

Our priority

West Yorkshire Police deals with nearly 5,000 missing person calls every year, 20% of which are considered to be 'high-risk'. The reasons why people go missing are complex and can be linked to their mental health, emotional or physical abuse, or exploitation. When a person goes missing, the police are put under great pressure to find them and then work with partners to keep them safe. We need to work better together to tackle the factors which lead to people going missing and, in particular, prevent repeat episodes. This will not only lower the risk of harm for the individual and reduce the stress which their families experience, but will also reduce the demand placed on our police and partners' services.

How we are going to deliver

Our main objective must be to reduce the number of people who go missing in West Yorkshire and therefore our focus has to be prevention. Analysis shows that the vast majority of people who go missing do so from care homes and hospitals. By working with these partners to understand the issues and challenges that they are facing, we can look at devising early intervention options to help individuals at risk. To do this effectively we must:

- Support work which engages with those who have been affected, to understand their experiences and the circumstances which led to their going missing. Through contact with families and individuals affected by missing incidents, we will design appropriate support and referral systems. **Listening to people.**
- Bring the police and relevant partners such as local authorities, social care organisations, children's services and safeguarding boards together to carry out analysis and develop a 'problem profile' around missing people in West Yorkshire to direct our joint efforts. **Understanding our communities.**
- Coordinate a partnership approach to reducing the number of missing people which acknowledges the challenges faced by our partners, and encourages systematic sharing of information between parties when a person does go missing. **Working together.**
- Identify the reasons why people go missing by focusing on those who go missing repeatedly. Develop solutions to these problems to reduce the risk of an individual going missing at the earliest opportunity. **Preventing and intervening earlier.**
- Understand the challenges being faced by each partner organisation involved, and identify ways to overcome these barriers together. We will act on the findings of Ofsted and HMIC reviews of our services and prevention and protection work. **Improving our services.**
- Encourage and support problem solving initiatives around missing people, for example through pooling resources, and funding innovative projects through the Safer Communities Fund. **Providing resources.**

How we will know whether we've delivered

We will measure our progress against this priority through our Community Outcome Meetings, through which an in depth report into Missing People will present the progress of the OPCC, West Yorkshire Police, and relevant partners against the objectives above. It will draw on a range of information available including HMIC inspection reports, national guidance, and statistical indicators and evaluate our work to:

- Reduce the number of people going missing in West Yorkshire.
- Increase the proportion of missing people who are found within 24 hours.
- Reduce the number of people who repeatedly go missing in West Yorkshire.
- Increase the number of projects and initiatives focused on missing people which we support.

In addition to this, we will monitor performance around a number of relevant indicators through our Delivery Quarterly process such as safeguarding vulnerable people, and will carry out more detailed analysis where necessary.