

**COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING  
SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND WITNESSES**

31 JULY 2017

**SUBJECT: BODY WORN VIDEO UPDATE**

**Report of the Chief Constable**

<p><b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b></p> <p>1. To provide an update to the PCC on the Body Worn Video project.</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is satisfied with the continued progress of the project.</p>
<p><b>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</b></p> <p>3. Investing in technology is critical to raise productivity and offset the effect of the financial savings required that lead to a reduction in the number of officers and staff available. The use of technology can reduce crime, increase detections and make people feel safer.</p>
<p><b>KEY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>4. The PCC has invested £2 million pounds from an internal 'Transformation Fund' to support this technology, the devices have been rolled out to Uniformed Patrol Officers for use in overt policing activity across West Yorkshire. They have now been issued in all districts, including 200 special constables. Following successful testing, an alternative device for Firearms Officers has been successfully sourced and has now been deployed. This project will play an important role in the future of policing in West Yorkshire and nationally.</p> <p>5. Members of the public can expect to see the cameras routinely worn as part of usual frontline policing. Their use will help the PCC deliver on his promise to put victims first, they will also allow officers to improve evidence gathering which leads to better criminal justice outcomes and increased protection for both officers and the public, they will also ensure public complaints can be resolved more quickly and conclusively where they occur.</p>



## Chief Officer Team Briefing for COM

**Title:** BWV update  
**CoT Sponsor:** ACC Battle  
**Report Author:** CI Ian Williams

---

### Summary

West Yorkshire Police purchased sufficient Body Worn Cameras to equip all operational officers including specialist units on a pool issue basis. Initially firearms officers were not included in the rollout as concerns were raised regarding their use with other equipment in an operational deployment. However, following successful testing in training, firearms officers have now been included within the scope of the project.

### REPORT DETAILS

The rollout began in Bradford and Calderdale in May 2016. However, further deployment was suspended following two separate technical issues with batteries. As a result, the entire stock of 2000 cameras were swapped out twice by the supplier. WYP were compensated with an upgrade to a model with a greater battery capacity plus a quantity of additional cameras. The new cameras have so far not presented any of the symptoms of the previous defect following sustained use.

The full rollout of cameras to Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield District's was completed in March 2017. Protective Services Operations and Crime were completed in May 2017.

WYP pursued a solution for firearms with regional partners including testing the capability of the Reveal cameras during training. The project team, working with the firearms department concluded that Reveal cameras performed to an acceptable standard and their immediate deployment was agreed pending some technical and policy changes.

Special Constables were filtered into training during the early part of 2017 and to date some 200 have been trained. Plans to train the remainder are in place during evenings and weekends.

Usage has increased month on month as one would expect with new users coming on line. However, there is evidence that in District's where the technology was adopted early, increases in both the number of users and recordings are still being seen as officers become more confident.

AS WYP were one of the first forces to deploy BWV to all operational officers, national guidance and organisation learning from other forces was difficult to locate. As a result, initial advice relied heavily on the need for proportionality and the officers' justification of when to film. It quickly became evident that there was strong public approval and an expectation that officers would film all interactions. In addition, early evidence suggested that key encounters were not being recorded or filming was beginning at the point of conflict. As a result, officers were instructed to record all interactions when acting in a policing capacity.

Various scenarios have come to light where officers have recorded to good effect. Most notably in low level incidents where complaints were later made and found to be malicious. One has been turned into an internal learning and development video by PSD and the project team. Officers are finding more innovative ways of using the cameras as they become more proficient. We have seen a slow time "Walk through" after an incident in a house where a violence and arson had taken place and Taser subsequently deployed. In an accident where the driver was arrested for Drink/Drive, officers filmed the scene, including beer cans in the foot well and the custody procedure where the suspect failed to provide. Whilst still too early to give meaningful analysis of Court cases, it is clear that identity and corroboration issues are being supported.

## **ONGOING WORK AND DEVELOPMENTS**

The project team have engaged with a number of specialist areas including Firearms Commanders, Public Order Commanders and Hostage Negotiators to establish the most appropriate form of deployment and associated policy. Other areas of development include personal issue to remote workers.

WYP continue to assist other forces within the region with their own deployment of Reveil cameras and to seek the most appropriate long term solution for firearms.

All AFO's are due to have completed training by mid July 2017.

## **STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONS**

The force is yet to see the level of recordings level off because training has only recently ceased and usage continues to increase with greater confidence. 80% of all recordings are deleted within 31 days as non-evidential but 20% is retained. At this time the level of long term retention (evidential) is not known.

There has been no significant impact with regard to Freedom of Information requests although this may still change with greater use.

## **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**

A number of community groups were consulted prior to deployment. Various views and advice were taken into consideration and adopted in both the training and policy. The force continues to learn from its experiences. For example, policy was amended recently with regard to the recording of victims of sexual offences.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

none

