

PCC Newsletter – October 2020

A message from Mark – Hello everyone, I hope you are all managing to keep safe and well.

It's definitely still a challenging time for us all and things have moved on again significantly in West Yorkshire even since I last issued a newsletter at the start of September.

As you'll no doubt be aware further Government restrictions have been introduced across the country as well as in Leeds specifically in recent days in line with most other parts of West Yorkshire, and with Wakefield also now declared as an area of concern in terms of COVID-19 infection rates.

It's clear that we must redouble our efforts across West Yorkshire to manage and prevent further exponential spread of coronavirus infections and help avert the damaging impacts it can have upon both our health and our economy.

I would urge everyone to keep apprised of the latest local and [Government guidelines](#), as and when they are updated and to understand the critical role that each of us can play in minimising the costs to our families, friends and wider communities.

It is crucial that we work together to stem the tide, using our common sense and allowing the police and other emergency services to focus on the issues of greatest risk and criticality as they become more stretched in helping to protect and support our communities.

This latest issue of the newsletter covers some great pieces of recent work including securing further funding for our dedicated Neighbourhood Watch groups, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) continuing to make progress, the winner of my youth writing competition being announced, and much more. That is in addition to a host of other activity such as running my latest Community Outcomes Meeting in holding the Chief Constable to account, a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel, and a progress visit to the new Sexual



Assault Referral Centre (SARC) that was recently opened and is a facility that will go from strength to strength in supporting vulnerable victims.

It was National Police Memorial Day on 27th September, a day to remember all those fallen officers and to remind ourselves of everything they represent. It was a very moving ceremony which could be viewed online which I have had the privilege of attending in past years.

The day was even more poignant following the shocking and extremely sad news of Sgt Matiu Ratana's death while on duty, my thoughts continue to be with his family, friends and colleagues and the wider police service here in West Yorkshire and throughout the UK.

On a daily basis, our frontline officers and staff find themselves face to face with the dangers and challenges associated with modern day policing.

They do so with one purpose, to keep the people of West Yorkshire safe and feeling safe and are often the last line of defence for the most vulnerable in our society, they deserve our respect, and thanks.

Looking forward, October is Black History Month and Hate Crime Awareness Week starts on 10th October. I will be supporting both initiatives and I would urge everyone to get involved where you can, details will be added to my social media accounts in due course.

Best wishes and stay safe

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

Youth Advisory Group meeting open for any young people to join

Do you know young people who would like to speak to me about crime, policing and community safety in West Yorkshire?

They can join me for a skype meeting with my Youth Advisory Group (YAG) this Saturday 3rd October at 11:00 to ask their questions directly to me.

To register for the event email consultation@Westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

To find out more about the YAG including how you can join visit <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/youth-advisory-group>

Neighbourhood Watch recognised with funding boost



Neighbourhood Watch groups (NHW) across the county are to receive a funding boost after I agreed a £10,000 support package with West Yorkshire Police, using money from my Community Safety Fund reserve set aside to help support such activity.

It's really important to me that we recognise the significant contribution to community safety by Neighbourhood Watch groups, and I am very pleased to be able to distribute this extra funding during these difficult times.

To find out more about Neighbourhood Watch, including how to join or start a scheme visit <https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice/our-services/crime-prevention/neighbourhood-watch>

Thought provoking piece wins youth writing competition



A thought provoking reverse poem won my youth writing competition.

The piece, “Make Sure To Look All Ways” was written by 16 year old Maya Rajab from Huddersfield (and can be read in full here <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/thought-provoking-piece-wins-pccs-youth-writing-competition>).

It centres around two different points of view on the police, telling one story when read from the top down and another when read from the bottom up.

Congratulations to Maya and a big thank you to everyone that took the time to enter the competition, we had some truly fantastic pieces and I am looking forward to sharing more of them.

West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit 'In Focus'



**West Yorkshire
Violence Reduction Unit**
Tackling Violence Together

In 2019 the Home Office announced that 18 Police and Crime Commissioners in areas affected by violent crime would share £35 million to establish Violence Reduction Units (VRUs), with a further £35 million provided for 2020/21.

The units provide a multi-agency public health approach – bringing different organisations together – including police, local government, health, education, community leaders and other key partners to understand the root causes of serious violence and provide a co-ordinated strategic response to help drive it down.

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC), with Home Office support, has published 'VRUs In Focus' demonstrating how VRUs are progressing and their achievements to date despite the challenges of COVID-19. Pages 18 and 19 demonstrate the work taking place in West Yorkshire.

You can read it here <https://www.apccs.police.uk/media/5556/vrus-in-focus-final.pdf>

Safer Communities Fund open for applications



The latest grant round of my Safer Communities Fund (SCF) is still open for applications.

A pot of £140,000 is available for voluntary, community groups, charities and partner organisations to bid for grants of up to £6000 to help keep their communities safe and feeling safe.

The latest round of the fund welcomes projects targeting any of the priorities in the [Police and Crime Plan](#) but there is a specific focus on supporting BAME

(Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) communities and tackling hate crime, including supporting victims/repeat victims.

The fund closes for applications at 12 noon (mid-day) on Friday 16th October 2020.

To find out more about the fund and to apply, visit

<https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pccs-ps140000-safer-communities-fund-opens-applications>

Understanding and responding to youth criminality – video toolkit



As part of the Early Intervention Youth Fund (EIYF) West Yorkshire Police have created a video toolkit to look at the current issues young people in our community may experience or have experienced around criminality.

Concerns such as involvement in drugs, drug addiction and violence are discussed in a real life based format.

The rationale behind creating the toolkit is to generate discussion between adults and young people and it is recommended to view the videos in settings such as schools via a classroom session or youth or simply at home as a parent/child activity.

Generating discussion between young people and adults around these issues is paramount. It can help with understanding what truly 'pulls' young people

into criminality. It is through this understanding where further discussions around solutions to address these 'pull' factors can be had too.

Should you wish to deliver each video session you can follow the lesson plan available along with the activity, visit

<https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice/drugs/youth-criminality-video-toolkit>

NHS and Government Coronavirus Guidance



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>

A full list of all 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

Our dedicated coronavirus page on our website contains further support information, volunteering opportunities, links to help and support and much more. Recent updates include funding opportunities from the government for foodbanks and domestic abuse charities, advice on wearing and making

your own facemask as well as bereavement support. You can view it here <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Our latest statements

See links to recent statements below.

- **PCC Update: Leeds District COVID-19 Restrictions** (released 25th September) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pcc-update-leeds-district-covid-19-restrictions>
- **Neighbourhood Watch recognised with funding boost** (released 24th September) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/neighbourhood-watch-recognised-with-funding-boost>
- **PCC update on the latest Covid-19 guidance** (released 23rd September) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/pcc-update-latest-covid-19-guidance>
- **Response to Modern Day Slavery Annual Report 2019-20** (released 18th September) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/response-modern-day-slavery-annual-report-2019-20>
- **West Yorkshire's PCC supports The Children's Society #LookCloser Campaign** (released 15th September) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/west-yorkshires-pcc-supports-childrens-society-lookcloser-campaign>
- **Thought provoking piece wins PCC's youth writing competition** (released 10th September) - <https://www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/news-events/news/thought-provoking-piece-wins-pccs-youth-writing-competition>

Contacting the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Along with the office I am currently working remotely. 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.

Website: www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk
Twitter: www.twitter.com/WestYorksOPCC
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WestYorksOPCC
