



Report to: Police and Crime Panel

Date: June 2023

Subject: Safer Places and Thriving Communities

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The Safer Places and Thriving Communities paper is designed to give an overview of the current position in the county and recent progress with an understanding of the key challenges that have emerged.
- 1.2. The strategic priority of Safer Places and Thriving Communities is the focus of this paper. This priority relates to the harmful and unacceptable behaviour that targets the different communities of West Yorkshire and the response, through an ongoing commitment to Neighbourhood Policing and partnership working in localities. This priority aims to tackle the place-based crime that damages people's everyday lives, including serious violence, anti-social behaviour (ASB), and dangerous driving and speeding.
- 1.3. Under this priority neighbourhood crime, road safety and serious violence

were the most frequently selected areas of focus. The main objectives under this priority include:

- Stop young people becoming involved in serious violence.
- Through a collective and collaborative approach, target the most dangerous and determined organised criminals who exploit vulnerable people.
- Tackle ASB at the earliest opportunity through a tiered approach of prevention, intervention and enforcement.
- Work towards eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy and equitable transport for all.

- 1.4 This paper contains sections focusing on the following key areas: neighbourhood crime, which will include updates on ASB; road safety, and serious violence, which will include updates on the Violence Reduction Unit and Grip – Operation Jemlock. It is noted that papers for road safety and early intervention and prevention were presented at the last panel; the other areas accordingly form the key focus for this paper.
- 1.5 Given the scope of this priority there are a variety of performance measures. It has been decided to include those measures linked specifically to each area within the relevant sections of this paper only.

2. INFORMATION

2.1. Neighbourhood Crime

- 2.1.1 Neighbourhood crime is defined in the Home Office 'Beating Crime Plan 2021' as robbery, vehicle crime, burglary and theft from person. Alongside anti-social behaviour, these types of crime can have a significant impact on individuals and neighbourhoods. This paper includes crime and outcome data and victim satisfaction figures. It also explains how those crimes are policed and how victims are supported.
- 2.1.2 The table below contains crime figures for the 12 months to January 2023. Neighbourhood crime is a National Crime and Policing Measure and is also a measure in the Police and Crime Plan. The baseline period currently used to track performance against this measure both nationally and in the Police and Crime Plan is the 12 months to June 2019.

Recorded Crime in WEST YORKSHIRE	12m to June 2019	12m to Jan 2022	12m to Jan 2023	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jan 2022	Direction of Travel	Latest 12m vs 12m to Jun 2019	Direction of Travel
Home Office offence categories/sub-categories							
Residential burglary	18493	9295	10056	8.2%	↑	-45.6%	↓
Robbery (Personal)	3441	2180	2619	20.1%	↑	-23.9%	↓
Theft from person	4186	2539	3236	27.5%	↑	-22.7%	↓
Vehicle Offences	23042	14687	17243	17.4%	↑	-25.2%	↓
<i>Theft of motor vehicle</i>	5844	5175	6873	32.8%	↑	17.6%	↑
<i>Theft from motor vehicle</i>	13587	7158	7818	9.2%	↑	-42.5%	↓
<i>Vehicle interference</i>	3611	2354	2552	8.4%	↑	-29.3%	↓
Total neighbourhood crime	49162	28701	33154	15.5%	↑	-32.6%	↓

Residential burglary is still showing a significant reduction of 32.6% compared to the baseline year despite a reported 8.2% increase over the latest 12-month period (in comparison to the previous year). As a result of strict restrictions on freedom of movement during the COVID pandemic, recorded crime fell significantly during this period and neighbourhood crime fell dramatically. As expected, the easing of COVID restrictions has resulted in an increase in neighbourhood crime over the past 12 months; however, nearly all neighbourhood crime types are still reporting large reductions in comparison to the 12 months to June 2019. Only theft of motor vehicle is showing an increase compared to both the last 12 months and to the 12 months to June 2019. The recent increases in theft of motor vehicle are also being experienced by many other forces nationally.

2.1.3 In the 12 months to January 2023 WYP have achieved 1,442 outcomes (1-8) for neighbourhood crime which is higher than in the period for the 12 months to January 2022 (1,195 outcomes). The latest outcome rate of 4.3% (12 months to January 2023) is comparable with that reported prior to the pandemic. Outcome rates increased slightly during the pandemic however this was influenced by the significant reduction in recorded crime during that period.

Outcomes 1-8 are Charged/Summonsed, Caution – Youths, Caution – Adults, Taking into Consideration (TIC), The Offender has Died, Penalty Notices for Disorder, Cannabis Warning, and Community Resolution.

2.1.4 Victim satisfaction has decreased across all crime types in the past 12 months except for theft from person which has increased by 4.2%. Compared to the baseline year of June 2019, improvements are only being reported for theft of vehicle.

Force	12 months to June 2019	12 months to January 2022	12 months to January 2023	Change June 2019 vs January 2023	Change on prev. 12 months
Burglary - residential	82.5%	85.6%	79.2%	-3.3%	-6.4%
Robbery - Personal	80.4%	85.6%	71.8%	-8.6%	-13.8%
Theft from the person	80.0%	70.6%	74.8%	-5.2%	4.2%
Theft from motor vehicle	69.9%	73.2%	69.4%	-0.5%	-3.8%
Theft of motor vehicle	64.0%	70.5%	65.2%	1.2%	-5.3%
Vehicle interference	79.0%	83.7%	76.9%	-2.1%	-6.8%

Whilst the satisfaction levels in the above table have decreased, ACC Miller confirmed to the DMPC that the three months following the presented data showed a positive increase following a change to the way in which WYP dealt with satisfaction.

2.1.5 Tackling neighbourhood crime requires WYP to focus on:

- Place Analysing data and understanding when and where crime takes place so that WYP can target resources more accurately.
- People Providing early intervention with targeted support for those identified as being at risk of involvement in criminality, and targeted interventions for those who have started to offend. This includes using Integrated Offender Management (IOM) schemes with clear pathways to support services, such as access to mental health and women specific services, to help address the root causes of criminal behaviour. Further information was covered in the early intervention and prevention paper to the last panel which can be provided upon request.
- Business Aside from the acquisitive nature of these type of crimes there is also a business element motivated and driven by profit margins. This aspect is often driven by a complex web of global, organised crime groups; focus on the business element involves activity to remove and disrupt opportunities to profit from stolen goods.

WYP ensure that each district remains focused on neighbourhood crime through regular accountability meetings and scrutiny. Of note, WYP has mapped organised crime groups and street gangs which are managed by Precision Teams in each district supported by Neighbourhood Teams.

In relation to Neighbourhood Policing the DMPC ensured that WYP activity was heavily scrutinised during the recent COM focusing on this area.

2.1.6 As part of WYP’s victim care and support programme an online crime tracker facility is provided to the public. The Local Crime Tracker keeps the victim updated with the status of the crime and details of the officer dealing with the case. The Local Crime Tracker does not replace that important relationship with officers. It provides victims with a choice to monitor the crime by direct access through the internet 24 hours a day. It also enables them to leave an officer a message.

There has been a 35% increase in use of the tracker during 2022 (110,608) compared to the previous year; the annual total use for 2021 was 82,115.

2.1.7 WYP Local Policing, the central oversight team, routinely obtains staffing figures from districts to monitor the actual number of neighbourhood staff engaged in core ward-based neighbourhood policing against its budgeted strength.

Neighbourhood staffing levels across the Force in March 2023 are shown below:

Force	Budgeted	Actual	Deficit
Insp	20.52	22	+1.48
Sgts	78.39	81.29	+2.9
PC	307.56	259.62	-47.94
PCSO	550.2*	512.01	-38.1
Total	956.67	875.01	-81.66

*Total budget 565.24; a further 15.04 PCSOs are employed in safeguarding and neighbourhood support roles across the force.

It should be noted that shortfalls in the number of neighbourhood PCs as shown above are currently supported through student officer attachments to provide additional resourcing. The shortfall can be explained in part by the WYP move to achieve 100% staffing within safeguarding following a HMICFRS requirement.

2.1.8 Safer Streets Funding

Since July 2020 West Yorkshire has successfully applied for and received over £2.8m in Safer Streets funding (SSF) from the Home Office Neighbourhood Crime Unit.

- SSF1 (2020-2021) – target hardening, closed-circuit television (CCTV), public spaces, street lighting, education, training and community

engagement.

- SSF2 (2021-2022) – Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), CCTV, street lighting, crime prevention education and advice.
- SSF3 (2021-2022) – Safety of Women and Girls and use of parks and public spaces, training, awareness raising and campaigns, educational programmes and training.
- SSF4 (2022-2024) – Safety of Women and Girls, night-time economy and safety, street marshals, safe spaces, target hardening, forensic marking, pursuit bikes and training to tackling motorcycle crime and days of action.
- SSF5 – It is expected that the fifth round of the Safer Streets Fund will launch by the end of May. Delivery is expected to run from October 2023 to March 2025. Detailed information and guidance will follow with the official announcement.

2.1.9 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

2.1.9.1 Whilst West Yorkshire Police and partners continue to face challenges in relation to demand, there have been clear reductions in the rates of ASB across West Yorkshire since 2021.

	West Yorkshire – Total ASB Incidents			
	2021	2022	+/- vol	+/- %
Jan	3463	1967	-1496	-43.2%
Feb	3533	1749	-1784	-50.5%
Mar	4337	2410	-1927	-44.4%
Apr	4000	2506	-1494	-37.4%
May	3566	2330	-1236	-34.7%
Jun	4049	2665	-1384	-34.2%
Jul	4170	3164	-1006	-24.1%
Aug	3630	3217	-413	-11.4%
Sep	2939	2426	-513	-17.5%
Oct	3044	2437	-607	-19.9%
Nov	2220	1881	-339	-15.3%
Dec	1633	1164	-469	-28.7%
Total	40,584	27,916	-12668	-31.2%

The overall rates of ASB incidents in 2022 are lower than those recorded in 2021 and show a 31.2% reduction. This is clearly a positive trend, but figures still equate to 76.5 ASB incidents per day across West Yorkshire.

Neighbourhood teams and partners in each district continue to aim to reduce ASB and drive down demand within their ward areas. WYP has focused on

ensuring incidents with an element of crime are logged correctly at the point of reporting (particularly criminal damage, public order, and harassment), which has resulted in a lower number of ASB incidents (non-crimes) being identified at the point of reporting. The percentage of ASB that are both opened and closed as ASB has decreased. Local analysis suggests that a more realistic overall reduction in ASB is closer to 9% when taking account of the change in logging of ASB.

This reduction in ASB numbers does appear to be a sustained trend over a prolonged period.

- 2.1.9.2 The Anti-Social and Vulnerability Assessment Tool (ASVAT) system operates across all five districts in West Yorkshire. It enables staff to review ASB calls easily and evaluate and identify risk effectively. ASVAT has been designed to identify risks for repeat callers / victims, who may have been overlooked in the initial call screening process. The PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) 2021/22 inspection highlighted the WYP use of ASVAT as an ‘innovative practice’ and it contributed to the WYP grading as ‘Outstanding’ at prevention and deterrence.

Users of the ASVAT system have also been trained to actively review the call logs and assist with crime recording standards. Irrespective of whether an ASB related call is recorded as a crime or not, it is still picked up by the ASVAT system and reviewed, therefore vulnerability should not be missed. It also means ASB victims are supported through relevant ASB pathways.

Since January 2023, the Force has been conducting a 3-month pilot whereby all public order offences are pulled through ASVAT. This ensures that those who are victims of ASB related public order offences are given the same support as people who are victims of ASB incidents that are not criminal. When a person reports ASB, they are asked if they would like contact from their local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) at the point of reporting. If they do, it is tasked out to an officer when the log is reviewed by the ASVAT staff.

- 2.1.9.3 WYP ensure that they keep focus on the top repeat call ASB locations. Neighbourhood teams ensure a problem-solving approach is undertaken to tackle the issues which often involves the use of funding secured under SSF4.

As an example, in Bradford, funding provides opportunities for the enhanced policing of five key areas for anti-social motorbike nuisance in Eccleshill, Keighley West, Royds, Tong, and Windhill and Wrose ward areas. From October 2022 to January 2023, 19 operations under Operation Scribestoke ran, covering all identified ward areas.

2.1.9.4 **ASB Immediate Justice pilot additional funding**

The Mayor has secured over £1m for 2023/24 to support reparative ASB activity in West Yorkshire under the Immediate Justice Pilot. The funding is

provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to support the Government’s recently published ASB Action Plan.

West Yorkshire is one of ten ASB Immediate Justice Pilot sites to deliver reparative and restorative services and activity.

Across West Yorkshire the ASB pilot will embed the principles of trauma informed practice and culture to improve outcomes for all.

A newly established partnership steering group is supporting the service design, modelling, and approaches for both adults and young people. Service delivery is expected to start in July 2023.

Public consultation will start in June 2023 to ensure the types of services and activity undertaken are informed by communities.

2.2. Road Safety

2.2.1 As stated in section 1.4, a full road safety paper was produced and presented to the panel on 21st April 2023. This paper is available upon request.

2.2.2 The performance measures linked to road safety showed the following position in KSI (killed and seriously injured) collisions:

Severity	2019	2020	2021	2022	Trend over time
KSI (unadjusted)	741	583	1040	1264	↑
KSI (adjusted)	1004	791	1082	1264	
All injury collisions	3618	2757	3896	4371	

The above data was discussed at the panel. The impact of COVID was noted in the 2020 figures and the need for adjustment due to changes in recording practices following the West Yorkshire Police move to use CRASH.

2.2.3 Recently obtained data which focuses on January to March 2023 compared to January to March 2022 shows an overall increase of 8% in KSI casualties. This figure is clearly disappointing, but there is positive news in several key areas:

- Child casualty KSIs in West Yorkshire have decreased by 3%
- Pedal Cycle KSIs in West Yorkshire have decreased by 21%
- Overall reductions in KSIs have been noted in Kirklees (21%) and Leeds (8%)

It should be noted that the data comparison above covers only the three-

month period for each year and as such should not be viewed as a sustained trend at this point. Future data will establish longer-term progress.

- 2.2.4 The commitment to the Vision Zero approach was discussed within the aforementioned paper and the recently created posts of Policy Manager and Policy Assistant for Vision Zero continue to progress this workstream. As stated within the full paper, the baseline assessment has been completed and it should now be noted that work is beginning on the development of the Vision Zero strategy which is planned for launch early in 2024. The initial work is focusing on consultation and engagement.
- 2.2.5 The partnership focus on the Safe Roads agenda was also discussed within the full road safety panel paper. Since the paper was presented, two new subgroups have been formed with support from the Policing and Crime team at the Combined Authority. The two groups are the Communications Group and the Data Group which will both support the Vision Zero Board and the Safe Roads Executive. Each group has representatives from a range of partners to encourage consistency, best practice, and the development of new initiatives to support Vision Zero.
- 2.2.6 The Mayor continues to support road safety in West Yorkshire through partnership working which has been highlighted by the recent £20k funding awarded to the road safety charity Brake, to continue their valuable victim support work. This funding was communicated to members of the public during the recent Global Road Safety Week to ensure that the public recognise the significance of the work being done around road safety.

2.3 **Serious Violence**

- 2.3.1 The national Serious Violence Strategy published in 2018 allocated funding to 18 areas most affected by serious violence (SV). In 2019 securing this Home Office support, West Yorkshire established the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and gained further resources to focus on policing serious violence.
- 2.3.2 The Mayor has received £456k funding over three years (2022 to 2025) to support compliance with the Serious Violence Duty for planning and collaboration with existing multi-agency arrangements and directly supporting Serious Violence Duty holders in West Yorkshire.
- 2.3.3 West Yorkshire's Serious Violence Duty holders are West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Health, Probation, Local Authorities and Youth Offending Services.
- 2.3.4 Data on the performance measures linked to serious violence show the following:

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Focus	Measure	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23*	2022/23 v 2019/20	2022/23 v 2021/22
Hospital Admissions	Assault with a sharp object*	250	190	240	210	-16.0%	-12.5%
	Assault with a sharp object - under 25	80	75	90	80	0.0%	-11.1%

Focus	Measure	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23 v 2019/20	2022/23 v 2021/22
Knife Crime	Total Recorded	2521	2189	2395	2293	-9.0%	-4.3%
	Total Recorded - Victim under 25	936	748	875	802	-14.3%	-8.3%
	Personal Robbery	738	532	580	626	-15.2%	7.9%
	Personal Robbery - Victim under 25	392	269	294	333	-15.1%	13.3%
Robbery	Total Recorded	3329	2275	2542	3072	-7.7%	20.8%
	Total Recorded - Victim under 25	1317	855	994	1225	-7.0%	23.2%
	Personal Property	2965	2042	2272	2701	-8.9%	18.9%
	Personal Property - Victim under 25	1279	811	948	1175	-8.1%	23.9%
Most Serious Violence	Total Recorded	1943	1786	2172	2107	8.4%	-3.0%
	Total Recorded - Victim under 25	632	510	648	606	-4.1%	-6.5%

* Hospital Admissions - The very latest results relate to the 12 months to November 2022

The above table provides overall yearly figures for a period of four years. The data shows a significant decrease in hospital admissions over the last 12 months. Overall knife crime and most serious violence have also seen decreases, but robbery figures have increased over the previous 12 months. It should be noted however that robbery figures are still below pre-COVID levels and West Yorkshire Police report that these appear to be showing signs of reductions.

2.3.5 The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

2.3.5.1 The Mayor has approved a brand name change from the VRU to the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP). This aligns to colleagues nationally, who also go by the same title or are in the process of switching. It also corresponds with the partnership ambitions around the recently introduced Serious Violence Duty.

2.3.5.2 The VRU have now submitted a budget and delivery plan for 23/24 based on a new amount of £4.4m, a decrease of around 25% based on the budget from the previous year. The VRU have earmarked £2.3m for commissioned interventions, which is over 50% of the budget and well over requirements of the Home Office.

2.3.5.3 The VRU will continue to work in close partnership with Operation Jemlock, who have been awarded a further £1,651,943 to support the operational and enforcement response to knife crime in West Yorkshire. Please see the later section on Operation Jemlock (2.3.3) for further information.

2.3.5.4 In 22/23 15% of our interventions had to be listed as high impact on the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) toolkit. This figure has now increased to 30% which has helped shape the delivery plan for 23/24.

Key points on the delivery plan include:

- The A&E Navigator programme, including Community Links, is both continuing and expanding. This programme includes support from a case worker located in A&E departments, followed by referral to existing place-based provision via Community Links to ensure support is sustained outside of hospital services.
- There is a continuation of the custody diversion programme delivered jointly between liaison and diversion and St Giles. This involves case workers located in five custody suites across West Yorkshire to engage with young people who have been arrested and offer support and access to services. This includes both those released under investigation and with no further action, ensuring ongoing mentoring is offered after release.
- The education inclusion programme is continuing, which uses evidence base driven strongly by mentoring. This includes a range of bespoke interventions and activities to reduce persistent absenteeism and exclusion rates. A continuation of our education inclusion programme is being delivered across Bradford, Leeds, Calderdale, and Kirklees.
- Sports-based commissioning is to be delivered in all five districts. The aim is to commence this during the school holidays.

2.3.5.5 The VRU Knowledge Hub is continuously striving to better understand the scale and extent of violence in West Yorkshire, as well as its root causes and protective factors that may make a person more susceptible or protect them from violence involvement or exploitation. Our learning is pulled together in the yearly Needs Assessment, which in turn feeds the Response Strategy informing the priority areas we need to address. Our Needs Assessment also helps us identify where we have gaps in our knowledge and understanding. To address the gaps we design, undertake and commission research throughout the year. Whilst key findings will be drawn into the latest version of our Needs Assessment, the full reports are published online:

<https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/west-yorkshire-violence-reduction-unit/research/>

2.3.5.6 In order to continue to develop the positive community engagement undertaken, the VRU now have a new Engagement Manager in place. The

Engagement Manager will support various initiatives such as:

- Leaders Unlocked

A recruitment campaign was launched for young adults aged 14-25 to join a new youth commission, providing them with the skills training, tools, and support to engage other young people in a 'Big Conversation' on their agreed priority issues. This process enables the VRU to gain honest insights from young people who may not otherwise have a voice, including those from underrepresented and minority groups. The process also opens vital channels of communication with the community and a range of local partners and youth organisations.

- VRU Community Advisory Group (CAG)

The aim of the CAG is to provide a consultation platform with a regular group of volunteers and allow them to use their local knowledge of West Yorkshire communities to comment on and influence new VRU interventions, ensuring any proposals best suit our communities to reduce serious violence. The group is owned and chaired by members, providing a voice for the community. The latest CAG meeting took place in Bradford on Thursday March 9. This meeting was used as an opportunity to look back over the previous year and successes/challenges, alongside looking towards the terms of reference for CAG and opportunities for promotion or engagement with local communities.

- Coproduction

Coproduction research and community engagement in Bradford to inform some local coproduced solutions during 2023-24 has now concluded. The VRU intend to advertise a grant opportunity based on this community feedback; the emphasis is on projects that coproduce solutions with the community.

2.3.5.7 The VRU continues to ensure that the Communications team play a key role in informing the public about key initiatives and information. Recent publicity relates to:

- Knife Crime Deaths

Following recent knife related deaths in West Yorkshire, the Deputy Mayor has continued to conduct media interviews. The interviews highlighted the scale of partnership work underway to tackle serious violence and relayed key messages around knife carrying and use.

- Bradford Knife Angel

The Knife Angel was recently brought to Bradford with communications support from the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit. This involved the preparation of a series of social media videos from the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the Mayor, who gave a speech during the unveiling. They also undertook a number of TV and radio interviews to supplement the print coverage and press release.

2.3.5.8 The VRU continues to work on relations with partner agencies on effective data collection and sharing to feed into the Knowledge Hub's research and evaluation. The VRU has identified a key dataset within Youth Justice Services to be captured and shared that will allow for further analysis. An information sharing agreement is under review to establish this data feed. To facilitate a more detailed analysis of crime and anti-social behaviour data, the VRU has requested direct access to the relevant partner's systems. The request for direct access is under review. The VRU aims to move towards having its own information sharing agreements set up with each of the partners in order to utilise a direct feed of raw data from partners. This allows the VRU to include data analysis in line with the Serious Violence Duty in the scope of the processing.

2.3.6 **Operation Jemlock**

2.3.6.1 In 2019 Operation Jemlock became West Yorkshire Police's operational response in delivering the Serious Violence Crime Strategy; in 2021 Operation Jemlock became fully embedded within the Violence Reduction Unit.

2.3.6.2 Operation Jemlock provides additional deployments of officers into over 52 data-driven serious violence hotspots across the county. These officers are deployed on foot and in vehicles and deliver a visible, preventative, and evidence-based policing style utilising several policing tactics:

- Prevention – high visibility patrols in high serious violent crime (SVC) hotspots.
- Early intervention – engagement with those in SVC hotspots.
- Disruption activities utilising appropriate stop and search in SVC hotspots.
- Targeting SVC offenders wanted for outstanding offences.
- Responding to live time incidents of serious violence.

2.3.6.3 During the four years of Operation Jemlock, it has developed from the initial 'Surge' funding to 'GRIP' funding. In 2021 Operation Jemlock evolved to deliver evidence-based SVC hotspot patrols, linked to long term problem solving. Operation Jemlock have worked nationally with the Home Office and

the Cambridge Centre of Evidence Based Policing to ensure that the delivery of ‘hotspot’ policing is as efficient and effective as possible.

The Home Office at the end of March 2022 announced a three-year funding deal for ‘GRIP’ with £1,651,943 allocated to West Yorkshire Police in each of the three years. This has been secured and a grant agreement is now in place for the three years (2022, 2023, 2024). West Yorkshire Police must provide evidence of match funding of 20% in 2022, 30% in 2023 and 40% in 2024 which has been agreed with the Home Office. An additional £190,000 has been awarded for this year’s delivery 2023-2024 which takes the total allocation to £1,842,020.

2.3.6.4 Over the last 12 months officers working on Operation Jemlock have arrested just over 1,500 offenders and recovered over 500 weapons from the county’s streets. There has been a reduction in serious violent crime in the 52 identified hotspots over the last 12 months, including robbery in 39 out of the 52 hotspots, with a total reduction of serious violent crime by 14.6%. There has been a reduction by 12.0% in crime severity score. This activity has thus led to significantly fewer victims of crime.

2.3.6.5 In September 2022 Operation Jemlock launched Project Spotlight in three hotspots within Leeds to combat serious violent crime and develop a proactive approach to tackle violence against women and girls in the night-time economy. Spotlight is an initiative that combines traditional methods of community style policing with modern tactics, with a goal to be a reassuring presence for the public whilst robustly tackling those within our communities who exploit the vulnerable and commit crime. The project’s drive, with the public’s help, is to put the focus clearly on those who commit crime, and to prevent it from happening in the first place by removing those in the hotspots for a criminal purpose. During Project Spotlight, the three hotspots witnessed a 39% reduction in SVC and a 35% reduction in all crime. There was also a 39% reduction in the crime harm score meaning that the severity of those crimes remaining was also lower.

2.3.6.6 Targeted social media was launched in January 2023 with the aim to engage people who entered the Project Spotlight hotspots. There were three distinct campaigns: Safer Streets, Speak Up, and Your Choice.

Targeted social media generated 2,798,412 total impressions between January – March 2023. These impressions were directly targeted to 15–30-year-olds via TikTok or Snapchat that entered Project Spotlight hotspots. There were then 18,322 clicks throughs to the micro-site from accessing our campaign assets and visiting the site directly www.project-spotlight.co.uk

spotlight.co.uk. This is significantly more than any traditional engagement method and is delivered directly to those that the VRU are trying to influence. The most engaged campaign was that relating to 'Your Choice' which again was a success in engaging people to change their own behaviour.

2.3.6.7 In addition, Operation Jemlock deliver Op Uche on behalf of WYP. Op Uche is work conducted with the Inland Border Command, Border Force, to handle requests around parcels being sent to addresses across WY. Officers working will visit these addresses and intercept illegally imported weapons purchased over the internet and process to a positive outcome. In the last 12 months there has been 100 of these; 90 had a positive outcome.

2.3.6.8 Operation Jemlock lead the national knife crime weeks of action on behalf of WYP, Operation Sceptre. This work involved working with district policing teams to carry out a range of activity, including enforcement, weapons safety sweeps, test purchasing of knives, deployments of knife arches and a wide range of engagement activity in communities and schools.

- Over 75 arrests were made during the week.
- 25 arrests were linked directly to knives with 19 knives recovered.
- 17 arrests were linked to 40 stop and searches with 7 weapons recovered.
- 8 Search Warrants
- 41 weapon sweeps with 18 knives recovered.
- 90 engagement events (schools and community)
- 35 retail and test purchase visits
- 2 knife arch operations

2.3.3.9 Operation Jemlock have led further innovation securing additional funding from a national competitive BID in collaboration with the VRU to develop a 'focussed deterrence car' (FDC).

The innovation has brought five district policing teams, five local authorities youth provisions and the VCSE sector together to deliver an innovative and unique dedicated resource across West Yorkshire. The FDC is a police officer and youth worker, working together to attend locations in the aftermath of incidents and to be proactive in high crime areas linked to youth violence. The role of the car is to exploit this potential 'teachable moment' by engaging with those young people on the periphery of police incidents, crime, and other proactive police activity. It is to engage with them in a positive manner, to

identify any supportive needs, and if any needs are identified to refer them onto any agencies that can support those needs. It has also built a new innovative and effective working relationships across the sector.

The FDC has demonstrated building community confidence, better engagement with young people, protecting the vulnerable and has all the required elements to build sustainable long-term reductions in crime. To date it has engaged with over 2,500 young people with around 10% going into long term support.

3. EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION BENEFITS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 West Yorkshire is a vibrant and diverse region. It is home to many different communities within the towns, cities, and villages of each district. Together the same shared ambition is to live, work and visit thriving and safe neighbourhoods. At the centre of the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan is the celebration of this diversity and the vision of a strong, cohesive, and welcoming West Yorkshire which is fair, just and inclusive.
- 3.2 The Mayor’s commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is central to Safer Places and Thriving Communities and the associated commissioning approach and processes. An Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit¹ for Policing and Crime funded providers, services, and projects was published in October 2022 to provide information that supports services commissioned and funded by the Mayor to support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. All funded services and activity require an Equality Impact Assessment, and continuous performance of identified actions and progress will be monitored as part of our contracting and granting arrangements.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WEST YORKSHIRE

- 4.1 The issues surrounding Safer Places and Thriving Communities impact all people, regardless of age. However, it can have profound impact and implications for the outcomes for children and young people.
- 4.2 Children and young people are more likely to become victims of violent crime than people over 25 years old. The VRU and the Adversity, Trauma and Resilience framework, through a public health approach, is looking specifically at children and young people, both victims and perpetrators, and exploring methods to break that cycle through education and evidence-led

¹ <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/commissioning/tools-for-providers/>

policing tactics.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All commissioning is undertaken in line with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Contract Standing Orders approved by the Mayor under the scheme of delegation and financial regulations.
- 5.2 The Policing and Crime Commissioning Strategy 2022-2024² sets out how we commission safe, just, and inclusive community-based services and activities for West Yorkshire.
- 5.3 The community-based services and activities commissioning budget is split into the following strategic funding:
- Victims of Crime
 - Community Safety
 - Criminal Justice
 - Violence Reduction Unit
 - Partnership Contributions

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7. EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Where external consultation has taken place, this has been included in the paper and where possible the priorities of the public have driven much of the ongoing work. Feedback from Your Voice – Consultation on the Police and Crime Plan continues to inform our work on Safer Spaces and Thriving Communities.

<https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/8215/police-and-crime-plan-voice-of-west-yorkshire-public-consultation.pdf>

7.2 Public Engagement – #Tell Tracy 2022

Between May and September 2022, the Policing and Crime Engagement Team as part of their routine face to face #Tell Tracy work spoke to hundreds

² <https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/9802/policing-and-crime-commissioning-strategy-2022-2024.pdf>

of people across West Yorkshire including at large scale community events, partnership events and local community meetings.

A total of 426 people also took part in a survey with specific questions about Safer Places and Thriving Communities.

The survey explained that to create Safer Spaces and Thriving Communities that the Police must tackle neighbourhood crime (e.g., burglary, robbery, theft from person and vehicle/cycle crime), anti-social behaviour, serious violence, road safety, speeding and dangerous driving, drugs and alcohol, high street crime (e.g., theft, violence, shoplifting), counter terrorism, hate crime, and support community cohesion.

The questions and responses are summarised below:

Looking at the crime concerns (above) what do you think would have the biggest impact on making your community feel safer?

Nearly 70% of those who responded stated police visibility would have the greatest impact, this was followed by a reduction in anti-social behaviour and tackling road safety and speeding.

Who are the most vulnerable groups of people in your community?

In terms of who needed support people said elderly people were the most vulnerable followed by young people and those with disabilities.

When it came to young people and our question “**What issues are young people facing in the community?**”, 50% were concerned about safe spaces for young people and a lack of facilities for them followed by the fear they may become involved in drug and alcohol related crime.

Finally, communities were also concerned about the lack of education and training opportunities for young people.

In response to “**what communities thought would help people thrive**” there was a need for safe family friendly facilities and activities followed by community support and partnership working and finally social care and family support.

From the overall consultation and community feedback it is clear that communities recognised Safer Places and Thriving Communities could only be achieved in partnership, with most of the feedback solutions sitting outside of operational policing. However, unsurprisingly Police Officer and Police Community Support Officer visibility made a huge impact on how the people we spoke to felt.

7.3 Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund

As referenced in previous reports to the Panel the Mayor’s Safer Communities fund allows us to co-produce through engagement and community-based solutions to tackle crime and ASB.

Grant Round 3 of the fund opened in October 2022. The fund welcomed projects which aligned with the Police and Crime Plan priority of Safer Places and Thriving Communities – we received 198 applications, totalling almost 1.3m. The Mayor awarded 72 projects a total of £503,493.

A description of all successful projects can be found on our website [here](#).

The following areas of focus are covered under the Safer Places and Thriving Communities priority:

Area of Focus	No of Projects (please note some projects may be tackling more than one area of focus)
Serious Violence	12
High Street Crime (e.g. theft, violence, shoplifting)	11
Recovery from COVID	15
Hate Crime	12
Countering Terrorism	2
Drugs and Alcohol	18
Neighbourhood Crime and ASB	42
Road Safety, Speeding & Dangerous Driving	8

89% of projects aligned with the theme Safer Places and Thriving Communities and were tackling at least one of the areas of focus outlined above.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the panel note this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND APPENDICES

None.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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