

**A message from Mark** – It was great to see over the Easter period that the vast majority of us pulled together and continued to follow the Government and Public Health guidance by staying home. It was even more testing in what is traditionally a family time in missing loved ones, but as we all know it's crucial to help protect the NHS, each other and ultimately save lives.



The Government restrictions have been extended for another 3 weeks and whilst this was expected I know it's not an easy time for anyone. I would urge anyone that's having trouble, whether that's mental health, domestic abuse, drug/alcohol issues or anything else, please do have a look at my Coronavirus support pages on my website (included in this bulletin). With my office I've been working to bring a whole host of helpful and useful information into one place to make finding appropriate assistance as simple as possible.

I am also working hard with colleagues to help and support our communities and emergency services as much as I can. This week I launched a £150,000 extra-ordinary Safer Communities Fund (SCF) grant round to support our communities dealing with the impact of COVID-19. I am specifically aiming to support those projects and interventions which target domestic and sexual abuse, child sexual abuse, mental health, fraud and drugs and alcohol services. Please take a look at the details of the grant round and pass it on to anyone that you feel could benefit as we are looking to turn this around as quickly as we can. The closing date for applications is 1st May and you can find out more at <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pcc-launches-extra-ordinary-ps150000-grant-round-help-support-communities-with-impact-covid-19>

The 'Clap for our Carers' initiative is rightfully continuing week on week now which is a fantastic show of our appreciation to all NHS and Social Care workers, as well as policing, shop workers and all other key workers putting themselves in harms way. You may also have seen some suggestions for showing your support with sky lanterns. If you know of anyone planning to show support in this way please ask them NOT TO. Sky lanterns pose a real

fire risk and can also have wider implications for wildlife. Simply put, sky lanterns have the very real potential to actually divert valuable Fire & Rescue and other resources away from the COVID-19 fight and cause real harm.

Finally I wanted to give a shout out to Captain Tom Moore showing the very best of humanity and West Yorkshire, a 99 year old army veteran originally from Keighley, who has raised millions of pounds for the NHS through his Yorkshire grit and actions. What a marvellous effort, inspiration and gesture, thank you Captain Tom, and thank you NHS, our police officers, police staff, volunteers, emergency services staff, carers, shop workers, refuse collectors, delivery and postal workers and all those other key workers who will be continuing to provide crucial services for us all.

Best wishes to you all. Keep safe.

**Mark Burns-Williamson OBE**  
**West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner**

### Updates from the office



#### **Criminal Justice Update - Prison Early Release Scheme**

There has been a lot of coverage around the early release of prisoners, and the OPCC are well linked into the West Yorkshire Ministry of Justice (MoJ) representative for this. The proposals are intended to maximise the safety of prisoners and prison staff by reducing the burden on the NHS whilst the COVID-9 pandemic continues, and so very low level prisoners who are due for release within 2 months could be considered. However, there are strict

criteria involved, including no violence or domestic abuse offenders qualifying, which will help minimise risk to the public. All of the partners including the Police, Probation, the CRC and Prisons are working through this process now, which includes risk assessments at every stage. Victims will be informed and supported in the usual way where appropriate. As yet no one has been released in West Yorkshire under this scheme, as the process is still being fine-tuned.

### **Victims and Witnesses Update**

I have been successful in securing funding from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for two additional Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) in West Yorkshire. I am now allocating this through a grant opportunity aimed at third sector organisations that currently provide specialist ISVA services to vulnerable victims. Further information please contact my Victim and Witness Service Adviser, David Smith via [contact@Westyoprkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:contact@Westyoprkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk).

### **Government domestic abuse campaign**



The Government launched a new public awareness raising campaign highlighting that if anyone is at risk of, or experiencing domestic abuse, help is still available.

The campaign, under the hashtag #YouAreNotAlone, aims to reassure those affected by domestic abuse that support services remain available during this difficult time. To find out more visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-announces-support-for-domestic-abuse-victims>

## Health/Mental health/Wellbeing



### **Government and NHS Advice**

For the latest health updates and guidance from the Government visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

NHS guidance can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

### **Coronavirus and mental wellbeing**

The NHS have a raft of information on mental health and wellbeing visit

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters>

**Government guidance for the public on the mental health and wellbeing aspects of coronavirus (COVID-19)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

### Our dedicated coronavirus webpage

We've set up a dedicated coronavirus page on our website which contains further support information, volunteering opportunities, links to help and support and much more. You can view it here <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/coronavirus>



### Our latest statements

See links below to our recent statements below.

- **PCC launches extra-ordinary £150,000 grant round to help support communities with the impact of COVID-19** (released 14th April) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pcc-launches-extra-ordinary-ps150000-grant-round-help-support-communities-with-impact-covid-19>
- **Criminals hit with £10.5m bill** (released 9th April) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/criminals-hit-with-ps105m-bill>



### Contacting the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Along with the office I am now working remotely and following the advice. This means that face to face meetings at the office and elsewhere will not be taking place and we are not able to deal with correspondence posted through our letter box, either in person or by Royal Mail.

However, you can still get in touch by email [contact@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:contact@westyorkshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk) and telephone 01924 294000 in the usual manner.