



Newsletter

October 2019

Launch of the first ever Victims' Strategy for West Yorkshire

'The Supporting People Harmed by Crime' strategy will be officially launched by myself and the national Victims Commissioner for England and Wales, Dame Vera Baird QC. The date will be Monday 11 November at a venue in central Leeds with the first part of the event starting at 1pm and ending at 5pm, and the second part, for those unable to make the earlier session and also open to those attending from the outset, starting at 5:30pm and ending at 8.30pm. The launch event will also provide an opportunity to engage with a variety of support services throughout. One of my most important roles as PCC is to champion the interests of all victims and witnesses, and this strategy goes some way to addressing that. I urge anyone with an interest in victims and witnesses to consider what we can do collectively to support them and to attend this important launch event. To register your interest as either a participant or an organisation wishing to include a stall at the event please email - consultation@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk.

[Find out more](#)



Commissioner grants £217,000 for community safety initiatives

Hundreds of thousands of pounds have been granted to good causes across West Yorkshire for initiatives to increase community safety and prevent crime. The grants were made as part of my Safer Communities Fund which returns money recovered from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act back to communities. A total of 42 groups received a share of £217,006.18 at an awards event held in Bradford in September. This is the 16th grant round under my Safer Communities Fund and it's fantastic to say that since I launched it in 2014 it has now given back over £2.8m to nearly 660 projects across West Yorkshire helping to keep our communities safe and feeling safe. The next round of the Fund opens for applications on Monday 7 October 2019. More information will be released in due course on my website and also available by calling my office.

[Find out more](#)

My Independent Custody Visiting scheme is recruiting volunteers

I am looking for community focused compassionate volunteers to join my Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) scheme. ICVs have an independent role, checking that people held in police custody (not yet convicted of any offence) are being properly treated. Custody Visitors are volunteers, over the age of 18, from a variety of backgrounds and different communities, all whom live or work within West Yorkshire. They can enter a custody suite unannounced, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and are expected to make at least 24 visits spread evenly over a 12 month period. Visits are always conducted in pairs, and visitors report only to my office. Issues raised by ICVs are dealt with anonymously by my office, and are taken up directly with West Yorkshire Police. The recruitment window closes on Sunday 20 October so if you would like to become an ICV or to find out more visit my website to download an application pack or call my office.

[Find out more](#)



Police Chief's charitable donation for rescue vehicle

I joined the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police, John Robins in donating tens of thousands of pounds from the Police Property Act Fund to a team that helps locate high risk missing persons across the county. £30,000 of matches funding has been donated to help the Holme Valley Mountain Rescue Team buy and equip a new Mobile Incident Control Vehicle, replacing one that has now reached the end of its working life. The Mountain Rescue Team last year (2018) performed 78 operations across West Yorkshire, including 22 to help locate high risk missing persons. I was really pleased to be able to donate this money to help the Team. They have been of great assistance to our police service and other emergency services over a number of years and deserve our support back.

[Find out more](#)



Protecting children from exploitation focus for national partnership summit
Further protecting children from exploitation was the focus for 250 specialists from across the country who came together for a national partnership conference on the issue in September. Held in Birmingham, the summit focused on further improving the partnership response to protecting children from exploitation and abuse, such as county lines and child sexual exploitation. The event was delivered by the Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme (MSPTP) with support from my office. The event was a significant opportunity to hear from leading practitioners and draw on their expertise. No single organisation can tackle these abuses and exploitation alone. It requires a partnership response by all agencies working together effectively, keeping the victims and survivors of this crime at the heart of what we do which is exactly what the summit was about.

[Find out more](#)



Anti-slavery experts discuss how to combat trafficking in West Yorkshire

A network of partners which aims to improve the coordination of the threat of modern slavery and human trafficking is now in its fifth year. The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership was set up in 2014 after an investigation into an organised crime group who trafficked Slovakian nationals to Leeds for forced labour and benefit fraud. Working with the international anti-slavery charity, Hope for Justice, I set up the network which now meets four times a year. At the latest meeting partners shared examples of best practice, expertise and important information to help improve the regional coordination of the threat of modern slavery and human trafficking. I have been greatly encouraged to see how the network has developed and contributed to a much improved response to these issues, both locally as well as nationally. We have seen an increase in the identification and safeguarding of many potential victims as well as an increase in the number of police investigations and successful prosecutions. You can also now follow the progress of the network on Twitter @wy_antislavery.

[Find out more](#)

To find out more or contact me:

01924 294000

contact@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk

www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk

@WestYorksOPCC

@WestYorksOPCC



If you've been affected by crime, Victim Support can give you the help you need to move forward. Their services are free, confidential and available to anyone in England and Wales, regardless of whether the crime has been reported or how long ago it happened. To find out more visit www.victimsupport.org.uk or call 0300 303 1971.