



## West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel

### Draft Minutes

21<sup>st</sup> April 2023, Old Court Room, Town Hall, Wakefield

|                 |                                 |                      |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>PRESENT:</b> | Councillor Al Garthwaite        | - Leeds City Council |
|                 | Councillor Amanda Carter        | - Leeds City Council |
|                 | Councillor Nicole Sharpe        | - Leeds City Council |
|                 | Councillor Paul Sullivan        | - Bradford Council   |
|                 | Councillor Ann Kingstone        | - Calderdale Council |
|                 | Councillor Robert Thornber      | - Calderdale Council |
|                 | Councillor Andrew Cooper        | - Kirklees Council   |
|                 | Councillor Usman Ali            | - Wakefield Council  |
|                 | Councillor Maureen Tennant-King | - Wakefield Council  |
|                 | Mrs Joanne Sykes                | - Independent        |
|                 | Mr Trevor Lake                  | - Independent        |

#### In attendance

|                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Alison Lowe        | - Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime |
| Liz Hunter         | - West Yorkshire Combined Authority   |
| Julie Reid         | - West Yorkshire Combined Authority   |
| Wendy Stevens      | - West Yorkshire Combined Authority   |
| Neil Hudson        | - West Yorkshire Combined Authority   |
| Sunny Williams     | - West Yorkshire Combined Authority   |
| Eran Sandhu        | - West Yorkshire Combined Authority   |
| John Robins        | - West Yorkshire Police               |
| Daniel Ware        | - West Yorkshire Police               |
| Sharon Fraser      | - Wakefield Council                   |
| Samantha Wilkinson | - Wakefield Council                   |
| Fiona Bernardo     | - Wakefield Council                   |

## 1. Acceptance of apologies for absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Anthony Smith, Mohan Sokhal, Sarfraz Nazir, and Sinead Engel.

**2. 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 on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023.**

2.1. It was agreed to amend the minutes from the last meeting to remove Cllrs Thornber and Cooper from the Present list, include a welcome to Councillor Ann Kingstone and include thanks to outgoing Panel member Councillor Sarah Courtney for her contribution to the work of the Panel. The minutes were agreed as a correct record with the above amendments.

**2.2 Matters Arising**

Panel members were made aware before the meeting began that the Mayor's response to the precept decision on 3<sup>rd</sup> February had been sent to the Police and Crime Panel Officer the previous evening. The reason for the length of time taken to receive this document was requested from the Deputy Mayor, who acknowledged the delay and apologised, citing internal miscommunication as the reason.

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

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

**4. Members' Declaration of Interests**

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**5. Road Safety**

5.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced her report, which details how the current WYP roads strategy is being redeveloped in synergy with the delivery of Vision Zero. She spoke of the focus she hoped to bring to this area of policy with the recruitment of a Road Safety Policy Manager and Policy Assistant. The positive progress on the West Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership was shared.

5.2 A question was asked at 2.5.2 of the report about the reasons for the spike in injuries and fatalities on the roads in the months of May and December. The Deputy Mayor's office has established a data group to investigate the potential reasons for this.

5.3 With regard to the Vision Zero ambitions articulated at 2.8.8, a question was asked around milestone work and target trajectories for reductions in fatalities up to 2040. The Deputy Mayor's team are waiting for the publication of Vision Zero strategies from four of the five West Yorkshire authorities before finalising their own overarching plan looking at opportunities for collaboration and bringing in additional funding. The finalised plan will be shared with Panel as soon as it is available. An initial target is likely to be to halve deaths on the road by 2030.

5.4 Discussion took place around the lack of consistency with regard to traffic regulation and control in the five West Yorkshire local authorities. The Deputy Mayor clarified that the Vision Zero programme does not replace the local authority role but exists to promote collaboration between partners to promote the road safety agenda. The Deputy Mayor said that all authorities were at different places with strategy development and resourcing, however, she believed there was a full commitment to the agenda from all. Where resourcing issues were holding authorities back, she hoped that collaborative schemes such as the new camera partnership would help by providing economies of scale.

5.5 Referencing the new, recently adopted Safety Camera Partnership approach in West Yorkshire, 2.17 of the report details how no additional signage will be required as standard to give warning of mobile enforcement activity. The Deputy Mayor was asked if she believed that having signage visible did in itself remind people to slow down, even if no fixed cameras were present. She replied that evidence showed signs alone did not slow speeding drivers, and that this new approach is hoped to trigger a behaviour change amongst drivers to self-monitor speed at all times and not just through areas where they are given notice of camera presence. In addition to this push for behaviour change, investment has been made in a number of new mobile camera units. The Deputy Mayor told Panel members that the new strategy has been developed locally in West Yorkshire after partners took the initiative to make changes they wanted to see. She wanted to highlight a particular element – that it is now not a requirement that a fatality has to occur in a specific area before consideration is given to the siting of a speed camera, and that communities are now formally consulted on the location of cameras.

5.6 A question was asked at 2.16 of the report, regarding the national ANPR. The Home Office are charging each police force for the development of a national system, however issues with the technology provider and a lack of trust in the product have meant that WYP are continuing to use their own ANPR system (developed with significant investment from the previous Police & Crime Commissioner) alongside the new national system. Panel asked the Deputy Mayor if she could bring any pressure to bear on the Home Office to waive charges to Forces for the development of the national ANPR whilst the technology was not fit for use. The Deputy Mayor assured Panel that both she and the National Police Chiefs Council were lobbying the government on this issue, agreeing that the Force should not be paying twice for a system, especially at a time of significant financial challenge.

5.7 The Deputy Mayor was asked to provide a further breakdown of figures at 2.17.6, to show offences as a percentage of each local authority's population.

## **5.8 RESOLVED**

**5.8.1** The Deputy Mayor to show speed related offences as detailed in 2.17.6 as a percentage of the local authority's population.

## **6. Supporting the Safety of Women and Girls**

- 6.1 The Deputy Mayor presented her report, summarising progress so far on this policy area and highlighting the projects and partnerships working towards stated outcomes, which are evidenced in the report under parts 4 and 5.
- 6.2 The Deputy Mayor was asked if she could share the delivery plan for this strategy, and if the Youth Justice team were involved. Panel were assured that the delivery plan was in progress and would be shared when complete. The Deputy Mayor confirmed that youth organisations such as Positive Futures were involved in the process.
- 6.3 The Deputy Mayor took steps to assure Panel that the partners who deliver the services described in the report are audited within a standardised performance framework, and contract managed by a team in the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). She commented that although the team can report on activity, the impact is more difficult to measure, as many are small projects operating within a whole partnership approach.
- 6.4 A question was asked regarding the process for ensuring the learning is brought on board and also for decommissioning projects that are not performing. Panel was assured that there is a set procedure for this, and some projects have been referred through the decommissioning process, for example, one particular domestic abuse scheme was decommissioned due to the team not being confident that it would achieve its stated aims.
- 6.5 The Deputy Mayor shared an update on progress on stalking. In October 2022, WYP records showed a live case rate of 562 referrals, the majority of which had come from the stalking co-ordination scheme launched by the Mayor in October 2021.
- 6.6 Referring to Baroness Casey's recent report on culture in the Metropolitan Police Force, a question was asked around how much the Deputy Mayor felt that the findings would affect the confidence of women and girls to report crimes. The Deputy Mayor felt that it inevitably would in some cases, however both her, the Mayor and WYP have taken proactive steps to visibly underline their commitment to tackling violence against women and girls through developing and publishing their own strategies, and continuing to speak to victims and community groups. In addition, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor continue to share their own lived experiences and confidence in WYP's processes when they meet community groups.
- 6.7 A further question was asked around the process for dismissing officers, and if the Deputy Mayor could share her thoughts around this. She said that she understood

that the process was difficult and cumbersome. She informed Panel that a process of using legally qualified Chairs for dismissal processes had been introduced to increase transparency and fairness in the process, however this had not been without legal issues itself. She assured Panel that through her national role, she does feed concerns into the system, and has recommended that the Home Office adopt a hybrid approach which would combine chief constable input with that of legally qualified Chairs, to try to achieve the right balance and improve the process.

## **6.8 RESOLVED**

**6.8.1** Panel noted the report.

## **7. Early Intervention and Prevention**

7.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced her report which gives an update on the delivery of this cross-cutting theme. The Deputy Mayor recognised that success in this area is difficult to monitor but that work towards it is progressing, in partnership with WYP, local authority partners, the voluntary and community sector and other community safety partners.

7.2 The Deputy Mayor briefed Panel members that unfortunately, the funding for the CARA project has not been renewed by the Home Office, despite robust evidence of success within the programme. The Mayor's office have committed to continued funding for the next two years through existing budgets.

7.3 A question was asked about extending the CARA scheme to higher risk perpetrators. The Deputy Mayor replied that the scheme parameters had previously been directed by the Home Office, however, when funding is brought in-house, there may be scope to look at the extension of the criteria.

7.4 A further question was asked around whether the success of the CARA programme had been shared and evaluated on a national level. The Deputy Mayor replied that not all Forces use the CARA programme, so comparisons are difficult. The charity National Women's Aid have undertaken anecdotal research on the cost benefits of early intervention, in areas such as a reduction in children in care.

7.5 Panel questioned why the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) only focuses on under 25 year olds. The Deputy Mayor responded that figures show that the curve of violent crime drops off after the age of 25, hence the focus on this age group.

7.6 At 5.1.3, a question was asked regarding the work of the Combatting Drugs Partnerships and its impact on street drug dealing. The Deputy Mayor talked about the

new partnership, and the possibility of extending the Clear, Hold, Build partnership initiative which was so successful in reducing burglary in an area of Bradford. She assured Panel that this new partnership brought together the health sector, community leaders and the police to endeavour find a new way to tackle the issue.

7.7 The Deputy Mayor was asked if the increased cost of living has affected service delivery amongst partners. She replied that cost of living uplift grants secured by the Mayor had kept projects running with no impact on delivery so far. A further grant had now been applied for; unfortunately, if this application is unsuccessful then she believed that services would indeed be affected.

## **7.8 RESOLVED**

**7.8.1** Panel noted the report.

## **8. Policing and Crime Team Organisational Design**

8.1 The Deputy Mayor introduced the report and detailed the work and consultation which had been undertaken to ensure that the structure of the policing and crime team was robust and fit for purpose. The structure had been aligned to ensure delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and the Deputy Mayor was confident that it was sustainable and flexible enough to do this.

## **8.2 RESOLVED**

**8.2.1** Panel noted the report.

## **9. Mayors Response to Current Issues**

9.1 The Deputy Mayor referenced the recent report by Baroness Casey into culture and standards in the Metropolitan Police. Whilst recognising the significant difference in the size and scope of the Metropolitan Police when compared to other police forces in the country, she acknowledged that the repercussions of the report and the incidents which led to its commissioning will impact policing across the country for some time. She asked the Chief Constable to comment on the report, in terms of any impact it may have on West Yorkshire Police. The Chief Constable assured Panel that the senior team at WYP would be forensically analysing the recommendations in the report and using the document as a touchstone, a resourcing document and for self-reflection before reporting back to the Deputy Mayor on any recommendations that need to be taken on board.

- 9.2 The Deputy Mayor wanted to acknowledge a difficult few months in West Yorkshire with regards to knife crime incidents. Although statistics show that knife crime is reducing, public perception and news reporting have meant that it is a significant concern in communities. As a result, there is an impetus to ‘do something different’, and this has started with the formation of a Youth Commission in West Yorkshire. Nineteen young people have signed up to be members and will be supported in their role to talk to young people and peers about carrying knives, and their reasons for doing so. In addition, a touring Knife Angel sculpture constructed from knives from knife amnesty bins across police forces, has been unveiled in Bradford and hopes to trigger similar conversations. There will be a knife amnesty bin at a police station in Bradford between 24-28 April to coincide with the Knife Angel display. In addition, all Forces are working with the Home Office to look at ways to better control the manufacture, sale and import of knives, and a consultation has recently opened into the use of zombie knives.
- 9.3 The Deputy Mayor congratulated WYP on the recent extradition of a man on charges relating to the 2005 murder of PC Sharon Beshenivsky and in the further sentencing of five men under Operation Tendersea.
- 9.4 West Yorkshire have been awarded £1m to take part in the ‘Immediate Justice’ pilot scheme which aims for perpetrators behind anti-social activity to carry out remedial activity within 48 hours of being handed community orders. With anti-social behaviour being a regular topic at Panel meetings, the Deputy Mayor felt this was a welcome opportunity for West Yorkshire to trial a new way of addressing this issue.

## **10. Published Key Decisions**

- 10.1 The published key decisions were noted.

## **11. Agreed Actions Log**

- 11.1 The Agreed Actions log was noted.

## **12. Forward Agenda Plan**

- 12.1 The Forward Agenda Plan was noted.

**13. Complaints Received by the Panel**

- 13.1 The Panel noted that there are no new recorded complaints against the Mayor or Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

**14. Any Other Business**

- 14.1 The Deputy Mayor congratulated the Chair of the Panel on her elevation to Lord Mayor of Leeds for the next municipal year and thanked her for her work on the Panel.
- 14.2 The Chair thanked all Panel members and officers for their support during her time as Chair and wished everyone well.

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

- 15.1 The next meeting of the Police and Crime Panel will be the AGM and will be held at 10.00am on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023, in the Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall.