

Mark Burns-Williamson

Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire



Annual Report 2018 / 19

Contents

Introduction from the Police & Crime Commissioner	1
Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour	2
Safeguarding Vulnerable People	7
Making Criminal Justice Work for Communities	12
Supporting Victims and Witnesses	16
Accountability and Engagement	21
Police and Crime Plan - Performance Indicators	25
OPCC Financial Statement	28



Introduction



Welcome to my 2018-19 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 some notable landmarks from the past twelve months, a period which seems to have been dominated by a single theme: rising concerns nationwide about serious violence in communities.

During the year important work has been carried out to address the use of weapons and other forms of violence, both at the strategic partnership level (where we are working to attract government funding, for example to establish a Violence Reduction Unit), and at neighbourhood level, where we are supporting the vital early intervention work which can divert young people away from criminal behaviour. At community level, I have been pleased to support many valuable projects through my Safer Communities Fund, which has backed third

sector and social purpose groups who are working in communities vulnerable to gangs and the threat of serious violence.

The year has also seen us refresh and relaunch my Police and Crime Plan 2016-21, which has a renewed focus on tackling violent crime, supporting vulnerable people living in our communities, and guarding the wellbeing of our police officers, staff and volunteers. We have also published our first Reducing Reoffending Strategy with our West Yorkshire partners. This collective vision for support for offenders will become a particularly important document during the forthcoming changes to probation services following the Government's decision to cancel CRC's contracts with the Ministry of Justice.

During this year I have experienced two very different aspects of the work of a Police and Crime Commissioner. Firstly meeting with and listening to community members' concerns across West Yorkshire through my appointments with neighbourhood and third sector groups, and by influencing and debating change in Westminster through my role as Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC). My tenure as Chair concluded in the summer, and when I look back, I hope I am able to say that I have communicated on a national platform the achievements we have made, and the challenges we continue to face, in our work to keep West Yorkshire safe and feeling safe.

Finally, in March our Chief Constable, Dee Collins, chose to retire after 30 years' service to policing in West Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and nationally. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dee for her dedication, hard work, and leadership during her time in West Yorkshire. She has guided our police service through challenging times of funding austerity, and leaves West Yorkshire Police in a strong position for her successor to take forward.

This Annual Report is a snapshot of the wide-ranging work which myself and my colleagues at the OPCC have conducted during the last 12 months. Across its pages you will find details of the work we are doing to combat modern day slavery, violent crime, abuses of the vulnerable, and domestic violence, as well as our efforts to protect victims of crime, and support the many organisations and charities working in West Yorkshire to reduce criminality.

If you would like to learn more about this work in detail, please visit our website at www.westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk

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

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

Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour



At Dewsbury Minster with successful bidders to the serious violence themed grant round of the Safer Communities Fund.

During the past year, **serious violence** (including knife crime) became a topic of national debate after a series of disturbing attacks. Sadly this is a pattern which has continued on into 2019. Although most of these incidents are occurring outside West Yorkshire, all areas of the country have been touched by this trend, and as a consequence, we have all become aware of the threat serious violence and weapons pose to our communities.

The Home Office launched their **Serious Violence Strategy** in April 2018, which focussed on addressing the root causes of weapon use and violent crime. This was followed by the allocation of £22M of government funding to the Early Intervention Youth Fund to support community projects which could help steer young people away from violent crime. My office helped to co-ordinate a Together West Yorkshire partnership bid to this fund, which successfully attracted £1.1M of funding for projects in the county. Projects include:

- A youth intervention project in Bradford to identify and support young people who are vulnerable to exploitation, or who have associations with young people linked to organised crime groups or urban street gangs;
- In Calderdale, employment of keyworkers to support children who are identified as at risk of becoming involved in violent crime, with particular focus on support for those transitioning from primary to secondary school;
- The Wakefield Step-Up to Positive Activity project, which helps young people aged 11 to 17 who are involved in, or at the risk of being involved in serious crime;
- Funding support for Kirklees' Multi-Agency Gang Strategy, and;
- The community co-production of a youth engagement strategy for Leeds.

Subsequently a further £4M of 'surge funding' has been allocated by the Home Office to strengthen the law enforcement response to serious violence in West Yorkshire, and we are currently working with our partners to co-ordinate a complementary bid for £3M of funding towards a Violence Reduction Unit in the county.



Speaking at a regional partnership event in Leeds looking at action against serious violence.

It will take sustained early intervention and prevention work like this to effectively tackle knife and violent crime in the long term. West Yorkshire Police have already engaged with early intervention work during the past year with the St. Giles Trust's gang mentor project. This used former gang members to divert young people on the fringes of urban street gangs away from a life of offending. I have also been pleased to provide funding for the **GANGS project ('Get Away and Get Safe')**, which inspired over 2,000 10-11 year-old West Yorkshire school children to reject gangs and organised crime in areas of the county identified as having high crime and school exclusion rates.

Many individuals who are later at risk of committing serious offences start-out as vulnerable individuals who are groomed or coerced into gang activity. These issues were addressed at our **Third Sector partnership conference in November**. Dozens of charitable organisations and groups came together in Leeds to discuss the important role they each play in the effort to keep West Yorkshire safe. Themes which were discussed on the day included drugs and alcohol, mental health, adverse childhood experiences (ACE), multiple and complex needs, as well as domestic and sexual abuse. The continuing funding challenges across the public sector means a unified approach is crucial to protect those Third Sector services that deliver the best outcomes for communities.

In May my office launched a special grant round of the **Safer Communities Fund** themed on tackling all forms of serious violent crime. 112 bids were made by local community groups, and 49 successful projects shared over £200k. Earlier grant rounds in 2018 had already provided nearly £30,000 to local community initiatives to tackle violence in West Yorkshire. Recipients included the Leeds Street Team, Street Doctors, Global Diversity Positive Action (Kirklees), and West Yorkshire Police's Knife Crime Prevention programme.

The year closed with my attendance at a **serious youth violence summit** at Downing Street, bringing together over 100 experts to discuss the multi-agency response to violent crime, including the introduction of a 'public health duty' to ensure public services work together to tackle the issue. This type of 'whole system approach' is the way forward, and local leaders and myself have a key role to play in co-ordinating partnership activity to make it happen.

'County Lines' drug trafficking came to prominence during the year as the label to describe criminal networks involved in bringing drugs into areas using dedicated mobile phone lines. In a sense the label distracts us from the most damaging aspect of this offending; the criminal exploitation of children.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is defined as the exploitation of children and young people aged under 18 years by adult criminals. Criminally exploited children can find themselves sent to different locations in the country to be used as transporters of cash, weapons, or drugs, or are coerced into carrying out other criminal activities. The patterns of grooming behaviour employed by gangs to recruit young people can be similar to those associated with child sexual exploitation.

CCE needs to be viewed in the context of the broader vulnerabilities a child may experience within their family or community, which could include familial violence, childhood trauma, peer-to-peer abuse, sexual exploitation, gang violence, or going missing from home. The inequality of power between the criminal adult and the child means that a child's subsequent links to a gang are rarely a 'lifestyle choice'.

In November, officers trained in the latest police tactics to disrupt criminals and counter terrorism were deployed across Leeds to trial **Project Servator** – a programme of highly visible police patrols supported by firearms officers and police dogs and horses. Project Servator's objective has been to disrupt criminals while at the same time providing reassurance to the public. Part of the action has been to spot the signs that a person may be carrying out 'hostile reconnaissance' prior to committing a criminal act.



For the public, the project's central message is that if you see something suspicious which doesn't look or feel right, then get in touch. Officers spoke with shoppers, retailers and businesses to encourage them to act as the police's eyes and ears, and during the trial, officers made nine arrests for offences from burglary to drug possession, as well as recovering a number of weapons.

The **Refreshed Police and Crime Plan** (which was published in September 2018) places a more prominent focus on tackling violent crime, as well as further encouraging and supporting our communities to report offences (particularly those that involve people who may be vulnerable). The refreshed Plan also highlights the importance of protecting the wellbeing of our police officers, staff and volunteers. A great deal of important work has been delivered in partnership following the publishing of my Police and Crime Plan 2016-21, and the refreshed edition promises to maintain that momentum. It remains a very challenging time for policing, but the Plan reflects our collective commitment to make a difference in our communities.

April 2018 saw the commencement of new Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) arrangements, with officers from our 21 West Yorkshire NPT areas reaffirming their commitment to be a visible and accessible service to their local communities. Roadshow events were held in each district to promote how communities can best contact their local police teams, and I allocated a further £30k of funding to the police to help support this round of community engagement.



With members of Wakefield's Neighbourhood Police Team at the Normanton HQ.

Working with West Yorkshire Police I have continued to invest in neighbourhood policing by funding an extra 143 police officers for NPTs across the county in 2018/19. Working with partners, I have also secured the funding to sustain more than 600 PCSOs.

In October, I visited the **Castleford NPT** to see how a local policing initiative was making a difference to vulnerable people's lives. The NPT received a Safer Communities Fund grant toward 'Street Safe' – a project which gives crime prevention packs and advice to homeless people, vulnerable adults and the elderly. The packs are tailor-made for the individual but can contain a variety of resources, such as wrist alarms, blankets, high visibility bags, or thermal clothing. Neighbourhood Policing Teams, such as Castleford's exist to tackle crime and community safety issues at local level - this innovative project being a case in point.

During the year I have worked closely with West Yorkshire MP Holly Lynch, the Tri-Service Collaboration Board (Fire and Rescue, Ambulance, and Police services), and the West Yorkshire Police Federation to progress the **Assaults on Emergency Services Bill**. The Bill gained Royal Assent in September, sending out a strong message that we will stand-up to protect those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety. I had previously written to West Yorkshire MPs and the Home Secretary to ask that they show their full support for this legislation, which means tougher sentences for those who assault emergency workers, including NHS workers and prison officers.

Nationwide, a relatively high volume of people report that they have experienced fraud each year, with the internet and mobile technology now increasing the opportunity for sophisticated criminal groups to exploit vulnerable people. Yet fraud can seem an invisible crime to those who are not its victims. I have marked my commitment to tackling the issue through the co-funding of the West Yorkshire Financial Exploitation and Abuse Team (WYFEAT), and in June I also lent my support to **National Trading Standards' SCAMBassador campaign**.

In terms of fighting fraudsters, West Yorkshire Police have recently developed their support to local businesses and companies by establishing a **Business Crime Prevention Group** through their Economic Crime Unit (ECU). In the past year, the ECU's Financial Investigation Unit has also worked with the regional North East Asset Recovery Team to order criminals to repay over £21M of assets identified as being the proceeds of crime. This has included money gained fraudulently, nearly £6M of which was returned to fraud victims.

Working Together

Road Safety

Grants from my Safer Communities Fund have given a boost to road safety in Leeds and Kirklees. Leeds City Council [Highways and Transportation] received £5,000 for their Road Safety Oscars project, while The Polish Saturday School in Huddersfield received £2,500 for a special event to increase pupils' awareness of road safety around their building. Improving road safety is often cited as one of the key priorities for communities (as recorded in our quarterly Your Views survey), and through both of these projects, we are raising awareness of key safety and prevention messages amongst the important target group of young people.

Furthermore, I am working with partners in the West Yorkshire Safer Roads Executive to address wider road safety issues and concerns, for example the proposal by the Ministry of Justice to end their grant funding of Brake, the national road safety charity based in Huddersfield.

New Team to Tackle Wildlife and Rural Crime in Leeds District

A new policing team has been launched in Leeds to tackle wildlife and rural crime. The Leeds District Wildlife and Rural Crime Team will work to address and raise awareness of issues including animal cruelty and poaching. It will also focus on crimes such as burglary and theft of farm machinery that affect rural and farming communities. The team will target organised offenders involved in rural crime, take the lead on investigations of wildlife crimes, and provide crime prevention advice to prevent and deter offences. The officers will work closely in partnership with key agencies including the RSPCA, and National Farmers' Union and neighbouring police forces.

Violent Crime

I have allocated almost £150k of funding to an important research project being co-ordinated by Huddersfield University and West Yorkshire Youth Offending Teams to explore the role that social media is playing as a potential trigger for youth violence.

Access to social media through smartphones now allows unprecedented opportunities for young people to taunt and provoke each other. Content can be uploaded and shared to a wide audience easily, encouraging the opportunity for tit-for-tat violence and other offending such as criminal damage, theft, or harassment.

The expectation is that this project will raise awareness amongst criminal justice practitioners of the opportunities cyberspace can provide for youth offending, and help to identify interventions which could limit the impact of problematic social media use.

Blue Light Champions

Blue Light Champions are volunteers supporting West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, West Yorkshire Police, and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. The project's focus is to use volunteers' skills to deliver youth engagement and education activities and so develop positive relationships with children and young people. The project also hopes to raise awareness of key issues via campaigns and educational workshops, and prevent young people from being drawn into crime and anti-social behaviour. Recruitment rounds for volunteers were held during 2018.

Safeguarding Vulnerable People



Opening the Modern Slavery and Homelessness partnership conference at the University of Huddersfield.

The links between **Homelessness and Modern Day Slavery** were the focus of a high profile conference at the University of Huddersfield in October. This OPCC event was inspired by a 2017 report from charity 'The Passage', which highlighted modern day slavery's connections with homelessness. We welcomed 106 delegates to the event from sectors including law enforcement, local authorities, health services, and the Third Sector, as well as members of the West Yorkshire Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network. The event saw partners take real steps forward in improving their understanding of the safeguards for people vulnerable to being exploited. Delegates also identified that strong partnerships in West Yorkshire could be further improved by better information sharing, further training for practitioners, and the development of specific health and counselling services for homeless people, who may have experienced sexual, mental, or physical abuse.

I was able to address some of these recommendations when I joined forces with modern slavery charity Hope for Justice and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) to provide two **training events for 'first responders'** – in this case frontline social workers from across the Yorkshire and Humber region. First Responders are in a key position to refer potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking for government funded support through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The NRM is the national framework for identifying victims of modern-day slavery and ensuring they receive the necessary support to rebuild their lives.

With funding from the Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme (MSPTP), the events provided fifty social workers from across the region with the skills to identify and respond to victims. It is essential that frontline social care workers carrying out their day to day duties can spot the signs and indicators of modern slavery to increase our ability to tackle this often hidden crime.

The police service's work to lead on safeguarding is overseen by the West Yorkshire Police Safeguarding Governance Unit (SGU). During the year they have been working to introduce **Public Protection Notices (PPN)**. PPNs have been developed to enable officers to submit concerns about vulnerable children or adults to partner agencies via their handheld devices. Flagging vulnerable people in this way will quickly identify individuals who may currently be unknown to service providers and ensure that support is made available to those who could be at risk.

Supporting vulnerable children and adults requires collaboration between a range of public partners, and the key forum to discuss individual cases is often a MARAC conference (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference). To improve coverage of these meetings, WYP have recruited seven additional case conference officers who have been trained during the course of the year.

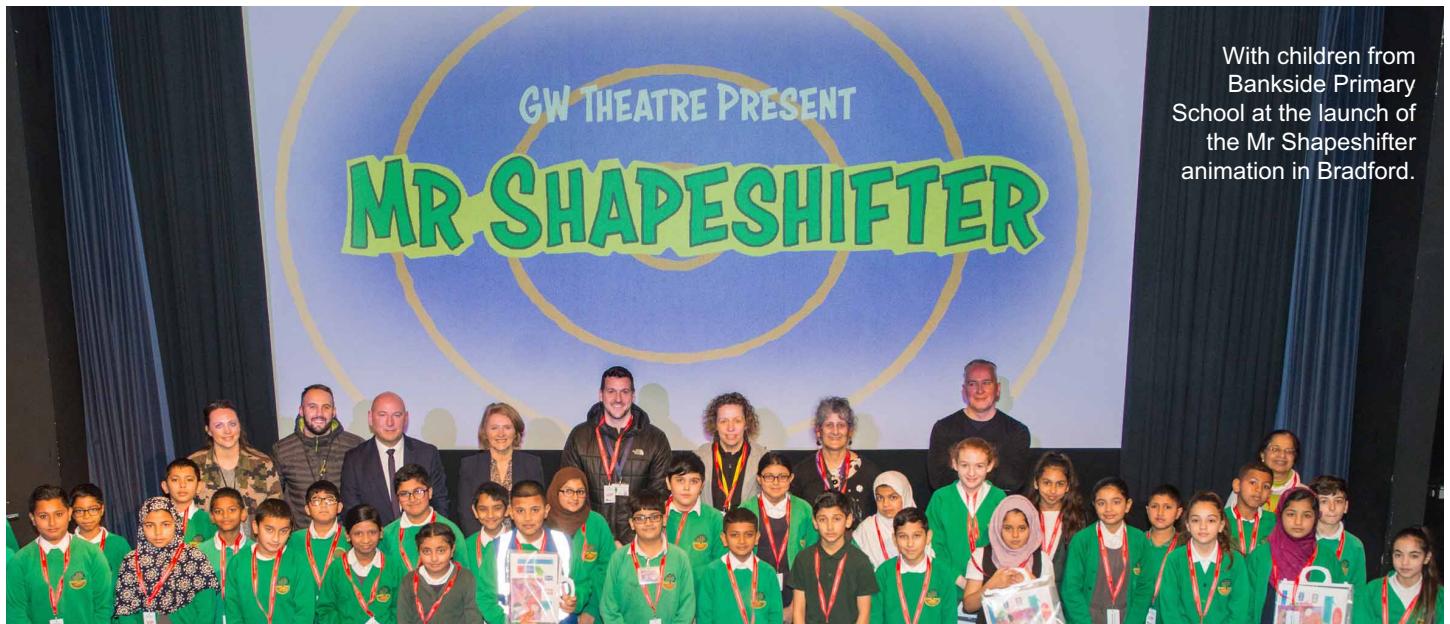
Through **Operation Encompass**, significant progress has been made in delivering improved safeguarding services for children who are witness to domestic abuse in the home. The initiative works by police safeguarding officers notifying a school when a child between the ages of four and eighteen has been directly involved in, or witness to a domestic violence incident. Notifications are received prior to the start of the school day. This protocol has now been rolled-out across all five districts during 2018/19.

The positive reduction in the number of adults and children who go missing is also being sustained and a **missing person operational toolkit** has been produced by the SGU to help provide updated investigation and risk assessment guidance when dealing with missing person incidents.

Domestic abuse, mental health, forced marriage, and protecting children were some of the topics covered as part of the **2018 West Yorkshire Safeguarding Week**. The event ran from 25th June to 1st July, with local safeguarding boards and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across the region joining forces with the OPCC and West Yorkshire Police to hold workshops and events aimed at informing the public and professionals about how best to protect vulnerable people across the region. Specific activity included a programme of events and workshops for professionals and the wider public in Calderdale. This included a stall at Brighouse Gala and Open Days at the Better Lives shop in Halifax on the safeguarding theme of 'speak out about the unspeakable'. In Bradford, a public event was held at Manningham Mills Community Centre to consult on the Local Safeguarding Adults Board's new three year plan, and in Wakefield, building on the success of last year's programme, two multi-agency and voluntary sector public engagement events were held in Wakefield and Castleford town centres. Safeguarding remains 'everyone's business' and Safeguarding Week once again allowed us to promote how we can all help to protect the vulnerable members of our communities.

In January, I joined the Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, at the National Science and Media Museum for the premiere of an innovative animation called **Mister Shapeshifter**. Mr Shapeshifter has been specifically designed to safeguard children in West Yorkshire from exploitation and abuse. It uses a 'modern fairy tale' to depict how some adults can abuse children's trust and highlights ways in which children can protect themselves against risk in real life and online.

I have previously provided financial support to Mister Shapeshifter theatre performances which have been produced by the GW Theatre Company and have toured schools in West Yorkshire and further afield. The performances' huge success has led to the development of the animation, produced in collaboration with BAFTA award winning Fettle Animation in Marsden. The resource is designed to reach as wide an audience as possible and is available online for anyone to use, supported by free training materials and activities for teachers, parents and community groups.



With children from Bankside Primary School at the launch of the Mr Shapeshifter animation in Bradford.

I provided a £36,000 grant as part of the **West Yorkshire Child Sexual Exploitation Innovation Project** to help make this initiative a reality, and during the year ahead, I will see that Mr. Shapeshifter is promoted and developed to reach minority groups and communities.

During 2018/19, the OPCC's Safeguarding Advisor, Stuart Piper, has helped to co-ordinate a review of the West Yorkshire Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy Group. This OPCC supported group works to bring together police and safeguarding partners from all five West Yorkshire districts to develop collaborative actions and share best practice in child safeguarding.

The group has relaunched as the **West Yorkshire Children's Risk and Vulnerability Strategic Group**, with this realignment reflecting the current understanding of the linked vulnerabilities and complexities of 'contextual safeguarding'. Contextual Safeguarding recognises that the different relationships that young people form away from their family - in their neighbourhoods, with peers in school or online – all pose risks which call for different safeguarding approaches.

I have funded the appointment of an experienced independent Chair to the group, and an early outcome has been the development of a new contextual safeguarding strategy and action plan.

2018/19 has seen us establish a **West Yorkshire Safeguarding Data Group** to collate and analyse data from the police and partners to identify trends in safeguarding and emerging areas of risk and vulnerability. The Group is being led by the OPCC's Senior Safeguarding Analyst, who is helping partners to explore better ways of sharing and analysing data. Assessing multi-agency data alongside police information is essential in order to provide as complete a picture as possible of the issues affecting those children who are most vulnerable.

The group's work goes beyond the analysis of individual cases (which are discussed under local area MASH arrangements), and explores broader contextual safeguarding using data which can identify new patterns of vulnerability. The group can then also assess which interventions are proving most effective, and build the evidence base around specific areas of concern, for example children reported missing.

The group is currently made up of police performance analysts, intelligence analysts, and data officers from Local Safeguarding Children Boards and partnerships. Health and education service representatives are also expected to become involved in the near future.



Students attending a session of the Leeds 'Lives Not Knives' programme at the police's Carr Gate training facility.

In April last year, I supported West Yorkshire Police's new campaign to reach out to people looking at **indecent images of children online**. This was the first time that the police had publically looked to make contact with adults involved in the viewing of indecent images of children to encourage them to seek help.

Most of the people West Yorkshire Police arrest for downloading and sharing indecent images have not come to police attention before and are not who people may think of as 'a criminal'. During 2017, West Yorkshire Police arrested 149 adults on suspicion of possession of indecent images of children, and those arrested included four company directors, two solicitors, and four people working in the computer industry.

The campaign emphasised what an individual could lose by continuing to view these images, and communicated the important message that anyone convicted of viewing or distributing images – no matter who they are - will lose their anonymity and be required to sign the sex offenders register.

There is support available for perpetrators from a number of charities and not for profit organisations, including the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and the NSPCC. The number of people in West Yorkshire accessing support via the Lucy Faithfull Foundation has been increasing, with a 38% increase in people visiting their website or calling their confidential helpline between 2016 and 2017.

In each edition of my Annual Report, I highlight our important **safeguarding campaign work** in West Yorkshire, but it is worth noting that many of these campaigns go on to have an impact outside the county as other police forces adopt our artwork and media messaging for the foundation of their own campaigns. For example, Cleveland Police have adapted West Yorkshire's domestic abuse campaign, Essex Police and the Police Service of Northern Ireland have used our Herbert Protocol campaign, and Northumbria Police have promoted our child sexual exploitation Know the Signs campaign.

Working Together

Safer Communities Funding Supporting Safeguarding in West Yorkshire

Getaway Girls is a project based in Leeds which received a £4,800 grant from the Safer Communities Fund in September 2018. Getaway Girls empowers girls and young women aged 11 to 25 to be confident, have high aspirations, and to make their voices heard. The organisation offers a safe women only space in Harehills, Leeds, and for over 30 years has supported women who face challenges and vulnerabilities. The grant will support 'Vocal Girls'; an early intervention project targeting young women who are at risk of gang related harm. Through lyrics, performances, events and an art exhibition, participants will be able to raise awareness of the issues affecting women and girls in their community.

Huddersfield based charity **Shabang Inclusive Learning** are using money recovered from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act to help safeguard young people with Down's syndrome. Shabang received £4,600 for their project, The Up Club Extra, from my Safer Communities Fund.

The project is delivering a series of workshops which use role-play exercises to explore different situations and help pass on strategies for how to deal with them. These confidence boosting sessions are providing individuals with the techniques needed to deal with difficult situations that could potentially put a vulnerable person at risk.



Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE) Parent Liaison Officers

Fighting child sexual exploitation (CSE) and supporting its survivors are key priorities for my Police and Crime Plan. Through PACE, I am supporting Parent Liaison Officer posts in West Yorkshire with grants from my Partnership Executive Group Fund. The Liaison Officer role provides an independent source of support and contact for parents whose children are at risk of, or being sexually exploited by perpetrators external to the family. Liaison Officers are currently based in Calderdale, with a new officer starting in Kirklees in 2019, and plans for a further officer for Wakefield.

PACE is a national charity based in Leeds providing a link between statutory agencies and families in order to maximise the ability of all parties to safeguard children who could be at risk.

Calderdale's Healthy Relationships website

A repository of resources to promote emotional health and wellbeing in primary and secondary schools went online in June 2018. The Healthy Relationships website has been established with funding from the OPCC and developed by Calderdale Council. It provides an online resource library that all schools can access to assist with PHSE classes.

The free to download documents cover topics such as bullying, CSE, and online and sexually harmful behaviour. A menu of options guides users to materials suitable for different age groups, and local schools can score the resources for their effectiveness and make recommendations for new material to be added.

Making Criminal Justice Work for Communities



Meeting members of the Independent Custody Visitor scheme at the Elland Road Custody Suite.

A key strategic goal in our work to reduce crime in our neighbourhoods is the task of reducing reoffending. This calls on the co-ordination of partners' work, many of whom are linked through the West Yorkshire Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) which I have chaired since 2017. During 2018 our Reducing Reoffending Board developed a new **Reducing Reoffending Strategy**, which I launched in February. The strategy advocates a 'person centred approach' to reducing offending, which recognises that many offenders have fallen into criminal activity due to being vulnerable after being victimised, abused or exploited themselves.

Criminal justice partners, the third sector, service users and strategic leads are among those who have played a part in the creation of this document, which highlights the need for early identification of those at risk; on having the right pathways to support in place; and addressing the specific needs of women in the criminal justice system. This final strand of work has its own delivery stream and will become a further focus of activity in 2019/20.

The launch was preceded by a Reducing Reoffending Workshop event co-ordinated by the OPCC on behalf of partners. Issues discussed on the day included the quality of oversight provided by CRC providers; the need to co-ordinate the benefits, accommodation, and health care needs of prison leavers when no single organisation is seen as the lead; and the pressure to find suitable accommodation for prison leavers. This final point is particularly pertinent for West Yorkshire with HMP Leeds now reclassified as a resettlement prison.

The OPCC **Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum** continues to bring partners together on a quarterly basis. This group has achieved great work in recent times as we have built the right pathways for people entering the criminal justice system who are in mental health crisis. Moving forward, the group continues to look to address service gaps through closer collaboration between partners, addressing topics such as the development of voluntary pathways for people suffering mental health concerns beneath the Section 136 threshold, and the management and support of high-level service users who repeatedly come into contact with blue light services.

Liaison and Diversion services (L&D) have been running in West Yorkshire since 2014 when a pilot project was conducted in Wakefield. In 2018/19, I was pleased to be able to support NHS England as they commissioned West Yorkshire's first county-wide L&D service, with the winning bid awarded to Wakefield Council to provide a 7-days per week, all-ages service

Liaison and Diversion services identify people who have mental health concerns, a learning disability, substance misuse issues, or other social vulnerabilities, when they first come into contact with the criminal justice system as suspects, defendants, or offenders.

L&D services support people by referring them to appropriate health or social care services by diverting them away from the criminal justice system into a more appropriate setting. In West Yorkshire, the new L&D service aims to reduce the likelihood of people reaching a crisis-point and so lessen their chances of reoffending.

I spoke at the launch of a new not-for-profit legal service for victims of domestic abuse in November. I helped to fund the service provided by a Bradford based charity, **Staying Put**, through a £100,000 grant from my Partnership Executive Group (PEG) Fund. The PEG group represents key strategic partners in West Yorkshire, such as the police, the five local councils, public health and youth offending teams, prison and probation services, and the Third Sector.

Affordable Legal Services will offer advice to victims of domestic abuse who are not eligible for Legal Aid. Staying Put estimate that 25-30% of domestic abuse survivors are not eligible, and might not otherwise be able to afford legal support during difficult times. To find out more about the service visit Staying Put's website: www.stayingput.uk.net or call 0808 2800 999. The National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline also provides support 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247.

Following a successful pilot in Bradford, West Yorkshire Police is working with criminal justice partners to implement the **Domestic Abuse Best Practice Framework**. The LCJB recognise that building the right support systems for victims of domestic violence within the criminal justice service is vitally important. Delays in domestic violence cases reaching court can have a serious impact on victims, who can become disengaged from the process. Further, the burden on victims to recount sensitive information in court on multiple occasions can place them under severe pressure. To try to reduce these pressures and achieve better criminal justice outcomes we are exploring a programme where domestic abuse cases could be heard within a six week window. This is a challenging target for the criminal justice system, but LCJB partners are working to identify and alleviate the barriers to successfully achieving this goal.

Through our Reducing Reoffending work, we have used Home Office VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) funding to establish an IDVA / ISVA support service for women at **HMP New Hall**. Female offenders can often be the victims of crime (for example, of domestic or sexual violence), and are also more likely to have been imprisoned for offences linked to mental health issues or drug and/or alcohol misuse. The Home Office's Female Offender Strategy has been published this year, and sets out steps to see more women managed effectively in the community to avoid short custodial sentences. Finding alternative solutions for women involved in less serious offending is vital if we want to try to reduce inter-generational crime.

The use of **geo-tags** attached to offenders is a new development being trialled in West Yorkshire. Individuals can now be tagged as a condition of court bail, rather than being kept on remand. This not only reduces the demand on the prison service, but assists the suspect (who can, for example, remain in employment) and the victim (by identifying where and when a suspect may be in breach of a court order). The project (Electronic Location Monitoring) is a new option as criminal justice partners explore alternatives to short custodial sentences.

The establishment of **video links** to help vulnerable victims provide evidence to court has been an important project for partners. Calderdale's link is now live, with facilities in Wakefield and at the new West Yorkshire SARC also under development. At the time of publication, take-up of the service has been below expectations, and whilst this has been partly influenced by a positive factor (last minute guilty pleas by perpetrators), a further round of awareness raising and training is being carried out by West Yorkshire Police to ensure that this facility is fully utilised.

The courts and crown prosecution services are currently implementing a series of modernising reforms; this includes programmes to develop systems for the secure delivery of digital evidence to defence teams and Counsel; the use of video-links for witnesses and victims; and the management and submission of Digital Case Files. Preparing the police and partners for these major changes led me to invest over £100k to establish a **Criminal Justice Digital Delivery Team** within West Yorkshire Police. The team will work over the next year to deliver a comprehensive programme of training to support officers in the submission of quality digital case files; helping to improve conviction rates and reduce delays in the criminal justice system.

Funds from the Partnership Executive Group have helped launch further projects to enhance local criminal justice services. **User Voice** is an offender rehabilitation charity who gained funding to explore how support services for those in the criminal justice system could be made more effective. User Voice uses ex-offenders to foster a dialogue between service users and providers - in this case those in contact with the probation system. This research will promote effective future engagement with offenders, and encourage the commissioning of relevant new services.

Secondly, funding was granted to the charity **Clinks** to recruit a Development Officer to promote the work of the criminal justice voluntary sector in West Yorkshire. The role was designed to help develop relationships and facilitate engagement between statutory agencies, the private sector, and local voluntary sector organisations. Both of these projects will ultimately help partners meet the outcomes of the Reducing Reoffending Strategy.

In the past months we have learned of the Government's intention to partly **renationalise probation services**. Over the year, we have worked closely with the West Yorkshire CRC (Community Rehabilitation Company) to develop better processes to improve the integration of offenders back into communities. An example is seen by the local work required to apply the Home Office's Female Offender Strategy to improve Through the Gate support for prison leavers in West Yorkshire.

The CRC have worked as a key stakeholder with us during their tenure, actively supporting the development of the Reducing Reoffending Strategy and attending my Partnership Executive Group. I know that the individuals working for the CRC are passionate and determined in their work, but I hope the new probation service proposals give back the opportunity for small and medium-sized charities and organisations to become more engaged with delivery of services.

One component of the work of the OPCC which is not widely known is the co-ordination of West Yorkshire's network of **Independent Custody Visitors** (ICVs). ICVs are members of the public who visit police stations unannounced to check on the rights and well-being of detainees in police custody. I hold the Chief Constable to account on the findings of these visits.

Our volunteer ICVs check on the condition of custody settings, and on detainees' welfare, for example their access to food, drink, and clean clothes or bedding. I was delighted to see that our ICV work was recognised earlier this year by achieving a Gold Standard Quality Assurance Award from the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA). We have a dedicated team of ICVs and the receipt of this award is a great landmark for them and my staff.

Finally, much of my work on criminal justice themes in the year ahead will be led by the OPCC's **Criminal Justice Advisor**, Kate Jowett. Kate took up this new post in November 2018 following a successful career with West Yorkshire Police, latterly as Head of Criminal Justice. Kate's appointment will be of great benefit to our delivery in this arena, and will strengthen our work with criminal justice partners for the benefit of West Yorkshire communities.

Working Together

HMICFRS PEEL Effectiveness report rates West Yorkshire Police as Good

I was pleased to see that the hard work of officers and staff at West Yorkshire Police has been further recognised with an overall 'Good' rating from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). Their report noted the progress made to protect vulnerable people in our communities and tackle serious and organised crime. Acknowledgement was also given to WYP's Neighbourhood Policing model which is currently being strengthened and developed. The PEEL inspection report identified key areas for development and improvement, including enhancing processes and skills around the investigation of crime and reducing reoffending. I will be working with the Chief Constable and our criminal justice partners to ensure these recommendations are being addressed in the year ahead.

Also during the year, the Inspectorate praised **West Yorkshire's approach to tackling hate crime**. Their Hate Crime Thematic Report highlighted the work that West Yorkshire Police have done with partner agencies to encourage reporting and ensure that hate crimes are investigated appropriately. I made tackling hate crime a priority in my first Police and Crime Plan, and so it is reassuring to see that the report highlights a number of areas where our approach in West Yorkshire is seen as good practice.

Keighley charity supports recent migrants to West Yorkshire

Keighley charity the Good Shepherd Centre received a grant from my Safer Communities Fund (SCF) in June 2018 to help boost community cohesion with their project, Safe Learning. The Centre provides health, education and social justice support to people who are newly arrived in Keighley from other countries, to help them achieve better integration and participation in the community.

The project received a £1,245 grant from the SCF to support people who are often vulnerable and at risk of isolation. We are proud of our diverse communities here in West Yorkshire and I was pleased to be able to help this project continue its important work.

Our **Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)** is reviewing drug testing of those in custody or involved in the Integrated Offender Management programme – substance abuse being one of the major factors which can lead a person to reoffend after release from custody. Poor mental health is another issue, and West Yorkshire Police's Safeguarding Unit have submitted a research proposal to the N8 consortium of northern universities for an evaluation of the mental health nurse triage programme which has been co-ordinated from police control rooms. OPCC funding for this project in Leeds and Bradford has allowed better decision-making about the most appropriate care response for people experiencing mental ill-health who have come into contact with police response officers. This project will independently evaluate the service with a view to sharing best practice across the N8 partnership.

Supporting Victims and Witnesses



With Baroness Newlove, and Lesley McLean of Victim Support, marking the launch of the new victims' services.

Earlier this year I confirmed the continuing funding of two major services in West Yorkshire to ensure victims and witnesses of crime can access the best support. Firstly, the charity Victim Support was awarded £3.6M over three years to continue to provide our **core support to victims and witnesses** (including those aged 18 and under for the first time). I welcomed Victims' Commissioner, **Baroness Newlove**, to Wakefield in June 2018 to launch the new service which extends the specialist practical and emotional help which Victim Support has developed in West Yorkshire under our victim services contract.

Victim Support have also been able to establish a new Victims' Hub in Halifax during 2018/19, and Kirklees Council have also opened two **specialist hubs in Dewsbury and Batley**. The new hubs join the Brian Jackson Centre in Huddersfield in providing victims with free support from specially trained staff and volunteers. These new bases mean that there is at least one victims' hub in each of the five West Yorkshire districts.

The second contract, worth £900,000 over three years, was awarded to community interest company Restorative Solutions to provide a new **county-wide restorative justice service**. The new service will build on prior work to support victims and perpetrators to engage with each other, to help victims take positive steps to recovery. Although the service is focused on the needs of the victim, restorative justice is also known to help put an offender on a path that deters future criminal behaviour. In a variation of RJ services elsewhere, West Yorkshire's service addresses some of the more serious or complex cases, including offences such as domestic or sexual abuse. The service also extends to Wakefield and Leeds prisons, where staff are assisting with restorative conferences through support for the victim and the offender.



In October I was proud to present to volunteers from Victim Support West Yorkshire The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Volunteer Award at the annual **Lord Ferrers Awards** in London. Victim Support were recognised for their role in helping victims of the Manchester Arena attack of May 2017. The volunteers provided support to 117 victims from West Yorkshire who were directly affected by the incident, as well as providing information and practical support for their friends and family.

In November, I addressed our 6th **Annual Third Sector Conference**. This major partnership event was themed on ways to help divert young people away from harm and criminal behaviour. Dozens of third sector organisations attended Leeds Civic Hall, with key speakers from the police, Youth Offending Teams, and Third Sector groups. Delegates discussed what effective early intervention would look like under several topic areas, including drugs and alcohol, mental health, adverse childhood experiences, and domestic and sexual abuse. The event also included powerful case studies from two groups; the Basement Project (tackling substance misuse in Kirklees), and Staying Put (who address domestic abuse in Yorkshire and the Humber from their base in Bradford).

The continuing funding challenges across the public sector places further pressures upon Third Sector groups who provide vital services to communities – often bridging the gaps left by shrinking public services. Working together and forging an approach with early intervention and prevention at its core will be crucial to providing services that can deliver better outcomes in our neighbourhoods.

A great deal of excellent work has been achieved under the banner of the '**Domestic Abuse Whole System Approach**'. Home Office funding for this programme concluded in March 2019; the previous two years had seen the police and partners test new ways of working in taking the victim from the initial incident through the criminal justice journey. New Home Office funding for 'Partnership Cars' (police response vehicles staffed with a victim support worker) has been secured by West Yorkshire Police to provide these specialist services in all West Yorkshire districts beyond March 2019.

I have also commissioned an all-age **ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor)** service (including specialist Children's and Male ISVAs) to run from April 2019 for at least a further two years. Separate to these services, ISVAs are also employed in the three district rape crisis centres which I help to fund in Leeds, Bradford, and Kirklees. My office has also helped to secure £600,000 of Home Office funding for West Yorkshire Police to establish a **Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) Team**. DVPOs provide immediate protection for a victim of a domestic violence incident where there is insufficient evidence to charge a perpetrator immediately. A DVPO can provide breathing space for the victim to explore the support options available to them and make an informed decision about their personal safety.

The funding has allowed for a team of five West Yorkshire Police staff to make applications for DVPOs across the force. An Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) is also seconded to the team to bring their specialist knowledge and experience. The pilot project has focused on improving how these orders are used to protect victims, and the initial feedback has indicated that 80% of victims felt supported by the Police, and 65% felt that the DVPO had been useful. The success of the project has led to West Yorkshire Police considering bringing the project into their mainstream services in the future.

The current **Sexual Abuse Referral Centre (SARC)** service continues to provide vital support to victims as we work toward the opening of a new facility in 2020. Important joint work in developing the business case for the project has progressed in 2018/19, with preliminary building work underway. I will co-fund this £2.8M project in conjunction with NHS England as a key partner, with a large part of my funding contributing to construction costs. In the meantime, I have continued to fund specialist sexual violence services in West Yorkshire throughout the year, including our district Rape Crisis Centres, the Child Sexual Abuse Assessment Service, in collaboration with NHS England, and third sector providers Basis and Survivors West Yorkshire.

West Yorkshire Police's Safeguarding Central Governance Unit ran a campaign in February to promote **Clare's Law** - the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme which allows people to discover whether a partner has a history of violent behaviour. Since February there has been an increase in 'right to ask' applications made under Clare's Law, which will assist us in helping to protect people from the risk of domestic violence. Other joint campaigns which I have supported during the year have included the **White Ribbon campaign** against male violence against women. In July I spoke at an event in Huddersfield to mark the successful accreditation of all West Yorkshire districts under the White Ribbon scheme. Such partnerships are crucial in ensuring we protect and support vulnerable members of the community.

Finally, oversight of the police's response to incidents of domestic abuse has been provided through our **Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Panel**; a body of professionals from the NHS, Crown Prosecution Service, Voluntary Sector, Local Authority and Education sectors. The Panel meets four times during the year to review a randomly selected sample of West Yorkshire Police domestic abuse case files which did not result in a charge. The Panel assess whether appropriate action was taken to support the victim, with feedback on the cases promoting continuous improvement in the services provided by the police and partners.

My commitment to preventing Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery has been maintained throughout the year through support for the Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme and the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network (NATMSN). One significant development for the network in the year has been the creation of a 'toolkit' for PCCs nationwide to raise awareness and improve their area's response to modern slavery. The West Yorkshire-based NATMSN Co-ordinator post has also now been extended to 2020 to help me to support this group's work.



Visiting the team at the Kirklees and Calderdale Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service, who received a SCF grant in 2018.

Other work on modern slavery during the year included my attendance before Parliament's **Home Affairs Select Committee** in January to give evidence as part of their inquiry into Modern Slavery. In Westminster, I shared my views with the Committee on further collaborative working amongst agencies, and the need to direct resources toward training for practitioners and care for victims and survivors.

The Independent Review into the Modern Slavery Act 2015 released an interim report in January which featured recommendations on businesses' role in fighting modern slavery abuses through improved oversight of their supply chains. Linked to this issue, I supported the Modern Slavery: It's Not on My Street? campaign in August to encourage West Yorkshire residents to learn how to spot the signs of slavery in our communities. The campaign highlighted that you could be working next to someone who is a victim and in need of help.

Throughout the year, West Yorkshire Police have highlighted the specific wellbeing issues of their officers and staff. In carrying out their duties, police officers can of course become victims themselves. This fact led Chief Constable, John Robins, and myself to make a £20,000 donation to the '**Police Treatment Centres**'. This is a registered charity which provides support for injured or ill police officers from two sites – one in Harrogate and one in Perthshire. The donation was made from the Police Property Act Fund, which is comprised of money gained from the sale of goods seized from criminals. The centres provide fantastic support which I was pleased to be able to see first-hand. When we consider the risks that police officers face in keeping our communities safe, it is important that we help to contribute towards these very valuable support services.

Working Together

Domestic Abuse Navigator Service

£200k was allocated from my Partnership Executive Group Fund to Wakefield Council to establish a Domestic Abuse Navigator Service (DAN). The service will assist those who are affected by repeated incidents of domestic abuse by tackling issues such as mental health, homelessness, substance abuse and reoffending, which can be underlying factors in domestic abuse cases. The service will also link with the West Yorkshire-wide Operation Encompass initiative, which was set up to support children after they have witnessed a domestic abuse incident.

The DAN service will run in partnership with Spectrum Health CIC for one year, with the potential to expand across West Yorkshire if successful.

Partnership Therapeutic Services

Partnership collaboration between members of the OPCC's Criminal Justice and Mental Health Forum led to improved referral pathways to therapeutic services for victims. Feedback at the Forum from Victim Support representatives identified that some victims of the Manchester Arena attack had struggled to access support services in the months that followed. In turn, representatives from Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust were keen to raise awareness of the symptoms of Post Traumatic Shock Disorder, which may only become apparent some months after an individual's exposure to trauma. Links were established between Victim Support and Bradford District's *My Wellbeing College* service to raise awareness of Bradford Care Trust's psychological services, and to strengthen referral pathways between the two groups.

Safer Kirklees' Action Against Modern Slavery

The Safer Kirklees Partnership achieved notable success during their **Modern Slavery Action Days** in February. Raids on nail bars and associated properties led to arrests in Dewsbury, Batley, and Cleckheaton. Apparent victims of slavery and human trafficking were discovered and referred to support agencies through the Home Office's 'National Referral Mechanism' (NRM). This protocol provides a framework for identifying and referring victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive appropriate support. Safer Kirklees have recently helped train 57 people in guiding the victims of Human Trafficking or Slavery through the NRM process.

Kirklees and Calderdale Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre (KCRASACC)

KCRASACC received £3,928 from the Safer Communities Fund to increase access to their helpline and online services. KCRASACC supports people in local communities who have been raped, sexually assaulted or have experienced sexual and domestic violence. I met members of the team in September and hear more about how they used the grant to ensure our communities know that help is available. This is a crucial part of stopping the cycle of abuse and increasing the confidence of victims to come forward, seek support, and report offences.

Accountability and Engagement



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. During 2018/19, I made regular visits to Neighbourhood Police Teams to see their work for myself and hear about the concerns of their communities. I have also met representatives from many important voluntary and third sector groups, often through my Safer Communities Fund awards events.

The Safer Communities Fund

The Safer Communities Fund (SCF) continues to contribute to the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan by supporting vital work carried out in our neighbourhoods by community, voluntary, and social purpose organisations.

During 2018/19, the SCF has run two grant rounds and awarded £462,000 to 106 different groups. In May and June 2018, we launched a special grant round themed on serious violence, which recognised projects which featured the early intervention, education, and diversion strategies which can keep young people away from crime.

The Safer Leeds Lives Not Knives project was one beneficiary of this grant round. Safer Leeds is the city's statutory Community Safety Partnership, responsible for tackling crime, disorder and substance misuse. As part of the West Yorkshire Police knife crime strategy, Safer Leeds launched the Lives Not Knives campaign with the goal of tackling serious violence and gang culture. The funding helped to pay for a one day event hosted by Leeds Rhinos, who run a programme designed to influence young people's perceptions around knives and violence.



The cast of *Terriers*, with Sgt. Mark Rothery and Kauser Jan, Assistant Head Teacher at Bankside Primary School, Leeds.

Further to this project, I attended a special theatre performance organised by the local NPT in Chapeltown. The performance of '*Terriers*' (a play about the perils of violence affecting teenagers in rival gangs), helped school children in the area to think about the consequences of being part of a gang, and the difficult choices that young people have to make.

Over the past five SCF grant rounds (dating back to January 2017), 94 wards in West Yorkshire (of a total of 124) have benefitted from a SCF funded project which directly targeted work in their local area. Analysis of our SCF project has identified the close link between relative deprivation and the volume of grants awarded to a community. Armley, Manningham, and Newsome were the top wards in terms of grant value in Leeds, Bradford, and Kirklees districts. Armley has received almost £40,000 of funding covering 16 different projects during this period.

Holding the Chief Constable to Account

As Police and Crime Commissioner I have responsibility to hold the Chief Constable to account for West Yorkshire Police's role in delivering my Police and Crime Plan. Their performance and progress is assessed through our Delivery Quarterly process, which uses a 'delivery framework' of indicators (listed in the following chapter) to monitor the performance of the police and our partners in working to achieve the outcomes of the Plan.

In addition, I hold a quarterly meeting with the Chief Constable to discuss specific aspects of West Yorkshire Police's performance to help reassure the public and myself that our police service is doing all it can to prevent crime, bring offenders to justice, and provide the best service to victims.

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.

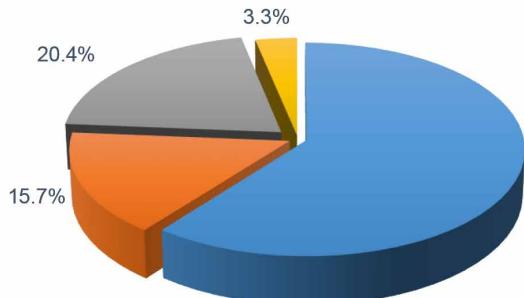
Since publishing the refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021 in summer 2018, we have revisited the delivery framework and made small adjustments to the list of indicators. These changes have been made in conjunction with the Police and Crime Panel, and our West Yorkshire partners in policing and community safety.

Police Service Funding and Officer Recruitment

At the close of 2017, I met with West Yorkshire MPs to urge them to support my demand to Government for a fairer funding settlement for West Yorkshire. I have continued to make the case for greater financial support to help our police service match the increased demand for their services.

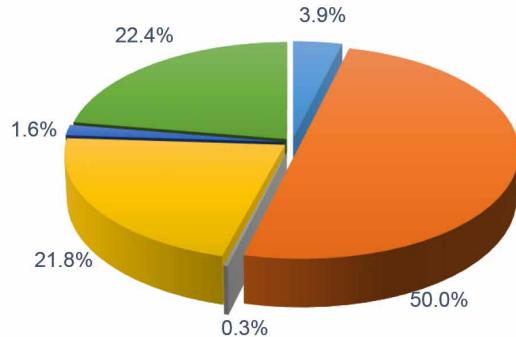
The budget for policing in West Yorkshire in 2018/19 was £436m; a breakdown of expenditure is shown below.

2018/19: Where the money came from...



- Government Grant: 60.5%
- Income: 15.7%
- Precept (Police Council Tax): 20.4%
- Other: 3.3%

and how it was spent



- PCSOs: 3.9%
- OPCC: 0.3%
- Borrowing: 1.6%
- Police Officers: 50.0%
- Police Staff: 21.8%
- Running Costs: 22.4%

The resources available to Police and Crime Commissioners have reduced significantly during the decade. West Yorkshire Police currently deliver a service within a budget that has decreased by £140m since 2010. As a result, police officer numbers fell from 5,758 (March 2010) to 4,501 in March 2016 (a reduction of 1,257 officers). The latest position is 5,137 officers (March 2019); a decrease of 621 officers compared with 2010.

There has been a similar cut to police staff numbers (including PCSOs) between 2010 and 2019, with the current level at 4,069 (a reduction of 233).

As PCC I have made supporting the recruitment of police officers and protecting the number of PCSOs key priorities; ambitions which have reflected the opinions of West Yorkshire residents. Given the level of government funding for 2018/19, and the cost pressures faced, the only means available to me to fund police officer recruitment was to increase the policing element of the Council Tax (police precept).

For 2018/19, I proposed an annual increase in the police precept equivalent to £12 on the bill for a Band D property (a 7.9% increase). This proposal was subsequently supported by the Police and Crime Panel in February 2018.

The resulting budget funded 143 extra police officers and staff (net) and an increase of PCSO numbers to 603, despite a reduction of partner funding. These new officers have now been recruited and have allowed us to maintain momentum in our work to rebuild neighbourhood policing, and continue the important work against Cyber Crime, Child Sexual Exploitation, Human Trafficking and historic cases of sexual abuse.

The Police Funding Settlement announcement for 2019/20 has partly acknowledged our calls for an injection of funding into policing, but again, the responsibility for more than half of the "additional funding" has been transferred to the local taxpayer. Although it is with great reluctance that I have to ask local taxpayers to contribute more to support local policing, the police precept in West Yorkshire still remains one of the lowest in England and Wales.

Work with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

In July 2018 I was elected as the new Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC). Fulfilling the role of Chair has placed me in an unrivalled position to champion the needs of West Yorkshire communities at the highest levels of Government. The Association has matured and developed in recent years and I am proud to be part of that as lead on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, Serious Violence, ANPR, and the National Police Air Service; I also stand as deputy lead on Forensics. It is vital that PCCs are playing a key role in leading strategic partnerships with the Home Office, National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), and partners operating in the wider criminal justice system. The APCC allows us to make use of our collective influence.

Highlights from the past year as Chair have included:

- Appear before Home Affairs Committee Inquiries into serious violence and modern day slavery,
- Attending Downing Street for the Prime Minister's Summit on Serious Youth Violence,
- Lobbying Government to ensure that the potential impact of Brexit on national security and policing is fully considered,
- Strengthening links with the Ministry of Justice on the devolution of probation services,
- Arguing for fairer funding of our police services, and fighting proposals for unfunded changes to police pensions,
- Speaking at the APCC and National Police Chiefs' Council national partnership summit.

Victim Engagement and the New Victims and Witnesses Strategy

In March 2019 I hosted an important workshop in Leeds to collect feedback from victims of crime to help the development of our new Victims and Witnesses Strategy. Through facilitated conversation groups, victims were encouraged to discuss their experiences before and after their contact with victim support and criminal justice services. Issues which were highlighted included victims' concerns for the lack of counselling services; the lack of awareness of pathways of support amongst GPs, school staff, and police officers; and the impact of poor communication links between service providers and the victim.

Reviewing the Use of Stop and Search

After a long-term downward trend in the number of stop-searches undertaken, activity is now increasing, influenced by the national action against knife crime and serious violence. In West Yorkshire, almost 10,000 searches were undertaken in the 12 months to March 2019, representing a 24% increase on the previous 12 month period.

I review West Yorkshire Police's use of stop and search powers with respect to individuals' gender, age and ethnicity through my Community Outcome Meetings. Analysis of stop and search over the previous 12 months shows that people aged between 16 and 29 are most likely to be stopped, accounting for 59% of all stop searches. 33% of stops were focussed on people of BME background (data to March 19), a 4% increase on the previous year. Whilst this increase may be partly influenced by improved crime recording practice, close attention will need to be paid to this trend if disproportionality is an outcome of the renewed use of stop and search.

The proportion of stop searches resulting in a positive outcome (such as an arrest or issuing of a penalty notice) during the year was 30%, of which arrests accounted for 17%. The arrest rate has fallen very slightly since the previous year (down by 0.8 percentage points), with positive outcomes maintaining the level seen in 2017/18.

Support for Food Poverty Across West Yorkshire

In July last year, the Chief Constable and myself made a £50,000 donation to the West Yorkshire Food Poverty Network from the Police Property Act Fund. The Food Poverty Network is made up of five smaller district food networks who are working together to bring about a co-ordinated approach to food poverty. This donation was targeted at 'holiday hunger' - children struggling to eat properly during the holidays due to the absence of free school meals. The Police Property Act Fund is created from the sale of recovered stolen property whose owners cannot be traced. It is satisfying to see these monies used in a way which helps many people in need across West Yorkshire.

Police & Crime Plan - Performance Indicators

The tables on the following pages summarise the performance picture at the close of 2018/19. This year's review of performance includes a revised framework of delivery measures, which were updated as part of the drafting of the Refreshed Police and Crime Plan 2016-21.

Outcome: Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Objective	Measures	12 months to March 2018	12 months to March 2019	Trend
Significantly reduce the volume of crimes committed in West Yorkshire	Total recorded crime	265,569 (+11.2%)	296,333 (+11.6%)	Deteriorating
	Risk of household crime	11.1% (Mar 18)	14.7% (Mar 19)	Deteriorating
	Risk of personal crime	4.5% (Mar 18)	2.9% (Mar 19)	Improving
Significantly reduce ASB in West Yorkshire	Volume of ASB incidents reported	59,015	49,688	Improving
Significantly reduce the reoffending rate in West Yorkshire	Av. number of reoffences (WYP managed cohort)	Cohort 1 – 2.6 Cohort 2 – 1.9	Cohort 1 – 1.8 Cohort 2 – 1.3	Improving
HMICFRS will grade WYP as GOOD or OUTSTANDING for reducing crime	HMICFRS PEEL Effectiveness inspection	GOOD	GOOD	Stable
More people will feel safe in West Yorkshire	Your Views Survey	79.4% (Yr. to Dec 18)	78.6% (Yr. to Mar 19)	Stable
Frontline policing will be protected and resourced to deter criminals	Proportion of police officers in operational roles	90.4%	89.6%	Stable
More people will think the police are doing a good or excellent job in their area	Your Views Survey	40.3% (Yr. to Dec 18)	38.6% (Yr. to Mar 19)	Deteriorating
More people will be confident that the police and partners will prevent crime and ASB	Your Views Survey	36.3% (Yr. to Dec 18)	34.6% (Yr. to Mar 19)	Deteriorating

Police recorded crime increased by 11.6% in the year to March 2019, with forces in our most similar group (MSG) seeing a comparable increase. More accurate crime recording practices continue to have an impact on the increase in the number of crimes, with West Yorkshire Police analysts estimating that 7% of the increase in offences is due to improved recording practices.

The unprecedented level of calls for service from the public is continuing, with West Yorkshire Police responding to 170 additional calls per day compared with the same period last year. The number of 101 calls has reduced by 2.2% but this is offset by an increase in 999 calls of 5.8% and a 60% increase in online contacts. Overall, WYP dealt with over 1.5 million calls last year, an increase of 27,000 on the previous year.

Whilst most of our Police & Crime Plan indicators linked to tackling crime are showing some improvement or remaining stable, public confidence weakened slightly during the year. Despite this, residents' sense of safety in their neighbourhoods remains high, with 79% of respondents to the OPCC's Your Views survey saying they feel safe where they live.

Outcome: Safeguard Vulnerable People

Objective	Measures	12 months to March 2017	12 months to March 2018	Trend
HMICFRS will grade WYP as GOOD or OUTSTANDING at protecting the vulnerable	HMICFRS PEEL vulnerability inspection	Good	Good	Stable
The most vulnerable people will be identified and supported	Reduce the number of looked-after children who go missing repeatedly (No. of occurrences).	4,805	4,050	Improving
Police and partners will work to safeguard vulnerable people	Reporting of 'hidden crimes'	HBV - 150 FM - 311	HBV - 194 FM - 360	Improving
WYP will make use of civil orders to disrupt offenders and protect the vulnerable	Use of DVPOs, Sexual Risk Orders, and Child Abduction Warning Notices	n/a	n/a	n/a

DVPO = Domestic Violence Prevention Order; HBV = Honour Based Abuse; FM = Forced Marriage

Significant progress has been made in delivering improved services in relation to safeguarding across the county. Operation Encompass (the school notification scheme for children who are witness to domestic abuse in the home) has now been rolled-out across all five districts and a missing person operational toolkit has been produced by West Yorkshire Police's Safeguarding Governance Unit (SGU) to provide extra guidance when dealing with a missing incident. The SGU continues to have a robust audit schedule, to help shape the development of the police's safeguarding response moving forward.

Outcome: Make Sure Criminal Justice Works for Communities

Objective	Measures	12 months to March 2018	12 months to March 2019	Trend
Increase the confidence of communities in their community safety partners	Your Views Survey	45.0% (Yr. to Dec 18)	44.1% (Yr. to Mar 19)	Stable
Ensure all relevant partners are working together to achieve effective results	Ineffective trial rate (Magistrates Court)	14.6%	13.9%	Stable
	Volume of early guilty pleas	Mags 37.1% Crown 78.0%	Mags 35.1% Crown 73.3%	Stable Stable
Ensure relevant partners are working together to achieve efficient results	Average time taken for cases to be brought to resolution	38.4 days (Q3 2017/18)	41.7 days (Q3 2018/19)	Deteriorating
Have a police service which is more representative of the people it serves	Promote recruitment opportunities for under-represented groups	5.6% BME	5.7% BME	Stable

Probation work, serious violent crime, and knife crime is dominating the criminal justice agenda at the moment. We have worked closely with the police and other partners to ensure that partnership work takes a particular focus on supporting young people away from criminality. Further to this, we have been developing ideas around what a Serious Violence Reduction Unit will look like within West Yorkshire.

West Yorkshire Police have become one of two forces in England and Wales to gain an ‘Outstanding’ grade following HMICFRS’s inspection of Crime Data Integrity (CDI). This grading is the outcome of several years of hard work since the 2014 HMIC report into CDI highlighted the inaccurate recording of crime amongst police forces nationwide.

I have been working with criminal justice colleagues to understand why courts capacity is affecting the average time taken for cases to be brought to resolution. A range of factors have been identified including management of the reduced estate, demands on court time generated by more family and civil work, and the increased volume of complex cases coming to court. Long term improvements are being driven by the Transforming Summary Justice project, and although performance had been on a deteriorating trend (with an average of 50 days to resolution in the first six months of 2018/19), the latest figure of 41.7 days shows an improvement.

Outcome: Support Victims and Witnesses

Objective	Measures	12 months to March 2018	12 months to March 2019	Trend
More victims will be satisfied with the service they receive from WYP	WYP Victim Satisfaction Survey	75.9%	73.4%	Stable
More victims who access victim services will be satisfied with the service they receive	Proportion of clients reporting an improvement in wellbeing at the end of Victim Support engagement	n/a	76.2% (Apr-Sept 18)	Improving
Improve the outcomes for victims of crime	WYP Victim Satisfaction Survey	63.9%	60.3%	Deteriorating

Victim satisfaction is evaluated by West Yorkshire Police's Victims Survey, and by my monitoring of the performance of our core victims services contract with Victim Support. Data from the police's survey has shown that the fall in satisfaction levels recorded in recent years began to slow during 2018/19, with evidence that the trend was stabilising at the close of the year. We will continue to review these results, combined with the community confidence information we gather from the Your Views Survey during 2019/20.

West Yorkshire Police have a dedicated Domestic Violence Protection Order Team who are working to improve victim care by guiding victims to support agencies following a DVPO being granted. This team have now delivered training to relevant WYP staff across the districts.

Community projects in West Yorkshire have now received grants totalling over £2.6M from the Safer Communities Fund. At the last awards event, 57 community projects gathered at the Halifax Academy to receive a share of over £250,000. The fund has now delivered across 15 grant rounds since 2014, granting £2,670,968 to 615 community projects.

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>



Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire