



## West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

### Draft Minutes

18<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Council Chambers, County Hall, Wakefield

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	- Leeds City Council (Chair)
	Councillor Jacqui Williams	- Wakefield Council (Vice-Chair)
	Councillor Paul Sullivan	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Tariq Hussain	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Richard Dunbar	- Bradford Council
	Councillor Sophie Whittaker	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Sarah Courtney	- Calderdale Council
	Councillor Cahal Burke	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Masood Ahmed	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Mark Thompson	- Kirklees Council
	Councillor Amanda Carter	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Nicole Sharpe	- Leeds City Council
	Councillor Maureen Tennant-King	- Wakefield Council
	Mrs Jo Sykes	- Independent
	Mr Roger Grasby	- Independent
	 In attendance	
	Tracy Brabin	- Mayor of West Yorkshire
	Alison Lowe	- Nominee for DMPC
	Erica Doran	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Wendy Stevens	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	John Robins QPM	- Chief Constable, West Yorkshire Police
	Jackie Marsh	- West Yorkshire Police
	Sharon Fraser	- Wakefield Council
	John Ward	- Wakefield Council
	Samantha Wilkinson	- Wakefield Council
	Fiona Bernardo	- Wakefield Council
	Ben Still	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
	Alan Reiss	- West Yorkshire Combined Authority

## 1. Appointment of Chair

- 1.1 Cllr Mohammed Iqbal was elected as Chair of the Panel for 2021/22, and Cllr Jacqui Williams was elected as Vice-Chair for the same period.

## **2. Police and Crime Panel Membership**

2.1 The membership of the Panel for 2021/22 was noted and Panel endorsed the appointment of the three local authority co-opted Panel members.

2.2 The Chair welcomed the new members on to the Panel.

## **2.3 RESOLVED**

2.3.1 Membership of the Panel for 2021/22 was noted and the nominated local authority co-opted Panel members were endorsed

## **3. Acceptance of apologies for absence**

3.1 No apologies for absence had been received.

## **4. To approve, as a correct record and deal with any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

## **5. To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the agenda on the grounds of urgency**

5.1 The Chair confirmed that there were no urgent items to add to the agenda.

## **6 Members' Declaration of Interests**

6.1 There were no declarations of interest made.

**The Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, was welcomed to her first Panel meeting and addressed the Panel.**

## **7. Mayor of West Yorkshire Introduction Paper.**

7.1 Following the transfer of the Police and Crime Commissioner functions in West Yorkshire in May, the Mayor outlined her priorities for policing, crime and community safety over the next three years. These included:

- Reinvigorating community and neighbourhood policing.
- Supporting a victim-centred response to crime
- Building upon the success of the Domestic Violence perpetrator pilot.
- Zero tolerance to modern slavery
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Tacking drug crime
- Early intervention to tackle crime at the root cause

The Mayor made two pledges in her manifesto regarding policing and crime: to put keeping women and girls safe at the heart of the Mayor's policing plan and to recruit 750 more police officers and staff. The Mayor's vision for how these pledges will be achieved will be set out in a new Police and Crime Plan. This Plan will be developed over the next six months with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the Chief Constable, in close consultation with the Police and Crime Panel, partners, stakeholders, and communities. It is intended that the new Plan will build on the positive work of the previous Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Mark Burns-Williamson and the current West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan. The Mayor also emphasised her desire to focus on early intervention work, in partnership with colleagues in the interdependent sectors of housing, skills and employment.

## **7.2 RESOLVED**

7.2.1 Panel noted the report.

## **8. Police and Crime Plan Priority Focus – Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)**

- 8.1 Panel were updated by Chief Superintendent Jackie Marsh, Head of the Violence Reduction Unit on the progress of the unit. Panel heard that the next tranche of funding had recently been granted; this would cover the work of the unit over the next twelve months. This will be the third year of the unit's operation. A great deal of work had gone into the funding bid, including a strong evidence based evaluation of the work of the unit, and a clear demonstration of outcomes and measurements. A strategy is in place to continue the unit's work over the next twelve months and a rigorous needs assessment has been completed.
- 8.2 The Panel heard that in the last twelve months, £2million has been spent in the community through the work of the unit. £2 million of VRU funding was spent on over 36 projects and interventions across West Yorkshire supporting over 14,000 young people. A whole systems approach has been adopted, and work has been undertaken in partnership with public health and multi-agency teams to complete local interventions and collaborate wherever possible.
- 8.3 The Panel also heard that early intervention work has been undertaken in schools, and with local authorities around children who are missing education, or are excluded from school. Data has been shared to understand issues with gangs, and research with high school children culminated in a 'Street Games' initiative which delivered two Knowledge Exchange Sessions for VRU and Community Safety Partnership (CSP) staff.
- 8.4 Questions were asked about what training the VRU team had received in trauma management, and how often this was refreshed. Panel heard that the team have attended knowledge exchanges and that a bid for funding further training had been submitted to the Home Office. The Chief Constable added that VRU staff are not practitioners in this area, but that they work closely with police officers, local authority officers and safeguarding teams who are trained specialists.

- 8.5 A question was asked about how young people affected by domestic abuse were being helped by the unit. The Panel were informed that these cases are approached on a case by case basis. Not all VRUs cover domestic abuse; in the majority of cases, these are overseen by VRU staff and handled by specialist professionals.
- 8.6 A question was asked about the data hub, exercise of governance over shared information and the ability of the VRU to update this information regularly. The Panel were assured that the hub has been developed by Liverpool John Moores University and is subject to oversight by the police information governance team. Data is anonymised and all partners sign information sharing agreements. The data used covers records from A&E, the fire service, and crime data to help identify serious violence hotspots.
- 8.7 The issue of sexist behaviour in schools was raised, and a direct line was drawn between this and violent behaviour towards women in later life. The Chief Constable assured the Panel that early intervention is considered key to changing behaviours in school. OFSTED compliant RHSE programmes have been developed by teachers and the police to address this. These programmes are delivered by teachers in school, with support from PCSOs.
- 8.8 The Panel asked whether exit plans had been put in place should funding for the VRU lapse in future. Concern was voiced that the progress and work of the unit would be lost were this to happen. The Panel was reassured that work was ongoing with partners to secure sustainability for the unit, with some projects already becoming part-funded and others being mainstreamed. Providers and partners were bidding independently for funds through additional and alternative funding streams. The Mayor had met with the responsible Minister, and had raised the issue of sustainability for the unit with the preference being to move to a three year funding model. This will continue to be pursued at central government level.

## **8.9 RESOLVED**

- 8.9.1 Panel noted the report and welcomed the good work that had been undertaken by the VRU.

## **9. Items for Panel Information**

### **9.1 Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill Overview**

- 9.2 This item was deferred to the next meeting, Panel agreed to write to the Mayor to explain the reasons for this.

## **9.3 RESOLVED**

- 9.3.1** That the item be deferred to a future meeting and Panel write to the Mayor to explain the reasons for this.

## 9.2 Victims and Witness Update

- 9.2.1 Panel sought reassurances from the Mayor over a number of items in the report. The issue of capacity within local authorities to help women requesting refuge, was raised. The Mayor acknowledged budget concerns at local levels, and assured the Panel that early intervention would be a priority for her, ensuring that as many women as possible access help to prevent them getting into situations where they need refuge.
- 9.2.2 Concerns were raised for the safety of women in Leeds, following the abolition of the 'managed area' in Holbeck and the concern that issues had not now 'gone away' but had gone underground or online. The Mayor assured the Panel that Leeds City Council had committed to protect these women in other ways, and work would continue to address the multitude of issues involved, such as alcohol and drug dependency. The Mayor also expressed a desire to turn the issue from women becoming victims to preventing men becoming abusers.
- 9.2.3 The Chief Constable was asked if crime data was collected and analysed by sex; and he confirmed that it was.
- 9.2.4 The Chief Constable was asked if Safer Lives training was given to officers; he replied that he was not aware of this specific course but was happy to look at details if they could be forwarded on. He assured Panel that officers were fully trained in victim support, disclosure and safeguarding through accredited courses governed by the College of Policing.

## 10. **Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business**

The Panel reviewed the Police and Crime Panel Arrangements and Rules of conduct of Business to ensure that they up to date and remain fit for purpose.

### 10.1 **RESOLVED**

10.1.1 Panel endorsed the circulated version (Version 4) of the Police and Crime Panel Arrangements and Rules of Conduct of Business.

## 11. **Police and Crime Panel Complaints Procedures**

- 11.1 Following the transfer in May of the PCC functions to the Mayor of West Yorkshire, the Panel was asked to agree the following amendment (highlighted) to the Complaints Procedures:

*3.1 In West Yorkshire, the Panel has given the Chief Executive of The Council of the City of Wakefield, as host authority, full delegated powers to exercise the powers and duties of the Panel under The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 and to put in place such arrangements as they see fit to handle complaints about the Mayor when acting in relation to their PCC functions and any Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. In exercise of those powers the Chief Executive has given officers supporting the*

*Panel (Police and Crime Panel Officers) overall responsibility for the complaints process. They oversee and manage the process on a day to day basis and prepare monitoring reports for the Panel. They are authorised to undertake the initial assessment of complaints and all administrative functions in relation to complaints.'*

## **11.2 RESOLVED**

**11.2.1** Panel agreed the revised version of the Complaints Procedures which retained the highlighted wording to paragraph 3.1.

## **12. Panel Budget Outcome 2020/21 and Draft Budget 2021/22**

12.1 This item was deferred until the next Panel meeting, when full financial information will be available.

## **13. Published Key Decisions**

13.1 Panel noted the Published Key Decisions

## **14. Mayor's Response to any current issues**

14.1 The Mayor updated Panel on the apology given by Robert Buckland, Justice Secretary regarding low conviction rates for rape. She reported that she had met with local partners from the judicial system to discuss the issue, and reported that substantial work is being done to clear the backlog by taking evidence early and using Zoom, for example. The Mayor has also requested data on domestic, and other, abuse by police officers, to lead the way in showing transparency.

14.2 An update was given on the National Police Air Service (NPAS). The Mayor has given the required 12 months notice that West Yorkshire Police will relinquish their current role as lead force. The Mayor reminded the Panel that the lead role was intended to be shared between forces, but it had remained with West Yorkshire Police for ten years and her view was that other forces should now step up and take responsibility.

14.3 A question was asked about the backlog of court cases in the aftermath of the pandemic, and about the possibility of 'nightingale' courts being established to help clear this. The Mayor told the Panel that the issue with clearing the court backlog was around trained staff and recruitment, rather than simply venues. The Chief Constable seconded this, and assured the Panel that ways of extending hours, for example, having existing staff working at weekends, were being considered. The Mayor also

highlighted the role played by other statutory bodies in influencing outcomes of crime, such as the CPS and the Courts System. The Panel heard that she had been meeting with criminal justice partners, and discussed her expectations for managing the throughput in the Courts; this is an area which the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) will take forward on her behalf, alongside other initial priorities such as working towards a regional education programme of early intervention to prevent criminal behaviour in later life.

- 14.4 Concerns were raised regarding the progress of rape cases. Whilst the recent Ministerial apology was noted, the pace and financial commitment to addressing this issue was questioned. The Mayor assured the Panel of her support for progressing and resolving these issues.
- 14.5 Further concerns were raised around the issue of speeding and the difficulty Panel have had in accessing decision makers in the West Yorkshire Casualty Reduction Unit. The Mayor assured Panel of her support in this matter, and her view that high performance cars should be legally obliged to contain black boxes. She also voiced her own concerns around, and casework experience of, speeding in the vicinity of schools.
- 14.6 Finally, the Mayor wanted to record her thanks to the previous PCC, Mark Burns-Williamson for his work in role. She also expressed thanks to Panel members for the work they have done in their local communities throughout the pandemic.

## **15. Agreed Actions Log**

- 15.1 The Agreed Actions Log was noted. Panel requested a commitment from the Mayor to progress actions previously agreed with the PCC.

## **15.2 RESOLVED**

**15.2.1** The Mayor gave a commitment to continue to progress actions recorded on the Agreed Actions Log.

## **16. Forward Agenda Plan**

- 16.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

## **17. Complaints received by the Panel**

- 17.1 The Panel noted that there are no new recorded or existing ongoing complaints.

**18. Any Other Business**

18.1 The Chair provided feedback from one of a number of recent workshops arranged by the Police Foundation to discuss the Strategic Policing Review. Issues raised at the review included a rise in hate crime, managing protests, and diversity in the police force, PCCs and Police and Crime Panels. The discussion findings will feed into the Strategic Review of Policing to inform the strand on police governance.

**19. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

19.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be held at 10.00am on Friday, 16th July 2021 in the Council Chamber, Wakefield County Hall.