



Mark Burns-Williamson

West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner

Annual Report

2019 -2020

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Mark Burns-Williamson

Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire -

Annual Report 2019/20 - Headline Achievements

- Bringing new engagement and early intervention projects to our communities to tackle serious violence through the new West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit.
- Launching our first Victims and Witnesses Strategy – ‘Supporting People Harmed by Crime’.
- Working with NHS and police partners to deliver West Yorkshire’s new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).
- Protecting victims by commissioning a West Yorkshire-wide domestic abuse perpetrators programme.
- Granting £636k through the Safer Communities Fund to over 100 projects working to make a difference to communities in need.
- Lobbying Government for better support for victims of road traffic collisions.
- Supporting the West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership into its sixth year.
- Funding important work with vulnerable groups through the West Yorkshire Reducing Reoffending Board.
- Securing funding for new Independent Sexual Violence Advisor services in our districts.
- Pledging to support our commissioned services, and working with partners, to meet the unparalleled challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Introduction from the Police & Crime Commissioner



Welcome to the 2019-20 Annual Report; our review of activities and achievements during the year, working in partnership to achieve the outcomes of my Police and Crime Plan for West Yorkshire. The report documents notable landmarks from the recent work of my office, and our partners in West Yorkshire Police and the wider community of organisations who work to help keep West Yorkshire safe and feeling safe.

In reviewing the year, there are a number of achievements of which we can be proud. I view the launch of West Yorkshire's first strategy for victims and witnesses as a really important milestone. Publishing a single document, which defines the standards of care victims and witnesses can expect from support agencies and the criminal justice system, is an important step for those whose lives are touched by the impact of crime.

Another great achievement and long held personal ambition for myself, the OPCC, the police, our health partners, CJS partners and Victims Services, has been the opening of the new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for West Yorkshire. The delivery of this excellent brand new resource provides a greatly enhanced service for vulnerable victims of assault, and is the outcome of tremendous commitment and joint work from our partnership. It has been very rewarding to see the successful delivery of a project which has been several years in the making, and which supports people at a time of great distress and vulnerability. I believe we have delivered a facility and service that will be second to none in the country and will only go from strength to strength in delivering better outcomes.

In last year's Annual Report I described the national debate on the growth in knife crime, and this year I have overseen the establishment of West Yorkshire's own Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), with support from our partners in the police, local authorities, academia, local health services and others. The VRU's launch has been accompanied by intensive work in hotspots of violent crime by West Yorkshire Police, and significant falls in the rate of knife crime have been recorded as a result. In the year ahead, I hope to learn more about the causes of serious violence in our communities from the range of intervention projects the VRU has supported, and from the analysis provided by the specialists within this team.

At the time of the publishing of my Annual Report last year, no one could have anticipated the great challenges which 2020 would present. Covid-19 has affected every one of us; in our homes, workplaces, and schools. Throughout the year, our dedicated key-workers have continued to provide services to the public. Workers in the NHS have naturally received the praise and respect of us all, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank our police service in West Yorkshire for the important work they have carried out during the crisis by stepping up to the daily challenges. I have remained in close contact with the Chief Constable throughout to ensure we are staying on top of the situation as far as possible, and have also made national representations with Ministers wherever possible for the benefit of West Yorkshire.

In the year ahead, the greatest new development is likely to be the implementation of the devolution deal for West Yorkshire, and the election of a new 'Metro-Mayor'. This has particular implications for the role of Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire, which will become embedded within the office of the new mayor, and there is much work to do to achieve a successful transition and for some of the complexities to be overcome. The offer of new investment and new powers to make the right decisions for West Yorkshire is something we have to grasp and I have long supported more devolution for the region as the governance landscape evolves. I will be working hard to see that this office will be in the best place to support the new mayor after their election in 2021. We will continue to champion community safety, and support for the vulnerable and those who are victims of crime, building on the many good developments achieved over the last eight years since being elected into this role.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Burns-Williamson".

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

Mark speaking at our Serious Violence Summit meeting in 2019



Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

The early months of 2019 were dominated by our work with the police and partners to address public concerns about serious violence – specifically the threat posed by the use of knives.

In spring 2019, my role as Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) meant I had first-hand experience of the development of the Government's approach to the worrying increase in knife crime. Although this was a trend which was associated with London, it also affected other major urban areas such as the West Midlands and here in West Yorkshire.

At the start of April I attended the Serious Youth Violence Summit at Downing Street, where I raised issues directly with the Prime Minister. I spoke about the need to rebuild neighbourhood policing, and the effect of social media in enabling some violence. I also attended meetings of the APCC Serious Violence Taskforce, and towards the end of the month, gave evidence at the Home Affairs Select Committee Inquiry into serious youth violence. I argued for a 'whole system' approach to tackling serious violence, incorporating schools, youth, and health services, and which would bring with it the capacity to engage with and divert vulnerable people from gang violence.

This period ultimately led to a wave of central government funding to support the establishment of **Violence Reduction Units** (VRUs) in 18 areas of England, including an initial £3.37 million to fund a West Yorkshire VRU. Officially launched in March 2020, the establishment of the VRU has been a key milestone for the OPCC and our partners during 2019/20. West Yorkshire's VRU pools together the expertise of partners from law enforcement, youth justice, education, victim support, and health sectors to tackle violence as a 'public health' concern. This approach addresses the root causes of violence, in particular the factors which can draw young people into serious crime; issues such as exposure to domestic violence, exploitation and vulnerability, and disengagement from school or training.

During autumn 2019, the VRU established a team of delivery, engagement, and analytical staff to work toward the unit's initial targets of developing a strategic needs assessment of serious violence in West Yorkshire, and an accompanying violence prevention 'response strategy'. At the same time, £2 million was allocated to 35 violence prevention initiatives in our districts. Subsequent evaluation of this work has shown that over 16,000 young people under 25 were reached through projects which worked to divert people from violent criminal activity. Examples include 'Breaking the Cycle' from the Bradford Youth Service, 'Drop the Knife for a Better Life' at Sunnyvale Outdoor Activity Centre (Calderdale), and the 'SOS+ Second Chance' project from St. Giles Trust in Leeds.

Looking ahead, the VRU plans to build on its first year of work in a number of areas:

- Developing the West Yorkshire Hospital Navigator Programme - a county-wide programme of interventions to provide young people with a route away from violent crime.
- Developing responses to support children and young people impacted by domestic violence and abuse.
- Developing and providing interventions in schools, colleges, and alternative education provision to increase attendance and reduce exclusion rates.
- Developing and providing interventions in a range of community and secure settings to divert young people from custody and reduce reoffending.
- Working with the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership, to take forward work to enhance system-wide responses to complex trauma.

Additionally, the VRU will be undertaking a programme of evaluation and research studies that will further develop our understanding of the drivers of serious violence and how best to respond to them. These will sit alongside innovative work to improve data sharing between partners.



The second important violence reduction initiative of 2019 was the Home Office's 'surge funding', provided to deliver targeted enforcement action by police services. For West Yorkshire Police (WYP), this represented a £4 million investment to help strengthen the response to serious violence under the banner '**Operation Jemlock**'. This project has featured high visibility patrols of violent crime hotspots, a dedicated Robbery Investigation car, and an increased number of knife arches used at key transport hubs. By the end of April 2020, Operation Jemlock had led to 2,500 arrests; 4,000 intelligence reports; and the seizure of over 150 weapons.

In July 2019, the Government made the eye-catching announcement of the **nationwide recruitment of 20,000 police officers** by April 2023. Following a decade of austerity cuts to our police budgets, the Government's policy reversal acknowledges the great pressures our police services have been under. Whenever possible, I have acted to re-build police numbers in West Yorkshire, and during 2019/20, I allocated further funds to recruit 264 officers. This investment was made with the support of local residents who responded to my public consultation, and who voted to support local policing through the police precept element of our Council Tax.

I will be working closely with the Chief Constable to put appropriate plans in place to ensure that new officers reach our communities with the proper support, training, and equipment that they need. This new phase of recruitment does provide a great opportunity for the force to intensify its programme to boost the proportion of officers and staff from minority groups within its workforce. It would be to our great benefit if we could build a workforce which better reflects the diversity of our region's population.

At the close of 2019/20, **recorded knife/sharp instrument offences in West Yorkshire had fallen by 10%** against the previous year, and rates of crime as a whole had fallen by 2.8% over the same period. This small reduction is still a landmark after an extended period when the annual number of recorded crimes had increased. West Yorkshire reported falls in burglary, robbery, and violence with injury offences in the year to March 20, but this good news is tempered by increases in drug and public order offences. The low conviction rate for certain types of offence is a national issue and the result of several factors. Low conviction rates for some serious sexual offences are a concern, and this is a topic I have raised with the Chief Constable during the year in our Delivery Quarterly scrutiny meetings. Some of these results will be influenced by the past decade's cuts to police and criminal justice services, as well as other factors, such as a greater share of offences being committed through online channels, and the rising number of complex crimes our police deal with. However, there is no doubt that we must work to achieve better outcomes for victims. I hope we will start to see the benefits of WYP's programme of investment in investigative skills, combined with the impact of new recruits entering the workforce, in the months ahead.



Working Together

Examples of violence prevention projects funded through the VRU:

From its first wave of funding, the VRU supported 35 early intervention and violence prevention projects across West Yorkshire districts. Some examples include:

A&E Health Pathways for people at risk of youth violence (with Safer Leeds, Bradford Council, and Wakefield Council Youth Service) - Engaging with young people under 25 attending A&E departments with knife and other assault related injuries. Supporting their families and friends, and working to divert young people away from violence.

Breaking the Cycle (Bradford Council) - An expansion of the successful 'Breaking the Cycle' project through the recruitment of new youth, drugs, education, and social-work resources, to tackle the factors behind violence within the 11-19 age group.

Young People Mentoring Programme (Kirklees Council/Yorkshire Mentoring) - Enabling Yorkshire Mentoring to expand its offer within schools, providing mentors to work with young people who have experienced issues such as trauma, carer responsibilities, sibling imprisonment, gang affiliation, threats, or domestic violence.

Nowells Youth Centre (Safer Leeds) - A youth engagement project in Harehills working with 8-17 year olds from the area, building young people's resilience to negative influences such as criminal exploitation and gang activity.

Communicate to Educate (Wakefield Council Youth Services) - A programme which focuses on improving the communication skills of young people at risk of serious violence, together with the delivery of training to practitioners on the 'desistance' model of intervention with young people at risk. The project addresses the factors behind the escalation of violence and reoffending.

Custody Diversion (West Yorkshire Police, St. Giles Trust and the West Yorkshire Liaison and Diversion Service) – A partnership approach using case workers with lived experience of serious youth violence and criminality, who engage with young people at the 'teachable moment', after they have been arrested and are reconsidering their options and life choices.

HMP Leeds Gangs & Violence Reduction (Catch 22) – A service to support the management of prisons by reducing the risk of violence posed by those involved in gangs, or at risk from gang members.

Detached Outreach Youth Work (Calderdale Council with Himmat) – A street based intervention for young people, offering education and targeted diversionary programmes to deter them from using or carrying weapons.

SCF Project: West Yorkshire Police and Guiseley FC – burglary prevention (£5,850)

This project targets prolific offenders who are currently serving a sentence at HMP Leeds for burglary offences. The project uses restorative justice techniques to raise awareness of the impact that a burglary has on a victim, for example by playing a 999 recording of a victim reporting a live burglary. The offenders' behaviour is then discussed and challenged in small group sessions. To help engage offenders in the project, representatives from Guiseley FC attend the prison to deliver a sports programme alongside the restorative sessions. The programme concludes by signposting a way forward for participants that does not include criminal behaviour.

Other highlights from the year

May 2019 - West Yorkshire Police launch the 'WY Community Alert' system - an email and text information service which allows members of the public to keep up to date with the latest news, appeals, and crime prevention information in their area. At the close of 2019/20, 16,000 people had subscribed to the service.

July - The first financial abuse prosecution by the **West Yorkshire Financial Exploitation and Abuse Team (WYFEAT)** reached the courts following a two year investigation. Two offenders pleaded guilty to offences relating to the financial abuse of a vulnerable Calderdale resident. The OPCC has provided funding to support the WYFEAT project since its commencement in 2016.

July - Local and regional partners met in Leeds to discuss the fight against **serious violence at a joint OPCC/Home Office event**. Partners from the NHS, fellow PCCs, police forces, and third sector groups, discussed the 'public health' approach to violence, and the new VRU model.

September - I joined 250 specialists from across the country in Birmingham, for a conference on further improving the partnership response to 'County Lines' and child sexual exploitation. The event was delivered through the **Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme (MSPTP)**, with support from my office.

November - West Yorkshire organisations won two awards at the prestigious **Howard League Community Awards**. CATCH (Community Action To Create Hope) and the POLIT (Police Online Investigation Team) Pathway, won in the 'Policing and children' and 'Policing and adults' categories respectively. We were proud to nominate CATCH for their award.



January 2020 - More than 150 professionals from across West Yorkshire participated in the first West Yorkshire **Violence Reduction Unit workshop**. The conference drew together those who had worked to establish the VRU, as well as representatives from the West Yorkshire early intervention projects supported by VRU funding.

February - West Yorkshire Police's response to organised crime is expanded to include the REDIVE County Lines Intensification & Co-ordination Hub. The Hub brings together a team of specialist officers and police staff to target the organised exploitation of vulnerable people.

March - We submit two bids totalling £709K to the **Home Office Safer Streets Fund**. Grants were announced in July to tackle residential burglary through improved home security, alley-gating, street lighting, and the installation of CCTV in two neighbourhoods in Bradford and Leeds.



Safeguarding Vulnerable People

In our partnership work with agencies working across West Yorkshire, during the year we have been able to make further steps to safeguard vulnerable people in our communities.

Through the work of my office, and specifically through our Safeguarding Advisor post, we host two important partnership forums which aim to bring organisations together to build a consistent approach to safeguarding across the five districts; they are the [West Yorkshire Risk and Vulnerability Group](#) and the [Independent Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel](#).

My office also supports and co-chairs the [West Yorkshire Safeguarding Communications Group](#), which brings West Yorkshire Police and local authority communications leads together with the third sector and the OPCC to develop collaborative safeguarding campaigns. Working closely with West Yorkshire district Safeguarding Boards and other key stakeholders, the group produces impactful campaigns to raise awareness, target perpetrators, and inform our communities on safeguarding topics. Two recent examples include the annual '16 Days of Action' campaign (aimed at perpetrators of domestic abuse), which ran during November and December 2019, and a campaign focused at 'Night-time Economy' workers. People working in takeaways, bars, hotels, and transport hubs have an important role to play in helping to identify when a young person may be vulnerable. This campaign is built on the work of the Safer Leeds Street Support Team and has now been developed for use across West Yorkshire.

The 'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business' campaign has developed on the back of some excellent work in the Wakefield area, and was produced to directly respond to concerns raised during the Covid-19 lockdown. At this time, when children were not being seen as regularly by school staff or health professionals, the campaign reminded people that we all need to play a part in supporting families under stress. You can find examples of the campaign materials we promote at my @WestYorksOPCC Twitter account.

My office now hosts the [Yorkshire and Humber Child Sexual Exploitation Threat Reduction Group](#). Chaired by West Yorkshire Police, this group brings police safeguarding leads from the four Yorkshire and Humber forces together with statutory and third sector partners and national organisations. The group's aim is to share information and good practice from the region to fight the threat of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). I am very happy to support this regional response to a complex crime.



In December, the **Independent Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel (IDASP)** chaired by my Safeguarding Advisor held a development day at the OPCC offices. The event coincided with the '16 Days of Action' campaign targeting violence against women and girls, and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. A wide range of organisations from across West Yorkshire were represented, and inputs were given on the work of the Crown Prosecution Service, Domestic Abuse Protection Orders, Independent Domestic Violence Advisor cars, and awareness raising of Clare's Law (the scheme to help people find out whether a partner has a history of domestic violence).

IDASP was established in 2018 as part of the Whole Systems Approach to Domestic Violence project to provide oversight and feedback on West Yorkshire Police's response to domestic abuse cases. The panel brings together experienced professionals from domestic abuse services, children's services, victim advocates, the Crown Prosecution Service, and other public partners in health and education, to conduct an in-depth review of randomly selected and anonymised police domestic abuse case files which have not resulted in a charge.

The Panel considers a number of factors when reviewing a case, including the quality of emergency call handling and dispatch; consideration of potential coercive control offences; whether appropriate referrals are made to partner agencies; and decision-making regarding a charge or caution. The feedback from this scrutiny is used by the police and partners to influence the continuous improvement of services and share good practice. The Panel's work has been interrupted by Covid but we are aiming to resume meetings later in 2020.

I remain committed to the fight against the criminal exploitation of all people through the **National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN)** and the **West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP)**. This year, the responsibility to deliver and coordinate the West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership now sits with my office, and I have taken on the role of Chair to help develop its membership and influence.

WYASP is now in its sixth year, and achievements from the past twelve months have included the establishment of the West Yorkshire Modern Slavery District Leads Group, which brings local authority and police district leads together with my office and the West Yorkshire Police Human Trafficking Team. The purpose of the group is to provide a coordinated response to modern slavery in all its forms; providing cross-border support, opportunities to collaborate, and the sharing of best practice. You can follow the progress of the network on Twitter **@wy_antislavery** or at www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/wyasp

The work of the **National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network** has also gathered pace this year. Meetings have focussed on specific themes, including improving victim care and support, and improvements to slavery investigations and prosecutions. Achievements delivered through the network during 2019/20 include arranging seven national workshops for OPCCs which focussed on raising awareness of support for victims and survivors of modern slavery, and strategies for developing local modern slavery partnerships. My office has also arranged two national partnership events which were held in Birmingham. In September 2019, our first event focused on protecting children from exploitation, and in the second (held in February this year), we explored how to best support victims and prevent them from being re-trafficked. These events brought together over 200 strategic partners and frontline professionals who were presented with case studies and examples of best practice to help improve their organisations' response.



Working Together

The **West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership** works to identify and promote best practice in the fight against modern slavery. Two case studies of notable work in West Yorkshire have been featured in the Local Government Association's publication, 'Tackling Modern Slavery – Council Case Studies'.

Bradford Council were highlighted as a 'Best Practice Council' for their high quality victim care. Meanwhile, Safer Kirklees also featured in the same publication for their work in establishing effective internal structures and external networks with partners tackling modern slavery. The report also makes reference to the role of the West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership as a catalyst for these successes.

SCF Project: Spectrum People, 'Transform Therapy', Wakefield (£5,920)

Spectrum People are a Wakefield based charity that provide meaningful activities for some of the most vulnerable people in the community. Typical vulnerabilities include mental or physical health issues, addiction, offending behaviours, homelessness and social isolation. This grant-funded project contributes towards Spectrum's ongoing therapeutic art service, delivering one-to-one 'art psychotherapy' for young people with histories of trauma, mental illness, self-harm, or who are at high risk of criminal or sexual exploitation. Through providing intervention at the earliest possible stage it is hoped that young people will be able to forge a stronger sense of self, which may prevent them from seeking a sense of belonging and identity through criminal activity.

Other highlights from the year

June 2019 – The well-established **West Yorkshire Safeguarding Week** was held with partners coming together to host a series of events for practitioners and communities. All events were aimed at raising awareness of safeguarding issues, and promoting the support options that are available.

June – The OPCC-funded **Mr. Shapeshifter** animation gains an award from the Yorkshire Royal Television Society. The Mr. Shapeshifter resource has worked during the year in West Yorkshire and further afield to help children understand the warning signs of exploitation.

July – Representatives from each of the West Yorkshire districts' Safeguarding Adults, Safeguarding Children, Community Safety and Health & Wellbeing Boards attended our **special workshop event** at the Unity Hall in Wakefield. Partners updated on their work with vulnerable people in support of the objectives of the Police and Crime Plan.

September – I spoke at the '**Tackling Online Sexual Offending in West Yorkshire**' conference. This event was organised by West Yorkshire Police in partnership with the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and brought together partners to consider additional ways to tackle and prevent online offending.

January 2020 – I addressed a regional '**County Lines**' **information and networking event** in Wakefield, organised by the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit. The aim of the conference was to raise awareness of county lines offences with the police and partners. The event featured inputs from the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre, and charities *Fearless* and the *St. Giles Trust*.

January - I spoke at the Westminster launch of an important research publication, 'Parents' experiences of the Children's Social Care System when a child is sexually exploited'. Hosted by West Yorkshire MP Barry Sherman, and organised by the Leeds-based charity **Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE)**, the report gives a voice to parents whose children have been exploited and who contacted PACE for support. At this time, parents can often feel they are being blamed for their child's exploitation.

Making Criminal Justice Work for Communities



Mark speaking at the NPCC / APCC national summit

As Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB), I continue to work with partners to foster collaboration which can help us achieve a more effective justice system and the best results for victims and their communities.

Comprehensive reforms of the probation and courts services have set considerable challenges for those working in the criminal justice arena. The onset of Covid has intensified these pressures, leading to backlogs in hearings and trials. In response, partners have acted to fast-track reform programmes to meet these substantial challenges head on. In addition to the LCJB, my office hosts three other forums which bring criminal justice partners together; the West Yorkshire Reducing Reoffending Board; the West Yorkshire Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum; and the LCJB Victims and Witnesses Group. In 2019, the Reoffending Board helped to produce our first West Yorkshire Reducing Reoffending Strategy.

During the year, I have been able to support the work of partners who are making a real difference to the lives of people whose challenging personal circumstances can lead them into contact with the criminal justice system time after time. The work of the [West Yorkshire Finding Independence team \(WYFI\)](#) is one such example. WYFI work with people who exhibit multiple and complex needs; this can be homelessness, addiction, substance misuse, re-offending behaviour, and mental ill-health. At the core of their service is the work of the WYFI Multiple Needs Navigators; peer mentors with lived experience who will stay in contact with service users regardless of setbacks.

WYFI's direct programme of delivery in West Yorkshire ended in May 2020, but using Big Lottery funding, WYFI are undertaking a research and training project using their experience of working with over 800 individuals during the programme's lifespan. The project includes raising awareness of the stigma faced by people in WYFI's client group, and user research with those people who have, and have not, previously engaged with their services. Acting as a sponsor for this work, I will promote its findings to our partners on the Reducing Reoffending Board, and so help local providers better understand the needs of this especially vulnerable group of people.

In 2017, I published the West Yorkshire Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy to provide a framework for delivery of support services for victims and survivors. This year, we have been able to achieve an important contribution to the strategy's aims by commissioning a West Yorkshire-wide **domestic abuse perpetrator programme**. Delivered by Restorative Solutions CIC (in conjunction with The Hampton Trust), the programme provides a rehabilitation pathway called 'CARA' (Cautioning and Relationship Abuse), which is targeted at first time or standard risk offenders. The CARA programme is designed to break the cycle of domestic abuse at an early stage by educating and holding offenders to account for their actions. The factors behind domestic abuse and sexual violence offences are complex, and both crimes experience a high level of under-reporting. As we know that reported cases of domestic abuse are rarely a one-off (and that incidents often escalate over time), this service will provide a crucial step forward in changing offenders' behaviour, and protecting victims in West Yorkshire.



In their 2019 Force Management Statement, WYP reported a 33% increase in mental health incidents during 2018, equating to more than 5,000 additional incidents during the year. My **WY Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum** meets to strengthen the network of partners whose work focusses on the increasing volume of people in the criminal justice system who need support for their mental health. One such example is **Bradford's 'MH1 Car'**. This project provides a 'street triage' scheme, where a mental health practitioner accompanies a police officer to incidents where a person is experiencing a mental health crisis. The use of Section 136 of the Mental Health Act calls on the police to make important decisions about an individual's welfare, and having an experienced mental health nurse on scene allows officers to access the very best advice on clinical support. This collaborative project improves the quality of care for those in need, and can help patients avoid lengthy and potentially distressing waits for treatment at A&E or Section 136 Suites.

In 2017, my office co-ordinated a bid with our partners for Ministry of Justice VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) funding, and since then two funded projects have gone on to have a huge impact in West Yorkshire. A Domestic Abuse Protection Order Team has been established (and now mainstreamed) at WYP, and important work has been carried out at HMP Newhall under the **'Breaking the Cycle for Women in Custody'** project, delivered with the Leeds-based Together Women charity. At Newhall, an IDVA (Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor) service has proved to be invaluable in uncovering women's often hidden domestic abuse experiences. Women involved in crime are frequently the victims of abuse and exploitation themselves, and the IDVA service has helped women at Newhall to understand these experiences, and place them in the context of their own offending behaviour.

Following an approach from the prison, I have provided funding to bridge a gap between the end of the VAWG funding and the service becoming a formal, mainstreamed aspect of the prisons' services to women. As many more women than anticipated have accessed the service, this funding has helped to provide a consistent level of support. The project has highlighted the benefits which can be realised when service providers go the extra mile to engage with vulnerable people. The onus should not always be on the people experiencing trauma or disadvantage to engage with us.

When a young person first comes into contact with the criminal justice system it can be a pivotal moment in their lives. It is often the case that their offending is a reflection of other factors, such as childhood trauma, violence at home, problems at school, or criminal exploitation by gangs.

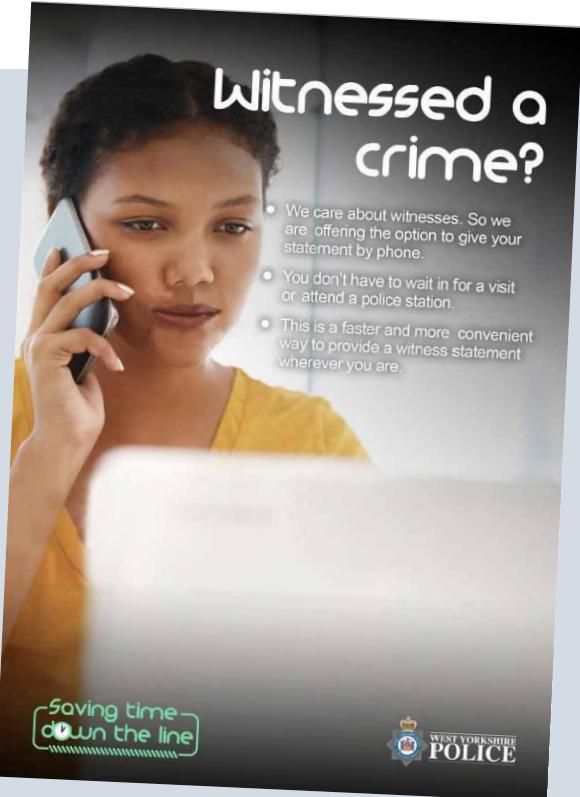
West Yorkshire has been a pilot area for a Ministry of Justice project, **'Chance to Change'** (C2C), which offers young people accused of committing low or medium level crimes the opportunity to complete a programme of intervention, such as rehabilitative work, or a restorative justice option. This can divert an individual from entering the criminal justice system and gaining a criminal record; something which could in turn damage their future employment opportunities and increase the likelihood of their reoffending.

C2C originates from the concept of ‘deferred prosecution’ described in the ‘Lammy Review’ of racial disproportionality in the criminal justice system. A key aspect of C2C is that it does not require an admission of guilt from the young person in order to access the programme. This particular project complements the numerous diversion projects funded through the WY Violence Reduction Unit which are targeted to guide young people away from offending and violent crime.

Working Together

In January, West Yorkshire Police launched an innovative new service to allow witnesses of crime to **provide their statements over the phone**. Those who agree to use the service are able to relay information about an offence ‘down the line’, which is then collated by an officer directly into police systems. Witnesses then approve the captured information via an online link to their own computer or device. The new system means there is no need for face-to-face contact at a residence or police station, and so saves time for victims, witnesses, and police officers, who can be deployed to other duties. Down the Line will be available for a range of different offence and incident types, with each case individually assessed for its suitability.

Housing Associations are one element of the group of organisations (collectively known as ‘community safety partners’) who work to keep our neighbourhoods safe. Housing Associations can contribute toward community safety by tackling criminality taking place at their properties. This can range from ASB through to more serious forms of offending such as County Lines drug dealing. Over the past 12 months, the OPCC, WYP and Lancashire legal firm, Forbes Solicitors, have collaborated to help housing associations understand the legal enforcement options available to them to prevent crime and deal with neighbourhood nuisances. In November, this innovative collaboration featured at the prestigious **NPCC/APCC National Summit at Westminster**, where I joined representatives from the OPCC and WYP to give a ‘lightning talk’ on the project to national PCCs and Chief Constables.



HM Inspectorate of Constabulary Reports

During the course of the year, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary & Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) publish comprehensive reports on important aspects of policing in their role to monitor the efficiency and effectiveness of police services. These reports can be thematic (covering the police’s nationwide response to an issue, e.g. fraud), or specific inspections of police forces, such as the annual PEEL report for West Yorkshire Police. As Police and Crime Commissioner, I am required to respond to HMICFRS and the Home Office with my observations on newly published reports, and feedback on West Yorkshire Police’s work to address reports’ recommendations. You can find a copy of these responses under the ‘External Inspections’ section of my website.

Other highlights from the year

May 2019 – The West Yorkshire OPCC gained the **Gold Standard Quality Assurance Award** for our independent custody visiting scheme. The Quality Assurance awards were introduced by the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) to help celebrate areas of strength and share of good practice.

June – West Yorkshire Police embark on a **recruitment campaign** for an additional 300 police officers, which for the first time includes the option of a three-year Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship in conjunction with Leeds Trinity University.

July – John Robins QPM is officially confirmed as the **new Chief Constable for West Yorkshire**. John has worked in West Yorkshire since 1990, firstly as a Police Constable, before working his way up to Chief Superintendent and then Deputy Chief Constable. He underwent a rigorous recruitment process, impressing the panel with his passion and commitment to policing inspired by a varied and successful career serving communities across West Yorkshire.

January 2020 – We begin a programme to build a larger and more diverse membership of the **West Yorkshire Out of Court Scrutiny Panel**. The Panel is a group of representatives from across the criminal justice sector who come together to evaluate a sample of cases where an out of court disposal (OOCD) has been issued. The Panel then assess whether this was an appropriate outcome for the offender and victim before presenting their findings. The Panel's work aims to build public confidence in the use of OOCDs, and provide feedback to the police and CPS on their decision-making processes. Out-of-court disposals are designed to provide a simple and proportionate way to respond to some cases of anti-social behaviour and low-risk offending.

March – HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services publish their **Annual PEEL Assessment** of the performance of West Yorkshire Police. This year's report (for 2018/19) awarded WYP 'Good' classifications for the service's Effectiveness and Legitimacy, and an 'Outstanding' grade for its Efficiency. This final grade was supported by the force's 'Outstanding' performance in the accurate recording of crime - an accolade achieved by just four other forces nationwide.

March – I opened a major partnership event arranged by the **Yorkshire and the Humber Rehabilitation Partnership**, and held at HMP & YOI Askham Grange, York. The event discussed what could be done to improve employability outcomes for those engaged with the criminal justice system, with over 120 representatives attending from prison and probation services, and the Dept. of Work and Pensions, local authorities and employers.



John Robins QPM is officially confirmed as the new Chief Constable in July 2019



Supporting Victims and Witnesses

One of my most important tasks as PCC has been to provide a platform for the interests of victims and witnesses of crime, and in February I was delighted to publish our first victims and witnesses strategy, 'Supporting People Harmed by Crime'.

I was joined at the launch by the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales, Dame Vera Baird QC, and victims of crime, who courageously spoke about their experiences. As well as receiving the support of the Victims' Commissioner, the strategy was endorsed by our Partnership Executive Group (PEG) and the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB). This backing from our partners is vital if we hope to deliver this document's objectives.

We have highlighted seven key priorities which target giving victims support which is tailored to their individual needs, which considers any additional vulnerabilities a person may have, and which is particularly aware of the needs of children and young people. Victims and survivors themselves have played an important role in developing these priorities through our Victims Engagement Working Group and consultation events held in March and November 2019. Through this dialogue we have learned how crucial it is to get the initial response to victims right first time. This ethos has played an important role in shaping the strategy, which aims to focus partners' attention on the needs and views of victims, regardless of the type of crime, or a person's age, gender/identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability.

I hope this document will build even greater collaboration between statutory and third/independent sector organisations working across criminal justice and public sector services in West Yorkshire. We need to be aware that many people choose not report a crime to the police, and as consequence, the trauma of their experience can remain hidden. Without the input of local third sector services such victims and survivors may not find the help they need.

A number of important initiatives have been progressed since the launch. The [OPCC Victims Services Advisor](#) has been working with West Yorkshire Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to discuss their role in helping deliver the strategy's priorities; the development of a detailed delivery plan with the LCJB Victims and Witness Group is underway; and our Domestic and Sexual Abuse Board is co-ordinating the response to an independent review of West Yorkshire support services for victims of sexual abuse and violence.

This work has not yet been finalised, but there has been an early opportunity to take forward one of its recommendations following a successful bid to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for funding for additional ISVAs (**Independent Sexual Violence Advisors**). As a result, the MoJ has granted £230k over a two-year period from April 2020 for new services in West Yorkshire. The additional ISVAs have been allocated to the West Yorkshire ISVA Service and the Kirklees and Calderdale Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre. These new posts will strengthen outreach rape crisis services in Wakefield, and enhance services for ethnic minority groups and males across West Yorkshire. This funding is being used by the OPCC as an opportunity to strengthen collaboration across ISVA services and also with the SARC (from its new facilities), in line with the review's recommendations.

The **LCJB Victim and Witness Group's** ambitions are to improve victims' and witnesses' experiences at court and through the criminal justice process. The group also observes agencies' compliance with the MoJ's Victim's Code and Witness Charter. A key development over recent months has been the response to the Government's consultation on a revised **Victims Code**. The Code defines the Ministry of Justice's minimum standards of service to victims by organisations in the criminal justice system. The revised code sets out 12 rights for victims which include; the right to be able to understand and be understood; to have the details of the crime recorded without unjustified delay; to be referred to victim support services; and to be given information about the trial, trial process, and their role as a witness. The Government has made a commitment to a Victims' Law based on the 12 rights in the revised Code. Local monitoring of adherence to these rights is a key commitment in the West Yorkshire Victims Strategy, and an important role for the LCJB and myself moving forward.

In June 2020 we were able to reach a major landmark in victim care in West Yorkshire with the official opening of the new **Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)**. The SARC houses services for children, young people, and adults in one place, so victims and survivors now have access to medical, practical, and emotional support when it is needed most of all. The SARC also houses facilities for forensic evidence to be gathered to support prosecutions, as well as a court video-link, interviewing suites for recorded interviews, and access to Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA).

SARC services play an essential role in supporting the immediate needs of the victim of an assault, whilst having the potential to bring wider benefits to the community by raising awareness of sexual violence, reducing the stigma associated with it, and helping give victims a voice should they choose to report an offence. Delivering this project has been the ambition of myself and West Yorkshire Police, NHS England & NHS Improvement, and the Courts Service. We can be proud that through this partnership, we are now able to provide a facility which can transform the experience of vulnerable victims and witnesses, by having all the specialist services they need under one roof.

The SARC houses one of three 'Live Links' in West Yorkshire, with other facilities available in Calderdale and Wakefield. In February, **Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal**, visited Victim Support's Wakefield Hub to launch the new LiveLink service for people harmed by crime. The LiveLink will offer vulnerable victims and witnesses a safe, secure, and welcoming space to give evidence via video streaming, and so engage with the criminal justice system without needing to attend court or risk coming into contact with a perpetrator. Princess Anne spent time meeting victims and witnesses of crime, who explained the emotional and practical importance of being able to give evidence safely and remotely. Princess Anne's visit to Wakefield provided a great opportunity to raise awareness of this new service, which will help to remove barriers to justice, and improve outcomes for those harmed by crime.



You can shout or you can whisper, but you will be heard.

Sexual assault & abuse. We're here to listen.

Sexual assault & abuse can happen to anyone, no matter age, sexual orientation or gender identity.

If you wish to report a crime to West Yorkshire Police, call 101, or 999 in an emergency.

If you would rather not speak to the Police, you can contact Victim Support for free and confidential support on 03000301971.

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE **FOR POLICE NON-Emergencies 101** **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner West Yorkshire** **VS VICTIM SUPPORT**

www.westyorkshire.police.uk/malesexualabuse

West Yorkshire Police's campaign highlighted that men or women can be the victims of sexual assault.

Working Together

SCF Project: National Youth Advocacy Service, Bradford (£5,000)

NYAS works with vulnerable children and young people to support them to lead happy and fulfilling lives. The children which they work with may be in care, care leavers, or living in mental health support settings. NYAS help to give people a voice through advocacy, advice, and support through tailored projects and activities. This SCF project provided positive activities to 30 children and young people in care in the Bradford district through an Independent Visitor (IV) programme, which matched adult volunteers to children in care. IVs provide positive adult role models to children, some of whom may be the victims of abuse or neglect, or at risk of being drawn into crime and anti-social behaviour.

SCF Project: Survivors West Yorkshire - 'Ben's Place' (£5,996)

Survivors West Yorkshire (SWY) provide support for people who have been victims of child sexual abuse or adult rape, in particular male survivors of abuse, for whom there are relatively fewer support services. Ben's Place is an online counselling system which creates a space for male abuse victims to work through their trauma. Through the project, survivors can access a 20-hour course of counselling, delivered via a secure video system.

Other highlights from the year

May 2019 - West Yorkshire Police launch their new 'Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Strategy, with the vision to be 'an organisation where its workforce reflects the communities it serves, has a more inclusive culture, and keeps West Yorkshire safe and feeling safe'.

September - The OPCC held a workshop about services for male victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse. Our **WY ISVA service is one of the first in the country** to achieve accreditation from national safeguarding organisation LimeCulture for 'Quality Standards for Services Supporting Male Victims/Survivors of Sexual Violence'.

October - I attended a special **youth crime conference at Huddersfield University**. The event was co-ordinated through local project Conflict Resolutions, and supported by a £5,000 grant from my Safer Communities Fund. This project focusses on strategies young people can use to avoid conflict, leading with a strong anti-gang message. The conference also covered topics such as social media awareness, cyber bullying, and cultural diversity awareness.

November – I hosted an important conference in Leeds to support the development of the **WY Victims and Witnesses Strategy**. 150 victims and practitioners attended, offering questions about the strategy, highlighting gaps in services, and discussing victims' needs.

March 2020 - I granted a further £14k of support to **the Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor provision within HMP Newhall**. This helped to bridge a gap in funding and maintain this valuable service for women in the criminal justice system.

March - West Yorkshire Police launch a new campaign aimed at encouraging **male victims of sexual assault and abuse** to come forward. Supported by Victim Support and the OPCC, the new campaign highlighted that male victims should feel no stigma or fear in talking about what has happened to them, and in doing so, they can access a wide range of support. Offences against male victims account for around 15 per cent of all sexual offences reported to West Yorkshire Police.

Mark visiting the newly opened Sexual Assault Referral Centre in June 2020



Responding to Covid-19

The outbreak of Covid-19 has brought challenges to our society which few have experienced outside wartime. During the most stringent phase of the national lockdown, most of us will have been following government advice to stay at home, with an inevitable impact on our working lives, the schooling of children, and the care of elderly members of our families.

Amidst this, key workers in the emergency services and NHS needed to carry out their vital work in the unprecedented context of a global pandemic which was claiming the lives of hundreds of people each day.

The sudden, and exceptional change to the way we all conducted our everyday lives also had an impact on crime rates. Generally, crime levels fell (most notably for burglary, theft, and vehicle offences), but with most of us staying at home, there was also the expectation of an increase in crimes which occur within domestic settings. West Yorkshire Police's officers worked through the initial phases of the pandemic as key workers, carrying out their duties with and for the public during a time of great uncertainty. Let me put on record my thanks to our officers for their vital work during such a critical time.

As in the economy and wider society, the operation of my office needed to adapt quickly to new circumstances. Covid placed intense pressure on criminal justice services and on the provision of services to victims of crime. At this challenging time, it was vital that services for victims, survivors, and vulnerable people in our communities were maintained, and so I issued a **pledge to our OPCC funded providers** that we would maintain our usual grant payments, and support them where services needed to adapt to meet changing needs.

In the following pages, we look at other examples of our Covid-related work between March and July this year.

Commissioning and contract support

In late February, the OPCC's Head of Commissioning contacted all PCC funded services and requested copies of organisations' Business Continuity Plans in light of the growing scale of Covid infections. This enabled my office to understand where any likely service disruption would occur, and allow us to plan to preserve vital support services and consider emergency funding if required. In May, we collated together our experiences of the response to Covid in a 'shared learning' document. Feedback from partners recorded that they felt OPCC support had been strong at this critical time.

Safer Communities Fund (SCF)

The SCF has allowed me to grant vital funding to smaller scale charities, voluntary and community groups in West Yorkshire since my first term in office as PCC. In the early stages of the pandemic, we moved to quickly establish an emergency grant round to help local providers deliver essential services to the vulnerable during the crisis. In June, we awarded **32 winning bids with a total of £170,000**. Grants of up to £6,000 were given to initiatives targeting domestic and sexual abuse, child sexual abuse, mental health, fraud, and drug and alcohol services. The awards panel identified bidders who were able to deliver their services under lockdown conditions. Projects to prevent crime, anti-social behaviour, safeguard vulnerable people, and reduce demand on emergency services also received funding.

Criminal Justice: Soon after the onset of the Covid crisis, we took the decision to increase the frequency of Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) meetings to a bi-weekly pattern, to help tackle the emergency which was developing in the criminal justice system. Through the LCJB, I have worked with partners at senior level to bring a unified response to the serious backlogs in the courts system which were created by the implementation of social distancing precautions. The impact on victims has also been at the centre of the LCJB Executive's discussions, and members of the LCJB Victims and Witness Group contributed by reviewing their own organisations' updated business models, so they could continue to support victims under Covid-19 restrictions.

When we reflect back, we can see that the Covid outbreak meant that criminal justice partners needed to quickly implement new ways of working, such as Video Enabled Justice, solicitors advising clients through Skype, and new triage processes to allow interpreters or appropriate adults to safely visit custody suites. The urgent need to simplify and speed up CJS processes during lockdown offers much for us to learn from in the months ahead.

Victims Services: Services commissioned and funded by OPCC grants were dramatically affected by the lockdown, yet all continued to support victims remotely rather than by face to face contact. Victim Support West Yorkshire continued to provide core services to victims by diverting calls to staff working at home, and also relying on live-chat, email and video calls. Similarly, restorative justice services developed 'virtual' meetings, which have been well received. Sometimes a victim is concerned at the prospect of being in the same room as the perpetrator, and a video meeting can help avoid this problem whilst allowing a victim to experience the closure which a restorative justice outcome can provide.



Throughout the Covid-19 lockdown, we have maintained close contact not only with the services we directly commission, but also with the wider group of services (for example those commissioned by local authorities), who help to support victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and so-called ‘hard to reach’ groups. Locally, I helped to co-ordinate networking between providers and commissioners, helping to maintain partnerships at a challenging time. At the national level, West Yorkshire was one of six PCC areas which contributed to regular discussions with the **Victims’ Commissioner, Dame Vera Baird QC**, on the impact of Covid-19 on victims at grassroots level, and to support her representations to Government on behalf of victims. Presence at this group has been really important in building relationships with national sector leads.

In general terms, there has been increased communication between national and local levels in the victims’ services field during the Covid-19 period. As a consequence, it has been possible to progress a number of issues, and one particular area of interest has been improved information about the work of national helplines and their relationship to local provision. In West Yorkshire, meeting the challenges of Covid has acted to strengthen relationships and facilitated shared learning within the victim support and third/voluntary sector. This is an outcome we can all be proud of as we move toward 2021.

Safeguarding - During early April, a virtual meeting with Domestic and Sexual Abuse (DSA) Board members and service providers was arranged to provide an opportunity for us to discuss the increased threat of domestic and sexual abuse during the lockdown period. Areas of discussion included changes to service provision and emerging need, as we discussed how best to work collectively under Covid.

Whilst Covid interrupted some scheduled meetings between the OPCC and safeguarding partners, the PCC’s Safeguarding Advisor maintained contact with local Safeguarding Partnerships and Boards, offering the support of the OPCC. The OPCC created a dedicated web page at this time, with advice on the safeguarding of young people, providing links to resources to assist both communities and professionals.

Engagement: In response to Covid, an Engagement and Communications Plan was developed to describe how we would continue to communicate with communities during the pandemic. In March, Covid information and support pages were added to the OPCC website, supported by a weekly Covid-19 Bulletin to offer information and guidance during the most intense period of the lockdown.

Aspects of our engagement work between March and July included:

- A residents survey; which was launched during the first week of June to gather public opinion on policing during lockdown and gain feedback on the challenges communities had faced.
- Regular meetings of the Third Sector Advisory Group; which continued to meet via video-call. Group updates were shared through the Covid-19 information page on our website.
- Increased engagement with young people through virtual meetings of my Youth Advisory Group (YAG); helping to gain a young person’s perspective on life under lockdown. We also devised a competition to design a new logo for YAG to be used to promote the group across West Yorkshire.

Community Outcome Meetings (COM)

An important aspect of my role is the need to hold the Chief Constable to account for the work of West Yorkshire Police. Our normal face-to-face COM meetings had to move online, and subsequently the first ‘virtual’ COM took place in June. Members of the public were invited to submit questions for both the PCC and Chief Constable to answer, and issues such as speeding, hate crime, and domestic abuse in relation to Covid-19 were discussed. I also sought to provide reassurance to our diverse communities following their concerns after the sad death of George Floyd in the USA, and the subsequent local, national and international impact.

At the time of writing, we cannot be certain what new challenges may arise from the Covid pandemic as the year unfolds. The OPCC and our partners will need to be prepared for uncertainty in the level of future government funding for public services, and for the possibility of increasing demand for services amongst communities experiencing months of lockdown conditions or outbreaks of infection. It will be a time when innovative thinking and closer joint-working will come to the fore; we hope to foster this work through the West Yorkshire-wide boards and forums which the OPCC supports.

Accountability and Engagement



The awards event for the 16th round of the Safer Communities Fund

My annual programme of engagement with community groups, delivery partners, and the police service helps me to keep up to date on the issues which really affect people across our districts.

Before the Covid restrictions came into place, I was able to make regular visits to Neighbourhood Police Teams and community groups to see their work for myself, and hear about the concerns of their communities. Visits to Safer Communities Fund projects in particular allow me to see some of the great work carried out at grassroots level to prevent crime, care for its victims, and safeguard the vulnerable.

The Safer Communities Fund

Currently in its seventh year, the Safer Communities Fund (SCF) continues to contribute to the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan by supporting the vital work carried out in our neighbourhoods by community, voluntary, and social purpose organisations. In total, the SCF has now given **£3.4 million to 758 groups across West Yorkshire**, using funds seized from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). During this year when we have been particularly focussed on safeguarding and diverting young people from violent crime, the SCF has supported 95 school and youth oriented projects to the value of £558k.

Between April 2019 and May 2020, there were three SCF grant rounds, including the Extraordinary Covid-19 Grant Round which was launched to safeguard vulnerable people in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic. In a normal year, I will usually make as many face-to-face visits to SCF projects as my diary will allow, but in the era of Covid, I have had to take my first 'video-call visits' to show my support. Importantly, this contact allows me to keep track of how projects are running, and help me to understand more about who grant recipients are helping.

Using video conferencing to maintain engagement work during April and May's lockdown.

1 Retweeted

West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner  @We... - Jun 15

Mark caught up with Paul from @huddsmission today about their work to support local people including some who live with drug and alcohol dependencies in #Huddersfield. The organisation are continuing to support over 125 individuals via telephone support



Holding the Chief Constable to Account

As Police and Crime Commissioner I have the responsibility to hold the Chief Constable to account for West Yorkshire Police's performance in delivering the outcomes of my Police and Crime Plan. We achieve this through two key forums; Delivery Quarterly and our Community Outcome Meetings.

Delivery Quarterly meetings cover any aspect of police service performance, with questions put to the Chief Constable after our assessment of the latest crime and offending data. During this year I have used these sessions to discuss topics such as children missing from home, non-engaging victims of domestic abuse, use of NHS hospital admissions data to help understand knife/sharp object offences, rates of child sexual abuse, rates of 'positive' outcomes for reported offences, and steps to help improve victim satisfaction. Other topics addressed have included:

- The relatively high rate of 'cracked' trials at courts – this issue was later discussed at our LCJB meetings.
- The proportion of officers in frontline roles – we asked the Chief Constable to assess how WYP were placed against other similar forces.
- Following a visit to a Leeds custody centre, I asked the Chief Constable to review waiting times for detainees at busy custody centres, and their efficient transportation to the nearest centre.
- On missing children, I sought assurance from the Chief Constable that WYP had strong relationships with third sector organisations who provide 'return to home' interviews to help identify the factors behind a missing incident.

This forum also provides me with the opportunity to track WYP's progress in implementing the best practice recommendations outlined in HMICFRS inspection reports. In this year's sessions I have asked the Chief Constable to update us on the PEEL inspections' recommendation around building capacity in investigations, and the use of search and entry in cases of harassment and stalking.

My regular Community Outcome Meetings (COM) also require the Chief Constable and senior police officers to answer questions about policing and community safety priorities which are important to the communities of West Yorkshire. COM reports, meeting notes, and video footage can be found on our website under the 'Our Business' section. Issues discussed at COM during the past year have included serious violent crime, counter terrorism, safeguarding, mental health, use of force, neighbourhood policing, and road safety. At the March 2020 meeting, issues I raised with WYP representatives included:

Counter Terrorism – I sought reassurance on the ongoing work to safeguard those vulnerable to radicalisation.

Serious Violence – I asked about the embedding of 'liaison and diversion' services for young people coming into contact with the police.

Road Safety - We discussed the work to build an online portal for the submission of dash-cam footage of dangerous drivers.

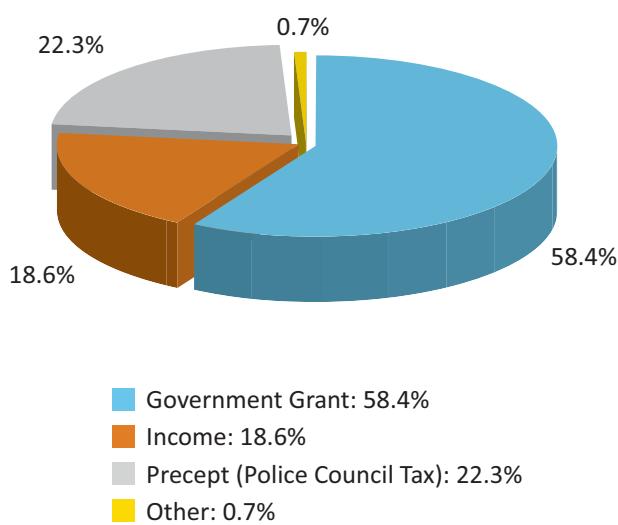
Hate Crime – I requested a report from WYP to help understand the nature of hate crime in our area, and seek assurance that appropriate action was being taken.

Police Service Funding and Officer Recruitment

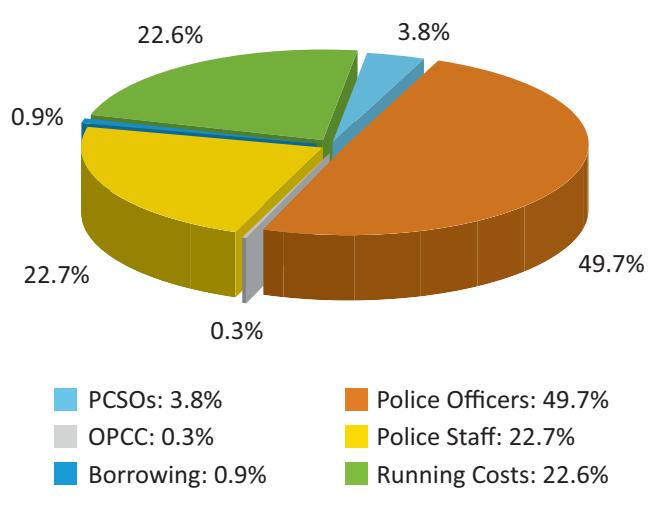
My budget for 2019/20 continued to fund my commitment to support frontline policing in West Yorkshire, providing resources for a further 264 police officers and specialist staff, with Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) numbers maintained over the year at 603. This investment brought increased resources to district and neighbourhood policing, as well as boosting specialist posts in cyber-crime and digital investigations.

The budget for policing in West Yorkshire in 2019/20 was £445.5 million; a breakdown of expenditure is shown below:

2019/20: Where the money came from...



and how it was spent



Following almost ten years of cuts to our policing budget, for 2019/20 we again had to ask West Yorkshire residents to contribute at a higher level through their annual Council Tax. After announcing new flexibilities to the setting of local police precept levels in December 2018, the Government expected PCCs to raise their Council Tax precept by the maximum amount. As a consequence, with the support of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel and 72% of residents who replied to my public consultation, I raised the police element of council tax by £24 on a Band D property. Approximately 61% of households in West Yorkshire are in Bands A and B, which corresponded to 31p extra per week for Band 'A' and 36p per week for Band 'B'. Despite the increase, the West Yorkshire precept remained the third lowest in England and Wales.

During the year, the Government made a bold commitment to recruit an extra 20,000 police officers nationwide over three years. In early 2020, details of the new funding settlement for policing were announced, with the expectation that West Yorkshire will receive funding to recruit a further 256 officers by March 2021. Whilst any investment in policing in West Yorkshire is welcome, we have to acknowledge that it will be three to four years before we feel the full benefit of this recruitment at the frontline, given the introduction of the Police Education Qualification Framework (PEQF) from 2020, which requires new recruits to spend much longer in training and educational settings.

OPCC Financial Statement

A full record of the budget and accounts for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire is available at our website at:

<https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/our-business/finance.aspx>

OPCC Commissioning Strategy

To achieve the priorities and outcomes of the Police and Crime Plan, I commission a number of different providers to deliver services which benefit the communities of West Yorkshire by reducing crime and helping victims recover. Our Commissioning Strategy sets out the principles we use to ensure that all commissioning decisions are undertaken openly and transparently, and are informed and supported by evidence. All our decisions are published on our website at www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/our-business/making-decisions

During this year, the OPCC have developed a ‘commissioning toolkit’ to promote good practice in commissioning, and its principles were applied for the new West Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme. A market engagement event, hosted by the OPCC in January, was an important precursor to the tender process, with 30 professionals from 23 different organisations helping to inform and shape the service’s requirements. A full list of the OPCC’s commissioned services can be found on my website.

Police and Crime Plan Performance Monitoring

Progress in the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan’s outcomes is evaluated through 21 performance indicators. Four times per year we produce a full assessment document of these measures (our ‘Delivery Quarterly’ report), combined with further details on recent work of the OPCC, West Yorkshire Police, and our partners. Delivery Quarterly can be found on my website in the ‘Holding the Chief Constable to Account’ section.

At the close of 2019/20, nine of the indicators were showing improved performance, ten recorded no change, and two were showing declining performance. Performance headlines from the year include:

- Recorded crime in West Yorkshire decreased by 2.8% in the 12 months to March 2020; the first recorded fall since October 2014. Some crime types have seen larger reductions, with Burglary reducing by 17.4%, Vehicle Crime reducing by 10.4%, Robbery reducing by 15.0% and Serious Violent Crime reducing by 6.1%.
- Residents’ confidence in policing improved over the year. In the twelve months to March 2020, 41.2% of respondents to my Your Views survey said they felt the police did a ‘good or excellent’ job in their area. In total, just over 80% of respondents describe the police’s work as ‘excellent, good, or fair’. There has been a 2.6 percentage point improvement in the good/excellent score since March 2019, and Q4’s good/excellent response was the highest figure recorded during the past two years.
- 8,108 people were reported missing in the 12 months to March 2020; children represent 45% of this figure. Missing person occurrences for the year end show a 16% reduction during 2019/20 against last year. This equates to 3,042 fewer missing person occurrences over the past year and 5,800 fewer than two years ago. This trend reflects strong work between the police and partners to support those people who go missing repeatedly.
- The ineffective trial rate at Magistrates’ Courts has remained close to the target of 15% of cases during the past 12 months; the average time taken for cases to be brought to resolution has fallen slightly and now stands at 43.6 days. However, the current published data only runs to September 2019, and we can expect much disruption to this second figure once the data catches up with the period impacted by Covid.
- Overall satisfaction levels with WYP’s service to victims has improved slightly over the past 12 months, increasing by 1.5 percentage points to 74.9% of victims satisfied at March 2020. Following the resolution of an incident, victims are contacted by WYP and asked to comment on services they have received from the police. However, victims’ overall satisfaction with the ‘outcome’ of a reported crime is lower; 57.6% of victims said they were satisfied with outcome of their case last year, which is an improvement on the 54.1% recorded in the year to March 2019.
- By March 2020, 6.1% of West Yorkshire Police officers were from an ethnic minority group, up from 5.2% five years earlier. Currently 11.1% of WYP’s Special Constables are from ethnic minority groups. There has been a concerted effort to increase the diversity of the police workforce over this period, but more progress is still needed. This work will continue throughout the current waves of WYP recruitment.





Office of the
**Police & Crime
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West Yorkshire