021 on KSI's but an 8.4% decrease in all casualties. When comparing vulnerable road users between 2019 and 2021 there are again significant reductions in both KSI and all casualties.

West Yorkshire		West Yorkshire All Casualties (January-June)									
		Casualties	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 vs last year	2021 vs avg last three years	
All	KSI		410	406	447	396	301	458	52.2% ↑	381.3	20.1% ↑
	All Cas.		3,363	2,749	2,775	2,278	1659	2,086	25.7% ↑	2237.3	-6.8% ↓
Child	KSI		53	60	59	43	34	63	85.3% ↑	45.3	39.0% ↑
	All Cas.		381	326	321	285	171	195	14.0% ↑	259.0	-24.7% ↓
Pedestrian	KSI		112	118	133	114	87	102	17.2% ↑	111.3	-8.4% ↓
	All Cas.		541	415	456	382	276	350	26.8% ↑	371.3	-5.7% ↓
Cyclist	KSI		56	53	63	58	58	49	-15.5% ↓	59.7	-17.9% ↓
	All Cas.		306	254	251	216	219	179	-18.3% ↓	228.7	-21.7% ↓
PTW	KSI		92	87	80	79	47	58	23.4% ↑	68.7	-15.5% ↓
	All Cas.		257	215	203	186	112	131	17.0% ↑	167.0	-21.6% ↓
Car Occupant	KSI		132	134	146	127	96	207	115.6% ↑	123.0	68.3% ↑
	All Cas.		2,073	1,707	1,658	1,373	981	1,262	28.6% ↑	1337.3	-5.6% ↓
Vulnerable Road Users (VRU) **	KSI		260	258	276	251	192	209	8.9% ↑	239.7	-12.8% ↓
	All Cas.		1,104	884	910	784	607	660	8.7% ↑	767.0	-14.0% ↓

* Total required in the second semester to better last year's results

** VRU = Cyclist, PTW, Pedestrian

Vision Zero

West Yorkshire Police (WYP) have made a clear commitment to Vision Zero and continues to develop a 'safe systems' approach to its primary function of enforcement.

The 2020-21 West Yorkshire Police Safer Roads Strategic Plan states that WYP Police will:

- Work in partnership to tackle joint problems in a more integrated way, making our communities and roads safer.
- Reduce road-related crime and Anti-Social Behaviour and people's perceptions of Anti-Social Behaviour
- Encourage and unify all partners of the Safer Roads Executive to adopt the principles of Vision Zero to deliver a safe system of travel within West Yorkshire.

Delivering against the objectives of Vision Zero is dependent upon the co-ordinated and consistent delivery of a safe systems approach across all stakeholders involved in safer roads activity.

Operational Support Department are currently working with WYCA and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Crime and Policing on proposals to introduce improved governance structures to support the collective delivery of Vision Zero ambitions across all stakeholders. Operational Support have identified opportunities to support the Safer Roads Executive in both project management and support functions for Vision Zero.

The key 'threats' identified in the Force safer roads strategy include:

- Vulnerable road users (pedestrians; cyclists; 2-wheelers)
- Drug/ drink driving
- Failure to wear seatbelts
- Illegal or inappropriate speeding
- Illegal use of mobile phones or other devices that cause distraction

Maximising the benefits of Roads Policing tasking and co-ordination is dependent upon the consolidation and assimilation of all relevant intelligence sources. This priority action intended to ensure that roads policing activity is timely and accurately focussed on current and emerging threat, risk, and harm on the roads network utilising a comprehensive data set from a broad range of relevant sources.

Through the assimilation of various police intelligence sources (i.e. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), criminal intelligence, incident data (STORM), CRASH, and speed compliance) and then ultimately overlaying these data sets against local Partnership and Highways information, there is potential to more accurately identify risk with reference to location, offending vehicles and recidivist or risk-taking drivers. This improved capability will support the tasking and co-ordination of Roads Policing Unit and district resources to proactively address and detect 'high risk' locations and driver behaviour.

The premise of the Safe System is that every road death or serious injury is preventable. This approach centres on human beings and accepts the following assumptions:

- People make mistakes and will make mistakes when on the road.
- People risk being killed or seriously injured if they are involved in a collision.

The 'Safe System' comprises several elements:

- **Safe Speeds:** Street design to encourage lower speeds, improving compliance with speed limits, optimising the use of speed cameras.
- **Safe Roads:** Safer junctions, optimising conditions for walking, cycling and public transport use.
- **Safe Vehicles:** Reducing the dominance of motor vehicles on our street – reducing use and reducing the danger they pose (e.g. LGV's, buses, taxis, and private hire)

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- **Safe Road Users:** Tackling high risk behaviour—inappropriate speed, risky manoeuvres, distractions, drink/drug driving.
- **Post collision response:** Learning, preparing, and adapting for a changing future.

The Safe System is a design-based approach. It seeks to draw all the elements of the road system together in such a way that:

- People make fewer mistakes on the road and so there is less chance of collisions happening in the first place.
- If collisions do occur, they will be more survivable, and people will not be killed or seriously injured as a result.

In a Safe System:

- The system's safety is the responsibility of policy makers, planners, engineers, vehicle manufacturers, fleet managers, enforcement officers, road safety educators, health agencies and the media.
- Road users are accountable for complying with the system's rules.

The degree of progress toward the adoption of Vision Zero across the five district Local Authorities varies significantly. Operational Support and District Road Policing leads have worked closely through the local District Safer Roads Partnership arrangement to support and encourage the development of Vision Zero based delivery plans.

Leeds District has achieved significant progress in this regard and the intention is to present the draft Vision Zero strategy to the Leeds Executive Board in early 2022. It is anticipated that the work undertaken in Leeds will support the development of similar workstreams in other districts.

Current proposals under considerations include governance and accountability for Vision Zero being delivered through the Safer Roads Executive which in turn will report directly to a proposed new West Yorkshire Vision Zero Board.

Operation SNAP – Dashcam portal

In July 2020 West Yorkshire Police introduced the Safer Roads Digital Submissions Portal 'Operation SNAP'. Members of the public can upload video footage of driving offences for the police to review.

Road users are encouraged to upload digital footage (primarily from dashcam and headcams) to the portal to report dangerous, inconsiderate, or anti-social driver behaviour. The footage can come from any device, including:

- Dashcams in vehicles
- Bike and motorcycle helmet cams
- Phones
- Any other device

Following the submission of footage, a team of experienced roads policing specialists review the recordings and, where there is sufficient evidence they take action to identify the driver and dependent upon the nature of the offence it is dealt with by way of a driver retraining course offer, a conditional offer (3 points and a fine) or a Court appearance.

All submitters receive e-mail feedback as to the outcome of their submissions and any witness required to give evidence personally in court proceedings receives additional support and guidance.

Since its April 2021 launch, Operation SNAP has received 2587 submissions from the West Yorkshire region. Police were able to act on 69% of the submissions.

- 48% resulted in the driver being sent on an educational course
- 14% in the driver getting a conditional offer (3 points and a fine)
- 3% ended up in Court.
- 4% are subject of ongoing investigation
- 31% were finalised with no further action (e.g. insufficient evidence, unable to identify the driver)

The data tables below demonstrate that a variety of road users make submissions to Operation SNAP.

SUBMISSIONS BY DISTRICT		
CD	263	10%
BD	884	34%
KD	405	16%
LD	742	29%
WD	237	9%
Unknown	56	2%

SUBMITTERS TRANSPORT TYPE		
Vehicle Driver	1477	57%
Vehicle Passenger	83	3%
Motorcyclist	10	0%
Cyclist	529	20%
Horse Rider	11	0%
Pedestrian	293	11%
Unknown	184	7%

Central Prosecutions Investigations

The Central Prosecutions Investigation Unit focusses on the disruption and prosecution of those who seek to evade prosecution for traffic offences through fraud and false representation. Such attempts to pervert the course of justice in respect of traffic offence prosecutions have been linked to organised criminality and the Unit robustly investigate those who seek to avoid prosecution or pay others to pervert the course of justice.

During 2020/21 this small team secured criminal convictions resulting in prison sentences totalling 26 weeks, more than £50K in fines and 539 licence penalty points. A further 42 cases are currently pending court hearings.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)

The ANPR Operations unit continues to provide a service to all districts within West Yorkshire and specialist functions alike. For the calendar year to date, 710 arrests are directly attributable to ANPR and over 1250 vehicles have also been recovered/seized. Since the development of the new research function focusing on Roads Policing related intelligence, there has been a greater focus on aspects such as Disqualified Drivers, OPL Drivers and Serial speeders.

The end of the exemption in relation to Reg109 (moving images on display within moving vehicles) required an update to the software used within all ANPR fitted vehicles in fleet. This updated software reduces the capability of operational teams using the ANPR equipment but is a necessity to ensure compliance.

The delivery of the National ANPR Service continues to slide in terms of timeframe, with R1.0 (stated as the minimum viable product) now having been delivered. Delays have been for a number of reasons including overrunning commercial negotiations, defects and performance issues. The delays have led to increased costs as the existing NADC has been further extended into 2023.

From the West Yorkshire Police perspective, the R1.0 still doesn't meet our current capability and as such the decision has been taken to continue using our current software alongside the NAS. Whilst the live NAS system has some functionality currently, users have not yet migrated to using the system due to concerns around capability and data integrity. There is no

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operational effect due to WYP current systems being well in excess of the NAS capability, but we will be forced to migrate to NAS in the next financial year. WYP intends to maintain Cleartone so that we still have capability in excess of NAS, but this will be for limited users due to licensing costs. The NADC will be extended but this is purely a data centre and the capability to use the data comes from our existing systems.

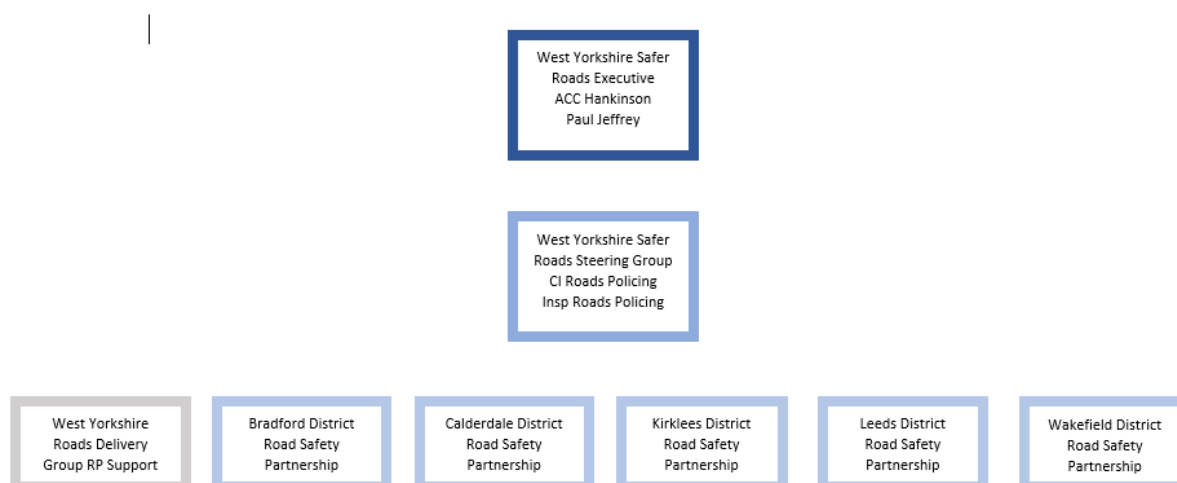
There has been a significant rise in the costs associated with NAOC and NAS. The projected costs continue to rise, are not set in stone and are likely to rise further. The majority of the cost is set against the ongoing development of NAS.

The daily maintenance of West Yorkshire Police ANPR cameras is currently managed in-house by the ANPR Technical Manager.

Road Safety partnership – the Police perspective

The Road Safety partnership has 3 prominent tiers:

Executive Level / Middle Management Level / Practitioner Level:



In addition, each Local Authority has a District level partnership with Policing representatives from the District and Roads Policing Support. The District & Practitioner level meetings have continued and have provided additional road safety functions such as:

- Theatre in education (road safety input into schools funded through partnership aimed at children transitioning from year 6 to year 7).
- Leeds TV exposure (in-car safety, young adult drivers and drink & drug driving).
- Radio advertising (Heart) consistent with Fatal 4 themes *"brought to you by West Yorkshire Safer Roads"*.

Following issues in meeting in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic the Safer Roads Steering Group and the Safer Roads Executive have been able to meet more regularly with the chairs ensuring the virtual meetings continue to the benefit of the attendees and the partnerships.

Safety Camera Enforcement

West Yorkshire Police Camera Enforcement Unit enforces speed limits on behalf of the Casualty Prevention Partnership in West Yorkshire using both fixed and mobile automated speed detection equipment.

Current safety camera assets across West Yorkshire are as follows:

	Mobile enforcement sites	Static Enforcement housings	Digital Cameras	Wet Film Cameras
BD	28	90	21	29
LD	18	121	26	33
WD	8	50	17	11
KD	17	107	22	20
CD	14	27	6	0
WY	85	395	92	93

NB: Some cameras are moved periodically between housings at different locations.

The Partnership has introduced new digital technology to replace former wet film cameras and a procurement of a further 25 digital cameras is currently being prepared.

Local highways teams identify sites that meet camera deployment criteria as outlined in the current Department for Transport (DfT) Circular 1/2007 with reference to traffic flow and collision data. Speed cameras are deployed only to predetermined 'high risk' locations, as per the site selection criteria.

All enforcement sites comply with signage and requirements contained within the circular. Costs recovered through National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme (NDORS) course referrals are accounted for separately within the Partnership budget, and reinvestment of any operating surplus into casualty prevention activities is overseen by the West Yorkshire Safer Roads Executive.

Following the recommendations contained in the 2020 HMICFRS Inspection report 'Roads Policing - Not Optional' the DfT are currently reviewing and refreshing Circular 1/2007. It is anticipated that the refreshed guidance will provide greater flexibility to deploy safety cameras to locations of emerging risk which fall below the current 'high risk' criteria. The Casualty Prevention Partnership lead has directly contributed to the DfT review. Publication of a revised draft is now anticipated in December 2021.

WYP and the Casualty Prevention Partnership are compliant with all relevant recommendations contained within the HMICFRS report concerning the deployment of safety cameras.

Static and Mobile Safety Camera Enforcement Activity 2021 (Offences excluding Motorway)

	Bradford	Calderdale	Kirklees	Leeds	Wakefield	Grand Total
January	3,873	839	2,417	5,981	1,455	14,565
February	4,026	927	2,156	12,503	1,604	21,216
March	4,167	808	2,293	9,587	1,662	18,517
April	3,991	1,119	2,587	9,690	1,603	18,990
May	4,208	1,008	2,280	6,610	1,473	15,579
June	3,842	969	2,207	7,507	1,491	16,016
July	4,982	884	2,347	9,424	1,611	19,248
August	4,856	969	2,312	7,592	1,969	17,698
September	4,487	752	1,926	7,085	1,942	16,192
October						0
Grand Total	38,432	8,275	20,525	75,979	14,810	158,021

Other developments of note

Prohibition Officers

Training and development of Roads Policing Officers continues with revenue generated by prohibitions from the previous prohibition trained officers being used to fund a course to train a further 12 officers in this effective measure to tackle un-roadworthy vehicles. This training continues.

Operation Steerside

Bradford District continue to progress Operation Steerside which provides a proactive policing response by District Officers alongside specialist resources and partner agencies to tackle District specific Roads Policing issues. This works in conjunction with similar operations within other District areas (for example Op Sparc for Leeds and Op Hawmill for Calderdale)

Between Jan – Oct 2021 the results are shown below:

Persons arrested	76
Fixed penalty ticket/ traffic offence report/ VDRS	1679
Vehicle Seized	309
Report for summons	400
Section 59 Warning	132
No vehicle excise tax	69

To date the partnership has worked with the business community delivering a multi-agency event at Valley Parade in 2019 & 2021 to over 100 Young Apprentices as part of Bradford Manufacturing Weeks, highlighting the issues and risk associated with use of motor vehicles specifically with this vulnerable age group.

Collectively the partnership has funded a theatre input at 10 high schools pre-COVID with more to come as schools welcome eternal visitors in the coming months, a series of bespoke Young Driver Programme sessions delivered by TTC (who deliver the various NDORS courses for minor driving offences) to key stage 5 school students, as well as delivered over 450 road safety inputs in schools to more than 63,000 primary school pupils across the district.

In December a community event in City Park is being led by Op Steerside involving all emergency services partners, focusing on the usual Drink Driving campaign in the run up to Christmas.

The partnership working is mirrored across the West Yorkshire combined area.

Drug Driving

Arrests for drink and drug driving have shown an increase in the numbers arrested for drug driving in the year-to-date March 2021. This is evidence of the investment in the purchase of DrugWipes and training of Officers in their use and also in the use of Field Impairment Testing being put to very good use in tackling one of the Fatal 4 offence groups and emerging culture around drug driving. There has been a reduction in the number of arrests for drink driving which is attributable to the closures of licensed premises during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional work is ongoing to look at a longer-term problem-solving approach to identify opportunities to make a pre-emptive engaging with those likely to drug drive. There were some issues following Brexit with supply of DrugWipes kits, but this seems to have been resolved.

Drug Driving Prosecutions

The national risk around the examination of drug driving blood samples which was reported in the previous paper has stabilised and the capacity of forensic partners being able to return these within the statute time limit of six months has improved. West Yorkshire Police continue to work closely with Regional Scientific Support to ensure that our samples are monitored and returned within five months of the offence date to ensure that prosecutions can be processed within the STL. This will continue to be overseen by Roads Policing Support across the organisation with a process map being followed to minimise any impact on investigations.



Chief Officer Team Briefing for COM

Title: Violence Against Women and Girls

Report Author Detective Superintendent Lee Berry

COT Sponsor: T/ACC Miller

Date: **December 2021**

Summary

This report will provide an update on how West Yorkshire Police are responding to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Good progress has been made since the last update in June 2021, with the appointment of a force lead who is coordinating the force's response and approach to all aspects of VAWG related matters through a countywide strategic plan. West Yorkshire Police are also helping to shape the national approach and response to VAWG through proactively seconding the force lead to a national VAWG taskforce.

Firstly, the report will provide an update on the national context which will be followed by local context. The report will then specifically cover the three direct questions raised by the Mayor's Office in respect of:

- Inclusion of misogyny in hate crime recording.
- HMICFRS – what can be said around good practice re engagement with women and girls.
- Current impact of Sarah Everard sentencing and offer reassurance around trust and confidence for women and girls.

National Update

Since the last update (June 2021), the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) have appointed Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth as the Violence Against Women and Girls national lead. DCC Blyth is charged with developing the National Strategic Intent, National Delivery Framework and Performance Framework for VAWG. West Yorkshire Police have been proactive in helping shape the national approach through seconding the force lead for Violence Against Women and Girls and Rape and Serious Sexual Offences to the National Taskforce under DCC Blyth. The Strategic Intent and Framework for Delivery and Performance will be completed by mid-December 2021.

In addition to this, a plethora of other formative reports have been finalised which include, but are not limited to, HMICFRS Police Response to Violence Against Women and Girls (Final Inspection Report), HMICFRS A joint thematic inspection of the police and Crown Prosecution Service's response to rape Phase one: *From report to police or CPS decision to take no further action (Criminal Justice Joint Inspection)*, The end to end rape review (MoJ) and A duty to protect, *Police use of protective measures in cases involving violence against women and girls (A joint inspection by HMICFRS, CoP and IOPC)* and the HM Government Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls report.

These reports, recommendations and findings will help shape the national approach and therefore the local Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

Local Update

A multi-dimensional overarching West Yorkshire Police strategy is being finalised that will coordinate the Police response to Violence Against Women and Girls. This will not only take cognisance of the NPCC strategic intent, the national reports and recommendations but will also address local need by focussing on key areas of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan and the Mayoral Pledges.

The overarching Force VAWG Strategy is aligned to the following existing Force Strategic and Tactical Plans:

- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Reassuring the Public
- Criminal Justice
- People Plan

In addition to this, West Yorkshire Police have a dedicated communications lead who is coordinating the work in respect of VAWG and associated matters.

Following the report submitted in June 2021, work has been progressed in the following areas:

- Appointment of a dedicated corporate communications resource and the ongoing development of a media strategy.
- A strong partnership with the Combined Authority will see £870,658 invested into the county through the Safer Street Fund 3 & Public Space bid £655,281 and the Safety of Women at Night Fund bid £215,377 (TBC).
- Launch the Home Office Street Safe Tool.
- Commenced the review of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) across the five Districts.
- Continued push for expansion of male perpetrator programmes.
- Established a Rape and Serious Sexual Assault Improvement Group which sees all ISVA service providers and Police meet to discuss ways of improving service.

- In collaboration with the WYVRU introduced forensic marking (SmartTag) into the NTE to deter Violent and Sexual Offences.
- Introduced forensic marking to deter Domestic Abuse perpetrators and protect repeat victims of domestic abuse in Leeds, Kirklees and Wakefield.

Inclusion of misogyny in hate crime recording

There have been growing concerns relating to the amount of crimes which are motivated by gender hostility. Currently there is no agreed definition of the crime types which would be included in offences related to misogyny and sex/gender-based crimes.

In a Domestic Abuse bill debated in Parliament in March 2021, Baroness Williams confirmed police forces would be asked to record and flag the below crimes, where the victim perceives it to be motivated by sex and gender-based hostility:

- violence against the person
- stalking & harassment
- sexual offences

The below guidance has been provided by the Home Office (National Annual Data Returns consultation) to provide Forces with a basis to commence data collection.

The data collection is consciously limited to:

1. Experimental basis
2. Is based only on the victim's perception of being motivated by a hostility based on their sex
3. Contains no reference to "hate crime"
4. Would not cover non-crime incidents
5. Specific to violence against the person including stalking and harassment and sexual offences

West Yorkshire Police, recognising the concerns of victims and our communities are from December 2021, going beyond the guidance and will flag all recorded crime where a victim believes the crime was motivated by the perpetrator's hostility to their gender and will include misogyny and misandry. Prior to implementation of this approach a force-wide training and awareness programme will be delivered.

HMICFRS – What can be said around good practice re engagement with women and girls.

The HMICFRS Final Inspection Report – police response to violence against women and girls was published in September 2021. Section 4 of the document provides evidence and notable good practice in respect of how well the police engage with women and girls.

Online engagement events where questions could be asked anonymously, surveys and the use of Independent Advisory Groups (IAG) were identified as good practice. West Yorkshire Police hold IAGs across the five districts as well as a countywide Independent Scrutiny

Advisory Group. These functions are also supported by Engagement Officers who regularly attend local meetings and forums to engage and understand community concerns.

The Local Authority Community Safety Partnerships, through existing priorities that fall within the VAWG umbrella also contribute to the engagement of women and girls against specific crime types.

Consideration has been given to using existing IAG and the ISAG structures to introduce VAWG as a means of community engagement. However, it is recognised that the demographic of these existing groups may not achieve the desired outcome and as such a county-wide IAG for VAWG is a priority action identified on the West Yorkshire Police strategy. It is intended that this will be in partnership with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and other key stakeholders.

The joint thematic inspection of the police and Crown Prosecution Service's response to rape Phase one: *From report to police or CPS decision to take no further action* also recommends Police forces and support services should work together at a local level to better understand each other's roles. The recommendation recognises that a co-ordinated approach will help make sure that all available and bespoke wrap-around support is offered to victims and the input of victims and their experiences should play a central role in shaping the support offered.

Albeit further work is to be done in this area, West Yorkshire Police have established a Rape and Serious Sexual Offences working group which sees ISVA services and Police coming together, to discuss ways that improvements can be made to deliver services to victims. This is in addition to the Sexual Violence Forum which sees a wider stakeholder group that includes West Yorkshire Police, Crown Prosecution Service (Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Legal Manager), SARC, Witness Service from Leeds and Bradford Crown Court, ISVAs from Victim Support and voluntary sector agencies coming together. The aim of this group is to bring all agencies together who work with victims/survivors of sexual violence as they progress through the criminal justice process, from report to Court. Through a process of open and honest dialogue, sharing good practice and areas for improvement, and discussion of ideas and actions, the intention is to improve the experience of, and support for victims and survivors, no matter how long they remain within the criminal justice process, and no matter what the outcome of the investigation.

A recent Domestic Abuse workshop also saw victims, supported by an IDVA engaged to better understand how the police impacted on them through investigations. More recently a strong partnership with the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust is seeing police and partners working more closely to ensure the best possible service is provided to victims.

Capture current impact of Sarah Everard sentencing and offer reassurance around trust and confidence for women and girls.

Trust and confidence in policing by women and girls is a priority for a West Yorkshire Police. Through existing strong community engagement, partnerships with the Local Authorities and the Community Safety Partnerships, Neighbourhood Teams were able to quickly engage our

communities and offer reassurance and support. No significant or adverse events were experienced across West Yorkshire which is testament to the communities within.

The increase in Drink Spiking and Spiking through Injections is another example where West Yorkshire Police have responded quickly with partners and created a dedicated multi-agency co-ordinated response under Operation Jeanhaven. This approach is supported by Health, the dedicated CSP's, Education providers and other key partners including licensing and pubs, clubs, and bars and across the NTE in Leeds and WY. The aim is to safeguard the public and protect against this offending and bring those responsible to justice.

Building trust and confidence is a significant area of focus for the VAWG strategy and will be delivered through:

- The effective management of perpetrators, with a focus of bringing more charges and convictions through quality investigations, the effective use and policing of protective measures and a sharp focus on those who perpetrate most harm.
- With partners and communities, the creation of safer spaces for women and girls considering public, private and online areas.
- Ensuring the highest professional standards of our officers and staff and robust action to be taken if their standards fall below what is expected.
- A trauma informed approach to victims and survivors, to ensure that they are actively listened to and their needs are understood and addressed.