



Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire

West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy

2016/21



Forward

I am pleased to introduce the first West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy. This Strategy sets out how together we are going to deliver on the priority within the Police and Crime Plan to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence across West Yorkshire.

I recognise that there is still more to do but I am proud of our achievements to date that contribute to tackling domestic and sexual crime in West Yorkshire and the partnership arrangements that have enabled these successes.

Services developed by my office include the recently re-vamped Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) And the West Yorkshire wide Independent Sexual Violence Adviser Service (ISVA). The third sector, with our support, provides a wide range of services in this field such as rape crisis centres, victim support and support services. It is important to build on these partnership arrangements to develop a strategic approach to the delivery of services across all the communities in West Yorkshire.

Both domestic abuse and sexual violence crimes and incidents are complex and sensitive areas with a high level of under-reporting to the police. The complexity of these crimes, including linkages to other social needs, means that victims or survivors can come into contact with a range of services in seeking support or advice. It is important to acknowledge that in the past the services designed to support victims and survivors have not always been joined up across the County to meet the needs of all victims and survivors. Overall, whilst there are encouraging signs of improvement there is no room for complacency.

This strategy recognises the important linkages to female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, so called honour based abuse, human trafficking and child sexual abuse (CSA) including child sexual exploitation (CSE). Although each of these issues has distinct characteristics, victims and survivors are not well served if our responses are too compartmentalised and services work too much in isolation from each other.

Although the majority of victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence crimes are girls and women there are male victims too, and victims are of all ages. There is no part of our diverse West Yorkshire population that is not affected and our strategies need to recognise and reflect this. Therefore, partners need to work in a coordinated way towards a shared aspiration: to achieve truly victim/survivor focused services.

Through this strategy I make a commitment to work together with partners to deliver services which support a coordinated response to victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence. My core principles for victims and survivors are to provide an equality of service across West Yorkshire so that whoever the victim or wherever they reside they can expect to receive a consistent level of response and support tailored to their individual needs.

This strategy sets out key strategic priorities which will be supported by realistic and deliverable action plans. These have been linked to national frameworks and targets to address domestic and sexual abuse but also ensure that our local priorities which affect our communities of West Yorkshire are addressed. Listening to and incorporating the views of victims and survivors in developing our responses to the strategy will be key. Partners across the public, third sector and criminal justice system will do this together.

Mark Burns-Williamson

Police and Crime Commissioner (West Yorkshire)

Introduction

West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner is committed to tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence. This Strategy provides the framework of priorities for delivery and commissioning to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence and to support victims and survivors of these crimes across West Yorkshire from 2016-2020. No one agency can do this alone, police, councils, health, safeguarding, criminal justice partners and local third sector support service providers all provide an important role in achieving this strategy. It aims to join up with the Police and Crime Plan and other strategies and approaches adopted and commissioned at district level.

West Yorkshire Police deal with six incidents of domestic abuse every hour. Recorded domestic incidents were higher for the year to September 2016 in West Yorkshire compared to the same period the previous year (+13.9%, from 22,934 to 26,115). Attrition rates are slightly lower during the same period at 23.7%, compared to 26.0% last YTD. Recorded Serious Sexual Assaults increased by 4.2% in September 2016 (2,239) compared to the previous year to date (2,148) for the same time period last year. There were 965 recorded Rapes this year to date, compared with 976 last year (-1.1%). According to Police statistics there were 146 Forced Marriage Incidents during the year up to September 2016 and 89 Honour Based Abuse (HBA) incidents. A quarter of respondents to West Yorkshire PCCs "*Your Priorities, Your plan*" survey said that domestic abuse was a priority for them.

The priorities align to the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy and national priorities but this strategy is tailored to those issues and needs which partners know need addressing in our localities in West Yorkshire – 'Our Communities, Our Challenges'. The gendered nature of the national strategy is recognised but in West Yorkshire we want to make sure that the needs of all victims and survivors are addressed. We therefore feel strongly that this strategy would not be gender specific. The priorities have also been informed by local data, a review of domestic abuse undertaken on behalf of the PCC, consultation with local partners and communities. As such this Strategy is underpinned by the following principles:

- **Promoting service integration** through partnership work.
- Provision of **support to all** victims/survivors of domestic abuse and sexual abuse – regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, sexuality, disability or locality.
- Provision of **consistency and effectiveness of services across West Yorkshire**.
- A focus of responding to the needs of **victims and survivors being at the heart** of any planning, risk management and provision
- **Increasing capacity** and flexibility, to support more people, to respond when and where people need support, and to accommodate people's diverse needs. This includes a need for gender specific services.
- Encouraging **evidenced based practice** whilst also having an **openness to innovation**.
- Delivering **realistic action plans** that make the most of the available resources.

In the context of these principles our overall aim is, without doubt, to reduce Domestic Abuse and Sexual abuse across West Yorkshire supported through the following objectives:

1. To provide overall better support for victims / survivors and others affected by domestic and sexual abuse
2. To reduce the impact of domestic and sexual abuse through early identification and intervention, identifying wherever possible those in need before a crisis occurs, and intervening to make sure they get the help they need

3. To ensure the provision of services and partnerships which work cross boundaries to meet local need and ensure consistency across West Yorkshire
4. To increase victim confidence in and experience of disclosing and reporting their experience of violence and abuse, and where appropriate pursuing conviction through the criminal justice process
5. To reduce offending and change the behaviour of perpetrators through an improved criminal justice response, disruption and support

These objectives support the beliefs and values which informed the following overall priorities of the Police and Crime Plan which aim to keep communities in West Yorkshire safer and feel safer¹. In particular, the priorities from the Police and Crime Plan:

This Strategy adopts the nationally recognised definitions of domestic abuse and sexual violence:

The cross-government definition of domestic abuse is:

any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender, ethnicity or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Sexual violence and abuse can be defined as:

- any behaviour (contact or non-contact) perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted and takes place without consent or understanding.
- sexual offences include rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, rape within marriage/relationships, forced marriage, so-call honour based violence/abuse; female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation, trafficking for sexual exploitation and organised abuse.

Sitting within a broader definition of violent crimes, there are many parallels between the crimes of domestic abuse and sexual abuse in terms of the nature of the extent to which it goes under reported; the trauma on its victims and survivors and wider families and some of the motivations of the perpetrators. Many survivors are victims of both domestic abuse and sexual abuse. This supports the need for an integrated strategy which tackles both domestic abuse and sexual abuse. The strategy does however also reflect on the differences between the crimes and aims to give equal measure to reflecting these and tailoring its priorities and supporting interventions to address these.

¹ West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan 2013-2018

1. Our Priorities

The ambition is clear, to support victims and survivors of, and, to reduce domestic abuse and sexual abuse across West Yorkshire. To support this, our objectives and principles of the Strategy will focus on five key priority areas – partnership working; preventing violence and abuse; provision of services; support for victims/survivors; and pursuing perpetrators.

Priority 1: Partnership working

This strategy underpins the need for partnership working, providing the framework for a West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership to jointly plan and deliver. A range of partners from the public and third sectors have a role to play in delivering this Strategy. This Strategy and effective partnership working acknowledges the different objectives, values and cultures of the partners and how this can be brought together to work collaboratively in achieving common goals.

Effective partnership working where information is shared, and services work together to provide a layered 'wrap around' support is fundamental in ensuring that victims feel confident in reporting and recovering from the domestic abuse or sexual abuse they have experienced. Greater understanding is needed of the local barriers to effective joint working, such as where agencies have rules or processes that mean clients with certain needs cannot be referred onto them and how to overcome them. We will strive for all partners to develop a common understanding of what domestic abuse and sexual abuse is. Domestic abuse and sexual abuse is often characterised by its hidden nature and therefore highlights the necessity to address both through close operational partnership work. District level structures are multi-agency based requiring the right strategic partnership support across West Yorkshire to provide a coordinated approach to priorities, delivery and commissioning.

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence and Abuse, Crime and Victims Act (2004). The provision came into force on 13 April 2011 and unfortunately there have had to be a number of DHRs undertaken across West Yorkshire at a district level. It is important that partners establish what lessons are to be learnt regarding the way in which professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims and survivors. We should then use these lessons to change policies and procedures as appropriate.

Formalised partnerships within West Yorkshire include the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH) and Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) all share information to build a picture of the victims and survivors' situation and devise a risk management plan to reduce them. When these partnerships work effectively they play an important part in managing risk and ensuring that victims and survivors receive all the necessary support. MARACs, MAPPA and MASHs are based at district level and we need to share the learning and expertise from each of these to strive for greater response to victims and survivors and consistency across West Yorkshire. We will maximise opportunities to undertake joint safeguarding activities across West Yorkshire to facilitate this.

We want every investigation and prosecution to be conducted thoroughly and professionally and the victims and survivors to be supported on their journey through the criminal justice system. The partnership that facilitates the criminal justice process and enables a conviction and prosecution is not always as efficient and effective as it could be, presenting barriers for the victims and survivors in pursuing the case. We have generic information about why there is attrition and cases are failing but more needs to be learnt what could be done better to improve

the handling and outcome of cases. This review should enable lessons and good practice that should be learnt and incorporated into future policy and delivery across West Yorkshire. There is the potential to adopt good practice in regularly reviewing and learning from cases through the establishment of Rape Scrutiny Panels and/or Court Observers Panel to provide scrutiny of cases and informing a shared knowledge base.

Both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse and sexual abuse have often experienced or are experiencing other issues in their lives whether that be unemployment, mental ill-health, and substance misuse or parenting pressures for example and any effective support plan needs to address these wider issues. Strong partnerships and links with other key partnerships therefore need to be forged. At West Yorkshire level we will work to maximise opportunities for any joint commissioning opportunities including alcohol and drug commissioners, safeguarding and counselling.

What we will do:

- Establish a strong Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership which is underpinned by sharing of practice and seeking opportunities through a multi-agency response to addressing domestic abuse and sexual violence. Including clarifying responsibilities and development of joint strategies with other key boards such as LCJB and Safeguarding Boards
- Maximise opportunities for integrated commissioning and resources on a West Yorkshire basis and with other key partnerships
- Ensure learning is extracted and shared to ensure the best approach for victims and implementing lessons learnt. Key areas include on Domestic Homicide Reviews, MARACs, MASHs, SARC, Serious Case Reviews for Adults, CPS Scrutiny Panels for Domestic Abuse, Court Observers Panel and Rape Scrutiny Panel
- With criminal justice partners address the barriers and obstacles which currently facing the criminal justice process
- Maximise opportunities to share knowledge, learning and training across partners to ensure that victims receive the appropriate support from trained staff.

Priority 2: Prevention, Early Identification and Early Interventions in violence and abuse

Partners wish to put the brakes on the escalation of domestic abuse and sexual abuse. Unlike other crimes, victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse are less likely to report and seek support at the time of the first incident and may suffer the effects of the crime over a series of time before it is identified or support is sought. This escalation can in many cases be halted through earlier identification, with victims and survivors having greater confidence in services that will respond appropriately and through the provision of early support.

The majority of domestic abuse and sexual abuse remains hidden. It is not disclosed to authorities. Previous strategies have led to a focus on investment in high risk cases but this Strategy also wishes to recognise that there are opportunities to intervene earlier which could lead to a reduction in the escalation of risk. By re-focusing some of the activity and investment on early identification and intervention we will reduce the tide on escalation of risk.

Prevention of domestic abuse and sexual abuse can be supported through provision of services which aim to intervene early and education which prevents abusive behaviours and attitudes forming and challenging existing beliefs. Services and partners across West Yorkshire could

take a united role in training, positive communications, common messages to both victims and perpetrators, and implement standard approaches to early identifying victims and offering support. This is not just the job of one organisation but all can play their part and there are opportunities across West Yorkshire to allow economies of scale and at the same time ensure a consistent message is delivered.

We therefore wish to challenge the deep-rooted social norms, attitudes and behaviours that exist around gender, domestic abuse and sexual abuse. In particular evidence tells us that experiencing violence in childhood can lead to a higher risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator as an adult. This means that educating and challenging young people about healthy relationships, abuse and consent is critical.

We know that violence occurs across social-economic boundaries, across the cultural spectrum and in any circumstances. We know that there are some predictive factors that can be linked with a higher risk of becoming a victims and survivors or a perpetrator of different aspects of domestic abuse or sexual abuse such as the presence of alcohol, their gender and ethnicity. This knowledge will be utilised to identify potential victims as well as explore how services might need to be tailored to needs in order to continue to increase opportunities for victims and survivors to come forward and receive help. We will engage with the most vulnerable and marginalised groups to understand some of the barriers and as appropriate take steps to recognise these vulnerabilities in the design of services, education and messages conveyed.

What we will do...

- Underpinning our approach to prevention will be
 - Campaign to make abuse 'everybody's business'
 - Universal 'get everyone talking about it' awareness campaigns
 - Focused awareness campaign and programmes to specific groups
 - Targeted work with particular vulnerable groups
- Support the sharing of a minimum standard in early identification of cases of domestic and sexual abuse
- Maximise opportunities for increased investment in services which provide early support to victims and aim to reduce further escalation of risk
- Champion the needs of the most marginalised groups in understanding the barriers to seeking support
- Recognising that some groups are more vulnerable, support those services which proactively tackle those factors which increases a person's vulnerability to domestic or sexual abuse.
- Explore opportunities for developing resources which give support to children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse and sexual violence in order to prevent future impact.

Priority 3: Provision of services

An effective system to prevent, identify, support and recover from domestic or sexual abuse requires a 'community coordinated approach' or also known as 'integrated model of support'. This is one which recognises how domestic and sexual abuse can impact on different family members and provides prevention, early identification and intervention; services specifically for survivors (where abuse has been perpetrated); services for survivors of domestic and sexual abuse who have contact with the criminal justice system; and recovery support. The model which

places the victim at the centre of the approach is therefore tailored and delivered to manage any associated risks as well as the personal needs of the individual. Alongside the services for victims and survivors are those which are specifically targeted at challenging and changing the behaviour and attitudes of perpetrators of abuse.

A review of commissioned provision in West Yorkshire identifies a largely positive picture of service provision with core services being in place. However, undoubtedly it has highlighted gaps in areas and limited provision due to low investment particularly during budget restraints of public and third sector organisations. The most noticeable gaps in service provision are in early intervention and recovery services together with limited capacity of services to provide survivor support. Our Strategy is to focus on supporting these gaps and building the capacity of those areas which are currently under resourced. Delivery to address these specific gaps are addressed through Priorities 1, 3 and 5.

Whilst there has been some joint investment in domestic abuse and sexual abuse services across West Yorkshire, there is no overall generic approach or investment currently across West Yorkshire to providing services to victims and survivors. Services are currently funded individually from a variety of commissioners. This can result in some inconsistency across West Yorkshire of the level of response and quality that a victims and survivors can expect depending upon their gender, ethnicity, and where they live. We strive that there should be equality of support and that where someone lives or their gender should not determine the level of support that they should receive. Commissioning and delivery will focus on redressing this balance where appropriate and ensure that services are open to all, based on local needs and designed to ensure coherent pathways of support for all family members.

When organisations work together and respond to domestic abuse and sexual abuse they can provide a wide range of help and support services and opportunities to ensure wrap around care. There is a complex local provider market of services and it is important that services work together. A fragmented service delivered by multiple providers can present risks including inconsistency, varying levels of service provision across districts, confusion amongst referrers and inefficiencies. For sexual abuse current delivery is provided by smaller specialist organisation, with the SARC acting as a hub at the West Yorkshire level. We all want the provision of good quality interventions and support which we know will make the difference in the lives and recovery of victims and survivors. Sharing information, good practice and maximising opportunities for pan-West Yorkshire approaches is paramount to minimising this. The process for referring victims and survivors within and between agencies should be built on strong partnerships. Agencies should focus on developing formalised clear referral pathways that exist independently of the individuals involved in them.

This Strategy continues to support District level arrangements in their local commissioning of domestic and sexual abuse services and developing 'hub' models which involve multi-agency assessment and response to domestic abuse. Imperative to the victims and survivors experience is not only the provision of a full spectrum of services but that their needs are put at the heart of success of any of these services is information. Equally the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) provide a special facility where victims and survivors of rape of sexual assault can receive immediate help and support and thereby provides client focus that ensures that victims and survivors receive immediate support.

What we will do:

- Explore the development of collection of data and intelligence of needs to ensure a comprehensive map of offending trends and victim needs across West Yorkshire and evidence base for further priorities and actions
- Promote and develop the sharing of good practice, levels of quality and its replication across West Yorkshire
- Promote and build in evaluation of services including the views of survivors to inform the development of quality of services.
- Explore and support the further development of integrated models of support of domestic abuse and sexual violence services and opportunities for further collaboration between organisations across West Yorkshire
- Explore opportunities for West Yorkshire wide commissioning to ensure equity and consistency of support for victims and perpetrators
- Make access to services easier e.g. through victim hubs, websites, specialist services, through partner agencies and improving referral pathway.

Priority 4: Victims/Survivor Support

Victim and survivor support comes in many guises across West Yorkshire, much of which is provided by third sector providers commissioned through district level partnerships. Key, and nationally recognised, support models include Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs). Broadly their trained role being to provide independent, specialist support offering practical and emotional support to anyone who has reported domestic abuse or sexual abuse to the police, or is considering doing so. Their value is supporting victims and survivors through the whole process, from initial reporting, all the way through the legal process. As successful court outcomes and attrition continue to rise we need to support this role to achieve the best outcomes for all. This Strategy recognises this much valued resource, acknowledging that further capacity of this provision needs to be developed in West Yorkshire.

The work of IDVAs and ISVAs is vital and becoming more relevant as survivors are encouraged to report. IDVA/ISVAs ongoing support throughout the court process is viewed to be directly related to the likelihood of survivors feeling able to see the process through. Whilst victims and survivors may want the abuse to stop and they feel that they can pursue a prosecution or conviction for a number of reasons. Nonetheless perpetrators should be exposed and stopped and victims and survivors should be supported in pursuing a conviction. It is recognised that there are many obstacles and barriers which can deter a victims and survivors from prosecuting and attending court including evidence, information, cost and delays in the process to name just some. Supporting victims and survivors through the challenging and distressing process of bringing an offender to justice is one of our main priorities and we wish to help improve victims and survivors' experiences in court. Attrition rates remain too high across West Yorkshire and so our commitment is to work with criminal justice partners, Judges and through IDVA/ISVA support develop improved approaches to meet the needs of victims and survivors and achieve successful criminal justice outcomes. We therefore aim to build further on our commitment to give victims and survivors and witnesses greater opportunity to give evidence from a location away from the court and look at ensuring that victims and survivors are supported to give their best evidence.

Many of the services across West Yorkshire are focused on 'crisis' intervention, i.e. services needed during or in the immediate aftermath of abuse or violence. However, there is a growing recognition for the additional need for 'recovery' services – those needed to support survivors after the abuse has ended and when they are in a safe place. It is argued that only then can they begin to address the emotional and mental damage and repair relationships and therefore prevention of repeat instances. Counselling around the sexual abuse, for example, is a vital element of the specialist survivor support. This can sit alongside the ISVA support but particularly this specialist support provides value as the exit from the ISVA support provided, aiding the longer-term recovery process.

There is a broad national consensus that around 85% of serious sexual crime is underreported². There is therefore an underlying risk that where there is currently little data available there is disproportionately little or no provision for a 'hidden' group of victims and survivors. This strategy wishes to recognise that some groups may be less likely to report than others and the nature of their position makes them equally if not more vulnerable. Understanding the full definitions of domestic abuse and sexual abuse allows us to focus on all these issues which require tackling. This Strategy, delivery and commissioning therefore spans gender, ethnicity, sexual abuse, forced marriage, exploitation, those affected by female genital mutilation (FGM), trafficking, and so called Honour Based Abuse.

It would be a misconception to think that domestic abuse and sexual abuse only takes place in heterosexual relationships and towards women. Research consistently shows that the majority of those experiencing domestic abuse and sexual abuse are women and the majority who perpetrate it are men³. It is also the case that men and women's experiences of domestic abuse and sexual abuse varies greatly and the risks are also different. Victims and survivors experience domestic abuse both in heterosexual and same sex relationships and it is estimated that 1 in 6 men experience domestic abuse. Domestic abuse in the lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender (LGBT) community is a serious issue with an estimated 25% of LGBT people suffering from violent or threatening relationships with partners or ex-partners. This is largely unreported. The support we offer across West Yorkshire must therefore be distinct and appropriate to all needs and commissioning of services will reflect this.

What we will do:

- Support the development of IDVA/ISVA support across West Yorkshire which focuses on supporting victims through the criminal justice process to achieve successful outcomes
- Give vulnerable victims and witnesses greater opportunity to give evidence from a location away from the court
- Commit to opportunities for the development and commissioning of further 'recovery' services to support survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Ensure that all delivery and commissioning incorporates a focused approach or bespoke provision to meet the needs of 'hidden' victims

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/an-overview-of-sexual-offending-in-england-and-wales>

³ WHO preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women 2010

Priority 5: Pursuing perpetrators to reduce offending

Providing an extensive system of support for victims and survivors and their children is essential, but on its own it will not stop domestic abuse or sexual abuse. We need to develop effective ways of working with perpetrators to minimise it happening again and to change behaviour. Any approaches and support must complement those services which support the victims and survivors.

Recognising that to support our wish to reduce the risk and the escalation of the abuse for victims and survivors, requires early intervention with those perpetrating the abuse. As victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual abuse spans economic groups, gender and ethnicity, so does being an offender. In 2015 we identified and committed in West Yorkshire to the early identification and provision of behaviour change interventions with those perpetrators of domestic abuse who's offending is currently at lower risk. This commissioned programme is built on the knowledge that men are more likely to be repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse⁴ but with additional tailored interventions for specific groups.

However, not only do we wish to prevent offending and reduce the risk of escalation we acknowledge that we need to address repeat offending. Research into domestic abuse and sexual abuse has also further emphasised the importance of shared multi-agency understanding when it comes to the identification and responses to the most serial or prevalent perpetrators. Informed by experience and research, work has been undertaken nationally to develop a 'tool' to identify serial, repeat and high risk offending of domestic abuse⁵. We need to learn from these tools and the offender management work which is being delivered for other offences and put in place appropriate measures to identify and respond to repeat offending.

Our approaches to education prevention, delivery of services and commissioning will continue to be reflective of the profile of offenders in West Yorkshire. Our aim is to challenge perpetrators behaviour and support interventions that lead to sustainable behaviour change. We must work to ensure that all available information and evidence is shared between partners to help build strong cases against perpetrators and services which help them change their behaviour.

What we will do:

- To challenge perpetrators' behaviour and zero tolerance message to offending through our education, prevention and awareness campaigns (Priority 1)
- Support interventions that lead to sustainable behaviour change of perpetrators of domestic abuse and sexual violence – particularly those that focus on early intervention work
- Ensure mechanisms for identifying offenders and undertaking offending risk assessments to reduce escalation

⁴ Walby and Allen 2004

⁵ Development of the Priority Perpetrator Identification Tool for Domestic Abuse, Dr Amanda Robinson & Anna Clancy, NOMS Wales, 2015

2. Monitoring the strategy

We intend to undertake regular monitoring of the strategy and delivery plan to help assess how we are progressing towards achievement of our priorities and identify any new and emerging issues that we must address. Monitoring and learning from our work is important to us to ensure that we can improve and deliver our best possible effort in preventing domestic abuse and sexual response and providing the best response to victims and survivors. We have committed in our priorities to a number of approaches which focus on integrating scrutiny, learning and adopting good practice across West Yorkshire as a result of this Strategy.

A delivery plan for each of the priorities and pledges will be developed. This Strategy and delivery plan will be implemented and delivered by the West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board on behalf of the PCCs Partnership Executive Group and Community Safety Partnership Forum. The West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board comprises multi-agency West Yorkshire wide partnership representation from a range of partner agencies. The WYDASV Board are committed to meeting quarterly and will provide six monthly reports to the Community Safety Partnership Forum. Recognising the cross cutting nature of domestic and sexual abuse and the need to maximise the opportunities for coordination of approach and investment, the progress on the Strategy will also be reported to a number of other key partnerships including the Local Criminal Justice Board, Safeguarding Board and district level Community Safety Partnerships.

The application of the PCC funding is already subject to monitoring and governance arrangements involving the PCC's Commissioning Group and contract management, Internal Audit and Independent Audit Committee, Community Safety Partnership Forum, and the Police and Crime Panel as well as other funding providers, . Building on these arrangements, the resources which are available to the PCC to tackle domestic abuse and sexual abuse will be to support the priorities and actions set out in this strategy. The West Yorkshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual abuse Board will be consulted and responsible for making any recommendations regarding the use of any potential available funding including the Safer Communities Fund.