

A message from Mark – I hope that you, your families and colleagues are all managing to stay well and keeping safe.

This week was National Stalking Awareness Week and an opportunity to show support to anyone who may be affected by these issues. The [Victim Support](#) service are available in West Yorkshire and beyond to offer help and signpost to other services where appropriate and more information is also available from the [Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#).



This week I also submitted evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) on the Home Office's preparations for, and response to, COVID-19. I emphasised the partnership work being undertaken across the districts, as we all work together to develop innovative practice to try help mitigate the impact of the virus, particularly with regard to safeguarding those vulnerable to, or experiencing domestic or sexual abuse. I also used the opportunity to highlight to the Government the key challenges I am hearing from those on the front lines, and what action central government can do to support us all. Further details on the inquiry can be found here:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/184/home-office-preparedness-for-covid19-coronavirus/>

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) released their latest crime statistics, pre-COVID-19, this week. I was encouraged that there wasn't a recorded increase in overall crime for West Yorkshire in the last quarter of 2019 (from September to December).

I will continue to work closely with the Chief Constable and West Yorkshire Police to explore what more can be done to address crime patterns and trends, notwithstanding the subsequent impact of COVID-19 currently. However, it's right to recognise the hard work and results being achieved by West Yorkshire Police with our partners and I want to recognise and thank them for that.

I have been contacted by the Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA) and asked to support their campaign urging patience when visiting pharmacies which I was more than happy to do. Pharmacy staff are key workers and along with other healthcare professionals are under real pressure during these unprecedented times. I know the vast majority of our communities are well aware and supportive, as demonstrated through the amazing responses to the 'Clap for our Carers' initiative every week. However, I would urge everyone to be patient and respect the staff in pharmacies who are working hard to support their communities and patients during this time. They are putting their own lives at risk, as well as their families to ensure communities have vital medical supplies.

Additionally, as part of the 'Clap for our Carers' initiative showing support to the NHS and all key workers including police officers and staff, I was pleased to be able to share a [quick video](#) on social media which my office helped me to put together sending clips and artwork they'd done and seen in their free time. It also provides an opportunity to say thank you to our third sector colleagues, voluntary, community, faith based and social enterprise organisations that operate on a not-for-profit basis providing vital key services to our communities.

Finally, wishing Ramadan Mubarak to the Muslim community of West Yorkshire as they begin 30 days of fasting as part of the holy month. I was particularly heartened by the story of the [Bradford schoolboy who created his own mosque](#) out of cardboard at home to help him and his family celebrate.

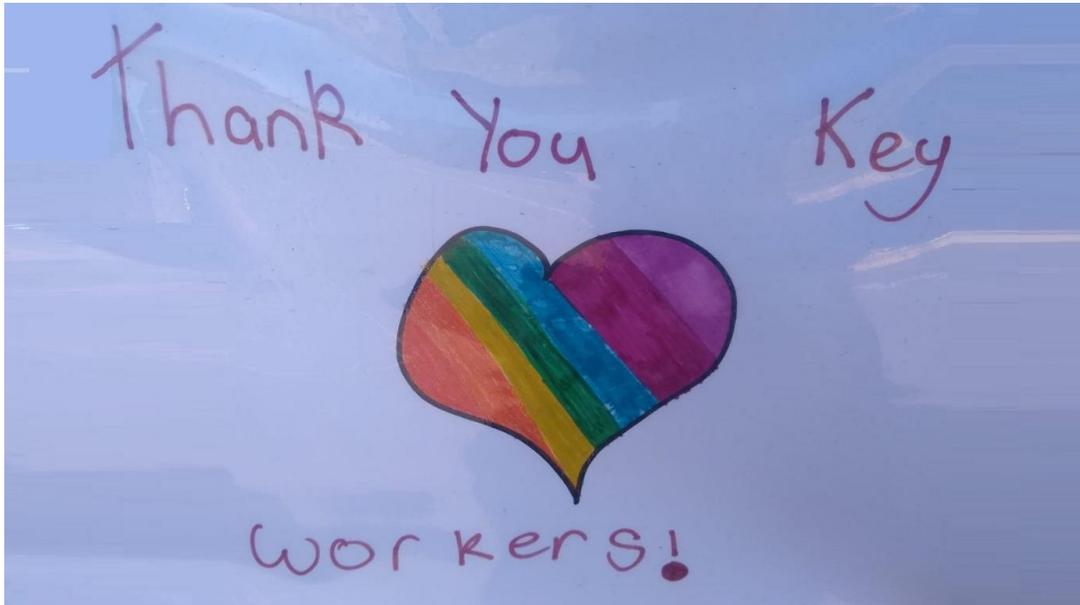
Best wishes to you all. Keep safe.

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

Safer Communities Fund

A reminder that I recently 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>



NHS and Government Guidance

A poster with a red and black background. At the top left is the HM Government logo. At the top right is the NHS logo. The central image shows a person in a full protective suit and face shield. The text reads: 'CORONAVIRUS STAY HOME TO HELP US SAVE LIVES ACT LIKE YOU'VE GOT IT. ANYONE CAN SPREAD IT.' At the bottom is a yellow and black striped banner with the text: 'STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES'.

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>

New Government Guidance

Recently released Government guidance includes the below.

- Find coronavirus financial support for your business
<https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder>
- Supporting your children's education during coronavirus (COVID-19)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Support for the bereaved
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-the-bereaved>
- Guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
- Guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing>

A full list of all the Government guidance can be found here

https://www.gov.uk/search/all?topical_events%5B%5D=coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response&order=updated-newest

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.

- **Police and Crime Panel Held Virtual Meeting Due to Coronavirus Restrictions** (released 24th April) <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/police-and-crime-panel-held-virtual-meeting-due-coronavirus-restrictions>
- **PCC Statement on Latest Crime Statistics from Office of National Statistics Pre-Covid19** (released 23rd April) <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pcc-statement-latest-crime-statistics-office-national-statistics-pre-covid19>
- **PCC supports Pharmacists' Defence Association campaign urging patience when visiting pharmacies** (released 21st April) <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pcc-supports-pharmacists-defence-association-campaign-urging-patience-when-visiting-pharmacies>



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 and telephone 01924 294000 in the usual manner.